



Our **Vision** is to be a community filled with the **hope and love of Jesus**. Our **Mission** is to make disciples by growing & learning, worshiping & praying, and serving & connecting.

From the Desk of the Pastor...

"Timing Is Everything"

Friends:

Mark Twain once said, *"Timing is everything: It's good sportsmanship to not pick up lost golf balls while they are still rolling."*

This is sage advice when you and I try to understand timing during the liturgical year. We are a society enamored with success and high moments. If we could, we would like to skip over the preliminaries and go right to the big event. For example, we might ask ourselves *"Why observe the season of Lent? I'll show up when we get to the part about 'New Life'.* Yet when we ignore the timing of the

“When it comes to embracing the meaning of new life, timing is everything.

seasons, we miss the poignancy of the high moment and its impact on our lives. It's hard to grasp the fullness of God's grace when we want Easter without the Cross, peace without justice, and the crown of righteousness without commitment.

Keeping time and balance in our lives is about paying attention to the rhythms of our spiritual life. This is the reason we have different liturgical seasons throughout the church year. Thus, this is the reason why we observe Lent before Easter.

The great theological thinker of the twentieth century wrote these words about grace which will help us understand Lent.

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

"Costly grace, on the other hand, is the treasure hidden

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Current COVID-19 Guidelines...

At this time, the community level for Carroll County is **"LOW."** We are currently "mask optional" at Wesley; this is dependent on the conditions surrounding us regarding COVID; if the numbers increase again, we may need to re-mask. If you or someone close to you has been exposed to COVID and/or you have been in the church building while possibly contagious, please notify Jan Kurtz at jan.kurtz@gmail.com or by phone at (443) 340-6497. Thank you!





- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Jocelyn Davey | 19 Larry Harris |
| Dave Hudgins | Darick Sater |
| 10 Carlos Davis | 20 John Halley |
| Mason Wilson | 21 Jan Graf |
| 12 Jackie McLain | 22 Lincoln Horner |
| Michael Watkins | 23 Sawyer Stauffer |
| 14 Carol O'Byrne | 25 Matt Sichel |
| 16 Kaitlyn Davey | Andy Smith |
| Bruce DeVilbiss | 28 Bonnie Chatfield |
| 18 Fay Miller | 29 Mike Hughes |
| | Steven Novotny |



- 1 Frank & Jacki Grabowski
 9 Irby & Sandy Cole
 25 Carl & Ruth Rill
 27 Steven & Hanne Novotny



Our Condolences...

We offer our deep condolences to the Zachman family on the passing of Jeff's mother, Joyce, into life eternal. May God hold you close as you mourn Joyce's passing and celebrate her life.



Updating Your Info.

Please contact Sandy Cole, Membership Secretary by e-mail at baldor1@comcast.net or by phone at 410-876-5295 if your name, address, phone number or e-mail address has changed. Feel free to contact her with any other changes you require. Additionally, if you spot an error in the Directory, please let her know so she can correct it.

"Thanks so much... you really brightened my day!"

Thank you for making [our] family Christmas. You all put a happy smile on the children as well as the adults. It helped a lot! Because of our car troubles and so many other things at once. The gifts were a blessing. Thank you so very much for your generosity. God bless the people in your Church for all you do.



Family and Friends to Keep in Prayer (Cards and Calls Welcome!)

**Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-
and Denny Rill**
 3674 Stewartstown Rd.
 Stewartstown, PA 17363

Stewart Graf
 Longview Nursing Home
 Room 139
 3332 Main St.
 Manchester, MD 21102

Jean Colton
 Longview Nursing Home
 Room 214B
 3332 Main St.
 Manchester, MD 21102



Peggy Dovell
 2322 Susanann Drive
 Hampstead, MD 21074
 (410) 374-0199

Dot Benedict
 Longview Nursing Home
 Room 107A
 3332 Main St.
 Manchester, MD 21102

Shirley Rytel
 15 Pheasant Ridge Rd.
 Hanover, PA 17331



Have a New Neighbor? We can help welcome them home! Contact Reenie Harris at (410) 848-1121.



A special Thank You to Rev. Stanley Harrell for the love, support, and counsel he has given to our Wesley family for many years. We will miss you as you move to southern MD and send our love and best wishes for God's continued blessings to you and Charles. Wesley's doors are ALWAYS open to you!

Anonymous

Thank You to Jan Kurtz for her strong leadership as Ad Council Chair. The past year has been most challenging as Wesley has faced numerous changes. We are grateful for her efforts and calmness in difficult times.

Anonymous

Thank you to the Wesley Warriors for all their prayers, visits, calls, text messages and the delicious food given to me during my recovery from shoulder replacement. What a wonderful sense of peace you get when you know you have so much support and intervention to the Most High Healer. I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful church.

Thank you again, Cherie Hughes



Thank you to our UMM for a wonderful pancake supper. The hall was festive and the place settings inviting. The men did a wonderful job serving us. It was so very nice to be able to visit with friends.

We would like to thank everyone that came out and supported our first Italian luncheon. The support will help us make our mission goals. It was so much fun being with everyone. Thank you once again.

Wesley United Women in Faith

"Thank You!"

We deeply appreciate each shoebox gift you packed with prayer and dropped off to begin its journey to a child in need. As Samaritan's Purse sends these Operation Christmas Child gifts around the world, we partner with local churches to deliver them and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with boys and girls and their families. Many of these children also participate in our follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. Through 12 exciting lessons taught by trained volunteer teachers, millions of children are learning how to follow Christ and share Him with others. To learn more, visit samaritanpurse.org/tgj. God bless you,

Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel."

Mark 16:15

Thank you! Joan Spangler

"From the Desk of the Pastor" Continued from Page 1...

in the field, for the sake of it one will gladly go and sell all that he has, it is the pearl of great price by which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake one will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

"Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which one must knock." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

In terms of the calendar, strictly speaking Easter comes early. We might even say that Easter will come upon us before we even know it. Yet in terms of our spiritual life, the cross comes before the resurrection. You and I need to be reminded of this from time to time. When it comes to embracing the meaning of new life, timing is everything.

Grace & Peace, Gary

2023 Sermon Series - The Tables of Lent/Easter

March 5, 2023 – Second Sunday in Lent – “A Testing Table” Luke 14:1-14

Theme: (Our hospitality reveals our values: whom do we honor? . . . those on the margins, etc.)

March 12, 2023 – Third Sunday in Lent – “A Timely Table” Luke 14:15-24

Theme: (Dinner Party in the Kingdom of God: the honored guests are those who show up as soon as they are invited)

March 19, 2023 – Fourth Sunday in Lent – “A Table of Forgiveness” Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Theme: (Jesus denounced for eating with sinners, tells the parable of the prodigal)

March 26, 2023 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – “A Wide Table” Acts 11:1-18

Theme: (Peter’s vision to include Gentiles – getting past cultural/religious trappings of ‘clean vs. unclean’)

April 2, 2023 – Palm Sunday – “A Turned Table” Matthew 21:1-17 — Choral Cantata at 11 AM

Theme: (Jesus’ triumphant entry and turning over tables in the temple)

April 6, 2023 – Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday – “A Borrowed Table” Luke 22:7-23

Theme: (Institution of the Lord’s Supper . . .)

April 7-8, 2023 – Good Friday and Holy Saturday— “Stations of the Cross” in the Sanctuary

April 9, 2023 –Easter Sunday – “An Easter Table” Luke 24:1-35 — 7 AM Worship (Church Pavilion), Potluck Breakfast in Fellowship Hall, 11 AM Worship

Theme: (The risen Jesus breaks bread with disciples and they recognize him.)



**CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF
WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

“Stay or Go” Vote

After many years of education and conversation, the time and circumstances surrounding the struggles of the United Methodist Church have brought forth a Church Conference called by the Administrative Council. This is in direct relation to the United Methodist Book of Discipline, paragraph 2553. In paragraph 2553, it is stated that, “...a local church shall have a limited right, under the provisions of this paragraph, to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the *Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.”

At the Church Conference, which will be held on **March 11, 2023, at 1 PM in the Wesley UMC Sanctuary, there will be a **Congregational Vote**. The options will be:**

I vote in FAVOR of Disaffiliating from The United Methodist Church

OR

I vote AGAINST Disaffiliating from The United Methodist Church

OR

I ABSTAIN from voting

This vote will be **IN PERSON and will consist only of **FULL MEMBERS of Wesley UMC****

(a list of Full Members of Wesley UMC is posted in the Education Wing Hallway and on the large closet doors of the church office).

The conference will be presided over by the Baltimore Suburban District Superintendent, the **Rev. Dr. Ann Laprade. There will be a presentation prior to the vote.**

The “snow date” previously advertised is no longer available; other arrangements will be made if necessary. **More information to follow.**

Suits for Success!



Suits for Success MD is a charity run out of Carroll County, MD with 501(c)(3) non-profit status through The Community Foundation of Carroll County. The goal of the organization is to provide donated suits (and accessories) to individuals in need that are entering the workforce.

Wesley Outreach is partnering with Suits for Success to donate gently used (good condition) suits, ties, dress shirts, dress jackets, belts, and shoes in good condition. A bin has been placed near the fellowship hall at Wesley UMC for the donations.

If you or anyone you know would like to apply for a suit, please visit or pass along this web address: <https://www.suitsforsuccessmd.org>. Once there, use the "Application" function in the upper right-hand corner of the web page, and the Suits for Success MD team will be in contact within 24 hours of registration.

Prayer on Wednesday Evenings: 7 to 8 PM in the Church Sanctuary



Hello Church Family,

I am inviting you to join me on Wednesday evenings, starting March 1st, in the church sanctuary from 7-8pm for spontaneous prayer time. Come early, stay late, for 5 minutes or stay the entire hour. Come lay your burdens down at the foot of the cross. You may want to spend time on bended knee or hands lifted high; in need of a prayer partner or just some quiet time on the back pew. I look forward to this special time with our Lord and all that the Spirit has in store for us. We will begin with a brief period of worship and song then continue with prayer. At the beginning of each week, I will send out a devotional, to give us food for

thought. We will use this to begin our prayer time together. Feel free to bring family and friends. All our welcome in our Father's house. Amen???

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Blessings, Lisa Kemp

GriefShare Session Began February 28 • 6:30 to 8:30 PM

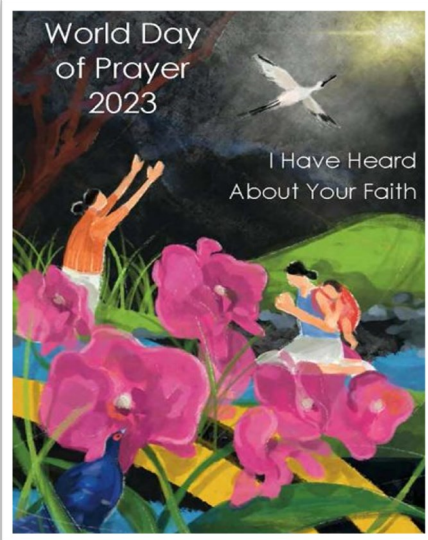


It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel.

This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.

The next session of GriefShare at Wesley UMC began on **Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 6:30 PM in the Harrell Library** and will continue on through May 23, 2023. **ALL** are welcome to come and follow along this journey from mourning into joy! For questions, contact Reenie Harris at (410) 848-1121.

World Day of Prayer: Friday, March 3, 2023 3 PM to 8 PM in the Wesley UMC Sanctuary



This year the women of the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan call us to worship with the words "I have heard about your faith", inspired by Ephesians 1:15-19. We are invited to active listening, which is the ground of our prayers. The author of Ephesians praises the church for their faith in Jesus and love toward all the saints. The worship service will include letters of encouragement sent to women of Taiwan who faced suffering and injustice. They remind us of the urgency to protect the environment and have a nuclear-free homeland; to be aware of the gender stereotypes women face when defying the traditional role in the workplace or in the family, and to care for the healing of the victims of verbal and sexual abuse. These letters also bring to light the hidden struggle of essential workers during the pandemic who had to balance between work and family in a vulnerable economic situation. The women thank God for the natural resources of the island and pray for wisdom in face of the political isolation of Taiwan in the international community. They ask for our prayers.

There will be opportunities to pray for our families, our friends, those who have health challenges, our Nation, and our own Wesley UMC as we face an important vote regarding whether to stay with or leave the United Methodist Church. You are invited to take some time to join in prayer on this 2023 World Day of Prayer at Wesley Church.

The Wesley Book Club: Upcoming Dates, Times, and Readings

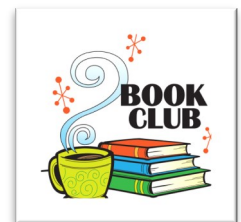
Wesley Book Club meets at MJ's Café & Baking Co. in Manchester, MD, on the last Thursday of each month at **12 Noon**. All are welcome! Contact Reenie Harris with questions at ichdeh@comcast.net or (410) 848-1121.

Here are the next **Book Club Reading Selections and Meeting Dates; all are welcome!**

Meeting MARCH 23, 2023: FILE M FOR MURDER by Miranda James (Cat in the Stacks, #3)

Meeting APRIL 27, 2023: LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY by Bonnie Garmus

Happy reading! Reenie Harris 📖 🤝



The Troop 380 Auction: Donations are Being Accepted



Wesley's Scout Troop (Troop 380) is having its annual auction on:

Saturday, May 6, 2023!

The Troop is seeking good condition or better family treasures and used items that you might like to donate (no upholstered items, please!)

If you would like to coordinate a pick-up for heavy items, please email or call Bob Frey at bob.frey@exitresults.com or (410) 960-9555.

Thank you for your support!



Wesley UMC Drive-Thru Fried Chicken Supper!

Saturday, April 1, 2023
From 12 PM until 3:30 PM

Each Meal Includes $\frac{1}{4}$ Fried Chicken (your choice of dark or white meat), Wesley's Famous Potato Salad, One Vegetable, and Bread and Butter

1 Meal.....\$15
Extra Fried Chicken Quarter.....\$5



- Pre-Ordering and Pre-Paying are Available!
- Electronic Payment Onsite Also Available
- **Baked Goods will also be available for sale.**

***** Pre-Order and Reserve Your Pickup Time *****

Call Jan Graf today at 1-443-677-3761

to place your order and reserve your pickup time.

The final day for pre-orders is March 27. Get your reservation in today!

You may also prepay in advance using a credit/debit card.

When you arrive at Wesley UMC, please remain in your car and follow the traffic pattern to have your order delivered to you.

*Proceeds from this drive-thru supper will benefit
Wesley United Methodist Church.*

Wesley United Methodist Church

3239 Carrollton Road, Hampstead, MD 21074

(Corner of Wesley & Carrollton Roads)

www.wesleychurch-hampstead.org • (410) 374-4027

WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS?

BLESSED is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 2. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. 3. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. 5. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. 6. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. 7. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. 8. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. PSALM 32: 1-8

DID YOU NOTICE? I'M REARRANGING THINGS! Upon entering the Harrell Library, the bookshelf of Bibles is now to your immediate LEFT. To your RIGHT - behind the door - you will find all the church service CDs and various audios of the Bible. Also, I am in the process of moving all Hymnals to the Music/Choir Room.

COFFEE TABLE READS FOR MARCH, 2023***FACING LONELINESS - The Starting Point of a New Journey by J. Oswald Sanders***

Whether loneliness results from the death of a spouse or a loved one, from age, unemployment, or divorce, this book offers help you can use yourself or share with a friend who is in the midst of coping with this problem. The author provides both biblical and practical guidelines for managing loneliness. It is full of hope and practical wisdom.

IT'S NOT ABOUT ME by Max Lucado

Life makes sense when we accept our place! Our pleasures, our problems, our gifts and talents ... when they're all for the One who created us, we suddenly gain what we've been missing and find what we've been seeking. Max Lucado shows you how to be changed and experience the meaning-charged life you were meant to have.

A MOUNTAIN OF MYSTERY by Carole Jefferson (Part 1 of 6 series)

The story takes place in Silver Peak, a town nestled high in the rugged grandeur of the Rocky Mountains. Behind its rustic charm, Silver Peak has a rough-and-tumble past full of mysteries, and Sadie Speers, known as the "Antique Lady," has a knack for uncovering them, using her love of antiques and Colorado history.

SIGNING OUT AND RETURNING A BOOK

Our Library is for you to use and enjoy. Remember to sign your name and date to the card found in the back of the book. File the card in the yellow box under the letter that begins with the **Author's last name**. When you return a book, retrieve the card from the yellow box, put the return date on the card and place back in the pocket in the back of the book. Returned books can be placed on the shelf beside the yellow box or on the desk. The Librarian will re-shelve them. Please return borrowed items within 6 months.

HAPPY READING!

Reenie Harris, Librarian

United Methodist Men's Notes



The Wesley UMM have decided to make a donation in honor of John Martin to the Westminster Rescue Mission, specifically towards completion on the John Martin Conference Room. Thanks to money raised at the Strove Tuesday pancake supper and previous pancake breakfasts, we will be able to make a generous donation.

As suggested at this week's Ad Council meeting, the UMM invites anyone that would like to contribute towards the donation in John's honor to contact Jonathon Yost.

The UMM will meet on March 20th and establish a donation amount at that time. If interested in contributing, please contact Jonathon prior to our March meeting.

Thanks again to all for supporting UMM outreach fund raising.

Yours in Christ, Dave

If you can offer a program, or know somebody that can, please let me know. March - Jim Watkins, Making of the Passion Play - redo in English 🤔. April and on - need speakers.

Outreach Minutes • February 8, 2023

Members Present: Vicky Wilmer, Linda Yost, Michele Hudgins, Jan Kurtz, Connie Wiegel, Cindy Myatt, Norma Beam, Pastor Gary Sheffield-James

Treasurer: Cindy reported that all our bills are up to date.

Winter Soup Sale: Soup Sale was a huge success. We sold 74 quarts of soup as well as pies, rolls and corn bread. We also sent soup to the Rescue mission, Cherie Hughes, and Greg Horner's family.

Meals: Meals are begin sent to Rev Amy and Cherie Hughes

College Students: Vicky will purchase gift cards and send to college students.

Westminster Rescue Mission:

- Rescue Mission meal for February is being organized by Janet. Breakfast casseroles: Jan: Ham and Hash Brown, Michelle: Veggie, Cindy: Sausage
- For March, we will send gift cards for them to purchase a dinner.
- The April meal will be our Fried Chicken Dinner.

Alpha Baby Bottle Fundraiser: Bottles will be available between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Bonnie will pick up and deliver to church.

Easter Baskets: will be purchased by the Outreach Committee. We will include a list of suggested items.

Night-by-Night Shelter: Continues to need breakfast items.

Outreach Pantry: Things are moving, people are donating. Thank you to everyone.

Suits for Success: Jan will place a bin near Fellowship hall. We are collecting suits, ties, dress shirts, belts, and shoes in good condition.

Westminster Rescue Mission Tea: We will be supporting the tea for Westminster Rescue Mission on April 22.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 8th, at 6pm.

Correction/Update from Previous Publication

Hello! Please note the following change from the Lay Leadership Development Report for 2023 that was printed in the January 2023 issue of The Wesley Journal:

Outreach: Michelle Hudgins



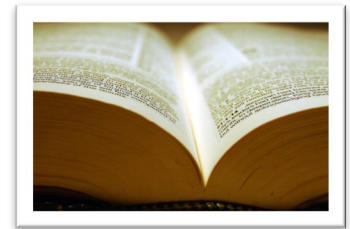
March Lectionary... GET INTO THE WORD!

March 5 (Lent 2): Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 12 (Lent 3): Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 19 (Lent 4): 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 26 (Lent 5): Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45



Administrative Council Minutes • January 25, 2023

Attendees: Jan Kurtz (Chairperson), Rev. Gary Sheffield-James, Rev. Matthew Sichel, Jess Sichel, Janet Martin, Jonathan Yost, Linda Yost, Roger Daugherty, Linda Hollman, Dennis Rill, Bonnie Catron, Brenda Kennedy, John Sies, Vicky Wilmer, Gary Wilmer, Rose Sichel, Connie Wiegel, Michelle Hudgins, Dave Hudgins, Lee Ann Crochunis, Laura Waltrup, Sandy Cole, Jennifer Ejk, Scott Palmer (21 Voting-Eligible)

Non-Ad. Council Member Attendees: Frank Grabowski, Dian Rowe, Chet Phillips, and Jim Watkins

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Pastor Gary offered a **devotion** based on 1 John about love. "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God...those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them...perfect love casts out fear...we love because He first loved us...those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also." Pastor Gary noted that it is hard to love people in the concrete versus in the abstract. "...the greatest of these is love." True love comes when there is a test of the love, when things go up and down. John 13 says, "...I will be glorified and lifted up on the cross, but I give you this new commandment, that you love one another..." Jesus knew that the hard stuff was coming up, and he said to them in the midst of all of this, "love one another." We are dealing with an issue that many churches across our nation are going through. We have different ways of looking at things. We are in the concrete – how do we love one another when we are in these times - a rhetorical question that must be answered by each one of us. Pastor

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Gary followed the devotion with **prayer**.

Committee Reports:

SPRC: Linda Yost

- **The following proposed motion was brought forward by Linda Yost (in addition to an introduction): The Staff Parish Relations Committee of Wesley United Methodist Church moves that the Administrative Council, in conjunction with our District Superintendent, call a Church Conference before April 30, 2023, to vote whether or not Wesley UMC will disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.** The motion was read by Linda Yost, then opened for discussion. Copies were not passed out; the motion was read again.
 - All members of the church would be at that vote.
 - Chet Phillips: Feels that voting should be an option for all concerned for our church and our church family, to have a voice to say “yes” or “no” - to disaffiliate or stay. He does not feel that having been educated, we should just let this go by the wayside. We really need to come to a conclusion/decision about which way we need to go, then to move forward to the vote which yields a result. Whichever way it goes – yes or no – we are going to have pain and difficulty, but at least we will have said our piece. He really feels strongly that we should take this up so that all members of the church can make a decision.
 - Dave Hudgins raised an amendment to the motion. Right now, it is somewhat “unlimited.” He recommended adding, “for the sole purpose to vote whether Wesley UMC will disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church” to prevent additional voting to, for example, join the GMC. Amendment takes a second: Michelle Hudgins seconded.
 - Discussion about the amendment ensued.
 - ◆ The main point in adding the limitation, is that without the limitation, after a vote that results in disaffiliation, the church conference is still open to other business. Someone could make an additional amendment to join a new church, which would be hasty. This possibility was confirmed by Rev. Matt Sichel as a possibility.
 - ◆ If a disaffiliation vote goes through, we would need to set up a new leadership group.
 - ◆ Frank Grabowski stated that he did not think it was appropriate for those gathered here tonight to tell the whole church to vote. Rev. Sichel stated that there is not a question whether or not to vote, as the church conference is empowered to vote regardless. It is hard to grapple with, but it’s legal. We would have a church conference, and we would take up a vote. We would not be disaffiliated until all paperwork and monies are given to the Conference. Until then, we are members of the United Methodist Church and a charge conference makes decisions for the church. Rev. Sichel explained a recent voting that resulted in a disaffiliation vote, a removal of the D.S. from the chair, then a realignment.
 - ◆ Laura Waltrup asked what the process would be to affiliate or remain independent; would that require another church conference? Answer: yes.
 - Discussion then turned to what the next step(s) would be if a vote to disaffiliate passed.
 - ◆ We have until December 31, 2023, to finish paperwork, get the finances in order, and handle additional concerns.
 - ◆ Would we educate the church on what options there are to affiliate with a new denomination or stay independent? It was stated that we need some space of time for education to decide affiliation; however, it was also noted that members have been educated and can continue to educate themselves during this process. An amendment to the amendment was suggested so that it would include a very defined deadline (i.e., 30 days, 60 days, 90 days) to make an affiliation decision. Discussion ensued.
 - Discussion on the timeframe of an alignment decision occurred, with some saying longer and some saying shorter for various reasons (i.e., not dragging the issue out, needing to start discussion on things like how pensions and insurance are handled with other denominations, etc.) John Sies urged that education on our alignment options actually happen so that the congregation is informed.
 - Connie Wiegel asked if we are waiting for April 30th to vote; the District Superintendent is available on

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March 11th, with March 18th as a "snow date," for a church conference [the snow date has since been cancelled].

- Laura moved that the motion be amended to include 60 days for an alignment decision. This was seconded by Linda Hollman.
- The dually amended motion now states: **"The Staff Parish Relations Committee of Wesley United Methodist Church moves that the Administrative Council, in conjunction with our District Superintendent call a Church Conference before April 30, 2023, for the sole purpose to vote whether or not Wesley UMC will disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church, and should a positive disaffiliation vote occur, to have an additional church conference within 60 days to determine future alignment."**
- **Twenty voted to pass the amendment(s) to the motion, 1 abstained.**
- Discussion for motion then proceeded. Several people spoke to the motion, the reason for the vote, and their personal experiences and perceptions concerning the issues at hand.
- **The vote on the amended motion proceeded: 17 were "for" the motion, 3 were "against," and 1 abstained. The motion to call a church conference to vote on disaffiliation passed.**
- The conversation then moved to the date of the church conference. A small sub-committee with the Ad. Council and SPRC should be/will be formed. **Denny Rill moved that the Ad. Council make a decision tonight to choose March 11 and March 18 (snow date) as the dates for the church conference. This was seconded. After two comments about scheduling, the vote was taken. 19 were in favor; 2 abstained.**

Trustees: Roger Daugherty

- Major problem – The sanctuary A/C does not work; the heat is held together by a band-aid. **Trustees moved to fix the HVAC in the church sanctuary, to let it be considered a capital expense, and that the building fund be used to fund the cost.** The building fund would have about \$41,000 in it; the expense would be about \$40,000. Two companies are working on proposals. **A vote was taken; all were in favor.**

Finance: Laura Waltrup

- Since June 2022, our General Giving – tithing in particular – has decreased. There is always a decrease in summer, but there is usually a rebound in the Fall. Now, it is down 10%. We do know that some folks have withheld funding or redirected giving to non-general fund operating income, so it is a downstream effect. Exact reasons have not been explored. Also, operating expenses are down by \$24,000 through 12/31/22 because we did not pay a pastor for a portion of the time; however, we spent quite a bit for parsonage maintenance and repair. We budgeted for \$30,000 at year end but ended with \$24,000. We need to "tighten the belt" and question what we are spending our money on. Unless giving rebounds, we will need to keep this strategy.
- Dave Hudgins asked if the 10% was down over the whole year or just the last six months? Laura said that the change was a net decrease.
- Regarding replacing the Treasurer position, Finance realized that would not be possible. Instead, we will have a part-time bookkeeper (already in the budget and approved). This requires Wesley to change how we handle our finances (requiring oversight). After being in the position for 12 years, Laura will stay indefinitely in the Treasurer position with the understanding that a bookkeeper be hired to do the heavy lifting of QuickBooks.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Gary Sheffield-James gave a run-down of important upcoming dates for him:

- 2/4/23: He is giving a talk on why he is staying in the UMC with personal reasons, knowing that he will not be involved in the long-term process of what this church does. He will be discussing his convictions and things he believes in. The issue does have to do with Scripture and how we look at it. Gary has read and re-read and re-read the Bible; his conclusions are not a whim, but something he has thought about and struggled with.
- 2/12/23: Scouts participate in Worship (Scouting Sunday)
- 2/21/23: UMM host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
- 2/22/23: Ash Wednesday – Worship at 7 PM. There will be a duet of voice and guitar.
- There will be a Sermon Series – "Tables of Lent" (various Tables) – Sundays during Lent. The Choral Cantata will be on Palm Sunday.

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- Holy Thursday – There will be a fellowship hall Agape Meal and Communion with candles, music, contemplative and a atmosphere.
- Stations of the Cross will be held [on Friday and Saturday of Holy Week].
- There will be an Easter Sunrise at the Church Pavilion at 7 AM with breakfast afterwards (potluck or sign-up).
- Pastor Gary will be on vacation 2/12-2/19; Matt preaches on the 19th.
- Easter is on 4/9/23.

Christian Education: Jen Ejk

- Whole group Sunday School events are scheduled, with the next one being "Our God is Love" for Valentine's Day on 2/12.
- The team is starting to look at VBS Curriculum and plan what that will look like.
- The Christmas Pageant went well. John Sies has a DVD of the program that is going around.
- The last day of Sunday School will be 5/21/23.

Outreach: Vicky Wilmer - Next meeting 2/8/23 via ZOOM.

- The Soup Sale is this Sunday; there may be extra, so come on down (bread, too).
- Westminster Rescue Mission lost its main kitchen facility on Christmas Day. Outreach [and UWF] are helping to provide extra meals. Thanks for the frozen turkey dinner discussion [on email]. Outreach would like help from the whole congregation regarding items to be donated for meals. Outreach is sponsoring one meal a month. February's meal is a breakfast meal (talk to Janet Martin).
- Thank you for donations for the church food pantry. It is being well used and well stocked.

Worship: Janet Martin - Pastor Gary mentioned a lot of the dates, but there will also be the World Day of Prayer on March 3rd in the sanctuary. It will be a time for prayer.

UMM: Dave Hudgins – Next meeting 2/20/23 (no specific speaker). The UMM are hosting the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on 2/21/23 from 5 to 7 PM (with extra apple butter!)

United Women in Faith: Connie Wiegel

- The UWF plans on having an Italian luncheon after church on 2/26/23.
- The UWF also agreed as a unit to provide a meal a month for the Westminster Rescue Mission. This month, it will be chili. In February, UWF will be sending money to WRM for a meal. Laura gave a report on what happened with the WRM pipe breaking. There is a difference of \$60,000 between what the damage is to be repaired and what the insurance wants to pay out. Meals are very much appreciated.

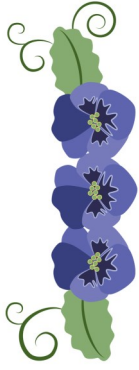
Wrap-Up:

- Jan Kurtz appreciates everybody's patience and stamina.
- John Sies: For Pastor Gary, when you are talking about love, you can substitute the word "Wesley" and you won't be far off. Thank all of you.
- Bonnie Catron – This church and every single person in it is an extremely loving church.
- Linda Hollman – Pastor Gary, how's the baby? Colton is still at GBMC in the NICU, with breathing complications. The moisture has dissipated; they are keeping him for observation. Colton's mom, Karlie, is having a really hard time not being able to bring the baby home. Keep her and Andy in your prayers. Bonding is something you want to do right away; it is hard not to be able to do that.
- There are lots of prayer concerns; please keep everyone sent out on the prayer chain in your prayers. Thank you to all of you who pray; it makes a huge difference when you are prayed for.

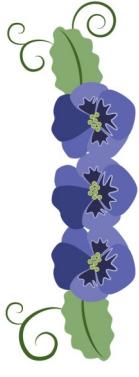
The next Administrative Council Meeting date conflicts with Ash Wednesday. **Instead, Ad. Council will meet on February 21, 2023, at 7 PM following the Pancake Supper.** Come for pancakes and stay for the meeting!

The meeting was closed in prayer at 8:47 PM by Rev. Matt Sichel.

Respectfully Submitted by Jessica Sichel, Recording Secretary



MARCH 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Regular Worship Schedule: 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 11 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>The services will also be live-streamed for those unable to be in person. Visit our website to view the current service.</p>		<p>¹ Visitation at J&Ps Restaurant 12 PM Trustees 7 PM Prayer in Sanctuary 7-8 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>² Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>³ Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM World Day of Prayer in Sanctuary 3 PM to 8 PM</p>	<p>⁴</p>
<p>⁵ Regular Worship Schedule (Lent 2)</p>	<p>⁶</p>	<p>⁷ Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 6:30 to 8 PM GriefShare in Harrell Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>⁸ Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM Outreach 6 PM Prayer in Sanctuary 7-8 PM SPRC 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>⁹ Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>¹⁰ Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM</p>	<p>¹¹ Congregational Vote to "Stay or Go" 1 PM in the Sanctuary</p>
<p>¹² Regular Worship Schedule (Lent 3)</p>	<p>¹³ Potluck Dinner 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall Small Group Discussion Harrell Library 7:30 PM</p>	<p>¹⁴ GriefShare in Harrell Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>¹⁵ April Journal Submissions Due! Office CLOSED Finance 7 PM Prayer in Sanctuary 7-8 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>¹⁶ UWF Meeting 11 AM in Fellowship Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>¹⁷ Office CLOSED</p>	<p>¹⁸</p>
<p>¹⁹ Regular Worship Schedule (Lent 4)</p>	<p>²⁰ UMM Meeting 6:30 PM</p>	<p>²¹ GriefShare in Harrell Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>²² Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM Administrative Council Meeting 7 PM Prayer in Sanctuary 7-8 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>²³ Book Club at MJ's Café & Baking Co. 12 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>²⁴ Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM</p>	<p>²⁵</p>
<p>²⁶ Regular Worship Schedule — Contemporary Worship (Lent 5)</p>	<p>²⁷ Potluck Dinner 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall Small Group Discussion Harrell Library 7:30 PM</p>	<p>²⁸ GriefShare in Harrell Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>²⁹ Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM Prayer in Sanctuary 7-8 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>³⁰ Kitchen Prep for Chicken Supper (All Day) Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>³¹ Kitchen Prep for Chicken Supper (All Day) Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM</p>	<p>April 1 Spring Chicken Supper! 12 to 3:30 PM</p>

SCHEDULE OF



WORSHIP



We're on the Web! Visit us at:
<https://wesleychurch-hampstead.org>

Phone: (410) 374-4027
Email: wesley@wesleychurch-hampstead.org

Office Drop-In Hours: See Calendar Inside!

We seek to be a community filled with
the hope and love of Jesus.

Worship Participants for March 2023:

- March 5:** Greeters—Denny Rill and Jim Watkins, Liturgist—Rev. Matthew Sichel, Acolyte—Isaac Sichel, A/V Team—The Sichels, Music—Organist Jeff Horner and The Chancel Choir Directed by Jan Graf
- March 12:** Greeters—United Women in Faith, Liturgist—Linda Hollman, Acolyte—Will Otwell, A/V Team—The Sichels, Organist—Jeff Horner
- March 19:** Greeters—Need, Liturgist—Linda Yost, Acolyte—Isaac Sichel, A/V Team—The Sichels, Music—Organist Jeff Horner and The Chancel Choir Directed by Jan Graf
- March 26:** Greeters—Jan & Randy Kurtz, Music—Wesley UMC Praise Team, Praise Team Leader—Lisa Kemp, Acolyte—Will Otwell, A/V Volunteer—Matt Otwell

CHURCH CONFERENCE—"STAY OR GO" VOTE INFORMATION INSIDE!



Wesley United Methodist Church
3239 Carrollton Rd.
Hampstead, MD 21074
The Rev. Gary Sheffield-James, Interim Pastor
Address Service Requested