

The Wesley Journal



Wesley United Methodist Church
3239 Carrollton Road, Hampstead, MD 21074
Phone 410-374-4027 – www.wesleychurch-hampstead.org
Church Office Email: wesley@wesleychurch-hampstead.org

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

From the Desk of the Pastor...

Friends,

Advent means "*to come*." It is an appropriate word for describing the four Sundays before Christmas. One of the hallmarks of the Christian faith is that we worship a God who comes to us. God takes the initiative to come to where we live, where we work, and where we play. God becomes uniquely revealed to us in Jesus.

During the tinsel and glitter of the holiday season, we can sometimes forget that message. By only emphasizing gifts, we can easily forget the Giver. And God is the Giver. The writer of the Gospel of John makes it truly clear, "*God so loved the world that he GAVE his only Son . . .*" (John 3:16a).

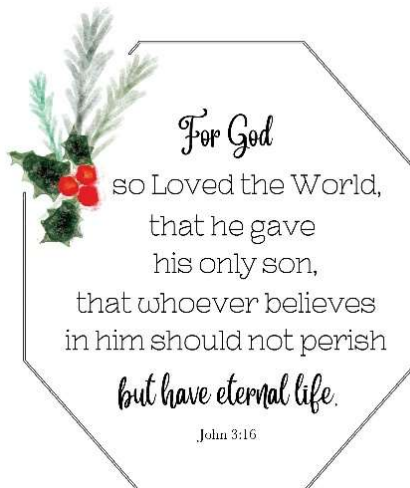
While shopping one day, a woman began complaining about the hustle and bustle of Christmas. She said, "*I hate Christmas. It turns everything up-side-down.*" This woman's comment displays a profound truth. Christmas does turn everything upside-down. God coming to us in Jesus Christ influences our relationships, families, communities, churches, and the world. Because Christ comes, we can be the people and community God wants us to be.

I pray that your Christmas may be a joyous and blessed one this year. And as the New Year approaches, may we, in our life together, continue to experience the ways God continues to come into our life.

Grace and Peace,
Gary



(See the Advent and Christmas Schedule on the next page)



Inside This Issue:

From the Desk of the Pastor	1
Advent & Christmas Schedule	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Sponsor a Family this Christmas	3
Family & Friends – Prayer	4
Thank You Notes	4
Night by Night Shelter	5
Wesley's Food Pantry	5
Inclement Weather Policy	5
United Methodist Men	6
United Women in Faith	6
Wesley Book Club	7
Cookie Walk	7
The Harrell Library Good News	8
Aerial Photos of Wesley Church	9
December Calendar	11
Worship Participants	12

Deadline for the *January 2024* issue of The Wesley Journal is **Friday, December 15. Please email your news to wesley@wesleychurch-hampstead.org.**

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Fellowship Time
11:00 AM Worship



Advent and Christmas Schedule

December 3, 2023: The First Sunday of Advent - HOPE

- o 11 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- o Sermon Title: "The World Is Coming to a – Beginning" Mark 13:24-37
- o Advent Wreath Reading and Lighting: The Kurtz Family
- o The Outreach Committee is hosting Christmas Caroling at local homes. Come and join in the "merry" following the 11:00 AM worship service.

December 10, 2023: The Second Sunday of Advent - PEACE

- o 11 AM Outdoor Live Nativity and Christmas Pageant (weather permitting)
- o If it is raining or snowing, the Christmas Pageant will be in the Sanctuary.
- o [Please remember to dress **warmly** and bring blankets and lawn chairs.]
- o A birthday cake for Jesus, hot chocolate and punch will be served in Fellowship Hall after the service.
- o Advent Wreath Reading and Lighting: Rev. Amy and Dennis Rill

December 17, 2023: The Third Sunday of Advent - JOY

- o 11 AM Worship Service – The Wesley UMC Chancel Choir will be offering a Christmas Cantata entitled "Night of the Father's Love."
- o Advent Wreath Reading and Lighting: Michelle and Dave Hudgins
- o The Outreach Cookie Sale will be held before and after the worship service. Bakers and buyers are needed.

December 24, 2023: The Fourth Sunday of Advent - LOVE / Christmas Eve

- o 11 AM Family Friendly Worship Service
- o Sermon Title: "Good News for You" Luke 2:1-7
- o Children's Sermon and Participation
- o Special Music
- o No Sunday School
- o 11 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Candle Lighting and Special Music
- o Sermon Title: "The Wonder of the Night" Luke 2:1-7
- o Advent Wreath Reading and Lighting: The Mahoskey Family

December 31, 2023

- o 11 AM Traditional Worship Service of Lessons and Carols
- o No Sunday School





- | | | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|---------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 5 | Celee Montgomery | 16 | Katherine Crochunis | 16 | Jason & Lana Montgomery |
| | H. Lee Smith | | Betsy Sennett | 20 | Eric & Laura Zilberman |
| 6 | Cole Graf | 20 | Cheryl Gore | 26 | Dan & Carol Pfoutz |
| 8 | Jaime Green | 21 | Cheyenne Graf | 29 | Curtis & Cheryl Gore |
| | (nee DeVilbiss) | | Wayne Rill | | |
| 11 | Bonnie Catron | 23 | Kyle Phillips | | |
| 14 | Roxane Brewer | 26 | Logan Rill | | |
| 15 | Michael Eastwood | 30 | Jonathan Elmo | | |
| | Randy Kurtz | 31 | James Rill | | |
| | Madison Smith | | | | |
| | Charlie Weaver | | | | |



If any names should be added to or removed from the birthday and/or anniversary list, please call or email the church office.



Thank you to everyone at Wesley Church for the warm welcome extended to me and to those with whom I have had the privilege to work with and to meet. There is a special atmosphere at Wesley that is very welcoming and open; I felt that warm feeling from Day One. I feel blessed that God gave me an opportunity to come to Wesley and be your Administrative Assistant. God's plans are much higher than our plans though and He has opened a new door to me and answered a 16-year long prayer to work in Hospice! My goal has always been to make Wesley a better place than how I found it; I hope you too feel that I have accomplished that goal. It is now time for me to use my God-given talents elsewhere. I am glad to let you know, however, that I am staying on as your Part-Time Bookkeeper. Perhaps our paths will cross again in the future. Best wishes to each of you and may you have a blessed holiday season. ~Dawn McFadden

Once again, our Wesley Family will be sponsoring a family for Christmas.

In the next couple of weeks, the tree will be in the back of the church with tags on them. Please help support this family by taking a tag, purchasing the gift, wrapping the gift, placing the tag back on gift and returning it to church by December 17th. As always, your generosity is much appreciated. We are very blessed to have each other.



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

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

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

Shirley Rytel
15 Pheasant Ridge Rd.
Hanover, PA 17331



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

John and Stephanie Halley
30 Fitzhugh Avenue
Westminster, MD 21157

Member Update

Martha Harris is now at Lorien Taneytown. Her address is 100 Antrim Blvd., Room 3A, Taneytown, MD 21787. The phone number is 410-756-6400.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Dot Benedict**, who passed away on November 22, 2023. May the Lord's comfort surround all those who mourn Dot's passing.

More information will be forthcoming regarding funeral arrangements.




Thank you, Dawn! You have been with Wesley just a short time, but your endeavors and efficiency have been appreciated by all of us. Best of luck in your new position!!
~Anonymous



Dear Friends,
We are truly thankful that you have chosen to be a part of our important work in the Dominican Republic through your support of The Least of These Ministries. Your gifts help to purchase the food that physically nourishes so many, and enables our staff to visit the bateys weekly, sharing God's love and comfort with so many people. May you be comforted by the peace and presence of Jesus Christ in your life!
~In Christ alone, Marty Hogan, Executive Director

Northeast Social Action Program (NESAP) turned forty this year. The impact NESAP has made on the local community would not be possible without you. We have provided clothing, food, housing, medical, transportation and utility assistance to individuals and families in our local community. Thank you for your generous gift and your continued prayers.
~God bless, Donn Dietrich, Executive Director

THANK YOU

Dear Friends in Christ, It is with a grateful heart that we say THANK YOU for your sincere support. Every bit of love that is shared with us through donations goes towards paving a new life for those in our program, releasing them from the strong grip of addiction and showing that there is hope. It is with your faithfulness, and the clients' own hard work that we are able to meet them where they are, and provide services and support necessary for a true, fresh start. Your contribution also helps to tackle food insecurity by feeding families in the community, while also ensuring their basic essential needs are being met. This is achieved through our Food Program – another area of the Mission that is only possible because of YOU! Thank you very much for your recent donation. We could not be more appreciative of your generosity and your contribution to saving the lives of many.

~Gratefully, Stephanie Halley, Executive Director



The Night by Night Shelter needs blankets and breakfast-to-go items. There is a tub on the bench in front of Fellowship Hall to place the blankets. Thank you so much!

Wesley's Food Pantry Needs

The shelves in our food pantry have been emptying out quickly. While there is a sign on the front of the pantry door directing visitors to go to another local food pantry, the need is still great. Please keep the pantry in mind when shopping. We could use some meal ideas such as pasta sauce, beef stew, pancake mix and syrup, (etc.) as well as canned veggies, laundry soap, cleaning supplies, and other non-perishables. [Make sure the food you donate is not expired and is unopened.] We look forward to continuing this ministry for our community. Thank you for all your help filling our pantry shelves. Wesley is the best!!!!



Wesley's Inclement Weather Policy

If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect in Carroll County at 6:00 AM, Sunday School and Fellowship Time will be cancelled. The 11 AM service will depend on the severity of the weather.

In the event of inclement weather, a message will be left on the church answering machine by 7:00 AM regarding the service, but please use your discretion for the weather in your area. We would rather you keep yourself safe and not get hurt!



Wesley United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men will meet on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 a.m.
at Bob Evans in Westminster for our breakfast meeting.



Wesley United Methodist Women in Faith

Wesley United Women in Faith met on October 19th at 10:00 am

This was a planned workday to prepare for the upcoming Wesley Church Christmas Bazaar. Ten women were in attendance. The women cleaned the fellowship hall, kitchen and some much-needed sprucing up in the flower garden around the fellowship hall entrance.

Linda Yost has accepted leadership position as Mission U Dean for the next United Women in Faith Mission U Conference this coming year. The conference will be both in person and streamed for viewing. The location of the conference will be held in Linthicum, MD.

There will be a District UWF meeting held at Baldwin Memorial UMC Millersville, MD on October 28, 2023. Linda Yost will be attending.

Worship usher volunteers are needed for Sunday November 12th Sunday worship service. Let Connie know if you can help.

The UWF group will meet next on Nov. 16th at 10:00am in the church Fellowship Hall. Linda Yost will provide dessert. Connie is trying to obtain a UWF Program Book for 2024. In the meantime, she will share special devotions in place, until available.

A UWF Christmas gathering was discussed briefly. Janet Martin will host a Tea at her home on Dec. 21st, details will be worked out during our next UWF meeting.

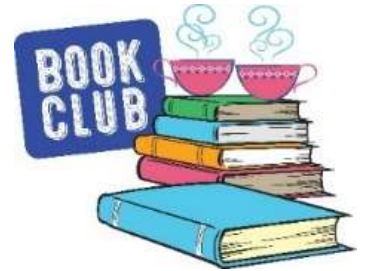
Joys and Concerns were shared, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm.

Minutes submitted by Brenda Hess



The Wesley Book Club: The December Date, Time and Reading

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 is the next **Book Club Reading and Meeting Date for December; all are welcome!**

Out of Circulation (A Cat in The Stacks Mystery No. 4)
by Miranda James
Meeting: December 28, 2023

Happy Reading!
Reenie Harris

WESLEY OUTREACH COOKIE WALK

IS BACK!

December 17th



after Sunday School & Worship Service
in the Fellowship Hall

As always, we cannot have a successful Cookie Walk if it were not for YOU. If you can volunteer to bake a batch of homemade cookies for the Cookie Walk, please contact Cindy Myatt at 410 596-5391 or candcmyatt@gmail.com.

Don't forget to purchase some cookies too! Remember this is a fundraiser for the Outreach mission projects we do throughout the year.

Free Will Donations will be Accepted.

Drivers are needed



We would like to develop a list of drivers who would be willing to transport members and other nearby folks to doctor appointments and church. Some of you have been doing this informally for years but we would like to have a solid list to refer to when someone asks for help. If you think you can assist with this please contact Jan Kurtz 443-340-6497 or Janet Martin 717-495-7013.

The Harrell Library GOOD NEWS December, 2023

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
JEREMIAH 29:11

I had such a good time converting The Harrell Library into a Book Store & Boutique as part of the Wesley UMC Bazaar. It was very rewarding seeing how people enjoyed their day of shopping and buying.

I am very thankful for the assistance given me by Lisa Kemp and Judy Harris. As you are all aware, it took a lot of time, talent and hard work in making the Bazaar a success.

When I accepted the position as Librarian in January of this year, I was full of ideas as to "things & events" I wanted to pursue in making The Harrell Library known to other churches and book clubs ... to invite groups in for special readings, teas, Bible discussions and our ongoing Grief Share sessions.

The library shelves are pretty full in most categories. What book donations that were given during the past year have either been processed and are on the shelves ... or ... were included in the book sale on November 4th.

I am grateful for the year that I was given to serve as Wesley's Church Librarian. However, I am sorry to say that I will be resigning from that position at the end of this year – 2023.

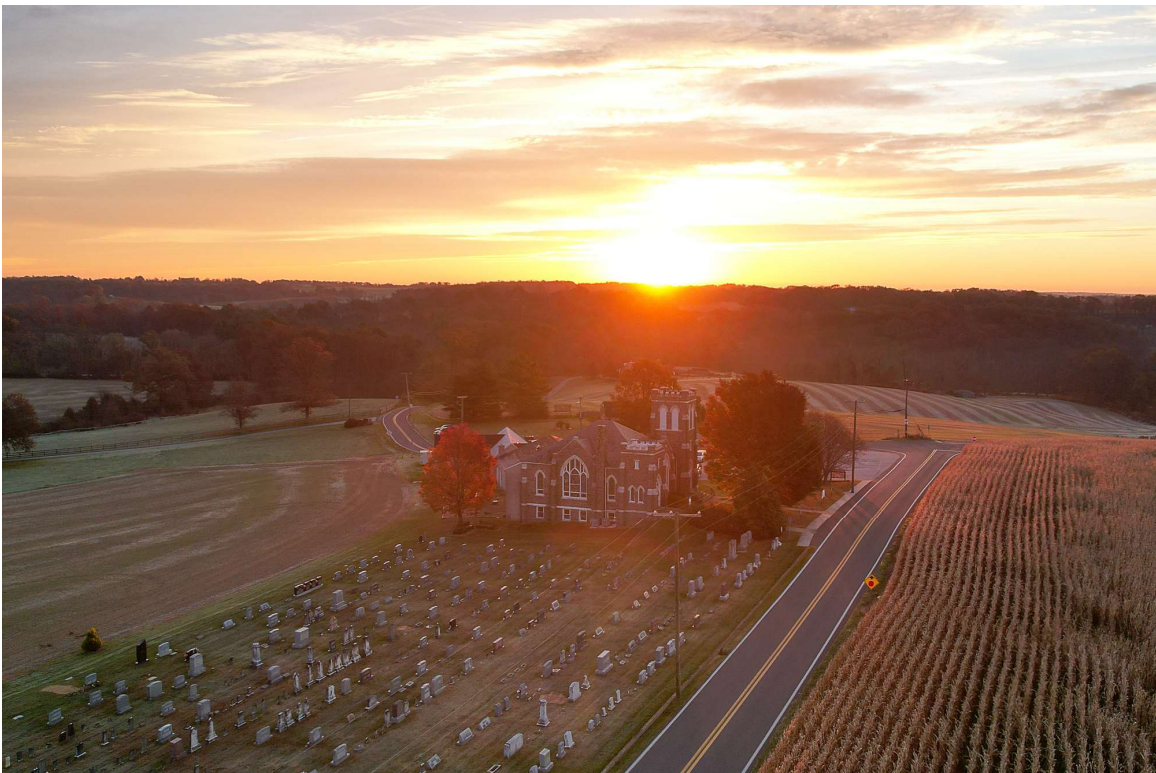
God has plans for each and every one of us. Doors close, but new ones open. I am looking forward with hope, trust and confidence that God will open new ventures for me. I value the friendships made at Wesley UMC and pray that they will continue.

God bless you.
Reenie Harris

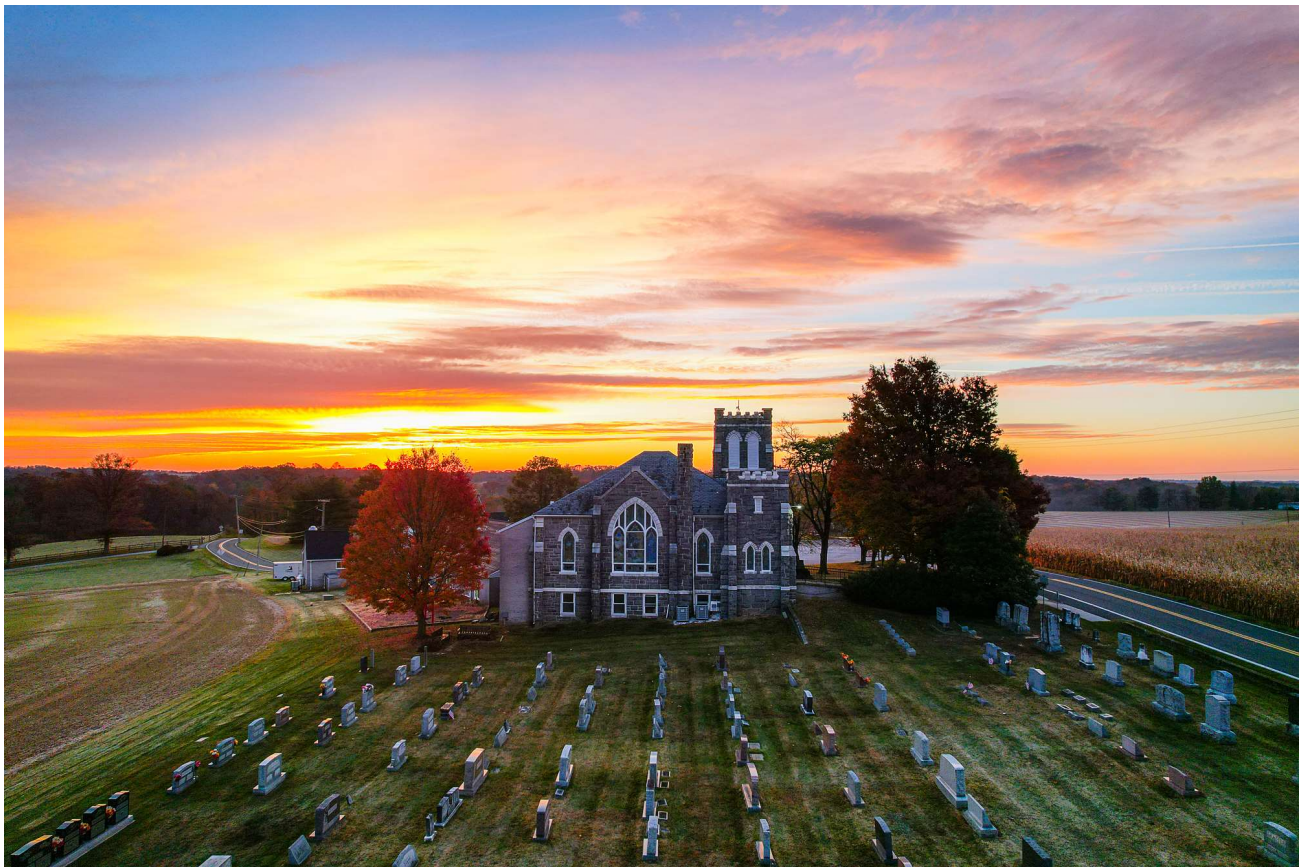


Aerial Photos of Wesley

On November 4th, the day our Christmas Bazaar, Matthew Binebrink was flying his drone early that morning and photographing our beautiful church when a very polite lady approached him (he did not get her name) and asked if he would email the church some of the photos he took. Matt mentioned in the email that he also "attended Wesley UMC's preschool (or day care or something like that) waaay back in the day!" What a cool connection Matt has to Wesley. Here are some of the wonderful pictures he took with his drone.



(Continued on the next page)





DECEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Regular Worship Schedule:</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 11 AM Worship Service</p>					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>1st Sunday in Advent: <i>Hope</i> Regular Worship Schedule Holy Communion Christmas Caroling Following Worship</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9
		GriefShare in Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM Girl Scouts 7-9 PM	Visitation 12 PM at J&Ps Trustees 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM			
<p>10</p> <p>2nd Sunday in Advent: <i>Peace</i> 11 AM Outdoor Live Nativity and Christmas Pageant Gathering in the FH after the service</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Small Group Gathering 6:30 PM		Outreach 6 PM SPRC 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM		<p>January Journal Submissions Due!</p>	
<p>17</p> <p>3rd Sunday in Advent: <i>Joy</i> Regular Worship Schedule w/ 11 AM Christmas Cantata Cookie Walk</p>	18	19	20	21	22	23
		UMM Bob Evans 7:30 AM	Finance 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM	UW in Faith		
<p>24</p> <p>4th Sunday in Advent: <i>Love /</i> Christmas Eve 11 AM Family-friendly Worship 11 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service</p>	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Administrative Council 7 PM	Book Club at MJ's Café & Baking Co. 12 PM		
<p>31</p> <p>11 AM Traditional Worship Service of Lessons and Carols</p>						

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP



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

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

Office Hours: To be determined

Worship Participants for December:

- December 3:** Greeters—Dennis Rill and Randy Kurtz, Liturgist— Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill, Acolyte— *Need*, A/V Team— *Need*
- December 10:** Greeters—United Women in Faith, Special Service—Live Nativity and Christmas Pageant, Acolyte— *Need*, A/V Team— *Need*
- December 17:** Greeters—Roxane & Dean Brewer, Special Service — Christmas Cantata, Acolyte— *Need*, A/V Team— *Need*
- December 24:** Greeters 11 AM—Jan & Randy Kurtz, Liturgist — TBA, Greeters Christmas Eve 11 PM—TBA, Liturgist — John Sies
- December 31:** Greeters—Barbara Sater & Gladys Smith, Special Service — Traditional Worship Service of Lessons and Carols, Acolyte— *Need*, A/V Team— *Need*

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 3239 Carrollton Rd.
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 The Rev. Gary Sheffield-James, Pastor
 Address Service Requested