



# The Wesley Crier

A PUBLICATION OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.WESLEYUMC-DOVER.COM](http://WWW.WESLEYUMC-DOVER.COM)

☎ 302-678-9626

☎ 302-678-9627

March 2025

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3

Published February 25, 2025

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| From the Desk of Pastor Asher                       | 1/3 |
| Ash Wednesday Services                              | 3   |
| Search Class Lenten Bible Study                     | 4   |
| Evening Lenten Bible Study                          | 4   |
| Choose Love over Fear                               | 5   |
| Christian Education                                 | 6/7 |
| Wesley Scholarship                                  | 8   |
| Board of Trustees                                   | 9   |
| Missions  | 9   |
| Wesley Preschool & Play Care                        | 10  |
| Deadlines   | 10  |
| United Women in Faith                               | 11  |
| Church Constitution Amendments<br>- Regionalization | 12  |
| UMM Food Pantry Collection                          | 12  |
| Wesley Leadership Team                              | 13  |
| March Birthday & Anniversaries                      | 14  |
| March Calendar                                      | 15  |
| Easter Giving Form                                  | 16  |
| God's Bounty  | 17  |
| Daylight Savings Time Change                        | 18  |
| March 16 Worship Service                            | 18  |

## From the Desk of Pastor Asher



This year (2025 C.E.), the Holy Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5. On that day, we will have two services at Wesley United Methodist Church.

For those who prefer NOT to drive at night, there will be an abbreviated service in the chapel at 5 PM with the imposition of ashes.

Our traditional Ash Wednesday service will be held in the Sanctuary at 7 PM, also with the imposition of ashes.

I think of Lent as a GIFT given to us by the Lord (that is not a typo, Lent is a gift to enjoy, not a hardship to endure). To benefit from that gift, we have to unwrap it and apply its prescriptions to our own lives. Jesus, Our Lord and Redeemer, in whom we now live through Baptism, is Risen from the Dead. He is walking through time now, in his Body, the Church. Jesus came to live among us so that we have “abundant lives.” Furthermore, we were not created to grovel in the grime of our sins. Jesus redeemed us on the Cross and set us free to live our lives in that new world which is the seed of the Kingdom to come [the future Kingdom of Heaven]. There is a caveat though—“Lent will not work unless you work it!”

Lent invites us to journey with Jesus, a journey into our own personal desert. It is there in the field of engagement that we can learn the root causes of our challenges, and be equipped with the tools that we need to deal with what Scriptures and Tradition refer to as “the world, the flesh and the devil.”

Continued on page 2



- The “world” in this meaning is NOT referring to the created order. Creation is good and given to us as a gift. Rather, the “world” refers to the system, which has squeezed the primary importance of the Creator out of daily life. When we succumb to its seduction, we give ourselves over to self-idolatry and hubris.
- The “flesh” is not our body - which God fashioned and which will be raised from the dead, made glorious by the Resurrection. Remember, the Word became flesh and was raised BODILY from the grave. Jesus was the “first fruits” and we too will be raised in Him. Rather, the “flesh” refers to the disordered appetites, which are one of the bad effects of sin at work within us.
- The “devil” is not some figment of our imagination, but a malevolent fallen angel who, just as he tempted Adam and Eve and tempted the Lord, now tempts us. These 40 Days of Lent are a classroom in which we learn to resist “the world, the flesh and the devil” and make sure that the course of our lives points closer and closer to God.

In his letter to Hebrews, Paul writes, “we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (*Hebrews 4:15*) Jesus, the Word made flesh, is our guide and example. The temptations he faced in the desert are a prototype of all of the challenges we face as we respond to the continuing call to conversion. After all, being a follower of Jesus is just that - a continuing call to conversion that takes us closer and closer to God.

Although I could not confirm it, the following list is attributed to William Arthur Ward; an American author, teacher and pastor (1921 - 1994). I invite you to think about and to reflect on this list during Lent.

Fast from judging others; Feast on the Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of life.

Fast from apparent darkness around us; Feast on the reality of light.

Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; Feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.

Fast from worry; Feast on divine order.

Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from hostility; Feast on empathy and compassion.

Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.

Continued on page 3

Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.

Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth.

Fast from discouragements; Feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress; Feast on realities that uplift.

Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity.

Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that strengthens.

Philos,



Asher



**MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**5PM – St. Paul’s Chapel  
Informal Service with  
Imposition of Ashes**

**7PM – Sanctuary  
Service with Music &  
Imposition of Ashes**

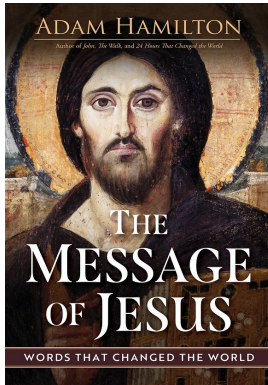
## Search Class Invites All to A Lenten Bible Study

By: Eunice Craig and Gigi Windley, Co-Lay Leaders

Lenten begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. Search Class will start a six-week Lenten study on March 9 using Adam Hamilton's "*The Message of Jesus*"--Words that Changed the World. In these sessions, Pastor Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings.

The study provides a participant handbook, a leader's guide and a weekly 15-minute DVD. A class facilitator leads the group in thoughtful discussions. We meet in the parlor at 8:35 am. Light refreshments are available.

The schedule is as follows:



March 9 The Kingdom of God Has Come Near

March 16 The World's Most Important Sermon

March 23 Jesus Spoke to them in Parables

March 30 What DO You Say that I Am?

April 6 Final Words

April 13 The Resurrection and the Life

Feel free to attend whatever classes meet your schedule. Continue your faith journey with us during this year's Lenten study!

## Lenten Bible Study

By: Gigi Windley, Co-Lay Leader

For those who wish to grow deeper in their faith and understanding of the message of Jesus, a Lenten bible study will be offered in the parlor and via Zoom on Wednesday evenings March 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9 & 16. from 7 - 8 PM.

*The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World*, by Adam Hamilton will be read and discussed. This same study is being offered concurrently in Sunday's Search Class. Each weekly chapter reading has a short DVD to accompany the session and a brief discussion will be led by one of the class facilitators. We will learn together why Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing.

Participants are encouraged to attend one of the Ash Wednesday Services on Wednesday, March 5. (5 PM and 7 PM).

Please register in advance of the class so that we may order the study materials. There will be sign-up sheets available at the Sunday services leading up to Ash Wednesday. You may also register by contacting the church office.

The Bible study is free and open to members and guests. Location: Church Parlor and Zoom.

*Class Leaders are Eunice Craig, Carol Gambone, Tobi Hope O'Brien, Larry Josefowski, and Gigi Windley.*

## CHOOSE LOVE OVER FEAR...

By: Anthony Falkowski, Director of Pastoral Care



Imagine that you are living on a spectrum with **Fear** on one side and **Love** on the other,

FEAR \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ LOVE and that the closer you gravitate toward one the farther you gravitate away from the other.

*Then consider this.*

**Fear** can and almost always generates anger, mistrust, self-survival and a lack of compassion for others. In fact, you may not even recognize yourself when you are in this state of mind. You are likely to be anxious and stressed. You find yourself prone to acting irrationally toward others, even those that you care about. This can then lead you toward making poor choices that you will regret.

**Love** generates trust, consideration for others, a broader understanding of a situation and most likely a peace of mind that can guide you toward making better choices. You are more likely to realize that this is who you are, and certainly, who you want to be. You will feel more confident in your choices as they relate to how you treat others. You are less prone to hurting others and naturally more compassionate and empathic.

What I find in my own experience is that I generally vacillate along this spectrum. And by being aware of this movement, I am better able to discern which way I choose to go. I am, then, more capable of going towards **Love**.

In our current environment, with the vast number of changes occurring at an amazingly rapid pace, information seems to be gushing at us as if it is coming out of a fire hose. Many of us are feeling overwhelmed.

And then there's what to believe or not. Disinformation, misinformation, distrust of this or that source, who or what can be trusted to guide us, even as we make our everyday choices. Even more reason to understand our place on the above-mentioned spectrum. Therefore, my suggestion is to:

### **FIND YOUR CORE VALUES AND LIVE BY THEM.**

*We all have them!* Discover yours and let them serve as a metric, a baseline. Explore for yourself how the information you are getting measures up with these *Values* and how they resonate on your *Fear/Love spectrum*. Now more than ever, do whatever you need to do to gravitate toward LOVE. Let love be your NORTH STAR!

And I believe you will find the **GUIDANCE** that you are seeking, along with enjoying some peace and solace.

Put your trust in the **HIGHEST SOURCE** available and let **HIS WILL BE DONE**.



# Christian Education

By: Joe Young, Director of Youth & Children's Ministry

## School Advice From a Teacher

From, [empoweredhomes.org](http://empoweredhomes.org)

*I have wanted to be a teacher and have enjoyed working with students for most of my life, and building relationships with the students is by far my favorite part of the job. That being said, it can also be the hardest part when you have forty different students all with varying needs, desires, and goals, not to mention all of the other everyday responsibilities of the job. Being a teacher has taught me many things, both about myself and about the kids I was teaching. I want to share some of the things I noticed that helped students have a great school year, while also sharing some words of encouragement from a teacher's perspective. Here are four tips to help equip your children for a successful school year:*

### 1. Set goals with your children.

If you want your teacher to participate in the goal-setting conversation, encourage your child to share his or her goals with their teacher(s) at the beginning of the year. This way, the teacher can help equip your child as well and help them achieve their goal. Plus, we like celebrating achievements with them.

### 2. Remind your child who they are In Christ.

Every child is more than a number or test score, and my hope and prayer as a teacher is that kids can walk confidently knowing that truth. I put a lot of pressure on myself to perform well in school, and I often felt like I had to achieve perfection when it came to grades. However, this way of thinking is far from the truth. Once I started following Jesus, I realized that perfection is a very overrated word.

### 3. Encourage and equip your child to set an example.

Little things like being a good listener, understanding other people's perspectives, and communicating thoughts in a respectful manner can go a long way. Probably the biggest way parents can teach this is by setting the example themselves and then setting high expectations with their kids. Whether it's at home, at church, or anywhere else, parents can set the tone for how to treat others the way Christ would treat them.

### 4. Pray with your child about school.

As a teacher, I pray for my students constantly. I encourage you to pray together for all aspects of school. Pray for your child, that they may look to Christ for wisdom and guidance, and would be a great example on their campus. Pray for your child's classmates, that they would become a great community for your child and a great group of friends to do life with. Pray for your child's teachers as they are gearing up for the new school year. Pray for other school and district leaders and the decisions they will be making every day that will be impacting your child.

**Make a list of your child's teachers, admins, principals, etc.**

(commit to pray for them)

---

---

---

Continued on page 7

**What is the best time to talk to your kid about goals, who they are in Christ, and how to set an example at school?**



**Mornings**



**Car Time**



**Table Time**



**Bed Time**

**Commit to having meaningful conversations with your children during these times.**

**Sunday School** - Children's Sunday School (K-4th grade) meets in Grace Fellowship Hall. Youth Sunday School (5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade) meets in Grace Fellowship Hall, and the High Sunday School meets in the Parlor on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. All classes meet at 9:30 AM.

**Nursery** - Childcare during the 9:30 AM Worship Service meets in Grace Fellowship Hall.

**Youth Group** - Regular meetings (6<sup>th</sup> grade thru 12<sup>th</sup>) are from 3 to 5 PM on Sunday in the Student Ministry Center (SMC).

**Safe Gatherings** is an online abuse prevention program that screens and educates staff and volunteers to help prevent abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults in group settings.

In order to work with children and youth here at Wesley UMC you must take this class. To start the Safe Gatherings process, go to <https://safegatherings.com/app/get-started>.

When you follow the link to get started, you will need to select:

- **Language Preference** (English or Spanish)
- **Type of Organization** - (Church)
- **Denomination** (Methodist)
- **State where your church is located** - (Dover)

In the next field, Organization name, type *Wesley*. In the dropdown menu, select the

Organization name where you are seeking approval to serve, again, *Wesley*.

Individuals can login to their account at any time to check the status of their application.

Each applicant upon successful completion of the Safe Gatherings application, background and reference checks, and online training program, will receive documentation of approval, valid for three years, and will have continued access to the online training program for one year. The class takes about 1.5 hours. All costs are covered by the church.

# Wesley Church Scholarship Program

Wesley Church would like to award a college scholarship to an active Wesley Church member for the fall of 2025.

If you are an active member of Wesley Church and will be enrolled in an institution of higher learning this fall, please contact the church office at 678-9626 to apply for a scholarship form, or you can pick up one from the bin on the office door.

Or give your name, e-mail address and telephone number to the office and we will e-mail you the application form which will outline the requirements.

**The deadline to turn in applications is April 1, 2025.**



## Wesley UMC Scholarship

The three-member selection committee, which has been appointed by the Trustees, will notify the recipient(s) by May 15, 2025.

REQUIREMENTS: The applicant must be:

- 1) A regularly attending participant at Wesley UMC, and
- 2) Pursuing a career in full-time Christian service, or
- 3) Pursuing a career in a “helping” profession (nursing, teaching, social work, and child care are examples), or
- 4) Pursuing an undergraduate degree or a post high school education, or
- 5) Pursuing an advanced degree, or
- 6) First-time recipient of this scholarship (preferred) or
- 7) Repeat recipient (acceptable).

The applicant will be judged on the following, in order of importance:

- 1) An essay that explains how the applicant has been inspired to pursue major career or field of study,
- 2) Christian service at Wesley United Methodist Church,
- 3) School and/or community service, and
- 4) Academic success.

If none of the applicants meet all requirements, the selection committee may elect to waive the career requirement and award a scholarship to the resulting superior compliant applicant.

**The deadline to turn in applications is April 1, 2025.**







## “Everyone is a Trustee”

By: The Board of Trustees

There are eight individuals who represent the only legal body of our church. These individuals are nominated by a committee and then elected to three-year terms by our congregation as required by the Delaware State law.

Board of Trustees: Dan Cahall, Chair, Ann Baker Horsey, MaryAnn Dashiell, Ralph Deats, John Dryda, Jim Ferguson, Robert Lee, and Pat Weaver. Ex-officio members are Pastor Asher Tunik, Eunice Craig and Gigi Windley, Co-Lay Leaders, and Jim Thistlewood, Facilities Lay Leader.

While the Trustees are responsible for overseeing and maintaining all of the church’s property, each member of our congregation can help facilitate the upkeep and maintenance in their own manner. This is what is meant by the statement, “Everyone is a Trustee.” We all are caretakers of the Lord’s house of worship and grounds.

There are many ways we can be helpful. Please remain diligent in turning off lights when you are the last one leaving a room. When securing our church facilities, please check all areas of the building, especially the preschool basement, elevator lobby areas (Upstairs & Downstairs that lights are shut-off), securing the exterior doors and activating the alarm system. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our facilities safe and secure.

Whatever manner you may choose to contribute, your efforts are very helpful and appreciated. If you should have any questions or would like to know how you might be able to contribute, please contact one of the Trustees who are listed above. Remember, “Everyone is a Trustee.”

Wesley Church is a Smoke-Free Campus. Thank you for your cooperation.



By: Mike Petit de Mange and Carol Gambone, Missions Committee Co-Chairs

On-going Project: Second Saturday Community Meal

This year Missions has a goal of "no repeat leads" 2025. What does that entail? Each volunteer group or leader will serve one weekend for the entire year! We are so thankful for Larry Josefowski and Cheryl Scheir co-leading in January, Barbara Spangler leading in February and Eunice Craig leading in March! Open months include: July, August, October and November. We are so very happy to welcome all groups like Rotary and Moms Demand Action to our meal and are thankful for their leadership as well. Special thanks to the trustees, Tobi Hope-O'Brien, Solid Rock Baptist, and Wesley's Family Life Committee for helping Missions meet its "no repeat leads". Interested in preparing and planning a meal? Contact Carol Gambone [psu\\_turtle@hotmail.com](mailto:psu_turtle@hotmail.com) to reserve your weekend.

Come see what volunteer opportunities await you, from the community meal, to Walking for Wells.

## WESLEY PRESCHOOL AND PLAY CARE NEWS

By: Oveta Fullman, Preschool Director



Our first official music lesson for the preschool was a great success! These music lessons will continue once a month thru May, and we're thrilled to see the children's enthusiasm for them.

Registration for preschool and play care has begun. Please visit our website to view our classes and new pricing information.

March is going to be another fun-filled learning and sharing month for Preschool!

**Dr. Seuss Spirit Week March 3 - 7**

**Daylight Savings time begins on Sunday, March 9.**

**St. Patrick's Day** festivities are on **Monday, March 17**. Remember to wear green!

**Thursday, March 20**, brings the arrival of **Spring**, with special art, music, and outdoor activities. We are joyful that the days will be longer and, we hope, the weather will be warmer, as we step into spring.

The delightful artwork that the preschool children have created throughout the year culminates in the Preschool Spring Art Show, which will be held on **Thursday, March 27 at 6 PM**.

Weeks before the Art Show, our dedicated teachers and staff will be looking through each child's portfolio of art creations, to organize displays of children's artwork for every classroom, the hallways, and Grace Fellowship Hall. This will be a festive and fun evening for families and their preschool children!

## Deadlines for Bulletin and *Crier* Articles

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant



Do you have something you would like to have published in either the bulletin or the *Crier*? If so, the deadline for the bulletin is Tuesday prior to the staff meeting at 9:30 AM.

You ask why so early? All our printing of bulletins, newsletters, etc., is done in-house. The bulletin is reviewed at the staff meeting, corrections made, proofed and ready for publication on Wednesday to get the bulletin in the mail to our shut-in friends along with material for the AV team and lay readers.

The deadline for the Wesley *Crier* is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. All committee chairs are encouraged to submit articles to [mdryda@wesleyumc-dover.com](mailto:mdryda@wesleyumc-dover.com).



United  
Women  
in Faith

## United Women in Faith

By: Mary Ann Evans, President

### United Women in Faith Circle Meetings

Circle meetings are held once a month on different days and times. You are invited to come join us and connect with God by connecting with women.

**Barbara Circle:** Co-Leaders: Shirley Mundorf (363-0543) and Vicki Stoops (670-1249)

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, @ 3pm, in the church parlor

**Mary Martha Circle: Leader:** Mary Ann Evans (383-0841)

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, Gather @12:30, meeting @ 1 pm, in the church parlor

**Sylvia Circle: Leader:** Helene Zeman (674-0167)

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday @ 2:00pm at Helene Zeman's home.



# Souper Sunday Soup Sale

# Sunday March 16



**VEGETABLE SOUP or  
CHICKEN & BEAN SOUP  
\$8.00 per quart**

AVAILABLE After Service In Grace Fellowship Hall  
ORDER AHEAD See Mary Ann Evans or  
Text or call 302-383-0841 leave name and phone number

## Church Constitution Amendments - Regionalization

By: Larry Josefowski, CLM

As our United Methodist Church looks towards the future in a post-split world, several changes are being made to make our church a more flexible organization for the future. As part of that, there are four proposals to change the Constitution of the Church. I will try to write a short summary of each of them over the next couple of months, starting with what is likely the most far-reaching one, and that is on the Regionalization of the churches - which affects the United States Church the most.

This change would allow each of the geographical churches - the US church, as well as regional organizations in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines - to become a "Regional Conference". This would allow each of the churches to adapt the Book of Discipline, our policy book, for each area to allow it to increase the effectiveness of its missional work. Currently, the US church is not a "central conference", and can't make these changes on its own - and has to rely on all the church conferences to agree to any changes at the Quadrennial Conference. These adaptations, though, would be somewhat limited. Including among them are the ability to publish its own hymnal and book of worship, set their own requirements for ordination and licensed ministry of pastors, and to develop marriage ceremonies, funerals and other rites, in accordance with both Scripture and the laws of each country.

This amendment will require changes to more than 20 parts of the Constitution, and eventual Book of Discipline - but all these changes will be included in the ballot on regionalization of the church.

Our conference, the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, will be voting in May at Annual Conference, on the amendments. Each pastor, and a Lay Member from each church (as well as other lay leaders in the district and conference) will gather this May to vote. If you have any input, please provide that to your Lay Leadership and Pastor Asher.

## United Methodist Men's Food Pantry Collection



On the first Wednesday of the month from 10 - 11 AM, the Methodist Men will collect food donations without you leaving your car. Just drive thru the Preschool Portico, one of the men will take your donation from your car, so you don't have to get out.

Pantry items needed are shelf stable milk, canned vegetables, canned fruits, applesauce, potted meat, tuna - canned or packet, spam, beef stew, instant potatoes, rice, cereal, macaroni and cheese, all types of soup, pudding cups, Jell-O cups, peanut butter, jelly, packaged cheese cracker, peanut butter crackers and snack bars. No outdated food, please. They also are in need of personal hygiene items.

## Wesley UMC 2025 Key Leadership Team

Church Council Chair - Fred Dismore  
Church Council Secretary - Alice Guerrant  
Co-Lay Leaders - Eunice Craig & Georgeanna Windley  
Associate Lay Leader (Facilities) - Jim Thistlewood  
Lay Member to Annual Conference - Eunice Craig  
Reserve Lay Member to Annual Conference - Gigi Windley  
Reserve Lay Member to Annual Conference - Larry Josefowski  
Christian Education - Joe Young  
Church & Society - Sherri Harrell  
Clothing Closet Chair - Fred Ragains  
CONAM Rep - Vacant  
DIMH Rep - Jim Short  
Evangelism Chair - Donna Josefowski  
Family Life Co-Coordinators - Jim & Sandi Thistlewood & Mardi Spangler  
Finance Chair - Donna Josefowski  
Higher Ed & Campus Rep - Carol Gambone  
Mission Co-Chairs - Mike Petit de Mange & Carol Gambone  
Pecometh Coordinator - Sally Verma  
Security Team Chair - Jim Thistlewood  
SPRC Chair - Jim Thistlewood  
Trustee Chair - Dan Cahall  
Trustee Vice Chair - Vacant  
United Methodist Men President - Ralph Deats  
United Women in Faith President - Mary Ann Evans  
Wesley Archivist/Historian - Donna Josefowski  
Wesley Branches Chair - Ann Baker Horsey  
Worship/Music Chair - Dan Zeman  
    Acolyte Coordinator - Mary Ann Evans  
    Altar Guild Chair - Nancy Vaughan  
    Communion Steward Chair - Bill Torbert  
    Greeter/Usher Coordinator - Deborah Devine  
    Lay Reader Coordinator - Charles Martin  
Senior Pastor - Asher Tunik  
Director of Pastoral Care - Anthony Falkowski  
Church Administrative Assistant, Communications, Membership Secretary - Michele Dryda  
Church Treasurer, Cemetery Treasurer - Marian Hudson  
Director of Music - Sherry Roscoe  
Director of Youth and Children's Ministry - Joe Young  
Audio Visual Director/Contemporary Musician - Josh Bogus  
Wesley Preschool/ Play Care Director - Oveta Fullman





# MARCH Birthdays

|                   |    |                        |    |                    |    |
|-------------------|----|------------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Robert Edgell     | 1  | Richard Taylor         | 10 | Marjorie Evans     | 22 |
| Luca Devine       | 2  | Gillian Sommers        | 12 | J.D. Hogsten       | 22 |
| Lynn Edgell       | 2  | Amelia Mills           | 13 | Alice Mills        | 22 |
| Jill Street       | 2  | Peggy Pickering        | 13 | Carson Morris      | 22 |
| Cynthia Yenchick  | 2  | Anna Boyd              | 14 | Charles Levecque   | 23 |
| Pam Nichols       | 3  | Libby Hebert           | 14 | Sophia Devine      | 25 |
| Jacob Nichols     | 4  | Kenny Allison          | 15 | Sally Iracane      | 25 |
| Alex Vaughan      | 4  | Tara Windley           | 15 | Shannon Easton     | 26 |
| Joan Reed         | 5  | David Edgell           | 16 | Elizabeth Luhrman  | 26 |
| Mark Butler       | 6  | Raymond Montsch        | 17 | Jake Aucoin        | 27 |
| Patricia Shamyer  | 8  | Kayla Rawding          | 17 | Scott Cole         | 27 |
| Becky Falkowski   | 9  | William Berry          | 18 | Cameron Warren     | 27 |
| Elena Mason       | 9  | Luke Naftzinger        | 18 | Doris Coffey       | 29 |
| Xander Williamson | 9  | Cynthia Yeomans        | 18 | Quinn Cook         | 29 |
| Margaret Adkins   | 10 | Jon Andrews            | 21 | John Wicks, Jr.    | 30 |
| Patricia Angstadt | 10 | Michael Petit de Mange | 21 | Dan Cahall         | 31 |
| Janice Jordan     | 10 | Candace Tillinghast    | 21 | Barbara Smith      | 31 |
| Cameron Maracle   | 10 | Ed Wilkins             | 21 | Bill Torbert (son) | 31 |
| Raymond Morris    | 10 | Ty Cummings            | 22 |                    |    |

**Your help is needed!** We try hard to publish the correct birthdates and dates of anniversaries that we have in the church's data base. If you notice we have not listed yours correctly or left out a birthday or anniversary of a family member, please call the church office (678-9626) so that we can update your family's profile. We want to celebrate your special day with the whole church family.



MARCH  
ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Carissa Weekes      March 23<sup>rd</sup>



# 2025

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat                                  |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
|   |   |  |   |  |   | 1<br>12 pm (Noon)<br>Community Meal  |
| 2<br>8 am Worship<br>8:35 am Search Class<br>9:30 am Worship<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Fellowship<br>3 pm Youth Group  | 3<br>1 pm UMW Board Meeting<br><br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br><br>6 pm Pickleball | 4<br>7 am Men's Bible Study<br>9:30 am Staff Mtg.<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>7 pm DCS                               | 5<br>5 pm Ash Wed Svc.<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>6 pm NA<br>7 pm Ash Wed Svc. | 6<br>6 pm SPRC<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>6 pm Bell Choir<br>7 pm Chancel Choir                     | 7<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br><br>6:30 pm ACA Mtg.  | 8<br>12 pm (Noon)<br>Community Meal  |
| 9<br>8 am Worship<br>8:35 am Search Class<br>9:30 am Worship<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Fellowship<br>3 pm Youth Group  | 10<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br><br>6 pm Pickleball                              | 11<br>7 am Men's Bible Study<br>3 pm Barbara Circle<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>7 pm DCS                             | 12<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>6 pm NA<br>7 pm - Moms Demand Action             | 13<br>12:30 pm Mary/ Martha Circle<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>6 pm Bell Choir<br>7 pm Chancel Choir | 14<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br><br>6:30 pm ACA Mtg. | 15<br>12 pm (Noon)<br>Community Meal |
| 16<br>8 am Worship<br>8:35 am Search Class<br>9:30 am Worship<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Fellowship<br>3 pm Youth Group | 17<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br><br>6 pm Pickleball                              | 18<br>7 am Men's Bible Study (Breakfast)<br>9:30 am Staff Mtg.<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>7 pm Trustees<br>7 pm DCS | 19<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>6 pm NA<br>7 pm Finance                          | 20<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>6 pm Bell Choir<br>7 pm Chancel Choir                                 | 21<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br><br>6:30 pm ACA Mtg. | 22<br>12 pm (Noon)<br>Community Meal |
| 23<br>8 am Worship<br>8:35 am Search Class<br>9:30 am Worship<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Fellowship<br>3 pm Youth Group | 24<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br><br>6 pm Pickleball                              | 25<br>7 am Men's Bible Study<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>7 pm Church Council<br>7 pm DCS                             | 26<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br><br>6 pm NA                                      | 27<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br>6 pm Bell Choir<br>7 pm Chancel Choir                                 | 28<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br><br>6:30 pm ACA Mtg. | 29<br>12 pm (Noon)<br>Community Meal |
| 30<br>8 am Worship<br>8:35 am Search Class<br>9:30 am Worship<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Fellowship<br>3 pm Youth Group | 31<br>6 pm Evening Prayer<br><br>6 pm Pickleball                              |  |   |  |   |                                      |



# 2025 EASTER GIVING ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lilies \$11.00 per plant.** Please make check payable to **Wesley UMC** for the total amount. Please note "Lily" on memo line and mail or bring to the church office.

\_\_\_\_\_ **PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND** - Please make check payable to **Wesley UMC**. Please note "Discretionary Fund" on memo line and mail or bring to the church office.

Please print below the wording you would like in the bulletin. (Example: Joseph Carpenter in loving memory of his parents, Mary and Joseph Carpenter, Sr.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR LILY DONATIONS: Monday, April 7, 2025.**

**DEADLINE FOR PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY: MONDAY, April 14, 2025.**

**Please pick up your Lily after the 9:30 AM Easter service on April 20<sup>th</sup> or on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. *Thank you!***

# Sharing God's Bounty

## The Name that Is Above Every Name

Obedience has become an almost ignored concept. Some parents believe that requiring obedience from their children stifles their creative and emotional development. Many couples remove the word "obey" from the vows that brides give to their grooms. To expect employees to obey their employers is certainly not acceptable.

To God, however, obedience is not only acceptable, it is required. Disobedience to God is what is known as sin. And sin separates. Sin separates us from God and from each other. Sin prevents us from living the abundant life that Christ came to give us (John 10:10). On the other hand, obedience is proof of love: "If you love me, you will obey what I command," Jesus says (John 14:15).

Unfortunately, as sinful beings, we are unable to obey our Lord's commands fully. Even the great apostle Paul struggled with this reality. He confessed, "I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out" (Romans 7:18). As he relates his dilemma – the dilemma all Christians face – he asks, "Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (For as surely as day follows night, death follows disobedience) He answers exultantly, "Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24-25)

Jesus has lived the perfect life in our place. Jesus willingly emptied himself, made himself nothing, "and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name" (Philippians 2:7-9).

Jesus did what we cannot do. Jesus triumphed over sin, death, and the devil. Jesus, dead and buried, would not stay there! Jesus has risen! He is exalted to the highest place! He has given us his Spirit, the Counselor, who lives with us and in us (John 14:16-17), to sanctify us for obedience to our Father and service to others. This Spirit equips and enables us to be faithful stewards of the Gospel and all his gifts. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



*Christian Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions based on the conviction that these are a trust from God, to be used in God's service for the benefit of all mankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love.*





**March 16, 2025**  
**You don't want  
to miss the  
9:30 Service!**  
**More to Come!**