



The Wesley Crier

A PUBLICATION OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Note from the Pastor



The holidays are here! It seems that all of our winter holidays are merging into one long season that begins very early, certainly by the start of October, and runs all the way through the beginning of January. Our consumer society drives some of that; everyone wants to beat everyone else and get their ads and offers and sales out first. Here at Wesley, we have to start preparing early as well; though our focus is giving, sharing, and celebrating, not selling and profiting. And Thanksgiving is this month!

Last month we talked about staying engaged with Christ simply by saying, "thank you". And I hope we are doing that, I've counted "thanks you" ten times this week, and it's only Wednesday . . . where are you? Thank you is simple, specific, and practical, and it's only the beginning. And it's a good kick-off to the season of Thanksgiving. Remember, once we start behaving with gratitude, things are likely to start happening. We will notice God working with the plans that we're making to multiply our fruitfulness; then we will notice needs around us and find ways to share what we have. It's a slippery slope, the more grateful we are, the more we'll want to share what we've been given, and we will point more and more clearly to the love and the glory of God.

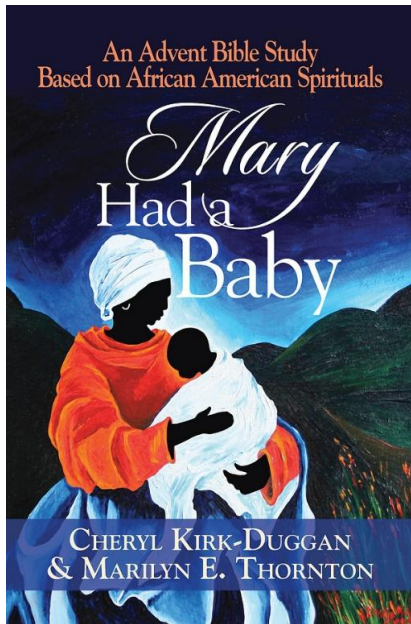
I'm praying for some creative inspiration for myself this year, I'd like to find more concrete ways to give thanks to the people around me. Maybe I could send "Thanks you" cards instead of Christmas cards this year. (Which means I'd probably better start now!) What are some of the ways that you express your thanks? I'd really love to hear your ideas. (pastorchristine@wesley-umc.com) How do you say, "thank you" without saying "thank you"? I'm also grateful that we have this congregation working in mission and outreach. We all have the choice to be a little part of a lot of "thanks" giving. Please read the Crier thoroughly, and the weekly announcements, and the bulletin. Then make a note in your calendar so you don't miss any opportunities to give thanks.

2 Chronicles 13,14: The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang:

"He is good;
his love endures forever."

Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

With Peace and Grace,
Pastor Christine



Mary Had a Baby

Pastor Christine will be leading this Advent study this year. It explores themes from the scriptures which have been picked up and celebrated in African American music. We'll get to listen to the music and discuss the ways this perspective can enrich our hope for this season.

The study will meet on Monday mornings at noon for four weeks; December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. We will gather in the parlor. Please consider joining the study and inviting your friends. Look for the signup in worship or on the bulletin board. We welcome everyone who is interested, from the church and from the community.

New Members Classes

A class of new members will be joining Wesley UMC on Sunday, November 30, 2025. There will be three meetings before that date, all running from 8:45 to 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings in Pastor Christine's office. The dates for these meetings are November 2nd, November 9th, and November 16th.

There's still time for you to join us; just plan to attend the three Sunday meetings in November. You can also get in touch with Pastor Christine at 302-678-9627, or pastorchristine@wesleyumc-dover.net if you have any questions at all, if you'd like to join the group, or if you would like to join, but can't at this time.



Missions Committee Update

By: Mike Petit de Mange & Carol Gambone, Co-Chairs

Rise Against Hunger

This year's event was held at Wyoming Methodist on October 4. There were 55 volunteers, of which eight were from Wesley. Just over 20,000 meals were packaged. Very special thanks to: Alan Stokes, Nancy Stokes, Jan Jordan, Michele Dryda, John Dryda, Gigi Windley, Pastor Christine, and Mike Petit de Mange. We received word from Rise Against Hunger Headquarters the meals were shipped to Vietnam already.

Long Underwear Drive

Thank you to those who have taken a tag for this new project at Wesley. Wesley's donations will be part of gift bags to be handed out at the community meal on December 20. All donations are due by November 2, so that all participating churches (Wyoming, Crossroads and Calvary) can collaborate with the gift bags.

Upcoming ways to volunteer:

Angel Tree Project

Check out the tree, same location at the snowman for the long underwear drive, for a tag of a child whom you would like to sponsor this Christmas season. A suggested \$50 budget is offered through Angel Tree and gift tags include the child's age, gender and wish list. All wrapped gifts are due back to the church by December 7 so they may be presented to the families at the Breakfast with Santa event December 13.

Community Meal

We are so fortunate to have a consistent team of volunteers who faithfully serve each second Saturday of the month. Special thanks to the United Women of Faith, the choir and Family Life who are rounding out the fall and winter months by preparing and serving our meal. We have had a recent uptick of 80 meals; this past weekend October 11 we were busy plating almost 100 meals.

Dates to Remember

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant

TIME CHANGE: Saturday, November 1st before you go to bed, make sure you set your clock BACK one hour.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY: Sunday, November 2nd, Wesley members and friends who have entered the Church Triumphant since November 1, 2024, will be memorialized during the 9:30 am church service.

CHURCH CONFERENCE: Monday, November 10th, at 6:30 pm we will meet with nine churches at Wyoming UMC. It is very important that chairpersons of all committees attend. Anyone can attend the meeting. Please mark your calendar to attend. This is your chance to hear all the great things your church has been doing and hear of plans for the coming year.

FAREWELL, GOODBYE...

By: Anthony Falkowski



...to all of you as your Pastoral Care director. HELLO as one of your fellow congregants of this wonderful church, Wesley UMC.

Over these past five and a half years, we shared our stories, joys, dreams, hardships and losses. I feel blessed and honored to have been able to share this journey with you.

Please consider this. If you believe that I was able to bring comfort and understanding to you, then you should also know that you have done the same for me. Great stuff y'all.

Retirement is calling to me. Time with family and friends and exploring the next chapter of my life. As in most life events of this magnitude, it's a mixture of joy and sadness. This emotional concoction is where I find myself currently.

This church has been good to me, and my gratitude exceeds any words that I may say. As for me, it feels like I'm going out on a "high note". I hope that you share this feeling.

And now Darlene Wade is coming in as your new "nurturing and visitation" staff person. I believe that by the time you read this she will have met and spoken to several of you. She is coming into this position with grace and fervor.

My hope is that she will be embraced as lovingly as I was.

Thank you.

Anthony Falkowski

Be a part of the Oral History Project

By: Oral History Committee

In 2022 an effort was initiated through Wesley's History committee to collect and preserve personal accounts of the history of Wesley Church through recorded interviews with individuals who have been associated with the church over a multi-year period.

The Oral History Committee worked to establish an administrative and technological support structure for collecting, arranging, producing, screening and safely archiving the oral histories.

The group was successful in training and recruiting people to film, edit, prepare the locations, and schedule the interviews.

48 people have been interviewed, and both still photos and video tapes, that range in length from about 10 minutes to 30 minutes were produced.

The project serves as a present-day continuation of the written histories that were compiled through past efforts of Wesley's historians and other groups charged with collecting and preserving information about Wesley Church. You will learn more about past efforts in future Crier articles.

As Wesley approaches its 250th anniversary, the oral history project will serve as an important cornerstone for the commemoration.

The committee will restart interviews with those who wish to have their personal accounts and stories recorded in the first quarter of 2026.

You are encouraged to speak with a committee member if you are willing to be interviewed.

Committee members include Ann Horsey, Gigi Windley, Donna Josefowski, Eunice Craig, and Tom Welch.

The interviews can be scheduled at a time and place that will best work for you.

Interviews are generally scheduled after the 9:30 service in the sanctuary or in St. Paul's Chapel.

A remote crew can also be sent out to long-term care facilities or to the home of those who are unable to travel here. In special cases, a recorded interview via Zoom call will also work.

The committee is also welcoming new people who are interested and willing to help with the project.

We are seeking those who can help to archive, transcribe and edit the existing footage. If you have technical expertise in visual communications, uploading and managing files in a Dropbox program, or are willing to help conduct the interviews, we'd love to hear from you.

The committee is also considering times when those who wish to view their personal videos. That will likely begin after the first of the year. We will let you know more details on how this will happen soon.

Thanks to all who have been a part of this and thanks to all who have advised the committee along the way.

Search Class

By: Eunice Craig & Gigi Windley

From Psalms 25:5 Guide me in your truth and teach me...

Have you ever struggled with prayer? Has your conversation with God been lacking? Could you use some tips on how to pray? Then join Search Class in November with our new series by Max Lucado, **before Amen, The Power of a Simple Prayer**. This four-part series will inspire and empower you to pray with more fire, faith, and fervency.



November 2	Session 1	"Father, You Are Good" (Read Chapters 1-3 in your book)
November 9	Session 2	"I Need Help" (Read Chapters 4-6)
November 16	Session 3	"They Need Help" (Read Chapter 7)
November 23	Session 4	"Thank You"
November 30	1 st Sunday	<i>Faithful, Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph</i> , our Advent study in Advent

Ask Eunice or Gigi for a participant book to begin reading about Pocket Prayers, A to Z Prayers, Closing Prayers, and more. A short DVD will introduce each weekly segment with discussion facilitated by a class member. Light refreshments are available.

Did You Know???

By: Mary Ann Evans

Wesley has PRAYER TIME ON ZOOM!!

Monday through Friday at 6:00 PM

It started back when we were all shut in because of covid!

AND several members of Wesley have continued meeting briefly every weekday evening!! Led by someone different every evening!

YOU are invited to join us!

No need to be on every night!

Sign on whenever you can!! It lasts about 20 minutes!

We discuss the prayer list with concerns and praises!

We offer an opening and a closing prayer and recite the Lord's Prayer together!

All is kept confidential!

To get on Zoom and join in prayer time: ID: 265-488-0378

Password: 271476

You can also call in by dialing -301-715-8592 & use above ID and password.

Family Life Committee

By: Co-Chairs Mardi Spangler and Jim Thistlewood

Coming up soon is one of our favorite seasons, Advent. We will kick everything off with the live nativity on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 5:30. We hold this in conjunction with the City of Dover's Tree Lighting Ceremony. We will have live animals and ask for volunteers to be our shepherds, kings, Mary and Joseph. No acting experience is necessary.



This year Thanksgiving is late, so we are moving the Advent Dinner back a week. We will host our Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 7, 2025. Family life will provide the main dish, macaroni and cheese, green bean casserole, and cupcakes. We ask each family to bring a side dish that serve 8 people. Start planning by pulling out that favorite recipe. My stomach is already growling!



There will be more to come!!

Thank You Lord: A Season of Gratitude Evangelism

By: Donna Wilkinson Josefowski, Evangelism

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."—Colossians 3:17

As we enter the month of November, we invite you to join us in a special journey of thanksgiving — our **“Thank You, Lord” Challenge**. Inspired by one of Pastor Christine’s October sermons, this practice is meant to draw us closer to God through the simple, yet powerful act of gratitude.

Each day, we will take a few moments to pause, reflect, and thank the Lord for His many blessings — both great and small. We will thank Him for the gifts we can see, and for those unseen moments when His grace carries us through. Gratitude opens our hearts to recognize that God’s goodness surrounds us — in answered prayers, in nature’s beauty, in quiet strength during hard days, and in the love we share with others.



For **thirty days**, let us ask God to open our eyes to the countless ways He blesses us. Each **Sunday during Worship**, we will receive a reflection question and a leaf to write our response on. Together, these leaves will fill our **hallway bulletin board**, becoming a living testimony of our church family’s gratitude — a colorful reminder of all the ways we say, “Thank You, Lord.”

Here are a few of the questions we will reflect on together:

- **Sunday, November 2:** What evidence do you have that points to God’s goodness?
- **Sunday, November 9:** Name five things you are thankful for today.
- **Sunday, November 16:** How have you felt God’s nearness today?
- **Sunday, November 23:** What character traits of God do you appreciate most?
- **Sunday, November 30:** List a gift you have received from God.

May this season of gratitude draw us nearer to the One who gives all good things — and may our hearts overflow with thanksgiving as we see His blessings all around us.

Your Challenge: For thirty days, ask God to show you the many ways He has blessed you. Each Sunday in Worship, we will receive these questions and a leaf to write our answers on. We will fill our bulletin board in the hallway with ways we say, “Thank you to the Lord.” These are a few questions you can use, although there will be more in the bulletin and online.

Other ways to express our thanks to The Lord:

- Use daily reflections or prayer
- Use a journal to write them down
- Verbalize your gratitude to others

United Women in Faith

By: Mary Ann Evans, President



Thank you to everyone who purchased a coupon for Boscov's Friends Helping Friends! We reached our goal of \$505! Hope you found lots of bargains!

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Our circles are meeting monthly. I encourage you to join United Women in Faith. We have 3 Circles to choose from! They meet monthly! Try them all and see which one suits your needs!!

Barbara Circle Shirley Mundorf 302-363-0543
(November 11) Vicki Stoops 302-734-2125
Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 3 pm. in church parlor

Mary Martha Circle Mary Ann Evans 302-383-0841
(November 13)
Meets 2nd Thursday of the month in Parlor, with a 12:30 pm gathering and a 1 pm meeting

Sylvia Circle Helene Zeman 302-674-0167
(November 9)
Meets 2nd Saturday of the month at 2 pm at Helene's home

- * We will be having our fall Unit meetings on Thursday, November 6 at 11:30 at Mikes & Mels. Anyone is welcome to attend. Unit meetings are all women coming together for a meeting of food, discussion & a program. We will approve our budget for 2026 and discuss our slate of officers. If you want to be a part of UWF but not attend Circle meetings you can donate financially and/or attend Unit meetings.
- * We will host our Christmas Cafe again this year in conjunction with the Live Nativity and Dover Trees Lighting on Thursday, December 4th. Come join us in fellowship hall! We will be selling some hot soup or chili and cookies.

Watch for details as we will be asking for donations again this year!

Thank you again for your support!!!

Men's Bible Study

By: Jim Skeans

New Book Study coming soon will be

Simon Peter: Simon Peter an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call.

He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. And that's the point of Simon Peter, a six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today.

The Men's Bible Study meets on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, Tuesdays at 7 am in the Search Classroom in the Education Building, and on the 3rd Tuesdays for breakfast at Hollywood Diner at 7 am.

All men are welcome! Come join us!

Music at Wesley

By: Sherry Roscoe



As we approach the holiday season, I would like to take a moment to again thank all of our musicians at Wesley UMC for dedicating their beautiful talents in the service of our Lord.

We are blessed with very active vocal and handbell choirs here at Wesley. Be sure to reach out and thank the choirs, and all who sing and ring in some capacity here at Wesley for the beautiful music they make possible through their time and talents.

Look for beautiful, heartfelt worship music throughout the Thanksgiving and Advent Seasons!

Did you know that JS Bach signed his compositions with the initials "SDG?") This stands for Soli deo Gloria! All glory and honor to God! So, as we go into the holiday season, and every Sunday we say...Soli deo Gloria!!!

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
2 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 8:35 am New Member Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	3 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	4 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS 7 pm Nomination	5 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	6 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm SPRC 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	8 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal 2 pm Sylvia Circle
9 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 8:35 am New Member Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	10 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm Church Conference	11 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 3 pm Barbara Circle 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm DCS Board Mtg 7 pm DCS	12 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA 7 pm Moms Demand Action	13 12:30 pm Mary Martha Circle 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	15 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
16 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Nursery 10:30 am Fellowship	17 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	18 7 am Men's Bible Study (Breakfast) 10 am Staff Meeting 11:30 am Women to Women Luncheon 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm DCS Pie Pick-up 6:30 pm Trustees 7 pm DCS	19 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	20 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	22 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal

23 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 8:35 am New Member Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	24 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	25 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS	26 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	27 12 pm (noon) Community Meal Church Office Closed	28 6:30 pm ACA Mtg. Church Office Closed	29 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
30 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Nursery 10:30 am Fellowship Hour	Vacation Days or Days Off for the following: Pastor Christine – 11/21 – 11/29, 2025 Marian Hudson – Noon on 11/21 --11/28,2025 Sherry Roscoe – 11/23, 2025 Michele Dryda – in Rehab for broken Femur 					

WESLEY PRESCHOOL AND PLAY CARE

By: Oveta Fullman, Director

Our preschool has been filled with excitement this October, thanks to wonderful visitors from our community! On October 15, the Dover Fire Department entertained us with a fantastic visit, during which every child received a shiny fire hat. We also had the delightful Dan the Trash Can come to share his wisdom on recycling, reminding us all of the importance of caring for our planet. And let's not forget our continuing adventures with Soccer Shots, where we're kicking goals and having a blast!

Throughout October, we embraced the beauty of fall, diving into a variety of creative activities. From crafting with apples and pumpkins to exploring the vibrant colors of leaves, our classrooms transformed into a festive autumn wonderland. November promises to be just as thrilling, as we embark on new learning journeys exploring our five senses, delving into the rich history of Native Americans, and celebrating the spirit of Thanksgiving.

We also enjoyed our first Positive Behavior Support (PBS) session with our preschoolers, along with our inaugural home activity featuring the heartwarming story of "The Kissing Hand."

Looking forward, we are thrilled to welcome more visitors this November who will enlighten our young learners about indigenous culture, enriching their understanding of the world around them.

Mark your calendars for some important upcoming dates:

- Preschool classes will be **closed on November 10 and 11, 2025.**
- We are eagerly anticipating a special visit from Abbott's Mill on **November 18, 2025.**

- The excitement continues with our Family Luncheon on **November 19, 2025**, where we will gather together in gratitude and celebration.

Finally, please remember that Wesley Preschool and Play Care will be closed on **Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28**, in observance of Thanksgiving. Wishing you all a joyful and safe holiday season filled with love and warmth!

