



The Wesley Crier

A PUBLICATION OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.WESLEYUMC-DOVER.COM
☎302-678-9626 ☎302-678-9627

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2025

Published September 23, 2025

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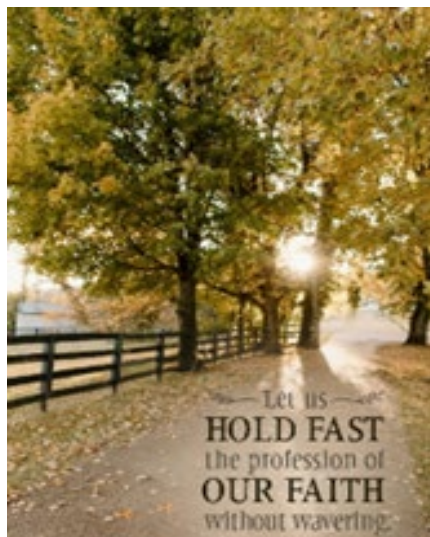
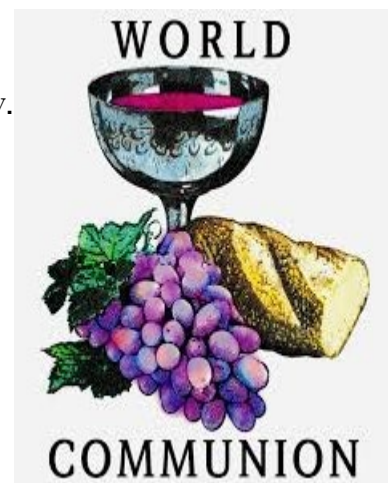
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Note from the Pastor

In the church calendar, the month of October ends with Reformation Sunday. The Reformation is traditionally dated to "Halloween of '17" (1517!) when Martin Luther nailed his 99 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Württemberg. We remember Martin Luther as a hero, and the Reformation, in the end, as a victory in the protestant world.

We tend to think of Reformation as a positive movement, at least from our perspective. But it came at an enormous cost. It is the story of a slow and painful separation. It could just as well be a warning as a celebration. It created war, anger, pain, anguish, violence, and prejudice throughout Europe that lasted well into the 1900s, through the "Troubles" in Ireland. Although there were many other factors in those conflicts, the definition of the divide was between Catholics and Protestants. Angry division is a very current issue, as dangerous today as it was in 1517. We have experienced the pain of a split in our own denomination, and we are anxious about the threats of political division in our country. We know that arguing and fighting only create more chaos, they never resolve it.

But we also know the giver of peace. We know that there is a place to find truth, and we know that there is only one place, one person: Jesus Christ. The first Sunday of October, World Communion Sunday, was created in 1933 to contribute to unity among (protestant) denominations. This is a reminder that at the heart of our worship, when we share the body and the blood of Christ, we re-experience the assurance that unity is offered to all of us equally in the body of our one Lord. And again, that unity is only possible in Christ. We have this relationship with Christ through the presence of the Spirit available to us in every moment. This is the life that brings peace.



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Note from the Pastor

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Taking a side, arguing eloquently or trusting the world will not satisfy us, save us, or resolve any disputes. As the body of Christ in the world, our witness can never be “anti- “. Christ came *for* the world, to restore the world. He did not ignore pain, hunger, or oppression. He “*attacked*” them with love. That is always our option. There is no other way, there is no other truth, there is no other life.

Galatians 3:28: There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Christine

Devotionals on Prayer with Inspiration from Scripture*

By: Anthony Falkowski, Director of Pastoral Care

Prayer is one of the most powerful tools in a Christian’s spiritual life. It connects us with God, strengthens our faith, and aligns our hearts with His will. The Bible provides clear guidance on how to pray, encouraging us to approach God with sincerity and humility.

The following two devotionals on prayer are inspired by Scripture. They will guide you in deepening your relationship with God, understanding His will, and finding peace through prayer, exploring how you can grow spiritually by praying with purpose and devotion.

Devotion on Praying with a Grateful Heart

Scripture: *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1*

Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

REFLECTION: Gratitude is a central theme in Scripture. God calls us to give thanks in every situation. This doesn’t mean that life will always be easy, but it encourages us to focus on God’s goodness, even in difficult times. When we pray with a grateful heart, we acknowledge God’s blessings and remain mindful of his presence in our lives. Gratitude shifts our perspective from what we lack to what we have. It strengthens our faith and fosters a deeper connection with God. No matter the circumstances, choosing to be thankful helps us see God’s hand at work. It is a reminder that He is always with us, guiding, providing, and loving us.

PRAYER: *Dear God, thank you for your endless love and faithfulness. I praise You for the blessings You have given me, even in times of hardship. Help me to remember to give thanks in all circumstances, trusting that You are always present. Open my eyes to Your goodness in every moment. Teach me to have a grateful heart, one that sees Your hand in the smallest details of my life. May my prayers reflect a heart full of gratitude, and may my thankfulness be a testimony to Your greatness. Strengthen my faith as I continually turn to You with thanksgiving. Amen.*

Devotion on Trusting God’s Timing Through Prayer

Scripture: *“For the vision is yet for the appointed time: it hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come; it will not delay.” Habakkuk 2:3 (NASB)*

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REFLECTION: God's timing is perfect, but it's often different from ours. We may want answers or changes to come quickly, but God knows the right time for everything. Prayer is a way to express our trust in His timing, even when it feels like we are waiting too long. The prophet HABAKKUK reminds us that God's plans are not delayed – they are unfolding exactly as they should. Trusting God's timing means letting go of our need to control and accepting His pace. It requires patience but it also builds our faith. As we pray, we wait in anticipation for God's answer, knowing that it will come at the right time. In the waiting, God is working in us, preparing us for what lies ahead.

PRAYER: *Heavenly Father, I trust in Your perfect timing. Help me to be patient as I wait for Your answers. I admit that I often want things on my own timeline, but I know that Your ways are better. Teach me to wait with faith, knowing that You are at work even when I can't see it. Strengthen my trust in You and help me to remain hopeful as I wait for Your plan to unfold. I surrender my impatience to You, and I ask that You give me peace in the waiting. I trust that You will answer me at the perfect time. Amen.*

*Excerpts from **Devotionals for Today – Yahoo!**

Missions Committee Update

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

Upcoming projects:

*Annual Rise Against Hunger: Come help prepare packaged meals for 5,000 on **Saturday, October 4 at Wyoming UMC from 10 am to 12 pm.** Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food and other aid to people in developing nations. This year we have the option of filling out the necessary paperwork prior to arriving to help. You may fill out the form at this Registration Link: <https://riseagainsthunger.org/register/?id=701Pj00000Xf7ddIAB>

We will update in November with number of meals packed and shouting out Wesley volunteers! Thank you for all you do to support Rise Against Hunger and check back next month for additional information that will be shared about this combined effort with Wyoming Methodist.

Long underwear drive kicks off Oct. 5th! Check Fellowship Hall for a tag on a snowman with a size of long underwear needed. The drive will continue until November 2 and a collection box will be in the library. Long underwear will be distributed at the Dec. 20 community meal. The contact for this project is Carol Gambone psu_turtle@hotmail.com.

*Angel Tree 2025. Angel Tree names begin arriving Oct. 1! These are the names of children of incarcerated individuals who Wesley congregants support by purchasing gifts. Look for the tree in Fellowship Hall in November or contact Carol Gambone for an early tag! Her email address is psu_turtle@hotmail.com.

Community Meal continues to serve 60 folks, and we are so grateful for a fall leadership from Solid Rock Baptist, the United Women of Faith, the Choir, and Family Life committees. Thank you to our volunteers who make the meals run extremely smoothly each month.

Lay Leaders Update

By: Gigi Windley & Eunice Craig

We are grateful for the mentorship we have recently received to help us become accustomed to our new roles. We thank Larry and Donna Josefowski for all they have done as lay leaders and for helping us to access the training and the resources.

We also thank the staff and those who are in leadership roles for helping us to gain a deeper knowledge of all the ministries our congregation supports. It has been and continues to be an enlightening journey.

As autumn arrives, we embrace the harvest season look forward to the events that will support a whole host of ministries. You will read about these elsewhere in the Crier each month.

We continue to work closely with Pastor Christine other church leadership to coordinate and facilitate the life of the church.

There are three things that the Lay leaders are focusing on this Fall. One is Laity Sunday. This is when the entire service is planned and conducted by laity. This is an opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of lay members to the church ministries and host of missions that Wesley supports.

This year's Laity Sunday is Sunday, October 19. Fred Dismore will be delivering the message.

The second thing that we continue to focus on is to become more engaged and involved with the Lay Academy programs offered through the Peninsula Delaware Conference. Those who feel led are encouraged to delve deeply into their faith journey with this continuing education. Wesley has several members involved in these programs. We are always looking for more to participate.

If you feel led, please talk with us or Pastor Christine to see if this is something you'd be interested in pursuing. Lay Academy classes are scheduled in Milford for Friday night and Saturday, October 17.

Finally, we are working to refine the Ministries That Matter Program. Every 2nd and 4th Sunday you'll learn about one of the many ministries that Wesley creates and supports.

The same information presented during the Ministries that Matter during the church service, will also be repeated in the Crier, on social media, and through notices and flyers. The goal is to keep our communications timely, succinct, and easily available

For everyone, we recommend the spiritual gifts inventory that is offered free of charge online through Discipleship Ministries. This learning tool is designed to help you identify your own spiritual strengths and gifts and be better prepared to find your own place in ministry. Go to Discipleship Ministries / Spiritual Gifts Inventory. If you need help accessing this tool or do not have online access, please check with the church office so that we can arrange for someone to assist you.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that Wesley's relationship with our own Peninsula-Delaware Conference continues to evolve. If you are interested in learning more, please see the companion article that serves to update all of us who are working to create beloved communities throughout the region and beyond.

One thing we have learned in our new roles is that Wesley UMC is reaching farther than we both imagined!

How well do you know your Episcopal Area?

By: Gigi Windley & Eunice Craig

The following article came from the recent conference publication. It does a good job of explaining where things stand and begins with the question:

How well do you know your Episcopal Area?

To create opportunities for shared ministry and leadership and practice more faithful stewardship, the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference and the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference have partnered to form the Baltimore, Washington and Peninsula-Delaware area. Created in July of 2024 by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. The new Episcopal area is led by Bishop Latrelle Miller Easterling.

In addition to sharing a Bishop, the two conferences share several other staff members, including CFO Paul Eichelbeger, and Chief Administrative Officer, the Reverend Erica Robinson- Johnston. They also join together in many ministries, including the new Ignite Conference for Youth. This sharing of resources, mission and ministry began in 2001 when Baltimore, Washington and Peninsula Delaware conferences joined in affiliation, a unique partnership led by Bishop Easterling. Both annual conferences adopted a vision to create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

While they work closely together in shared ministries, each conference also maintains its own identity and autonomy, The Peninsula Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church has 293 churches with approximately 58,700 members in Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Its office is at 139 N. State Street in Dover.

The Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church has 563 churches with approximately 129,000 members in Washington, DC, parts of Maryland, the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, and Bermuda. At the 2024 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, five other Episcopal areas were formed. They include Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey, New York and New England, Susquehanna and Upper New York, Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia and Bermuda. For more info on please visit: <https://www.bwcumc.org/about/conference->

Women to Women

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant



Do you have an hour or so to spare once a month for lunch?
Do you like dining at various restaurants?
Would you like to know the women in the church better?
Then this group is just for you!

Women to Women is a group of women who love to gather once a month at 11:30 am, on the third Tuesday, for great fellowship at various restaurants.

Join us **Tuesday, October 21** at Bob Evans Restaurant, Camden.

RSVP to Janet Flower or Mary Ann Evans by **Monday, October 20, 2025**.

See You There!

Christian Education

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

I am excited about my impending retirement, but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all the opportunities I have experienced working here. My last day is September 30th.

As I stand on the precipice of retirement, ready to trade in working with youth for sand between my toes. Having had the privilege of working with a remarkable group of youth and their families, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that supportive networks can have on individual growth and community resilience.

As I reflect on these experiences, I am filled with gratitude for the countless moments of laughter, learning, and connection that have shaped my journey. Each interaction has reinforced my belief in the power of mentorship and the importance of fostering environments where young people can thrive. I have seen how a simple act of encouragement can ignite a spark of confidence, propelling individuals toward their dreams. As I step into this new chapter, I carry with me the lessons learned and the hope that the seeds of resilience we have planted together will continue to grow, nurturing future generations and strengthening our communities for years to come.

As we navigate through the complexities of our daily lives, it becomes increasingly important to pause and reflect on our choices. Each decision we make shapes not only our own path but also influences those around us. Embracing this interconnectedness can lead to a deeper understanding of our shared experiences and a greater sense of community. By fostering empathy and open communication, we can create a more harmonious environment where everyone feels valued and heard.

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to you (the church) for your unwavering support over the past years. It has been challenging at times, filled with both obstacles and triumphs, and your encouragement has been a guiding light through it all. Your belief in my abilities has not only motivated me to push beyond my limits but has also instilled a sense of confidence that I carry with me every day. I am truly grateful for the countless times you have lent an ear, offered advice, or simply stood by my side.

Again, thank you for your support.

Special thanks to Gwen, Sue, Crystal, Kyle, AJ, Kylie, and Zach for being there and always having my back. You will always be in my heart. Your unwavering support has made all the difference in my life, and I am forever grateful to each of you. Thank you.

Sunday School

All Sunday Schools have started back. Children's Sunday School (K-4th grade) meets in Grace Fellowship Hall. Youth Sunday School (5th - 12th grade) meets in Grace Fellowship Hall. All classes meet at 9:30 am.

Student Prayer Cards

Thanks to everybody who took a prayer card. Please pray for the youth for the entire school year. If you like, you may send them a note or card throughout the year.

Search Class

By: Eunice Craig & Gigi Windley

From Proverbs 2:6 ...the Lord gives wisdom and from him comes knowledge and understanding.

As children of all ages have returned to school this Fall to learn and study, why not you?

Join other adult members of your Wesley Church congregation in **Search Class on Sundays at 8:35 am in the parlor** to gain a better understanding of the Scriptures and the Biblical teachings of Jesus Christ.



Search Class participants select, read, review, and discuss a variety of religious topics written by renown theologians and religious scholars. A new study recently chosen by the group starts **Sunday September 28, with Adam Hamilton's, *Seeing Gray in a Black and White World***. Come read and hear about Hamilton's thoughts on religion, morality, politics, and matters of faith that, "keeps us up at night". Pastor Hamilton addresses the many controversial religious topics of our day. In this book, he addresses three main themes:

- Seeing the Gray in a Black and White World
- The Bible, Beliefs, and the Spiritual Journey
- Politics and Ethics in the Center

Under each theme he discusses topics that will stimulate our thinking and provoke discourse.

There are twenty-three provocative questions. Examples include:

- Are you a Liberal or Conservative?; If You Can't say Something Nice...; Where Is God When Bad Things Happen?; Situation Ethics and WWJD; A Worthy Vision For America; Shhh! Just Listen!

Put it to your Heavenly Father in prayer. Then answer, YES! to "Won't you join us on this faith journey?"

Discover the 8 am Sunday Service

By: Donna W. Josefowski

Did you know that we have two worship services every Sunday morning? If you're wondering which might be right for you, consider this:

Why should I attend the 8 am service? Try it if.

- You enjoy starting your day early
- You prefer a quieter service without music
- You have travel or other plans later in the day

Our 8 am service takes place in the chapel, where the atmosphere is warm, welcoming, and close-knit.

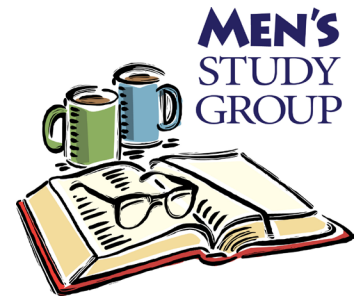
We'd love for you to join us! Enter through the elevator doors, come as you are, and enjoy!



Men's Bible Study

By: Jim Skeans, Leader

Most Christians know the Lord's Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave them this prayer. He likely taught it to his followers often, not just one time. He never intended the Lord's Prayer to be a museum piece, framed and placed on a mantel or in a display case. It was Jesus teaching God's people, through his disciples, how to pray.



In *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*, Rev. Adam Hamilton guides us to really know—and really pray—the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. And he teaches us how to use it as a pattern for our own prayer life.

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!

If you have questions, please contact Jim Skeans at (302) 678-0974.

Dates to Remember

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: October 5th Wesley Church joins with many other denominations throughout the world to celebrate World Communion Sunday. This observance focuses us on the universal and inclusive nature of our mission to make disciples of all nations, and the importance and value of celebrating Communion together.

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.



SPRC Update

By: Jim Thistlewood, Chair

Wesley Church Staff Updates

After many years of faithful service, we have two retirements to share and one exciting new hire to announce.

Joe Young – Director of Youth & Children's Ministry

Joe will retire on **September 30** after eight wonderful years of guiding our youth and children ministries. He has faithfully led our young people on retreats, youth rallies, trips to Pecometh, and through Confirmation. Thanks to Joe's dedication, many of our youth have grown and "graduated" from the program, leaving our Sunday School small but full of fond memories. Currently, SPRC has decided not to hire a replacement until our congregation grows to need one again. We will have a reception on Sunday, October 5, 2025 during coffee hour.

Anthony Falkowski – Director of Pastoral Care

Anthony will retire on **October 31**. Joining us in 2020 during the challenges of COVID, he reached out to members he had never met, offering care and building strong relationships with shut-ins and the wider congregation. His ministry of presence has touched many lives. A reception will be held during coffee hour on Sunday, October, 26, 2025.

Love Offering

We are receiving a Love offering for each. If you are interested in contributing, please make your check payable to Wesley UMC with the notation in the lower left corner of the check. You may send your check to the church office, or you may give online and note Love offering and their name. Though they are retiring, you'll still see Joe and Anthony around Wesley—please thank them warmly when you do.

Welcome Darlene Wade



SPRC is delighted to announce **Darlene Wade** as Anthony's replacement. Darlene brings extensive church leadership experience, including at Asbury UMC in Salisbury, and she is also a published children's author. She will begin in **mid-October**, allowing time to work alongside Anthony before his retirement. When you meet Darlene, please extend a warm Wesley welcome!

Wesley Preschool and Play Care

By: Laura Parent, Preschool Secretary



We are delighted to share that our summer program was a resounding success, and while we're sad to see it wrap up, we are filled with joy over the wonderful experiences the children enjoyed while exploring a variety of enchanting summer themes.

We have officially started the 2025-2026 school year here at Wesley Preschool and Play Care! Our teachers are excited to begin the year and engage our little learners.

Our Parent Orientation Night on August 19, 2025, and our Meet the Teacher event on August 28, 2025, were both great successes, with many parents attending.

Soccer Shots hosted a Soccer Fun Day, where all the children participated and learned skills like shooting, dribbling, and scoring into the goal. If you're interested in registering your child in the Soccer Shots program, please visit the preschool office for more information.

We held our first fundraiser at the Rail Haus on September 17, 2025. Thank you to everyone that supported Wesley Preschool, 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the school.

Here are some important dates to remember:

- FALL PICTURES will be taken Tuesday, September 30, through Thursday, October 2, 2025.
- FIRE SAFETY WEEK: October 6 through October 10, 2025.
- PRESCHOOL AND PLAY CARE CONFERENCES: October 1 - October 30, 2025
- PRESCHOOL CLOSED: October 10, 2025
- FAMILY FUN NIGHT/FALL FESTIVAL is Thursday, October 30, 2025. This will be a fun night for families, held in Grace Fellowship Hall and possibly in the classrooms. Students and their families will participate in fun activities.

There are still openings in the 3-year-old preschool classes. If you want to register a child for preschool or if you want to learn more about our Preschool/Play Care programs, please call the preschool office at (302)678-8987.

We're excited for a fantastic school year ahead!

United Women in Faith

By: Mary Ann Evans, President



A GREAT BIG **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated school supplies this year!

Donations were a huge success again this year! We got to watch the pile of donations in front of the altar grow each week as more things were brought in and so nice to have Pastor Christine bless them all. A special thank you to the Colonial Rotary Club of Dover that joined with us this year to help more children in the Capitol School District.



** 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
(October 14) 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
(October 9)
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
(October 11)
Meets 2nd Saturday of the month at 2 pm at Helene's home

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- * We will be having our fall Unit meetings on Thursday, November 6 at 11:30 at Mikes & Mels Restaurant in Wyoming, DE. Anyone is welcome to attend. Unit meetings are all the Circles 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.
- * You still have time to purchase your Boscov's Friends to Friends coupon.
Purchase a \$5.00 coupon from us. (We keep the \$5). On October 22nd you go to any Boscov's store or shop on line and use your coupon to get 25% off of all of your purchases!! It is a good deal for everyone!!! (see attached flier)
- * We have decided to postpone the Arts & Craft Fair until the Spring. (April 11th) Rent a table if you have crafts to sell or come out and shop at all the vendors. Watch for more details concerning this event!!

Thank you again for your support!!!

Thank you again for your support!!

Family Life Committee

By: Jim & Mardi

The threat of rain could not keep your church family down! The Family Life Committee kicked off the new church year with a Welcome Back Picnic in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 7, 2024. It was a chance for our congregation to eat hamburgers, hotdogs, covered dishes, Mommom's ice cream and make your own sundaes. Who does not love a good ice cream sundae??? Everyone seemed to enjoy the day. We had about 30 people participate.

We want to thank John Dryda for cooking up our hamburgers and hot dogs. I also want to thank John and Michele Dryda (who was recovering from pneumonia) for helping Jim and I get everything ready for the picnic. We could not have done it without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Continued on 13

Family Life will be hosting a Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 25, 2024, from 6:30- 8 PM in the church parking lot. Bring your favorite car and decorate the trunk. Bring your kids in costume to trick or treat. It will be a safe and fun event for our families and friends. There will be prizes for best vehicles!!! All can participate. (photos from last year)



Anyone wishing to donate candy can bring it into the church and place it in the candy donation bin by the kitchen serving window Monday – Friday 9 am – 3 pm or on Sunday mornings. Please let us know that you will be participating by filling out the form or contacting the church office.

I went to the movies the other night in Milford and saw the preview of a movie due to come out in October called “Soul on Fire”. I love a feel-good movie. I think we could all benefit from hearing an uplifting story. Soul on Fire is the story of John O’Leary who was burned over 95% of his body as a child. He survived and went on to be a motivational speaker. Stay tuned because Family Life will have more information about an outing regarding this movie.

After a challenging summer, your Family Life Committee is back. Come join us for our event and be a part of our team.

Annual Trunk-or-Treat Saturday Oct 25th from 6:30 - 8pm

Name: _____

I will have a decorated Car _____

I will donate Candy _____

Candy must be dropped off prior to the event.



Delaware District (Southern) Lay Servant Academy

Friday Night: October 17, 2025, 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday: October 18, 2025, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Welcome to the 2025 Fall Lay Academy! OPEN TO ALL!

*This flyer provides information about the requirements to become a Certified Lay Servant and details about the Lay Servant Academy. Some requirements have recently changed regarding becoming Certified and maintaining your certified status. **The cost for each class is \$40.00.***

1. The “Basic Course” is the first course to be taken by anyone wishing to become a Lay Servant once you have your pastor’s approval to start the process to become a Lay Servant. Credit will not be given for advanced courses taken before the Basic Course. Upon completion of the Basic Course, you will become a Local Lay Servant.
2. Local Lay Servants shall serve one full year at their local church before taking “Living Our United Methodist Beliefs” to become a Certified Lay Servant.
3. “Living Our United Methodist Beliefs” is a mandatory course that must be taken by all Lay Servants. You will not be permitted to take any advanced course for certification or recertification until you have completed this course.
4. To maintain your certified status, all Lay Servants must take a class every three years. If you have allowed your lay certification to lapse, you begin again by taking the “Living Our United Methodist Beliefs”.
5. **A minimum of 10 hours of classroom instruction for each class is required in order for the course to be used toward the certification process.**
6. Courses are also available at <http://www.beadisciple.com>. For any online class, your Lay Academy Director’s approval is required. At the completion of any online course, a printout of the completed course must be submitted to Delaware District Office. Failure to provide Lay Academy Director’s approval and proof of completion will hinder your certification process.

Class Schedule

Friday Evening Classes:

- **Dates:** October 17, 2025
- **Registration:** 5:30 – 6:00 PM
- **Class:** 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- **Location:** Avenue UMC,
20 N. Church Street, Milford, DE

Saturday Classes:

- **Dates:** October 18, 2025
- **Refreshments:** 8:00 – 8:30 AM
- **Class:** 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM (working lunch)
- **Location:** Avenue UMC,
20 N. Church Street, Milford, DE



Important: No registrations will be accepted on the opening night.

All registration forms **MUST BE SUBMITTED** by Monday, October 13, 2025.

Online Registration link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUDTX44cT6zK-50abDdQjKqGPqINqGSZld_3zKpFjC8ZJgNQ/viewform?usp=header

Registration QR Code

CLASSES OFFERED

1. **LAY SERVANT BASIC COURSE – Cost: \$40.00**

Leader: Rev. Frances Fitchett

Order Book at: [The Upper Room Store & Resource Library - Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book](#)

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

2. **LIVING OUR UNITED METHODIST BELIEFS – Cost: \$40.00**

Leader: Rev. Violet Dupree

Order Book at: [The Upper Room Store & Resource Library - Living Our Beliefs](#)

Course Goals:

To discover the place of doctrine in relation to the missional movement known as Methodism.

To develop an understanding of Wesleyan theology and its influence on the practical structure and disciplines for the first Methodists

To acquire knowledge of Methodist history and the formation of other Methodist denominations

To explore the Wesleyan understanding of grace and how it became key to the movement

To describe and discuss the means of grace and how these disciplines lead to holiness of heart and life.

3. **CALLED TO PREACH: Leading Worship – Cost: \$40.00**

Leader: Rev. Christine Bowden

Order Book at: [The Upper Room Store & Resource Library - Leading Worship](#)

Leading Worship is an advanced focused on the ministry of the Lay Servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group, class, organization, or congregation in worship. The course is grounded in the classic patterns of Christian worship and the practices of leading worship. Participants will come to understand more about Christian worship to lead worship with more confidence. They will practice leading worship in a variety of formats throughout the course.

4. **SOUL RESET: Relearning the Rhythms of Grace through Daily Life with God – Cost: \$40.00**

Leader: Rev. Rich Walton

Order Book at: <https://store.upperroom.org/product/soul-reset>

Kindle version:

<https://www.amazon.com/Soul-Reset-Breakdown-Breakthrough-Wholeness/dp/0835818969>

This is a study for everyone who moves at breakneck speed through their daily lives, often relying only on their own strength to bring God's kingdom on earth. Jesus shows us a different way, an easier, unforced rhythm of what kingdom work looks like. It's a balance of work, rest, play, worship, exercise, and eating well—spiritual practices that keep our souls hydrated and healthy as we do the work of the church in the world.

5. **SACREMENTS: Means of Grace - Cost: \$40.00**

Leader: Rev. Robyne Mayer

Order Book at: <https://store.upperroom.org/product/this-holy-mystery>

<https://store.upperroom.org/product/by-water-and-the-spirit>

This advanced course with a leader's guide by Rev. Beth Galbreath crystalizes her unique focus on Baptism and Holy Communion. Here Rev. Galbreath combines her approach with the key insights of two books on our sacramental life.

OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:45 am PS Chapel Mtg. 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	2 6 pm SPRC Mtg. 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	4 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal 3 – 6 pm McPhail Baby Shower
5 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Nursery 10:30 am Joe's Reception	6 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	7 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS 7 pm Church Council	8 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA 7 pm Moms Demand Action	9 12:30 pm Mary Martha Circle 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	11 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal 2 pm Sylvia Circle
12 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 11am Worship Mtg.	13 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	14 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	15 5:30 pm Finance 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	16 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	18 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
19 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	20 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	21 7 am Men's Bible Study (Breakfast) 10 am Staff Meeting 11:30 am Women to Women Luncheon 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm Trustees 7 pm DCS	22 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	23 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	25 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal 6:30 – 8 pm Trunk or Treat
26 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Nursery 10:30 am Anthony's Reception	27 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	28 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS	29 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	30 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	

Getting To Know You: The Results

By: Donna Wilkinson Josefowski, Evangelism

During the summer, we had different questions each week to help us get to know each other better. Sorry if I missed any answers on this sheet. Look for a Gratitude Challenge in November!



Where is your favorite place to vacation?

Paris or Denver (Mary O)	Chesapeake City, MD	East Coast Beaches
Marco Island, Florida	Home	Hawaii (Ruby S)
Nova Scotia	Scotland (Tobi)	Port Herman (Jim S)
Bahamas	England (Donna J)	Outer Banks
On a Cruise Ship (Pat N)	Gettysburg (Rebecca C)	Ocean City, MD
Alaska (Bob)	Turkey	Niagara Falls, Canada
Mountains of VA (Alice G)	Hawaii (Larry)	The Beach (Christine B)
Gatlinburg TN (Louse A)	Bermuda (June E)	Mountains (Nancy V)
OBX (Jim & Sandi) T)	Lancaster PA (Jeff E)	Crystal River, FL (Janet F)
Alaska (Richard)	Costa Rico (Fred R)	Nantucket
Chincoteague	Adirondack Mts (Mike P)	Any Place with Family
New Hampshire	Kent Island	Lewes, DE
Where I can my toes in the sand		

Person who influenced your life the most?

Jesus and My Wife	My Husband Daniel (Helene)	Mike P.
Beth P.	Father	My Sister
My Wife (Terry)	My Mom (Gillian S)	My Grandmother
My Dad (Donna J)	Grandmother (Steve B)	My French Teacher &
Wrestling Coach	My lovely wife & Uncle John	My Mom
The President		

What did you want to be when you grew up?

Teacher	Teacher (Patty F)	Teacher
Baseball Player (Jeff E)	Geologist Earth Science (Ann)	Nurse (Janet F)
Actor (Carol)	Stewardess (Mary)	A God Person (Christine B)
Pediatric Nurse (Pat N)	Farmer Bob	Veterinarian
Kindergarten Teacher	Archeologist/Writer/Pastry Chef (Aimee S)	
Home Ed Teacher (MaryAnn D)	Army Officer (Harry S)	A Mother
Archeologist or Writer (Donna J)	Dancer/ Singer, missionary, bookkeeper, & Good cook/Wife	
A Walmart Greeter	Forest Ranger (Mike P)	Teacher (Connie F)
Physical Therapist (Linda)	Chief Tony Williams/Mr. Flavous Stathum (Gary G)	

Continued on 18

Name your favorite food for dinner?

Desserts (MAE)	Anything Chocolate (Janet F)	Italian Food
Hamburger	Salmon	Fried Chicken (Christine B)
Pulled pork-coleslaw-cornbread	Ravioli & Meatballs (Harry S)	Spaghetti (Aimee Snell)
Chicken	Stuffed Shells + Scallops + Green Beans (Jeff E)	
Mac & Cheese (Beth P)	Salmon from Cool Springs (MaryAnn D)	
Corn on the Cob & Home-Grown Tomatoes (Mike P)		

What state (or country if not born in the US) were you born?

Maryland (4)	Wisconsin (John)	Florida (Michele)
Maryland	Chester, PA (Louise A)	Delaware (7)
New Jersey	Iowa	Pennsylvania (6)
Pennsylvania (Tom S)	Pennsylvania (Donna J)	Pennsylvania (Terry)
Pennsylvania (Carol)	Maryland (Bernice)	New Jersey (Dan M)
Delaware (Candy)	Pennsylvania (Beth)	Ohio (Donna H)
Mississippi	North Carolina	Philadelphia, PA (Janet F)
Hampton, VA (Aimee S)	Iowa (Jim F)	Dover, DE
Massachusetts		

A famous person (past or present) you would like to spend the day with?

Martin Luther King, Jr	Elvis Pressley	Neil Diamond
King David	JFK (Michele)	Ruth Bader Ginsberg (Tobi)
Martin Luther King, Jr (Beth)	Jesus (3 people)	Leroy Jones
Sojourner Truth	Henry VIII (Donna J)	George Washington
Elvis Pressley	Queen Elizabeth	Katherine Hepburn
My husband, Jim; My grandmothers (Aimee S)		Morgan Freeman
My daughter, Suzette (Janet)		

What is one of your favorite hobbies?

Handyman Projects (Gary G)	Old Clocks & Old Coins (Bob)	Watercolor
Taking Care of Harry (Nikki)	Gardening and Singing	Sewing and Quilting (Janet)
Gardening and Grandchildren	Collecting Post Cards	Pickleball
Travel & Food & Reading (Aimee S)	Tennis	Hiking
Auto Sports (Jim T)	Reading	Quilting (Pat N)
Yoga	Gardening	Birding (Barb S)
Puzzles (MaryAnn)	Genealogy (Donna J)	

Do you consider yourself an introvert or an extrovert?

Introvert (4)	You Tell Me (MaryAnn E)	Closet Introvert (Gary G)
Introvert (Gillian S)	Extrovert (Harry S)	Introvert (Christine B)
Introvert (but extroverted as youth)	Extrovert (2)	Extrovert (Tom S)
Introvert (Jeff E)	Introvert (Jenn M)	Introvert (Louise A)
Introvert (Donna J)	Extrovert (Fred R)	Extrovert (Pat N)
Extrovert (depends on the situation)		

Beach, lake, or mountains?

Beach (4)	Mountains (Fred R)	Beach (Betty)
Beach (Tom)	Mountains (4)	Lake
Lake by the mountains (Barb)		