

Wesley Witness



A New Year is here! Can you believe it? In the Church calendar we are moving into the season of Epiphany! Though not always on a Sunday, Epiphany is the season where we celebrate Christ being revealed to the world, in particular to the Gentile world. (Yes, that's us!) Epiphany is roughly translated "to appear" as in Christ has appeared!!!

The season starts with the story of the Magi, ancient astrologers from the East who traveled long and far to meet Jesus. Often missed is that Jesus also appears to the Gentiles as the Holy Family flees the persecution of Herod as refugees into Egypt.

Then we move into the full revelation of Christ's appearance in his Baptism with John! Often, while growing up, I heard gospel messages preached on Jesus changing everything - Gentiles were included in God's love and salvation although we weren't before. I thought this moment of Epiphany would be a great moment of clarification, but what I had heard growing up, whether that is what was preached or if I just misunderstood, was *wrong*.

Throughout the Old Testament, God's mission was always through the people of Israel to all the world. Jesus did not come to erase the law but to bring the heart of the Old Testament to fulfillment. We can read God's love and mission to us Gentiles time and again throughout the Old Testament, showing up in places like Isaiah 49:6 when God tells Israel to be a light to all nations. Or we witness the powerful effects of this mission in the women in Jesus' own ancestry, like Gentiles Rehab and Ruth, who were grafted into the community as they perused God.

What about the entire book of Jonah, where God sent a Jewish man to the Gentile nation of Nineveh that they might repent and be saved. By the end of the story they have repented and Jonah is sulking that all these Gentiles have been saved by God!

When Jesus comes on the scene, this mission to us Gentiles is not a new thing. It is something God has always been doing. Yet like everything else with Jesus, He shows up, fulfilling the call that has always been there in a way that no one could have imagined.

So, in this season of Epiphany, let us seek out where Jesus might be appearing in our lives, and ask where He might be asking us to show up in others'. God is still on mission, and we are invited to join!

In the Peace of Christ,

Pastor Ben

Breaking News



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY—Come join Pastor Ben *in person* in the conference room or via ZOOM from noon to 1:00 PM on Tuesdays. All are welcome and we would love to have you join us as we study *Philippians*. Contact the church office if you need a link for ZOOM.

Coming up for the new study period we delve into the book of *Revelations*.

Epiphany

WE THREE KINGS



Wesley United Methodist Church

Mission Statement

Celebrating God!

Growing in Faith!

Changing the World!

Pastor Benjamin Spangler

826 NW 23rd Avenue
Gainesville, FL
32609

Office: 372-2845
Fax: 372-9544

We are on Facebook!!!

Pastor's E-mail:
Ben@GainesvilleWesley.org
352-234-6708

Secretary's E-mail:
Terri Manche
secretary@wumc.cfoxmail.com

Witness Articles E-mail:
Sharren Gibbs
sharrenleegibbs2020@gmail.com
Deadline for articles: 15th of each
month

Website:
www.WesleyUMCon23.org

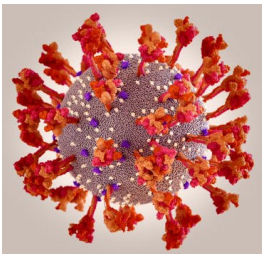
Weekly Sunday Activities

Worship @ 10:45AM
(Sanctuary)



Barbara Baldwin
Carolyn Clarke
Nancy Hardee
Rachelle Hines
Barb Loehr
Paula Mathis
Clydia Reichert
Margie Sapp
Linda Smith

Linda Baldwin
Helen Goddard
Mary Harris
Betty Holder
Beth Loehr-Moody
Billy Moring
Joe Reichert
Beth Senn
Clarence Witt



I am writing because unfortunately, with the new Omicron variant, COVID cases have spiked again in our area. We had decided that if our county moved to a high transmission rate, we would move back to wearing masks in all settings including small groups such as meetings and Bible study. Unfortunately, Alachua County has moved all the way back from a moderate transmission rate to a high transmission rate.

Until COVID cases settle back down, we will follow the science and wear masks so we can continue to love our neighbors well. If you know any medical staff out there, find a way to show them some love and keep them in your prayers as hospitals across the country are once again overwhelmed.

In God's Grace,

Pastor Ben

There will be no YAH fellowship luncheon in January, but we will celebrate Valentine's Day at the Weseman home on Friday, February 11 at 11:30AM. You don't want to miss this special luncheon, prepared by good Christian women, and decorated to a Valentine's Day maximum. **All** seniors are welcome.

Please let Donna Weseman know if you are coming by Sunday, February 5th.



Young at Heart
Senior Fellowship

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship Service—10:45AM

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE
Meetings are coming back, but only on an individual basis

*Meetings are coming back, but **only** on an individual basis*



**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

826 Northwest 23rd Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32609
352-372-2845

Pastor Benjamin Spangler

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	3 7:00PM Nightingales	4 Noon Pastor's Class	5 6:00 Trustees	6 11:30AM Card Club	7	8
9 Admin Council meeting after service	10	11 Noon Pastor's Class	12 8:30AM Garden Workday 5:30PM WWS 6:00PM SPRC	13 11:30AM Card Club	14	15
16 Oasis UMC @ Women's Lowell Correctional speaking	17 Office Closed 	18 10:00AM Morning Stars 7:00PM Finance	19	20 11:30AM Card Club	21 	22
23	24	25 Noon Pastor's Class	26 8:30AM Garden Workday 6:00PM Admin Council	27 11:30AM Card Club	28	29
30 UMW installation of officers Fifth Sunday offering	31					



YAHs
celebrate the
season with a
covered dish
luncheon at
the Weseman
home. YUM!

**In front of tree, front row, L-R: Sonny, Joan, Mary and Cindy.
Back row, L-R: Sharren, Paula, Becky, Nancy, Jim, and Donna.**

Thank you so much for your generosity at Christmas! I really appreciated all the cards and gifts including cookies and jam (they were delicious). Once again, you all have made my job at Wesley so much easier.

Happy New Year, Terri

Proverbs 31:10-12

¹⁰*A wife of noble character who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies.*

¹¹*Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.*

¹²*She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.*



Thank You!

This is how I see Wesley. Thank you for the cards and gifts you gave me for Christmas.

William Strawder

Y'all, I can't thank you enough for your thoughtfulness, playfulness, sincerity, and generosity. I feel incredibly loved and supported by everyone here at Wesley in so many ways. Being sent here has been a true blessing and I am excited to see what holy missions and holy mischief God might be calling us to in Gainesville this coming year!

In the Peace of Christ,
Pastor Ben

I just delivered our holiday collection to the Salvation Army. We collected \$150 in gift cards (and someone from Wesley dropped theirs off yesterday for a total of \$200 in gift cards) plus six of the Publix carry-out bags full of food items. I talked with Captain Sheed Tarnue, the commanding officer for the Salvation Army, who was thrilled to receive the cards and especially the food items. He said they were totally out of food to give away. And while we were talking, a man came up looking for something to eat, so I got to see the Salvation Army in action!

Cindy Holmes



MISSION OF THE MONTH

ST. FRANCIS HOUSE



Mission Statement: The overall mission of St. Francis House is to provide emergency food, temporary shelter, transitional housing, and related support services in a safe, secure environment for people in the Alachua County region who, for whatever reason, find themselves confronted with homelessness and hunger.

This ministry was established in 1980 by Father Baker, with a goal to provide the basic necessities to help the impoverished and hungry in the community.

Contributions may be marked on your check or envelope and placed in the collection box or on the altar. You may also mail your checks for St. Francis House to the church office during the entire month of January.

Contact:
Yvonne Hodges
352-472-2039

A cartoon illustration of a woman with brown hair, wearing a blue hat with a pink flower, a blue top, and blue pants. She is sitting in a black chair, holding a yellow cup in her right hand and a sign in her left hand. The sign is white with green text that reads "UMW needs a PRESIDENT!". The background is a solid light green color.

UMW needs
a PRESIDENT!



Committee Meetings

1/5	6:00PM	Trustees Wednesday
1/12	6:00PM	SPRC
1/18	7:00PM	Finance Committee
1/26	7:00PM	Administrative Council

Six things you should know when planting a tree.



January Birthdays

- 1st Irma Hales
- 2nd Joyce Welsh
- 5th Joe Reichert
- 8th Paula Mathis
- Carmen Arnett
- 10th Ron Case
- 14th Linda Nosko
- 20th Grayson Nosko (Linda Nosko's grandson)
- 27th Paul Humphlett
- 28th Jim Nelson

January Anniversaries

None



Celebrate!

Got clean air? Thank a tree!

A single tree removes several tons of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases over its lifetime. And that's not all. Studies show that people who live in neighborhoods with trees tend to socialize more with their neighbors. Trees keep you cool in the summer, warm in the winter. Trees protect water quality. Evidence suggests that tree cover may be linked to lower levels of crime in residential neighborhoods. Furthermore, the forest products industry contributes billions of dollars to the US economy annually.

Florida Arbor Day - January 21, 2022

FUN AND GAMES



Join the Canasta card club at Wesley United Methodist Church! Have fun and meet great people! Invite family and friends, the more the merrier!

When: Thursdays, 11:30 AM (except holidays)

Where: Wesley United Methodist Church
826 Northwest 23rd Avenue
Fellowship Hall

Call Cindy Holmes at 352-256-9485 for information.

We have wonderful members waiting to teach you Hand and Foot Canasta! **Please have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccination!**

Card Club Guidelines

- Bring a sack lunch and beverage if you wish.
- Please arrive on time if possible.
- Please help clean up after the games end.
- Please give us your email address and phone number in case of scheduling changes.

