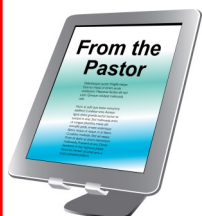


# Wesley Witness



Easter Tide is here! The language of Easter “Tide” comes from Old English, when people use to wish each other good “tidings.” Tide or tidings, simply put, means a “time” or a “season.”

Easter Tide is the season in the church calendar year when we are constantly reminded of the resurrection.

Easter tide is where we don’t stop at celebrating Easter on Easter morning but we continue to celebrate it for a whole season.

Easter tide is the season of Resurrection. It is the season where we are constantly reminded of resurrection stories. We continue to hear of the resurrection from different encounters and different perspectives.

We hear of the resurrection from Mary and the women at the tomb.

We hear of the resurrection from Thomas up in the upper room.

We hear of the resurrection from Peter and the disciples in the boat along the Sea of Galilee.

We hear of the resurrection time and again until we get to the day of Pentecost, where the Spirit flows freely and abundantly.

There seems to be something healthy to hearing about the resurrection again and again. Something healthy to hearing about it from different points of view. The gospels teach us to listen to many perspectives as well as reflect back on our lives, as we acknowledge how each gospel resurrection experience came out of a hellish place. We are given hope in our own lives and journeys.

Y’all have heard me share about the hellish time in my life of my house flooding and the resurrection life that my church family breathed into me afterwards. But that’s just one point of view. That’s just one Resurrection story. Each person in my family will talk about that resurrection encounter differently - how Jesus showed up through friends, family, and church differently.

I hope through the season of Easter Tide you will take time to look at your own life and see some of those resurrection stories. Take a moment to acknowledge those hellish times, and see the resurrection life that may have been breathed into them as you came out the other side.

# Breaking News

## Bible Study



**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 *Revelation*. Contact the church office if you need a link for ZOOM.

She is clothed with  
strength  
and  
dignity;  
She can laugh at the days  
to come. She speaks  
with  
wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She  
watches over the affairs of her household and does  
not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise  
and call her  
blessed,  
her husband also, and he praises her. Many  
women do noble things  
but you surpass  
them all.  
*Proverbs 31:25-29*

## 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.cfcoxmail.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  
Mary Harris  
Betty Holder  
Barb Loehr  
Paula Mathis  
Clydia Reichert  
Margie Sapp  
Dale Smith  
Clarence Witt

Linda Baldwin  
Helen Goddard  
Rachelle Hines  
Bonniesue Humphlett  
Beth Loehr-Moody  
Billy Moring  
Joe Reichert  
Beth Senn  
Linda Smith



*Prayer Requests*

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Now, let us sit and wonder. Who is it that is experiencing a hellish time in our midst? Who is it that might need a little breath of the resurrection in our lives now? Who is it that the Holy Spirit is trying to work in through us during the season of Easter tide?

In the name of Jesus who is always bringing us new life, amen.

*Pastor Ben*

The Young at Heart senior fellowship will meet on May 13th at Northwest Grille. Your RSVP is needed by May 8th! We want to be sure to have a big enough table and a quiet-ish room for our “discussions”!



## Church Picnic



We will hold our next fellowship dinner—a cookout—on Wednesday, May 11th at 5:30 PM. As usual, please call or e-mail the office by Sunday, May 7th to let them know you are coming or not. Pastor Ben promises to grill some juicy hamburgers and burnt hotdogs (for us hotdog *connoisseurs*) and Donna and the Kitchen Crew will prepare baked beans, coleslaw, and some special desserts. You won't want to miss this time for fellowship before we take our summer break!

You can come early and get a take-home box, or let us know to put one in the fridge for you to pick up the next morning (9AM-1PM). If you go with the second option, please pay Terri for your meal.

# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship Service—10:45AM

# WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Wesley Wednesday suppers—5:30PM







*Most meetings are Wednesdays at 6:00 unless otherwise noted*



WESLEY UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

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

Pastor Benjamin Spangler

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday Native American Sunday	2 7:00PM Nightingales	3 Noon Pastor's Class	4 8:30 Garden Work- day 6:00 Trustees	5  11:30AM Card Club	6	7
8 	9	10 Noon Pastor's Class	11 5:30PM VVWS 6:00PM SPRC	12  11:30AM Card Club	13 11:30AM YAH's NW Grille RSVP 5/8	14
15	16	17 10:00AM Morning Stars Noon Pastor's Class	18 8:30 Garden Workday 7:00PM Admin Council	19  11:30AM Card Club	20	21
22	23	24	25	26  11:30AM Card Club	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31 Noon Pastor's Class				





United Methodist Women, or as they are soon to be known, United Women in Faith, enjoyed a tea on Saturday, April 16th. Friends and family members joined us to hear Vivian Filer, Chair of the Board of the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center, speak on the mission of this newly renovated historical site in Gainesville. But, alas, Vivian was ill, so Nancy Case jumped in and spoke in her wonderful storytelling style, and Sharren Gibbs played the piano for attendees to sing some favorite old hymns we don't often get to sing in church. Everyone left after the program talking about how much they enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to Donna Weseman and the Kitchen Crew, and the leadership of the UMW for making this event happen!



United  
Women  
in Faith





mission u 2022

# Who Can We Be Together?

## Building Communities of Hope and Joy

### **Great News— COMMUNITY is God's desire for us!**

Join us at Mission u 2022 as we reflect on the community that Jesus is calling us to be!

This year, as we study Luke 13, we find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises and economic turmoil, we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia.

Our hope is that we will leave Mission u with a bigger and broader vision of the community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief and massive disruption. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did in Luke 13?

Our newly designed Mission u 2022 is more flexible and intergenerational than ever—with curricula for youth, children and adults focused on the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Luke.

**The curricula we will be using that will be available on our [e-store](#) by January 2022.**

*Who Can We Be Together?* (Adult)

*Community in the Midst of Challenging Times* (Youth)

*Our Growing Tree*

*From Self-Love to the Beloved Community and All of God's Creation* (Children)

**Will you join us? We have several options just for YOU!**

**Join us in-person at: Warren Willis UM Camp & Conference Center, Fruitland Park, FL**

**July 11-13** (Adults classes only)

**July 14-16** (Adult classes in English, Creole, Korean, Spanish; and Children/Youth Classes!)

**Join us online with Virtual Classes via Zoom:**

**July 26, 28, August 2, & 4** (Week Nights on Tuesdays & Thursdays)

**July 29, 30, & 31** (Weekend)

More information in the **Genesis** and District Newsletters, along with the UMW Website.

**Plan to bring family and friends as we discover who we can be together!**



Register at: <https://flconfumw.org/> Paper registration available.

Registrar: Linda Parrish: [lindaparrish.umw@gmail.com](mailto:lindaparrish.umw@gmail.com)

Florida Conference United Methodist Women 2022 MISSION U APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE IN-PERSON EVENT: APRIL 22, 2022

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE VIRTUAL EVENT: JUNE 12, 2022

Send this application to your district president.

If you are applying for the IN-PERSON EVENT, register as soon as possible. You will need to pay the \$20 registration fee, but the rest won't be due until after you know about your scholarship request.

If you are applying for the VIRTUAL EVENT, DO NOT register until after you are told about your scholarship status.

Please check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Warren Willis CCC (July 11-13, English classes, adults only)

\_\_\_\_\_ Warren Willis CCC (July 14-16, youth, kids, guardians, adult classes in Korean, Spanish, Creole, English)

\_\_\_\_\_ Virtual event (you can choose either of the virtual events when you register)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Include area code) (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Local Church \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of United Methodist Women? \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity (optional) (Caribbean, African American, Asian, Native American, Hispanic, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first scholarship request for Mission u? Yes No Age (as of July 11, 2022) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are 18 or under, who is the adult that will be accompanying you and what is this person's relationship to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Use the back of this page, or write on a second page, the reason you want to attend Mission u.

I understand that if I am awarded this scholarship, I will attend the event and be available, if asked, to share my experiences at a district or conference event.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**For use by the district president:**

Date received \_\_\_\_\_

Approved? yes no Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Date applicant notified \_\_\_\_\_

Notified by phone e-mail other \_\_\_\_\_

Date approval notification was sent to the registrar. \_\_\_\_\_

[\(lcp.missionu@gmail.com\)](mailto:lcp.missionu@gmail.com)

Please do not delay notification to the registrar, since attendance at the in-person events will be very limited. Final day for registration is May 7 for the in-person events and July 1 for the virtual events.



Wesley United Methodist Church has been a part of the Christian ministry in Gainesville since 1941. During this time, Wesley has impacted the lives of many individuals and has spread the Word of God over the community in many ways.

And Wesley has continuously been blessed with a generous and faithful congregation that has served as the ministry's foundation and worker bees.

Unfortunately, church membership and attendance in general has been trending down recently on local, regional, and national levels. Accordingly, Wesley membership and Sunday attendance have also been trending downward in the recent past. And to make matters worse, the COVID epidemic hiatus has reduced Wesley's Sunday attendance even lower ... typically 30-40 souls every Sunday. The current low attendance levels have, among other things, reduced church program participation, shortened the list of volunteers for committees, weakened our music ministry, and eliminated any form of youth outreach. Low attendance and giving have reduced the financial resources available for the church to a level that is not sustainable. In fact, IF the current level of giving is maintained ... Wesley will NOT be able to cover the church's operating costs. In other words ... Wesley will not be able to pay salaries, keep the lights on, or keep the doors open. Simple as that. Simple ... but sad.

So ... how long can Wesley continue to answer God's call to ministry in the future, how do we "keep the doors open" given the current status? The Finance Committee has determined, given our expected giving level, there are enough funds in the cash reserves to keep Wesley viable for only two more years. After that period of time, Wesley will simply not be able to meet our budgetary needs. And that is after the annual budget has been reduced to absolute bare minimums with regard to those things that we need as a church to function and provide a safe, comfortable, and clean facility within which to worship.

Do options exist?? The good news is ... Yes!! And the church leadership feels that an option is to find a way to rent our facilities that are otherwise not being used.

The Wesley campus is quite large. And we have rooms that are currently not being used, or only periodically used, within our normal, weekly routine.

However, as we consider this option, we must be mindful of our purpose – to share the love of Christ. How do we first answer our call to ministry while keeping our doors open? Those empty rooms could possibly be

*(Continued on Page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

rented to non-profit organizations or agencies at a reduced rate ... and the space benefits the ministry and those rental incomes could be utilized to strengthen Wesley's financial position. For example, if we can find someone to rent the various rooms in the "Sunday School" wing ... those dollars will help extend the financial life of our church. Those dollars will help us "keep the doors open."

But ... finding potential ministry partners who need space will take time and effort. And the Finance Committee is calling upon the Wesley membership to help. We need individuals who are willing to lend a hand toward this process. Any and all ideas, suggestions, help, etc is needed and will be appreciated.

A meeting will be held at 10AM, June 7<sup>th</sup> in the advanced classroom to kick off this effort. This will be a combined in-person and zoom meeting. If you have an interest in helping explore rental opportunities for our underutilized facilities, please plan on attending this meeting and contact the Church office to be added to the participant list. A week before the meeting an email reminder will be sent out with the zoom link for anyone who wishes to attend on line. Please keep the church's finances in your prayers.





## Committee Meetings

5/4 6:00PM Trustees  
5/11 6:00PM SPRC  
5/18 7:00PM Admin Council

## May Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup> Kaitlyn Omdahl  
11<sup>th</sup> Rachelle Hines  
26<sup>th</sup> Alex Sanders



## May Anniversaries

2<sup>nd</sup> Dale & Linda Smith  
23<sup>rd</sup> Lee & Steve Holder



# Celebrate!

Preventing Alzheimer's with Cognitive Training



Are you interested in playing computer games? Especially those that promise to enhance your brain health??? The University of Florida McKnight Brain Institute is participating in the PACT study with other locations around the country to see if you can Prevent Alzheimer's with Cognitive Training (PACT) and they are looking for participants over age 65. If you are interested, please e-mail [PACTUF@phhp.ufl.edu](mailto:PACTUF@phhp.ufl.edu) to see if you qualify for participation in this interesting and potentially helpful research. I'm doing it!

Sharren

## 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, as well as the booster!**

### 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.

