



Dear Wesley,

As I look forward to this first Advent and Christmas season among you as your pastor, I want to share a few thoughts and ask one big favor.



Before and after and sometimes during our meetings and other encounters, I hear the chatter, the concern, the ongoing discussion about how to fix what appears to be broken. For a few weeks, I want us to take a holy respite from those worries. I know we're worried about the church. We're worried about the finances, the staffing, and the faces we no longer see. We worry that we're too old and are frantic to draw youth and young families. We're worried that we're not doing enough. We're worried that we're letting somebody down (maybe God). But our worry is using up energy that might be better applied in prayer and care.

The world needs people who can hold space for the pain, the doubt, the disorientation, and help bring forth the new, the next, the thing that hasn't yet been discerned. The people around us need us to listen more than we speak, to learn, to grow, and to adapt in ways we haven't yet imagined. It's scary, but it'll be okay if we bear the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22-23).

In light of all these things, I'm asking everyone to please pause with me in this season of Advent. This month, I invite you to set aside worrying about what is lacking, and instead, to pray fervently for God to lead our congregation safely into the unknown future. The following is just a prayer to get us started:

Emmanuel (God-with-us), in this season of Advent anticipation where we focus on hope, love, joy, and peace, soften our hearts to actually believe that your promises are true for us today in 2022 and beyond. Where there is worry, guide us to find faith. Where there is temptation to criticize, chasten us to listen and understand. Where there is something that needs doing, empower us to lend a hand. Where there is change or something we miss that isn't coming back, help us to bless and release it into cherished memory. And finally, God, where there is fear, may your perfect love cast it out. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

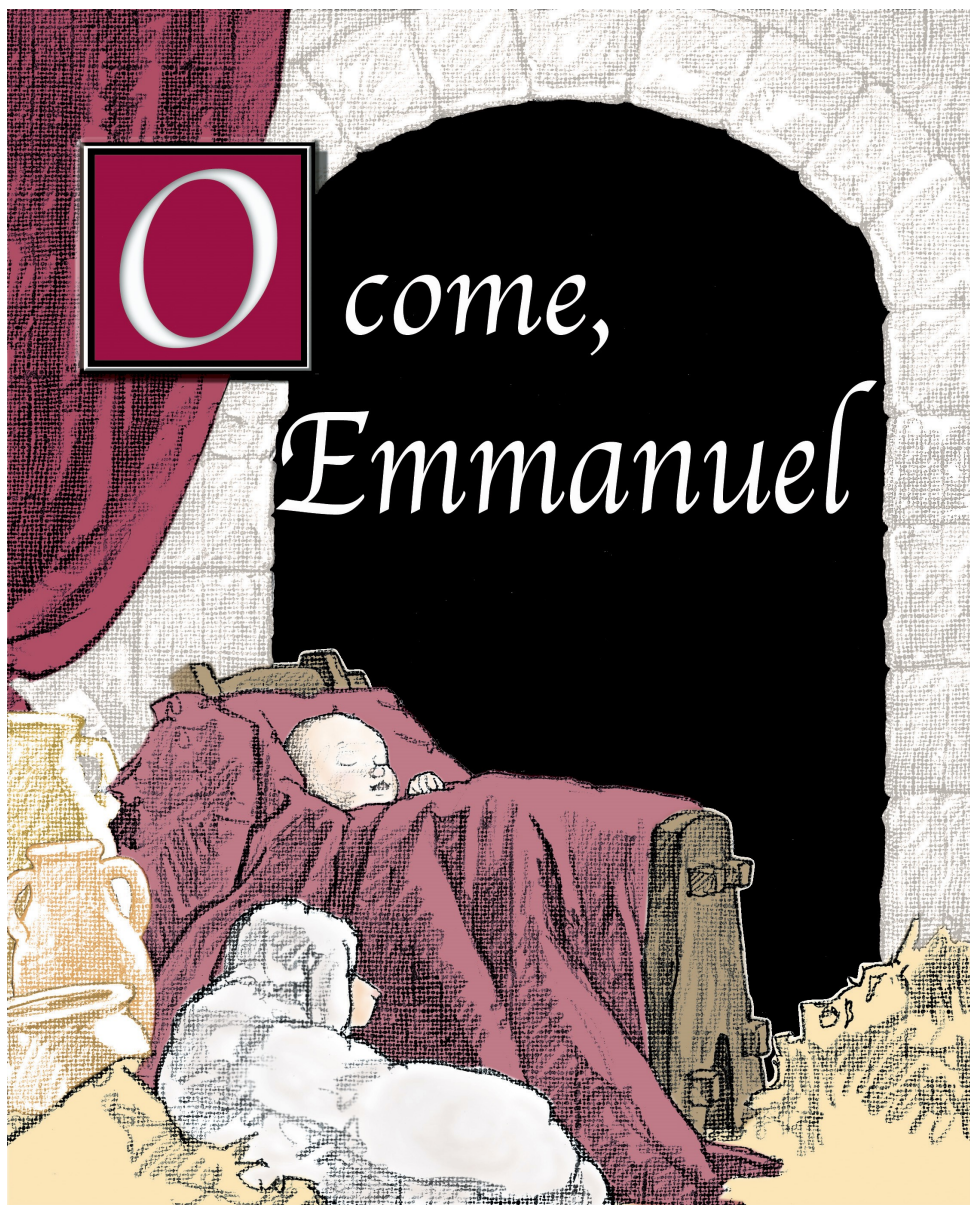
Kolby

Breaking News

Bible Study



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY—Join us for Bible Study this Tuesday from 11:30-12:30PM. We are looking into the wondrous accounts of angelic visitation during the Advent period. Check out Page 3 for more information!



Wesley United Methodist Church

Mission Statement

Celebrating God!

Growing in Faith!

Changing the World!

Pastor Kolby Gollhofer

826 NW 23rd Avenue
Gainesville, FL
32609

Office: 352-372-2845

We are on Facebook!!!

Pastor's E-mail:

Kolby@gainesvillewesley.org

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

www.facebook.com/WUMCGVL

Weekly Sunday Activities

Worship @ 10:45AM
(Sanctuary)



Jim Arnett
Carolyn Clarke
Rachelle Hines
Barb Loehr
Clydia Reichert
Dale Smith
David Tattersall
Clarence Witt

Barbara Baldwin
Michael Gibbs
Bonniesue Humphlett
Beth Loehr-Moody
Joe Reichert
Linda Smith
Nick Tattersall
Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy

Linda Baldwin
Helen Goddard
LaRue Landsberry
Paula Mathis
Beth Senn
Janice Smith
Doris Welsh

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

NEW BIBLE STUDY

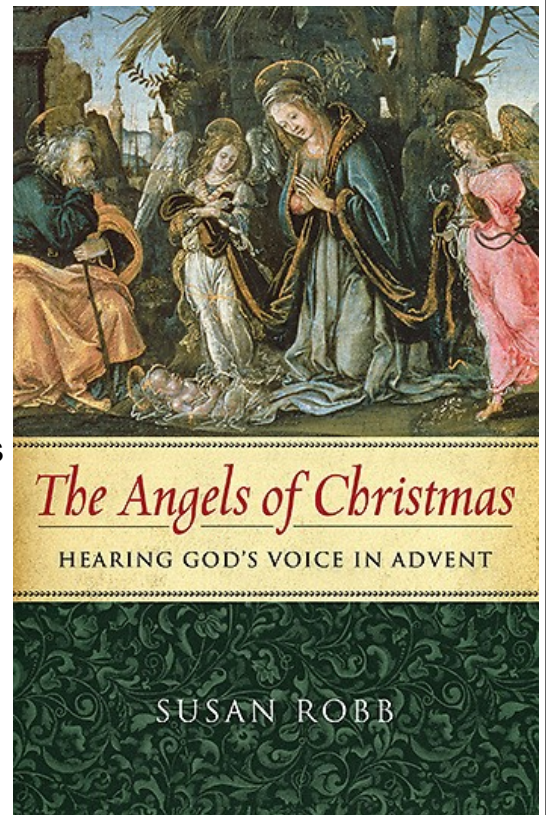
Hey, Folks,

During the season of Advent, we are studying the *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent* by Susan Robb. You're invited to come to one of two group meeting times where we will be discussing the book together: 11:30am Tuesdays or 5:30pm Thursdays. If you didn't already purchase your copy of the book or weren't able to finish reading before a session, come anyway! We will read through the main scripture passages together each week to help ground our conversations. Bring a Bible or borrow one from the church.

Here's a short blurb for the book: "Explore the angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus! In this 4-week Advent work, Robb considers the interactions of God's messengers with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds; dives deep into the history of the angel Gabriel in the Old Testament; and discusses God's presence in history and our lives today."

I hope you're able to join us as we immerse ourselves into God's word together!

Pastor Kolby



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship Service—10:45AM

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

2nd Wednesdays—WWS at 5:30 PM


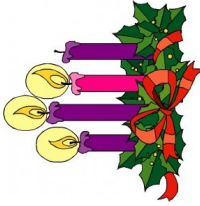
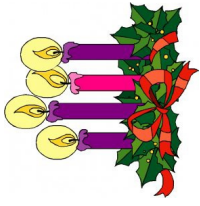

Most meetings are Wednesdays at
6:00 unless otherwise noted

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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

Rev. Kolby Golliver, Pastor

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>4</div> <div>Communion Sunday</div> <div>6:00PM Sisters in Faith</div>	<div>5</div> <div>7:00PM Nightin- gales</div>	<div>6</div> <div>11:30AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers</div>	<div>7</div> <div>6:00PM Missions Meeting</div> <div>14</div> <div>5:30PM WWS 6:00PM Care Team</div>	<div>1</div> <div>11:30AM Card Club 5:30PM Advent Bible Study</div>	<div>2</div> <div>11:30AM YAHS Covered disth RSVP by 11/27</div>	<div>3</div> <div></div>
<div>11</div> <div></div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>11:30AM Pastor's Class</div>	<div>14</div> <div>5:30PM WWS 6:00PM Care Team</div>	<div>15</div> <div>11:30AM Card Club 5:30PM Advent Bible Study</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div>
<div>18</div> <div></div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>10AM Morning Stars 11:30AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div> <div>11:30AM Card Club 5:30PM Advent Bible Study</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Office closed</div>	<div>24</div> <div>7PM Christmas Eve Service</div>
<div>25</div> <div>11AM Christmas Brunch</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Office closed</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div></div> <div>11:30AM Card Club</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Office closed</div>	<div></div>

What We Need:



Items for DFG hygiene kits include

- ☆ • Colorful cotton panties—girls size 14 or 16, or women's size 5, 6, & 7 (bikinis or briefs)
Panties are always the most needed items!*
- ☆ • Cotton washcloths (The thinner ones are better than heavy ones—colors better than white)
 - Soap (small, hotel size)
 - Grosgrain ribbon— 5/8" wide—pretty colors
 - Thread (polyester, darker colors, regular & serger)

Fabrics* needed:

- 100% cotton flannel for liners
- 100% cotton calico or quilting fabric for shields
- Blend fabrics are OK for bags

*Fabrics should be bright colorful cheerful busy patterns to hide stains. Avoid animal, people, cartoon, pop culture, camouflage, or food patterns. Ideal fabrics are floral or geometric designs in darker or bright colors.

alachuafl@daysforgirls.org

Radha Selvester 352 316 6113 & Michelle Belanger 352 318 1164

Joel Pancoast, one of the directors of Gator Wesley, reached out to me yesterday wondering if we would be interested in collecting study snacks for college students studying for their finals. So, of course, I said yes!

There are two ways you can help:

- 1) purchase yummy snacks (non-perishable snacks and drinks) and drop them off at the front office or bring them to Worship.
- 2) make a couple signs telling the students that they are loved and that our church is praying for them.

Gator Wesley will put these snacks and signs out in their study spaces around their building during finals week. Please try to get snacks and signs to me **by next Wednesday (December 7th)** so I can drop them off at Gator Wesley the next day. Thanks so much for your help with this!

Grace and Peace,
Kolby



Our December fellowship dinner will be on Wednesday, December 14th at 5:30PM—it's our Christmas Dinner! Join us for ham, cornbread dressing and gravy, sweet potatoes and other holiday favorites. Please let me know if you will attend, as we need at least 25 people signed up to be able to have this dinner each month. Just call the church office by December 11th and let Terri know if you're coming.

Thanks to Barbara, Linda, Sharren, Joan, and Paula for making the cornbread for this giant bowl of dressing!

Donna Weseman

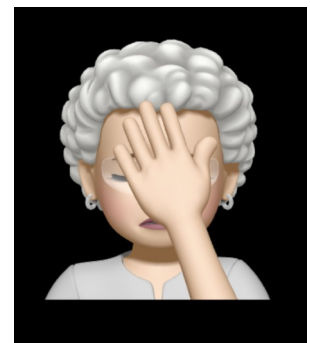


Know why our dressing is so good? Our cooks have so much fun making it!!!

OOOPS!

Yvonne Hodges is taking care of updating the UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH directory, not the entire CHURCH directory. Please only contact her with changes for the UWF directory. No, wait. You can contact her for anything. A lunch invite, maybe. Whatever...

Guess Who!





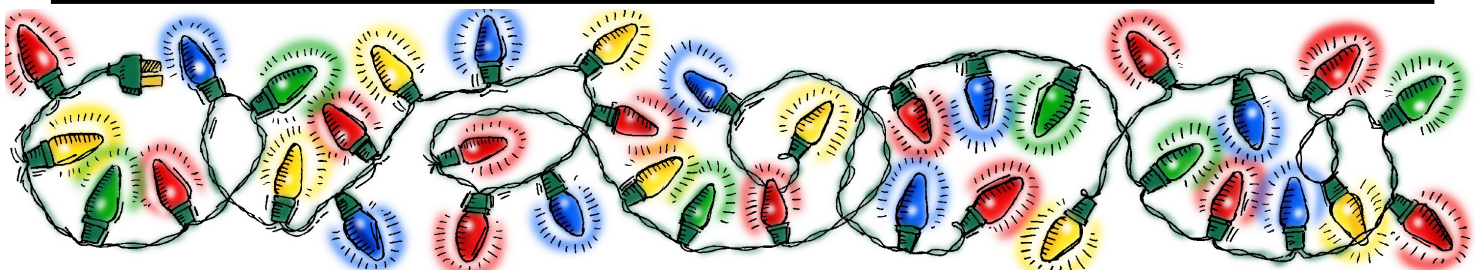
Young at Heart Fellowship

The YAHs are back! We will dine again at The Weseman's home on December 2nd at 11:30AM. This is a covered dish luncheon and Donna will provide ham and chicken and drinks, so please let us know what side dish you plan to bring! Please RSVP to the church office by November 28th.

Donna



*L to R, Front row: Pastor Kolby, Hannah
Second Row: Cindy, Sharren, Joan, and Mary
Third Row: Barbara, Becky, Jan, Jim, and Sonny*





If you watch any shows on Public Broadcasting System, I know you've seen their ads for helping fund their programming. Lately, they have one for funds you don't need but must take from your IRA. Could this work for us? And you?? Before he left, Skip Manasco provided the following information from an answer to a question posed by a reader of www.investmentnews.com and wanted to share it with the congregation. And of course, it's always best to check with your accountant or financial planner about tax shelter opportunities.

QUESTION: Has my ability to make direct charitable donations from my IRA when I reach the age of 70 1/2 been affected by the new tax law? — *Connie Beroza, 69-year-old retiree, Buffalo, N.Y.*

ANSWER: In short, the strategy of donating to charities directly from an IRA after age 70 1/2 is still around under the new tax laws. The qualified charitable distribution (QCD) has been around for years but was only codified as a permanent law a few years ago. A QCD allows those age 70 1/2 to give money to charities directly from their IRAs in a tax advantageous manner. This allows IRA owners who have attained age 70 1/2 to distribute money directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. Total annual QCDs from all IRAs cannot exceed \$100,000 for an individual. Spouses can each make up to \$100,000 of QCDs.

Making a QCD as opposed to a normal charitable gift has two main advantages. First, a QCD counts toward satisfying the individual's required minimum distribution for that year. Second, the distribution is excluded from the taxpayer's income. It is this second benefit that really shines under the new tax bill. With very few individuals expected to itemize (some estimates say around 5% of filers), the income tax deduction for contributions to charities will be lost for many people. However, if you make a QCD, you get a full exclusion of that income from taxes. So, for any retiree who is 70 1/2 or older, owns an IRA subject to RMDs, and is charitably inclined, a QCD really works out as a way to preserve an income-tax-reducing charitable deduction under the new tax law.

Mr. Hopkins

Reprinted from the July 2019 Witness





Pastor Kolby models his Thanksgiving hat, while Donna Weseman looks over the buffet table for the YAH's Thanksgiving covered dish luncheon.

Pastor Kolby and his wife, Hannah, checked out Busch Gardens' holiday decorations and activities.

The Thanksgiving eve covered dish dinner was a big success. We were joined by the veterans of the very successful Wesley Whittler's group. The dinner and dessert serving tables were loaded with goodies, and no one went home hungry.



Remember those good cooks we showed on Page 6? Well, even good cooks make a booboo once in a while. Take a look at what we found when we went to prepare the November DAR luncheon. When Donna opened the bottom oven, there was a pan in there. Now, what could that be? POTATOES! Left over from the baked potato menu for the previous month. They looked pretty bad, but there was no odor.

I guess if they had had some odor, we might have found them sooner. Needless to say, they went in the dumpster right quick-like! Yes, they did...

The Kitchen Crew



Dasher



Dancer



Prancer



Vixen



Comet



Cupid



Donder



Blitzen

RECOGNIZING WESLEY STAFF

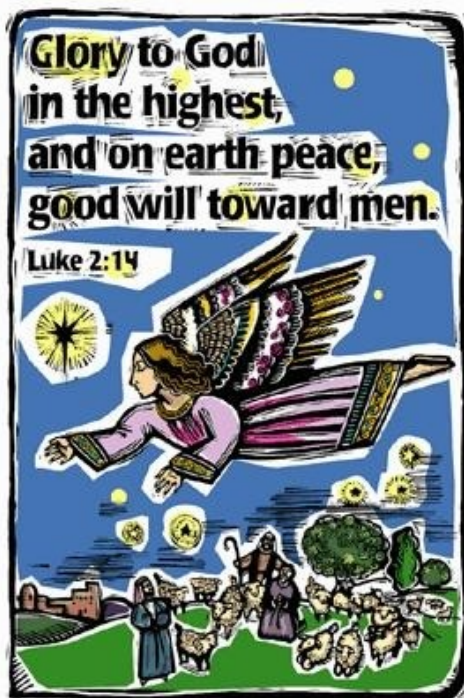
Christmas stockings for the Wesley UMC staff who take such good care of things around here will be in the Narthex for the next few weeks. Please show the staff how much you appreciate their work all year long. Checks left in the stockings should be made out to WUMC with the receivers name in the memo section unless in a sealed card, in which case please make it out to the recipient.





Committee Meetings

12/7	6:00PM	Missions
12/14	6:00PM	Care Team



December Birthdays

- 1st Cathy Clarke
- 2nd Jason Dotts
- 3rd Leisa Baldwin
- 6th Kevin Hales
Billy Reeves
- 9th Pamela Christensen
- 10th Marilyn Browning
- 12th Kay Frazier
- 13th Jason Yaxley
- 18th Harley Christensen
- 19th Sherry Adams
- 27th Carolyn Clarke
- 28th Betty Holder
- 29th Leonard Gideon

December Anniversaries

- 11th Pamela & Harley Christensen
- 18th Kitty & Skip Manasco
- 20th Susie & Danny Aguila



Celebrate!

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 boosters!**

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.

