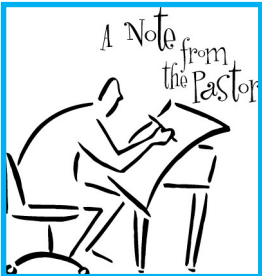


# Wesley Witness



Dear Wesley,

Summer is a time when we see the flowers and the birds more clearly. I often hear the birds as I wake each morning. I see the green and color in plants and gardens. It is a beautiful time to be in the world around us, especially with the federal COVID Public Health Emergency declaration coming to an end a few weeks ago.

In seeing the natural world around us more clearly, it does give us the opportunity to reflect on God's role in it all. According to our faith, God made the world. The exact mechanics how are still being learned. But we trust in God's ability to create. While Deism believes God made and then stepped back and let it go its own way, our Christian faith takes another approach. We believe, through the power of the Holy Spirit, that God is still present and acting in the world, often choosing to work through people.

What that means to me is that God is continually creating and making new. That goes for the world around us, but also for us. So, we are constantly becoming something different. It is an amazing revelation that can affect every interaction we have with others. Being made new means that there is greater weight on the present and future than the past. Past mistakes, though real and which carry their own consequences, are less important than the potential of the future. God makes new.

If we were able to fully embrace this, we would be able to better learn from past mistakes and attitudes and move more effectively to better living together as people of God's own creation. Those next to us, even those who may see the world differently than us, are also part of that creation. Let us embrace the beauty of what God has made and work together to preserve it and each other. Let us worry less about our own flawed plans and embrace God's perfect one more, realizing that our human interpretations of that plan always need adjusting by the Holy Spirit.

God made the world, and each and every one of us. Isn't that amazing? Allow yourself to be amazed so we each can be molded into the better selves God intends. Happy summer!

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Kolby*

# Breaking News

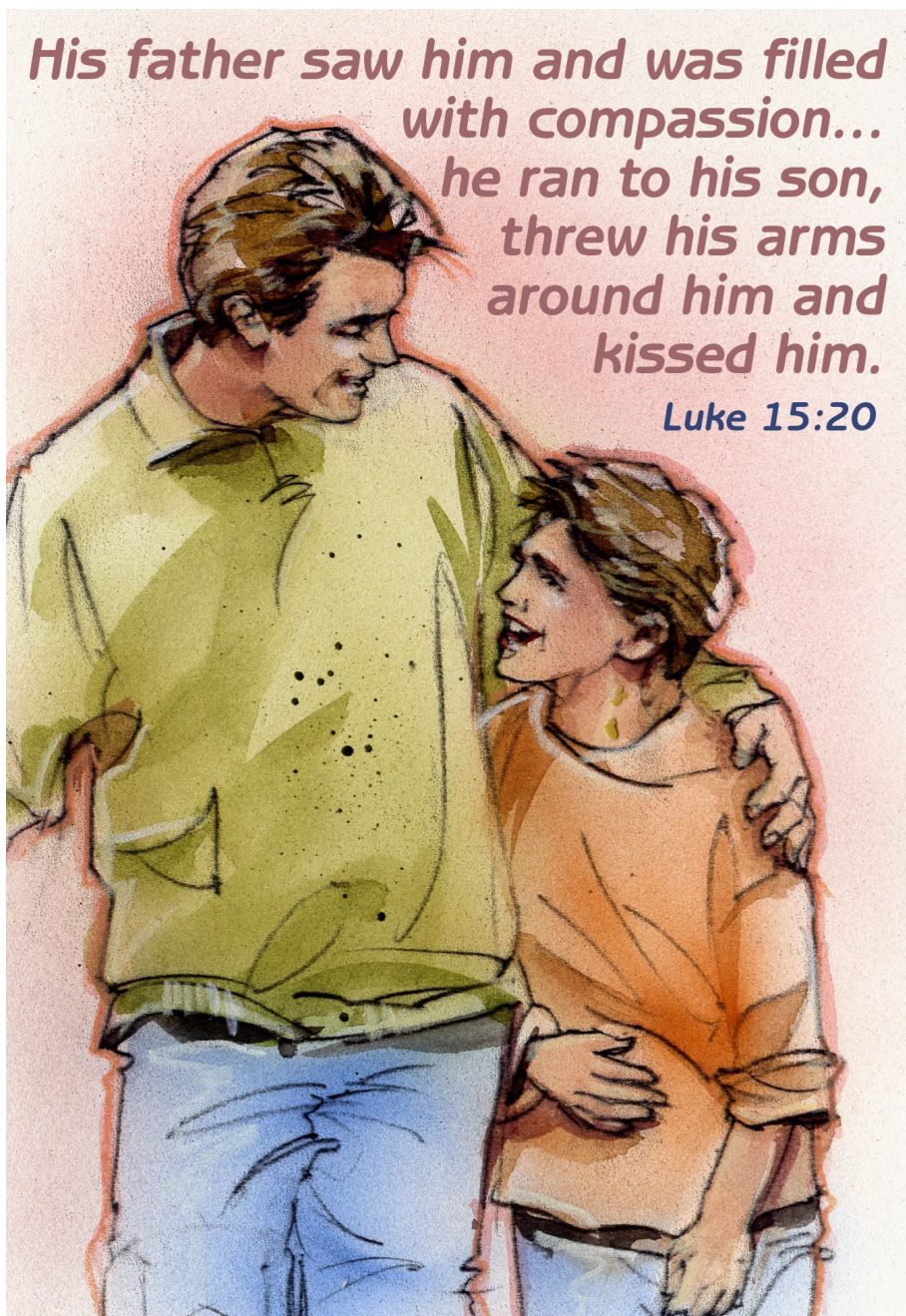
## Bible Study



**PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY**—Join us for Bible Study every Tuesday from 11:30 – 12:30PM. We are studying the book of Joshua.

*His father saw him and was filled with compassion... he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

**Luke 15:20**



## *Wesley United Methodist Church*

*Mission Statement*

*Celebrating God!*

*Growing in Faith!*

*Changing the World!*

*Pastor Kolby Golliher*

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  
Barb Loehr  
Joe Reichert  
Dale Smith  
Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy

Barbara Baldwin  
Helen Goddard  
Beth Loehr-Moody  
Sonny Robertson  
Christie Tattersall

Linda Baldwin  
Rachelle Hines  
Clydia Reichert  
Beth Senn  
Clarence Witt

*With God*  
**ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**

## YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

We held our last luncheon at a favorite—Piesano's at Hunters Crossing—on May 12th. We won't meet again until October, unless someone just decides to make an informal outing... (hint hint).



**Left to right around the table:** Becky, Barbara, Nancy, Pastor Kolby, Cindy, Donna, Paula, Sharren, Helen, Mary, and Jim.

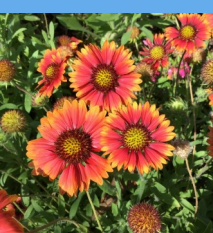
WESLEY UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
Worship Service—10:45AM  
WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

June 2023

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

Rev. Kolby Golliher, Pastor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 	5 	6 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	7 8:30AM Garden Workday 	8 11:30AM Card Club 6:00PM Sisters in Faith	9 <b>Office Closed</b> Annual Conference	10 Annual Conference
11 	12 6:30PM Nightingales	13 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	<b>FLAG DAY</b> June 14 	15 11:30AM Card Club	16 <b>Office Closed</b>	17
19 	19 <b>Office Closed</b> 	20 10AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	21 8:30AM Garden Workday 	22 11:30AM Card Club	23	24
25 	26	27 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 7:00PM Leadership Board	28	29 11:30AM Card Club	30	



No one knows with **absolute certainty** who designed the first stars and stripes or who made it. Congressman Francis Hopkinson seems most likely to have designed it, and few historians believe that Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, made the first one.

Until the Executive Order of June 24, 1912, neither the order of the stars nor the proportions of the flag was prescribed. Consequently, flags dating before this period sometimes show unusual arrangements of the stars and odd proportions, these features being left to the discretion of the flag maker. In general, however, straight rows of stars and proportions similar to those later adopted officially were used. The principal acts affecting the flag of the United States are the following:



- On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the **first Flag Act**: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."
- Act of January 13, 1794 - provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795.
- Act of April 4, 1818 - provided for 13 stripes and one star for each state, to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of each new state, signed by President Monroe.
- Executive Order of President Taft dated June 24, 1912 - established proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated January 3, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated August 21, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.

Most of us remember the last two Executive Orders—the addition of Alaska, and then Hawaii to statehood. I was in the fourth grade and remember it vividly—our teachers made a big deal of it! Living on or near military bases all my growing up years, Flag Day was always celebrated with many flags flying, and special school lessons and ceremonies.

Traditional guidelines call for displaying the flag in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it's illuminated during darkness. The flag should not be subject to weather damage, so it should not be displayed during rain, snow and wind storms unless it is an all-weather flag. It should be displayed often, but especially on national and state holidays and special occasions. The flag should be displayed on or near the main building of public institutions, schools during school days, and polling places on election days. It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

Now, where is *your* American Flag? Will you join me in flying the flag this June 14th?

*Outstanding.*



This holiday is considered the "longest-running African-American holiday" and has been called "America's second Independence Day." Juneteenth is usually celebrated on the third Saturday in June. Historian Mitch Kachun considers that celebrations of the end of slavery have three goals: "to celebrate, to educate, and to agitate." Early celebrations consisted of baseball, fishing, and rodeos. African Americans were often prohibited from using public facilities for their celebra-

tions, so they were often held at churches or near water. Celebrations were also characterized by elaborate large meals and people wearing their best clothing. It was common for former slaves and their descendants to make a pilgrimage to Galveston. As early festivals received news coverage, Janice Hume and Noah Arceneaux consider that they "served to assimilate African-American memories within the dominant 'American story'".

Observance today is primarily in local celebrations. In many places, Juneteenth has become a multicultural holiday. Traditions include public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, singing traditional songs such as "*Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*" and "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*", and reading of works by noted African-American writers, such as Ralph Ellison and Maya Angelou. Celebrations include picnics, rodeos, street fairs, cookouts, family reunions, park parties, historical reenactments, blues festivals and Miss Juneteenth contests. Red food and drinks are traditional during the celebrations, including red velvet cake and strawberry soda, with red representing resilience and joy.

Juneteenth celebrations also often include lectures and exhibitions on African-American culture. The modern holiday places much emphasis upon teaching about African-American heritage. Karen M. Thomas wrote in *Emerge* that "community leaders have latched on to [Juneteenth] to help instill a sense of heritage and pride in black youth". Celebrations are commonly accompanied by voter registration efforts, the performing of plays, and retelling stories. The holiday is also a celebration of soul food and other food with African-American influences.

*Thanks, Wikipedia!*

For more in-depth information, go to <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth>

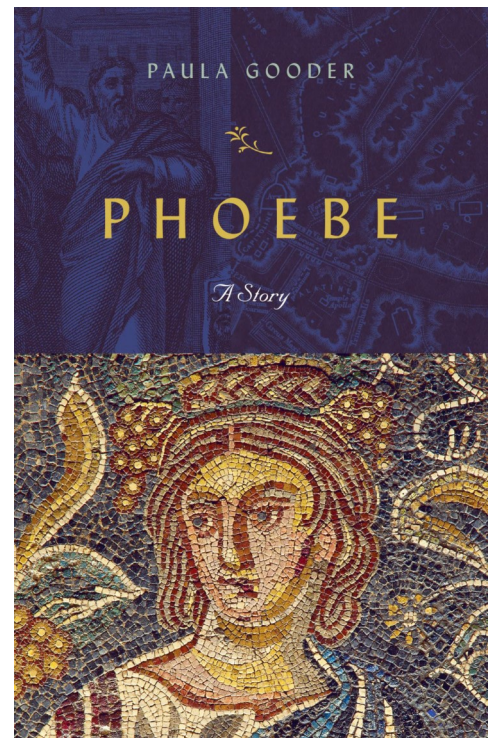
## THE BELOVED COMMUNITY BOOKCLUB

Dear Wesley,

This month I have selected from the UWF book list “*Phoebe—A Story*” by Paula Gooder. I hope to have information in the August Witness as to when we will meet to discuss the book. As of this writing, Alachua County Library system does not have it in their collection, but it is available on Amazon, either new or used.

Sometime around 56 AD, the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome. He entrusted this letter to Phoebe, whom he describes as the deacon of the church at Cenchreae and a patron of many. But who was this remarkable woman? Biblical scholar and popular author and speaker Paula Gooder imagines Phoebe's story—who she was, the life she lived, and her first-century faith—and in doing so opens up Paul's world, giving a sense of the cultural and historical pressures that shaped his thinking and the faith of the early church. After the narrative, Gooder includes an extensive notes section with comments on the historical context, biographical details, cultural practices, and more. Rigorously researched, this is a book for anyone who wants to engage more deeply and imaginatively with Paul's theology.

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Kolby*

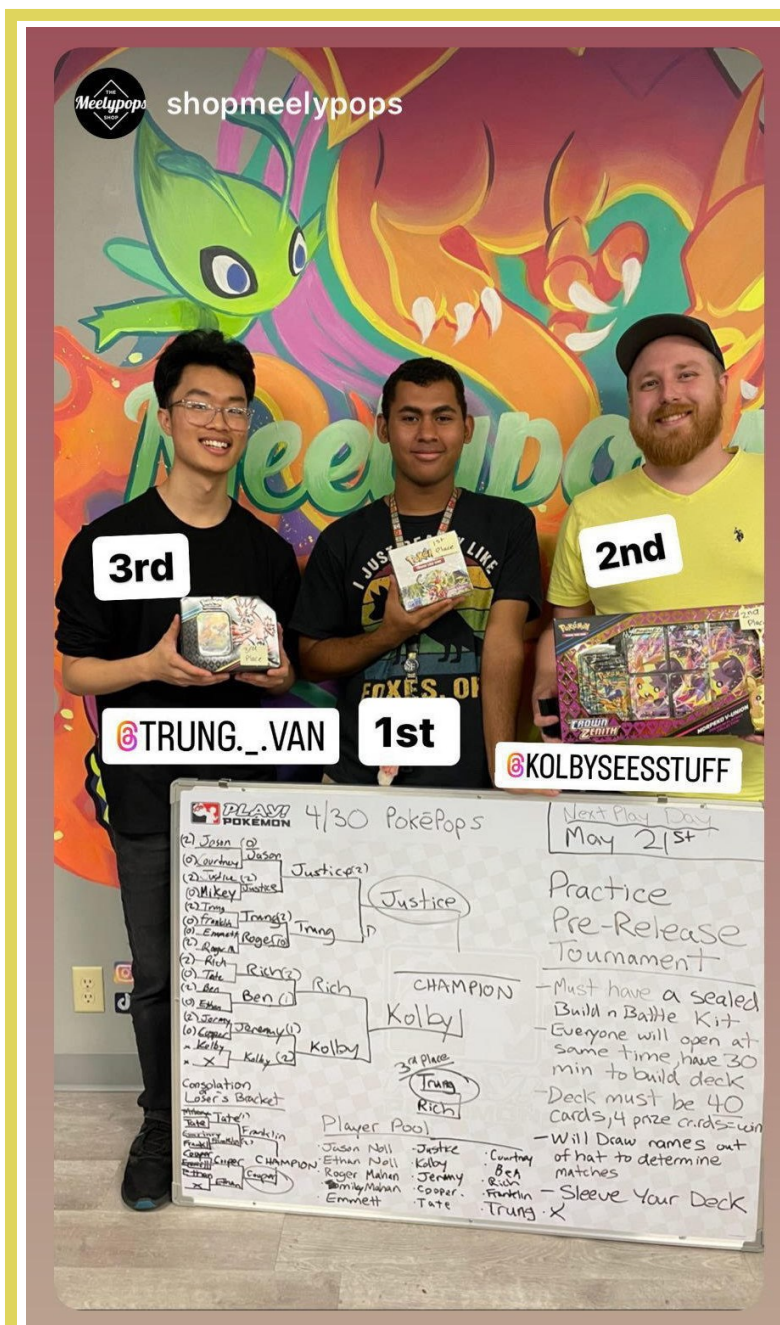


## GARDEN WORKDAYS

We meet every first and third Wednesday of the month at 8:30AM for about one hour. Feel free to come earlier or later -- whatever works best for your schedule. We would love your help pulling weeds and helping us make the *outside* of our church as welcoming and hospitable as the people *inside*! It's not difficult work, but you'll want to bring gloves to protect your hands and a water bottle as it can get hot once the sun comes up!







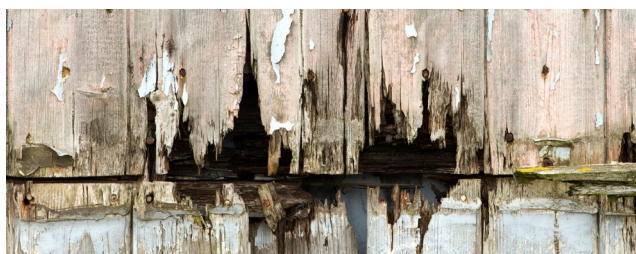
Did you know that pastors have hobbies too? One of Pastor Kolby's favorite passions is the Pokemon video games and card game. He has been playing since he can remember, getting his first Pokemon game at three years old. He recently finished 2nd Place at a casual local tournament held at Meelypops Card Shop up in Durham. Some of y'all might remember Jameel, who was the Youth Director here at Wesley many years ago. He is now that card store owner. Later this month, Kolby and some of his friends will make the trip to Columbus, OH to compete against 2000+ other players from around the world in the 2023 North American International Championship. Woohoo!

*Best of luck, Kolby!*



Our beloved gazebo is experiencing some (no, a *lot* of) rot and needs repair or demolition. We have several ideas from the last Leadership Board meeting, but do you have one that might be THE ONE?

*Give us a call!*





## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

**World Environment Day (WED)** is celebrated annually on June 5th and encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment. It is supported by many non-governmental organizations, businesses, government entities, and represents the primary United Nations outreach day supporting the environment.

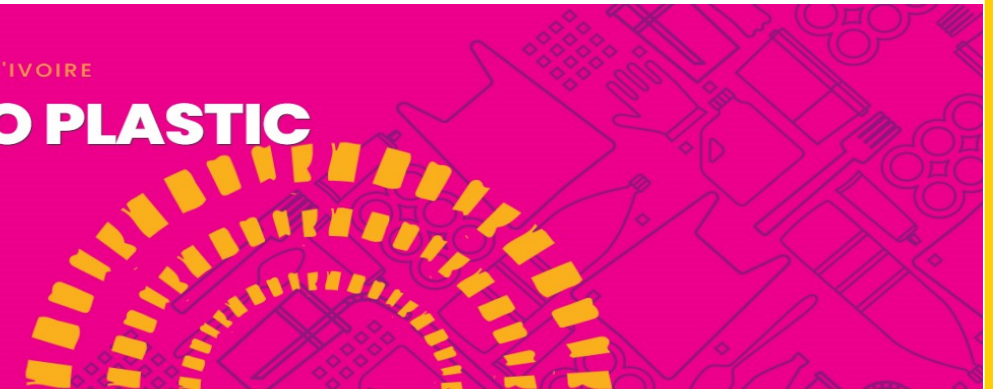


First held in 1973, it has been a platform for raising awareness on environmental issues as marine pollution, overpopulation, global warming, sustainable development, and wildlife crime. World Environment Day is a global platform for public outreach, with participation from over 143 countries annually. Each year, the program has provided a theme and forum for businesses, non government organizations, communities, governments and celebrities to advocate environmental causes.

World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the United Nations at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (5–16 June 1972), that had resulted from discussions on the integration of human interactions and the environment. One year later, in 1973, the first WED was held with the theme "Only One Earth". This year, Cote D'Ivoire will host the worldwide meeting as they discuss "Solutions to Plastic Pollution."

5 JUNE 2023 | HOSTED BY CÔTE D'IVOIRE

## SOLUTIONS TO PLASTIC POLLUTION



*For more information, check out*

WED website: <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/> and

Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Environment\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Environment_Day)

UN meeting in Paris: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/what-you-need-know-about-plastic-treaty-negotiations-paris-week>

"Beat Plastic Pollution": <https://www.unep.org/interactives/beat-plastic-pollution/>

**This World Environment Day join us  
in the global effort to  
#BeatPlasticPollution**



# MISSION OF THE MONTH

## Grace Marketplace

Since Grace Marketplace opened its doors in 2014, it has become a center of help, healing, and hope in our community. Grace meets its clients where they stand and walks with them toward a better future by providing meals, shelter, and other immediate needs while connecting them with essential services. These services include medical care, job training and skill building, mental health services, and more. Grace makes this possible by providing space on their campus for other community services providers — often space that is shared with numerous providers.

GRACE offers a wide variety of supportive services, including

- Intake and referral
- Substance abuse and mental health counseling
- Case management
- Assistance with public benefit signups (food stamps, Medicaid, SSI/SSDI, and SafeLink phones)
- Showers and restrooms
- Breakfast and dinner
- Outdoor shelter pavilion
- Storage of personal belongings
- Clothes closet

Help prevent and end homelessness by making a donation toward an immediate need. We've set up a fund to cover the small expenses that tend to be the tipping point pushing people into homelessness. Things like a flat tire, needing to be able get back to Mom, or having to choose between groceries or rent. Often, households will call looking for emergency shelter before they actually lose their housing. This fund lets us address those issues and prevent households from ever becoming homeless.

As much progress as Grace has made, it has not yet reached its full potential. Most pressing, many more local agencies that want to provide services at Grace have no facility in which to do so. To address this deficiency, funds to renovate an existing building into the Community Services Building will significantly expand the agencies that can participate at Grace. Some of the services to be added to the current array include: expanding veterans' services; dedicating space for more frequent 12-step meetings; creating a women's safe space where women can meet with domestic violence service providers such as Peaceful Paths; providing room for additional mental health services from Meridian Behavioral Healthcare; and expanding case management offerings by Grace staff and other community providers.

*(Continued on Page 11)*



### **Current urgent summer needs:**

- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Umbrellas
- Ponchos
- Reusable Water Bottles

### **Ongoing Needs: They always need these items!**

- Adult new or used clothing
- Work boots (men's and women's)
- Non-slip work shoes
- New underwear
- Hotel-sized toiletry items
- Sunscreen
- Aloe
- Bug spray
- Razors
- Tampons and pads
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Non-perishable food items
- Bags and luggage
- Towels
- Twin/full bedding
- Blankets
- Pillows
- Sleeping bags
- Unopened first-aid supplies
- Working computers and tablets
- Pens, notebooks, folders
- Shovels
- Working power tools
- Household goods
- Bicycles
- Bicycle accessories (locks, air pumps, lights, etc)

### **They do not accept these items:**

- Children or baby items
- Books
- Holiday-specific items
- Cooked food \*
- Used or open toiletries
- Clothing with stains or holes
- Used underwear
- Medical equipment
- Incomplete sets of Tupperware
- Electronics not in working order

They no longer accept furniture donations at their 39th Avenue campus. Please take them to their official thrift store partners at Re-Use Planet at 1540 NE Waldo Road.

For more information, visit <http://gracemarketplace.org/>

\* go to this site to learn more about donating food:  
<https://www.gracemarketplace.org/donate-food>



Happy Fathers Day, Daddy!

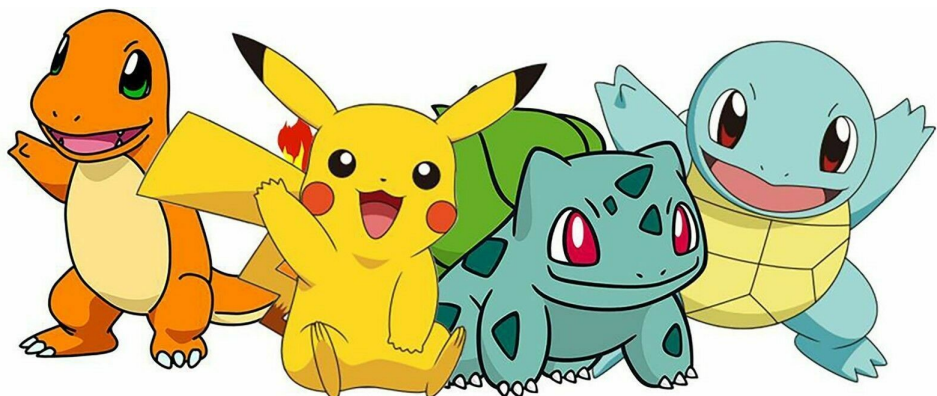




## Committee Meetings

6/27 7:00PM Leadership Board

Go, Pastor Kolby!



## June Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chuck Adams  
3<sup>rd</sup> Barbara Loehr-Fox  
9<sup>th</sup> Sam Adams  
17<sup>th</sup> Robert Loehr  
June Voyles  
19<sup>th</sup> Jeffrey Carlin  
23<sup>rd</sup> Linda Crenshaw  
24<sup>th</sup> Pastor Kolby  
Golliher  
25<sup>th</sup> Janis Bishop

## June Anniversaries

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sherry & Chuck Adams  
16<sup>th</sup> Donna & Gary Weseman



## 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!

### 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.

