



“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.’

Isaiah 43:18-19

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Wesley Witness

Thank you & Excited for what is yet to come!



I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ...

Philippians 1:3-4

I join my voice with Paul’s today as I reflect back over 2022. I do thank God every time I remember you—you have touched Dee and me with your love, your faithfulness, and caring ways, personally and in your ministries within the community. I believe the most significant piece this year was the emphasis on prayer. We started a Prayer Closet Ministry and adopted a simple prayer for the year, “Lord what do you want to do through me?” As we undergirded the life of Wesley in prayer, amazing things began to happen.



It’s hard not to be excited at this time of year as we have had two successful

food box drives for Thanksgiving and Christmas, gathered toys for Join Hands and the children of Perry County, and just enjoyed a marvelous Children’s Christmas Play. They are just the most recent joys that cause so many to give thanks to God.

I cannot make light with the challenging inflation, to not mention how faithful you have been in our *Hope for the Future* Campaign. As I write, we have received nearly \$130,000 to date towards the campaign or about 43% of our \$300,000 goal! Thank you so much for your generosity. While general finances

remain “snug,” we’re doing our very best in balancing the many needs against spiraling costs. I know you’re doing the same with your personal budgets, too.

Knowing all that we have done in 2022, I’m even more excited to see what God will do through Wesley in 2023. I believe this year, we must expand our prayer focus in a profound but simple way, “Lord, what do you want to do through us?” It means asking God every day how he wants to use Wesley to reach the lost, to care for the needy, to comfort the hurting. It also acknowledges that God is doing amazing things through Wesley and we want Him to guide our path forward.



I’m looking forward to seeing our children’s ministry strengthened even more, to renewing our music ministry, and doing a special study of the Lord’s Prayer during Lent. We took in more members in 2022 than any previous year in my tenure here and they came through our outreach ministries. Because of Mom2Mom, one mother told me she made the decision to enroll her son into a Christian school. We are making an impact on so many lives—especially young children. I believe God is poised to do even greater things through Wesley Church as we walk faithfully and continue to pray, “Lord, what do you want to do through us?”

I pray that you and yours will have a happy and blessed New Year.

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Doug

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Worship with us
Sundays at 9:00 am

In Person:

Join us safely in the Sanctuary.

Online

•Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/wesleyumcmvl/>

•Website: <https://www.wesleyum.org/>

•YouTube (search for Wesley Wave) (be sure to subscribe):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVh5ckeYZuoHGIVgqY3wQtQ>

JANUARY WORSHIP

January 1, 2023

Epiphany Sunday



THEME: A New Year Resolution regarding your spiritual life.

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 3:23-26

MESSAGE: "A New Year!!! A New You???"

WHAT TO EXPECT: Cindy Thomas will be leading us in our worship while Pastor Doug and Dee are enjoying a week off.

January 8, 2023

Baptism of the Lord

THEME: Do we remember our baptism and act in a way that pleases God?

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 3:13-17

MESSAGE: *Questions of Reflection: Is God pleased with you?*

WHAT TO EXPECT: Holy Communion.

January 15, 2023

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

THEME: What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:29-42

MESSAGE: *"Questions of Reflection: Are we followers?"*

January 22, 2023

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

THEME: Do we bring others to Jesus?

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 4:12-23

MESSAGE: *"Questions of Reflection: Are we fishers of men?"*

WHAT TO EXPECT: Cindy Thomas will be guiding our worship while Pastor Doug and Dee are busy moving into their home.

January 29, 2023

4th Sunday after Epiphany

THEME: Do we walk humbly with our God and do what is right?

SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 6:1-8

MESSAGE: *"Questions of Reflection: What does the Lord require?"*

Sunday Servant Schedule



January

January 1

Dave Thomas
Malinda Kern

January 8

Washington Family

January 15

Dave Thomas &
Cindy Thomas

January 22

Joe Bower
Martiel Edwards

January 29

Dee Eberly
Joe Bower



January

January 1

Rose Motter

January 8

Joe Bower

January 15

Rachelle Miller-
Washington

January 22

Barb Hammaker

January 29

Cindy Thomas

Wesley Outreach, Activities, & Announcements



Mom2Mom & Kidz Zone

January 4 @ 6:30 pm

We start a brand new year for our Mom2Mom ministry. This month we are encouraging each mom to bring a friend who might be interested in joining us. We will be playing Bunco and having a great meal. Kidz Zone meets at the same time as Mom2Mom. Moms are welcome to bring their kids of any age for games, crafts, movies and more.



Children's Fellowship

Sunday, January 8 - 1:00—3:00 pm

CF meets in the Multipurpose Room and is for kids in grades K through 6. While we always have snacks, play games, and do some fun activities and projects, our focus is on serving others. In January, the kids will make pans of lasagna then divide them into individual containers for Do Over Ministries to pass out to the homeless population. Small hands can do great things!



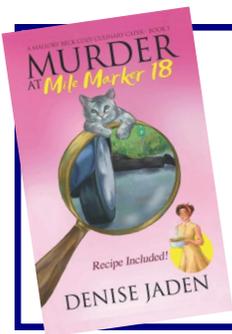
United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith

On **January 29**, we are reviving an old favorite – United Women in Faith will hold a Soup Cook-off. Look for a sign-up sheet in the lobby with more details coming soon! Everyone is invited to enter their favorite homemade soup or stew and decorate a space in the MPR to promote it. The public will be invited to come sample all the delicious contest entries for \$5 entrance fee and pick a winner of the coveted Golden Ladle. Some soups will be also be available for sale. All proceeds support Wesley's United Women in Faith who is dedicated to the support of women, children and youth in our local and global community.



Soup Cook off



Women's Book Club

Monday, January 16, 2023

7:00 pm

This month we are meeting at the home of Barbara Hammaker for our discussion of "Murder at Mile Marker 18" by Denise Jordan. Please direct any questions to Debby Moore.



Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 @ 9:00 am

All men are welcome to join in this time of fellowship over a hot breakfast. Build relationships and community as you share your lives with one another.



A huge thank you to everyone who participated in Join Hands' Christmas program. Again this year, you helped Join Hands to serve over 800 Perry County families have a brighter Christmas.



Dear Wesley Family,

As I write this, I have two thoughts circling in my mind. The first is I keep recalling that Christmas hymn phrase “in the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.” Most likely, because we’ve been feeling it ever since that cold blast 3 days before Christmas. The second is a much warmer thought; I can’t stop thinking about how to communicate for myself, and your church council, our heartfelt Thank You!! Your caring, faithful giving to Wesley during 2022 propelled Wesley on the Hill through our mission of serving Marysville and beyond. That warm thought is, I wish I could give everyone hugs, not just because you recognized the greater than ever need for worship and spreading his word in our church family, but also, for the support and encouragement that went to ministries based at Wesley and those beyond like Perry County’s Join Hands Ministry. I think we can agree that at a minimum, it has been a good year for Wesley. Personally, I think we need to give ourselves more credit. This has been a *great* year, because together we guided Wesley through additional steps out of the Pandemic, launched our Capital Campaign, and took on sudden economic inflation. Given the size of our challenges, Wesley on the Hill had a great 2022 year!

One example I must share with you is our special Advent Offering envelope giving was over \$1,000. Thank you! Fifty percent went to bolster current expenses against our winter utility increases. The other half, went directly to local community outreach. I asked Amy to give us some feedback on how that was received during the crucial family time, Christmas. This is her response:

“This Christmas season, through the generosity and love of our Wesley congregation, I was able to distribute gift cards to grocery and retail stores to some special families with whom we are in relationship.

- *One of the families you helped this year is facing a rather serious medical crisis and Mom is overwhelmed.*
- *Several families are facing outrageous increases in their rent and an uncertain housing situation.*
- *All of these friends are enduring increased fuel and grocery costs with little support to meet these challenges.*

These gifts mean so much more than just the dollar value. They represent being able to do something nice for their children without choosing what bill to skip. They represent belonging to a community that loves and supports them. Each family who received a gift card expressed deep gratitude. As you celebrated the holy time of year with your family, I want you to know that you made the day a little brighter for 14 children who are learning to know Jesus through you.”

As mentioned above, we recognized we had to take on the Capital Campaign, having postponed it twice due to the Pandemic. I want you to know that we looked to our inner self, thought of Jesus’ example, (WWJD) and rose to the task. As of January, we are only 9 months into the first year of the three-year campaign (May 2022-April 2025), and we have received over \$130,000! Thank you! We continue to be able to promise that all Capital Campaign gifts received until further notice will go directly to lowering our mortgage principal. Your gifts to the Building Fund go towards the interest portion. Please continue to honor your pledge as we give to assure the future of Wesley on the Hill. New or ongoing, your gifts to the Capital Campaign Fund are a “down” payment for Wesley’s future. Any amount moves us forward. Thank you!

Thanks for understanding we needed to return our annual giving to the calendar year to resolve our software challenge in reporting. With changes, we sent our giving statements for May through the end of November and overall year to date. Enclosed was a pledge card to which we added a check box if you wished to continue your original giving pledge and provided options to change or increase as well. Please return that card if you haven’t already (offering plate, wall drop box, mail, or email). Along with the change and statement, we distributed new giving envelopes for 2023. And yes, we (I) kind of over told you about the new layout, giving choices, and especially the easy check box. I will take the blame for that because I want to be transparent and be honest in asking for your support of Wesley on the Hill. Year end 2022 statements will be distributed by mid-January.



(Continued on page 5 - FINANCE)

(Continued from page 4 - FINANCE)

Soberly and truthfully, as I talk with Christian friends and friends of different faiths, read and hear about the struggles of many churches, I know that we are blessed. It is no secret that churches and faith-based nonprofits are struggling to fund ministry. With economic uncertainty and inflation, ministry in 2023 will cost more. At Wesley, we are blessed to stand with like-minded Christians who are determined to continue to work toward achieving love, peace, and relief of hardships, to follow Christ, lead others to join us in worship, and make a difference in our communities.

I truly wish everyone a healthy and happy new year. Yes, we are blessed, because you have chosen the love of God and have made blessings happen. I discussed this with Pastor Doug and frankly he was quite unabashed in his words to me, which I share with you:

“We have immense gratitude that we have surpassed \$130,000 for the Hope for the Future Campaign, met skyrocketing inflation, while we have had new ministries emerge and our others strengthened. But we must do better, knowing that old and new challenges are still before us.

With our profound gratitude, united in faith, and working together, Wesley has a bright hope as we begin 2023.”

I personally wish to thank you again for your loving support and giving to Wesley on the Hill. As I’ve relayed in this note, you are making a difference. You have stepped up in these difficult times, and I know you will continue to work together to further strengthen Wesley as the warm, go-to shelter and sanctuary on the hill standing in His service; defiant against negative forces.

In our new year, whether you are sitting in our pews or worshipping online, invite others to join you so that they may meet our family on the hill and come to know Jesus Christ.



Finance Chairperson

“Every man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (II Cor. 9:7)



**PRESCHOOL
REGISTRATION**



**Wesley Preschool Now Enrolling for
2023-2024 School Year**

Since 2003, Wesley Preschool has been impacting the lives of the youngest members in our community to assist in their transition into Kindergarten.

We are now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Classes are available for children ages 1 ½ - Pre- Kindergarten and are designed to meet the needs of a child during each stage of their most formative years.

For additional information or to request an application, please contact Wesley Preschool at 717-957-4481. Applications are also available on Wesley United Methodist Church website at <https://www.wesleyum.org/preschool>.



WESLEY'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship	2 6:30 PM—8:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Or Adonai Practice	3 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Marysville Baseball	4 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Boy Scouts 6:30—8:00 PM Mom2Mom	5 5:30 pm—6:30 pm Kids Indoor Soccer 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	6	7 9:00 AM—12:00 PM United Women in Faith—Harrisburg District Leadership Meeting
8 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:00 AM—11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:30AM—11:30 AM Adult Sunday School	9 6:30 PM—8:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 56	10 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Marysville Baseball	11 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Boy Scouts	12 11:30 am—1:45 PM Soccer Shots for Preschool 5:30 pm—7:30 pm Kids Indoor Soccer 7:00 PM— 8:30 PM SPRC Meeting 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	13	14
15 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30AM—11:30 AM Adult Sunday School	16 6:30 PM—8:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 7:00 pm Women’s Book Club 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Or Adonai Practice	17 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Marysville Baseball	18 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Boy Scouts	19 11:30 am—1:45 PM Soccer Shots for Preschool 5:30 pm—6:30 pm Kids Indoor Soccer 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	20	21 8:30 am—3:30 pm Emmaus Walk Men’s Team Meeting
22 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30AM—11:30 AM Adult Sunday School	23 6:30 PM—8:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 56	24 Newsletter Article Deadline 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Marysville Baseball	25 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Boy Scouts	26 11:30 am—1:45 PM Soccer Shots for Preschool 5:30 pm—6:30 pm Kids Indoor Soccer 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	27	28
29 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30AM—11:30 AM Adult Sunday School TBD UWIF Soup Cook-off	30 6:30 PM—8:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Or Adonai Practice	31 9:00 am—11:00 am Men’s Breakfast 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Marysville Baseball	FEBRUARY 1 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Boy Scouts 6:30—8:00 PM Mom2Mom	2 11:30 am—1:45 PM Soccer Shots for Preschool 5:30 pm—6:30 pm Kids Indoor Soccer 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	3 5:00 PM—11:59 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 Lock-In	4 12:00 AM—12:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 Lock-In

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”
Ephesians 1:18-19



Fear not; for I am with you. Be not dismayed; for I am your God
I will strengthen you. Yes,
I will help You. Yes,
I will uphold you
with the right
hand of My
righteousness.
Isaiah 41:10

JUST FOR KIDS

And Kids at heart!

"Brothers, I know that I have not yet reached that goal. But there is one thing I always do: I forget the things that are past. I try as hard as I can to reach the goal that is before me. I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize. That prize is mine because God called me through Christ to the life above."

Philippians 3:13-14



Books of the Bible Crossword #1												
H	J	D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y
G	K	G	E	W	A	S	D	F	H	U	I	O
U	M	J	U	K	M	B	V	F	D	E	S	P
H	J	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	I	F	E	X
J	H	S	A	S	D	G	H	J	K	C	C	F
S	T	O	H	J	U	K	I	O	L	D	O	X
G	R	O	S	E	C	O	N	D	K	I	N	G
N	D	H	H	U	D	F	G	H	G	Y	D	E
I	S	F	N	O	C	F	G	J	B	H	S	N
K	E	V	M	P	H	I	H	O	N	G	A	E
T	R	B	S	E	F	G	T	I	M	F	M	S
S	T	F	E	E	R	F	G	I	K	D	U	I
R	Y	J	O	S	H	U	A	L	V	K	E	S
I	H	K	L	K	I	K	L	O	P	E	L	R
F	F	I	R	S	T	S	A	M	U	E	L	L

GENESIS	DEUTERONOMY	FIRST SAMUEL
EXODUS	JOSHUA	SECOND SAMUEL
LEVITICUS	JUDGES	FIRST KINGS
NUMBERS	RUTH	SECOND KINGS



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Find us on the Web!
www.wesleyum.org

*"Your Church on
the Hill"*

**Wesley United Methodist
Church**

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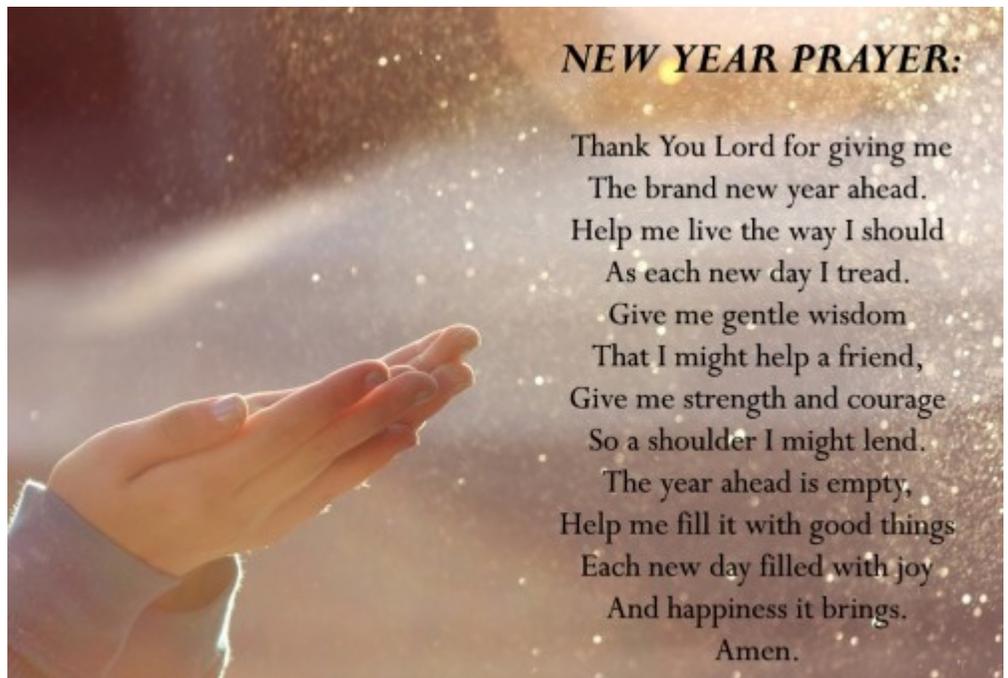
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Finance Chairperson

David Palmer

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NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.

May your 2023 be filled with all the blessings that God has to offer you...those of Peace of heart and mind, comfort of living, joy of friends and family, and the love of Jesus as Savior of your life and of the world! Happy New Year!