

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
10:00 am — 2:00 pm

SEPTEMBER

September 2025

"Beloved, you are faithful in all you do for the brothers and for strangers,⁶ who have testified of your love before the church. You will do well to send them along on their journey in a manner worthy of God."

3 John 1:5-6

Wesley United Methodist Church
Wesley Witness



Walking the Trails, Following God's Path

There's a trailhead across the parking lot from the church that leads into the Hammer woods of Cove

Mountain. Managed by the Nature Conservancy, the paths wind through tall trees and rise and fall across the mountainside. If you hike far enough, the trails occasionally open to a cutout overlook. I often walk these trails with Debbie and our dog, Ollie. Other times it's just Ollie and me. I've walked the pink, yellow, green, and blue trails. I'm planning on tackling orange this fall.

When I'm out there in the mountains, something happens. The quiet settles in, and before long I find myself praying—sometimes with words, sometimes just with silence. The rhythm of walking seems to make space for God. The beauty of nature helps fill my prayers with praise and glory to God.

When I come across a lookout, Ollie and I will stop, sit on a bench or a stone, and catch our breath. The views are captivating. I often look for features I recognize. I can sit there for a long time and let the stillness and beauty wash over me. Those pauses are good and necessary. But I never stay there forever. Ollie will remind me that this is, after all, a hike. The trail calls us onward. When we start walking, now further up the mountain, the scenery has changed. The trees look a little different, the air feels different, and I realize I am further along the path than before.

For me, these hikes are a metaphor for life with God. And it feels a lot like the life of our church. We travel together as God leads us. We enjoy God. God blesses us with moments to pause, moments when we can rest, give thanks, and enjoy what God has done among us. The view can



be captivating, awe-inspiring. But God also calls us to keep walking. The blessing of the past is not the end of the story. However, the trail continues, and new things await.

As a congregation, we have truly been enjoying the blessings of God. The view of God's grace has been glorious. While we won't stop celebrating what we've seen God do, now God is calling us to step forward once again. He has set before us some important paths:

1. **Green Trail** - Growing our children's ministry by moving from one room children's church to two age-appropriate classes. We are already well on this path. It means that 3-4 people each week will be with the children, leading and teaching them during worship. Is God calling you to help with our children? We are looking to share the adventure, so you would not be helping every week, but will alternate with others willing to serve our children. We are in need of additional help.
2. **Yellow Trail** - Fully living into Safe Sanctuaries so that all children, youth, and vulnerable adults can trust that this is a safe place. And so that volunteers know they are protected as well. We have improved significantly in our compliance with the requirements of Safe Sanctuaries. However, we need to update our policy and make the final strides to ensure full compliance. Sandy Corl has graciously volunteered to be our Safe Sanctuaries coordinator. We will gather a team to review and enhance our policy. Is God calling you to assist?

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Sundays at 9:00 am
with Children's Church

Adult Sunday School
10:30 am

Worship with us Online

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wesleyumcmvl/>
- Website: <https://www.wesleyum.org/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVh5ckeYZuoHGIvGqY3wQtQ>

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

September 7, 2025

13th Sunday after Pentecost

THEME: Who is dear to you, and you know they need Jesus? God wants to hear your heart.

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 5:21-23; 35-43

MESSAGE: "God wants to hear when a loved one needs Jesus"

WHAT TO EXPECT: Holy Communion

September 14, 2025

14th Sunday after Pentecost

THEME: Jeremiah is sometimes referred to as the weeping prophet. He follows God's instruction to call Israel to repentance. But Israel rejects his work and God's love. Jeremiah comes to God in despair.

SCRIPTURE READING: Lamentations 3 / Jeremiah 20:7-18

MESSAGE: "God Wants to Hear our Raw Prayers of Despair"

WHAT TO EXPECT: Jeff Wolfe fills in for Pastor Bob while on vacation. Please come hear what he has to bring us.

September 21, 2025

15th Sunday after Pentecost

THEME: If anyone had reason to ask, Am I safe?, it was David. Hunted. Betrayed. Surrounded. And yet, again and again, David didn't just hide from his fears—he brought them to God. His life teaches us that the question, 'Am I safe?' isn't answered by control or hiding—but by refuge in the Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 27:1-5 / 1 Samuel 17:32-37 & 41-45

MESSAGE: "David and the question, 'Am I Safe?'"

September 28, 2025

16th Sunday after Pentecost

THEME: Ruth's world is turned upside down by loss: her husband dies, and she chooses to leave behind her homeland, and her safety net to care for her mother-in-law in a foreign land. As a widowed Moabite woman in Israel, Ruth is extremely vulnerable. Her question could easily have been: "Am I secure?" - Will I be provided for? Will I be accepted? Do I have a future?

But Ruth steps out in faith, clinging to Naomi and to Israel's God. In Bethlehem, she humbly gathers leftover grain behind harvesters, risking rejection. Yet God provides—not only through Boaz's kindness but through inclusion in the line of King David and ultimately Christ.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 16:5-11 / Ruth 2:1-13

MESSAGE: "Ruth and the question 'Am I Secure?'"



Fall Church Conference
Saturday, October 4

Again this year, our cluster churches will gather at Wesley for their annual church conferences at 10:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars.

Church Conference



Our Seven Deepest Questions
(That only the Gospel can answer)

Have you ever wondered why certain fears, doubts, desires, or even habits

seem to hold so much influence over your life? Have you found yourself coming back to the same insecurity in your

work, in relationships, in finances, in seemingly every area of your life? We're launching a new sermon series looking at the simple but powerful questions that drive us —Am I safe? Am I loved? Am I good enough? Etc.

These honest, personal, and hard questions have spiritual answers. Left unanswered, our most profound questions can drive us into difficulties in our faith, our relationships, and in every area of our lives. We are going to look at seven questions, one or two of which drive most of us. We'll explore how God, our Creator, answers our deepest human needs with truth, reassurance, and purpose. Once the questions underneath our lives are answered in Christ, those answers can become our greatest strengths.

Pastor Bob and Licensed Counselor Jeff Wolfe will team up to preach this series starting September 21, 2025. You won't want to miss this!



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3. **Pink Trail** - Strengthening the connection between our church and our preschool, so that families who bring their children here can also experience the love of Christ in the life of our church. The preschool has been financially well supported by the church. We celebrate its success. We celebrate its accomplishments, but we have not been in the lives of preschool families so as to love and support them into the family of God. It's time for us to build this connection so Preschool families feel God's love from us. Here again, we'll pull together a team to begin developing a multi-year strategy that tightly couples our church life and preschool life. Is God calling you to help in this initiative?

These are not just "projects." They are the journey God is calling us to walk. They remind us that God is still leading, still calling, still shaping us for what's ahead. We have not worked out all the details of how we will hike these paths. However, we know this is what God has ahead for us. We will be faithful to follow.

One other change that will help facilitate our journey is to begin managing our finances in a more unified fashion. We will be making some changes to the envelopes for 2026 that will make stewardship of our finances more straightforward. See David's finance article in this newsletter for a bit more detail.

The psalmist once wrote, *"I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth"* (Psalm 121:1–2). Those words take on fresh meaning when you're standing on a mountain lookout, breathing in the air, experiencing the view, and remembering who holds the path beneath your feet as well as the path ahead.

The woods of Cove Mountain remind me that the lookouts and their vistas are fantastic, but they are not the destination. The complete joy is found in walking. And the gift is knowing we do not walk alone.

Hiking God's Trail with You,
Pastor Bob



Servant Schedule



September

Ushers & Greeters

Worship Leaders

Pre-K/K Teacher

Grade 1-5 Teacher

Children's Church Helpers

7	Jeff & Becky Wolfe	Bob Moore	Amy Whitworth	Chris Miller	Cindy Melnick
14	Sandy Corl & Donna Donaldson	Ginny Rech	Casey Fowler	JoAnn Cryder	Help Needed
21	Nevin & Malinda Kern	Chris Miller	Becky Wolfe	Amy Whitworth	Help Needed
28	Washington Family	Jeff Miller	Shelly Fulton	Malinda Kern	Help Needed



Children's Church Revamp! Begins September 7

We are kicking off our new Children's Church format. All children 0 – 12 are welcome to come worship with us and do fun activities during Sunday morning worship. Anyone age 13+ who is interested in helping with the kids (on a regular basis, rotating basis, or just one-time basis!) see Amy. There are requirements to get started, but we welcome you to pour into the lives of our kids!



Wesley Family,

We have enjoyed vacations and family picnics while navigating the summer heat and avoiding friendly and unfriendly pollinators. At dusk, many of us appreciate seeing the bats swooping around, gobbling up those tiny annoyances that threaten our outdoor gatherings. As you read this newsletter, we see a successful Vacation Bible School, the blessing of the kids' backpacks, and the start of schools in summer's rearview mirror. You certified old timers reading this will remember school used to start right after Labor Day and end right around Memorial Day. Yessiree, I'm personally admitting that I'm certified. As with everything else these days, like prices, packaging contents, and the wait time to speak to a real person, creeping up or shrink creep is the norm. Schools starting on August 20th and ending for the summer the first week of June (*the coming year May 29*) is an example of creep in our lives we've become accustomed to. I want to encourage you to explore the good side of creep. Try creeping over to say hello to your neighbors, creep up to Wesley on the Hill for one of our many activities and events on a day other than Sunday. Slow to a creep and let someone out of a parking lot in front of you, creep your friends by giving them a hug or gift for no reason at all. So let your spirit be creepy, it's ok to move slowly, avoid early detection, and even be stealth, as long as your end goal is the Christian way of being nice to everyone, surprising them with warmth, and spreading your love for Christian Fellowship; with friends, yet to be friends, and those who need befriended.

Soon after you read this newsletter, you will see fall's advance notices

creeping into our lives. I have already seen some yards with Halloween decorations along with football and all of fall's sports. We know it is pre-fall time. Then there is "pumpkin spice everything" which is a seasonal personal addiction for many folks!

As part of our Fall experience, let us all plug into Wesley on the Hill, recharge, support our activities and mission, while knowing that our giving keeps Wesley thriving and supports our programs where all are welcomed with open arms.

Current Finance Happenings:

Parsonage Garage Repairs - All done but some final touches, paperwork, and covering the \$2500 insurance deductible.

Storm Water Borough Project - Reviewing proposed legal agreement while the engineering firm completes their project details and access. The key part for us is exemption from the storm water fee assessment, improvements, and maintenance of our retention pond becoming the Borough's responsibility.

Marysville Borough Grease Ordinance - Met with the Borough Manager, our request for exemption or reduced compliance was acknowledged. We are hopeful that common sense will be applied not just to Wesley but to most of the churches and non-profit organizations in town.

Wesley Kitchen Freezer Obit - After 17 years, our primary freezer in the kitchen is going to the appliance hereafter. Estimate of \$1500 to repair with no guarantee how long the fix might last. Trustees are currently shopping for a replacement. Early estimates peg our anticipated cost around \$2500 up to as much as \$3500+. We welcome any contributions toward the new freezer.

Wesley Preschool Expanded to 4 days per week - This has been received with positive favorable comments. The additional day should not have a large impact on our utility bills. Conversely,

that extra day that your giving helps to provide can have a large impact on many young impressionable children! (Thank you!)

Wesley Revised Budgeting and Streamlined Accounting - As you know, our many years of "Honest Prayers" in earnest looking for a way to manage our mortgage have been answered. While we have recovered from our celebration jumping up and down, shouting to the heavens, I can't help myself. Every time I am reminded of our zero percent mortgage, I break out into a large smile! We are now working on simplifying, streamlining, and accepting your gracious giving for use where and how it will best serve Wesley. More will be shared as we make progress in revamping a decade-old old system that we now are empowered to modernize and improve. Know that Pastor Bob, myself, and your leadership team welcome your questions and input.

The following are in rough planning stages:

- 2026 giving envelopes will receive your gifts into Current Expenses, which is our general fund that everything Wesley feeds from. Individual boxes formally labelled Property, Building, and Capital Campaign will go away.
- Fear not, new multi-purpose giving envelopes will be available on our offering table and in the pews to accommodate specific gifts, special projects, and special causes that our hearts lead us to.
- New easy online giving availability.
- *Thank you* in advance for your acceptance of our need to modernize and make changes for Wesley and the Wesley Family's benefit.

Coming up in our pre-fall state of mind, we will be filling our propane tanks in preparation for the heating season. Normally, this is the lowest pricing of the year, however, this year

(Continued on page 6 - Finance)

Wesley Outreach, Activities, & Announcements



Wed., Sept. 3
6:30 – 8:00 PM
MOM2MOM

Mom2Mom—Wed., September 3 — 6:30—8:00 pm

“Ask Jeff Anything” A real-life child psychologist and member of Wesley will answer questions from the moms. Each month we begin with a meal then hold our program or activity. Kids will have their own activity.



Calling all Tweens and Teens (Ages 10-18) and their families are welcome to Transform!

Transform Outdoor Concert with Remix Worship Band

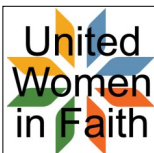
September 7

2:00 pm—5:30 pm

Fishing Creek UMC

402 Valley Road, Etters, PA 170319

We will meet at Wesley at 1:00 pm and carpool/caravan down. There will be food and other activities but please eat lunch before we go. The band is Remix Worship, and it promises to be a great time! This is a FREE event!



Wesley's United Women in Faith

Wednesday,

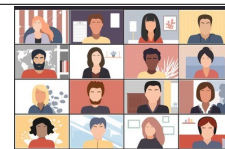
Sept. 10, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

All women are welcome to join us for this meeting.

Children's Church Volunteer Training

September 20 @ 7 pm

Zoom training class for all new and existing children's church volunteers. Contact Amy Whitworth with any questions.



September 26 @
5:00 pm

The next movie night will be on September 26, 2025. We will show “Overcomer”.

We will gather at 5:00 pm for pizza and start the movie around 6:15 pm.

Pizza and water will be provided. If you wish, you may bring a side, drinks, or dessert.

Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how much pizza to order.



Sight & Sound's NOAH

September 20 @ 3:00 pm

Harrisburg Regal Cinema (1500 Caughey Drive) is showing Sight & Sound's production of Noah on the big screen.

This movie will show for one week only from 9/18 through 9/24. A group is going from

Wesley for the Saturday matinee. Cost is on your own, but it would be great to see you there!)



Men's Breakfast

September 30

9:00 am

All men are welcome to join in the fellowship while sharing a delicious

home-cooked breakfast.

Back2School Messy Church Session

“Bee Kind”

Proverbs 16:24

September 21, 2025

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Everyone of all ages is welcome to attend! We'll hear a story, “Taste Your Words” by Bonnie Clark.

Followed by:

- Activities
- Food
- Music



Volunteers Needed!
Contact Amy Whitworth



(Continued from page 4 - FINANCE)

the price is considerably higher than in recent years. As experienced at our homes, we are all dealing with increased costs. We no longer have any resemblance of shock creeping onto our faces; however, we do have Wesley inspired faith that God will provide here and at home.

Please consider attending our annual Church Conference being held on Saturday, October 4th at 10AM. This is our review of church operations, accountability to you, and prayer for the continued well-being of Wesley's Mission. You are welcome in your normal Saturday morning clothes. Please consider giving your own "10-4" acknowledgement and attend.

Pastor Bob will be encouraging us to walk our path with "Honest Prayers" in our private conversations. This is not new to Wesley Folks but refreshing and expanding our thinking and actions will be good for us. We have much to be thankful for, (Mortgage thought flashes in my head, big smile!) we have had many prayers answered and more "Honest Prayer" will lead all of us as participants in Wesley's Mission.



David Palmer,
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

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel "

Philippians 1:27

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WESLEY PRESCHOOL

BACK TO PRESCHOOL



"so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,"

Colossians 1:10-11

New School Year!

The new school year begins for our preschoolers on September 2. Please keep our staff, teachers, and children in your prayers often, especially with the additional day, new this year.



JOB OPENINGS

Wesley Preschool has openings for the 2025-2026 school year for **Substitute Teachers.**

To apply, please contact Holly Bitner at (717) 580-0049 or email:

wesleyum.preschool@gmail.com

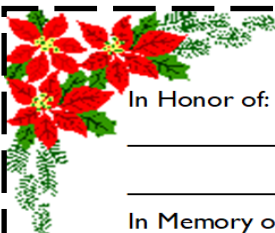
For consideration, fill out an application and return it to:

Wesley Preschool
450 Sylvan Street
Marysville, Pa 17053



Order Christmas Poinsettias Early!

Christmas is on its way! Our florist has given us a deadline for orders toward the end of October, so be thinking now of the poinsettias or Christmas Cacti you would like to order. Use this order form, or pick one up from the church Lobby.



Christmas 2025 Poinsettias or Plant

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

Poinsettias: _____ \$14.00 (6" pot) _____ \$22.00 (7" pot)
Qty each: _____ Red _____ Pink _____ White _____ Marble
Christmas Cactus: _____ (5" pot) \$16.00 _____ (6.5" pot) \$24.00

Given By: _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 21, 2025

WESLEY'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
		9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 6:30 PM—8:00 PM Nominations Committee Meeting	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 6:30 PM—8:00 PM Mom2Mom	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 10:00 AM—11:00 AM Prayer Together 6:30 pm—8:30 pm Emmaus Walk 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group		9:00 AM—3:00 PM Emmaus Walk Team Meetings (Men & Women)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30 AM—11:30 AM Adult Sunday School 1:00 pm—5:30 pm Youth Transform!	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 6:30 PM—7:30 PM Wesley Women in Faith Meeting	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 10:00 AM—11:00 AM Prayer Together 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group		
14	15 1st Day of Fall	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30 AM—11:30 AM Adult Sunday School	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 7:00 PM—9:00 PM Wesley Church Council	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 10:00 AM—11:00 AM Prayer Together 11:30 AM—1:30 PM Soccer Shots for Pre- school 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group		9:00 AM—12:00 PM River Valley District Women in Faith Meeting 10:00 AM—6:00 PM Scrapbooking Event
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30AM—11:30 AM Back2School Messy Church—"Bee Kind" 10:30AM—11:30 AM Adult Sunday School	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 10:00 AM—11:00 AM Prayer Together 11:30 AM—1:30 PM Soccer Shots for Pre- school 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	5:00 PM—9:00 PM Pizza & Movie Night "Overcomer"	
28	29	30				
9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship— 10:30AM—11:30 AM Adult Sunday School	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Worship Planning	9:00 am—1:30 pm Preschool 9:00 AM—10:00 AM Men's Breakfast				

September Birthdays



September 1
Twig Fortenbaugh
September 2
Steve Forshey
September 3
Barbara Hammaker
September 4
Bob Miller
September 5

Mona Kreitzer
September 6
Katelyn
Hansrote
September 9
Rose Motter
September 11
Millie Snyder
September 12

Jasper Hartley
 Bob Moore
September 23
Kaitlynn Miller-
Washington
September 24
George Stees
September 25
Debby Moore

Wayne Parson
September 26
Theron Brandt
September 29
Rhonda Benyo
 Jamie Kline
September 30
Chris Miller
 Donna Snyder





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Marysville, PA 17053

Return Service Requested

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Find us on the Web!
www.wesleyum.org

*"Your Church on
the Hill"*

Wesley United Methodist Church

Our Staff

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