



*"I always thank my God
for you because of his
grace given you in
Christ Jesus."*

1 Corinthians 1:4

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Wesley Witness



Grateful!

***In our prayers for you we
always thank God, the Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for we have heard of your
faith in Christ Jesus and of the
love that you have for all the
saints...***

Colossians 1:3-4

If you read the salutations of Paul's letters, you will see him giving thanks for the saints for their faithfulness and love shown to one another. If you read back through my monthly writings, you will see a similar pattern of profound gratitude for the faithfulness and generosity of Wesley Church. Paul's words to the Colossians apply just as well to Wesley today as they did in Paul's day.

As I write this, I want to expand my circle of gratitude as we begin the Fall season and ask that we be both grateful and prayerful for those I'm about to mention.

- On this coming Labor Day weekend, I'm grateful for all those who labor to make our lives easier and better. Because of the pandemic, I am especially thankful for those essential workers

often invisible but so critical. All our health care professionals, truck drivers, store clerks, and hospitality industry and so many more. We are the first to complain when we can't get a health appointment for 3 months, the shelves are bare or there isn't someone available to help us. Remember those who often labor 24/7 on our behalf.

- On 9/11 we'll mark the 21st anniversary of a terrible tragedy in America and a day of countless heroic actions taken on behalf of others. It is a day to remember and honor those who lost their lives that day—many seeking to aid another. It is a day to pause and give thanks for the dedication and sacrifice of all first responders. I thank God for those who run into harm's way without hesitation to care for us—that is the true mark of love.

needs of their students first. They have one of the greatest privileges of shaping the lives of young people and instilling in them core values that they will carry for the rest of their lives.

- On this day and every day, I give thanks for Wesley Church. I'm especially grateful for your generosity in the Hope for the Future Capital Campaign to reduce our debt. It is going well. Dave Palmer and our Finance Team carefully care for all funds entrusted to Wesley Church. I'm also excited as we get ready to launch Children's Fellowship for children in K-6 grade on September 11. God is doing exciting things through this congregation.

As fall begins, I welcome you back to Wesley Church. Join me in giving thanks and praying for our laborers, first responders, and educators and staff. Let us all continue to pray for Wesley Church by asking God, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?"

See you in church.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Doug



- On this August day as I write, I give thanks for all the teachers, staff, and bus drivers who once again are caring for our children and youth. They have persevered through the pandemic, shrinking staff, and greater demands, always putting the

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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>

Sunday Servant Schedule



September

September

- September 4
Dee Eberly
Donna Donaldson
- September 11
Dee Eberly
Malinda Kern
- September 18
Dee Eberly
Ginny Rech
- September 25
Dee Eberly
Joe Bower

- September 4
Joe Bower
- September 11
Grace Hartley
Kaitlynn Miller
- September 18
Cindy Thomas
- September 25
Rose Motter

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

September 4, 2022

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Labor Day Weekend

THEME: We look at 4 common causes of loneliness and 4 ways to deal with it.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-18

MESSAGE: "Answers to Life's Difficult Questions: How do I overcome loneliness?"

WHAT TO EXPECT: Holy Communion

September 11, 2022

14th Sunday after Pentecost

THEME: Today we pause to remember the sacrifices made and lives lost.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 15:12-14

MESSAGE: "A Time to Remember and Give Thanks"

WHAT TO EXPECT: Confirmation Class is joining the church.
Coffee Fellowship Celebration

September 18, 2022

15th Sunday after Pentecost

THEME: More than ever, a call to prayer is needed for everyone.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

MESSAGE: "Words from Paul: A Call to Prayer"

September 25, 2022

16th Sunday after Pentecost

THEME: Paul shows us some keys to true contentment.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

MESSAGE: "Words from Paul: Finding Contentment"

October 2, 2022

World Communion Sunday

THEME: Paul reminds Timothy of his family roots and placing his full trust in God.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

MESSAGE: "Words from Paul: Standing on a Firm Foundation"

WHAT TO EXPECT: Holy Communion

Dear Wesley Family,

This past week Roxanne and I noticed the Hummingbirds are beginning to frequent our two feeders like they are on a mission. At one point there were 4 trying to claim landing rights at the same time; unusual for sure. We believe they are sensing the shortening days and are beginning to fuel up for their eventual departure in mid September. Around the same time, during breakfast, what was at first glance a goldfinch turned out to be a visitor likely passing through. We quickly decided that this was not a Goldfinch in a tuxedo, but in fact a Hooded Warbler. Which is another first for our bird list of 40+ species we've spotted in the past 6+ years at our home. Most importantly, it provided another reminder and pleasant thoughts of the world we share through God's vision for us.

On Sunday August 28, our Lay Leader, Chris Miller, graciously accepted our Executive Team's request to provide Wesley an overall financial update. She shared good news on our progress as we work to put the struggles of the Pandemic and changes of our new "normal" at Wesley behind us, allowing us to move forward gaining strength and providing for our community and church.

She shared with those attending, or tuned in, much good news - Bible School, Confirmation Class joining September 11, Children's Fellowship starting in September, a group of new members will be welcomed in October, and Mom2Mom and Men's Breakfast continue to enjoy good attendance. All of these made possible by your selfless giving. Thank You!

Also shared was the good news that you are continuing to make our *Hope for the Future* Campaign successful. Pledges of nearly \$300K with \$100K already received while we are using the district's \$50K to supplement our mortgage interest payments along with your building fund giving. We paid \$50K on mortgage principle to date. Now that we are past the campaign costs, with the help of the district's gift, everything you give to our campaign is able to go directly to reducing the mortgage balance. Thank you, again, for your selfless giving!

Our giving categories labeled on our pink giving envelopes were explained. Setting the fourth box aside which is for our *Hope for the Future* three-year campaign, there are currently three category giving choices (boxes). Offerings not specifically directed to any of these three, go into the Current Expenses Fund.

- **Current Expenses:** used for Salaries, Utilities, Insurance, Shares of Ministry, Supplies, Office Expense, Postage, Taxes, etc. Basically, all weekly, monthly, and yearly expenses not covered by the Building & Property Funds.
- **Building Fund:** designated use only for Mortgage, principal and interest.
- **Property Fund:** designated use only for Maintenance, Improvements, and Required modifications; Grounds, Church, & Parsonage.

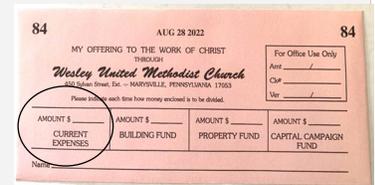
You are likely noticing that the Current Expenses Fund has to pay the vast majority of our expenditures. The designated funds in the Building and Property Funds are not allowed to be transferred or used for any of our current expenses. I believe Chris used the term "pots." Of the three pots, the Current Expenses Fund is very similar to our checking account at home; we pay most everything from it. As I mentioned in July, our Current Expenses Fund has and is running way too snug. Basically, week to week with no margin for error.

Currently the good news is that both the Building and Property Funds are healthy because of your directed and dedicated giving. What I need to tell you next is the opposite of that, and this will sound like a page from our homes. We just contracted to fill/top off the church's propane tanks at seasonal low pricing. We estimate that will be around 900 gallons. (2-1,000gl tanks). We need to top off our heating oil tanks, too. (1,000gl & 250gl tanks). And we must pay the School Real Estate Taxes on the parsonage (yes, it is taxed, but only the parsonage). And our PPL electric rate that I've had locked in for a year for the church, expires on Sept. 21st. We expect the new available rate will likely be a 30-40% increase in the supply side of our monthly bill (PPL

Business Commercial Rate). Average pricing for propane is running \$1.80gl, Heating Oil \$4.40gl, and both are heading up as this newsletter goes to press.

As I mentioned, our own personal numbers at home are being affected the same. The good news is that none of us have these size tanks, commercial rate electric, and the usage volume the church has. Our Executive Team and myself have been looking at options with more and more concern, in our effort to balance our giving funds so that each has funds to handle the bills each must take care of.

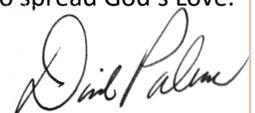
To address the situation promptly and handle expenses, we have decided on the following course of action. We are asking that you *voluntarily* direct your giving for the month of September to our Current Expenses Fund. Please consider directing your September Building and Property Fund giving to the Current Expenses Fund so we can be prepared for our increased



AMOUNT \$	AMOUNT \$	AMOUNT \$	AMOUNT \$
CURRENT EXPENSES	BUILDING FUND	PROPERTY FUND	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

expenses, both seasonal and higher monthly. Hopefully, we will be able to do some catching up. In addition, any additional, undesignated giving will aid the Current Expenses Fund as well.

Please understand that all of us helping to steer your church are very appreciative of your dedicated giving and support. Just like at home, sometimes we get a little wide-eyed looking at our checkbook and the bills that are due. But God does provide and we are all proof. In this newsletter is all the good news your giving has made possible. Please focus on all the good that Wesley stands for and supports. All made possible by your selfless giving! Thank you! We are thankful for our Wesley on the Hill Family's loving support and belief in our community mission to spread God's Love.



"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

Wesley Outreach, Activities, & Announcements

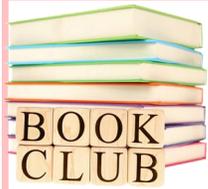


Mom2Mom and Kidzone

Wednesday, September 7 @ 6:30 pm

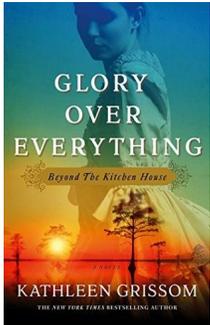


Mom2Mom 6:30 – 8:00. As always we will start with a family style meal. We will be joined by the Marysville Police Department who have agreed to do a basic self-defense class for our moms, offering some tips and tricks on how to stay safe and ward off an attacker. They have also agreed to speak to the kids in attendance that night before they have their own program. All moms, with kids of any age, are welcomed and encouraged to attend.



Women's Book Club Is Back!

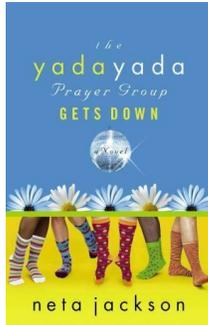
The Women's Book Club will meet at 7:00 pm on September 19 at the home of Debby Moore. We are discussing the two books we've been reading over the summer:



◇ "Glory Over Everything" by Kathleen Grissom.

◇ "The Yadda Yadda Prayer Group Gets Down" by Neta Jackson

For more information, contact Debby Moore.



Men's Breakfast

September 27 at 9:00AM

This is a great time of fellowship and all men are invited to attend. This is a family style breakfast offered at no charge, but donations of any amount are appreciated.

"This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."

Ephesians 3:6



Calling all KIDS in K-6 grade!

September 11 - 1:00-3:00 pm

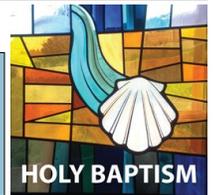
We are excited to hold our first Children's Fellowship meeting in many years! All kids in grades K-6 are welcome to attend. We'll meet once a month for fun activities and service projects for our community. Pre-registration is not necessary, but is appreciated, for planning purposes. If anyone has a question, please call Amy Whitworth at 717-254-0368.



October 9

Stand up and be counted! Did you know that attendance is NOT membership? Pastor Doug will be receiving NEW MEMBERS on October 9. If you are interested in becoming a member here at Wesley, we would love to have you. Please contact Pastor Doug or the church office so we can ensure we are meeting your needs.

If you have a child who would like baptism, or if you would like to be baptized, please speak with Pastor Doug or call the church office so we can make sure you are on the list for an upcoming service. Date and details are yet to be determined.



WESLEY'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 PM— 8:30 PM Emmaus Walk 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	2	3 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Baby Shower
4 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:45AM-11:45 AM Adult Sunday School	5 6:30 PM—8:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 56	6	7 6:30—8:00 PM Mom2Mom 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Boy Scouts	8 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	9	10 9:00 AM—5:00 PM Emmaus Walk Team Meetings
11 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:00 AM—11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:45AM-11:45 AM Adult Sunday School 1:00 pm—3:00 pm Children's Fellowship	12 6:30 PM—8:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Or Adonai Practice	13	14 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM—8:30 PM SPRC Meeting	15 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	16	17 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM Food Box Distribution
18 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:45AM-11:45 AM Adult Sunday School	19 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	20 7:00 PM—9:00 PM Wesley Church Council	21 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Boy Scouts	22 Newsletter Article Deadline 11:30 am—1:45 PM Soccer Shots for Preschool 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	23	24
25 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:45AM-11:45 AM Adult Sunday School 2:00 PM—5:00 PM Baby Shower— Trimmer	26 6:30 PM—8:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Or Adonai Practice	27 9:00 AM—11:00 AM Men's Breakfast	28 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Boy Scouts	29 11:30 am—1:45 PM Soccer Shots for Preschool 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	30	1 10:00AM-2:00 PM Nature Conservancy Recognition Event



Newsletter Deadline for Article Submissions:

Every month we send you the monthly newsletter. If you have any news, announcements or articles that need to be included, please submit to Jeannette in the church office by the deadline. "Classifieds" will be printed as space is available and as deemed appropriate.

The deadline date is now included in the monthly event calendar and is calculated so that there is time to process, create, and publish the newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation.

Articles for the October 2022 Newsletter are due by **September 22.**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:18-20; 26-27

But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ... If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.



Why is church membership important?

The universal Church—the Body of Christ (Romans 12:5)—is composed of all true believers in Christ, and local churches are to be microcosm of the universal Church. As believers, we have our names written in the Lamb’s book of life (Revelation 20:12), and that is what is most important. However, it is also important to commit to a local church where we can give of our resources, serve others, and be accountable.

The Bible does not directly address the concept of formal church membership, but there are several passages that strongly imply its existence in the early church. “And the Lord added to them day by day those that were being saved” (Acts 2:47). This verse indicates that salvation was a prerequisite for being “added” to the church. In Acts 2:41, it seems that someone was keeping a numerical record of those who were saved and thus joining the church. Churches today that require salvation before membership are simply following the biblical model. See also 2 Corinthians 6:14–18.

There are other places in the New Testament that show the local church as a well-defined group: in Acts 6:3, the church in Jerusalem is told to hold elections of some kind: “Choose seven men from among you.” The phrase among you suggests a group of people distinct from others who were not “among” them. Simply put, the deacons were to be church members.

Church membership is important because it helps define the pastor’s responsibility. Hebrews 13:17 instructs, “Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account.” Whom will a pastor give an account for, except the members of his own church? He is not responsible for all the Christians in the world, only for those under his care. Likewise, he is not responsible for all the people in his community, only for believers under his leadership—his church members. Membership in a local church is a way of voluntarily placing oneself under the spiritual authority of a pastor.

Church membership is also important because, without it, there can be no accountability or church discipline. First Corinthians 5:1–13 teaches a church how to deal with blatant, unrepentant sin in its midst. In verses 12–13, the words inside and outside are used in reference to the church body. We only judge those who are “inside” the church—church members. How can we know who is “inside” or “outside” the church without an official membership roll? See also Matthew 18:17.

... it seems the early church was structured in such a way that people clearly knew if someone was “in” or “out” of the church. Church membership is a way of identifying oneself with a local body of believers and of making oneself accountable to proper spiritual leadership. Church membership is a statement of solidarity and like-mindedness (see Philippians 2:2). Church membership is also valuable for organizational purposes. It’s a good way of determining who is allowed to vote on important church decisions and who is eligible for official church positions. Church membership is not required of Christians. It is simply a way of saying, “I am a Christian, and I believe this church is a good church.”

<https://www.gotquestions.org/church-membership.html>

** Next month we will take a look at our membership vows.





Living your life as God's ambassador

By: Dr. Jack Graham

August 30, 2022

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

—2 Corinthians 5:20

If you look back over the history of the United States, whenever the U.S. was in a tense situation with another country, the President would almost always send an ambassador to try and make peace with the other country. Sometimes it would be a close advisor or the Secretary of State, but someone had to go and represent the interests of the country.

Now, it is absolutely imperative if the President is going to send representatives to a nation with which we have a hostile relationship, that he choose the right ambassador. That ambassador must best represent our nation's interests when it comes to bringing reconciliation between the U.S. and its enemy.

When the Bible speaks in today's passage about you and I being ambassadors, it means we carry the authority of God when we seek to bring reconciliation in the world. We're God's representatives living in enemy-occupied territory. So Jesus gives you and me the privilege of helping make peace with the world on God's behalf by sharing the news of what Christ did on the cross.

We have a tremendous responsibility to represent our President (God) to the world. So as you live your life, remember who you represent and your mission to bring His peace to those who are far from Him.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT IN CHRIST, YOU REPRESENT GOD ON EARTH AS HIS AMBASSADOR. SO AS YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE, REMEMBER WHO YOU REPRESENT AND THE WORK YOU SHOULD BE ABOUT!

<https://jackgraham.org/resource/living-your-life-as-gods-ambassador/>



Are You Stuck in Spiritual Neutral?

BY RICK WARREN — AUGUST 29, 2022
FROM [LIVE YOUR CALLING: WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?](#)

A while back, a man came into my office and said, "I'm a Christian, but I don't feel like I'm going anywhere in my spiritual growth. I'm kind of stuck in neutral."

I said, "What do you think the problem is?"

He said, "I think my problem is I just don't love God enough."

I said, "That's not your problem. Your problem is not that you don't love God enough. Your problem is that you don't understand how much he loves you."

Love is always a response to love. The Bible says, "*We love because he first loved us*" (1 John 4:19 NIV). When you say, "I don't love God," it's because you don't understand just how much he really loves you.

In fact, God loved you before he even created the Earth. The Bible says it like this: "*Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love*" (Ephesians 1:4 The Message).

To understand your life's purpose and calling, you have to begin with God's nature. God is love. Love is the essence of his nature.

And the focus of his love is you. You were created to be loved by God.

If you grasp that profound truth and let it sink into your soul, you will find great

strength, confidence, and peace. God created the entire universe in a specific way to support the existence of human beings so that he could create you and love you.

The most important thing you can *know* is that God created you to love you. The most important thing you can *do* is to know and love him back. Loving God back is your number one purpose in life. Ants and snails do not love, but you were made in God's image, so you can love.

Most people go their entire lives missing their purpose. They know all kinds of things—stock quotes, sports scores, the latest technology—but they don't know God. They miss out on discovering the depth of God's love and all the blessings he has in store for them.

But that doesn't have to be true for you. God's priority for your life is clear. It's important to serve, obey, and trust him. But your first purpose is to love him.

Talk It Over

- What is your response to the truth that your first calling is to enjoy a relationship with God?
- Think about your relationship with God. Is it more about rules, regulations, and rituals than about love? If so, why?
- Why do you think it's so hard sometimes to stop *doing* and, instead, to just rest in God's love?

Interesting Note: Rick Warren retired as pastor of Saddleback church as of August 28, 2022.

<https://pastorrick.com/are-you-stuck-in-spiritual-neutral/>

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,

EPHESIANS 2:19

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*"Your Church on
the Hill"*

**Wesley United Methodist
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