

Dear Members and Friends of Wesley,

With November upon us, we find ourselves amidst the glorious Floridian autumn, where the sun still shines brightly and nature continues to display its vibrant colors. As we embrace this unique season, it's a time to reflect on the bountiful blessings that surround us.

### **A Season of Gratitude:**

November, often associated with Thanksgiving, provides us with a beautiful opportunity to come together in gratitude. We are blessed with a community that is not only resilient but is also a source of love, support, and spiritual growth. This year, as we look back, we see how our faith has sustained us through the challenges we have faced and how it has magnified the joys we have experienced. We thank God for the unity of our congregation.

### **Worship and Fellowship:**

At Wesley, we continue to offer meaningful and inspiring worship experiences. We invite you to join us for our Sunday services as we delve deeper into God's Word and find spiritual nourishment to carry us through the month. Our doors remain open, welcoming all who seek the love and grace of our Lord.

We are planning a special Thanksgiving "Hymn Sing-Along" service that will allow us to collectively express our gratitude for all the blessings we have received. This was an idea a few of you shared in the Worship surveys we collected earlier this year. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this heartwarming celebration on Sunday, November 26th.

### **Serving Our Community:**

In the spirit of gratitude and giving, we are organizing a community outreach project to assist those in need during this season. We understand that many individuals and families are experiencing challenges, and our church will be a beacon of hope. We will be collecting non-perishable food items and other essentials to support our neighbors who require assistance. Please check out our "Mission of the Month" for more details, and bring any items you collect to the church by November 14th so that we can deliver them to Gainesville Community Ministries on the 15th.

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# 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 Judges, one that is often overlooked because of its “mature subject matter.”

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, 11/4. You don't want to miss Sunday's service!

LET OUR LIVES BE FULL

OF BOTH  
**Thanks  
&  
Giving**

## 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.cfoxmail.com

Witness Articles E-mail:  
Sharren Gibbs  
sharrenleegibbs2020@gmail.com  
Deadline for articles: 15th of each month

Website:  
[www.WesleyUMCon23.org](http://www.WesleyUMCon23.org)  
[www.facebook.com/WUMCGVL](http://www.facebook.com/WUMCGVL)

## Weekly Sunday Activities

Worship @ 10:45AM  
(Sanctuary)





Jim Arnett  
Diane Blucher  
Rachelle Hines  
Clydia Reichert  
Beth Senn  
Clarence Witt

Barbara Baldwin  
Carolyn Clarke  
Barb Loehr  
Joe Reichert  
Dale Smith  
Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy

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

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



Here are some photos of the Halloween goodie bags for the Montessori school kids who are renting classroom space from us and their classmates at the school proper. They loved them! Thank you to everyone who helped contribute.













WESLEY UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
Worship Service—10:45AM  
WEDNESDAYS  
www Supper 2nd Wed. 5:30PM

# November 2023

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

Rev. Kolby Gollhofer, Pastor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5  All Saints Sunday	6 	7 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30 Wesley Whittlers	1 Garden workday 	2  11:30AM Card Club	3	4  REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!
		12 6:30PM Nightingales	8 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30 Wesley Whittlers 5:30 WWS	9  11:30AM Card Club 7:00PM Book Club	10 Veteran's Day	11
		13 6:30PM Nightingales	15 Garden workday  6:00PM Worship	16  11:30AM Card Club	17 11:30AM YAHs Covered dish @ Weseman's RSVP 11/12	18 10:00 AM UWF General Meeting
19	20	21 10:00AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed 	24	25
26  Hymn Sing	27	28 9:30AM Decorate Sanctuary 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	29	30  11:30AM Card Club		



(Continued from page 1)

As we serve our community, let us remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

### **A Season of Reflection:**

While the rest of the country is bundling up for the winter, we have the privilege of enjoying the outdoors a little longer. As we do so, let us not forget to take moments of quiet reflection, basking in the warmth of the sun. Spend time in prayer and meditation, allowing God's presence to fill your heart.

This November, may you find inspiration in the beauty of our Sunshine State, be drawn closer to God in your moments of reflection, and continue to be a source of love, hope, and blessings to those around you.

May the warmth of Florida's autumn remind us of the warmth of God's love.

Blessings,

*Pastor Kolby*



### **FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE**



### **WESLEY WEDNESDAY SUPPER**

Our next supper is coming up on November 8th at 5:30PM. Each meal includes a salad bar and dessert selection and only costs \$7.00 per meal. And for a family or three or more, you get a special price of \$20 max. We need at least 25 people to sign up for this to happen, so come and get a meal, either take-home or dine-in.

Please RSVP to the office by October 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR FELLOWSHIP**

Here are the upcoming dates and places through the end of the year. As always, we meet at 11:30 AM for this fun and purely social event. Also, as always, you need to RSVP to me before the meeting so I know how many tables and chairs to reserve. Join us!

DATE	WHERE	RSVP BY:
November 17	Covered dish at Weseman's home	November 12
December 1	Covered dish at Weseman's home	November 26



# MISSION OF THE MONTH

## GAINESVILLE COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Thanksgiving is coming soon! GCM needs your help in collecting the items listed below for our holiday boxes. Each year we receive more requests for food during the holidays, but we can't meet the need without your help. Items needed:

Gift certificates for meat (\$10.00)	Rice
Canned Pumpkin Pie Filling	Peanut Butter
Evaporated Milk	Sugar
Canned Fruit	Stuffing Mix
Canned Vegetables	Flour
Dry Milk Envelope	Boxed Jell-O

*Collection containers are provided in the narthex and fellowship hall.*

**HISTORY OF GAINESVILLE COMMUNITY MINISTRIES:** For over 40 years GCM has provided emergency help and hope to families and individuals in crisis. Early in their history (when they were located in a little house behind First Baptist Church), a number of local churches (Wesley included) decided to unite to provide as much support as possible to GCM, in money and goods, with the plan that they would be the distribution site for services instead of each church separately trying to provide on-site services. This coordination helped considerably with prevention of duplication of services. Participating churches are invited to have a representative on the GCM Board. Throughout the year and particularly in the month of November, when GCM is the Mission of the Month, we encourage your wholehearted support. And, as always – thanks!

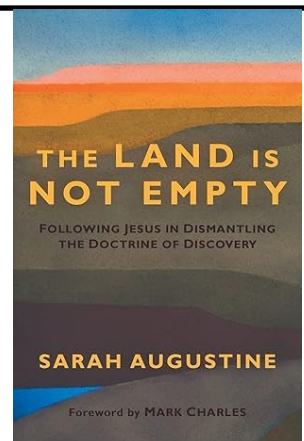
***PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR CONTRIBUTION BY NOVEMBER 13TH!***

## THE BELOVED COMMUNITY BOOKCLUB

Dear Wesley,

Our final Beloved Community Book Club gathering for 2023 will be on November 9th at 7pm. This month we are reading *The Land Is Not Empty* by Native American author Sarah Augustine.

*Pastor Kolby*





Yum!!!



Looks like Kolby has been to Buccee's...

The Young at Heart Senior Fellowship group is back to dining out. Here we are last month at the Weseman lake house out on Lake Santa Fe. What a beautiful place, and what a beautiful day.

Special thanks to Donna who keeps this group together. She is so gracious with her time, talents, and even her home. We don't thank her enough...



Wonder what color cupcake Sharren had?





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](http://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*

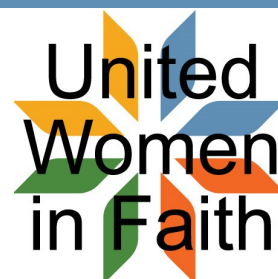
*Reprinted from the July 2019 Witness*





## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our UWF chapter held it's regular Executive Board meeting this week and there is a LOT going on in our three circles—Morning Stars, Nightingales (and Nightingays), and Sisters in Faith. Here are a few bullet points you might want to make note of.



**World Thank Offering:** Every year United Women of Faith have a service to offer gratitude for God's blessings in our own lives as we work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth through United Women in Faith. During the service, the World Thank Offering is collected as an expression of gratitude. This year the World Thank Offering for Wesley's United Women of Faith will be presented on Saturday, November 18th at 10:00 AM at the church conference room. Morning Stars Circle will lead this program and the offering will be collected. Following the meeting, there will be an important business meeting, where the 2024 budget and the 2024 slate of officers will be presented for the unit's approval.

**Pledge service:** Just like our congregation, UWF members will receive pledge cards for the coming year and a very short Litany. UWF Pledge cards should be completed and returned to your circle treasurer by January 31.

**Charter for Racial Justice:** The Conference is also making racial justice a priority. What items would we like to do this year to work for racial justice?

**Communications:** Are the communications you receive meeting members' needs? Are they helping us to connect to the connectional organization? Is there a desire to learn more or participate more at the district level?

**Future Plans:** Anything you'd like to see the unit do differently going forward?

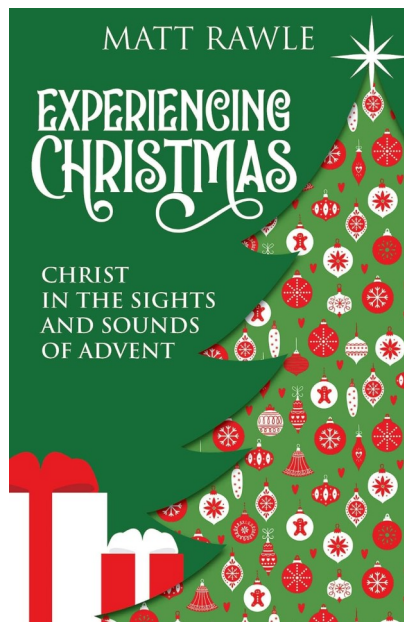
**Book Club:** The next book club meeting is November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, when we will discuss "The Land Is Not Empty" by Native American author Sarah Augustine.



**Faith Talks Podcast:** Please join United Women in Faith everywhere on November 2nd at 2:00 PM ET for a live recording of the podcast, where we'll focus on Native American Heritage Month. While the contributions of indigenous people cannot be constrained to one month, we will use this moment to celebrate the culture and heritage of First Nations people. We will also highlight some of the challenges facing tribal communities, including environmental injustice and preservation of sacred land, water, and air. As an organization dedicated to putting faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women and girls across the world, we will also discuss the far-too-many indigenous women and girls who are missing and murdered. Jennifer R Framer will be hosting this podcast. Jennifer states that "my intention for this conversation is that we'll leave inspired to continue our work on behalf of women, children, and youth."

Please join this important conversation on November 2nd at 2:00 p.m. ET.

website: [Join Faith Talks on Native American Heritage Month, November 2, 2 PM ET \(mailchi.mp\)](https://www.joinfaithtalks.com/na-herm-nov-2-2pm-et)



## ADVENT SMALL GROUP STUDY

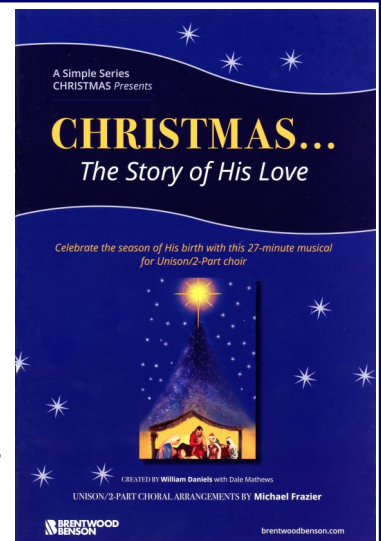
Advent is quickly approaching in the life of the Church. With Advent comes another great opportunity to join together in a small group study! This year we'll be studying Pastor Matt Rawle's book Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Christmas. The four-week study will undergird our focus in worship each week of December. Two meeting times will be offered so please pick the one that works best for you: Tuesday afternoons 11:30am-12:30pm (in-person) or Thursday evenings 6:30pm-7:30pm (both in-person and on Zoom). Call the office to sign up by November 21st and we will order a book for you. You can then pay us for the book at \$12.99. Shipping is free for the church. We hope you can join us on November 28th or 30th for our first week!

## A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

You asked for it and here it comes!

Jim Arnett stepped up and helped to reconstitute and reorganize a choir for Wesley, and now we are working on a Christmas musical for you. "Christmas... The Story of His Love" will be performed on Sunday, December 17th during the church service in place of the sermon. Put it on your calendar now so you don't forget and overschedule.

The choir is so happy to be back together and singing something for you.



## PLEDGE CARDS

Please remember to return your Commitment Card for 2024. This helps us to project our budgeting each year so we can be good stewards as a church. We will pray over and celebrate our commitments together during worship on Sunday, November 12th.





11/14 7:00PM	Leadership Board
11/15 6:00PM	Worship Comm.



## November Anniversaries

None!

1<sup>st</sup> Matt Alday  
Kitty Manasco  
5<sup>th</sup> Wyatt Alday  
9<sup>th</sup> Austin Sapp  
10<sup>th</sup> Lisa Tatum-Alday  
12<sup>th</sup> Ernest Muhammad  
17<sup>th</sup> Jim Carlin  
Pam McCormick  
18<sup>th</sup> Harley Christensen  
19<sup>th</sup> Jordan Newstadt  
23<sup>rd</sup> John Easter  
27<sup>th</sup> Helen Tate  
Clarence Witt



## 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.
- 