



"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11 KJV

Dear Wesley,

Advent is more than just a countdown to Christmas; it is a season of preparation and expectation. Just as the Israelites waited for the promised Messiah, we too await the celebration of the birth of Jesus. This period of reflection allows us to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the miraculous gift that God bestowed upon the world in the form of God's Son.

The lighting of the Advent candles carries deep symbolism. Each candle represents a different facet of the journey—Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. As we kindle these flames, let us not only focus on the warmth they bring but also on the spiritual significance they hold. May the light of Hope dispel the darkness of doubt, the flame of Peace calm the storms within, the radiance of Joy illuminate our lives, and the fire of Love warm every corner of our hearts.

When Christmas arrives, we rejoice in the miracle of Incarnation. The eternal Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The humble manger cradled the King of Kings, and angels and stars guided shepherds and wise men alike to witness the dawn of salvation. Christmas is a celebration of God's extravagant love, a love that stoops down to meet us in our humanity, offering redemption and hope.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle, let us not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. While exchanging gifts is a beautiful tradition, the most precious gift is the presence of Christ in our lives. Let our gatherings be filled with the warmth of love, the joy of shared moments, and the peace that surpasses all understanding. In giving and receiving, may we mirror the generosity of our Heavenly Father.

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 Pastor Matt Rawle's book *Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Christmas* for the first three Tuesdays of December and then we will take a break until January.

And this shall be a sign...



Wesley United Methodist Church

Mission Statement
Celebrating God!
Growing in Faith!
Changing the World!

Pastor Kolby Gollhofer

826 NW 23rd Avenue
Gainesville, FL
32609
Office: 352-372-2845

We are on Facebook!!!

Pastor's E-mail:
Kolby@gainesvillewesley.org

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Witness Articles E-mail:
Sharren Gibbs
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Deadline for articles: 15th of each month

Website:
www.WesleyUMCon23.org
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
Joan Siegel
Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy*

*Linda Baldwin
Helen Goddard
Beth Loehr-Moody
Sonny Robertson
Dale Smith*

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH








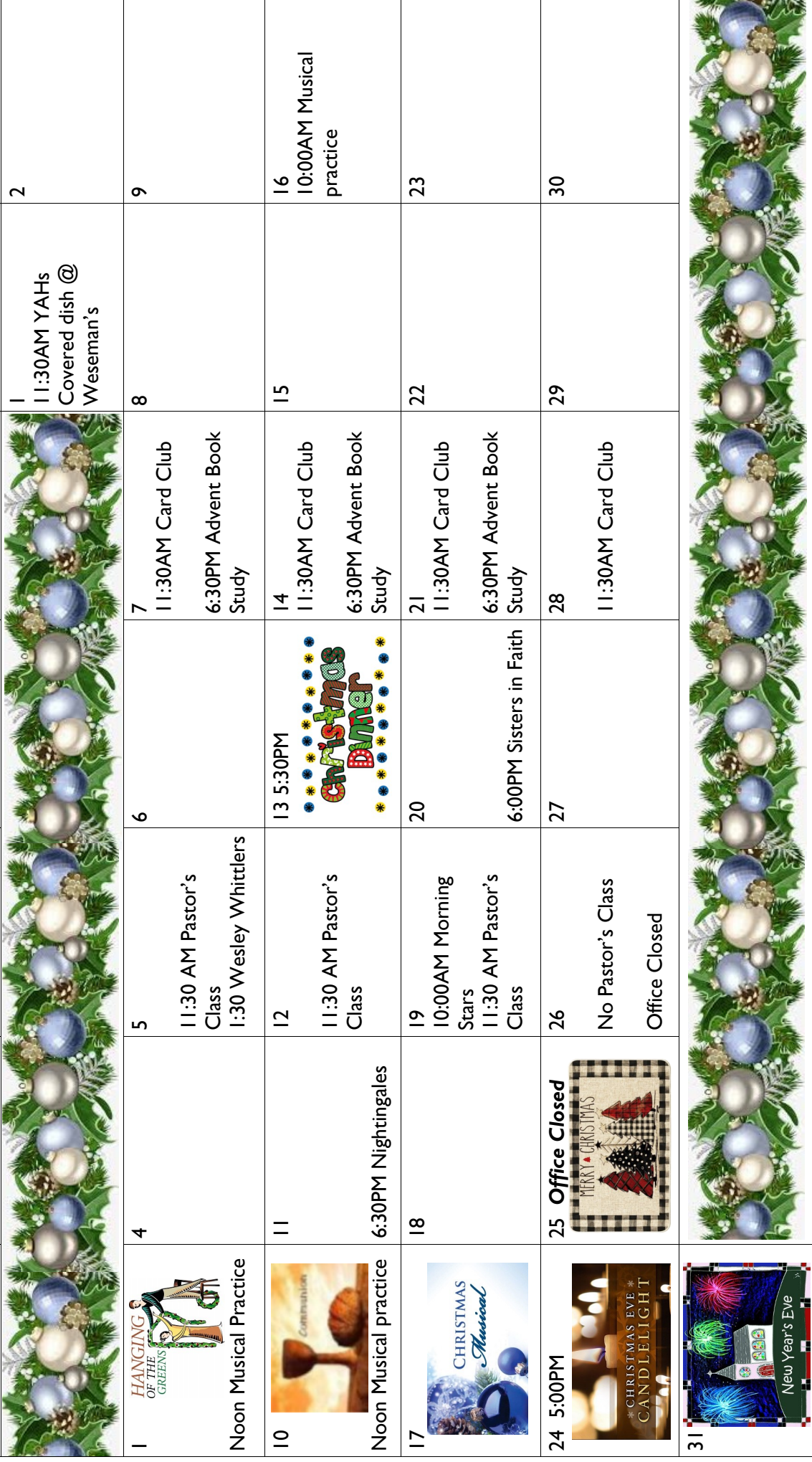
SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Worship Service—10:45AM

WEDNESDAYS
www Supper 2nd Wed. 5:30PM

December 2023

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

Rev. Kolby Gollmer, Pastor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Noon Musical Practice	4	5 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30 Wesley Whittlers	6 	7 11:30AM Card Club 6:30PM Advent Book Study	8 11:30AM YAHs Covered dish @ Weseman's	9 10:00AM Musical practice
10  Noon Musical practice	11 6:30PM Nightingales	12 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	13 5:30PM	14 11:30AM Card Club 6:30PM Advent Book Study	15	16
17 	18	19 10:00AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	20 6:00PM Sisters in Faith	21 11:30AM Card Club 6:30PM Advent Book Study	22	23
24 5:00PM 	25 Office Closed 	26 No Pastor's Class Office Closed	27	28 11:30AM Card Club	29	30
31 						



MISSION OF THE MONTH

THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army is our Mission of the Month for December. They help the needy in so many ways so I know you'll all want to support them. Once again we are collecting food and money for their Christmas Baskets this month. Please put any monetary donations in an envelope marked Salvation Army and place it in the offering plate. Holiday Food Basket donations might include the items below:

- Instant mashed potatoes (1 large box)
- Stuffing mix (1 large box)
- Cranberry sauce (2 cans)
- Turkey gravy mix (2 packets or jars)
- Green beans (2 14-oz. cans)
- Mixed vegetables or corn (2 14-oz. cans)
- Applesauce (1 large can or jar)
- Jiffy Pie Crust mix and canned pie filling (30 oz.) - OR - family size boxed dessert mix
- Rice or noodles (1 lb. dry bag)
- Gift cards for meat

There is a collection box in the narthex.

These donations are needed by December 10th.

YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Here are the upcoming dates and places through the next few months. 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:

January 19

Piesano's in Hunters Crossing

January 14

February 9

Valentines luncheon at the Weseman's

February 4

March 15

Cedar River Seafood Restaurant

March 10

2024 TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN

For telephone prayer requests, please contact:

Yvonne Hodges 352-472-2039 (home)

352-262-7398 (cell)

Irma Hales (Back-up contact person) 352-376-7222



When called, take down the information accurately. IMMEDIATELY call the next person BELOW you on the list and repeat the prayer request. If you do not reach the next person on the list, leave a message (if possible) and continue calling down the list until you do reach someone. PLEASE KEEP THE CHAIN GOING!

For EMAIL chain, contact:

Terri at the church office (Monday through Friday) 352-372-2854

Donna Weseman (Saturday-Sunday) 352-331-7496

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED FOR TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE AS A CALLER, PLEASE CALL YVONNE HODGES AT (352) 472-2039 or (352) 262-7398 TO HAVE YOUR INFORMATION ADDED. LIKEWISE, IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BE REMOVED, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO IN THE NAME OF JESUS TO FURTHER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

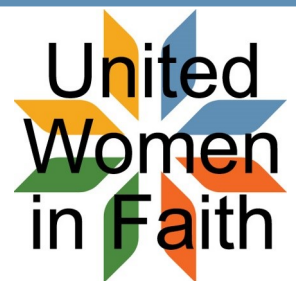
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

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 in 2024 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?



MISSION OF THE MONTH WORK

Thank you so much for your generous donations for the Thanksgiving food baskets for Gainesville Community Ministries to hand out! Donna had a car full of goodies to bring to them this week.

You know Donna has a big car—the back end got full and she had to fill up the back seat (except for Brooke's space), too!

Brooke gives us one of her beautiful smiles over a pile of food.



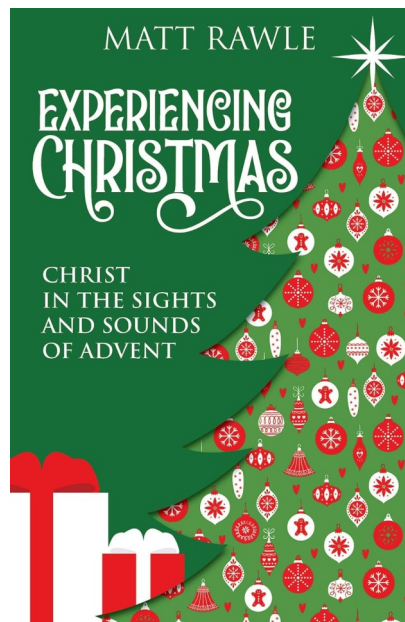
And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.



And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.





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). We hope you can join us on the first three Tuesdays or the first three Thursdays in December.

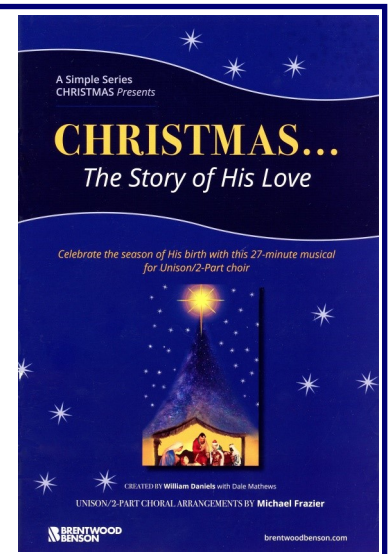


A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

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 special for you.



STAFF CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Stockings for our staff members, Terri, William, Maggie, and Pastor Kolby, will be hung in the Narthex for the next few Sundays. Please show your appreciation for the work done by them by placing your monetary gifts in each stocking. We will collect them up after the service every Sunday and put them in the safe during the week.



Thanks for thinking of them!





Committee Meetings

None!



December Birthdays

- 1st Cathy Clarke
- 2nd Jason Dotts
- 3rd Leisa Baldwin
- 6th Kevin Hales
- 9th Pamela Christensen
- 10th Marilyn Browning
- 12th Kay Frazier
- 13th Jason Yaxley
- 17th Hannah Golliher
- 18th Harley Christensen
- 19th Sherry Adams
- 27th Carolyn Clarke
- 28th Betty Holder
- 29th Leonard Giddeon

December Anniversaries

- 11th Pamela & Harley Christensen
- 20th Susie & Danny Aguila



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.

