

WEEK AT WESLEY

Sunday, Feb 22nd | **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
 8:30 a.m. Worship Service (In Person)
 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 2nd Fl Classrooms
 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School, 3rd Fl Classrooms
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (In Person & Livestreamed)
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, 3rd Floor Classroom
 6:00 p.m. College Study, 3rd Floor Classroom
 6:00 p.m. Davis Gym Reserved (Mission Church)

Monday, Feb 23rd
 7:30 p.m. Davis Gym Reserved (Core)
 7:30 p.m. NA Meeting (Lecture Room)

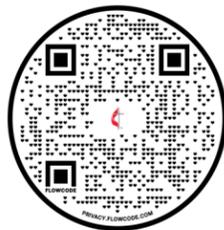
Tuesday, Feb 24th
 5:00 p.m. Davis Gym Reserved (Bragg)
 7:00 p.m. Davis Gym Reserved (Moore)

Wednesday, Feb 25th
 5:00 p.m. Davis Gym Reserved (Bragg)
 6:00 p.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom)
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room 3rd Fl

Thursday, Feb 26th
 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Day, Sanctuary
 1:00 p.m. BSF, 3rd Floor
 5:30 p.m. Davis Gym Reserved (Bragg)
 7:30 p.m. NA Meeting, Lecture Room
 7:30 p.m. Love Your Neighbor Meeting, Haden Chapel

Friday, Feb 27th
Saturday, Feb 28th
 10:00 a.m. Davis Gym Reserved (Bragg)
 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Empty Bowls (Mylan Park Event Center)
 6:00 p.m. Davis Gym Reserved (Mission Church)

2026 Wesley UMC
Sunday, February 15th:
127 In Person / 153 Online



Online Offering Option!
Scan the QR code
with phone or device.
Thank You!

ENJOY COUPON BOOKS
 Wesley's Church is selling the NEW Enjoy Coupon books for \$40 each. All proceeds will be applied to Wesley's 2026 final apportionment obligation. Books have been ordered and will be distributed from the Church Office when they arrive. Please notify the church office at 304-292-9485 or wesleymorgantown@gmail.com if you would like to place an order. **23 books left to sell!**



Wesley United Methodist Church

503 N. High St.
 Morgantown, WV 26505
 304.292.9485

Website: wesleymorgantown.org
 Email: wesleymorgantown@gmail.com

Livestreamed 11:00 Service:
 facebook.com/wesleymorgantown

GATHER as a community for worship ~ GROW in relationship with God and others ~ GO to serve Morgantown and the world

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO WESLEY CHURCH

We are glad you are here. Whether you are here for the very first time or a lifelong member of Wesley Church, you are welcome. May this day be filled with God's presence and blessing. Please fill out the Connection Card and drop it in the offering plate so that we will be able to contact you.



SAVE the DATE
 Soup & Bread Luncheon

FEBRUARY 28, 2026
11 AM - 2:30 PM

Hazel & J.W. Ruby Community Center

Tickets are \$25 Adult

\$10 Children 12 & Under (no bowl)

FREE Children 2 & under

Wesley UMC is selling tickets!

Contact the church office at

304-292-9485 or email

wesleymorgantown@gmail.com.

Don't miss your chance to pick up an Alms Bag!

Almsgiving is a Christian practice of giving money or material items to persons living in poverty. Wesley UMC is practicing almsgiving this Lent. You can pick up a bag at church (or contact the church office, and we will mail you one; or you can use any type of container that you like) and fill it as you see fit. Perhaps you'll decide to put a set amount of money in; maybe you'll put your pocket change in the bag every day. You might decide to skip a coffee or a meal out once or twice a week, and put the money you would have spent there in your alms bag. However you decide to use it, fill your alms bag and return it to the church by Easter Sunday, April 5th. All money collected will be used to help pay our conference apportionments, which help to bring people out of poverty by funding feeding programs, schools, farming improvements, anti-malaria nets, safe wells, and hospitals around the world.

African American Ministry Emphasis

Hunger: I would hurl words into this darkness and wait for an echo, and if an echo sounded, no matter how faintly, I would send other words to tell, to march, to fight, to create a sense of the hunger for life that gnaws in us all. — Richard Wright

Prayer

God of deep hunger, we thank you for being a God who is unconcerned with spiritual practices that don't affirm the dignity of the most vulnerable. Keep us from shallow spiritualities that are more concerned with obedience to ritual than how that ritual should bring about justice and restoration in the world. Retrain our appetites toward healing and liberation. If we fast this Lent, let it be in that ancient way, which gives our portions to the hungry and oppressed. And if we have need, let this be a season of reclamation, that we would accept what is owed to us, that we would take all that our dignity demands. Grant that we would find our own healing magnified as we participate in the healing of the cosmos. And let our darkest nights amplify the light, that we would look up and see no less than the very face of God in one another. Amen.

Breathe

INHALE: Lord, transform my hungers.

EXHALE: Let my desire be for justice, mercy, peace, and love.

Riley A. Cole. Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human (pp. 250-251)



AURORA CELTIC

Concerts In The Loft

AURORA CELTIC IS A HIGH-ENERGY CELTIC MUSIC GROUP FROM THE HILLS OF WEST VIRGINIA, DELIVERING A POWERFUL BLEND OF TRADITIONAL AND ORIGINAL MUSIC ROOTED IN IRISH, SCOTTISH, AND APPALACHIAN TRADITIONS. FEATURING MULTI-INSTRUMENTALISTS ALICE FLEISCHMAN, MICHAEL BRODERICK, ANDREW NELSON, AND CHRIS BERN, THE BAND WEAVES TOGETHER FIDDLE, FLUTE, GUITAR, BANJO, AND BASS TO CREATE A SOUND THAT IS BOTH DEEPLY TRADITIONAL AND STRIKINGLY FRESH.

KNOWN FOR THEIR DRIVING RHYTHMS, INTRICATE MELODIES, AND ADVENTUROUS ARRANGEMENTS, AURORA CELTIC FUSES IRISH AND SCOTTISH TUNES WITH APPALACHIAN FOLK INFLUENCES AND ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS, FORGING A STYLE THEY PROUDLY CALL "EDGY MOUNTAIN IRISH." THEIR DYNAMIC PERFORMANCES HAVE EARNED NATIONAL RECOGNITION, INCLUDING FEATURES ON NPR, AND HAVE MADE THEM A FAVORITE AT CONCERTS, FESTIVALS, AND CULTURAL EVENTS.

AURORA CELTIC HAS RELEASED THREE ACCLAIMED ALBUMS—*EDGE OF THE WORLD*, *CROWS IN THE KITCHEN*, AND *IN FULL FLIGHT*—EACH SHOWCASING THEIR MUSICAL VERSABILITY.

GREAT MUSIC FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS
 Free Concert & Parking compliments of **Wesley UMC** wesleymorgantown.org
 503 North High St. 304-292-9485



SUN MAR 8TH 5PM

The Church in Worship

Congregational Responses and Prayers are in ***bold italic print***

† Congregation Standing (as you are able)

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here" JS Bach

† CALL TO WORSHIP PSALM 32:1-2, 10-11
Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

† OPENING HYMN #294 (UMH) "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"

† OPENING PRAYER
O Lord, your wondrous birth means nothing unless we are born again; your death and sacrifice mean nothing unless we die to sin; your resurrection means nothing if you be risen alone. Raise and exalt us, O Savior, both now in grace and hereafter in glory, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, God for ever and ever. Amen.

GATHERING MUSIC #2112 (TFWS) "Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley"

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS
11:00 a.m. Service Only - Children age 3 through 2nd grade are welcome to attend Children's Church immediately following the Children's Message (located on 2nd floor behind balcony)

SPECIAL MUSIC
8:30 a.m. "Goodness of God" Yaroslava Pukhova, solo
11:00 a.m. "My Lord, What a Morning" Hobby
Chancel Choir and Nancy Casdorff, solo

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #889 (UMH)

HYMN OF PREPARATION #2105 (TFWS) "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert"

SCRIPTURES GENESIS 2:15-17, 3:1-7 AND MATTHEW 4:1-11

SERMON "Wilderness Days" Pastor Martha

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC (11:00 a.m.) "Goodness of God" Yaroslava Pukhova, solo

† PRESENTATION OF GIFTS & OFFERINGS DOXOLOGY #95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
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† CLOSING HYMN #365 (UMH) "Grace Greater than Our Sin"

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE "Forty Days and Forty Nights" CS Lang

GENESIS 2:15-17, 3:1-7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." ³Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

ALTAR GUILD

The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and all love and gratitude to our God who keeps his promises
by Karen Kelley King.

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear God, We started the season of lent this week. The season is one we can use to search our hearts. Are we doing all we can to walk the path Jesus trod? What more can we do for You while we are here? Let us listen for Your voice to direct our lives. Amen.

Confirmation or Become a NEW Member!

Are you interested in exploring church membership, and faith, and church history, and the United Methodist Church? Are you 10 years old or older? Then sign up for Confirmation Class this spring! Pastor Martha will teach the class, which will meet from 9:30-10:30 on Sunday, March 22, Sunday, March 29, and Sunday, April 12. New members will be received on April 19. Come learn where we come from and who we are...and join us on the way! Contact Martha for more information.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Greeters	(8:30)	Nancy and Bill Wasson (11:00)
Scripture Readers	Jeannie Douglas (8:30)	Nancy Wasson (11:00)
Ushers	Frank Cox, Alan Waters, Dennis Chambers, and Karl Yagle	
Sound & Media	Colton Davis, Scott Blosser, Kyle Swisher, Wesley Davis, Shelby Davis, Brad Davis, Bob Beach and Ellis Oti Boateng	

Lectionary Study w/Pastor Martha

We'll be meeting weekly via Zoom on WEDNESDAYS at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to take part in this lively discussion of the upcoming Sunday's scripture lessons. Contact the church office to get the Zoom link.

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, March 1st:

Gen 12:1-4a / Ps 121 / Rom 4:1-5, 13-17 / John 3:1-17

Lenten Prayer

Thursdays

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

During the season of Lent, you are invited to come to our sanctuary for personal prayer and meditation on Thursdays February 26th, March 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th. Deepen your relationship with God this Lent through intentional sacred conversation. *Parking available for anyone that would like to pray. Designated church parking spaces and bagged meters will be provided.*