

MARCH 2026

# Wesley Journal Newsletter



## Sunday Worship Times



### 8:30 a.m. In-Person & 11:00 a.m. In-Person & Online

## Pastor's Corner



Martha Ognibene

Pastor

Daylight Saving Time  
Sunday, March 8th



move clocks ahead  
ONE HOUR!

Dear Friends,

What do you think of when you read the words “St. Patrick’s Day”? Probably rainbows and shamrocks and leprechauns come to mind. Yet the ‘real’ St. Patrick had more to him than that!

Patrick was born in what is now England in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century CE. At age 16, he was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland, where he struggled mightily as a herdsman for six years; only his Christian faith, a rarity in Ireland at the time, sustained him. Finally he was able to escape aboard an outgoing ship, and finally make it back home. There he had a vision that God was calling him back to Ireland to convert the Irish to Christianity. He studied for the priesthood, and then sailed back to the land of his enslavement. In just 10 years he had established churches all over Ireland and written his spiritual autobiography, Confessio, which survives to this day. Patrick was named the first Bishop of Armagh, and died in what is now Northern Ireland, having changed the history of the nation forever.

There is a legend that Patrick used a shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity to his converts: one plant, with three leaves, just as there is one God with three expressions: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Another legend states that Patrick drove all the snakes in Ireland into the sea-whether that happened or not, there are no snakes in Ireland today! The most important lesson from St. Patrick’s life, however, is the story of a man who kept the faith through hard and dangerous times, and who answered God’s call to minister in the last place on Earth that he wanted to go. May we be as faithful as Patrick, so that we can endure and spread the good news wherever we are called to go, too.

Cordially,  
Pastor Martha



## 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 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.*



## Friday, March 6, 2026

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

Wesley's sanctuary is open for prayer 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



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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.

### 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



**Wesley Book Club - Zoom Only**  
**7:30 PM - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays**  
**(March 3rd & 17th)**

**Book Club Leader - Mary Ragland**  
 304-282-1947 / mhragland5@yahoo.com

Please contact for more info. March book study is on

**The Last Week by Marcus Borgan and John Dominic Crossan**

### March Committee Meetings

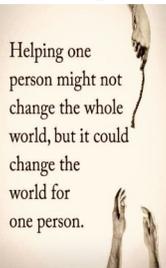
Finance Meeting  
 No Meeting in March

Trustees Meeting  
 Tuesday, March 10th—7:30 PM

Administrative Council  
 Next Meeting Monday, May 18th—7:00 PM

SPRC Meeting—TBA / Staff Meeting—TBA

### Lampstand Team ~ Outreach Ministry



Would you like to help our shut-in members feel more a part of our community? Then you should join the Lampstand Team! Our Lampstand Team members make it a point to stay in touch with those who cannot attend worship in person through regular cards, calls, visits, and small gifts. If you would like to be a part of this caring ministry, or if you would

like to be added to the list of persons for whom the team cares, contact Martha today.

### ~ Prayer Shawl Ministry ~

**Tuesday, March 3rd**

**10:00 AM - Lecture Room**

**If you can knit, crochet**

**or would like to learn please join us!**

### Church Office Hours have changed

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursday, and Fridays**

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

**Tuesdays Closed (phone calls only)**

**\*access to building will be available\***

### 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. **No study on March 25th due to Holy Week.**

### March Lectionary Scriptures

**March 1st — Second Sunday in Lent**

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

**March 8th — Third Sunday in Lent**

Ezek 17:1-17  
 Ps 95  
 Rom 5:1-11  
 John 4:5-42

**March 15th — Fourth Sunday in Lent**

1 Sam 16:1-13  
 Ps 23  
 Eph 5:8-14  
 John 9:1-41

**March 22nd — Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Ezek 37:1-14  
 Ps 130  
 Rom 8:6-11  
 John 11:1-45

**March 29th — PALM SUNDAY**

**Liturgy of the Palms**

Matt 21:1-11  
 Ps 118:1-2, 19-29

**Liturgy of the Passion**

Isa 50:4-9a  
 Ps 31:9-16  
 Phil 2:5-11  
 Matt 26:14-27 :66 or 27:11-54

# BRIGHT FLASHES IN THE RADIO SKY

Join award winning scientist Dr. Duncan Lorimer as he talks about the intersection of science and faith

*Almost twenty years ago, A group at West Virginia University discovered a new cosmic phenomenon now known as fast radio bursts. The story of this discovery is a lesson in serendipity, where human curiosity is often guided toward greater truths. Fast radio bursts are the brightest pulses we have ever observed, having traveled billions of years across the cosmos. This overwhelming power and scale invites us to pause in awe and wonder of the heavens. The origins of fast radio bursts remain an extraordinary mystery, reminding us that for all our knowledge, the universe holds spectacular truths that lie beyond our immediate comprehension. As I discuss, fast radio bursts teach us not only about the structure of the Universe but about the vast and mysterious nature of our own origins.*

MARCH 10 AT 6:30PM

Wesley United Methodist Church  
503 N. High St. Morgantown, WV

# AUROLA 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, STORYTELLING SPIRIT, AND INFECTIOUS ENERGY THAT KEEPS AUDIENCES ON THEIR FEET.

## SUN MAR 8TH 5PM

GREAT MUSIC  FELLOWSHIP  REFRESHMENTS

 Free Concert & Parking compliments of **Wesley UMC**  wesleymorgantown.org

503 North High St. 304-292-9485

 **WVU Spring Break**   
**March 14th - 22nd**

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - WESLEY CHURCH 2026

Mar 14, 15	Gabi & Mark Smith	Gabi Votta Smith	304-319-2490
Apr 11	MHS Spanish Honorary	Joyce Hu	681-214-5438
Apr 12	<b>OPEN</b>		
May 9, 10	Young Life	Brian Shirak	304-771-0962
May 30, 31	Morgantown North Rotary	Cathie Falvey	304-282-8594
June 13	Service League	Donna Tennant	304-449-1410
June 14	<b>OPEN</b>		
July 11, 12	<b>OPEN</b>		
Aug 8	Service League	Donna Tennant	304-449-1410
Aug 9	<b>OPEN</b>		
Aug 29, 30	Morgantown North Rotary	Cathie Falvey	304-282-8594
Sep 12, 13	<b>OPEN</b>		
Oct 10, 11	<b>OPEN</b>		
Oct 31, Nov 1	Morgantown North Rotary	Cathie Falvey	304-282-8594
Nov 14, 15	Faithseekers Class	Linda Bagby	304-599-5676
Dec 12	Service League	Donna Tennant	304-449-1410
Dec 13	<b>OPEN</b>		

Helping hands are needed!  
 We are looking for any family,  
 work group, community group,  
 or friend group to help fill in the  
**OPEN DATES** for the COF Meal.

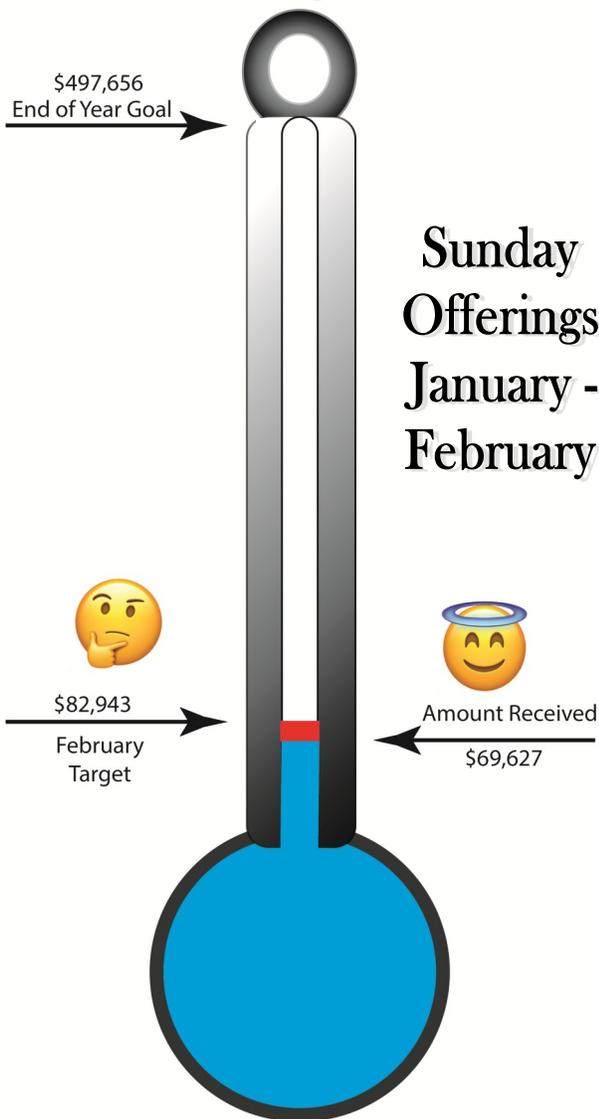


**Take a look at the  
 open dates.  
 Can you help out?**

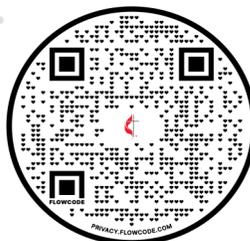
**FOOD WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FROM WESLEY'S GYM.**

Please refer scheduling questions to Carolyn Hendricks (304-276-6580). Thank you!

# 2026 Finance Budget Thermometer



## Sunday Offerings January - February



Quick & Easy method for your Sunday offering. SCAN the QR Code with your electronic device! THANK YOU!

### ALTAR GUILD

Would you like to dedicate flowers to someone special in your life? Sunday altar flowers can be given in loving memory of in honor of your loved ones or a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, baptism, etc.). Altar Guild member Michelle Smith handles all flower arrangements. To place a dedication please contact Michelle at 304-216-8870 or email her at michelle012067@gmail.com.

**OPEN DATES:** March 8th, 15th and 29th



## Tuesday, March 17th



### Backpack Feeding Program Scott's Run

**Wednesday, March 11th - 12:30 p.m.**

Do you want to make a practical, visible difference in the life of a child? Then come help fill weekend backpacks for Mon County students at Scotts Run Settlement House. Every second Wednesday is our turn to help fill bags with shelf-stable, easy to consume food items for over 800 students who would otherwise go hungry from Friday night to Monday breakfast. We begin around 12:30 PM, and the work takes about an hour. Come help somebody-join us at Scotts Run!

**Cheat Lake location:**  
750 Fairchance Road  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
304-435-5098

**SUNDAYS AT 6:00 P.M.  
(3RD FLOOR CLASSROOMS)**

**COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY  
ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS WELCOME!**  
College Study led by Lawrence DeLeurere  
Contact info: 304-319-7740 /  
semangeloph@gmail.com

**UMYF  
\*United Methodist Youth Formation  
ALL YOUTH (6th thru 12th grade)  
WELCOME!**  
Youth Leaders Chad & Arielle Harvey  
Contact info: 304-619-9441 /  
simplysouthernphotographywv@gmail.com  
Youth are invited to bring a friend!!

# Invitation to Wesley's Congregation!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

## Eagle Scout Court of Honor

FOR

*Caleb DeLeurere*

**Sunday, March 15, 2026**

**2:00 PM**

**Wesley United Methodist**

**503 N. High Street**

RECEPTION FOLLOWING CEREMONY



**EAGLE SCOUT**  
COURT OF HONOR

Congratulations to Caleb DeLeurere, who will be recognized as an Eagle Scout at a Scout Court of Honor on March 15. This award is the culmination of hard work and dedication. Caleb is a junior at University High School. He is a member of the Orchestra and the National Honor Society. Way to go, Caleb!

# Attention High School Seniors

## Thomas C. Stewart Scholarship

This scholarship was established in honor and memory of Thomas C. Stewart, an active and devoted member of Wesley Church who died August 14, 2002 at the age of 49. The scholarship seeks to preserve Tom's commitment and concern for young people and his overall enthusiasm and vision for ministry at Wesley.

**Eligibility:** Any graduating high school senior who meets the following criteria may apply:

1. A member of Wesley United Methodist Church
2. A minimum grade point average of 2.5 or higher
3. Enrollment in a fully accredited college or university undergraduate program
4. Submission of application materials

**General:** Amounts of the award will be determined annually by The Finance Team of Wesley United Methodist Church based on the investment income received from the scholarship fund. It is our goal to award at least one scholarship annually in the amount of \$1,000.00. This is a one-time award only.

**Deadline:** Applications will be due by April 26, 2026 and awards will be made in time for the Fall Semester. The award will be given to the individual and is to be used only for direct educational expenses.

**Contact the Church Office for an application.**



Wesley UMC has a long history of serving local hunger needs (Circle of Friends) and our alms and other gifts help with feeding via UMCOR and other mission wings of the larger church. We also have a 14 year history providing a venue, helping hands and donated dollars to help end world hunger in another, almost entertaining, way! On Saturday, April 18th we will again host the Mon Preston County Rotary Rise Against Hunger Day in the Wesley gym. Since 2011, (except during pandemic) folks from Wesley have joined seven Rotary clubs, and sometimes a few other organizations, to package more than 450,000 meals for distribution in

several of the 50+ countries served by RAH! I'm proud to say (quietly) that for most of our recent events Wesley has not only provided the venue, and physical help, but been among the most generous donors. You are invited to participate in packaging (2 hour session) and of course, to donate! Please write RAH on the memo line for checks made to Wesley. Put RAH put on your calendar NOW! (If you want to know more, check the website above!)



# SIGN UP

*Find God In Community*

Scan QR Code to receive updates from Wesley  
United Methodist Church in Morgantown!



Attend church, youth gatherings, adult fellowship,  
and more!

**FIND FRIENDS, FIND GOD,  
FIND JOY!**



*Wesley Weekend updates ~ Wesley Journal Newsletter (monthly) ~ Special Announcements (special services, funerals, special events, etc.,)*

# EASTER GARDEN FLOWERS



- The Altar Guild will be taking orders for Easter Garden Flowers (\$20 per dedication) on Sunday, March 8th, 15th and 22nd in the Lecture Room, directly following both worship services. Deadline for flower orders will be Sunday, March 29th.
- The Easter Garden Flowers will decorate the altar for Easter Sunday, April 5th.
- Easter Flowers are given in Loving Memory or in Honor of a Loved One. A listing of all flower dedications will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.
- Completed order forms with payment may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or given to Altar Guild on selling dates listed above. Any questions please contact the church office at 304-292-9485.

I (We) would like to provide Easter Garden Flowers/Missional gifts for Easter Sunday:

**In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash or Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) would like to provide Easter Garden Flowers/Missional Gifts for Easter Sunday:

**In Honor Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash or Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!**



Wesley Church picked a true winner...Seattle Seahawks!!  
 \$280 Monetary Donations!!  
 138 Food Donations!!  
 THANK YOU!!



**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.

**FAITH FORMATION at Wesley UMC**

**Sunday School** is an integral part of our Christian life and the growth of our faith as we stretch our minds and search for deeper meaning in community with others.

**All classes begin at 9:30 am following the 8:30 am Sunday worship service**

**Children - Room 301 on the 3rd floor**

Children's Sunday school is available for children ages three years through fifth grade. Children experience the Bible through stories and hands-on-activities.

**Middle & High School - Room 313 (3rd floor)**

Both Middle & High School Sunday school helps our young link what they learn from the Bible to their real-life experiences.

This class equips young adults to know Jesus, build a relationship with Him, and grow in their faith and knowledge of scripture.

**FaithSeekers - Room 203 (Haden Chapel) 2nd floor**

The FaithSeekers class explores a variety of topics from scripture to Christian fiction.

**Guideposts - Room 202 (2nd floor)**

The Guideposts class meets weekly for study and discussion of the adult Bible study curriculum.

**Berean Class (2nd Floor Classroom)**

All Wesley adults are welcome to join our class which is led by Brian Woerner. This class is both a study and discussion of Scriptures.

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR GROUP**

Kristi DeLeurere is starting a new group called Love Your Neighbor. Since Wesley UMC has a special heart for immigrants, this group will help them to adjust to life in the United States. **Next Meeting is March 24th at 7:30 p.m. (Zoom only).** Please join us in brainstorming ways to help our immigrant neighbors and then implementing those ideas. We will be meeting in person and via zoom. See Kristi for more information.

**PRAYER TEAM IS LOOKING FOR PRAYER WARRIORS!**



**THE PRAYER TEAM -**



women and men who receive prayer requests via email and devote time to praying about them. It is personal choice as to where, how long and when in the day or night a member prays. For more information, please contact Rachel Beach at [rplybonbeach@gmail.com](mailto:rplybonbeach@gmail.com).



**Would you like to expand your library??**

Martha has books to give away! Feel free to go to the pastor's office (on the second floor, just beyond the Loft) and take what you would like from any shelf, except those marked off with Caution tape—I'm taking those ones with me! Come get some free reading materials while the getting's good.

**Bible Study Fellowship**

~ Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Choir Room 3rd FL ~

**No Study on Thursday, March 12th**

All Wesley women are welcome to join this weekly bible study.

Anyone interested please contact

Ann Gore at 304-673-4124



**Wesley Church Office Hours & Contact Info:**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)  
304.292.9485 / wesleymorgantown@gmail.com  
website: wesleymorgantown.org

**WESLEY STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Martha Ognibene, Pastor**

304-813-7214 / mlsognibene@gmail.com

**Marianna Miller, Church Office**

304-685-6883 / wesleymorgantown@gmail.com

**Lya Stroupe, Director of Music & Children's Ed.**

304-290-5436 / lyastroupe@comcast.net

**Colton Davis, Media Tech Coordinator**

304-685-3609 / Wesleyintermedia@gmail.com

**Albert Kaminsky, Building Custodian**

724-812-7916 / kaminskydoug@yahoo.com

**Rebekah Bledsoe, Bus Driver**

304-276-0320 / rebekahbledsoe@juno.com

**Ann Gore, Organist**

304-673-4124 / musicannconcord@yahoo.com

**Joe Andria, Accompanist**

304-288-1330 / sax711@hotmail.com

**Coleman Guenther, Bookkeeper**

304-216-0353 / wesleymorgantownfinance@gmail.com



# HOLY WEEK

**ONLY 5 WEEKS AWAY!**

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH**

**8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. SERVICES**

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND**

**7:00 P.M. SERVICE**

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD**

**7:00 P.M. SERVICE**

**EASTER VIGIL,**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH**

**9:00 P.M. SERVICE**

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH**

**8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. SERVICES**

**Wesley United Methodist Church  
503 N. High Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505**

**Non-Profit Organization**

U.S. Postage Paid

Morgantown, WV

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