



# The Wesley Crier

A PUBLICATION OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.WESLEYUMC-DOVER.COM](http://WWW.WESLEYUMC-DOVER.COM)

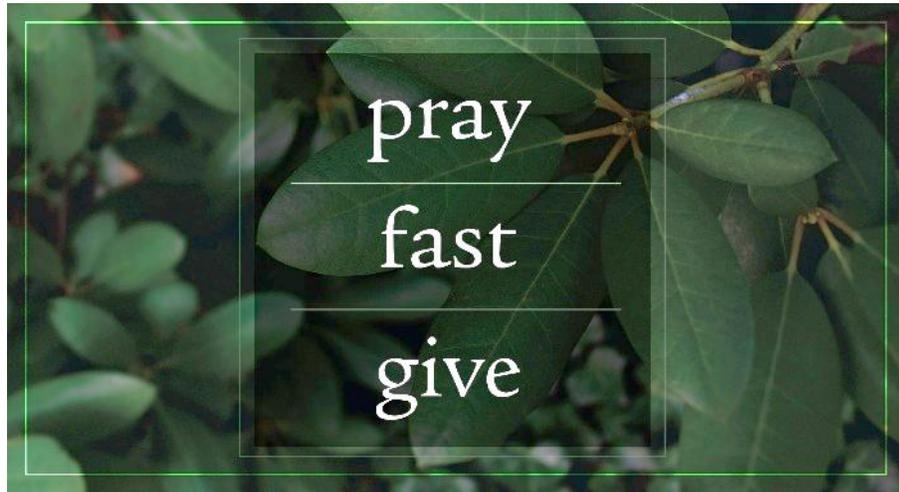
☎302-678-9626 ☎302-678-9627

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 1

MARCH 2026

Published February 28, 2026

## Note from the Pastor

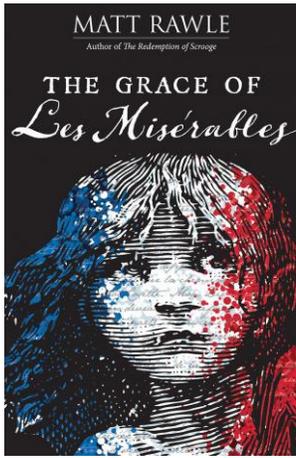


Since Ash Wednesday was in February and Easter is in April all of the month of March falls into the season of Lent. Looking back into the past there have been times of very specific and strict requirements about observing the season. As time has passed, the rules and the practices have gradually relaxed. And now we're left with a vague notion that we really should do something different as we prepare for Easter. But what?

First, let's ask, "why?". Right now, neither the church nor our society are requiring, or even pressuring us to all do anything at all, so why would we? We can choose to because this can be a time of deeper self-understanding and more purposeful discipleship which we offer to God to be used for the purposes of God's Kingdom. That is consistent with the ancient practices of the church, and it is still our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.

What then? What works best for you? What keeps you faithful in prayer, and how can you extend that practice for this season? Maybe set aside more times to pray, or pray with and for a partner, or choose something special to pray about? Should you give something up? Will it help you focus on Christ, or be more generous? Then by all means do it. If you choose a Lenten practice thoughtfully and prayerfully, with a purpose your life will give shape to our prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come".

With Peace and Grace,  
Pastor Christine



## Explore God's Grace

At work in the world of Victor Hugo's *The Grace of Les Misérables* through the season of Lent.

In the six-week study *The Grace of Les Misérables*, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. As these imperfect and relatable characters interact, we can see how these ideals work together (perhaps even in spite of each other)

out in the world. In keeping with his previous works, Matt Rawle brings us to the intersection of Church and Pop Culture by drawing parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it out in the world. The study will meet on Wednesday at noon in the parlor; February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25. Please consider joining the study and inviting your friends. We welcome everyone who is interested, from the church and from the community.

## WESELY UMC LEADERSHIP TRAINING – SUNDAY MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> FROM 3 PM TO 5 PM

Church Council is offering information and leadership training afternoon for everyone in leadership at Wesely UMC. This includes chairs as well as committee members, and anyone else who is interested in these topics. This time together is designed to give you the tools and the information that you need to be confident; to really know everything that needs to be done, and how to do it.

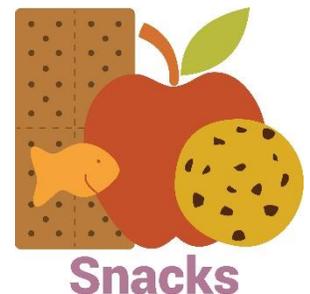
Some of the topics we'll cover include:

- Logistics of running a meeting – Reminders, Agendas, Minutes, and Zoom.
- Understanding your role – we'll talk about ex-officio, voting and non-voting members, terms of service, and the discipline details that answer all of those questions.
- Encouraging participation and setting goals.

And we will have snacks!

Please put this date on your calendar.

We look forward to seeing you on **March 15<sup>th</sup> at 3PM.**



---

## Wesley Church Scholarship Program

By: John Dryda, Chair

---



Wesley Church would like to award a college scholarship to an active Wesley Church member for the fall of 2026.

If you are an active member of Wesley Church and will be enrolled in an institution of higher learning this fall, please contact the church office at 678-9626 to apply for a scholarship form, or you can pick up one from the bin on the office door.

Or give your name, e-mail address and telephone number to the office and we will e-mail you the application form which will outline the requirements.

**The deadline to turn in applications is April 1, 2026.**

The three-member selection committee, which has been appointed by the Trustees, will notify the recipient(s) by May 15, 2026.

REQUIREMENTS: The applicant must be:

- 1) A regularly attending participant at Wesley UMC, and
- 2) Pursuing a career in full-time Christian service, or
- 3) Pursuing a career in a "helping" profession (nursing, teaching, social work, and childcare are examples), or
- 4) Pursuing an undergraduate degree or a post high school education, or
- 5) Pursuing an advanced degree, or
- 6) First-time recipient of this scholarship (preferred) or
- 7) Repeat recipient (acceptable).

The applicant will be judged on the following, in order of importance:

- 1) An essay that explains how the applicant has been inspired to pursue major career or field of study,
- 2) Christian service at Wesley United Methodist Church,
- 3) School and/or community service, and
- 4) Academic success.

If none of the applicants meet all requirements, the selection committee may elect to waive the career requirement and award a scholarship to the resulting superior compliant applicant.

**The deadline to turn in applications is April 1, 2026.**

---

## Trustee Update

By: John Dryda, Chair

---

There are nine individuals who represent the only legal body of our church. These individuals are nominated by a committee and then elected to three-year terms by our congregation as required by Delaware State law.

Board of Trustees: John Dryda, Chair, Ann Baker Horsey, Vice Chair, MaryAnn Dashiell, Secretary, Jim Ferguson, Gary Green, Iva Hazlett, Gillian Sommers, Bobby Taylor, Jim Thistlewood. Ex-officio members are Pastor Christine Bowden, Eunice Craig and Gigi Windley, Co-Lay Leaders.

While the Trustees are responsible for overseeing and maintaining all of the church's property, each member of our congregation can help facilitate the upkeep and maintenance in their own manner. This is what is meant by the statement, "Everyone is a Trustee." We are all caretakers of the Lord's house of worship and grounds.

There are many ways we can be helpful. Please remain diligent in turning off lights when you are the last one leaving a room. When securing our church facilities, please check all areas of the building, especially the preschool basement, elevator lobby areas (Upstairs & Downstairs that lights are shut off), securing the exterior doors and activating the alarm system. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our facilities safe and secure.

Whatever manner you choose to contribute, your efforts are very helpful and appreciated. If you should have any questions or would like to know how you might be able to contribute, please contact one of the Trustees who are listed above. Remember, "Everyone is a Trustee."

Wesley Church is a Smoke-Free Campus. Thank you for your cooperation.

---

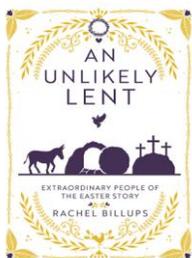
## Search Class

By: Eunice Craig & Gigi Windley

---

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10*

Search Class welcomes all who want to grow in their faith to join us during the Lenten season. We have selected Rachel Billups' small group study entitled, *An Unlikely Lent*. She introduces us to several extraordinary and unlikely characters of the Easter story. We meet on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am in the Church parlor. A class facilitator leads a discussion following a short video. The six-week Lenten study starts February 22. Participant handbooks are available.



February 22	Mary of Bethany
March 1	The Servant Girl
March 8	Barabbas
March 15	Simone of Cyrene
March 22	Women at the Cross
March 29	Joseph of Arimathea

Joyfully Serving,  
Eunice Craig and Gigi Windley

---

---

## Pecometh Summer Camp

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant

---



Pecometh Summer Camp begins on June 21, 2026. Registration is open now! Looking for an unplugged environment where your campers will build their faith, character and independence? Allow them to experience a genuine, inclusive community at Camp Pecometh Christian summer camps. Campers make memories for a lifetime and come back year after year after experiencing attending Pecometh.

From day camps to half and full weeks of overnight camps for kindergarten through 11<sup>th</sup> grade, there's a program for all interests. For program descriptions and information about registering for Summer Camp 2026, visit: <https://pecometh.org/summer-programs/>.

For more information on our payment options, please visit us at [www.pecometh.org/payment-options](http://www.pecometh.org/payment-options) or by calling [410-556-6900](tel:410-556-6900).

**WESLEY UMC PARTIAL or FULL SCHOLARSHIPS** will be given to members of Wesley Church/Sunday School. Take advantage of early registration. Camps fill up quickly.

The DEADLINE FOR REQUESTING FULL OR PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE MAY 15<sup>th</sup>. To receive a scholarship, you must call Sally Verma (674-0508) or e-mail Sally at [sjverma@comcast.net](mailto:sjverma@comcast.net) with the child's name and camp date BEFORE MAY 15<sup>th</sup>.

### WESLEY SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mail your registration form and deposit to Camp Pecometh.
2. When you receive confirmation of your camp date, please notify Sally Verma. **(Even if you do not plan to get the scholarship, please call Sally so we may know all the children who will be attending camp.)**
3. Each camper will deduct the amount of the scholarship from the balance due on his or her confirmation card and send that amount to Camp Pecometh on the due date. (Sally will call you after May 15<sup>th</sup> and tell you the amount of the scholarship.)

**E-Mail:** [campinfo@pecometh.org](mailto:campinfo@pecometh.org) - Fax: 410- 556-6901, Tel: 410-556-6900

Camp Pecometh, 136 Bookers Wharf Road, Centreville, Md. 216117

**WEB PAGE:** <http://www.pecometh.org/summer-camp>

---

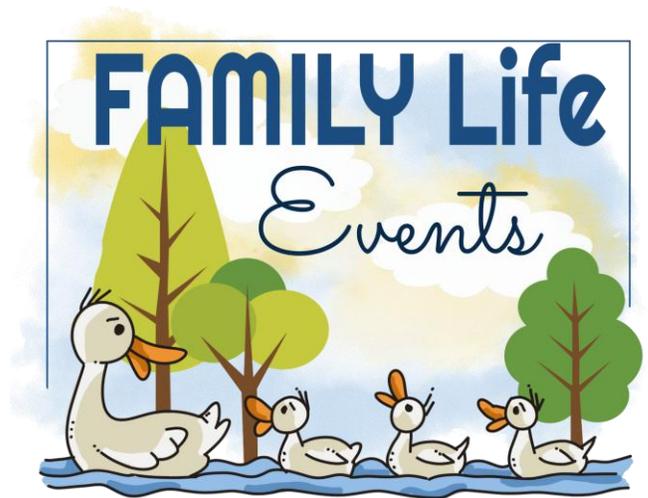
## Family Life Committee

By: Co-Chairs Mardi Spangler and Jim Thistlewood

---

### Family Life Dates for 2026

March 21 — Movie Night — 6pm Fellowship Hall  
April 4 — Easter Egg Hunt — 9am Fellowship Hall  
June 26 — Faith and Family Night at Blue Rocks Game  
July-Aug??? — Pool Party  
September 13 — Church Picnic — 12:30 PM  
October 30 — Trunk or Treat — 6PM  
December 3 — Live Nativity — 5-7 PM  
December 6 — Advent Dinner — 5:30 PM  
December 12 — Breakfast with Santa — 8:30 AM



---

## Wesley Security Team

By: Jim Thistlewood

---



Wesley has had a security team for the last 18 months. We have been working in the background to make Wesley a safe place to worship without making it obvious in that it's restricting the churches mission. At times it is a balancing act. We meet once a month and go over any concerns from either a safety or security area. We also go over checklists provided by our insurers to ensure compliance.

Often, unfortunately there is something that has happened in our country that we discuss as to what if it was to take place in our church. Our members include Jim Thistlewood Boyce Failing, Allison Bumgarner, Fred Ragains, Donna Josefowski, Larry Josefowski and Lay Leaders, Eunice Craig and Gigi Windley

It is our goal to improve communications from our team and give everyone as much information as possible to keep each and every person as safe as possible regardless of the need.

Watch the Crier each month for updates and announcements as in ministries that matter and part of the onscreen announcements prior to church.

Be Safe, Be Well, Be Blessed

---

---

## Wesley UMC Music Notes

By: Sherry Roscoe, Director of Music

---



Our choirs are missing our Snowbird friends this season, as several have gone to enjoy sunny points south!! I'm imagining they are not missing our long-lasting snow, ice, and cold temperatures!

We have welcomed several new members over the past months, Pam Fugelso, and Steve and Marilyn Halstead have joined the Wesley UMC Choir, and we're thrilled to have them!! The three of them have many years of experience in singing in church and community choirs.

We're praying for choir members Nancy Vaughan and Janice Jordan who have endured ice related injuries and are hoping for their safe return to rehearsals when they are healed!!!

As we head into the season of Lent, we're preparing many beautiful anthems and Preludes to enhance Wesley worship services. We look forward to sharing them with you each week.

Thanks to all our choir and bell choir members, and to Josh and Lizzie who provide exceptional music through the regular sharing of their gifts!!! Soli Deo Gloria!!!

---

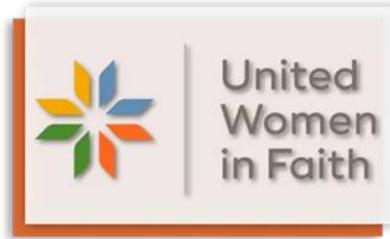


---

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

By: Mary Ann Evans

---



*UWF continues to grow, not only in age, but in numbers too!! However, it seems aging is what is slowing us down. We had planned to try a new event this year, a spring craft fair, but with numbers of people, amount of space and use of that space, we have put that project on hold. Thank you to Janice Jordan who spent time measuring and calculating all those numbers. BUT we do continue to work on raising more money for women, children & youth...*

*We have a total of \$1300 to donate now and are in the process of discussing where best to distribute the money throughout the community, both far and near..... (More details next month!!)*

*We prepared the mugs filled with candy that were given out to workers on Christmas Eve. We filled almost 50!*

*By time you read this we will have served snacks at the ARC Valentine Dance!! The ARC is The Association of Rights of Citizens with Intellectual disabilities and serves adults in our community. The monthly dance is a fun time, not only for the participants but for our ladies who serve.*

*Helene Zeman has decided that after many years of serving as circle leader, it is time to retire. She will stay involved in UWF and circle. The Sylvia Circle members are joining one of the other two circles. Thank You, Helene for your years of leadership!!!*

*Thank you too, to Denise Knox who served as our treasurer for 10+ years. Mary Ann Dashiell will now be the treasurer. Patty Field will lead Social Action, the committee that was led by MA Dashiell.*

*Thank you to EVERYONE who supported our Christmas Cafe! We made the same amount as last year!! \$1074.*

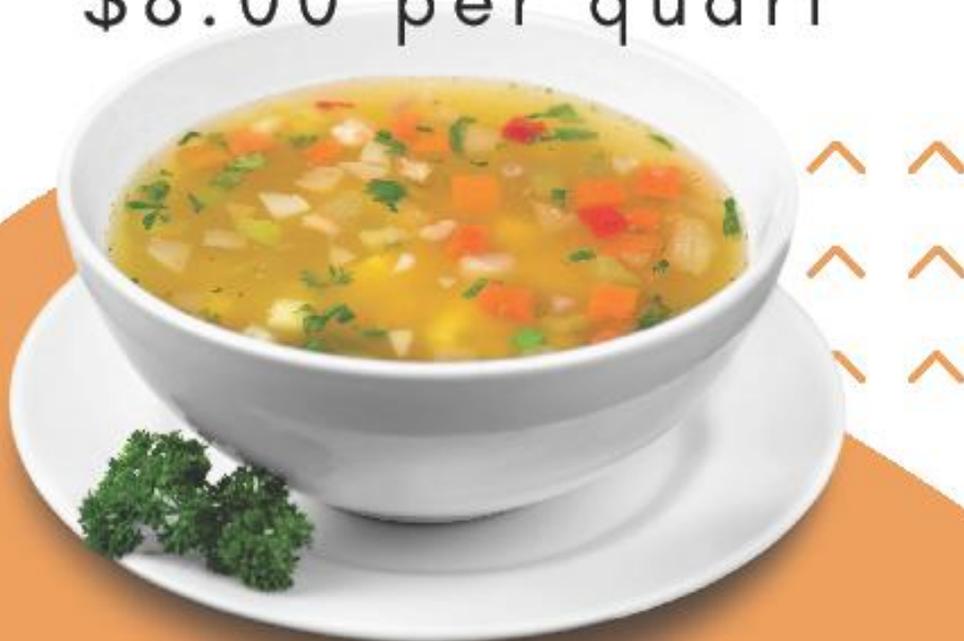


# WESLEY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH'S Souper Sunday Sale!

Pick up is

••••• Sun. March 22nd

\$8.00 per quart



**PRE-ORDER  
ANYTIME!**

**MARY ANN EVANS @  
(302) 383-0841**

## Soup Options

**Seven Bean & Chicken  
or  
Hearty Vegetable**



VALENTINE'S FOR TEACHERS  
 Members of Wesley gave sweet treats to the pre school staff. This was our little way of thanking them for caring for the children in the school.



Members of Wesley donated candy to make Valentine's for the people who attended the Community Meal on February 14<sup>th</sup>. A special shout out to all who made this possible!



---

# Wesley Preschool and Play Care

By: Laura Parent, Preschool Secretary

---



Happy New Year Everyone! The children returned after their Christmas break anxious to see their teachers and friends on Monday, January 5, 2026. With all the cold weather we are very grateful for the warmth of the running room to allow our students to release their energy. The bikes, hula-hoops and balls are a big hit!

Wesley celebrated SPIRIT WEEK the week of January 12-16. The kids loved the creativity and fun this week provided them.

In house registration begun the last week of January.

Wesley Preschool and Play Care was closed January 19, 2026, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We were also closed February 9<sup>th</sup> for an in-service day and February 17, in honor of Presidents Day.

We celebrated Friendship Day with our classmates and coworkers.

Book Fair Week was held Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> through Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and support the Preschool and Play Care by purchasing a book.

March will bring Dr. Seuss Spirit Week the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Our Art Show/Open House will be on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Open registration is taking place now for the fall 2026 – 2027 Preschool and Kindergarten school year.

Summer Registration will start in March.

We currently have openings in our 3 and 4-year-old Preschool classes.

We will be having Kindergarten Orientation in March, date to be announced.

# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	<b>2</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	<b>3</b> 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS	<b>4</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	<b>5</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm SPRC 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	<b>7</b> 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal 2 pm Sylvia Circle
<b>8</b> 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	<b>9</b> 5pm Nomination 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	<b>10</b> 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 3 pm Barbara Circle 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm DCS Board Mtg 7 pm DCS	<b>11</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA 7 pm Moms Demand Action	<b>12</b> 12:30 pm Mary Martha Circle 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	<b>14</b> 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
<b>15</b> 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	<b>16</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	<b>17</b> 7 am Men's Bible Study (Breakfast) 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm Trustees 7 pm DCS	<b>18</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	<b>19</b> 11:30 am Women to Women Luncheon 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	<b>21</b> 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
<b>22</b> 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	<b>23</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	<b>24</b> 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS	<b>25</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	<b>28</b> 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
<b>29</b> 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Nursery 10:30 am Fellowship	<b>30</b> 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	<b>31</b> 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS				

# 2025 EASTER GIVING ORDER FORM



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Lilies \$12.00 per plant. Please make check payable to Wesley UMC for the total amount. Please note "Lily" on memo line and mail or bring to the church office.

\_\_\_\_\_ PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND - Please make check payable to Wesley UMC. Please note "Discretionary Fund" on memo line and mail or bring to the church office.

Please print below the wording you would like in the bulletin. (Example: Joseph Carpenter in loving memory of his parents, Mary and Joseph Carpenter, Sr.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

DEADLINE FOR LILY DONATIONS: Friday March 27, 2026.

DEADLINE FOR PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY: Friday March 27, 2026.

Please pick up your Lily after the 9:30 AM Easter service on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> or on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!



Spring forward in faith!  
SUNDAY, MARCH 8th, CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS  
*and join us on time for worship*

## PALM SUNDAY



MARCH 29, 2026



GOOD FRIDAY  
APRIL 3, 2026