



The Wesley Crier

A PUBLICATION OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.WESLEYUMC-DOVER.COM
☎ 302-678-9626 ☎ 302-678-9627

April 2026

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He is risen indeed!

God's answer to every prayer that we offer is resurrection. There is always grace, there is always hope, there is always restoration. This is the heartbeat of our faith.

³I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them."⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." Rev. 21:3-5

Resurrection proves both God's power and God's purpose to bring us all together through forgiveness to Shalom, or the Kingdom of Heaven. The power that defeats death is a power that simply cannot be defeated itself. The purpose that will not turn aside

Continued page 2

from the cruelest violence that the world can devise will instead always draw us in the direction of God's desires for us; life that is eternal and abundant.

Lent encourages us to leave behind everything that does not contribute to strong, whole, generous lives. The Easter season, from now through Pentecost, reminds us of every good thing that God wants to fill us with. We don't have to be the way we were, whatever it is that we want to change; God is alive. We don't have to worry or fear; God is alive. With resurrection securely centered in our lives, miracles are everywhere. We see the natural world begin to stir again and celebrate its yearly rebirth. In ourselves we can experience growth, freedom, peace, and joy. In our community we anticipate renewed strength and energy.

I pray that you will be reminded again and again this season of the strength and the depth of God's love for you.

With Peace and Grace,
Pastor Christine



Schedule for Holy Week

April 3, 2026 - 6 PM – Good Friday Tennebrae Service

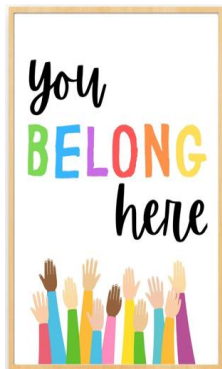
April 4, 2026 - 9:00 AM – Easter Egg Hunt – GFH

**April 5, 2026 – 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise Service
At Silver Lake Beach**

April 5, 2026 - 9:30 AM – Easter Traditional Service

Membership

By: Pastor Christine Bowden



We have had a couple of inquiries from people who would like to join the church, and we will be putting a new group together to join on or around May 10th. If you have been thinking about joining, or if you know someone who would like to join, please get in touch with Pastor Christine, pastorchristine@wesleyumc-dover.com.

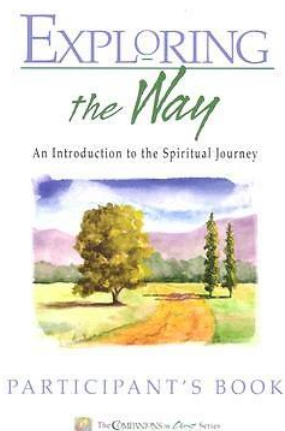
After Easter Bible Study

By: Pastor Christine Bowden

Are you ready to start Exploring the Way?

Pastor Christine will lead this six-week study on Monday evenings from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, beginning April 13th, through May 18th, in the parlor.

We will sample discipleship practices of the church through history, including prayer, meditation, scripture study, journaling, mutual accountability, and community,



Grant

By: Pastor Christine Bowden



Wesley UMC has applied for a grant from the National Fund for Sacred Spaces. This grant would allow us to update some very old infrastructure, the systems we can't see, like the heating and cooling. It would also allow us to renovate some of our underused spaces to make them more useful for outreach and other ministries.

Now, we hold our breath, we'll hear whether we've advanced to the second round of the grant process in early summer.

Family Life Committee

By: Mardi Spangler, Sandi and Jim Thistlewood



Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday April 4, 2026, at 9 AM. We expect about 100 people. We will hunt for 1000 brightly colored, candy filled eggs, held in front of the Biggs Museum followed by entertainment with cookies and juice. We ask every participating family to donate a dozen festive cookies to help us

celebrate.

We look forward to seeing you as we **anticipate** the good things that are to come to come with the resurrection of our Savior Jesus.



Please save the date for **Faith and Family Night** at the Blue Rocks Game on June 26, 2026. We will watch the Blue Rocks Baseball game and enjoy the fireworks afterwards. More information will come out next month. Please join us for these fun family activities. It is a great way to become closer to your church family and meet some new faces.

New Website Launched



Our church recently updated our website to a new platform. We have updated our website several times in the past, and this is something that needs to be done as technology and the way people use the website access our information. As an example, it is much more likely today that people will access any information on the Internet through their phone, which wasn't true in the past. What it meant was that you had to build in or add specific "phone friendly" tools, and our previous website didn't have that built in.

We've changed that with new site. It is built to be very mobile-friendly, with a similar but more clear design for the smaller screen and is optimized for scrolling information.

We have carried over all the information, but you may notice a few things that are presented differently. For one, most new information will be in two main areas - "News", and "Events".

These are designed to highlight what is going on in our church and are highlighted on the home page. "Events" are those items that have a specific starting and ending time and location, where "News" is more of a catch-all for updates and announcements. For example, we will have an event for the Easter Egg Hunt, but you might see a news item asking for volunteers or candy. Church bulletins and The Crier, for now, also will be News events, but as we work with the site, there may be other areas (such as the Worship area) that may be more appropriate.

There is also a separate "Ministries" area, that highlights our work in the community. We hope to grow this part of the website and look at expanding access so it can be more easily updated.

We also have added the ability to do some metric tracking, so we have an idea what people are checking out on the site, as well as where they are coming from. Shortly after turned up the site, we can see that the "Events" page is the most popular page on the website, after the home page - but the Preschool page was not far behind, which tells us something else.

If you have information to be updated, please continue to send your updates to church@wesleyumc-dover.com, but until we are back to full staffing, please also send to djosefowski@gmail.com.

Pecometh Summer Camp 2026

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 11th 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 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 15th. To receive a scholarship, you must call Sally Verma (674-0508) or e-mail Sally at sjverma@comcast.net with the child's name and camp date BEFORE MAY 15th.

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 15th and tell you the amount of the scholarship.)

E-Mail: 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>

Music Department

By: Sherry Roscoe, Director of Music

Our music department at Wesley Church is so fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers who give their time each week to bring music to our worship services on Sunday morning. Their time commitment is ongoing through the months of September through May, and as the Music Director here at Wesley, I give thanks for this team of people!!

Especially at Christmas and Easter, music is such an integral part of worship. The choir will be singing on Palm Sunday and Easter, and the handbells will be ringing on Easter Sunday. They will work in conjunction with some local musicians to enhance the meaning of the music given.

Some poignant lyrics will be sung on Palm Sunday, in the choir's selection entitled "A Hosanna for Our Time," by composer Karen Marolli.

When the world cries for power, will our souls cry for peace?

Does the kingdom we're seeking comfort with refuge and release?

Does the realm of our longing reign with riches or welcome with grace?

What kingdom shall we choose? What kingdom shall we choose?

Hosanna sing hosanna, behold the King of Peace,

Riding lowly among us, conquering the reign of fear!

Hosanna sing hosanna, behold the King of Love!

Now the light of justice shatters the bow and spear!

Hosanna!!!

The lyrics cry for our focus and loyalty to the Kingdom of Christ, to be in this world sharing His message of hope, peace, love, and grace.

I pray the music offered during this Holy time of year will cause you to think deeply, to worship fully, and to draw closer to the Savior who loves us so deeply that He sent His Son to this world to live, die, and be raised for our salvation.



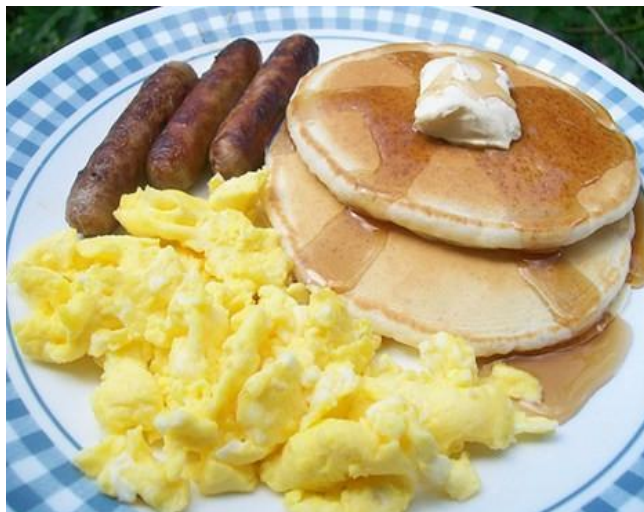
UNITED METHODIST MEN

By: Jim Skeans

The United Methodist Men are planning their Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 2, 2026, during Old Dover Days, in Grace Fellowship Hall. Breakfast served from 7 AM - 12 PM.

Tickets will be available in the church office or from any of the UMM before or after church services. Ticket prices this year are Adults - \$11 in advance, \$12 at the door, children ages 7-12 - \$6, and children 6/under are free.

We would appreciate your help if you are available to lend a helping hand on Friday evening, May 1st at 6 PM, to set up, and/or help on Saturday during the meal, from 7 AM - 12 PM. We can use your assistance to make this event a success. Please contact Jim Skeans, 302-678-0974 if you are able to help.



United Methodist Men's Annual Pancake Breakfast
Wesley United Methodist Church
Grace Fellowship Hall
Saturday, May 2, 2026, 7:00 AM - 12 Noon

All You Can Eat!

Adults

Children

\$11.00 in advance 7-12 yrs. old \$6.00

\$12.00 at the door 6 yrs. & under Free

Proceeds Benefit Missions to help people in need

United Women in Faith will have a Bake Sale
in conjunction with the breakfast.

UNITED WOMEN in FAITH

By: Mary Ann Evans, President



It is a busy spring for UWIF.... It is spring, isn't it??? (Not sure the weather knows what season it is.....) BUT no matter the weather, we continue to work on raising money for women, children & youth...

We recently had a total of \$1400 to donate. We decided to deliver the checks that we could in person, so Louise Andrews, Mary Ann Dashiell, Janet Flower, Vicki Stoops, Judy Voshell and I took a "field trip" to House of Hope, New Day Pregnancy Center and the Capital School District. It was fun to get a tour of the places we support and see the smile on the faces of those who receive our benefits. We also donated to Mama Tola and to Justin House in Bethany.

Sunday, March 22 is our soup day. We appreciate everyone who has helped by making, packing, buying and eating our soup!!!

We will once again purchase the Bibles for Wesley Preschool Chapel attendees and watch the smiles on the kids' faces as they receive their new Bible on April 2.

Join us in fellowship hall after the Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 5 for a light breakfast, including lots of hot coffee!!

Following our tradition of celebrating Old Dover Days, we will hold a bake sale during the Pancake breakfast. Watch for more details.

Barbara Circle: Co-Leaders: Shirley Mundorf (363-0543) and Vicki Stoops (734-2125)

Meets 2nd Tuesday, April 14th at 3 PM, in the Parlor.

Mary Martha Circle: Leader: Mary Ann Evans (383-0841).

Meets 2nd Thursday, April 9th gather at 12:30 PM, meeting at 1 PM in the Parlor.

We also hold Unit meetings twice a year and you are welcome to attend those. Unit meetings are composed of all the Circles coming together for a meeting of food, discussion & a program. Watch the newsletter & bulletin for more details.

If you want to be a part of UWF but not attend Circle meetings, you can donate financially and attend Unit meetings.

Thank you again for your support!

Food Handlers Course

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant



The State of Delaware requires us to have someone in the kitchen who holds a food-handler certificate during all events and the community meals.

A Conditional Volunteer and Food Employee Interview Form needs to be filled out by each volunteer once a year, and kept on file in the black file box located in the kitchen. This form requires the volunteer along with the food-handler certificate holder to sign off on it.

We encourage each committee/group that uses the kitchen to have at least one member/volunteer take the 360 Learn to Serve® Food Handler Certification course. Cost \$10, self-paced, and takes about two hours. Just click on the link below take the course, pass the test and you receive your certificate that day.

<https://www.360training.com/course/anab-accredited-food-handler-training>

Once you receive your certificate via email, please forward the email to Michele in the church office.

HELP NEEDED



Would you like to be a blessing to Wesley Church?

The following areas need volunteers.

Are you able to help in any of these areas?

- * Ushers/Greeters
- * Altar Guild
- * Straighten-up/Replenish the pews (offering envelopes, prayer cards, hymnals and remove items left after service)
- * Saturday mornings in the Clothing Closet (need more volunteers)
- * Community Meals
- * Audio/Visual Tech - At the 9:30 AM service
- * Audio/Video Tech - available for funerals and special events

Please contact the church office (302-678-9626) to learn more about these ministries and contact person.

Security Team News

By: Jim Thistlewood

Security Team Update



While our title would leave you to believe your security team is focused only on security of the congregation, we also keep checking on safety of the people.

One of the things that we have done is compile an emergency kit for the church. It is located in a large clearly marked **Emergency Preparedness Kit** in a Tote that is kept in the parlor. It consists of flashlights, emergency radio, thermal blankets, fire blankets, first aid kit, water, batteries and more. We would hope to never have to use this, but in the current environment with changing weather patterns and such we need to be prepared.

Our team meets each month and goes over current issues that are happening around the country that we may learn from or need to address as well as using materials that are focused on church safety and security. As always if you have a question or suggestions as to how to make the church a safer and more welcoming church please reach out to us.

Our members include Jim Thistlewood Boyce Failing, Allison Bumgarner, Fred Ragains, Donna Josefowski, Larry Josefowski and Lay Leaders, Eunice Craig and Gigi Windley.

Search Class

By: Eunice Craig

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path... Psalm 27, v11

Search Class invites all to join us on Sunday mornings at 8:35 am in the parlor to share the teachings of Jesus through scripture, readings, videos, and discussions.

Search Class Schedule

April 5 Easter Sunday Search Class **WILL NOT MEET.**

April 12 “The Resurrection of the Body”, from Adam Hamilton’s, *The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why*. This will complete the six-part series on *The Creed* that we started before Lent.

We begin a new six-part series on April 19 entitled, *The Heart of the Psalms* by Rev. James C. Howell. The Book of Psalms becomes the word of God for us and gives us a way to pray when we are at a loss for the right word to say.

April 19 Psalm 8 (Awe)

April 26 Psalm 27 (Beauty)

May 3 Psalm 51 (Mercy)

May 10 Psalm 73 (Surely)

May 17 Psalm 90 (Time)

May 24 Psalm 116 (Love)

We look forward to sharing God’s love through his Word with you!

Eunice Craig and Gigi Windley

WESLEY PRESCHOOL AND PLAY CARE

By: Oveta Fullman, Director



March arrived with a burst of excitement as we welcomed Spring with both smiles and relief.

We celebrated Dr. Seuss Spirit Week from March 2 to March 6, and the children enjoyed a variety of fun activities.

Looking ahead to April, we will hold our Preschool Easter Ceremony and Chapel Ceremony on Thursday, April 2nd, for all the children participating in our Chapel Classes throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments!

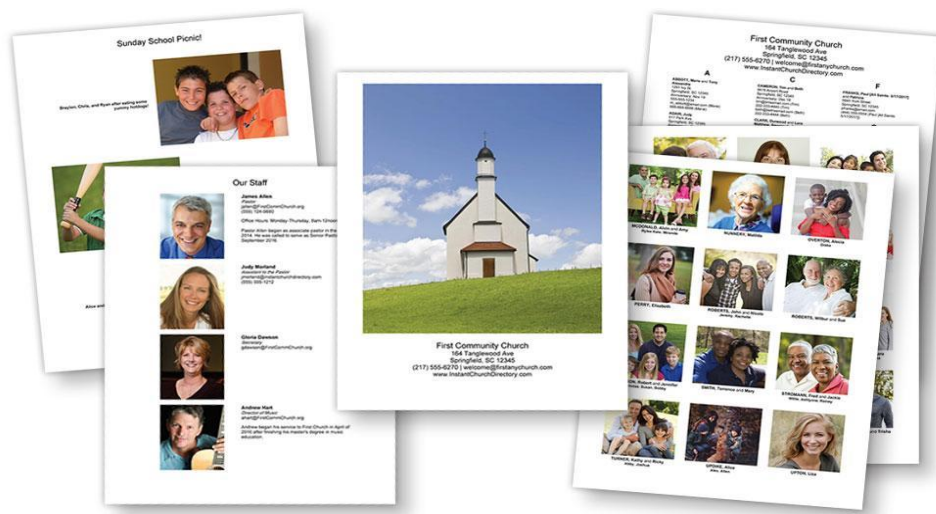
Please note that Wesley Play Care will be closed on Friday, April 3rd, and Monday, April 6th, for Easter celebrations. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 7th, with normal hours. Additionally, Wesley Preschool will be closed from Friday, April 3rd, to Friday, April 10th, for Easter and Spring Break.

Exciting news! Summer registration has begun as of March, and spots are filling up quickly. If you know anyone looking for a great opportunity, encourage them to visit our website today!

Open registration is currently underway for Fall 2026, with openings available in our Play Care and Preschool classes

We are excited to announce that a new kindergarten class will be opening in the fall of 2026! Help us share this wonderful news with your friends and family so that more children can experience our fantastic early education program.

New Church Directory Coming Soon!



Wesley Church is creating a new and updated directory which will be available online **and** as a **printed version** to help members connect, put names to faces, and strengthen our church family. This directory will be available for our church family. This updated resource will feature photos, contact information, and updated member details (or you can choose not to share specific information if that is your preference).

It has been a number of years since we have had a paper directory and while some of the contact information is available through Realm, having a hard copy with photos included is a great way to connect.

A few months ago, Jim Thistlewood researched several directory companies and we decided to go with Instant Church Directory. To get started on this, we will be available to take photos of you and your family for the directory on Easter Sunday.

On Sunday, April 5th after the Sunrise Service (about 7:30 am) and again after the Traditional Easter Service (about 10:30 am), look for Jim Thistlewood and Donna Josefowski so we can take your photo. After Worship, we will be looking for you at both the Narthex and at Fellowship Hall to take your photo. We will take your photos and confirm that your directory details are accurate.

Our makeup photo day will be on Sunday, April 12th. Any questions, please reach out to Jim @ jktwood@verizon.net (302) 670-6991 or Donna @ djosefowski@gmail.com (302) 222-0694.



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 30, 2026.

The three-member selection committee, which has been appointed by the Trustees, will notify the recipient(s) by May 31, 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 extended deadline to turn in applications is April 30, 2026.

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	2 PS Chapel Ceremony 6 pm SPRC 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	3 6 PM Good Friday Service 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	4 9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
5 EASTER 6:30 am Sunrise Svc. 7:30 am Breakfast 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	6 Church Office Closed	7 7 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS	8 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA 7 pm Security Team 7 pm - Moms Demand Action	9 12:30 pm Mary/Martha Circle 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	10 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	11 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
12 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	13 5 pm Bible Study 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	14 7 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Staff Mtg. 3 pm Barbara Circle 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS	15 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	16 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	17 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	18 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
19 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	20 5 pm Bible Study 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	21 7 am Men's Bible Study (Breakfast) 9:30 am Staff Mtg. 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm Trustees 7 pm DCS	22 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	23 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	24 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	25 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
26 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	27 5 pm Bible Study 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	28 7 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Staff Mtg. 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS	29 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NA	30 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir		