

APRIL 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

Dear Friends,

Christ has risen indeed! Here we are at Easter again—flowers and Christ candles, singing Alleluia once again and hearing more New Testament readings in worship—Happy Easter! But doesn't it seem like it was just Christmas a few short weeks ago? And doesn't it seem like this year's Easter feels a lot like last year's Easter, and the Easter before that, and the Easter before that? Seriously—what's new this Easter season??

Well, if God is at work in your heart, YOU are new this Easter! Hearing again the story of Christ's love for us—that he was willing even to die to show us how much we are loved—is enough to bring any of us, all of us, into new life through Christ. We're not talking about a business transaction here; we're not talking about a legal precedent; we're talking love beyond our imagining, poured out into our hearts and lives again and again: new every morning is God's love for us, and all day long God is working for good in the world. Every day we have the opportunity to start anew. Every day we have access to God's forgiveness, to that cleansing power. Every day we can turn to God for comfort, for guidance, for strength. And, because God in Jesus lived our life, felt our emotions, explored our world, and died our death, we know that we are known and understood—we know that God gets us. This kind of relationship goes far beyond even the closest human interaction...and it's always available, and always new. God's love for us is the original renewable resource! Knowing that we are so beloved, so cherished, so befriended makes every experience a new place to meet with God...and that makes every day new...and that makes us new! This Easter season and always, may you feel God's love calling you into community in new ways, and, freed from the fear of the power of death, may you respond in new ways, too. Happy Easter!

Cordially,

*Pastor Martha*



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**Lenten Prayer**

**Thursday**

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



Last Lenten Prayer Thursday is April 2nd. Deepen your relationship with God this Lent through intentional sacred

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conversation. *Parking available for anyone that would like to pray. Designated church parking spaces and bagged meters will be provided.*



**Don't forget to bring in your 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. 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.

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## HOLY WEEK

**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**

6:30 A.M. SUNRISE SERVICE

(MARKETPLACE PAVILION—SPRUCE ST UMC)

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

**WESLEY SERVICES**



**Wesley Book Club - Zoom Only**  
**7:30 PM - 7th & 21st 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 Borg and John Dominic Crossan**

## April Committee Meetings

**Finance Meeting**  
**No Meeting in April**

**Trustees Meeting**  
**Next Meeting Tuesday, May 12th —7:30 PM**

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

**SPRC Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 15th-5:00 PM**

**Staff Meeting—TBA**

~ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** ~

**Tuesday, April 7th**

**10:00 AM - Lecture Room**

**If you can knit, crochet**

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



**Wesley Church Office closed**  
**Easter Monday, April 6th**  
**thru Thursday, April 9th**

## 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\***

## 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.

## 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 April 1st and 15th.**

## April Lectionary Scriptures

#### April 5th — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6  
 Ps 118:1-2, 14-24  
 Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43  
 John 20:1-18 or Matt 28:1-10

#### April 12th—Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
 Ps 16  
 1 Pet 1:3-9  
 John 20:19-31

#### April 19th— Confirmation/Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
 Ps 116:1-4, 12-19  
 1 Pet 1:17-23  
 Luke 24:13-35

#### April 26th — Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47  
 Ps 23  
 1 Pet 2:19-25  
 John 10:1-10

# Love Your Neighbor Group

**We need to hear from you!** If you were born in a country other than the United States, please indicate on your Connection Card or notify the Church Office at wesleymorgantown@gmail.com. Wesley wants to celebrate the diversity of our congregation.

## International Dinner at Wesley ~ Sunday, April 19th

The "Love Your Neighbor" group is hosting an International Dinner. Everyone in the church is invited to attend and bring a dish of your choice. It can be something from your native country or something that represents your heritage or any dish that you want to bring. Please bring a copy of the recipe to place near the dish so that we can take a picture if we want to try the recipe ourselves. We will meet in the church gym after the 11:00 service on Sunday April 19. We hope to spend time together as a congregation getting to know each other better and especially making sure that our international friends know that they are loved and welcomed. For more information, see Kristi DeLeurere.

*Everyone can join in on all events!*

### MONTHLY EVENTS

*Look for event details in upcoming bulletins & newsletters!*

**APRIL 19**

**INTERNATIONAL  
DINNER**

**MAY**

**WVU  
PLANETARIUM**

**JUNE**

**BOTANICAL  
GARDENS**

**JULY**

**MON COUNTY  
SYMPHONY**

**AUGUST**

**BLACK BEARS  
GAME**

**SEPTEMBER**

**BOWLING**

**OCTOBER**

**FOREST  
FESTIVAL**

**NOVEMBER**

**BOARD GAMES**

**DECEMBER**

**WHITE  
ELEPHANT  
BINGO**

**JANUARY**

**PAINT BOWLS  
FOR EMPTY  
BOWLS**

**FEBRUARY**

**WVU WOMENS  
BASKETBALL**

**MARCH**

**ESCAPE  
ROOM**

## Circle of Friends Announcement

What good work we have done through Circle of Friends! For almost 30 years, we have provided our downtown neighbors with meals on Saturday and Sunday nights. We have much to be proud of!

Now it is time to close this chapter of our good work in God's name. As feeding and other services have moved to the Hazel's House of Hope location, fewer and fewer persons are using Circle of Friends. It has become more difficult to find groups to provide meals, and one of our 4 sites, the Lutheran Campus Chapel, will no longer be part of the Circle. Our mission to downtown feeding has come to an end. The last COF meals served will were Sunday, March 14th and Sunday, March 15th.

If you would like to continue with this ministry in a new form, you can contact Hazel's House of Hope or the Bartlett House on West Run Road. Thank you for answering God's call these past decades. We have done a good work!

### ALTAR GUILD ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### EASTER GARDEN DECORATING



Let your inner decorator run free-join us on April 4 at 9:30 to decorate the church for Easter! After the long Lenten season, and this long winter, it will be great to have fresh spring flowers in our sanctuary, and you can have a part in making the magic happen. Join us on April 4.

#### ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

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:

April 12th, 19th, and 26th

## 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

## BOTH GROUPS WILL NOT MEET EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH

### UMYF

### \*United Methodist Youth Formation ALL YOUTH (6th thru 12th grade) WELCOME!

Youth Leaders Chad & Arielle Harvey  
Contact info: 304-619-9441 /  
simplysouthernphotographywu@gmail.com  
Youth are invited to bring a friend!!

## 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.

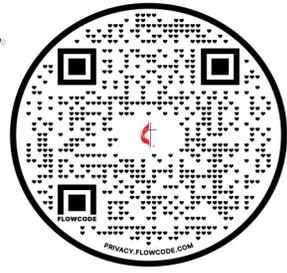
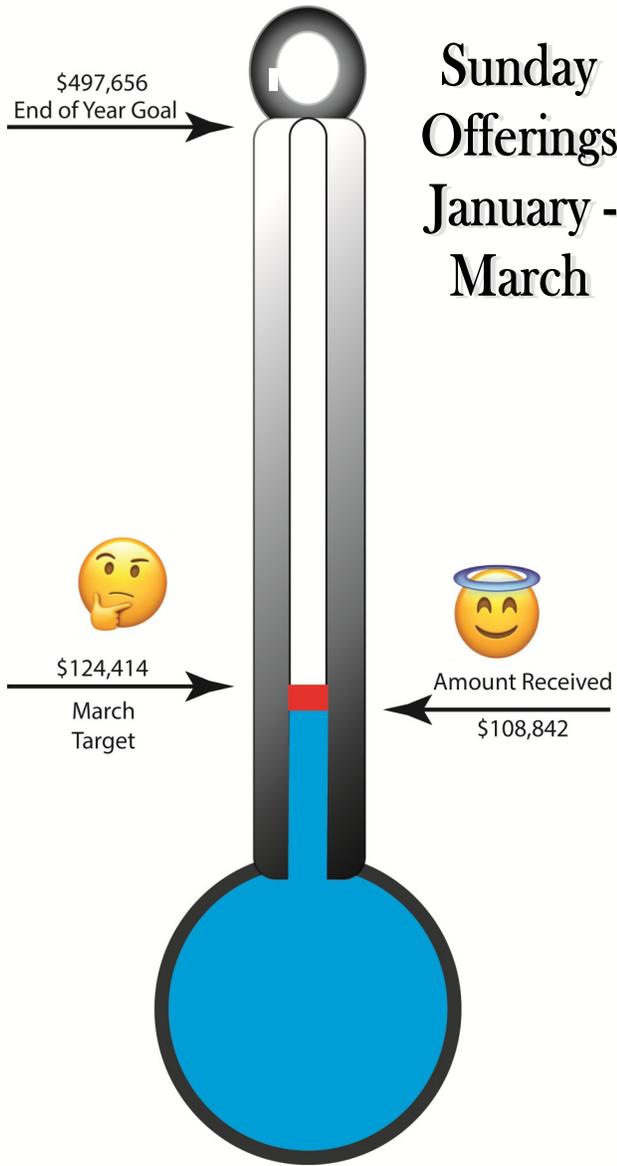
#### Guideposts - Room 202 (2nd floor)

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.

# 2026 Finance Budget Thermometer



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

## 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.**

*A special event featuring historical Appalachian congregational singing, especially "lining out" hymns will be held Saturday, April 11th at 10:30 a.m. at the Monongalia Arts Center.*

**Mountaineering Voices: Appalachian Primitive Baptists and Congregational Singing in West Virginia with Ginny Hawker**  
Monongalia Arts Center – Saturday, April 11 at 10:30am

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**  
**&**  
**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Join us Sunday, April 19th when Wesley will celebrate Confirmation and Welcome New Members at the 11:00 a.m. service. Fellowship Time will provide cake and refreshments for all to share with our new confirmands and members.

# Concerts In The Loft



## DAMON BUXTON

## SUNDAY APR 12TH

## — 5PM —

**GUITARIST & COMPOSER**  
**HANNABCH STRINGS ARTIST**

JOIN US FOR ~ GREAT MUSIC ~ FELLOWSHIP ~ REFRESHMENTS!

Free Concert & Parking compliments of  [wesleymorgantown.org](http://wesleymorgantown.org)

 **Wesley UMC**   
503 North High St. 304-292-9485



On Saturday April 18, just a few weeks away, six area Rotary Clubs plus a couple of church groups and a few others will *Rise Against Hunger*, converging here in Wesley's gymnasium to package a few thousand

meals for folks in a hungry world! For about 16 years, Wesley has provided venue, substantial \$\$\$, and a little bit of labor to join Rotarians and other volunteers to package meals that will be distributed, mostly to schoolchildren, in some of the world's hungriest countries. We've been the venue (gym) for this charity event for years and you are all invited and encouraged to participate in this joyous mission effort in two ways: First try to find and contribute a few bucks (actually as many as possible!) to help purchase ingredients, provide support staff, and then distribute meals in one of about 75 needy countries. Then consider attending the festive two-hour packaging session (9:00am-Apr. 18) to help with "food preparation" at the packaging event! It is a good time and a great help for many! (Make donations to Wesley UMC, designated for Rise Against Hunger!)

### Social Group Gathering

Join us for...  
**Fellowship**  
**Covered Dish/Potluck**  
**2026 Event Planning**

All Wesley Adults are invited to the first Social Group gathering of 2026! Join us on Friday, April 24th at 6:00 p.m. in the Lecture Room for a Covered Dish/Potluck and Events Planning for the rest of the year :) Bring your ideas and a dish to share. Contact Doris Pitman at 304-599-4844/maduva1@yahoo.com if you need more info.





# 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.)*

# YOUTH

## UPDATE

April 5 - Easter - No Youth

April 12 - Youth Room

April 19 - Special Event - Youth Room

April 26 - Youth Room

May 3 - Youth Room

May 10 - Mother's Day - No Youth

May 17 - Field Trip Special Event

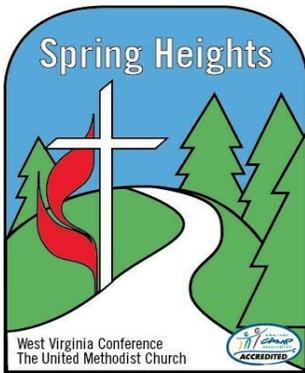
May 24 - Memorial Day Weekend - No Youth

May 31 - End of Year Cookout/Campout



**Wesley  
Magnetic  
Nametag**

**Reminder to please wear your  
nametag at worship service.  
It's a wonderful way for our  
church family to get acquainted  
with each other. Thank you!**



**Summer Camp is right around the corner**  
**...make plans for some summer fun!** **Camp ages 5-18**

Spring Heights Summer Camp is accepting registrations! There are camps for all ages and interests, including Classic Camp (with a short Mini Camp for younger kids), Hold Your Horses and Wranglers, which are camps all about horseback riding, Creative Camp, where you can 'develop' your photography skills, and Camp Outrageous, where you can do a little bit of everything! For schedules, age requirements, and all other camp info, see Martha or check our [springheights.org](http://springheights.org). Have fun; enjoy nature; learn about God; make friends-let's go to camp!



Do you have, or know someone who has, an extra car to give or sell to Eli Petrov? Eli's car is on its last legs (wheels?!?), and needed repairs would cost more than the car is worth. We're looking to replace his clunker with a less-clunky model. Thanks for your generosity!

**Wesley UMC hosting WVU Boxing Club**  
**Saturday, April 25th - Davis Gym**



Wesley United Methodist Church is a partner with CarePortal! CarePortal is a technology that drives action for local kids and families in crisis. A professional at a child welfare agency, pregnancy resource center, or school sees a need

and inputs it onto a website. From there, church folks (Us!!!) see the need and can choose to respond where possible. The need is met, and the family is kept together and supported. 96% of caseworkers agree that they feel more supported in their work by using CarePortal, and 85% of church responders agree that CarePortal has increased their awareness of local needs and made it easier to help. We're helping globally through our sponsorship of the Petrovs and Pukhovs; here's a way we can help locally, too. Arielle Harvey is our congregation's Point Person; she'll have more information, and ways to get us up and helping. West Virginia is the 34th state to enact CarePortal; we join sisters and brothers across the nation in becoming the practical hands and feet of Jesus in our town. Contact Arielle at [simplysouthernphotographywv@gmail.com](mailto:simplysouthernphotographywv@gmail.com) to become part of this exciting ministry today!

**SAVE THE DATE ~ SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH**

**Pastor Martha's**

**Retirement Service & Celebration**

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY

10:30 A.M.

LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW SERVICE

Davis Gym

~ As plans are being made more details to be announced ~

**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

## Mission Outreach & Cards of Welcome



Don't forget to sponsor Rev. Burge as he walks to support our Conference Mission Projects through the Stepping Into Spring: Mission in Motion Challenge. Michael will record his steps through May 1; you can sponsor him for a certain amount per step

(\$1.00 for every ten or twenty thousand steps, for example), or just provide a lump sum. At the end of the challenge, you submit your money to Michael at the address above. He gets a good workout; you do a good work; and our mission projects get needed funds. It's a win for everyone!

Would you like to send a card or word of greeting to our soon-to-be-new pastor, Rev. Michael Burge? You can contact him at 509 Pike Street, Shinnston, WV 26431, or at [mburge12@gmail.com](mailto:mburge12@gmail.com). Let's make him and his family feel welcome even before they arrive!

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

**Non-Profit Organization**

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Morgantown, WV

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