



JULY 2026

Wesley Journal Newsletter



Sunday Worship Times



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

Pastor's Corner



Rev. Michael Burge
Pastor

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Cue Country Roads. That was my first thought as I drove up the interstate to Morgantown. And so, I did. I pulled up Country Roads on my iPhone and the sound of John Denver singing filled the car from every speaker. Memories began coming to mind of days past on campus at WVU, not to mention a lifetime of football games at Milan Puskar Stadium and basketball games at the Coliseum. It has been several years since I made an appearance. But it certainly seems like these Country Roads have led me back to the place I belong.

My family and I are just about settled in the parsonage and continue adjusting to this new life in the University city. We look forward to ministering with you and among you. Know that you have been in my prayers and that I will continue praying for you. Please continue praying for me and my family. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your pastor at Wesley UMC and look forward to meeting everyone.

A special word of appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Martha Ognibene, Mary Koike, Chad Harvey, Lya Stroupe, Coleman Gunther, and Marianna Miller for their leadership and grace in this season of transition. It is never easy, but when you have a great team of people working together it makes all the difference. Thank you!

Together as a congregation and community, let us reaffirm our baptismal covenant, that we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. It takes everyone, and there certainly is a place for everyone. Yes, that includes you. Whether you attend regularly, visit infrequently, or are new to the church, I extend to you my own invitation, welcome, and encouragement to come and be a part of what God is doing at Wesley United Methodist Church.

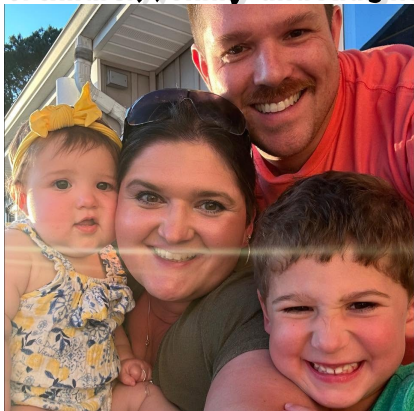
In Christ,

Pastor Michael



Wesley Church
Closed
Friday, July 3rd

Welcome Burge Family!
Pastor Michael, wife, Alexia
& children, Johnny and Alaigna



Sunday, July 5th

Meet OUR NEW PASTOR Rev. Michael Burge
at his first and ONE service at Wesley!

10:30 a.m. ONE SERVICE ONLY
(no early service)



Sunday, July 12th



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

Let's celebrate Rev. Burge AND his BIRTHDAY!!
Fellowship time - we will celebrate with cake and refreshments!

**Donation baskets
will be in the
Lecture Room
starting Sunday,
July 5th.**



**Let's fill backpacks
of all styles and shapes!
Collecting thru
Sunday, July 26th!**

**School Supply Drive
Scott's Run Settlement House**

Wesley Church will collect school supplies for Scott's Run Settlement House families starting Sunday, July 5th thru Sunday, July 26th. Scott's Run distributes over 200 backpacks filled with school supplies and appreciates all donations. Listed below are just a few of the supplies that are needed. *Copies of the School Supply List are in the Lecture Room.* Place all donations in the Lecture Room.

Just a few of the supplies that are needed:

Backpacks ~ pencils ~ crayons ~ glue sticks ~ scissors ~ notebooks (wide ruled & college ruled) ~ loose leaf paper (wide ruled & college ruled) ~ markers ~ colored pencils ~ composition book ~ folders & more



**MORGANTOWN MUNICIPAL
BAND CONCERT**

Celebrating America's 250th birthday!

Saturday, July 4th, 2026

11:00 am

WVU Canady Creative Arts Center

Come join us for this annual outdoor concert featuring music by Sousa, Fillmore, Cohan, Joplin, Berlin, and many more.

Traditional classics like "America, The Beautiful", a tribute to the Armed Forces, and "The Stars and Stripes Forever" will be included.

The event is free! Patrons are encouraged to bring blankets. In the

**Concert has been moved INSIDE due to heat!
Same Time ~ Same Place**



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.

July Lectionary Scriptures

Wednesday Lectionary Study on summer break

**July 5th-Sixth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Ps 45:10-17 or Ps 72
Rom 7:15-25a
Matt 11:16-19, 25-30

**July 12th-Seventh Sunday
after Pentecost**

Gen 25:19-34
Ps 119:105-112 or Ps 25
Rom 8:1-11
Matt 13:1-9, 18-23

**July 19th- Eighth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Gen 28:10-19a
Ps 139:1-12, 23-24
Rom 8:12-25
Matt 13:24-30, 36-43

**July 26th-Ninth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Gen 29:15-26
Ps 105:1-11, 45b
Rom 8:26-39
Matt 13:31-33, 44-52



Congregational Care ~ Greetings Cards of all kinds are needed!

Karen Kelley King is asking for cards of all kinds: birthday, sympathy, anniversary, blank...you name it and she will take it. These cards will be sent out to Wesley members, friends, and visitors as a loving reminder that you are welcome at Wesley and a part of a great church family! Donations of all greeting cards can be brought to the church office.

Wesley Fellowship Events ~ Make plans to join us!

Wesley Fellowship Events are for being together outside of worship and creating memories as a church family. Take a look at the events below and let us know what you would like to attend with your family, friends, or just yourself...all are welcome! More information will be announced for each event and you can notify us of your interest on your Sunday Connection Card or email the church office at wesleymorgantown@gmail.com.

May event coming up is trip to the WVU planetarium Thursday, May 7 at 5:30 p.m. It's not too late to let us

Everyone can join in on all events!

MONTHLY EVENTS

Look for event details in upcoming bulletins & newsletters!

JULY
MON COUNTY SYMPHONY

Mon County Symphony Orchestra

presents the

CELEBRATION OF AMERICA

Thursday, July 2nd ~ 7:30 PM

MOVED DUE TO HEAT ADVISORY: St. Francis de Sales Church

Talented musicians from Mon County, including Wesley's very own performing artists John and Carolyn Hendricks and Maddie Nguyen, will present music that celebrates America's 250th semiquincentennial!

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

SAVE THE DATE!
VBS
THEME:
God is always with US!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, JULY 15TH **5:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

AT SPRUCE ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
386 Spruce St, Morgantown

Mon valley
UWF
Book Club
Next meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 4th
6:00 p.m.
Location: Wesley UMC
The Women of the Bible
Speak:
The Wisdom of
16 Women and
their lessons
for Today
Zoom is an option!

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
SHANNON BREAM
THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE
Speak
The Wisdom of
16 Women and
Their Lessons
for Today
FOX NEWS books

Concerts In The Loft

featuring the voice of rhythm & blues



Miss Freddye's Trio

SUN-JULY 5th 5PM

Pittsburgh's Lady of The Blues



2008 West Virginia Blues Society Winner
for best blues band

2012 Blues Society of Western PA
best duo/solo

Concert & Parking compliments of

Wesley UMC

503 North High St. 304-292-9485 wesleymorgantown.org

Concerts In The Loft

Wesley UMC
503 N. High Street
304-292-9485
wesleymorgantown.org

2026 Concert Series

Concerts start at 5:00 PM	August 9	October 4	Concerts start at 5:00 PM
	Schnell & Paris	Jeff Miller	
	September 13	November 8	
	Kittens Ain't Biscuits	Lady D	
	December 13		
	Jenny & Nathan		

CONCERTS & PARKING are FREE
~ Compliments of Wesley UMC ~

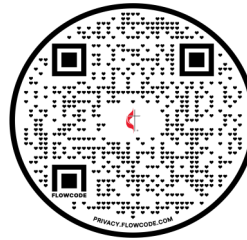
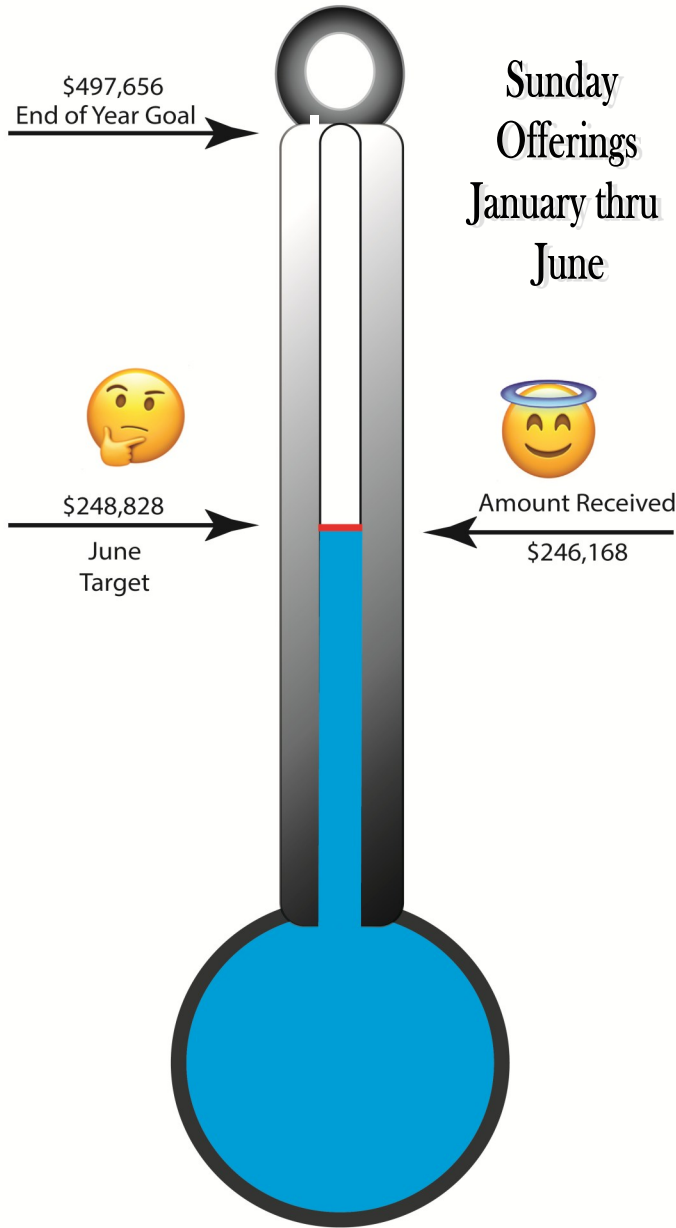
ALTAR GUILD ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS



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:
July 12th and 26th

2026 Finance Budget Thermometer



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

Wesley Book Club - Zoom Only
7:30 PM - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
(July 7th & 21st)

Book Club Leader - Mary Ragland

The Wesley Book Club will continue throughout the summer, meeting every first and third Tuesday at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Summer book study is Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God by Brian Zahnd. Join us! Please contact the church office wesleymorgantown@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Social Group Events

Wesley Adults & friends are welcome!



August Presentation on the History of WV with Ron Lewis hosted by Mark Reasor

Sept 18th (Friday) WVU Planetarium hosted by Mark Reasor

October 18th (Sunday) Lunch at Tygart Lake and enjoy the Fall weather and colors!

November 20th (Friday) Eat-n-Park breakfast at 9:00 a.m. followed with a service project at Wesley hosted by Mary Ragland

December 11th (Friday) – Christmas Party

All Wesley adults are welcome to join us for fun, food, and fellowship! Listed below are the dates of upcoming Social Group Events. Details of each event will be announced in upcoming bulletins and newsletters. This is your invitation to have fellowship with your church family! Contact Doris Pitman at 304-599-4844 / maduwa1@yahoo.com if you would like to attend.



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!

If you need a nametag, please indicate on your Connection Card (comment section), email wesleymorgantown@gmail.com, or write your name on the Nametag tablet located on the Welcome table.

~ Prayer Shawl Ministry ~
Tuesday, July 7th
10:00 AM - Lecture Room
If you can knit, crochet
or would like to learn
please join us!

July Committee Meetings

Finance Meeting
 Tuesday, July 14th — 6:00 PM

Trustees Meeting
 Tuesday, July 14th — 7:00 PM

Administrative Council
 Next Meeting Monday, August 17th — 7:00 PM
 SPRC Meeting—TBA / Staff Meeting—TBA

Church Office Hours

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

Mondays, Wednesdays,
 Thursday, and Fridays

Tuesdays Closed (phone calls only)

access to building will be available



TWO EASY WAYS to contribute to Wesley!

Amazon Smile



What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Wesley Church. Simply go on to Amazon Smile and enter Wesley UMC Morgantown to participate. *We may have missed out on Cyber Monday, but any further Christmas shopping you do on Amazon can support Wesley. Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/55-0359015 and Amazon donates to Wesley United Methodist Church.*



Kroger Community Rewards Program:

Wesley supporters (39 households) who shopped at **Kroger** for 2025 and contributed \$123.78 to Wesley's General Fund. We would love to see the number of households increase in 2026. Anyone that would like to participate can go to the Kroger website and register with the Community Rewards Program:

Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com.



Scott's Run Settlement House Backpack Feeding Program

START BACK DATE!! Wednesday, September 9th 12:00 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

2026 West Virginia Annual Conference Review

The 2026 West Virginia Annual Conference began with a day filled with connection, learning, service, and worship. Attendees explored more than 30 ministry teams and partner organizations during the Ministry Fair, and participated in workshops and service projects.

Conference officially opened, and participants were welcomed by CONAM Chairperson Elle High with a Native Land Acknowledgement, followed by worship and a powerful sermon, delivered by guest preacher Bishop Sharma Lewis Logan of Mississippi.

The day concluded with a welcome barbecue, providing an opportunity for fellowship and celebration for clergy and laity.

Thursday's conference activities began with separate Clergy and Laity Sessions.

The first plenary session of the day included organizational motions, adoption of conference rules, presentation of the consent calendar, and an introduction to the conference's Justice & Advocacy emphasis, *Breaking Bread and Opening Books*.

The afternoon Memorial Service provided a meaningful opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of clergy and spouses who have joined the Church Triumphant.

The second plenary session featured Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett's State of the Church address, recognition of One Matters Award recipients, presentation of the Nominations Team report, and reports from the Cabinet, including the Property Report. Members also approved a historic district realignment plan that will reduce the number of districts from seven to six beginning in 2027.

Friday's conference activities began with a time of teaching and spiritual formation led by Bishop Sharma Lewis Logan.

During the morning plenary session, Conference Lay Leader Jim Minutelli delivered the Laity Address. Members received an update from the Faith Communities reNEWal Team, highlighting the many ways God is bringing renewal, growth, and new expressions of ministry across the West Virginia Conference. Reports and recommendations from the Board of Pensions, Equitable Compensation Committee, and Conference Trustees were presented, and members approved the 2027 Conference Budget.

A highlight of the afternoon was the Historic Questions and Retiree Recognition Service. The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia shared new opportunities and partnerships designed to strengthen and support local church and conference ministries for years to come.

Additional updates were provided, including reports from Higher Education and Campus Ministries, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM), and Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center. Members also approved the Nominations Report and Consent Calendar before concluding the day's business.

The day ended on a sweet note as conference members gathered for an ice cream social benefiting youth ministries across the conference.

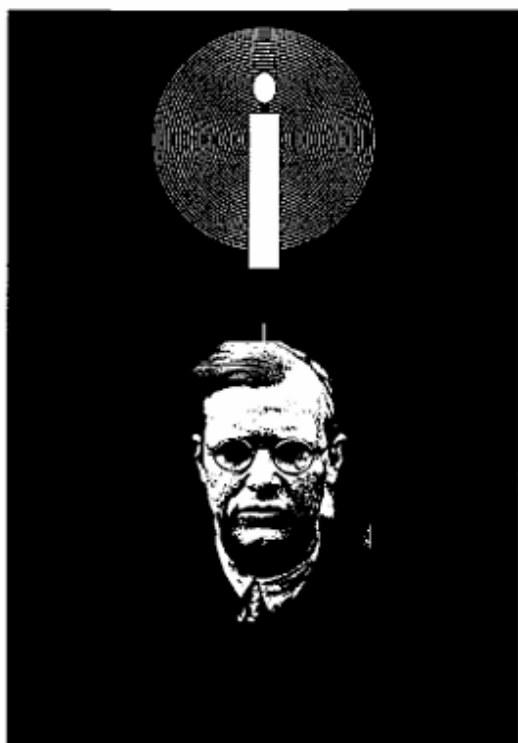
The 2026 West Virginia Annual Conference concluded with the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination.



West Virginia University
Office of the Provost
Amber Brugnoli
 Associate Vice President and Executive Director of
 the Office of Global Affairs
 Phone: 304-293-9298
 Email: amber.brugnoli@mail.wvu.edu
 Office: 201 Purinton House (Morgantown)



**UWM (United Women in Faith)
 are bringing guest speaker
 Amber Brugnoli
 to discuss immigration and
 sources of assistance.
 Look for the August date TBA!**



PRAYING WITH BONHOEFFER

A Spiritual Retreat on Prayer, Psalms, and the Presence of Christ

"When your words fail you — the Psalms will carry you."

Saturday, August 22, 2026
10 AM - 3:30 PM

Through silence, guided Psalm prayer, spiritual direction, and communal worship, discover a deeper way of praying inspired by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Hosted by Pastors Mike Estep, Bart Thompson, and the Center for Spiritual Renewal

In a world overflowing with noise, anxiety, outrage, and exhaustion...
what if prayer was never meant to begin with *your words*?

Join Pastors Mike Estep and Bart Thompson for a deeply reflective spiritual retreat inspired by the life and teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer — pastor, theologian, resistor, and martyr.

Through the Psalms, silence, guided prayer, spiritual direction, and honest conversation, we will discover a different way to pray:

Not performing.
Not pretending.
Not trying harder.
But learning to let Scripture pray within us.

Retreat Theme

"The richness of God's Word... not the poverty of our heart... shapes prayer."
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Throughout the day participants will:

- Pray the Psalms slowly and contemplatively
- Explore how Christ speaks through the Psalms
- Practice silence and sacred listening
- Wrestle honestly with anger, grief, waiting, confession, and trust
- Write a personal Psalm
- Experience communal prayer rooted in ancient Christian tradition

This retreat is designed for:

- Pastors and church leaders

- Spiritual seekers
- Prayer groups and small groups
- People carrying grief, questions, exhaustion, or longing
- Anyone who has ever struggled to find words for prayer

No expertise is needed.

Only openness.

Retreat Highlights

Morning Session

“Who Is Praying?” — Praying with Christ

Discover Bonhoeffer’s radical insight that in the Psalms, *Christ himself prays with us and for us.*

Midday Silence

Participants will spend guided time praying with Psalms of:

- Trust
- Waiting
- Confession
- Being Known

Afternoon Session

“Praying What We Avoid”

A courageous exploration of difficult emotions in prayer: anger, fear, lament, and honesty before God.

Closing Worship

A communal Psalm prayer reminding us: *We are never praying alone.*



Pre-class assignment -

Bonhoeffer (2003) Full HD Documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrFxcIPnXzc>

- **Saturday, August 22**
- **9:30 AM - Gathering**
- **10 AM – 3:30 PM (Lunch Provided)**
- **Location: LIFE United Methodist Church, 3000 Technology Dr, Fairmont, WV 26554**

Register here: <https://bit.ly/PrayingBonhoeffer>

Suggested donation: \$50.00

Online donation - <https://pushpay.com/g/lifeumc?campusId=&clickOrigin=&itemId=>

Or day of event

Contact: Mike Estep, pastormike@lifeumc.org or 304-288-5220



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:

Rev. Michael Burge, Pastor

304-669-9599 / mburge12@gmail.com

Marianna Miller, Administrative Assistant

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

304-290-5436 / lyastroupe@comcast.net

Colton Davis, Media Tech Coordinator

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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



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the cards, gifts, well wishes, and memories that you shared with me, both on June 28 and throughout the last five years. I appreciate your love and your faithfulness, and look forward to the good things you will do in ministry with Rev. Burge. Thanks for it all! Remember: everything has a beginning and everything has an end, but you are always in my heart.

Love, Martha

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

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