



The Wesley Crier

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Moving On: Adult Studies at Wesley UMC

By: Rev. Christine Bowden



We are moving on! Adult Study Classes will begin on **Wednesday, July 29th**. The first session will be five weeks long and will continue on Wednesday evenings through **August 26th**.

Classes will begin at 6:30 PM and finish by 8:00 PM.

The small group working on this launch is Larry Josefowski, Tobi Hope-O'Brien, Ann Baker Horsey, Janice Jordan, and Pastor Christine. This first session will be our pilot run, so we will be collecting your thoughts and suggestions throughout the session.

For the opening session we will offer **Learning to Study the Bible: An Introduction** and **Who We Are and What We Believe: 50 questions about the United Methodist Church**. Registration is just a matter of letting us know that you are interested. We will make that opportunity available as widely as possible. Registration is not required but will help immensely in ordering materials and preparing for these classes.

This is where we begin, and we are already brainstorming a vision for the future of this ministry. We can imagine programs to use this time that will appeal to all our church family and friends. We are centered on accessibility and outreach to include the whole downtown community. As a simple example, while we are not set up to Zoom these classes right now, we would like to do that for our next session. If you are interested in joining the steering group and helping to develop these visions, please talk to Pastor Christine.

Our second session will begin **October 7th** and finish on **November 11th**. Our questionnaire will remain open to help guide which classes will be offered. Following that, we are planning sessions for Advent



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and for Lent. Please plan to participate, by signing up for a class, by collaborating with the steering team, or both.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Christine

Registration: Please provide contact information and your choice of classes, either fill this in and return it to the office or send an email to pastorchristine@wesleyumc-dover.com.

Name:
email:
phone:

- ☐ Learning to Study the Bible: An Introduction
- ☐ Who We Are and What We Believe: 50 questions about the United Methodist Church.

New Members

Introducing...

Our Newest Members

Joined Wesley UMC Sunday, June 28, 2026



Gracia & Angelica Malone



Wendy Wagner

Save the Date

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant

Mark your calendars NOW, Sunday, September 13, 2026

Kick off Sunday School Programs

Bring a Friend to Church

The Chancel Choir is back

Annual Church Picnic



- Make it a day of church festivities starting with Worship services at 8 AM or 9:30 AM
- Adult Sunday School at 8:35 AM
- Children's Sunday School at 9:30 AM
- 12 PM - 2 PM Annual Church Picnic



What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than with family & friends! Join at 12 PM on East side of the Education Building when our Annual Church Picnic begins.

Family life will provide Meat, drinks, dessert and paper products.

Bring your chair, and a summer covered dish to serve 8 people.

Come join in fellowship, games and fun.

All ages welcome! Great fun for all ages.

Building Security...

By: Jim Thistlewood, Security Team

Wesley has a security/safety team that meets regularly and goes over the many ways we can protect you, the congregation, from either a security issue or a safety issue -- whether it be fire, a weather event or anything that might require special actions.

We have addressed many of the items that we have identified as needing attention and are moving forward to act on them.

One of the items that has been in place for some time is the church doors locking 15 minutes after the service starts. Ushers are present until the doors lock. If you should arrive after that 15-minute window, all that is required is that you go to the elevator portico doors, ring the doorbell, and an usher will be there to welcome you and let you in.

Director of Music Notes

By: Sherry Roscoe, Director of Music



Sing, Ring, and Serve: Join Wesley's Music Ministry this Fall!

Over the summer months, the Wesley choirs are off from their every Sunday service responsibilities. They are getting rejuvenated and refreshed before the fall worship season begins.

Plans for the fall season and beyond continue!! Music ministries need a whole host and variety of people to commit in order to be successful at enhancing worship! Will you be part of the music ministry here at Wesley Church?

We would love to have you join us when we begin rehearsals on September 3rd! Please contact me, Sherry Roscoe, if you'd like to join us. You are welcome!!!

Board of Trustees

By: Jim Thistlewood, Associate Lay-Leader, Facility Manager



A few years ago, the Trustees explored the possibility of installing solar power to help reduce the church's utility expenses. At that time, however, the project was not financially feasible.

Earlier this spring, Sunrise Solar, the company we had previously worked with, contacted us about a new opportunity that would allow nonprofit organizations to install solar power at no cost. Through a partnership with Energize Delaware and the use of available federal tax incentives, the project is expected to be 100% funded.

No solar panels will be installed on the sanctuary roof. Instead, the panels will be placed in a location that maximizes energy production while also taking into consideration the appearance of our property.

The financial benefits of this project are significant. Based on current estimates, the solar installation is expected to offset approximately 71% of our current electricity costs, resulting in an estimated savings of about **\$1,700 per month** beginning immediately after the project is completed.

After carefully reviewing the proposal and all available information, the Trustees voted to move forward with the project. We are currently under contract with Sunrise Solar, and work is underway. The anticipated completion date is by the end of this year.

The Trustees planted a Vanilla Strawberry Hydrangea tree in memory in Memory of Sigrid Mills and her daughter Christel Solenthaler on the southwest side of the Education Building. There will be a memorial marker installed soon.



Notes from the Director of Nurture & Visitation

By: Darlene Wade



Evangelism – September Ministry Moment

Wesley has expanded the focus of our Evangelism Ministry to include a broader outreach within our community. We believe God is calling us to meet our neighbors beyond the walls of Wesley and share the Good News through acts of love, service, and kindness.

Over the past few months, a small group of members has been meeting to prayerfully discern meaningful ways for Wesley to engage with our community. Through prayer and discussion, we have identified several opportunities to reach out to our neighbors.

One of our first initiatives is to "adopt" or partner with South Dover Elementary School. We are in the early stages of developing a plan to demonstrate Wesley's support for the school by providing kindness, encouragement, and practical assistance to the staff, students, and their families. As a beginning, we would like to deliver a basket of apples to the staff on the first day of school, along with a note wishing them a wonderful school year. This is just one of the many ways we hope to support the school throughout the year.

We also plan to participate in vendor events at the YMCA, giving members of our community an opportunity to learn more about Wesley and the ministries we offer.

These are exciting opportunities, but our small team cannot accomplish them alone. We invite you to learn more during our presentation at the worship services on September 13. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining us in this ministry. Whether you can volunteer occasionally or become more actively involved, every contribution of your time and talent will make a difference.

We will be available after each service on September 13 to answer questions and share more about these outreach efforts.

Jesus told Peter, "Feed my sheep." Our challenge to each of us is to follow Peter's example by caring for Christ's flock and sharing His love with those around us.

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Wesley Branch Update

As we enjoy the warmth of summer, members of the Wesley Branches continue to visit our friends who are unable to leave their homes. These visits bring encouragement, companionship, and joy to those who may be feeling isolated.

Please keep these friends in your prayers, and consider reaching out by making a visit, sending a card, or giving them a phone call. Even a brief conversation or simple gesture of kindness can brighten someone's day more than you might imagine.

As fall approaches, watch for new opportunities to share Christ's love by bringing encouragement and joy to others. There will be several ways for everyone to get involved and make a meaningful difference.

If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Wade at darlene@wesleyumc-dover.com.

Women to Women Luncheon

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant

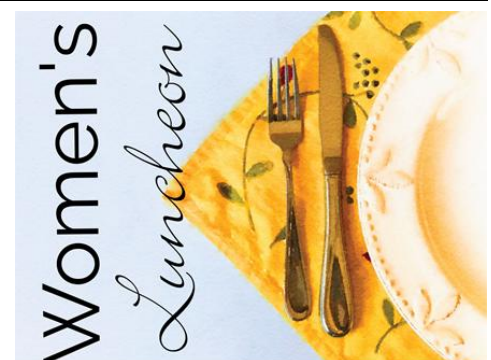
Do you have an hour or so to spare once a month for lunch?

Do you like dining at various restaurants?

Would you like to know the women in the church better?

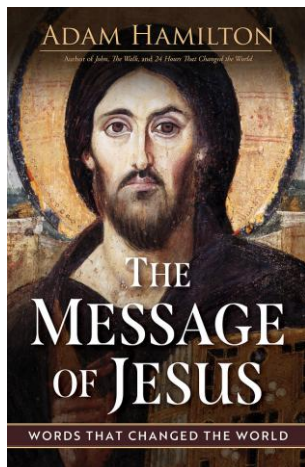
Then this group is just for you!

Women to Women is a group of women that love to gather once a month at 11:30 am, on the third Thursday, for great fellowship at various restaurants. Save the date for our September gathering, Thursday, September 17 at 11:30 AM place to be announced in the bulletin and September Crier.



Men's Bible Study

By: Jim Skeans, Bible Study Leader



The Men's Bible Study will be resuming on September 22, 2026.

Men's Bible Study – Come join us on the 1st, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7 A in the Search Class in the Education Building, and on the 3rd Tuesdays for breakfast at Hollywood Diner at 7 AM.

The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World.?

A fresh encounter with the words of Jesus. More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said.?

In this six-week study, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today.

The book will explore Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing.

All men are welcome! Come join us! If you have questions, please contact Jim Skeans at (302) 678-0974.

Search Class

By: Eunice Craig & Gigi Windley

...love the Lord God with all your heart...Matthew 22:37

All are welcome to join our Christian fellowship on Sunday mornings at 8:35 am in the Church parlor. During the summer, we meet once a month, August is our last summer session.

Sunday, August 30 Ten Commandments vs Jesus' Great Commandment, facilitated by Darlene



The weekly fall sessions resume Sunday September 13, 2026. Suggestions for study materials are welcomed!!

Joyfully serving,
Eunice and Gigi

WESLEY PRESCHOOL AND PLAYCARE

By: Oveta Fullman, Preschool Director



As summer speeds by, we continue to create wonderful memories! Get ready for an unforgettable August in our summer camps, where each week is packed with thrilling adventures.

This month, our campers will dive into the following enchanting themes:

****August 3 – August 7: Explore the Enchanted****

Step into a magical realm of fairytales! Together, we will explore the captivating worlds of princesses, knights, fairies, and dragons, all nestled within lush rainforests.

****August 10 – August 14: Summer Olympics****

Get ready for a week of exhilarating fun and games! Our activities are designed not only for enjoyment but also to help build vital social skills, foster lasting friendships, promote teamwork, and cultivate a sense of unity.

****August 17 – August 21: The Land Before Time****

Embark on a prehistoric adventure as we enter the fascinating world of dinosaurs! Join us for an archaeological dig and the chance to explore artifacts that unveil the mysteries of ancient times.

****August 24 – August 28: Superhero Training Camp**

Additionally, we are thrilled to announce visits from the Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation, who will inspire our students with lessons about Earth, space, nature, and much more.

****Please note**** Play Care and Summer Camp will be closed August 31 – September 4.

Don't miss our Preschool Parent Orientation, at 6 pm on Tuesday, August 13. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher and explore their classroom.

Kindergarten Parent Orientation, at 6 pm on Thursday, September 3.

We are accepting fall registrations for our new Kindergarten class, our vibrant 5-day 3-year-old classroom, our engaging 3-day 4-year-old classroom.

Preschool & Kindergarten testing will begin on August 3 and runs through August 10.

Let's make this August truly spectacular! We can't wait to share these experiences with you!

Celebration of Life of Alice Guerrant

Celebrating the Vibrant Life of Alice Guerrant - October 20, 1950 – May 7, 2026

We gather to celebrate the life of Alice, a remarkable woman whose warmth, dedication, and creative spirit left an indelible mark on everyone she met. Alice's life was a beautiful tapestry woven with decades of public service, deep faith, and a passion for the fiber arts.

Forty Years of Dedicated Service

In 1980, Alice moved to Delaware to begin what would become a legendary career with the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Her passion for preservation and history was so strong that after "retiring" from full-time work in 2017, she simply could not stay away, returning part-time to complete 40 years of distinguished service to the State of Delaware.

A Heart for Faith and Community

Alice was a member of Wesley Church. She lifted her voice in the choir, brought music to life playing the bells, and lovingly served on the Altar Guild. Saturday mornings at the church were uniquely Alice: she could always be found joyfully readying the sanctuary for worship, never without her trusty bottle of Diet Dr. Pepper by her side.

Creativity in Every Stitch

An avid reader and a true lover of textiles, Alice saw beauty in every thread. She channeled this passion as a proud founding member of the Thistledown Fiber Guild. Alice lived life prepared for inspiration; wherever she went, she was accompanied by a tote bag or two, always packed with a terrific book to read and a knitting project in progress.

Alice's laughter, dedication, and the creative joy she shared so freely will live on in our hearts forever.



Alice talking with Kirk Wiltshire on the Green. RIP Kirk & Alice



United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant

UMCOR: For more than 80 years, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has comes alongside individuals, families and communities at their invitation and encourages their involvement in and ownership of their recovery. UMCOR works collaboratively with local partners to connect survivors with the help they need to rebuild their lives.

100% of your donation to UMCOR goes where you specify?

When you make a gift to UMCOR, you can be assured that every dollar will go to the project you specify. To accomplish this, UMCOR uses other funding channels to cover non-program related activities such administrative overhead or communications. Your prayers, support and generosity enable UMCOR to respond when disaster strikes and be the last to leave. Together, we are rebuilding hope in the lives of those in need all over the world.

UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery (USDR) - Advance #901670

Alleviates suffering caused by disasters that overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. USDR funds immediate relief supplies, Early Response Teams (ERT), and long-term recovery such as home repairs, case management, and psychosocial support.

Global Ministries - Where Most Needed (International) - Advance #01138A

Supporting mission work through Church partners wherever there is the greatest need.

UMCOR - Where Most Needed (US) - Advance #999895

Supporting programs that fight hunger and poverty, assist the displaced, and respond to disasters.

Abundant Health Ministry - Advance #3021770

Abundant Health is The United Methodist Church's global health initiative. It increases access to health interventions in economically vulnerable communities.

If you would like to help with the recent disasters in the US and Internationally you can do so by writing a check to Wesley UMC, in the memo line put UMCOR/advance # and place in offering tray.

Thank You!

Food Pantry Donations

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant

Did you know you don't have to wait until the first Wednesday in the month to bring your food donations to the church? You may bring in your donations to the church Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm and on Sunday when you come to worship. We have a collection box located in the closet marked Food Pantry Collection under the stairwell located outside of St. Paul's Chapel for donations to be dropped off.

On **Wednesday, August 5th** from 10 - 11 am, you can drive through the Preschool Portico area to donate food for the pantry without you leaving your car. Please do not open boxes/packages with individually wrapped items and check expiration dates, no outdated food, please. Purchase small bags and boxes of food (such as cereal, pasta and rice) rather than oversized ones because food banks cannot divide them into smaller portions.

Protein Foods: Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dry Beans, and Nuts		
canned tuna	canned or dried beans	almond butter
canned chicken	baked beans	peanut butter
canned beef stews	canned chili	canned nuts
canned salmon	bean soups	
Grains: Bread, Cereal, Rice, and Pasta		
Plain rice / rice mixes	hot cereal mixes	pancake & muffin mixes
canned pastas	cold cereals	granola bars
noodle mixes	infant cereal	graham crackers
dry noodles / pastas	oatmeal	whole-grain crackers
mac/cheese mix	shredded wheat	flour
pasta mixes	bran cereal	bread
Dairy: Milk, Yogurt, and Cheese		
infant formula	evaporated milk	instant breakfast drinks
nonfat dry milk	shelf-stable (UHT) milk (small boxes)	boxed pudding/pudding cups
Vegetables and Fruits		
canned vegetables	canned tomato products	V-8 juice
vegetable soup	spaghetti sauce	baby-food vegetables
canned fruit	dried fruits	jar applesauce
raisins	baby-food fruit	fruit cups
100% fruit juice bottle	100% fruit juice boxes	applesauce cups
Oil and Condiments		
mayonnaise	spices	vegetable oil bottle/spray
syrup	jelly & jam	salad dressing
honey	tea	mustard
sugar	coffee	ketchup
Paper, Soap & Personal Care Products		
toilet paper	hand soap	shampoo/conditioner
paper towels	dish soap	toothpaste/toothbrushes
tissues	laundry soap	body soap
napkins	cleaning products	deodorant
diapers/wipes	shaving cream/razors	feminine hygiene products

Lifetime Wells founder Ken Wood passes away



Ken Wood, whose legacy will be drilling thousands of wells in Ghana, died Saturday. He was 82. Wood was the owner of Lifetime Wells and one of the founders of Lifetime Wells International, which provided clean water wells for African communities along with cataract surgeries and eyeglasses. In a 2012 story in the State News, Wood said it was a “chance” encounter that led him to Ghana. He sold a drilling rig to a York, Pennsylvania, church and they tried to persuade him to come on a mission to set it up and train them. He was not interested initially, but weeks later heard a Ghanaian man speaking at a meeting in South Carolina. “He spoke of walking three miles to a scum pond to get water, and how he was still taking shots from that years later (due to disease),” Wood told the State News. “I knew right away

that his presence was not a coincidence and that I was onto something special. Before that I had been in the dark, but my life literally changed at that meeting.” Wood and Lifetime Wells International have drilled thousands of wells. One district in Ghana anointed him as the Chief of Living Water in 2007. On May 15, 2024, Wood was honored by the MOT Rotary Club in Middletown for his efforts and received more than \$8,710 from a variety of First State organizations.

The donations provided thirty-two cataract surgeries and 311 pairs of glasses for vision-challenged Ghanaians. At the ceremony held in Middletown, Rotary Club spokesperson John Nanni told the State News, “The good that Ken does is just amazing. “We knew exactly how the money would be utilized and that we would know the results.” Wood said at the time he used two doctors to perform the surgeries for Ghanaians. He called the clubs’ contributions “very, very important to us.” “I was sweating the whole time how I was going to fund it,” he added. The other local Rotary contributors were the clubs of Southern New Castle County, Newark, Newark Morning, Caesar Rodney, Camden-Wyoming and Dover Capital City. Dr. Greg Hansen also donated, along with Sally and Al Scarpitti. As of April 23, 2024, his organization had facilitated 13,624 cataract surgeries, 35,626 pairs of glasses and 94,354 bacterial blindness treatments.

In 2012 in Harrington, Heather Moffett created the fundraising “Polar Mare Plunge” to support building Wells in Ghana. Participants jumped into a horse pond on her Prairie Meadows family farm and more than \$6,000 in pledges was received. Moffett said at the time she was acquainted with Wood through the horse racing industry and decided to assist his mission out of respect for him. Additionally, she said, ““I tell people that when I grow up I want to be Kenny Wood. “That’s how much I look up to him. He’s a superhero, but super-heroes need help.” According to Wood at the time, “Once you get over there and see the people suffering from their water source, it’s much easier to keep coming back.”

Freshwater was flowing daily in Ghana, and Wood estimated more than 500,000 Ghanaians had benefited from that.

According his obituary, Wood was a Denton resident who died after a lengthy illness.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, friends make memorial donations to Lifetime Wells International, 24321 Shore Hwy, Denton, MD 21629.

By Craig Anderson, Daily State News

UWF Annual School Supplies Drive

We all know the summer months will fly by, and it will soon be time to return to school before we are ready. That's why we are being pro-active in announcing the United Women in Faith's annual school supplies collection of items to go to our local school district.

You will find the collection box in the library beginning August 2, and continuing through Sunday, August 30, 2026.

Here is a sample list of supplies requested.

Basic school items classrooms

Backpack (**no wheels!**)
Pencils #2
Pink Pearl pencil top or large erasers
Crayola crayons 24 pack
sizes
Colored pencils
Highlighters
Glue **sticks** (**only**)
Dry erase markers
Scissors (**blunt point**)
Covered pencil sharpener
Pencil box or zippered pouch
1-subject notebooks
Composition Notebooks
Pocket folders
Loose-leaf notebook paper
3-ring binders 1" size
Binder dividers

Health and helpful items for

Boxes of Tissues
Disinfecting wipes-Clorox, WetOnes
Hand sanitizer
Zip close bags - gallon, quart or sandwich





AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
2 8 am Worship 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	3 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm Pickleball	4 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm DCS 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 7 pm Church Council	5 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm NA 6:30 pm Moving On Studies	6 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	7 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	8 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
9 8 am Worship 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	10 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm Pickleball	11 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm DCS 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6:30 pm Missions	12 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm NA 6:30 pm Moving On Studies	13 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	14 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	15 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
16 8 am Worship 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	17 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm Pickleball	18 7 am Men's Bible Study (Breakfast) 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm Parent Orientation 6:30 pm Trustees	19 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm NA 6:30 pm Moving On Studies	20 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	21 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	22 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
23 8 am Worship 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	24 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm Pickleball	25 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	26 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm NA 6:30 pm Moving On Studies	27 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	28 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	29 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
30 8 am Worship 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	31 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm Pickleball					

United Women in Faith

(Non-Profit Organization)



**ONE DAY ONLY - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026
SHOP 8AM - 11PM**

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*Exclusions apply. For more details visit [boscovs.com/category/friends-helping-friends-event](https://www.boscovs.com/category/friends-helping-friends-event)