

AUGUST 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

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his great wisdom, King Solomon reminds us that, "There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens" (Eccl. 3:1, CEB). This informs us that change is inevitable and we can welcome it with holiness and grace. Our church has experienced much change in the last month or so. I am grateful for Rev. Martha Ognibene, her leadership and ministry, and the legacy she leaves behind here at Wesley Church. I am grateful for your warm welcome, thoughtful hospitality, and holy conversations. I am grateful to be serving as your pastor and look forward to our ministry together.

My first month at Wesley Church was spent listening and learning, and that will certainly continue well into the future. In beginning a new appointment, I find that one of the best ways to get to know people and their hopes, dreams, and visions for our church is to simply listen. By listening, we can learn. Whether it is before or after worship on Sunday, during a visitation, in a church meeting or gathering, or out in the community, continue sharing those with me. Together we will gather, grow, and go!

**Mon County School
First Day
Tuesday, August 18th**



**WVU Fall
Semester
Tuesday, August 18th**

As we begin the month of August, the future looks very bright! Take a good look at our newsletter and add our ministry opportunities to your calendar. As United Methodists, we make a commitment in our baptismal covenant to, "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." In this season, reaffirm this holy covenant made at your baptism and know that you are an integral part of our ministry at Wesley Church. There is a place for you! Read, share, and invite. But above all, participate. That is God's calling for each of us.

Lastly, our church is making a big commitment to you. This fall we will be offering ministries for the whole family and providing ways for everyone to be engaged in the full life of the church. You can catch a glimpse of that in this newsletter, and we'll share more details in next month's edition. Be excited and get ready for a new season!

Grace & Peace.

Pastor Michael



Prayer Walk

Join Pastor Michael on Sunday, August 9 at 7:00pm for a PRAYER WALK around WVU's downtown campus as a new academic year soon begins. The walk will be about a mile and we should return within an hour. Meet in the Davis Gym. If it rains, the walk will be in the gym. If you can't make it, pause where you are and pray with us - for students, parents and families, administration, faculty, staff, and our community. We pray not only for WVU, but for all schools in the Morgantown area and beyond!



Success!
Success!



Thank
You!!

School Supply Drive

Scott's Run Settlement House School Supply Drive

THANK YOU Wesley Church!! Over 514 school supplies were collected and delivered on Thursday, July 30th.

Donations delivered:

54 Backpacks / 74 Spiral Notebooks / 32 Composition Notebooks
 45 Packs of Paper / 6 Pencil Sharpeners / 30 Folders
 2 Three Ring Binders / 39 Packs of Markers
 19 Packs of Colored Pencils / 58 Boxes of Crayons / 8 Rulers
 2 Water Bottles / 26 Packs of Glue Sticks / 8 Bottles of Glue
 11 Pairs of Scissors / 16 Packs of Erasers / 3 Lunch Boxes & Pencil Boxes /
 44 Packs of Pencils / 2 Dry Erase Markers / 11 Packs of Highlighters / 4
 Packs of Sharpies / 20 Packs of Pens

SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO SCHOOL SUPPLY ORGANIZERS:

Ann Gore and grandchildren, Addy and Grayson!!!

Wesley Kids' Volunteers Needed!!



Volunteers are needed for Wesley Kids. Are you someone who would want to help with a "one time" activity or would want to substitute teach, or help on a permanent basis? We would love to have you as part of our team!

Thank you for prayerfully considering using your talents and share the love of God with our young people!

Please complete the form below and drop in the offering plate or return to the church office.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to help with the Wesley Kids' Ministry in the following way (s):

Sunday School:

_____ Sunday School Teacher _____ Children _____ Youth

_____ Substitute Teacher _____ Children _____ Youth

_____ Music

_____ Skits

_____ Crafts



Nursery Volunteer (Nursery will be from ages birth through 5 years of age)

_____ Yes, I would like to volunteer

For more information, please contact Lya Stroupe at
lyastroupe@comcast.net



Calling ALL Children, Youth, & Volunteers!

There will be an informational gathering on Sunday, August 30th at 9:30 a.m. in the Choir Room (3rd Floor). Parents, Children, Youth, and interested volunteers are invited to come and learn more about opportunities for the upcoming school year AND offer your hopes, dreams and ideas for our children's and youth ministries. Please share this information and invite others to join us.

Christian Education Sunday & Wesley Kids KickOff Event!!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 13th!

9:30 a.m. ~ 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School Meet & Greet for all ages!

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Food, Fellowship, & Fun in the gym!

As we prepare to celebrate our Christian education ministries and kickoff our children's and youth ministries for another school year, it's time to get excited! This coming year we are committed to offering ministries for the whole family and to provide ways for everyone to be engaged in the full life of the church. Get Ready! More information will be shared soon.

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. Email or call the church office 304-292-9485 if you would like to attend or for more information.

Everyone can join
in on all events!

MONTHLY EVENTS

Look for event details in
upcoming bulletins & newsletters!

AUGUST

BLACK BEARS
GAME

SEPTEMBER

BOWLING

OCTOBER

FOREST
FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER

BOARD GAMES

DECEMBER

WHITE
ELEPHANT
BINGO

JANUARY

PAINT BOWLS
FOR EMPTY
BOWLS

FEBRUARY

WVU WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL

MARCH

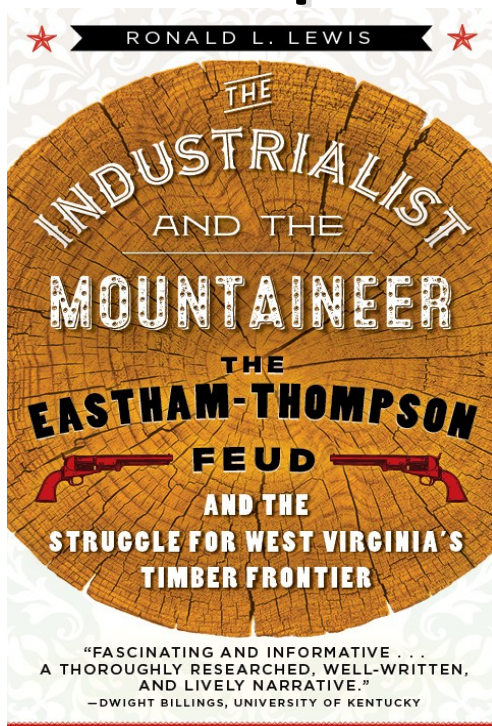
ESCAPE
ROOM

Wesley Fellowship August Event

BlackBears baseball game & Fireworks!
Friday, August 21st ~ 7:00 p.m.

***More details TBA**
Seat Section/Ticket Price
Pre-Game Dinner meet-up?

Social Group Events Wesley Adults & friends are welcome!



AUGUST EVENT

Friday, August, 14th,
7:00 pm

"West Virginia
Statehood:
Revolution and
Counterrevolution"

Dr. Ron Lewis
Professor Emeritus and
Former Chairman, WVU
Department of History

Dr. Lewis's area of
specialization is West
Virginia and Appalachian
history.

Join us in the
Lecture Room and be sure
to bring a snack, dip, or
dessert to share with
everyone.

UPCOMING EVENTS-SAVE THE DATE!

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 / maduva1@yahoo.com if
you would like to attend.

Concerts In The Loft

Schnell & Paris



The Morgantown, West Virginia duo of Schnell & Paris combines the instrumental, vocal, and songwriting talents of guitarist Terry Schnell and pianist Steve Paris to deliver acoustic classics, rarely covered gems, and originals that take the listener from a Chicago music club to a cottage on the Oregon coast and out onto the metaphoric sea of life. Terry's voice has drawn comparisons to James Taylor, and his guitar style ranges from nimble fingerpicking to percussive strumming. Steve is a veteran of several bands who builds on Terry's guitar and voice with masterful piano accompaniment, rocking solos, and tasteful vocal harmonies.

SUN-AUG 9th-5PM

GREAT MUSIC FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS

Free Concert & Parking compliments of

Wesley UMC

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

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

2026 Concert Series

September 13: Kittens Ain't Biscuits Concerts start at 5:00 PM	October 4: Jeff Miller November 8: Lady D December 13: Jenny & Nathan	Concerts start at 5:00 PM
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CONCERTS & PARKING are FREE
~ Compliments of Wesley UMC ~

ALTAR GUILD ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

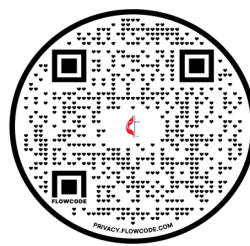
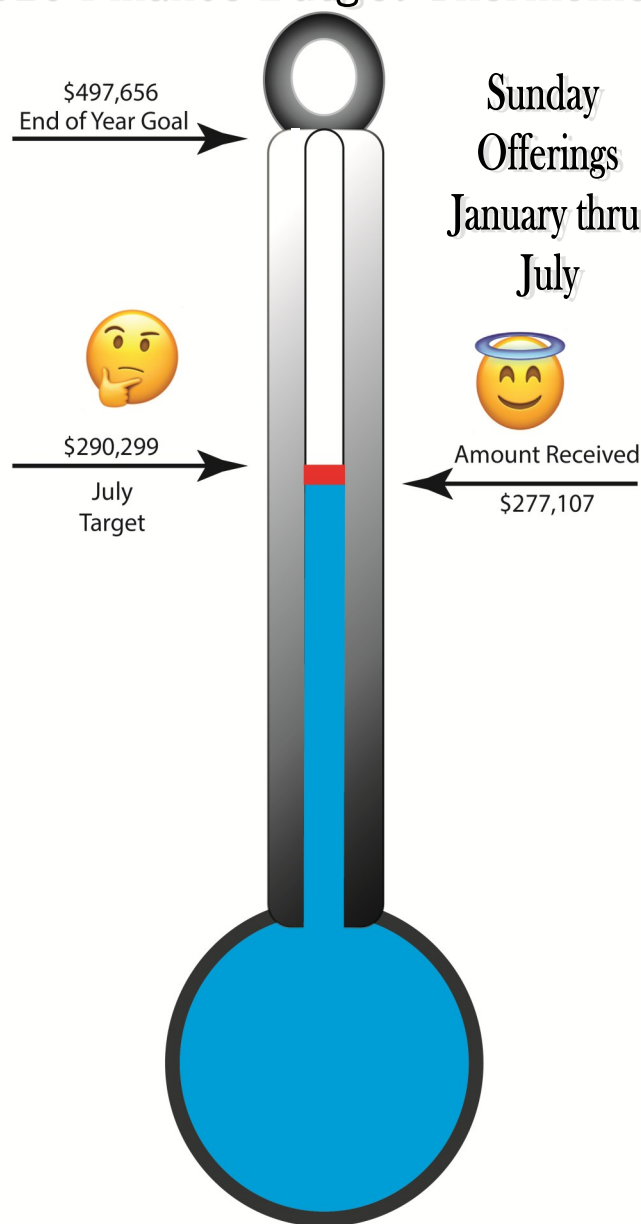


Would you like to dedicate flowers to someone special in your life? Sunday altar flowers can be given in loving memory of in honor of your loved ones or a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, baptism, etc.). Altar Guild member Michelle Smith handles all flower arrangements. To place a dedication please contact Michelle at 304-216-8870 or email her at michelle012067@gmail.com.

OPEN DATES:

August 23rd and 30th

2026 Finance Budget Thermometer



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

Support Our Disaster Response Ministries!

TWO WAYS to HELP Flood Victims!!

1. Wesley Church is collecting WV Flood Disaster Relief donations (check: memo line Flood Relief or cash) thru Sunday, August 30th.



2. Scan the QR Code with your smartphone to learn about ways you can support our Disaster Response Ministries in the West Virginia Annual Conference. You can also visit <https://www.wvumc.org/new-vision-depot>.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those affected by recent flooding, as well as those responding in disaster relief!

Wesley Book Club - Zoom Only

7:30 PM - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays



(August 4th and 18th)

Book Club Leader - Mary Ragland



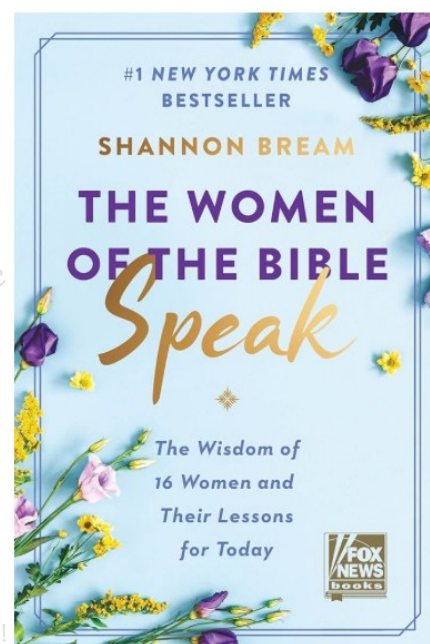
**Wesley
Magnetic
Nametag**

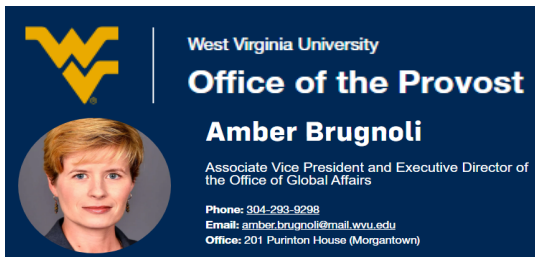
**Reminder to please wear your
nametag at worship service.
It's a wonderful way for our
church family to get acquainted
with each other. Thank you!**

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.

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!





Supporting International Students & Other Immigrants during an Ever-Changing Landscape

Join Us on Wednesday, August 2nd ~ 2:00 PM

You are cordially invited to join us on Wednesday, August 5th at 2 p.m., in Haden Chapel, when the Wesley United Women in Faith, together with our new Love Your Neighbor group, are sponsoring a talk about immigration and related issues in our community by a

noted local attorney and academic administrator. We are fortunate to have as speaker, L. Amber Brugnoli, J.D., Ph.D., who is Associate Vice-President and Executive Director for Global Affairs at WVU. Plan to attend and invite friends, especially those directly affected by these problems. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sandra Putnam at sputnam1@gmail.com or 304-210-8865.

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP EVENT (rescheduled from July cancellation)

Join West Virginia Botanic Garden member, Linda Bagby for a tour of the Garden Saturday, August 15th at 10:00 a.m. Meet on the Education Center deck. The walk lasts about 1 1/2 hours on the 3/4 mile level trail. We will see the special art exhibit by WV native Blanche Lazell on this walk. The café at the Visitors Center will be open if anyone wants to have lunch afterward. Please notify us of your attendance on your Sunday Connection Card or contact the church office at wesleymorgantown@gmail.com or 304-292-9485 by Friday, August 14th.

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

EASY WAY to contribute to Wesley



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](https://www.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!

**~ Prayer Shawl Ministry ~
Tuesday, August 4th
10:00 AM - Lecture Room
If you can knit, crochet
or would like to learn
please join us!**

August Committee Meetings

Staff Meeting

Monday, August 3rd—10:00 a.m.

Finance Meeting

Tuesday, August 11th — 6:00 PM

Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, August 11th — 7:00 PM

SPRC Meeting

Wednesday, August 13th—6:30 p.m.

Administrative Council

Monday, August 17th — 7:00 PM

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.



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

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

Location: LIFE UMC (Fairmont, WV)

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

**Saturday,
September 5th Noon
Kick Off!!**



**WVU
Mountaineers
vs
Coastal Carolina
Chanticleers**

August Lectionary Readings

Wednesday Lectionary Study on summer break

August 2nd-Tenth Sunday

after Pentecost

Gen 32:22-31 / Ps 17:1-7, 15

Rom 9:1-5 / Matt 14:13-21

August 9th-Eleventh Sunday

after Pentecost

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28 / Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Rom 10:5-15 / Matt 14:22-33

August 16th- Twelfth Sunday

after Pentecost

Gen 45:1-15 / Ps 133

Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32 / Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 23rd-Thirteenth Sunday

after Pentecost

Exod 1:8-2:10 / Ps 124

Rom 12:1-8 / Matt 16:13-20

August 30th-Fourteenth Sunday

after Pentecost

Exod 3:1-15 / Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Rom 12:9-21 / Matt 16:21-28



All Saints' Sunday ~ November 1, 2026



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." - Hebrews 12:1

What a comfort it is to know that our saints, our loved ones who have gone before us, are not just taking their ease in Heaven, but that they are with us and cheering us on as we strive to live like Jesus. On All Saints Sunday, we remember and celebrate the saints that surround us: departed family, friends, mentors, and special persons who have touched our lives.

To remind ourselves that we are surrounded by loved ones who cheer for us from Heaven, we will be making banners with the names of all our saints. We'll hang these banners, along with the banners & names we've created since 2022, in the church from All Saints Sunday-November 1st- until the first Sunday of Advent. Please fill out the form below listing your beloved saints and return it to the church office by October 4th. We are asking for a donation of one dollar per name; the money raised will go toward our Conference apportionments, and you can submit your donation with your list of names. However, whether you can give a donation or not, please turn in the names of your saints. Let's be surrounded by our saints' names, just as we are surrounded by their supportive love!

The saints named by _____

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

Wesley's Social Group Visit to Heritage Arthur Dale, WV!







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

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

Save the date! Women of Faith Event



Tuesday, October 13th

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Peace Hall

Hosted by The Catholic Daughters

\$20 per person

Food ~ Fellowship ~ Raffles (Quilt & Baskets)

Worship in the Park!



Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic

Plans are in the making

for sometime in the early fall!

Be on the lookout for details...

We will need many helping hands :)

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Morgantown, WV

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