

SEPTEMBER 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 Church Family & Friends,

A friend of mine once told me, "You're crazy!" To be honest, I've been told those words many times before. But on this particular occasion I told him that I was excited for summer break to end and the new school year to begin. Maybe I was crazy for saying those words as a high school student. But maybe I was longing for something. That something was getting back to a place where I could learn and grow. That something was more time for friends to confide in and even challenge me. That something was new opportunities to share my gifts and serve. That something was to be with a diverse group of peers, knowing that we were better together.

What do you long for? A place to learn and grow? Friends to confide in and challenge you? Opportunities to share your gifts and serve? To be with many and yet live as one? Then let your summer break come to an end and let me welcome you back to Wesley Church! As we begin a new season, there is a place for you. It's the place you belong! We gather together to worship God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We grow together in faith and in the knowledge and wisdom of God. And we go together as disciples of Jesus Christ to love and serve God and neighbor.

Our faith is important. Our faith journey is important. And we should look forward to what is ahead in the life of our church. You're not crazy for being excited or making a commitment to the church. That is your witness to the Holy Spirit at work within you! The Apostle Paul admonishes us, "...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship" (Romans 12:1, NRSVUE).

I ask you to be present. Be present however you can and in whatever way you can. You matter to us and you matter to God. Your faith matters to us and your faith matters to God. Take a few moments to read through our newsletter. We are revamping our nursery program, strengthening our children and youth ministries, and continuing to offer ministry opportunities for college students and adults alike. Give thanks for what God has done. Pray for what God will do. And may we will follow Jesus through it all. Let's gather, grow, and go together!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Michael



**Wesley Church
will be closed
Monday, Sept 7th
Have a safe
& happy holiday!**



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!

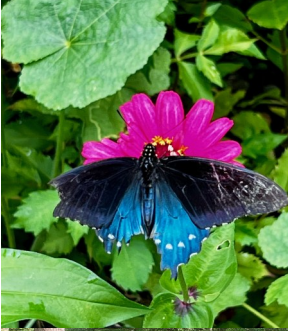
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Food, Fellowship, & Fun in the gym!

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!

Wesley Kids' Volunteer form...it's not too late to be a part of Children's Ministry at Wesley! Sunday School Teacher, Music, Skits, Crafts and so much more is planned for our kids and we need helping hands. Stop by the Welcome table and grab a Volunteer form, fill it out, and leave it on the church office desk. Thank you!



The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains,



The world, and those who dwell in it. Psalm 24:1



Fellowship Trip to the Botanic Garden & Pastor Michael's Prayer Walk



"Lord, let your presence
be known to them."



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!

2027

OCTOBER

FOREST
FESTIVAL

MOUNTAINLAIR...is the place to have FUN!!



Bowling, Billards, & Ping Pong!!

Tuesday, September 15th

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

\$7 per person

Parking will be free and available in Wesley's Parking Lot (Wesley parking permit will be required).

Contact the Church Office at 304-292-9485/Connection Card/wesleymorgantown@gmail.com

We hope you will join us for few hours of fun!

NOVEMBER

BOARD GAMES

JANUARY
PAINT BOWLS
FOR EMPTY
BOWLS

FEBRUARY

WVU WOMENS
BASKETBALL

DECEMBER

WHITE
ELEPHANT
BINGO

MARCH

ESCAPE
ROOM

October Fellowship Event

Save the Date for the 88th Forest Festival
"Autumn in Color"
September 26 – October 4, 2026



Wesley is going Saturday, October 3rd
Interested in going? Notify the church office.

Wesley Social Group

Events Adults & friends are welcome!



"Mars: The Ultimate Voyage"

Friday, September 11th

Our group reservation has been filled, but there are still available seats for this show!!

UPCOMING EVENTS-SAVE THE DATE!

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.



Concerts In The Loft

Kittens Ain't Biscuits

SUN → SEPT 13 → 5PM

Concerts In The Loft

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

2026 Concert Series

October 4: Jeff Miller
November 8: Lady D
December 13: Jenny & Nathan

Concerts start at 5:00 PM

CONCERTS & PARKING are FREE
~ compliments of Wesley UMC ~

Free Concert & Parking compliments of

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

Schnell & Paris was a great show! Only 4 more concerts left for 2026...join us!!

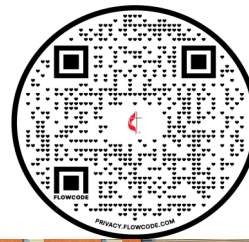
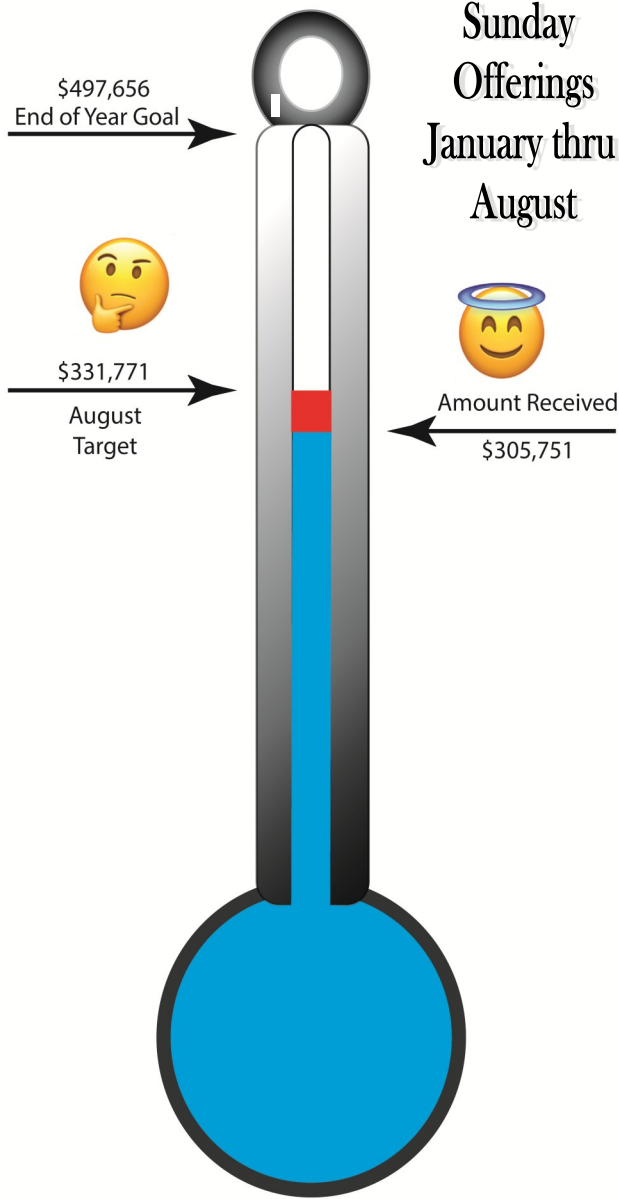


Saturday,
September 5th Noon
Kick Off!!

 **WVU Mountaineers**
vs
Coastal Carolina Chanticleers

Wesley Book Club - Zoom Only
7:30 PM - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
(Sept 1st and 15th)
Book Club Leader - Mary Ragland

2026 Finance Budget Thermometer



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



**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

**UMYF: Fall Start Back Sept 13th
*United Methodist Youth
Formation
ALL YOUTH (6th thru 12th grade)
WELCOME!**

Youth Leaders Chad & Arielle Harvey
Contact info: 304-619-9441 /
simplysouthernphotographywu@gmail.com

NURSERY 2.0



Many thanks to those who were able to give monetary donations to help us buy furniture and toys for our nursery. We were able to purchase all the items on our list and have a little left over to help us with a few things that may be needed in the future. We appreciate you helping us take care of our very youngest at Wesley!



ALTAR GUILD

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: Sept 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

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



The Chancel Choir will begin this season on September 2nd. Choir practices are held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Choir Room on the third floor.

NEW and SEASONED voices are welcome to join us! Chancel Choir sings every week at the 11:00 am Sunday service and occasionally at the 8:30 am service. The Chancel Choir offers a variety of musical selections. This is a great time for people who want to start singing in the choir to join. For more information, contact Lya Stroupe lyastroupe@comcast.net for more information.

~ Prayer Shawl Ministry ~
Tuesday, September 1st
(next date: October 6th)
10:00 AM - Lecture Room
If you can knit, crochet
or would like to learn
please join us!

September Committee Meetings

Nominations Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 17th—6:30 p.m.

Staff Meeting
Monday, September 28th—10:00 a.m.

Finance Meeting / Trustees
SPRC / Admin Council

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. Wesley's Nomination Committee Meeting will meet in Haden Chapel. Please notify the church office or Pastor Michael of your attendance.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) getting ready for fall start-up!

Ladies, if you are interested in an in-depth Bible study, you are welcome to join the BSF Class. We meet in the choir room on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. For thirty weeks, our study will be "Romans: From Guilt to Grace" BSF is an international organization with classes in many countries around the world. There are women in our class from several Morgantown area churches. Contact Ann Gore to join this study. We appreciate Wesley for providing a place to study, and thank Alber Kaminsky, Wesley's Building Custodian, for setting up each week. Please note that parking is provided until reserved spaces in church parking lot fill up.

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.



SUNDAY *Worship in the Park!* **PICNIC**
OCTOBER  **TO**
11TH **FOLLOW!**
10:30 AM ONE SERVICE ONLY
Westside Senior Center (Pavilion)

More Info TBA



Scott's Run Backpack Feeding Program START BACK DATE!! Wed. Sept 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 12:00 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



♥ All Pets. All Loved. ♥

PET BLESSING

A SERVICE OF THANKING GOD FOR OUR PETS AND THE CREATED ORDER

OCTOBER 11TH
2:00 PM

At the Pavilion next to Spruce Street
 United Methodist Church on
 Fayette and Spruce Streets.

Bring your furry, scaly,
 smooth, and feather
 friends for a celebration
 of their companionship
 and gifts of love they
 bring to the world.

PLEASE BRING DOG FOOD, CAT FOOD,
 OR KITTEN LITTER
 FOR THE MON COUNTY
 CANINE ADOPTION CENTER.

A MINISTRY OF THE
 MORGANTOWN URBAN/EAST UNITED METHODIST PARISH
 AND THE WVU UNITED METHODIST CAMPUS MINISTRY

SUNDAYS: Open Gym Time

Parents and Children who attend the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sundays are welcome to have some free play time in the Davis Gym directly following the second service until 12:45 p.m.

EVERY CHILD
regardless of age
HAS TO BE
accompanied by a
parent.

There will be times that the Davis Gym is reserved for other events, therefore, **OPEN GYM TIME** will be canceled for that day.

Other than equipment provided there will be no outside equipment allowed in the gym.

NOTE: children will not have access or are permitted to be on the stage for safety reasons.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,
 Wesley Staff



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!

Contact the church office if you are in need of a nametag!

September Lectionary Readings

Sept 6th-Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exod 12:1-14 / Ps 149 or Ps 148
 Rom 13:8-14 / Matt 18:15-20

Sept 13th-Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

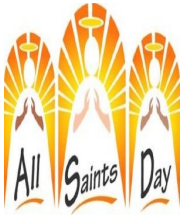
Exod 14:19-31 / Exod 15:1b-11, 20-21
 Rom 14:1-12 / Matt 18:21-35

Sept 20th-Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exod 16:2-15 / Ps 105:1-6, 37-45 or Ps 78
 Phil 1:21-30 / Matt 20:1-16

Sept 27th-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



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.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.



Women of Faith Gathering

When: Tuesday, October 13, 2026

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

**Where: St. Mary RC Church ~ Peace Hall
3346 University Avenue
Morgantown WV 26505**



*Building brighter futures for
youth and young women in
West Virginia.*

The Women of Faith Gathering invites women and men of all faith backgrounds for an ecumenical experience of fellowship and outreach. This year the Catholic Daughters from St. Mary's Church are hosting the event and they have chosen Libera for their outreach ministry. This event will have a program and a guest speaker with a focus on Libera, basket and quilt raffle, and food by Mama K's. We hope you will join us!

Request: Gift Basket Donations from each church or group of members

All donations will directly support Libera.

If you plan to attend this event, please send \$20 cash or check
(payable to Wesley UMC and memo: Women of Faith Gathering)
with the RSVP form below by October 1, 2026 to:

**Wesley UMC
503 N. High Street
Morgantown, WV 26505**

— — — Event Registration Form / Detach and Return with Payment — — —

Name: _____ will attend the Women of Faith Gathering
Additional guest names list on back of this form

Cell or Home phone: _____

Payment: \$20.00

Check # _____ (payable to Wesley UMC) or Cash \$ _____

Church Community where you attend: _____

**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

PARADES & HOSPITALITY!!

**Helping hands and smiling faces are needed
for our parade hospitality outreach.**

All ages are welcome to be a part of Wesley's Parade Hospitality Group! Be a part of outreach that serves the community during a fun and energized parade. Volunteers arrive one hour before the parade begins and will prepare cold and/or hot beverages then serve at two locations: Davis Gym doors and Church entrance Willey Street (stone steps). Below are dates for upcoming parades will be Downtown Morgantown:

Mon County Fair Parade: Tuesday, September 8th @ 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers for fair parade arrive at 6:00 p.m.

UHS Homecoming Parade: week of Oct 2nd @ time TBS

MHS Homecoming Parade: week of Oct 9th @ time TBS

WVU Homecoming Parade

Friday, Oct. 16th ~ 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers for WVU parade arrive at 5:30 p.m.

Pride Parade: date & time TBA

Veterans Day Parade: Nov 11th @ time TBA

Christmas Parade: date & time TBA

Volunteer times will be announced. Contact Karen Kelley King at 304-282-8478 to participate.

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Morgantown, WV

Permit No. 178

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