

Wesley Journal Newsletter

JANUARY 2026



Sunday Worship Times



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

Pastor's Corner



Martha Ognibene
Pastor

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Through your generosity and faithfulness, Wesley United Methodist Church was able to pay both our District and Conference Fair Share Apportionments in full in 2025. Your giving has helped people all around the world and right here at home to know the love of Jesus in both physical and spiritual ways. You have traveled with missionaries this past year, and built churches and hospitals and schools; you have helped to fund Africa University, and taught agricultural and water-management skills; you have sent teachers and doctors, and given hope to those in need through Scotts Run Settlement House and our other Conferences agencies; you have spread the gospel to those who hadn't heard and lived out the gospel to those who had. You have done great things through your Apportionment giving, and I thank you!

A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright,
even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you
when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
for the year ahead.

~Anonymous



As a new year begins, I encourage you to remain faithful in your giving: not all of the world's problems are fixed just yet. Just as God's grace is constantly—always—available to us, so we in the United Methodist Church are always working to help others in Christ's name. I thank you for your past participation in sharing love here and everywhere, and invite you to continue to take advantage of the great gift God has given us: to be able to give generously of our time, our talents, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Let's bring the Kingdom of God closer this year!

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ Tuesday, Jan 6, 2026!

10:00 AM - Lecture Room

If you can knit, crochet or would like to learn please join us!

CALLING ALL MIDDLE-AND HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS!

We will be launching **The Sanctuary Youth Series** on January 11 at 9:30 AM! This series of 8 sessions explores questions about faith and mental health. Every week we will focus on a different topic with a film, discussion, exercises, and prayer. The class will be facilitated by Pastor Martha and Kelsey Stancliffe, Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Parents are invited to continue the conversations at home through use of the Parent and Caregiver's Guide available at sanctuarymentalhealth.org/youth. You can also contact Martha for a copy.



Are you a person-or the parent of a person-who is 10 years old or older and interested in joining Wesley UMC? Confirmation Class will be held later this spring (It's a 3-week class about God, Jesus, the Bible, Church history, the United Methodist Church, and church membership), and new members will be welcomed following it. Please contact Martha Ognibene if you or your child is interested, and we'll set the schedule!

HOLIDAY MISSION OUTREACH PROJECTS provided generous support!!

SCOTT'S RUN CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

Many thanks to all who donated to Scott's Run Christmas Families outreach. Wesley was able to bless the staff at Scott's Run with \$1,700.00 to fulfill families Christmas wishes!!

CHRISTMAS GOODIE BAGS *for the needy!*

Mon County Girl Scouts had a Christmas Goodie Bag packing party on Monday, Dec 22nd and filled 100 bags!! Thank you to all that gave donations!! 50 bags were given out at the Christmas Day meal and the remaining bags are going to the Warming Shelter located on West Run Road.

ENJOY COUPON BOOKS

Wesley's Church is selling the NEW Enjoy Coupon books for \$40 each. All proceeds will be applied to Wesley's 2026 final apportionment obligation. Books have been ordered and will be distributed from the Church Office when they arrive.

Please notify the church office at 304-292-9485 or wesleymorgantown@gmail.com if you would like to place an order.

29 books left to sell!



Wesley Book Club - Zoom Only

7:30 PM - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

(January 6th & 20th)

Book Club Leader - Mary Ragland

304-282-1947 / mhragland5@yahoo.com

Please contact for more info.

January book study is on

Immortal Diamond by Richard Rohr



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. **Study starts back on Wednesday, January 7th.**

January Lectionary Scriptures

January 4th—Epiphany Sunday

Jer 30:7-14

Ps 147:12-20

Eph 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 11th—Baptism of the Lord

Isa 42:1-9

Ps 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matt 3:13-17

January 18th—Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isa 49:1-7

Ps 40:1-11

1 Cor 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

January 25th—Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Isa 9:1-4

Ps 27:1, 4-9

1 Cor 1:10-18

Matt 4:12-23

FINANCIAL NEWS

2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements that include 2025 offerings will be mailed the week of January 12th. Please notify the church office if you do not receive your statement by the end of January.

CONTRIBUTION LETTER

Anyone that provides their Wesley UMC (nonprofit organization) Sunday offerings or special offerings from their Retirement Accounts and requires a donation letter please notify Wesley's Bookkeeper, Coleman Guenther at wesleymorgantownfinance@gmail.com.

2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

2026 Offertory Envelopes are ready to be picked up. Stop by the Lecture Room and grab your box. Anyone that would like to provide their Sunday offering with your very own set of envelopes, please stop by the table and fill out the information needed and a box will be assigned. Thank You!



A Christmas Cantata enjoyed by Wesley families & friends!

Sunday, December 14th

"Is He?"



Scripture with Traditional
&

Contemporary Music
Music and Lyrics by

Michael Elyard

Lyrics by Beth Elyard



CHANCEL CHOIR

Wesley's Chancel Choir will start back on Wednesday, January 14th at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Floor in the Choir Room. New voices are welcome!

Concerts In The Loft

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

2026 Concert Series

March 8
Aurora Celtic

August 9
Schnell & Paris

April 12
Damon Buxton

September 13
Kittens Ain't Biscuits

May 3
Gary Antol

October 4
Jeff Miller

June 14
Carol Markstrom

November 8
Lady D

July 5
Miss Freddye's Trio

December 13
Jenny & Nathan

CONCERTS & PARKING are FREE ~ Compliments of Wesley UMC

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

***College Study will start back on Sunday, JAN 18TH**

UMYF *United Methodist Youth Formation)

ALL YOUTH (6th thru 12th grade) WELCOME!

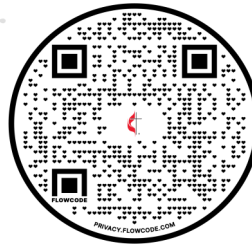
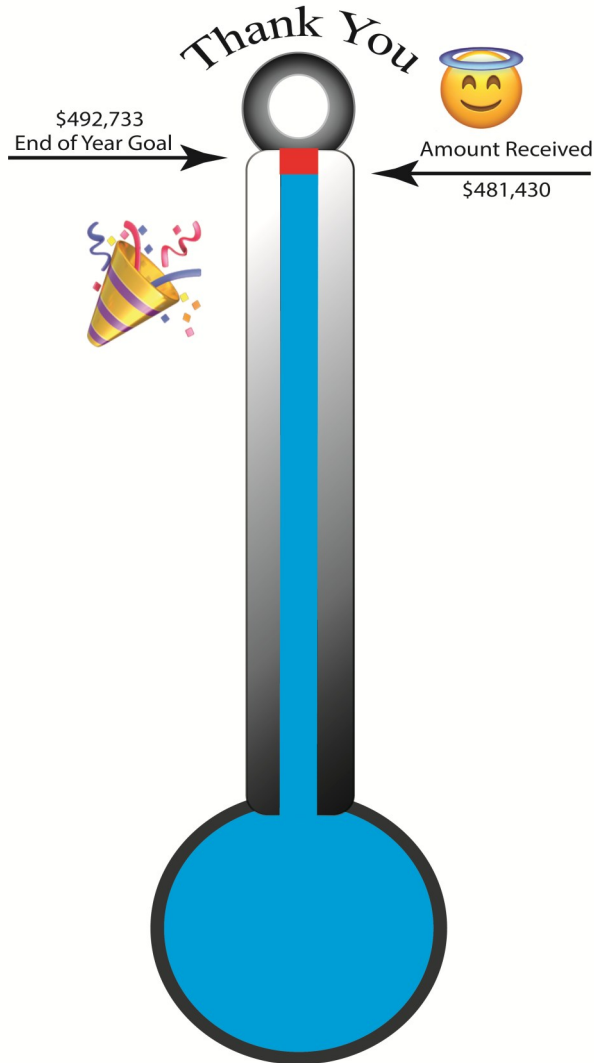
Youth Leaders Chad & Arielle Harvey

Contact info: 304-619-9441 / simplysouthernphotographywv@gmail.com

Youth are invited to bring a friend!!

***Youth will start back Sunday, Jan 4th**

2025 Finance Budget Thermometer Sunday Offerings Jan - Dec



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



SAVE
the
DATE
Soup & Bread Luncheon

FEBRUARY 28, 2026
11 AM - 2:30 PM

Hazel & J.W. Ruby Community Center

Tickets are \$25

\$10 Children 12 & Under (no bowl)

FREE Children 2 & under

Wesley UMC is selling tickets!

Contact the church office at

304-292-9485 or email

wesleymorgantown@gmail.com.



Backpack Feeding Program Scott's Run Wednesday, January 14th - 12:30 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—so, October 8 this month—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

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: January 11th, 18th, and 25th

HELPING HANDS NEEDED!

Be sure to join us on Saturday, January 10, as we nestle the Christmas decorations gently into their long cozy sleep...the Altar Guild will be "undecorating" the Sanctuary and first floor, and we could use your help! See you at church on January 10 at 9:30 AM.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - WESLEY CHURCH 2026

Jan 10	MHS Spanish Honorary	Joyce Hu	681-214-5438
Jan 11	OPEN		
Jan 31, Feb 1	Morgantown North Rotary	Cathie Falvey	304-282-8594
Feb 14, 15	Faithseekers Class	Linda Bagby	304-599-5676
Mar 14, 15	Gabi & Mark Smith	Gabi Votta Smith	304-319-2490
Apr 11	MHS Spanish Honorary	Joyce Hu	681-214-5438
Apr 12	OPEN		
May 9, 10	Young Life	Brian Shirak	304-771-0962
May 30, 31	Morgantown North Rotary	Cathie Falvey	304-282-8594
June 13	Service League	Donna Tennant	304-449-1410
June 14	OPEN		
July 11, 12	OPEN		
Aug 8	Service League	Donna Tennant	304-449-1410
Aug 9	OPEN		
Aug 29, 30	Morgantown North Rotary	Cathie Falvey	304-282-8594
Sep 12, 13	OPEN		
Oct 10, 11	OPEN		
Oct 31, Nov 1	Morgantown North Rotary	Cathie Falvey	304-282-8594
Nov 14, 15	Faithseekers Class	Linda Bagby	304-599-5676
Dec 12	Service League	Donna Tennant	304-449-1410
Dec 13	OPEN		

Helping hands are needed!
We are looking for any family,
work group, community group,
or friend group to help fill in the
OPEN DATES for the COF Meal.



Take a look at the
open dates.
Can you help out?

FOOD WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FROM WESLEY'S GYM.

Please refer scheduling questions to Carolyn Hendricks (304-276-6580). Thank you!



Wesley United Methodist Church Officers-2026

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Class of 2026: Helen Ashenfelter, Amy Cartwright, John Lewis

Class of 2027: Sharon Murray, Jessica Wood, Mary Koike

Class of 2028: Stacy Whanger, Kyle Swisher, Paul Ragland

Trustees

Class of 2026: Allen Hammock, Chad Harvey, Linda Bagby

Class of 2027: Chris Lewis, Ann O'Neal, Mary Plevich

Class of 2028: Bill Wasson, Scott Blosser, Ralph Plummer

Nominations Committee

Class of 2026: Jean Ann McGuigan, Jeannie Douglass, Jeff Stewart

Class of 2027: Alison Cihla, Glenn Gallagher, Patrick Murphy

Class of 2028: Brian Woerner, Bev Kirby, Kaitlyn Swisher

Finance and Stewardship Committee

Class of 2026: Karen Davis, Steve Stroupe, Joe Andria

Class of 2027: Susan Rickards, Bob Beach, Kara Blosser

Class of 2028: Blake Lillard, Barbara Hildebrand, Patrick Murphy

United Methodist Youth Fellowship Leaders

Arielle and Chad Harvey

Annual Conference Member

Caleb DeLeurere



Epiphany of the Lord
Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Lectionary Readings

Isa 60:1-6

Ps 72:1-7, 10-14

Eph 3:1-12

Matt 2:1-12

Martin Luther King, Jr Day ~ Monday, January 19, 2026

Church Office is closed



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.

NEW 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. Class will resume Sunday, January 4, 2026.

**NO Children's Sunday School on Jan. 4th
START BACK is NEXT SUNDAY, JAN 11th**

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.

Bible Study Fellowship

~ Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Choir Room 3rd FL ~
Study will resume Jan 8th

All Wesley women are welcome to join this weekly bible study. Anyone interested please contact Ann Gore at 304-673-4124



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-/ wesleymorgantownfinance@gmail.com

January Committee Meetings

Finance Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th—6:00 PM

Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th—7:00 PM

Administrative Council

Next meeting in February

SPRC Meeting—TBA

Staff Meeting—TBA

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

Wesley United Methodist Church

503 N. High Street

Morgantown, WV 26505

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Morgantown, WV

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