

MAY 2026

Wesley Journal Newsletter



Sunday Worship Times



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

Pastor's Corner



Martha Ognibene

Pastor

Dear Friends,

May 4 marks the 70th anniversary of women receiving full ordination rights and full membership in annual conferences in The United Methodist Church. (Yep...the right of women to be ordained as ministers is only 1 year older than I am...!) In recognition of this milestone, the theme for the 2026 Heritage Sunday (May 24, 2026) is "The Spirit Falls Equally," an acknowledgement that God calls – and always has called – all people, regardless of gender.

"From early leaders like Susanna Wesley and Jarena Lee and throughout Methodism's history, women have long shaped the witness and ministry of the church," points out Dr. Ashley Boggan, GCAH general secretary. "The theme, 'The Spirit Falls Equally,' reminds us that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit has never been limited by human boundaries. Even when their gifts were not fully affirmed by the church, women have been called to lead, preach and serve throughout our denomination's history."

In honor of this anniversary, the May 4 episode of the podcast "Un-Tied Methodism" will be a special live episode discussing the long and winding road to women's ordination. You can listen to this-and a whole collection of podcasts focusing on important and quirky facets of our church-at UnTiedMethodism.org or on Spotify.

Since we all know and (finally!) recognize that God calls all persons into ministry in the world, regardless of ordination, this is a great time for you to stop reading this newsletter and ponder the question, "Where and how is God calling me?" As a part of God's family, you are a part of God's plan to right this broken and hurting world. So, as women have always done, pray, prepare, and get to work for God!

Cordially,

Pastor Martha



Gabrielle Smith ~ West Virginia University

Interdisciplinary Studies *joining Air Force Base SC

Robert and Samuel Beach ~ Morgantown High School

*continuing education at Pierpont Community and Technical College studying Information Systems Technology for an Associate of Applied Science Degree before matriculating to WVU to finish their bachelor degree at the College of Creative Arts & Media *parents *Rachel and Bob Beach*

Andrew Lucci ~ Morgantown High School

*continuing education at West Virginia University to study business and finance *parents *Brittany and Todd Lucci*

Austin Lucci ~ Morgantown High School

*continuing education at West Virginia University to study business and finance *parents *Brittany and Todd Lucci*

Nathan Yokum ~ Morgantown High School

*continuing education at WVU majoring in Chemical Engineering and be a member of the WVU Marching Band

*parents *Steve and Sarah Yokum, & grandmother, Linda Yokum*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome persons who have recently become (or are about to become) members of Wesley UMC! On April 19, Emily Weigand received the Sacrament of Baptism, and she, Kenna Whanger, and William Poling became full members through Confirmation and Profession of Faith. Dave Weigand and Debra Blum transferred their memberships to Wesley on that day, as well. On May 3, the Lucci family: Brittany, Todd, Carmella, Andrew, and Austin will join our congregation through transfer, too. We are stronger because of these persons joining with us! If you would like to become a member of Wesley United Methodist Church, or if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Baptism for yourself or for your child, please see Martha.

Spaghetti Dinner



When Sunday, May 3, 2026

Where: Wesley United Methodist Church

Time: 12 Noon - 4pm

Desserts Available for purchase

Cost: \$15

includes Pasta, Meatballs, Bread, Salad & Drink

Basket Raffles

Benefit: To help in cost to attend National Competition
UHS TSA

Tickets at the door or in advance from TSA Members



May Committee Meetings

Finance Meeting

Tuesday, May 12th — 6:00 PM

Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, May 12th — 7:00 PM

Administrative Council

Meeting Monday, May 18th — 7:00 PM

SPRC Meeting—TBA / Staff Meeting—TBA

Sunday, May 10th

Festival of the Christian Home



~ Prayer Shawl Ministry ~
Tuesday, May 5th
10:00 AM - Lecture Room
If you can knit, crochet or would like to learn please join us!

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

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. **Last study May 13th before Summer Break.**

May Lectionary Scriptures

May 3rd Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60
 Ps 31:1-5, 15-16
 1 Pet 2:2-10
 John 14:1-14

May 10th—Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31
 Ps 66:8-20
 1 Pet 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21

May 17th— Ascencion Sunday

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 Ps 116:1-4, 12-19
 1 Pet 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14
 Ps 68:1-10, 32-35
 1 Pet 4:12-14; 5:6-11
 John 17:1-11

May 24th — Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30
 Ps 104:24-34, 35b
 1 Cor 12:3b-13
 John 7:37-39

May 31st—Trinity Sunday

Gen 1:1-2:4a
 Ps 8
 2 Cor 13:11-13
 Matt 28:16-20



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!

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!

MAY
WVU
PLANETARIUM

JUNE
BOTANICAL
GARDENS

JULY
MON COUNTY
SYMPHONY

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

ALTAR GUILD - 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: May Special Sundays

Sunday, May 10th: Mother's Day & Festival of the Christian Home

Sunday, May 17th: Ascension Sunday

Sunday, May 24th: Pentecost Sunday/Heritage Sunday/Aldersgate Day (Memorial Day Weekend):

**Sunday, May 31st : Trinity Sunday
(Peace with Justice Sunday)**

Bible Study Fellowship

~ Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Choir Room 3rd FL ~

Last class
May 7th
then
Summer Break!

All Wesley women are welcome to join this weekly bible study.

Anyone interested please contact Ann Gore at 304-673-4124

**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.

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.



Wesley United Methodist Church is a partner with CarePortal! CarePortal is a technology that

drives action for local kids and families in crisis. A professional at a child welfare agency, pregnancy resource center, or school sees a need and inputs it onto a website. From there, church folks (Us!!!) see the need and can choose to respond where possible. The need is met, and the family is kept together and supported. 96% of caseworkers agree that they feel more supported in their work by using CarePortal, and 85% of church responders agree that CarePortal has increased their awareness of local needs and made it easier to help. We're helping globally through our sponsorship of the Petrovs and Pukhovs; here's a way we can help locally, too. Arielle Harvey is our congregation's Point Person; she'll have more information, and ways to get us up and helping. West Virginia is the 34th state to enact CarePortal; we join sisters and brothers across the nation in becoming the practical hands and feet of Jesus in our town. Contact Arielle at simplysouthernphotographywv@gmail.com to become part of this exciting ministry today!



May 3 - Youth Room

May 10 - Mother's Day - No Youth

May 17 - Field Trip Special Event

May 24 - Memorial Day Weekend - No Youth

May 31 - End of Year Cookout/Campout

PRAYER TEAM IS LOOKING FOR PRAYER WARRIORS!

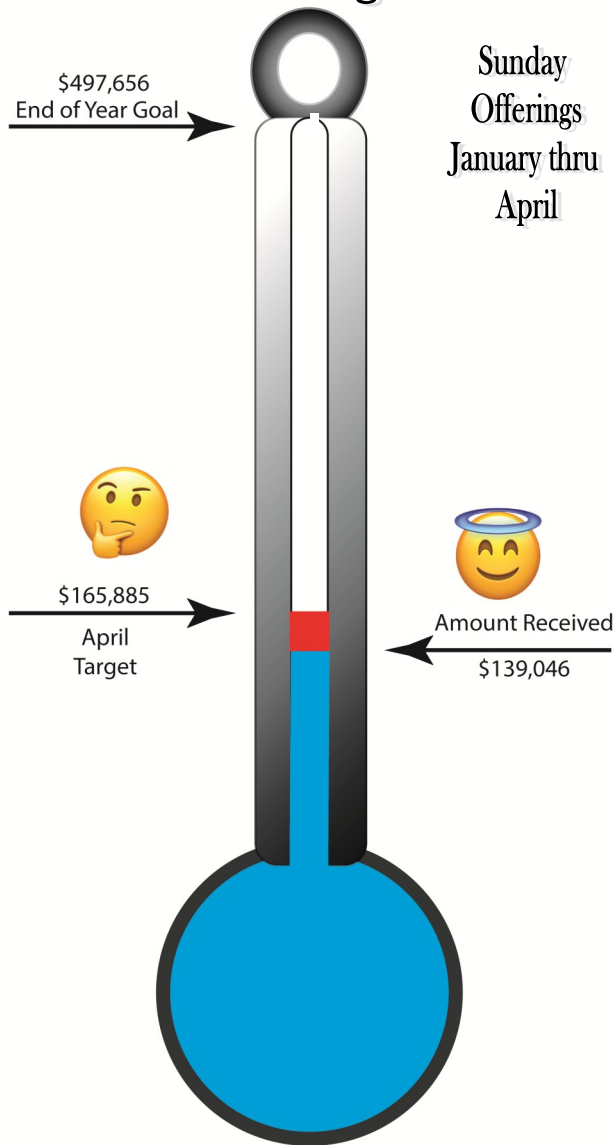


THE PRAYER TEAM -



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.

2026 Finance Budget Thermometer

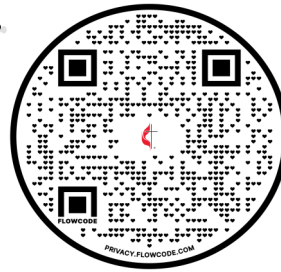


Thank You!!!

Thank you for your generous giving through alms bags during the season of Lent. You are making life better for others and for yourself through your gifts to God's work! If you would like to use an alms bag at any time: as a reminder to give sacrificially, to make a special gift in thanks for God's good gifts to you, or just as a place to put your change to good use, please contact the church office, and we will be happy to provide you with a bag.

COLLEGE SNACK PACKS for FINALS WEEK
College Snack Packs will be distributed after both worship services Sunday, May 3rd to all college students entering Finals Week. Your Church Family will be praying for you!

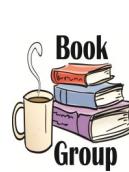
 **Finals Week: Monday, May 4th - Friday, May 8th**



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



Do you have, or know someone who has, an extra car to give or sell to Eli Petrov? Eli's car is on its last legs (wheels?!?), and needed repairs would cost more than the car is worth. We're looking to replace his clunker with a less-clunky model. Thanks for your generosity!



Wesley Book Club - Zoom Only
7:30 PM - 7th & 21st Tuesdays
(March 3rd & 17th)

Book Club Leader - Mary Ragland
304-282-1947 / mhragland5@yahoo.com

Please contact for more info. Current book study is on **The Last Week** by Marcus Borgan and John Dominic Crossan

We will begin a new book Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God by Brian Zahnd, on June 2nd.



Would you like to send a card or word of greeting to our soon-to-be new pastor, Rev. Michael Burge? You can contact him at 509 Pike Street, Shinnston, WV 26431, or at mburge12@gmail.com. Let's make him and his family feel welcome even before they arrive!



Lectionary Study last class is Wednesday, May 13th
Thursday Bible Study last class is Thursday, May 7th
College Bible Study on break
Youth Group last meeting May 31st
Chancel Choir last practice May 13th
WE WILL START BACK UP IN THE FALL!

Concerts In The Loft

GREAT MUSIC ↔ FELLOWSHIP ↔ REFRESHMENTS

Gary Antol

Gary Antol is a highly talented and versatile musician known for his exceptional skills on the guitar. With a career spanning over two decades, Gary has established himself as a sought-after performer, composer, and music educator. His passion for music is evident in every note he plays, captivating audiences with his emotive and expressive playing style.



Concert & Parking compliments of

Wesley UMC

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

SUN * MAY 3rd * 5PM

Social Group Events - Wesley Adults & friends are welcome!

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.

May 22nd 7:00 p.m. bring a snack or dessert to share! We will finalize plans for the year PLUS a Special Presentation by Mary and John Jacobs on their "home-away-from-home" Spain!

June 26th ACCA Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia hosted by Mike and Linda Bagby

July Trip to Arthurdale hosted by Doris Pitman

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

Sept 18th WVU Planetarium hosted by Mark Reasor

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

November Eat-n-Park breakfast before 11:00 a.m. worship service hosted by Mary Ragland

December 11th—Christmas Party

Wesley United Methodist Church invites you to celebrate the retirement of Reverend Martha Ognibene

**Sunday, June 28, 2026
Worship Service: 10:30 am
One Service Only**

(Plan to wear something green—it's Martha's favorite color)

Memories and Gifts for Martha...

Please email any pictures of Martha you want to be included in a slideshow and memory book

*email pics to Kristi DeLeurere at intrigue329@yahoo.com

Deadline: May 31, 2026

and/or

Monetary donations and cards will be received to be included in a Pastor's Gift from our congregation

Deadline: May 31, 2026

Let's have a picnic!!

Lunch will be provided by the church immediately following the service
Menu to include: Hot Dogs and all the fixins', chips, sides, cake, ice cream

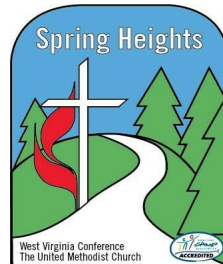


503 North High Street Morgantown, WV 26508
wesleymorgantown@gmail.com
304-292-9485



2026

**Contribution Statements
January thru April
Giving Statements
will be mailed May 15th.**



**Summer Camp is right
around the corner
...make plans
for some summer fun!
Camp ages 5-18**

Spring Heights Summer Camp is accepting registrations! There are camps for all ages and interests, including Classic Camp (with a short Mini Camp for younger kids), Hold Your Horses and Wranglers, which are camps all about horseback riding, Creative Camp, where you can 'develop' your photography skills, and Camp Outrageous, where you can do a little bit of everything! For schedules, age requirements, and all other camp info, see Martha or check our springheights.org. Have fun; enjoy nature; learn about God; make friends-let's go to camp!

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

304-216-0353 / wesleymorgantownfinance@gmail.com

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Morgantown, WV 26505**

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