



APRIL 2025

# Wesley Journal Newsletter



## Sunday Worship Times



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

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

At long last, Easter is on the horizon! We have many upcoming special celebrations of the season. First, the church sanctuary is open every Wednesday during Lent (April 2, 9, and 16) for you to have an evocative, sacred space to pray and worship.



Martha Ognibene  
Pastor



Then, during Holy Week:

- \* Palm/Passion Sunday will be observed at both services on April 13.
- \* a Maundy Thursday service, with celebration of the Last Supper and stripping of the church, will be held at 7:00 PM on April 17.
- \* A Good Friday Service of Darkness will be held on April 18 at 7:00 PM.
- \* Our Easter Vigil will be held at 9:00 PM on Saturday, April 19—this service will begin on the church’s front steps on Willey Street.
- \* Easter Sunrise will be celebrated on April 20 at 6:45 AM at the Morgantown Marketplace Pavillion on Spruce Street. (Spruce Street UMC is in charge of this service.)
- \* Easter Day services will be held at 8:30 and 11:00 AM on April 20 in our Sanctuary. (Don’t forget to return your Alms Bag!)



The story of Christ’s betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection is much too big to tell in one day, so I encourage you to take part in all of these special services, as each is linked to one another in the narrative of God’s great love for us. You will want to be part of the drama, the music, the Biblical story, and the glorious joy as we remember and retell the story of Christ’s actions that make us free. Plan now to re-enact it all; plan now to see God’s love, power, and grace revealed.

Cordially,  
Pastor Martha



**Lenten Prayer  
Wednesdays  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

During the season of Lent, you are invited to come to our sanctuary for personal prayer and meditation on Wednesdays April 2nd, 9th, and 16th. Deepen your relationship with God this Lent through intentional sacred conversation. *Parking available for anyone that would like to pray. Designated church parking spaces and bagged meters will be provided.*



**Don't miss your chance to pick up an Alms Bag!** Almsgiving is a Christian practice of giving money or material items to persons living in poverty. Wesley UMC is practicing almsgiving this Lent. You can pick up a bag at church (or contact the church office, and we will mail you one; or you can use any type of container that you like) and fill it as you see fit. Perhaps you'll decide to put a set amount of money in; maybe you'll put your pocket change in the bag every day. You might decide to skip a coffee or a meal out once or twice a week, and put the money you would have spent there in your alms bag. However you decide to use it, fill your alms bag and return it to the church by Easter Sunday, April 20th. All money collected will be used to help pay our conference apportionments, which help to bring people out of poverty by funding feeding programs, schools, farming improvements, anti-malaria nets, safe wells, and hospitals around the world.

# Ukrainian Refugee Ministry Luncheon & Fundraiser

Fifty-five guests enjoyed a scrumptious smorgasbord and a heart-warming United Women in Faith program with six speakers March 22, 2025 in the Lecture Room. Sergei Pukhov, Eli Petrov and Khrystyna (a WVU Pol. Sci. doctoral student from Ukraine) shared touching accounts about their homeland and about their lives in the U.S.

Sarita Robinson, associate pastor of Cornerstone Ministries near Bridgeport and a WVU chaplain in training, recalled her life as a nine-year missionary in Ukraine and described her hope for the legal refugees that we have easily come to know and to love.

Wesley Pastor Martha Ognibene shared sample letters that attendees could send to legislation to convey their support of and desire to protect the Ukrainians that several WV church groups are sponsoring through the USCIS (Uniting for Ukraine) visa program.

UWF Co-President Sandy Putnam described the month-long fundraiser that our church members can help to create by donating clean, lovely handmade items; vintage glass; china; antiques and other no-longer-needed family treasures (except for everyday clothing). The group will sell merchandise on several Sundays until the end of April in the alcove off the Lecture Room and via a registered eBay account. UWF members will need photos and detailed item descriptions in advance to price everything at fair market value. Four handmade quilts, two rugs, knitted items and crocheted clothing were on display. Those piqued people's interest in upcoming events.

Please contact Sandy Putnam at 304-210-8865 or at [slputnam1@gmail.com](mailto:slputnam1@gmail.com) if you have any questions or treasures in excellent condition to bring to the church office at 9 a.m.—3 p.m. Mondays-Fridays (or to the alcove on Sunday mornings for future sales). UWF volunteers will supervise each mini-sale at 10-11 a.m. and at Noon-1 p.m. Sundays or by appointments during the week.

All money raised will directly contribute to the church's Ukrainian project. Checks should be payable to "Wesley UWF" with "Ukrainian Fund" on the memo line.



Anastasiia and Slava Pukhova unwind with Leo and Sergei Pukhov and Eli Petrov. Their new Ukrainian flag is behind them.



Thanks to many good cooks, the distinctive hot food buffet featured homemade Cabbage Rolls, Blini (Russian Crepes), Cheese Blintzes w/ optional Sour Cream, Rice Pilaf with Chicken, Red Beans and Rice, Lasagna as well as a NYC Ukrainian deli's Kielbasa, Sauerkraut, Beef Pierogies, Goulash, Cheese Pierogies and Potato Pancakes. Yum!



Leo, Slava, and Anastasiia Pukov dined with friends.



Luncheon held in the Lecture Room.



Ralph Plummer selected his favorites among the delicious desserts: Rogalik (sesame seed-covered pastry with a crushed walnut and condensed milk filling), Ukrainian Honey Cake, Ukrainian Waffle Cake, Yabluchnyk (Ukrainian Apple Cake), Lemon Cake and more!





## Ukrainian Luncheon Venue & Grant Funds!!

Might we mention the wonderful Veselka Ukrainian Restaurant in NYC with its online shop where we got some very excellent borscht, potato pancakes, pierogies, and honey cake. One of our members Sandy and Bruce Anderson and daughter recognized the honey cake obtained from Veselka from having eaten there once when in NYC visiting a granddaughter at Juilliard!! Small world! And the Ukrainians were delighted to have seen Ukrainian candies ordered online that they hadn't had for several years. THE MOST POPULAR FOOD!!

Great news! Wesley United Methodist Church has received a grant in the amount of \$7,500.00 from the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc. This grant will be used to help cover housing and utility expenses for Slava, Sergei, Leo, and Stasiia Pukhov and Eli Petrov for the next year. We are very grateful to the Foundation for their generous grant, and to you for your continuing prayers, assistance, and financial help as the Pukhavs find their footing in America.



We are happy to announce that Wesley United Methodist Church is becoming 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 Pukhavs; here's a way we can help locally, too. Arielle Price is training to be our congregation's Point Person; she'll have more information, and ways to get us up and helping, soon. 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 to become part of this exciting ministry today!

## Wesley welcomes NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome Brian Woerner, Barbara Hildebrand, Ekow Aikins, and Linda Watkins, who have joined Wesley UMC since the first of this year. New members will be received on Sunday, April 27. If you would like to become a member of our church through Profession of Faith or Transfer of Membership from another congregation, please let Martha know as soon as possible. Also, if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Baptism for yourself or for a child, please contact Martha. Let's keep growing!

## LECTIONARY STUDY w/Pastor Martha

Our Lectionary Bible Study is starting up again! Everyone is invited to join on Zoom each Wednesday from 6:00-6:45 PM, as we read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's Scripture lessons. Become Biblically literate! Make new friends! Engage in important discussions! Hear the occasional corny joke! Contact the church office for the Zoom link today. **No study on April 16th.**

### Lectionary Scriptures

#### Fifth Sunday in Lent

##### April 6th

Isa 43:16-21

Ps 126

Phil 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

#### Palm Sunday

##### April 13th

##### Palm Service

Luke 19:28-40

Ps 118:1:1-2, 19-29

##### Passion Service

Isa 50:4-9a

Ps 31:9-16

Phil 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-25:56 or Luke 23:1-49

#### Easter Sunday

##### Festival of God's Creation

##### April 20th

Acts 10:34-43

Ps 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Cor 15:19-26

John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

#### Second Sunday of Easter

##### April 27th

Acts 5:27-32

Ps 150

Rev 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
**Tuesday, April 1st (May 6th)**  
**10:00 am - Lecture Room**  
**If you can knit, crochet or**  
**would like to learn**  
**please join us!**

# Concerts In The Loft



# Jeff Miller

Touring Songwriter/Looping Guitarist  
Producer & Composer

Violinist, Bassist,  
Mandolinist & Trombonist

GREAT MUSIC  
FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS

## SUN → APRIL 13<sup>th</sup> → 5PM

Jeff's live-looping technique has become ubiquitous for-up and-coming guitarists and his skills as a teacher and mentor are now in demand. In this vein, Jeff's "Loop of the Week" video series was the first and most popular video series of it's type on Youtube. His music has been featured on nationally syndicated television, and has been used by CBS Sports and Napster.

Free Concert & Parking compliments of  
**Wesley UMC**  
503 North High St. 304-292-9485 wesleymorgantown.org

**Concerts In The Loft**  
**2025 Concert Series**

- May 4**  
Kittens Ain't Biscuits
- June 8**  
Miss Freddye
- July 13**  
Lady D
- August 10**  
Steve Halow
- September 14**  
The Wayfarers
- October 12**  
The Elk River Ramblers
- November 9**  
Lucien Schroyer
- December 14**  
Jenny & Nathan

**SOCIAL GROUP  
SPRING GATHERING!!**

Fellowship!  
FUN!  
Great Food!  
Outings!  
Guest Speakers!  
Christmas Party!

All Wesley adults are invited to the first meeting of 2025 on Friday, April 11th at 6:00 p.m. for a covered dish dinner and to plan activities for the rest of the year. Please come with food and ideas. Look forward to seeing everyone. If you are interested in attending please contact Doris Pitman at 304-599-4844 or maduva1@yahoo.com.



**Backpack Feeding Program  
Scott's Run Settlement House  
Wednesday, April 9th - 12:45.m.**

We pack food bags that are sent home with school children so they have food over the weekend. The goal at Scott's Run is to ensure that no school child spends the weekend hungry. The task takes about 90 minutes. We're a fun group and have a good time but we're on the move for the entire packing time.



**APRIL OPEN DATES:**  
April 6th, 13th & 27th

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.

**Attention High School Seniors  
The Thomas C. Stewart Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship was established in honor and memory of Thomas C. Stewart, an active and devoted member of Wesley Church who died August 14, 2002 at the age of 49. The scholarship seeks to preserve Tom's commitment and concern for young people and his overall enthusiasm and vision for ministry at Wesley.

**Eligibility:** Any graduating high school senior who meets the following criteria may apply:

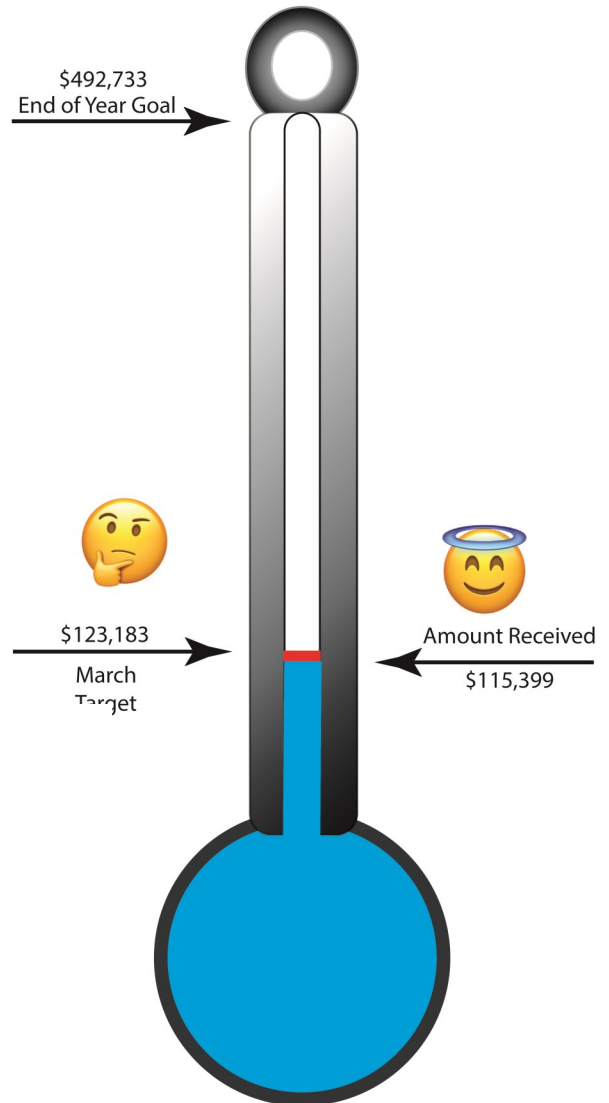
1. A member of Wesley United Methodist Church
2. A minimum grade point average of 2.5 or higher
3. Enrollment in a fully accredited college or university undergraduate program
4. Submission of application materials

**General:** Amounts of the award will be determined annually by The Finance Team of Wesley United Methodist Church based on the investment income received from the scholarship fund. It is our goal to award at least one scholarship annually in the amount of \$1,000.00. This is a one-time award only.

**Deadline:** Applications will be due by April 20, 2025 and awards will be made in time for the Fall Semester. The award will be given to the individual and is to be used only for direct educational expenses.

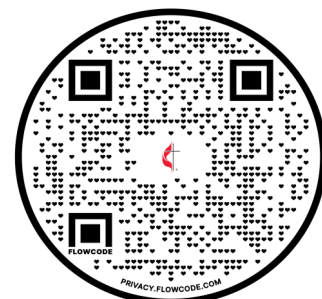
**Contact the Church Office for an application.**

**2025 Finance Budget Thermometer  
Offerings thru March**

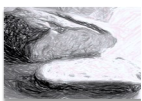


**Quick & Easy method for your Sunday offering.**

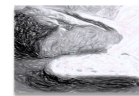
**SCAN the QR Code with your electronic device! THANK YOU!**







# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - WESLEY CHURCH 2025



Apr 12	MHS Spanish Club	Lauren Shen	304-413-6788
April 13	Faithseekers Class	Linda Bagby	304-599-5676
May 10, 11	Young Life	Brian Shirak	304-771-0962
May 31, June 1	Morgantown North Rotary	Cathie Falvey	304-282-8594
June 14	Morgantown Service League	Donna Tennant	304-449-1410
June 15	Brauns		
July 12, 13	<b>OPEN</b>		
Aug 9	Morgantown Service League	Donna Tennant	304-449-1410
Aug 10	Minch/Bledsoe Family	Rebekah Bledsoe	304-276-0320
Aug 30, 31	Morgantown North Rotary	Cathie Falvey	304-282-8594
Sep 13, 14	<b>OPEN</b>		
Oct 11, 12	<b>OPEN</b>		
Nov 8, 9	Faithseekers Class	Linda Bagby	304-599-5676
Nov 29, 30	Morgantown North Rotary	Cathie Falvey	304-282-8594
Dec 13	Morgantown Service League	Donna Tennant	304-449-1410
Dec 14	<b>OPEN</b>		

FOOD WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FROM WESLEY'S GYM.

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

Circle of Friends has a few open weekends which means there is an opportunity to serve others in need! Work Groups, Families, Friend Groups, or any Individual...Come and be blessed by the

## April Committee Meetings

No Committee Meetings in April



Confirmation Class is underway ! All persons, age 11 and up, who are interested in exploring church membership at Wesley UMC are invited to take part in a Confirmation Class taught by Pastor Martha on Sundays March 30, April 6, and April 13 at 9:30 AM. New members will be received on Sunday, April 27. You're invited to join up! Contact Martha for more information.

**SUNDAYS AT 6:00 P.M.**  
**(3RD FLOOR CLASSROOMS)**

**COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY**  
**ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS WELCOME!**

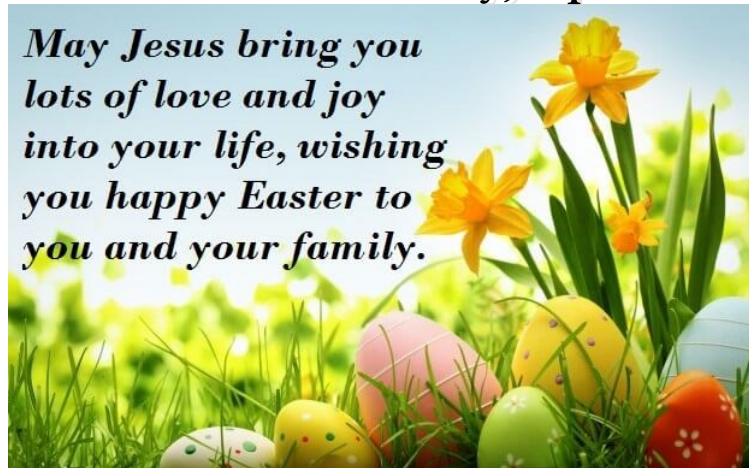
**&**

**YOUTH (UMYF)**  
**6TH-12TH GRADERS WELCOME...BRING A FRIEND!!**

## 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](mailto:rplybonbeach@gmail.com).

## Wesley Office Easter Hours Closed Easter Monday, April 21st.



*May Jesus bring you  
 lots of love and joy  
 into your life, wishing  
 you happy Easter to  
 you and your family.*

# EASTER GARDEN FLOWERS



- The Altar Guild will be taking orders for Easter Garden Flowers (\$20 per dedication) on Sunday, March 30th and April 6th in the Lecture Room, directly following both worship services. **Deadline for flower orders will be Sunday, April 13.**
- The Easter Garden Flowers will decorate the altar for Easter Sunday, April 30th.
- Easter Flowers are given in Loving Memory or in Honor of a Loved One. A listing of all flower dedications will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.
- Completed order forms with payment may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or given to Altar Guild on selling dates listed above. Any questions please contact the church office at 304-292-9485.

I (We) would like to provide Easter Garden Flowers/Missional gifts for Easter Sunday:

**In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash or Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) would like to provide Easter Garden Flowers/Missional Gifts for Easter Sunday:

**In Honor Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash or Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!**

**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

**Zach Beckett, Building Care Specialist**

304-644-2605 / zachbeckett7@gmail.com

**Colton Davis, Media Tech Coordinator**

304-685-3609 / Wesleyintermedia@gmail.com

**Dan Headley, Custodian**

304-777-7921 / danheadley7@gmail.com

**Rebekah Bledsoe, Bus Driver**

304-276-0320 / rebekahbledsoe@juno.com

**Ann Gore Price, Organist**

304-673-4124 / musicannconcord@yahoo.com

**Joe Andria, Accompanist**

304-288-1330 / sax711@hotmail.com

**Diana Canale, Financial Secretary**

304-291-3868 / wesleymorgantownfinance@gmail.com



Spruce Street UMC is looking for a part-time  
**Administrative Assistant**

If interested, please send resume to

[secretary@sprucestreetumc.org](mailto:secretary@sprucestreetumc.org)

~ Part-time competitive pay ~ Bonuses available ~

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

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

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