

MAY 2025

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,

As we mourn the death of Pope Francis, I would like to highlight one of his most essential traits: humor. The serious work of Christ can best be done with a smile and a joyful heart, and Pope Francis demonstrated both throughout his life. Here's what he once said about humor:

"Laughter is contagious. It is easier to laugh together than alone; joy opens us to sharing and is the best antidote to selfishness and individualism. Laughter also helps to break down social barriers, creates connections among people, and allows us to express emotions and thoughts, contributing to building a shared culture and creating spaces of freedom. Playful fun and laughter are central to human life to express ourselves, to learn, and to give meaning to situations."

Jesus modeled joy and humor in his ministry (much of which, unfortunately, has been lost in translation); Pope Francis used humor and empathy to show God's love; and we can do the same, too! We can be people who witness God's grace in this community and beyond with good humor, laughter, and love.

Thomas More, venerated as a Saint in the Catholic Church, lived in the 15th and 16th centuries. His prayer could have been Pope Francis's own, and I hope that you will take it as your own, as well:

Prayer of St. Thomas More

"Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest. Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humor to maintain it. Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil, but rather finds the means to put things back in their place. Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumbling, sighs and laments, nor excess of stress, because of that obstructing thing called 'I'. Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor. Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke and to discover in life a bit of joy, and to be able to share it with others. Amen."

Cordially,
Pastor Martha



MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER AND HONOR
Monday
May 26th
Church Office
Closed

Methodist Leaders Attend Funeral of the Late Pope Francis

Our very own WV Conference Bishop Dr. Debra Wallace-Padgett was invited to attend

(pictured second from left)

President of the World Methodist Council Bishop Wallace-Padgett led the World Methodist Council delegation, which was one of only three church delegations headed by a woman.



with Love from Ukraine

Praise, Worship, & Prayer

Brookhaven United Methodist Church
219 Brookhaven Rd., Morgantown, WV

Sunday, May 4th
2:30 PM

All are Welcome!



Kristin Tenney
PhD in STEM Education from a joint program of San Diego University & University of California San Diego
Daughter of Ronay and Kevin Tenney

Wesley DeLeurere
Morgantown High School
Thomas C. Stewart
Scholarship Recipient
Son of Kristi and Lawrence DeLeurere

**Wesley will be attending West Virginia University beginning Fall Semester 2025 studying Environmental Engineering in the Statler College of Engineering*

2025

Contribution Statements

January thru April

Giving Statements

will be mailed May 12th.

Special Sundays in May

“Weeping may last for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”
- PSALM 30:5B

Sunday, May 4th
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY SPECIAL SUNDAY

Sunday, May 11th
Festival of the Christian Home

&

HAPPY
Mother's Day

Sunday, May 18th
Heritage Sunday

COLLEGE SNACK PACKS

WVU Finals Week
May 5th - 9th

College Snack packs will be distributed after both services on Sunday, May 4th. A goodie bag of love and support from your Wesley Church Family as you deal with stress and testing during finals week. Any student taking finals at any school program is welcome to a baggie :) See Pastor Martha or College Study leader, Lawrence DeLeurere after service.

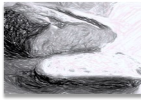
Wesley welcomes NEW MEMBERS!

Brooke Bennett, Aubrey Nguyen, and Emmy Woods completed Confirmation classes and became full members of Wesley United Methodist Church on April 27. Welcome!! If you would like to join Wesley UMC, or if you are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism for yourself or your child, please contact Martha. We've had new members join us every month this calendar year—let's keep it up!

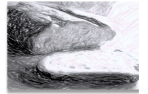


Backpack Feeding Program Scott's Run
Wednesday, May 14th - 12:45.m.

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.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - WESLEY CHURCH 2025



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	OPEN		
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	OPEN		
Oct 11, 12	OPEN		
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	OPEN		

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 fellowship and ministry of helping others :)

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.

May Committee Meetings

- Finance Team Meeting**
Tuesday, May 13th - 6 PM - Haden Chapel
- Trustees Meeting**
Tuesday, May 13th - 7PM - Haden Chapel
- Administrative Council Meeting**
Monday, May 19th - 7PM - Haden Chapel
- Staff Meeting-TBA**
SPRC - TBA

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

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. **Last study before summer break is Wednesday, May 14th.**

Lectionary Scriptures

- May 4th—3rd Sunday of Easter**
Acts 9:1-6 / Ps 30 / Rev 5:11-14
John 21:1-19
- May 11th - 4th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 9:36-43 / Ps 23 / Rev 7:9-17
John 10:22-30
- May 18th - 5th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 11:1-18 / Ps 148 / Rev 21:1-6
John 13:31-35
- May 25th - 6th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 16:9-15 / Ps 67 / Rev 21:10, 22:5
John 14:23-29

Concerts In The Loft

featuring....

Kittens Ain't Biscuits

SUN → MAY 4 → 5PM



Kittens Ain't Biscuits, Randy and Daria Jones, will take you on a zany ride from Texas to New Orleans then head up the Appalachians to ponder first-hand poignant accounts of citizens in the coal fields and coal barges on the rivers, with a side trip to the Brazilian coast. Randy on electric and acoustic guitar and Daria on vocals, percussion, harmonica, tin whistle and kazoo play originals and undone covers that often bring out the swing dancers to cut the rug for a night of frolic!

David Bruffy, owner of Smoke N Mirrors Gallery stated, "Arguably the most popular guest artists to ever visit the Smoke N Mirrors Gallery, Randy and Daria Jones will

Free Concert & Parking compliments of

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

GREAT MUSIC
 FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS

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

SUMMER BREAK

- Lectionary Study last class is Wednesday, May 14th
 - Thursday Bible Study last class is Thursday, May 8th
 - College Bible Study on break
 - Youth Group last meeting May 18th
 - Chancel Choir last practice May 14th
- WE WILL START BACK UP IN THE FALL!**



Mark your calendars now for Wesley-Spruce Street VBS! Our "Road Trip" VBS will take place at Wesley UMC on Monday, June 15, from 5-7:30 PM. We'll have a delicious meal, then learn a Bible story at each of 4 stations. All children aged 3-5th grade are welcome, and there will also be a class for adults. You

can find your place attending class, teaching or helping to teach, serving dinner, registering students, and more. More information will be in next month's newsletter, but save the date today!

SOCIAL GROUP MAY & JUNE EVENTS

PIZZA & GUEST SPEAKER, Eli Petrov

From Ukraine to Morgantown

Friday, May 9th 6PM - Lecture Room

All Wesley adults are welcome to join us for pizza, fellowship, and to hear Ukraine born Eli Petrov talk about his journey to seeking asylum in the US. Bring a dip or dessert to share! Contact Doris Pitman at 304-599-4844 if interested in attending.



“Take Me Home”,

A Tribute to the Music of John Denver by Jim Curry and Band

FRIDAY, JUNE 20th 7:30 PM

Performing Arts Center at Garret College (McHenry, MD)

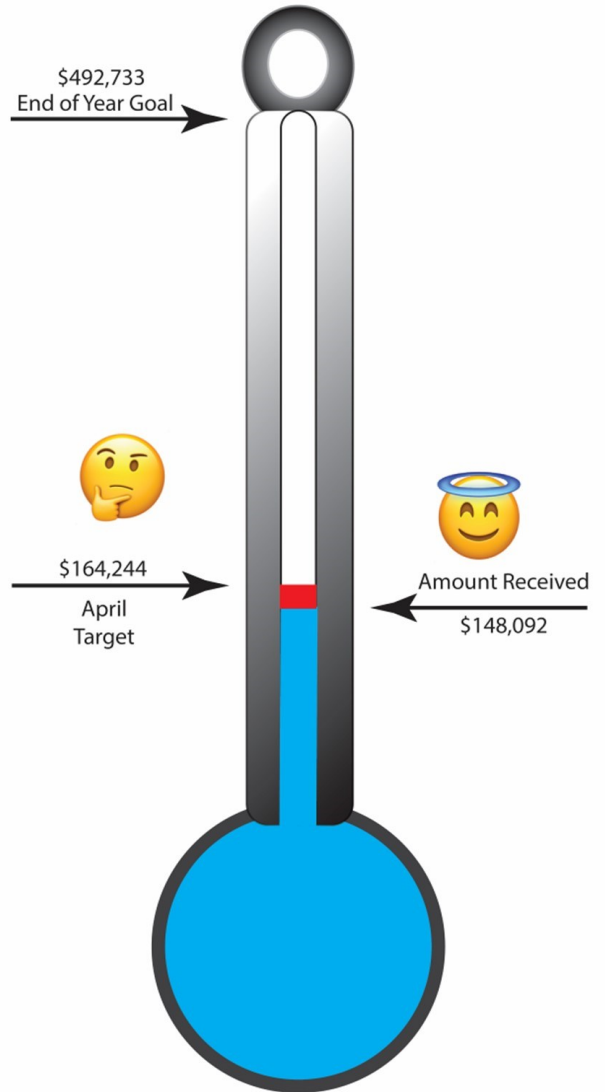
All Wesley adults are invited to join us! \$35/Adult Ticket.
Wesley Bus will be taking concert goers...first come,
first serve!

Collection will be taken to cover cost of gas.

Event details and ticket info/purchase contact is
Nancy Wasson at nancyjwasson@comcast.net.

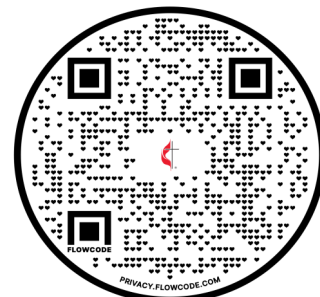
Bus Seat Reservations contact is
Doris Pitman at 304-599-4844 or maduva1@yahoo.com.

2025 Finance Budget Thermometer Offerings thru April



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

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



Mon Valley District Conference

Sunday, May 18th 3 PM

Gateway UMC - 301 Diamond Street, Fairmont

Conference season is bearing down on us! You are invited to attend our District Conference on Sunday, May 18, at 3:00 PM at Gateway United Methodist Church in Fairmont. In addition to our regular business, we'll be saying farewell to our District Superintendent, Rev. Amy Shanholtzer, who will become Superintendent of the Little Kanawha District on July 1. (We'll have a chance to meet our new DS, Rev. Stephanie Bennett, later this summer.)

Annual Conference will be held on the campus of West Virginis Wesleyan College in Buckhannon June 11-14. Our very own musicians and choir will be providing the music for the opening worship service on Wednesday, June 11 at 1:00 PM. You won't want to miss that!

May

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

Spaghetti Dinner



When: May 18 2025

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

Contact
Karen Davis
for more info



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

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