

OCTOBER 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,

My granddaughter is learning the months of the year in Pre-K. Yesterday she was regaling me with her sing-song list of them...but she forgot October. When I pointed this out, she was aghast. "Not October!" she cried. "That's Halloween-my favorite!" (except for January, her birthday, and July, when there's swimming, and December, which is Christmas, of course...)

Whether October is your favorite month or not, there's no denying that the pace has picked up. There are parades and football games, festivals and band spectacles, projects and homework, job assignments and deadlines, weatherproofing the house and cleaning out the garden—and have you started your Christmas card list yet? In the midst of all our personal busyness and the never-ending march of national and world events, so many of which are distressing and heartbreaking, we often find ourselves overwhelmed. At those times it's easy to spiral into anguish or doomscroll till dawn. Instead, let me suggest another way of handling the bombardment: silence and prayer. A moment spent alone without external noise and with the presence of God can calm our minds and restore focus. We can remember our rightful place in creation, and let go of responsibility that does not belong to us.

Perhaps this prayer by Douglas Kaine McKelvey might be a helpful starting place for your devotion: (McKelvey, Douglas Kaine. Every Moment Holy. Nashville: Rabbit Room Press. 2017)

"In a world so wired and interconnected, our anxious hearts are pummeled by an endless barrage of troubling news. We are daily aware of more grief, O Lord, than we can rightly consider, of more suffering and scandal than we can respond to, of more hostility, hatred, horror, and injustice than we can engage with compassion.

"But you, O Lord, are not disquieted by such news of cruelty and terror and war. You are neither anxious nor overwhelmed. You carried the full weight of the suffering of a broken world when you hung upon the cross, and you carry it still.

"When the cacophony of universal distress unsettles us, remind us that we are but small and finite creatures, never designed to carry the vast abstractions of great burdens, for our arms are too short and our strength is too small. Justice and mercy, healing and redemption, are your great labors.

"So give us discernment in the face of our troubles to cast the burdens of this world upon the strong shoulders of the one who alone is able to bear them up. Amen."

Cordially,
Pastor Martha



**Trick or Treat
Downtown**

Morgantown

Thur. Oct 30th

5PM - 7PM

Mon County

Fri. Oct 31st

6PM - 8PM

Support families of Scott's Run ~ collecting thru Sunday, Oct. 26th



Undie Sunday!

Here it is, the most wonderful time of the year: Undie Sunday!! In fact, we like it so much that we collect undies for this whole month of Sundays! During the Sundays of October, we're collecting children's and adult underwear, undershirts, socks, and diapers. The items will be distributed to our neighbors in need by our friends at Scotts Run Settlement House. Come on and join in—drop your drawers at Wesley Church!! Collection basket located in the Lecture Room.



Sunday, October 12th
ONE SERVICE ONLY 10:30 a.m.
Church Picnic to follow!
Westside Senior Center
500 DuPont Road Westover, WV 26501
(behind Westover Police Building)

*** Picnic Prep: please notify the church office of how many will be attending the picnic and the dish you are bringing to share on your Connection Card.**

*** Can you help with picnic set-up or clean-up? Let us know :)**



Our deepest thanks to Diana Canale, who retired last month after 27 years as Wesley's Financial Secretary and Trustee Treasurer...that's a lot of nickels and dimes! We appreciate your good, faithful, and confidential work, Diana, and hope that you will actually take a day off now and again...!

WESLEY UMC CHARGE CONFERENCE

Wesley UMC's annual Charge Conference will be held on Thursday, October 16, at 6:00 PM. Because of the MHS Homecoming Parade, our Charge Conference will be held in Hartley Chapel at Suncrest UMC. All members are welcome to attend this yearly review and preview of our ministries with our new DS Stephanie Bennett-and each member has a vote, too!!



Sunday, Oct 5th ~ 2:00 p.m.
Marketplace Pavilion (Spruce St.)
***donations of cat or dog food**
and kitty litter

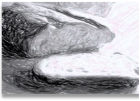


World Communion Sunday is a day on which believers all around the world observe Christ's Table together. It is a reminder that we are united with Christians around the globe in the love of Christ. World Communion Sunday is a time for remembering that around the globe—in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy—the Lord's Supper is celebrated throughout Christendom.

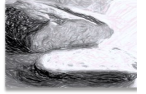
SLAVA UKRAINI



Things are finally moving for the Pukhov family! Leo and Anastasiia are back in school; Slava has earned her driver's license and Sergei is practicing on his learner's permit; and best of all, each member of the family has gotten a Social Security number, and Sergei and Slava have received their work permits! They are looking for full-time employment, and look forward to becoming even more integrated into our community. Thank you for your continued support of the Pukhows and Eli Petrov (who has started his first semester at WVU). We are honored that God has chosen to use our congregation in this way.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - WESLEY CHURCH 2025



Oct 11, 12	Morgantown Newcomers Group		
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	Melanie & Dave Braun		

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.

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. **No Study Wednesday, Oct. 8th.**

October Committee Meetings

Finance Meeting
Tuesday, Oct 14th - 6:00 PM
Trustees Meeting - No Meeting
Administrative Council - No Meeting
SPRC Meeting
Monday, October 6th—7:00 p.m.
Staff Meeting TBA

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Wesley's Altar Guild will meet on Sunday, October 19 immediately following the second worship service (12:00ish), both in person in Haden Chapel and via Zoom. We'll be finalizing plans for All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and beyond! Altar Guild members, please mark your calendars. If you would like to join Wesley's Altar Guild, please contact Martha.

ALTAR 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.

October Lectionary Scriptures

Oct 5th - 13th World Communion Sunday
Lam 1:1-6 / Ps 137
2 Tim 1:1-14 / Luke 17:5-10

Oct 12th - 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Jer 29:1, 4-7 / Ps 66:1-12
2 Tim 2:8-15 / Luke 17:11-19

Oct 19th - Laity Sunday/Children's Sabbath
Jer 31:27-34 / Ps 119:97-104 or Ps 19
2 Tim 3:14-4:5 / Luke 18:1-8

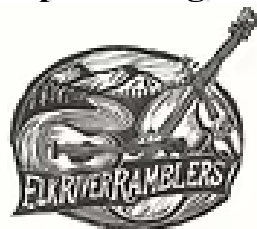
Oct 28th - Reformation Sunday
Joel 2:23-32 / Ps 65
2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18 / Luke 18:9-14



Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, October 7th
10:00 am - Lecture Room
If you can knit, crochet or
would like to learn please join us!

Concerts In The Loft

presenting...



Elk River Ramblers

SUN * OCT 12th * 5PM
GREAT MUSIC FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS



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



Backpack Feeding Program Scott's Run Wednesday, October 8th - 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

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

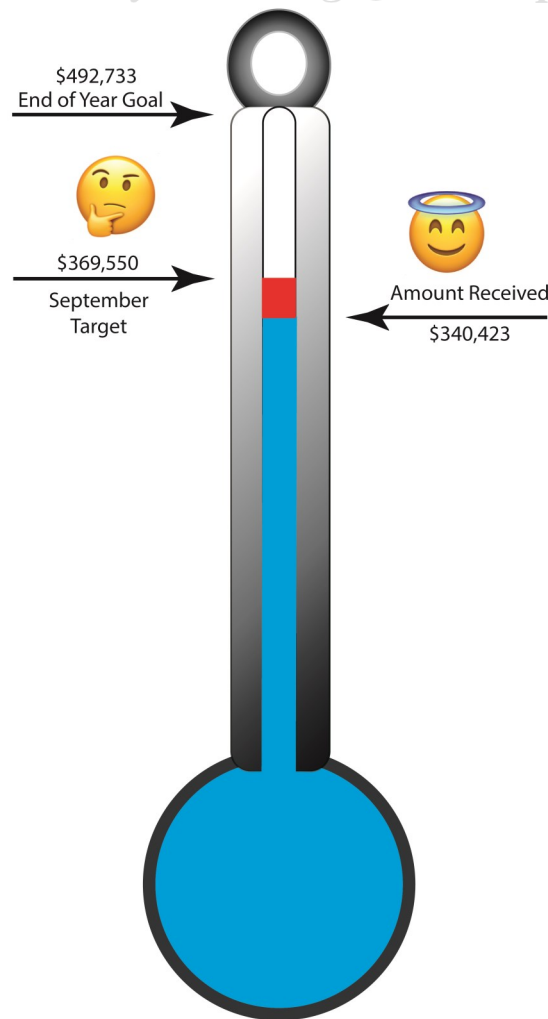


Join Us for an Event in Morgantown!
We invite you to our gathering at Breath Centered, located in Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Green Bag Road, Morgantown, WV, on October 11, 2025.

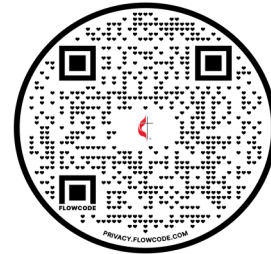
- *Schedule:**
- *Four classes available at:
 - o 8:30 AM
 - o 9:45 AM
 - o 11:00 AM
 - o 1:00 PM

*Cost:** \$20 per participant. We look forward to seeing you there!

2025 Finance Budget Thermometer Sunday Offerings Jan - Sept



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



Social Group October Outing!



Sunday, October 26th ~ Directly following second service

Visit the Botanic Garden and enjoy the outdoors!

Below are the plans we have made:

- *Lunch at the Cafe**
- *Tour the Terrace Event Center**
- *Tree Walk at 2:00 p.m.**
- *Visit Education Center**
- *View the Moon Gate structure**
- *Visit the George Longenecker Shade Garden**
- *Central Garden plans**

If interested in going, please contact

Doris Pitman at 304-599-4844 or maduva1@yahoo.com

HOLIDAY MISSION OUTREACH PROJECTS THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Wesley Church will be collecting Kroger gift cards for any amount to provide a Thanksgiving meal for Scott's Run Families. Last year Wesley was able to gift 25 families a Thanksgiving meal and we hope to match that again this year! We will be collecting Kroger Gift Cards or donations thru Sunday, November 2nd. If you have any questions please contact Doris Pitman at 304-599-4844 or maduva1@yahoo.com.

SCOTT'S RUN CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

Christmas is right around the corner and traditionally Wesley helps Scott's Run with monetary donations that goes towards Scott's Run Families Christmas wish list. If you would like to make a donation please write "Scott's Run Christmas" on the memo line. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS GOODIE BAGS *for the needy!*

We are collecting the personal hygiene items and Christmas candies for our goodie bags. Items can be brought in thru December 7th.



All Saints' Sunday

November 2nd



“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

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 created in 2022, in the church from All Saints Sunday-November 2- 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 5th. 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! *All Saint's Sunday name forms are in the Lecture Room and Church Office.*

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 to start!! - (2nd Floor)

No one can replace Frances Van Scoy. However, happily, the Sunday School class that she founded over 25 years ago is returning. Brian Woerner has agreed to take over as teacher of the class, which will resume in mid-October. Stay tuned for the details. Thank you, Brian!

Parade Hospitality Team



For over 10 years Wesley UMC has organized a hospitality ministry for several local parade events. Free hot & cold beverages are provided to parade participants and attendees. Volunteers are needed to help set-up tables, prepare beverages & serve those beverages. Serving area will be located in front of both church & gym doors.

WVU Homecoming Parade

Friday, October 24th - 6:00 PM

Morgantown Christmas Parade

Date & Time TBA

All ages are invited to volunteer and also, an opportunity for Community Hours. To be a part of this outreach, please contact Karen Kelley King at karen.kelley.king@gmail.com.

More Parades!!

Downtown Morgantown

UHS Homecoming

Wednesday, Oct. 8th 6PM

MHS Homecoming

Thursday, October 16th 6PM



WVU Fall Break

Thursday, Oct 9th & Friday, Oct 10th

No Classes

WESLEY BOOK CLUB



Do you like small group gatherings? Do you want to meet and get to know fellow Wesley folks better? Do you hope for a deeper walk with God? If you answer "YES" to any of these questions, consider being a part of a Book Club originating at Wesley. Mary Ragland will be the group facilitator. We meet by Zoom only the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 7:30 p.m. **First book club will be Tuesday, October 7th.** Our first book to study is *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. If you are interested, call, email or text me: Mary Ragland 304-282-1947 / Mhragland5@yahoo.com.

Women of Faith Gathering

Please join us for our Annual Women of Faith Gathering hosted this year by Wesley Methodist Church United Women in Faith (UWF). As we enjoy a luncheon with both American and Ukrainian dishes, we will learn about the US CIS Ukrainian refugee parolee visa program called "Uniting for Ukraine" and meet a Bridgeport pastor who spearheaded it here along with some of the local Ukrainians. They will speak of their experiences, after which there will be a musical program featuring special piano, guitar, and vocal pieces by the Pukhovs, Eli Petrov, and other wonderfully talented Ukrainian friends.

Women of Faith **Quilt Raffle**

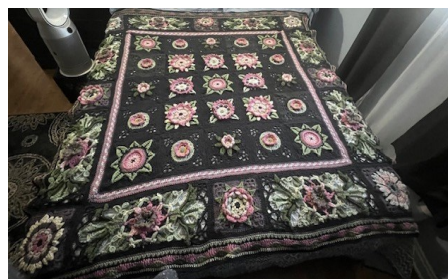
Quilt raffle ticket prices: 1 ticket for \$5 / 3 tickets for \$10 / 7 tickets for \$20



#1 Quilt Raffle:
Cross-Stitch
quilt
91" x 75"



#2 Quilt Raffle:
Appliqué
quilt
90" x 66"



#3 Quilt Raffle:
Janie Crow
pattern afghan
65" x 65"



#4 Quilt Raffle:
Friendship Dahlia
appliqué quilt
94" x 77"

When:

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Time:

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where:

**St. Mary's RC Church ~
Peace Hall**

**3346 University Avenue
Morgantown WV 26505**

Cost: \$12 per person

All donations will directly support Wesley's Ukrainian Refugee Project. Every gift can make a difference, so a gift basket raffle and a raffle of 2 lovely quilts - one appliqued and the other in cross-stitch plus a crocheted (Janie Crow pattern) afghan donated by the UWF will be held.

If interested in attending please contact the Church Office at 304-292-9485 or email wesleymorgantown@gmail.com.

Invite a friend, co-worker, or spouse!

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, Organist

304-673-4124 / musicannconcord@yahoo.com

Joe Andria, Accompanist

304-288-1330 / sax711@hotmail.com

Coleman Guenther, Bookkeeper

304-/ wesleymorgantownfinance@gmail.com



It's not too early to SAVE THE DATE!

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Advent Musical Event

Christmas Cantata

"Is He?"

Music and Lyrics by Michael Elyard/Lyrics by Beth Elyard

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th

at Wesley UMC ~ more details coming soon ~ bring your family & friends!

"Is He?" a Christmas Cantata combining Scripture with Traditional & Contemporary Music. The cantata "Is He?" grew out of the solo with the same name. After positive feedback I received after the solo was performed, I decided to write a cantata focusing on Mary. It must have been overwhelming for a young girl to suddenly be thrust onto the world stage in such a manner. As all of the fanfare and attention was bestowed upon them, she must have thought to herself "Is He really the Son of God? Am I really the mother of the Savior?" Luke 2:19 states, "But Mary kept all these sayings, pondering them in her heart." Imagine her thoughts as she quietly held her new baby that night.

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

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Morgantown, WV

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