



BUDGET AND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE THROUGH JANUARY 2025

Received: \$43,352.55

Expenses: \$50,443.88

Revive Worship: 32

Sanctuary Worship: 88

Since January, we have been spending some intentional time re-freshing our understanding of who Jesus is. We heard the words of the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah as they described the coming Messiah. Most recently, in the series, "Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?" we have been reintroduced to Jesus as each Gospel writer portrayed him. Our last Sunday in this series will be the first Sunday of March, and in it, we hear Jesus say to those claiming to be descendants of Abraham, "I assure you, before Abraham was, I Am." We'll spend some time unpacking why this is important in John's gospel, but this passage will also be a springboard for our Lenten Sermon Series, "I AM: Reflecting on the 'I AM' Statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John."


On seven occasions, John has Jesus defining himself, beginning with the introductory statement, "I Am. . ." Each Sunday of Lent, we will spend some time gleaning how each of these designations Jesus uses for himself really describes who HE wants to be for us, what his relationship with is as his followers. The seventh I AM statement will be our Easter Sunday Celebration as we celebrate Jesus, who is the Resurrection and the Life!



- 03.09.25 — I am the Bread of Life — John 6:22-40
- 03.16.25 — I Am the Light of the World — John 8:12-30
- 03.23.25 — I Am the Gate — John 10:1-10
- 03.30.25 — I Am the Good Shepherd — John 10:11-18
- 04.06.25 — I Am the Way, the Truth, the Life — John 14:1-14
- 04.13.25 — I Am the Vine — John 15:1-8
- 04.20.25 — I Am the Resurrection and the Life — John 11:17-26

As was intended with our *Great Expectations* series and our *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?* Series, I hope these reflections on the I Am statements of Jesus, on how Jesus defines his relationship with us, help us to not just know more *about* Jesus but help us to both *KNOW* and *WANT TO KNOW* Jesus more deeply and in knowing him more deeply, to follow him more faithfully as his disciples.

Blessings — Pastor Ginger



Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church
EQUIPS and EMPOWERS persons
 to **ENGAGE** with each other and the larger community
 for the purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ
 for the transformation of the world.

BE EMPOWERED TO SERVE

EXTEND A HELPING HAND THROUGH MISSIONS IN OCTOBER!



COMMUNION OFFERING: UMCOR Sunday — This offering is the primary funding stream for the administrative costs of UMCOR, assuring that 100% of financial gifts given for UMCOR projects go directly to the projects.

MISSION EMPHASIS: Ronald McDonald House — Grab-and-go snacks, disposable travel cups with lids, travel-size toiletries. Please place items in bin in the Tower or Fellowship Hall.

GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD ITEM: Mac & cheese — place in bins outside the sanctuary and in drop-down bin across from the front office.

NEW LIFE MINISTRY NEEDS: Non-perishable food items. Place in the tote in the Tower.

EAST PINE GROVE FOOD DISTRIBUTION: See Missy to volunteer for the first time for the third Monday food distribution at East Pine Grove Methodist Church, 2PM.

POSSIBLE HELENE RELIEF WORK WEEK

We would love to have a team from Wesley doing some flood relief work this summer with either ASP or Holston's Disaster Response! You do not have to be experienced in construction, friends. There is always something to do for all skill levels. It is a great opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ for our neighbors who have lost everything, and you will have a great time in the process of helping others. Please pray about being a part of a team, and if you are interested, email Missy at missy@wesleymemorialumc.org.



Our support week is March 31-April 6. Please stay tuned to see what items will be needed that week to support the families.

We welcome Christian Aid Ministries
Mennonite Mission Teams
from Ohio during
February and March.

We are excited to welcome our second mission team from Christian Aid Ministries in Ohio. We so enjoyed spending time with the group that just left and look forward to doing the same with the new group, which will be here through March. They will be building homes in Washington County for Helene flood victims. Like the last group, the team will be made up of mostly young adult males with their house parents, work crew leaders, and cooks and will have their own Worship Services on Sunday morning upstairs. If you are at the church while they are here, pop your head into the kitchen or fellowship hall and give them a big Tennessee welcome.

We invite each person or family to consider a *Faith Promise Pledge* for Lent in the form of a *second-mile gift*, a financial gift above your regular tithe and offering given in confidence that God will supply your needs so that, together, we can supplement what is budgeted for missions to meet the growing needs of those living in economic poverty or insecurity through our Missions ministry. The church will distribute only what is received through this fund. This enables Wesley to increase support to some agencies and ministries and enter into relationship with new ones as the need arises. Some of the ministries we helped in 2024 with Faith Promise Funds were: Congolese Orphans, Food Boxes for Mobile Food Distribution, Habitat Women's Build, US Missionary support, and more. You will learn more about this during Worship on March 16. Pledge cards for March 2025-2026 will be available March 16-April 20.



Our 2025
Lenten Missions Project

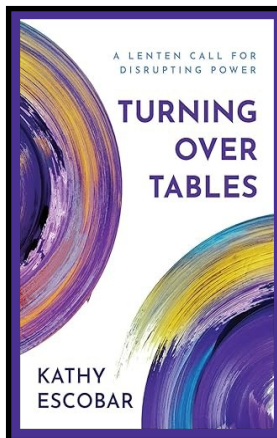
EQUIPPED TO GROW AS DISCIPLES

BREATH PRAYER

FOR THE WEEKS IN FEBRUARY

- 02.02 IN:** With each beat of my heart
OUT: I remember I am Yours.
- 02.09 IN:** Let me treat others
OUT: as I wish to be treated.
- 02.16 IN:** Show me glimpses, Jesus,
OUT: of who you are today.
- 02.23 IN:** Take me to the margins
OUT: to those in need of Good News.

LENTEN STUDY OFFERED TUESDAY AND SUNDAY



Missy will be leading a small-group Lenten study using the book *Turning Over Tables* by Kathy Escobar. The book guides readers on a Lenten journey inspired by the ways of Jesus to dismantle the systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice. Each week of Lent, readers will dig deeper into Jesus' challenge to the pervasive influence of privilege and oppression that have dominated since ancient times. Readers will discover how they can harness the disruptive power of Jesus' teachings to effect meaningful change in their communities and beyond.

The study will be offered on Tuesday 10:30 AM-11:30 AM group March 11-April 22 and also on Sundays 6PM-7PM March 9-April 27. Please email Missy at missy@wesleymemorialumc.org to let her know of your interest or sign up in the bulletin. The cost of the book is \$14.

We are excited to have 3 new Covenant Discipleship Groups for ladies!

- CDG 1 will meet on Sunday, 03.09 @ 6PM.
CDG 2 will meet Wednesday, 03.12 @ 2PM.
CDG 3 will meet Wednesday, 03.12 @ 6PM.
All will meet monthly in the church Library.

Any of you who are still curious or interested in participating, feel free to attend the time best for you.



Centering Prayer
1st Monday 10AM,
and all other
Mondays 11AM
in the Prayer
Chapel

Open Door Prayer Wednesdays, 5PM

Join Lay Leader Carol McGinnis & her husband Jim in the sanctuary for a time of informal prayer for our church and community. You may pray individually or pray with Carol & Jim. You may also come and go as needed.



MEN'S COVENANT
DISCIPLESHIP GROUP
THURSDAY, 5PM,
SEPTEMBER 12,
ROOM 107

EQUIPPED TO GROW AS DISCIPLES



This month, the online story time and additional posts remind us that Jesus wants us to work together. The virtue for March is **COOPERATION:**

Working together to do more than you can do alone.

The Bible verse for March is:

Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. — Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV



OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Lent begins on March 5 with our Ash Wednesday Service and ends on Easter Sunday, April 20. As you know, the season offers us an opportunity for special worship opportunities. This year, our special Lenten services will be experiential, with hands-on opportunities for you and your family to immerse yourselves in the events of the season. Let us enter the Lenten season as one who walks with Jesus as he has turned his face to the cross, willingly examining the depth of our faithfulness to him as he comes to his final hours.



ENGAGE WITH OTHERS

MONDAY
MARCH 3, 11:30 AM
3119 BRISTOL HWY #108, JC

XYZ 2.0

Join us for lunch on a Monday, March 3 at Rocks Wood Fired Pizza. If you plan on joining us, RSVP to Kem at kemhmckee@gmail.com.

rockswoodfired.com/menu/



ROCKS
WOOD FIRED PIZZA & GRILL

All men are invited to attend our monthly Men's Breakfast at 8AM on March 15 in the Fellowship Hall.



PAGE TURNERS WESLEY BOOK CLUB - OPEN TO ALL

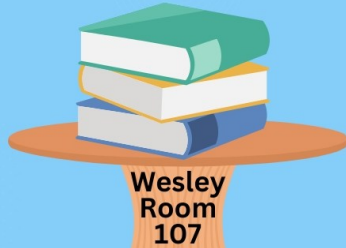
March 10, 10AM
James
by Percival Everett

June 9, 10AM
The Dutch House
by Ann Patchett

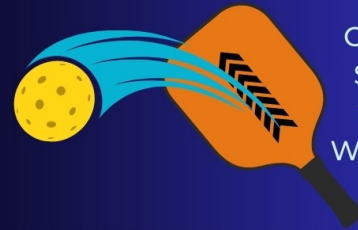
April 14, 10AM
Grandma
Gatewood's Walk
by Ben Montgomery

Please read the book before each meeting.

May 12, 10AM
The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store
by James McBride



WESLEY PICKLERS



OPEN PLAY
SUNDAYS,
2PM-4PM
WESLEY GYM

BRING A FRIEND AND COME PLAY BALL!

Knitting Group
Mondays, 3PM,
Room 107



SUNDAY BRUNCH & JOINT WORSHIP MARCH 30. WITH 9:00 AM BRUNCH & 10:15 WORSHIP

BRING YOUR FAVORITE BRUNCH DISH TO SHARE.
AND COME ENJOY TIME WITH FRIENDS!



If you are interestd in learning Issin-ryu Karate, the Honeycutt Karate School meets in Wesley's gym on Tuesdays at 6PM. Classes are free.

Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091796343976>



A WORD FROM OUR LAY LEADER

Carol McGinnis

LET US PRAY

Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

We know that God desires us to share in God's divine life. Our love for our Creator God can be expressed through prayer. Jim and I have been sharing Open Door Prayer on Thursday mornings for more than a year. It is truly a meaningful spiritual journey. During the year, we have heard from you that a time of Open Door Prayer later in the day would be appreciated. Carol and Jim McGinnis will be in the sanctuary during the month of March 5:00 PM — 6:15 PM, including Ash Wednesday. Come and pray, share a request, spend some time in quiet conversation. God will be there, and we will be there.

A PRAYER PILGRIMAGE Saturday, April 5

During the latter part of the Lenten Season, we invite you to go on a journey with us. Wesley will be going on a Prayer Pilgrimage right here in our Fellowship Hall. We will be learning, praying, singing, painting and worshipping on Saturday, April 5th 9AM — 2PM. We encourage you to come as your Wesley family shares this wonderful day with you. We will have a very special lunch as we demonstrate our love of God and each other. There will be a prayer circle in the gym honoring the 7 "I AM" statements of Jesus, provided as a vehicle for meditation and prayer. Our worship time will be very special. The entire day will be very special. In the coming weeks, we will have information provided for your RSVP in the bulletin. See you there!



The Social Principle for the month of March is Food Injustice.

What is food injustice and how is it different than food insecurity?

Food insecurity is the lack of access to adequate food, while food justice is a movement that aims to address the systemic inequalities that lead to food insecurity. So, food insecurity is the symptom of a greater problem. Examples of the greater problem include but are not limited to: poverty, unemployment, and low wages. Many people depend on food distribution sites to have enough food to eat for the month. While it is necessary and wonderful to donate food so others can have the nutriment they need, we must fix the systemic issue so all people can live a high-quality, happy life.

What can we do to reduce food injustice and ensure people can have food they need?

Call our representatives and ask them to raise the minimum wage, increase unemployment benefits and food stamps. Local ways we can take action is to have a community garden at Wesley, hand out seeds, pots, and dirt to people so they can grow their own food, lastly educate people that their food stamps allow them to buy seeds to grow their own food or they can buy plants.

"Every 33 seconds a baby will be born into poverty. And 13 percent of American households — over 42 million men, women, and children — are experiencing food insecurity right now."

To learn more: tinyurl.com/foodjustic

LK 1:52-53; Matt 25:37-40

Clyde Harrell
Church and Society Coordinator



Please pray for. . .

**Steve Brown
Richard & Debbie Cox
Juan Diaz
Ginger Dugger
Darla Duty
Jeanette Hawkins
Buck Henry
Phyllis Morgan
Donna Rowland
Richard Sheldon**

**Cordy McDaniel
upon the death of her
son Sean**



PRAYER BOWLS FOR SANCTUARY WORSHIP

Beginning the first Sunday of Lent, March 9, we will have two Prayer Bowls, like the one in the bottom left of the picture, placed on the chancel rail, with

paper and pencils available in which you may place a name only prayer request or a praise to be lifted up aloud as a part of the pastoral prayer. Only the first name will be read aloud.

FAITHFUL FIDGITING BASKETS

People of all ages have trouble focusing these days, so baskets have been placed outside of each entry into the sanctuary with yarn and crochet hooks and knitting needles and various fidgit items. Please feel free to grab an item on Sundays or bring one from home if you find it helpful. Crocheted or knitted squares can be left to make into a blanket for missions.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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