

Wesley UMC family,

Today is the last day of the month of January, and it certainly has been filled with some unexpected surprises. Our Food Pantry, even though it was only open for 3 out of the 5 Tuesdays due to the holidays and icy weather, served 84 households in our community. While it wasn't safe to venture out on the roads and sidewalks, we continued with worship through Facebook from the comfort of our homes and regular surroundings. Though everything didn't happen like we expected, I see God at work in and through the ministries of our congregation.

Debbie and I have been working on our annual statistical reports that are submitted to the Conference offices. It's a helpful way to take note of some of the changes from year to year in terms of membership, ministry, and finances. I look forward to sharing more with you about those insights. Whenever there is a dramatic change in a category, a box pops up for you to give an explanation. When I came to the category for on-going classes and other small groups (all ages) other than Sunday Church School, I added one to our number since this past year we began our Love Tupelo group for young adults in partnership with St. Luke. When the box popped up, I was able to explain and share about our new joint ministry. In terms of our membership after accounting for those who have died, transferred their membership, or joined Wesley through confirmation, we ended up with a net increase of one, which is also a 1% increase. While I am hopeful that we can improve that number in the years moving forward, I celebrate that we are in the positive. We have areas where we have been able to reduce some operating expenses and increase our generosity to United Methodist and other charitable causes, including our United Methodist Men and Sunday Fund Offering. Our average weekly in-person worship attendance and Sunday School attendance has continued to increase. Though the focus isn't on the numbers, I think the metrics help us pay attention to the trends and lean into where the Spirit is leading us.

This Sunday, we will continue with Mark 5 with some other stories of healing. The three people that Jesus heals in Mark 5 are each very different: the Gerasene demoniac, the woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 long years; and the 12-year old daughter of Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. We see people of different ages, backgrounds, social statuses, genders, and situations. Yet, these stories are stacked together in a way that we see Jesus as the common denominator. I wonder what it would look like to put these three in a room together. What if we could hear each one tell their story and witness to the power and healing of God?

Of course, that's what we experience in community on any given Wednesday night or Sunday morning. People of different ages, backgrounds, views of the world, social statuses, genders, and situations come forward to the communion table with our hands outstretched seeking God's presence and healing. We study Scripture and serve alongside each other. Do we focus on the differences, or do we realize that what we have in common through Christ is far greater? I pray that the salvation, healing, love, and grace we experience from Jesus bind us together in ways that transcend our differences. I love that Jesus says to woman who touched him, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." May we find peace and healing through our faith and trust in God and as we come together as a powerful witness to Christ.

Grace and peace,
Emily

Sunday's Message:

*"The Power of
Healing"*

Mark 5: 21-43



January Events

Wednesday, January 31st

5:00pm....WOW meal
6:00pm....Bible Studies
7:00pm.....Choir practice

Saturday, February 3rd

7:15am....Registration for
Tupelo/New Albany Lay
Servant Training

Sunday, February 4th

9:15 am....Donuts in Holy
Grounds
9:30 am.....Sunday School
10:30 am.....Worship Service

Monday, February 5th

10:00am.....Girl Scouts

Tuesday, February 6th

8:00am-10:30am.....Food
Pantry
10:30am.....Stay Young

Flower List

Have a special occasion to celebrate? Contact Rachel Davis and she will have a beautiful arrangement fixed up to help celebrate! Sign up sheet is in the foyer! Open dates are Feb. 11 and 25th, and March 3rd.



Prayer List

Praying for others is an important part of our ministry as the body of Christ. Please incorporate this list as a part of your personal prayer life.

Bobbie Schreppel
Joan Smith
James and Jessica Brockman
Harry Dean Brown
Mike Buskirk
Craig Byrd (Kathy Byrd's son)
Rosemary Comer
Billy Golden (Glenda Clay's dad)
Jarred Grimes
Hunter Heatherly (Chesley and Merrie Kyle's son)
Herndon family on the death of their grandmother, Mary Ella
Jennings Lancaster
Mike Kane
David Koon
John Langford

JoAnn Miller (James Taylor's grandmother)
Joe Nardozi (Quay Whitten's nephew)
Sympathy for family of Johnny Nolan
Jackie Pearce
Woody Pearce
Sandy Putman
Peggy Rinehart
Brenda Robinson
Joan Smith
Tonya Smith
Jim Staggs
Barbara Turner
Sonny Turner
Gary Walker
Ben Webb (Raymond Webb's nephew)

Please continue to be in prayer for our brothers and sisters at St. Paul UMC as they look at rebuilding after the loss of their sanctuary due to a fire. Please keep them in your prayers as they respond to this tragedy.

JANUARY 31, 2024

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS

JOIN US FOR OUR WOW MEALS AT 5PM AND
BIBLE STUDIES STARTING AT 6PM!

WOW Meal

1/31/24 - Baked Potato and Salad Bar, Italian Creme Cake and brownie bites

2/7/24 - Spaghetti and Salad, Garlic Bread, and desserts

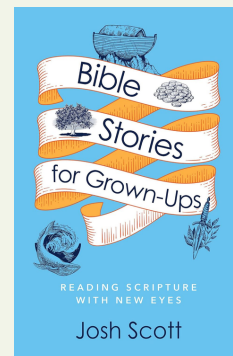
“THE QUEST”

With Anna Garner



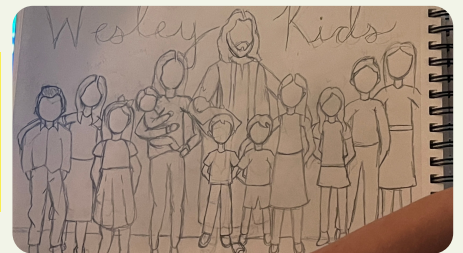
BIBLE STORIES FOR GROWN-UPS

With Emily Sanford



WACKY, WILD WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

With Cherie Walker and our
Wesley Kids



Next Wednesday, February 7th, we will have Rev. Sally Bevill as our special guest for the WOW meal and to share a few words of gratitude for our participation in the Thriving in Ministry program. She is a retired elder of the MS Conference United Methodist Church who served for 32 years all around the state in local churches and the Non-profit arena establishing mission centers for ministry with our homeless and immigrant communities. Sally is the mother of three amazing children of color who inform her daily life. She loves fashion, moving to the beat of music and sitting in the rays of the sun and the glow of the moon. She is a widow and a matriarch which translate into a life that knows big love and big loss. She is a curious listener and learner... a creative and beloved child of God who lives out loud and loves to be extra. Sally now serves in many capacities at Millsaps College in Jackson MS. She is a chaplain on a college campus and directs Campus Religious Life. Sally also writes grants for the Center for Ministry and directs The Thriving in Ministry Program for Clergy Women while also supervising The Christian Parenting and Caregivers Initiative. Her calling is to offer joy and light while creating authentic relationships. Her joy is found in discovering the Holy among others and within herself.

FAT TUESDAY

Pancake Dinner Fundraiser for St. Paul UMC, Tupelo.

A fire destroyed the sanctuary of St. Paul UMC on January 17th. LOVE Tupelo is sponsoring a donations only fundraiser to show our support! All are welcome!



LOVE
TUPELO

February 13 | 5:30 - 7 PM
St. Luke UMC Fellowship Hall



Shelia Lockwood and Jamie Yant with Triple J Travels will be our guests at Stay Young on Tuesday, February 6th @ 10:30am to discuss upcoming travel trips planned for 2024 including Mackinac Island, The Ark and Creation Museum, Branson, etc. Meal will be pot luck with Beef tips, potatoes, drinks and rolls provided.

February 2 - Chris Clay
February 2 - Tommy Dempsey
February 3 - John Sanford
February 3 - Rex Gibson
February 5 - John Baker
February 5 - Sarah Boggan
February 6 - Karen McMillin
February 7 - Justin Herndon
February 8 - Jim Foster
February 8 - Anna Taylor
February 9 - Shorty Franks

February 11 - Christina Gibson
February 12 - Jim Gentry
February 19 - Wayne Chrestman
February 20 - Ronald Baker
February 20 - Ansley McMillin
February 24 - Zachary Curtis
February 25 - Liza Herndon
February 27 - David Koon
February 28 - Madison Langford



The Tupelo/New Albany/District 5
Mississippi Annual Conference

Lay Servant Training Event
February 3 2024

Location: Wesley United Methodist Church
2010 W Main, Tupelo 38801

Classes and faculty

Adult Basic Course – Cheryl Denley, Senatobia District Secretary and former Conference Director of Lay Speaking. This course should be taken before any other. It introduces basic skills in 3 primary aspects of Lay Servant Ministries: leading, caring and communicating. Cost - \$35

Advanced:

Living Our United Methodist Beliefs: Rev. Trey Harper, Director or Spiritual Leadership, Mississippi Annual Conference. This course will explore the special gifts of theology, witness, and organization that The United Methodist Church brings to the church universal, how we got where we are today, and how our distinctive emphases are still needed in the 21st-century church. Cost - \$35.00

The Way of the Carpenter: Rev. Dr. Jason Zebert, assistant Director Faith Community Formation, Mississippi Annual Conference. Start helping people become all that God intended for them to be. This class is open to lay people and clergy. Cost \$85.00. Pastors: 0.7 CEU's is available. Scholarships are available. Please contact the District Office.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ: Rev. Dr. Mary LeSure, pastor Beverly United Methodist Church and Salem United Methodist Church, Oxford MS. There is no book required for this class. Rev. LeSure has requested that participants bring their Bible (KJV preferred). Cost \$25.

Schedule

Saturday, February 3, 2024

7:15 Registration and Breakfast * a continental breakfast will be served Saturday for a financial donation.

8:00 – noon Class

12 noon – 1 pm Lunch - Key note speaker: Rev. Dwayne Robinson, St. James UMC (Amory)

1 pm – 4 pm Class

If not using the online registration form, detach and return to the District Office:
PO Box 3957, Tupelo MS 38803

Our United Methodist Men will be hosting the Tupelo/New Albany District Lay Servant Training this coming Saturday, Feb, 3rd at our church. We will be serving breakfast and lunch that day. We need some people to help serve during those meal times and also to help clean up around 4pm. If you can help in any way, please contact Russ Wilson or Keith Garner.

WAYS TO SERVE

A Message From Bishop Lewis



Sisters and brothers in Christ,

I'd like to invite you to a time of conversation and fellowship at an upcoming "Chat and Chew 2.0 with Bishop Lewis" coming to a church near you. In 2023, I invited you all to join me at the Chat and Chews so that you could get to know me in the early days of being your bishop. This time around, beginning in January 2024, I want to get to know you. The closest one to Tupelo will be at Oxford First UMC on Sunday, February 25th @ 2:00pm-4:30pm.

OFFERING COUNTERS

2/4/24 - Bill Austin and Tricia Thistle
2/11/24 - Rachel Davis and David Hutson
2/18/24 - Martha Clay and Brenda Pearce
2/25/24 - Pat Pearce and Trae Wyatt

TRUSTEES

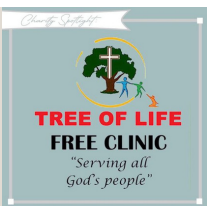
2/4/24 - David Hutson
2/11/24 - Christina Gibson
2/18/24 - William Darby
2/25/24 - Cherie Walker

FOOD PANTRY

2/6/24 - Pam Shields, Martha Webb, Errol Tootle, Wentris Alford
2/13/24 - Judy Counce, Martha Clay, Wentris Alford, Errol Tootle
2/20/24 - Ruth Dobbs, Pat Pearce, Linda Henderson
2/27/24 - Judy Counce, Errol Tootle, Wentris Alford

The Food Pantry item for the month of January is CANNED VEGETABLES! Any kind and any brand will be great!

EST. 2023
THEOLOGY ON TAP
An opportunity to socialize, pray, and grow in our spiritual understanding of the faith all while building community in a comfortable, relaxed setting.
THURSDAY, FEB 1ST
6:30PM @ LOCO TACO
Thursday nights 6:30pm
Contact Trae Wyatt or Bill Austin for more details



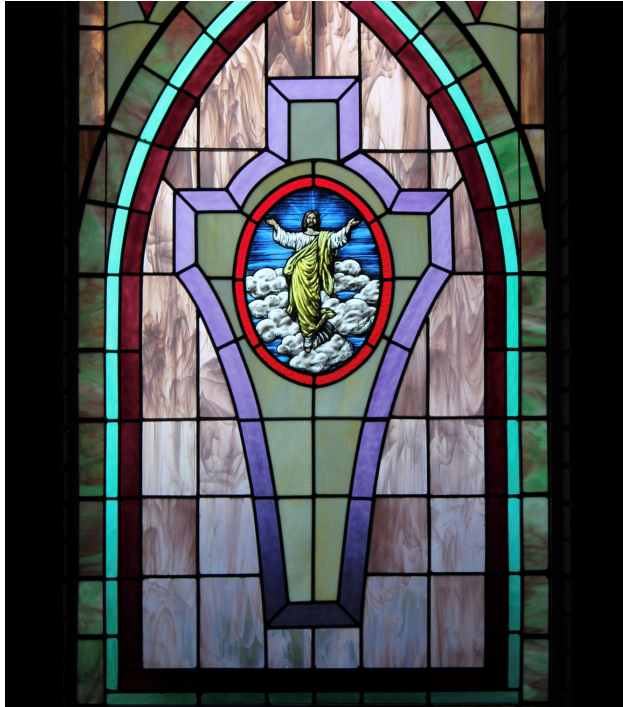
Wednesday, February 7th @ 4:30 pm

Saturday, February 17th @ 8:30 am

Wesley Witness

January 31, 2024

Volume 47, Issue 75



FOR THE RECORD

Attendance (In - Person)

Morning Worship....71 in person, 7 virtual

Stewardship

2024 Operating Budget.....\$269,155

YTD Budget Receipts.....\$33,434

Needed Weekly.....\$5176.06

Weekly Budget Receipts.....\$7,947



WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 2434 Tupelo, MS 38803-2434

Located at 2010 West Main Street

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Fax: 662.841.5632

Church Email: wumchurch@comcast.net

Church Website: www.wesleytupelo.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/wesleytupelo

Pastor's Cell # 601.376.9658

Pastor's Email:

revemilysanford@gmail.com

Emily Sanford - Pastor

Linda Austin - Worship Leader

Debbie Clark - Financial Secretary

Martha Webb - Pianist

Sandi & Doug Haire - Custodians

Ashley Wilson-Nursery

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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To Believe. To Belong. To Become
Christ-Like Through Discipleship.