

April  
2023

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wesleymonumental.org

# THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



## Life at Wesley



Youth Choir and instrumentalists during the Children of the Light Concert.



A Spring Tea honoring New Members and Shepherds was held March 4.



Members mowing the lawn at The Living Vine Christian Maternity Home.

Sunday morning Children's Worship.



Helping with landscaping The Tiny House project for formerly homeless veterans.



## From Ben's Desk

Ben Martin, Senior Pastor  
912-232-0191, Ext. 216, [ben@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:ben@wesleymonumental.org)

## *A Month of Worship & Celebration*

### No month of the Church year has more special occasions than April!

April 2 with Palm Sunday, the kickoff for Holy Week. We will also have a Church Conference that morning during the Sunday School hour (9:45 a.m.) to vote on moving ahead with a renovation of the old Education Building, music, and children's areas (floors 2, 3, 4). The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place at Wesley Gardens that afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

April 3-7 we will worship all week long during Holy Week with lunch services Monday-Wednesday, Maundy Thursday evening dinner and communion, and Good Friday service at noon.

April 9 we will join in Easter celebrations at 7:00 a.m. at Wesley Gardens, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

April 16 we will launch a new Sunday school class for adults 25-40 years old. "The Millennial Blend," a Sunday school class for all millennial adults (single, married, with kids, without kids - all millennials are welcome) will be led by Aaron and Ashley Higgins in the Oliver Hall Parlor. They will be studying the book *What if Jesus was Serious About Prayer?* By Skye Jethani.

On April 23 during Sunday School, we will welcome Rev. David Worthington, Director of Global Relationships at John Wesley's New Room in Bristol, the oldest Methodist building in the world. *"Dating from 1739; the year when John Wesley first arrived in the city of Bristol to begin his open-air preaching ministry as he 'submitted to be more vile and proclaimed in the highways the glad tidings of salvation'. It was built as a meeting house for ministry where both spiritual instruction and practical support could be offered to those in need and many preachers were commissioned in their ministries, including Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke as they began their respective journeys to America from the New Room."* Today, the New Room's offer includes a museum, library for academic research, education provision, events program, and café as well as the original

18th century chapel where a communion service is held every Friday. The site, which is open throughout the year, presently welcomes over 50,000 visitors per annum from all over the world.



April 30 our Confirmation Class will join the church.

We hope you will join us for all these special occasions of worship, fellowship, discipleship, and service.



## Youth

James P. Owens, Director of Student Ministries  
912-232-0191 Ext. 209, [james@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:james@wesleymonumental.org)

Confirmation is one of those special things about being a United Methodist. We baptize infants and young children, promising as parents and members of the church to raise them in the faith. Through the process of Confirmation, students claim that faith for themselves and confirm the words spoken over them in baptism.



I've been delighted to lead a great group of young people through Confirmation this year. We will confirm this year's class during the 11:00 Service on April 30.

Over the weekend of March 3-5, some of the members of the Confirmation class participated in the South Georgia Conference's annual Confirmation Retreat. We were joined by about 200 confirmands from South Georgia and South Carolina. Through meaningful worship, education, and fellowship, students were invited to "join the journey" and make their faith their own. It was a great weekend for our Confirmation students!





## Children's Ministry

Charli Weeks, Director of Children's Ministry  
912-232-0191 Ext. 225, charli@wesleymonumental.org

Spring is here and Summer's coming!  
Read below to see how you and your family can join the fun.



### Easter Egg-stravaganza

Our annual Easter Festival and Egg Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, April 2 at 4:00 p.m. at the Wesley Gardens Retreat Center. There will be lots of eggs, treats, games, art activities, and more. Our youngest children will gather in the main house and our elementary children will gather at the pavilion. It will be a fun afternoon for everyone. Plan to bring bug spray and your camera for a picture with the Easter Bunny. Watch for more details on Instagram @CMatWesleyUMC or on our website.

### Children's Easter Program

Mark your calendar and invite your family and friends to our children's Easter program on Wednesday, April 19 at 6:15 p.m. Rehearsals are underway and the children are excited about their singing and speaking parts. The program is being presented during the season of Easter and it will be a joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, our Savior.



### Join us on Sunday Mornings for Sunday School and Children's Worship



### Vacation Bible School

This year our Vacation Bible School will be held at the Wesley Gardens Retreat Center June 5 - 9 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. At this time registration is open for all Wesley Monumental families. Register at [www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental](http://www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental)

### Summer Fun Daze at Wesley Gardens

Wesley children, who have completed kindergarten through third grade, can attend our Summer Fun Daze camp at the Wesley Gardens Retreat Center the week of July 17 - 21. It will be a fun week full of games, crafts, science, and water fun along with some time spent studying God's Word. Monday - Wednesday we'll start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. On Thursday, we'll start at 9:00 a.m., and we will be spending the night at Wesley Gardens! Our tired campers will be ready to be picked up at noon on Friday. The cost for the week is \$85. Space is limited. At this time registration is open for members of Wesley Monumental. You can register for VBS and/or Summer Fun Daze at [www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental](http://www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental)



### Summer Camp at Eli's Place



Summer Camp at Eli's Place is for children as young as 12 weeks through those who have completed Pre-K and will be starting kindergarten in the fall. It is a great opportunity for children to build friendships with other children who are members of Wesley Monumental. Registration opens on April 11.

### Ninja Warrior Day at Eli's Place





## Evangelism

Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach & New Members  
912-234-9245, tbordeaux@prodigy.net

### Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during February. Our April New Member Course will be Sundays, April 16 and 30, at 10:00 a.m. both Sundays. Class will join as a group on Sunday, April 30. Nursery provided. Please call the church office to sign up, 912-232-0191.



### Jewel Hendrix

Jewel grew up in Statesboro, and her mother, Florene Hendrix, now lives at the Oaks on Skidaway Road. Jewel is a retired math teacher, having taught at Jenkins, Windsor Forest, and Savannah Arts Academy. Her shepherd, Gretchen Patricio, and she have been in a teacher sorority together.

Shepherds: *Gretchen & Raymond Patricio*



### Elisha Odum & Christina Orr

Elisha's grandfather, also named Elisha Odum, was a Methodist pastor in the North Georgia Conference. Elisha is a physical therapist at Candler Hospital, and he has also taught French. Christina is the site manager at a pre-Colonial site, Fort King George, for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Elisha is from Clarkesville, Georgia, and Christina is from Cleveland, Georgia. They are engaged to be married at Wesley on December 15.

Shepherds: *Ken & Deanne Rimes & Elane & Edd Finley*



### Jenna Watts

Jenna grew up in Marietta, Georgia, and she is a paralegal for her husband at the law firm, Watts and Watts. Already she is active in the Young Mothers' Bible Study. Gil and Jenna's 7-month-old son, Bo, was baptized March 26 at Wesley. *Shepherd: Gil Watts*



### Shred Your Stress, Friday, April 28, 2-3 p.m., East Wayne Street

If only it were that easy! Bring documents to be shredded (please no staples or paper clips or binder clips) to East Wayne Street. Thanks to Savannah Shredding for donating the shredding services. Questions? Please email Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



### New Bible Study Topic-- "He Is Risen!": The Easter Story in All Four Gospels

Young Mothers' Bible Study, Tuesdays  
from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Nelle teaches the mothers, while Carmine Cowart teaches the nursery children. All are welcome! Sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



## Missions

Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach & New Members  
912-234-9245, tbordeaux@prodigy.net

**Refugee Families Need Kroger Gift Cards**  
Any amount.  
Please bring to the church office or Nelle.



### April Family Mission Project - Urban Hope Supper, Monday, April 24

Sign up to bring a main dish, side dish, salad, drinks, rolls, paper plates/cups/silverware, or dessert for 80 Urban Hope guests. Please sign up in advance with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net. Please meet at 5:30 p.m. at Independent Presbyterian Church, Bull at Oglethorpe; the Urban Hope children and families arrive at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!



## Memorials & Honors

### April 2023

*Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:*

#### The Children's Music

##### Building Fund

In memory of **Lee Butler**  
From Susan Still  
In memory of  
**Claude Buzzard**  
From June Buzzard

#### The Endowment Fund

In memory of **Lee Butler**  
From Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Solomons Jr  
In memory of **Mildred Wallace**  
From Ge-Juan Wilkes  
In memory of **Walter Sumner**  
From Rosanne Montjoy

#### The Endowment

##### Fund Cont.

In memory of **Walton Carroll**  
From  
Libby Kelly  
Ken Coleman & Family  
Edwin Coleman & Family

#### The Music

##### Endowment Fund

In memory of  
**Helen McCutchen**  
From  
Wesley Chancel  
Choir

## Enrichment Class and Parents' Night Out

Hosted by Wesley Monumental UMC

Featuring Waters Edge Counseling

**Saturday, April 22**

- ◆ The class will meet 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Following the class, parents will enjoy an evening out from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- ◆ Childcare will be available with child-friendly supper provided for birth - 5th grade.

### Children's Mental Health



AMANDA BASKIN

Have you ever noticed your child struggling with skills their friends have already mastered? Have you ever felt worried that their tantrums were reaching a new level of unmanageable? Have you ever felt something was wrong and couldn't figure out what? You're not alone.

During this presentation, we will cover the most common mental health issues that elementary-age children face. We will explore ways to know the differences between typical behaviors or signs that a child needs extra help. We will review steps you can take as a parent to support your child and help them lead their best life.

Amanda received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Georgia College and State University. She then continued her studies at the University of Georgia earning a Masters in Social Work and a Marriage and Family Therapy Certificate. Amanda grew up in Savannah and enjoys being outdoors gardening and going to the beach.

Register online: [www.wesleymonumental.org/parents-night-out-sign-up/](http://www.wesleymonumental.org/parents-night-out-sign-up/)



## Prayer Committee

*Jesus Christ, the Only Hope in the World*

The seven words on the cross have always grabbed my attention:

(1) "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:24 (2) "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43 (3) "Speaking to John and Mary, He said, "Dear woman, here is your son. Here is your mother." John 19:26-27 (4) "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34 (5) "I am thirsty." John 19:26-27 (6) "It is finished." John 19:30 (7) "Father into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

I quote from the NIV Study Bible. These words resonate in my heart. The statements that Jesus made from the cross have been treasured by all who follow Him as Lord. They demonstrate His humanity and His divinity. They also capture the last moments of all that Jesus went through to gain our forgiveness. Now that is the Good News and the Hope of the world. This Lenten season, we invite you to pray with us each Wednesday from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. in the Oliver Hall Parlor. - Sue Ellis, Prayer Committee



## Congregational Life

Jennifer Thompson, Congregational Care  
912-232-0191, Ext. 202, [jennifert@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:jennifert@wesleymonumental.org)



### April Merry Makers

Our resident artist, Ivan Chow, will be our speaker at our April Merry Makers. Ivan will share with us about his love for art, show us some of his exhibits, offer us a demonstration, and talk about what he has been doing to prepare for retirement. The program will begin in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 10, and lunch will follow. Contact Jennifer Baker in the church office at [bakerj@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:bakerj@wesleymonumental.org) by Friday, April 7 to make reservations. Cost \$7.



# Wesley Gardens Retreat

Micah Sprunger, Retreat Director  
912-441-7578, micah@wesleygardensretreat.com

## The Sacred Journey Retreat At Wesley Gardens



In a world full of noise, be reminded of what God thinks of you.

He has always called you His beloved.

A Life Worth Living.

cocreationlife.com

3 night experience  
MAY 25-28, 2023



Come slow down with us on the moon river and take a break from the hurry and hustle. Here you will experience ancient ways of being present to yourself, to God, and the beauty around you.

*Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths,  
where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. (Jeremiah 6:16)*

If you choose to come, we will explore those ancient paths and practice them while you are with us. Our time together will be spent focusing on rest, prayer and embracing your belovedness.

What you can expect to receive: Deep listening, encouragement, new language for your with-God experience, storytelling, intimate worship, good food, fellowship and rest---lots of rest.

Your retreat will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 25 and end by lunchtime on Sunday, May 28. Your ticket includes ALL MEALS during your stay, lodging, spiritual direction, materials, and a special gift.

To register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-sacred-journey-retreat-tickets-541014718587> or contact Christian Swails at christian@cocreationlife.com.



### Easter Sunrise Service at Wesley Gardens

Sunday, April 9  
7:00 AM

Rev. James P. Owens  
preaching

### Bible Study: April 25

Join us for the spiritual discipline of Bible study. An in-depth class presented by Bible scholar and ESV commentator Dr. Scott Hafemann. This spring we will continue looking closely at "Peter, the Preacher" by examining his speeches in the book of Acts. Join us Tuesday, April 25 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Main House. For details, contact hello@wesleygardensretreat.com.

### Live Oaks & Teak Benches

For those seeking to honor a memory or loved one on the Grounds, commemorative Live Oaks and teak benches are available. Please email micah@wesleygardensretreat.com for info.

### Fourth Friday Retreat

On April 28, join us in the chapel for some time of guided retreat and solitude. In addition to group prayer and *Lectio Divina* (meditation on Holy Scripture) this liturgically-based retreat will feature teaching and discussion. Coffee and tea is provided at the Memory Garden gazebo at 8:45 a.m. The retreat is 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with the remainder of the afternoon available for self-guided personal retreat. Please bring your own lunch. For questions and further details email, hello@wesleygardensretreat.com.



# Music

Monica Dekle, Director of Music & Organist  
912-232-0191 Ext. 213, [monica@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:monica@wesleymonumental.org)



February 26, 2023. Children of the Light: An Evening of Hymns and Heritage





## Messenger Monthly Spotlight



### Confirmation Retreat

