

June
2023

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wesleymonumental.org

THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



Life at Wesley



Members helping at Shred Your Stress. Thank you to Savannah Shredding for providing this service.



Dutch treat at Asian River with the Merry Makers.



Wesley members serving dinner to Urban Hope families.



Infant Recognition Sunday



Family Promise bed disassembly.



On April 30 and May 7, the Confirmands took vows of membership and became full members of the body of Christ gathered here at Wesley Monumental.



From Ben's Desk

Ben Martin, Senior Pastor
912-232-0191, Ext. 216, ben@wesleymonumental.org

Summer at Wesley



Summer is here and we are gearing up to begin our summer program and worship at Wesley. One of the main changes from the school year schedule is our weekly fellowship meal and program. **During the summer we shift from Wednesday nights here at the main campus to Sunday nights at our Wesley Gardens Retreat on Burnside Island.** Sunday afternoons at Wesley Gardens Retreat begin with our youth group (3:00 p.m.) and youth choir (4:45 p.m.), followed by Sunday evening worship in the chapel at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:15 p.m. You do not need a reservation for dinner. Suzanna prepares the main dish and dessert and different Sunday school classes prepare the side dishes. **Our first Sunday night dinner and worship will be June 11 with the Wesley Chancel Choir singing.**

Summer is a great time to enjoy our retreat center. You can come out early or stay late to enjoy time on Moon River in a kayak, sit on or swim off the dock, walk on the nature trails, let the kids burn off some energy on the new playground, or find a quiet place to pray at one of the outdoor pavilions. We are blessed to have this beautiful, sacred, quiet sanctuary in God's creation in the middle of our busy city. While we host many groups at the center, we want our church family to enjoy it as much as possible.

Our retreat center will be the site of lots of children's activities as well. Vacation Bible School will be June 5-9, and Summer Fun Daze will be July 17-21. There will be special Sunday nights for kids on June 25 and July 23.

And of course, we will have Sunday morning worship in the sanctuary each week at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., and Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Don't let summer be a vacation from your commitment to spiritual study, fellowship, and worship. Join us and bring a friend to the many opportunities to grow in faith.

Staff Realignment and Additions

We are in process of realigning and refilling our staff after Nat Legree's retirement and moves of Jennifer Thompson and Haley Herrington. James P. Owens, our Director of Student Ministries, will be moving into the position of Associate Pastor, and we are searching for a new Director of Student Ministries. We are also in the process of searching for a new custodian/maintenance person and a Children's Ministry Assistant. Please be praying for God to raise up the right people to be a part of our staff and ministry.



Congregational Life

Jennifer Thompson, Congregational Care
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Dear Friends,

I cannot adequately explain what it has meant to me to serve at Wesley Monumental these past four years. Before taking this job, I wondered, "Lord, where in the world can you use a 50+ year old 'me' who has no connections in the Savannah area?" Little did I know that He knew all the time that I would be welcomed into this precious church family. During this time I have formed rich relationships with many of you; I have been blessed to dig deeper into the Word of God than I ever have in my life; I have laughed with you and cried with you. Even though my time with you was marked by a long season of Covid - and the challenges it presented to the world - and 2 serious surgeries for me, I have felt nothing but patience and love from all of you. I am sure that if you have ever been a part of a church other than Wesley, you will know that Wesley is quite extraordinary when it comes to being a gracious, non-complaining church body. You are definitely a glass-half-full congregation, and, as I am a glass-half-full person, it has been a perfect fit! Thank you for supporting David and me as we have sought to be obedient to the Lord and the next steps He has for our lives. I will miss all of you, but I won't be too far away. I'm always up for lunch out, so please reach out and we will meet halfway in Statesboro! My prayer is that you at Wesley will always love and honor Jesus in all that you do.

God is good...and He is able, Jennifer Thompson



Children's Ministry

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

**Last Call for VBS Registration!
Deadline is May 22. Details below.**



Summer Sunday School - Come Join Us!

Do you know the names of the men in the windows? Join us on Sunday mornings this summer as we have fun learning more about the fascinating founder of Methodism, John Wesley, and his connection to Savannah and Wesley Monumental. Sunday school begins with a time of conversation at 9:45 a.m. with the lesson starting at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School children go to the 11:00 service together and sit on the front row. Questions? Please email charli@wesleymonumental.org.



Children's Ministry Assistant Position

As our Children's Ministry continues to grow, a part-time Children's Ministry Assistant is needed to assist with the various children's programs offered by our Church. A copy of the Job Announcement outlining the duties and qualifications for the position may be found on our website, wesleymonumental.org, under [News & Events](#) then [Announcements](#). After reviewing the Job Announcement, if you are interested in applying for the position, please mail or email your resume to the contact information on the Job Announcement.

Vacation Bible School - Last Call - Deadline to Register is May 22!

- ◆ **Need to Register?** There are a few spots remaining for our Vacation Bible School at Wesley Gardens Retreat the week of June 5-9 from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day. The deadline to register is Monday, May 22, so please register today by visiting: www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental. At this time registration is open for all Wesley Monumental families.
- ◆ **We Need Your Help!** It takes a village to shepherd our children through the learning centers and activities that are planned for VBS. From making and serving snacks, to helping put welcome packets together, there are tasks for everyone. You can sign up by visiting www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental or emailing charli@wesleymonumental.org.



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 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.



Summer Camp

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. Email charli@wesleymonumental.org for a registration form and more information.



On Infant Recognition Sunday, we honored more than 20 families who welcomed babies into this world this past year.



Joyful Noise Choir singing in the Children's Easter Program.



Evangelism

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



Emily & Ryan Burnside with children, Hollis & Bennett

Both Emily and Ryan work at Memorial, and Emily's aunt was the organist at Ben Martin's church in Springfield, Ga. When Evangelism Chairman Chris Donegan issued a challenge from the pulpit prior to Bring a Friend Sunday for adults to invite a friend, he also challenged children and youth to invite a friend. One child, Charlotte Lee, took that challenge to heart and invited her first-grade-school classmate, Hollis Burnside, to worship. Not only did Hollis come, but she brought her parents and little brother, and now they have all joined the church!

Shepherds: Courtney & Bobby Lee and Megan & Bobby Haubein, III

Children's Shepherds: Charlotte & Hudson Lee and Heather & Millie Haubein



Sarah Beth Thompson with children, James & Caroline

Sarah Beth already is active in the Young Mothers' Bible Study, Altar Guild, and snack leading at Vacation Bible School. She and her husband, Josh, have two children, both of whom attend Savannah Christian Preparatory School. Sarah Beth grew up with both her parents as Baptist ministers.

Shepherds: Megan & Bobby Haubein, III

Children's Shepherds: Heather & Millie Haubein

Welcome New Members!
We are thankful the following have joined Wesley Monumental.



Pam & James Hammock, Jr., with children, Trip & Bo

Pam's late father was a Southern Baptist minister in Dublin, where she grew up. Ben Martin baptized James. She works for U.S. District Judge Stan Baker at the Federal courthouse, and James works as a respiratory therapist at the Brunswick hospital. Both their son and daughter attend Eli's Place. The Hammocks met as undergraduate students at the University of Georgia.

Shepherds: Mandy Roberts & Frank Pennington

Children's Shepherds: Grayson & Teagan Pennington

Patty Ronning

Patty has a heart for missions and has served Emmaus House soup kitchen for many years. Nelle officiated at the funeral for Patty's late husband, Dennis, and Ben officiated at the funeral for Patty's late son, Will, both of whom were beloved in this community. Patty's daughter, Allison, and her husband, Danny Mahfet, live down the street from Patty. She and her shepherds have been dear friends for years.

Shepherds: Carolyn & Michael Donovan

June New Member Course

Our next course will be June 18 and 25 at 10:00 a.m. both Sundays. Please call the church office to sign up, 912-232-0191.



- ◆ **Eli's Place Preschool Morning Chapel Services**
Mondays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- ◆ **Young Mothers' Bible Study**
Tuesdays, 9-10:00 a.m., nursery provided, currently studying "The Day Mom Finally Snapped: A Christian View of Anger."
- ◆ **Thursday Noon Bible Study**
via Zoom, presently studying the book of Esther.



Memorials & Honors

June 2023

Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:

The Pastors Discretionary Fund

In memory of
**Lee Butler, Gloria Parker,
Ruth Stuenckel, Dr. Grover Bell,
Ron Kent**
From Will & Joanne Faulk

In memory of **Ruth Stuenckel**
From
Dale & Jo Ann Fink
Sharon & Rex Cress
Marianne & Jere Motto
Wesley Chancel Choir

The Music Endowment Fund

In memory of
Alan Patricio
From
Wesley Chancel Choir
Carolyn Roth & Don Riddle
Paul & Debra Mamalakis

In memory of
**Chris Rimes
Mary Holloway**
From
Wesley Chancel Choir



Missions

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

Family Mission Project

Living Vine yard work, alternate Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., please speak with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net. Don Riddle leads this ministry.



Helpers Needed for Youth Local Mission Week

July 24-28, 9:00 a.m. - noon



Are you willing to help alongside our youth in construction ministry of planting azaleas or spreading dirt or laying sod for Family Promise homeless families? Please tell Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



Youth

James P. Owens, Director of Student Ministries
912-232-0191 Ext. 209, james@wesleymonumental.org

One of my favorite parts of being the Director of Student Ministries here at Wesley Monumental is that I get to shepherd young people through the process of Confirmation. As Methodists, we baptize babies and young children to initiate them into the life of the church. Baptized children are members of our church, but, at Confirmation, they take the important step of professing their faith in Jesus Christ for themselves.



Confirmation is a time when young people make their faith their own. Over the past school year, this Confirmation class has learned about the basics of the Christian faith, what it means to be a United Methodist, and how to be active members of the church. On April 30 and May 7, they took the vows of membership and became full members of the body of Christ gathered here at Wesley Monumental.

For this year's Confirmation class, the faith of their parents and grandparents is now their own faith. Welcome and congratulations to Adair Thomas, Camille Wilkes, Cole Valdez, Hudson Mobley, Madeleine Hall, Tyler Jones, Virginia Carroll, William Blake, Ella Burgstiner, Gil Thomas, Will Haire, Madelyn Byrd, Carson Hayes, Edie Pederson, Catherine Cheshire, Hunter McIntosh, Shep Zittrouer, and Sam Gonzalez.



Prayer Committee

So, Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. - Acts 12:5



This Scripture is referring to Peter being put in jail by mean old Herod who had just killed James, the brother of John. Peter was going to be next. The whole church was earnestly praying for Peter. THE WHOLE CHURCH!! WOW!! But prayer is where the action is! Prayer is where the power is! Relentless, powerful, forgiving prayer to our Lord God.

Almighty, in the name of Jesus Christ who died, rose again, and loves us more than we can comprehend and wants to hear from us. Jesus said where two or three gather in my name, I will be there. We can trust God in all things. He doesn't always do the same thing the same way. But, we can trust Him because He is sovereign God.

Prayer group on Wednesday nights will resume in September when Wednesday night activities begin. Our long time member and prayer warrior, Britt Griffin, will be the chairman next year. Please support this important church mission. We invite you to join our prayers in Oliver Hall each week from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.!



Wesley Gardens Retreat

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

Fourth Friday Retreat

On June 23, 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 from 8:30 a.m. The retreat is 9:00 a.m. -1:00 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.

Volunteers Needed

Do you enjoy gardening in a peaceful environment? Individual or group volunteers are needed to help maintain the grounds. Tasks include demossing bushes, pulling weeds, trimming azaleas, and keeping the marsh edge clean. Email micah@wesleygardensretreat.com for details.



Commemorative Oaks and Benches

For those seeking to honor a loved one or wishing to make a lasting contribution to Wesley Gardens, commemorative Live Oaks and quality teak benches are available. For further info, please email micah@wesleygardensretreat.com.

Due to a generous member donation, Adirondack chairs can be enjoyed by all this summer!

The Sacred Journey Retreat
At Wesley Gardens

A Life Worth Living.
cocreationlife.com

In a world full of noise, be reminded of what God thinks of you.
He has always called you His beloved.

3 night experience
MAY 25-28, 2023

CoCreation

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.



Music

Monica Dekle, Director of Music & Organist
 912-232-0191 Ext. 213, monica@wesleymonumental.org



Joyful Noise Choir in Easter Play

Music Awards



Congratulations to 126 three-year-olds through 5th graders who completed choir through the end of the term and received awards at the Music Awards Ceremony on Wednesday. Twenty-four 1st-5th graders had perfect attendance for the year. In total, the children learned over 30 hymns this year.



Thank you to parents for prioritizing their family's faith.

Thank you to these teachers for their perfect attendance and faithfulness from September through May:

- ◆ **Joyful Noise Choir:** Miang Chow, Ella Hayes, Deborah Roberds, Shirley Roberts, Aleyse Scarborough, Meaghan Wylie
- ◆ **Children's Choir:** Lee Green, Ash Grimmatt, Kim Grimmatt, Anne Hawks, JoAnna Hayes, Raymond Patricio, Ken Rimes, Carolyn Roth, Julia Flowers



Offering Envelopes

2023 Offering Envelopes

If you are a member of Wesley and have not received your 2023 offering envelopes, please contact Jennifer Baker, bakerj@wesleymonumental.org in the church office. Any remaining envelopes not picked up by June 30, will be recycled.

My Weekly Offering to the Work of My Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ Through
The United Methodist Church

Amount \$ _____

*Upon the first day of the month for every year of your life, by him in store, as God hath prospered him! 1 Corinthians 16:2

Name _____

Date _____ Envelope No. _____

001-02795

 **Wesley**
MONUMENTAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Savannah, Georgia 31401

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Messenger Monthly Spotlight



Children's Easter Program

