



Celebrating 155 Years 1868 - 2023

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January 1, 2023

A "DO OVER"

It is common in most areas of our lives that when we fail at something we have a need for the opportunity to try again. When we were kids playing, how often when we messed up did we say, "that doesn't count" or "I was just practicing" or "do over." In golf we take mulligans, teachers sometimes give "make-up" work, and we put erasers on pencils. And then, there is this thing called forgiveness. To be forgiven is to be given a chance to start over in spite of past failure. It never means what happened to necessitate forgiveness didn't matter, it means someone is giving me another chance in spite of it.

The beginning of a new year is a time when we wipe the slate clean and start over in many areas. Before all our electronic devices, we actually started a new calendar and it was a clean slate. It is a new tax year, a new fiscal year, a new vacation year (yea!), and a new deductible year (yuk!) How often do we feel the need to start over with God? There is something about the pursuit of "holiness" or "being perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect," that makes us feel like we often miss the mark. The good news is that the Bible teaches us repeatedly that God is a God of new beginnings. The Prophet says God offers a "new covenant" where he will "remember our sins no more." Paul speaks of "forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead." And in Revelation, God says, "behold I am making all things new." There is a prayer I love that is part of the United Methodist Morning Prayer liturgy. It reminds us that every day is a new beginning. It would be a good prayer to use during this new year.

**New every morning is your love, Great God of light,
and all day long you are working for good in the world.
Stir up in us desire to serve you,
to live peacefully with our neighbors,
and to devote each day to your Son,
our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

At Wesley Monumental we are excited to see what new things God does in and through us in 2023. We hope you will join us in being a part of this new great work of God.

Ben

* **Hymn No. 249** There's a Song in the Air CHRISTMAS SONG

Offertory Prayer Jennifer Thompson

Offertory Voluntary (8:45) James Vivian
Partita on In Dulci Jubilo

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

During the 11:00 a.m. service, please remove the attendance sheets from the book and give to the acolytes as a symbolic offering of our presence in worship. To tithe, text wesleymumc to 77977 or place your offering in the offering plate. Online giving is also available on our website.

* **Hymn of Response** DIX

As they offered gifts most rare;
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we, with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ! to Thee our heavenly King.

* **Scripture** (Pew Bible, pg. 198) Philippians 3:10-14

Sermon "What's Done is Done" James P. Owens

* **Hymn No. 245** The First Noel THE FIRST NOEL

Benediction James P. Owens

Closing Voluntary Rebecca Groom Te Velde
God Rest You Merry (Dance)

* *Please stand as you are able.
Following the service, please take your bulletins, masks, and all belongings with you.
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Just Born

Congratulations to Aïda and Whit Watts on the birth of a son and daughter, Jesse Floyd Watts and Myriam Shiloh Watts, on December 19, 2022. Grandchildren of Claire and John Watts. Roses are by the altar today in honor of Jesse and Myriam.

Eli's Place and Church Office Closed

Eli's Place and the Church Office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, January 2.

Savannah Book Festival - Looking for Volunteers

Did you know it takes 200 volunteers to host the Savannah Book Festival? This incredible group of volunteers works tirelessly to make the Savannah Book Festival one of the best in the country. If you are interested in helping, registration is now open for Saturday, February 18, 2023. To register, visit savannahbookfestival.org/support/volunteer/ If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Donna Bunn, donnabunn@gmail.com or info@savannahbookfestival.org. For extensive Festival information, visit savannahbookfestival.org.

New Year, New Wednesday Night Bible Studies for Adults - Begins Jan. 11

◆ **Philippians Study - led by Ben Martin**

Ben will be teaching a class on Paul's letter to the Philippians. No book, just bring your Bible.

◆ **"Live Your Truth and Other Lies..." Study - led by Jennifer Thompson**

We've all seen the memes that populate the internet: *live your truth, follow your heart, you only have one life to live*. They sound nice and positive. But, what if these slogans are actually lies that unhinge us from reality and leave us anxious and exhausted? Using the book *Live Your Truth and Other Lies: Exposing Popular Deceptions That Make Us Anxious, Exhausted and Self-Obsessed* by Alisa Childers, this discussion-based study will unpack many such popular statements, explore what the Bible has to say about them, and empower us to live the way God created us to live. If you plan to attend this study, please contact Jennifer Thompson at jennifert@wesleymonumental.org and let her know that you will need a book.

◆ **New Enneagram Study - led by James P. Owens**

The current Wednesday Night Enneagram study, led by James P. Owens, will continue to meet when Wednesday Night Suppers resume in January. The class will be reading [The Path Between Us](#) by Suzanne Stabile with the topic, "Enneagram and Healthy Relationships." If you are interested in the topic, James and the class would love for you to join them, even if you did not attend the fall class or have much knowledge about the Enneagram.

Family Bingo Night - January 20



Join us Friday, January 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for our 2nd annual Family Bingo Night presented by the Susanna Wesley Circle. There will be dinner, dessert, bingo, and exciting prizes with proceeds benefitting charities within our community. Scan the code for additional details including pricing, ways to pay, and to register. Also, if you would like to donate a prize, or maybe a gift card you received for Christmas that you may not have use for, please email swcirclewm@gmail.com.

Assisting in Worship Today - 8:45 Service

Children's Worship: Charli Weeks

Greeters: TBD

Offering Steward: Jeff Miller

Partners in Prayer: TBD

11:00 Service

Acolytes: Andrew Wilkes, Camille Wilkes

Greeters: TBD

Children's Worship: TBD

Sunday School: TBD

Offering Steward: Brian West

Ushers: Brian West, Mehmet Ergul, Ted Moore, Jim Pannell,
Willie Roberds, Ken Spriggs

Partners in Prayer: TBD

Monica Dekle, Director of Music and Organist

Sunday, January 15. 5:00 PM

Concert at Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

The organists of four of Savannah's downtown churches come together to put the Noack organ through its paces. Monica Dekle (Wesley Monumental), Jacob Fuhrman (Independent Presbyterian), George Fergus (Christ Church Episcopal), and Paul Thornock (Cathedral Basilica) share the playing duties. Tickets available online only:

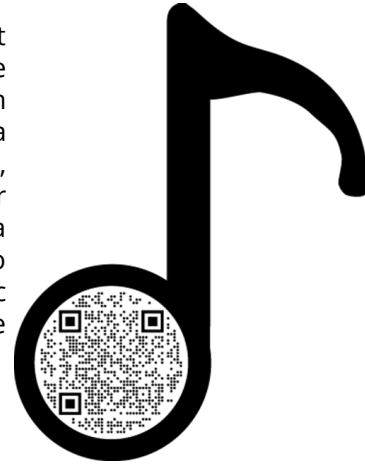
<https://savannahcathedral.org/2022-2023-concert-series/>

Spread the Word

Tell your friends and spread the word about our 130-children and youth who will be singing hymns with 33-piece orchestra on Sunday, February 26 at 5:00 PM. This is a huge evangelism opportunity. On top of that, we are proud of our kids and their parents. Thanks to our generous orchestra sponsors, every ticket dollar goes directly to the Building Fund for Children's and Music Ministry. The children are delighted to raise money for their own ministry area.

Tickets are \$35:

MonumentalMusic.eventbrite.com, church office, or scan the QR code.



Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach and New Members

Mentors Sought for Young Mothers

Would you like to be paired with a young mother to meet with her six times per year (every other month) at your convenience for Christian encouragement? Questions or to sign up, please contact Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

Jennifer Thompson, Congregational Life

Merry Makers January Event

All of us know that SCAD is a part of the fabric of Savannah. Katie Holderness, executive director of SCAD's new initiative, Friends of SCAD, will be our speaker for Merry Makers on January 9 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. She will share with us how SCAD continues to work toward connecting with the community and its plans for future ways to contribute to the city of Savannah. Katie often attends Wesley with her sister who is a Wesley member. Please email Jennifer Baker by noon, Friday, January 6, bakerj@wesleymonumental.org or contact Jennifer Thompson to RSVP.

James P. Owens, Director of Student Ministries

Ski Trip, February 2-5

We're going to have an awesome ski trip in 2023! All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us from February 2-5 for our ski retreat to Winterplace, WV. The cost is \$350 which includes lodging, transportation, meals, and ski rentals and lift tickets for two days of skiing. To sign your students up, please contact James P. Owens, james@wesleymonumental.org.

Micah Sprünger, Wesley Gardens Property Manager

Bible Study: Tuesdays, January 10 and 31

Join us for the spiritual discipline of Bible study. An in-depth class presented by Bible scholar and ESV commentator Dr. Scott Hafemann. This winter we will continue looking closely at "Peter, the Preacher" by examining his speeches in the book of Acts. Join us Tuesdays, January 10 and 31 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Main House. Contact hello@wesleygardensretreat.com for details.

Fourth Friday Retreat

For January the "Fourth Friday" retreat has been moved to the third Friday, January 20. 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), the retreat will feature teaching and discussion. Coffee is provided at 8:45 a.m. The retreat is from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Please bring your own lunch. For questions and further details, email hello@wesleygardensretreat.com.



A Record of Our Faithfulness

Christmas Eve Services: (12/24/22)

10:30 AM	250
3:30 PM	346
5:30 PM	489
Online Worship Views	220
Total Worship	1305

Christmas Sunday Attendance: (12/25/22)

11:00 AM Worship	136	Nursery	XX
Online Worship Views	111	Children's Worship	XX
Total Worship	247		

Finances: (12/25/22)

Total Budget for the Year	\$2,022,708.12
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date	\$1,999,509.39
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date.....	\$2,023,812.82

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Ben Martin.....Senior Pastor	Jennifer Baker.....Administrative Assistant, Reception
Rev. Nelle Bordeaux.....Outreach and New Members	Jennifer Brookins.....Administrative Assistant to Pastoral Staff, Media Communications
Rev. Jennifer Thompson.....Congregational Life	Ashley Higgins.....Communications Director
Dr. Monica Dekle.....Director of Music and Organist	Suzanna King.....Director of Hospitality
Julia Flowers.....Music Assistant	Nathaniel Legree.....Custodian
Rev. James P. Owens...Director of Student Ministries	Betty Dudley.....Housekeeper
Charli Weeks.....Director of Children's Ministry	Micah Sprünger.....Wesley Gardens Property Manager
Jimmy Flowers.....Church Administrator	Kenneth Hayes.....Wesley Gardens
Tom Anderson.....Financial Manager	

**Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church
January 1, 2023**

Sermon Extended

Monday	Philippians 3:3-9	How did Paul view his past accomplishments? Why?
Tuesday	Philippians 3:15-21	How can we "live up to what we have already attained?"
Wednesday	Isaiah 43:18-19	What "new thing" might God be doing in your life?
Thursday	Matthew 19:16-30	What did the disciples leave behind to follow Jesus?
Friday	Luke 9:57-62	What temptations to look back do you experience?
Saturday	Hebrews 12:1-3	How might focusing on Jesus help you with your next steps?

Sermon Notes

As a Praying Church...

We ask You, Lord, to help us to start this new year out with You in mind. Help us to prioritize our individual relationships with You over everything else in 2023.

This Week at Wesley

Sunday, January 1

8:45 AM Worship Service, SNC
9:30 AM Coffee, FH
9:45 AM Sunday School, EB & OH
11:00 AM Worship Service, SNC

Monday, January 2

Church Office & Eli's Place Closed

Tuesday, January 3

11:00 AM Staff Mtg, OH 310

Wednesday, January 4

9:00 AM Eli's Place - Students Return

Thursday, January 5

9:00 AM Eli's Place
12:00 PM Bible Study with Nelle, Zoom

Friday, January 6

9:00 AM Eli's Place

OH = Oliver Hall EB = Education Building
SNC = Sanctuary FH = Fellowship Hall
WG = Wesley Gardens Retreat

Pastors on Call This Week

Sunday, 1/1 - Wednesday, 1/4
Nelle Bordeaux 912-234-9245
Thursday, 1/5 - Saturday, 1/7
Ben Martin 912-547-1835

Wednesday Night Supper

Our Wednesday Night Suppers and programming will resume January 11, 2023.

In Sympathy....

The Carter Family
on the death of
Thelma Carter,
mother of Phillip Carter

In Our Prayers....

Katie Adrian, Dan Walker (brother-in-law of Karen Nickels), Aida Watts, Shari and Mel Hubbard, Bryan Vance (father of Chris Vance), Chad Gamble (brother of Kim Watson), Byron Boyd, John Burton, Oscar Cook, Gloria Eitel, Jan Pullin, Doris Rothenberger (mother of Susan Colgrove), Michele Bazemore, June Stevenson and Lynn Stratton, (mother and sister of Toni Olds), Jennifer Thompson, Suzette Parker, Emily Perry (granddaughter of Joyce and Richard Zehl), Tim Mooney, Grace Bockes, Mark Thomas, Dale and Becki Fisher (cousins of Holly Conger), Bo Watts, Valery Hanks, Cindy Telljohann, Walter Sumner (brother of Rosanne Montjoy and uncle of Michael Montjoy), Sheila Kraeuter (mother of Scot Kraeuter), Dewayne Barfield (brother of Shirley Turner), Jimmy Stephens (brother of Kathi Hodges), Camille Herring (sister of Wade Herring), Harriett Gattis (mother of Clayton Gattis), Rebecca Lewis, Marilyn Holleman, Pat Beasley, Matthew McClain, Paul and Connie Kurtz (parents of Dan Kurtz), Jane Bostwick (mother of Meb Ryan), Walter Thomas (brother of Mark Thomas), Bob Harman, Darin Aldinger, Sandrae McCorkle, Grant Kassinger (nephew of Peggy Jolley), Sally Polk (sister of Peggy Jolley), Anita Pringle, Danielle Robertson (granddaughter of Ceil Waters), David Heery, Palmer Hood (brother of Ge-Juan Wilkes), Louis Burnsed (brother of Marilyn Hitt), Diane Coleman (friend of Carmine Cowart), Carla Corn (mother of Sarah Shelby), Doug Stutzman, Alyssa Jones (granddaughter of Rusty Holt), Jerry Comunale (brother-in-law of Cynthia Willett), Jennifer Hodges, Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), Ryan Davis, Janice Dukeman (daughter of Erv Sloan), Martha Sloan, Fenton McEvoy

At Home/Extended Care

Olin Bockes, Lee Butler, Bella Grace Bartels, Edith Roszkowiak, Ruth and Elton Stuenkel, Harriet Bland, Roz Evans, Lois Wooten

Military Serving Abroad/Stateside

Daniel Ealy, Michael Sailors, Dajuan Monley, Jason Childers, Clint Guild, Yates Holleman, Chris Watson