



***Celebrating 155 Years 1868 - 2023***

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September 10, 2023

**BEHIND-THE-SCENES**

In almost everything we experience in life, it is easy to miss what is going on "behind-the-scenes." By that, I mean we sometimes forget all the things that have and are taking place to make the experience what it is. Shopping in a grocery store, kids going to school, flying on an airplane, going out to eat, or coming to a worship service all have lots of unseen preparation by lots of unseen people. The same is true with our experiences of God. When we read the gospels, they tell us the surface story of Jesus. We see him at work teaching, healing, and delivering. We see him in relationships welcoming, encouraging, and including. What we don't see much of is his life behind the scenes. The glimpses we do get almost all include a couple of things: prayer and solitude. They are for Jesus indispensable preparation for everything he does. It would stand to reason the same would be true for us. I often am reminded of the spiritual teacher Richard Foster's line, "To pray we have to learn to waste some time on God." We often think efficiency is getting more done in less time, filling every minute with activity and productivity. Prayer as an act of stillness, silence, and solitude doesn't usually meet our definition of efficiency or productivity. They are, however, behind-the-scenes preparation for a well-lived life.

If you need help cultivating God's invitation to "to be still and know that I am God," **we are meeting with Spiritual Director Christian Swails at Wesley Gardens Retreat Center each fourth Sunday at 4:30 p.m.**

**Another important behind-the-scenes prayer gathering occurs each Wednesday at 4:45 p.m. before our Wednesday night dinner and activities.** We gather as a group to pray for our church, community, and world. It is a time to be still together before God, to pray as you feel led (out loud or silently), and to join in the prayers of others as we hold their petitions before God in our own hearts. You are invited to join us in the Parlor of Oliver Hall (2nd Floor) each week. If you have a prayer need, please pass it along to us, and those who gather will hold it before the Lord together.

*Ben*

## MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

8:45 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Dr. Sinisa Ciric, Violin I      Ricardo Ochoa, Violin II  
Dr. Thiago Formiga, Violin I      Marsha Krantz, Violin II  
Lizhou Liu, Viola      Yvonne Johnson, Viola  
Leah Dutton, Cello

### Welcome and Announcements

Ben Martin

*Welcome to worship. Thank you for joining us. **Please remember to silence your cell phones and refrain from flash photography during the service.** We pray this hour will be a meaningful and grace-filled encounter with God through music, word, and fellowship. If needed, hearing devices, and large print hymnals are available in the Narthex.*

**Nursery & Children's Worship:** *If needed, the nursery for infants to 3 years old is located on the first floor, and Children's Worship for ages 3 to 3rd Grade is located on the second floor.*

### Chiming of the Hour (11:00)

Harper Sortor

### Lighting of the Candles

The Acolytes

### Opening Voluntary

arr. David Cherwien

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

### Introit (11:00)

Cantate Domino

Giuseppi Pitoni

Sing to the Lord a new song: sing to the Lord, all the earth.

\* **Hymn No. 577**      God of Grace and God of Glory      CWM RHONDDA

\* **Affirmation of Faith**      The Apostles' Creed      Nelle Bordeaux

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;  
    who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
    the third day He rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
    and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
    the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
    and the life everlasting.

\* **Gloria Patri**

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

### Baptismal Covenant (8:45)

Ramsey Enoch Wesley son of Emily and Matt Wesley

#### *Congregational Response:*

With love and thanksgiving we welcome Ramsey as a member of God's family and Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church. By God's grace we will do all in our power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love that he may grow into a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ who walks in the way that leads to life.

### Children's Sermon

James P. Owens

*8:45 Children ages 3 - 3rd grade line up at the door on the right side of the sanctuary to go to Children's Worship on the second floor. Following the service, they can be picked up on the second floor.*

*11:00 Children ages 3 - 3rd grade leave through the doors at the front of the sanctuary and go to Children's Worship on the second floor. Following the service, they can be picked up from the Fellowship Hall.*

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

James P. Owens

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
 For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory;  
 For ever. Amen.

\* **Hymn No. 398** Jesus Calls Us GALILEE

**Offertory Prayer**

Nelle Bordeaux

**Offertory Voluntary (8:45)**

arr. Brant Adams

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Offertory Anthem (11:00)**

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O How Amiable

O how amiable are thy dwellings; Thou Lord of hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing  
 to enter in to the courts of the Lord:

My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house  
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  
 Even thy altars O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house:  
 They will be always praising Thee.

The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:  
 prosper Thou the work of our hands upon us.

O prosper Thou our handywork,

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
 our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

- from Psalm 84 and Psalm 90

**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.*

\* **Doxology No. 95** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\* **Scripture** (Pew Bible, pg. 37-38) Mark 3:7-35

**Sermon** "Back to Basics Part 6: A New Family" Ben Martin

\* **Hymn No. 419** I Am Thine, O Lord I AM THINE

**Benediction** Ben Martin

**Closing Response (11:00)** John Rutter

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

**Closing Voluntary** Fugue in C Major Johann Pachelbel

**Postlude** Super Mario Brothers Main Theme Koji Kondo  
 (National Video Games Day)

\* *Please stand as you are able.*

*Following the service, please take your bulletins, masks, and all belongings with you.  
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## **Flowers**

The flowers by the altar today are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the love of grandparents.

The flowers in the Fellowship Hall today are given to the glory of God in thanks to the clergy and congregation for all of the get well prayers, visits, cards, vegan food, phone calls, text messages, ride home, and ukulele concert by a very humble and grateful Patricia Killewald.

The roses worn by the ushers today are given in loving memory of Bob Farrow by his children and grandchildren.

## **October Messenger Deadline**

Please submit announcements to [jennifer@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:jennifer@wesleymonumental.org) by tomorrow, Monday, September 11.

## **Ben's Wednesday Night Book Study Zoom Link**

If you cannot attend Ben's Wednesday 6:00 p.m. evening study on *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr and would like to join via Zoom, please email [jennifer@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:jennifer@wesleymonumental.org) for the Zoom link.

## **Volunteers Needed**

- **Acolytes - Training Session Today**

Any rising 6th grader or above who is interested in becoming an acolyte is invited to a brief training session today, Sunday, September 10 or Sunday, October 8 immediately following the 11:00 service. Acolytes serve by lighting the candles, assisting with baptisms, and collecting attendance rosters during our worship service. Acolytes usually serve one Sunday per quarter. Any questions, please contact Caroline Livingood at [calivingood75@gmail.com](mailto:calivingood75@gmail.com).

- **Communion Stewards**

Additional Communion Stewards are needed to help prepare communion for our monthly Communion Sunday services. This is a great way to serve our church from behind-the-scenes, and training is provided. If you would like to learn more, please contact Amelia Wells (Communion Team Leader) at 912-665-2902 or [amelia.wells@gulfstream.com](mailto:amelia.wells@gulfstream.com).

- **Offering Counters**

Additional offering counters are needed following the 11:00 Service on Sundays. The time commitment is about one hour once a month, and you will be paired with another member. For additional details or to sign up, please email Riley Smith [jrsmith119@gmail.com](mailto:jrsmith119@gmail.com).

## **Wesley Christmas Bazaar**

The Wesley Christmas Bazaar is returning this year and will showcase handwork, including but not limited to woodwork, monogrammed clothing, photography, jewelry, hand-painted notecards and local landscapes, candles, toys, lathe turned bowls, and furniture--to mention a few. The Bazaar will be held Saturday, November 4, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Oliver Hall. We are looking for vendors, and you are invited to reserve your space now. Questions, contact one of the co-chairs: Woody Brown at 912-352-7833, or Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.

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## **Assisting in Worship Today - 8:45 Service**

**Children's Worship:** Charli Weeks

**Greeters:** TBD

**Offering Steward:** TBD

**Partners in Prayer:** Charlie Clarke

## **11:00 Service**

**Acolytes:** Julia Grabowski, Marshall Pedigo

**Children's Worship:** Sarah Labrot, Amy Daniel

**Sunday School:** Melinda Sortor

**Greeters:** TBD

**Offering Steward:** Jason Pedigo

**Ushers:** Jason Pedigo, Robert McCorkle, Matt Merritt, Matthew Mobley, Bobo Mullens, Jeff O'Connor, Aaron Pederson, Bart Rhodes, Don Riddle

**Partners in Prayer:** Grace & Art Greene

**Monica Dekle, Director of Music and Organist**  
**Youth Choir - Begins Today!**

Exciting news! Youth Choir for students grades 6th-12th begins this afternoon, Sunday, September 10 at 4:00 p.m. with dinner and youth group following. We're excited for an awesome year of singing and worshipping!

**Cabaret Under the Stars ~ Dinner, Dancing, and Music**  
**Thursday, October 19. 6:00 - 9:00 PM, 429 Abercorn Street, Savannah**



Enjoy a beautiful October evening with a backdrop of one of Savannah's breathtaking squares entertained by The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra—an 11-piece "fiery hot and soulful Southern big band." Invite your friends and neighbors to an enchanting and elegant evening with scrumptious heavy d'oeuvres, delectable wine, dancing, and captivating music! All proceeds support the capital campaign.

Tickets and details: [equinoxorchestra.com](http://equinoxorchestra.com), scan the QR code, or call Monica 912-232-0191.

**Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach and New Members**  
**Grocery Items for Old Savannah City Mission**

Most needed this week are canned vegetables. Please place donations in marked boxes in the Wayne/Gordon Street foyers and Oliver Hall.

**New Member Course Starts Next Sunday, September 17**

Class will meet Sundays, September 17 and 24 at 10:00 a.m. both days and will join as a group on September 24. Nursery provided. Please call the church office to sign up 912-232-0191.

**Bible Study New Topics**

- Young Mothers' Bible Study. Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., nursery provided. Currently studying "Women in the Bible." Verses this week will be about Eve, Genesis, chapters 2-4.
- Thursday Noon Bible Study via Zoom. Thursdays from noon - 12:30 p.m. Currently studying the Gospel of Mark. Verses this week will be Mark, chapter 10. Sign up for either study with Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net).

**James P. Owens, Congregational Life**  
**September Merry Makers**

Our senior adults' fellowship, the Monumental Merry Makers, will meet tomorrow, Monday, September 11 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with Ben Martin speaking. Lunch (\$7) will be provided by Suzanna. Let James P. Owens know today if you plan to attend.

**Charli Weeks, Director of Children's Ministry**

Last Sunday in Children's Worship the children heard how Jesus angered the Pharisees when he healed the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath. We talked about how it's never the wrong time to do the right thing. The older children wrapped one hand in an ace bandage so they could experience what it would have been like to have only one hand they could use. Many thanks to Sarah Lientz, Amelia Wells and Becky West for helping.

**Worship Education for 4th & 5th Graders**

As children enter 4th & 5th grade, we encourage them to begin staying in the Sanctuary for the entire worship service. It can be a long hour for them and their parents, but participating in the service helps to prepare them for Confirmation. Beginning this Sunday, 4th & 5th graders are invited to meet Ms. Charli in the back balcony under the Wesley Window. After the Children's Sermon, we'll go to room 305 and begin learning about the different parts of the service and how the service is put together. The class will also meet on September 17, October 1, and October 13. Pick-up is from the Fellowship Hall at the end of the service.

**Children's Worship Training for 4th & 5th Graders**

4th & 5th graders who would like to help with Children's Worship should plan to stay for lunch and training on September 17 after the 11:00 service. Sign up information will be given to all who attend.

**James P. Owens, Director of Student Ministries**  
**Confirmation Class begins today, September 10!**

This year's Confirmation Class will hold its first meeting this morning, Sunday, September 10 during the Sunday school hour in Oliver Hall room 205. Confirmation is a time when our young people learn more about the Christian faith and our United Methodist heritage, and they have the opportunity to make a profession of faith and become full members of the church. Any students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or older who have not previously been confirmed are welcome! Our other fall meetings will be on October 15, November 12, and December 3, and I will offer make-up classes as needed.

**Youth Group and Youth Choir Tonight**

Join us for Youth Group tonight from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Youth Choir will meet from 4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

**Micah Sprünger, Wesley Gardens Property Manager**  
**Wesley Gardens Retreat Bible Study**

Join us in September for an in-depth study by Bible scholar and ESV commentator Dr. Scott Hafemann. We will be looking closely at the Exodus/Passover-Redemption, which is the foundation for all of God's saving actions, including the life and death and resurrection of the Messiah. Tuesdays, September 12 and 26, from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Main House. For details, contact: hello@wesleygardensretreat.com for details.

**Fourth Friday Retreat**

On Friday, September 22, 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. We will provide coffee and tea at the Memory Garden gazebo from 8:30 a.m. The retreat is from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., with the remainder of the afternoon available for a self-guided personal retreat. Feel free to bring your own lunch or snack. For questions and further details, please email hello@wesleygardensretreat.com.



**Capstone Capital Campaign (9/3/23):**

Pledges Received	174
Total Pledged or Given	\$1,660,060
Campaign Goal	\$2,500,000

**Finances (9/3/23):**

Total Budget for the Year .....	\$2,083,655.68
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date .....	\$1,374,142.17
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date .....	\$1,412,313.20

**A Record of Our Faithfulness**

Sunday Attendance: (9/3/23)

8:45 AM Worship	XXX	Nursery	6
11:00 AM Worship	247	Children's Worship	25
Online Worship Views	151	Sunday School	12
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>XXX</b>		

**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Ben Martin .....	Senior Pastor	Jennifer Brookins .....	Administrative Assistant to Pastoral Staff, Media Communications
Rev. Dr. Nelle Bordeaux .....	Outreach & New Members	Ashley Higgins .....	Communications Director
Rev. James P. Owens ...	Director of Student Ministries	Suzanna King .....	Director of Hospitality
Dr. Monica Dekle .....	Director of Music & Organist	Betty Dudley .....	Housekeeper
Julia Flowers .....	Music Assistant	Micah Sprünger .....	Wesley Gardens Property Manager
Charli Weeks .....	Director of Children's Ministry	Ernie Banks .....	Wesley Gardens Groundskeeper/Maintenance
Jimmy Flowers .....	Church Administrator	Christian Swails .....	Wesley Gardens Spiritual Direction/Reservations
Tom Anderson .....	Financial Manager		
Jennifer Baker .....	Administrative Assistant, Reception		

**Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church**  
**September 10, 2023**

**Sermon Extended**

Monday	Mark 3:7-12	What separates the "crowds" from the "disciples"? Where would I fit?
Tuesday	Mark 3:13-18	If I want to follow Jesus, how can I practice being "with him" today?
Wednesday	Mark 3:19-27	Why is Jesus often misunderstood even by those closest to him?
Thursday	Mark 3:28-30	What does it mean to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit? How can I avoid it?
Friday	Mark 3:31-35	What do I need to do to be a part of Jesus' "family"?

**Sermon Notes**

**This Week at Wesley**

**Sunday, September 10**

- 8:45 AM Worship Service, SNC
- 9:30 AM Coffee, FH
- 9:45 AM Confirmation Class, OH 205
- 9:45 AM Sunday School, EB & OH
- 10:50 AM 4th/5th Grade Worship Ed., SNC Balcony
- 11:00 AM Worship Service, SNC
- 12:10 PM Acolyte Training, SNC
- 4:00 PM Youth Choir, EB 4th Flr
- 5:00 PM Youth Group, EB 4th Flr

**Monday, September 11**

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 11:00 AM Merry Makers Lunch, FH
- 6:00 PM Trombone Choir Rehearsal, SNC

**Tuesday, September 12**

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Sunny Side Up
- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 9:00 AM Young Mothers' Bible Study & Bible Buddies, OH 310/308
- 11:00 AM Staff Mtg, OH 310
- 6:00 PM Mission Comm. Mtg, OH 205

**Wednesday, September 13**

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 11:00 AM Bible Study w/Ben, OH 310
- 4:45 PM Call to Prayer, OH Parlor
- 5:30 PM Dinner, FH
- 6:00 PM Joyful Noise Choir, EB
- 6:00 PM Children's Choir, EB
- 6:00 PM Youth Bible Studies, EB 4th Flr
- 6:00 PM Book of James Study, Led by James, FH
- 6:00 PM Book Study, Led by Ben, OH 310
- 6:00 PM Women's Small Group, Led by Katie, OH Parlor
- 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, EB 4th Flr

**Thursday, September 14**

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 12:00 PM Bible Study w/Nelle, Zoom
- 5:30 PM SPRC Meeting, OH 205

**Friday, September 15**

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place

**Saturday, September 16**

- 2:00 PM Marie Fritts Memorial Svc, SNC

OH = Oliver Hall    EB = Education Building SNC = Sanctuary    FH = Fellowship Hall WG = Wesley Gardens Retreat
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**Pastor on Call This Week**

Ben Martin ..... 912-547-1835

<b>Wednesday Night Supper</b> September 13 Menu: Chicken Pot Pie
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*In Sympathy....*

The Webster Family  
on the death of *Ann Webster*,  
mother of George's Webster

The Mason Family  
on the death of *William Gould*,  
father of Kirby Mason

**In Our Prayers....**

Anne Holley, Saddle Kurtz (aunt of Dan Kurtz), Tommy and Harriett Gattis (parents of Clayton Gattis), Dolly Caylor (mother of Rhonda Radcliff), Sharon and Terry Knepper (parents of Holly Conger), Susan Wallace, Karen Nickles, Lloyd Chapman, Mary Odom, Richard Zehl, Will Weeks, Jeralyn Wilson, Mercedes Brenne and Jack Carman (friends of Anne Tyree), Georgia Kate Anderson, Lindsey Goldberg, Mary Hohnerlein (friend of Ken and Deanne Rimes), Gail Brannen, Heather Neisler, Carlyle Buelvas (sister of Madge Edwards), Archie Davis, Rodney Scott, Robin Brinkley, Pat Monahan, Aaron Higgins, Pat Killewald, McCarthy Family, Byron Rogers, John Birkheimer, Eleanor McCurry, John Beal (brother-in-law of John Birkheimer), Palmer Hood (brother of Ge-Juan Wilkes), Sara Hardwick (sister of Cassie Beckwith), Dennis Deal (cousin of Patricia Jacobs), Lynn and Dan Kurtz, Connie Kurtz (mother of Dan Kurtz), Ashley Post, Angela Chancey (niece of Cynthia Willett), Katie Adrian, Ken Brownfield, Shari and Mel Hubbard, Cindy and John Burton, Oscar Cook, Doris Rothenberger (mother of Susan Colgrove), Michele Bazemore, Suzette Parker, Tim Mooney, Dale and Becki Fisher (cousins of Holly Conger), Valery Hanks, Dewayne Barfield (brother of Shirley Turner), Camille Herring (sister of Wade Herring), Matthew McClain, Jane Bostwick (mother of Meb Ryan), Walter Thomas (brother of Mark Thomas), Grant Kassinger (nephew of Peggy Jolley), Sally Polk (sister of Peggy Jolley), Danielle Robertson (granddaughter of Ceil Waters), Alyssa Jones (grand-daughter of Rusty Holt), Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), Ryan Davis, Martha Sloan, Fenton McEvoy

**At Home/Extended Care**

Bella Grace Bartels, Pat Beasley, Harriet Bland, Olin Bockes, Roz Evans, Bob Harman, Marilyn Holleman, Sandrae McCorkle, Toni Olds, Edith Roszkowiak, Elton Stuenkel, Mark Thomas, Cindy Telljohann, Lois Wooten

**Military Serving Abroad/Stateside**

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