



**Celebrating 155 Years 1868 - 2023**

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December 3, 2023

### **CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, but next Sunday, we will jump right into Christmas with a couple of our favorite Advent/Christmas events.

### **Advent Devotional Begins Today**

The theme for this year's Advent focus is "A Name Above All Names." Through their writings, this year's contributors to our devotional book reflect on some of the many names we find for God and Jesus in Holy Scripture. Our weekly lighting of the Advent Candles will carry the same theme as we reflect on words from the Apostles Creed: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord...And I believe in the Holy Spirit." Names are important. Join us as together we reflect on the God of many names who calls us by name. Copies of the Advent Devotionals may be found at all sanctuary entrances.

### **Festival of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 10, 11:00 a.m.**

Next Sunday morning, our 11:00 a.m. worship experience will be the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and choral music. It is one of the great worship events of our year. Only the 11:00 Service will be the Festival of Lessons and Carols. We will also have a regular 8:45 Service.

### **The Joyful Noise Christmas Celebration and Dinner Sunday, December 10, 5:00 p.m.**

Next Sunday at 5:00 p.m., our youngest children's choir will present its Christmas program. There will be a dinner following the play; please make a reservation by calling the church office so we will have plenty of food prepared.

### **The Children's Nativity Pageant Wednesday, December 13, 6:15 p.m.**

One of the highlights of Christmas at Wesley is the Children's Nativity Pageant. It takes place Wednesday night, December 13, after Wednesday night dinner. Please make sure you make a reservation for dinner so we will be prepared for you. The Pageant will feature our children from 1st to 5th grade. They will share with us the Christmas story in drama and carols.

*Ben*

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023  
8:45 & 11:00 A.M.  
*First Sunday of Advent*

**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) Swayze Powers

**Lighting of the Candles** (11:00) The Acolytes

**Introit** (11:00) Fanfare for Advent Martin Shaw  
Gloria, in excelsis deo! (Glory to God in the highest!)

\* **Hymn** No. 718 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending HELMSLEY

\* **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

*(Dismissal for Children's Worship)*

*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.*

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.

**Lighting of the Hope Candle**

Evan, Katie, Wyatt and Michaela Townsend (8:45)  
Tanner, Brooke, Abigail and Mary Elizabeth Powell (11:00)

**Congregational Response**

His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful,  
His name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.  
He is the mighty King, Master of everything,  
His name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

**Pastoral Prayer**

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

\* **Scripture Lesson** (Pew Bible, pgs. 43-44)

Mark 8:27-9:1

**Sermon**

“Back to Basics Part 17:  
Great Love and Great Suffering”

Ben Martin

**Holy Communion**

**Invitation and Confession**

**Pastor:** Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love Him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in  
peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our  
sin before God and one another.

**All:** Merciful God,  
we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law,  
we have rebelled against Your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All pray in silence.*

**Pastor:** Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
That proves God’s love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**Congregation:** In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**All:** Glory to God. Amen.

**Offertory Prayer**

Nelle Bordeaux

**Offertory Solo** (8:45)

Coventry Carol  
Ori Hayes, soprano

**Offertory Anthem** (11:00)

Paul Manz

E'en So, Lord, Jesus, Quickly Come  
Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins.  
Who loved us all and shed His blood That we might saved be.  
Sing, "Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God.  
Who was, and is, and is to come." Sing, "Holy, Holy Lord."  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within.  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below. For Christ is coming soon.  
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come And night shall be no more.  
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

**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.

## The Great Thanksgiving

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**Congregation:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

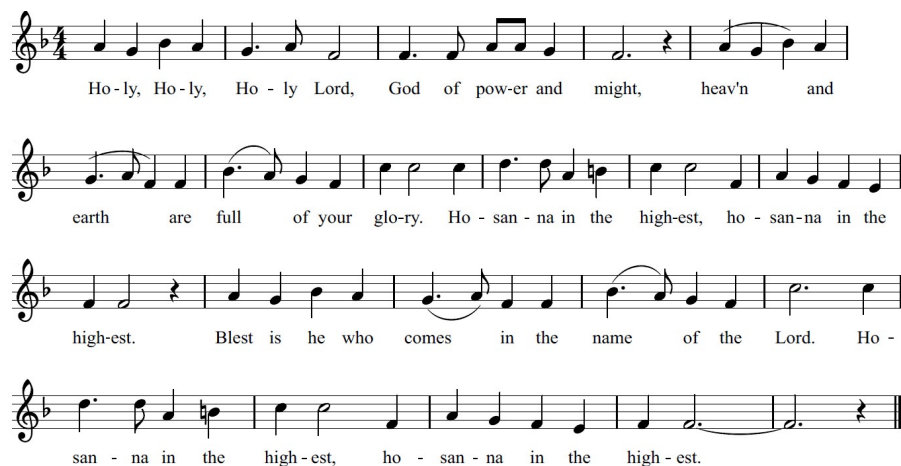
**Congregation:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to our Lord and God.

**Congregation:** It is right to give our thanks and praise

**Pastor:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth...

And so, with Your people on earth, and all the company of heaven we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n and  
earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the  
high-est. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ...

On the night in which He gave himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over He took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so,  
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



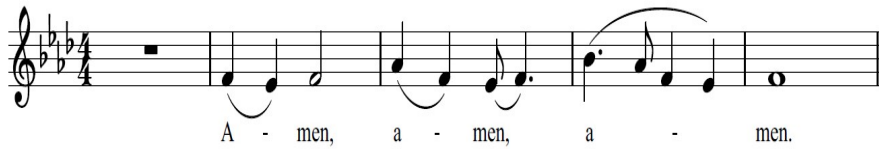
Christ has died; Christ is ri - sen; Christ will come a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
That we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by His blood.

By Your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory,  
and we feast at His heavenly banquet.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in Your holy church,  
All honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.



### The Lord's Prayer

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 that 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.

### Breaking the Bread

*(Gluten free bread is available. Please indicate your preference by raising your hand.)*

### Giving the Bread and Cup

*We will take communion at the rail. Today's communion offering is designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. If you would like to give a donation, please place your offering in the chancel rail when you come to be served.*

### Communion Music (11:00)

Coventry Carol Ori Hayes, soprano  
A Spotless Rose Herbert Howells  
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

### Prayer After Receiving

**All:** Eternal God, we give You thanks for this holy mystery  
in which You have given Yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of Your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

\* **Hymn No. 202** People, Look East BESANÇON  
(Stanza One)

\* **Benediction** Ben Martin

### Closing Response (11:00)

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.  
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Closing Voluntary** Andrew Carter  
Toccata on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

- \* *Please stand as you are able.*  
*Following the service, please take your bulletins, masks, and all belongings with you.*  
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### Altar Flowers

The flowers by the altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our son, David H. Butler, Jr., by David and Linda Butler.

**Grocery Items Needed This Week** are canned soups and stews.

### Bible Study Topics - All Are Welcome

- Young Mothers' Bible Study. Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., Oliver Hall, room 310, nursery provided. Currently studying "Women in the Bible." Verses this week will be about "Hannah," 1 Samuel 1-3; Luke 1:46-55.
- Thursday Noon Bible Study via Zoom. Thursdays from noon-12:30 p.m. Verses this week will be Hosea, chapters 3 and 4. .

**Youth Group** (6th-12th Grade)

- ◆ Youth Mission Night, 12/3 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Rev. Nelle Bordeaux and Neilie Dunn will lead the youth in mission projects.
- ◆ Youth Christmas Party, 12/10, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Wesley Gardens Retreat. Tacky Christmas Sweaters are encouraged, and students should plan to bring a gift for the White Elephant Gift Exchange.
- ◆ Ski Trip 2024 - Winterplace, WV, February 1-4. Cost \$400. Must sign up by 12/15. To sign up, visit [bit.ly/WMYouthSkiTrip](http://bit.ly/WMYouthSkiTrip). Chaperones needed. Please email, [samboone119@yahoo.com](mailto:samboone119@yahoo.com)

**Christmas Fun Day for Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers**

On 12/9, the nursery will be open from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. We are providing lunch and plan to eat around noon. We'll make ornaments, bake cookies, play on the playground, and watch a Christmas movie. It is fine for the children to come for the whole day or for any part of the day. Register, email [charli@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:charli@wesleymonumental.org) with the time they will be arriving on the 9th.

**Poinsettia Orders Due 12/10**

Order forms may be found at all sanctuary entrances, or you can order and pay online by visiting [www.wesleymonumental.org/poinsettias/](http://www.wesleymonumental.org/poinsettias/)

**Merry Makers Christmas Event**

12/11 at 11:00 a.m. at Wesley Gardens. Claire Frazier will provide the entertainment, and we will be treated to a mini-Christmas bazaar by those who participated in the church-wide bazaar in November. Merry Makers are asked to bring a favorite holiday treat to share. Call the church office or register online, [wesleymonumental.org/merry-makers-christmas/](http://wesleymonumental.org/merry-makers-christmas/) Cost \$7.

**Urban Hope Christmas Supper**

12/11 at 5:30 p.m. Dishes needed are: ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, sweet potato casserole, rolls, lemonade, cut fruit, salad, cookies, paper plates, cups, plastic cutlery, and napkins. Sign up at [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net)

**December Admin Board Meeting**

12/11 at 5:30 p.m. in the Choir Room (EB 4th Floor) and via Zoom. The agenda packet will be emailed to the board members on 12/8.

**Guest Speaker-Rabbi Haas**

On 12/17 at 9:45 a.m., Rabbi Robert Haas, spiritual leader of Congregation Mickve Israel, will be the Ivy Class's guest speaker in the Fellowship Hall. He will share his insight on the current situation in the Middle East. All adult and youth Sunday school classes are invited.

**A Record of Our Faithfulness**

Sunday Attendance: (11/26/23)

8:45 AM Worship	73	Nursery	10
11:00 AM Worship	306	Children's Worship	46
Online Worship Views	134	Sunday School	107
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>513</b>		

**Finances: (11-26-23)**

Total Budget for the Year .....	\$2,083,655.68
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date .....	\$1,753,356.16
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date .....	\$1,895,813.63

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

**Children's Worship:** Charli Weeks

**Communion Stewards:** Diane & Byron Boyd, Sandra & Art McGowen

**Greeters:** Ethel Burriss, Lori Miller      **Offering Steward:** Jeff Miller

**Partners in Prayer:** Henry Whitfield

**11:00 Service**

**Acolytes:** Charlie Kraeuter, Lincoln Kraeuter

**Children's Worship:** Harper Blake, Laura Blake, Katie Knight, Sarah Labrot, Harper Sortor

**Communion Stewards:** Gilmore MacGregor, Shayna Stancil-Wier & Allen Wier

**Sunday School:** Volunteers Needed

**Greeters:** Kim & Mehmet Ergul      **Offering Steward:** Brian West

**Ushers:** Brian West, Mehmet Ergul, Ted Moore, Jim Pannell, Jon Pannell, Johnny Phelps, Willie Roberds, Kenneth Spriggs

**Partners in Prayer:** Gaye Holt

**Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church  
December 3, 2023**

**Sermon Extended**

Monday	Mark 8:27-30	How would I describe who Jesus is to someone who doesn't know who he is? (i.e. Who is he to me?)
Tuesday	Mark 8:31-33	What keeps Peter from understanding Jesus and his purpose? How might I misunderstand him?
Wednesday	Mark 8:34-38	What is Jesus' invitation to us? Have I accepted it? Redefined it? How has it redefined me?
Thursday	Mark 9:1	Where do I see the Kingdom of God today?
Friday	I John 3:7-21	What does this tell me about Jesus and following him?

**Sermon Notes**

## This Week at Wesley

**\*\*Visit [wesleymonumental.org/events/](http://wesleymonumental.org/events/) to view the calendar online.\*\***

### Sunday, December 3

8:45 AM Worship Service, SNC  
9:30 AM Coffee, FH  
9:45 AM Sunday School, EB & OH  
9:45 AM Confirmation Class, OH 205  
11:00 AM Worship Service, SNC  
12:15 PM Nativity Pageant Rehearsal, SNC/FH  
12:30 PM Journey SS Class Christmas Party, OH Parlor  
4:00 PM Youth Choir, EB 4th Flr  
5:00 PM Youth Mission Night

### Monday, December 4

9:00 AM Eli's Place  
12:00 PM Joy Circle Luncheon, OH Parlor  
5:30 PM Wesley Gardens Comm. Mtg, WG  
6:00 PM Trombone Choir Rehearsal, SNC

### Tuesday, December 5

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  
5:30 PM Evangelism Comm. Mtg, Zoom  
5:30 PM Finance Comm. Mtg, OH 310

### Wednesday, December 6

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 & OH  
6:00 PM Youth Bible Studies, EB 4th Flr  
6:00 PM New Member Stewardship Class, OH  
6:00 PM Carolyn Cubbedge Teaching, 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, December 7

9:00 AM Eli's Place  
12:00 PM Courtney Gaines Circle  
12:00 PM Bible Study w/Nelle, Zoom

### Friday, December 8

9:00 AM Eli's Place

### Saturday, December 9

9:00 AM Christmas Fun Day, EB  
11:00 AM Lessons & Carols Dress Rehearsal, SNC  
12:00 PM Jane Shirah Christmas Luncheon, OH Parlor

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

### Pastors on Call This Week

All days except Wednesdays  
Ben Martin ..... 912-547-1835  
Wednesdays  
Nelle Bordeaux ..... 912-234-9245

### **Wednesday Night Supper December 6**

Menu: Tuscan Chicken

## In Our Prayers....

Gail Brannen, Jason Horton, Kevin Wilson, Archie Davis, Isaiah Benjamin Akrong (nephew of Deanne Sorrells), Carolyn Donovan, Tim Edwards, Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), Roger Lemay, Philip Fritts (brother of Lynn Fritts), Gloria Eitel, Adam Corey, 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), Karen Nickles, Lloyd Chapman, Mary Odom, Richard Zehl, Will Weeks, Mercedes Brenne and Jack Carman (friends of Anne Tyree), Georgia Kate Anderson, Lindsey Goldberg, Mary Hohnerlein (friend of Ken and Deanne Rimes), Heather Neisler, Carlyle Buevas (sister of Madge Edwards), Pat Monahan, 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 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), Alyssa Jones (granddaughter of Rusty Holt), 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

### *In Sympathy...*

The Burton Family  
on the death of *John Burton*,  
husband of Cindy Burton