



Celebrating 155 Years 1868 - 2023

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December 31, 2023

LOOKING BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS

Here we are once again on the eve of a new year. 2023 came and went in the blink of an eye. But before we rush into 2024, it might be good to reflect on 2023 prayerfully. What happened in my life? Where did I experience God in it? What do I regret? What am I thankful for? What did I learn? Is there anything I need to repair? What will I change, if I can, going forward?

The problem is, who has time in life for such reflection? The bigger question is, who has enough time in life to not do such reflection? The hard part for me is remembering. It calls into question the frenetic pace of my life, how quickly I'm aging, and how much the world is always dragging me forward to the next thing and robbing me of the divine awareness of the present moment.

Some of us will make a list of things we want to accomplish, obtain, or achieve in the new year. It will be a lot about doing. However, I think my list needs to be more about who I want to become and more about being than doing.

At Wesley Monumental this year, we have a lot of doing to get done. A huge, much-needed renovation project stares us in the face with both anticipation and excitement over the end result, but a bit of weary dread over the demands and cost of the project. But in the middle of all that doing, we can't lose sight of the need to stay centered in our being. Worship is important; it draws us apart from the pace of the week and sits us down in a sacred space. But, remember, worship is not just a corporate experience on Sunday morning; it is choosing solitude and silence in other sacred spaces like Wesley Gardens Retreat or even our "prayer closet" at home.

In the middle of all our regular and important doing here at Wesley, I invite you this year to join me in not forgetting to focus some on being. We will be offering numerous opportunities for spiritual practices that center around being. Beginning in January, on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m., we will return to Wesley Gardens Retreat with our Director of Spiritual Formation, Christian Swails to practice "being still and knowing I am God" and to find some "rest for our souls." We will pause to catch our breath in prayer on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m., just before dinner, choirs, and studies begin. We will have some day and overnight retreat offerings throughout the year. I hope you will join us in 2024 for some doing balanced by some being.

Ben

MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

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

First Sunday after Christmas Day

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)

James Butler

Lighting of the Candles

Opening Voluntary

Clay Christiansen

Prelude on Joy to the World

* **Hymn No. 246** Joy to the World ANTIOCH

* **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)

Adeline Katherine Pope

Eleanor Harper Pope

daughters of Nicole and Kevin Pope

Congregational Response:

With love and thanksgiving we welcome Adeline and Eleanor as members of God's family and Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church. By God's grace we will do all in our power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love that they may grow into faithful disciples of Jesus Christ who walk in the way that leads to life.

Children's Sermon

Charli Weeks

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

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

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. 224** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

Offertory Prayer

Nelle Bordeaux

Offertory Solo

Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Daniel Wilkinson, tenor

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, NT, pg. 44) Mark 9:9-13

Sermon

"Back to Basics Part 19:
Preparing For Restoration"

Ben Martin

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Hymnal pg. 50

- * **Hymn No. 383** This Is a Day of New Beginnings BEGINNINGS
Stanzas 1-4

Benediction

Ben Martin

Closing Voluntary Sing We Now of Christmas arr. Brant Adams

- * *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 Ellen and Chase Brown on the birth of a daughter, Margaret Rowe Brown, on December 22, 2023. A rose is by the altar today in honor of Rowe.

A Year-End Reminder

All 2023 contributions to the church must be received by today, Sunday, December 31, 2023 in order to comply with IRS regulations regarding charitable deductions.

Eli's Place and Church Office Closed

Eli's Place and the Church Office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, January 1.

New Year, New Studies for Adults!

◆ **Sunday Morning Sunday School**

* On January 7, join the Connect Sunday School Class at 9:45 a.m. in Oliver Hall room 207 as they begin a new book study on Sandra L. Richter's *The Epic of Eden: Jonah*. "In this book, Dr. Sandra Richter will take us on a journey through Jonah's life that leads us all to the place where we realize that our God is way bigger than we thought. Not only will we learn everything we ever wanted to know about the brutal Assyrians of Nineveh, ancient seafaring ships, and large aquatic creatures, but we will also be challenged with the same message that confronted Jonah. Are we willing to let God be God, to move us out of our comfort zones, and embrace a calling that might just take us to the edges of the world we know?" Everyone welcome.

◆ **Wednesday Night Bible Studies - Begins January 10**

- * Bible Study on the Letters of John (7 week study)- Carolyn Cubbedge
- * Bible Study on Exodus- Ben Martin
- * Women's Small Group- Katie Knight
- * Last half of the Book Study on The Universal Christ- Christian Swails

Grocery Items for Old Savannah City Mission

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

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Babies Need Your Help

Please bring preemie or newborn baby clothes for Memorial NICU babies to the Oliver Hall lobby by this Wednesday, January 3. Our youth will organize items on Sunday night, January 7, during youth fellowship. Also needed are crocheted octopus toys and board books for the NICU babies.

Assisting in Worship Today - 8:45 Service

Children's Worship: Charli Weeks

Greeters: Linda Butler, Judy Cleveland

Offering Steward: Paul Cleveland

Partners in Prayer: Amy Carter

11:00 Service

Acolytes: William Blake

Children's Worship: Sarah Labrot, Laura Blake, Harper Blake

Sunday School: Volunteers Needed

Greeters: Nancy & Woody Brown

Offering Steward: Adam Hess

Ushers: Adam Hess, Mark Wilcox, Drew Wilkes, Glen Willard,

Allen Williams, Brad Aiken, Jesse Bentley, David Blake, Jon Boothe

Partners in Prayer: Adam Kobek

Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach and New Members

Spanky's Box Lunch Benefiting the Kids of Mission on the Move

On Sunday, January 21, following 11:00 worship, join us in the Fellowship Hall for a box lunch of chicken fingers in support of our mission team heading to Santa Elena, Honduras, in February. Spanky's is donating the lunches, and 100% of your donation will go to the Mission on the Move children. The Wesley mission team will speak about their exciting upcoming mission trip after lunch. Reserve your box lunch (\$10 per box) by emailing tbordeaux@prodigy.net by Wednesday, January 17.

Meals and Overnight Hosts Needed

Family Promise needs meals and overnight hosts for homeless families January 14-20 at White Bluff Presbyterian Church. If you would like to provide a meal or stay overnight, please sign up with Nelle at tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

Bible Studies

- Young Mothers' Bible Study will resume Tuesday, January 9, with a lesson on "Bathsheba," 2 Samuel 11:1-27; 12:1-25; 23:39, 1 Kings 1:11-31; 2:13-19; 1 Chronicles 3:5; Psalm 51; Matthew 1:6. Join us from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. in Oliver Hall room 310; nursery provided.
- Thursday Noon Bible Study via Zoom resumes Thursday, January 11, from noon to 12:30 p.m. with a lesson on Hosea, chapter 7. Questions or to sign up, please email Nelle at tbordeaux@prodigy.net

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults and Pastoral Care

January Merry Makers

Army Captain Paden Sickles will speak at the January 8 Merry Makers meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Captain Sickles, an engineer, has just completed nearly a decade of service in the US Army. Her transition into civilian life included the formation of SickFit, a unique sock, streetwear, and custom embroidery company encouraging fashion, conversation, comfort, and empowerment.

Sickles says that SickFit was started on a hot summer day in Texas after she completed a 12-mile ruck march for Air Assault School, and her feet were destroyed. It was then that she knew that boot socks and performance socks lacked quality, innovation, and design. At that point, she pledged to do better for our service members and their families.

Captain Sickles recently competed in the Second Service Foundation's national Military Entrepreneur Challenge, where she got to pitch her business to a private panel of judges. She ended the competition in second place and received \$6,000 in start-up capital and \$25,000 pro-bono legal services, which she will utilize to scale her business to the next level while protecting her brand with risk management.

Paden is a Kentucky girl who grew up near Louisville. She has a contagious and winsome personality. She will so captivate her audience that Merry Makers may decide to enlist in the Army--or at least begin wearing different socks!

Call the church office for reservations. Cost is \$7 for lunch. The meeting starts at 11:00 a.m.

Charli Weeks, Director of Children's Ministry

As you begin to make plans for summer camps and vacations, be sure to reserve these weeks for Vacation Bible School and Summer Fun Daze.

- June 3 - 7 Vacation Bible School from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon for children 3 years old - 5th grade
- July 15 - 19 Summer Fun Daze from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for children who have completed Kindergarten - 3rd grade

Registration for both events will open January 15.

Youth Group

Sunday and Wednesday Nights in 2024

Sunday Night Youth will resume on January 7 with Youth Choir resuming January 21. Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume on January 10.

Micah Sprünger, Wesley Gardens Property Manager

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction is an ancient, Christian art form dating back to the desert mothers and fathers from the 3rd century AD. It is a practice of holy listening with a trained director to name and notice the big questions you are holding and the stuck places with God, yourself, and others. A place to feel the pain, disappointment, curiosity, and honesty inside of your spiritual journey. It's a non-judgmental space to explore the deeper questions of the soul and get to the things you don't have the ability to in the frantic pace of life. There is no agenda, just a non-anxious presence listening you into the places that have been hidden for a while and meeting God there.



Wesley Monumental is now offering our members an opportunity to meet 1-on-1 with Christian Swails, MA, a trained Spiritual Director with a Masters Degree in Spiritual Formation, to see if this is a good fit for you in this season. If you would like to learn more about this ancient practice, you can set up a meeting with Christian at Wesley Gardens by following the QR code.



A Record of Our Faithfulness

Christmas Eve Sunday Attendance: (12/24/23)
(no 8:45 Service or Sunday School)

11:00 AM Worship	387		
3:30 PM Worship	339	Nursery	29
5:30 PM Worship	742	Children's Worship	29
Online Worship Views	273		
Total Worship	1741		

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ben Martin.....Senior Pastor
 Rev. Dr. Nelle Bordeaux.....Outreach & New Members
 Rev. Carolyn Hale Cubbedge.....Senior Adults and Pastoral Care
 Dr. Monica Dekle.....Director of Music & Organist
 Julia Flowers Music Assistant
 Charli Weeks Director of Children's Ministry
 Jimmy Flowers..... Church Administrator
 Tom Anderson Financial Manager
 Jennifer Baker Administrative Assistant, Reception

Jennifer Brookins.....Administrative Assistant to Pastoral Staff, Media Communications
 Ashley Higgins.....Communications Director
 Suzanna King..... Director of Hospitality
 David Lindquist..... Maintenance Tech
 Betty Dudley..... Housekeeper
 Micah Sprünger Wesley Gardens Property Manager
 Ernie Banks..... Wesley Gardens Groundskeeper/Maintenance
 Christian Swails..... Wesley Gardens Spiritual Direction/Reservations

**Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church
December 31, 2023**

Sermon Extended

Monday	Mark 9:9-13, Acts 3:17-21	What kind of “universal restoration” do I think God wants to do?
Tuesday	Isaiah 11:6-9	How could God use me to be a part of this restoration?
Wednesday	Proverbs 29:18 (KJV), James 2:22-24	Where can I get a vision for who God has made me to be?
Thursday	Joshua 24:14-28	What intention do I have and what decision have I made for my spiritual restoration?
Friday	Luke 3:1-16	What does repentance look like for me?

Sermon Notes

This Week at Wesley

****Visit wesleymonumental.org/events/ to view the calendar online.****

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

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 1

New Year's Day

Church Office & Eli's Place Closed

Tuesday, January 2

Eli's Place Teachers Return

Wednesday, January 3

9:00 AM Eli's Place - Students Return
11:00 AM Bible Study w/Ben, OH 310

Thursday, January 4

9:00 AM Eli's Place

Friday, January 5

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

All days except Wednesdays

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

Wednesdays

Nelle Bordeaux912-234-9245

Wednesday Night Supper

Our Wednesday Night Suppers and programming have ended for 2023. We will resume January 10, 2024.

In Sympathy...

The Singletary Family
on the death of
Elaine Singletary

In Our Prayers....

Danielle Robertson, Camille Searcy, Roger Lemay, Gail Brannen, Jason Horton, Kevin Wilson, Archie Davis, Isaiah Benjamin Akrong (nephew of Deanna Sorrells), Tim Edwards, Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), Philip Fritts (brother of Lynn Fritts), Gloria Eitel, Adam Corey, Saddy 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, 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 (grand-daughter 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 Stuenckel, Mark Thomas, Cindy Telljohann, Lois Wooten

Military Serving Abroad/Stateside

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