



Life at Wesley



Wesley Chancel Choir carols to church members receiving communion.



Santa and his helpers visit residents of Signature Health Center on Christmas morning.



Urban Hope children and their families enjoy a Christmas supper prepared and served by Wesley members.



The choir room is well-prepared for rain with seven buckets out to catch leaks. This isn't ideal for our electronic equipment, the Steinway piano, or our children and adults who traverse puddles and mildew during choir practice. We're very much looking forward to our new music space once our upcoming building renovation is complete. Know that your generous gifts to the Capital Campaign for renovations are much appreciated!



From Ben's Desk

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



Ash Wednesday Service
February 14, 2024
6:15 PM Sanctuary

Love and Lent

This year is one of those rare times when St. Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday. It's quite a paradox. A day of feasting on a day of fasting? A day of extravagance on a day of asceticism? A day of joyous celebration on a day of mourning our sin? A day of enjoying the fullness of life and love on a day of contemplating its brevity? How in the world can we do both? Well, if nothing else, both days are all about love in its many faceted forms. In our staid Evangelical Protestant tradition, we rarely embrace the Biblical images of God or Christ as lover. The Bride and Bridegroom. The Song of Solomon rarely finds its way into our preaching, a bit too much eros for us. But love grows deeper, or it is not love. Eros that woos our hearts can evolve into agape, unconditional and sacrificial love, that grows our hearts. Jesus simply said, "Greater love has no person than this, that they lay down their lives for their beloved." So maybe St. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, have more in common than we think. And as we begin the forty-day journey with Jesus to the cross, maybe it is a good time to ask ourselves if we've ever really fallen in love with the Christ who loved us before we ever knew it and will love us into eternity. Who knows, maybe this year at our Ash Wednesday Service, instead of the sign of the cross, we will mark ourselves with a heart.



Communications

Ashley Mays Higgins, Communications Director
912-232-0191, communications@wesleymonumental.org



Easy ways to stay
informed at WMUMC!

There's *always* something happening at Wesley Monumental. We love our community of faith, and we love making sure you're aware of all our opportunities to connect and serve. Here are a few ways you can stay on top of what's happening in our church.

1) Sign Up for the Wesley Weekly Email Newsletter

Every Wednesday, we send an email featuring important events, service opportunities, and information that will help you join in with our community. It's quick and easy to skim when you're in a hurry. If you don't already receive the Wesley Weekly email, you can sign up online or call the church office to be added to the list.

2) Follow on Social Media

If you already spend time on social media, follow all of Wesley Monumental's accounts. We put a lot of effort into making sure these spaces are up to date with information that's helpful to visitors and members.

Instagram

Wesley Monumental UMC: @WesleyMonumental
Monumental Music: @WesleyMonumentalMusic
Children's Ministry & Eli's Place: @CMatWesleyUMC
Youth Group: @Wesley_Monumental_Youth

Facebook

Wesley Monumental UMC:
facebook.com/wesleymonumental
Monumental Music:
facebook.com/wesleymonumentalmusic

3) Watch the TV Screens in the Wayne St. and Gordon St. Foyers

On Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, pause in the foyers downstairs for a moment and you'll notice current photos and information on the TV screens there. Feel free to stop and observe for a couple of minutes!

4) Look at our Website

Last fall, we updated our website, wesleymonumental.org. We wanted it to be current, helpful, and beautiful. There is a ton of information there, so if you have a question, it's a great place to start. There are pages for our church's history, FAQs, a map to help visitors figure out our parking situation, and more. There's also a regularly updated calendar of events online.

If you're having trouble finding something on our website, click the magnifying glass in the top right of the website then type in a few keywords and hit enter to search.



Children's Ministry

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



Family Give-Back Hours are the times your family commits to "giving back" to our Children's Ministry program on a Sunday morning of your choice. No preparation is required. Your help is needed to hand out materials, pass out snacks, and make sure the children stay with the group as we move from one location to another. Scan the QR code to sign up today.



This year's Vacation Bible School theme is SCUBA, and we'll be diving deep into friendship with God. What could possibly be greater than having God as one's friend? Friends look out for one another, stick up for one another, and remain true to one another. At SCUBA, the kids will dive deep into God's word and come to know the never-ending love of God. Register now by visiting myvbs.org/wesleymonumental

Children's Ministry Assistant

Wesley is hiring a fulltime Children's Ministry Assistant! We are looking for a person who loves Jesus and loves children. This person will use their teaching skills to prepare lessons and activities for our children. Our classrooms are fun and exciting spaces where everyone is welcome and included.

For job description visit, bit.ly/WMChildrensMinistryAssistant

join us for

Eli's Place

OPEN HOUSE

for the
2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Come and see what everyone is talking about!
Meet the teachers who make this place so great
and visit the classrooms where it all happens.

Eli's Place is excited to show you what's in store for next year!

Enrollment for current Eli's Place families will begin on **February 1, 2024**.
General enrollment and placement for families not currently enrolled at Eli's Place will begin on **February 20, 2024**. Children on the waiting list will be placed in available openings and notified by email. Please submit your application by the due date as our spots fill quickly and we cannot guarantee availability for applications returned after February 20.

Please email us with any questions:

elisplacedirector@gmail.com





Evangelism

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

Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during December. Our next New Member Course will be on Sundays, February 18 and 25, at 10:00 a.m. both Sundays, with a Stewardship Course on Wednesday night, February 21, from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Nursery provided for all sessions. The class will join as a group on Sunday, February 25. The Class meets in the church library (2nd floor of Oliver Hall). Please call the church office to sign up at 912-232-0191.



Bailey & Dr. Kyle Bedenbaugh

Bailey and Kyle grew up in Columbia, SC, and he is an emergency room physician at Candler Hospital, and she is a pediatric nurse at Memorial Hospital. They are expecting their first baby in May, and they live downtown. When

they visited Wesley as guests, "It felt like home," Bailey noted.

Shepherds: Leslie and Mort Shor

Baby's shepherds: Mary and Millie Shor



Sage & Smith Mathews, Jr., with sons, Harry III & Cooper

Smith grew up in Statesboro, and he and Bill Lovett are second cousins once removed. Smith and his brother, Pratt, also a church member, work together at Southbound Brewing Company. Sage is from Warm Springs, GA, and was baptized by Ben Martin on December 31. She

works remotely for a family winery, Trinchero Family Estates. Their sons, Harry III, age 3, and Cooper, age 4 months, enjoy the children's ministry.

Shepherds: Laura and L.B. Watkins, IV

Children's shepherds: James Watkins



Word Happy: Christian Writers' Group

Please sign up with Kimberly Angle at kim.greene.angle@gmail.com

Meets last Saturday of each month from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., location TBD. First meeting will be Saturday, January 27.



Bible Studies in February

Young Mothers' Bible Study

Studying "Women of the Bible"
Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
Oliver Hall Room 310

With the fabulous Carmine Cowart teaching the children, while Nelle teaches the mothers.

Thursday Noon Bible Study

Studying "Minor Prophets"
Thursdays, noon to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

Sign up for either with Nelle,
tbordeaux@prodigy.net



Missions

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

Please Pray for Honduras Mission on Move Trip

Please pray for the children and families of Mission on the Move in Santa Elena, Honduras, as 14 church members travel there to serve this month from February 11-18.



14th Annual Chefs & Chocolates

Saturday, February 10, 7:00 p.m. at Kehoe Ironworks. Chefs & Chocolates is an upbeat, fun night with delicious food, great music, auctions, and a celebration of the wonderful things Urban Hope is doing in the Savannah community. The event will include live music and tastings of appetizers and desserts from Savannah's finest chefs. This year's speaker will be Bruce Main, Founder and Executive Director of Urban Promise, and he will share his amazing insight on changing the lives of at-risk children. For additional details and to purchase tickets visit, www.urbanhopesavannah.org/chefsandchocolates



Urban Hope Family Supper

Be Our Valentine at the February Family Mission Project Monday, February 12

Please sign up in advance with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net, to cook at home and bring to Independent Presbyterian Church, 207 Bull Street, a dish (needed are ham, salad, green beans, macaroni and cheese, sweet potato souffle, rolls, cut fruit, cookies, lemonade, paper plates, plastic silverware, napkins, and cups). Last month, we served 75 guests. Please meet at 5:30 p.m. at Independent; the Urban Hope children and families will arrive at 6 p.m.



Urban Hope School Supplies

Needed are Bibles for summer camp; what a great project for a circle or Sunday School class to sponsor; please speak with Nelle for details. Dry-erase markers, bulletin board borders, and Microban spray are also needed. Please bring items to the box located in the Oliver Hall foyer.



Youth Ministry

Hello all. Your friendly neighborhood Youth Committee Chair, Sheila Watts, is here. In January, the youth program resumed following the holiday break. The youth have begun a study of Matthew on Wednesday nights. Students also participated in two mission projects. Amanda Duffy, a nurse from Memorial's NICU and Wesley member, shared with the youth what it was like to work in the NICU and about the babies Memorial



cares for. Two Wesley Monumental moms, Robin Wyatt and Monica Dekle, also shared with the youth about their experiences of having premature babies and their experiences with the Memorial NICU. Students then sorted donations that were made by church members for the NICU. Later in January, the youth helped the Honduras mission team by preparing materials the team will use with children in Honduras. AJ Ford, a Mission on the Move missionary, shared via video about the work of Mission on the Move and the children the ministry serves. If your student is not yet plugged into the Wesley Monumental Youth Ministry, now is a great time to start! Please follow the youth on Instagram at [@wesley_monumental_youth](https://www.instagram.com/@wesley_monumental_youth) for more photos and updates!



Wesley Gardens Retreat

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



Fourth Friday Retreat

On February 23, join us in the chapel for some time of guided retreat and solitude. In addition to morning prayer and Lectio Divina (meditation on Holy Scripture), this liturgically-based retreat will feature teaching and discussion. Coffee and tea are provided 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 self-guided personal retreat (optional). Feel free to bring your own lunch or snack. For questions and further details, email hello@wesleygardensretreat.com.



Spiritual Direction

Christian Swails, Wesley Gardens Spiritual Director
 912-217-8646, hello@cocreationlife.com
 cocreationlife.com, christianswails.com



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.

Weekly Spiritual Practices Gathering

Join us each Sunday afternoon for our weekly spiritual practices gathering at Wesley Gardens Retreat. For anyone interested in engaging their heart in deeper transformation and those looking for tools to walk out their faith, join Christian Swails Sunday afternoons from 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome, and feel free to bring a friend!



Memorials & Honors

February 2024

Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:

<u>Wesley Gardens</u>	<u>The Capstone Project/ Building Fund</u>	<u>Monumental Music</u>	<u>The Endowment Fund</u>
In memory of Elaine Singletary From Annelle McDuffee	In memory of Walter Sumner From Rosanne Montjoy	In memory of Manolo Garcia-Melendez From Cindy Lupton Linda & Ted Moore Marsha & Charlie Clarke Renato & Julia Inserra Robert & Gail Tucker	In memory of John Burton From Ethel Burriss
<u>Care & Share</u> In memory of Jean Remley From Joanne & Will Faulk Annelle McDuffee	In memory of Paul Tietz Pat Besser	In honor of Dr. Monica Dekle Given anonymously	In memory of Anne Holley From The Joy Circle of Wesley Monumental UMC
In memory of Elaine Singletary From Joanne & Will Faulk	Manolo Garcia-Melendez From Pat & Sharlene Monahan		



Music

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



Christmas Eve 2023



Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults & Pastoral Care
912-232-0191, carolynhalecubbedge@gmail.com

Merry Makers to Celebrate Friendship

Merry Makers will celebrate friendship at the February Valentine's Day Luncheon. Join us for a lovely lunch in the Parlor of Oliver Hall on Monday, February 12, at 11:00 a.m. Wear your finest Valentine's attire and come prepared to be wowed! Cost is \$7.00 per person. Call the church office to make your reservation. Questions? Call Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.



 **WESLEY**
MONUMENTAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
429 Abercorn Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

The Monumental Messenger (USPS 624-500) is published monthly by Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, 429 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31401-5043. Periodicals Postage Paid at Savannah, GA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Monumental Messenger, Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, 429 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31401-5043.



Messenger Monthly Spotlight



2023 Nativity Pageant