

October
2025

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wesleymonumental.org

THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



Life at Wesley



View of the sanctuary from the choir loft. Scaffolding is up, and demolition of the ceiling is well underway. Turn the page to view more pics.



Youth Choir

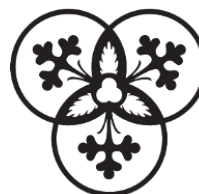


Youth Group is back in session!



Chorister preparing to lead worship with smiles from her little brother.

During the Merry Makers September event, Wesley member Sarah Labrot spoke about her work as an artist.





From Ben's Desk

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

Adaptability

"Adaptability refers to an individual's ability to adjust and cope with changes in their environment, circumstances, or expectations. It encompasses the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral flexibility needed to navigate new situations and maintain well-being."

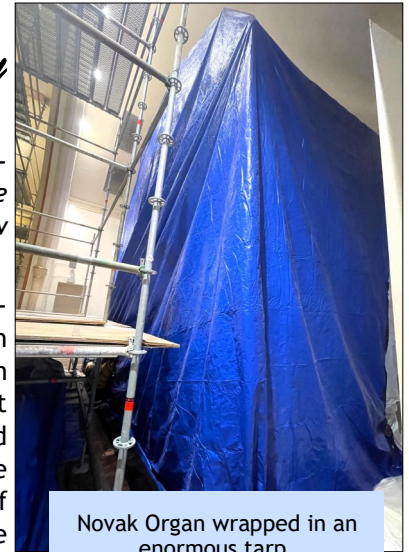
Adaptability is a skill we should be getting pretty good at here at Wesley. Over the last couple of years, we have been learning how to cope with change. This is particularly hard for a church with so much "tradition." I can tell you from personal experience, the older you get, the harder it is to adapt to change. Routines become comfortable and offer a sense of security, but they also have the downside of just going through the motions of things and taking things for granted that were once meaningful and powerful.



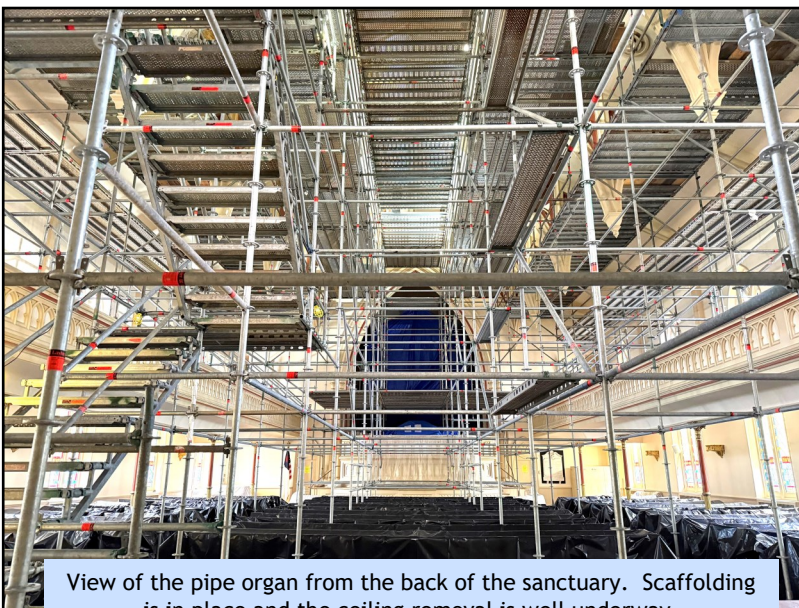
All windows have been boarded up to protect the delicate stained glass.

Over the last couple of years, we have navigated changes in our denomination, the disruptions of a year without our Education Building, months without our elevator, and now months without our sanctuary. Not to mention what it all costs and how we balance mission and ministry with capital expense. **We are learning to adapt. The history of God's people is one of constant change.** Hebrews describes the early followers of Jesus as pilgrims seeking a homeland. Jesus trained his disciples by sending them out without the security of familiar things and places. He was teaching them to trust God, whose presence would be the one constant in an ever-changing and challenging environment. Nothing is permanent in life. Buddhism says that is the source of all suffering, trying to hold onto things that are constantly slipping through our fingers. The writer of Revelation reminds us that God is making all things new.

Learning to adapt means learning to live with faith that creates expectation and not dread. A confidence in the grace of God to be sufficient for all circumstances. As we continue to navigate another season of disruption, may we do so with a great sense of hope and expectation of how God can redeem all the disruptions and use them to help us grow in faith, hope, and love.



Novak Organ wrapped in an enormous tarp.



View of the pipe organ from the back of the sanctuary. Scaffolding is in place and the ceiling removal is well underway.

Temporary Sunday Morning Worship Locations

8:45 a.m. Worship Service
in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the
synagogue sanctuary at
Congregation Mickve Israel

(The 11:00 a.m. Worship Service is
livestreamed in the Fellowship Hall for those
who prefer to stay on the WMUMC campus.)



To learn more or to
donate to our
Save Our Sanctuary Campaign,
please visit
wesleymonumental.org/repairs



Children's Ministry

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

Fall Fun

for children at Wesley Monumental

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday mornings, our classrooms on the second floor open at 9:45 and lessons start at 10. In September, we are learning about the "Fruit of the Spirit". From making fruit jam and fruit pizza to constructing a giant fruit tree, our lessons each week will teach us about the gifts of the Holy Spirit that grow in the hearts of believers.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

We are focusing on the Apostles' Creed. These are some big words and big thoughts for little people! We'll divide it into four sections and tackle a different section each week. Each child will work on a month-long art project and end up with a keepsake picture by the end of September.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, October 10
Wesley Gardens Retreat

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for an outdoor movie under the stars!

Dinner starts at 6 followed by s'mores. The movie will begin at 7.

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 26
4-6 p.m.

Wesley Gardens Retreat

Games, bounce houses, petting zoo, and more! We'll also enjoy Ms. Suzanna's Nacho Bar in the Main House and s'mores at the pavilion.

FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 9 • 4-6 p.m.

Wesley Gardens Retreat

The first Sunday in Advent is the Sunday after Thanksgiving. It always sneaks up on us. Join us at the Gardens where we'll forage for greens and berries and make an Advent Wreath for your family.



Evangelism & Missions

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

Welcome New Members!

We are thankful that the following joined in August. Our October New Member Course will be on Sundays, October 19 and 26, at 9:45 a.m. (please come to both parts of this two-part series), with the class joining as a group on Sunday, October 26. Nursery provided. Please call the church office to sign up, 912-232-0191.



Tyler Hilyer

Tyler is from Fort Payne, Alabama, and already he is in the Thursday noon Bible study. He works for the City of Savannah, and his Shepherd, JoAnna Hayes, who also works for the City of Savannah, invited him to church. Tyler has a master's degree in geographic information science and technology from Jacksonville State University in his native state. He works in geographic information systems making maps and apps in his career at the City. *Shepherds: JoAnna and Joel Hayes*



Elizabeth and John Skeadas

It is so meaningful to have family at Wesley as the Shepherds to welcome new members: Elizabeth and John have their daughter, Ellen, and her husband, Adam, as their Shepherds. Elizabeth and John live on the Isle of Hope. John and Rev. Ben Martin are friends. *Shepherds: Ellen and Adam Grody*



Fall into Bible Study

Young Mothers' Bible Study

Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., nursery provided by Del Muller, Sharlene Monahan, and Becky West, while Nelle teaches the mothers. Bring your baby and your Bible! Fall topic is "How To Be Wise: the Book of Proverbs." All are welcome!

Noon Bible Study—the Book of Ephesians

Thursday Noon Bible Study, noon-12:30 p.m. via Zoom. "All about Paul," Philippians, Colossians, Titus, and Philemon.

Please sign up for either Bible study with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



Urban Hope Supper Monday, October 6

Please cook at home and bring a dish and help serve approximately 75 Urban Hope guests. Please meet at 5:30 p.m. at Independent Presbyterian Church, 207 Bull Street (please enter from lane on south side of church parallel to Oglethorpe Avenue), and the Urban Hope children will arrive at 6:00 p.m. We usually finish clean-up by 7:30 p.m.

Needed are: pulled pork, barbecue sauce, barbecue beans, potato salad, cole slaw, green salad, cut fruit, dill pickles, lemonade, cookies, paper plates in large and small sizes, plastic cutlery, cups, buns, and napkins. Please sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



Urban Hope Tutors Needed

Thursdays, 3:15 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Please sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net, to help children with your choice of subject, including math, reading, science, and penmanship. Most needed is help with spelling words.



Wesley member Sharlene Monahan is helping student Cameron Hines with penmanship.



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas



Wesley Christmas Bazaar

Wesley's Annual Christmas Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., in the Parlor of Oliver Hall. Wesley artisans will be the vendors. Plan to come to do some Christmas shopping. Vendors will be selling jewelry, wooden Christmas ornaments, paintings, photographs, CDs, embroidered items, baked goods, decorated oyster shells, crocheted items, and notecards, among other things. If you are a vendor and would like to participate, see or call Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.

Save the Date Christmas at the Gardens

Sunday, December 7
4-6 p.m.



Watch your
Bulletin
and the
November
Messenger
for details.



Christmas Greenery 2025



Although we won't be able to decorate the sanctuary for Advent this year, the Altar Guild of Wesley Monumental UMC is still excited to offer fresh balsam greenery from Vermont for the Christmas season!

Your pre-paid order will be shipped to the church the Monday after Thanksgiving. Orders should be available for pickup in the Oliver Hall courtyard on Friday, December 5 and the following week during the church's normal business hours. **(Please note, we are subject to possible shipping changes and will notify you, the best we can, if there are changes to delivery dates and times.)**

Orders are due by Sunday, October 12, and payment is due with your order. Below are two options to order and pay.

Order & Pay Online: <https://www.wesleymonumental.org/greenery/>

Hardcopy & Check: Complete form and return to the Church Office, 429 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31401. Please make your check payable to Wesley Monumental UMC and mark it for greenery order. To pay online visit: bit.ly/WMPayOnline Select "Give one time" and "Christmas Greenery" as the fund. Once paid, email this form to bakerj@wesleymonumental.org or deliver to the church office by Sunday, Oct. 12.



Memorials & Honors

October 2025

Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:

Save Our Sanctuary Fund

In memory of **Karen Nickles**
From

Kim & Bart Norman
Peter & Shirley Roberts
Carl Pedigo & Kathy Horne
Don Riddle & Carolyn Roth
Linda Ferguson
Ann & Melvin Croft
Tim Mooney
Brian Coats
Kathy Graeter
John T. Jester
Janet Wist
Katherine Hearn

Save Our Sanctuary Fund Cont.

In memory of **Toni Walker**
From Ann & Melvin Croft

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of **Chris Grabowski**
From Connect Sunday School Class

Children's Ministries

In memory of **Valerie Mae Grant**
From Joanne & Will Faulk

The Endowment Fund

In memory of **Karen Nickles**
From Care & Share

Monumental Music

In honor of **GeJuan Wilkes**
From
Patty Ronning

In memory of **Karen Nickles**
From
Ken & Deanne Rimes

In honor of **Monica Dekle**
From
Joanne & Will Faulk





Youth Ministry

Maggie Hatchett, Director of Student Ministries
912-580-7553, maggie@wesleymonumental.org

Fall has started, and youth programming is back in session! We have had such a great time talking about the book of John and getting to have fun together. We have been learning new ways to worship, and we got to learn from Era Hall about Creation and from Ericka about music. We are looking forward to new ways to worship this fall!

Come volunteer with us at the Fall Festival and stay after for pumpkin chunking and more fun! Email Maggie if you plan to come volunteer.



Sign up for our Fall Retreat, November 21-23. We will leave around 5 p.m. on Friday and return around 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. All youth are invited. The cost is \$200 a person. We have scholarships if needed! We also need adult volunteers. Let Maggie know if you can come.



Fall Programming



- **Sunday Night:** A time where we gather for dinner, a lesson, and make space for worship. Middle and High will split for lessons and come back together for dinner.
- **Sunday School:** A space on Sunday mornings for the Middle and High schoolers to gather separately to talk about topics related to them and also to hear from different volunteers.
- **Connect Group:** High School small groups that will meet before school and on Wednesday Nights! Be on the lookout for our different groups that are meeting.
- **Wednesday Night:** Dinner and Bible study for Middle School and Connect group for High School.
- **Confirmation:** We will begin classes January 4 during the Sunday School hour and go on a retreat March 6-8.



Support College Campus Ministry

Join us for The Wesley Open, Georgia Southern Wesley Foundation's annual golf tournament supporting a campus ministry that transforms lives! It will take place on Thursday, October 23, at the Forest Heights County Club in Statesboro. Please use the QR code to register or learn more. Your participation directly fuels worship, discipleship, outreach, and mission efforts - in the United Methodist tradition - empowering students to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Every dollar raised goes entirely to the Georgia Southern Wesley Foundation, in support of this thriving ministry and the students it serves. If you have any questions, contact Maggie Hatchett in the church office or Scott Cleaveland at 912-598-8278. For ministry info see www.gswesley.com.



Youth Work Day at Wesley Gardens Retreat

The youth will be going to Wesley Gardens on Monday, October 13 (Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day) to help do some yard work, and if you are in high school, you can help with mild construction work. Be on the look out for more info from Maggie!





Music

Monica Dekle, Director of Music & Organist

Joyful Noise and Children's Choirs

Joyful Noise and Children's Choirs got off to a roaring start on September 10. We have around 150 choristers and 12 classes. Thank you for the privilege of teaching your children God's Holy Word and His Truths through music. Further, thank you for the opportunity to help children learn to apply Biblical concepts in everyday life at school, at home, and in the community.



Month of September Hymns and Scriptures

♦ Joyful Noise:

Jesus Loves Me, The Lord's My Shepherd, This is the Day, Holy, Holy, Holy, We are in God's House Today, All Things Bright and Beautiful, I am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Hymn of Promise, Standing on the Promises, Child of Blessing, Child of Promise, O How I Love Jesus

♦ Children's Choir:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Revelation 4:8-11), How Great Thou Art (2 Samuel 7:22, Revelation 4:11, Psalm 104), We Are the Church (Matthew 18:20, Acts 2:1-11, Romans 12:15, Galatians 3:28, 1 Peter 2:4-10), I Want to Be Ready/Walk in Jerusalem Just Like John (Revelation 21:2,16), Gloria Patri, Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer

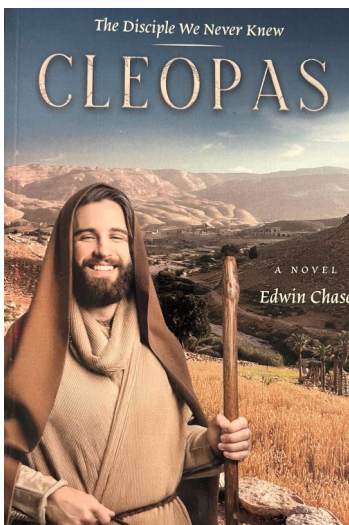
FAITH

As an act of celebration in Faithful anticipation of our completed Sanctuary Restoration, the Wesley Monumental Chancel Choir will perform Ludwig van Beethoven's monumental *Missa Solemnis* on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 7:30 PM. The mass is a clear statement - Credo - of Faith that sustain us through all things. Full orchestra, choir, soloists Rebecca Flaherty, Claire Watts, Caleb Stack, Dr. Allen Henderson. Tickets available soon (with seating map to secure your seat ahead of time).



Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults & Pastoral Care
912-232-0191 Ext. 202, carolynhalecubbedge@gmail.com



Merry Makers

Merry Makers, Wesley's senior adult fellowship, will meet on Monday, October 13, at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor of Oliver Hall. Dr. Edwin Chase will be the speaker. He has recently published a novel, *Cleopas: The Disciple We Never Knew*, which will be the topic of his presentation. Call the church office to make your reservation. Lunch (\$7.00) will be served. Questions? See or call Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.



A Christmas Tradition

Merry Makers will celebrate Christmas with a matinee performance of **A Christmas Tradition** at Savannah Theatre on Saturday, December 13, at 3:00

p.m. Cost is \$40 per ticket. Reservations are needed ASAP to secure our seating. Your check is your reservation. Make checks payable to Wesley Monumental and give them to Carolyn Hale Cubbedge. Questions? See or call Carolyn at 912-3083-3385



Messenger Monthly Spotlight



Step In and Serve

Thank you to all who signed up to serve on Sunday, August 24! We enjoyed sharing all about the good we can do at church and in our community as we serve each other and our neighbors.

You can still sign up to serve by emailing ashley@wesleymonumental.org.

