



# Wesley Tidings

May 2020

Volume 11, Issue 5

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## Pastor's Ponderings

We are into our second month of Stay at Home and Spatial Distancing measures in response to the world-wide Covid-19 health risk. We have seen loneliness, financial strain across all borders, stress in families adjusting to new patterns and leadership roles, treasured institutions and celebrations turned inside out, local and national leaders unsure and troubled, gatherings of the highly frustrated, overnight changes in the ways we encounter one another and walk through a regular day. So much is changing and shifting daily. Fear, worry, and grief have come for a visit.

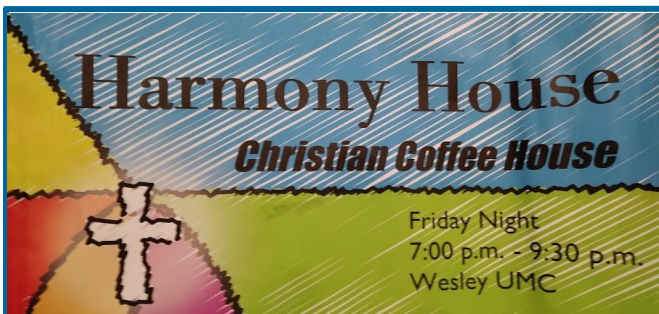
What word does our faith have to bring to such visitors? Turning to our holy scriptures, our faith ancestors, our own experience of God's love, there is much to offer. Firstly God's Word offers almost constant witness to fear - it is a human reality not to be ignored. We only need a little time and research to discover that throughout the Bible God speaks to our fear with transformative words. "Do not fear, only believe." "Fear not." Take a look and see how many you can find from Genesis to Revelation. These holy texts are speaking trust, hope, and peace into the hearts of those who are in fear. Worry and grief, the cousins of fear have also joined in this humbling house party traveling among us right now. Scripture and tradition and experience have words for them too. "You are not alone." "Jesus wept." "Do not weep, for I Am with you." "Jesus is not dead, he is raised." "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" Scripture and our faith ancestors do not chastise our experiences of fear, worry, and grief; they encourage us to become aware in the midst of them, to look to where God is with us already. They teach us to be still and know God even in the deepest of woes. They show us where to look, even when our senses fail to recognize or we are too weary to make the effort. In trust, sink into the deep well of faith which has come before. When your own senses or faith fail, lean into that of others where we hear witness through God's Word and our tradition. Let the Easter Proclamation take root and nurture this waiting season. Jesus is not dead, he is risen, Alleluia!

**Grief and fear are a natural part of our human experience and may be a larger part of our daily lives during this particular Easter Season. If you are experiencing heightened times of concern, please reach out to Pastor Gretchen, a faith friend, or be in conversation with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling 873-2273. We walk this path together and we all need caring companions.**

"Best of all God is with us." (John Wesley). "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well." (Julian of Norwich). Hold onto Jesus' last words to the disciples before his arrest "peace I give to you, I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)" and every time he visits groups after the resurrection "Peace be with you." Let this peace envelope, enrich, inhabit, and invigorate every part of you for the facing of these days. We are made in relationship with one another and it is good to reach out for the aid of others. Kyrie Eleison. Christe Eleison.

Deep peace of Christ with you, Pastor Gretchen





## Harmony House Open Mic goes digital!

Friday, May 8th, 7:15 PM

Join in a night of hope and joy. You are invited to share your talents. Have music, a poem, hymn, artwork, photograph, prose, or other gift to share? Something that has been nurturing you through Sheltering in Place? Something you have encountered in your reading or something you have created? Come to Digital Open Mic night and offer it as a hopeful gift to all gathered. Come and support those who will share their gifts. Zoom link will be emailed to the church email list.

Call Jerry Sowers or Pastor Gretchen for the link or more details.

## Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship with the people of Wesley and the wider community. 10 AM on Facebook Live and Zoom. Thanks to Mike and Gretchen Nelson for bringing Facebook Live and Zoom into our homes!



Watch your emails for a Zoom link each week. Join in by phone call. Invite friends and family far and wide. Easter Season theme "Heart of the Matter" continues through May. Each week we encounter Jesus' post resurrection visits with his disciples and the early Christians and seek to grow in the heart of Jesus.

Bring a "Heart" coloring or doodle page to worship and color a new heart each time hearts are mentioned in the service. Fill in each heart with one way you are encountering God's abundant love this Easter. Send in your completed coloring pages by text or email to Pastor Gretchen.



Your heart is requested for worship. Have a prayer, poem, song, artwork, slide show, photograph, or other offering to share? Contact Pastor Gretchen to bring this gift for God's glory during our online worship experience.



## Meals for Lynette and Ralph Scalzi

While Lynette is receiving chemo, we will be providing some meals

for her and Ralph; home-cooked or take-out are both appreciated, and they do not have any allergies or dietary restrictions. Of course if you become ill, please release your slot and do not go to their house!

[www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4babab29a57-meals> As always folks can feel free to call me at 630-5860 if they're having trouble signing up or would just like for me to do it for them! And Chris is available to deliver the meals to the Scalzis if anyone isn't able to easily do it themselves, just let us know.



Would your small group like to gather for fellowship, conversation, faith formation? Wesley has a Zoom Pro Account waiting for you. No time limit. Ability to Share Screen. Break out rooms.

Call or email Pastor Gretchen to schedule your next session.



### Red Cross May Date Canceled for Wesley

You can find blood drives taking place in Hampton for May at the following locations:

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Fort Monroe YMCA 10am-3pm

May 28<sup>th</sup>: Liberty Live Church-Hampton, 11am-4pm

Donors do need to make appointments for all blood drives right now. This helps us ensure we don't have too many people in the space we are running. There are other drives running in Newport News, Yorktown and Williamsburg. If people are looking for specific locations they can visit [red-crossblood.org](http://red-crossblood.org) and enter their zip code.

### Evening Prayer on Facebook Live and Zoom

Let each day be bathed in prayer. Join Wesley's online community in Compline (Evening Prayer). Monday - Friday at 7 PM on Facebook Live. @HamptonWesley. "Like" Wesley's page and get notifications for Live video to receive a daily reminder to pause and pray as day journeys to night.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/379327931?pwd=ckljb1VySDdMOWtdndZJMhJCb2hwdz09>

Meeting ID: 379 327 931

Password: 197440

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,379327931#,,#197440# US (New York)

+13126266799,,379327931#,,#197440# US (Chicago)



Joan Sowash  
The Devonshire  
2220 Executive Drive, Room 242  
Hampton VA 23666-6611

Jean Bowden: [jean36b5754@gmail.com](mailto:jean36b5754@gmail.com)

### Thank You!

The Food Drive on April 11<sup>th</sup> for the H.E.L.P. Pantry was a huge success!

The food was picked up by the H.E.L.P. Director, Matt Stern. He wants to pass on his gratitude to all.

Thank you for always being willing to help in any way,

Sylvia Krisnow



### Leadership Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

On Zoom

6:30pm



### June dates canceled for All God's Children Camp

The leadership of All God's Children Camp made the decision to cancel the camp for the week of June 14-19. However, the other two weeks of July 26-31 at Occohannock on the Bay and August 9-14 at Camp Chanco will remain on the schedule.

Please consider mentoring with the organization this summer. This summer more than ever, our kids need camp to help bring back some normalcy in their lives!



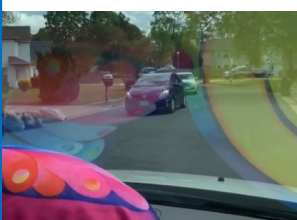


## Message from our Leadership Board Chair

since March 23<sup>rd</sup> when Wesley's building was closed to in-person meetings, the Leadership Board has remained active via online platforms and member follow-through. The Board agreed to establish a Zoom account for church-wide use and met on this platform on March 21, April 1, and April 9. Here's an overview of what's been happening during our "shutdown" mode:

**Trustees** – Thanks to a generous Lenten offering from one church family and funds from the estate of Annie McCormick, our kitchen will have two new dishwashers when the building re-opens! New carpet has been installed in the double classroom area, with the help of volunteers who removed the furnishings in those rooms. Corey Parrish stripped and waxed the fellowship hall floors. Gutter and flashing repairs have been made at the parsonage but the parsonage fence is still in need of "rehab." Stephanie Eitzen prepared documents and submitted them to the Hampton Circuit Court informing the court of our current Trustees.

**Nurture** – Congregational Care Calling Circles were established to keep in touch weekly with every person of Wesley. Thanks to Pat Fitzgerald and Sylvia Krisnow who organized the calling groups and to those who



are making calls, sending notes, and reaching out in other ways to our church family. Pastor Gretchen and Mike organized a fun Easter car parade where smiles and waves of many who have been sheltered in their homes during the pandemic could be seen along the parade route. Anne Companion set up a meals ministry site where volunteers sign up to provide meals to those experiencing illness.



**Witness** – Pastor Gretchen continues to incorporate new and innovative ways to lead us in online worship at 10 am on Sunday and in evening prayer at 7 pm weekdays. These services are posted on Wesley's Facebook page and can be viewed later if preferred. Online views have exceeded our usual weekly attendance at worship services. Musical gifts have been offered by Cynthia Campbell on her harp, Jerry Sowers and Dale Stump with guitar accompaniment, and the singing Gumberts. Others have submitted photos and art to enhance our worship experience. Sylvia Krisnow emails weekly bulletins and prayer concerns as needed.



**Finance** – Praise be to God that our tithes and offerings have remained steady during recent weeks as financial gifts have been mailed in, submitted through online banking and dropped off at the church. Helen Cope and Pat Fitzgerald make bank deposits weekly. Bayport Credit Union notified us that our application for federal funds through the Paycheck Protection Program has been approved. This will provide funding for two months salaries for our pastor and staff. Thanks to Charlie Morris and Judi Hines who acted overnight to get the required paperwork submitted.

**Outreach** – An Easter weekend food drive was organized and well-supported. Food donations were given to the HELP organization.

While we all are anxious to gather again at 2510 North Armistead Avenue, our church has not been shuttered during this pandemic. We know things will be different as we emerge from our homes. We'd like to hear from you about what you have missed most during our weeks apart, and what you think we can do without going forward. Please reach out to any member of the Leadership Board with your thoughts and suggestions. Stay healthy!

Mary Saylor  
Leadership Board Chair



## Season of Easter

We have entered into the season of Easter; 50 days of celebrating, honoring, and practicing the acts of a living faith. During this time we discover what it means to be a resurrection people, having new life and new hope. We begin with the disciples hidden behind closed doors, locked away, shut up, set aside, waiting. This experience moves us together towards a wholeness with God in Jesus Christ.

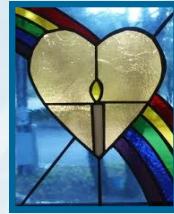
This year our Easter worship series is “Heart of the Matter”. Our focus scripture is: “Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.” (Acts 2: 46-47a).

Each service will follow this scripture's pattern: Spend Time, Break Bread, Praise God, Have Goodwill.

While I remain disappointed we cannot be in person and deeply miss these personal connections, we have a unique opportunity to share the hope of Christ in new ways. I look forward to walking with you and hearing about your experiences along the way.

### As you prepare for worship

- ◆ gather hearts. Take photos of hearts you find in your home and other places. Make paper hearts from home craft supplies.
- ◆ Search for a “worry stone” rock for each person in your home, light enough to hold, heavy enough to feel the weight. Decorate them with markers, paint, nail polish, whatever you have around, with signs of love and encouragement.



## United Methodist Women

*Wesley United Methodist Women or UMW Candle Burning will be postponed until we have returned to Wesley.*

Continue to read books on our reading program. You can go to the church to pickup a book, please to make sure Sylvia is there. Other options include using or Kindle or checking to see if your local library offers any books on the list.

Please get your pledges to Pat Fitzgerald by mailing or dropping it off at the church. If you drop your pledge in the mailbox outside the Narthex doors, make sure you let Pat or Sylvia know.

We had a wonderful Zoom meet on April 27th. We had fun by wearing hats and sharing why we picked our hats.

Currently the salad supper is on hold until we know when the quarantine is lifted.

Contact Person,  
Nancy Gumbert



- ◆ Send pictures of all these hearts to me by text or email. Bring the rocks with you to your worship space on Sunday.
- ◆ Gather a meal or snack to have during our time of worship.
- ◆ Watch for and consider ways of doing and being goodwill.

With hope,  
Pastor Gretchen  
Happy Easter Resurrection Season!

## Easter Message from Pastor Gretchen

As we are all living with unprecedented events, I want to offer a word of hope. A colleague of mine wrote this week “It may feel odd to have moved into the season of Easter, a season of celebration, in the midst of these difficult times. It is an opportunity to consider that, at the heart of our Christian faith, we are called to live our lives in the belief that death is not the final word.” Christians are called “Easter People.” The tomb becomes the womb, where new life bursts forth. We need not wait for everything to be alright to proclaim our Easter faith of resurrection hope. Like generations of Christians under distress since those first disciples, we are invited to celebrate our eternal God and do what we can to help people continue to live the good news wherever they are.

Here is the good news I see. I see the resurrected Christ in you. In the ways you are showering one another in love. In how you are responding to needs as they arise. In how you are paying attention to your neighbors. In how businesses, organizations, and individuals are reorganizing, restructuring their time and equipment to help supply needs. We are witnessing the power of new life in real time. We are seeing the resurrected Jesus alive in action.

Fear not. Jesus is alive. He rose in bodily form. He lives in every deed of kindness. He lives in every act of goodness. He lives through the body of Christ at work in your neighborhood and mine. Jesus is alive dear ones. We may not be celebrating in all the marvelous and delightful ways we planned, we may not be able to be in the same building, we may be separated from loved ones; still we celebrate God’s miraculous love. Every time we witness and participate in random acts of kindness and intentional mercy and deliberate hospitality, we point to God’s grace. Easter is real. Easter has arrived in the most broken places. Easter brings new life in the most dramatic situations. Today we acknowledge our sadness around all the illness and loss AND we lift our hope in the one who broke free from the grave to proclaim death no longer has victory.

I am honored to be in ministry alongside you. I want to thank all who are helping worship and ministry continue even as we are physically distanced: with music, in the church office, sending pledges & offerings, Leadership Board guidance, counting and depositing offerings, producing online content, printing and mailing, delivering to homes, picking up from homes, and so many more. You are all the essence of Christ’s Body, at work with love. Keep being the church in all your houses. Keep living into God’s covenant of stewardship with your financial support. Keep proclaiming the good news of God’s love.

My prayers are with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out in this season of distancing; remember we are all one body in Jesus Christ. We proclaim the good news of great joy no matter where we find ourselves. We witness to God’s ongoing work within a hurting world. We are Easter People. We will be together again in person. Happy Easter to you all.

With the Romans still in power, with oppression throughout the world, with the storms of life raging, with the women and disciples who saw the empty tomb we proclaim:

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*Serving with you in ministry,  
Pastor Gretchen*





## Stewardship Message: GENEROSITY IN A PANDEMIC

May 2020

My sign-off for these monthly stewardship articles is ‘Practice generosity. Always practice generosity!’ Today, even with the concerns about a recession, it still is!

These are most unusual of all unusual times. No one living has ever seen anything like it unless they were alive during the 1918-1919 pandemic, which took the lives of millions around the world. The economic struggles we have experienced in the past fifty years, however, has some familiarity to it. A few remember the great depression. Others know the volatility of the economy as it hits rough spots with recessions and near depressions. Now we have the specter of serious harm to the economy.

Researchers who study the economy and philanthropy trends have documented over many years that Americans are not particularly generous, giving away about 2% of our income. This has been documented as a historical reality. But what is very interesting is that at one point it reached 3%. Do you know when that was? The answer: during the Depression. The years 1929 – 1939 marked a terrible economic downturn for the country. Massive unemployment dogged the nation and lines stretched for blocks as people faced dire hunger, waiting to get a little bit of food. It was a long, dark period of painful memories.

What researchers tell us is that when we all had less to give we all gave more!

This downturn in our economy is not a time to give less. Truly. Please do not hoard money you do not need while others are hurting. If you are fortunate enough to retain your job and wages, give generously as you are able to support the ongoing ministries of your church.

Let me make an appeal to my age group, senior citizens.

My wife and I are blessed to receive Social Security and a pension (thank you very much, UM’s, after 30 years of ministry!). We have some investments that further support our lifestyle. Therefore, we believe we can afford to be generous with the stimulus we expect to receive. In fact, we have covenanted to give most of it away, first to the church and secondly, to help those hit hard by loss of wages. Seniors: as you are able this is a time to ask God to show you who and how to help. (Gift cards may be best).

The churches that will be remembered fondly when this is over are the churches that stretched and supported the community in which they reside, assisting households in and out of the church family. If your church has funds earmarked for generous acts of compassion and support, do not withhold those thinking ‘we need to cut back’.

How do you want your church to be remembered a year from now? What will the community say about your church?

So please, practice generosity. Always practice generosity!

Rev. David A. Rash © Stewardship Matters of Virginia

[info@StewardshipMattersVa.org](mailto:info@StewardshipMattersVa.org)

[www.StewardshipMattersVa.org](http://www.StewardshipMattersVa.org)

Executive Certificate in Religious Fund-raising

*Stewardship: It's Not What You Think.  
It's What You Believe...and Do!*



**Please Pray for:**

Abby  
 Amber Stinson  
 Barbara Greene  
 Ben Stanley  
 Bill Mee  
 Bill Warrick  
 Caleb Coates  
 Carol Hale  
 Cathy and Dave Williamson  
 Christine Mellish  
 Danny Mitchell  
 Dennis Rosier  
 Elaina  
 Ernie and Carolyn Taylor  
 Janice Crumpton  
 Jeff Birdsall  
 Jerry McReynolds  
 Jim McKirdy  
 Jo and Buddy Carlisle  
 Joe Ames  
 Joella  
 Jonnie Sowers  
 Joseph Gilday  
 Judi Hines  
 Judy Jones  
 Karen Bowers  
 Ken Eyre  
 Ken Kemper  
 Kevin Lykins

# Prayer Concerns

Linda Boyd  
 Lizzie Dorschel  
 Lynnette Scalzi  
 Makayla Hurd  
 Marty Ammerman  
 Mary Beth Collier  
 Mary Legere  
 Nhung Nguyen  
 Nina Winfree  
 Pauline Desclos  
 Pete Stone  
 Ralph Scalzi  
 Ramona Gemeinhart  
 Ray Krisnow  
 Richard Cooper  
 Scarlet  
 Susan Nichols  
 Sylvia Santacruz  
 Zach Perkins  
 Zeb Cope

**Other Concerns:** The Coronavirus, the tragedies occurring in our country and around the world; police officers and first responders; all who are grieving; our seniors; our church and the entire United Methodist Church; recovery from addiction; young adults needing a closer walk with Christ; those awaiting test results; healing for those in pain.

**Our Christian Sympathy** goes to Vicky Moyer and family on the death of her mother.

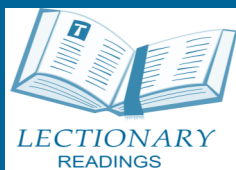
The family of Rev. Chuck McHose and the Mount Vernon UMC congregation (Toano) on his death.



*With Deepest Sympathy*

**Joy:** Nancy Bellan's CT scan came back with wonderful news!

## Lectionary Readings



<p><b>May 3, 2020</b> 4th Sunday of Easter <i>White or Gold</i>                  Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137); <i>May 7: National Day of Prayer</i> 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10 <i>May is Christian Home Month</i></p>
<p><b>May 10, 2020</b> 5th Sunday of Easter <b>Festival of the Christian Home</b> <i>White</i> Acts 7:55-60; Ps 31:1-5, 15-16 (UMH 764); <i>or Gold</i>                  1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14 <i>Mother's Day (USA)</i></p>
<p><b>May 17, 2020</b> 6th Sunday of Easter <i>White or Gold</i>                  Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20 (UMH 790); 1 Pet 3:13-22; Jn 14:15-21</p>
<p><b>May 21, 2020</b> <i>Ascension of the Lord</i> (A,B,C) <i>White or Gold</i>                  Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47 (UMH 781); Ephesians 1:15-23;                  Luke 24:44-53 <i>(These readings may also be used on the 7th Sunday of Easter)</i></p>
<p><b>May 24, 2020</b> 7th Sunday of Easter <i>Ascension Sunday</i> <i>White or Gold</i>                  Acts 1:6-14; Ps 68:1-10, 32-35 (UMH 792); 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11 <i>(Use May 21 readings if celebrating Ascension Sunday)</i> <b>Aldersgate Day/Heritage Sunday</b></p>
<p><b>May 31, 2020</b> <i>Day of Pentecost</i> <i>Red or White</i>                  Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826);                  1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39</p>





Upper Left-Easter cross  
Upper/right 4 pics from Mike and Gretchen Nelson  
Left and below: Worship on Zoom  
Gumbert's cat's joined in worship  
Bottom-Pat and Amanda Fitzgerald-working on puzzles  
Thank You sign on Mercury Blvd

### Pictures from the Quarantine





# Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Paul/Pauline Desclos (1958)	27	Clyde/Nancy Gumbert (1995)
2	William Blocker	29	Charlie/Becky Morris (1966)
6	Quincy Fotis	30	Dale/Kathy Stumpf (1987)
12	Rosemary Parks	31	Rosemary Adriany
15	Pauline Blocker		
17	Jerry Sowers		
18	Kim Frost		
	Kenley Taylor		
20	Lynnette Scalzi		
21	Skylar Johnson		
22	Jeff/Tracy (Krisnow) Jones (1993)		
25	Dave/Cathy Williamson (1974)		
26	Susan Brookman		
	Chuck Lutes		
	Suzie Walters		
	Helen Cope		
	Patrick/Joyce Wentz (2012)		



## HELP Food Pantry

The HELP Day Center will be operating on a modified schedule:

Showers are available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays starting at 9 AM.

Lunches will be available to go on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 12 pm to 1 pm.

The Day Center is located at 329 Buckroe Avenue  
Accessible by HRT routes 109 and 115

The HELP Clinics remain closed to the public as they are in a city building.

The Food Pantry is operating as a delivery service. Those in need can sign up with the “Emergency Food Request” form on our homepage.




You can support the HELP Food Pantry by donating the items below or donating to the pantry financially. All donations designated for the Food Pantry will be used to purchase food and supplies that go directly to individuals and families in need.



### FOOD PANTRY ITEMS HELP Pantry Most Wanted List:

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Pasta Meals
- Apple Sauce—
- Crackers
- 1 lb bags of Rice
- Juice
- Dry Milk
- Dry Beans
- Pork & Beans
- Cereal

## May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service on Zoom and Facebook Live	<b>4</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Monday Crew Meeting	5	<b>6</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Mary Levin Bible Study - Location TBD	7	<b>8</b> <b>7:15 PM</b> Harmony House Open Mic via Zoom 	9
<b>10</b> Mother's Day <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service on Zoom and Facebook Live 	<b>11</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Monday Crew Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Leadership Board Meeting	13	<b>14</b> <b>5:15 PM</b> Men's Bible Study	15	16
<b>17</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Praise Service? <b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School? <b>11:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service?	<b>18</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Monday Crew Meeting	19	20	<b>21</b> <b>5:15 PM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>22</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music Presents Who We Are Not-subject to change	23
<b>24</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Praise Service? <b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School? <b>11:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service?	<b>25</b> Memorial Day 	<b>26</b> <b>10:45 AM</b> Prayer Group	<b>27</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>28</b> <b>5:15 PM</b> Men's Bible Study	29	30
<b>31</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Praise Service? <b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School? <b>11:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service?	1	2	3	4	5	6

Our Calendar is updated daily! Please go to our website for a current calendar. <http://www.hamptonwesley.org>



# Wesley United Methodist Church

2510 N. Armistead Avenue  
Hampton, VA 23666

Phone: 757-838-3044

Fax: 757-838-1663

E-mail: [secretary@wesleyhpt.hrcoxmail.com](mailto:secretary@wesleyhpt.hrcoxmail.com)  
[gretchennelson@vaumc.org](mailto:gretchennelson@vaumc.org)

Website: <http://www.hamptonwesley.org>

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Prepared with love especially for:



The people of The United Methodist Church\*

**Text Alerts!** As a church, we are always working on better communication. If you haven't "liked" our Facebook page yet, go find Wesley UMC to get Wesley on your newsfeed. Another way we hope to communicate going forward is through text blasts. You will have the opportunity to subscribe to receive two different types of texts...texts about prayer concerns as the church office is made aware of them and texts to remind you of upcoming events at the church. You can subscribe to one or both of these. To subscribe for text updates, simply text [757-204-6423](tel:757-204-6423) with the codes below and you will be subscribed and begin getting texts this month. You should get a confirmation after you send your text. If you have questions, please call the church office.

Prayer Concern Updates - code - @4d7063

Event Reminder Updates - code - @0e62fc

## New Conference Website Unveiled

You may have noticed a new conference website was quietly launched late last week. The Communications staff is thrilled to release this new resource and the new possibilities it allows for future communications and resources.

Look around the website at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) to familiarize yourself with the new features and the new layout. You will notice the magnifying glass icon at the top right of the website which will allow you to search the website for anything you might need.

Unfortunately, all the internal and external links had to be changed with the move to a new platform and host. Please be aware of this if you have shared documents from the conference website. You will need to redo links you have shared in the past. If you have questions or concerns, please email [communications@vaumc.org](mailto:communications@vaumc.org).

Please know that we are working speedily and diligently on any questions or concerns you may have. Please be patient with us during this process as we are continuing to update content and to process the technical aspects of the website.