



Wesley United Methodist Church

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# Pastor's Ponderings

*Thin Places.* To experience them is to experience a glimpse into the heart of God. They are places, moments, encounters which provide a holy shiver, spiritual goosebumps; a witness of God's mystery. Thin places are openings to the sacred; pure wonder, joy, awe for the present moment with the Divine. They are ordinary enough yet filled by holiness where one is held in love. Tradition describes them as places or moments where the veil between our visible world and the fullness of God's presence is thinned and all is lost in wonder.



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October 2021

For just a glimpse there is an encounter beyond rational thought, beyond words. I see this in the prophets' conversations with Yahweh. I see it in Mary and Joseph's encounters with angel visitors. I see it in Abraham's visit by three strangers. I have experienced thin places in holy conversations, nature, Bible studies, times of prayer, worship, and bedside visits. There are actual physical places all around the globe that seem to lend themselves to ongoing encounters for pilgrims and passersby alike. There are places which have been gatherings for prayer for generations that are so soaked by prayer that there is tangible Divine presence.



There is no rational explanation for a thin place. It is God's mystery and grace alive with hopeful energy. I would like to note here that our English word "mystery" is derived from "mysterion", the Greek word we also translate as "sacrament". When we gather

around Christ's table to receive communion, when we gather as the body of Christ to share Baptism, in practices of faith — these are thin places where God reaches out with generous love. God is revealing Godself within these moments. Our spiritual practices help us tune in, grow awareness, be alert for revelation in and among the thin places throughout our lives and journeys. These encounters are pure grace. Enjoy them with full, present openness of heart, mind, and soul.

Examples in scripture to explore: Moses was in a physical thin place when he first met God at the burning bush (Exodus 3) Elijah met with God on a mountain top, (1 Kings 19) There were also places created as a thin place. The Tabernacle (Exodus 26) and the Temple (1 Kings 3) were places created for God to meet with people. A space between eternity and our world to touch. What examples do you see in scripture, Christian tradition, and your experience?

Blessings, Pastor Gretchen

#### October 2021

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## **Fellowship Supper October 17th 6 PM**

All are invited to a fellowship supper in the Fellowship hall. Please bring a covered dish to share.

Dave and Cathy Williamson had the privilege of serving this summer with HungerCorp. a nonprofit organization in Puerto Rico, and they will share their experiences.

HungerCorp has served in the Amazon, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic, but after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in September 2017, HugerCorp has concentrated their efforts in this island country. They adopted a low income community in Dorado called La Hormiga which consists of 32 homes with different levels of damage. Volunteers have helped rebuild dozens of homes, built some from scratch, and helped small business take off and grow.

HungerCorps's mission is not only to help rebuild homes and small businesses but to restore dignity and purpose to those affected by Hurricane Maria. And in doing so, they share the love of Christ.

#### Please join us October 17th!

## **Blessings of the Animals** Sunday, October 3, 1:30PM

All animals are welcome to come and bring their humans for a time of celebrating God's creation, giving thanks for all creatures great and small, and a blessing with gratitude.



Office will be closed Monday, October 11th in observance of Columbus Day.

The Third Ouarter Giving Statements will be on the Information Counter next to the Sanctuary October 3-31. You can see your giving statements online at https://onrealm.org/ WesleyUnitedMet/SignIn or pick yours up (if during Church office hours Monday-Thursday from 9 AM to 12 Noon-call first to be sure Sylvia is there, 838-3044). If you want me to mail or email your statement to you, just let me know. Kathann Montague, Financial Financial Secretary,

757-722-8744, kdm8989@cox.net

statements





#### World **Communion Sunday October 3rd**

World Communion Sunday began in 1936 as a way to recognize our ecumenical oneness in Christ and to bring Christians together in a spirit of unity and peace. In The United Methodist Church, congregations also receive a Special Sunday offering that helps students from around the world reach their full potential through scholarships and mentoring.

Special offerings received benefit Scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries and assists Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. and Ethnic In-Service Training.

http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/ world-communion-Sunday

#### **Phoebus United Methodist Church Market Days**

October 9, 2021, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring Frozen Casseroles, Brunswick Stew, Breads, Baked Goods, Pickles,

Preserves, Crafts, Cigar Boxes Collectables, White Elephant Sale.

150th Anniversary Cookbook All items are homemade by some of

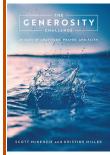
Phoebus UMC's best cooks and crafters

Featured local Artist Nancy Blagg

Stop by and stock up! We ask that you wear a mask inside the Church.



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## Fall Stewardship of Generosity

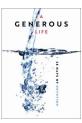
Wesley's Fall Stewardship of Generosity focus begins Sunday, October 3rd and continue throughout the month. A mailing will be arriving this week with more details.

Cover this experience in prayer as we journey this season with grateful hearts and lives.

Psalm 50:14 will guide this exploration of gratitude leading toward a life of generosity. "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High."

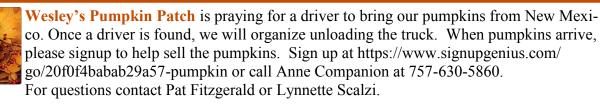
Explore a deeper conversation each Sunday afternoon, 4-5 PM on Zoom, with the study *The Generosity Challenge* by Kristine Miller & Scott McKenzie and companion devotional guidebook. Both are available as e-books with print copies soon arriving in the church office.

The Generosity Challenge e-book https://www.cokesbury.com/The-Generosity-Challenge-2 Devotional e-book https://www.cokesbury.com/A-Generous-Life



Thank you for holding this series in your prayers and for willingness to examine spiritual practices of gratitude and generosity as a disciple in the body of Christ.

You are a blessing, Pastor Gretchen

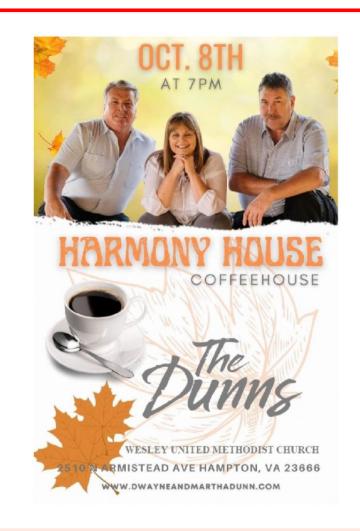






The Brookman family thanks you for your thoughts and prayers during the illness of David's twin brother, Danny. Your prayers sustained us as we said good-bye to him on Sept. 14. Our hearts ache for his presence here, but we know that God has promised a joyful re-

union for us all someday. We also thank you for the many calls, texts, and cards of remembrance. Wesley is our family, too, and we are grateful for the love and support.



Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music Presents:



## Jerry Sowers

October 22 at 7PM

There is a \$5 donation at the door.

Jerry will be playing original songs

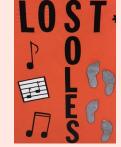
Face masks will be required as COVID is still among us.

Refreshments will be available.

Contact Jerry Sowers for more information.

Lost Soles performed at Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music on September 24th.







## Wesley's Charge Conference Sunday, November 14

Together we will share in the church wide annual gathering honoring a year of ministry together and planning forward for partnering with God in the coming year. As a grace expression and faith response during worship.



Thank you to Jack Rezabek and the Eitzens (Erza and Cecilia) for cleaning up our church and surrounding areas.



## **Wesley Community Service Center Clothing Donations Needed**

The Wesley Community Service Center (WCSC) is a national mission institution related to the United Methodist Women and it's located nearby in Portsmouth. Among many other services, the WCSC maintains a clothes closet. Donations of clean, ready-to-wear clothing & shoes for women, men, and children are welcomed. Large sizes are especially needed.

If you have clothing you'd like to donate to the WCSC, please drop the items at the church before Wednesday, October 20, when they will be delivered to the Center. Please leave your donations in the classroom across from the nursery (old youth room). If you need to have your donations picked up from your home, please call or text Mary Saylor at 675-2567. Many thanks for your generosity.

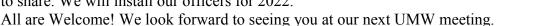
## Wesley Community Service Center receives award for fighting hunger

#### Nonprofit honored at the Foodbank's Annual Hunger Summit, the Pillars of Promise Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, September 22

The Wesley Community Service Center, founded by Methodist Women in 1937, has proudly provided nutritious and accessible food options during its twice-weekly food distribution services for over 30 years. In that time, the organization has served thousands of people facing food scarcity in its community per year. In partnership with the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore's, the Wesley Center became the Portsmouth food HUB in 2021 and anticipates serving even more individuals in the years to come through this joint effort. For more information about the center, contact its director, Renyatta Banks, at renvattabanks@gmail.com

## **United Methodist Women News**

On October 24th at 6:30 PM, we will be having a Potluck Dinner. Please bring a dish to share. We will install our officers for 2022.





HELP Food Pantry: The food pantry is in THE need of: Instant Potatoes, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti, Pork and Beans, Rice, Soap, Juice of any kind. There are two bins in the hallway of the Fellowship Hall for donations. Thank you for your generosity. The food is delivered to the HELP Food Pantry monthly. Contact MIN persons: Sylvia Krisnow and Sherry Moore ALLE HALPLU

#### **Counter Schedule for October**

OCT 3—Amy Stanley/Renee Arnold OCT 10—Stephanie Eitzen/Clyde Gumbert OCT 17—Stephanie Eitzen/Mary Saylor OCT 24—Donna Turley/Helen Cope OCT 31—Donna Turley/Helen Cope

Contact person, Amy Stanley



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#### Wesley Tidings

#### October 2021



## **Prayer Concerns**

Abby Ann Wilson Ben and Paige Ben Stanley Betsy Pinder Bill Mee Bridget Norris Caleb Coates Carol Beard Corey Parrish Crystal Radford Ed Robertson Eli Sweenev Freta Lamb Grace Burnell Jack Rezabek Janice Cope Janice Crumpton Jeff Birdsall Jo/Buddy Carlisle Joann Walsh Joe Ames Joe Brookman Joella Joseph Joseph Gilday Justin Gilday Karen Bowers Kath Kenny Crocker Kevin Lykins Lucy Stowe Margaret Cooper Mason Allen Michael Earl Michael McPhail Mike Mee Nina Winfree Nolan Bensted Pat Brookman Patty Bumgarner Pete Stone Ramona Gemeinhart **Robert Harris** Ron

Sheree Yoder Susan Nichols Tommy Zach Perkins Zeb Cope

## PRAYERS

#### Prayers

All the teachers, students and staff returning to school. Let drivers on the road be aware of children waiting at bus stops and those getting on and off the buses as well as in school zones. Let all of our children be safe this school year. All those who are traveling. All the people leaving Afghanistan and those still there. Doctor's appt with the Cardiologist on Tuesday. Upcoming tests this week. All those recovering from hurricane Ida. Be with all the first responders and others who have gone to help with the cleanup. Be with all who are affected by the COVID, be with the medical personnel and researchers as they continue to seek ways to control the spread of this virus. People struggling with paying rent and possibility of being evicted from their homes. Pravers for leaders of our cities, counties, states, country and our world. Surround them with God's wisdom. Let them pause and think before acting and speaking. Help them to bring strength and safety to those they serve. Be with all those people that are seeking a better life in a new country. Help us to work together to make this possible.

**Joys:** Lynnette Scalzi- Celebrating my grandson Justin's

18<sup>th</sup> birthday with family. Amy Stanley – Visit with daughter Ashley and her boyfriend. Celebrating her Mom's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday and her Dad's 78<sup>th</sup> this week. Robin Welch- Has had pain in his right leg for 3 years and was scheduled for another surgery. The pained started fading before his doctor's visit so the surgery was canceled. God is good! Mike Nelson -They had 9 glorious day of vacation—but great to be back. Jeanne Lineberry - While at lunch with her Mom she a connection with one of her friends who knew Rosemary Parks and had attended her funeral at Wesley. Jerry Sowers - Giving Glory to God for having a tree cut down before we had anymore bad weather. It was causing problems with the power lines to the house. Mike Nelson- Today's service had 5 people on Zoom and 8 on Facebook Live. Thanks to God for being digitally connected for worship. Seeing the beauty in the way people came together after 9/11. We continue to see hope and love rising from the ashes of that day 20 years ago. Lynnette Scalzi- Return of Harmony House on Friday, the joy of music comedy and fellowship. Being able to gather in our church together. Jeanne Lineberry- Having a cookout for work and sharing the litany for 9/11 from the bulletin with those in attendance. Seeing the sanctuary filled with members and visitors.

Cynthia Campbell- arrived safely after being stuck in traffic. Here sister Sherree had a successful surgery Friday, thanks Wesley for all the cards of encouragement. Our choir being able to sing together in church once again. Return of Sunday School and fellowship after worship. Congratulations and celebration of Donna Kennedy's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Lynnette Scalzi – While driving the rain was on different streets in the same neighborhood, then rained so hard at my house we couldn't get out of the car. God has a sense of humor and is in control of all things. Carol Hale- Mary Levin Bible Study was in person at her house in over a year. Jack Rezabek – UMM had their first in person meeting at the church in over a year also.

Christian Sympathy goes to the

following families: Family of Amber Stinson Family of Sharon Faville



Bill Sere on the passing of his partner Brenda Prayers for the Brookman family on the passing of Dan Brookman

#### Bishop Lewis will be guest speaker for Oct. 12 United Methodist Men Zoom webinar

Bishop Lewis will be sharing with us the need for more ethnic involvement within UMM, larger cluster UMM fellowships, and a potential relationship between UMM and the Pan-Methodist movement.

Join Zoom Meeting <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/</u> j/89824607164

Meeting ID: 898 2460 7164 One tap mobile: +13017158592,,89824607164# US (Washington D.C) +19292056099,,89824607164# US (New York)

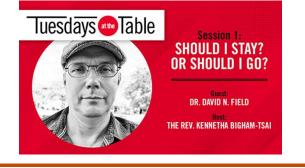
The General Commission on United Methodist Men (UMM) wants you to join them as they transform lives of men and youth around the world. UMM offers resources and training to help local churches develop places where men can "coach men and youth to THRIVE through Christ." If you would like to make a donation before Give Day, or have questions, UMM staff is available by calling 866-297-4312. To Give: Text: UMMEN to 44321; or https://secure.givelively.org/donate/ general-commission-on-united-methodist-men/ummen-giveday-2021



*Amy and Mark Stanley* are the proud grandparents of their new grandson, Jaxon Stanley. He was born on 9/20/21, 6 lbs. 10 oz., 18" long. Mom, Dad and big sister, Lacey, are doing so well! The family is grateful for all the prayers.



Session 1 of Tuesdays at the Table will begin at 10 a.m. CDT on October 5. The discussion will focus on the questions, "Should I stay? Or should I go?" and will be led by Dr. David N. Field and the Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai. Watch, ask questions and engage with others on <u>The United Methodist Church's Facebook page</u>.



October 17, 2021 21st Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Laity Sunday / Children's Sabbath Job 38:1-7 (34-41), Psalm104:1-9, 24, 35c (UMH 826), Hebrews 5:1-10,

**October 24, 2021 22nd Sunday after Pentecost (Green)** *United Nations Day* Job 42:1-6, 10-17, Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22) (UMH 769), Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52

October 31, 2021 23rd Sunday after Pentecost (Green) *Reformation Sunday / Halloween* Ruth 1:1-18, Psalm 146 (UMH 858), Hebrews 9:11-14, Mark 12:28-34

Lectionary Readings

October 03, 2021 19th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

*World Communion Sunday* Job 1:1; 2:1-10, Psalm 26 or Psalm 25 (UMH 756), Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16



**October 10, 2021 20th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)** Job 23:1-9, 16-17, Psalm 22:1-15 (UMH 752), Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31 October 2021

Page 10		ley Tidings	October 2021		
	2	Amber Turek	17	Michelle Stamey	
es nd		Kevin Smith	19	Jim McKirdy	
an	5	Laurie Burt	20	Kevin/Monica Smith (1990)	
	6	Hayden Smith	21	Avery Helbig	
	10	Eric and Kim Frost (2009)	22	Ken Boutwell	
lays	11	Lia Bayless	23	Maricel Arus	
$\mathbf{G}$		Zach Eitzen		Harold (Tom) Fitchett	
	14	Diane Fishburn	24	Bob/Susanne Marcella (1993	
	15	Renee (Taylor) Arnold	24	William/Pauline Blocker (1999)	
irtl Inn		Audrey Gumbert	26	Patrick Gale Wentz IV	
		Marie Bard	27	Bud D'Bene	
	16	Matthew Paxton	30	J.P. Howell	
		Daphne Alana Wentz	31	Dale Stumpf	



#### **Heart Havens Volunteer Work Days**

Heart Havens hosted a spring volunteer work day at each home earlier this year and will be hosting fall volunteer work days in October and November. Maintenance and upkeep of our homes is a big expense for Heart Havens. Just like your home, our homes need painting, yardwork, and regular maintenance. Volunteers who help us with these tasks reduce our maintenance cost and get a chance to see local homes and meet our amazing residents and house staff.

If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring a volunteer work day to pay for supplies like paint or mulch or if you would like to join us as a volunteer, please contact Jennifer by email at jennifer.boyden@hearthavens.org or phone by 804-506-8667.

#### **Sponsor a Home for Christmas**

Christmas is coming soon! Heart Havens takes pride in providing a joyful holiday for all our residents. There are people in our homes who would not otherwise receive gifts. Would you or your church or community group help us by sponsoring a Heart Havens home for Christmas? To learn more, contact us at 804-506-8667 or jennifer.boyden@hearthavens.org





#### **Responding to Hurricane Ida, flooding in Tennessee**

Please remember that any work related to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) will start only after all the first responders leave the area. There will be more specific calls to help in the coming weeks and months. The Virginia Conference strongly advises against any self-deployment to these areas. The work of recovery will continue in the coming months and years, and Serving Ministries invite your church to be part of this long journey. https:// vaumc.org/hurricaneida/?

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#### October 2021

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Öcto	ber			1 4:00 PM Delayed Pumpkin Delivery-No date yet for reschedule	
<ul> <li>World Communion Sunday</li> <li>9:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>10:00 AM Worship Service In-person, also on Zoom and Facebook live</li> <li>1:30 PM Blessing of the Animals</li> <li>4:00 PM Bible study -The Gratitude Challenge. Gathering on Zoom.</li> </ul>	4 7:00 PM Metal Detector Club - Fellowship Hall		6 7:00 PM Mary Levin Bible Study at Amy Stanley's	7 9:30 AM Chair Yoga 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice		9 9:00 AM Phoebus UMC Market day
<ul> <li>10</li> <li>9:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>10:00 AM Worship Service In-person, also on Zoom and Facebook live</li> <li>4:00 PM Bible study -The Gratitude Challenge. Gathering on Zoom.</li> </ul>	11	<b>12</b> 9:30 AM Chair Yoga <b>6:30 PM</b> Bishop Lewis, guest speaker United Methodist Men Zoom webinar <b>6:30 PM</b> Leadership Board Meeting on Zoom <b>7:00 PM</b> VAUMC- The Color of Compromise Bible study on Zoom	13	14 9:30 AM Chair Yoga 12:00 PM #StillInMission Episode 36 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	15	16
<ul> <li>17 Laity Sunday - Rise Up! And Revive God's Gift</li> <li>9:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>10:00 AM Worship Service In-person, also on Zoom and Facebook live</li> <li>4:00 PM Bible study -The Gratitude Challenge. Gathering on Zoom.</li> <li>6:00 PM Fellowship Supper - Dave and Cathy Williamson will share from their mission trip to Puerto Rico - Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>	18 United Methodist Men Give Day	<b>19</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Chair Yoga <b>7:00 PM</b> VAUMC- The Color of Compromise Bible study on Zoom	20 7:00 PM Mary Levin Bible Study		22 7:00 PM Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music presents Jerry Sowers	23 2:00 PM Hampton Christian Academy Fall Festival
24 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service In-person, also on Zoom and Facebook live 4:00 PM Bible study -The Gratitude Challenge. Gathering on Zoom.	25 7:00 PM UMW		27 12:00 PM Newsletter Deadline 12:30 PM Sages at Angelos	28 9:30 AM Chair Yoga 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice		30
31 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service In-person, also on Zoom and Facebook live		-	aily! Please go to <b>org</b> for a current	-	http://	



#### **Resources to help Haiti in its effort to recover**

As the world witnesses the humanitarian crisis occurring in Haiti, after the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that crippled an already vulnerable nation, the Virginia Conference is providing the following resources to help the church's effort to assist the Haitian people. Learn more... https://vaumc.org/resources-to-help-haiti-in-its-effort -to-recover/?utm\_source=mailpoet&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=eadvocate+September+21%2C+2021

## Wesley United Methodist Church

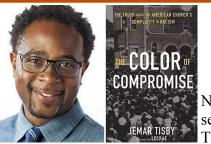
2510 N. Armistead Avenue Hampton, VA 23666

Phone: 757-838-3044 Fax: 757-838-1663 E-mail: secretary@wesleyhpt.hrcoxmail.com GretchenNelson@vaumc.org WEBSITE: http://www.hamptonwesley.org

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED** 

Prepared with love especially for:





## The Color of Compromise study on Zoom

Neighborhood Seminary is offering a 10session study and discussion of Jemar Tisby's book The *Color of Compro*-

*mise* on Zoom. The sessions are on Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. from October 5 through December 14 (excluding November 23). The Rev. Dr. Jim Melson, facilitator, is an elder in the Virginia Conference and executive director of the Cornelius Corps, a ministry focused on the intersection of racial justice and spiritual formation.

For additional information or to register, go to <u>https://</u> www.neighborhoodseminary.org/copy-of-anti-racist-evangelism

This is a great opportunity to connect with others from a variety of backgrounds and locations who are committed to the journey of faith and racial justice.

Two CEUs are available for an additional \$10. Clergy or Ministerial Professional CEUs will be emailed to you once all sessions are completed.



Resources to help Afghan refugees

As the world witnesses the humanitarian crisis occurring in Afghanistan, the Virginia Conference is providing the resources to help aid your understanding and ability to care for refugees. Read a letter from Bishop Lewis, download a packet of guidelines, and fill out a form on offering assistance. <u>Read</u> <u>more at ...https://vaumc.org/</u> <u>refugeeresponse/?</u> <u>utm\_source=mailpoet&utm\_mediu</u> <u>m=email&utm\_campaign=e-</u> <u>advocate+September+21%</u>

<u>2C+2021</u>