

In This Issue

# Wesley Tidings

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## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

### A Journey with Faith, Hope, and Love.

*I Corinthians 13: 13 says, "And now faith, hope, and love remain these three, and the greatest of these is love."*

As we move from Summer to Fall, and figure out several things in our lives, our lives are changing like seasons constantly for the better or for the worse. What is so certain in life? Is it our wealth? Is it our health? Is it our friends and families? In general, life is not as stable as we assume or think. The beauty of life is that it is not stable, but to be honest we are not seeing the beauty in constantly changing life. For example, once we were children and then teens, then young adults, adults, and seniors. We can say that this is a very normal aging process in anyone's life. And we are journeying through these stages of life loaded with lots of roles and responsibilities. Life is a journey. Max Lucado in his book, "Travelling Light: Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intend to Bear" writes beautifully about how we are carrying so much luggage which weighs us down in life journey. This forces us to lose focus and joy as a child of God and witness actively as disciples of Jesus Christ. But as I Corinthians 13: 13 says, "And now faith, hope, and love remain these three, and the greatest of these is love." It is our choice in this life journey either to choose anger, guilt, fear, and worries or to choose Christ who can offer faith, love, and hope and invites us to offer these to others.



<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-processquery.pl>

This art is done by Lauren Pittman; she talks about choices we make in our lives and how Christ offers the best positive choices to make our journey light and focuses on life-giving qualities such as faith, hope, and love. How we receive Christ as our Lord and Savior is a matter of choice in this weary and broken world.

The picture (right) is a coaster I bought a few months back when we moved to Hampton it was broken but I fixed it and keep it as a reminder that

even if we follow Christ since we live in an imperfect world our faith, love, and hope are also broken.

But it is a moment-by-moment and day-by-day choice to live as disciples of Christ with faith, hope, and love in and for God and for our neighbors, family, and friends. Because the only constant thing is God's love for us in and through Jesus Christ. God be with us in this life journey! Amen!

~Rev. Dr. Archana Samuel





## Update on Maui wildfires

Please continue to pray and stay updated on the wind-driven wildfires on Maui that have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage.

As of an August 14 update, UMCOR is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings as first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area.

Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>
- By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.

As far as VIM (Volunteers in Mission) teams to Maui, it is still too earlier in the process for teams to be sent out. VAUMC's Disaster Response Coordinator Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz shared that recovery efforts are still under-way to recover the deceased. When this changes, the VAUMC will be notified conference-wide.

[Learn more from UMCOR... https://umcmmission.org/umcor-us-latest-responses/](https://umcmmission.org/umcor-us-latest-responses/)



## Men's Bible Study

Men's bible Study will be resuming on Tuesday, September 19 at 6PM in the John Phillips classroom. Contact persons, Jack Rezabek and Eddie Page.

## Counter Schedule

### September 3–

Pat Fitzgerald/Marsha Ames

### September 10–

Marsha Ames/Renee Arnold

### September 17–

Renee Arnold/ Stephanie Eitzen

### September 24–

Stephanie Eitzen/  
Amy Stanley

Contact person, Amy Stanley



**The Church Office  
will be closed in  
observation of  
Labor Day  
September 4**



**Red Cross Blood Drive  
Sept 11th 2:00-7:00 PM**

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for people to volunteer to be at Wesley to give blood and to assist with signing in blood donors.

To sign up please visit: [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
Sponsor Code: WUMC

Contact persons: Chris/Anne Companion

## Music Ministry:

### COFFEE HOUSES



**Harmony House** - September 8 - Open Mic. 7:00 - 9:00PM

Please come early at 6:30PM to sign up to perform. We will be welcoming singers, instrumentalists, poets, dramatists, mouth harps and even accordion players. Banjo players will have to audition (just joking). Tell your musical friends to come and share their songs of faith with us. We are an equal opportunity open mic.

**Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music** - Glen Perkins (Perk757)

September 22 - 7:00 - 9:00 PM

\$5 Donation for performer and \$5 suggested donation for snacks

Go to Glen Perkins: <https://www.facebook.com/perk757>

For any questions, please contact Jerry Sowers.



## SANCTUARY CHOIR

*I truly appreciate each one of you who shared your musical gift this Summer for our special music portion of Sunday's worship. You are truly a blessing to Wesley UMC. We can still use 'Special Music' during the church year as well. 'Hit me up' as our young folks would say and let's talk about sharing your musical gifts with our congregation.*



Anyone interested in singing in the Sanctuary Choir, please meet with us Thursday, September 7, at 7:00 PM. The only audition is to be able to walk up three steps. :-). Our first rehearsal of the new year always ends with a dessert social. We will rehearse two or three anthems and then dismiss to a Calorie Consuming Contest. Please bring a dessert to share.

For any questions, please contact Jerry Sowers.

## H.E.L.P. Food Pantry:

There is a great need for all nonperishable food (except peanut Butter--that shelf is full!):

Spaghetti noodles (all types of pasta)  
 spaghetti sauce  
 powdered milk  
 canned meat (tuna, spam, canned ham, etc.)  
 breakfast items: (cereal, pancake mix, granola)  
 canned vegetables  
 canned fruit  
 canned chili  
 Toilet paper  
 canned spaghetti

boxed potatoes  
 Crackers  
 canned soups



The food is delivered to the H.E.L.P. food pantry monthly.  
 Contact: Sherry Moore



## United Women in Faith News

United Women in Faith will meet on September 25th, 5:30 PM. You are encouraged to bring a bagged meal. A microwave is available.

Please bring a breakfast item (cereal, pancake mix, granola), for the H.E.L.P. Food Pantry.

Contact: Nancy Gumbert



### United Women in Faith District Conference

September 30th at 9:30 AM

Via Zoom

All Are Welcome



### Fellowship Dinner/Presentation—El Camino



Sunday, September 10th at 6 PM  
Fellowship Hall

Stew Bowden's niece, Liz Healy, will speak about her trip in Portugal going to the Spanish border doing the Camino Portugues. **Camino Portugues**—This route was the traditional trail to Santiago de Compostela taken by Portuguese pilgrims, and today the Camino Portugues is the second most popular trail for pilgrims. This stunning walk weaves along the coastline north of Porto in Portugal and into Spain, taking in some beautiful fishing towns and scenery.

Please bring a dish and/or dessert to share. If you can make a Portuguese dish, please bring it.

Contact person, Nancy Gumbert

### Bishop calls for prayer for Christians in Pakistan

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson released a video statement to the Virginia Conference on August 17, 2023 asking the conference to join in prayer for Christians in Pakistan.

“There is disturbing video out of Pakistan where they topple crosses as they burn churches and they are terrorizing Pakistani Christians, and it's a matter of great concern to all of us,” Bishop Sue said.



According to a BBC report, more than 100 people have been arrested in Jaranwala in east Pakistan after thousands of people joined in to burn churches and vandalize homes. This took place after claims surfaced that two Christian men had torn pages from a copy of the Quran.

<https://vaumc.org/blog/2023/08/18/bishop-calls-for-prayer-for-christians-in-pakistan/>

# Pumpkin Patch 2023

Pumpkins have been ordered and are expected to arrive at Wesley on Sunday, October 8th at noon.

Please consider ways we all can contribute to the success of this community outreach. I welcome ideas for how to make this the best experience for each of us as well as those who visit the Patch.

If anyone feels led to take on this ministry, I will be delighted to share what I have learned these past few years and pass on the "Pumpkin" baton to another!

*Blessings, Pat Fitzgerald and Lynnette Scalzi*



**Sages**  
Wednesday  
September 27  
12:30 PM

Sages will be getting together at the Mediterranean Kebab and Pizza House on 980 J Clyde Morris Blvd #122, Newport News, VA 23601

You can find their menu at:

<https://www.kebabhousemenu.com/>

Contact person, Nancy Gumbert



**Webinar Available on  
Environmental Racism and  
Environmental Justice**

The Baltimore-Washington Conference released a helpful webinar that shares about environmental justice and racial justice.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=TpCNK\\_DodDM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=TpCNK_DodDM&feature=youtu.be)



**Realm**

Please note when using Realm for with your phone:

Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

Contact person, Kathann Montage



**Azalea flower blessing at Wesley  
with a late bloom**

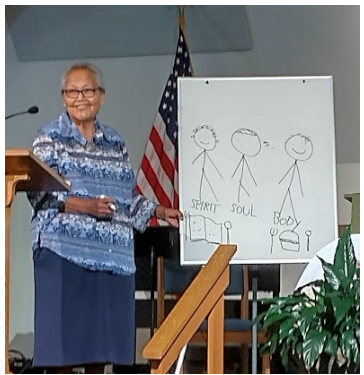
## Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is used to assist the local families in need of help with their utilities. The fund is very low at this time.

If you would like to contribute, please mark checks and envelopes "for Pastor's Discretionary Fund" or "PDF".







Wesley's United Women in Faith joined other women across the district for the Quenched Event at 1st Foxhill, Hampton on August 5th



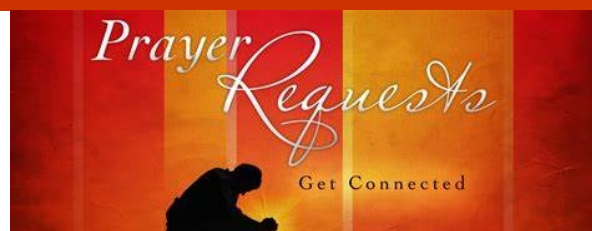


Sages  
Poquoson  
Surf's Up  
Wednesday  
August 23rd



# Prayer Concerns

Abby	Nina Winfree	Scott St John
Alan Keithley	Patty Bumgarner	Sofia Amado
Ashley	Peggy Carney	Stacy
Aunt Dee	Phyllis Graham	Steve Lillya
Baby Grayson	Ron Switzer	Susan Nichols
Barbie Holland	Sam	Taylor Bollenberg
Becca	Scott	Wanda



Bekah Smith  
Ben Stanley  
Bill Lauder  
Bill Mee  
Caleb Coates  
Carlie  
Carolyn Ellington  
Charlie Harris  
Christine  
Clyde Gumbert  
Dave Bisacre  
Denise Vassar  
Don Mitchell  
Donna Kennedy  
Dorothy  
Dylan  
Elliot  
Eric Bowden  
Freta Lamb  
Gail Hale  
Greg Shivers  
Helga Lutes  
Jeff Birdsall  
Jerry McReynolds  
JoAnn  
Joella  
Joseph  
Karen Bowers  
Katlyn  
Kelly Phipps,  
Ken Johnson  
Kory Kirkland,  
Lana Koblinsky  
Liam Sowers  
Lillian Hale  
Lucy Stowe  
Mackenzie Berman  
Nancy Companion

## Glory Sightings

Sylvia Krisnow- Seeing a large group of beautiful geese cross the road on the way to church. There was not any honking of car horns while each group of geese made it across the road. All the drivers were patient. Carol Hale -Gail is doing awesome, her radiation burns have all healed and she was able to get in the pool. Tommy Blast- The Hampton and Richmond VA Hospitals have great staff. The doctors and nurses are doing a wonderful job of helping our Veterans. Pastor Archana- We were able to find and apartment for Sam to rent in Richmond. Praise God for answering our prayers. Lynnette Scalzi- Watching my granddaughters swim on Saturday at the annual City Swim Meet. The joy of seeing all the swimmers cheer each other and congratulate each other even if they were from different teams. Doug Gallae- Finally having hummingbirds come into our backyard. Seeing the speed of their wings as they flit around and them resting on the deck rail. We can all slow down and spend time with God. Jack Rezebek- I had an enjoyable phone conversation with my cousin, Jim and his wife Mary. Sylvia Krisnow- While visiting family in South Carolina were blessed to see Bekah Smith be able to walk and move after having her t-1 vertebrae separated from her brain stem from a car accident. She is truly a miracle of God's Grace. Jeanne Lineberry- My granddaughter Taylor's 8th birthday today and Jayce's 10th birthday on the 20th of August. I was able to give a prayer shawl to the clerk at the grocery store. Susan Brookman- It's a joy to be back at church. We saw God working in so many ways during our family reunion. Attending Jennifer's wedding and after a cloudy start to the day the sun came out just as she walked down the aisle. Chris Companion- Having all the technology working today. Thanks to all who helped getting it working again. Amy Stanley- Many thanks for all the Birthday wishes. Jeanne Franks- Feeding the birds in my backyard every day. Today I had a squirrel come up and eat bird food out of my hand. Jerry Sowers- While away on a fishing trip it was a blessing to be disconnected for 2 days. The mountains were beautiful and infuse my soul with love of the Lord. Lynnette Scalzi- It was a joy to teach Sundy School this morning. Wesley was blessed to have Rev. Libby Wright give us the message today. Joyce D'Bene- I had a cousin on my heart this week. I was able to find her son on the internet and contacted him. He told me his mom was still alive and gave me her phone number. I called her and we talked for quite a while. I promised to call again and write to her. It lifted me up to know that even after ten years I was still their "Joyce Ann" and they thought of me often. Sylvia Krisnow- I went into the office this morning and found a small vase with a small flower on my desk. Thanks to whoever left me that special gift. Jack Rezabek- Vicky Moyer is going to help with Adopt-a-Spot. Tommy Blast- I fell and broke my jaw but through my accident I am now closer to my friends.



I have true good friends that are a gift from God. Jeanne Lineberry- It was a joy to see people dressed in bright colorful clothes at a memorial service instead of dark colors. My grandson, Jayce, is ten years old today. Pastor Archana- Thanks for the time away and visiting with my family. Special thanks to David Brookman for making me a taller stool for behind the pulpit. Abishek is moving into the dorm at William and Mary this Thursday.

**Concerns:** Prayers for Pastor Archana and her family to have wonderful visit with her family. Prayers for the teachers and staff returning to schools. All the college students returning to classes. Special prayers for Joey as they begin their first year of college. Jane Doe found naked and dirty detained by police who think she is a victim of human trafficking. Tommy Blast- Prayers for my mom and sister. Prayers for the people of Maui who have lost everything. Prayers for the victims of the wildfires in Hawaii, please pray for the families who lost their loved ones and for those who are missing and for their families who are waiting to see or hear about them. Prayers for all the relief organizations and Christian NGOs who work tirelessly to bring comfort and hope to the wildfire victims and for UMCOR who reaches out to all who are in need during any natural calamities; and for all the United Methodist churches who participate in the struggles of all those by prayers and support. As our VAUMC Bishop Sue shared a video, we will pray for all the Christian sisters and brothers in Pakistan since they face a lot of persecution because they follow the Christian faith. The freedom to follow their faith is not a choice for them and they are forced to deny their faith in Christ. Prayers for our schools, police, doctors that the media will put all the good that they do into the news. Prayers for all who are going through hard times, having tests and surgeries. Prayers for our congregation and the United Methodist Church. Travel mercies for all who are traveling the world and our country. 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 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 the Following Families:***

Family and friends of Joan Sowash.

Cathy Williamson and family on the death of her cousin Lillian.

Boren family on the death of Nell.

Terry Bain and Family on the death of his father, Ed Bain.

Family of Pastor Debbie Payne.

# Lectionary Readings



**SEPTEMBER 03** | 14th Sunday After Pentecost (Green)

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b (UMH 828); Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

**SEPTEMBER 10** | 15th Sunday After Pentecost; Grandparent's Day (Green)

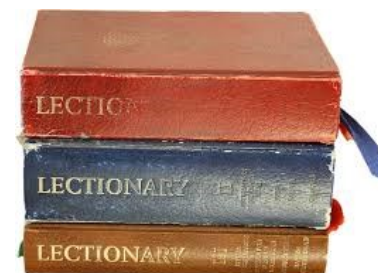
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalms 149 (UMH 861); Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

**SEPTEMBER 17** | 16th Sunday After Pentecost (Green)

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Psalms 114 (UMH 135); Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

**SEPTEMBER 24** | 17th Sunday After Pentecost (Green)

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45 (UMH 828); Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Eddie Page	9	Doug and Carolyn Gallaer	18	Carolyn Gallaer
3	Joe/Debbie Coccimiglio (1988)	10	(1972 )	20	Don Ward
5	Ariel/Maricel Arus (1987)	11	Jack Lynch (former Pastor)	22	Casey Taylor
	Clyde Gumbert	12	Donna Kennedy		Carl Morrison
6	Sarah Snow	13	Brenda Baynham	26	Jeanne Lineberry
	Kirsten Burt		Rick/Nita Hartung (1986)		Jullian Lutes
7	Corrine Coccimiglio		Joey Scalzi	27	Joyce D'Bene
	Emily Winn (Stumpf)	15	Burrell Taylor	30	Anne Companion
	Christopher Stumpf	16	Zach Ames		
	Riley Companion		Hunter Snow		
8	Rick Hartung	17	Lori (Page) Roberson		



### Machen Elementary School

Left: School Supplies donated by Wesley Members

Right and below: Breakfast for Machen teachers provided by Wesley Members



### 5 principles for pastoring a vibrant older congregation

*LEWIS CENTER FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP*-- Karl Vaters highlights the importance of building a strong, vibrant congregation of seniors with intentionality, training, and a focus on the future. He emphasizes the potential impact seniors can make in the ministries of the church and the need to be intentional about engaging seniors in the life of the congregation.

Here are five principles about building a strong, healthy church with a congregation whose hair is more gray than high on top.

1. Do it on purpose.
2. Train, don't just teach.
3. Send them, don't just tend them.
4. Keep a forward focus.
5. Find new ways to reach and keep them

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/5-principles-for-pastoring-a-vibrant-older-congregation/>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> Last Day to Bring in Books for the Mayor's Book Club 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person and Facebook live 7:00pm NA Recovery Group	<b>4</b> Labor Day--Office Closed	<b>5</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga 6:30pm NA Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm SAA Meeting - Double Classroom	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 6:30pm AA Meeting	<b>7</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Choir Practice--Bring a dessert to share 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Harmony  House--Open Mic	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person and Facebook live 6:00pm El Camino Fellowship Supper  7:00pm NA Recovery Group	<b>11</b> 2:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 	<b>12</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga 6:30pm Leadership Board Meeting 6:30pm NA Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm SAA Meeting - Double Classroom	<b>13</b> 6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 6:30pm AA Meeting	<b>14</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person and Facebook live 7:00pm NA Recovery Group	<b>18</b> 2:00pm Metal Detector Club - Fellowship Hall	<b>19</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga 6:00pm Men's Bible Study - John Phillips Classroom 6:30pm NA Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm SAA Meeting - Double Classroom	<b>20</b> 6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 6:30pm AA Meeting	<b>21</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music--Glen Perkins 	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person and Facebook live 2:00pm 80th Birthday Celebration for Joyce D'Bene - Fellowship Hall 7:00pm NA Recovery Group	<b>25</b> 5:30pm UWF 	<b>26</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga 6:30pm NA Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm SAA Meeting - Double Classroom	<b>27</b>  12:00pm Newsletter Deadline 12:30pm Sages--Mediterranean Kebab and Pizza House 6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 6:30pm AA Meeting	<b>28</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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

Save  
the  
Date

Save this date:

November 5th for the cluster charge conference

## Wesley United Methodist Church

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

2510 N. Armistead Avenue  
Hampton, VA 23666



The Harris Creekers performed at Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music on August 25th.



### *Experience the Holy Land with young people's ministries in 2024*



**DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES**--Visiting the Holy Land provides infinite opportunities to deeply engage with scripture and walk in the same spaces where the footsteps of the great cloud of witnesses continue to echo. Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, and other sites on this trip hosted incredible moments from the Bible – they also continue to exist, with a mixture of people and faiths that find themselves in tension or various states of conflict in the modern world. You are invited to deepen your discipleship by exploring the Holy Land with Young People's Ministries.

The trip is designed for 18-35-year-old participants and is a unique way to explore the Holy Land. This trip will mix historical site visits with off-the-beaten-path experiences, as well as chances to interact with a wide variety of community leaders. Our experience onsite will be organized through a Bethlehem-based and tour-accredited company that specializes in custom experiences that go beyond a "get on the bus, get off the bus, get back on the bus" experience. While adventurous, this company also prioritizes safety and will monitor all activities and situations onsite. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/events/2024-holy-land-pilgrimage>

**Registration per person is \$2,099 on a first-come, first-served basis.** If a participant would like a single room for the duration of the trip, that can be added at a cost of \$600. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is due at the time of registration. **Final payment is due October 31, 2023.**