

FEbruary

In This ISSUE

Wesley United Methodist Church

Volume 15 Issue 2

February 2024

Wesley Tidings

Pastor's Ponderings

LENT Season is Here! Luke 4: 1-12 (NRSV)

Learning to Embrace a New life of Truth revealed in Jesus Christ – Pastor Archana

Dear people of God, Greetings!

Lent means 40 days of fasting regretting our sins and repenting to live as God intends us to live. The days are counted from Ash Wednesday to Easter. I would like to say LENT is Learning to Embrace a New life of Truth revealed in Christ. These 40 days are given to us to focus on learning how can we embrace new perspectives, new spiritual disciplines, and new attitudes toward self, God, others, and the whole creation. Regretting something may or may not be a positive experience in our lives. But if that leads to reorienting our lives to the values of Jesus Christ, then it positively enables spiritual growth in us. Luke 4: 1-13 verses explain how the 40 days of wilderness in the life of Jesus is calling us to embrace a new way of life, a new perspective, and a new purpose to live life here on earth. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and, he was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. Our life many times looks and feels like a wilderness journey. Are we filled with the Holy Spirit and every day seeking to be led by God the Holy Spirit? This is a call of the Lent days.

How can we do this? With God's grace and our efforts to observe the spiritual discipline of reading the Bible, praying to God, and in fellowship with others to share the wilderness journey. This will guide us to embrace the new life in Christ.

What truth does Christ reveal? v. 4 Jesus answered, "It is written, one does not live by bread alone." v. 8 Jesus answered, "It is written, worship the Lord your God, and serve only him". v. 12 Jesus answered, "It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test". Jesus Christ saying the truth of the wilderness life, what is sustaining your life? Food or God's Word? What is motivating you? The love of power or the power of the love of God? What is you're the point of your faith in God? Is it to test God and see only the benefits that arrive from your faith? Or is loving and serving God and people without testing how God blesses you?



<https://digitlib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55157> The title of the artwork is "With the grace of God and effort of will we obtain the excellence of virtue."

Beloved people of Wesley UMC, let us learn to embrace, and embody the truths revealed in Christ, so we can move towards a new way of life in our faith journey. God's grace is given to us. In this season of LENT (Feb 14 th to March 30 th Forty weekdays) Let the grace enable us not only to regret but also to embrace a new faith perspective!

Blessings and Peace! - Rev. Dr. Archana Samuel

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Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music Presents:**Jackie & Resa****Friday, February 23 at 7 PM**

Jackie & Resa, known by some as two-thirds of M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio, have over the years developed their own unique sound. Jackie the songwriter/multi-instrumentalist and Resa the arranger/vocalist, together they bring a distinctive blend of creativity to the acoustic blues community.

In 2010, Jackie and Resa were accepted into the Library of Congress "Americana Women: Roots Musicians - Women's Tales and Tunes" as part of the MusicBox Project collection (some of which has been catalogued in the American Folklife Center)

Your generous donation helps pay for the entertainers, their equipment and preparation for these programs.

Contact person, Jerry Sowers

**Harmony House Presents:****Chestnut Circuit Riders****Friday, February 9 at 7PM**

Your generous donation helps pay for the entertainers, their equipment and preparation for these programs. Thank you.

Our group was created as an outgrowth of the praise team at our United Methodist Church. The term "circuit rider " comes from the rich history of our faith tradition which involved the clergy riding on horses to deliver the word to communities over a large geographic area. Such activity was important to the settlement of our great nation.

The music contained in this website ([Chestnut Circuit Riders | ReverbNation](#)) reflects our arrangements of gospel and spiritual folk songs in the public domain. Our instrumentation is somewhat unique given the use of the melodica and six-string banjo along with the more traditional acoustic guitar and bass. The group's current members include: Carley on vocals & melodica, Mike on vocals & banjitar, Joe on guitar, and Sean on bass. Tim is our sound engineer for the recordings on this site. Note: John, our founding bass player, is featured on these recordings.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Seekers Class will host a pancake supper on Tuesday February 13th from 5:30-6:30pm in the fellowship hall (you must arrive by 6:30 to be served!). A love offering will be taken up to support the ministries of the church.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Lent begins Wednesday

February 14th

7 PM Ash
Wednesday
Worship



HELP Food Pantry Update:

Food Pantry needs:

There is a great need for all nonperishable food: Canned soup seems to be the biggest need currently, but rice, peanut butter, boxed instant potatoes, 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, canned spaghetti, canned soups, crackers, boxed potatoes.

The food is delivered to the H.E.L.P. food pantry monthly. Toilet paper is also needed.

Contact: Sherry Moore

The donations are delivered monthly.

Contact
person:
Sherry
Moore



Flower Calendar Signup

There is a new 2024 sign-up sheet on the wall for flowers. If you would like to provide flowers, please sign up on the calendar or email/call the church office and I will sign you up. The cost is \$46.00.

Contact person,
Sylvia Krisnow.



Counter Schedule

February

4-Zach Eitzen/Amy Stanley
11-Amy Stanley/Renee Arnold
18-Renee Arnold/Debbie Andersen
25-Debbie Andersen/Clyde Gumbert

Contact person, Amy Stanley



Kathann Montage's great granddaughter Liliana loving her prayer blanket from Wesley's Shawl Ministry





United Women in Faith (UWF)

The United Women in Faith met for a Potato Bar and Meeting on January 22nd. Our program was from the UWF Program Book—Welcome to the Practice of Communion. Communion isn't only taking the bread and cup but it also the action of eating a meal together as a community. Everyone shared a recipe that held memories of family and friends.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 26th. Our Program will be on Living Waters. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Share what you are thankful for.

Upcoming Events:

- February 24 Hearts for God's Family-Charter for Racial Justice via Zoom (Conference Event)
- February 26 6:30 p.m. Program on Living Water. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.
- March 5 1st Quarter Treasurer report due (June 5, September 5 and December 5)
- March 25 6:30 p.m. Program—Prayer and Self Denial
- April 26 6:30 p.m. Program—TBA
- May 11 Conference UWF Spiritual Life Retreat Via Zoom (Conference Event)
- May 12 Candle Burning



Join Faith Talks Podcast LIVE on

Feb. 1, 2 pm ET

Black History is American History

Feb. 1 marks the beginning of Black History Month and I'm excited about this opportunity to learn and grow. I'm inviting you to join me on this journey. Please consider participating in a live recording of the Faith Talks podcast on Feb. 1 featuring three remarkable leaders who are making history today. I'll interview our wonderful General Secretary and CEO Sally Vonner, Bennett College President Dr. Suzanne Walsh, and the Rev. Dr. Sondrea Tolbert, who is the executive director of the Scarritt Bennett Center.

Jennifer R. Farmer, Host

Register: [Faith Talks on Black Women Making History Today - Choose Registration \(eventcloud.com\)](https://www.eventcloud.com/register/Faith-Talks-on-Black-Women-Making-History-Today)

Fellowship Signup Needed

Do you enjoy having a snack and fellowship with your fellow church members after the worship service? Share the love and sign up to host fellowship one Sunday! You can provide a meal or a snack; it doesn't have to be elaborate! Feel free to ask a friend to co-host with you.

Thank you to all who signed up for February; most dates for March and beyond are open!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F4BABAB29A57-46960460-sunday#/>

If you have any trouble signing up contact Anne Companion at 757-630-5860.



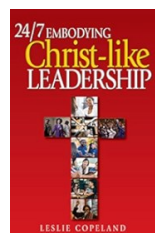


Lenten Season

1. This Lent Season "The Sanctuary for Lent 2024" will be given to each one as a gift from the pastor. Read everyday devotion and be blessed!

2. Reading Plans for the Leadership Board and anyone interested in growing Reading as a Spiritual Discipline (two books) Breaking Free: Discover the Victory of Total Surrender by Beth Moore

24/7 Embodying Christ-like Leadership by Leslie Copeland (LB can read these two books in six months span from Jan - June 2024 at their own pace) these books are in the church office LB mail slot. Please feel free to take, read, and return it.



3. For Wesley Bible Reading Plan (anyone interested in reading the Bible in a Year. (We can print the 365-day schedule and give it to those who are interested) Please let Sylvia know if you need a copy.

Contact Pastor Archana or Sylvia Krisnow for questions.



Spiritual Practices for a Holy Lent

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom

Facilitator: Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor

Fresh ideas for spiritual practices to love God and God's people with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength during Lent. *Participants must register to participate by phone or computer. Zoom link and phone number will be sent via email.*

link and phone number will be sent via email.

To register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d3WUiDviN0CQNjHjOyhNQVTTelRfQdDzonekYZ8CZKY/viewform?edit_requested=true

Can Tabs Collections

Again this year I pledge to donate \$10 to our church for every pound of cans tabs collected and brought into our church. We collected a total of 36 pounds in 2023! Thanks to everyone who donated "tabs".

A VERY SPECIAL **THANK YOU** to **Joey Scalzi** (son of Lynnette and Ralph Scalzi) who brought in a total of 20 pounds!

A VERY SPECIAL **THANK YOU** to **Debbie Anderson** as she brought in a total of 3.3 pounds.

A VERY SPECIAL **THANK YOU** to **Marsha Ames** as she brought in a total of 2.8 pounds.

Unfortunately, no one is paying the higher price for the tabs as they were in the past. I will hold them until I locate some organization that will pay the higher price. Cash obtained from tabs will be amounts of donations to various Hampton charitable organizations. The Board of Directors has the final decision as to where the money will be spent.

This endeavor helps to finance our expenditures. A check for \$360 was given to Wesley. Let's try this again. My pledge will continue for this year.

Sincerely, Vicky Moyer





Mary Levin Bible Study

Mary Levin Bible Study meets the first and third Wednesdays of the Month at 6:30 PM

Feb 7—Pastor Archana
Feb 21— TBA

Contact Sylvia Krisnow for more information about dates and which study they are currently doing.

2024 Lay Servant Academy Strengthening Our Call

Friday, February 23 and Saturday, February 24, by Zoom Only

SCHEDULE:

Friday, February 23 – 6:30-6:50 PM – A Time of Worship & Welcome/7:00-9:00 PM Class Session #1

Saturday, February 24 – 8:45-9:00 AM – Gathering/9:00 AM – Noon – Session #2

12 Noon-1:00 PM – Lunch Break/1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Class Session #3

To Register go to https://vaumc.org/layservantacademy/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Advocate%2C+November+8%2C+2022

Registration will Close on Friday, February 16, at 4:30 p.m.



February

4	Katie Boutwell
7	Kathy Stumpf
8	Gail Clinch
10	Kimberly Morris
13	Sylvia Krisnow
15	Irene Lutes
17	Debi McNichol
26	Jacob Levy
	Carolyn Ellington



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Lectionary

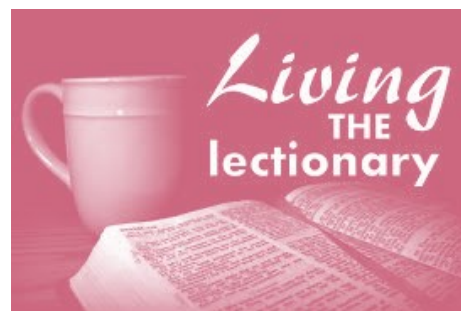
FEBRUARY 04 | 5th Sunday after the Epiphany (**Green**)
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalms 147:1-11, 20c (UMH 859); 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

FEBRUARY 11 | Transfiguration Sunday; Scouting Sunday (**White or Gold**)
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalms 50:1-6 (UMH 783); 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

FEBRUARY 14 | Ash Wednesday; Valentine's Day (**Purple or Grey**)
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalms 51:1-17 (UMH 785); 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

FEBRUARY 18 | 1st Sunday in Lent (**Purple**)
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalms 25:1-10 (UMH 756); 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

FEBRUARY 25 | 2nd Sunday in Lent (**Purple**)
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalms 22:23-31 (UMH 752); Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38



Prayer Concerns

Joey Radford
Abishek
Liliana
Clyde
Bruce Boyce
Janis Kimball (Mark Stanley's mom)
Savoy
Liliana Scott
Jim McKirdy
Barbie Holland
Freta Lamb



Prayers:

Pastor Archana- Prayers for all of us gathered here today. All who have unfulfilled dreams from this past year may they be reached in the coming year. Prayers for those suffering around the world from violence, war, natural disasters and struggling for the basic needs of life. Help us to show more grace and understanding of the less fortunate, those struggling in their faith. Help us to walk into the New Year with open hearts and minds. Prayers for all the leaders of our churches, district and conferences around the world. Pray for the leaders of the world.

Other Concerns:

Prayer for our Conference (VAUMC) and all the congregations in our Conference and their ministry and mission. Leadership of VAUMC, Bishop Sue and the Cabinet, DS of all eight Districts. Our Mission Rivers District, the DS Dr. Charles Bates, all the lay leaders, clergy leaders, mission, and ministry of all the congregations. Ministry at Wesley and all the lay leaders and those who are in charge of various ministry/mission, Leadership Board team, and sub-groups. Preschool director, teachers, volunteers, and kids. Wesley families, youth, children, and senior adults, families who are going through difficult times, health issues, faith issues, grieving for loved ones, and all who seek God's guidance in their lives and jobs. For Suffering humanity, for comfort, peace, justice for those who seek love and grace from God and fellow human beings.

Glory Sightings

Lynnette Scalzi- Spending time with my family. Starting a new Christmas dinner tradition making homemade pizzas. Sylvia Krisnow- When I came to work on Friday there was a ton of trash on the side of the road at the church. While I was cleaning it up a car stopped, and a lady got out and asked if she could help up the trash. There are still good people who want to help others anyway they can. Jack Rezabek- I talked with my cousin from Washington and he got me up to date with his family and my cousins in Ohio. My cousin in Ohio had a cornea transplant and is doing well. Cynthia Campbell- I had lots of ups and downs last year. Being welcomed back after having knee replacement surgery, the anxiety of retiring from teaching and making that adjustment.

But I can look back and see God's grace was with me each step of the way. Thinking of all years that God has taken care of me. Thanks be to God. Nancy Gumbert- Thinking about Epiphany this coming Saturday [also my birthday] and the Magi's journey to see Jesus. Sunday is the celebration of Jesus' baptism and his first appearance to the Gentiles. How incredible are the secrets of God's love. Pastor Archana- I have been serving God for 23 years. I have had lots of changes in past year. Coming to serve in a new church, adjusting to a new home, and a new city. Getting used to living alone while Sam is in Richmond serving his churches and Abishek is attending William and Mary. I give thanks to the people of Wesley, and how they have made me, and my family feel so welcomed.





Above: 5th Sunday Breakfast Potluck Dec 31st



Below:
Happy
Birthday
Pastor
Archana





Above: Choir Party Jan 6th



Below: Harmony House Jan 12– Ed Pettersen

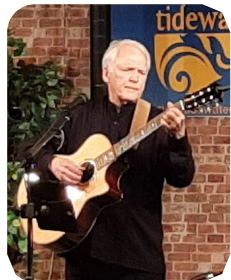




Above: Preparing for A Night's Welcome Breakfast.



Above: Jan 24 Sages at Mama Rosa's



Jan 26
TFAM
Jerry Sowers
guest-
Cynthia
Campbell



Lynnette Scalzi reading to the Mother's Day children.



FEBRUARY

unday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div></div>				<div>1</div> <div>9:30am Chair Yoga 6:00pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Group 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>
<div>4</div> <div>9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person and Facebook live 7:00pm NA Recovery Group</div>	<div>5</div> <div>7:00pm Metal Detector Club - Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9:30am Chair Yoga 6:30pm NA Meeting 7:00pm SAA Meeting - Double Classroom</div>	<div>7</div> <div>6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 6:30pm Mary Levin Bible Study - Pastor Archana's Parsonage</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9:30am Chair Yoga 5:00pm Leadership Board Meeting - John Phillips Classroom 6:00pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Group 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts</div>	<div>9</div> <div>7:00pm Harmony House-Chestnut Circuit Riders</div> <div></div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person and Facebook live 7:00pm NA Recovery Group</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div> 9:30am Chair Yoga 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30pm NA Meeting 7:00pm SAA Meeting</div>	<div>14</div> <div>6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service</div> <div></div>	<div>15</div> <div>9:30am Chair Yoga 6:00pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Group 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>10:00am Luncheon for NA Group</div>
<div>18</div> <div>9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person and Facebook live 7:00pm NA Recovery Group</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9:30am Chair Yoga 6:30pm NA Meeting 7:00pm SAA Meeting - Double Classroom</div>	<div>21</div> <div>6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 6:30pm Mary Levin Bible Study - Location TBD</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9:30am Chair Yoga 6:00pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Group 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts</div>	<div>23</div> <div>7:00pm Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music-Jackie & Resa</div> <div></div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div> <div>9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person and Facebook live 7:00pm NA Recovery Group</div>	<div>26</div> <div>6:30pm UWF</div> <div></div>	<div>27</div> <div>9:30am Chair Yoga 6:30pm NA Meeting 7:00pm SAA Meeting - Double Classroom</div>	<div>28</div> <div>12:00pm Newsletter Deadline 12:30pm Sages 6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA)</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9:30am Chair Yoga 6:00pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Group 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>

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
archanasamuel@vaumc.org

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CHOIR PRACTICE 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. THOU SHALT HONOR THE WEEKLY PRACTICE TIME.
2. THOU SHALT BRING THY MUSIC AND THY WATER.
3. REMEMBER THE VOCAL WARM-UP, TO KEEP THY VOICE.
4. THOU SHALT LOOK UP SOMETIMES FROM THE MUSIC.



5. THOU SHALT AT LEAST GLANCE AT THE DIRECTOR.
6. THOU SHALT NOT AUDIBLY CURSE THE ANTHEM CHOICE.
7. THOU SHALT NOT CHAT WHILE THE BASSES REHEARSE.
8. THOU SHALT KEEP TRACK OF THE CURRENT PAGE NUMBER
9. THOU SHALT NOT BLAME THE ALTOS
10. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S PENCIL

Last Call: Virginia Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

March 3-8, 2024 @ Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond

Deadline to register: February 2nd

The focus will be on basic spiritual formation practices, church history, and opening the scriptures while "Claiming The Promises" God has in store for each of us.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is a covenant learning environment which combines academic learning and experience in spiritual disciplines. Participants meet in residence for 5 days.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation recognizes that the Holy Spirit is the enabling power in all Christian spiritual formation. It is designed to provide a setting where a spiritually disciplined community of lay and clergy can open their lives to receive God's love and grace so that they increasingly may become spiritual leaven within the Body of Christ. To learn more and register: <https://virginiafivedayacademy.org/>



The Academy
for spiritual formation®