

The Messenger

“To love, glorify, and serve God, to make and nurture Christ’s disciples, and to spread the good news of Christ’s redeeming power.”

**Wesley Memorial Methodist Church
A Global Methodist Church**



Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

I have begun to read a book written by the Reverend Dr. Kevin Watson entitled “The Class Meeting” and I recall vividly my teaching and understanding of Reverend John Wesley. Yes, this is one and the same Reverend John Wesley who began a movement which came to be known as Methodist. As an Anglican Priest, John Wesley understood the importance of a righteous disciplined relationship with Almighty God through Jesus Christ empowered by The Holy Spirit.

For Wesley, those who desired to go on to “perfection” needed an avenue to which one could obtain this perfection. In Wesley’s early years it was revealed to him that perfection could only be sought after by a deep and spiritual renewal within each person. This called for a true commitment from those involved. A commitment that meant to put off such things that interfered with their time of renewal. Wesley is quoted as saying, *“Never omit meeting your Class or Band... These are the very sinews of our Society; and whatever weakens, or tends to weaken, our regard for these, or our exactness in attending them, strikes at the very root of our community.”* In the early years of Methodism each individual was expected, and was a requirement, that they would commit themselves to a Class and Band, and actively participate within them.

Notice if you will the quote of Wesley again. “Never omit meeting your Class or Band, the very sinews of our Society, and whatever weakens our regard for these strike at the root of our community.” Compare now if you will a quote from Jesus himself, *“Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”* Luke 9:62 NIV

I know many who would argue that these two quotes are on complete opposite ends of the spectrum but I say that they speak directly to a commitment of ourselves in the kingdom work we are called to. We know that Salvation is a free gift from God and no one can take that from us but this free gift certainly calls for a response from us back unto God. That response should be a commitment back unto Him

Unfortunately, over many years the Classes and Bands of Wesley’s time have fallen away from our heritage but they were a proven staple in the diet of the early Wesleyan people of Christ. It’s time for a renewal! It is time for the Methodists to become people of Wesley’s method again. There is so much more that needs to be shared about the Classes and Bands of Wesley’s movement that inspired so many to commit themselves to God and a return to the Christian Experience is necessary. In the coming weeks and months, you are going to hear much more on this subject and a renewal will begin to take shape, not only in our lives, but the life of Christ’ Holy Church of Wesley Memorial Methodist Church. I invite you to join me as we journey together

In Christ
Pastor Kevin



Susan Kennedy 5/1
John Schrader 5/5
Pat Miller 5/28
Patty Caruso 5/30
Barbara Frampton 5/30

Prayers of Petition

The Worship Center is always open for you to spend time in prayer. Please pray for our Church, Finances and those with health concerns.



God, help our church body to walk in a manner worthy of the calling You have given us. Help us in all our interactions with one another to have humble and gentle hearts. Grant us patience for one another, bearing with one another in love. Grant the Body of Christ unity.

(Joe Springer, Susan Kennedy, Barbara Dukes, Wilson Brown, James Smith, Charles Morgan)

XYZs will meet Monday, May 6th at 11:30 am in the Worship Center. Bring your covered dish to share and enjoy the delicious food and warm fellowship. See **YOU** there!

There's something so heartwarming about those moments when we catch up, share stories, and savor good food together.



Leadership Council will meet on Tuesday, May 13th at 5:30 PM in Buckner Hall. Please come! Your input is important.



There are so many who have been involved in the landscaping project in March. Special thanks to Laurie Schmidt who initiated this ambitious effort and followed through to coordinate all of the details. And to her husband, Steve, owner of A Nature Encounter, who helped determine what to plant, did the purchasing and used his expertise and equipment to properly prepare the soil, plant, fertilize and lay the weed cloth.

To Shane Dowd, owner of Shane's Exterior Cleaning for doing a great job of power washing the crosses. Thanks for those who brought heavy equipment. And to all who worked so diligently to do the labor. Appreciation manual on for the Scouts who provided 6 planters, the soil, marigolds and flower seeds. They also worked alongside us to dig, rake, plant and put down pine straw.



And we can't forget Cindy Dempsey's team that provided great lunches and a time of fellowship each day. Thanks to all who have donated to fund this effort, including the Thrivent Action Team's \$250 "Seed" money. We couldn't have done it without all of your contributions. Here are the tasks that were accomplished, with more to be completed in the next few weeks:

- Benches spray painted**
 - Weeded & planted spiderwort under the church sign**
 - Church sign cleaned and repaired**
 - Removed water pump, filled in old water fountain**
 - Old shrubs removed**
 - Topsoil added**
 - Crepe myrtles cut back**
 - Lime rock, crosses, walkways, & walls power washed**
 - Old pine straw removed**
 - Weeded; tree roots & weedy vines pulled up**
 - 4 camellias, 12 drift roses planted**
 - Lilies separated and replanted**
 - Weed cloth & pine straw laid down**
 - The three crosses repositioned, white gravel added at base**
 - Scouts filled planters w/flowering plants and worked alongside everyone**
 - Cleaning done inside as well!**
- Watch for more additions over the coming weeks.***



Did you know you can obtain free seeds from the public library?

- Available seeds include vegetables, flowers and herbs
- You can fill out a request at the Columbia County Public Library at any branch or order via email at columbiaseedlendinglibrary@gmail.com
- You are permitted 5 packs of seeds a month
- Orders are filled weekly at the Fort White branch and delivered to the branch of your choice.



Photo: Seed Exchange, Barton Public Library

Pray

The problems we face in our homes, churches, communities and the challenges we see in our nation and world ~ they are easily solved by a God who is high and exalted. Grant wisdom to me and to others so we can live according to your will. Amen.

If you have ever wondered where shoebox gifts go, you might be surprised to learn that they do go to some parts of the U.S. In the book, “Operation Christmas Child: A Story of Simple Gifts,” Franklin Graham writes that shoebox distributions are done at a different Indian reservation each year. Boxes are also presented to children in orphanages, hospitals, even trash dumps where poverty-stricken children live.

In this issue of the Messenger, you will find a listing of suggested shoebox gifts. You might purchase some of these items anytime during the year. You can save them up to fill shoeboxes at home or you can place them in the collection box at church to help us prepare for the packing party on Sunday, November 3rd.



Reminders: Shoebox gifts should be new and of good quality

Do not include food, candy, medicine, breakable or glass items, war-related, liquids, lotions, toothpaste or aerosol cans

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD GIFT IDEAS

B	Bags	Backpacks	Band-aids	Binoculars	Ball pumps	Batteries for flashlights	
C	Chalk	Cars	Calculators	Craft kits	Coloring books	Crayons	
D	Drawing pads						
F	Flashlights	Flip-flops	Frisbees, small or foldable	Fishing kits	Flutes		
G	Glue sticks						
H	Hair ties	Hairbrushes (small)					
I	Index cards						
J	Jewelry	Jump ropes					
K	Kaleidoscopes	Kazoos					
M	Markers						
N	Nail clippers	Nail files	Notebooks (small)				
P	Paint sets	Pens	Pencil cases	Puppets	Purses		
R	Rulers	Reusable utensils					
S	Scissors	Socks	Stickers	Stuffed toys	Sunglasses	Soccer balls	Soap, Ivory brand
T	Toothbrushes	Tops	Magic Towel				
U	Underwear						
W	Washcloths	Wrist watches	Whistles				
Y	Yo-yos						

Food 4KIDS



This ministry is doing well and winding down as there are only a few more weeks of school left in this school year. We have been blessed to provide 20 children with food each week of school without exception. The Food 4 Kids team wants to thank Wesley for their never ending

support of prayers and monetary and food donations. You have been a constant support and blessing for these needy children. God bless you and many thanks. Please continue to pray for a Safe, Healthy and Happy Summer for all students, teachers and staff at Summers Elementary.

**The Food 4 Kids Team,
Lorraine, Linda, Linda, Colleen, Judy and Charlie**



GO BAGS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN of COLUMBIA COUNTY

After a short temporary transition period, the new team of Colleen Barringer and Laurie Schmidt have taken charge of Go Bags. A delivery of 15 go bags were put together and delivered by Lorraine, Linda, Colleen and Laurie. The ladies were introduced to the Families in Transition Coordinator and staff at the Columbia County School Board. The transfer of teams has been seamless and we both welcome and support these eager ladies. Please pray for them as they take over this very important, needed and blessed ministry at Wesley.

Lorraine and Linda

Earth Stewards R's

Regenerate! On a personal level, compost your food and lawn scraps; participate in no mow May, which helps bees and other pollinators; consider turning growth back to nature by rewilding at least a portion of your property. On a larger scale, examine your agricultural practices for changes that will regenerate the fertility of the soil.



Rethink! We used to think of the earth's benefits as endless. Earth is telling us we need to think again. If we want our children and grands to live well, we need to support a more sustainable way of being now. Explore thrift stores before catalogs; purchase from companies that are environmentally conscious; buy from local farmers and merchants.

Review! Regularly or at least annually, step back and look critically at your "stuff." Are you a victim of "creep"? Have "wants" taken higher priority than "need"? Continue asking what else you might do to contribute to the health of Earth and give all a better future. Talk with family and friends about your insights.

Recommit! Keep learning, taking more steps, talking to others about your actions on behalf of creation justice. The comprehensive and complex impacts of environmental issues can lead to anxiety and despair. Our children need to know we are doing something. Join organizations that are working for legislation and other changes. Watch for and celebrate good news. Persist.

Remember! Remember who you are and Whose you are: You are a beloved child of God. The very first commandment God gave humanity was to care for creation (Genesis 1–2). In your approach to all things created by God and by humans, remember you are a caretaker. Let that sacred charge be your guide.



LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD

2 SAMUEL 22:29-31

THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024



Thursday, May 2nd is the ***National Day of Prayer***. We will be gathering together for prayer at 12:00 pm at Olustee Park downtown. Lake City leaders will be sharing prayers for this event. Everyone is invited to attend! Let's join together to pray for our County, City and Nation.