Wesley Window

MAY 19, 2021

WORSHIP SERVICES

MAY 23, 2021
PENTECOST

Traditional
8:30am
Sanctuary
Greg Porterfield

Modern
9:30am
Gym

Traditional
11:00am
Sanctuary
Greg Porterfield
Watch live at
www.wesleyumc.net

Livestream on YouTube & Facebook

Video will be available to view afterwards.

WESLEY CHURCH

It Must Be Pentecost

Pentecost came early for me this year. Twelve days to be exact. Like a lot of religious rites though it is based on a calendar, it is the experience we crave. For me, it occurred in recovery at Emory University Hospital, following a five-hour induced slumber from which I was groggily awakening. My physician stood over me, his face still a blur, and said what every cancer patient longs to hear, "I got it all." Fumbling with my words, I tried to thank him, but what could I say compared to that which had been done? He stopped short my intended soliloquy by gently saying, "You are like my family." Even under anesthesia I heard and was barely left with breath. Dr. Nour is a world-class physician doing pioneering work in oncology. A native of Cairo - not the one 70 miles south of the gnat line - he returns every summer to work at a children's hospital in that teeming metropolis. This day, however, he had taken a needle and with a laser extinguished the lesion, the size of a quarter, that had nestled all too comfortably in my liver. And now he was calling me family.

Was it Pentecost? You remember that scene in Acts 2. We sometimes focus on all the wrong things, the violent wind and tongues like fire. However, as Fred Craddock once observed, there is a softer side to that experience. People of every tribe and nation had gathered in Jerusalem for a festival. Sometime refer to an atlas of ancient cities and you will recognize the places that are mentioned form a concentric circle of the then known world. It is Luke's way of saying people had come from everywhere. Yet in this moment, separate citizens no longer heard in their own voice or held fast to their prior thoughts for God invited them to participate in a new world order.

I know, I know what you are already thinking. Preacher, don't start with that polytheism gobbledygook. And I'm not. For I am orthodox to the core and I take scripture to be true. I just don't know how you can read of creation in Genesis or remember the words of commission by Jesus and not understand that God's realm always extends far past the perimeters of my own small thoughts.

We make the mistake of categorizing ourselves by description when it is our experiences that inform who we are. If I could diagnose the present social malaise, I would say it is this. We have preferred to see that which is peculiar in one another rather than what we hold in common. And that's not Pentecost. Pentecost begins as people from everywhere and divisions abound; however, it does not end there. In our present day we wield our words to bludgeon opponents with blunt force trauma. With so much vile spewed so regularly, it's difficult to identify where Eden even is. This is not Pentecost. Pentecost is when people laid down their prior known identities and aligned themselves with God's spirit. And when they did just look what happened. What was realized could not have been imagined and instead became what God had intended.

Lying on my gurney I couldn't say all that of course. I meekly tried to mumble gratitude too small for what I had been privileged to this day. My Egyptian born doctor who speaks in a neat English accent not only removed a cancer but recognized me as family. It must have been Pentecost.

Our Prayers

Alcohol/Drug Addiction
Armed Forces
Christopher Ashe, Jr.
Sandra Batchelor
Larry Bauman
Bible Family
Jane Bonner
Bruce Callender
Tom Daigle Family
Ann Dockal
Walter Dodson
Lynne Dunn
Debra Eastmead
Amy Eubanks
Kay Fagan
Jerry French
Dee Gebhard
Maeve Goodrum
Leslie Guler
Charles Hamilton
Lynn Harrelson
Katelin Henley
Dave & Anna Hinner
Pam Hutcherson
Sharon James
Jillian Jarosz
Phyllis Jensen
Jack Keith
Randy Kelly
John Kennedy
Joanne Kennelly
Mike Konesky & Family
Linda Linder
Jim Locke
Jackson Marshall
Alicia Mason
Mont Miller
Glynn & JoAn Moore
John & Maxine Moxley
Scot Noss
Geraldine Owens
Harold Peacock
Sheila Pennington
Ray Rash
Luca Raskin
Christine Scott
Deborah Scott
Debra Shockley
Marie Smith
Jessie Stewart
Windy Terrell
Ann Thornhill
Sheila Tripp
Oleta Watts
Herman Wheatley
Ron & Cindy Whitaker
Katrina Wolfe
Natalie Wright

Our Gifts - 5/16/2021

• Operating	$	44,769
• Received Through This Week:	$	943,405
• Budgeted Through This Week:	$	1,015,198

Our Weekly Bread

God's provision for our forgiveness was an immense sacrifice borne of His love for us.

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
2 Corinthians 5:21

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."
Isaiah 53:5

The debt we owe Him is great – incalculable! Lord, impress this truth upon us. Make us freely forgiving of others in response to it. As You have said:

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
Ephesians 4:32

Amen!

Wesley Extends Christian Sympathy to...

Nancy Lightsey and family in the loss of her brother-in-law, John Busbice.

David Maxwell and family in the loss of his brother, Bud Maxwell.

Tom, Debbie, and Ryan Daigle in the loss of their 28-year-old son and brother, Hunter Daigle.

For these families, Lord, hear our prayers.

Columbia County Cares Food Collection

MAY: MAYONNAISE, MUSTARD & KETCHUP

The need for food is very high! If you can donate any non-perishable foods, please place them in the Mission Cart in the Biscuit Area.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
It takes a lot of dedicated, awesome people to make VBS happen, and in order to keep our group sizes small, we need your help! Visit wesleyumc.net\vbs if you are interested in joining our volunteer team!

WE NEED SNACKS!
Goldfish (individual packs)
Fruit Snacks (individual packs)
Chips (Variety snack packs)
Cookies (individual packs-no nuts)
Capri Suns

Please place in the donation bin outside of the Celebration Space.

Eagle Scout Project

Wesley member Orion Kotas is collecting canes, walkers and other orthotic equipment for the Guatemala Mission Team. Collection boxes have been placed around the church and new as well as used equipment will be greatly appreciated. We appreciate so much your help with this Eagle Scout project that will be so beneficial to the people in Guatemala. If you have any questions contact Pastor of Care Susan Gilbert at 706-869-0888 or susan@wesleyumc.net.

Showing the "Son" Shine through Serving

Sine the "Son" and His Love on others by being a part of Wesley Cares, the outreach ministry of giving to congregational family members who are either homebound or limited in their activities. Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 3, 10am, in room 21. Contact Tami Bernhardt, june2792@aol.com, for more information.

Things to Know about VBS

We will have both in-person and online VBS options.

In-person is from 9am-12pm. The online option will be available to access at any time.

VBS is for completed PreK 3 (must have been 3 in September) through completed 5th grade.

VBS for children under 3 is available for parents who are volunteering.

Preschoolers will be on the preschool hall. Their group will be their little family for the week-we are going to avoid mixing people up in big groups. (Preschool will also have more outdoor time than in past VBS years.)

Elementary will be predominately outside with smaller groups. Their group will also be their "family" for the week.

Contac kami@wesleyumc.net with questions.

This Week at Wesley

Sunday - 23rd
8:30a Traditional Worship
9:30a Modern Worship/Gym
11:00a Traditional Worship
6:00p Wesley Students

Monday - 24th
7:00p Scout Troop 615
7:00p Wesley Foundation

Tuesday - 25th
7:00a Men in Mission
10:30a Spiritual Formation Group
7:00p Scout Troop 1615

Wednesday - 26th
10:00a Women's Bible Study
6:00p Kidz FB Live with Kami
6:00p Grief Support Group

Covid 19 Protocols at Wesley

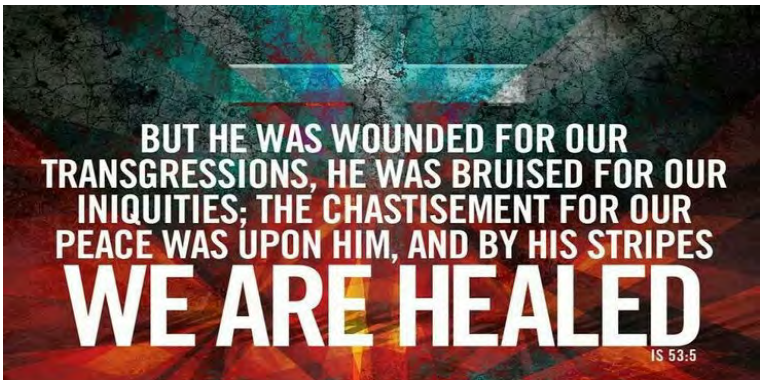
Like many of you, I have been, in my more benevolent moments, perplexed and in my more frustrated moods, agitated, by the guidance I receive from public health officials regarding protocol safety guidelines. I'm never quite certain what it is that I should do. So let me share with you how we are moving forward here at Wesley.

First, I encourage you to get a vaccine if you have not already done so. I received mine some time ago and appreciate not only the inoculation from disease but the attendant peace of mind knowing you are vaccinated provides. I encourage you to get your shot.

Second, we recognize that some in our congregation feel free to not wear masks whereas others are more comfortable continuing to do so. What I have always appreciated about Wesley is that our judgments defer always to our witness. We want people to be here, for what we offer is unique, and it is necessary. For that reason, my only admonition is that we want you to worship in a way that is most comfortable to you and with sensitivity recognize that others may practice precautions different then you. As I say this, of course, we ask that if you are feeling unwell, stay home and rest, for your sake and for the sake of others.

Thirdly, we are removing seating restrictions and will soon be returning hymnals to the pews. We have started singing at 11:00 traditional worship and by June will be offering the experience at the 8:30 service. Our 8:30 worship continues to be, other than watching online, our safest in-person worship experience due to the number of worshippers.

Finally, know how grateful I am for your faithfulness throughout these last 15 months. I am certain there are those who wish we had loosened guidelines sooner and others that had hoped we would be more vigilant. What I can say is that I am glad that Wesley was not a source of contagion to our members or our community at any time. Thank you for your faithfulness that has brought us thus far and, as always, leads us into the future.



After packing, the bags will be loaded up to be taken to Macedonia Church of Grovetown, where they will be distributed from 1:30-3pm.

WESLEY CHURCH

825 North Belair Road Evans, GA 30809
706.869.0888 www.wesleyumc.net
office@wesleyumc.net

@WUMCEVANS

WESLEY'S MEMBERS ARE ITS MINISTERS.
THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF WHO ASSIST THEM ARE:

Ryan Abel.....Contemporary Music
Milledge Austin ext 204.....Communications Director
Helen Bissell.....Senior Adult Outreach
David Blackwood ext 223.....Associate Pastor
Ray Burnette ext 226.....Food Services
Joanne Cirincione ext 211.....Adult Education Director
Wes Daniels.....Recreation Director
Kami DeRosier ext 210.....Children's Director
Michelle Dodson ext 221.....Evangelism/Program Secretary
Amanda Ellis ext 203.....Finance Director
Ellyn Gilbert ext 224.....Student Ministries Coordinator
Susan Gilbert ext 220.....Pastor of Care
Jose Gonzales.....Custodian
Mike Grigsby.....Technical Support
Samantha Grubbs ext. 209.....Administrative Assistant
Mark Haddon ext. 206.....Contemporary Music/Facilities Manager
Dee Harden.....Custodian
Scott Harris ext 205.....Associate Pastor
Mary Jackson.....Hospitality Director
Elaine Maxwell.....Pianist
Nicole Muns ext 224.....Connections Director
Heather Peacock.....Assistant Music Director
Greg Porterfield ext 201.....Senior Pastor
Kelley Sleeper ext 202.....Missions Assistant
Aaron Talbott ext 213.....Student Ministries Director
Cheryl Weinand ext 212.....PreSchool Director
Jeff Wickell ext 225.....Music Ministries Director

For a complete listing of staff contact information, visit www.wesleyumc.net.

WORSHIP | CARE | CONNECT