

Susanna Wesley UMC
3900 George Washington Memorial Hwy.
Ordinary, VA 23131

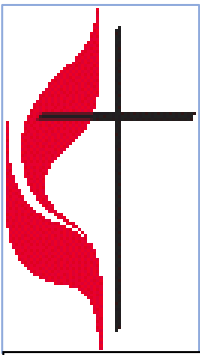
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 39
Hayes, VA 23072

Sunday Services
Traditional at 8:15 a.m.
Contemporary at 10:30 a.m.
In-Service, Facebook Live
Drive-In Worship 101.7 FM

September 17
2022



A Mid-Month Update on the Activities of SWUMC



September

Mid-Month Update

A NOTE FROM PASTOR TOM

It's an exciting time of year, school buses are on the road once again taking our children and grandchildren to school and all the activities they are involved. They have so many opportunities to belong to a group of like-minded students. Some of the clubs and activities they can belong to include: Beta Club, Band, Bible Club, Book Club, Choral, Debate, Drama, Ecology Club, Sports programs, E-Sports, Future Business Leaders, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, French Club, Game & Anime Club, Model UN, National Honor Society, ROTC, Philosophy Club, Ruriteens, Spanish Club and STEM to name just a few. We can learn a lot from our youth and John Wesley. Our youth find communities at school to belong, to learn, develop skills and talents and most of all to find comradery. They are working towards their future discovering who they want to become.

John Wesley, on the other hand, was bringing people together to save their souls. Remember in the August Newsletter I shared his charge to newly commissioned circuit riders? Wesley said: *"have nothing to do but to save souls"*. Isn't that why we come to church, to save ourselves, to learn, to seek and become a Disciple of Jesus Christ? John Wesley equipped his circuit riders with the knowledge to organize the communities they came into to bring those who sought redemption to discover a new way of life in Jesus the Christ.

Wesley's small group system has much to teach us today. For example, the model provides for both education (a focus on the mind) and nurture (a focus on the heart). At times we pick one

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Upcoming Services

Sunday, September 18th

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Scripture:

Luke 16: 1-13

Message:

Debts Are Tossed:

Having Words with Jesus

Sunday, September 25th

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Guest Preacher:

Rev. Art Wolz

Sunday, October 2nd

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Scripture:

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Message:

Rekindle the Gift: Not Ashamed

Sunday, October 9th

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Scripture:

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Message:

Itching Ears: Not Ashamed

LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER FOR
LOVE COMES FROM GOD.

—1 JOHN 4: 7 & 8



Church Office Hours: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(Continued from Page 1)

or the other, but the early Methodist system shows a way to unite them in a context of Christian growth. Additionally, the system offered several levels of commitment and depth. People who wanted to go deeper in their discipleship could voluntarily join a band. However, it makes discipleship a requirement for everyone (class meetings were part of a society which today is a community of faith like ours, Susanna Wesley, a church of believers). Today we make discipleship optional in our churches. We're too busy, just like our youth. We have book clubs, civic organizations, dance groups, lectures or learning events, a list of activities not including entertainment venues we can find time to join. But did you notice in the activities the youth can join it includes Bible Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes?


It's interesting how people tend to respond favorably to high-commitment Christianity. It's something we're afraid of but is the one act of discipleship that we can seek to emulate that truly saves souls. In many of our churches we assume people don't want to be bothered much, but that may not be the case. As your pastor, I sense this desire in many of you and in those who visit. Many of you came to Susanna Wesley looking for a church that asks them to be committed Christians rather than nominal ones. We show that commitment in our desire to serve and grow our ministries that help those in need. We have begun our school year offering more small groups on Sunday. A place to learn and grow with our mind and heart.

So, as we engage the Wesleyan way we discover he truly developed a system that provides a realistic perspective on the nature of spiritual growth and discipleship. I understand, along with the leadership of your community, that believers are not able to join high-commitment accountability groups because of jobs or family commitment issues and that others are not interested in them. But as we continue on our path towards growth and renewal I remind you of my request in our July newsletter. Your church needs you!! More importantly you need your community of faith. If we are going to become a community of deeply committed Christians we all need to seek and make time to transform our relationships with God and with one another.


So, we have re-launched. Now we need to gain momentum and begin the journey of strategic growth and discipleship. Find a small group, start a home group, make time to deepen your relationship with Christ. Remember what it means to be born again (born from above). Take time to: Reconnect with God; Return home to God, you have been in exile in this world; See again; Stand straight; Let go of what keeps you from God; Receive the gifts of the spirit; Center your life in God; Be compassionate as God is compassionate; Die to the old ways; Recover your true self; Live from the inside out; Die to the false self; and Live into a new way of being

While I, like all pastors and priests, desire that all members of their congregation progress toward the highest level of discipleship, the reality is that a church, a community of faith, will always contain a mixture of believers with a range of interest levels. The Wesleyan system, in a pragmatic way, creates spaces for both types of Christians—the new believer and the high-commitment longtime disciple. Susanna Wesley is a community of faith of deeply committed Christians seeking to support and guide all believers, whether perfect or imperfect, to become a child of God transformed in love.

Just a thought,
Pastor Tom



Stop looking for the perfect church. It does not exist. Even if it did exist, the moment we joined it, it would no longer be perfect!



Church is not an organization you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing.

Opportunities to help the Homeless and those in Need

Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team **(G.U.E.S.T) Winter Program Update**

Winter is coming and GUEST is working to discern how to care for our homeless population as they move from housing in the local motels to being back on their own. As this transition takes place GUEST is hoping to find the funding to keep the families in the motels. In 2019 Susanna Wesley was one of the housing sites for this program. A lot has changed since then and the Mission Outreach Team is evaluating our abilities to support this program at the same level of effort as in the past.

To be a host site – we need 6 volunteers each night for 7 nights. In addition, due to continuing endemic the spacing of sleeping areas has increased which will reduce the number of individuals we will be able to house. So far GUEST is meeting with potential host sites. Newington and Bridgepoint have agreed so far. They have larger available areas. Another way we will be available is the preparation of meals and volunteering to support the efforts of the other host sites.

There is another way you can help – VOLUNTEER – GUEST needs volunteers to help throughout the season at the weekly host sites. From check in to being present to watch over them as they sleep. The time slots we used were 5:00 p.m. to 11 p.m., 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. To learn more watch for updates as GUEST schedules training. Proposed training dates include Tuesday, November 8, 15 and 29 at 7:00 p.m. To volunteer call 804-792-5046

Emergency Christian Homeless Outreach (ECHO)

The purpose of ECHO is to be a Christ-centered, faith-based organization that demonstrates Christ's compassion by providing for the physical, spiritual, emotional, and other identified needs of men, women and children who are homeless or near homeless.

ECHO is need of Listeners to listen to and support those who are enduring hardships. Either via phone or in person a kind and compassionate heart is all needed. So many times, someone who is struggling with a physical, spiritual, emotional, or other need needs the emotional and spiritual support we can provide by being a kind heart who listens, prays with and or affirms them. ECHO provides the financial and other support to sustain an individual, but find those they care for need a kind ear to talk and share their story. If you are interested talk to Harry Leonard.

Help other by going on a Mission Trip

Red Bird Mission Workcamp

There's still time to sign up

We're going in 42 weeks

July 9th 2023

We will depart early Sunday, July 9th, arriving between 3 and 5 p.m. for check in at the Work Camp to begin our week. (it will be a 9 ½ hour drive with a stop for lunch, etc.)

Check out the Red Bird Mission Table in the Atrium!

- Red Bird Mission Work Camp Brochures
- Sample Schedule
- Work Camp Map
- Work Camp Leader Guide

- Questions and Answers
- Applications – Medical and Emergency Information Forms

Red Bird Mission Work Camp - 70 Queensdale Center, Beverly, KY 40913

This is a year-round work opportunity for volunteers in mission and service-minded groups. Work Camp strives to provide home repair for low-income community residents and maintenance for Mission buildings and grounds. Some examples of work projects are roof replacement, small room additions, painting, building porches or ramps, and grounds keeping. Other light duty work is available such as cutting soup upc's, office work, craft and community store helpers, and recycling. A single fee covers the cost of each person's lodging, meals, and materials used. Cost & construction experience is not an issue.

How much will it cost?

Total price per person is:

Adults (ages 10-100) \$425.00 (\$50 deposit plus two payments of \$187.50)

That's only \$10 per week in a designated offering if you began this week
(use an Offering Envelope adding your name and specifying Red Bird Mission Trip)

Youth (ages 6-9) \$212.50 (\$50 deposit plus two payments of \$81.25)

\$5 per week in a designated offering if you began today

Children (ages 0-5) FREE

Support your community through financial gifts

August Giving Report

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We are blessed as we tithe as a community supporting the missions of Susanna Wesley. Serving our community locally, nationally and internationally. We are transitioning to our full budget as add programs and host more events.

Annual Budget - \$19,264.00 per month
needed to support the Ministries of our church
Tithes/Offerings Received - \$13,397.38
Below Pandemic Budget - \$5,866.62

NOTE: 10% of our giving goes to our Mission Outreach Team for distribution to ministries and missions in our community

Pray about catching up if you are behind



To Activate the Prayer Chain:

Step 1: Call any of the individuals listed during the time indicated.

Step 2: Please leave a message if your call is not answered before calling another member of the prayer chain.

Step 3: Pray as the prayer chain prays for your need

You may also place your written requests in the drop box at the front door or email you prayer request to:

Prayers@susannawesleyumc.org

How can I join the prayer chain?

Call the office: 804-642-7551

DAYTIME: 7AM – 5PM

- Phyllis Russell (540) 903-2817
- Joyce Neville (804) 815-2089
- Louise Quinn (804) 693-2192
- Julia Scarborough (804) 642-4525
- Deborah Wilson (757) 784-2451

EVENINGS: 5PM – 11PM

- Vicki Barnes (757) 592-4489
- Barbara McGlohn (804) 384-1693
- Goldie Rowe (804) 824-7377

NIGHTTIME: 11PM – 7AM

- Phyllis Russell (540) 903-2817
- Sonnie Leonard (804) 815-2864

Church Office: (804) 642-7551

Pastor Tom Tipton: (703) 307-6892

Please keep the following parishioners in your prayers:

Contact Pastor Tom or the church office - 804-642-7551 to add people to or remove people from the prayer list.

- For our brothers and sisters in Christ with unspoken prayers.
- For those who have COVID or are caring for loved ones with COVID. Prayers for healing and no long-lasting effects.
 - Raymond Church for healing and strength along with Judy for pain relief in her shoulder and strength.
 - Don Wilson & Deborah Wilson.
 - Ann Hansen (Mike Hansen's mother) as begins a journey with Alzheimer's and for her family along with his Dad as they adjust to their new assisted living home.
 - Karen Peabody (Mike Hansen's sister) for healing and strength.
 - Jeff Leiffer (Linda Fletcher) in his hospitalization and relief from the pain he is enduring.
 - Sally who is caring for her 96-year-old sister as she managed her own health problems. Prayers other family members will step up to help.
 - Goldie Rowe as she heals from surgery.
 - Carrie, a friend of Deborah Wilson, who broke her neck in an auto accident.
 - Keith Hoban as he applies for VA benefits.
 - Shirley Fanton's daughter, Michelle Grover, as she reintroduces foods into her nutritional spectrum.
 - Linda Triolet and her family as they care for her mom.
 - Charles Rowe, continued prayers for healing and strength.
 - Rev. Gary Livermon for continued healing and strength as he settles in his new home and enjoys retirement.
 - Seema Tipton, praises as she completes her treatments to remain cancer free.
 - Sondra Colbert's mother.
 - Phil Lyliston (Pastor Tom watches over him) for blessings and joy in his current home in Norfolk. Prayers that Jewish services can find a place for him in Newport News.
 - Vicki Barnes, prayers for healing as she continues treatment. "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4
 - For the family of Billy Hill in his passing.
 - For the family of Betty Anderson, Keith Hoban's aunt in her passing.
 - For Jim Germek's family in the passing of his mother.
 - For all who have lost loved ones, we miss them and praise God for they are with Him.



Luke Chapter 2



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|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| ABIDING | ABOUT | ACCOMPLISHED | AFRAID | ANGEL |
| AUGUSTUS | BECAUSE | BEHOLD | BEING | BETHLEHEM |
| BRING | BROUGHT | CAESAR | CALLED | CHILD |
| CLOTHES | COUNTRY | CYRENIUS | DAVID | DECREE |
| DELIVERED | ESPOUSED | FIELD | FIRST | FLOCK |
| FORTH | GALILEE | GLORY | GOVERNOR | GREAT |
| HOUSE | JOSEPH | JUDAEA | KEEPING | LINEAGE |
| MANGER | NAZARETH | NIGHT | ROUND | SHEPHERDS |
| SHONE | SWADDLING | SYRIA | TAXED | TAXING |
| WATCH | WORLD | WRAPPED | | |

Articles and Ministry updates for submission in the Monthly newsletter are due by the 25th of the month. Mid-Month submissions are by the 10th of the current month.