

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.

December
2022



Office number 804-642-7551

www.susannawesleyumc.org

office@susannawesleyumc.org



I believe the season of Advent and Christmas really is the most wonderful time of the year. What could be better than getting together with those we hold most dear, eating all the food we could possibly want, and seeing the joy on everyone's face. There's generally a kindness and generosity that arises in everyone. There are so many wonderful things about this season; it's a shame we can't celebrate it all year long.

What if we could be like Ebenezer Scrooge and we would "honor Christmas in [our] heart[s], and try to keep it all the year. [We would] live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within [us]. [We would] not shut out the lessons that they teach." Christmas is about Christ. Not about Macy's, Best Buy, Walmart, Ollies, or Amazon or most of all about us. It really isn't our birthday. It's about His birthday. Yes, the baby Jesus. It's His birthday and we lose sight of it. What if we lived by His words and learned from Him.

What if we made it a season about not us the healthy, but about those who need Him. In Mark 2:116-17 Jesus responded to "the teachers of the law who were Pharisees [when they] saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: 'Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?'" But the disciples did not answer; it was Jesus who said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the **righteous**, but sinners."

What if the gift we gave was the gift of welcoming, love, kindness, hope, joy and peace. Peace to a world filled with conflict. The peace of Christ, which is the greatest gift we can give. Not just for the season of the Advent and Christmas, but all year long. That would be a wonderful gift to our Lord on His birthday.

Pastor Tom

Upcoming Services

Sunday, December 4th

8:15 & 10:30am

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Message:

Christmas is not your Birthday!

Expect a Miracle

Sunday, December 11th

8:15 & 10:30am

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

Message:

Christmas is not your Birthday!

Giving up on Perfect

Sunday, December 18th

8:15 & 10:30am

Scripture: Hosea 3:1-5

Message:

Christmas is not your Birthday!

Scandalous Love

Saturday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Service w/special guest

6:30pm

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Message:

Christmas is not your Birthday!

Jesus' Wish List

Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day (Family Service)

9:30 a.m.

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Message:

Today is Jesus Birthday

If you receive an email from me, Pastor Tom please check the email address of the sender!

Several members have received an urgent message from me for them to call me.

For Example:

Good Morning xxxxxxxxxx, Do you have a minute?

Rev. Tom Tipton

The email address of the sender is pastor.susannawesleyumc@gmail.com.

This is not a church email address. All church emails are

xxxxxxx@susannawesleyumc.org. My email is

pastor@susannawesleyumc.org.



Does Christmas have roots in pagan beliefs?

The assertion that Christmas is merely a "Christianized" pagan holiday simply isn't true. In his book, *The Origins of the Liturgical Year*, Thomas Talley shows that Dec. 25 was celebrated in the early church by the third century and suggests a North African rather than Roman origin for the feast and its dating.

There were both theological and historical principles at work in arriving at that date. The process began by seeking to establish the likely historical date for the death of Jesus at Passover. This was thought to have been March 25. The annunciation was set to correspond with that date, so that, theologically, the conception of Jesus and the death of Jesus are observed as part of the same whole. The date to observe the birth of Jesus was then set by adding nine months to March 25, thus arriving at Dec. 25.

This process for historical and theological dating was already in place in some of the churches in North Africa as early as the late second century and appears to have spread across the churches from there.

A typical claim one finds about Christmas as a "Christianized pagan holiday" relates to the Roman observance of Sol Invictus. The problem with this assertion, based on Talley's findings, becomes historical. Sol Invictus dates to 274, about a century after we have evidence of some Christian churches already celebrating the feast of the nativity of Jesus on Dec. 25.

So, Christmas is not from its beginnings a "Christianization" of a pre-existing pagan festival. It is instead an extension of the central Christian story of the crucifixion of Jesus, "Christ our Passover" sacrificed for us.

In making this connection to Passover explicit, we are reminded that in the conception, birth and crucifixion of Jesus the whole world finds God's decisive deliverance from bondage, oppression and the power of sin in this life, and, in the age to come, resurrection into new creation and life everlasting.



Nativity set from Peru, photographed at the Upper Room Museum in Nashville, Tenn. Photo by Mike DuBose, United Methodist Communications.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			30	1	2	3
			9-2 Office hours Food Pantry Pick-up 9:30 – 12 p.m.		Youth Worship 6-8 p.m.	Pastor Tom & Kim Open House 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday Services Traditional 8:15 a.m. Small Groups 9:30 a.m. Contemporary 10:30 a.m. Children's Church 10:45 a.m.	9-2 Office hours 10 a.m. Prayer Group 7:15 p.m. Mission Outreach	9-2 Office hours Youth Bible Study 6-8 p.m.	9-2 Office hours Food Pantry Pick-up 9:30 – 12 p.m.		Youth Worship 6-8 p.m.	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday Services Traditional 8:15 a.m. Small Groups 9:30 a.m. Contemporary 10:30 a.m. Children's Church 10:45 a.m.	9-2 Office hours 10 a.m. Prayer Group	9-2 Office hours Women's Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Youth Bible Study 6-7 p.m.	9-2 Office hours Food Pantry Pick-up 9:30 – 12 p.m. Leadership Board 7 p.m.		Youth Worship 6-8 p.m.	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday Services Traditional 8:15 a.m. Small Groups 9:30 a.m. Contemporary 10:30 a.m. Children's Church 10:45 a.m.	9-2 Office hours 10 a.m. Prayer Group	9-2 Office hours	9-2 Office hours Food Pantry Pick-up 9:30 – 12 p.m.			Family Christmas Eve Service 6:30 p.m. with Special Guest
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Service 9:30 a.m. 	9-2 Office hours 10 a.m. Prayer Group Pastor Tom & Kim in Cleveland, OH and Evanston, IL	9-2 Office hours	9-2 Office hours Food Pantry Pick-up 9:30 – 12 p.m.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year Day Service 9:30 a.m.					Pastor Tom & Kim return home	

Pastor Tom and Kim's Open House



When:
**Saturday,
December 3rd**

From:
11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where:
**500 Arbordale Loop
Williamsburg, VA
23188**

We are looking forward to sharing the joy of our home with you.

Pastor Tom & Kim

Office Help Needed

We are currently without an administrative assistant. In the interim as we advertise for a new assistant we are asking for volunteers for office duty. Answering the phone and helping where you can will be greatly appreciated. The office is open Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call the office if you are interested in helping. 804.642.7551.



Nursery Helpers Needed

We are happy to share our nursery is open on a as needed basis during services. Our Student Ministry Directory, Sebastian Brock has led this effort. We have have installed a pager system for the parents (a gift to our church from another). We are asking for volunteers to help support this effort. It can be once a month, a specific service, etc. Your availability will be a blessing. Note: all volunteers require a background check which can be accomplished via email.



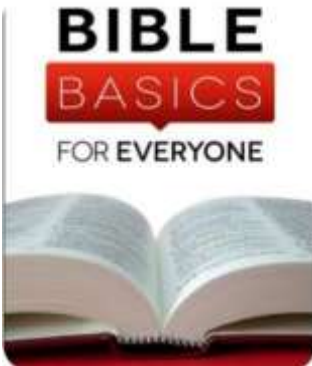
Sunday Mornings after first service

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Social time, Classes start at 9:30

Bible Basics

Community Room (Room 4)

Led by Karl Miller



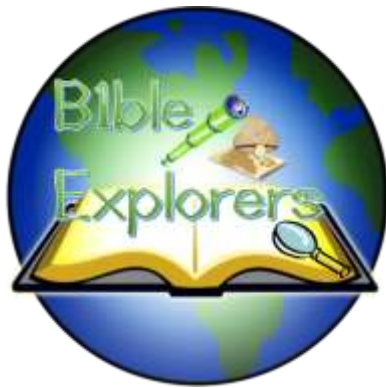
Join our **Adult Small Group** as we explore the **Gospel of Mark**. We meet in person or you can join this via ZOOM send request for invitation to puzzles4you@hotmail.com

Lively discussion guaranteed: comfortable, & prayer-driven

Bible Explorers!

Room 7

Led by: Kim Tipton



Join our **Adult Small Group** as we explore Max Lucado's newest book *How Happiness Happens*. Max Lucado explores passages of Scripture - explaining how practical acts of generosity can produce a life of satisfaction and moments of true joy. In a world searching for happiness, bestselling author Max Lucado provides a personal plan for a life filled with lasting and fulfilling joy, supported by Jesus' teaching and modern research.



Young Adults
Decision Room
Room 3

Led by: Pastor Tom

A 12-week study on the Gospel of John - pick-up a copy of the study in our room on the credenza under the TV.

Youth Group Faith Discussions
Youth Room (Room 5)

Led by Sebastian Brock and Joanne Fary

The youth are invited for a lively discussion of topics that relate to the challenges of life and our faith.



Children's Church



During 2nd Service
Room 2

*Led by a team of
facilitators on a rotating
basis*



Bible Study
Tuesdays
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Student Ministry Worship
Worship Center
Friday
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.



Table of Joy

We now have a table of Joy to cheerfully cover with the bounties of the season. Look for the Red table in our Worship Center. Canned good, stove top dressing, gravy, canned hams, etc.

Join our Praise Team



Practice
Wednesday's 6:30 p.m.

For more information

Contact: Crystal Tucker-Oberlin
Director of Contemporary Music
Cell: 804-824-8939 (phone or text)

Lay Servant Academy

Lay Servant Academy is excited to share its Winter Training that will take place on Friday and Saturday, **February 17th & 18th**. The course schedule features Michael Beck, originator of Fresh Expressions and a leader in cultivating movements. In addition to this course in **Planting Fresh Expressions**, additional courses include Fruitful Small Groups, Lay Pastoral Care-Giving, Basic Course, Spiritual Gifts, and Certified Lay Ministry Orientation. Courses are offered **in person only** at Shady Grove UMC Mechanicsville, VA. Registration and additional information can be found using this link: <https://vaumc.org/layservantacademy/>

For questions, you are welcome to email [Tianna Durbin](mailto:Tianna.Durbin@vaumc.org), Director of Lay Servant Academy.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship will be at Joyce Neville's home on the 15th this month (11:30 a.m.). We are having a luncheon along with a white elephant exchange. This is your chance to bring the crazy item from your home you wanted to give away. For more information call Ginny Miller at 804-642-9651



Mission Outreach



Wanted Worn, Tired and Discarded T-Shirts



In seven weeks, we will begin collecting worn, tired and discarded t-shirts (adult sizes). This gives us time to go through our t-shirt collections and pull out the ones we haven't worn for a long time or they have tears or holes.

Why - will be collected for the making of jump ropes to put in the 2023 shoeboxes. The shirts are cut into strips and then braided—they make a very sturdy jump rope.

When: A box for the shirts will be in the atrium beginning January the 8th.

Christmas Child Shoe Box Ministry

Susanna Wesley just went on an amazing mission trip and we didn't even leave the church as we packed with much prayer and love 149 shoeboxes (our 2022 goal was 125).

Thank you for joining with your generous donations and prayers. We will begin monthly collections in February but in the meantime be saving those old adult t-shirts to be used for jump ropes. That collection will begin in January.
– Ginny Miller





**CHARLOTTE'S ANNUAL TOY
DRIVE**

Christmas
TOY

Please Give a Little Joy to Our Local Children

Accepting Donations Through
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

**Drop-off
Location:**

3900 George Washington
Memorial Hwy, Ordinary, VA
23131, Susanna Wesley United
Methodist Church

We are looking for donations of new (unwrapped/not gift wrapped) toys for ages 0-19

For more information text 757-376-7767 or message Charlotte's Annual Toy Drive on Facebook.

Prayer Chain >>>

To Activate the Prayer Chain:

Call any of the individuals listed during the time indicated. The first person to get the prayer request will call the Pastor and the next person in line.

DAYTIME: 7AM – 5PM

- Janet Cochran (804) 693-2692
- Virginia Meyer (804) 642-6558
- Joyce Neville (804) 815-2089
- Louise Quinn (804) 642-4961
- Julia Scarborough (804) 642-4525
- Deborah Wilson (757) 784-2451

EVENINGS: 5PM – 11PM

- Vicki Barnes (804) 642-0760
- Barbara McGlohn (804) 384-1693
- Goldie Rowe (804) 824-7377

NIGHTTIME: 11PM – 7AM

- Virginia Meyer (804) 642-6558
- Sonnie Leonard (804) 815-2864
- Marsha Germek (804) 815-3639

Church Office: (804) 642-7551
Pastor Tom Tipton: (703) 307-6892

Please pray for these parishioners & families:

- Our brothers and sisters in Christ with upspoken prayers
- For the shooting victims at Walmart
- For the families of the Univ. of VA & Univ. of Idaho students
- For Marvin Faton
- For Bill Slack
- For those who have or are caring for those with Covid, Flu, RSV, seasonal colds, etc.
- Family members who struggle with addiction & mental health issues
- For our Food Pantry and the increasing need we are experiencing
- For E.C.H.O and the G.U.E.S.T. program as the need grows
- For Lorrie Wolstocraft
- For Jimmy Huff
- For Louis Hensley and David Tipton as they heal and gain mobility from knee replacement
- For Raymond and Judy Church
- For Ann & Jim Hansen
- For Don & Deborah Wilson
- For Karen Peabody
- For Jeff & Scott Leiffer
- For Charles Rowe
- For Linda Triolet & family
- For Vicki Barnes
- For Anita Robbins
- For Barbara Lyon
- For Phil Lewiston
- For Keith Hoban
- For all families who have lost loved ones, especially children. May they find joy in this season through memories and sharing the joys of their lives.

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

Food Pantry Needs>>> - We Need your help

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Feminine products, wipes | • Pasta | • Pasta Sauce |
| • Canned Vegetables | • Dry/Boxed/Canned Milk | • Jelly/Preserves |
| • Canned Meats (Tuna, Spam, etc.) | • Cereal/Oatmeal | • Macaroni & Cheese |
| • Rice | • Soups/Stews/Ramen | • Canned Fruits |
| • Breakfast Bars/Granola | • Condiments (Mayo, Ketchup, etc.) | • Canned Beans |
| • Diapers, formula, etc. | | • Paper Towels/toilet paper |

If you or someone you know needs food, please call 804-642-7551 on Monday to be put on the list for food pickup at SWUMC on Wednesday from 9:30-noon. The volunteers will bring your bag to your vehicle.

NOTICE

Susanna Wesley will be partnering with the Peninsula Food Bank in the near future. This will allow us to purchase many of the basic need items at a lower cost. **It does not eliminate the need for support.** The Food Bank will not be able to provide all the food items we need. Please continue to support our food bank as we highlight the items we cannot obtain.

Thank you and blessings, Bobby Scarborough





Student Ministry

The Potato Bar Fund Raiser was a great success!



Thank you for those who came out and supported the Student Ministry this past Sunday for the Potato Bar. The funds raised go toward activities, food, and missions.

The Youth have decided to change the name of the Youth department/group to Student Ministry. Over the next few months, you'll slowly see the transition taking place on the website, documents, presentations, and flyers.

The Student Ministry has decided to revive the continental breakfast we had on Sunday mornings pre-Covid. We're still working on logistics for this, and we have a planned start date around the first of the year.

All Student Ministry activities will pause on 12/16 and will resume after our Winter break on 1/6.

Our Students are planning a T-Shirt Fundraiser coming up in the Spring. Orders will be placed in Feb, we are planning on getting the shirts done locally, and should be ready for pickup in early March, just in time for Spring!

Our Students are also actively planning our Spring and Summer out, each quarter we've committed to completing a retreat/trip, a fundraiser, and mission work (either locally or regionally).
God bless,

Sebastian Brock | Student Ministry Director

Birthday's

Anniversary's

Dec 4th Grantland Steele
Dec 7th Lois Hensley
Dec 9th Cloe Bucher
Dec 12th Jessica Outten
Dec 16th Katrina Smith

Dec 17th Mike & Elizabeth Damato
Dec 22nd Paul & Eva Ratliff

If you have a Birthday or Anniversary please let the office know so we can update our records.

Support your Church through your Amazon purchases!!



We are now a registered charity through Amazon Smile! If you use our unique link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1484993> when you shop at Amazon.com they donate a portion of the sale to SWUMC!

What is the difference between an apostle and a disciple?



There are two different Greek words involved. Disciple (*mathetes*) means "learner" or "student." It is a term that applied and applies to all who seek to [learn the way of Jesus](#).

Apostle (from the Greek verb *apostellein*) means "one who has been sent out."

The apostles in the New Testament were disciples who were understood to be specifically sent out by Jesus to extend his mission throughout the world. We might call these persons something like "chief mission strategists,"

those who were acting to oversee the advance of the mission of the church and to guarantee the authenticity and foundational teachings and purpose of that mission.

This focus on a ministry of oversight (*episkope* in Greek) is why the successors to the apostles in each place were referred to as bishops. The English word "bishop" is the Anglicized form of the Greek word *episkope*, meaning oversight.

So, the [bishops](#) were (and are) overseers, continuing the mission and work of the original apostles in the current day.

Chuck Knows Church explains more in this [video about disciples](#).

Painting "Jesus and his Disciples on the Sea of Galilee," dated 1833, by Carl Wilhelm Friedrich Oesterley courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications