

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.

September
2022



Office number 804-642-7551

www.susannawesleyumc.org

office@susannawesleyumc.org



From the Pastor

I can't think of a better way to begin a season of renewed activity for our community than to ask this question, "How is it with your soul?"

- What are the things that I'm engaging in that bring my soul closer to God?
- What are the things that I'm doing that are putting a wedge between God and myself?
- What are the things that I'm doing in my life that really make my soul shine brightly and flourish?
- What are things I'm engaged in that are draining the life out of my soul?

As we enter September, a season of renewal of church activity, it's also a time we should reflect on where we are in our own spiritual journey. We've taken summer vacations, relaxed outdoors, enjoyed time with family and friends at summer gatherings, and hopefully we've rested and renewed ourselves. So, this question is a way of checking in with ourselves and the Lord. To reset and prepare for a renewed commitment to bring our soul closer to God.

As you reflect and discern, change your focus from the challenges of the past few years to one that looks toward a future. A heavenly future where you pray large and dream big in your journey with God and seek His guidance and blessings, being renewed in the Spirit.

In this month's newsletter you will see we are working to expand the number of small groups that will allow everyone to find a place to engage with others. We are focusing on ways to engage our children, youth and young adults (you know, our children and grandchildren). These are exciting and renewing times for our community. They are challenging and imperfect but with a renewed spirit I pray everyone will find a place to renew their soul and spirit. Not just on Sunday, but throughout the week.

Upcoming Messages

Sunday, September 4th

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Scripture:

Luke 14: 25-33

Message:

Having Words with Jesus:
Counting the Cost

Sunday, September 11th

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Scripture:

Luke 15: 1-10

Message:

Having Words with Jesus:
Finding the Lost

Sunday, September 18th

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Scripture:

Luke 16: 1-13

Message:

Having Words with Jesus:
Debts Are Tossed

Sunday, September 25th

Guest Preacher

Rev. Art Wolz

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

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As the Leadership Board and the mission servants of our community have worked towards this new season, I have been preaching messages from the prophets of the past. I have been challenging us to engage in prophetic ministry by sharing the prophetic voice God has given us to proclaim the good news and remind us the prophets were people like you and me.

The prophets of old, they were starting something that was very messy and dangerous at first (not life threatening for us today as it was in the times of the prophets), but dangerous in the sense this was not the way it had always been. Today, our lives and our church community is messy and imperfect. Like the prophets, we have to step outside our comfort zone to do the Lord's work.

We've learned God calls people that are no different than you or me. Imperfect believers with a heart for God. Surviving this first stage requires a resolve that is deep within. We've learned that Jeremiah wept when called; Elijah ran and hid; Hosea was discouraged and fed up; Nehemiah would leave the comfort of his job to answer God's call. It's tough! Yet, there is something that we can learn to get us through the challenges of creating the changes in our lives to be able to share that prophetic voice and live a life worthy of God's grace and hope.

As I have shared these messages this summer, I find myself drawn back to the story of Elisha. His story reminds me of our journey, especially when I think about what happened to him as recorded in:

2 Kings 6:1-6 The Message

6 ¹⁻² *One day the guild of prophets came to Elisha and said, "You can see that this place where we're living under your leadership is getting cramped—we have no elbow room. Give us permission to go down to the Jordan where each of us will get a log. We'll build a roomier place." Elisha said, "Go ahead."* ³ *One of them then said, "Please! Come along with us!" He said, "Certainly."* ⁴⁻⁵ *He went with them. They came to the Jordan and started chopping down trees. As one of them was felling a timber, his ax head flew off and sank in the river. "Oh no, master!" he cried out. "And it was borrowed!"* ⁶ *The Holy Man said, "Where did it sink?" The man showed him the place. He cut off a branch and tossed it at the spot. The ax head floated up.*

This series hopefully has shown us that throughout the Scriptures, there has been a divine mountaintop encounter with God before change came in the realm of the Spirit. It happened with Abraham before he could fulfill his calling. The Apostle Paul went to Arabia, rather than Jerusalem to hear God, and from there he went to the Gentiles to bring the Gospel to the world.

Many times, God calls us to relocate to a new spiritual location. Whether it's physical or spiritual, as you follow the Holy Spirit's prompting, dramatic changes begin happening. I can sense this time coming and I can hardly wait for it to take place. Obviously, the ax head spoken in this scripture is significant. Elisha and the prophets were building a new home for their ministry. In the process of felling trees for this purpose, one of them accidentally lost the ax head in the Jordan River. Before they could continue, they needed to retrieve that ax head. They needed a sharp ax head to continue, and an ax handle won't cut wood. So, what did Elisha do? He threw a stick into the water and the ax head, contrary to its nature, rose to the surface. Through this miracle, Elisha was anointed to a new level of ministry far surpassing anything that he had known.

That's a picture I want you to see in your mind as you ask yourself the questions at the start. What is coming to the ministry of Susanna Wesley, your community? God is going to reveal and bring out what has been hidden from view, just as surely as He brought the ax head to the surface in this scripture. The ax head is symbolic of the anointing, and I believe a hidden anointing is about to be revealed to each one of us. An anointing more powerful than anything we have every witnessed in the past. Just as hidden waters, once released, gush out in purity and power, these waters will wash over our lives and invade every area of our being. For that to happen there must be a great hunger for the presence of God. Thus, the question, "How is it with your soul?"

Our heart for God needs to be strong and on solid footing. In asking ourselves this hard question and reflecting on the follow-up questions we begin a journey. This opens us up to our innate desire for God's presence and prepares us for the amazing days ahead. It is important to begin relocating in the realm of the Spirit.

Just a thought, *Pastor Tom*

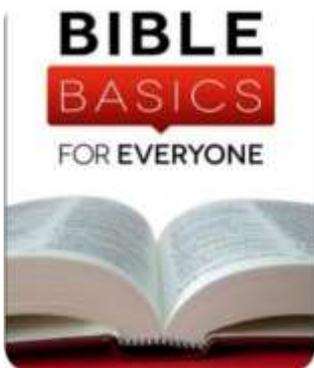
September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 28	August 29	August 30	August 31	1	2	3
Sunday Services 8:15 a.m./ Worship 9:30 a.m. Small Groups 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Children's Church	Prayer Group 10 a.m.		Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday Services 8:15 a.m./ Worship 9:30 a.m. Small Groups 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Children's Church	Labor Day Office Closed 	York River Circle of King's Daughters and Sons Meeting 9:30 a.m.	Food Pantry 9:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.			Operation Christmas Child Project Leader Workshop 9:00 a.m. Newington Baptist Church
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday Services 8:15 a.m./ Worship 9:30 a.m. Small Groups 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Children's Church	Prayer Group 10 a.m. Mission Outreach Team Meeting 7 p.m.	Heart of Christianity Book Study 10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	Food Pantry 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Emily on vacation	VBS Team Follow-up 6:30 p.m.	Youth Group Praise & Worship 5:00 p.m.	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday Services 8:15 a.m./ Worship 9:30 a.m. Small Groups 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Children's Church	Prayer Group 10 a.m.	Heart of Christianity Book Study 10 a.m. Women's Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Youth Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Heart of Christianity Book Study 6:30 p.m.	Food Pantry 9:30 a.m. -12 p.m.  Leadership Board 7 p.m. Pastor Tom & Kim on vacation		Youth Group Praise & Worship 5:00 p.m.	Fishes and Loaves 3 – 5 p.m. Church Kitchen Pastor Tom & Kim on vacation
25	26	27	28	29	30	October 1
Sunday Services 8:15 a.m./ Worship 9:30 a.m. Small Groups 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Children's Church Pastor Tom & Kim on vacation	Prayer Group 10 a.m.	Youth Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	Food Pantry 9:30 a.m.- 12p.m.		Youth Group Praise & Worship 5:00 p.m. Pastor Tom & Kim return	SWUMC Charge Conference 2:30 p.m. ZOOM



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

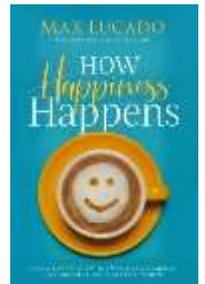
Lively discussion guaranteed: comfortable, & prayer-driven



Bible Explorers! Room 7

Led by: Kim Tipton, Beginning September 11th

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 new small group, starting something new
Beginning Sunday,
September 11th

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



Youth Bible Study

Tuesdays
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Youth Room (Room 5)
Begins 9/13

Youth Worship

Fridays
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
In the Worship Center
Begins 9/16

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship will be on the 20th this month following the Heart of Christianity Book study (11:30 a.m.). We are asking people to bring finger foods to share, a favorite recipe that can be copied, and either a dish towel, pot holder or oven mitt for the kitchen. We are looking at cleaning the kitchen at a later date and supplying what might be needed.





G.U.E.S.T.

Shelter, Help and Hope for People in Need

GUEST is preparing for the 2022-2023 Winter Shelter Season which will begin on December 1st.

The COVID emergency relief funds are coming to an end. These funds have allowed GUEST to house the homeless in hotels. Many of you may remember, GUEST was established in 2014 as a faith-based organization to provide a low-barrier emergency winter shelter for the homeless. To provide shelter GUEST partnered with many local churches (which included Susanna Wesley) and community organizations to provide the shelter by rotating each week to a different facility. Supporting partners also came alongside to provide hot meals, volunteer support, and transportation.

What does this mean for Susanna Wesley?

Our Mission Outreach Team is assessing our ability to provide space and the volunteers necessary to house the homeless for 1 week (Monday to Monday) from 7 p.m. to 7:00 – 7:30 a.m. this coming Winter Season.

- Prior to the pandemic we utilized our Atrium space to house both men and women. Dividing the area through the use of tables. Under current CDC guidelines we cannot provide the space needed (guidelines require 6 feet between beds) if the numbers currently housed remain steady. This may change as the guidelines are relaxed.
- In the past we struggled to provide two volunteers (one man and one woman) to be present during each shift during the night. At times we only had one volunteer. As we evaluate our ability to support the GUEST program we will need to be fully staffed to support this valuable ministry. We established three shifts in the past.
 - 5:00 p.m. to 11 p.m.
 - 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
 - 5:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.
- The plans are for other churches and organizations to continue to provide the dinner meal and breakfast sandwiches and cereal needed to feed those we house.
- We have been blessed with volunteers from other churches and organizations in the past.

GUEST is reaching out to past volunteers to see who is still available to help. If you are interested in helping please call Harry Leonard at 804-832-4079. Most of all, pray for a successful winter program.

Christmas Child Shoe Box Ministry

Christmas is still a few months off, but Operation Christmas Child's deadline will be here before we know it! We continue to receive generous donations; & already, the community room is filling up with boxes of joy for children. Please remember that you can support this ministry with prayers, \$donations\$, & material items...or take a box home & fill it with love.

'The Packing of the Boxes' will be in late October.

More info is coming soon!

SEPTEMBER NEEDS

socks, plastic jewelry/bling, marbles, yo-yo's, jump ropes, matchbox cars, small vehicles, small dolls





How you can help?

Food Pantry

Everyday

Bring in or drop off your food donations at the door
Bring in your Brown Paper Bags for use in distributing

Tuesdays

Volunteer to help prepare the bags for distribution

Wednesdays

Help welcome and load the bagged food and vegetables into the cars of those who are in need

- **Boxed Meals**
- Canned Vegetables
 - Corn
 - Green Beans
 - Peas
 - Beans
- Canned Meats
 - Spam
 - Ham
 - Chicken & Tuna
- Rice (Small bags)
- Dried Beans (Small bags)
- Breakfast Bars
- Granola Bars
- Diapers (adult, infant)
- Pasta
- **Dry (Powered) Milk**
- Boxed (Shelf Stable) Milk
- Evaporated Milk
- Condensed Milk
- **Canned Fruit**
- Snack Pack Fruit
- Dried Fruit
 - Raisins
 - Craisins
- Soups
- Stews
- Ramen Noodles
- Condiments (Mayo, Ketchup, etc.)
- Feminine products
- Pasta Sauce
- Jelly/Preserves
- **Peanut Butter**
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Corn Bread (Jiffy)
- Stuffing Mix
- Cake Mix
- Cereal - Cheerios, Honey Nut, Wheaties, Corn Flakes, Chex
- Personal Cleaning Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Toilet paper

NOTE: The food pantry is open to all who are need. 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 mornings from 9:30 a.m. - noon. Tell them our volunteers will bring their bag(s) (grocery, fresh vegetables, frozen items) to their vehicle.

Fishes and Loaves

(In August we provided 67 meals our highest number for distributions since we began this ministry)

Volunteer to help once a month with Fishes and Loaves

- Help with preparing the meal
- Package the meal for delivery
- Deliver the hot meals to those who need them most – a kind word and smile when delivering can change the day and week for the person who receiving the meal





Birthdays

Sept 1 st	Vernon Williams	Sept 19 th	Vicki Barnes
Sept 8 th	Parker Steele	Sept 20 th	Pastor Tom
Sept 11 th	Craig Kelley		Sharon Mathes
Sept 12 th	Patti Baughman	Sept 28 th	Gene Matthews
Sept 15 th	Emily DeSa Leslie		

Anniversaries

Sept 3 rd	Harry & Sonnie Leonard	Sept 17 th	Jim & Patti Baughman
Sept 4 th	Mike & Lois Hensley	Sept 21 st	Mike & Traci Noah
Sept 6 th	Zach & Laura Finley	Sept 24 th	Damon & Sarah Chowning
Sept 10 th	Jason & Jennifer Owen	Sept 25 th	Mike & Patti Hansen
			Tom & Leslie Smith



New Mission River District Emails

- We have new email addresses for the district: MRDS@vaumc.org for DS Ledlum-Bates and LisaJones@vaumc.org for the Yorktown office.
- The YorkRiverDistrict@vaumc.org and RappahannockRiverDistrict@vaumc.org **will continue to work only until September 30th.**
- There is also a MissionRiversDistrict@vaumc.org that is shared with the former Rappahannock River administrator Lynn Manley. Lynn can also be reached directly at LynnManley@vaumc.org



Creating Safe Spaces: Children, Youth, & Vulnerable Adults Online October 24-28, 2022

As more congregations move into hybrid forms of worship and study – in person and online – it is time to review risk reduction policies. These policies ensure that children, youth, vulnerable adults – the staff and volunteer workers with those groups – and the entire congregation are free from abuse, false accusations of abuse, and the associated costs.

This one-week course is a condensed version of both prior courses (Children/Youth and Vulnerable Adults). It focuses on the basics, but many additional resources will be available. The instructor will also be available by email for another week after the course ends.

The price is \$60 and 0.5 CEU is available. (Pastor Tom has funds if you want to take this course)

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

This information is also available on the Virginia Conference website at <https://vaumc.org/safesanctuaries/>

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 your 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) 642-4961
- 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
- Marsha Germek (804) 815-3639

Church Office: (804) 642-7551

Pastor Tom Tipton: (703) 307-6892

Please pray for these parishioners & families:

Contact the church office at 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.

Monday Morning Prayer Ministry

Jesus challenged his disciples not just to do the work but also pray for workers. As disciples we are called to pray earnestly for new workers. The gospel is a sent message that starts with mobilized people who are committed to pray. Prayer is essential for any movement. Join us Mondays at 10 a.m. as we take time to pray for one another and our community.

Pick up a Prayer Guide in the Lobby





Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

Transfiguration

P E T E R L E Q Z T E G O P J D I J I E
F B U N C E G P O R K R D B A B S H P L
G U U Q C R I H S A N J I T M V R R R I
R I B X A T U M U N T C S K E X A L A A
T H G E O O W Z K S R K C P S D E B Y M
W G M E X J P E K F T X I H F K L A E O
E U P A D Z Z V A I X E P T Q P I J R T
O U D M S H F N H G B I L Y D X T L X M
B G M Q I T Z U W U H E E S E S E J Z D
I M C L I K E X N R B I S J L S S C O X
Y O K K M P Z R T A C Y M P F I H W Q Q
Z U U U O A D J O T B W G O V C W U X U
T N T O K S W V P I E X L O S G Z O A E
E T W I Z B A P M O L B A D B E D E Z W
N A B W E H E T B N O Y T Q T W S L M M
T I J P C A A C M C V C X F F S Z I G B
A N M L Y Q Z A X O E D F S P U T G S A
Y D K R M G D G N G D E H B G N N H Y N
W Y K T A L M I D I M X K O Z R K T K B
H J O H N E M U I F J U I E L I J A H Y

LIGHT
MASTER
PETER
PRAYER
SON
BELOVED

ELIJAH
MOSES
MOUNTAIN
TALMIDIM
ISRAELITES
JOHN

JAMES
TENT
SUKKAH
DISCIPLES
TRANSFIGURATION
YESHUA

