

Our Ministry Staff

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Wesley United Methodist Church

"Joining our neighbors and following Jesus on a lifelong adventure to share God's love in new places and empowering ways."

Wesley United Methodist Church
130 W. Third St.
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
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January 19, 2025
10:30 AM

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
January 19, 2025 10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Wesley Church!

We gather in this place as friends and siblings united in Christ. You are loved and welcomed here at Wesley.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN "In the Bleak Midwinter" #221 United Methodist Hymnal

*OPENING PRAYER

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, you brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world on this day with your glory, and show yourself to all people. Let us all know your presence through the gifts of faith, hope, and love you share with the world. This we pray through him who is the true light and the bright and morning star, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF MEDITATION "We Three Kings" #254 UMH

SCRIPTURE LESSON(S)

*GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

Liturgist: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON/MESSAGE

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY & PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

#95 UMH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

#173 UMH

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*The congregation is asked to stand as you are able.

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God
and in celebration of the Epiphany of Jesus' birth to the world.*

Prayer List

Family of Nelson Kulp
Tammy Ambrose
Family of Pat Frances
Charlotte Stryker
Carla Fedder
Seann O'Brien
Clare Jackson
Roberta Berger
Family of Marjorie Laytar
William Beyers
Cheryl Beck
Family of Dave Ford
Marlene Hewlett
Carole Reeser
Stone Family
Cathy Arnaout
Bodenman Family
Cindy Williams

Active & Former Military

Pat Backer
Michael Bejger
John F. Bodenman
Steven Cornelison
Marty Davis & Bold Tigers
Alex Gunsch
Ashley Long
Tayler Murren
Michael Rich
Joshua Schaffer

Tom Cooper
Sally Snyder
Linda Dennen
Nancy Swisher & Family
Robin Payne Buchert
Cameron Murphy
Barb Riley
Family of Kathy Bohl
Donna Wallace
Pat Hall
Mary Jane Parker
Rick Heddens
Carol DeGreen
Kyle Foust
Glover Family
Jill Adams
Family of Fred Bennett

Jason Bejger
Matt Brewer
Todd Campbell
Jason Drumm
Drue Gerasimoff
Andrew Hikes
Gabe Slodysko
Kayla Baldwin
Caleb Ross
Jared Slodysko

Sunday Hospitality Team:

Greeters & Ushers: Women of Wesley (1/19)
Men of Wesley (1/26)

Liturgist: Bob Dunkelberger (1/19)
Letha Stone (1/26)

Nursery Attendants: Judy Ryan & Jeanne Bejger (1/19)
Bev & Taylor Wintersteen, Glenda Kowalski (1/26)

This Week at Wesley

Sun.	1/19	9:00 AM—Women of Wesley Meeting (<i>Coffee Café</i>) 9:15 AM—Sunday School Classes for Adults, Youth, & Children (<i>Ed. Wing</i>) 10:30 AM—Worship Service (<i>Sanctuary</i>) 2:00 PM—Starlight Ministry (<i>Coffee Café</i>) 4:00 PM—Scouts Meeting (<i>Youth Room & Social Hall</i>)
Mon.	1/20	<i>Church Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>
Tues.	1/21	6:30 PM—Community Bible Study @ Bill's House Apartments (375 West St.)
Wed.	1/22	7:00 PM—Stepping Stones to Recovery, Al-Anon Support Group (<i>Ed. Wing</i>) (For more info., e-mail to: stepstone2re@gmail.com)
Thurs.	1/23	
Fri.	1/24	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Sat.	1/25	8:00 AM—Men of Wesley Breakfast @ Morris Family Restaurant (6305 Columbia Blvd) 10:30 AM-12:30 PM—Community Friendship Meal (<i>Social Hall</i>)
Sun.	1/26	9:15 AM—Sunday School Classes for Adults, Youth, & Children (<i>Ed. Wing</i>) 10:30 AM—Worship Service (<i>Sanctuary</i>) 1:00 PM—Wesley Family Bowling Event @ Midway Lanes (1939 Montour Blvd, Rt. 11, Danville)

This Week's Staff Office Hours

Staff members are often in the church more than listed below but may sometimes need to miss scheduled hours due to unforeseen circumstances. It's always a good idea to directly contact a staff member to set-up an appointment. Staff contact information can be found on the back of the bulletin.

Rev. Mark Reisinger, Pastor: Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-Noon

Phyllis Jones, Administrative Assistant: Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-2pm

John Stone, Treasurer: Wednesday, 9am-Noon

Wesley Ministries & Opportunities to Serve

Children's Nursery & Grace Garden: A staffed nursery, located in the hallway between the Murray Ave. & Third Street entry areas, is available during worship for children ages 18 months-6 years old. An infant nursery is available down the hall from the primary nursery. Wesley's "Grace Garden," located in the front of the sanctuary, is also available for younger children during worship with coloring books and other opportunities for God's children to engage in quiet play while still being a part of the worship service. Parents are asked to be present with their children while using the Grace Garden or Wesley's infant nursery room.

Email and Bulletin Announcements: If you have announcements you would like included in our Thursday church email blast or an upcoming bulletin, please submit to the church office no later than Noon the Tuesday prior. All submissions sent after Tuesday at Noon will be included in the following week's email and bulletin. To contact the church office, email office@wesleybloom.com, or call 570-784-1407.

What's Happening @ Wesley Weekly E-mail: Every Thursday Wesley Church sends out a weekly e-mail that includes the upcoming bulletin and other important announcements and news about what's happening at Wesley Church. If you'd would like to receive this weekly e-mail, contact Pastor Mark: mreisinger@susumc.org.

Wesley Steering Team: The primary governing body of Wesley UMC, the Steering Team, meets on a monthly basis. All members of Wesley are invited to attend to hear more about the programs and ministries of Wesley Church. A Zoom option is available. Meeting minutes are provided in the Third Street entry area and via our weekly e-mail blast. Contact Pastor Mark (mreisinger@susumc.org) with any questions.

PAW Ministry: The latest edition of Wesley's Prayer AnyWhere online prayer ministry, coordinated by Cynthia Willis, is available on Wesley's Facebook page...check it out! www.facebook.com/wesleybloomsburg

Prayer Shawl Ministry: All knitters and crocheters are invited to the next gathering of Wesley's Prayer Shawl Ministry on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1pm in the Coffee Café. If you know someone who would appreciate the comfort a prayer shawl brings, or for additional information, contact Mollie Harris (570-387-0368) or Janet Lee (570-847-4895). The next gathering will be on Tuesday, February 11, at 1pm.

Bloomsburg Food Cupboard Collection: The Bloomsburg Food Cupboard requests specific donations, items that are greatly needed, each month of the year. Please consider picking up a few items to donate, leaving them at Wesley's "Donation Station," just inside the Murray Ave. door or at the designated location in the 3rd St. entry area. Specific items being collected in January are dried pasta and spaghetti sauce.

Soup For Veterans: Wesley is collecting cans of soup to be distributed to military veterans through the Columbia County VA Clinic. Bring your cans of soup each Sunday to the table located in the Third Street entry area.

"Keep It Flowing" Quarter Collection: The Women of Wesley are collecting quarters! Each month all money collected will be donated to a different ministry of Wesley UMC. Money collected in January will go toward Wesley's prayer shawl ministry. There's a table in the back of the sanctuary where you can drop your change. In December we collected \$61.54 for Wesley's choir ministry.

Men of Wesley: The MoW meet for breakfast at Morris Family Restaurant (6305 Columbia Blvd.) at 8am on the 4th Saturday of each month. The next breakfast gathering will be at on Saturday, January 25. All men are invited to this time of food and fellowship!

Wesley Ministries & Opportunities to Serve

Becoming a Member of Wesley UMC: If you feel as if it might be time, in this new year, to make a new commitment in your journey of following Jesus and participating in the life of Christ's Church, now is a great time to consider becoming a member of Wesley UMC. If you would like to talk more about what it means to be a member, reach out to Pastor Mark (570-784-1407 or mreisinger@susumc.org).

Sunday School Classes: Wesley's regular Sunday School classes meet every Sunday morning at 9:15am. All are invited to attend these times of learning & fellowship. Here's a list of our current Sunday School class offerings, all meeting in Wesley's Education Wing (*Flr. 2R*):
Adult "Pilgrimage" Class: Rm. 2R-1, Studying Paul's letters, led by Dennis Frohlich
Youth SS Class (Grades 6-12): Rm. 2R-2C, led by Kelly Stiner & Kathy Beidler
Grades 3-5 Kids SS Class: Rm. 2R-2B, led by Jane Bercher
Grades K-2 Kids SS Class: Rm. 2R-4, led by Kathy Heddens
Preschool SS Class: Rm. 2R-4, led by Bev Wintersteen

Community Friendship Meal 2024: We would like to thank the groups that volunteered to serve the Community Friendship Meal during 2024. This program, which has been serving the community since 2002, would not be possible without the many volunteers and groups who help prepare and serve the weekly meal. We are now in the process of scheduling groups for Saturdays in 2025. If you know of a group that might be willing to serve, please have them check out the information found on the Wesley United Methodist Church website – wesleybloom.com, and clicking on the Friendship Meal link. Questions can be emailed to Brian & Jane Bercher at bloomfriendshipmeal@gmail.com.

Offering Envelopes: The 2025 weekly offering envelopes are now available in the Third Street entry area. Pick-up your box of envelopes Sunday before or after worship. Your continued generosity is appreciated!

Men of Wesley Bowling & Pizza Party: The Men of Wesley are once again sponsoring an all-church bowling & pizza party on Sunday, January 26, 1pm-3pm, at Midway Lanes (1405 Montour Blvd., Danville). Cost is \$10./bowler, and pre-registration is asked so the MoW know how many lanes to reserve. Pizza will be provided at the bowling alley. All are invited for this time of fun & fellowship!

Scout Sunday: Wesley will once again celebrate the scouting ministries that meet in our church with a special Scout Sunday worship service on Sunday, February 2, 10:30am. Plan to be present to support and hear more about the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts who regularly meet at Wesley.

Online Giving to Wesley UMC: In an effort to be better stewards of our financial resources and create an easier process for online financial giving to Wesley in 2025, we are moving to a new online giving company, American Church. See the insert in today's bulletin for more information, or reach out to Wesley's Treasurer, John Stone (treasurer@wesleybloom.com) with questions and to sign-up for regular online giving. You can also scan the QR code below to be taken directly to the site to sign-up for online giving. As always, your financial generosity to Christ's work at Wesley is appreciated!



Sunday, January 19, 2025

Scripture Reading: John 2:1-11

*Joy is that deep settled confidence that God is in control
of every area of my life. —Paul Sailhamer*

Today's Bible reading tells the story of Jesus' first recorded miracle: the transformation of water to wine at the wedding in Cana. I wonder if the attendees received wedding invitations?

This reminds me of a passage in Isaiah 55: "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (v. 1). Sounds like an invitation, doesn't it?

In verses 1-3 of Isaiah 55, the prophet utters a dozen imperative verbs, a full one-third of which are the command to "come." Come to the waters; come, buy and eat; come, buy; come to me, he cries. And then he adds, "Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ... return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on [you] and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (vv. 6-7). Again, this sounds like an invitation.

So, if you received a wedding invitation, how would you respond? The three most popular RSVPs are "joyfully accepts," "regretfully declines" or "not sure."

God knows who we are and invites us to attend the feast that's been prepared for us "before the foundation of the world." To that end, we might pray — in the words of the liturgy:

*By your Spirit make us one with Christ, One with each other,
And one in ministry to all the world, Until Christ comes in final victory
And we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
All honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, Now and forever.
Amen!*

So, how shall we respond? Joyfully accepts? Regretfully declines? Or not sure?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except that of knowing that we do your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

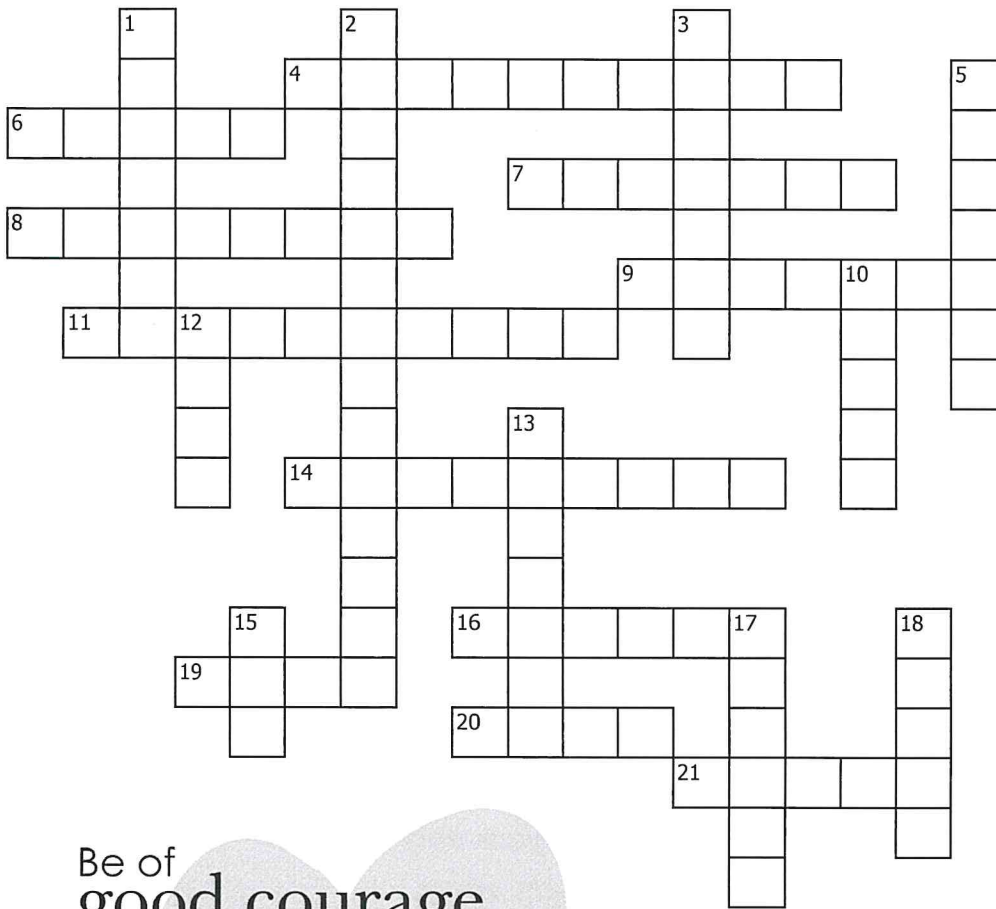
—Ignatius of Loyola

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Matthew 8-11
- Monday:** Matthew 12-15
- Tuesday:** Matthew 16-19
- Wednesday:** Matthew 20-22
- Thursday:** Matthew 23-25
- Friday:** Matthew 26-28
- Saturday:** Psalms 4-6

DANIEL, A SERVANT OF GOD

In the book of Daniel, we read of a young man who was extremely gifted and also committed to serving God, no matter how difficult the challenges. Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.



CLUES

1. Shadrack was thrown into this, 3:20
2. A king who went mad, 4:33
3. A friend of Daniel, 1:6
4. Saw handwriting on the wall, 5:9
5. Daniel's weeks, 9:24
6. Persian king, 10:1
7. Interpreter of Daniel's vision, 8:16
8. One of three friends, 3:19
9. Capital city of Chaldea, 1:1
10. What the den was full of, 6:16
11. Daniel's menu preference, 1:12
12. Animal with horn between its eyes, 8:5
13. A chief prince, 10:13
14. One of the last kings of Judah, 1:1
15. Number of horns on the fourth beast, 7:7
16. The Mede king, 5:31
17. The king made one for the people to worship, 3:14 (NRSV)
18. A word on the wall, 5:27
19. The second of four beasts, 7:5
20. Feet of ..., 2:33
21. What was cut from the mountain, 2:45 (NRSV)

Be of
good courage
and he shall
strengthen
your heart.

Psalm 27:14