

CORNERSTONE

GROWING THE FAMILY OF GOD



Sawyer Wayne Murray, age 8, was baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit on Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 11.

Sawyer is the son of Tyler Murray, who joined the church as a professing member on the same day, and Ashley Murray. He is also the grandson of Wesleyan Chapel members Cindy and David Murray.

Pastor Susanne joyfully walked the aisle with Sawyer, proclaiming God's claim on his life through water and the Spirit. Thanks be to God!

We welcome Tyler as our newest professing member and Sawyer as our newest Baptized member. You'll see them each week in the 8:30 service, and we give thanks for their commitment to service and ministry here at Wesleyan Chapel.

As everyone in both services on that day was

called to remember our Baptisms, we give thanks that God claims us and calls us beloved! It is through our Baptisms that we are empowered and challenged to uphold the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 5 Girl Scouts 6pm
- 9 LIFT 7pm
- 10 Stephen Ministry Meeting 10am
- 11-12 Lydia Abbey Craft Meeting 9am- 3pm
- 14 UMM Valentine's Dinner & Show 6pm Valentine's Day
- 16 President's Day- No Preschool Our New Normal 10am
- 17 JOY Group 10am

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 18

- 18 PNV Ash Wednesday Service 10:30am Ash Wednesday Service 6pm
- 19 Girl Scouts 6pm Lenten Bible Study Begins 7pm
- 22 First Sunday of Lent
- 26 Preschool Dad's Art Night 6pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 8:30 am | Casual Worship |
| 9:30 am | Breakfast |
| 9:45 am | Sunday School |
| 11:00 am | Traditional Worship & Children's Church |
| 5:00 pm | MYF |

Mondays: Boy Scouts 7pm

Tuesdays: Pickleball 1pm

Cub Scouts 6pm

Gamblers Anonymous 7pm

Wednesdays: Adult Bible Study 9:30am

Worship at PNV 10:30am

K-5 Alive Weekly 4:30 pm

Handbells & Choir 6:15pm

Thursdays: Buddy Backpacks 9am

For the complete, up-to-date church calendar, please go online to wesleyanchapel.org



FEB ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Betty Griggs	12
Tom & Karin Atkins	15
David & Victoria Hoover	15
Ralph & Ora Lee Simmons	21
Doug & Nancy Patterson	23

FEB BIRTHDAYS

Arnold Lynch	1
Marie Millis	1
Martha Kennedy	5
Katherine Horst	6
Phyllis Blake	7
Penny Wenzel	9
Catherine Rogerson	12
Pat Myers	14
Virginia Teachey	14
Danny Horst	17
Jordan Corbett	19
Jason Mann	22
Al Howard	23
Nancy McKelvey	23
George Gamble	25
Harvey Holland	27
Whitney Strong	27
Marsha Holland	28

Welcome OUT A NEW IDEA

France.

The new idea – WELCOME OUT – would be taking the “welcome” of our church into the surrounding community. We are already doing this with our Senior Ministries at Porters Neck Village and The Davis Community. We have been talking about it for a while, and now we need to focus on the neighborhoods around us. We have hundreds, maybe thousands, of new residents just a stone’s throw away from the church. We do not just need to invite them to church; we need to get to know them and invite them into ministry with us. Wouldn’t it be grand if we had another 100 people from the neighborhood working on Rise Against Hunger with us? What this idea needs is “meat on the bones.” It needs a solid leader who can organize it, and it needs a team of brainstormers and doers. There is work to be done, and I am wondering who God is calling to do it. Is it you? Pray about it and let me know!

-Pastor Susanne

*Pictured at right:
Representatives of both
Wrightsville UMC and
Wesleyan Chapel UMC on
Announcement Day at The
Davis Community on
December 16, 2025.*



WESLEYAN CHAPEL JOINS WRIGHTSVILLE UMC TO BRING WEEKLY WORSHIP TO THE DAVIS COMMUNITY!



In December, we announced a partnership with Wrightsville United Methodist Church to offer worship each week at The Davis Community. The Wrightsville team will be leading on the first and third Tuesdays at 4 pm, and Wesleyan Chapel’s new Davis team will lead on the second and fourth Tuesdays. The Community is thrilled to have this new service and since Wrightsville has been offering it for a few months, attendance has consistently exceeded 20 people each time. There’s room for more team members! Contact Jean Schild at djeanschild@gmail.com or Pastor Susanne at susanne.priddy@nccumc.org to get involved.

Pictured left: The new WCUMC Davis Team from left: Al Howard, Kay Howard, Jean Schild (team leader), JoAnn Carpitella, Kathy Daniels, and Rena Gyorke (not pictured, Susanne Priddy).

At its first meeting of 2026, our Church Council, newly led by Arnold Lynch, blessed the idea of a possible new ministry. I’m calling it WELCOME OUT. Let me explain.

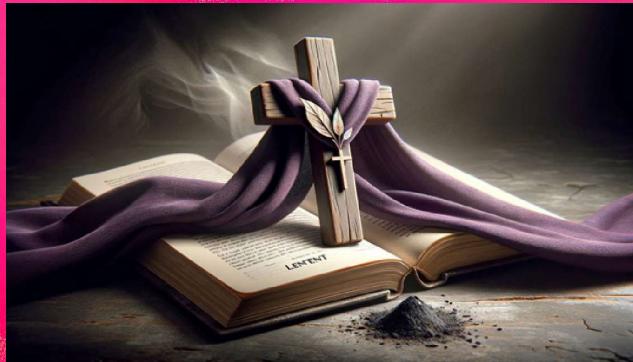
We do a great job of welcoming people into the church. And we have a great Welcome Team who follows up with visitors, led by Karen

LENT 2026 Renewed in Mercy: A Journey Toward New Life

This year, our Lenten theme centers on our journey with Jesus—a journey that leads through repentance, renewal, and into new life. Lent invites us to walk intentionally with Christ, not as distant observers, but as disciples shaped by his presence, his teachings, and his self-giving love.

As we journey through these forty days, we are called into spiritual formation, both personal and communal. Along this path, we come to see more clearly that God's mercy and grace are ever-present—not as distant ideals, but as living realities that meet us in our weakness, our questions, and our need for transformation.

As we walk with Jesus toward the cross, we do so with confidence in the promise of resurrection. The practices of Lent prepare our hearts to receive the new life God longs to bring forth—a life marked by deeper faith, renewed compassion, and a clearer witness to Christ's love in the world.



- **February 18- Ash Wednesday Service at 6pm:** *Renewed in Mercy - walking with Jesus in mercy and grace*
- **February 22- First Sunday of Lent:** *Mercy on the Wilderness Road*
- **March 1- Second Sunday of Lent, Communion Sunday:** *Guided by Promise*
- **March 8- Third Sunday of Lent:** *Companion for the Journey*
- **March 15- Fourth Sunday of Lent:** *Journeying in Grace*
- **March 22- Fifth Sunday in Lent:** *Redemption Road*
- **March 29- Palm Sunday:** *Fifth Sunday combined service, Easter Cantata & K-5 Program*
- **April 2- Maundy Thursday Service at 6pm**
- **April 3- Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 9am**
- **April 5- Sunrise Easter Service and Easter Communion Services**

A Grace-Filled Beginning to Lent

Please plan to attend the **Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 18, at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary**, as we begin the holy season of Lent together. For those

at Portners Neck Village and The Davis Community, a service will be held that morning at 10:30 am in the Auditorium at PNV.

In the Wesleyan tradition, Ash Wednesday is not about guilt or shame, but about **grace that meets us in honesty**. The ashes remind us of our mortality—“*we are dust, and to dust we shall return*”—and at the same time point us toward the **hope of God's renewing love**. Lent begins with truth-telling: about our limits, our need, and our longing for God.

John Wesley understood repentance not as despair, but as a **means of grace**—a doorway through which God's healing and transforming love can work more deeply in us. We will focus on grace and mercy throughout Lent.

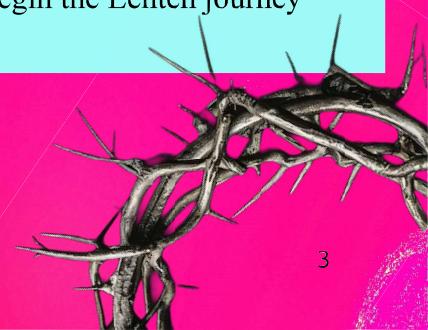
In worship, prayer, Scripture, and the imposition of ashes, we open ourselves anew to God's sanctifying grace, trusting that God never leaves us where we are, but always invites us toward wholeness.

This Ash Wednesday service will begin with our K-5 children inviting us to “be still and know that I am God” through music. The short service will be a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal as we set our hearts toward Christ's journey to the cross—and beyond it, to resurrection life.

Invite friends and neighbors. All are welcome. Come as you are, and begin the Lenten journey grounded in grace.



ASH WEDNESDAY



UMM Update

The United Methodist Men gathered on January 5, 2026, for their first meeting of the new year, sharing fellowship over dinner before moving into a time of prayer and discernment. Pastor Rick opened with prayer and a devotional exploring non-biblical historical references to Jesus and John the Baptist. During the meeting, officers for 2026 were elected: Dickie Spears and Ken Jolly as Co-Presidents; Steve Beuth as Vice President; Jimmy Schiff as Treasurer and Secretary; and Rick France as Program Coordinator and Chaplain. Plans were also finalized for a Valentine's Day Dinner on February 14 at 6:00 p.m. in Lee Hall, open to all adults of the church and catered by Victoria Hoover.

On March 2, Islam Zazai, the father of the family whom Wesleyan Chapel continues to support, will be our guest speaker, sharing his experiences of coming to America and the challenges of being a refugee. Mission opportunities and potential financial support will be further discerned at the March meeting as the United Methodist Men continue to grow in faith, fellowship, and service.

ANNUAL UMM VALENTINE DINNER APPROACHES

Join us for a fun-filled evening of food and talents! Our dinner will be catered by Victoria's Catering, offering: Chicken delight or roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, macaroni and cheese, strawberry pretzel salad, dinner rolls, and red velvet cake or parfait for dessert.

We will also have a talent show; sign up to showcase your talents! Tickets are \$20 per person and must be purchased by February 6. To help us cover the upfront costs for food and preparations, all ticket sales are final. If you find you're unable to attend, please know that your ticket cost will be treated as a thoughtful donation for charitable giving by the UMM.



Wesleyan Chapel

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

preschool ENROLLMENT

2026-2027

opens January 20!

for ages 1-4



Call or Text for a Tour!

910-520-1911

wcumcpreschool@gmail.com



2026 Is Off to a Great Start at Our Preschool!

The new year has begun with excitement and positive energy throughout our preschool, and we're thrilled to say that 2026 is already off to a wonderful start!

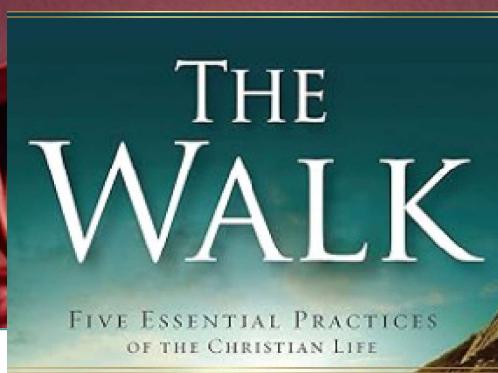
Registration for the 2026–2027 school year is now open, and we're excited to welcome both returning and new families as they plan for the year ahead. We look forward to another year of growth, discovery, and joyful learning together.

Inside our classrooms, children are busy having fun while learning new things every day. Through hands-on activities and creative play, they are building early academic and social skills while exploring, asking questions, and developing a love of learning in a warm and nurturing environment.



We cannot wait to see what the rest of 2026 brings as we continue learning, growing, and having fun together!





LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Rick for a 6-week Lenten study on Thursday nights, based on *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. This study explores how Jesus modeled a life of faithful discipleship and how the Church has practiced that way of life for centuries. Each week focuses on one of five essential spiritual practices—worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness—examining their New Testament roots and how they shape our daily lives and our life together as a church. Come grow deeper in your walk with Christ this Lenten season. *Advance registration is required—contact the Church Office, Rick France, or mark your Sunday attendance card to register!*

When: Thursdays, beginning February 19, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, until March 26, 2026



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Our Stephen Ministry team continues its ministries within our congregation. Please contact Miriam or Rick to be connected with us for a caring, faith-filled conversation. We are always ready to serve! In other news, we are also planning a Church-wide program for later in the year about a topic of concern to all of our families. We will spread information about this as the weeks progress and our plans come together. Blessings and Happy New Year to all!

UMM Bible Study

On February 18, our bible study will shift from the controversial topics of *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* to the study of spiritual practices found in Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk*. If you cannot make the Thursday evening classes, you are welcome to join us in the choir room on Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:00 am.

Women's Bible Study: *Growing Together in the Word*

All women are invited to join our Women's Bible Study, which meets on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 am in the Conference Room, except during crafting weeks (the group will not meet on February 11). In the past, many women felt they had to choose between crafting and Bible study. To make it possible to participate in both, Women's Bible Study will now pause during crafting weeks. We're excited about this change and hopeful it will offer flexibility and encouragement as we continue to serve and learn together.

Our current group of nearly a dozen women is studying the Gospel of Mark, reading directly from their favorite Bibles. Each week includes shared reading, thoughtful discussion, and occasional research as we discover how Scripture continues to speak into our lives today. The Bible always has something new to teach us, no matter how many times we return to its pages.

Whether you are new or have been studying Scripture for years, you are warmly invited to join this welcoming circle of sisters in Christ. There is always room at the table. Bring your Bible and a smile, and enjoy meaningful conversation and fellowship with our dedicated leaders—Miriam Shipp, Jennifer Hooks, and Karen France—who help make each gathering both enriching and joyful.





Pennies for Hunger



After a devotional on “*Why Fellowship Is So Much More Than Potluck Meals*,” we finalized our schedule of restaurants for upcoming monthly gatherings and then broke into small groups to enjoy games together. Since we’re starting a new year, we decided to try something new and played games we don’t usually choose—*Tetris* and *Qwirkle*—which made for lots of fun and laughter. Join us this month:

**TUESDAY
FEB 17, 10AM**

in Lee Hall. For those who would like to continue the fellowship over a meal, we will head to The Boathouse afterward.

January Collection: \$ 161.66

2026 Total: \$ 161.66

We have had such strong collections over the past few years that we have consistently been able to fund the eight long-supported ministries, each receiving a \$400 donation—a total of \$3,200. Because of this generosity, we are raising the expectation this year to support 10 ministries, which will require at least \$4,000. While our January collection is a bit slim, we are confident that by year’s end we will meet—and likely exceed—this goal.

Pennies for Hunger contributions support a variety of ministries and organizations that address food insecurity. ***Our next collection date is February 8.*** In addition to pennies, we gladly accept all coins, paper money, checks, and even online contributions. If you are interested in helping with this ministry as a counter, please contact **Beth Sanders at 910-470-2725 or efsanders@charter.net.**

Penny Fact: The original design on the back of the Lincoln penny featured two wheat stalks flanking the words “One Cent.” Produced from 1909 to 1958, it was commonly known as the wheat penny or wheat cent.

Stitching Forward: LYDIA ABBEY CRAFT CIRCLE LAUNCHES BAZAAR 2026 WITH CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY

New year, new ideas, and new faces! The January 14 meeting of the Craft Circle began with strong attendance and wonderful fellowship. Excited to begin preparations for Bazaar 2026, twenty-eight ladies gathered to review lessons learned from last year’s successful fundraiser. Inventory sheets were shared, highlighting profit breakdowns along with the best-selling and highest-grossing items from Bazaar 2025. New project samples and creative ideas were also presented and displayed in the Chapel Sanctuary for preview and voting. As always, we are grateful for your continued support in providing supplies for our crafting projects. We are currently in need of the following items: cotton fabric (small prints), greenery of all kinds (not just Christmas), wooden frames (5x7), decorative frames (5x7 and 6x10), Christmas ornaments (various styles), colorful buttons, women’s sweatshirts (medium, large, and extra-large), older standard light bulbs (40, 60, 100, or 150 watt), and gently used, clean “attic treasures.” Items may be placed on the right-side back pew of the Chapel.

Requests for financial assistance for mission-related projects will be considered at the February meeting. All requests should be submitted in writing to Beth Sanders or Michelle Pearsall prior to that meeting. ***The next scheduled crafting sessions will be held on Wednesday, February 11, and Thursday, February 12, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Chapel.***

Hope in Action:

Walking with the Zazai Family Toward Stability, Safety, and New Beginnings

The Zazai children enjoyed their first movie theater experience in early January, seeing *David*. They were thrilled and absolutely loved it, leaving with big smiles. The children also received a bonus treat afterward—one of their favorites, McDonald’s french fries. In addition, the team provided the family with winter-appropriate bedding and clothing, as well as small Christmas gifts for the children.

All of the children have completed their dental care visits, with some requiring extensive work. They are now using the electric toothbrushes that were provided, which we hope will help reduce future dental issues. Assistance is also being given to enroll the youngest child in Pre-K and to obtain the required immunizations for enrollment.

With upcoming trips to the beach and access to the community pool at the Reserve apartment complex, the team decided—out of concern for safety—to enroll the children in swimming lessons at the Wilmington YMCA at a significantly reduced rate. The four-week program began on January 10, with team members coordinating and providing transportation to the boys’ and girls’ sessions, which have varying start times. As of this writing, the children are doing well and loving the experience.

Halima continues to expand her product line and has recently learned to sew soup bowl cozies and other popular items—wonderful gift ideas. A donated sewing table, properly suited for her machine, will make her work more manageable going forward. Sales from Halima’s products covered the January booth rental with a modest surplus; however, help meeting February’s rent would be greatly appreciated. New and existing items can be found at Halima’s Creations booth at the back of The Village, 5935 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington. Please stop by and help support Halima as she grows her business. The family’s budget remains extremely tight, as previously shared. Without the government assistance they currently receive, they would not be able to meet their basic needs. The team plans to meet soon to discuss ongoing support, upcoming family needs, and possible steps toward greater self-sufficiency. Input regarding job opportunities for Islam that would offer advancement beyond his current position is welcome—please contact any team member to explore possibilities. Much work remains, and the team is deeply grateful for the progress the family has made and continually blessed by the faithful support of our church family.



**WIGGLES
WELCOME:
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH**

During the 11:00 am worship service, children are invited to leave the sanctuary and walk to the chapel for their own age-appropriate worship service. Adult leaders follow the same basic order of worship as in the sanctuary, including the daily Scripture and lesson, but in ways designed especially for children. They are encouraged to move around, play rhythm instruments, act out Scripture, and even “talk” through Communion on the first Sundays of the month. This group ranges from three young participants to as many as nine children, mostly in kindergarten through seventh grade. It is a flexible worship opportunity for wiggly kids—and adults, too (helpers are always welcome!). Over the years, children have asked why Children’s Church doesn’t include crafts, magicians, talent, or pet shows. Ms. Karen always gives the same answer: “Whenever they do that in the sanctuary during worship, we will be sure to do that in Children’s Church.”

Invite your friends and come see what we do!

LIFT: Growing in Faith, Friendship, and Belonging

Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT) recently finished their study of *The Belonging Project* by Amberleigh Neese. We will begin a new study later this month.

If you are a woman looking for a small group of sisters in Christ, we invite you to join us on the second Monday of each month. Our February gathering will be on February 9 at 7:00 pm, upstairs in Lee Hall.

Friendly Faces, Open Hearts: Our Welcome Is Making a Difference!

In this new year of 2026, we continue to have visitors “checking us out” on Sunday mornings. Each visitor who fills out a yellow Connection Card receives a thank-you-for-visiting email during the week. It is always encouraging to receive email responses commenting on how friendly our people are!

We are a friendly congregation, and it shows. Please continue sharing smiles, handshakes, and a bit of conversation with those around you during worship on Sundays. In doing so, you may meet a first-time visitor—or even a longtime member you’ve never met before. Thank you for being such an important part of our Welcome Team!



**SUPPORT OUR
MYF
Easter
CHOCOLATE PEANUT
BUTTER EGGS
SALE**
\$10 EACH
SIGN UP NOW - PICKUP MARCH 29TH

MYF Kicks Off the New Year with Faith, Fun, and Fellowship!

Our youth kicked off the New Year by learning about Epiphany! We played What's in the Box, had great conversations about the wise men in the Christmas story, and enjoyed a spaghetti dinner.

We have a busy year planned, including bowling, service projects, fundraisers, and learning about God's purpose for our lives. One upcoming fundraiser is Peanut Butter Eggs—order yours now for \$10 by contacting Ms. Jamie. MYF meets on Sundays from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, and all middle and high school youth are welcome—bring a friend!

Growing Young Disciples: K-5 Alive Begins a New Season of Learning and Joy

Our K-5 Alive children's program began on January 7 and now includes 15 kids alongside a group of enthusiastic volunteers. The children are exploring *A Journey to Easter*, discovering more about Lent and Holy Week.

Sunday School takes place each Sunday at 10:00 am upstairs, with classes available for K-2 and grades 3-5. Don't forget these important dates: the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 27 at 6:00 pm, and Vacation Bible School will be June 22-26!





Pictured below: Our youth had an awesome time at High Tides and Good Vibes, playing darts and laser tag! Fun, games, and great memories all around!



Lift Your Voice: Join the Chancel Choir and Handbells This Season

Come join the Chancel Choir on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm Singing together not only draws us closer to God, it also brings many joyful and healing benefits. Now is a wonderful time to give the choir a try—we would love to have you.

The Chancel Choir is beginning preparations for our Lenten Cantata, to be presented on Palm Sunday, March 31. This year's cantata will be especially meaningful as we join voices with the K-5 Children's Choir and the Adult Handbell Choir for a beautiful and heartfelt worship experience.

The Handbell Choir also has an opening for another ringer. If you can read music and would like to participate, join us on Wednesday evenings 6:15–7:00 pm. The Handbell Choir plays monthly in worship services and would be delighted to welcome a new member.



Girl Scouts at Wesleyan Chapel

Girl Scout Troop 1731 is grateful to Wesleyan Chapel for providing a welcoming place to meet and grow together. The troop includes Girl Scout Brownies, who are building confidence, learning new skills, and serving their community through fun and meaningful activities.

The troop meets twice a month on the second and fourth Thursdays at 6:00 pm.



It is also Girl Scout Cookie season! If you are interested in purchasing cookies, would like a Girl Scout to walk your neighborhood, or are interested in the Girl Scout program, please contact Girl Scout Leader Diane Veneziale. Email: DianeVeneziale@gmail.com

Troop 1731 truly appreciates the continued support of this congregation as they learn, lead, and serve.



Pictured above: Kinsley poses with her cookies- ready to go! Girl Scout Cookies are an important building block for Girl Scouts to follow their dreams. Along with important skills like confidence and relationship building, each package you buy funds their next ambition. Sale Ends: March 8, 2026.

Ministry Item of the Month:

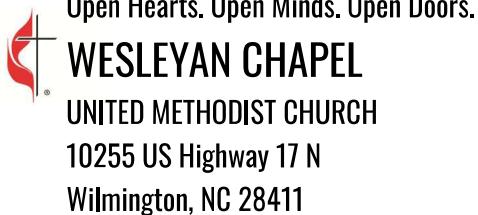
SHARE THE TABLE

Fighting Hunger in North Carolina

Share the Table operates a food pantry where families and individuals may shop for groceries once per week, with the pantry open four days a week. Let's stock the pantry shelves this month with boxes of CEREAL - any brand, any size box.

Food insecurity affects many in our region, including working families, children, seniors, and even those above the poverty line. The need is especially great locally, with 14% of people and 20% of children in Pender County facing food insecurity. Through Share the Table, our community is responding with compassion and hope to help neighbors in need. Place your boxes of cereal in the Ministry Item boxes located in the narthex, choir hall, and Lee Hall.

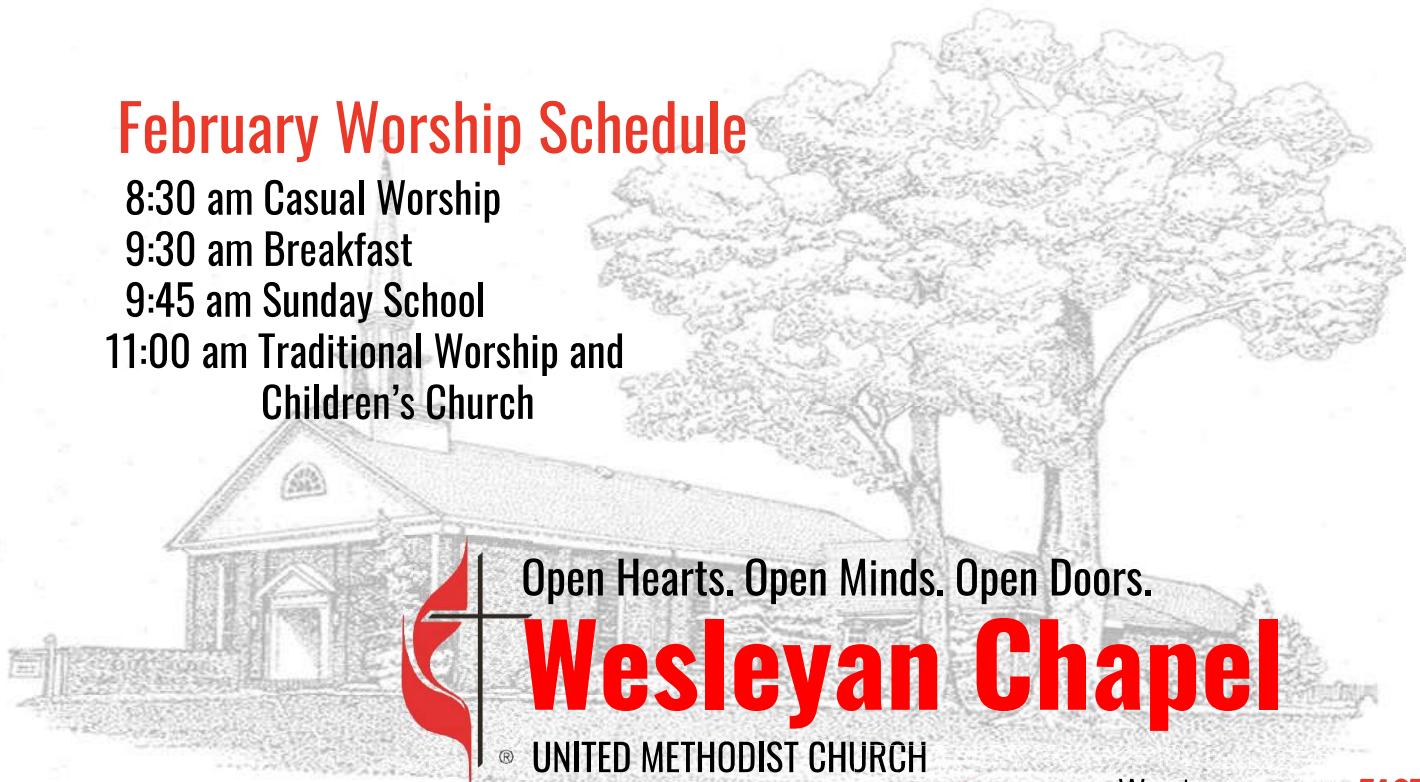




Change Service Requested

February Worship Schedule

8:30 am Casual Worship
9:30 am Breakfast
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional Worship and
Children's Church



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Wesleyan Chapel

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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