

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

WWW.WESLEYUMCPHOENIX.ORG



April-June 2025



Ways to Connect

Wesley United Methodist Church
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✉ wesleyumcphx@gmail.com

▶ [Wesley United Methodist Church](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

f [Facebook.com/WesleyUMCPhoenix](https://www.facebook.com/WesleyUMCPhoenix)

Rev. Connelly: pastor2wanda@gmail.com
Pastor's Office hours:
Wednesday and Friday, 10 am – 3 pm
Please call to make an appointment

2025 Theme

2025: A Year of Miracles.

By faith, we are soaring to new heights

Upcoming Events

- **Every Sunday: Worship at 10 AM In person and online.**
- Daily: Wesley Intercessory prayer at 7 am and 7 pm.
- Bible Study: Wednesdays In-Person at 10AM and Virtually at 7PM (Zoom link available on website calendar)
- Palm Sunday: April 13th, 2025
- Easter Sunday: April 20th, 2025





WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT

Wesley United Methodist Church



750 E SOUTHERN AVE, PHOENIX AZ, 85040



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The Resiliency Center

Open Wednesdays and Fridays

On-Site free access to the following:

- Limited laundry
- New & gently used clothing items
- Outdoor shower
- Hygiene supplies
- Water

Food Bank

- Wednesdays starting at 11 a.m. to prepare & pack the food bags.
- Distribution on Fridays, with an arrival time of 12:30 to help prepare for the 1 p.m.

Online Giving



For online giving, please download the Tithe.ly app from the App store or Google play store or scan the QR Link for Wesley's Tithe.ly account.



You can now use Zelle to make your donations. Add Wesley UMC as a recipient in your banking app using this email address
wesleyphxtreasurer@gmail.com. Or you may also use this QR code to access Zelle

Message from the Pastor

As we enter the second quarter of A Year of Miracles, I want to thank God for all the miracles we have experienced. Take a moment to think about how God has sprinkled miracles all around us. We celebrate each miracle.

I also encourage us to continue to expect miracles as we open our spiritual eyes to experience all that is to come. I pray that our hearts have shifted to God despite the unrest in our country. Ultimately, God is in control and has the final say over our lives—FAITH over Fear is required in this time. We have embraced the miracles; let us walk confidently into the rim of manifestation.

We celebrate 40% membership growth, believing God will continue sending others. Wesley is now building a band and a praise team. We now have two pieces, piano and bass, and we are believing God for a drummer. We have a three-member praise team and welcome others to join us.

We had an exciting first quarter as we celebrated Black History Month with the theme “We Are Black History.” Several founding members shared their lived experiences in Wesley's history. We ended the month with a Prayer Breakfast. It was all fantastic. We continued celebrating Wesley's richness in March with Women's History Month. Again, we took the opportunity to spotlight a woman of Wesley each week. We celebrate active planning and donations to start renovating the kitchen.

God will always have a next. We have been put on this earth to be God's difference makers. In John 20:21, Jesus says to his disciples, “As the father has sent me, so I am sending you.” We are ordinary people capable of doing extraordinary things. What extraordinary things has God put inside you that you have not acted on? We will journey together to find the extraordinary that lives within us and believe in the manifestation of God's divine plan.

As we move into this next quarter, I call us to an attitude of intentionality. We are a faith community of believers that embodies God's richness. We all have gifts, unique talents, and wealth. We continue to bring God glory through the ministry of Wesley UMC. What is God calling you to do? Now is the time.

I pray for the Manifestation of God's miraculous signs in your lives. Manifestation will require our human responsibility. We are well-versed in divine intervention. Let's discover and fully manifest our human responsibility, which will open the windows of Heaven so God can pour blessings upon blessings.

God has so much in store for us; take the next step. I pray you will embrace your place in God's plan with expectant hearts. “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” — Ephesians 3:20 Go forth into the day with your heart open to manifest the extraordinary within you step by step.

Reverend Towanda N.T. Conelly

Palm Sunday



**PALM SUNDAY
SERVICE**

April 13th, 2025
10 a.m.

750 E Southern Ave,
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where crowds welcomed Him with palm branches, shouting "Hosanna!" It is a celebration of hope, peace, and the fulfillment of God's promises.

Good Friday



Guest Speakers

PASTOR TOWANDA CONNELLY • PASTOR GLENN DENNARD • PASTOR RHONDA SWEET • PASTOR LESEAN TARKINGTON
PASTOR KELVIN WILLIAMS • PASTOR JACK SPENCER • DR. WARREN H. STEWART SR.

**SEVEN LAST
SAYINGS OF CHRIST**

Good Friday Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH @ NOON
FIRST INSTITUTIONAL BAPTIST
CHURCH

AACCC
AFRICAN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN CLERGY COALITION

Guest Psalmist

Join us as Pastor Towanda Connelly shares a powerful word at the "Seven Last Sayings of Christ" Good Friday Service, hosted by the African American Christian Clergy Coalition. Friday, April 18th at 12 PM First Institutional Baptist Church, Phoenix

Easter 2025



Wesley's Kitchen Project



Thanks to the generosity of some amazing members of our Wesley family, we're excited to announce that our kitchen is getting a complete refurbishment! This much-needed update will help us better serve our community, host events, and continue the fellowship that happens around food and hospitality.

Events from the January-March 2025




WESLEY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Health Fair
2025
Join us for a day of wellness,
resources, and community!

**APRIL 4TH, 2025
11AM-3PM
750 E. SOUTHERN AVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85040**

Free Health Screenings, Physical Therapy & Stretching, Massage Therapy, Blood Pressure Checks, Heart Health, Wellness Consultations



 Wesley United
Methodist Church
Phoenix, AZ

Black History
Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 22nd
9:00am - 11:00am

750 E Southern Ave Phoenix, AZ

\$50 per person
Includes food and beverage

For ticket information, contact Luella Whiteside
luellaw65@gmail.com

"For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them."
Matthew 18:20

We're happy to share that our recent Health Fair was a great success—we served over 80 members of our community! It was a wonderful day of connection, care, and resources. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen!

Our Black History Prayer Breakfast was a powerful and uplifting celebration of faith, culture, and community. We shared stories, prayers, and a delicious meal in honor of Black History Month, reflecting on the strength and legacy of those who came before us. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made the morning so special!

Food Distribution



Health Fair 2025



Black History Month

Wesley celebrates Black History Month through It's own history.



Women's History Month

Wesley spotlights women of Wesley each week.



WESLEY NEEDS A DRUMMER

DRUMMER WANTED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH- PHOENIX, AZ

Location: 750 E. Southern Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85040

Schedule: Sunday Mornings (worship services & rehearsals)

Wage: To be discussed based on experience

How to Apply: Email your interest to
pastor2wanda@gmail.com

IF YOU HAVE A HEART FOR WORSHIP AND A PASSION FOR MUSIC,
WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM! JOIN US IN CREATING AN INSPIRING
ATMOSPHERE FOR OUR CONGREGATION!

Wesley History

In the fateful year of 1945, amidst the echoes of a world at war, Wesley United Methodist Church emerged as a beacon of hope and community in Phoenix, Arizona. It was a time when the indomitable Chaplain Allen L. Johnson, a decorated veteran and stalwart of the Army's 92nd Infantry Division, answered a divine call to nurture a new congregation.

Under Chaplain Johnson's visionary leadership, Wesley Episcopal Church was officially born on December 23, 1945, with a modest yet steadfast assembly of ten pioneers. Their names echoed through the corridors of history: D. F. Benson, Emma Gardner, O'Neal Gross, R. G. Johnson, Hattie Scott, Walter Scott, N. E. Swinton, Rosa Swinton, Grace Towns, and John W. McClinton.

From these humble beginnings sprang forth a flourishing community. By February 1946, the membership had swelled to 29, prompting the acquisition of larger quarters and the inauguration of morning services. Such was the irresistible momentum of faith and fellowship that by June 1946, 38 souls had found sanctuary within Wesley's nurturing embrace.

The inaugural year of Wesley witnessed milestones that resonated far beyond its walls. In December 1946, the congregation celebrated its first anniversary by moving into a bespoke sanctuary, a refurbished dwelling pulsating with the fervor of its burgeoning community. By year's end in 1947, the membership had burgeoned to 90, testament to the steadfast commitment and unwavering resolve of its faithful.

As Wesley's footprint expanded, so too did its ambitions. The pivotal gift of a prime property at East Washington and North 18th Streets by the Conference Board of Missions ignited ambitious plans for a new edifice. A fundraising campaign, marked by the purchase of every brick with hopeful contributions, epitomized the collective spirit propelling Wesley forward.

On April 9, 1948, sealed bids heralded the dawn of construction for the grand Wesley Church, embodying the dreams and aspirations of its community. Guided by Reverend Allen L. Johnson and an illustrious roster of leaders, including W. B. Scott, Bishop Martin, and Morris Ward, Wesley's steadfast journey continued to unfold.

The passing years ushered new chapters and custodians of Wesley's sacred mission. Reverends T. R. Albert, William H. Stevens, Charles F. Harlins, Rollins Winslow, and Ennis Whaley each left an indelible mark, enriching the tapestry of Wesley's narrative with their visionary stewardship and unwavering commitment.

Wesley History

Under Reverend Whaley's auspices, the dawn of a new sanctuary on East Southern marked a watershed moment, a testament to Wesley's enduring spirit and burgeoning influence. The installation of stained glass windows in May 1970 illuminated Wesley's commitment to spiritual splendor and community enrichment.

Reverend Richard Joseph Parker's tenure brought renewed collaboration and fellowship, epitomized by combined worship services with neighboring congregations. Reverend Emory Taylor's stewardship further expanded Wesley's reach through innovative community projects and cultural endeavors, culminating in a memorable Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

Throughout the decades, Wesley United Methodist Church remained steadfast in its commitment to spiritual growth and community service. Under the visionary leadership of Reverends Franklin Jamison, Dennis Hutson, Harold Palmer, and Alexander M. Mason, Wesley continued to evolve, embracing new generations and innovative programs that nurtured faith, fellowship, and cultural enrichment.

Today, Wesley United Methodist Church stands as a testament to resilience and community spirit, a sanctuary where generations past, present, and future find solace, strength, and inspiration amidst the ebbs and flows of life's journey.