

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

WWW.WESLEYUMCPHOENIX.ORG



January–March 2025



Ways to Connect

Wesley United Methodist Church
750 E Southern Ave Phoenix, AZ 85040
P.O. Box 8508, Phoenix, AZ 85066
Phone: (602) 268-9461 Fax: (602) 305-9424

✉ wesleyumcphx@gmail.com

▶ [Wesley United Methodist Church](https://www.youtube.com/WesleyUMCPhoenix)

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)
- Black History Month Prayer Breakfast: February 22nd, 9AM-11AM, Tickets: \$50



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT



Wesley United Methodist Church



750 E SOUTHERN AVE, PHOENIX AZ, 85040



WESLEYUMCPHOENIX.ORG

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2025: A YEAR OF MIRACLES – SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS IN CHRIST BY FAITH.

I believe this year will be full of miracles from God. Miracles are all around us. I encourage you to be intentional about focusing your senses to experience the miracles that surround you every day. Jesus' ministry magnifies miracles—from His first miracle of turning water into wine to His last, raising Lazarus from the dead. Including all the miracles in between, lives were changed.

We, too, experience miracles. The first miracle we receive at the start of each day is life on earth. The mere reality that we have opened our eyes today is a miracle to be thankful for. I sincerely urge you to expect miracles to happen all around you this year. Try God, and see! Malachi 3:10 says, "Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Miracles show God's glory and grace. Jesus is the source of our abundance.

In 2025, Wesley will be celebrating eighty years of ministry. We are choosing to embrace miracles as we strive to raise \$80,000 in honor of our 80th anniversary. Your participation in this effort is greatly appreciated. As we enter Black History Month, we will take the opportunity to delve into the history of Wesley UMC and the families that have paved the way for us to be here today, doing ministry at Wesley UMC. We will end the month with a blast at our Black History Month Prayer Breakfast.

God has so much in store for each of us. I pray that you will embrace it all 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 the miracles happening all around you.

Reverend Towanda N.T. Conelly

New Partnership

Wesley is proud to announce its continued support for mothers in South Phoenix through an exciting partnership with Family Tree Healthcare. Together, we are committed to uplifting moms and caregivers in our community.



**MAMA'S
- TIME TO
CREATE**

Free 6-Week Art & Wellness Workshop for Moms & Caregivers

For South Phoenix Moms and Caregivers

**Register Now-
Seats are limited!
USE THE QR CODE**



**TAKE TIME
FOR YOU!**

Class Dates:
Thursdays
Jan 30 - Mar 6th.
Times: 5 pm - 7 pm

Location: Wesley
United Methodist Church
750 E Southern Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85040

You'll Experience:

- Art Techniques
- Healing Practices
- Community Connections
- Lifestyle & Wellness

**Plus:
Art Show!**

Supported by a grant from



In partnership with



Events from the last quarter of 2024

A vibrant poster for a 'Paint & Praise Party' at Wesley United Methodist Church. The background is dark blue with silhouettes of people with their arms raised in praise. There are colorful musical notes and paint splashes. The text 'WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PHOENIX, AZ' is at the top. The main title 'Paint & Praise PARTY' is in a large, stylized font. Below it, a paintbrush icon is shown. A text box says '\$25 Ticket includes painting supplies, food, and refreshments.' Another text box says 'Saturday September 28th 12PM-2PM'. A QR code is provided for ticket purchase. A final text box says '750 E Southern Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85040' and 'wesleyumcphoenix.org'.

Game Night

Join us for a spooktacular night of games, food, and family fun!

750 E. Southern Ave. Phoenix, Arizona

Date: October 26, 2024

Time: 4-6 PM

Cost: \$10 per person

Payments can be made via Zelle or cash!

A poster for an 'Afternoon Tea' event at Wesley United Methodist Church. The background is teal with white line art of teacups, saucers, and cakes. The text 'AFTERNOON TEA' is in a large, stylized font. Below it, a text box says 'WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'. Another text box says 'ADMISSION \$40'. A third text box says 'WEAR YOUR FINEST HAT! PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED.' A fourth text box says 'SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 9TH | 11AM-2PM'. A fifth text box says '750 E SOUTHERN AVE, PHOENIX, AZ'. A QR code is provided for ticket purchase. A final text box says 'SECURE YOUR SPOT - SEND \$40 USING THE QR CODE OR PAY WITH CASH.' and 'DON'T MISS OUT!'.A poster for a 'Yard Sale' at Wesley United Methodist Church. The background is white with black stars. The text 'WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH' is at the top. The main title 'YARD SALE' is in a large, bold font. Below it, a text box says 'SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16TH'. A text box says 'FROM: 7AM-12PM'. A text box says 'DONATION DROPOFF: THURSDAY NOV. 14TH 2:00-5:00 P.M.'. A small illustration of a church with a cross on top is shown. At the bottom, contact information is provided: '750 E. SOUTHERN AVENUE, PHOENIX, AZ 85040', 'PHONE NUMBER: 602-268-9461', and 'WESLEYUMCPHOENIX.ORG WESLEYUMCPHX@GMAIL.COM'.

Paint & Praise Party!



Events from the last quarter of 2024

Wesley UMC's

Cookie and Coloring Party

750 E. Southern Ave.
Phoenix, Arizona

December 7, 2024

1-4 pm

\$5 per person

Join us for cookie
decorating, coloring, Hot
Cocoa, Christmas music
and a good time!



Events from the last quarter of 2024

Looking for a miracle, expecting the Impossible

CELEBRATING WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PHOENIX



Reverend Towanda N.T Connelly - Senior Pastor

WITH GUEST SPEAKER DR. KENJA HASSAN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH 2024
10AM

750 E. Southern Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85040

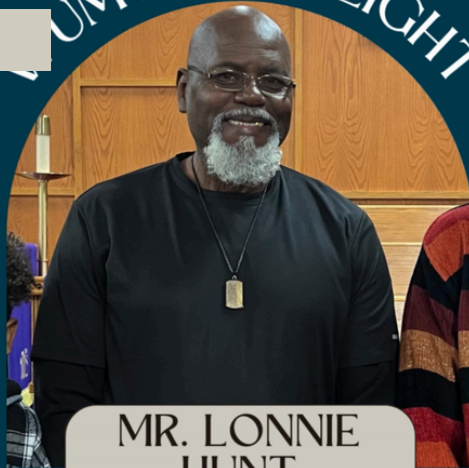
SPOTLIGHT

WUMC SPOTLIGHT



DONNA
PICKARD
KEYBOARD

WUMC SPOTLIGHT



MR. LONNIE
HUNT
BASS

WUMC SPOTLIGHT



TRISTAN
HUNT
DRUMS

NEW MEMBERS



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.