



## Wesley Memorial Methodist Church

### Missions and Community Impact Newsletter

*The purpose of Wesley Memorial is to make and sustain spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ who live in ways that transform the world*

#### 2025 Mission Team Members

<b>Charles Surles</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Ken Gullede</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
Lisa Cheek .....	Member
Pat Colonna .....	Member
Mary Drummond .....	Member
Matt Heald .....	Member
Brook Moore .....	Member
April Maines .....	Member
Becky Scholtz .....	Member
Buddy Wilson .....	Member
Jayne Lutz .....	At Large
Joe Lorber .....	At Large
Rev. Ken Lyon ...	Staff Liaison
David Adams .....	Lay Leader

#### Upcoming Events

First Sunday food collection  
on June 1<sup>st</sup>

Drive-in classic car show  
Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

New Missions Website



Stop by for the latest  
information from the  
Missions Committee

[mywesleymissions.com](http://mywesleymissions.com)

#### Easter Offering Results

With heartfelt gratitude, we're excited to share some wonderful news!

Thanks to the generous spirit of our congregation, we've raised a total of \$24,774 through this year's Easter Offering.

The Missions Committee will ensure that these gifts are put to meaningful use, with one-third of the funds—\$8,258 each—going to support each of the following incredible efforts:

**Commander Peace Academy** – These funds will help put the finishing touches on the non-profit's floor, provide tables for students to use for meals and homework, and support a full-day summer program running five days a week for six weeks.

#### Clinic in the Dominican Republic

– Donations will assist mission teams traveling to Batey 7, helping to purchase much-needed medicines and essential supplies for the clinic's operating room and medical outreach to the local community.

**Western North Carolina Relief Fund** – The offering will help sustain the propane assistance program and, as funding allows, support academic recovery initiatives by providing tutors for students working to catch up from disruptions caused by COVID and natural disasters.

We are truly thankful for your generosity and commitment to these important missions. Together, we are making a difference!

#### Wesley Garden Plot – A Green Opportunity to Give Back!

Tucked behind the church, you'll find our Wesley Garden Plot, where several raised beds are ready for gardeners to put their green thumbs to work! This wonderful initiative is part of our partnership with Grow High Point, and the fresh vegetables grown here will be shared with Open Door Ministries, West End Ministries, and our neighbors in need.

So far, six garden beds have been claimed, and we still have two available for anyone who's interested in joining. The boxes are prepped and ready—seeds and water are provided, so you can get started right away! It's a great way to help feed our community, and also a fun,

hands-on project for families to enjoy together.

If you'd like to sign up or learn more, please reach out to Pat Colonna at 336-906-2265 or [patcolonna@gmail.com](mailto:patcolonna@gmail.com). Pat can walk you through everything—from what to bring, to what's available, and how the schedule works.

Want to support the garden another way? We're currently looking for a small storage building to keep hand tools and other essentials on site. If you have one to donate—or know someone who does—please contact Pat.

Together, we can grow something truly meaningful!

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## Western North Carolina Relief Program Update

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### A Memorable Easter Weekend in Newland, NC

Over Easter weekend, a team from Wesley Memorial made the trip to Newland, NC to join forces with a wonderful group of volunteers from the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Rapids. Their goal? To bring joy, support, and encouragement to families in the area who are still feeling the effects of Hurricane Helene.

The Kiwanis Club had already made an incredible impact by delivering around 5,000 meals during Thanksgiving 2024, and this return visit was all about creating smiles—especially for the kids (and, let's be honest, the grown-ups too!).

### Getting Ready for the Big Day

The advance team arrived Friday afternoon and wasted no time transforming Cranberry Elementary School into a buzzing hub of activity. Candy-filled Easter eggs were packed, gifts were organized, decorations went up, and excitement filled the air as everyone prepared for a joyful Saturday.

### Easter Fun for Everyone

Saturday kicked off with a morning Easter egg hunt for the little ones at 11 a.m., followed by another for the older kids at noon. After the egg hunts, everyone came together to enjoy a pizza lunch—a hit with kids and adults alike!

Volunteers also ventured into Newland to hand out \$25 grocery gift cards and other essentials to community members. Meanwhile, the adults had their own special egg hunt in the school gym—complete with a golden egg worth \$300!

The evening wrapped up with a hearty lasagna dinner and live music from two local bands playing gospel and country favorites. It was a beautiful end to a full and fulfilling day—complete with a bunch of happy kids, grateful families, and, yes, some very tired volunteers.

### Sunrise & Reflections

Early Sunday morning, many gathered again for a sunrise service to celebrate the meaning of Easter. Afterward, a local motel generously hosted everyone for

breakfast—another kind gesture that made the weekend feel even more special.

It was truly an Easter to remember!

### What Comes Next

Once back in High Point, our team met to reflect on the trip and begin planning what's next. With the weather warming up, the need for propane assistance will start to ease, which means we can redirect those funds to other areas of need.

Here are three exciting initiatives we're currently exploring:

#### 1. Academic Recovery Support at Cranberry Elementary School

Many children in the Newland area have lost valuable class time due to COVID and the hurricane. Cranberry Elementary School is working hard to help students catch up—hiring retired teachers and bringing in volunteers to keep kids on track. We're exploring ways we can support this important work and help the school continue to improve from its former "D" rating.

#### 2. Partnering with Habitat for Humanity

The local Habitat chapter has recently hired a Disaster Recovery Coordinator who's already making a difference by matching local needs with available resources, like furniture from ReSale stores. We're planning to meet with them soon to see how we can collaborate.

#### 3. Connecting with the Western Youth Network

This amazing organization provides services for over 750 youth across five Western NC counties, including Avery (our focus area). Their programs include after-school support, trauma intervention, and especially tutoring initiatives—which we're particularly interested in as a way to aid in academic recovery.

We're excited about what lies ahead and look forward to sharing more soon. Stay tuned as we learn more about these opportunities and how we can continue making a meaningful impact together!



Welcoming supplies at the school



Workers loading eggs and baskets



One of the smiling faces we met



One of the Easter egg hunts



## New Wesley Missions Website

We invite you to go to

[www.mywesleymissions.com](http://www.mywesleymissions.com)

This site is your one-stop hub for all things related to Wesley Missions. Here's what you'll find:

- A list of Missions Committee members with email addresses
- Current & past newsletters
- Photos from our mission events
- Blog updates reporting Wesley's involvement in Western North Carolina (coming soon!)
- A listing of upcoming events—both near and far!
- A contact form to get a message to the committee

We'd love your feedback! If you have comments or suggestions to help improve the site, please reach out to a committee member—we're always looking for ways to make it even better.

**Check it out and stay connected!**

### Easter in Western North Carolina Pictures



Face painting is always a winner



Same thing for bubbles



... and Easter bunnies



Many families joined in



Everyone likes the bunny



Helpful hands unloading dinner



Once again, we are welcoming members of our larger community to either display their classic cars or come and look at some very special cars and trucks. The event will happen on **Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 10am and lasting until 2pm**. The location will be in the main circle in front of the administration building.

While there you will be able to see a variety of cars and trucks, listen to some good music of the time when these cars were "new", visit food vendors and hang out with friends.

There will also be a special car blessing at 12:00 PM in the front circle, proudly sponsored by Wheels4Hope—a wonderful nonprofit that helps individuals and families in need of dependable transportation.

Our church mission team supports Wheels4Hope by providing funds that help repair and service donated vehicles. These cars are then given to families right here in the High Point area.

It's easy to forget how much we rely on having a car—getting to work, taking the kids to school, running to the grocery store. Imagine trying to do all of that without one.

Through this partnership, we're helping to make everyday life a little easier for those in need. It's a gift that truly makes a difference.

Finally, Wesley Memorial will be providing hot dogs, gifts and prizes.

**Come and join us!**



No one goes hungry



One of two bands this evening