



# The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

April/May 2026



## LIFE'S CALMING NOISES

By Pastor Daryl Diddle

**A** couple of years ago, I wrote in these pages about how, while sleeping in our guest room (due to sickness, not to marital strife), I heard a faint humming sound coming from “somewhere above.” That article brought a lot of comments and questions, so let me say that I did finally find out the origin of that sound—it was a relay in our attic air conditioning unit. This past summer, that unit, unfortunately, needed to be replaced, so at a cost of many thousands of dollars, the hum is now forever gone.

Well, recently finding myself sick again (!) and sleeping in the guest room, I heard another sound—one which most of us in Wilmore recognize: the sound of a train approaching the Wilmore crossing. If you live in Wilmore, you likely know the sound I mean—the predictable train horn blasts in the same pattern: long blast, pause, long blast, pause, short blast, pause, a final long blast. As I lay there awake through the night (trying to breathe through dense congestion—TMI?), it was remarkably comforting to hear that same sound

every couple hours—long, long, short, long.

Of course the actual sounds were all a little different. They all sounded unique due to the Doppler effect, because the trains were moving. Most of them were also just a little different in tone and pitch, because no two actual horns are exactly the same. Even the timing of each one was a bit different due to the individual engineers pushing the button (or pulling the rope or however the operator actually sounds the horn).

Still, the sounds were unmistakable and predictably consistent—long, long, short, and then long—and we all know what it’s saying. It’s clear and not surprising; in fact, as I said, it’s actually comforting to realize that that part of life here in our town has not changed. The horns remind us that we need to clear the intersection and get ready to watch, because something big and unstoppable is approaching.

The Bible makes it clear that we will not know the precise time that the Lord Jesus is returning. Even Jesus said that he didn’t know. In the mystery of the Trinity, that moment is known only by God the Father.

Just the same, the Bible does note many of the signs of Jesus’ return. Unrest among the nations, unusual weather events, a rapidity to the spread of

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the gospel message, increasing angst among world leaders against Jesus and his people, the rise of false prophets, and widespread wickedness are just some of those “tones.”

Many people through the ages have used these “signs of the times” of their age to predict an exact day or time that Jesus would return. So far, all have been mistaken. We cannot allow that fact, however, to dull our perception of the signs and of what they are: signs that it’s only a matter of time before Jesus does, in fact, return to take full control of his kingdom here on Earth.

The more of these sorts of events that we see in our world (and we see many in these days, don’t we?), the more we should be thinking, “Clear the intersection and get ready to watch, because something big and unstoppable is approaching.”

And you know, for the believer, this is not in any way a fearsome reality—quite the opposite! It’s

## BIBLE QUIZZING

*By Hilary Fiskeaux, Fundraising Coach*

When you see awards on the organ, read the monthly meet recaps on our team Facebook page, or glimpse the national champion Alpha Omega trophies above Renae’s desk in the office, you probably realize how much work the Wilmore quizzers put into studying Scripture. Week in and week out, dozens of teens and tweens spend hours reading, memorizing, and practicing. (Isn’t it heartening to know that these young people are so often in the Word? It does not come back void!)

What you may not realize is how much *you* make a difference in our quiz year. Your interest in what the kids are learning, your regular encouragement, and particularly your prayers are such a gift to the team!

In a financial sense as well, the church helps sponsor the team’s monthly travel to out-of-state quiz meets and to National Finals in the summer.

actually a very comforting thought, that though the events themselves may wake us up at night, they all point to a tremendously good thing: the return of Jesus.

Even as I sit here and write these words, I’m hearing lots of noises in my house that are calming to me: the ice maker in our freezer getting ready to drop a new row of cubes, the furnace kicking on, the noise of our boys when they’re home, the garage door opening when someone’s coming home, and on and on. Those noises remind us that life is going on and good things are both happening and coming soon.

Just like the events of our days in the world around us. Just like the sound of the train.

Come, Lord Jesus. We’ll clear the intersection for you.

For Nationals in Seattle last year, for example, we were able to use all the funds saved up from many years of plant sales, odd jobs, and donations to cover plane tickets and registration for the entire team and coaching staff. It truly wouldn’t have been possible for us to attend without your involvement, so *Thank you!*

Words cannot express how grateful we are to our church and community for your continued support across the years—especially recently, as we’ve worked to find a suitable replacement farm after our longtime plant sale supplier retired in 2024. Praise God for leading us to Sally Gap Pumpkin Patch last fall, a family-owned fundraiser farm in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Their quality and generosity have been a huge blessing this past year, and it’s a delight to partner with farmers who are fellow believers!



We're excited to share that not only will we be offering lush Boston ferns again this spring, but for the first time we will also have 13" premium hanging baskets, each featuring 3–4 mixed flowers or greenery—petunias, plus surfinia, calibrachoa, superbena, geranium, creeping Jenny, blue eyes, amaranth, bacopa, verbena, and more—in dozens of gorgeous combinations!

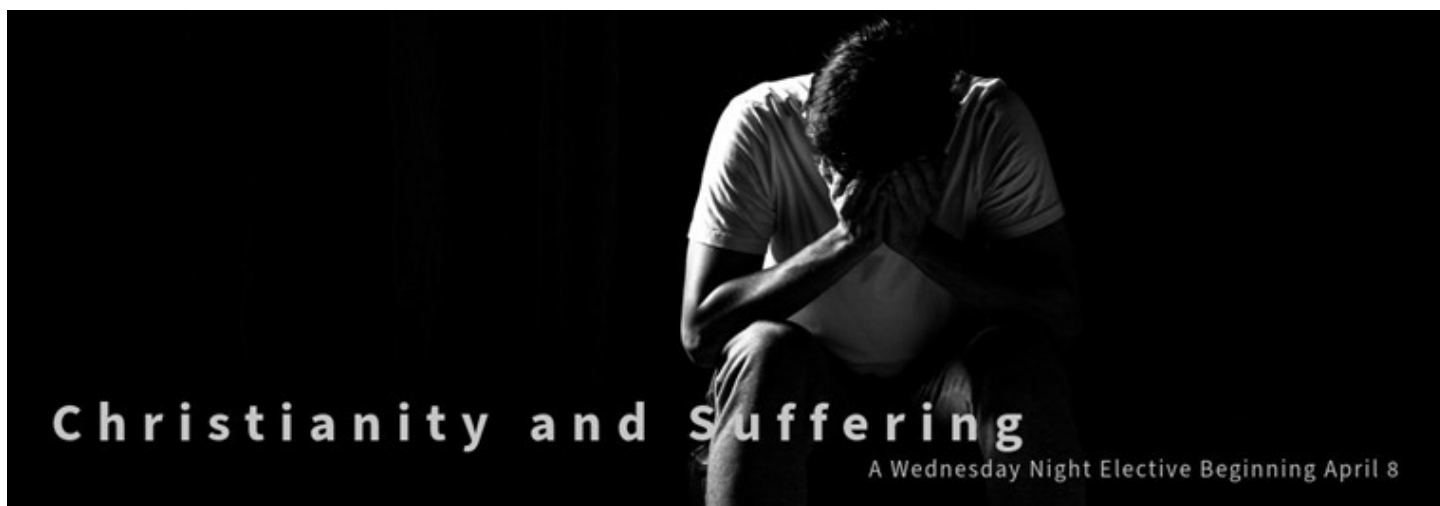
Each individual quizzer will be working to cover his/her own registration for Nationals at Spring Arbor in Michigan. Paid preorders will be accepted through Wednesday, April 22. Choose from a variety of styles, colors, and flower

Pick up  
Saturday, May 2  
9:00 a.m.–Noon  
Building C



medleys when you pick up on Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 a.m. until noon in Building C—in plenty of time for Mother's Day!

Again, I wish we could convey how very fortunate our team feels to have both church leadership and a church body that are so involved and nurturing of the Bible Quiz ministry. As the kids wrestle with Colossians and Philemon this month (adding to Acts and Galatians from earlier in the quiz year), please continue to pray that they would not grow weary but would have “great endurance and patience” and be blessed with “all the wisdom and understanding the Spirit gives.” Thank you!



**Christianity and Suffering**

A Wednesday Night Elective Beginning April 8

## **AN EXPLORATION OF SUFFERING AND CHRISTIANITY**

### **A Wednesday Night Adult Elective**

*Led by Daisy Zhao*

How the existence of evil and suffering challenges Christianity is a topic that has been discussed since the birth of Christianity. The existence of God, who is omnipotent, omniscient, and perfectly good, sounds so incompatible with evil in the world. Therefore, the problem of evil provides a powerful reason for unbelievers to reject the God of Christianity and for believers to experience a crisis of faith.

Join us for a four-session study on how Christianity affects the way people who suffer find meaning in life.

Wednesdays, April 8, 15, 22, & 29 (Room B202)

# BIBLE QUIZ RESULTS

By Brittany Wagler

We had a great quiz meet in Greenville, Illinois, quizzing over Galatians 4–Colossians 1. We also welcomed our newcomers in their first-ever meet. Next month we will quiz over the last of our material for the year in Bedford, Indiana. Thank you all so much for praying for our quizzers and our tournaments!

## Team Results

### Newcomers

Claire, Jake, David, and Yejun—1st

### Mixed Rookie

Jason, Parker R, and Kaitlyn—1st

### Young Teen Veteran

Elisa, Miguel, and Sofia—1st

Daisy and Noah—3rd

### Senior Team Veteran A

James, Larkin, and Nick—2nd

### Senior Team Veteran B

Dexter, Derek, and Susie—1st

## Individual Results

### Newcomers

Claire—2nd

### Mixed Rookie B

Kaitlyn—3rd

### Young Teen Veteran A

Noah—2nd

Elisa—3rd

### Young Teen Veteran B

Sofia—2nd

Cadence—3rd

### Senior Teen Veteran B

Susie—1st



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A VISIT TO AMISH COUNTRY?

Led by Allen Holmes

Your interest is needed! After our trip to the northern Indiana Amish community last year and the great reviews from those who participated, others in the church have expressed interest in another trip to Amish country. Before the trip is planned, we need to know how many are interested—there is no commitment at this time! We need 8–10 interested to start planning.



September 14–16, 2026

Contact Allen ASAP:

859-553-0778

allenholmes7@icloud.com

## WOMEN'S RECHARGE

By Caitlyn Gothay

Ladies, mark your calendars!

Women's Recharge  
Thursday, April 23  
5:30–9:00 p.m.

Get away while staying right here! Join us for a relaxing evening where you choose how to spend your time (crafting, playing games, reading in a quiet room, or some time doing all three!). This is a great way to get to know other ladies in the church or finish up that project that has been sitting in the corner. Invite a friend or two if you would like. Registration sheets will be available as we get closer to the event.



# LIBRARY NEWS

By Bonnie Kotesky

## New Children's Books: (Loan Period: 3 Weeks)

- *A Children's Book About Being Selfish* by Joy Berry
- *The Berenstain Bears Storybook*
- *Ten Apples Up On Top!* by Dr. Seuss
- *Little Girls Bible Storybook* by Carolyn Larsen
- *Where'd My Giggle Go?* by Max Lucado
- *On this Special Night* by Claire Feedman and Simon Mendez

## New Adult Books: (Loan Period: 3 Weeks)

- *When You Pray Move Your Feet* by Tom Logan
- *Wings of the Morning* by Lori Wick
- *End of the Spear* by Steve Saint
- *When God Doesn't Answer Your Prayer* by Jerry Sittser
- *The Quilter's Daughter* by Wanda Brunstetter



## Please Renew Items Promptly

If you need to renew items, please check with the librarian, Bonnie Kotesky, at 859-859-3436 or leave a note on the library bulletin board. It is important to return the materials when they are due so that others can check them out.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS): EMERALD CROSSING Top 'o the Morning to Ya!

By Cheryl Schell

From the lush meadows of its countryside to the cobblestone streets of its cities, Emerald Crossing VBS will help children journey through Psalm 23. We will need lots of adults and teens to go with us on this adventure, so pull on your work boots, grab your walking staff, and get ready for a grand ol' time!

Workers'  
registration



**June 8–12, 2026**  
**9:00 a.m.–Noon**  
**Sign up today!**

Kids' registration  
opens May 1



# JOIN THE MINISTRY AT OAKDALE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

By *Charlie Fiskeaux*

Since 1921, Oakdale Christian Academy has been dedicated to preparing students for the world as educated Christian citizens. Our mission is to guide students toward lives that positively impact families, communities, and the world.

We invite passionate, mission-driven individuals to become part of this important ministry.

## Current Job Openings

### Principal

The Principal assists the President in casting the academic vision for the institution. The person in this role works closely with the Dean of Students to determine the best strategies for student growth and success.

### Director of Admissions

The Director of Admissions leads the process that helps prospective students discover Oakdale and complete their enrollment.

### Dean of Students

The Dean of Students oversees student life and helps create a safe, structured, and spiritually nurturing campus environment.

## How to Apply

Apply online at: [www.oakdalechristian.org](http://www.oakdalechristian.org)

For more information, contact:

Daniel Roach, President

daniel.roach@oakdalechristian.org



# WFMC JAIL MINISTRY

By *Ted Moon*

The other week in Jessamine County Public Library, I engaged in conversation with someone as we were exiting. To my surprise, he recognized me because of the moon pies I had brought for all the inmates when he was in jail. When he told me his name, I remembered him being one of the people that we had prayed for. He was grateful to be out and said he was doing reasonably well.

Jail ministry plays a vital role in bringing hope and restoration to individuals who are often forgotten or written off by society. Many incarcerated men and women struggle with broken relationships, past trauma, and a loss of purpose. Through compassionate presence, spiritual encouragement, and support, the WFMC jail ministry helps restore dignity and reminds inmates that they are still valued human beings loved by God. When we go to share the gospel and offer prayer, it becomes a lifeline of hope in an environment marked with isolation and discouragement.



Charlie Payne spoke on The Parable of the Prodigal Son. He spoke to the hearts of the inmates, many who had wandered from the Father's home. He gave the invitation to come home and several responded. Craig Saunders led the inmates in communion, and Hugh Sims had the opportunity to pray and encourage several inmates before they returned to their cells.

Many thanks for your continued prayers as well as donating soft cover Bibles and Daily Breads for us to hand out. Continue to pray as we seek to be God's hands and his words of hope.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU: DOUG AND JANET BUTLER

By Sue Adkins

Although Doug and Janet have only been attending WFMC since the beginning of 2025, they are certainly not new to Wilmore! They came to Asbury College at the beginning of fall quarter in 1977 for Doug to start a job in the college library, and they have lived in Wilmore ever since.



Doug is an only child, raised in Kenmore, New York—a suburb of Buffalo. Janet has one older brother and was raised on a farm in central Kansas. They were married on May 13, 1974, and will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary this year. They met at Sterling College, a small Presbyterian school in central Kansas, through a mutual friend when Doug was a sophomore and Janet was a freshman.

Doug and Janet have four grown children: Rebecca, Rachel, Mark, and Matthew. Two of their children's families live in the Lexington area, one family lives in Texas, and one lives in South Carolina. They have eight grandchildren and a new great-grandchild.

When Doug was in high school, he was a weekend D.J. at a Christian radio station in Buffalo. Later he worked for three summers in U.S. Customs at Niagara Falls. His first library job was at a Bible college in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After a year at another Bible college outside of Washington, D.C., the Butlers came to Asbury College. Janet stayed home with the children for several years, then worked as a cook at Wilmore UMC and for many years as a baker at Wesley Village.

Doug and Janet both enjoy reading. Doug likes watching sports on TV; Janet's hobby is drawing original sketches. They enjoy cruising, both on oceans and rivers. Doug has a stamp collection, and he also spends time researching family

genealogy. Doug has recently joined the WFMC choir, and he sings with the Wesley Village choir as well. Missions and care for missionaries are also important to both Doug and Janet.

Doug grew up attending a Presbyterian church in Buffalo and went on to attend Sterling College.

During a personal crisis he threw out a fleece, so to speak, and was challenged from the Bible to fully surrender his life to Jesus.

Janet grew up attending a Lutheran church in Kansas, then attended Sterling College. Attending the Walk to Emmaus spiritual retreat in 1983 was a significant event in both of their lives. They then were both privileged, along with a team, to take the Walk to Ghana in 1986. In the summer of 1987, Doug went on his first international library mission trip to Bolivia to work in a Christian university library for several weeks. Janet went with him the following year to work in the library at Universidad Evangelica Boliviano (UEB). During this time the Lord began to challenge them to return for a longer time, as the librarian at the mission school was going on leave. It so happened that Doug and Janet were able to exchange houses with a furloughing missionary family that was bringing a child to Asbury, allowing both families to have the housing they needed.

Doug has since been on mission trips with WGM, OMS, and GO International to Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, Belize, and recently to England. Janet has also been to India. Now, in these days of retirement, their mission trips are fewer, but small group meetings and prayer groups keep them connected with others and with the Lord.

The Butlers are slowly assimilating into WFMC, and we are glad they have chosen to join us. Welcome, Doug and Janet!

# BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

## April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Bari Kay McMillen, Nichole Shafer
- 2 Donna Flanigan, Glen Flanigan, Janis Riffell, Deano Sarantakos
- 3 Darin Land
- 4 Lizet Bowen, Liam Hall, Rosie Li
- 5 Cheryl Schell
- 6 Joyce Underwood, Mary Ann Wiley
- 7 Kimberly Ostroske
- 8 Bonnie Descoteaux, Ricardo Gomez
- 9 Kendra Spivey
- 11 Miguel Ramos, Renee Riffell
- 12 Cindi Angelo, Dexter Cannon
- 15 Levi Branan, Isaac Madill
- 16 *Bob & Norma Jean Erny*
- 17 Jonathan Raymond
- 19 Neil Anderson, Kris Dietrich, Perrin Fiskeaux
- 20 Warren Brude, Aiden Dedman, Micah Kidwell
- 22 Warren Todd, Rachel Winchester, Melyssa Wittenberg
- 23 Liam O'Neal
- 24 *Duane & Patty Brown, Shivraj & Anita Mahendra*
- 25 Juniper Raymond
- 26 Carol Killam
- 27 Mark Killam, Irene Lian, Keith Madill
- 28 Chase Padgett, Harper Raymond
- 29 Genia Schumacher
- 30 Steve Liversedge, *Ronald & Julie Dobie*

## May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Catherine Gaffney, Beth Hall, Lee Anna Halley, Clay Winter, *William & Julie Howard*
- 2 Kay Bickert, Bryan Blankenship, Sharon Madison
- 3 Carson Roberge, *Charlie & Patti Fiskeaux*
- 4 Jaiden Dobie
- 6 Violet Burke, Ben Howard, *Chuck & Lynne Fuller*
- 7 Don Roxberry, *Jeff & Pam Hiatt*
- 8 Beth Gomez, Carolyn Hale, Grace O'Neal, Samuel Oliver, Cindy Peterson
- 10 Miriam Langford, Renae Thompson, Lucas Weinberger, Walker Winchester
- 11 Sylvia Brown, Joe Valentino
- 12 Pat Gilmore, Roberta Zent
- 13 Jeremiah Elayaraj
- 14 Elliot Crabtree
- 16 Bette Crouse
- 17 Wes Folsom
- 18 Jerin Andrews, Mary Alice Kawaja
- 19 Miriam Kamp, Ben Randall, D Simpson, Scott Wright, *Don & Roberta Zent*
- 20 Arlene Allen, Charis Lian, Joel Penny, *Christian & Caitlin Gothay*
- 21 Manorama Davis, Christian Gothay, *Jerry & Katie Diddle, Chris & Annette Wittenberg*
- 22 Virginia Valentino
- 23 *Clinton & Carolyn Pauley*
- 24 Larry Piatt, Jan Snyder
- 25 David Coulliette, *Art & Sylvia Brown, Dick & Mary Ann Crane*
- 26 Lois Cobb, Dickie Lee Porter, Dan Searls, *Bernie & Lois Cobb, Benjamin & Emily Randall*
- 27 June Eisemann, *Dean & Ruth Cook*
- 28 Bruce Branan, Judy Graham, Josiah Saunders
- 29 *Ken & Christina Proctor*



# FAITH ON THE MOUNTAIN: LESSONS IN PERSEVERANCE

By London Pike

When I was finally old enough to go on our youth ski retreat trip to Perfect North, I was extremely excited. With my very small amount of experience in skiing, I saw myself as prepared. Packed into the church vans with all my friends, we talked about how we were looking forward to skiing, snowboarding, and spending time together at the hotel and in the lodge.

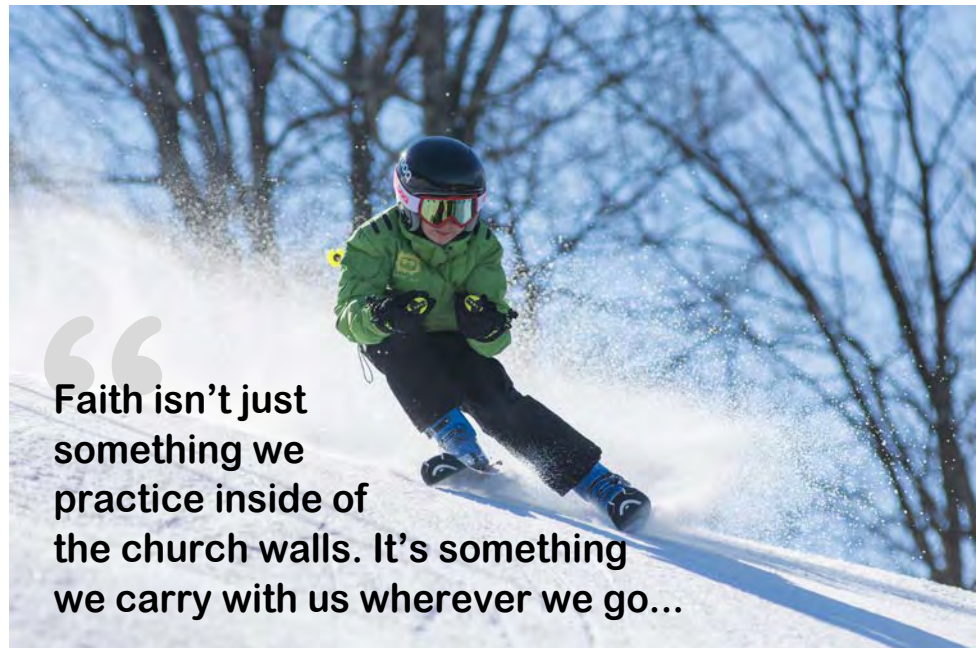
After my first year going on the ski retreat, I couldn't wait until the next year to go back. It is one of the main reasons I look forward to the winter. Ski retreat is much more than just about being on the slopes—it's about faith, perseverance, learning what it means to trust God through challenges, and to keep moving forward!

For many of us, skiing wasn't easy at first. There were plenty of falls, and some people had never skied or snowboarded. Sitting inside the lodge watching other skiers, we could see a good number of people simply rolling down some of the biggest hills because they had lost their skis and decided that rolling was the only way to get down the rest of the hill.

But we weren't watching just the people who were falling down the hills. Our own youth group had plenty of wipeouts, too. But each time someone fell, they got back up again—with encouragement from friends skiing with them. Watching everyone fall and get back up again reminded me of what we had been talking about during the retreat: the story of Joseph and perseverance.

Joseph's life was full of moments where things didn't go the way he expected. He was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, and even thrown into prison. But through all of it, Joseph continued to trust God and keep moving forward, even when life felt unfair or difficult.

Joseph's life reminds us that perseverance is a key part of faith. What made the difference in Joseph's life



was his trust in God and his willingness to step forward, even when the challenge seemed overwhelming.

In many ways, the ski retreat reflected that same idea. Whether it is learning a new skill, pushing past fear on the mountain, or encouraging someone who has fallen, the trip always reminds me of how much perseverance matters. Sometimes the hardest moments—when we fall, struggle, or feel unsure—are the moments where we grow the most.

Standing on top of some of the tallest hills at the resort, surrounded by wide views of God's creation, was also a reminder of how present God is in every part of our lives. Faith isn't just something we practice inside the church walls. It's something we carry with us wherever we go—on the mountain, at school, at home, and in every challenge we face.

By the end of the retreat, we returned home with more than just memories of the slopes. We came back with stronger friendships, deeper connections as a youth group, and a clearer understanding of what it means to persevere and be a resilient Christian.

Just like Joseph stepping forward to trust God, we were reminded that courage and perseverance come from our faith—no matter what we face.

We are so thankful for the leaders and volunteers who made this trip possible and for the opportunity to grow together in both faith and friendship.

## LADIES NIGHT OUT

By Ginny Proctor and Rachael Proctor

All ladies are welcome to join us on the first Monday evening of each month\* at 6:00 p.m. for Ladies Night Out (LNO). Our new season begins in March and goes through November. Please add the following dates to your calendar:



### April 13\*

Peppers Mexican Grill  
220 N Plaza Dr, Nicholasville

### May 4

Athenian Grill  
3801 Mall Rd #120, Lexington

### June 1

Chicken Salad Chick  
254 E Brannon Rd, Nicholasville

### July 6

Smashing Tomato  
3801 Mall Rd #195, Lexington

### August 3

Chili's  
108 Marketplace Dr, Lexington  
(turn left onto Man-O-War, then take the first right)

### September 14\*

BJ's Restaurant  
3297 Nicholasville Rd, Lexington  
(at the far north end of Fayette Mall's parking lot)

### October 12\*

Sonny's BBQ  
109 N Plaza Dr, Nicholasville

### November 2

Culver's  
961 N Main St, Nicholasville

*\*If the first Monday is a holiday, LNO will take place on the second Monday (e.g. April, September, etc.). We look forward to having you with us! Questions? Call or text Ginny Proctor at 859-553-9784.*

## ESTONIA MISSIONS TRIP: FUNDRAISING DINNER

**Trip Date: July 19–26, 2026**

Please join us for a fundraising dinner to help send these twelve participants to Estonia!



(Back row) Keith Madill, Parker Weinberger, Gwendolyn Crabtree, William Howard, Ben Howard, Ruth Gouge, Elyssa Maynard; (Front row) Andy Bowen, Jenny Madill, Eden Ireland, Evie Johnson, Lydia Evans

**Friday, April 24**  
**5:30 p.m. (Building C)**  
Cost is \$10/person with  
a family cap at \$25.  
There will also be a  
silent auction.

# TECH TALK: AMAZON SCAM

By Dan Dotterweich

I recently received the following text from +1(918)407-7728:

*Amazon Order Refund Notification*

*Dear Customer,  
We regret to inform you that upon reviewing your recent order, we identified that the associated seller offered products that failed to meet quality standards. This has led to the permanent removal of their store by Amazon. As a result, you are eligible for a full refund without needing to return the item.*

*Visit the link below to view the details and process your refund:*

<https://bit.ly/4sPRdBN?TSn=Ls9zL?bPK=vrJNd>

*Refunds will be processed within 24 hours of receiving your request and credited back to your original payment method.*

*We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you have questions, please contact Amazon Customer Support directly through your account.*

*Thank you for shopping with Amazon.*

While at first glance this might seem legitimate (because most everyone orders from Amazon), there are several “red flags”:

1. No specific product is mentioned.
2. The message did not come through the Amazon app.
3. If you do a Google search on the phone number, results show that it belongs to an individual with a Yahoo account in Oklahoma rather than Amazon.
4. If you search the country code in the link (the characters after “bit” in <https://bit.ly/...>), you can see it belongs to Lybia (which is not a likely place for Amazon to process refunds from).
5. Finally, you can go to <http://cqcounter.com/whois/> to see who owns the domain (bit.ly). While it is registered in the US, if you click the tracerout link you will see that traffic to this address goes to Bulgaria.



Remember Matthew 10:16, “Be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” Till next time!

## SPRING REVIVAL MEETINGS

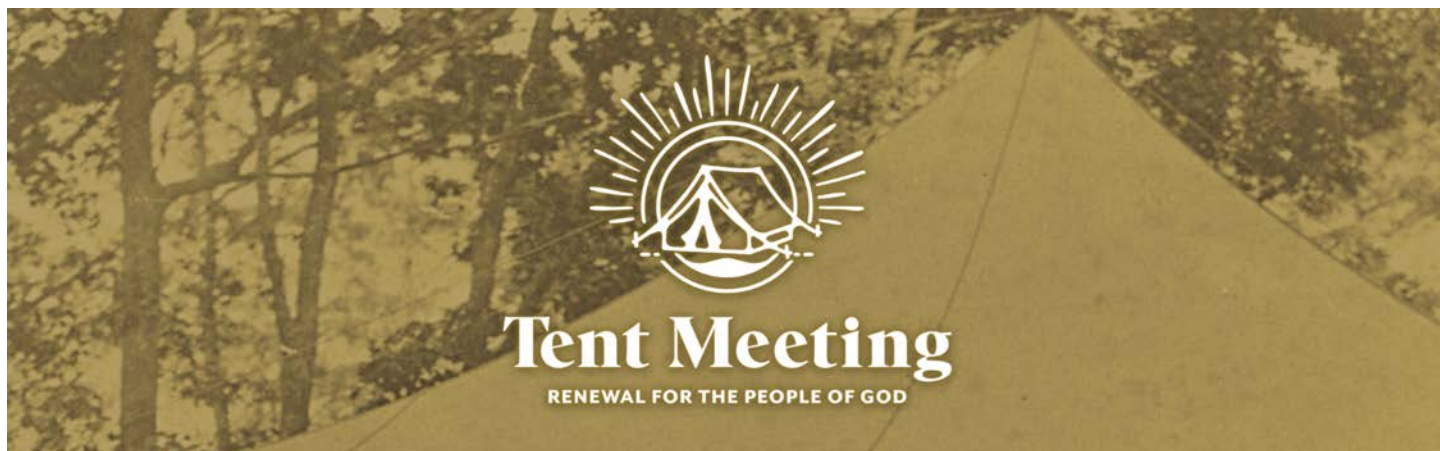
As you may have noticed, we did not schedule revival meetings this spring. We did this so that we might partner with Asbury Theological Seminary and participate, as a church, with their spring community tent revival meetings, April 16–18. Please consider setting aside these evenings to join together in worship and prayer for revival for our community.



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Would you consider being a teacher or assistant for children's Sunday School? The new year starts in August, but you can ask questions of current teachers and start connecting with the program this summer. We love to have adults volunteer to pour into our WFCM children so that children of all ages can know God's Word and God's love for them.





## ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY TENT MEETING

### Renewal for the People of God

April 16–18 | 6:30–8:30 p.m.

#### Overview

The ATS Tent Meeting is a three-evening gathering rooted in the historic Wesleyan–holiness tradition. Inspired by the camp meeting movement that shaped early Methodism and influenced Asbury’s founding vision, this event creates space for preaching, worship, and prayer focused on spiritual renewal.

This gathering reflects Asbury’s commitment to forming theologically educated, sanctified, Spirit-filled leaders for the Church. It embodies the conviction that preaching, prayer, and consecration remain central to the Church’s renewal.

#### Event Details

**Dates:** Thursday, April 16–Saturday, April 18

**Time:** 6:30–8:30 p.m. each evening

**Location:** Tent at ATS (Green between Lowry Cemetery and Wilmore Presbyterian Church)

**Cost:** Free and open to the public

Worship will be led by a team under the direction of Greg McElyea and Tesia Mallory. A trained prayer team, led by Bud Simon, Kylie McCormick, and Matt Barnes, will be available each evening to offer guided prayer ministry.

#### What Attendees Will Experience

- Christ-centered worship in an outdoor tent setting
- Gospel proclamation rooted in the Wesleyan tradition
- Structured prayer ministry each evening
- A multigenerational gathering of students, alumni, faculty, local pastors, and community members

#### Evening Themes & Speakers

- **Thursday: *Renewal of Our Personal Connection with God***  
Dr. Matt Reynolds, President and Founder of Spirit and Truth
- **Friday: *Renewal in Our Experience of the Holy Spirit’s Work***  
Dr. Kim Maas, CEO and Founder of Kim Maas Ministries
- **Saturday: *Renewal of Our Callings and Mission***  
Dr. Luther Oconer, Associate Professor of Global Wesleyan Theology at ATS

<http://asbury.to/tent>

# HAVING A REAL CONVERSATION WITH GOD

By Juliana Gomez

In C.S. Lewis's book, *The Magician's Nephew*, from the *Chronicles of Narnia*, Digory, Polly, and Fledge (the flying horse) are going on an errand that Aslan gave Digory. When Fledge lands and begins eating grass, Digory and Polly wonder what they are to do about food:

*"Well, I do think someone might have arranged about our meals," said Digory.*

*"I'm sure Aslan would have, if you'd asked him," said Fledge.*

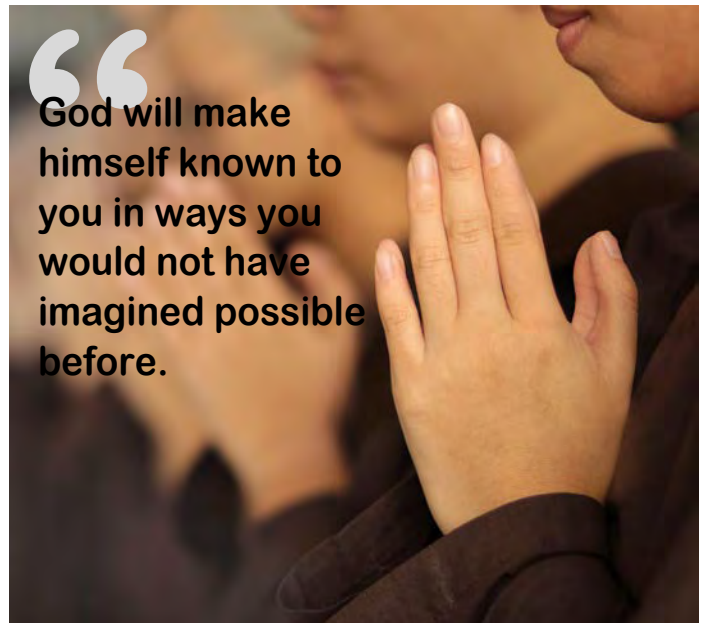
*"Wouldn't he know without being asked?" said Polly.*

*"I've no doubt he would," said the horse (still with his mouth full). "But I have the sort of idea that he likes to be asked."*

Isn't there something about this story that is familiar to us? In this story we find two important components of prayer: the ask and the community.

Sometimes asking is uncomfortable because it requires us to be vulnerable. We can argue that God already knows what we need. However, even Jesus asked God for help. The night before he was crucified, he went to the garden and prayed, asking God for help. If God's own son, who was God himself, asks for help, then why shouldn't we? Jesus himself taught in Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

In the extract from the book, we can see that Digory is the one who points out the difficulty they are facing, but both Digory and Polly know that whatever happens, they are facing it together, so they are not alone. Like them, we are in a community, a church family. We share our needs with one another and with God. This also requires us to be vulnerable.



We see this on a regular basis. Our church staff sends out Prayer Notes and News emails during the week with prayer requests. Our church also hosts Wednesday night prayer meetings where people can request prayer and pray for one another out loud. In most of our Adult Bible Fellowships (or at least in the Layman's class) someone takes notes of the prayer requests that people have and sends them to the rest of the class so that we can pray for them throughout the week. Whatever our struggle or needs are, we can rest assured that we are not walking and praying alone. Our Father is with us. Our older Brother, Christ, is with us. Our family in Christ, our church community, is with us.

So the question is, what is preventing you from having a real conversation with God today?

**Challenge for the month:** Find a place where you feel comfortable talking with God and try bringing yourself to ask him your questions. If you can't do it alone, ask someone you trust to pray with you during this time. It might feel uncomfortable. Don't worry. That's normal. But, once you've done it, God will make himself known to you in ways you would not have imagined possible before.

# TAKE NOTE

By Rose Evans

## Important Upcoming Dates to Remember



**April 20 at 7:00 p.m. (Monday night)**

### Spring Ring: Handbell and Chime Concert

All handbell and chime choirs, children through adult, will participate in this special musical event.

**April 26 at 6:00 p.m.**

### Heaven's Harmony Children's Musical: "A Not So Terrible Parable"

The well-known story that Jesus told, called The Parable of the Good Samaritan, comes to life as a fun, over-the-top whodunit (think the movie Clue). Solving this mystery means discovering again just how far our Savior would go to rescue helpless sinners!



**May 3 at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**  
**Singing Celebration**

The sanctuary and youth choirs will lead us in this special service of song. Please join us in celebrating God's gift of song.

## For Your Information

Sometimes we get so familiar with the "way we do things" that we forget that others, especially visitors, may not be so familiar with the way we sing, etc. As you notice folks around you who may not be familiar with or used to using a hymnal or worship guide/insert, please help them out, show them the hymnal and the black notebook, and offer an encouraging word and a smile! We want everyone to feel free to participate in corporate worship, no matter their background. Thanks for your help!

*Please contact Mark Schell or Rose Evans if you have any questions regarding the music ministry at WFMC or if you are interested in being a soloist for music ministry, on a music team for worship services, or in a music ensemble. Let's continue to "sing and make music to our Lord!"*

## PRIME TIMERS LUNCHES

**April 9**

A Taco Bar and  
Overtones Barbershop  
Quartet Concert

**May 14**

A Dramatic  
Presentation





WILMORE  
FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## THE GALLERY AT WFMC A Visual Offering of Worship

Works displayed in the WFMC Gallery (in the church foyer on the main level of Building A), changing with the liturgical season or current worship theme, celebrate the profound beauty and mystery of creation that reveals glimpses of the divine, inviting viewers to encounter God’s presence in moments of transcendent wonder. Each display, and the works therein, serves as a bridge between the seen and unseen, drawing hearts toward the ultimate source of all beauty and creativity—Jesus Christ, who deeply desires an intimate, transforming relationship with all who seek him.

Currently and throughout the Lenten season, the Gallery features the photographic work, *Lengthening*, by Wilmore’s own

Keith Barker, professor of Photography at Asbury University. Beginning on Sunday, April 12, and running through May 18, in conjunction with the 150th birthday of our city, the gallery will feature many works of visual art, in a variety of media, by Wilmore artists, past and present.

### Gallery Availability (whenever the church is open)

**Monday through Friday**  
(regular office hours)  
8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

**Wednesdays**  
4:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

**Sundays**  
8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

The community is welcome!

#### OFFICE & PASTORAL STAFF

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If you would prefer to receive *The Plumbline* electronically, email Pastor Daryl at ddiddle@wfmc.net, and you’ll be added to the email distribution list.

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### VISION STATEMENT

*A Community that Reflects Jesus'  
Vision and Values*

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Wilmore Free Methodist Church  
will faithfully offer members  
and neighbors the Word of God,  
the love of the Father, the grace  
of Jesus, and the power of the  
Holy Spirit. We will be Christ's  
presence in our world.*



# The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

April/May 2026

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April 20  
7:00 p.m.  
Spring Ring Handbell  
and Chime Concert



April 26 at 6:00 p.m.  
Heaven's Harmony  
Children's Musical:  
"A Not So Terrible Parable"