

# WELLS SPRING

A Publication of Wells Church

A United Methodist Congregation

May 2026

## Say Yes to God's Call for Wells' Future

By Susannah Grubbs Carr  
Senior Pastor

What a beautiful and holy celebration we shared on April 26 as Wells Church marked 100 years. It was a day that honored the past while reminding us that God is certainly not finished with Wells yet!



Carr

As we reflected on the words of Psalm 31 — *"God, you are my God. My times are in your hands"* — we celebrated the truth that every season of Wells has been held by God. And we trust that the same will be true for the days ahead.

Now, the page turns. The next chapter of Wells will not be written by accident, but by a community willing to listen, to trust and to respond to the Holy Spirit's leading.

So here is our shared charge: Say yes to God's call! Say yes to new possibilities. Say yes to faithful risks. Say yes to loving our neighbors with renewed courage. Say yes to being a light — right where God has placed us.

The same God who has carried this beautiful expression of God's Kingdom for 100 years is already leading us into what comes next. So, let's step forward together — faithfully, boldly and with hope. Our times truly are in God's hands!



A packed Wells sanctuary sings praise to God, as we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Wells.

## Wells Celebrates 100 Years

Generations of Grace. That is what Wells Church has experienced over 100 years, worshiping and serving God from its home on Bailey Avenue in Jackson. Wells began its centennial celebration on April 26 with a full day of worship and fellowship. Happy Birthday Wells! Visit [wellschurch.org](http://wellschurch.org) to view the April 26 worship service. **(More Pictures Page 2)**



Tracy Tonkel Furniss and Anthony Tonkel Puckett remember their father who served Wells for 48 years.



Former Wells pastors and associate pastors were on hand to celebrate the church's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, recalling their fond memories during their times of service. (From left) The Revs. Heather Hensarling, Michelle Shrader, Susannah Grubbs Carr, Chris Cumbest and Todd Watson.



- May 1 Brooke McDonald
- May 3 Tommy Naugle, Glenda White
- May 4 David Moody
- May 7 Peggy Smith, Bill Johnson
- May 8 Jeanne Rozman
- May 10 Hunter McGee
- May 11 Susannah Grubbs Carr
- May 12 Kristen Larson, Karen Powell
- May 13 Florence Cooper, Carey Allen
- May 15 Chet Hollomon
- May 16 Nancy Alford
- May 17 Deborah Ballou, Shania Ransom
- May 18 James Martin, Gayle Poole
- May 20 John Black
- May 22 Cynthia Thomas
- May 23 Diane Braman, Polly Stokes Barnes
- May 27 Alli Leatherman
- May 28 Richard Marquez
- May 29 Jan Hawthorne, Janice McNeil, Sherry Singleton

If your birthday is in May and isn't listed here, please let us know.



Jackson Mayor John Horhn praises Wells ministry to the city, presenting a proclamation honoring Wells' centennial.



Ken Hodges and Annie Jones.



James Martin sings during worship.



Members from the Downer Family, most from out of state, came to celebrate Wells and honor its first pastor, the Rev. Charles Downer.

### 2026 Wells Church Giving

Jan. \$44,428	July
Feb. \$30,345	Aug.
March \$37,910	Sept.
April	Oct.
May	Nov.
June	Dec.

Based on the 2026 budget, \$43,897 is needed monthly to support operations and ministries of the church in 2026.

### Wells Memorial United Methodist Church Staff

Susannah Grubbs Carr, Pastor | Sue Keen Hyland, Associate Pastor

Chuck Reynolds Choir Director	Jamie Ward Accompanist	Ashley Rogers Children's Ministry Director
Harry Tiebe Facility Manager	Jane Everly Pastoral Assistant	Kay Olliver Treasurer
	Elaine Collins Nursery Coordinator	

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# Wells Notes

## Facility Manager

The Wells Board of Trustees and Staff-Parish Relations Committee are pleased to announce that Harry Tiebe has joined our staff as part-time Facility Manager.



Tiebe

Harry will report to the Trustee Chair and work alongside our senior pastor and staff to ensure our campus and facilities receive the care they deserve.

Rather than handling every task himself, Harry's primary focus will be coordinating and supervising the work of church volunteers and contracted professionals.

We are deeply grateful that Harry is bringing his heart, gifts and graces to Wells in this way. Please join us in welcoming him and thanking him for serving us all in this new role!

Bill Gray, Trustee Chair  
Ken Simon, SPRC Chair

## Wells Brew

Join Rev. Susannah for coffee and conversation at our next Wells Brew session at 9:30 a.m., Monday, May 18, at The Bean at 2914 N. State St. in Fondren. Everyone is very welcome!

## Preaching Schedule

**May 3** — "Resurrection in Plain Sight: On the Beach," John 21 (Rev. Susannah).

**May 10** — (Confirmation Sunday) "The Work of Our Yes: Living The Great Commission," Matthew 28: 16-20 (Rev. Susannah).

**May 17** — Graduation Sunday "Oh the Places You'll Go" (Rev. Susannah).

**May 24** — Pentecost, "Wonder-Working Power," Acts 2, at Broadmeadow UMC (Rev. Sue).

**May 31** — Trinity Sunday, "The God Who is Relationship," John 14, 15, selected verses (Rev. Susannah).

# Missions in Memphis

By Ashley Rogers  
Children's Director

Traveling with our teenagers is arguably one of the best parts of working in youth ministry at Wells. While I get to see their growth, dedication and fun personalities on a weekly basis, there's something magical that happens when they're removed from their environment for a few days for dedicated fellowship and service.



Rogers

Over the past few years, we've explored Galveston, Texas, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia, for trips that were mostly centered on fun and fellowship. While we participated in intentional service work in each location, this year, we're flipping our old model upside down to embark on a trip consisting mostly of service work and missions. We're still planning fun experiences for the young people, but giving back will be our primary focus each day. Rev. Sue has a full itinerary planned to include working at Mana House Memphis, S.O.S., Room in the Inn and Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association. We are so excited about this opportunity for our youth to experience a community that's both similar and different from Jackson.

One of the beautiful aspects of mission and service work is that it places us in situations that force us to extend our comfort zone and be engaged in conversations that require deeper and more authentic dialogue. This is a priceless gift to our young people! Each year we travel with our youth, they almost unanimously agree that the service work is what stood out most as the most impactful activity of the trip. I'm so excited that we're offering our youth the chance to engage not only in more service opportunities, but also a more diverse range of projects and programs. I am confident that they will return with stories and experiences they're excited to share with their families and our whole church community!

Our teenagers have been blessed for so many years to have the support of our congregation to help ensure that they get to experience many new opportunities in all our goings as members of Wells UMC Youth Group. We're already counting down the days until we leave for our summer trip to Memphis and can't wait to see the ways our young people share Christ's love in their own actions and words.

The reality is that most of our youth come from families who cannot afford to send them on our summer trip. It's only because of the financial gifts we receive from Wells that our traveling is possible. If you've given in years past, thank you for helping us ensure that everyone can participate, regardless of their ability to pay. If you're able to donate to this year's trip, know that our young folks are incredibly appreciative and will undoubtedly make you proud as representatives of Wells United Methodist Church! Thank you for your gifts!



Write Ashley at [ashleyrogers@wellschurch.org](mailto:ashleyrogers@wellschurch.org).

Electronic Service Requested



## God Is with Us in Every Season, Always

**By Sue Keen Hyland**  
**Associate Pastor**

As we sang “Hymn of Promise” on our 100th anniversary, I was struck by a few of the words.



Hyland

The first verse walks us through what is happening all around us as spring emerges from the depths of winter.

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed*

*an apple tree;*

*There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.*

*In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,*

*Unrevealed until its season something God alone can see.*

I'm not sure if my being awestruck was due to the flowers blooming around us, the trees putting out new leaves, gardens springing up from seed, or if I

was in awe because our beautiful, wonderful Wells continues to thrive, grow, and bloom in each and every season that we are given in this life of faith that we live together.

All throughout this Eastertide I have asked myself and a few others where they were experiencing resurrection around them. Many of us have said they have experienced it through the blooms of spring, through pages read in new books, through friends sharing their homes, and so much more.

Resurrection was not just evident, but palpable in our 100th anniversary celebration. God was obviously alive and all around!

I love that the “Hymn of Promise” teaches us that God isn't just with us in the blooms of spring, but in every season and in every uncertainty, walking right alongside of us.

God was with Wells for the first 100 years and God is still with us now, and

God will be with us always.  
What a gift!

Times of transition are normal for us United Methodists. We as pastors come and we go. But, as I stated above, God is never going anywhere.

No matter our questions, doubts, hurt, no matter what the future holds, God is with us!

As our senior pastor Susannah transitions to Millsaps, as I transition to Broadmeadow for three-fourths of my time, and as we welcome the Rev. Dr. Lewis Logan to this beloved community of faith, may we never forget that God is with us, in our coming, in our going, and in all of our loving, caring and sharing.

Let us be excited and expectant for our journey ahead, and may we never forget God's promises to us!

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