

# WUMC Graduates 2023

## Avery Golden



Hey church family, meet Avery Golden: I grew up here in Wimberley. I have been homeschooled for the past 3 years. At different times in my life, I played tennis and volunteered at the Wimberley Village Library. I am a huge animal lover. I have 5 dogs, 1 sheep, 1 goat and 1 donkey. Yes, it is a zoo at our house. In addition, my mom and I raise song birds. Managing the animals and the land has been like a full time job for me but I love it.

My relationship with a church community started at a very young age. I come from a long line of Christians and I myself accepted Jesus as my savior at age 12. Working with Courtney and Jo Jo has inspired me to be my best self.

During highschool, I took an Environmental Science class and fell in love with the subject. Then I took a trip to Big Bend National Park where I fell in love with everything about it. It was at that moment that I knew the direction my college life would take. In some way, shape or form, I would do something related to Environmental Science. Fast forward to today, I am enrolled at Austin Community College where I will get some of my basics out of the way. Then I will be off to Texas State University next year to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies. Although I am not 100% on the exact job I want, I do know that I want to have an impact on our land and the preservation of our animal species.

My journey begins very soon.

Avery Golden

# WUMC Graduates 2023

## Julia Rennels



Julia Grey Rennels has been an active member of WUMC since moving to Wimberley with her family in 2016. She has been blessed to have shared in many youth functions including mission trips, UM Army, and Sunday night youth group meetings. One of her favorite memories is serving Thanksgiving dinner in Eagle Pass at Mission Border Hope. Another favorite memory is Gingerbread Jingle Jam.

Having the community of WUMC has been instrumental in helping Julia's faith formation and character development over the years.

Throughout High School, Julia has been involved in a local group called Freedom Canines International where she trains puppies and dogs to be service animals. Through this group, she has over two hundred thousand volunteer hours. Julia has been a 4 year Varsity athlete and participated in many service opportunities both with her church and other community groups. She has also been an active member in Leo Club, National Honors Society, and FFA.

Julia will be attending George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. She will be studying Biology and Environmental Science as part of the Smithsonian-Mason Scholars Program. She is taking with her the deep understanding of how giving back to others reminds us that we are all connected and should work together for the greater good.

# WUMC Graduates 2023



## Layton Patterson

Layton is an artist & talented musician, quiet-natured, inquisitive, an animal & nature lover, an indoor-plant queen, easy-going, amongst other things.

Layton has lived in Wimberley for her whole life and we are excited for what is next for her after she graduates. We are so grateful to have her in our family and we want her to know we love her with all our hearts. We would also like to tell you that we know wherever she goes & whatever she does she will be amazing.



# WUMC Graduates 2023



## Thomas Watson

Thomas Watson has been a member of WUMC his whole life. He was baptized by Laura Merrill, attended Godly Play Sunday school throughout his preschool years, attended Mothers Day Out, and was nurtured by so many congregation members during his most formative years. He is graduating Wimberley High School this year and will be attending the University of Texas at Austin this fall studying mechanical engineering at the Cockrell School of Engineering. Since Thomas was 9 years old, he spent his summers at Camp Capers where he continued his spiritual formation. He has been a leader in that program and in the "Happening" movement through the Episcopal church. Throughout High School Thomas spent lots of time pursuing two of his passions - basketball and academics. He was captain of his varsity basketball team, president of his student class and is graduating at the top of his class. We are very proud of him and can't wait to see the ways he continues to make the world a better place. Congratulations Thomas!