

# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2023

## The Partner

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### ***"The Outstanding NOW of Epiphany!"***

***"Jesus took with Him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him."***

***— Matthew 17:1-3***

Epiphany is always the first Sunday of the New Year and celebrates the visitation of the Magi and their gifts for the child born the King of Kings! The Liturgical Season after the Epiphany always ends with the story of Jesus' Transfiguration, when Jesus was transformed into a dazzling brightness and accompanied by the great deliverer Moses and the great prophet Elijah! This and other New Testament stories like the visitation of the Magi and Jesus' Baptism are traditional texts for this Season after the Epiphany, and they all highlight the magnificence of Jesus' manifestation among us!

The Season after Epiphany can be easily overlooked, squeezed between the more well-known seasons of Advent and Lent. Advent is bathed in Christmastime, and gets us ready for Christmas! Lent then calls us to the valuable repentance that prepares us to remember Jesus' Passion and His Atoning and Redeeming Cross. With these remembrances, we are then ready for the Victory of Easter! From Advent and Christmas to Lent and Easter, we pass through the season after the Epiphany, a most worthwhile stop on our journey, providing a valuable bridge.

Advent hails that Jesus is Coming! Epiphany and its season-after hail that Jesus is HERE! He is Present! Jesus is with us NOW! Jesus is manifest among us! And His manifestation is magnificent! It dazzles! My preaching this season has emphasized that Jesus' manifestation among us glows! It stands out! It's Outstanding. And it's NOW!

Jesus has been Coming forever! John 1 says that the Word, the Christ, was present in the beginning, creating with God. Mind-blowing!! And think about it ... when God was creating the universe with Christ, that was the first NOW! At those moments in time, that's what was happening in the NOW!

*"Pastor's Letter" continued on p. 2*

*"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1*

About 2023 years ago, Jesus came as the Babe of Bethlehem, and wow, were we blessed to celebrate that again not long ago. When Jesus was born and laid in that manger, and lullabied by Mary, and visited by the shepherds, those moments in time were the NOW to those heroes and to all who stopped by to see!



All of Jesus' relationships and teachings and healings and all of the profound differences He went on to make in people's lives, were all NOW moments for those involved.

Everything that's happened in the past, happened first in the NOW, before it became the past. And everything that will happen in the future will happen as a NOW moment. And Jesus will be there, in every moment, every NOW. Will we welcome Him? Will we connect with Him? Will we be joining Jesus where He is active?

Moses reminds us of Jesus our Deliverer and Savior! Elijah the prophet, who speaks for God, reminds us of the pure expression Jesus is of God's Will and Way and the advancement of God's Kingdom! Jesus Christ is all of this RIGHT NOW! Jesus is always all of this, during all the NOW's that are yet to come!

And as a result, the Season after the Epiphany gets us ready for Lent, which will begin this month on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Lent will invite us again to take a long look at ourselves and our walk with Christ. Lent will invite us to ask if it is well with our walk, and if it is well with our souls. We are reminded by Epiphany that is safe to examine ourselves like this. More than that, it will be a blessing, because Jesus is with us for the exam, loving us, understanding us, and having mercy on us! Jesus is Here! Now! It's Outstanding! It's full of Light! It's full of Blessing!

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Doug

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## NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACK



All is running smoothly with Micah's Backpack program. We are currently sponsoring 8 students at Potomac Heights and the school guidance counselor is aware that we can support additional students.

We have 6 drivers and everyone is scheduled for deliveries through the rest of the year. Currently there are 3 teams of packers and we could use one or two more. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping out.

For the recent Christmas break, each of our students received 2 three-day backpacks and we were able to send home some extra treats. Each of our students received extra hot chocolate, a book of lifesavers, Christmas M & M's, chocolate chip cookies, Christmas Rice Krispy's treats and a craft. For the craft, we found a kit of 12 foam Christmas ornaments for them to make. Working with our co-sponsor church, each Micah's student also received a \$25 gift card for Martin's. The gift cards were distributed by the school counselor.

Thank you all so very much for all that you do to make this program a success!

Blessings!

WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Have you ever heard of **Shrove Tuesday**? Maybe not. But what if I asked if you had ever heard of Fat Tuesday? You might say yes to that (especially if you live in Louisiana). Or what if I said Pancake Day? Maybe if you live in the United Kingdom or Canada you would say yes you have! Three different names, but all are the same day!

As Christians, we celebrate the season of Lent (which is the 40 days before Easter). Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and reflecting on our lives with Jesus. Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**. But the day before Ash Wednesday is known as Shrove Tuesday.

Shrove seems like an odd word, right? What does it even mean? The name "shrove" is a version of the word "shriven" which means to confess your sins (or to tell God you are sorry for all the bad things you have done). Christians use this day to confess their sins, and after they do so, they are free of the burden those sins had on them. Basically, after they confess their sins, they will no longer feel guilty about the wrong things they have done because they will have peace and know God forgives them.

**A Devotion for Shrove Tuesday:** So what does the Bible say about forgiveness? 1 John 1:9 says: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* Isn't that cool to know? God forgives us of all our sins when we confess them to Him. And we can know that He forgives us no matter what because God is faithful. He never goes back on what He says to us in the Bible. His Word is true and we can believe it and know 100% that He forgives us. All we need to do is ask.

The second part of that verse says *"purify us from all unrighteousness."* Those are some big words that you may not understand! Purify means *"to clean"* and unrighteousness means *"sinful."* So this verse is saying that when we ask for forgiveness from God, He cleans us. Here's a visual way to think about this...what happens to your clothes when you play in the mud? They get really dirty! And sometimes that mud is super hard to get out. Your mom or dad might have to wash it several times just to get the stain out. And sometimes that stain may never come out! That's what happens to our heart when we do wrong things...it gets dirty and messed up. And there is only ONE way to get our hearts clean, and that is by seeking God and asking for His forgiveness. And when we do this, our hearts are clean from all the bad things we have done. Every time we come to God and ask for forgiveness of our sins, He forgives us and our hearts are clean! Shrove Tuesday is also known for a yummy food you might like to eat for breakfast...

pancakes! So why do we eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? Back in the old days (like really old days), Christians would use the season of Lent to give up certain foods like meat, fish, fatty foods, milk, and eggs. So as not to waste any food they already had in their house, they would take some of those ingredients and make pancakes. And that tradition got passed down and now it's customary for Christians to eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

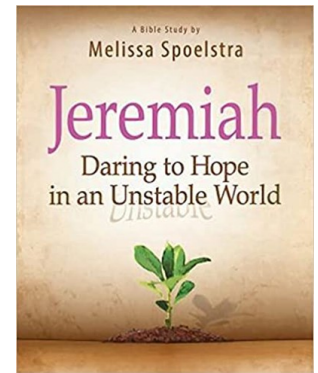
This year the Men's Group and Supper Club are giving us the opportunity to come to the SonShine Café for a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, which is February 21st. Hope you will choose to dine out at church and support these ministries. Get your reservations in and join us for a delicious supper as we prepare to enter the season of Lent. See the details elsewhere in the Partner. Hope to see you there!

**A Prayer for Shrove Tuesday:** *Holy God, I know I have messed up and done things that are not what You wanted me to do. Forgive me for all the wrong things I have done. Help me to spend the next 40 days focused on Jesus and His sacrifice for me. I love You, God. Amen.*



## WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

We have an opportunity to engage in a Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Wednesday from 7:00 pm until 8:15 pm beginning January 11, 2023. Please join us!!!! We will have some e-fellowship beginning each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. Our discussion topic is “*Jeremiah: Daring to Hope in an Unstable World*” by Melissa Spoelstra.



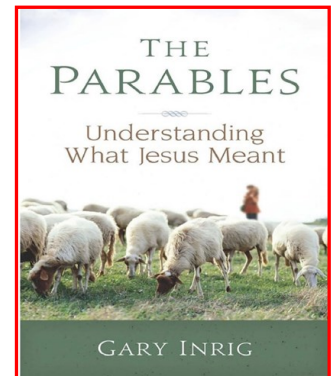
*Jeremiah* offers us hope for living in an uncertain world by teaching us to navigate the challenges and circumstances of our lives. This six-week study examines God's words of instruction to His wayward people through the prophet Jeremiah, and provides six guidelines for intentional living to overcome fear, worry, and doubt as we surrender our wills to God's and put our hope in Him alone. Remember that God is rich in mercy and love and has good plans for us.

- February 1: Session 4. Heart Issues
- February 8: Session 5. Personal Responsibility
- February 15: Session 6. The Promised Messiah

## THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY

We have an opportunity to engage in a Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Thursday from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm beginning January 5, 2023. Please join us!!!!

Our discussion topic is “*The Parables: Understanding What Jesus Meant*” by Gary Inrig.



*“To read the parables of the Lord Jesus is to see ourselves. They are more than mirrors. They can become windows into the heart and mind of God Himself. As a result, they do far more than reveal who we are. They help us know who God is. They not only expose our condition, but also point to a divine remedy. Self-recognition without divine provision would bring only discouragement. The Lord’s parables bring encouragement, because in them we meet ourselves and our God.” – Gary Inrig*

- February 2: Finding My Master (The Tower and the King)
- February 9: Accumulating My Treasure (The Rich Fool)
- February 16: Assuring My Future (The Shrewd Manager)

\*\* Break for the Lenten/Easter Season

If you have questions or ideas, contact Linda Sappington 301-714-0164 or [RSappington@myactv.net](mailto:RSappington@myactv.net). Each person orders their own book and/or workbook from Amazon, Cokesbury, or Christian Book. You can join in even if you choose not to purchase any study material.





# LENTEN HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP



We will have Zoom Lenten Worship services on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm from March 1 through May 3. This series features road signs associated with timely Lenten themes. We used the theme, "Standing at the Cross" last year. Each Zoom worship session includes prayers, songs, responsive readings and interactive sermons. No advance readings is required, but the scripture for the week is included for your meditation. Please contact Linda Sappington if you will lead the Zoom service for a particular week. The PowerPoints have been completed, the worship leader assigns readers for each slide and keeps this unique worship opportunity moving forward.

### March 1 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-13  
2 Corinthians 7:9-10  
Luke 9: 51-56



### April 5 – Fifth Week of Lent

Isaiah 53:7-9  
1 Corinthians 15:20-26  
John 11:20-27



### March 8 – First Week of Lent

Isaiah 55:8-11  
1 Peter 2:21-25  
Matthew 16:21-28



### April 12 – Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9-12  
2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
Mark 11:1-10



### March 15 – Second Week of Lent

Exodus 12:3-7,13  
1 Peter 1:17-21  
John 19:31-35



### April 19 – Maundy Thursday

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
Matthew 26:26-30



### March 22 – Third Week of Lent

Isaiah 53:10-12  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:39-46



### April 26 – Good Friday

Isaiah 53:4-6  
Romans 5:6-11  
John 19:23-30



### March 29 – Fourth Week of Lent

Isaiah 35:8-10  
Acts 4:8-12  
John 14:1-6



### May 3 – Easter Sunday

Hosea 6:1-3  
1 Corinthians 15:51-58  
Matthew 28:1-10



# Please Donate



## HomeSweetHome Foundation

Donations of the following new or gently used house-warming supplies will be used to create a "Feather Box" for aged-out foster youth:

Comforter Sets  
Pots & Pans  
Utensils & Serving Utensils  
Cups  
Blankets & Pillows  
Bathroom Supplies  
Toilet Paper

Shower Curtain  
Shower Liner  
Dishrack  
Dishes  
Trash Bags  
Mop, Broom, Dustpan  
Cleaning Supplies & Paper

Towels  
Clothes Hamper  
Shower Towels  
Hand Towels  
Wash Cloths  
Liquid Hand Soap

HomeSweetHome Foundations' mission is to transition aged-out foster youth between ages 16-26 into adulthood by providing housing, financial literacy, mental health aid, and connection to resources. We are a not-for-profit organization that relies on volunteers and the generosity of American donors.

Visit <https://www.thehshf.org> for more info & online donations. #HSHF



Donations accepted Jan - April in Lobby at



18710 Crestwood Drive Hagerstown, MD  
Receipts available upon request from Receptionist.



## WINTER COAT EVENT

Our first drive in January was a SUCCESS!



On March 4, 2023 we will be meeting at JOHN WESLEY UMC, Hagerstown, at 129 North Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740 to donate coats and other products to the Homeless, also we will be



## Donations for the Homeless

handing out 100 brown bags of snacks and drinks. Our mission here is to help the homeless and hopefully help some to get help with there addiction, this is the second of maybe 3 drives we will be doing this year during the winter time. Please if donating have all donations in to the church by Friday, March 3, 2023 mid day. And money donations can be made out to John Wesley UMC; this is non-profit to us. It's all about the community and outside community coming together to help this crisis here in this city. We need help with donations, and if any can advertise this it will be muchly appreciated. We would like for all to come and help if possible. Talk to the homeless and addicted ones out here. Please all are welcome and donations are needed.



Any questions, please contact Larry at 301-788-4672 or by email at [larry3271@gmail.com](mailto:larry3271@gmail.com) or Heather at 240-928-0387 or by email at [amyliara0618@gmail.com](mailto:amyliara0618@gmail.com).

Please spread the word for donations and come out Saturday with the youth of John Wesley UMC as well and help the homeless in Hagerstown. We will be gathering around 10:30 Saturday morning out front of the church. God bless and thank you



for everything you do already for those in need. We need volunteers and donations for this time! We would like to recognize the following people, churches and groups for their help with our first drive in January: Pastor Jeff and First Lady Diane Mowen from Burnt Chapel in Burnt Cabins, PA; REACH; Serenity Recovery; CASA; Otterbein UMC; Pastor Sarah Dorance in Frederick, MD; John Wesley Youth; the Chapins; and others who remain anonymous. Thank you!





# SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 21, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

The Men’s Group and Supper Club are teaming up to prepare a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Join us on Tuesday, February 21  
between 4:30 and 6:30 pm.

Pancakes, Sausage, Sausage Gravy,  
Fruit Salad or Applesauce,  
Orange Juice and Coffee

Suggested Donation: \$8.00 (10 and under \$4.00)

Please call the church office with your reservation,  
or fill out the slip below and place it in the offering plate  
so that we have enough food prepared.

Join us on Shrove Tuesday for good fellowship and good food!



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_





## CREATIVE SATURDAY — FEBRUARY 25

### Yeast Bread Rolls for Dinner

Learn to make yeast rolls the easy way with your John Wesley friends on February 25. Be prepared to amaze your family. Barb Diefenderfer will teach you to make yeast rolls at our next Creative Saturday experience. Come at 10 a.m. bringing a 9" x13" metal or glass baking dish and be ready to take your rolls home to bake. Yeast breads are easy when you know the routine. You will learn to eliminate the suspected challenge. There will be a small fee to cover the cost of the ingredients which will be announced before the big day.



Enrollment is limited so get your reservation in early by calling Barb at 301-797-4282.

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## SPIRITUAL PRACTICES CLASS

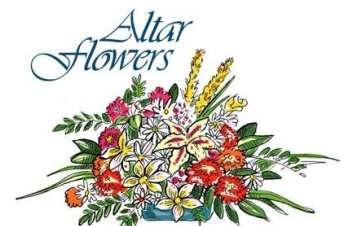
Did you know that Christianity is rich with spiritual practices that have been used for centuries to cultivate a deeper relationship with God? While many people may think they don't have time to pray or engage in spiritual practices, the truth is that many of these practices can be practiced any time by anyone. Join Stephen Pompa on Saturday, March 11 from 2-4 in the sanctuary to dive into the ocean of Christian spirituality and learn practices that can aid you in experiencing God more deeply and becoming more Christlike.

Admission is free.

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## ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS

If you would like to place altar flowers on the altar for 2023, please reserve through the church office. Since Karen is new, she is not familiar with who has a standing order, so please contact her. The cost is still \$50.



# SOUPER BOWL WEEKEND — SOUP SALE!!



**Our Soup Sale will be  
Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12.**

Place an order in advance and your soup will be ready for pickup either Saturday, February 11, or Sunday, February 12. In addition to the Saturday and Sunday pickup times, we know that some people are unable to physically get to the church. Therefore, we are offering a Saturday delivery, which would be following the 5:00 pickup (and within a reasonable distance.) Be sure to note your preferred pickup time on your order blank. Prepayment would be appreciated, but not required.

Saturday's pick up time will be between 3:30 pm and 5:00 pm in the Social Hall, or on Sunday, after worship. Saturday deliveries will happen after 5:00 pm. Complete the order form below and turn into the church office (301-733-0391 or [jwumcmd@yahoo.com](mailto:jwumcmd@yahoo.com)) or place in offering plate. Orders are due **by Monday, February 6.**

Additional Note: The State of Maryland is in the process of implementing a Styrofoam ban. We still have a lot of quart containers on-hand. If you are willing to take a Styrofoam container for your soup please note that below. (If you're thinking of freezing, Styrofoam works great). If neither option is marked, your soup will be in Styrofoam. (Steamer and Chicken Salad will be in a Styrofoam container.)

## SOUP SALE ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**SOUPS: \$8.00/QT**    Chicken Corn: \_\_\_\_\_ qts.    Vegetable Beef: \_\_\_\_\_ qts.

**STEAMER: \$10.00/QT**    Steamer: \_\_\_\_\_ qts.

Also Available: **\$6.00 /12 oz.**    \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Salad

**\$5.00 /12 oz.**    \_\_\_\_\_ Steamer

*My preferred pickup time is:*

**SATURDAY-**    \_\_\_\_\_    *3:30-5:00 in the Social Hall*

**SATURDAY-**    \_\_\_\_\_    *after 5:00 Address: \_\_\_\_\_*

**SUNDAY-**    \_\_\_\_\_    *after the worship service in the Social Hall*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I would prefer my soup in a glass jar*

*(Proceeds to benefit Kitchen Committee for annual equipment maintenance and repairs)*



## February Events

- 1st: 7:00pm, HLW Jeremiah Study
- 2nd: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 2nd: 2:30pm, Parables Study
- 5th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 5th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 8th: 7:00pm, HLW Jeremiah Study
- 9th: 2:30pm, Parables Study
- 11th: 3:30-5:00pm, Soup Sale
- 12th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 12th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 12th: 10:30am, Worship
- 12th: 11:30am, Soup Sale
- 13th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team
- 15th: 10:00am, UMW Meeting
- 15th: 7:00pm, HLW Jeremiah Study
- 16th: 2:30pm, Parables Study
- 19th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 19th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 20th: 7:00pm, Leadership Team
- 20th: Partner Deadline
- 21st: 4:30pm, Pancake Dinner
- 22nd: 7:00pm, Ash Wednesday Service
- 25th: 10:00am, Creative Saturday
- 25th: Youth Walk
- 26th: JW REACH WEEK
- 26th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 26th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

## "Coldest Night of the Year

**Walk"** proceeds benefit the work of REACH. Our youth group will be walking in this event on February 25 and ask for your support. If interested in pledging, please call the church office for more info.



## Our prayers are extended to:

- \* Joyce Stanley
- \* Frances Brown
- \* Fran Shipley
- \* Joe White
- \* Vicki Stouffer
- \* Trite Family (friends of Karen Stamper) on the death of their daughter - Tracy
- \* Ryan Chapin



Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of

**RosaLee Willis**  
who passed away on  
January 5, 2023

## Attendance & Offering Report

January	1	27	1165.00
January	8	46	1917.51
January	15	41	2868.18
January	22	46	1705.40
January	29	??	2022.40

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry





# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2nd: Marilyn Smith   | 22nd: Debra Bowman      |
| Ron Sweeney          | 23rd: Christopher Rowan |
| 4th: Edwin Crider    | 24th: Jason Hoover      |
| Salomeh Grullon      | 25th: April Hoover      |
| Josh Routzahn        | Joyce Lynch             |
| 7th: Sean Hunt       | Lisa Weathersby         |
| 19th: Ragan Shaw     | 26th: Carol White       |
| 21st: Krysten Mesner | 29th: Wendy Payne       |

*(If your birthday or anniversary is this month and does not appear on this list or appears incorrectly, please call the church office or email us at [jwumcmd@yahoo.com](mailto:jwumcmd@yahoo.com) and let us know. Thank you!)*



### Save the Date

### “WING INTO SPRING”

Saturday, March 25th – 4 to 6 pm

During this year’s Lenten journey the Christian Education Ministry and Supper Club are inviting you to a LENT EVENT covered dish “Salad Supper” (remember – not all salads contain greens!!!) and special program on March 25th. Save the date to enjoy food, fellowship and fun with your Church Family and Friends!



# PUZZLE PAGE

## Children of the LIGHT

This craft celebrates that now we are light in the Lord (see Ephesians 5:8).

### What you need:

- A gallon zip-top plastic bag
- Permanent markers (dark colors)
- Black construction paper
- White cardstock
- Scissors

### What you do:

1. Draw a self-portrait on the outside of the bag. Add details.
2. Insert the black paper and set the bag flat on a table. It should be tough to see your picture now.
3. On the white cardstock, draw a picture of a flashlight with a long beam of light coming out. Color the flashlight but leave the beam white.
4. Cut out the flashlight and light beam. Place them in the bag, over the black paper. When the white beam covers the black background under your picture, you can see your self-portrait clearly.



# PUZZLE

*The light of forgiveness*

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?

**Directions:**  
Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.

But if we \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, as he is in the \_\_\_\_\_, we have \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus, his Son, \_\_\_\_\_ us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not in us. If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, he is \_\_\_\_\_ and just and will \_\_\_\_\_ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV**

Answer: walk, light, light, fellowship, blood, purifies, truth, confess, faithful, forgive

# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## FEBRUARY 2023 *PARTNER*

### VISION STATEMENT:

*“We strive to be a Christ Centered Church, advancing the Kingdom of God  
by nurturing and ministering to all peoples.”*

### MISSION STATEMENT:

*“Our Mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ through: Vibrant Worship, Christian Fellowship,  
Spiritual Growth, Loving Service, and the Sharing of God’s Word.”*

