

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2022

The Partner

Pastor's Report to 2022 Church Conference: "Running the Race and Keeping the Faith"

*"I have fought the good fight; I have run the race; I have kept the faith."
— 2 Timothy 4:7*

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We all love that verse above, because we all know what it is to persevere through the dangers, toils, and snares of life ... doing our best to keep the faith, with Jesus by our side running the race with us! In this Pastor's Report on our past year of ministry together, the verse above reflects well upon my past year of service as your Pastor ... and replacing the "I" with "we" allows it to reflect well upon our collective year.

We all hoped for a less eventful year in 2022, yet what we got was another difficult Covid year with its new variant. We have experienced ramped-up cultural unrest, economic woes from supply chain crises and inflation, and international unrest that threatens all of us, as if our climate crisis was not enough.

Through it all, we have persevered, made ministry happen, and planned for more!

As Covid has continued to isolate members from our aging congregation, we have continued our valuable ministry of phone and in-person visitation, including organized lay visitation, to provide support and connection. I have led again this year our active, growing youth group, and it has been an abundant joy! The youth leader team has also grown, and heading into 2023, we are positioned for the formation of a Youth Council that will welcome adult leaders and youth stepping forward into leadership. I continue to share leadership in Christian Education, leading the Youth Sunday School class with my wife Donna and assisting in 2 of our 3 weekly Adult Studies.

Leading our administrative ministry has been most challenging this year. I share with our Finance Committee the concern over the growing deficit of expenses over income and how it is drawing so significantly from our reserves. I agree that we must raise new income and find new revenue streams. We also share thankfulness for the faithful and generous giving of our remaining church family.

At the same time, we are blessed with a hearty endowment that was fortified

"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1

a year and a half ago by a remarkable estate gift of \$1.6 million from Margaret and Audrey Grimm. This gift has given us more time to find and invest in solutions that will raise our income and produce new revenue sources. Even with our difficult financial times, our Endowment (reserves) still stands at \$1.8 million.

Our leadership has differed over the question of whether to continue investing in mission and ministry to enable our revitalization ... or to cut expenses, and particularly staff expenses, in order to stretch our reserves as long as possible. It is my clear and transparent hope that John Wesley continues to invest in revitalization that will come with ministry and mission and meeting and making disciples. Such an investment would be carefully planned and executed with checkpoints and progress reviews along the way. We have lay and staff leadership ready with vision and energy and gifts and graces to proceed.

Our Church Conference will take place on Sunday, November 20, immediately following our Worship Service at 11:45 am. Our District Superintendent, Rev. John Wunderlich, will be with us to review our past year and preside over our business requiring a vote. All church members present will be eligible to vote. There is another article in this newsletter providing more detail about the votes that will be taken. A time for "Questions and Answers" will be provided on Sunday, November 13, immediately following the Worship Service, to help us prepare for our November 20 Church Conference.

It continues to be my honor and privilege to serve you as your Pastor here at John Wesley. I am confident that God has blessing upon blessing in store for us as we continue making and growing disciples at and through our beautiful church! ... as we press on, run the race, and keep the faith! ... with God's help and with our Lord Jesus Christ by our sides!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Doug



A SPECIAL SUPPER CLUB CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 10

2:00 pm



Traditionally, JW Supper Club has held an annual Christmas Caroling Sing-along, where we share a meal and join in good fellowship and singing of our favorite Christmas Carols. After a couple years of not being able to hold that event, last year we tried a new format that people seemed to like.

On Saturday afternoon, December 10, we will gather once again at 2:00 pm in the Social Hall for a covered dish luncheon. Chicken and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish or dessert to share. Following that we will be treated to a performance by the Christian musical group, Second Chances. If you missed them when they were in concert in our Sanctuary in September, you have another opportunity to hear them. The afternoon will be concluded with a short Caroling Sing-along so that we can still sing a few of our favorite carols.

This should be an exciting afternoon of good food, good music and good fellowship. Plan to join us in the Social Hall on Saturday, December 10 at 2:00. Be sure to let us know by December 5 if you are planning to attend so we have enough seating and refreshments.

Either call or email the church office: 301-733-0391 jwumcmd@yahoo.com
or Barb & Greg Hoover: 301-797-5157 bhoov72@aol.com

THE SOUNDS OF JOHN WESLEY (CAPITAL CAMPAIGN)

We promised to continue to keep the congregation informed of the progress of this capital campaign, which from this point on will be devoted to organ repairs.

Our wonderful Moller organ is comprised of 36 registers for a total of 43 ranks and is insured for \$1,260,000.00 (replacement cost).

We hope to proceed with Phase II of the organ repairs in 2023, which consists of releathering three more reservoirs.

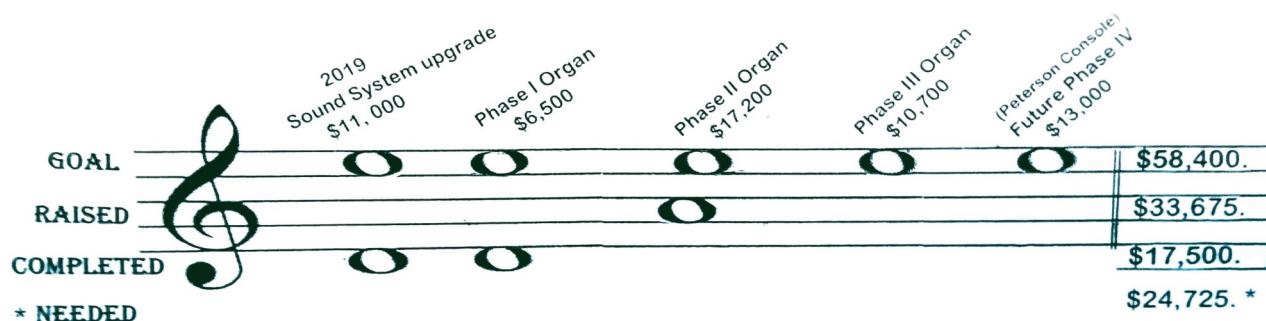
As you can see from the visual below, we are just shy of the amount needed by \$1,025.00 to complete this repair. For your convenience, new Sounds of John Wesley giving envelopes are included with the regular giving envelopes.

The vision shown is as of September 30*. We thank you for your prayers, your commitment, and your generosity.

Grace and Peace,

The Sounds of John Wesley UMC Task Force

Barb Hoover, Carol White, Ken Harnage, Pastor Doug Hoffman



SPECIAL WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER!

All Saints' Sunday, November 6

Join us as we remember our loved ones who have passed on. Please email or stop by the church office with a photo of your loved one that you would like to honor. A special slide presentation and votive candle expression will highlight these beloved saints. Votive candles will be available or you may bring your own.



LAITY

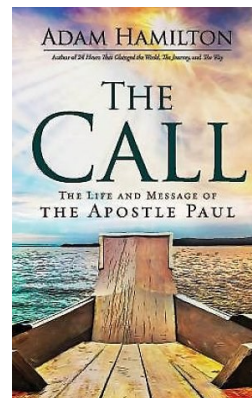
Laity Sunday, November 20

We will celebrate the ministry of our Laity with a special presentation by Rev. Kay Barger, a retired Elder who has joined our church family as a member of our Charge Conference. She will recall how her pioneering journey to ordination as one of our Conference's first clergymen, began with Jesus' movement in her life as a layperson.



WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

YOU ARE INVITED!!! Beginning October 26 and each Wednesday from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm, the Heavenly Living Workshop series will follow the journeys of Paul, beginning with his dramatic conversion as he spread the Gospel through modern-day Greece and Turkey. Travel to the early church sites and explore Paul's conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians. In this six-week study, you are invited to experience faith through Christ's greatest teacher and missionary. In this six-week study, you are invited to experience faith through Christ's greatest teacher and missionary. Call the Church office to get the Zoom link.

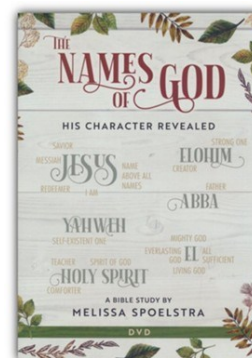


- November 2: Called to Go (Paul's First Missionary Journey)
- November 9: Called to Suffer (Paul's Second Missionary Journey 1)
- November 16: Called to Love (Paul's Second Missionary Journey 2)
- November 23: Called to Give (Paul's Third Missionary Journey)
- Advent Study: 4 weeks beginning November 30. Please join us for this study!
- January 4: Called to Be Faithful (Paul's Death and Legacy)

If you have more questions or ideas, contact Linda Sappington 310-714-0164 or rsappington@myactv.net. Books can be found on the hall table by the chapel.

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 November 10, 2022. Please join us!!!! Our discussion topic is "*The Names of God: His Character Revealed*" by Melissa Spoelstra. Melissa leads us on an exploration of the many names of our triune God—from El and Elohim to Yahweh and its many combinations to names such as Abba, Jesus, and Holy Spirit...and many others. As we study the names of God, our ideas about God will become more grounded in what His names tell us, and thus more personal, allowing a greater trust in Him to share the details of our lives.



- November 10: Session 1. El (Part 1)
- November 17: Session 2. El (Part 2)
- December 1: Session 3. Yahweh (Part 1)
- December 8: Session 4. Yahweh (Part 2)
- December 15: Session 5. Adonai, Abba, Holy Spirit
- December 22: Session 6. Jesus

If you have questions or ideas, contact Linda 301-714-0164 or rsappington@myactv.net. Each person orders their own book and/or workbook from Amazon, Cokesbury, or Christian Book.



~ SOUP SALE ~

Our Soup Sale will be

Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13

Place an order in advance and your soup will be ready for pickup either Saturday, November 12 or Sunday, November 13. 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. Complete the order form below and turn into the church office (301-733-0391 or jwumcmd@yahoo.com) or place in offering plate. Orders are due by Monday, November 7.

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- \$7.00/QT Chicken Corn: _____ qts. Vegetable Beef: _____ qts.

STEAMER: \$9.00/QT Steamer: _____ qts.

Also Available: **\$5.00 /12 oz.** _____ Chicken Salad

\$4.50 /12 oz. _____ Steamer

My preferred pickup time is:

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

SATURDAY- _____ *to be delivered after 5:00 Address: _____*

SUNDAY- _____ *after the worship service in the Social Hall*

My preferred container for soup is:

_____ *Glass Jar*

_____ *I am okay with a Styrofoam container*

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



You're invited to the
HARC Interfaith Community
Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 20, 4:30-5:30 pm
at Saint Ann Roman Catholic Church
1525 Oak Hill Ave, Hagerstown, MD 21742

HARC is pleased to once again offer this unique and uplifting interfaith service, welcoming all members of the community to join together in giving thanks. Enjoy special music, readings, reflections and prayers from different faith traditions, and an opportunity to reflect on gratitude in our own lives.

The service is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken of shelf-stable food for a local food pantry or monetary donations (made out to HARC). Reserved seating for social distancing will be available. Faith Leaders: Please arrive at 4 pm dressed in your traditional liturgical attire, if applicable, to prepare to process in together.

This event is offered by the Hagerstown Area Religious Council with thanks to St. Ann Catholic Church for hosting this year and the Interfaith Team for planning. For more information, contact 301-842-4272 or director@harccoalition.org.

November 27th —
First Sunday of Advent



Hard to believe, but Christmas is right around the corner. Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas.

Devotional Literature



If you are in need of a nice daily devotional, we have copies of the Upper Room Devotional Guides. Please pick up one while in church or just call Karen in the church office and she will mail a copy to you. Regular and large print are available.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Friday, November 4, 2022 at 12 Noon
World Community Day Luncheon

at **Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren**
20402 Beaver Creek Road
Hagerstown, MD 21740

The noon meal will be soup, sandwiches,
fruit cup and desserts.

Cost for the meal is \$10.00.

Theme: "Vision for the Future"

The registration deadline for the meeting is
Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

We will be collecting old eyeglasses to
give to the Lions Club.

Please text or call Debbie Keefer at 301-
988-2928 with your reservations.

VETERANS DAY!

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the "opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice." In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

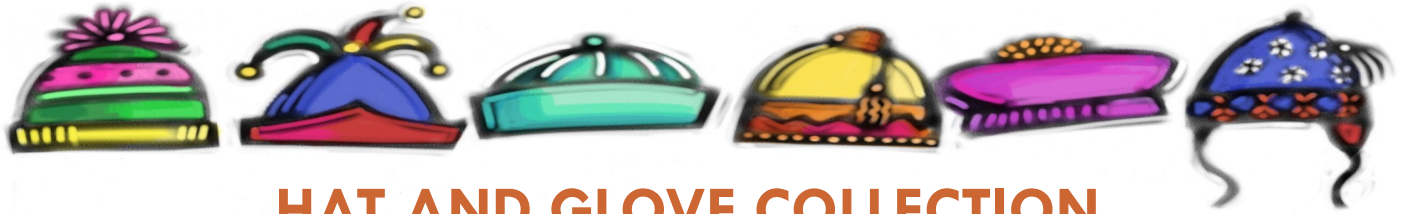


Hanging of the Greens!

Yes, Christmastime is almost here! Come join the fun and fellowship of decorating our church for Advent and Christmas, on **Saturday, November 26 at 9:30 am**. Refreshments and hot chocolate will add to the festive morning! Please call or email the church office if you can help. Thank you!



Before going to bed on Saturday, November 5, 2022,
set your clocks back an hour. Daylight saving time
ends on Sunday, November 6th!!



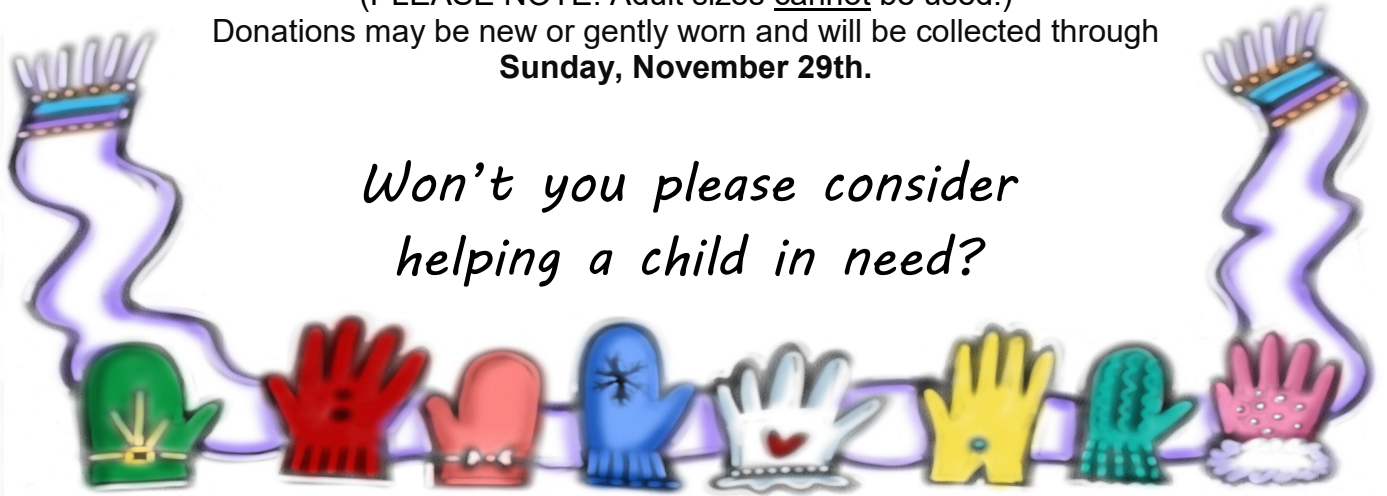
HAT AND GLOVE COLLECTION

HEAD START of Washington County serves the poorest children in our community. Many of these children go without the things that most of us take for granted: a hot meal and a warm hat and gloves for winter. Please join us as we collect gloves/mittens and hats for children ages 4 and under. Look for the boxes inside the social hall and ramp doors.

If you would prefer to make a **monetary donation**, we would love to do the shopping for you! Just make your check out to John Wesley UMC and note "Hats and Mittens" on the memo line. Please send your check by November 22 so we have time to shop.

(PLEASE NOTE: Adult sizes cannot be used.)
Donations may be new or gently worn and will be collected through
Sunday, November 29th.

*Won't you please consider
helping a child in need?*



Children In Need Coat Drive

Children In Need is looking for coats, all sizes from baby-0 to 2x-Adult. They give so many away and they do not want to say "I do not have one for you." Donations in person can be made at the West North Avenue location Monday-Friday from 8am-12pm, or dropped off anytime in one of their donation bins at the following locations:

- Children in Need, 131 West North Ave, Hagerstown
- Forty West Landfill, Hagerstown
- Meritus Medical Center, 11116 Medical Campus Rd, Hagerstown
- Robinwood Medical Center, 11110 Medical Campus Rd, Hagerstown
- San Mar Family and Community Services, 8504 Mapleville Rd, Boonsboro



NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACK

We are off to a good start for this school year and are currently sponsoring 10 students at Potomac Heights Elementary.

There are currently two teams of packers and approximately six drivers helping out. If you are interested in adding your name to this list of volunteers, please contact the church office. With the next Food Bank pickup not until December, there is the need for the following food donations:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| microwaveable mac & cheese | snack size boxes of raisins |
| soups | pudding cups |
| individual packs of vegetables | microwave popcorn |
| Ritz short stacks | Jiff to go |

Thank you all for your support!!
WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I



ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will have poinsettias in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 18th. If you wish to purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please return the information below via either offering plate, email (jwumcmd@yahoo.com), or call the church office at 301-733-0391 so that it is received no later than **Sunday, December 4, 2022**. The cost is still \$15.00 each.



No. of Poinsettias ordered: _____

In Memory/Honor of (circle one):

Given by: _____

Contact phone number: _____



November

BIRTHDAYS



- 3rd: Rev. Richard Jewell
- 4th: Michael Deavers
- 8th: Zack Ricker
- 9th: Anna Blevins
Ryan Chapin
June Wagner
Jason White
- 10th: Adelyn Donley
- 13th: Curtis Nilson
- 16th: Nancy Moyer
Melissa O'Connor
- 17th: Marie Tolbert
- 20th: Jared Payne
- 22nd: Lucas Payne
- 23rd: Brian Jones
- 25th: Bob Heck



November

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th: Richard & Karen Jewell
- 13th: Sean & Jessica Hunt

(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 and let us know. Thank you!)

BUSINESS UP FOR VOTE AT NOVEMBER 20 CHURCH CONFERENCE

As I mentioned in my cover article, our Church Conference will take place on November 20, immediately after worship. I hope you will come. It's important for you to be an informed voter. I hope this helps.

There will be only 2 items of business that will be voted upon on November 22.

First, the **Pastor's Compensation Package** will be presented by our **SPRC** for approval. The SPRC is proposing a base salary showing a 3.02% cost of living adjustment added to the Pastor's 2022 salary, which would increase the Pastor's base salary for 2023 to \$53,528. SPRC's proposal also includes setting the Pastor's 2023 Travel and Professional Expense Reimbursement Account at \$4100.

Second, the **Nominations Committee** will present for approval the following report, with its proposal to form a **Leadership Team**...providing a new model for our administrative ministry...which...

- Folds the functions of our **5 administrative committees** into **one Leadership Team**.
 - ◇ Makes the most of our available human resources for leadership...and remedies our shrinking pool of volunteers and the difficulty this presents for filling 5 committees.
 - ◇ Administrates **more efficiently**, with **better communication**.
 - **Moves** ideas and discussion...**to action** more quickly.
 - Reduces the number of necessary meetings.
 - ◇ Alleviates the burden on volunteers serving on multiple committees.
 - ◇ The Team would **begin** meeting monthly **in January**.
- A group of ten nominated and elected leaders will be responsible for the decision-making and planning formerly done by Administrative Council, SPRC, Trustees, Finance, and Nominations.
 - ◇ The focus of each of the former committees will be represented and supervised by at least **2 persons** on the Team that have **expertise and experience in the work of each former committee**.
- The Team will **delegate** necessary tasks to smaller groups authorized to work on and complete the tasks, in consultation with the Leadership Team.
- In essence, **we would continue functioning as we function now**, with the Leadership Team functioning as our current Administrative Council has functioned.
 - ◇ The Team will trust and delegate to smaller task groups to make ministry happen.
 - The task groups report to the Leadership Team for consultation and approval.
- The persons shown on our report, who have accepted their nominations to join the Leadership Team, represent our resolve that the Team be a **balanced** group of cooperative, positive-thinking leaders who are **open to and hopeful about investing in revitalizing ministry and mission**. At the same time, they **effectively count costs** and **manage risk**.
 - ◇ Our nominations also balance a combination of fresh voices with current voices.

Continued on page 12

"Business Up for Vote" continued from p. 11

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Class of 2023: *Sue Baker, Carol Easton, Mary Licht, George Stone*

Class of 2024: *Barb Diefenderfer, Jim Fritsch, Greg Hoover*

Class of 2025: *Ryan Chapin, Barb Hoover, Richard Willson*

Chair: The Leadership Team will elect their own Chairperson

Team Members shall be divided into classes with 3-year terms (In the first year of this team, the first two classes will have one-year and two-year terms. After serving their first term, members may serve one additional 3-year term.

Vacancies on the Team at the end of a term shall be filled by members nominated and elected at Church Conference. Vacancies created by resignations during a term shall be filled by members nominated and elected by the Leadership Team, in between Church Conferences.

Other Nominated Positions, elected at Church Conference —

Lay Leader: *Sue Baker*

Lay Member to Annual Conference: TBD

Treasurer: *Deb Markell*

Financial Secretary: *Sheila Collins*

While these positions are not automatically included on the Leadership Team, they continue to provide valuable service to the church and valuable consultation and resourcing to the Team.

Attendance & Offering Report

October	2	22	\$1,504.00
October	9	45	3,019.21
October	16	44	1,984.00
October	23	46	1,331.25
October	30	46	3,139.00

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry



- 2nd: 7:00pm, HLW - "Called to Go"
- 3rd: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 3rd: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
Session 8 - Methodism
- 3rd: 7:00pm, Trustees Meeting
- 6th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 6th: 10:30am, All Saints' Sunday Worship
- 7th: 7:00pm, SPRC Meeting
- 9th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Called to Suffer"
- 10th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
Session 1 - "Names of God"
- 10th: 7:00pm, Finance Team Meeting
- 11th: Youth Retreat
- 12th & 13th SOUP SALE
- 13th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 13th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 13th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 14th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team Meeting
- 16th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Called to Love"
- 17th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
Session 2 - "Names of God"
- 20th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 20th: 10:30am, Laity Sunday Worship
- 20th: 4:30pm, HARC Interfaith Service
- 21st: Partner deadline
- 23rd: 7:00pm, HLW - "Call to Give"
- 24th: Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
- 26th: 9:30am, Hanging of the Greens
- 27th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 27th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 28th: 7:00pm, AD Council
- 30th: 7:00pm, HLW - Advent Study

PUZZLE PAGE



Links of GRATITUDE

Make this meaningful decoration for your Thanksgiving table.



What you need:

- Construction paper (in fall colors)
- Scissors
- Pen
- Jar
- Stapler
- Adult help



What you do:

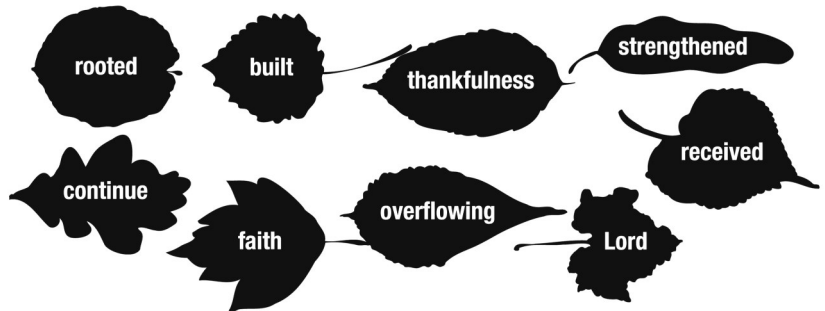
1. Cut the paper into strips about 2 inches wide.
2. Place the strips and pen in the jar. Then set it in a prominent place in your home.
3. Throughout November, have family discussions about what you're thankful to God for. Write or draw each item on a paper strip.
4. Make a paper chain by linking and carefully stapling the strips.
5. Keep adding to your decoration and display it during your Thanksgiving meal.



Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves. What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.



So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____ ,
 _____ to live your lives in him, _____ and
 _____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you
 were taught, and _____ with _____ .

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, overflowing, faith, strengthened, built, rooted, thankful, overflowing.

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER 2022 *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.”*

