

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2024

The Partner

“Just Because!”

*“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone, because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because He lives!”*
— “Because He Lives” words by Gloria & Bill Gaither

*“... the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here but has risen ...” — Luke 24:5*

Happy Easter!!

The verse above from Luke comes from this Gospel’s account of Jesus’ glorious resurrection, which all four of the Gospels, of course, are overjoyed to tell! And we are overjoyed to hear!

The angelic “men” of Luke 24:5, in their dazzling white, surprise the women who have come with their spices, planning to care for the entombed Jesus. What they proceed to say to the women might seem particularly harsh, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” The men wonder why the women expect Jesus to remain still among the dead?

Jesus had openly talked with His disciples and followers not only about the necessity that He die, but also about the certainty of His rising again! The angels at the tomb pull no punches about the mindset with which the women come to the tomb, compared to the one they should have had. For them, the women ought to have come to the tomb looking for the Living, expecting to find Jesus among the Living! Instead, the women had given in to the end that Jesus was dead and surrendered the hope that He lives! After their tough question, the angels then seek to inspire the women, devoted followers of Jesus that they are, with the Easter news that Jesus is not there among the dead! He is risen, and among the Living!

“Pastor’s Letter” continued on p. 2

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Luke's account offers a valuable lesson to us this Easter! It reminds us to be careful about our mindset!

We all believe in a Resurrected, Living Jesus! "He lives. He lives. Christ Jesus lives today," we sing at Easter. "He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way." And yet, our mindset can often struggle to show the confidence that Jesus abides with us, ready to empower us out of the immeasurable abundance of Living Power that raised Him from the tomb! Do we, like the women who visited Jesus' tomb, drift into expecting Jesus to be among the dead? ... among that which has lost its Living Power?

We also sing at Easter and throughout the year the joyous song given to us by the Gaithers and their musical family, "Because He Lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone ... and life is worth the living just because He lives." We love singing this for the same reason we love singing "He Lives" and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" and "Up from the Grave He Arose" and all the other great Easter songs ... because we believe it! We believe in the Power of God that raised Jesus to life! We believe that nothing is impossible for God! With God's help, let us take the next steps of faith and trust it! Let us expect it, where we can't yet see it!

Why? Just Because! Just Because He Lives! ... living so powerfully among us, with us, and through us! We may not yet know what Jesus is going to help us do next, with all His Power, Just Because He Lives! But we have all the evidence around us to know what Jesus has already done in our lives and in the lives of others, with all His Power, Just Because He Lives!

Happy Easter! ... and may you and yours be richly blessed by the hope and confidence that Jesus is busily active among the Living and that life is abundantly worth the Living Just Because Jesus Lives!

Happy Easter!!

Pastor Doug



CREATIVE SATURDAY — SEWING FOR OTHERS

Creative Saturday will happen again on April 20! We will be making quilts and post surgery comfort pillows for others. This is the Creative Saturday way of serving those who need a little help to make their lives better.

We will begin at 10 am and end around noon.

The call is for those who have skills or no skills in sewing, pressing, stuffing or sorting fabric. We will teach you as needed and we think everyone will be able to be trained to hone a skill you already have or to learn a new one. The quilts we make will be donated for children of women who are in a crisis situation. The pillows will be heart shaped to share our love to make post surgery people more comfortable. The fellowship is sure to be top notch!

This work time will be free but we ask that you consider making a small donation to fund the purchase of quilt batting for the quilts. We have sewing machines and other equipment to use. We only ask for your free spirit and a little time to serve others.

Please let Barb Diefenderfer know that we can plan to see you on April 20.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know ... that when the Library was dismantled several years ago during the moving of the offices back to the church building, and the relocation of several of the rooms within the church, that most of the Resource books were kept and are available for use in our Conference Room (Rm. #101). Feel free to borrow any of these books. Just be sure to return them when you are finished.

And on the other hand ... want a “good read?” Try our Book Exchange. Created right before the pandemic, there was very little opportunity to share at that time. Located in the Conference Room, there are a variety of books: fiction, non-fiction, biographies, history, mysteries, devotionals – you name it, it might be there. How does it work? The idea is to take a book from that bookcase to read – and then leave one that you may have already read, that someone else might want to take and enjoy.

So if you have any books you would like to share, just leave them in the Book Exchange bookcase. Enjoy!



CONNECTING FROM THE SHARING TEAM

Sharing Team took a break and did not meet in March. Too many things going on – and that’s a good thing! :-)

The return of the Wednesday evening Lenten services with a meal was enjoyed by many. Six neighboring United Methodist churches joined to experience Lent together on six different Wednesdays. John Wesley served a meal to over 70 people on our week, with more people coming for the service only. A big thanks to everyone who helped with that event.

As we move past the Easter season, the Service Team is planning an ‘After-Easter’ dinner for the homeless in May.

Coffee Fellowship continues to be enjoyed between Sunday School and Worship Service on the second Sunday of each month.

Zoom Bible Studies plan to resume after Easter. Look for additional details.

The next scheduled meeting of the Sharing Team will be held Monday, April 8 via Zoom – open to anyone who would like to share ideas.

Blessings,
Barb & Greg Hoover



SAVE THE DATE!!

**WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I
ANNUAL AUCTION**

**“MAKE IT BAKE IT
SEW IT GROW IT”**

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

JOHN WESLEY UMC SOCIAL HALL



Join us for the 12th annual HARC Hike!

Saturday, June 8, 2024

on the C&O Canal Towpath

Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center

1686g Taylors Landing Rd., Sharpsburg, Md.

(Check-in location for all hikers)

REGISTER ONLINE | REGISTER BY **MAY 19** FOR A
THROUGH **JUNE 7** | \$10 DISCOUNT & GUARANTEED T-SHIRT!

Hospitality Stops ■ Celebration Luncheon
Music ■ Prize Drawings ■ Family-friendly

For complete details
and to Register, visit
harccoalition.org/hike
or scan this code:



Hike proceeds benefit HARC & Micah's Backpack
2-1 Match from the God's Grace Fund!



Every dollar raised over the \$200 suggested fundraising goal for each participant will be matched 2-1 by the God's Grace Fund!



HARC HIKE

for Hunger & Hope

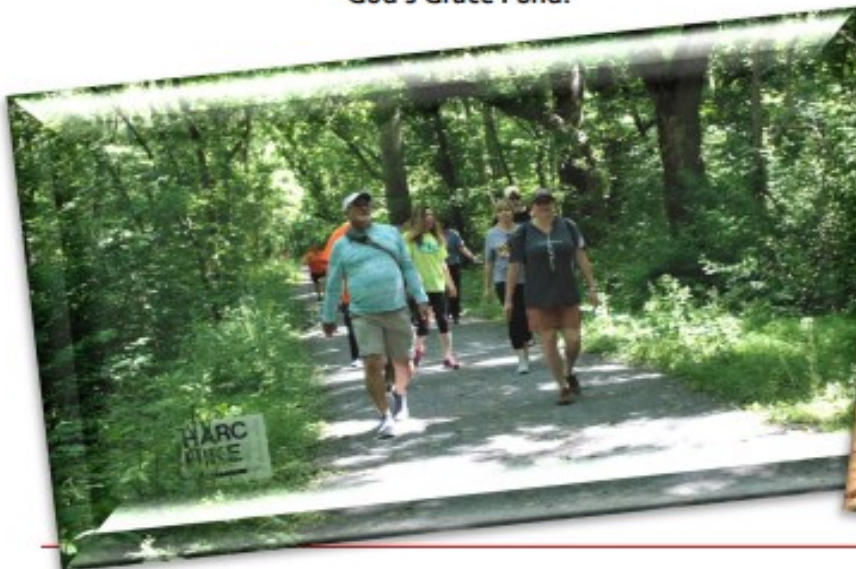
Three distance options:

➔ **4K** (2.5 miles)
Individuals \$40; Families \$65

➔ **10K** (6.3 miles)
Individuals \$50; Families \$85

➔ **Half-marathon** (13 miles)
Individuals \$60; Families \$105

◆ **Challenge Hike:**
Up for a bigger challenge?
Join us **Saturday, May 18** for 20 miles on the AT! Details on our website.



REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE

As usual, the Trustees Property Committee is always busy; there is always something going on, or something that needs done.

Phase II of the organ repairs has been completed. I am getting updated prices on the future repair work. Once I have that I will share the status of where we are with the Sounds of John Wesley Capital Campaign, moving forward.

There is always ongoing maintenance required inspections... monthly, quarterly, annually. We have recently had several annual inspections done or to be scheduled. Those include:

- ~ Inspection of the Kitchen fire suppression hood -- done
- ~ Annual state elevator inspection – to be scheduled
- ~ Annual state boiler inspection – done, waiting on certificate

We have lots of plans for 2024 and improvements to the buildings. Items recently done or being looked at:

~ Church building at 129 N. Potomac Street ~

- An audio Hearing Assist Transmitter Unit has been installed in our Sound System due a failure in the existing unit. Our hearing assist units should now be once again functional.
- A replacement high temperature submersible pump has been ordered for the Boiler Room.
- Several rooms in the building have received some deep cleaning for our new users: the Chapel, Room 114, and the Nursery.
- There are plans currently being discussed for improvements and easier upkeep for the courtyard area, also known as the “John Wesley Memorial Garden.”
- We have also been looking at some possible renovations to the downstairs Ladies restroom.
- The NA group has asked for permission to paint the walls in their area, which should help freshen up that area.

~ Rowe Hall, located to the rear of 129 N. Potomac Street ~

- Work is currently being done in the basement of Rowe Hall to lighten and brighten the area... adding the missing ceiling, painting the floors and walls, and updating of the restroom area.

~ 131 N. Potomac Street (former parsonage and office) ~

- We had some recent repairs done to the roof after noticing some missing shingles.
- The back door frame may need work, and we will need to re-evaluate the erosion under the back ramp sidewalk area.

TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE CONTINUED

~ Parsonage on Hamilton Blvd. ~

- A replacement washing machine was recently delivered and hooked up.
- A concrete pad is scheduled to be laid at the grill area in the spring. We are reviewing estimates for a few other exterior repairs and improvements to be done at the same time.



Current building use by outside organizations:

Chapel - Starting on March 17, New Light Metropolitan Community Church began using our Chapel on Sundays at 1:30 for their worship service, as they continue their search for a new church home.

Basement Area - Hope & Gratitude, an NA 12-step group, continues to use our basement area twice a week for evening meetings. At least twice a year, they use the Social Hall and Kitchen for special events.

Kitchen - Kitchen Committee and Property Committee are currently in talks with an individual for renting space in the kitchen.

Other church building spaces - There are several organizations or individuals using various rooms and space within the church building for meetings, crafting, outreach counseling, and distribution of items to the less fortunate and the homeless.

Rowe Hall - Home Sweet Home Foundation, a non-profit organization helping foster children who are aging out of the Foster Care system is currently occupying Rowe Hall.

Take care, stay safe, and God Bless

Barbara Hoover, Chair
Trustees Property Committee

CIRCLES

Circles Washington County, MD, is launching a new cohort soon and needs 30-40 more Allies to work with Circles Leaders (poverty alleviation participants) a couple of times a month to help the Leaders reach their goals. No previous experience is necessary, and we will train you!



Marci Corea and Elizabeth Howe are holding two informational sessions at the Washington County Free Library in Study Room 333 at 3:30 pm on Sunday, April 7 and Sunday, April 14. Plan to attend one of these sessions to get more information about this life-changing program! Some current Allies will be at the meetings to share what it's like to be an intentional friend to a Circles Leader. RSVP to circleswcmd@wccac.org or call or text 301-606-0190.

Easter Lilies

Given in Memory of Our Loved Ones

In Loving Memory of...

Tom, Yvonne & Curt Anthony
given by Karen Stamper

Rev. Milton W. Benny, Jr.
given by his wife — Barbara A. Benny

Buzz, Glenn Jr. & Greg
given by the family

Andrea Chapin
given by the Chapin Family

Jean Chapin
given by the Chapin Family

Shirley Deau — Beloved Mom
given by Keith, Barbara & family

Dennis H. Divelbiss
given by Carol Divelbiss

Albert & Vivian Giguere
given by Rick Thorpe

Doris Koed
given by the Chapin Family

Karl Licht, Sr. — My Husband
given by Mary Licht

In Loving Memory of...

Dominick R. Marinelli
given by Marie Tolbert

Christine & George McAdams
given by Barb & Greg Hoover

Mr. & Mrs. William A. O'Toole, Jr.
given by Carol Divelbiss

Mr. & Mrs. William A. O'Toole, III
given by Carol Divelbiss

Our Loved Ones
given by Pastor Doug & Donna Hoffman

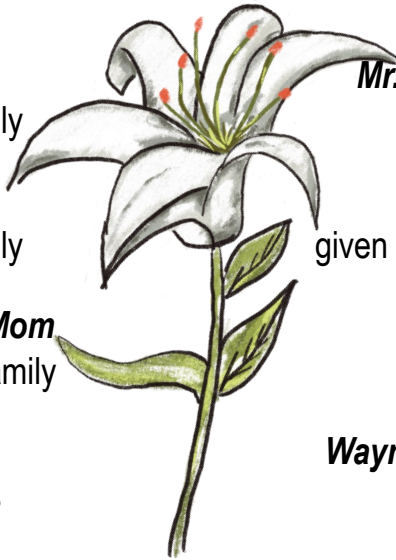
Frank Stanley
given by Joyce Stanley

Wayne & Claire Stoudt — My Parents
given by Mary Licht

Gordon & Debra Thorpe
given by Rick Thorpe

Mr. & Mrs. James Wagner
given by Dr. & Mrs. Trumer Wagner

Mr. & Mrs. Trumer Wagner
given by Dr. & Mrs. Trumer Wagner





April

- 1st: Church Office Closed
- 3rd: 7:00pm, HLW - "What Makes A Hero?"
- 4th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 4th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
Session 6 - "Miracles"
- 7th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 7th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship Service
with Communion
- 8th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team Meeting
- 10th: 7:00pm, HLW - "What Makes A Hero?"
- 11th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
Session 7 - "Miracles"
- 11th: 7:00pm, Property Trustees Meeting
- 14th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 14th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 14th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship Service
- 15th: *Partner* deadline
- 16th: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle
- 17th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle
- 17th: 7:00pm, HLW - "What Makes A Hero?"
- 18th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
Session 8 - "Miracles"
- 20th: 10:00am, Creative Saturday
- 21st: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 21st: 10:30am, Sunday Worship Service
- 22nd: 6:30pm, Leadership Team Meeting
- 24th: 7:00pm, HLW - "What Makes A Hero?"
- 25th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
Session 9 - "Miracles"
- 28th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 28th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship Service



Our prayers and sympathy
are extended to
the Rowan Family on
the death of Shawn's
mother

Bonnie Rowan

Attendance & Offering Report

March	3	48	\$ 2,552.61
March	10	60	\$ 2,071.03
March	17	46	\$ 1,454.52
March	24		\$ 2,254.52

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry

The new photo directory is ready for you to pick up! And of course, there are always updates and changes to be made. Each month in the newsletter, please find new updates that you can make in your copy of the directory:



* Stryker, David
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Apt. 825
Melbourne Beach, FL
32951-2462
240-818-2470



Happy Birthday

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|---|
| 1st: | Ashley Cunningham
Kevin Noll | 25th: | Charles Will
Alex Wine |
| 4th: | Diane Mann | 26th: | Jenny Bullington
Heather Pratt
Catherine Strong |
| 5th: | Haley Johnson | 27th: | Tup Ensminger |
| 6th: | Brian Moyer | 28th: | Jenna Rockwell |
| 8th: | Barbara Hoover
Gavin O'Brien | 29th: | Rachel Routzahn |
| 9th: | Patsy Murray
Joan Shaw | 30th: | Sharon Giles
Wally McClure
Jared Tolbert |
| 10th: | Brian Diefenderfer
David Stryker | | |
| 11th: | Rev. Doug Hoffman
Lane Johnson | | |
| 12th: | Luvy Mesner | | |
| 13th: | K.G. Licht
Robert Licht
Victoria Pembroke | | |
| 16th: | Cheryl Strong | | |
| 20th: | Emily Bell
Jerri McNew | | |
| 21st: | Sheila Mount | | |
| 24th: | Virginia Fennel
Donna Hoffman | | |

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 1st: | Shawn & Amy Rowan |
| 8th: | Martin & Melissa O'Connor |
| 16th: | James & Wanna Lee Haught |
| 26th: | Edward & Amy Ernst |

(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!)



PUZZLE PAGE

a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



What you do:

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about ½-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.



UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment. How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong. Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.

flower, stem, bee, leaf

— —

pink, red, yellow, blue

— —

mother, sister, brother, aunt

— —

purple, dress, skirt, blouse

— —

necklace, ring, bracelet, braid

— —

diamond, emerald, heart, ruby

— —

orange, cherry, potato, kiwi

— —

my, our, she, your

— —

faith, family, love, hope

— —

sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature

— —

cookie, cake, pie, sandwich

— —

silver, white, gold, bronze

— —

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a g _____ and qu _____ p _____, which is of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 2024 *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.”*

