

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2025

The Partner

“Easter Variety”

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” — John 10:10

Spring is springing! The fields and landscapes are greener day by day. The weeping willows’ hanging branches are like long, green strings of yarn blowing in the wind. Crocuses, daffodils, and tulips are leading the perennial parade of blooms, along with the early flowering trees. I can’t wait for the redbuds to explode into purple! We have a vast variety of color coming, and it will be wondrous to behold!

Spring’s annual explosion of color reminds us of Easter’s resurrection! On April 20, we will celebrate and marvel again at our Lord Jesus Christ’s resurrection, when He rose again and left an empty tomb to demonstrate the Saving Victory we have in Christ! We will be reminded of our Risen Jesus’ empty tomb as the color again rises from the bare trees and brown landscapes that look lifeless during the winter. Of course, we know that what seems lifeless is, indeed, full of life! The trees and shrubs and perennials, with their trunks and roots and bulbs, remain active during their winter journey, readying themselves for the explosion of life that’s coming in the Spring! Similarly, Jesus remained in His tomb the Son of God, whose Power could not be contained by death or the tomb.

Let the variety of life bursting forth this Spring remind of the vast variety of ways Jesus intends for His resurrection to live in us. As Jesus assured us in John 10:10, He came that we may have life and have it abundantly! Jesus rose so that we may rise! And our rising is not intended to be limited to our rise to heaven when our time on earth is done! While that is a rising most to be desired, we are also meant to rise with Christ daily as our living is elevated by Christ dwelling with us.

We rise as Jesus makes us new with new growth, new discoveries, and new relationships. We rise in existing relationships that grow and go to new places. We rise as our broken relationships heal, as broken habits of ours become healthy and holy, and broken attitudes are

“Pastor’s Letter” continued on p. 2

PASTOR:

Rev. Doug Hoffman
revdhoff@gmail.com

**DIRECTOR OF
MUSIC/ORGANIST:**

Stephen Pompa
stephenpompa26@gmail.com

CARETAKER/CUSTODIAN:

Larry Gibson
larry3271@gmail.com

VITALITY CONSULTANT:

Cindy Reeder
creeder@jw-umc.org

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Karen Stamper
jwumcmd@yahoo.com

Inside this issue:

Pastor’s Letter Continued; Annual Auction	2
Special Community Events	3
Sharing Team Report	4
Church Vitality News	5
Heavenly Living Study	6
Thursday Zoom Study; Easter Cross of Flowers	7
Candy Fundraiser	8
Scholarship Applications	9
Birthdays & Anniversaries	10
Puzzle Page	11
Easter Lilies	12
April Calendar; Note from Trustee/Property	13

"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1

made whole by the renewal of our minds and souls. We rise as we are instruments of God in the rising that Jesus produces in others.

Happy Easter this April 20! I am excited to share our Easter Festival with you that glorious Sunday morning at 10:30 in our beautiful sanctuary. You're invited to bring some of your favorite Spring flowers to place in our Easter cross that will adorn our sanctuary, before its beauty and message is shared with our community outside our doors on Potomac Street after our morning worship.

To prepare more deeply for our Easter celebration, please join us for the onset of Holy Week on Palm and Passion Sunday, April 13 at 10:30 am, and then again for our Good Friday Service of Tenebrae on April 18 beginning at 7 pm. The Victory of Easter is a richer celebration after Holy Weeks opportunities to recall and celebrate the boundless Love of God for us that Jesus showed in his Passion and on His Cross!

May you know and experience this Easter, and beyond, the remarkable variety with which Easter wants to come our way, day after day after day!

Blessed remainder of Lent, and Happy Easter!

Pastor Doug



SAVE THE DATE!!

**WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I
ANNUAL AUCTION**

**“MAKE IT BAKE IT
SEW IT GROW IT”**



TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

JOHN WESLEY UMC SOCIAL HALL

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!

Please Join Us for Special Events & Observances for Lent!

In addition to our Sunday Worship services during Lent ... please join us for any or all of our unique and special gatherings during Lent for worship and fellowship.

Continuing Wednesdays, we join with neighboring Hagerstown United Methodist Churches for a series of **Wednesday Lenten Services** to renew a favorite way of experiencing Lent together! The evenings will begin with a meal at 6 pm, followed by worship at 7 pm. We will host the event on Wednesday, April 2 serving the meal and leading the service in our beautiful sanctuary with our Chancel Choir providing Special Music. We hope you will join us as often as you can!



Here is the full schedule:



- Wednesday, March 5 @ John Wesley UMC for Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday, March 12 @ Emmanuel UMC
- Wednesday, March 19 @ Shiloh UMC
- Wednesday, March 26 @ Grace UMC
- **Wednesday, April 2 @ John Wesley UMC**
- **Wednesday, April 9 @ Otterbein UMC**

These Wednesday Lenten Services will lead us into Holy Week, this most reverent week that remembers the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, that led to His Cross, to save us all! We will gather at John Wesley for a **Good Friday Service of Tenebrae** on Friday, April 18 at 7 pm. Earlier that Good Friday, HARC will once again offer its traditional Good Friday Unity Walk of the Cross at City Park on April 18. Walk begins in the gazebo adjacent to the Museum parking lot at 1:00 pm.

All of these Lenten experiences will prepare us for a Glorious Easter on Sunday, April 20. We will celebrate our Easter Festival that joyous morning at our 10:30 worship time. We will fill our floral cross again that morning and then rejoice in Jesus' Resurrection with memorable music and celebration!

Please make every effort to join us for as many of these offerings as you can. You will be blessed! If you cannot join us in person, please join us for any of these offerings online, and join us in prayer and Spirit.



CONNECTING FROM THE SHARING TEAM



SHARING TEAM did not meet in March but there are lots of things happening!

- ◆ Several of the local United Methodist churches have been experiencing Lent together for a series of Wednesday Lenten Services, beginning with a meal and fellowship. John Wesley UMC will be hosting on April 2, and Otterbein UMC will host the final week on April 9.
- ◆ HARC will once again offer its traditional Good Friday Unity Walk of the Cross at City Park on April 18. Walk begins in the gazebo adjacent to the Museum parking lot at 1:00 pm.
- ◆ The Youth Group attended the IGNITE Youth conference in Ocean City, the weekend of March 7–9.
- ◆ The Micah's Backpack program continues to serve 20 children each week at the Ruth Ann Monroe School. Anyone interested in helping to pack the bags should contact Deb Markell or call the church office.
- ◆ A new mission for the Service Team, Lunches With Love, spearheaded by Janessa Chapman, has been happening every Sunday. This involves preparing about 35 lunches to be delivered to folks in the area. A candy fundraiser is being held to help support this mission. Look for order forms at the ramp door table.
- ◆ Coffee Fellowship continues to be enjoyed between Sunday School and Worship Service on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
- ◆ Wednesday Night Alive events have been temporarily suspended during Lent, due to the conflict with the community Wednesday Lenten dinners/services. However, the Youth/Young Adult group have been trying to continue meeting in some alternate form during this time frame. WNA will resume on April 23.
- ◆ The Zoom HLW Bible Study on Wednesdays has also taken a break during Lent and Holy Week. The Zoom Bible Study on Thursday afternoons will continue: Invitation to the Gospel of John: Short-Term Disciple Bible Study.

The next scheduled meeting will be held April 14 via Zoom – open to anyone who would like to share ideas.

Blessings,
Barb & Greg Hoover

MY THOUGHTS - A PEEK INSIDE

Spring is just around the corner and that means new beginnings and new excitement is in the air. I'm glad that the winter is drawing to a close because with each spring there is always new hope of fresh birth and new blooms.

I began this part-time position on Monday, February 10 (wintertime) by meeting at Panera Bread with the 213 Team. Now that it's March (springtime), the thought of new beginnings is in my veins as well.

The 213 team serves as a Task Force for the Leadership Team to look for innovative ways to expand John Wesley's visibility and viability in the community as a downtown church. There are so many facets to John Wesley that it will take me a while to get to know you, but I'm available via email and welcome you contacting me at creeder@jw-umc.org. If you want to talk with me via phone, meet me at the church or go for lunch, just reach out and I'll be happy to make an appointment. It's important that I hear your heart for John Wesley. Why you're here and what gives you hope.

Maybe you feel that winter will always be with you, but I don't look at things that way. I try my best to see possibilities and work with reality to make things come to fruition. I listen for God's nudging, peek under rocks, look inside of empty spaces and imagine new beginnings.

Please join me on this quest to find the threads that weaves all of you together in ministry and mission. We have this gift of time together, let's use it wisely.

With a grateful heart!

Cindy Reeder
Church Vitality Consultant

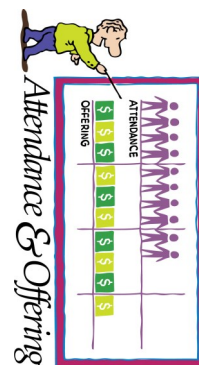
Note: Because I am retired, I agreed to serve for a maximum of six months and average 32 hours/month in this position.



Attendance & Offering Report

Date	In-person	Online	Total Attendance	Total Offering
Mar 2	40	4	44	\$ 1,305.20
Mar 9	29	2	31	1,586.71
Mar 16	30	4	34	1,195.20
Mar 23	38	4	42	1,580.20

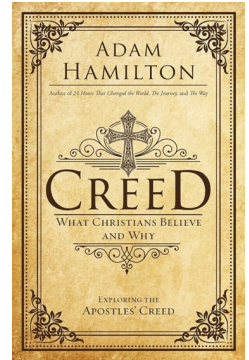
~ Blessings, Sheila & Sherry



WEDNESDAY HEAVENLY LIVING STUDY

We have an opportunity to engage in a 6-week Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756 Phone: 1-301-715-8592) each Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm beginning April 30. Please join us!!!!

Creed: What Christians Believe and Why
By Adam Hamilton



Explore what Christians believe, why they believe, and why it matters through the Apostles Creed. We're all searching. Sometimes the search is easy: simply type a question and the answer pops up. But sometimes our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and harder to articulate. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. In this book, Hamilton considers important questions of life, reality, and truth. He explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe it and why it matters.

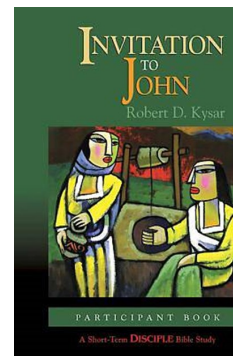
1. God – April 30
2. Jesus Christ – May 7
3. Holy Spirit – May 14
4. The Church and the Communion of Saints – May 21
5. The Forgiveness of Sins – May 28
6. The Resurrection of the Body – June 4



THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY

We continue the opportunity to engage in an 11-week Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756 Phone: 1-301-715-8592) each Thursday afternoon from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm. Please join us!!!!

Invitation to the John:
Short-Term Disciple Bible Study



The invitation from Christ is: "Come and see, Follow me." Experience the magnificent passages in John including the I AM statements (I am the truth, the life and the way, I am the living water and more). Revisit stories only told in John's gospel including Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene and the raising of Lazarus.

During the weekly video segments, travel into the scripture as you hear the Word, experience the grand artwork connected with each story and interview the scholar.

Robert D. Kysar, Bandy Professor Emeritus of Preaching and New Testament, Candler School of Theology, is a noted scholar on the Gospel of John. He has authored numerous articles and books, including a revised edition of John: The Maverick Gospel; Preaching John; and most recently Voyages With John: Charting the Fourth Gospel.

Session titles and scripture:

8. What Time Is It? (John 15–16) – April 3

**** Holy Week ****
9. Look Out! (John 17–18) – April 24
10. Believing Without Seeing (John 19–20) – May 1
11. Do You See Him? (John 21) – May 8

EASTER SUNDAY CROSS OF FLOWERS

We are going to decorate our flower cross on Easter Sunday. Bring in any type of spring flowers from your home or a store to fasten to the chicken wire around the wooden cross.

Please arrive a little early before the service starts so that we can get the flowers in place. After the service, we will share the cross with the neighborhood outside our doors. Thank you for your participation.





Lunches With Love Candy Fundraiser

Help Support Lunches With Love Continue to feed our community

Potato Candy



1 lb. - \$7.00
2 lbs. - \$10.00
3 lbs. - \$15.00

Buckeyes



1/2 lb. - \$6.00
1 lb. - \$10.00

Rock Candy



1/2 lb. - \$6.00
1 lb. - \$10.00

ORDERS DUE BY APRIL 6TH.

Flavors

Bavarian Cream

Cinnamon

Orange Creme

Spearmint

Banana Creme

Fruit Punch

Peach

Strawberry

Butter Rum

Green Apple

Root Beer

Watermelon

Pick Up Dates -

April 12th 11am - 2pm | April 13th 1pm - 5pm

At John Wesley United Methodist Church
129 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD, 21740
(around back @ the courtyard)

For any questions please contact 301-992-7759

Pay by Venmo or Pay cash when picking up.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

First a little history about our scholarship program. Around 1975 the Startzman family left \$25K as a protected principle and the interest/earnings generated by the \$25K to be used for scholarships. Over the years a record of interest/earnings/loss was not kept, the \$25K became part of our endowment fund.



Scholarship Fund

The Leadership Team has made the decision that part of our total endowment fund is comprised of \$25K of the protected Startzman gift. Since there is not a guarantee of a positive return on our total investment, the Leadership Team decided on the following: on January 1st of each year determine the rate of a one year CD, on December 31st of the same year determine which is greater, the total return on the endowment fund or the rate of a fixed rate CD. This way if the total return is greater than the CD, this would be the amount eligible for scholarships, if the CD rate is greater, this would be the amount eligible for scholarships. This would guarantee a positive amount each year going into the scholarship fund. This money would then become restricted money designated for scholarships only on our balance sheet.

If people would like to make contributions to the scholarship fund, we would encourage them to do so. The scholarship committee would be made up of three volunteer members from the congregation. The chairperson would be the Leadership Chairperson; if there was to be a conflict of interest the Leadership Team would select another person. The chairperson would not have a vote, would be a facilitator only. The application has been changed to reflect that people who might be out of school but going back to school would be eligible, part time students would be eligible, and any type of higher education after high school, to include college, trade schools would be eligible. Applications would be due on or before the third Friday of April each year, available in the office. The Leadership Team is looking for applicants and three volunteers from the congregation to serve on the Scholarship Committee.

~ from the Leadership Team



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 |
| 26th: | Edward & Amy Ernst |
| 28th: | Wally & Barb McClure |

(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



Springing to LIFE

New life defines the season of spring. Make this Easter craft that symbolizes rebirth.

What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Jellybeans

What you do:

1. From the bag's bottom, cut two 2-inch circles. Set aside.
2. From the sides, cut two 10-inch circles.
3. Draw a thin spiral on each large circle and cut along the lines. Crinkle spirals gently.
4. Starting at the center, wrap one spiral into a nest. Glue every few inches to hold it.
5. Glue one small circle to the bottom of the nest.
6. Repeat with the other spiral. Fill nests with jellybeans and give to a friend!



OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

1. C → ↓ ↓ ↓ _____
2. H → ↑ → _____
3. V → ↑ → ↓ _____
4. I ← ← ↑ _____
5. T ↑ ← ↑ _____
6. P ↑ → → ↓ _____
7. D ↓ → ↓ ↓ _____
8. T ↑ ← ↑ ← _____



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us

_____ into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV

Easter Lilies

Given in Memory/Honor of Our Loved Ones

In Loving Memory of...

Tom, Yvonne & Curt Anthony

given by Karen Stamper

Andrea Chapin

given by the Chapin Family

Dennis H. Divelbiss

given by wife Carol Divelbiss and daughters Diana & Sally

James Feigley, Jr.

given by parents James & Sharron

James Feigley, Jr.

given by wife Tina

Paul Graham

(Amy's Brother)

given by Shawn & Amy Rowan

Marian, Paul, & David Harnage

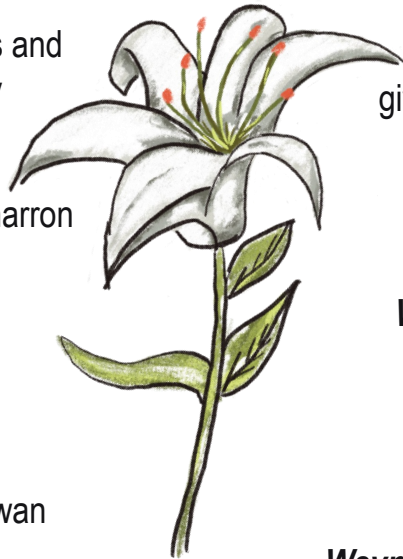
given by Ken Harnage

Karl Licht, Sr. – My Husband

given by Mary Licht

Christine & George McAdams

given by Barb & Greg Hoover



Mr. & Mrs. William A. O'Toole, Jr.

given by daughter Carol Divelbiss

Mr. & Mrs. William A. O'Toole, III

given by sister Carol Divelbiss

Our Grandparents

given by Shawn & Amy Rowan

Bonnie Rowan

given by Shawn & Amy Rowan

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Shatzer

given by Joyce Stanley

William & Franklin Shatzer

given by Joyce Stanley

Frank Stanley

given by Joyce Stanley

Wayne & Claire Stoudt – My Parents

given by Mary Licht

In Honor of...

My Grandchildren

given by Ralph Chapin

Our Children & Grandchildren

given by Mr. & Mrs. Histon Tolbert





- 2nd: 4:45pm, Choir Rehearsal
 2nd: 6:00pm, Lenten Service Dinner @ JW
 2nd: 7:00pm, Lenten Service @ JW
 3rd: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
 3rd: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "John" #8
 6th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 6th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship with Communion
 6th: 11:00am, Lunches with Love
 7th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team
 9th: 4:45pm, Choir Rehearsal
 9th: 6:00pm, Lenten Service Dinner @ Otterbein
 9th: 7:00pm, Lenten Service @ Otterbein
 10th: 6:30pm, Trustees/Property Team
 12th: Candy Fundraiser
 13th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 13th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
 13th: 10:30am, Palm Sunday Worship
 13th: 11:00am, Lunches with Love
 14th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team on Zoom
 15th: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle I
 16th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle
 16th: 4:45pm, Choir Rehearsal
 18th: 1:00pm, HARC Good Friday Walk
 18th: 7:00pm, Good Friday Service @ JW
 20th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 20th: 10:30am, Easter Sunday Worship
 20th: 11:00am, Lunches with Love
 21st: *Partner deadline*
 21st: Office Closed
 23rd: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
 23rd: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
 23rd: 7:00pm, WNA Programming
 24th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "John" #9
 26th: 12:00pm, Speaker Jam (NA Group)
 27th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 27th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
 27th: 11:00am, Lunches with Love
 30th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
 30th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
 30th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Creed" #1

Pastor Doug will be out of the office April 21st through 30th.



A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A reminder for anyone using the building, please make sure the doors close tightly and are locked when you leave. In addition, check for any running water, and make sure all lights have been turned off except for the few that are to remain on. Thank you for your help in keeping our building safe.

Barbara Hoover, Chair
Trustees Property Committee



Our prayers and
sympathy
are extended to
the Eckard Family on
the death of
L. Don Eckard
on March 12, 2025

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

129 N. Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-733-0391
www.jw-umc.org
jwumcmd@yahoo.com

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 2025 *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.”*

