

# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2022

## The Partner

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### ***“Dire Victory!”***

*“The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.” — Matthew 28:5-6*

We are in such dire need of Victory!

We need Victory in our lives, in our families, in our church, in our community, and in our world!

And Victory is what we have in Easter! Victory is what we have through Easter! Jesus’ Victory over the grave declares His everlasting victory over sin and death! Alleluia!! Yes, indeed, Christ is Risen, and, as a result, there is Victory in Jesus, for you and for me!!

Mary Magdalene was one of the women who discovered Jesus’ rising that first Easter. She certainly already knew what it was to win a dire Victory in Jesus, so how appropriate it is that she is the first witness to His resurrection! Mary had 7 demons when she first met Jesus. The scriptures are not clear what form these demons took. Most scholars agree that her demons were likely related to her physical health; or could they have possibly impacted her mental health or her behavioral health. Could it have been a personality disorder; excess anger or anxiety; addiction; depression or despair; bitterness or guilt?

However it is that the demons manifested themselves, Jesus cured Mary of them all!! Jesus made her whole! It was a Victory for which Mary had a dire need! For Mary, it was a Dire Victory! Mary thanked Jesus and Almighty God for her Victory by becoming a tireless and courageous follower and disciple!

We all have had our dire needs, and we have them still. Our sin and its consequences: our disorders, the harm we do, and the untreated harm done to us altogether present the dire need for

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

healing and saving that only Jesus offers! Easter promises this Victory! Like Mary, we know and can proclaim this Victory! As we remain in Christ, Jesus is busy working out abundant and everlasting life in our lives day by day, through a daily walk with Him! And as a result, we know the Victory of Easter! In Christ, our daily lives are full of healing, renewal, growth, and fruitfulness! Easter Victory! Dire Victory! Precious Victory!



It's clear for us all to see how the world around us stands in dire need of the Victory Jesus rose to bring! We are actively destroying our earth with pollutants and their devastating impact! We are speaking again about using the nuclear weapons we have aimed at each other! We appear hopelessly divided culturally, nationally, and globally! And our world can hardly rely on our houses of worship to be instruments of healing, when we reflect all of the division more often than we treat it!

The remarkable thing about Easter Victory is that it stands ever-ready to engage and transform and heal. Like Salvation, it is a gift ready to be accepted, with immediate blessing to offer. All of these dire needs, whether personal, local, national, or global, can be answered with Easter Victory at a moment's notice. Easter Victory is an abundant store of Blessing waiting for faithfulness to unleash it! Remember that at Calvary, from His Cross, Jesus addressed the dire need of the Penitent Thief and then welcomed him into Paradise that same afternoon!

I can't wait to celebrate Easter with you on April 9, and then to continue living into all of its Victory! We all stand in such dire need of this Victory! The great news is that Jesus' Easter Victory is given with such abundance and generosity! We will accept its remarkable gift and cherish our opportunity to pass it on!

After joining us in person or in Spirit for our Palm/Passion Sunday worship on April 2, and our Good Friday Service of Tenebrae on April 7 at 7 pm, please join us again for our Easter Festival Celebration on Sunday, April 9 at 10:30 am. What a glorious and timely celebration it will be of our Victory in Jesus!

Happy Easter!!

Pastor Doug



## LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Leadership Team will continue to place a short summary of its work in future editions of the Partner. If you have questions, concerns or an item we should be discussing please share them with us!

The Leadership Team met on March 20, 2023 and addressed the following topics:

- Work is being done to simplify our financial recordkeeping (chart of accounts) so that we can do a better job of wisely using our financial resources.
- A new committee has been formed around homeless ministries being led by Crystal Richards. Winter coats have been distributed on two occasions, members will be attending the Homeless Coalition's next meeting and other ideas are afoot.
- The "Music Mission" team is hoping to begin providing music lessons to students identified by teachers as having high potential but who cannot afford private lessons. Connections have been made with a number of potential instructors.
- We have three youth that are interested in attending Annual Conference in June!
- Ryan Chapin has made some improvements to the church Facebook page and is continuing to explore how we can make better use of social media to reach out.
- Final bids are being studied for roof repairs around the trinity windows.
- Radon tests are being conducted in our basement level rooms and only the former youth area came back with a slightly elevated level.



Members include Sue Baker, Ryan Chapin, Barbara Diefenderfer, Carol Easton, Jim Fritsch, Barbara Hoover, Mary Licht, Susan Saunders, George Stone, Jenny Suddueth and Richard Willson. The next Leadership Team meeting is Monday, April 17.

## **FAMILY LIFE/SUPPER CLUB — GAME NIGHT**

JWUMC Family Life & Supper Club are planning a game night for Saturday, April 29 @ 4:00 pm. Starting with pizza, we invite you to bring your favorite games to play afterwards. Board games, card games, we might even have corn hole in the halls.

A \$5.00 donation is suggested (but not required) to help offset the cost of the pizza.

And feel free to bring snacks for later. Bring a friend!

In order for us to have enough pizza, and drinks, please call or email the church office if you plan to attend. We hope you will plan to join us!

~ Barb & Greg Hoover, and Sue Baker - and your Family Life Committee ~



**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I  
ANNUAL AUCTION**

**“MAKE IT BAKE IT SEW IT GROW IT”**

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023**

**JOHN WESLEY UMC SOCIAL HALL**







It's our 11th annual Hike!

**Saturday  
June 10, 2023**

On the beautiful

**C&O Canal Towpath**  
in Washington County, Md.

Check-in location for all hikers: **Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center**  
16869 Taylors Landing Road, Sharpsburg, Md. 21782  
*You will be shuttled to your start point on the towpath*

Three distances to choose from:

**4K** (2.5 miles)

Check-in: **9:00 am** or **9:45 am**  
Individuals \$40; Families \$65

**10K** (6.3 miles)

Check-in: 8:00 am  
Individuals \$50; Families \$85

**Half-marathon** (13 miles)

Check-in: 7:00 am  
Individuals \$60; Families \$105

- **\$10 Early-bird discount and guaranteed t-shirt if you register by May 21**
- Enjoy snacks and drink stops along the way
- All hikes conclude at Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center
- Post-hike Celebration for all hikers at Shepherd's Spring with food, music, fellowship!
- Photo scavenger hunt for youth & nature scavenger hunt for younger children
- Prizes for top fundraising individual & team; prize drawing for anyone who raises funds



### Virtual Hike

You can also hike virtually!  
See our website for details.

### Challenge Hike

Up for a bigger challenge?  
Join us **Saturday, May 13**  
for 20 miles on the AT!  
Details on our website.

To learn more & to register, visit  
[www.harccoalition.org/hike](http://www.harccoalition.org/hike)  
or scan this QR code:



Online registration open through  
June 9th. Same-day, in-person  
registration is permitted.

### Proceeds benefit HARC & Micah's Backpack

- Micah's Backpack, a program to feed food-insecure school children on weekends
- Strengthening houses of worship and interfaith relationships
- Early childhood education and well-being programs



## 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.



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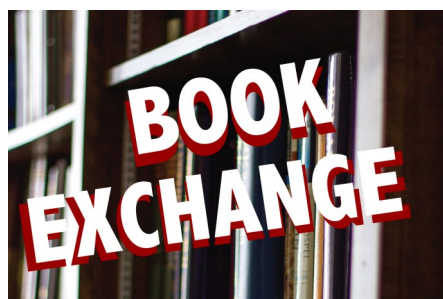
## WHERE ARE THE KEYS?

Trustees Property Committee is trying to get a more accurate list of keys that have been issued over the past couple years. Like many things, the pandemic created many changes and ways of doing things.

If you have a church key, please let us know. Or even better, if you have a key that you no longer need because you no longer have the responsibility you once had, please return that key to the office or to me.

Thank you for helping us streamline this process.

*~ Barbara Hoover, Trustees Property Committee*



## BOOK EXCHANGE BOOKCASE

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



## LENTEN HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP “THE SIGNS OF LENT”



We continue to have a Zoom Lenten Study on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm through May 3rd. This series features road signs associated with timely Lenten themes. Each Zoom 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.

### April 5 – Fifth Week of Lent

Isaiah 53:7-9

I Corinthians 15:20-26

John 11:20-27



### April 12 – Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9-12

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Mark 11:1-10



### April 19 – Maundy Thursday

Jeremiah 31:31-34

I Corinthians 11:23-26

Matthew 26:26-30



### April 26 – Good Friday

Isaiah 53:4-6

Romans 5:6-11

John 19:23-30



### May 3 – Easter Sunday

Hosea 6:1-3

I Corinthians 15:51-58

Matthew 28:1-10



Our prayers are extended to:

- \* Joe White — continued prayers as he is now in long-term care at Bonnie Blink Masonic Home in Cockeysville, MD
- \* Joyce Stanley — back and general health issues
- \* Frances Brown has been doing much better



## SHARING TEAM REPORT

Sharing Team met in March to share their thoughts and ideas...

- ⇒ A very inspiring Spiritual Practices class was held in March led by Stephen Pompa.
- ⇒ The next Creative Saturday will probably be held in May... watch for details.
- ⇒ UMW provided lunch for the HARC monthly meeting held at John Wesley for their March meeting where 40 people were served.
- ⇒ The Youth Group recently visited the North Point Veterans Home on North Avenue where they shared a portion of their proceeds from the Mummers Parade, and interacted with the residents.
- ⇒ Through Christian Ed, along with the help of Supper Club, a Lent Event was held on Saturday, March 25. The theme was 'Wing Into Spring' with food, fellowship and fun.
- ⇒ Family Life, along with Supper Club is scheduling a pizza and game night to be held on Saturday, April 29.
- ⇒ Micah's Backpacks continues to operate at full speed although the number of kids we are serving is down. However, the need is not, and we are looking into ways to increase our support as we submit our Letter of Intent for next year.
- ⇒ Celebration Team shares the upcoming worship events, especially with Lent and Easter. A reminder that there will be a Good Friday Tenebrae service and special music throughout the Lent and Easter season.
- ⇒ There will be a Good Friday Unity Walk again this year at City Park on April 7, 1:00 pm.
- ⇒ We remind everyone of Bible Studies classes – Wednesdays at 7:00 – Signs of Lent. Thursday classes resume on April 20.
- ⇒ UMW Circle 1's *Make It, Bake It, Sew It, Grow It* event will be held Tuesday, May 16.



Sharing Team continues to be a valuable tool for coordination and support of the many smaller groups.

Blessings,

Barb & Greg Hoover



# GOOD FRIDAY UNITY WALK

Sharing Team is inviting you to join them for the Good Friday Unity Walk to be held Friday, April 15 at 1:00 pm at City Park. Wear your JW T-shirt. Meet at the gazebo adjacent to the Museum to participate together in this time of prayer and reflection.



This is a Good Friday walk in memory of Christ’s passion and death. Walk begins at the gazebo adjacent to the museum parking lot. The journey will walk around the two lakes and concludes at the grotto. There will be 7 stops with scripture readings and meditations, and call-and-response songs between stops.

For those who are unable to do the walk, a stationary (no walk) option will be held at the gazebo.

**Hope you will plan to join us!**

## CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN IN NEED OF A CHURCH SECRETARY

20 hours per week, \$13.50 to \$16.50 per hour, 3 weeks’ vacation.

Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Flexible times possible.

Send a resume with references to:

CELC

216 N. Cleveland Avenue

Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Phone: 301-733-3482.

Email: christlutheran@gmail.com



## Attendance & Offering Report

March	5	41	\$ 2,531.27
March	12	58	\$ 2,295.40
March	19	36	\$ 1,655.40
March	26	45	

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry



## Easter Lilies

### Given in Memory and in Honor of Our Loved Ones

#### In Loving Memory of...

**Tom, Yvonne & Curt Anthony**

given by Karen Stamper

**Christine & George McAdams**

given by Barb & Greg Hoover

**Jim Baker**

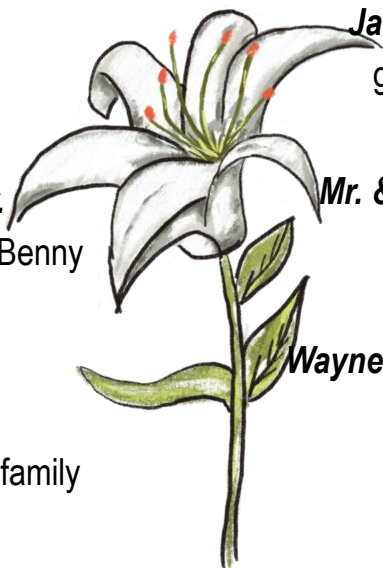
given by Sue Baker

**James, Julia and Julie Miller**

given by Carlotta and Judy

**Rev. Milton W. Benny, Jr.**

given by his wife — Barbara A. Benny



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

given by the family

**Our Parents —**

**Robert & Shirley Deau**

given by Keith, Barbara, Roy & family

**Wayne & Claire Stoudt — My Parents**

given by Mary Licht

**Dennis H. Divelbiss**

given by Carol, Diana & Sally

#### In Honor of...

**Paul Graham**

given by Shawn & Amy Rowan

**My Grandchildren — Alex & Cooper**

given by Mary Licht

**Our Grandparents**

given by Shawn & Amy Rowan



## BUILDING USE POLICY

As we move into 2023 and begin to get back to normal (whatever that may mean) and start to use the building more, we need to remind you of the building use policy.

This policy is important so that we know who is using the building, when it is being used, what area is being used, and for what purpose. That is so we have no conflicts in scheduling, so that the area will be ready for use, so that the cleaning company can be aware of any scheduled events and can adjust their schedule accordingly.

For the use of space by a group or committee within the church, it is only necessary to give that information to Karen or myself. Karen will keep a master calendar in the office.

Committee meetings that are held on a regular basis and scheduled Coffee Fellowship dates are not required to notify each time, as that information should already be noted in the office.

For use of space by an individual (member) for a small gathering or event, you will be asked to complete a Building Use Form, giving information on requested date (s), requested space, and purpose. Trustees will approve or reject the request.

For use of space by an outside individual or group, a Building Use Form will need to be completed, giving information on requested date(s), requested space and purpose. A fee and/or certificate of insurance may be required. Trustees will review for approval.

Note use of the kitchen is monitored by the Kitchen Committee and has a separate scheduling calendar. Our Kitchen is a commercial kitchen, licensed under the Washington County Health Department. The Building Use Form has a section for separate kitchen use, which will be shared with the Kitchen Committee.

You can check with Karen for availability of a date or space. We thank you in advance for your consideration of notifying the office of expected use of areas in the church building.

*Barbara Hoover, Trustees Property Committee*





## “How Jesus Says Your Name”

from Newsletter Newsletter, April 2023  
by Heidi Hyland Mann

It’s been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is “safe” coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus’ tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: “Oh, Mary, there, there.” Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just “Woman ...” — and then a gardener: “Woman ...”

Except then — “Mary” — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him.



“Mary.” Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn’t the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus’ mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.



- 2nd: 9:15am, Sunday School for all ages
- 2nd: 10:30am, Palm/Passion Worship  
with Communion
- 5th: 7:00pm, HLW Study via Zoom
- 7th: 1:00pm, HARC Good Friday Walk  
7:00pm, JW Tenebrae Service
- 9th: 9:15am, Sunday School for all ages
- 9th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 9th: 10:30am, Easter Sunday Worship
- 10th: Church Office Closed
- 12th: 7:00pm, HLW Study via Zoom
- 13th: 7:00pm, Property Team Meeting
- 16th: 9:15am, Sunday School for all ages
- 16th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 17th: *Partner* deadline
- 17th: 7:00pm, Leadership Team Meeting
- 19th: 10:00am, UMW Meeting
- 19th: 7:00pm, HLW Study via Zoom
- 20th: 2:30pm, “Parables” Study
- 23rd: 9:15am, Sunday School for all ages
- 23rd: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 26th: 7:00pm, HLW Study via Zoom
- 27th: 2:30pm, “Parables” Study
- 29th: 4:00pm, Game Night
- 30th: 9:15am, Sunday School for all ages
- 30th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW “COMMITTEE ON RELIEF”

At the beginning of 2023, on February 6, a newly formed John Wesley Committee on Relief (JWCOR) began our work. It is the same as a Missions Team, and it was formed out of our need to have a team to oversee the increasing amount of local mission and outreach with which we are engaged. Looking for a name for our work, we chose to name ourselves after UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), our global, denominational agency that does such tremendous good throughout the world providing relief to those in need.

Since the new year, we have had 2 coat giveaways, organized by new members Larry Gibson and Heather Pratt, and adopted by our Youth Group as one of its service projects. Through these giveaways we connected with the Shepherd Pratt Homeless Outreach Program and its director, Cindi Messersmith. And through this connection, our Youth Group chose to give half of its proceeds from their Mummer’s Parade Concession fundraiser to Shepherd Pratt’s Northpoint Homeless Veterans Recovery Home. A monetary gift has already been given to all of this work, when it all kicked off with the coat giveaways! More monetary gifts have been promised.

It has been a truly wonderful process to behold.

And we can see why a team was needed to oversee this ministry growth and to supervise the use of any funds donated to this mission.

Our new JWCOR reports to our Leadership Team and has been entrusted by the Leadership Team to plan, coordinate, and oversee this valuable work and any new ministries we may undertake. As with all of our team ministries, the JWCOR team is open to anyone, and you are welcome to join in. Our current team includes Larry Gibson, Heather Pratt, Crystal Richards, Tiffany Austin, and Richard Willson.



**Homeless Outreach**



## Happy Birthday

- |       |   |       |  |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 1st:  | Ashley Cunningham<br>Kevin Noll                 | 24th: | Virginia Fennel<br>Donna Hoffman               |
| 4th:  | Diane Mann                                      | 25th: | Charles Will<br>Alex Wine                      |
| 5th:  | Haley Johnson                                   | 26th: | Jenny Bullington<br>Catherine Strong           |
| 6th:  | Brian Moyer                                     | 28th: | Jenna Rockwell                                 |
| 8th:  | Barbara Hoover<br>Gavin O'Brien                 | 29th: | Rachel Routzahn                                |
| 9th:  | Patsy Murray<br>Joan Shaw                       | 30th: | Sharon Giles<br>Wally McClure<br>Jared Tolbert |
| 10th: | Brian Diefenderfer                              |       |  |
| 11th: | Rev. Doug Hoffman<br>Lane Johnson               |       |  |
| 12th: | Luvy Mesner                                     |       |  |
| 13th: | K.G. Licht<br>Robert Licht<br>Victoria Pembroke |       |  |
| 16th: | Cheryl Strong                                   |       |  |
| 19th: | Tom Oyster                                      |       |  |
| 20th: | Emily Bell<br>Jerri McNew                       |       |  |
| 21st: | Sheila Mount                                    |       |  |

## 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](mailto:jwumcmd@yahoo.com) and let us know. Thank you!)*



# PUZZLE PAGE

## Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.

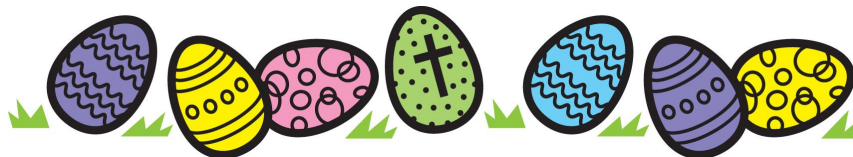


### What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

### What you do:

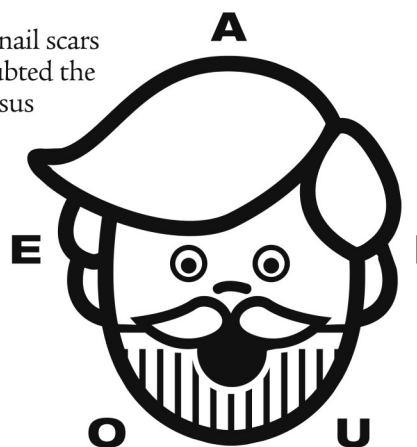
1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!



## SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

**Directions:**  
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.



“B \_ c \_ \_ s \_ y \_ \_ h \_ v \_ s \_ \_ n m \_ ,  
 y \_ \_ h \_ v \_ b \_ l \_ \_ v \_ d ;  
 b l \_ s s \_ d \_ r \_ t h \_ s \_ w h \_ h \_ v \_ n \_ t  
 s \_ \_ n \_ n d y \_ t h \_ v \_ b \_ l \_ \_ v \_ d .”

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” John 20:29, NIV

# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

129 N. Potomac Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## APRIL 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.”*

