

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AUGUST 2023

The Partner

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"Welcome!"

*"Come to me all you who labor and are heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest." — Matthew 11:28*

During the New Members Class that we had in June, the class enjoyed discussing some of the primary tenets of what we believe as Methodists. We talked a lot about Grace, and in this context we discussed the news coming out of General Conference that had just been completed. Those in the class had fresh memories of how well they had been welcomed into the John Wesley congregation, and for them the actions of General Conference underscored how important it is that we get better and better at being a welcoming church. We agreed that at John Wesley, we want to welcome people for the children of God they are and as the men, women, and children they are, even though we may struggle to understand or accept how their identity is understood and expressed.

The scripture above is one of my favorites and one of the first scriptures I committed to memory. It offers Jesus' constant invitation to come unto Him, that he is available, and then the wonderful promise that with Him I will find rest. With this rest will also come safety, nurture, guidance, renewal, and recovery.

When we served our Cookout Lunch to our community on July 13, there were many present who were laboring and who were heavy-laden. What was perhaps most valuable about our lunch was that they were welcomed! They were welcomed into our spaces just as they were, and we were prepared to offer the finest in loving hospitality, as we have been doing with more and more regularity.

"Pastor's Letter" continued on p. 2

"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1



There was a wonderful Spirit throughout, which reminded us all how much God loves us and how ready Jesus is to welcome us and give us rest. And all this was on display, in how we welcomed and loved each other.

On June 23, we voted as a congregation to continue our quest to revitalize and grow as a congregation. As we follow our calling now to live out our decision, there is much to do and steep challenges to meet. We are already busy with goal-setting, strategic planning, and the focusing of our vision and mission that will make it all go. We are also engaged with church growth experts from our Annual Conference who will aid us in our journey.

All this said, let me assure you that our growth at being and remaining a Welcoming Church lies at the very heart of our ability to grow in all the other ways! Becoming and remaining a church with vitality requires that we love others because God first loved us, serve others because Jesus first serves us, and have a part in another's Discipleship because Jesus first made us a Disciple!

And this all starts with Welcoming others and offering them rest, because Jesus first offers us the same!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Doug

NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACK



Welcome, August!

It's hard to believe that it's August already and school will be back in session on August 26. The Micah's Backpack Program should be up and running by late September and once again we will be sponsoring 20 students at Ruth Ann Monroe.

To get ready for the school year, we will need to restock the shelves in the Micah's Room which are pretty bare. Fortunately, the first food pickup from the Food Bank will be on September 12.

We will also be organizing the weekly packers and delivery drivers. If you are interested in helping out with packing the bags and/or making deliveries, please contact the church office.

We thank each and every one of you for supporting this important mission!

Enjoy the rest of the summer,

Wilson Wright Circle I

SHARING TEAM REPORT

Sharing Team took a break and did not meet in July, so there were no new updates noted.

- ◆ UMW Sunday, is August 25. The ladies are finalizing the plans for the worship service and there will be an ice cream social following.
- ◆ Service Team continues its summer/fall fundraiser for *Sleep In Heavenly Peace*, an organization that builds and delivers beds to children who are sleeping on the floor or sharing a bed.
- ◆ Save the Date: Church-wide Picnic at Marty Snook Park on Sunday, September 8. We are looking for people who might want to help with the picnic. See detailed article elsewhere in this month's newsletter, including the sign-up form.



The next scheduled meeting will be held August 12 – open to anyone who would like to attend. Sharing Team meetings are held via Zoom.

Blessings,

Barb & Greg Hoover

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I ~ MAKE IT BAKE IT SEW IT GROW IT AUCTION

This year's action raised \$420! Thank you all for supporting the auction by donating items and for purchasing all the wonderful donations!

Circle I has decided to donate \$250 of the funds raised to purchase a new stainless steel table to replace the vintage 1950s kitchen table in the kitchen. Throughout the years so many UMW ladies have spent countless hours sitting around that table chopping vegetables, making sandwiches and chatting. Circle I decided that this would be a great way to honor all of those wonderful women!!

We will be deciding on whom we will be donating the remaining funds to in September and will report back then.

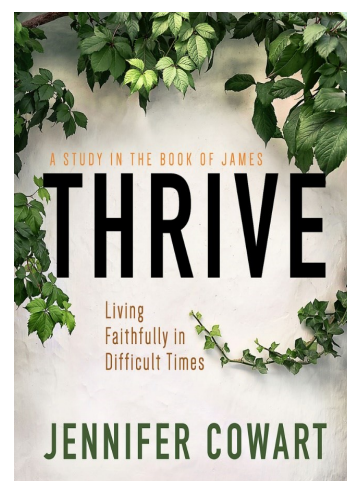
Please save the date for the 2025 Make It Bake It Sew It Grow It Auction
MAY 20, 2025



WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

We have an opportunity to engage in an 6-week Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm beginning September 11, 2024. Please join us!!!!

**“A Study in the Book of James—Thrive:
Living Faithfully in Difficult Times”**
By Jennifer Cowart



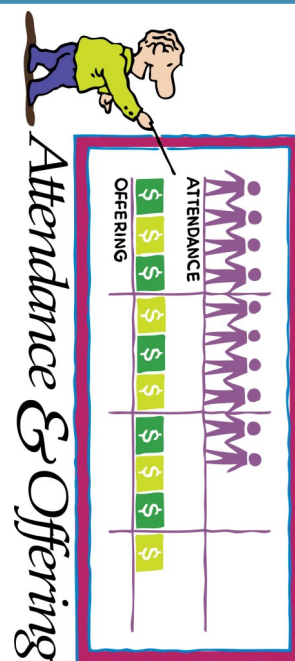
In *Thrive*, author and teacher Jen Cowart helps us develop the habits and attitudes necessary to thrive, whatever our circumstances. Discussion Topics:

1. Endurance - Embracing obstacles as a means to maturity. September 11
2. Wisdom - Using a heavenly perspective on earthly issues. September 18
3. Action - Living a life where actions match faith. September 25
4. Control - Taming the tongue. October 2
5. Humility - Developing the attitude of Christ. October 9
6. Prayer - Exercising the power tool of the faith. October 16

Attendance & Offering Report

Date	In-person	Online	Total Attendance	Total Offering
June 2	45	4	49	\$2,285.40
June 9	34		34	1,347.24
June 16	38	5	43	1,985.00
June 23	48	2	50	2,110.00
June 30	41		41	1,575.00
July 7	35	5	40	2,817.00
July 14	34	3	37	1,160.00
July 21	39	3	42	1,720.00

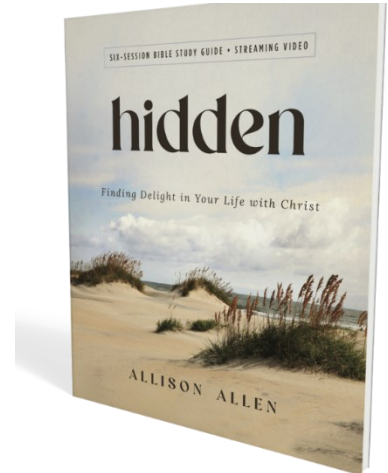
~~ Blessings, Sheila & Sherry



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 3:30 pm beginning September 12, 2024. Please join us!!!!

“Hidden: Finding Delight in Your Life with Christ”
by Allison Allen



You do not have to perform anymore. You are hidden in Christ and need nobody's favor. We live in a world that tells you that visibility is value, that recognition is your greatest reward. Even though we know it's empty, so many of us are enslaved to this culture of performance and people-pleasing, earthly accolades and social media likes.

As a former actor, Allison Allen knows what it is like to feel like she had to perform—not only for others, but even for God's favor.

In this video Bible study, you are invited to let go of the pressure you feel and lean into the freedom of your inherent value in Christ. Throughout these sessions, you will spend time in the forgotten corners of Scripture and get to know some of the most hidden, least remembered people in the Bible.

What do they have to tell us about a life that does not seek to be seen?

Sessions:

1. Hidden Treasures - September 12
2. Where All Good Things Are Found - September 19
3. Choosing Excellence Over Exposure – September 26
4. What Lies Beneath the Surface of Our Lives – October 3
5. Out of Hiding – October 10
6. From Strength to Strength – October 17



THE SOUNDS OF JOHN WESLEY UMC — UPDATE



Moving into 2024 meant regrouping and updating our figures in The Sounds of John Wesley Capital Campaign. Prices have increased since we began this goal and we need to update our report accordingly. The new updated amounts are listed below.

To kick off our Sounds of John Wesley Capital Campaign, we started with some sound system upgrades in 2019. We initially had the Carillon Bells included in our goal, but were able to obtain funding elsewhere for that project. Therefore the balance of the work remaining evolves around the organ.

Our organ is insured for a \$1,332,000 replacement cost. The organ was built by M.P. Moller in Hagerstown in 1921, and subsequently rebuilt by Moller in 1942 and 1963. The organ was again rebuilt by the Reuter Organ Company in Lawrence, KS in 1993, but was not completely releathered at that time. Therefore the reason for most of this recent work we currently are having done.

The time came for some of these needed repairs to be done. We set them up in phases according to priority. Phase I and Phase II have been completed. A recent repair required the replacement of a rectifier. A second rectifier in the console will probably need replaced in the near future. That amount has been included in this revised price.

To quickly summarize where we are, using the new updated prices, the goal is:

Rectifier replacement in console	500.00
Phase III Expression Motor replacement	12,700.00
Phase IV Peterson Combination Action	<u>15,000.00</u>
FUTURE WORK TO COMPLETE	28,200.00
Work Already Completed	<u>34,700.00</u>
REVISED GOAL TOTAL	\$62,900.00

We have raised \$46,925.00 to date.

Therefore, there is still a need for **\$15,975.00** to be able to accomplish the needed repairs when necessary in the future.

These figures do not include a contingency for routine maintenance or unexpected repairs.

We thank the congregation for your prayers, your commitment and your generosity to make this happen. We remind you that there are Sounds of JW envelopes included in your monthly giving envelope packet, or you can specify in your online giving.

“Whatever you do, do all things to the glory of God”

Barbara Hoover,
for The Sounds of John Wesley UMC Task Force



SAVE THE DATE! JOHN WESLEY CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, September 8
Marty Snook/Halfway Park
Pavilion #4



Annual Picnic

The picnic is being held on Sunday, September 8 - the same day that the fall schedule resumes - at Marty Snook Halfway Park. It will be in Pavilion #4 again this year.

Pavilion #4 is the last pavilion back (and easily accessed off of Bower Avenue, if you're coming from that direction). There is parking right there by the pavilion, the area is pretty flat. There is also playground equipment at that pavilion.

The committee is starting to work on plans, but the time will be 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm, as in the past. We plan to have chicken again and some special cool treats from the Christ Cream truck after the meal. Some vespers and hymns, and as always, fun and games and good fellowship.

Chicken, drinks, and place settings will be provided. Bring a dish to share.

If you would be willing to help with the picnic, please see Barb or Greg Hoover.

Additional details will be out closer to the date.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend. We are going to try to accommodate your choice of chicken pieces. So complete the form below or call the church office.

Reservations are due by Tuesday, September 3.

~ Your Family Life Committee ~

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR JOHN WESLEY T-SHIRT.



JWUMC CHURCH PICNIC – Sunday, September 8
2:00 - 5:00 pm – Marty Snook/Halfway Park – Pavilion #4
Chicken, drinks, and place settings provided – Bring a Dish to share

Name: _____

No. Adults: _____

Children's names and ages: _____

Please note your Fried Chicken preference:

_____ Breast _____ Wings (2) _____ Thigh _____ Leg



LET'S REACH OUT TO OUR NEIGHBORS!!

What a year it has been for us offering new, valuable outreach to neighbors in our immediate community! In addition to Micah's Backpack and the other difference-making outreaches we've been offering for years, it has been such a blessing to venture into a new outreach! Thanks to the terrific leadership of our new Committee on Relief (JWCOR) Service Team, we have already offered 2 delicious community meals already this year. We continue to help those in need on a daily basis. Not a day goes by that someone doesn't contact the church in need of help!

Thank you for prayerfully considering your ability to give to our ongoing outreaches. Thank you to all in our congregation that have already donated supplies or made monetary donations to our relief work. We look forward to the continued growth of our difference-making outreach ministry!

Donations that we are collecting at this time are clothes of all sizes (summer and winter) and personal hygiene items. Along with monetary donations for our "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" Fundraiser...see next page.





SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE FUNDRAISER

WHAT

Supply beds and bedding to children of families who can't afford beds!

WHEN

Now throughout the fall months

WHERE

John Wesley UMC
129 North Potomac Street, Hagerstown
301-733-0391

FOR WHOM

Sleep In Heavenly Peace
18835 Artillery Drive, Hagerstown
844-432-2337 (ext.5958)



TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

~JOHN WESLEY UMC MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE



Have you noticed the amazing transformation that is happening in the courtyard garden? Thanks to the hard work by Larry and Heather, our once overgrown garden is taking on new life. Jenny Bullington and Linda Sappington have planted the flower cross with much love and patience.

Even though we had to remove a few of the bushes and plants due to various reasons – some were dying, some location, some the size – the garden remains a memorial garden. St. Francis continues to watch over it. Some of the original signage had become damaged or missing. A new, larger plaque listing all the memorial garden donations will be hung on the wall by the kitchen to overlook the gardens. Grass will be planted to finish the look along with concrete along the kitchen wall to enhance the entrance area.

Have you ever noticed the small stone marker – JW – our once resident cat, along Rowe Hall wall. Come, enjoy our garden – the John Wesley UMC Memorial Garden.

~ LIVING ETERNALLY IN THE HEARTS OF LOVED ONES ~

Barbara Hoover
Trustees Property Committee

Congratulations to —

Tilden Paul Metzner
born July 15, 2024
son of Alex and McKenzie Metzner
grandson of Marty and Melissa
O'Connor
and great grandson of Joan V. Shaw



**Lisa Blair &
Edward McKinley Palmer Jr.**
who were
married July 23, 2024
in Ocean City, MD

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT - CHURCH GOALS

At the Leadership Team meeting on June 24, a subcommittee was appointed to begin drafting goals that match the missional direction approved by our congregational vote on June 23, 2024. The subcommittee is chaired by Ryan Chapin, Richard Willson and Pastor Doug Hoffman. Additional members who agreed to attend subcommittee meetings as they are able included Barbara Diefenderfer, Mary Licht, Jenny Suddueth and Susan Saunders.

The subcommittee has met every Monday morning since July 2nd and has created multi-year projections that can be used to test the merit of ideas for revitalizing our church, engaging in mission and enhancing income. The most immediate conclusion from this analysis is that if we do nothing we will run out of money in 2030, a mere five years from now.

Projections of increases in membership, stewardship and space rentals we have considered so far may extend our viability to 2034, so clearly additional work must be undertaken. We are exploring how we can make better use of rooms, our fast fiber connection to the Internet, our wedding-worthy sanctuary, our organ, our mission work and ways we can trim our spending without damaging ministry. We want your ideas, input and if you are willing, some of your time to work on small parts of this puzzle, like perfecting our policies around using the sanctuary for weddings or designing a stewardship campaign. Call one of us, or our church secretary, Karen Stamper, and we will get you connected.

The next several years will involve a lot of intense program planning, excellent communication, careful allocation of human and financial resources and the need to make sure that we do excellent leadership development. To this end, at least in the short term, recognize that we will have to carefully hire someone to assist with our planning and implementation of new ministries while keeping all of our subcommittee work connected with our larger work to win souls for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



August

- 1st: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 4th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 4th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- 6th: 12:30pm, JWCOR Service Team
- 8th: 7:00pm, Trustees Property Team
- 11th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 11th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- 12th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team
- 18th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 18th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- 19th: *Partner* deadline
- 20th: 6:00 pm, Wilson Wright Circle I
- 25th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 25th: 10:00am, UMW Sunday Worship
- 26th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team

** Karen will be on vacation August 6th - 9th. **
 Pastor Doug will be away August 20th - 22nd.



Happy August Birthday

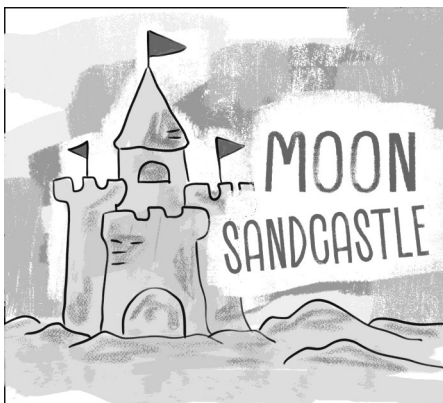
- 1st: Ken Harnage
James Haught
- 3rd: Ryan Peters
- 4th: Lucile Dieterich
- 7th: Julie Fritsch
Andrew Routzahn
- 9th: Doris McMurtrie
Vangie Osborne
- 14th: Debra Hoover
Richard Willson
- 17th: Kathleen Miles
- 21st: Becky Mesner
Betty Willson
- 24th: Barbara Benny
- 26th: Rev. Kay Barger
Jeremy Baughman
Tommy Hart
- 28th: Gregory Mesner
- 29th: Patricia Enders
Gwendolyn Grimm
- 30th: Caitlin Robison
- 31st: Chad Baker

Happy August Anniversary

- 10th: Richard & Jerri McNew
Sam & Patsy Murray
- 11th: Ryan & Wendy Chapin
- 27th: John & Lorene Gillespie

(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



You don't have to visit the beach to make a sandcastle. Make fluffy "moon sand" to build fun structures.

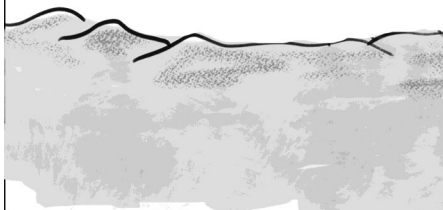
What you need:

- Large bowl
- Wooden spoon
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup baby oil



What you do:

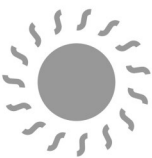
1. Measure flour into the large bowl. Add baby oil.
2. Mix thoroughly until all the oil is combined and the texture is consistent. If needed, use your hands to knead the mixture.
3. The sand is ready when it sticks together to form a ball when pressed in your hands.
4. Use sand toys and molds to create a sandcastle. Store sand in an airtight container for up to two weeks.



BY THE SEASHORE

The sea and its creatures are evidence of God's intention and purpose in creation.

Directions: Unscramble the words. Then copy the circled letters in order below to complete Psalm 104:24-25, NIV.



DASN
LHSELS
USN
ESEDAIS
BHECA
LALUBMER
WRTEA
FRUS
VWSEA



□ _ _ _
_ _ _ □ □ _
□ _ _ _
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_ _ _ □ _
_ _ _ □ □ _ □
_ _ _ □ _ _
_ □ □ _
_ _ _ □ □



How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them _____;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the _____, vast and spacious,
teeming with _____ beyond number —
living things both large and small.

Psalm 104:24-25, NIV

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 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.”*

