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JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024

The Partner

"Is It Well?"

"Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate and hath shed his own blood for my soul. It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul). It is well, it is well with my soul."

- Horatio Spafford, "It Is Well with My Soul"

The season of Lent begins this Month on Ash Wednesday, February 14. We will worship together that night at 7 pm, to begin observing a Holy Lent. Lent is a most, if not the most, important season of the Christian Year. When observed faithfully, Lent will remind us how important it is and how much of a blessing it is to marinate our lives in repentance throughout the year. The repentance to which Lent calls us is a deep-hearted and on-purpose recommitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. To follow Jesus' Way, and not ours! To do God's Will, not ours. The popular modern translation of the Bible, The Message, calls repentance "life-change." I love that. Because that's what a deep-hearted and on-purpose commitment to Jesus does! It changes our lives! A little here. A little there. A lot here? Even more there!!

It is a wonderful thing to have our lives changed by Jesus Christ, to any degree! It is Amazing Grace when Jesus is in us, and when we are in Him! Our Souls are Well, aren't they?!!

Lent checks on us! It is a most valuable feature of Lent!

Lent takes the favorite hymn quoted above, and crafts it into a blessed question. Is it Well with our Soul? Is it Well with your soul? Is it Well with mine?

If and when it is Well with our soul, and our faith is healthy and strong and living itself out in our Love for God, our neighbors, and ourselves, it is cause for thanksgiving and rejoicing!

If and when it is not Well with soul, it is OK to ask, first of all. And then it is OK to take a closer look at why your soul is not Well. It is OK to look in the mirror at the health of our faith. It is more than OK. It is healthy to do so! It is essential to do so! And it is SAFE to do so! It is safe to ponder the Wellness of our soul and to look into the

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mirror of Lenten repentance, because our Gracious God and Jesus Christ our Savior are looking back at us in that mirror! God understands us! Jesus gets us!

We all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God (Romans 3:23), which is always going to impact the Wellness of our soul! It is safe to look into the mirror that helps us take a closer and honest look at that, because looking back at us through that mirror is our Almighty God who loves us, knows our name, knows everything about us, and loves us anyway! Looking back at us through that mirror is our Lord Jesus, "who shed His own blood for my soul", and yours!

Faithfully observing Lent will help us more and more fully understand how awesome it is that God gave and sacrificed His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him, would not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Faithfully observing Lent will also help us have the fullest experience of Easter we can have, because looking into the Mirror of Lent, will help us truly understand how much the Victory of Easter has overcome, so that nothing may separate us from the Love of God! ... and so that our souls may be well!

I pray for you and yours a most Blessed Lent,

Pastor Doug

Graduates Are on the Way for Our Scholarship Fund

For years now, through the John Wesley Scholarship, we have supported the educational dreams of our high school graduates who continue their education in college. We were most recently blessed to support Michael Rowan onto his graduation from McDaniel College!



We are well aware of the rising cohort of outstanding youth that comprise our active, growing Youth Group! It seems like just yesterday that the oldest of them were beginning high school. Well, it's three years later, and they are beginning to finish high school, with their sights set on college! One of our youth is graduating this Spring ... two more next year ... and two more in 2026! ... with more on the way after that! This is a wonderful opportunity for us and for our Scholarship Fund!

Please prayerfully consider giving to our JW Scholarship Fund. Checks may be made payable to John Wesley UMC, with a reference on the note line to "JW Scholarship." Thank you.



Please Join Us for Special Events & Observances for Lent!

In addition to our Sunday Worship during Lent, beginning Sunday, February 18 ... please join us for any or all of our unique and special gatherings during Lent for worship and fellowship.

We will move into Lent with a festive Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday evening, February 13. (check this Partner for details). Then the following evening, Wednesday, February 14, at 7 pm, we will gather in our Sanctuary with our friends from Asbury UMC for a beautiful and most meaningful Ash Wednesday Service, to begin our Lenten observances.



Beginning the following Wednesday, 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, March 13, serving the meal and leading the service in our beautiful sanctuary, with our Chancel Choir providing Special Music. Pastor Doug will preach on March 20 at Otterbein UMC. We hope you will join us as often as you can! Here is the full schedule:



- Wednesday, February 21 @ Shiloh UMC
- Wednesday, February 28 @ Washington Square UMC
- Wednesday, March 6 @ Asbury UMC
- Wednesday, March 13 @ John Wesley UMC
- Wednesday, March 20 @ Otterbein UMC
- Wednesday, March 27 @ Grace 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, March 29, at 7 pm. Earlier that Good Friday, HARC will offer again its traditional Cross Walk at City Park. Details about the start time and exact meeting place at the Park will be provided in our March Partner.

All of these Lenten experiences will prepare us for a Glorious Easter on Sunday, March 31. 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!

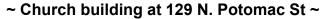
Please make every effort to join us for as many of these offerings as you can. You will be blessed! If you cannot join us in person, please join us for any of these offerings online, and join us in prayer and Spirit.

TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

A Trustees work is never done. Especially when you have older buildings like ours. Maintenance on an older building can sometimes be rather challenging. We own four buildings... our beloved church building, Rowe Hall in the rear, 131 N. Potomac Street next door, and the parsonage on Hamilton Blvd.

In reflecting on 2023, we have had many new challenges, from just changing a light bulb to the mystery of why the light won't go off when the switch is turned off. Old buildings have some unique quirks, and maybe even some ghosts.





- New large, updated directory signs inside and new vibrant glass panels in our lighted sign out front.
- The normal boiler repairs (especially steam pipe leaks and valves) that we experience every year during heating season.
- We had a leak in one of the large Sanctuary A/C units, requiring not only repairs to the unit, but also resulting in some plaster damage in the Narthex area below. Cosmetic repairs and painting have been done.
- We had some work done to the dormers around the Trinity windows and also some slate roof repairs.
- One of our refrigerators in the kitchen failed and we needed to replace it (luckily we were able to get a donated refrigerator, thanks to Larry Suddueth's employer).
- The ice maker has been giving us repeated repair issues, so we are adding a water filtering system to the unit. Water damage to the flooring underneath the unit will need to be addressed.
- The Chapel has been restored to its original beauty and purpose. There are new curtains. Plaster repairs have been made, and paint to the walls and ceiling. A new ductless split HVAC unit has been installed to supply air conditioning to that room. And a lot of general cleanup has been done. The John Wesley stained glass panel now hangs proudly in the Chapel.
- A down payment had been made in order to schedule our organ for Phase II repairs which included releathering of three more reservoirs. That work was actually just completed on January 12.
- The Houses of Worship Tour on December 26 brought over 200 people through our front doors and into the sanctuary to learn about the architecture and ecumenical heritage and to enjoy the beauty of our Sanctuary.
- An NA recovery group, Hope & Gratitude, continues to use our basement area two nights a week. (by being in that area they also help us to find our steam pipe leaks before they get ahead of us)





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

Home Sweet Home Foundation, a non-profit organization that works with foster children aging out of the foster care system, helping to guide them in transitioning into adulthood and independent living, operates out of this building.

- A previous leak in the roof drainage system resulted in repairs to the roof, joists, and interior ceiling.
- We are starting some additional repairs in the basement area.

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

The current tenants are our Custodian/Caretaker, Larry Gibson, and Heather Pratt. This building turned 100 years old in 2023.

- The kitchen and both bathrooms have been painted.
- We had some recent repairs done to the roof after noticing some missing shingles.

~ Parsonage on Hamilton Blvd ~

The pastor and his family currently reside in the parsonage.

- There has been some recent repair work done to the screened in porch.
- Some additional work to include a concrete pad and possibly replacement gates in the back yard are being reviewed for spring.
- We have been challenged with some boiler issues this past year that have required attention.

The addition of a staff Custodian/Caretaker has been a great asset to the church. Larry Gibson has been monitoring and caring for the property. And living next door to the church takes it to another level. Randomly walking the grounds is a great benefit in order to make it a safer place. We have seen the results of that in the last year.

Live security cameras are in place and we now have a locked dumpster in the parking lot. We are contracted with a towing company in order to remove cars when necessary from our lot. A walk-thru of each building was completed at the end of 2023 to assess needs and future projects.

There are many things that need to be addressed, but we can't do all of them at once. We do our best to prioritize the many needs of our amazing buildings, balancing functional problems and aesthetic ones. It is a well known fact that we are also financially challenged and cannot fix them all.

It takes a lot of work to keep them updated and safe, and to pay the utility bills. We remind you that we are still using the Building Fund envelopes that come with your weekly offering envelopes. Thank you for helping to keep our buildings welcoming. If you see an item of concern, report it. We all need to work to keep our buildings beautiful and safe.

And thank you to all the members of the Trustees Property Committee. We had a couple members step down this year; but gained some new members to help make those tough calls.

Take care, stay safe, and God Bless Barbara Hoover, Chair Trustees Property Committee







We are collecting winter items for the homeless: coats, gloves, hats!

All sizes for all ages! New or used!

Also hygiene supplies, hand warmers, non-perishable foods or cash donations.

We are accepting items at John Wesley UMC 129 North Potomac Street 301-733-0301 or 240-866-7075 Monday-Friday 9-2 pm until February 13th.

OUR INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

- If the Snow Emergency Plan (link is https://chart.maryland.gov/SnowEmergencyPlan) is in effect at 7:00 am on Sunday morning, both Sunday School and Worship Service are canceled.
- You may also tune into WJEJ radio @ 1240AM or 104.3FM for announcements, check our Facebook page, or our website at www.jw-umc.org.
- If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect at 5:00 pm on a weeknight, all meetings/rehearsals are canceled.
- When schools are closed, the church office will be closed as well.

"Coldest Night of the Year Walk"

proceeds benefit the work of REACH. Our youth group will be



walking in this event on February 24 at Hagerstown Community College and ask for your support. If interested in pledging, please call the church office or see any youth worker for more info.



WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I
WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING
ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
AT JOHN WESLEY UMC
FOR SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE DINNER
TIME: TBD

Attendance & Offering Report

December	17	65	2,909.46
December	24	46	1,466.46
December	31	49	1,634.46
January	7	0	0
January	14	53	2,093.79
January	21	41	1,665.00

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry

HERSHEY PARK HAPPINESS 2024

John Wesley Church Family and Friends are invited to spend a day of their choice at the "sweetest" place on earth." To give you



an idea of the savings you will realize by *purchasing your tickets through JWUMC by Sunday, March 24, 2024*, the regular 2024 gate admission for ages 3 plus is \$87.80 this year. The "early discount" group rate tickets are priced and valid based on the time frame you choose. Your two choices for the tickets for ages 3 and above:

Tickets valid for "Early Season" through 6/30/2024 will be \$36.95 each. Tickets valid All Year through 1/1/2025 will be \$43.95 each.

You may also pre-purchase single use meal vouchers for 19.10, an all-day drink plan is \$24.36, and all-day dining plan is \$42.39. Prepaid parking vouchers are \$25.00, at the park general parking is \$30.00.

The park is scheduled to be open on March 29, 30, 31. April 6,7; 13,14; 20, 21; 27 and 28. May 3, 4, 5; 10, 11,12; 17, 18, 19; 23 – 31; June 1 – August 31, September 1,2; 7 and 8. The fall and Christmas schedule has not yet been announced. Park hours vary on days they are open. Boardwalk water park is open May 25-Sep. 2.

PLEASE complete the following information and return with your check made out to John Wesley UMC and marked "Hershey Park" by Sunday, March 24. PLEASE give to Sheila, mail to the office or place in the offering plate. Thank you.

he	Family w	vould like to order:
	Admission tickets valid March	29 th -June 30 th at \$36.95, total \$
9	 Admission tickets valid March 2	29 th -Jan. 1, 2025 at \$43.95, total \$
10	Single use meal tickets at \$19.	10, Total \$
50	All-Day Drink at \$24.36, Total \$	(22) (13) (14) (14) (14) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15
(18)	All-Day Dining at \$42.39, Total	\$ <u>////</u> 3////////////////////////////////
1	Hershey Pre-paid Parking Voud	cher at \$30.00, Total \$
	OUR CHECK IS ATTACH	IED FOR \$
	Our email	and/or
tol	enhone	to contact us for ticket pickup

EASTER LILIES IN THE SANCTUARY

If you wish to dedicate lilies in memory of and/or in honor of a loved one for Easter, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office. It must be received **NO LATER THAN Thursday, February 22nd.** They may be taken at the end of the Easter Sunday Worship Service.

The cost is \$15.00 per pot.



No. of Lilies ordered:	
In Memory/Honor of (circle one):	
Given by:	
Contact phone number:	

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:

- Carol Divelbiss
 9934 Stephanie Lane
 Hagerstown, MD 21740
- Jo Ann Bousum
 150 Victoria Avenue
 Room 2005
 Everett, PA 15537
 814-623-1090

A Note from the Treasurer's Desk

Happy New Year Everyone!

Here are the final totals on how generous you were in 2023!

Last year you donated the following:

Micah's Backpack	\$ 2,770
Christmas Families	\$ 493
Holly Place	\$ 354
REĂCH	\$ 1,480
UMCOR	\$ 1,550

JWCOR raised \$ 2893 and from that donated:

- \$ 1.122 to CASA
- \$ 870 for tents for the homeless and
- \$ 434 for the homeless cookout which served over 80 individuals and sent meals to the Rescue Mission and Holly Place.

The total for Mission giving in 2023 was \$ 9,540!! Keep up the generous giving in 2024!

Blessings,

DEB



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NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACKS

Micah's is starting off the winter/spring 2024 school year strong! The drivers' schedule is set up and we are working on keeping the bags packed a few weeks ahead.



At this time, we are sponsoring between 17-20 students every week. The next food bank pickup is on February 22 and we should be well stocked at that time with the basics to see us through to the end of the school year. Of course we will still be needing the extras such as:

Microwave mac & cheese Breakfast bars Oatmeal

Peanut butter crackers Pudding cups

Microwave popcorn Individual packs of cookies

Thank you all for your continued support of Micah's Backpack. In 2023 the program received some very generous food donations and a total of \$2,770 in monetary donations! We would not be able to feed 20 students a week without those.

Wishing everyone a very happy and safe 2024!

WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I

The Sounds of John Wesley — Capital Campaign - UPDATE Phase II Organ Repairs Completed!

I am happy to report that Phase II of the organ repairs was completed in January by Lewis & Hitchcock (aka Lawless & Associates). This work consisted of releathering three more reservoirs (Swell Choir and Pedal reed).

The reservoirs were actually removed and taken to their shop to be rebuilt. The work was started on January 2 and the organ was to be down for the January 7 worship service. However, January 7 was a snow day – we had no worship service. The reservoirs were returned the following week, reinstalled and tuned on January 12. So the organ was back in commission for the January 14 worship service. They also replaced the rectifier (power supply) in the chamber at no additional cost to us.

I have requested updated costs on the proposed future repairs so that we have more accurate figures, moving forward. Revised numbers will be shared once they have been received.

Our magnificent Moller organ is comprised of 36 registers for a total of 43 ranks and is insured for a \$1,332,000 replacement cost.

We want to thank the congregation once again for your prayers, your commitment and your generosity to make this happen.

"Whatever you do, do all things to the glory of God"

Barbara Hoover, Chair of Trustees Property Committee and The Sounds of John Wesley UMC Task Force



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 13, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

The Men's Group and Supper Club are teaming up to prepare a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Join us on Tuesday, February 13 between 4:30 and 6:30 pm.

Pancakes, Sausage, Sausage Gravy, Fruit Salad or Applesauce, Orange Juice and Coffee

Suggested Donation: \$8.00 (10 and under \$4.00)

Please call the church office with your reservation,

or fill out the slip below and place it in the offering plate

so that we have enough food prepared. Reservations are due February 11.

Join us on Shrove Tuesday for good fellowship and good food!

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

NAME:		
PHONE:	EMAIL:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	NI IMBER ATTENDING:	





2nd: Marilyn Smith

Ron Sweeney

4th: Edwin Crider

Salomeh Grullon

Josh Routzahn

7th: Sean Hunt

19th: Ragan Shaw

21st: Krysten Mesner

22nd: Debra Bowman

23rd: Christopher Rowan

24th: Jason Hoover

25th: Joyce Lynch

Lisa Weathersby

26th: Carol White

29th: Wendy Payne

(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!)



Connecting from the Sharing Team

Sharing Team met in January to begin planning upcoming "happenings" for 2024.

Some of those "happenings" include:

- * The Men's Breakfast Group and Supper Club will once again this year be hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. Look for details and signup sheet elsewhere in this month's newsletter and plan to join us!
- * Ash Wednesday is February 14 and marks the beginning of Lent. Similar to what was done in past years, several of the local United Methodist churches will be hosting Wednesday evening community Lenten services, beginning with a meal and fellowship.
- The Youth Group is planning a Retreat over the long Presidents' Day weekend. They used a portion of their proceeds from the Mummers Parade to purchase two TV's for the Northpoint Veteran's Home, here in Hagerstown.
- * The Micah's Backpack program is currently serving 20 children each week. Deb reports that she could use more packers. If you might be interested in helping to pack the bags, contact Deb Markell or call the church office.
- * JW Committee on Relief is looking at holding a dinner for the homeless again this year, sometime around Easter. They continue to collect coats and more, but are now partnering with other churches in the area to help distribute them. If you are interested in joining the JWCOR, contact Larry Gibson or Pastor Doug.
- Coffee Fellowship continues to be enjoyed between Sunday School and Worship Service on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
- * The Zoom Bible Studies on Wednesdays and Thursdays will take a break for Lent and Holy Week. Look for a new schedule to resume after Easter.
- Our REACH week is February 25 through March 3. Volunteers will be needed.

The next scheduled meeting will be held February 12 via Zoom – open to anyone who would like to share ideas.

Blessings,

Barb & Greg Hoover

John Wesley REACH Week

The John Wesley UMC Faith Family has a fantastic opportunity to serve our community by volunteering to work at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter February 25 through March 2, 2024.

COVID-19 policies are in effect on a volunteer basis. All individuals may wear masks and will social distance as much as possible. Meal crews will be limited to 3 or 4 individuals in the kitchen area. Our interactions with the residents for the front door sign-in, security screening, laundry, and morning crew will be so important. This is where we can show extra respect, kindness, and creative recognition that we are ALL God's beloved children. Those shifts run each evening from 6:45 pm until 8:30 pm (laundry until 9:30 pm), a relatively short time to reach out to others in our community with humility and blessing. The morning crew runs from 6:00 am to 8:00 am. Note the new time for departure from the shelter. We can especially use overnight volunteers who sleep on a cot in the volunteer's room from 10:00 pm until 6:00 am. The overnight volunteer also is part of the morning crew.

Please visit the REACH volunteer page (Volunteer - Reach of Washington County (reachofwc.org)) to review the shelter volunteer tasks and to fill out the volunteer form. Call or contact Linda Sappington (301-714-0164 or RSappington@myactv.net) to decide together where your particular skills can be wonderfully used this week. If you decide that you cannot give your physical presence this week to this program, your prayers and monetary contributions are especially desired and appreciated.





1st: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast

1st: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study

Session 5 - "Miracles"

4th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages

4th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship 7th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Ministry"

8th: 7:00pm, Trustees Property Team

11th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages

11th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship

11th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

12th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team

13th: 4:30pm, Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

13th: TBD, Wilson Wright Circle

14th: 7:00pm, Ash Wednesday Service

16th: Youth Retreat to Deep Creek

18th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages

18th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

19th: Partner deadline

19th: Church Office Closed

21st: 10:00am, Susanna Circle

21st: 6:00pm, Lenten Meal/Service

@ Shiloh UMC

22nd: Easter Lily Purchase Deadline

24th: 4:00pm, Coldest Night Walk

25th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages

25th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

25th: John Wesley REACH Week

26th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team

28th: 6:00pm, Lenten Meal/Service

@ Washington Square UMC

PUZZLE PAGE



Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.



- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch



What you do:

- 1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
- 2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- 3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
- 4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
- 5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
- 6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.





CONNECTE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- a. We
- b. Above all,
- c. My command is this:
- d. And over all these virtues put on
- e. Greater
- f. See what great
- g. There is no fear in

- 1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
- 2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13
- 3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18
- 4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
- 5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1
- 6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- 7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14



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

FEBRUARY 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."

