

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2025

The Partner

“Lasting Valentines!”

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love.”

~ 1 Corinthians 13:13

The Apostle Paul famously devoted an entire chapter, chapter 13, of his 1st Letter to the Corinthians to proclaim how essential it is for us to love! He goes into great detail to describe what love looks like and how it must live at the center of all our faithfulness. He concludes in the chapter’s final verse above, affirming how faith, hope, and love abide, these three pillars in our endeavor to follow Jesus. Faith, hope, and love are joined at the hip! They define each other and sustain each other. Yet Paul is clear that the greatest of these cohorts is love. Jesus taught a vast sum of essential truths, yet Jesus was clear that the greatest command is the one to love!

I’ve always loved Valentine’s Day. I loved it as a grade-schooler, exchanging with my classmates those tiny valentines with the candy attached. When I started dating, Valentine’s Day was always fun to celebrate! And since my wedding day, Donna and I have always made a big deal out Valentine’s Day. Whether it’s a night out or a nice dinner at home, with gift or a card, or not, we look forward to this day to celebrate our wonderful life of love together. It’s our tradition to recall on Valentine’s Day those loving moments that stand out from the past year, and still from years longer ago! Can’t wait for February 14!

For me, Valentine’s Day has always been a day for celebrating love that’s far from just the romantic love that couples celebrate. When I exchanged those valentines as a little kid, I had no idea what romantic love was. But I was beginning to learn what it is to love like 1 Corinthians 13 teaches. I was learning that from my family and from those already teaching and mentoring me. I liked learning about that and for me, Valentine’s Day was a chance to show it!

During this time of year, I enjoy reminding those I’m blessed to serve as Pastor, that Loving is the most important form of faithfulness we

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show and the most important expression of faithfulness we experience. Love given and received keeps us going. God is Love. Created in God's image, Love is a key ingredient in us as well. It is well known by now that the best way to be known as a church is by our Love!!



Love given and received is growing at John Wesley. The number of ways we are known for our Love grows day by day and month by month.

This month, we launch another new mission! Our John Wesley Service Team, led by our new friend Janessa Chapman, will serve a hot lunch on Sundays each week to 35 neighbors. This new mission is "Lunches with Love", Janessa's vision that is now a loving, feeding reality! It's Love that's lasting, where faith, hope, and love abide, and the greatest of these is Love!

Join me please in rejoicing! Join us all in praying for this latest new thing that Jesus Christ is doing in us and through us! May it fill our cups with the Love of God that we are blessed to experience and then pass on, so that it becomes a Lasting Valentine, because it is Love full of Faith and Hope!

Be My and Others' Lasting Valentine!

Pastor Doug

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK —

2024 DONATIONS TOWARDS MISSIONS



Once again, you, the congregation of John Wesley UMC, have shown outstanding support towards missions and mission projects in 2024!

A total of \$1980 was given to UMCOR. This total includes \$400 designated to Hurricane Relief and \$50 to conference missionaries.

JWCOR Team received \$2285 in donations in 2024. We helped to support Sleep in Heavenly Peace with a donation of \$1250. JWCOR transferred \$90 to the Quilters Group to help cover the cost for supplies for the quilts which were also donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. JWCOR was also able to provide several neighborhood meals and to hold a Hot Cocoa with Cookies event because of your generosity.

Micah's Backpack continues to be a favorite project and \$2235 plus various food donations were given last year. This continued support makes it possible for us to provide food for the weekends to 20 students every week of the school year.

With the generous donations of \$920 towards the annual Christmas Adopt-a-Family project, we were able to provide one family in need with a wonderful Christmas.

Circle I was able to donate \$100 each to Holly Place and the Board of Child Care from the earnings at the Make It Bake It Sew It Grow It Auction.

And last but not least, our youth group donated over \$250 to North Point Veterans.

That brings the total giving to missions to \$7870!!

2024 was a fabulous year for mission giving and may 2025 be even better!!

Blessings,

Deb Markell, Treasurer

THE SOUNDS OF JOHN WESLEY – Capital Campaign - UPDATE



Thank you for your continued support of the Sounds of John Wesley Capital Campaign. The remaining work revolves around the organ and the ongoing need for repairs and updating.

Currently our organ is insured for a \$1,404,000 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 a lot of this recent work we have had done or are expecting to have done in the near future.

We set it up in phases according to priority. Phase I and Phase II have been completed, and also the replacement of a rectifier. A second rectifier in the console will probably need replaced in the near future. Work already completed in Phase I and Phase II totaled \$34,700.00.

To quickly summarize where we are, using the updated prices in 2024, future work would include:

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

We recently had repairs done to fix a stuck pedal and to remedy a mysterious squeal that caused us to be without our organ the first Sunday in Advent.

There are two pedals that do not play. In order to correct that problem, we are looking at both chests needing to be releathered. We are currently in talks with the organ company to see what might be involved and the cost, which would then be added to the figure shown above.

As of December 31, we had a balance of **\$13,885.00** in the fund to put towards accomplishing the needed repairs when it becomes necessary.

The figures here do not include a contingency for routine maintenance or unexpected repairs. The organ is very sensitive to temperature and humidity and gets tuned twice a year; once in the summer, once in the winter.

We thank the congregation for your prayers, your commitment and your generosity to make this happen to keep our magnificent organ in quality condition. 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

TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

As we move into 2025 we are busy with a lot of projects to finish and some new ones to be addressed.

Some of those items include:

- ◆ There is still some ongoing work being done in Rowe Hall before we have new tenants move in. We also discovered a soft spot in the floor from a previous water issue that needed to be repaired.
- ◆ Brick and mortar repair work is scheduled to be done in the spring on the north gable of 131 N. Potomac, in addition to needed stonework repairs in several areas around the church.
- ◆ Additional support poles are being added in the basement of 131 N. Potomac Street residence.
- ◆ The annual inspection of the boiler in 131 N. Potomac residence revealed signs of age and deterioration. We are currently reviewing options.
- ◆ A dip in the rear parking lot will need to be addressed in the spring, once the weather breaks.
- ◆ A new 2-sink countertop and cabinet has been installed in the first floor Ladies Restroom.
- ◆ There are plans to create a separate single unisex restroom beside the 1st floor Ladies Restroom. We need to find time to schedule this work with minimum down-time. The current Utility Closet will be relocated outside the 1st floor Men's Restroom.
- ◆ Some minor repairs were made to the organ, but we are currently experiencing some issues due to two pedals not working. We are getting prices on what might be involved to have those chests re-leathered.
- ◆ We had the winter tuning of the organ and also had the pianos in the Social Hall and in the Chapel tuned.
- ◆ One of the Plexiglas covers over the Trinity dormers on the north side has come loose. We are researching the best way to have that reattached, due to the location, high on the sanctuary roof.
- ◆ The metal in the elevator shaft has been painted at the recommendation of the elevator company to keep it from rusting out.
- ◆ The floor in the kitchen by the ice machine currently has a temporary fix where there had been water damage. Permanent repairs will be made
- ◆ All the buildings have had an annual walk-thru and we have a list of issues that need to be addressed at some point.



TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT — CONTINUED

Just a reminder that as we continue to use the spaces in our building more, coordination is important. Church groups can use the Social Hall (or request any other rooms in the church) but if it's not a regular reoccurring event, it needs to be cleared with the church office or Trustees Property Committee so that it can be put on the calendar. This is especially important with Kitchen Use. We have several people who schedule to use our kitchen periodically. Outside groups wanting to use space in the building need to fill out a Building Use Form to be approved by the Trustees Property Committee.

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

NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACKS

If your New Year's resolution is to volunteer in 2025, Micah's Backpack just may have the volunteer opportunity you are looking for. Volunteering with Micah's does not require a large amount of time and, with a few exceptions, is something that can be done around your schedule.



Help with the Food Bank Pick Ups — Pick ups take place three times a year, usually on a Thursday in September, December and March. It requires an hour or two to help with unloading the truck and taking the cases of food into the Micah's Room, checking the inventory and restocking shelves.

Packing Backpacks — This can be done on your schedule! You can pack as few or as many bags as you want. And once you become familiar with the requirements for what is needed in each bag, this is a very easy process.

Delivery Driver — If you have one or two free hours on Thursday mornings, we deliver 20 bags a week to Ruth Ann Monroe Primary School on Yale Drive. The school office staff is available as early as 8:00 am for the drop offs and bags may be dropped off at almost anytime. We also have carts available to aid in handling the backpacks.

Any Help Is Appreciated — Even if it is just checking the Micah's Room for any empty boxes that need to be broken down or even taking those broken down boxes out for recycling. All help is greatly appreciated.

Micah's is a big project and it is a successful project because of the support by everyone in this congregation!

Thank you all for your continuing support for Micah's Backpacks!

Blessings!

WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I

DONATIONS ALWAYS NEEDED!

We are always in need of winter coats, gloves, hats and socks in all sizes. New or lightly used. So if you are doing your yearly clean out, don't forget that we would gladly use your unwanted items. Also hygiene supplies, hand warmers, blankets or cash donations. Be watching for new mission opportunities that will begin this year.



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 23 through March 1, 2025. 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.

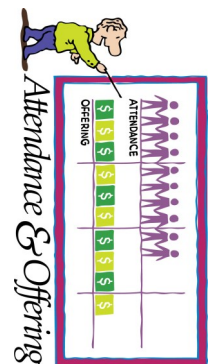
ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to place altar flowers on the altar for 2025, please reserve through the church office. The cost is \$60. Please send in Sunday desired, wording for bulletin, along with payment to Karen in the church office.



Attendance & Offering Report

Date	In-person	Online	Total Attendance	Total Offering
Dec. 22	35	4	39	\$ 6,205.00
Dec. 24	85		85	1,205.00
Dec. 29	49	5	54	2,735.00
Jan. 5	35	3	38	878.70
Jan. 12	42	4	46	1,174.34
Jan. 19	snow	8		
Jan. 26	46	3	49	3,139.34



~ Blessings, Sheila & Sherry



SOUPER BOWL WEEKEND — SOUP SALE!!

**Our Soup Sale will be
Saturday, February 8 and Sunday, February 9.**



Place an order in advance and your soup will be ready for pickup either Saturday, February 8, or Sunday, February 9. In addition to the Saturday and Sunday pickup times, we know that some people are unable to physically get to the church. Therefore, we are offering a Saturday delivery, which would be following the 5:00 pickup (and within a reasonable distance.) Be sure to note your preferred pickup time on your order blank. Prepayment would be appreciated, but not required. We will also have 12 oz. size containers of chicken salad.

Saturday's pick up time will be between 3:30 pm and 5:00 pm in the Social Hall, or on Sunday, after worship. Saturday deliveries will happen after 5:00 pm. Complete the order form below and turn into the church office (301-733-0391 or jwumcmd@yahoo.com) or place in offering plate. Orders are due **by Monday, February 3.**

Additional Note: We still have a lot of quart containers on-hand. (If you're thinking of freezing, Styrofoam works great). If you prefer a glass jar for your soup, please note that below.

SOUP SALE ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

SOUPS: \$9.00/QT Chicken Corn: _____ qts. Vegetable Beef: _____ qts.

CHICKEN SALAD: \$6.00/12 oz. _____

My preferred pickup time is:

SATURDAY- _____ *3:30-5:00 in the Social Hall*

SATURDAY- _____ *after 5:00 Address: _____*

SUNDAY- _____ *after the worship service in the Social Hall*

_____ *I would prefer my soup in a glass jar*

(Proceeds to benefit Kitchen Committee for annual equipment maintenance and repairs)

Connecting from the Sharing Team

Sharing Team met in January to begin planning for 2025.

- ◆ It's back - Kitchen Committee will be holding a Souper Bowl Weekend Soup sale on February 8 & 9. Sign up sheets can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and orders are due Feb. 3.
- ◆ Coffee Fellowship continues to be held on the 2nd Sunday of each month, between Sunday School and Worship Service in the Social Hall. This month is February 9.
- ◆ Micah's Backpack program continues to run well, delivering close to 20 bags each week to the Ruth Ann Monroe School. Deb reports that she has lost two packers due to scheduling conflicts, so could use more packers. See Deb Markell if interested in packing.
- ◆ Wednesday Night Alive events are underway. Beginning at 6:00 for a meal and fellowship, 6:30 for a time of worship, and then at 7:00 several different activities are available, including the ongoing Heavenly Living Workshop Bible Study.
- ◆ Service Team continues to work with outreach projects. A new Service Team outreach called Lunches with Love will be launched in February to help with community feeding.
- ◆ The Men's Breakfast Group and Supper Club will once again host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 4 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Watch for details and sign-up sheets.
- ◆ Ash Wednesday is March 5 and marks the beginning of Lent. Again this year, 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 to take part in an upcoming *Ignite Retreat* event in Ocean City in March.

The next scheduled meeting will be held Monday, February 10 via Zoom.

Anyone is welcome to join and share at this meeting.

Blessings,

Barb & Greg Hoover



February

- 2nd: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 2nd: 10:30am, Communion Worship
 3rd: 6:30pm, Leadership Team
 4th: 12:00pm, Service Team
 5th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
 5th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
 5th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Messy People" #5
 6th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
 6th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "John" #1
 8th: SOUP SALE
 9th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 9th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
 9th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
 10th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team
 12th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
 12th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
 12th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Messy People" #6
 13th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "John" #2
 13th: 7:00pm, Trustees/Property Team
 16th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 16th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
 17th: *Partner* deadline
 17th: Church Office Closed
 18th: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle I
 19th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle
 19th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
 19th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
 19th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Caregiving"
 20th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "John" #3
 23rd: REACH Week
 23rd: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 23rd: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
 24th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team
 26th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
 26th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
 26th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Homecoming"

~ SAVE THE DATE ~ SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

March 4th
4:30 – 6:30 pm



The Men's Group and Supper Club are teaming up to prepare a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Suggested Donation: \$8.00 (10 and under \$4.00) Reservations are required. Watch for more details and reservation slips.

Our prayers and sympathy
are extended to
the family and friends of

Juanita Grimes
who passed away on
September 28, 2024



Our prayers and sympathy
are extended to
the family and friends of

James Feigley, Jr.
who passed away on
December 27, 2024



Our prayers and sympathy
are extended to
the family and friends of

JoAnn Bousum
who passed away on
January 13, 2025



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
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!)



OUR INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

- ◆ If the Snow Emergency Plan (link is <https://chart.maryland.gov/SnowEmergencyPlan/GetSnowEmergencyPlan>) 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.

PUZZLE PAGE



a lovely aroma

Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.

What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)

What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Opposite of dark

6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	----

Companion

11	12	13	14	15	16
----	----	----	----	----	----

Hand greeting

17	18	19	20
----	----	----	----

Male adult

21	22	23
----	----	----



8 2 16 13 4 6 2 19 5

17 9 2 5 19 5 12 6 7 19 5 4

13 15 6 2 19 20 6 7 19 14 4

13 15 8 2 16 18 15 16

8 2 16 13 23 10 1 14 21

1 John 4:16, NIV

Answers: house; light; friend; wave; man; God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1 John 4:16, NIV

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 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.”

