

# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2025

## The Partner

***“More Epiphany for the New Year!”***

*“In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’” — Mark 1:9-11*

Happy New Year! I am hopeful that you and yours had a blessed Christmas!

It is a joy to greet you this New Year! I am excited already about the new blessings God has in store for us in 2025.

I love it that we launch the New Year with Epiphany on Sunday, January 5! The Season after the Epiphany will extend to the outset of March, until Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5.

For me, Epiphany is always that bright shining spotlight, following Christmas, that highlights and proclaims Jesus’ entrance into our world and His “manifestation” among us! Epiphany Sunday features the Magi and the unique way that their visitation celebrated who Jesus has come to be! And then the following Sunday, on January 12, we will recall Jesus baptism, where John the Baptist welcomes Jesus publically into His world-saving mission! Finally, the last Sunday of this Season after the Epiphany is Transfiguration Sunday, on March 2, when Jesus is lit up! ... to show again how Divinely special He is!

It is my deepest prayer that our new year will be full of Jesus entering into and becoming manifest in our lives in new ways, in addition to how He has already entered in! Jesus is ready and waiting for us to welcome His Coming! I pray for all the new things Jesus is ready to do in our lives!

A new thing that Jesus is doing in the life of our church is our new Wednesday evening ministry, Wednesday Night Alive (WNA)! Our trial run of WNA on December 4 gave us a taste of how refreshing it will be when it is launched as a WEEKLY ministry on January 8!

There is a lot that excites me about Wednesday Night Alive! At or

*“Pastor’s Letter” continued on p. 2*

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**DIRECTOR OF  
MUSIC/ORGANIST:**

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**Inside this issue:**

<b>Pastor’s Letter continued; Thank You!</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Final Auction Update; Micah’s Backpack News</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sharing Team</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Building Use Policy; Altar Flowers</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Wednesdays HLW; Inclement Weather Policy</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>January Calendar; Kitchen Use</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Puzzle Page</b>	<b>9</b>

"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1



near the top of the list is how this new ministry has the ability to become new all the time. It is designed to take shape as we take shape! What will happen every Wednesday is that we will have a simple, delicious meal at 6 pm that nourishes us with both food and fellowship. And then we will worship every Wednesday at 6:30 with a half-hour of praise that's informal and uplifting! Every Wednesday we will share the Lord's Supper together. Then, beginning at 7 pm, WNA will offer a menu of choices ranging from more fun and games and fellowship, to Bible study and topical studies, to more music, to how-to workshops, and more.

Wednesday Night Alive is positioned to become what the Good Lord wants it to become! It is set up to become what you would like it to become! After our meal and worship together, what would you enjoy participating in? Please share with us your ideas. We have some good ideas. What would you like to add? Would you like to help?

More than anything, I hope that you will come. Come when you can and leave when you must. Please come, if only for dinner. Let us feed you. Take a night off from cooking. If you can't get here at 6, come when you can, and we'll save some food for you. Please come for our nourishing, brief worship, full of beautiful music and Praise for the Lord!

If you have any questions about Wednesday Night Alive, don't hesitate to ask. I'd love to talk with you about it, because WNA is already one of those new doorways that Jesus is using to enter into our midst, to become even more manifest in the life of our church. I am hopeful that you will join in the Epiphany!

Blessed Epiphany!

Pastor Doug



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

THANK YOU to all those who contributed time, money and gifts to make Christmas brighter for our adopted families and friends of our community. Your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of those less fortunate whether it was some warm cocoa and cookies, donated coat and warm gloves, to money donated to REACH for the Cold Weather Shelter. We thank you so much!

## FINAL UPDATE FROM WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I ~ MAKE IT BAKE IT SEW IT GROW IT AUCTION 2024

In December, Wilson Wright Circle I made their final donations from the Make It Bake It Sew It Grow It Auction that was held in May. The auction raised \$420 this year and we thank you all for your support.

Over the summer, we donated \$250 for the new stainless steel table in the kitchen and we just donated \$100 each to Holly Place and the Board of Child Care.

We hope to see you all in May for the 2025 MAKE IT BAKE IT SEW IT GROW IT!

Happy New Year!

Wilson Wright Circle I



## NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACKS HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The first four months of this school year went by with some minor glitches but no major problems. We are now up to serving 20 students every week. The shelves were restocked with the Food Bank order on December 12. And as this is being written, we are scheduling our drivers to make deliveries for the remainder of the year. Every other week three volunteers from ARC come in to help with the packing which is a huge help and is working out wonderfully well. If anyone is interested in helping out with packing, shopping, or delivering bags, please contact the church office.

Thank you all so very much for supporting this project.

Everyone have a safe and healthy 2025!

Wilson Wright Circle I





## CONNECTING FROM THE SHARING TEAM

During 2024 we found ourselves holding many events and connecting, not only with the congregation, but with the community.

We look forward to enjoying more of these events in 2025. Sharing Team operates separately from Leadership Team. Sharing Team is a valuable tool for coordination and support of the many smaller groups. We meet to share thoughts on events for the congregation, developing new ideas and plans for outreach in the community, and how to draw new members into our church.

The following areas are the areas of discussion during our meetings:

- ◇ Christian Education
- ◇ UMW
- ◇ Creative Saturday
- ◇ Youth Happenings
- ◇ Parish Nursing Ministry
- ◇ Family Life
- ◇ Micah's Backpack
- ◇ Supper Club
- ◇ Kitchen Committee
- ◇ Concert Series
- ◇ Church Banner
- ◇ Celebration Team
- ◇ Service Team
- ◇ and any other upcoming event or area of discussion



Sharing Team meetings are open to anyone who would like to share ideas and “make things happen.” Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month via zoom.

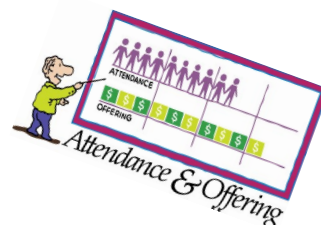
We are looking for people who might want to help with the Family Life Committee, which includes the annual church picnic and possibly some events outside of the church. If interested in being part of Family Life or just part of the Sharing Team, contact Karen in the office, or Greg or Barb if you would like additional information to join us.

Blessings!

Greg & Barb Hoover

### Attendance & Offering Report

Date	In-person	Online	Total Attendance	Total Offering
Dec. 1	42	-	42	\$ 1,255.00
Dec. 8	40	5	45	1,649.38
Dec. 15	50	3	53	2,820.00



~ Blessings, Sheila & Sherry

## BUILDING USE POLICY

As we move into 2025, we need to remind you of the building use policy.

As more individuals and groups use our facilities, 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 a one-time 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. Only a change in the normal schedule needs to be shared.

A newly planned event or activity that will happen on a recurring basis needs to be set up by completing a Building Use Form for Church Committees, giving information on requested space, purpose, and scheduled dates.

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

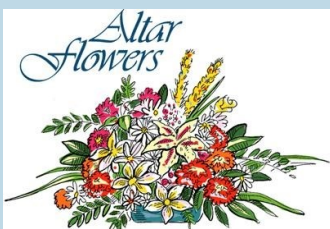
For use of space by an outside individual or group, a Building Use Form will need to be completed, giving information on requested date(s), requested space and purpose. A fee and/or certificate of insurance may be required. Trustees Building Use Committee will review for approval.

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, if use of the kitchen is requested for an event.

For use of the kitchen only, there is a separate Kitchen Use form. A fee and/or certificate of insurance may be required. Trustees Building Use Committee, along with the Kitchen Committee, will review for approval.

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 Building Use Committee*



### 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.

## WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

Engage in a 6-week Zoom/Conference Room discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756 Phone: 1-301-715-8592) each

**Wednesday from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm beginning January 8, 2025.**

Please join us!!!!

### Messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes

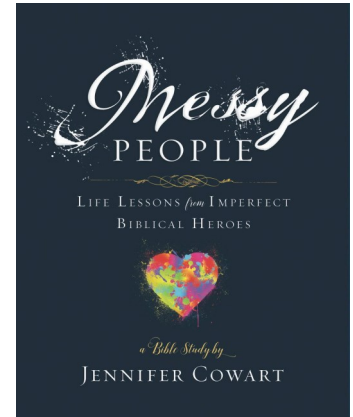
by Jennifer Cowart

God can turn our messy lives into a masterpiece. Every life gets messy at times. Sometimes these messes are literal, like a house that would be easier to condemn than to clean. But sometimes they are intangible messes such as illness, conflict, depression, abuse, bankruptcy, divorce, and job loss. But as we see in the Bible, God loves to use messy people!

In this six-week study, we will dig into the lives of biblical heroes who were messy people just like us but who were used by God in powerful ways. From their stories, we will learn how God can use broken people, restore damaged hearts and relationships, give us power to handle our critics, and help us deal with the hard moments of life.

#### Discussion Topics:

1. Rahab: Changing Your Messy Story – January 8, 2025
2. The Prodigal Son: Restoring Messy Relationships – January 15, 2025
3. Josiah: Breaking Messy Family Circles – January 22, 2025
4. Mary: Surviving Life's Messy Plot Twists – January 29, 2025
5. David: Overcoming the Mess of Criticism – February 5, 2025
6. Daniel: Thriving in Messy Circumstances – February 12, 2025



## 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](http://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.



- 2nd: 8:30am, Men’s Breakfast
- 3rd: Church Office Closed
- 5th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 5th: 10:30am, Communion Worship
- 8th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 8th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 8th: 7:00pm, HLW - “Messy People #1”
- 9th: 7:00pm, Trustees/Property Team
- 12th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 12th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 12th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 13th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team
- 15th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle
- 15th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 15th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 15th: 7:00pm, HLW - “Messy People #2”
- 19th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 19th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 20th: *Partner* deadline
- 20th: Church Office Closed — MLK Day
- 20th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team
- 21st: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle
- 22nd: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 22nd: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 22nd: 7:00pm, HLW - “Messy People #3”
- 26th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 26th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 29th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 29th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 29th: 7:00pm, HLW - “Messy People #4”

## Kitchen Use

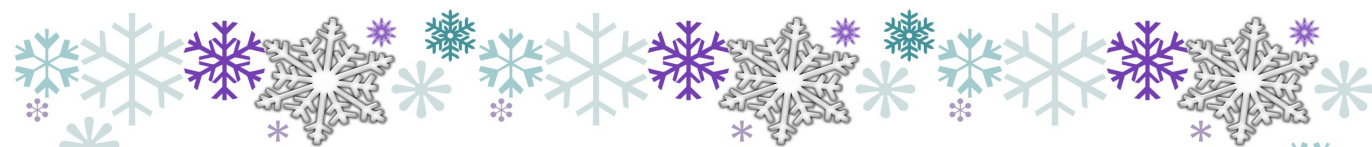
To Anyone Using the Kitchen —  
When you leave, please make sure the kitchen is as clean (or cleaner) than when you arrived.

Thank you,  
*Kitchen Committee*

And a reminder to be sure you have signed up for use of the Kitchen!

*Only Authorized  
Kitchen Crew allowed to be in  
the Kitchen!*





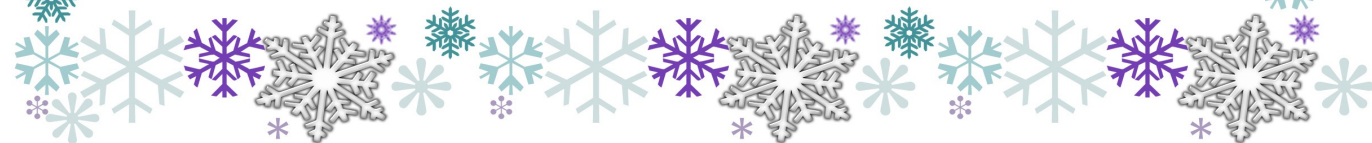

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |       |                           |       |                      |
|-------|---------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 1st:  | Laura Bell                | 22nd: | Buck Shipley         |
|       | Emily Bolt                | 23rd: | Danny Seiler         |
|       | Barbara Jones             | 24th: | Amy Ernst            |
| 2nd:  | Judy Shorb                | 25th: | Michael McMurtrie    |
| 5th:  | Kevin Hoover              |       | Kate Suddueth        |
|       | Lauri Ricker              | 29th: | John Gillespie       |
| 6th:  | McKenzie O'Connor Metzner |       |                      |
| 7th:  | Sandra Dennie             |       |                      |
|       | Louise Wine               |       |                      |
| 8th:  | Don Eckard                |       |                      |
| 10th: | Norris Diefenderfer       |       |                      |
|       | Holly Robison             |       |                      |
| 13th: | Robin Deavers             |       |                      |
| 15th: | Meghan Leigh Anne Blair   | 10th: | Tom & Lori Routzahn  |
|       | Caroline Harsh            | 24th: | Trumer & June Wagner |
| 17th: | Michael Shank             |       |                      |
| 19th: | Tom Routzahn              |       |                      |



# JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

*(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!)*









## JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# JANUARY 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.”*

