

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE / JULY 2024

The Partner

“Here’s to Discipleship!”

¹⁸“And Jesus said ..., ¹⁹“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you ...” — Matthew 28:18-20

This month, on June 23, after our celebration of worship, we will convene a special Church Conference for a most consequential decision in the life our beloved John Wesley United Methodist Church. We will vote on a future course of action for our church. All church members will be eligible to vote, choosing one of the options below:

1. Move forward with full ministry and mission at current levels of staffing and spending, for the purpose of becoming and remaining a vital downtown church, raising new income, and closing our revenue shortfall.
2. Move forward with controlled spending, reduced staffing, and with a part-time pastor, to maintain our ministry until our endowment is spent, or until the Conference intervenes.
3. Merge with another UM church, which folds our assets into that merged church.
4. Close our church, which would entrust our assets to the Balt/Wash Conference for its mission.

As your pastor, I am blessed to lead you through this momentous decision, along with the outstanding lay leadership we have here at John Wesley. As our June 23 vote nears, it is essential that we do our best to ensure that our church members understand the options from which they are choosing. Beginning at May’s end and throughout June, we will be emailing reminders about our June 23 vote. Two weeks before the vote, we will email you the clearly stated voting options from which you are choosing, along with any additional explanation that may help you understand the options more clearly.

As your pastor, I pledge that I will shepherd this process with all the pastoral care I have, and whatever the outcome, I will continue to support you as we move forward with the decision we make.

At the same time, I am clear about my hopes for the decision we will make. I have a position about this choice, and I believe you should know what your pastor thinks. Again, I pledge that if the church’s decision is not in line with my hopes, I will honor the vote and support you through it.

“Pastor’s Letter” continued on p. 2

PASTOR:

Rev. Doug Hoffman
revdhoff@gmail.com

**DIRECTOR OF
MUSIC/ORGANIST:**

Stephen Pompa
stephenpompa26@gmail.com

CARETAKER/CUSTODIAN:

Larry Gibson
larry3271@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Karen Stamper
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"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1



From my vantage point, we are already engaged in option #1, and I am hopeful we will remain on this path. I believe that our revitalization has already begun. I made the case in the May Partner that we are already busy making disciples through a growing Youth Ministry, Mission Growth, and revitalizing worship that is drawing increasing attendance and has plans for growth in our music ministry. Each month, we have more interest from the community in using our high quality space for their outreach. Week by week we are growing our network of community partners and collaborators with whom we are cooperating, for the sake of meeting our neighbors and making a loving difference in their lives! Through it all, we are finding more and more opportunity to join Jesus in making disciples, as He called us to do!

We face a steep challenge on our road to revitalization. It's always been challenging for Disciple Makers! Here's to Discipleship! We have already begun facing the challenges, Disciple Makers that we are! It has already been a rich blessing to share this journey. I am hopeful that we will stay the course, and discover together what God has in store for our Disciple Making!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Doug

The banner features a background of an American flag. In the center, the words "July Celebration" are written in a large, bold, black font. Above the text are colorful fireworks in red, blue, and white. To the left of the text is a photo of a burger on a grill with flames. To the right is a photo of hot dogs on a grill.

We invite all to come to a FREE picnic lunch

July 13, 2024

12:00 - 2:00 pm

John Wesley UMC

129 N. Potomac Street

301-733-0391

CONNECTING FROM THE SHARING TEAM

Sharing Team met in May.

We had a small group, but a lot of discussion, which included the following:

- * Service Team held their “Neighborhood Meal” on Saturday, May 18 in our Social Hall. 267 people were served a full turkey or ham dinner. Thank you to all those who helped or donated.
- * There are plans for a Cookout for the Homeless in July, and also a fundraiser this summer and fall for Sleep In Heavenly Peace, an organization that builds and delivers beds to children who are sleeping on the floor or sharing a bed.
- * UMW Circles continue to meet.
- * The Wilson Wright Circle will plans to continue to meet during the summer.
- * Susanna Circle is starting to work on UMW Sunday, which is August 25.
- * Micah’s Backpacks will have made their last delivery for the school year around May 30. Deb reports we have 12 active volunteers, plus the people who donate. We have submitted our Intention form for next year, stating we can continue to sponsor 20 kids.
- * Supper Club is hosting a pizza and movie night on Saturday, June 1 at 4:00. The movie will be “The Hill.”
- * Plans are in the making for a Family Festival 2024 event again this summer. JWUMC will be doing this on their own this year, so the format may be slightly different. Watch for more information on this event!
- * The Wednesday evening HLW Bible studies will be on break for the summer.
- * The Thursday afternoon Bible studies continues with “The Miracles – Understanding What Jesus Did”. Contact the church office for your zoom link.
- * Pastor Doug has been working with HARC and an after school program through Wash. Co. Public Schools. The first school to be involved with be Eastern Elementary in the fall. Volunteers from the churches will be needed.
- * 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.
- * Coffee Fellowship will take a break during the summer months, but we may have an ice cream social or two – and maybe we’ll get a visit from the Christ Cream truck.

The next scheduled meeting will be held June 10 – open to anyone who would like to attend.

Sharing Team meetings are held via Zoom.

Barb & Greg Hoover





Congratulations, Graduates!

Our John Wesley UMC Family and Friends extend heartfelt best wishes to the graduates and their families celebrating graduations this spring!



Grant Diefenderfer

will graduate from Greencastle-Antrim High School on June 3, 2024. He will be continuing his education in the fall by attending Hagerstown Community College. Grant is the grandson of Norris and Barb Diefenderfer.

Salomeh Elizabeth Grullón

graduated from Boonsboro High School on May 28, 2024. She is a recipient of the prestigious Nora Roberts scholarship, and graduates with distinguished honors, SSL Honors, National English Honors Society, National Honors Society, and is an SGA Student Advocate officer. She will be continuing her education in the fall by attending Hood College in Frederick. She is the daughter of Stephen & Stephanie Pompa.

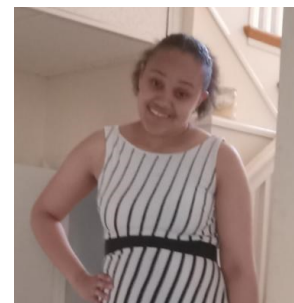


Calleigh Hoffman

graduated from Barbara Ingram School for the Arts on May 28, 2024. Calleigh will be attending Hood College in the Fall. She is the daughter of Pastor Doug and Donna Hoffman.

Aaliyah Martu

graduated from North Hagerstown High School on May 28, 2024. She is a friend of Larry Gibson & Heather Pratt.



NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACK



A very special thank you to everyone for making this a very successful year for the Micah's Program! The last 20 bags will be delivered May 29. Not only were we able to sponsor 20 students a week at Ruth Ann Monroe, we were able to supply 32 additional bags to the Board of Education to have on hand for the Pupil Personnel workers to distribute as needed.

Because of the successful year, the positive feedback from our volunteers and the wonderful support from all our donors, we have agreed to continue sponsoring 20 students at RAMPS for the 2024-2025 school year.

Thanks to all our hands-on volunteers — Linda, Donna & Edward, Jim, Buck, Kay & Carol, Heather, Barbara & her Ladies, and Christopher.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support this mission through food and monetary donations.

Please keep all the students in our prayers over the summer months that they return to school this fall healthy and ready to learn. And prayers for those students who are facing food insecurity during the summer months that the Meal Machine and other food programs are available to these students to help keep them fed.

Blessings and have a great summer!

All the Ladies of Wilson Wright Circle I

~ **SAVE THE DATE** ~

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, September 8
Halfway Park
Pavilion 4
(same as last year)
All are invited!!

<u>Attendance & Offering Report</u>			
April	28	47	\$ 2,275.00
May	5	50	3,072.07
May	12	53	2,934.28
May	19	53	860.00
May	26	50	1,880.00
Blessings, Sheila & Sherry			

Reports from General Conference

Historic changes unfolded at the postponed 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, held April 23 - May 3 in Charlotte, N.C. Now the important work of interpreting how these new ways of doing and being church together begins. The following resources and information are shared for you to explore what our Bishop, LaTrelle Easterling, calls, "this brand new day."

LINKS:

Discover Key Outcomes of this Historic General Conference
Wrap-up Video: General Conference 2020
Talking to your congregation about The UMC
Bright Hope for Tomorrow: Bishops' message after General Conference

A 12-member delegation from the Baltimore Washington Conference, along with many other lay and clergy workers, observers, and ministry leaders shaped the work of the General Conference. Some of their stories are shared in the following links.

VIDEOS:

Bishop Easterling's reflections at the close of General Conference

STORIES:

BWC delegates react to historic vote
You will see God's glory: Thoughts on General Conference from Rev. Chet Jechura
The Road toward Sacramental Authority for Deacons
Church defines itself in new Social Principles
Celebrating a Brand New Day: A Message from Bishop Easterling (4/29)
LYNC is 'the church we hope to become'
BWC delegation leaders see a new day dawning
Bishop Easterling preaches a message to end violence against women

SHORT COMMENTARIES:

Postcards Home from General Conference
Sacred Tenderness: A commentary from the Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli

Sorry for the inconvenience...I had difficulty in the copying of the links from Word into Publisher. Here is the web address for the Baltimore-Washington Conference. All stories and links are found there - www.bwc.org then click on the General Conference red circle.

JWUMC SUPPER CLUB - MOVIE NIGHT

PIZZA AND A MOVIE

Saturday, June 1, 2024 4:00 pm

"THE HILL"

A SON'S DREAM... A FATHER'S CONVICTION



JWUMC Supper Club will be holding a pizza and movie night on **Saturday, June 1st** starting at **4:00 pm**.

By donation (\$5 is suggested, but not required) to help offset the cost of the meal. Following the meal, we will be showing a movie: **"THE HILL."**

The Hill is an inspiring, true story of baseball phenomenon Rickey Hill (Colin Ford). The son of a small-town traveling pastor (Dennis Quaid), Rickey shows an extraordinary talent for baseball despite being burdened by leg braces from a degenerative spinal disease. Driven by his faith and love of the sport, he continues to play against his father's wishes. But when a scout for the major league (Scott Glenn) arrives, he must overcome his worsening condition and the division it causes in his family in order to fulfill his dream of playing professional baseball.

In order for us to have enough pizza and drinks, please call or email the church office if you will be attending. Plan to join us!

Barb & Greg Hoover

WESLEYAN CLASS SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Wesleyan Class will continue meeting during the summer months.

We have a short devotion, a prayer and a hymn, followed by a lesson. The lesson book will be available as a guide, or the class leader may just pick a topic or a person that has been of interest to them and share with the class, opening it up to discussion. We're hoping that others who don't normally teach might want to share during this time.

We invite and would love for others to come and join us. The youth are also invited to join us for the summer.

Starting June 2, class will begin at 9:00 on Sunday mornings and will finish up in time for the 10:00 worship service.

Blessings to you.



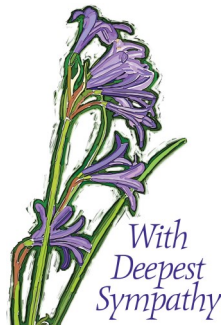
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the United Methodist Church

Please pray for Pastor Doug and Jenny Suddueth who will be representing John Wesley at the Annual Conference on May 29th - 31st. Also attending is Richard Willson, lay member of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Rizzo Chapin, Calleigh Hoffman and Joanna Suddueth representing our Cumberland-Hagerstown District. The theme of this year's session is "Like Fire Shut Up in Our Bones."



Our prayers and sympathy are extended to

... the Mesner Family on the death of **Steven H. Mesner**



The new photo directory has been delivered! 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:



* McAdams, Christopher
18518 Orchard Hills Parkway
Hagerstown, MD 21742

NEW MEMBERS CLASS IN JUNE!

Pastor Doug is excited to announce a New Members Class that will begin on Monday, June 3 and then conclude on Thursday, June 20. Both classes will start at 7:00 pm here at the church.



All those who complete the class and decide to join our church will be welcomed into membership on Sunday, June 23, during our 10:00 am worship service.

If you're interested in the class, or have questions, please speak to Pastor Doug or call the church office at 301-733-0391.

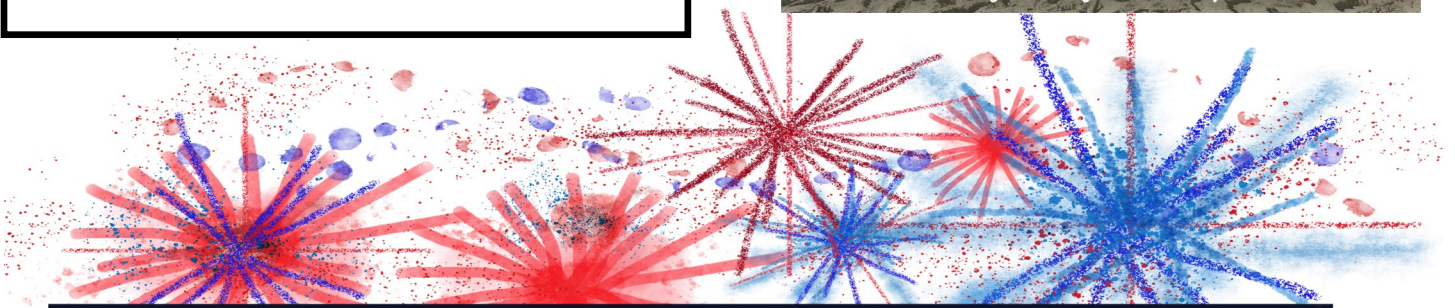
June

- 1st: 4:00pm, Supper Club
- 2nd: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 2nd: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- 3rd: 7:00pm, New Member Class
- 4th: 5:00pm, JWCOR Service Team
- 6th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 9th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 9th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- 10th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team
- 16th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 16th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- 18th: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle
- 19th: 10:00am, Susannah Circle
- 20th: 7:00pm, New Member Class
- 23rd: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 23rd: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- New Member/Graduates &
213 Conference Vote
- 24th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team
- 30th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 30th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship

** Pastor Doug is on vacation June 5th through June 18th. Rev. Rick Vance will supply preach on June 9th. Our own Stephen Pompa will preach on June 16th.

July

- 4th: Office Closed — Independence Day
- 4th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 7th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 7th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- 11th: 7:00pm, Property Team
- 13th: 12:00pm, JWCOR Cookout
- 14th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 14th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- 15th: *Partner* deadline
- 16th: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle
- 17th: 10:00am, Susannah Circle
- 21st: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 21st: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- 22nd: 6:30pm, Leadership Team
- 28th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 28th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship



Happy June Birthday

- 1st: Christopher McAdams
- 3rd: Linda Kayser
- 4th: Linda Sappington
- 5th: Brock Payne
- 8th: William Johnson
- 11th: Douglas Heck
Brad O'Conner
- 12th: Jadah Blair
- 13th: Matthew Giles
- 16th: Lorene Gillespie
- 18th: Debra Markell
Erica Shaw
Joyce Stanley
- 20th: Shawn Rowan
- 22nd: Greg Hoover
Shirley Shaffer
- 24th: Larry Suddueth
Joe White
Donna Zimmerman
- 30th: Octavio Mesner

Happy June Anniversary

- 2nd: Edwin & Barbara Crider
- 7th: Brian & Nancy Moyer
- 8th: Jerry & Jenny Bullington
- 15th: Sam & Frances Brown
- 24th: Robert & Virginia Fennel
- 26th: Kevin & Debra Hoover
- 27th: Patrick & Lauri Ricker
- 28th: Wally & Barbara McClure
- 30th: Jack & Becky Mesner

Happy July Birthday

- 1st: Michael Fritsch
- 2nd: Sherry Fritsch
George Stone
- 3rd: Robert Mann
- 4th: Christopher Kerins
Steven Miles
- 6th: Sue Baker
Jenny Suddueth
- 8th: Barbara Diefenderfer
Iris Harnage
- 9th: Joan Ullery
- 12th: Helen Stone
- 15th: John Keyser,
Owen Pompa
- 19th: Jerry Bullington
- 25th: Carole Keyser
- 26th: Rizzo Chapin
- 27th: Juanita Grimes
- 29th: Barbara Crider
- 30th: Kelly Giles
Mary Licht
- 31st: Jim Fritsch

Happy July Anniversary

- 5th: Fred & Judy O'Neal
- 12th: Jim & Sherry Fritsch
- 17th: Marcus & Judy Peters
- 18th: Larry & Jenny Suddueth
- 27th: George & Helen Stone

(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



FAMILY FEAST



Serve protein-packed waffles for a family breakfast on FATHER'S DAY or any special occasion.

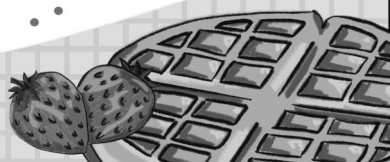
What you need:

- Adult help
- Waffle maker
- Blender
- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 6 eggs
- Cooking spray
- Diced strawberries
- Powdered sugar



What you do:

1. With adult help, preheat the waffle maker.
2. In the blender, add oats and cottage cheese. Crack eggs in a separate bowl, then add to the blender. Pulse to combine the mixture. Then blend on medium speed for 10 seconds.
3. Coat the waffle maker with cooking spray. Spoon about 1/3 cup batter onto the iron and close.
4. Carefully remove the waffle when it's golden brown. Repeat with remaining batter.
5. Top with strawberries and powdered sugar. Makes about 6 waffles.



FOLLOWING OUR FATHER'S WILL

Jesus always did his Father's will. What does our heavenly Father desire of us?

Directions: Using the coordinates, circle the corresponding words. Then add those to the blanks below to complete John 6:40, NIV.

Coordinates

T3, R1, F6, E2, T1, H5, A6, R4, F5, T5, H3, F2, A4, E6

	F	A	T	H	E	R
1	Father	them	the	believe	that	who
2	have	will	if	heart	to	live
3	perish	whoever	everyone	shall	shall	give
4	God	eternal	send	into	Him	believes
5	in	come	him	Son	rest	with
6	looks	and	forever	Where	life	hope

"For my Father's will is that _____

and I will raise them up at the last day." John 6:40, NIV

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

JUNE / JULY 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.”*

