

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE / JULY 2025

The Partner

“Unhindered!”

“... Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’ — Matthew 19:14

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This month, on Sunday, June 8, we will celebrate Graduation Sunday during our morning worship celebration in the sanctuary. It is a Sunday that we look forward to every year to celebrate the graduates in our congregation.

Over the years, it has been especially satisfying and gratifying, hasn't it, to celebrate so many young people, whose growth we have had the pleasure to behold! For many of these graduates, we've watched them grow from the crib and as toddlers into quickly maturing young men and women. We have experienced the joy and wonder of obeying Jesus' command, and letting the children come. We have come to see and understand why Jesus warned us against hindering them.

Among those we will celebrate on June 8 are Rizzo Chapin and Joanna Suddueth. While Rizzo and Joanna and their families would resist being highlighted, these two youth and their families have led a cohort of our younger membership in ways that warrant our taking notice and giving thanks!

When my family got to Hagerstown and to John Wesley in 2020, our daughter Calleigh did not know anyone here. By that time, Rizzo and Joanna, along with Rizzo's sister Reggan and Alex Licht, had become close friends, having grown up together at our church. Rizzo and Joanna led their friend group in welcoming and including Calleigh, as if they had known Calleigh, too, for years. Calleigh graduated last year as a proud member of John Wesley, thanks in large part to Rizzo and Joanna and their friendship.

This group of five girls immediately became the nucleus for a youth group that formed and has met for fun and fellowship for the last four years. They have welcomed others like the original four welcomed Calleigh, so that the group grew to over ten kids! They have assumed leadership for our annual Mummers Parade Concession Stand. They have served dinner yearly at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter. Three years ago they formed a relationship with the Northpoint Home for Veterans, just blocks away from the church, committing themselves to supporting the veterans in their recovery from addiction. The youth and their families have helped lead our church through challenging yet rewarding change, as we strive for vitality and growth as a community church. Rizzo and Joanna have represented our church and our District at our Baltimore Washington Annual Conference, as Youth Members At-large.

“Pastor's Letter” continued on p. 2

"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1



All this because Rizzo and Joanna were unhindered! The amazing parenting and support they received at home from their families nurtured them and guided them to come unto their Lord Jesus!! And they were unhindered! And Jesus welcomed them and disciplined them into the young women of faith they have become. It has been our blessing and privilege here at John Wesley to do all we can to nourish and support them! I have a hunch that when any hindrances may have presented themselves, Rizzo and Joanna had their unique ways of moving through them, with the help of their loving families!

This month, this graduation and post-graduation season, let us remember and give thanks for all those young people we've had the privilege of nurturing and nourishing along their way. Many of those are your children and grandchildren! What a blessing it has been for us to have any part in providing for them an unhindered path to Jesus! With God's help and by His Grace, let us find new ways to effectively welcome children and their families, so that their path to Jesus Christ may be, and remain, unhindered!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Doug

A large banner for a "July Celebration" set against a background of an American flag. The banner features two inset photos: one of food cooking on a grill and another of hot dogs on a grill. The text "July Celebration" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below this, a white box contains the event details in red and blue text.

**July
Celebration**

**We invite all to come to a FREE
Community Picnic
Saturday, July 19
2:00 - 4:00 pm
John Wesley UMC
129 N. Potomac Street
301-733-0391
Please use the courtyard entrance.**

CONNECTING FROM THE SHARING TEAM

Sharing Team did not meet in May.

- * On Sunday, May 4, a Spring Fling community dinner was held in the Social Hall. About 100 people were served and there were take-home meals for people to take with them.
- * Coffee Fellowship takes a break over the summer months.
- * There will be two ice cream Sundays: on July 20, the Christ Cream truck will stop by after worship; and on August 24, there will be ice cream sundaes in the Social Hall after the UMW Sunday service.
- * Wednesday Night Alive events continue, starting at 6:00 – meal, worship, and programming. A new young adult ministry has formed from this event.
- * There is currently a young adult Confirmation Class.
- * The Zoom HLW Bible Study on Wednesdays will be winding up their current series: *'Creed: What Christians Believe and Why,'* by Adam Hamilton. The Zoom Bible Study on Thursdays will be taking a break during the summer.
- * The Wesleyan Class Sunday School is going to be studying Adam Hamilton's *'The Message of Jesus'* on Sunday mornings during the summer.
- * Service Team is planning a mid-July community cook-out.
- * Save the Date: September 14, for the annual church picnic at Marty Snook Park.
- * Reminder that summer hours begin Sunday, June 1. Church starts at 10:00 am.



Sharing Team will be on Monday, June 9 at 7:00 pm via Zoom – open to anyone who would like to share ideas. Contact Barb or Greg or the church office if you need the link.

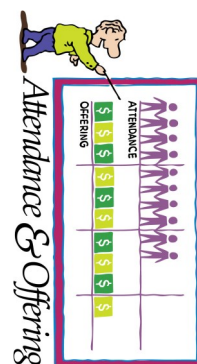
Blessings,

Barb & Greg Hoover

Attendance & Offering Report

Date	In-person	Online	Total Attendance	Total Offering
May 4	31	1	32	\$ 1,912.24
May 11	39	-	39	1,099.76
May 18	37	2	39	1,745.20
May 25	32	1	33	1,195.20

~ Blessings, Sheila & Sherry





Congratulations, Graduates!

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

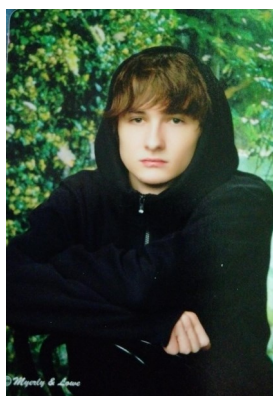
Rizzo Chapin

Rizzo Chapin is a proud member of the North Hagerstown High School Class of 2025! A dedicated and determined student, she is graduating this year and will be heading off to college in the fall to pursue a degree in Forensic Science at Harrisburg University Science and Technology. Her passion for solving mysteries, attention to detail, and a love of science have inspired her future path. We are so proud of her accomplishments and excited to see all that the future holds as she begins this next chapter! Rizzo is the daughter of Ryan & Wendy Chapin. She is the granddaughter of Ralph Chapin.



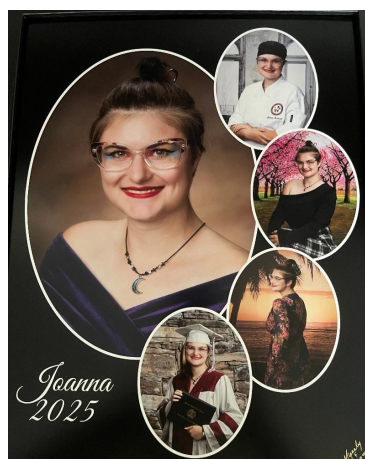
Colton Hoover

graduated from Innovated Learning Center on May 21, 2025. He has no future plans as of yet. Colton is the son of Jason & April Hoover. He is the grandson of Barbara & Greg Hoover.



Joanna Suddueth

Joanna Suddueth is graduating from Michael J. Boyd Technical High School with a certificate of completion in the culinary program. She is taking a year off to work and then plans to attend Blue Ridge Summit Community College in their baking program. Joanna is the daughter of Larry & Jenny Suddueth.



NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACK



The last backpacks have been delivered, and the last sponsor's meeting has been held for the 2024/2025 school year. The program ended the year by providing bags to 1156 students weekly. Looking forward to the 2025/2026 year, we have submitted our intentions to continue to sponsor 20 students at Ruth Ann Monroe Primary School.

Over the summer, students will be able to receive meals through the Washington County Board of Education Meal Machines at designated schools throughout the county. This is a federally funded program and the good news is that this year the school board is able to add three new meal machine locations, one each in Williamsport, Clear Spring and South County.

Thank you all for making this program such a success, and we are looking forward to September.

Everyone enjoy your summer!

Blessings,

Wilson Wright Circle I



~ THANK YOU ~

I would like to thank you for the wonderful box of goodies that I received on Secretary's Day! Your thoughtfulness and support are very much appreciated! From flowers, candies, gift cards and even a newly-woven tea towel! You really do know how to make someone feel special!

Thanks so much!

~ Karen :)



MY THOUGHTS — A PEEK INSIDE



Henry Blackaby in his study “Experiencing God” says (to paraphrase) that if you’re not taking risks then you are playing it safe and you aren’t experiencing the power of God. Think about that. If the outcomes are predictable, then where are the risks? Where is your dependence on the power of God to move the mountain?

Some folks at John Wesley believe that the mountain is too big. Others see the mountain as a combination of many small hills that can be conquered one at a time. Where do you land on this assessment? Have you ever had a mountain that wouldn’t move, but when you surrendered it to God, His power moved it?

Thirty three years ago my minister identified my gifts and challenged me to accept a call to be in full-time ministry, not as a pastor, but as a facilitator for planning and executing God’s plans. It was a risk for sure as my husband and I were full-time dairy farmers with two young children and the work load of a farm was certainly enough to keep us busy. Now I was being asked to leave my home church and go work for another church! How could I do that? We had small children.

Well here’s the rest of the story. I have been in full-time ministry since 1992 and I have not regretted the risks that my family and I took to answer that call. Was I scared? You bet! Did I have sleepless nights? Of course! But it was all worth it! And God will be faithful to each of you at John Wesley if you call on him! God is, has been, and will continue to be faithful to those who love him and seek His will for His church.

This past month’s Board meeting was, in my opinion, a turning point for John Wesley’s leadership because they are beginning to take steps toward leaning on the promises of God with no guarantees.

The unified Leadership Board and the 213 Team are thoughtful and compassionate. John Wesley is blessed to have these folks giving their time for each one of you. These folks are learning to be melted, molded and filled with the Holy Spirit to explore the work needed in this place at this time and on God’s timeline. The beauty of your leadership board is that together they are addressing the concerns but embracing a new future.

What can you do? Pray for the leadership of John Wesley daily and begin to envision a new John Wesley. How and what do I mean by envisioning? Here’s a summary of Vision. Read it daily! Pray about it daily! And then share your vision with me or anyone on the unified Leadership Board.

Remember I told you from the beginning that:

**“What God has planned for people who love him is more
than eyes have seen or the ears have heard.
It has never even entered their minds!”**



What is Vision?

Vision is from the Heart!

- ♦ A vision is greater than ourselves.
- ♦ Vision is always about greatness.
- ♦ A vision is different from a mission statement. A mission statement comes from the head: a vision comes from the heart.
- ♦ The loftiness of a vision may seem as though it asks too much of us. If it does, then one is on the right track.
- ♦ Vision is creating an ideal, preferred future with a grand purpose of greatness.
- ♦ It may not necessarily be considered practical or reasonable.
- ♦ Vision engenders change.

Note: People give to a Vision not Budgets. Money follows Mission.

I Corinthians 2:9 “What God has planned for people who love him is more than eyes have seen or the ears have heard. It has never even entered their minds!”

Please take the time to be in daily prayer about how you too can become involved in the changing, evolving ministry at John Wesley and reach out to me if you want to talk and explore your thoughts, concerns or vision.

Blessings!

Cindy

WESLEYAN CLASS SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Wesleyan Class will continue meeting during the summer months.

This summer we will be doing a Bible Study series, using the book “*The Message of Jesus*” by Adam Hamilton with accompanying DVD.

The focus of this book is the message of Jesus. The climax of that message is Jesus’s death and resurrection. In this case, the climax of the message of Jesus was not one he spoke with his lips. The Word made flesh, the I AM, the Good Shepherd, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, offered his most powerful message as he hung on the cross and as he rose from the dead.

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

Starting June 1, class will begin at 9:00 on Sunday mornings and will finish up in time for the 10:00 worship service.

Blessings to you.



Make It Bake It Auction



We raised \$414!

Thank you to everyone who donated items, time and energy to help ensure the success of the 2025 Make It Bake It Auction!

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who was the high bidder and took home a new found treasure or a delicious treat!

Circle I will be deciding which worthy organizations to donate to at the September 2025 meeting. Please look for the follow-up in the October *Partner*.

Save the date for next year's
Wilson Wright Circle I
Make It Bake It Sew It Grow It
Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Blessings,
Wilson Wright Circle I

Join the HCC Alumni Association for the 20th Annual



RED, WHITE & BLUE

CONCERT SERIES

dedicated to the memory of the late
Col. Ronald "Wayne" Taylor

FREE LIVE MUSIC
@ THE HCC ALUMNI AMPHITHEATER

MAY 18 · 6:15 PM
U.S. ARMY SIX STRING SOLDIERS

JUNE 1 · 3:00 PM
U.S. NAVY COMMODORES

JUNE 15 · 3:00 PM
U.S. NAVY SEA CHANTERS

JULY 3 · 6:15 PM
229TH ARMY BAND

AUGUST 16 · 6:15 PM
AIR FORCE CELTIC AIRE

SEPTEMBER 19 · 6:15 PM
U.S. ARMY BLUES BAND

*Schedules are subject to change by the U.S. Military.

Concerts are **FREE** and open to the public! Concessions are available for purchase; no outside food or drink will be permitted.

For more information, call 240-500-2346.



No Choir Rehearsals, Wednesday HLW Study, WNA or Thursday Zoom Study until September!



1st: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
 1st: 10:00am, Communion Sunday Worship
 1st: 12:00pm, Lunches with Love
 5th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
 8th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
 8th: 10:00am, Graduate Sunday Worship
 8th: 12:00pm, Lunches with Love
 9th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team
 12th: 6:30pm, Property Team
 15th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
 15th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
 15th: 12:00pm, Lunches with Love
 17th: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle
 18th: 10:00am, Susannah Circle
 22nd: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
 22nd: 10:00am, Hymn Sing Sunday Worship
 22nd: 12:00pm, Lunches with Love
 23rd: 6:30pm, Leadership Team
 29th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
 29th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
 29th: 12:00pm, Lunches with Love

** Pastor Doug is on vacation June 9th through June 22nd.
 Richard Willson will preach on June 15th. Stephen Pompa will provide a Hymn Sing on June 22nd.



3rd: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
 4th: Office Closed — Independence Day
 6th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
 6th: 10:00am, Communion Sunday Worship
 6th: 12:00pm, Lunches with Love
 10th: 6:30pm, Property Team
 13th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
 13th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
 13th: 12:00pm, Lunches with Love
 14th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team
 15th: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle
 16th: 10:00am, Susannah Circle
 19th: 2:00pm, JWCOR Community Picnic
 20th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
 20th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
 20th: 12:00pm, Lunches with Love
 21st: *Partner* deadline
 27th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
 27th: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
 27th: 12:00pm, Lunches with Love
 28th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team

Our prayers and sympathy are
 extended to ... the Fisher
 Family on the death of **David**
A. Fisher on April 25



Happy June Birthday

- 1st: Christopher McAdams
- 2nd: Braydon Hoover
- 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: Brent Hoover
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
- 30th: Jack & Becky Mesner

(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!)

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: Colton Hoover
- 29th: Barbara Crider
- 30th: Kelly Giles
Mary Licht
- 31st: Jim Fritsch
Judy O'Neal

Happy July Anniversary

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

PUZZLE PAGE



IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Make this keepsake to express love for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

What you need:

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint

What you do:

1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same side) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.

Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode
Proverbs 3:5, NRSV.

CLUES:

$Y = T, D = I$

Y K T P Y

D X

Y J Z

V Q K R

F D Y J

O V V

C Q T K

J Z O K Y,

O X R

R Q

X Q Y

K Z V C

Q X

C Q T K

Q F X

D X P D L J Y.

Answer: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. Proverbs 3:5, NRSV

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

JUNE / JULY 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."*

