

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2025

The Partner



“What Lent Gives Back”

“...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over...” — Luke 6:38

I wish and pray for you a holy and faithful Lenten observance, because when we accept Lent’s invitations to its holy practices, it is a most rewarding season! Lent gives back! Lent gives back as generously, if not more generously, than we give to it.

Lent is often remembered as the season when we give something up. While the practice of giving something up for Lent, when done faithfully, is in keeping with Lent’s meaning, I’m concerned that it is too often a distraction away from Lent’s valuable messages. It’s done playfully by some, out of obligation by others, and by many without a clear sense of why they’re doing it, why it’s a helpful and fitting form of Lenten observance.

Giving up something for Lent, at its best, is a sacrificial practice meant to keep us mindful of the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the Cross. It helps us remember how Jesus taught, modeled, and practiced servant-leadership and sacrificial love that values and places God’s will above ours. What we give up for Lent should focus our attention less on what we give up, and more on what replaces what we’ve sacrificed.

While I am giving up Cherry Pepsi this Lent, I will be mindful that I am replacing it with water and with other healthier options. This will invite me to do other more healthy things and to take better care of myself. It will invite me to be more thankful for the measure of health with which God has blessed me.

Lent invites us into a faithful and valuable self-examination of the healthiness of our faith and our practice of faith. Lent asks us how the health of our faith is impacting the health of our living!

Lent hopes that this look in the mirror will become a habit that extends far past the 40 days of Lent.

The reward for looking into the mirror of Lent is immeasurable, as we ask ourselves the valuable question, “Is it well with my soul?”

“Pastor’s Letter” continued on p. 2

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Looking into Lent's mirror will show us those ways that our souls are well. It will show the ways that we are doing well spiritually and how we are living out this wellness in our lives. It will be rewarding for us to see this! It will encourage us and inspire us to sustain this health. It will be rewarding to understand and name and claim what is working well spiritually to nourish and grow our faith. There is a most rewarding communion with God and with Christ in this healthiness. It will also be rewarding to look into Lent's mirror and see those ways we've sinned and fallen short. It will be rewarding, as we are humbled and saddened by our faults, to remember that Almighty God and our Lord Jesus Christ are looking back at us through the mirror, ready for our repentance. What a gift! What an indescribable gift it is to receive the Grace and Mercy our God and our Christ so readily give us upon our return and the recommitment of our repentance! Lent gives back as we are uplifted by God's Grace and invited to walk again by Jesus's side.

I wish and pray for you and yours a most Holy Lent, full of what Lent gives back!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Doug



Introducing Cindy Reeder: A Passionate Leader in Church Growth and Engagement

Church family, today we have the joy of welcoming a highly organized, results driven church professional onto our team—Cindy Reeder. With a heart dedicated to ministry and a career spanning nearly three decades in faith-based leadership, Cindy has worked with staff and laity to revitalize congregations. Fostering and opening essential lines of communication and deeper connections are essential when empowering the laity for impactful service. Cindy is here as a Church Vitality Consultant for six months to help us embrace new possibilities and grow stronger together. Cindy is here to help us do just that!

A devoted member of Benevola United Methodist Church, Cindy's passion lies in helping churches grow—not just in numbers, but in faith, community, and outreach. She has spent 28 years as a full-time church leader, guiding congregations through transformation, increasing member participation, and strengthening ministries. Her expertise in compensatory program planning, leadership development, and volunteer engagement has empowered many individuals to step into their God-given callings.

Cindy humbly acknowledges that every church is unique, but she brings with her tested, successful methods that have strengthened ministries and opened the lines of communication. She doesn't claim to have all the answers—but she does have a heart to walk alongside us, share wisdom, encouragement, and proven strategies that can help us discover new insights and possibilities as a church.

With a steadfast commitment to faith formation, leadership training, and community impact, we are excited to learn from her insights as she works alongside us modeling faith-in-action.



Please Join Us for Special Events & Observances for Lent!

In addition to our Sunday Worship during Lent, beginning Sunday, March 9 ... 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, March 4. (check this Partner for details). Then the following evening, Wednesday, March 5 at 7 pm, we will gather in our Sanctuary 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, April 2 serving the meal and leading the service in our beautiful sanctuary with our Chancel Choir providing Special Music. Pastor Doug will preach on March 12 at Emmanuel UMC. We hope you will join us as often as you can! Here is the full schedule:



- Wednesday, March 5 @ John Wesley UMC for Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday, March 12 @ Emmanuel UMC
- Wednesday, March 19 @ Shiloh UMC
- Wednesday, March 26 @ Grace UMC
- Wednesday, April 2 @ John Wesley UMC
- Wednesday, April 9 @ Otterbein 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, April 18 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 April Partner.

All of these Lenten experiences will prepare us for a Glorious Easter on Sunday, April 20. 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.



CONNECTING FROM THE SHARING TEAM



Sharing Team met in February. Areas of discussion included:

- ◆ The Men's Breakfast Group and Supper Club will again be hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 4 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. Look for details and signup sheet elsewhere in this month's newsletter and plan to join us! Reservations are due March 2.
- ◆ Ash Wednesday is March 5 and marks the beginning of Lent. Starting the following week, similar to what has been 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. John Wesley's week to host will be April 2.
- ◆ The Youth Group will be attending the IGNITE Youth conference, the weekend of March 7– 9.
- ◆ The Micah's Backpack program is currently serving 20 children each week at the Ruth Ann Monroe School. If you would be interested in helping to pack the bags, contact Deb Markell or call the church office.
- ◆ Service Team has been holding Warming Saturdays, inviting people to come in out of the cold for hot chocolate, a cookie or two, and fellowship.
- ◆ A new mission for the Service Team is Lunches With Love, spearheaded by Janessa Chapman. This involves preparing about 35 lunches every Sunday to be delivered to folks in the area.
- ◆ Coffee Fellowship continues to be enjoyed between Sunday School and Worship Service on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
- ◆ Wednesday Night Alive events will continue to be held during Lent, as we are able with our other scheduled Lenten events. Beginning at 6:00 for a meal and fellowship, 6:30 for a time of worship, then at 7:00 several different activities are available.
- ◆ The Zoom HLW Bible Study on Wednesdays will take a break for Lent and Holy Week although there may be a separate study to correspond with the WNA programming during that time. The Zoom Bible Study on Thursdays will continue.
- ◆ We just completed our REACH week, which was February 23 through March 1. Thank you to Linda Sappington and all who volunteered.

Sharing Team will be taking a break in March. Therefore, the next scheduled meeting will be held April 14 via Zoom – open to anyone who would like to share ideas.

Blessings,
Barb & Greg Hoover

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.

Join us on Tuesday, March 4
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 March 2.)

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

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

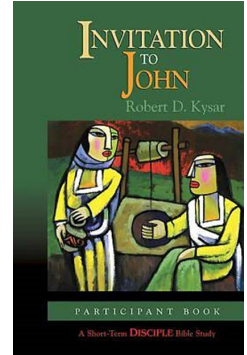
NUMBER ATTENDING: _____



THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY

We have an opportunity to engage in an 11 week Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756 Phone: 1-301-715-8592) each Thursday afternoon from 2:30 pm until 8:30 pm. beginning February 6. Please join us!!!!

Invitation to the John: *Short-Term Disciple Bible Study*



The invitation from Christ is: "Come and see, Follow me." Experience the magnificent passages in John including the I AM statements (I am the truth, the life and the way, I am the living water and more). Revisit stories only told in John's gospel including Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene and the raising of Lazarus.

During the weekly video segments, travel into the scripture as you hear the Word, experience the grand artwork connected with each story and interview the scholar.

Robert D. Kysar, Bandy Professor Emeritus of Preaching and New Testament, Candler School of Theology, is a noted scholar on the Gospel of John. He has authored numerous articles and books, including a revised edition of John: The Maverick Gospel; Preaching John; and most recently Voyages With John: Charting the Fourth Gospel.

Session titles and scripture:

4. To Believe or Not to Believe (John 7–8) – March 6
5. Are We Blind? (John 9–10) -- March 13
6. I Couldn't Believe My Eyes! (John 11–12) – March 20
7. Would You Believe It? (John 13–14) – March 27
8. What Time Is It? (John 15–16) – April 3

**** Holy Week ****

9. Look Out! (John 17–18) – April 24
10. Believing Without Seeing (John 19–20) – May 1
11. Do You See Him? (John 21) – May 8

“NEW LIGHT” HAS BUILDING USE ANNIVERSARY

The month of March marks one year that New Light Metropolitan Community Church has been using our chapel for their worship services on Sunday afternoons at 1:30. They have been a welcome addition to our building. Several of their members find time to visit our worship service and attend or help with our church events and activities. We are so glad we are able to share our space with them.

Barbara Hoover
Trustees Building Use Committee





A Note from the Kitchen Committee

We would like to thank everyone who supported our “Souper Bowl” Soup Sale. Proceeds from the sale will go to benefit the Kitchen Fund. There are many expenses to maintaining a commercial kitchen... including but not limited to the renewal of our Health Department license and annual inspection of the kitchen appliances, not to mention repairs to the appliances or purchase of special items unique to kitchen use in order to keep our kitchen updated and functional.



Again, we appreciate your support. Thank you and enjoy your soup!

Greg Hoover
Chair, Kitchen Committee

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.

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 Sunday, March 16th**. 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: _____

An Opportunity for Lenten Generosity

As I mentioned in my Pastor’s Message for Lent, I will be giving up my favorite soft-drink, Cherry Pepsi. As I work at being healthier, I am hopeful that after Lent I will continue drinking less, if any, soda.

I am equally pleased about the opportunity my soda sacrifice will provide me for Lenten generosity. Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5, the \$2 that I save every day from giving up Cherry Pepsi will be collected, and after Lent’s 40 days, I will donate the \$80 of savings to one of our outreach ministries.

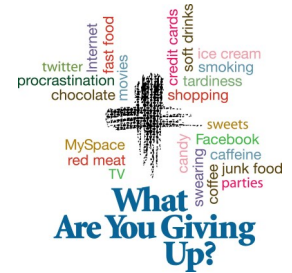
Will you join me in this Opportunity for Lenten Generosity?! What might you consider sacrificing this Lenten Season? ... a cup of coffee each day? ... one fast food meal each week? ... one of your weekly online purchases? ... one of your streaming services?

Will you join me in donating what you save from your sacrifice to one of our difference-making ministries listed below:

- ◆ **Lunches with Love** ... a new mission of our Service Team that serves a hot lunch to 35-40 neighbors from our community every Sunday! So far, thanks to food donations and good stewardship, the average cost of each lunch is **under 10 cents!** A \$25 gift would cover about 6 Sundays worth of hot lunches!
- ◆ **Micah’s Backpack** ... a longstanding outreach that provides a weekend’s worth of nourishing food to impoverished students in our Washington County Public Schools (WCPS).
- ◆ **Wednesday Night Alive** ... a new ministry that gathers us on Wednesday nights for a delicious meal, renewing worship, and nourishing offerings of fellowship and spiritual formation.
- ◆ **Emergency Relief Discretionary Fund** ... managed by the Pastor, this fund provides emergency relief to our neighbors in need, like grocery gift cards, assistance with utility turn-off’s and evictions, travel needs, and rental assistance.
- ◆ **Lighthouse** ... a HARC After-School outreach, where our activity with HARC has added more than 50 new after-school clubs to the existing roster of programs offered through WCPS. The added programs will serve over 300 additional kids this year, and more in the years to come!

Thank you for considering this opportunity, as I wish and pray for you a Blessed and Holy Lent.

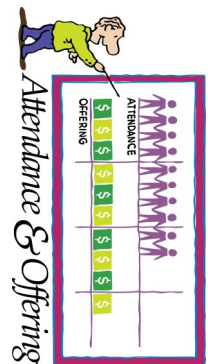
Pastor Doug



Attendance & Offering Report

Date	In-person	Online	Total Attendance	Total Offering
Feb. 2	38	3	41	\$ 1,530.00
Feb. 9	39	3	42	1,867.49
Feb. 16	38	4	42	1,375.00
Feb. 23	52	2	54	2,230.20

~ Blessings, Sheila & Sherry





- 1st: 2:00pm, Warming & Cookies
- 2nd: 9:00am, Lunches with Love
- 2nd: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 2nd: 10:30am, Sunday Worship with Communion
- 4th: 4:30pm, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- 5th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 5th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 5th: 7:00pm, Ash Wednesday Service
- 6th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 6th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "John" #4
- 9th: 9:00am, Lunches with Love
- 9th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 9th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 9th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 10th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team
- 12th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 12th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 12th: 7:00pm, Lenten Study @ Emmanuel UMC
- 13th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "John" #5
- 13th: 7:00pm, Trustees/Property Team
- 16th: 9:00am, Lunches with Love
- 16th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 16th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 17th: *Partner* deadline
- 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, Lenten Study @ Shiloh UMC
- 20th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "John" #6
- 23rd: 9:00am, Lunches with Love
- 23rd: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 23rd: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 26th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 26th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 26th: 7:00pm, Lenten Study @ Grace UMC
- 27th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "John" #7
- 30th: 9:00am, Lunches with Love
- 30th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 30th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship



Daylight Saving Time Begins
 Sunday, March 9, 2024

Don't forget to move your clocks
 forward one hour!!

IS IT COFFEE YET ?



Good Morning! And a good cup of coffee. John Wesley must be known for its coffee and coffee drinkers. We sure can consume a pot of coffee.

We want to be welcoming and make everyone feel warm and fuzzy when they come into the church. In recent months we have been hosting more events and welcoming more visitors. A good thing! And on many occasions we offer coffee, hot chocolate, hot tea, bottled water, etc.

We want to continue to be able to do that. But our coffee supplies are feeling the crunch of the extra use. If you or your group have been enjoying these beverages, please consider occasionally donating a can of coffee (regular or decaf), a box of creamers, packets of sweetener or sugar, individual hot chocolate packets, even a case of bottled water. Just leave them in the kitchen. Our Coffee Fund will thank you!



- 2nd: Mia Baughman
Ralph Chapin
Larry Gibson
- 4th: Samantha Brandt
Emily Harrelson
- 6th: Stephanie Snyder
- 8th: Beverly Hoffman
- 10th: Keith Deau
- 11th: Crystal Richards
- 12th: Raymond Moreland
- 13th: Tina Feigley
- 14th: John Dennie
Iris Kresge
- 15th: Lois Noll
Andrea Wine

- 16th: Lori Baughman
Deborah Kline
- 18th: Adria Moyer
Susan Saunders
- 19th: James Snurr
- 20th: Lisa Blair
- 21st: Frances Parks
- 25th: Matthew Payne
- 26th: David Wine
- 28th: Rebecca Shaw
- 29th: Allison Wine
- 30th: Major Osborne
Carole Trumpower

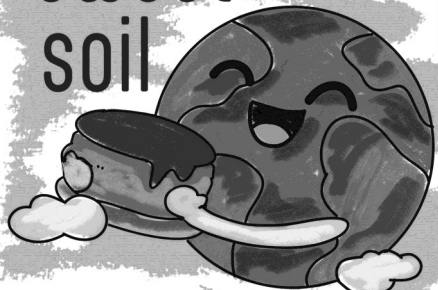


- 8th: David & Ginger Pembroke

(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

sweet soil



This snack's layers mimic properties of our planet's crust.

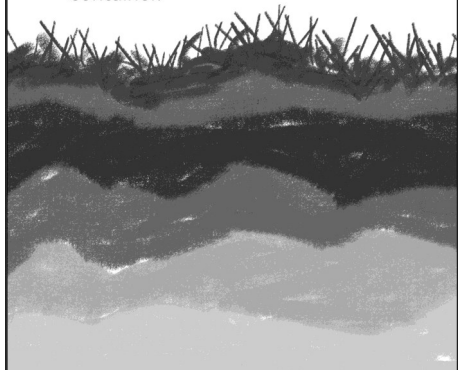


What you need:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup nut butter (divided)
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Silicone mini baking cups

What you do:

1. Combine the oats and ⅓ cup of the nut butter. Mix until oats stick together.
2. Place 2 teaspoons of oat mixture in each baking cup. Press with a spoon. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. Spread remaining nut butter atop the cups. Freeze for 10 more minutes.
4. Microwave the chocolate chips 30 seconds. Stir and keep heating for 30-second intervals until melted.
5. Spread melted chocolate atop the cups. Freeze until chocolate is firm.
6. Remove from the molds and enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.



Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6

Psalm 78:45

Matthew 23:24

Judges 14:8b

Acts 12:23

Leviticus 11:22

Leviticus 11:22

Deuteronomy 7:20

Exodus 16:20

1 Samuel 24:14

Isaiah 50:9

Isaiah 59:5

Leviticus 11:22

Leviticus 11:22



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket



JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

MARCH 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.”*

