

# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2023

## The Partner



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### *“Why Not Jesus?!”*

*“(God) has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God .” — Micah 6:8*

Why not Jesus? Why would we choose anything else? Why in the world would we choose anyone else? Yet do we? Do we too often worship or give our allegiance to other things or to other people? Why would Jesus ever stand in line behind anyone or anything else?

These questions, and questions like them, are the questions that Lent invites us to ask ourselves. Lent invites this self-examination. Lent is so valuable because this self-examination is so valuable. Lent, of course, is not the only time for this self-examination. It is an essential practice all year long. Yet it is so good to have a season like Lent that invites it, to get us ready to remember Jesus’ Passion and His Cross. Using Lent’s mirror for closer look at the wellness of our souls, helps us adequately remember and ponder Jesus’ Passion and His Cross. Taking a closer look at the health of our faith and the steadiness of our walk with Christ, helps us remember and ponder Jesus’ Passion and His Cross. Our honest and humble self-examination helps us name and claim our sin and shortcomings, for which Jesus died on His Cross!

After we adequately remember and ponder Jesus’ Passion and His Cross, we’ll then be ready for Easter, because we’ll understand more clearly what we’re celebrating that triumphant day! We’ll understand more fully what Jesus’ Easter victory has overcome!!

On Ash Wednesday just a week ago, dust was imposed on our foreheads with the claim, **“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”** It is the dust from which we were originally formed and also the dust to which we will eventually return; and in between, it is the dust that God forms into the amazing creations we are, formed in God’s image!

The ashes of Ash Wednesday invite us to ask more questions. Who are we with God? Who are we without God? Who are we with Jesus? Who are we without Jesus? Are we both with and without? Are we spiritually thirsty, or hungry? Or are we spiritually nourished? Are we

*“Pastor’s Letter” continued on p. 2*

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"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1

lost? Are we found? Is our living full of Light? Do we struggle with darkness? Our answers to these questions do not mean that we are entirely with or without God, or with or without Jesus. The good news is that whatever our self-examinations reveal, Almighty God and our Lord Jesus Christ are right there with us, inviting us into Grace, and it is our constant opportunity to say "Yes"!



Lent invites the most valuable and spiritually healthy practice! Lent invites us to examine every, single thing we say or do and put it to the test. Was it kind? Could it have been kinder? Was it humble? Could it have been more humble? Did it care about doing or saying the right thing? How did my words or actions live up to God's requirement "to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God"?

How did what I say or do stack up with Jesus' clearest prescriptions? Did what I say or do love my neighbor? Could it have loved them better? Was what I said or did something I'd want someone else to say or do to me? Is what I said or did something Jesus would say or do? How did my words or actions do at shining Jesus' Light? Did they advance God's will or God's Kingdom, on earth as in heaven?

While Jesus is always with us, our answers to the questions above will show that we are not always with Him. Yet Lent also gives the assurance that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. The mirror of Lent is safe. Jesus sets out to find us when we are lost. Amazing Grace is always on the table! Jesus is always there to choose! His invitation is always there for us to accept!

So why not Jesus? Lent wants to help us say "Yes"!

With all my prayers for a Blessed Lent,  
Pastor Doug

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## NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACK

A Micah's sponsors meeting was held on Tuesday, February 7 and the most important information from that meeting follows.

In Washington County, 1166 students are now receiving weekend food assistance through the Micah's Backpack Program. And sadly that number is continuing to grow. HARC is planning the Annual HARC HIKE for Hunger and Hope to be held Saturday, June 10, 2023 at Shepherd Springs Camp and Retreat Center. There are three distances to choose from and for those interested there is a discount if you register prior to May 21. There is also a 20-mile challenge hike scheduled for Saturday, May 13 on the Appalachian Trail. For more info, please contact the church office or visit the HARC website [www.HARCcoalition.org/hike](http://www.HARCcoalition.org/hike). You can also take a virtual hike, please see the website for details. Most important—proceeds benefit HARC and Micah's Backpack.



It is hard to believe that it is time to start thinking about next school year. The Micah's sponsor agreement, information and intention form has been distributed. This year has been very successful and we are already looking forward to next year!

Thank you for all that you do to help with this project by donating food and funds, by packing bags and by making certain ha bags make it to the school on Thursdays. We all make a great Micah's Backpack team!

Blessings!

WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I

# HARC HIKE FOR HUNGER & HOPE



It's our 11th annual Hike!

**Saturday  
June 10, 2023**

On the beautiful

**C&O Canal Towpath**  
in Washington County, Md.

Check-in location for all hikers: **Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center**  
16869 Taylors Landing Road, Sharpsburg, Md. 21782  
You will be shuttled to your start point on the towpath

Three distances to choose from:

**4K** (2.5 miles)

Check-in: **9:00 am** or **9:45 am**

Individuals \$40; Families \$65

**10K** (6.3 miles)

Check-in: 8:00 am

Individuals \$50; Families \$85

**Half-marathon** (13 miles)

Check-in: 7:00 am

Individuals \$60; Families \$105

- **\$10 Early-bird discount and guaranteed t-shirt if you register by May 21**
- Enjoy snacks and drink stops along the way
- All hikes conclude at Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center
- Post-hike Celebration for all hikers at Shepherd's Spring with food, music, fellowship!
- Photo scavenger hunt for youth & nature scavenger hunt for younger children
- Prizes for top fundraising individual & team; prize drawing for anyone who raises funds



## Virtual Hike

You can also hike virtually!  
See our website for details.

## Challenge Hike

Up for a bigger challenge?  
Join us **Saturday, May 13**  
for 20 miles on the AT!  
Details on our website.

To learn more & to register, visit  
[www.harccoalition.org/hike](http://www.harccoalition.org/hike)  
or scan this QR code:



Online registration open through  
June 9th. Same-day, in-person  
registration is permitted.

## Proceeds benefit HARC & Micah's Backpack

- Micah's Backpack, a program to feed food-insecure school children on weekends
- Strengthening houses of worship and interfaith relationships
- Early childhood education and well-being programs



## SHARING TEAM REPORT

Because of our smaller congregation and pool of volunteers, without the combined efforts of all the people on Sharing Team, we would not be able to offer all the events and opportunities that we do.



Sharing Team meets to discuss upcoming “happenings” ... and how we can help. Some of those “happenings” include:

- The recent Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, hosted by the Men’s Group and Supper Club, where we served 50 people!
- Creative Saturdays – one was held in January, making calendars; one was held in February to make yeast rolls.
- UMW will be providing lunch for the HARC monthly meeting to be held at John Wesley in March.
- The Youth Group is an active group who have been getting involved in not only church activities, but community activities.
- Through Christian Ed, Sheila is planning a Lent Event on Saturday, March 25. The theme will be ‘Wing Into Spring’ with food, fellowship and fun.
- Family Life is considering a spring event... maybe a game night in conjunction with Supper Club.
- Micah’s Backpacks continues to operate at full speed and appreciates the support of the congregation – with packing, delivering, and supplying food and monetary support.
- Supper Club has been helping with many of these events: Shrove Tuesday, the Lent Event.
- Although no concerts on the books at this time, the concert series falls under Sharing Team.
- Celebration Team shares the upcoming worship events, especially with Lent and Easter.
- We make sure REACH week is discussed and that the next Coffee Fellowship is covered.
- There will be a second coat giveaway on March 4.
- We remind everyone of the available Bible Studies classes.
- We discussed the upcoming ‘Spiritual Practices Class’ on Saturday, March 11 by Stephen Pompa.

We’ve said it before and we’ll say it again...Sharing Team is a valuable tool for coordination and support of the many smaller groups. Those smaller groups couldn’t do it alone, but together we can make things happen! If you’d like to be a part of this committee, we meet via Zoom on the second Monday of the month. Or if you just want to offer your talents and assistance for events, contact Barb or Greg.

Blessings,  
Barb & Greg Hoover



# LENTEN HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP "THE SIGNS OF LENT"



We will have Zoom Lenten Worship services on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm from March 1 through May 3. This series features road signs associated with timely Lenten themes. We used the theme, "Standing at the Cross" last year. Each Zoom worship session includes prayers, songs, responsive readings and interactive sermons. No advance readings is required, but the scripture for the week is included for your meditation. Please contact Linda Sappington if you will lead the Zoom service for a particular week. The PowerPoints have been completed, the worship leader assigns readers for each slide and keeps this unique worship opportunity moving forward.

### March 1 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-13  
2 Corinthians 7:9-10  
Luke 9: 51-56



### April 5 – Fifth Week of Lent

Isaiah 53:7-9  
I Corinthians 15:20-26  
John 11:20-27



### March 8 – First Week of Lent

Isaiah 55:8-11  
I Peter 2:21-25  
Matthew 16:21-28



### April 12 – Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9-12  
2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
Mark 11:1-10



### March 15 – Second Week of Lent

Exodus 12:3-7,13  
I Peter 1:17-21  
John 19:31-35



### April 19 – Maundy Thursday

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
I Corinthians 11:23-26  
Matthew 26:26-30



### March 22 – Third Week of Lent

Isaiah 53:10-12  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:39-46



### April 26 – Good Friday

Isaiah 53:4-6  
Romans 5:6-11  
John 19:23-30



### March 29 – Fourth Week of Lent

Isaiah 35:8-10  
Acts 4:8-12  
John 14:1-6



### May 3 – Easter Sunday

Hosea 6:1-3  
I Corinthians 15:51-58  
Matthew 28:1-10



# HERSHEY PARK HAPPINESS 2023



John Wesley Church Family and Friends are invited to spend a day of their choice at the "sweetest place on earth." To give you an idea of the savings you will realize by **purchasing your tickets through JWUMC by Sunday, March 25, 2023**, the regular 2023 gate admission for ages 3 plus is \$85.50. This year the "early discount" group rate tickets are priced and valid based on the time frame you choose. Your three choices for the tickets for ages 3 and above:

Tickets valid from April – June 30, 2023 are \$34.95 each.

Tickets valid from April – September 10, 2023 are \$40.95 each.

Tickets valid from April – January 1, 2024 are \$42.95 each.

You may also pre-purchase single use meal vouchers for \$14.99 (includes an entrée item, one side and a drink from selected eateries). Prepaid parking vouchers are \$20.00, at the park general parking is \$25.00.

The scheduled operating calendar at present is that Hershey Park will be open: April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, and 30. (NOTE: our tickets arrive by April 14) May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28.

JUNE 1 – AUGUST 31, 2023.

September 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30.

October 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29.

November 3, 4, 5; 10, 11, 12; 17, 18, 19; 22-26.

December 1-24; December 26-January 1.

The Boardwalk at Hershey Park Water Park is open May 27-September 4, 2023.

**Please complete the following information and return with your check made out to John Wesley UMC and marked "Hershey Park" by Sunday, March 25. PLEASE give to Sheila, mail to the office or place in the offering plate. Thank you.**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Family would like to order:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Admission tickets valid April-June 30 at \$34.95, total \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Admission tickets valid April-Sept 10 at \$40.95, total \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Admission tickets valid April-Jan. 1, 2024, total \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meal tickets at \$14.99 each for total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parking vouchers for \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**OUR CHECK IS ATTACHED FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_.**

Our email \_\_\_\_\_ and/or telephone \_\_\_\_\_ to contact us for ticket pickup.

The tickets should arrive the first week of May.

## WINTER COAT EVENT 2

On March 4, 2023 we will be meeting at JOHN WESLEY UMC to donate coats and other products to the Homeless, also we will be handing out 100 brown bags of snacks and drinks. Our mission here is to help the homeless and hopefully help some to get help with their addiction. This is the second of maybe 3 drives we will be doing this year during the winter time. Please if donating, have all donations in to the church by Friday, March 3, 2023 mid day. And money donations can be made out to John Wesley UMC. This is non-profit to us. It's all about the community and outside community coming together to help this crisis here in this city. We need help with donations, and if any can advertise this it will be muchly appreciated. We would like for all to come and help if possible. Talk to the homeless and addicted ones out here. Please all are welcome and donations are needed. Any questions, please contact Larry at 301-788-4672 or by email at [larry3271@gmail.com](mailto:larry3271@gmail.com) or Heather at 240-928-0387 or by email at [amyliara0618@gmail.com](mailto:amyliara0618@gmail.com).



Donations for the  
**Homeless**

## A NOTE FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE

First we'd like to thank everyone who supported the Souper Bowl Soup Sale, and also the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Proceeds from such events benefit the Kitchen Fund.

At the present time there are no outside groups using our kitchen ... and therefore no income. Kitchen Committee does not have a line item in the church budget, but functions on a restricted account line, meaning they are responsible for funding that account. There are many expenses covered by this account ... renewal of the Health Department license, annual maintenance inspection of the appliances, repairs to the appliances – commercial appliance are expensive to repair; a recent burner replacement on the stove was \$500 - and we waiting on invoices for some recent repairs to have the ice machine worked on and also the small refrigerator, which has had some ongoing issues. Kitchen Committee pays for new pots and pans, new knives, pancake syrup dispensers, etc - things that are specific to kitchen use.

Therefore the need for the Soup Sale fundraisers, etc. A lot of people are not aware of that. We appreciate the support we get towards maintaining our kitchen. If you would like to make a special offering to the Kitchen Fund, just make your check out to John Wesley UMC, but be sure to identify Kitchen Fund on the Memo line.

Again we appreciate the support... enjoy your soup and pancakes.

Greg Hoover,  
Chair, Kitchen Committee

**FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE**



## HOME SWEET HOME FOUNDATION— FEATHER BOX PROGRAM



HomeSweetHome  
Foundation

Who is Home Sweet Home Foundation, and what are Feather Boxes, you may ask? Home Sweet Home Foundation is the non-profit organization currently using our Rowe Hall Building. Their mission is to help transition aged-out foster youth into independent living.

On February 26, Ashlee Briddell, Founder and CEO, shared with the Wesleyan Class during our Sunday School time.

The Feather Box Program is designed to provide the youth with house-warming supplies after moving into their new apartments or homes.

You will find elsewhere in this newsletter, a list of requested donations. During the month of March there will be a table in the back of the Wesleyan Room for your convenience. We will see that the items are delivered Home Sweet Home Foundation.

Thank you!

Wesleyan Sunday School Class

**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I  
ANNUAL AUCTION**

**“MAKE IT BAKE IT SEW IT GROW IT”**

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023**

**JOHN WESLEY UMC SOCIAL HALL**





# Please Donate



## HomeSweetHome Foundation

Donations of the following new or gently used house-warming supplies will be used to create a "Feather Box" for aged-out foster youth:

Comforter Sets  
Pots & Pans  
Utensils & Serving Utensils  
Cups  
Blankets & Pillows  
Bathroom Supplies  
Toilet Paper

Shower Curtain  
Shower Liner  
Dishrack  
Dishes  
Trash Bags  
Mop, Broom, Dustpan  
Cleaning Supplies & Paper

Towels  
Clothes Hamper  
Shower Towels  
Hand Towels  
Wash Cloths  
Liquid Hand Soap

HomeSweetHome Foundations' mission is to transition aged-out foster youth between ages 16-26 into adulthood by providing housing, financial literacy, mental health aid, and connection to resources. We are a not-for-profit organization that relies on volunteers and the generosity of American donors.

Visit <https://www.thehshf.org> for more info & online donations. #HSHF



Donations accepted Jan - April in Lobby at



18710 Crestwood Drive Hagerstown, MD  
Receipts available upon request from Receptionist.



## THE SOUNDS OF JOHN WESLEY—CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In continuing to keep you updated on the Sounds of John Wesley capital campaign, we report the following progress on the organ repairs.

Our wonderful Moller organ is comprised of 36 registers for a total of 43 ranks and is insured for \$1,260,000.00 (replacement cost).

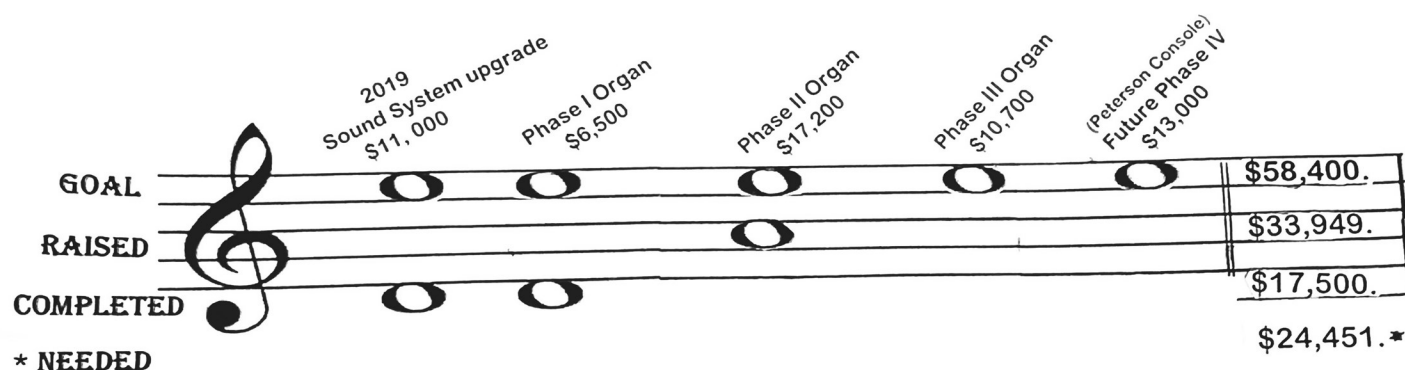
We plan to proceed with Phase II of the organ repairs in 2023, which consists of re-leathering three more reservoirs.

A down payment has been given to hold the 2022 price of \$17,200.00. We still need \$751.00 to cover the cost of this repair. We remind you that Sound of John Wesley giving envelopes are included with the regular giving envelopes. We will then continue to collect funds towards Phase III repairs, which will be needed in the next couple years.

The visual shown is as of December 31\*. We thank you for your prayers, your commitment, and your generosity.

Grace and Peace,

**The Sounds of John Wesley UMC Task Force**



## SPIRITUAL PRACTICES CLASS

Did you know that Christianity is rich with spiritual practices that have been used for centuries to cultivate a deeper relationship with God? While many people may think they don't have time to pray or engage in spiritual practices, the truth is that many of these practices can be practiced any time by anyone. Join Stephen Pompa on Saturday, March 11 from 2-4 in the sanctuary to dive into the ocean of Christian spirituality and learn practices that can aid you in experiencing God more deeply and becoming more Christ-like. Admission is free.



## PHONE MESSAGES—

When trying to reach the church office, please make sure that you leave a voicemail message after the long (25 seconds) ring tones. We don't know that you called for us if not. Thanks and sorry for the inconvenience.

## CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN IN NEED OF A CHURCH SECRETARY

20 hours per week, \$13.50 to \$16.50 per hour, 3 weeks' vacation.

Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Flexible times possible.

Send a resume with work references to:

CELC

216 N. Cleveland Avenue  
Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Phone: 301-733-3482.

Email: [christlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:christlutheran@gmail.com)



Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

~ Newsletter Newsletter March 2023

Join us as we study other road signs throughout Lent at our Heavenly Living Workshop on Wednesday evenings on Zoom at 7:00 pm!





## “WING INTO SPRING”

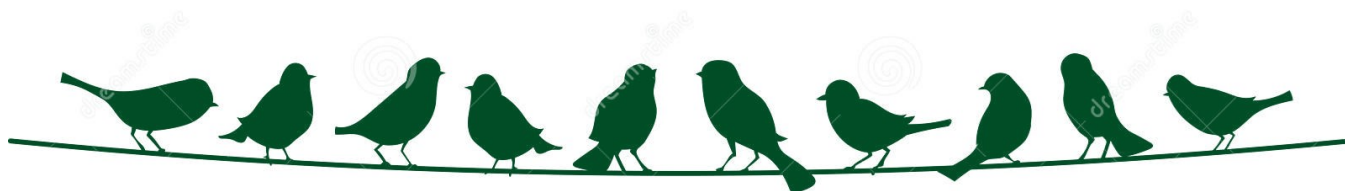
Saturday, March 25

4:00 to 6:00 pm



During this year’s Lenten journey, the Christian Education and Supper Club ministries of John Wesley UMC are sponsoring a special LENT EVENT. You’re invited to bring a salad – (remember not all salads are green) for a covered dish dinner and special program. How creative will our salads be? Will your salad be considered an appetizer, entrée, side or dessert? Beverages and place settings will be provided.

We’re looking forward to enjoying food, fellowship and fun with our Church Family and friends. To help us prepare for you, please complete a reservation form and drop it in the offering plate or call the church office by Sunday, March 19th.



### **WING INTO SPRING – LENT EVENT**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names and ages of any children included in the above number.

\_\_\_\_\_



### March Calendar Events

- 1st: 7:00pm, HLW Lenten Study  
 2nd: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast  
 4th: 10:30am, Winter Gear Drive 2  
 5th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class  
 5th: 10:30am, Communion Sunday Worship  
 8th: 7:00pm, HLW Lenten Study  
 9th: 7:00pm, Property Team Meeting  
 11th: 2:00pm, Spiritual Practices Class  
 12th: 2:00am, Daylight Saving Time Begins  
 12th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class  
 12th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship  
 12th: 10:30am, Worship  
 13th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team Meeting  
 14th: 1:00pm, HARC Meeting  
 15th: 10:00am, UMW Meeting  
 15th: 7:00pm, HLW Lenten Study  
 19th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class  
 19th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship  
 20th: 7:00pm, Leadership Team  
 20th: *Partner Deadline*  
 22nd: 7:00pm, HLW Lenten Study  
 25th: 4:00pm, Lent Event  
 26th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class  
 26th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship  
 29th: 7:00pm, HLW Lenten Study



Daylight Saving Time Begins  
 Sunday, March 12, 2023  
 Don't forget to move your clocks  
 forward one hour!!

Our prayers are  
 extended to:

- \* Joe White
- \* Vicki Stouffer
- \* Ryan Chapin
- \* Harold Miles—father of Steven Miles who is recuperating from surgery
- \* Joyce Stanley



### Attendance & Offering Report

February	5	45	2229.19
February	12	41	1650.40
February	19	43	1765.40
February	26		835.00

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd: Mia Baughman  
Larry Gibson  
Ralph Chapin
- 4th: Samantha Brandt
- 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

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



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st: Steven & Luvy Mesner
- 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](mailto:jwumcmd@yahoo.com) and let us know. Thank you!)*





## JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST

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jwumcmd@yahoo.com

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# MARCH 2023

## *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.”*

