



JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2024

The Partner

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"While We're Deciding!"

²² *"But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves ...* ²⁵ *... being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing."* — James 1:22, 25

You probably know by now (and if you don't, it's worth reminding you) that we are approaching a most important congregational vote about our future course of action as a church. Will we continue to invest in the revitalization of our church at our current, or possibly increased, levels of expense? Or will we decide that we should control our costs and curb our spending with hopes of maintaining our current ministry?

Our Leadership Team has worked very hard and faithfully to prepare us for this upcoming vote. After a thorough assessment of our church's health was completed in 2023, it was then helpful to gather as we did in the beginning of this year for questions and answers related to what the assessments brought to light. In this next month and no later than the June *Partner*, we will detail for you the options from which we will choose our future course of action. We will be scheduling our congregational vote soon, in consultation with our District Superintendent, and we will then announce that date well in advance, along with details about how we will vote.

I am so pleased, and so thankful, for the quality of our holy conferencing during this important journey. Yes, it has taken a while, and longer than we had planned. However, the importance of the decision ahead of us as a congregation has warranted the great care we have invested and the time it has taken. When the date of our vote and its decision arrives, I believe we will be ready to make it.

What also gives me great pleasure, is that while we have been progressing toward this decision, we have been doing a lot of ministry! There's been a lot of Discipleship going on! We've

"Pastor's Letter" continued on p. 2



been doers of the Word! We've been Doers of God's Word and Jesus' Way, while we've been hearing each other out about where we are and where we're going as a church. We have not been waiting until after our upcoming vote to get busy moving into our future of doing ministry! ... whatever that future may be.



We are organizing a meal this month, to take place on Saturday, May 18, when we will serve 250 of our neighbors from our immediate community! This meal will show that we care for our neighborhood, which we are serving with more and more regular frequency, week by week.

Our Youth Group has grown in 3 years from 5 to 14 youth! One of our youth serves on our Leadership Team, and 3 of our youth will be voting delegates at Annual Conference at the end of this month! In addition to being the church of the future, they are showing that they are also the church of today! Thanks to our Youth Group, we are in ongoing mission with the Northpoint Veterans Recovery Home!

From our growing partnerships in our Downtown community, we are drawing frequent interest not only in the use of our ample, high quality space; but also for sharing ministry and mission with these partners in our space!

We are an active partner in a HARC initiative to provide needed after-school programming that will serve children and families in our neighborhood.

There's more, yet this is plenty enough to show how active we are in our Doing! Hearing the Word is important, and so is hearing each other out as we figure out God's Word for our future! At the same time, we are experiencing what it is to be "blessed in our doing"! It can only help us figure out what's next.

Pastor Doug

We'd like to recognize persons that members of our church family will be celebrating who are graduating this month and next. If you have a family member graduating this spring, please let Sheila know through an email (skcollins1_13@msn.com), call (301-791-6824) or contact the church office.



Graduate's Name _____ Graduating on _____
from _____ with a degree in _____ and is the
(son/daughter/grandchild, etc.) of _____.
The graduate plans to _____.

CONNECTING FROM THE SHARING TEAM

Sharing Team met in April.
Areas of discussion included:

- * Creative Saturday held a quilting day in April to make quilts and comfort pillows – a way of serving those who need a little help to make their lives better.
- * The Youth Group continues to grow. There is currently a Confirmation Class, and the youth have been more visible in worship. They are Acolytes, they are helping with collecting the offering, and they are running the audio/video equipment.
- * Micah's Backpacks continues to serve about 20 students at the Ruth Ann Monroe School.
- * The Wilson Wright UMW Circle 1 will be holding its annual auction event on Tuesday, May 21 in the Social Hall at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. A fun time for all!
- * Supper Club is planning a movie night to be held on Saturday, June 1. The movie will be "The Hill"; supper menu TBD. Watch for more information.
- * Service Team is planning their 'Neighborhood Meal' to be held on Saturday, May 18 in our Social Hall. A time to meet with the less fortunate in and around our neighborhood. Volunteers are needed and monetary donations are being accepted.
- * Zoom Bible Studies have resumed, both on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
 - Wednesday evening HLW: "What Makes a Hero?"
 - Thursday afternoon: "The Miracles – Understanding What Jesus Did."
 - Contact the church office for your zoom link.
- * Coffee Fellowship continues to be enjoyed one more month before taking a break for the summer months and earlier worship time.

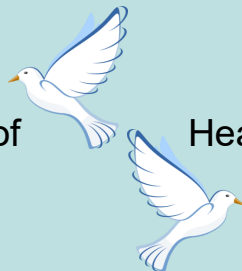


We are looking for people who might want to help with the Family Life Committee, which includes the annual church picnic and possibly some events outside of the church.

The next scheduled meeting will be held May 13 via Zoom – open to anyone who would like to share ideas.

Blessings,
Barb & Greg Hoover

Our prayers and sympathy
are extended to
the Haught Family on the death of
Wanna Lee Haught



Our prayers and sympathy
are extended to
Heather Pratt & Family on the death of
her grandmother -
Elizabeth Ruppel

TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT JOHN WESLEY UMC MEMORIAL GARDEN



Spring has arrived, and along with it, the need to start planting and weeding. So what is happening in the courtyard garden, you ask? We are giving the garden a facelift.

Over the years the courtyard has become John Wesley's memorial garden. You will find signs honoring the life of a loved one. You will find donated gifts: a rose bush, a specialty tree, flowers, a bench. St. Francis keeps watch over the gardens 24/7. But the garden has become a bit overgrown – as gardens sometimes do. Our Glory Bees do not have the numbers they once had in order to keep it maintained. Therefore, Trustees Property Committee, with Queen Bee Jenny Bullington's blessings, has taken on this project this spring. The gardens will remain a memorial garden, St. Francis will continue to watch over it, damaged or missing signage will be replaced, the cross flower garden will remain, new flowers planted. Some of the larger bushes will be removed, and grass planted.

When you google 'What is a memorial garden?', you get the answer - "A memorial garden is a beautifully landscaped space that is used to remember and honor the life of a loved one who has passed away."

~ LIVING ETERNALLY IN THE HEARTS OF LOVED ONES ~

Barbara Hoover, Chair
Trustees Property Committee

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IS THURSDAY, MAY 2ND

The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." The president is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.



* Our sanctuary will be open this day for prayer from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

THE SOUNDS OF JOHN WESLEY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Phase II of the organ repairs was completed in January. Moving into 2024, I am trying to regroup and update our figures to share. I do not have updated figures from Lewis & Hitchcock (aka Lawless & Assoc.) but have estimated the amount of inflation for a more realistic look for 2024.

Our organ is insured for a \$1,332,000 replacement cost. The organ was built by M.P. Moller in Hagerstown in 1921 and subsequently rebuilt by Moller in 1942 and 1963. The organ was again rebuilt by the Reuter Organ Company in Lawrence, KS in 1993, but was not completely releathered at that time. Therefore the reason for this recent work we currently are having done.

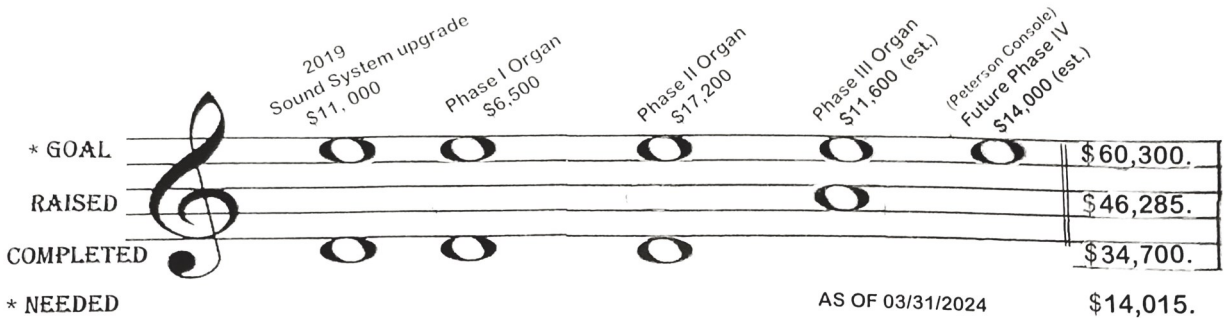
We received a generous donation at the end of 2023, just in time to see us through the Phase II repair and begin looking at Phase III, which hopefully will not be necessary for a couple years.

We currently have \$11,585 in the Capital Campaign, so we still need \$14,015 to meet the current goal. However, we have to remember there are always on-going maintenance, tunings and repair issues, in addition to the possibility of other unexpected costly repairs.

We thank the congregation for your prayers, your commitment and your generosity to make this happen. We remind you that there are Sounds of JW envelopes included in your monthly giving envelope packet, or you can specify in your online giving.

“Whatever you do, do all things to the glory of God”

Barbara Hoover,
for The Sounds of John Wesley UMC Task Force





IT'S ALMOST HERE!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE 1|
ANNUAL AUCTION**

"MAKE IT, BAKE IT, SEW IT, GROW IT"

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

6:00 PM

JOHN WESLEY UMC SOCIAL HALL





- 1st: 7:00pm, HLW - "What Makes A Hero?"
 2nd: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
 2nd: 12:00pm, Open Sanctuary
 2nd: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study — #10
 5th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 5th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship Service
 with Communion
 8th: 7:00pm, HLW - "What Makes A Hero?"
 9th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study — #11
 9th: 7:00pm, Property Trustees Meeting
 11th: 11:00am, Haught Memorial Service
 with Luncheon
 12th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 12th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
 12th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship Service
 13th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team Meeting
 15th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle
 15th: 7:00pm, HLW Study
 16th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study — #12
 18th: 12:00pm, JWCOR Neighborhood Meal
 19th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 19th: 10:30am, Pentecost Sunday Service
 with Youth Confirmation
 20th: *Partner deadline*
 20th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team Meeting
 21st: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle Auction
 22nd: 7:00pm, HLW Study
 23rd: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study — #13
 26th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
 26th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship Service
 27th: Office Closed for Memorial Day
 29th: 7:00pm, HLW Study
 30th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study — #14

KITCHEN USE

Be sure you have signed up for use of the kitchen on any specific day/time. We now have some outside groups using our kitchen, so it is important to coordinate those schedules.

Thank you,

Kitchen Committee

Also a reminder to sign in and then out on the log sheet. And when you leave, please leave the kitchen as clean (or cleaner) than when you arrived.

Attendance & Offering Report

March	31	61	\$ 1,269.52
April	7	52	\$ 1,806.63
April	14	63	\$ 2,435.00
April	21	44	\$ 925.00

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry

JWCOR Service Team

Donations (monetary, clothes and hygiene items) are still needed. This quarter we helped 75 people, put 3 in rehab, graduated 3 from rehab into houses & employed. We are helping our neighbors and friends here in downtown Hagerstown. Come support our Neighborhood Meal on May 18th.





**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY**



Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, and United to Serve

May Friendship Day

Friday, May 17, 2024

6:00 pm

Manor Church of the Brethren

18511 Manor Church Road

Boonsboro, MD 21713

Dinner Cost: \$15.00

Please pay at the door.

Menu: Pork BBQ sandwich, mac and cheese, cole slaw, dessert, and drinks.

Reservations are due by Thursday, May 9, 2024

Contact Tammy Coyle

tammy.coyle93@gmail.com or 240-409-2410

Program begins at 6:45.

Speaker: Marty Blake, coordinator of health kits distributed to homeless students in Washington County Schools.

Young Christian Women Awards will be presented.

CWU has an ongoing ministry of collecting health kits, which may be brought to any event. Our focus at this time is health kits for small children who attend Head Start. Health kits for young children consist of one of each item: hand towel, wash cloth, comb, bar of mild soap (Ivory), child size toothbrush, and child's toothpaste.

Please put all items in a gallon zip-loc bag. Thank YOU for your support!

Join us as we celebrate unity in our journey toward wholeness in all communities.

Ushers Needed!

Have you ever wanted to help usher on Sunday mornings? Well, now is your chance! You are needed! Please see Larry or just call the church office.

Thanks for your help!



Join us for the 12th annual HARC Hike!

Saturday, June 8, 2024

on the C&O Canal Towpath

Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center

16869 Taylors Landing Rd., Sharpsburg, Md.

(Check-in location for all hikers)

REGISTER ONLINE THROUGH **JUNE 7** | REGISTER BY **MAY 19** FOR A \$10 DISCOUNT & GUARANTEED T-SHIRT!

**Hospitality Stops ■ Celebration Luncheon
Music ■ Prize Drawings ■ Family-friendly**

For complete details and to Register, visit harccoalition.org/hike or scan this code:



Hike proceeds benefit HARC & Micah's Backpack

2-1 Match from the God's Grace Fund!



Every dollar raised over the \$200 suggested fundraising goal for each participant will be matched 2-1 by the God's Grace Fund!



HARC HIKE

for Hunger & Hope

Three distance options:

➔ **4K** (2.5 miles)

Individuals \$40; Families \$65

➔ **10K** (6.3 miles)

Individuals \$50; Families \$85

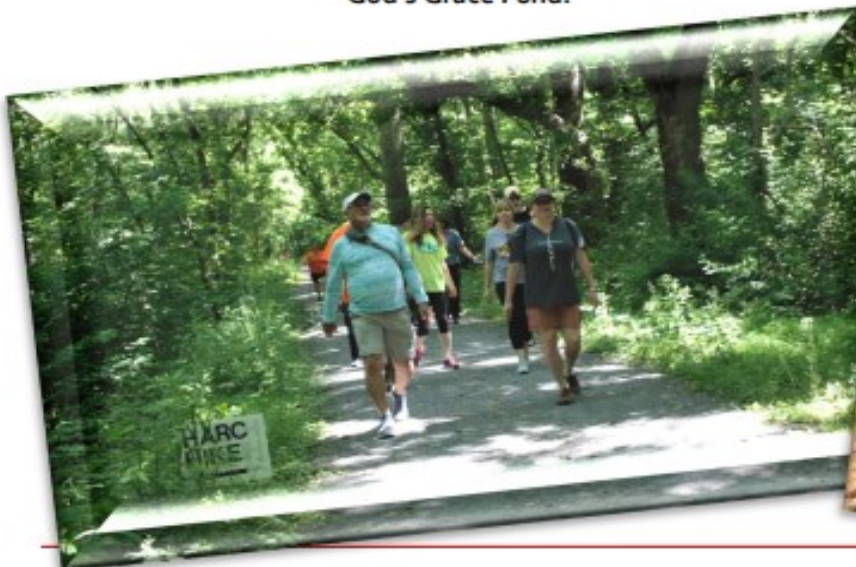
➔ **Half-marathon** (13 miles)

Individuals \$60; Families \$105

◆ **Challenge Hike:**

Up for a bigger challenge?

Join us **Saturday, May 18** for 20 miles on the AT! Details on our website.





Happy Birthday

2nd: Matthew Bowman
 Stephen Pompa
 4th: Kathy Bell
 6th: Marilyn Boring
 8th: Karen Nilson
 11th: Calleigh Hoffman
 12th: Richard Thorpe
 14th: Reggan Chapin
 16th: Barbara Ewald
 18th: Barbara McClure
 22nd: Cory Hoffman
 Nancy James

22nd: Dorothea Loser
 Ginger Pembroke
 24th: JoAnn Bousum
 25th: Lilah Kimmel

Happy Anniversary

11th: David & Louise Wine
 17th: Histon & Marie Tolbert
 20th: Robert & Kathy Bell
 21st: James & Tina Feigley
 28th: Harry & Mary Renner

(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!)

JWUMC SUPPER CLUB - MOVIE NIGHT

JWUMC Supper Club will be holding a movie night on **Saturday, June 1st** starting at **4:00 pm**. Meal menu still to be decided.

But following the meal we will be showing the movie "The Hill," an inspiring, true story of baseball phenomenon Rickey Hill. Rickey has an extraordinary talent for baseball, despite being burdened by leg braces. Starring Colin Ford and Dennis Quaid.

Watch for more information and plan to join us.

We'll have popcorn!

~ Barb & Greg Hoover



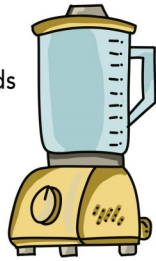
PUZZLE PAGE

SOMETHING OLD,
Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!



PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY

= God	= grow
= seed	= one
= planted	= anything
= watered	= only

I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,

but _____ has been making it _____.

So neither the _____ who plants nor the

_____ who waters is _____,

but _____, who makes things _____.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow



JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

MAY 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.”*