

# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2026

## The Partner

### *“What If Jesus Walked Through Our Doors This Sunday?”*

Hello church family!

I know this is a little bit different with Pastor Doug out on Renewal Leave, but let's give it a go.

I want to begin with a simple but powerful question based on Pastor Ray's sermon in April: What if Jesus walked into our church this Sunday...would He feel welcomed?

In the Gospel of Luke 24, we see something beautiful. Two disciples are walking on the road to Emmaus. A stranger joins them. They don't recognize Him—but they welcome Him, walk with Him, and invite Him in. And then something incredible happens...Jesus becomes the host. Their eyes are opened. Their hearts are set on fire. Their lives are changed. Scripture reminds us again and again: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers...” (Hebrews 13:2) Because sometimes, when we welcome a stranger...we are welcoming the Lord Himself.

This is our moment.

As a church, we feel called to invite new people into our community... to experience the love of Jesus, the warmth of fellowship, and the hope we share. But before we invite...We must prepare. Not programs first. Not events first. Hearts first.

I'm asking you to do one thing: Pray this simple prayer: “Lord, prepare my heart to welcome others the way You have welcomed me.”

Let's begin here.

Because a welcoming church doesn't start at the front door...It starts in the heart of every believer. More to come soon as we continue this journey together.

With Gratitude,  
Ryan L. Chapin

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## WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I ANNUAL AUCTION

**“MAKE IT BAKE IT SEW IT GROW IT”**

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

JOHN WESLEY UMC SOCIAL HALL

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!

### Unique Gifts

Searching for a graduation, shower, or wedding gift? You never know what treasures you might discover. Past auctions have featured beautiful pieces crafted by master weavers, handmade pens, table runners designed by expert quilters, and handcrafted cards perfect for pairing with a special gift. There may be delicious baked goods like cookies, fudge, and cakes to satisfy your sweet tooth. If you wish to add a splash of color to your garden or brighten someone's day, the perfect plant could be available with your name on it!

### A Surprise Every Year

Because the items donated change each year, the auction is always exciting and different. You never know what will be available!

### Supporting Holly Place

The proceeds from this year's auction will go to support Holly Place. Whether you are coming to bid, to contribute, or just to enjoy the event, your participation will make a difference.

### Refreshments and Fellowship

Light refreshments will be served during the event.



Carole Keyser showing some of her donated auction items.

## CONNECTING FROM THE SHARING TEAM

Sharing Team met in April.

- \* A re-formed hand bell choir has been meeting on Wednesdays at 4:15. New members are invited. You don't have to be able to read music. Just be ready to make a joyful noise.
- \* Service Team and Lunches with Love held their annual "Spring Fling" on Saturday, April 25 in the church Social Hall where they served a delicious sit-down meal to friends and community folks.
- \* An Ice Cream Social 'Meet & Greet' was held after the worship service on April 26, as an opportunity to welcome Rev. Ray Roberson, who will be with John Wesley while Pastor Doug is on Renewal Leave.
- \* The Micah's Backpack program continues to serve 20 children each week at the Ruth Ann Monroe School and has only a few more weeks left in this school year. Volunteers will be needed to pack the bags, and drivers are especially needed when we resume in the fall. Anyone interested in helping should contact Deb Markell or call the church office.
- \* Coffee Fellowship continues on the 2nd Sunday of each month, with May 10 being hosted by the Altar Guild/Worship Team.
- \* The Wesleyan Class Adult Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:00 am in the Wesleyan Room.
- \* Wednesday Night Alive events continue with a full schedule. Meal @ 6:00, Worship @ 6:30 and Programming @ 7:00.
- \* The HLW Bible Study meets on Wednesday evenings @ 7:00, either in person at WNA or via Zoom. There is also a Zoom Meditation on Thursday afternoons @ 2:30.
- \* UMW Wilson Wright Circle 1's annual "Make It, Bake It, Sew It, Grow It" auction event will be held on Tuesday, May 19 @ 6:00 pm in the Social Hall. Everyone is invited for this evening of fellowship and fun.

The next scheduled meeting will be held May 11 @ 7:00 pm via Zoom – open to anyone who would like to share ideas.

Blessings,

Barb & Greg Hoover



## FROM THE HEART OF LEADERSHIP

### In Step with the Spirit — May 2026

#### **Patience: The Ministry Superpower**

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” - Romans 12:12*

Patience may not be the most celebrated quality... but it might be one of the most powerful.

In a world that moves quickly and expects immediate results, patience can feel countercultural. We want answers now... progress now... change now. Yet Scripture invites us into a different rhythm... one marked by a hope and endurance... to trust God’s timing.

Paul gives us a simple picture in Romans 12:12:

joyful in hope... patient in affliction... faithful in prayer.

These three are deeply connected.

Hope gives us vision for what God is doing.

Patience gives us strength to endure the journey.

Prayer keeps us connected to the One who is leading us.

Patience is not passive. It is not about sitting still and waiting for things to happen. Patience is active trust. It is choosing to remain steady, faithful, and grounded... even when the outcome is not yet visible.

As a church, patience is essential to everything we do. Relationships grow over time. Ministries develop through consistency. Faith deepens through seasons. Both easy and challenging. The work God is doing in and through John Wesley UMC is not rushed, but it is purposeful.

#### ***Where Patience Shows Up***

Patience shows up:

- In our relationships—when we extend grace to one another
- In our ministry—when growth takes time
- In our personal lives—when we walk through seasons of uncertainty
- In our faith—when we trust God even when we cannot yet see the outcome

Often, the most meaningful work God is doing is happening beneath the surface...quietly preparing us for what comes next.



# FROM THE HEART OF LEADERSHIP - CONTINUED

## A Simple Practice for May:

This month, when you feel rushed, frustrated, or discouraged, take a moment to pause and pray:

Inhale: "Lord, help me trust Your timing."

Exhale: "Give me patience in this moment."

Inhale: "Keep me faithful..."

Exhale: "...in prayer."

Even a brief pause can shift our perspective and reconnect us to God's presence.

## Your Call to Action This Month:

This May, I invite you to practice patience in a very intentional way:

- Extend grace to someone who may be struggling
- Stay committed to a ministry or relationship that takes time to grow
- Choose prayer instead of frustration in difficult moments
- Trust that God is at work... even when you can't see it... yet

Patience is not weakness... it is strength under control. It is a reflection of God's own character. And when we live it out, it strengthens not only our own faith, but the entire church. May we be a people who are joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

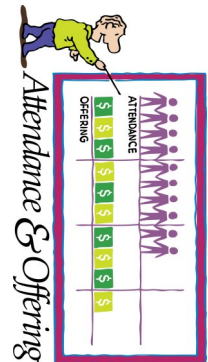
In Step with the Spirit,

Ryan L. Chapin

Leadership Team Chair of John Wesley UMC

### Attendance & Offering Report

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>	<u>Total Offering</u>
Mar 29	41	-	41	\$ 1,324.74
April 3	14	-	14	
April 5	42	-	42	1,395.74
April 12	41	1	42	1,324.06
April 19	27	-	27	1,149.26
April 26	31	-	31	1,604.74



~ Blessings, Sheila & Sherry

## TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT



Trustees Property Committee met in April. Spring has sprung and the courtyard garden is coming alive. The mowing has begun.

### CHURCH BUILDING

- The organ upgrade has been completed and we've been able to hear the magnificent sounds from the Moller organ pipes fill our sanctuary on Sundays once again.
- Heidler has been called in to repair several roof leaks. As a result of those leaks, some repair work was needed in several rooms due to water damage.
- The Parlor renovations are complete
- Social Hall renovations continue. The Social Hall floor was recently stripped and waxed. Painting has begun.
- Due to a steam leak in the one radiator in the Social Hall, we will be replacing that radiator before the next heating season.
- A/C units in the Conference Room and Parlor are to be replaced.
- Snyder's Pest Control has done some additional treatment to address a recent issue of mice.
- A new choir TV monitor is being purchased for the sanctuary. Currently the choir has difficulty in seeing the projected screens or the back monitor.
- The annual elevator inspection is scheduled for May.
- A new Assembly Permit inspection was conducted by the Hagerstown Fire Dept.

### ROWE HALL BUILDING

- The roof has been replaced on Rowe Hall.
- The air conditioning unit in the front (courtyard side) window will be replaced.

### 131 N. POTOMAC STREET

- Heidler repaired a recent roof leak. They also noticed some shingles are missing. The age of this roof is unknown, which makes it exempt from insurance coverage (or any related water damage). We are getting estimates on the cost of a replacement, to review.
- In the meantime, the 213 Planning Team has been meeting in the building for their weekly meetings.
- Future Plans: The 213 Planning Team continues to evaluate and research renovations and mission purpose for 131. They continue in talks with Brooke's House and Tim Fisher, Habitat for Humanity.

### HAMILTON BLVD. PARSONAGE

- Some recent repairs were addressed, following the annual walk-thru.

The next Trustees Property Committee meeting will be held in June.

A Trustees work is never done. Routine maintenance and repair items continue to happen daily, weekly, and monthly... and unexpectedly.

Take Care, Stay Safe, and God Bless.

Barbara Hoover, Chair

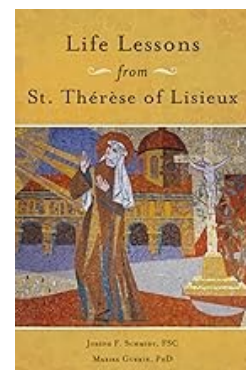
Trustees Property Committee

## WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

We are continuing a 6-week Zoom discussion each Wednesday evening as part of Wednesday Night Alive from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm. (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756 Phone: 1-301-715-8592) Please join us!!!!

### *Life Lessons from St. Therese of Lisieux*

*By Joseph Schmidt & Marisa Guerin*



Br. Schmidt provides practical teachings on how to live a life of grace and gratitude derived directly from the wisdom of St. Therese. Open your heart to be led by this beloved saint and receive insights she gained in her own life that you can apply to the challenges you face. Explore the qualities and lessons that Therese learned to rely upon. Each chapter contains material directly from the writings and life experience of Therese, as well as mentoring messages that connect her wisdom with daily life today!

#### Discussion Topics:

3. Love is Creativity – May 6
4. Love is a Willing Spirit – May 13
5. Love is Gratefulness – May 20
6. Love is Self-Surrender – May 27

## 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, in addition to WNA and Lunches with Love, so it is important to coordinate those schedules.

Thank you,  
*Kitchen Committee*

Also a reminder that we have had a recent issue with mice in the kitchen. Please make sure when you leave, that you leave the kitchen as clean (or cleaner) than when you arrived.



Our prayers and sympathy  
are extended to  
the O'Neal Family on  
the death of  
**Fred O'Neal**  
on April 6, 2026

## BELL CHOIR IS BACK!

We are so excited to announce that we are re-forming a Bell Choir, which will ring on some regular basis during Sunday morning worship, beginning in mid to late May! Weekly rehearsals are on Wednesdays with “bells up” at 4:15 pm.

We are thankful for a long-time friend of John Wesley, Rebecca Goddard, who has come forward to lead the Bell Choir, and for Stephen Pompa who has given this new Bell ministry the green light and appreciates Rebecca’s leadership. We look forward to the added variety bells will add to our ministry of sacred music.

Please prayerfully consider if you would like to join the choir, ringing to God’s Glory. We will enthusiastically welcome both the experienced ringer and those who want to try it for the first time. (You do not need to be able to read music!) Also, if you are interested in ringing but unsure about being able to manage a weekly rehearsal commitment, you are welcome to come to a rehearsal, get a feel for the choir, and speak with Rebecca about how you can join in on the Bell Choir journey.

Please call the church office, 301-733-0391, if you are interested in joining the Bell Choir, or you may express your interest to any of those in our Chancel Choir. (P.S. if you know where 3 black luggage boxes used to transport the bells might be hiding, please contact the church office at 301-733-0391.) Thanks!



## ~ THANK YOU ~

I would like to thank you for the wonderful gifts that I received on Secretary’s Day! Your thoughtfulness and support are very much appreciated! From flowers, gift cards and even the special card signed by all, you really do know how to make someone feel special!

Thanks so much!

~ Karen :)



## GRATEFUL FOR THOSE WHO GAVE ALL

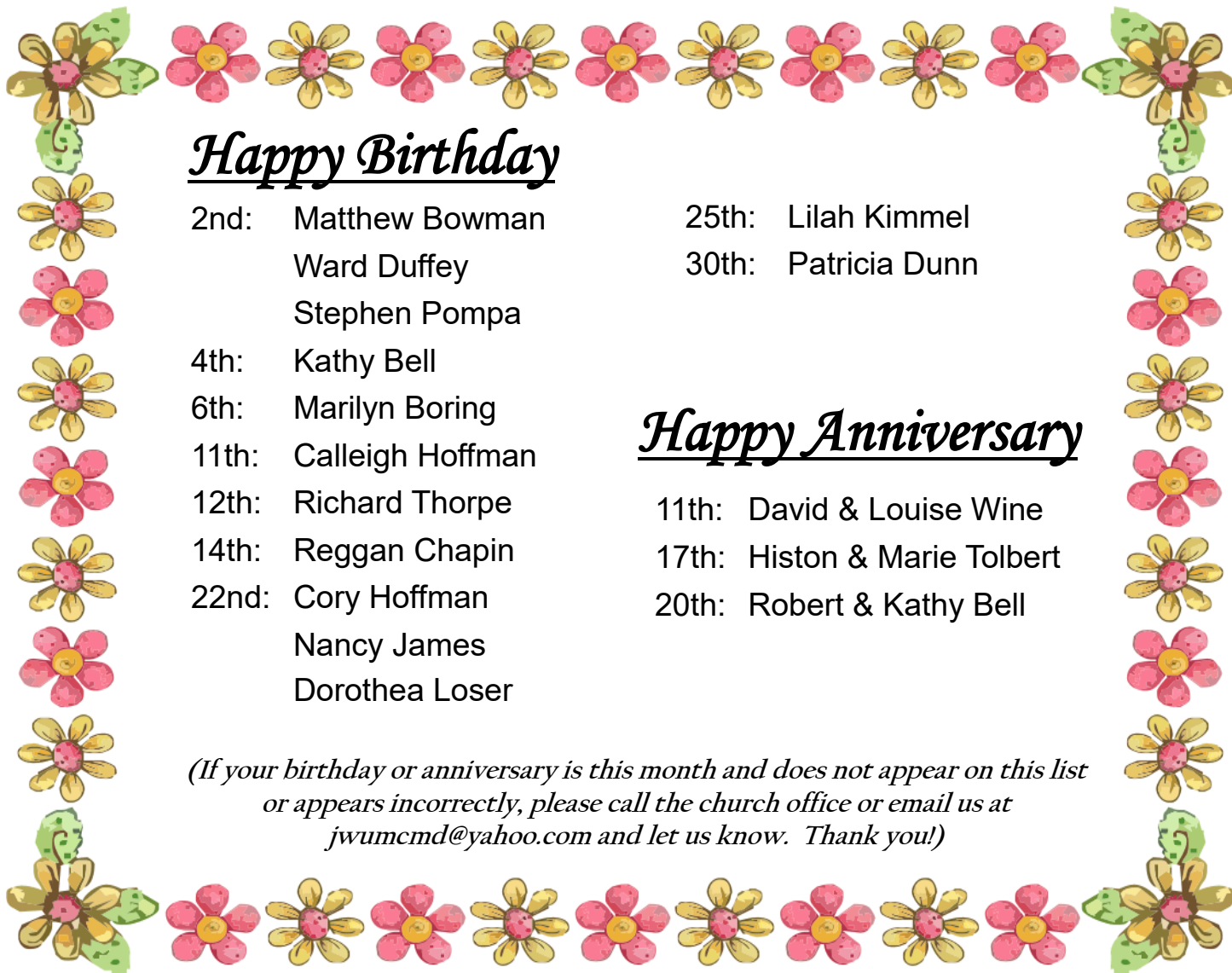
We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave “the last full measure of devotion” for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9am - Sunday School 10:30am - Sunday 11am - Lunches w/love 1:30pm - New Light MCC	27 7pm - Hope and Gratitude	28 Cinco de Mayo 10am - ARC Packers	29 4:15pm - Bell Rehearsal 5:15pm - Choir Rehearsal 6pm - WNA Dinner 6:30pm - WNA Worship 7pm - HLW Study 7pm - WNA Programming	30 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Micah's 2:30pm - Zoom Bible	1 7pm - Hope and Gratitude	2
3 9am - Sunday School 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday 11am - Lunches w/love 1:30pm - New Light MCC	4 7pm - Hope and Gratitude	5 10am - ARC Packers	6 4:15pm - Bell Rehearsal 5:15pm - Choir Rehearsal 6pm - WNA Dinner 6:30pm - WNA Worship 7pm - HLW Study 7pm - WNA Programming	7 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Micah's 2:30pm - Zoom Bible	8 7pm - Hope and Gratitude	9
10 Mother's Day 9am - Sunday School 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday 11am - Lunches w/love 1:30pm - New Light MCC	11 7pm - Hope and Gratitude 7pm - Sharing Team	12	13 4:15pm - Bell Rehearsal 5:15pm - Choir Rehearsal 6pm - WNA Dinner 6:30pm - WNA Worship 7pm - HLW Study 7pm - WNA Programming	14 10am - Micah's 2:30pm - Zoom Bible	15 7pm - Hope and Gratitude	16
17 9am - Sunday School 10:30am - Sunday 11am - Lunches w/love 1:30pm - New Light MCC	18 PARTNER DEADLINE 7pm - Hope and Gratitude	19 10am - ARC Packers 12pm - HARC Meeting 6pm - Wilson Wright Circle	20 10am - Susanna Circle 4:15pm - Bell Rehearsal 5:15pm - Choir Rehearsal 6pm - WNA Dinner 6:30pm - WNA Worship 7pm - HLW Study	21 10am - Micah's 2:30pm - Zoom Bible 6:30pm - Trustee/Property	22 7pm - Hope and Gratitude	23
24 9am - Sunday School 10:30am - Sunday 11am - Lunches w/love 1:30pm - New Light MCC	25 Memorial Day Office Closed 6pm - Leadership Team 7pm - Hope and Gratitude	26	27 Annual Conference 4:15pm - Bell Rehearsal 5:15pm - Choir Rehearsal 6pm - WNA Dinner 6:30pm - WNA Worship 7pm - HLW Study	28	29 7pm - Hope and Gratitude	30 HARC Hike
31 9am - Sunday School 10:30am - Sunday 11am - Lunches w/love 1:30pm - New Light MCC	1	2	3 4:15pm - Bell Rehearsal 5:15pm - Choir Rehearsal 6pm - WNA Dinner 6:30pm - WNA Worship 7pm - HLW Study	4 10am - Micah's 2:30pm - Zoom Bible	5	6



## Happy Birthday

2nd: Matthew Bowman

Ward Duffey

Stephen Pompa

4th: Kathy Bell

6th: Marilyn Boring

11th: Calleigh Hoffman

12th: Richard Thorpe

14th: Reggan Chapin

22nd: Cory Hoffman

Nancy James

Dorothea Loser

25th: Lilah Kimmel

30th: Patricia Dunn

## Happy Anniversary

11th: David & Louise Wine

17th: Histon & Marie Tolbert

20th: Robert & Kathy Bell

*(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!)*

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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUZZLE PAGE



## GROWING IN GOD'S word



Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

### What you need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



### What you do:

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.



## A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" 3 1 m 2 m 3 nd 2 d 4 f

y 4 5 r s 3 nc 2 r 2 f 1 3 th, wh 3 ch

f 3 rst l 3 v 2 d 3 n y 4 5 r gr 1 ndm 4 th 2 r

L 4 3 s 1 nd 3 n y 4 5 r m 4 th 2 r

2 5 n 3 c 2 1 nd, 3 1 m p 2 rs 5 1 d 2 d,

n 4 w l 3 v 2 s 3 n y 4 5 1 ls 4 ."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

Answer: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."



## JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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jwumcmd@yahoo.com

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# MAY 2026

## *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.”*

