

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2023

The Partner

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“Hope Happens!”

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” — Hebrews 11:1

A colleague recently shared with me a piece of wisdom that I’d like to pass on. They said:

**If you believe that your best days are behind you, you’re probably right.
If you believe that your best days are ahead of you, you’re probably right.**

The wisdom above says simply and profoundly that what we wholeheartedly believe in (faith) and hope for (or don’t hope for) is more likely to HAPPEN!

I believe that this is what the writer of Hebrews had in mind when Faith is defined as “the assurance of things hoped for”. In other words, faith is confident that what it hopes for will happen!

Is this why Jesus, in every single one of His resurrection appearances, gave His disciples something for which to hope?! As if his Risen appearance was not enough to restore hope, Jesus told Mary outside the empty tomb to tell the disciples that He was Risen! When Jesus appeared to His Disciples in the upper room, He blessed them with “Peace” and let them see his resurrected wounds. On the Emmaus Road, Jesus reassured the disciples by re-teaching the scriptures that were written about Him and then had communion with them! On the beach, Jesus helped them catch fish and then directed Peter (and all of them) to “feed his sheep”. And in His last appearance, Jesus assured His disciples that He is always with them and commissioned them to “make disciples of all nations”!

It is impossible for us to fully imagine the turmoil experienced by the disciples, and their resulting fear, in the wake of Jesus’ crucifixion! It is easy to figure that they all believed their best

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days were behind them. Our Risen Jesus' appearances, and how Jesus ministered through them to these men and women who were so precious to Him, all served to show them that there were still a lot of "best days" still ahead!



It is hard to be hopeful that our best days still lie ahead.

The evening news makes that hard to believe. Declining health makes it hard to believe. I'm 60 years old now. I'm taking more medications every year. And I go more and more quickly from energized to exhausted. It's hard sometimes to imagine my best days ahead.

When our church has declined as it has, it is hard to believe our best days are ahead.

Yet I believe they are!! I believe our best days are ahead!

I am full of hope for years and years of best days ahead with my beautiful wife, my amazing children, an ever-widening circle of family and friends, and ministry and service with them and many others!

Every single problem our evening news presents is a problem that's solvable, and God is already busy solving them with any willing followers! Problem solving days, and fruit born from them, are still ahead!

We've had a lot of good days in our long history here at John Wesley. I believe with all my heart that our best days may still be ahead, because we'll be more and more active in what God is doing all around us to build His Kingdom and to advance Jesus' reign on earth as it is in heaven!

If we believe that our best days are still ahead, they probably are.

Because by the Grace of God, Hope will most often end of Happening!

Happy Easter!!

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 _____.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Leadership Team will continue to place a short summary of its work in future editions of the Partner. If you have questions, concerns or an item we should be discussing please share them with us!

The Leadership Team met on April 17, 2023 and addressed the following topics:

- The chapel is now ready for use! Air conditioning has been provided, plaster repaired and painted and new drapes have been installed.
- The music ministry team is identifying persons willing to provide music lessons and is hoping to launch the tutoring program this fall.
- Our youth remain active with outreach, fellowship and fun, and they are working to form a Youth Council of youth and adults who will help plan and organize future activity.
- The new missions team organized, cooked and provided over 100 Easter dinners.
- Pastor Doug reported on the goals he has set for himself.
- Pictures and articles recently posted on Facebook have generated a huge increase in the number of persons engaging. The weekly advertisements in the local paper have been discontinued and may be better spent on social media.
- A firm has been hired to do roofing repairs on the exterior of the trinity windows. Plaster repairs and interior painting will be under consideration once that project is complete.



Members include Sue Baker, Ryan Chapin, Barbara Diefenderfer, Carol Easton, Jim Fritsch, Barbara Hoover, Mary Licht, Susan Saunders, George Stone, Jenny Suddueth and Richard Willson. The next Leadership Team meeting will be on Monday, May 15, 2023 in the Wesleyan Room. All are welcome. Please direct any questions to Jim Fritsch, the chair, or to the church office.

TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no Property Committee meeting held in April. However, we share a list of items we are currently working on...

We are happy to report that the combination of hiring a Custodian and the Custodian residing next door has proved to be a benefit. Larry and Heather are always willing to do what is needed for the good of the church. Larry makes random checks of the building and grounds, picking up trash several times a day. This, in addition to his other custodian/caretaker duties.



Chapel:

The Chapel has received some much needed improvements over the past year so that it can be used for more than just storage. A new ductless split HVAC unit has been installed so that we now have A/C in that room. Thanks to Carole Keyser, new curtains adorn the windows in a rich blue that matches the blue in the stained glass John Wesley panel. The pews and floors have been cleaned. There are still a few items that need moved out of the room and the piano may need tuning, but it is now functional for a small worship service or the new Music Lessons Ministry.

Trinity Window Dormers/Slate Roof Repairs:

We received three quotes. A fourth vendor chose to pass on the project. We have reviewed and revised the scope of work accordingly. We will be awarding the contract to Roland Slate Service for the repairs in the amount of \$34,053.00, which includes replacing missing slates on both the main sanctuary roof and the lower Wesleyan Room roof area, reworking flashings, and scraping, painting re-flashing and replacing the Plexiglas on all six dormers.

Radon Testing: Four radon tests were placed in the church building. All four came back at acceptable levels.

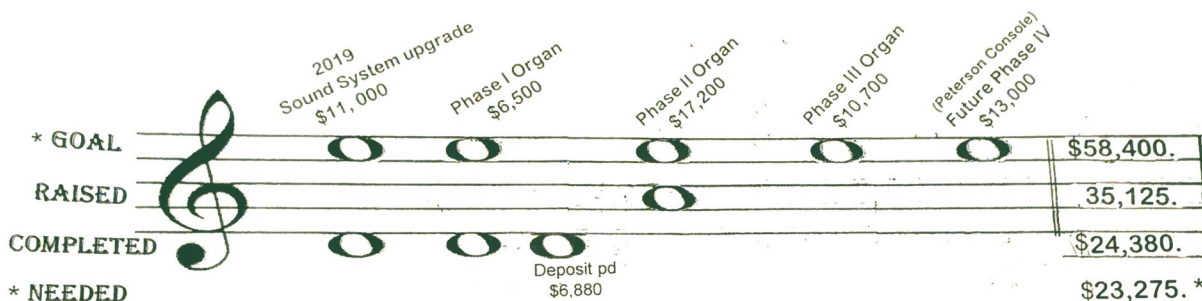
Miscellaneous repairs that have been made since the last report include additional trimming of the bushes in the courtyard area and removing most of the privacy slats from the fence, along with additional no trespassing signs. A pipe in the boiler room burst due to the supports failing. This has been repaired and corrected.

Barbara Hoover
Trustees Property Committee

THE SOUNDS OF JOHN WESLEY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Organ Repairs - UPDATE

Phase II of the organ repairs is expected to be completed in 2023. A down payment has been made to hold the price. A balance of \$10,320.00 is due upon completion. That means we already have \$425.00 to start funding of Phase III. The visual shown below is as of March 31. Thank you for your generous support.



**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY**
Christian Women United to Share God's Love!



**May Friendship Day
Saturday, May 20, 2023**

12:00 noon

Williamsport United Methodist Church

25 East Church Street

Williamsport, MD, 21795

Lunch will be catered by Lotus Moon Cafe'

Menu: Choice of wraps, chips, cookie and assorted drinks. **Cost \$10.00**

Reservations are required and due by Saturday, May 13, 2023. Please call Debbie Keefer to make your reservation at 301-988-2928.

Plan to attend . . . and bring a friend!

WHAT'S IN YOUR GARAGE??

In the past we have had paid contractors helping us with a lot of the outside maintenance work, such as weed spraying, gardening, trimming bushes, etc. Now that we have a Custodian/Caretaker on staff, Larry Gibson has been more than willing to take on some of these projects.



However, not needing to have our own equipment, we find we are in need of a few things. We need a working weed wacker and leaf blower. Possibly someone might have one of these items laying idly in their garage that they might be willing to part with. If so, see Larry, or call the church office.

Thank you in advance.

Barbara Hoover, Trustees Property Committee

CREATIVE SATURDAY COMING IN JUNE

The next Creative Saturday will be “Creating a Flower Arrangement” to be held on Saturday, June 17, 10 am to noon. Participants are to bring a bunch of flowers from the grocery store or your own garden and 2 containers. You will select which container you will use after hearing the thoughts of the instructor. Our instructor has participated in Art in Bloom at the museum and will give you lots of hints to make your arrangements beautiful and longer lasting. The fee for this workshop will be \$2.00 to cover the cost of some extra materials. Sign up will begin June 1.



I hope to see you there.

Barb Diefenderfer





- 3rd: 7:00pm, HLW Study via Zoom
- 4th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 4th: 2:30pm, "Parables" Study
- 7th: 9:15am, Sunday School for all ages
- 7th: 10:30am, Communion Sunday
- 8th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team Meeting
- 10th: 7:00pm, HLW Study via Zoom
- 11th: 2:30pm, "Parables" Study
- 11th: 7:00pm, Property Trustees Meeting
- 14th: 9:15am, Sunday School for all ages
- 14th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 14th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 15th: *Partner* deadline
- 15th: 7:00pm, Leadership Team Meeting
- 16th: 6:00pm, AUCTION
- 17th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle Meeting
- 17th: 7:00pm, HLW Study via Zoom
- 18th: 2:30pm, "Parables" Study
- 20th: 12:00pm, Church Women United
- 21st: 9:15am, Sunday School for all ages
- 21st: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 24th: 7:00pm, HLW Study via Zoom
- 28th: 9:15am, Sunday School for all ages
- 28th: 10:30am, Pentecost Sunday Worship
- 29th: *Church Office Closed*

SAVE THE DATE



CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY
Saturday, June 3

We need Volunteers!
Come help us clean up our church!
Inside and Out!
Time TBA
Light lunch provided
More details to follow

Attendance & Offering Report

April	2	42	\$ 2,130.40
April	9	67	\$ 2,842.11
April	16	42	\$ 1,361.40
April	23		\$ 2,050.40

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry

SHARING TEAM REPORT

Sharing Team did not meet in April. But here are some of the things we want to share...

- ⇒ Family Life, along with Supper Club, had a pizza and game night in April. Fun and fellowship by all.
- ⇒ Barb Diefenderfer is working out the next Creative Saturday event, to be held one Saturday in June. Watch for more details.
- ⇒ March and April were important months in the life of the church during the Lent and Easter season. The church was prepared for Lent, Palm Sunday, a Tenebrae Service on Good Friday and then Easter Sunday. We had a celloist, a trumpeter, the flower cross, and lilies. We had 64 in worship on Easter. Several JW members took part in the Good Friday Unity Walk at City Park.
- ⇒ Deb Markell reports that Micah's BP next sponsor meeting is May 9. She will be turning in our Intention Form for 2023-2024 school year and our desire to sponsor 15-20 students.
- ⇒ UMW Circle 1 will be holding the annual 'Make It, Bake It, Sew It, Grow It' auction on Tuesday, May 16. Proceeds will go to Holly Place. Everyone is invited. Additional details can be found in this newsletter.
- ⇒ There may be an ice cream social or two in place of having Coffee Fellowship during the summer months.
- ⇒ We welcome the new Committee on Relief and hope that a representative will plan to attend our Sharing Team meetings to discuss upcoming events. They have had two coat drives, and recently held an Easter Dinner at the REACH Center for the homeless and less fortunate.



Sharing Team continues to be a valuable tool for coordination and support of the many smaller groups. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 8 @ 7:00 via Zoom. Call the church office or Barb & Greg if you would like to receive the Zoom link.

Blessings,

Barb & Greg Hoover

IT'S HERE!!

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY
ALL ARE WELCOME**

**WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I
ANNUAL AUCTION**

“MAKE IT BAKE IT SEW IT GROW IT”

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

6:00 PM

JOHN WESLEY UMC SOCIAL HALL



**PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
HOLLY PLACE**



Happy Birthday

2nd: Matthew Bowman
Stephen Pompa

4th: Kathy Bell

6th: Marilyn Boring

8th: Karen Nilson

11th: Calleigh Hoffman

14th: Reggan Chapin

Doris Wood

16th: Barbara Ewald

18th: Barbara McClure

Jane Morrison

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!)



Don't forget to tell your mother that you love her on Mother's Day!!

May 14, 2023



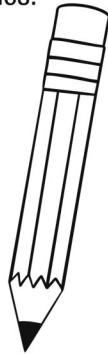
PUZZLE PAGE



Jesus commands us to be his witnesses. This craft is a reminder to reach out to all our "circles."

What you need:

- 5 bowls or cups (assorted sizes)
- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Crayons or markers



What you do:

1. Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
2. With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
3. Starting in the center, label the circles *my house, my city, my state, my country, the world*. Draw a picture on each one.
4. Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. HEAV	6. OGETHE
2. ABLE	7. ES
3. AY OF PENTECOS	8. ONGUE
4. ONGUE	9. A
5. PIRI	10. IND



"When the _____ came, they were all _____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from _____ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____ what seemed to be _____ of fire that separated and came to _____ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____ and began to speak in other _____ as the Spirit _____ them."

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind



JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

MAY 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.”*



PENTECOST

