

# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2023

## The Partner

### *“How to Give Thanks!”*

*“Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise!  
Give thanks to Him; Bless His Name!” — Psalm 100:4*

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There are many ways, of course, to give thanks ... and we have learned how to give thanks from so many different people and experiences. This most special Thanksgiving season, including this special month that begins with our celebration of the Saints, all serves to powerfully remind us of those who taught us how to give thanks! So many of those who taught us are counted among the saints in our lives!

I learned how to give thanks from with parents, God rest their souls, who lived thankfully and made a point of thanking those who were good to them, agents of God’s blessing. I learned how to give thanks from family Thanksgivings where extended family gathered to remember and celebrate their blessings with stories and affection. I learned Thanksgiving daily from our family table blessings before meals.

I learned how to give thanks from preachers like Vernon Dobson, who taught from the scriptures and told stories about giving thanks. Rev. Dobson exuded thankfulness himself, and he loved to remind us how thankful he was for us, his congregation. It’s led me to give thanks for my congregations, like you!

I learned how to give thanks from friends like Dave Filbert, Anna James, and Linda Edmiston. They were all living thanksgivings. While they all loved saying thank you to their friends, they didn’t really have to say it for us to know it. They all treated us with the love and care that showed us that they were thankful for us. I had example after example of how to give thanks. I’ve shared the story before about meeting Anna James upon my arrival in Chicago for my year-long seminary internship there. Anna met every greeting’s inquiry about how she was doing with the assurance, “I’m blessed, and I’m thankful!” I soon came to know that Anna meant it every time. That’s why you’ll

"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1

sometimes hear me respond to your greeting with, "I'm blessed, and I'm thankful! And when I do, in honor of Anna, I mean it every time!

How have the saints in your life, now in heaven, taught you how to give thanks? What a blessing it is to honor them with your ability and readiness to give thanks because of them! What a blessing it is to honor them with your thanksgiving for them!

Join us please in person or in Spirit, when we remember and honor our saints on All Saints' Sunday, November 5. During worship that morning, we will celebrate the saints with pictures and candles and chimes and by calling their names! Perhaps you can join us online for our celebration, if you cannot join us in person. Or join us in prayer that morning for saints, prayers of Thanksgiving! We will be blessed this month not only with the wonderful focus upon giving thanks, but we will also be blessed with precious memories of who taught us how!

Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

Pastor Doug



## A SPECIAL SUPPER CLUB CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 9

2:00 pm

On Saturday afternoon, December 9, we will gather at 2:00 pm in the Social Hall for a covered dish luncheon. Chicken and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish or dessert to share.

Following the meal we will be treated to a performance by the Christian musical group, Second Chances. Second Chances were with us last year, and we welcome them back. So if you missed them last year, you will have another opportunity to hear them.

The afternoon will be concluded with a short Caroling Sing-along so that we will still be able to sing and enjoy a few of our favorite carols.

This should be an exciting afternoon of good food, good music and good fellowship. Plan to join us in the Social Hall on Saturday, December 9 at 2:00.

Plan to join us! Be sure to let us know by December 4 if you are planning to attend so we have enough seating and refreshments.

Either call or email the church office: 301-733-0391 [jwumcmd@yahoo.com](mailto:jwumcmd@yahoo.com)  
or Barb & Greg Hoover: 301-797-5157 [bhoov72@aol.com](mailto:bhoov72@aol.com)



## THE SOUNDS OF JOHN WESLEY (CAPITAL CAMPAIGN)

The following is an update as of September 30, 2023.

Our Goal:	2019 Sound System Upgrade	\$11,000
	Phase I Organ Repairs	6,500
	Phase II Organ Repairs	17,200
	Phase III Organ Repairs	10,700
	Future Phase IV (Peterson Console)	<u>13,000</u>
		<b>\$58,400</b>

To date we have raised **\$36,675**.

We have completed the 2019 Sound System Upgrade, Phase I of the organ repairs, and paid the downpayment for Phase II in order to hold the price .

Phase II balance due will be **\$10,320**. That means we currently have **\$1,975** to start the funding of Phase III. At the current time we are having no issues.

Our magnificent Moller organ is comprised of 36 registers for a total of 43 ranks and is insured for a \$1,332,000 replacement cost.

In order to reach our total goal we will need **\$21,725**. We remind you the Sounds of John Wesley giving envelopes are included with your regular envelopes.

Thank you for your prayers, your commitment and your generosity.

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

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

## SPECIAL WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER!

### All Saints' Sunday, November 5

Join us as we remember our loved ones who have passed on. Please email or stop by the church office with a photo of your loved one that you would like to honor. A special slide presentation and votive candle expression will highlight these beloved saints. Votive candles will be available or you may bring your own.



### Laity Sunday, November 19

We will celebrate the ministry of our Laity with a special Worship Service. Be watching for more details.

## WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

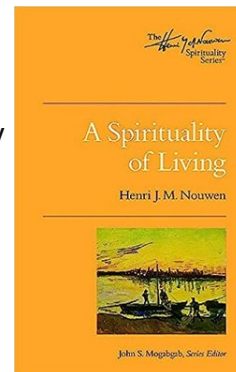
We have an opportunity to engage in a 3-week Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756 Phone: 1-301-715-8592) each Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. We will study “A Spirituality of Living” by Henri J.M. Nouwen for 2 weeks in November and 1 week in May.

What is the secret to living a spiritual life? So much is happening in our world that we often get distracted and listen to voices other than the voice of God. "If we want to be disciples of Jesus, we have to live a disciplined life," Nouwen asserts. In the spiritual life, discipline requires conscious effort to keep every area in life from being filled up. It means creating space in our life for God to act and speak. Nouwen identifies 3 essential disciplines for maintaining a life of discipleship: solitude, community, and ministry.

In solitude we learn to listen to God through prayer. We realize that we are beloved sons and daughters of God. In community we learn to celebrate, as well as to practice vulnerability and forgiveness. After we have experienced solitude and community, we feel God's call to minister to a hurting world. God empowers us to do amazing things.

This encouraging, insightful book will inspire us to practice solitude, community, and ministry. The result, Nouwen promises, is a fruitful, Spirit-filled life.

November 8 – Solitude  
November 15 – Community  
Other Studies  
May 15 - Ministry



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## THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY

We have an opportunity to engage in a Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756 Phone: 1-301-715-8592) each Thursday from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm.

**Discover how to rely on the Lord through**  
**“Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting More” by Melissa Spoelstra**

As we study the chapters Isaiah wrote—from his challenging words to the nation of Israel to his prophecies of the Messiah to come—we learn to rest in God's promises and grow in trust. Unpacking Isaiah's words will reveal that we can trust God more than our own human effort or the counterfeits the world suggests. We will not be striving harder, but instead trusting more deeply the Faithful One who is so worthy of our utter dependence. In Him we will find the comfort and peace we need to sustain us. Discussion Topics:

Trust God's Character – October 26  
Trust God's Calendar – November 2  
Trust God's Comfort – November 9  
Trust God's Commands – November 16



## SHARING TEAM

Sharing Team met in October.

Although there are not a lot of events scheduled in November, the groups are gearing up for Advent and Christmas.

- \* Micah's Backpacks is running well. We are currently serving 16 students at Ruth Ann Monroe School, and in November will be supplying 32 Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW) bags.
- \* Coffee Fellowship continues the second Sunday of each month, with UMW Susanna Circle hosting on November 12.
- \* JWCOR (Committee on Relief) has had a full year of events and serving individuals so far. There have been giveaways, an Easter dinner for the homeless, a cookout for the homeless, and Open Sanctuary Prayer Tuesdays.
- \* All Saints' Sunday, November 5 – a day to remember our loved ones who have passed on.
- \* The HARC Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 19 @ 4:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church.
- \* Sheila is working with the Salvation Army again this year to collect donations to go to a Thanksgiving family and to a Christmas family.
- \* Supper Club's Annual Christmas Event is Saturday, December 9 @ 2:00 pm. This is a covered dish luncheon with entertainment by Second Chances. Also some caroling sing-alongs.
- \* The Youth Group just wrapped up the Mummers' Parade event and are now focusing on Christmas. The Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 17 during the Worship Service.
- \* The Houses of Worship Tour will be back this year. It will be held on December 26, as before. Plans are still being worked on.
- \* The two Zoom Bible Studies continue – one on Wednesday evening, one on Thursday afternoon.



The next Sharing Team meeting will be held Monday, November 13 via ZOOM.

Anyone is welcome to join and share at this meeting. 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. If interested in learning more, contact Barb or Greg, or just call the church office for the Zoom link.

Blessings,

Barb & Greg Hoover





You're invited to the
HARC Interfaith Community
Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 19, 4:00 pm
at Trinity Lutheran Church
15 Randolph Avenue, Hagerstown, MD

Please join us for this unique and uplifting interfaith service. We invite all members of the community to come together in giving thanks! Service participation will include leaders from Jewish, Christian, Islamic, Baha'i, Buddhist and Secular Humanist faith traditions.

You are invited to stay for a reception following the service with light hors d'oeuvres, wine & other beverages.

Community Choir: Anyone who would like to participate in a community choir for this service, please arrive at 2:30 for a rehearsal prior to the service. Let us know if you would like the music in advance.

A free will offering will be taken of shelf-stable food for a local food pantry or monetary donations (checks made payable to HARC).

This event is offered by the Hagerstown Area Religious Council with thanks to Trinity Lutheran Church for hosting this year. For more information, contact HARC at 301-842-4272 or director @harccoalition.org.

December 3rd —
First Sunday of Advent

Hard to believe, but Christmas is right around the corner. Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas.



Devotional Literature

If you are in need of a nice daily devotional, we have copies of the Upper Room Devotional Guides and Our Daily Bread. Please pick up one while in church or just call Karen in the church office and she will mail a copy to you. Regular and large print are available.





## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

**Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 12 Noon**  
World Community Day Luncheon

At: **Zion Baptist Church**  
**61 West Bethel Street**  
**Hagerstown, MD 21740**

Cost for the meal is \$12.00.

Speaker: Alesia Parson-McBean will be  
telling us about the Doleman Black  
Heritage Museum

RSVP by October 30th to:  
Tammy Coyle at 240-409-2410 or  
tammy.coyle93@gmail.com

There will be a collection box for Health  
Kits which consist of: hand towel,  
washcloth, comb, bar of soap, toothbrush,  
toothpaste, and deodorant.

All items should be placed in a gallon size  
zip-lock bag.

## VETERANS DAY!

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It’s a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.



## Hanging of the Greens!

Yes, Christmastime is almost here! Come join the fun and fellowship of decorating our church for Advent and Christmas. We are thinking of either of these days...Sunday, November 26 after worship service or Saturday morning, December 2. Please call or email the church office if you can help and specify which day works best for you. Thank you!



Before going to bed on Saturday, November 4, 2023,  
set your clocks back an hour. Daylight saving time  
ends on Sunday, November 5th!!

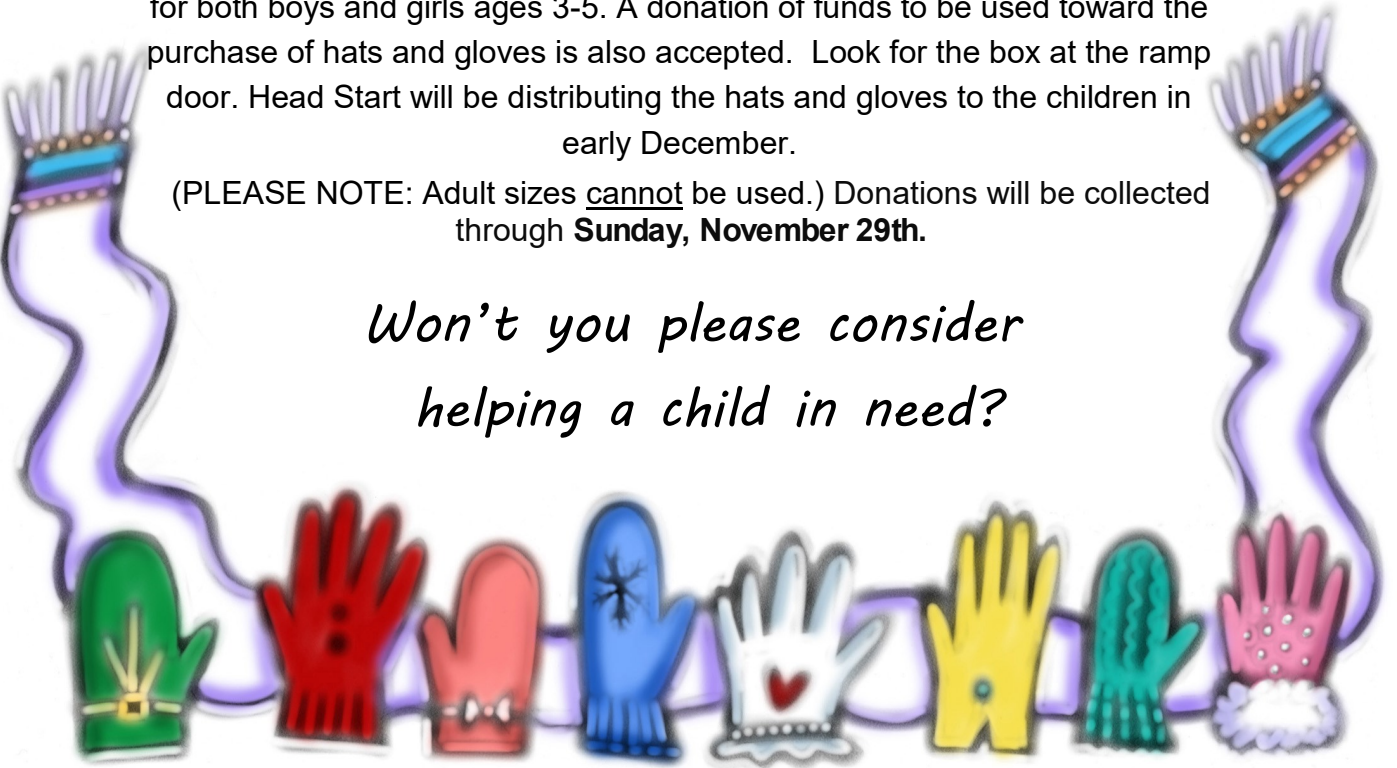


## HAT AND GLOVE COLLECTION

HEAD START of Washington County serves the poorest children in our community. Many of these children go without the things that most of us take for granted: a hot meal and a warm hat and gloves for winter. Please join us as we collect gloves/mittens and hats for preschool-aged children, infants through 5 years old. The size they are most in need of this year is for both boys and girls ages 3-5. A donation of funds to be used toward the purchase of hats and gloves is also accepted. Look for the box at the ramp door. Head Start will be distributing the hats and gloves to the children in early December.

(PLEASE NOTE: Adult sizes cannot be used.) Donations will be collected through **Sunday, November 29th**.

*Won't you please consider  
helping a child in need?*



### **Special Congregational Meeting**

On Sunday, November 12th after worship service at 12:30 pm, we will be holding an important congregational meeting to brief the congregation on our Assessment findings and begin discernment. Please plan to attend.





# NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACK



Micah's is off to a fabulous start for the 2023-2024 school year. We are sponsoring 16 students at Ruth Ann Monroe and expect that number to increase in the next several weeks.

This year we will also be supplying bags for pupil personal workers. During the first week of November, we will pack and take 32 bags to the central office of the Board of Education. These bags will be distributed to students in transitional housing.

The next food bank pickup is scheduled for November 16th. We have ordered 57 cases totaling \$1400. If you are interested in picking up some food for the program, we are in need of the below items since they are not available through the food bank:

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ritz short stacks                | microwaveable mac & cheese |
| breakfast fruit bars             | oatmeal                    |
| cheese or peanut butter crackers | Jiff to go                 |

Thanks to all the packers and drivers who are helping out this year! One more team of packers would be very helpful to keep the packed bags ready to go. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the church office.

Thank you all for your support!! And Happy Thanksgiving!

WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I



# ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will have poinsettias in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 17th. If you wish to purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please return the information below via either offering plate, email (jwumcmd@yahoo.com), or call the church office at 301-733-0391 so that it is received no later than **Monday, November 27, 2023**. The cost is still only \$15.00 each.



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No. of Poinsettias ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of (circle one):

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



# November

BIRTHDAYS



3rd: Rev. Richard Jewell

8th: Zack Ricker

9th: Anna Blevins

Ryan Chapin

Richard Dunn

June Wagner

Jason White

10th: Adelyn Donley

13th: Curtis Nilson

16th: Nancy Moyer

Melissa O'Connor

17th: Marie Tolbert

20th: Jared Payne

22nd: Lucas Payne

23rd: Brian Jones

25th: Bob Heck

26th: Charles Strong

29th: Joyce Wagner



# November

ANNIVERSARIES

7th: Richard & Karen Jewell

13th: Sean & Jessica Hunt



*(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!)*

## TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Just a reminder that as we continue to use the spaces in our building more, coordination is important. Church groups can use the Social Hall (or any other rooms in the church) but if it's not a regular reoccurring event, it needs to be cleared with the church office or Trustees Property Committee so that it can be put on the calendar. This is especially important with Kitchen Use. There is also a log-in sheet posted in the kitchen that needs to be signed when the kitchen is used. (Our regularly scheduled Coffee Fellowship is the exception to that.) Outside groups wanting to use space need to fill out a Building Use Form to be approved by the Property Committee.



We have a new (used) commercial refrigerator in the kitchen. Our existing single door refrigerator was having cooling issues. Larry Suddueth was able to obtain a donated refrigerator from his employer. It is a bit larger, and so with a little cleaning up and some cosmetic work was in place and ready for the Mummers' Parade.

All of the Kitchen appliances were inspected in October. The fire suppression hood was inspected in July.

Items to report on or update include:

### Church Building

- Two 'live' cameras have been mounted in the courtyard area for over a month now. Two more are to be installed on the north side by the Education Wing and ramp door.
- Repairs were done to the Sanctuary A/C system when a thermostatic expansion valve failed. Due to the A/C leak, there was some plaster damage in the Narthex. Larry has been painting the foyer inside the front door, the ceilings in the Narthex and the walls above the chair rail.
- The annual maintenance inspection has been done on the boiler and the boiler has been started for the heating season.
- The handrail by the back door was reattached and secured. The handrail in the front of the church will have the same corrections made. Larry has been painting the fence on the south side as time (and weather) allow.

### 131 N. Potomac Street

- There was an A/C leak in the 2nd floor unit. The drain from the unit to the overflow was replaced.
- The front door and posts, and the back door have been painted. Larry is working on some of the windows. This is ongoing - and what he can safely reach.

### Parsonage

- Due to some recent issues with the boiler, we have made some modifications, had the boiler cleaned, had the chimney cleaned, had the controls gone over, and the boiler started up. The boiler is old, but still in good shape.

Barbara Hoover,  
Trustees Property Committee

## A Cornerstone of Inheritance

In Matthew 21:33-46, Jesus tells a parable in which vineyard tenants plot to kill the landowner's son and thereby to "get his inheritance." Of course, that's not how life works: Unless the owner of wealth gives it away freely, the recipients aren't heirs — they're thieves! We are all tenants entrusted with the cultivation and harvest of God's worldly vineyard. As such, we are to turn the fruits of the vineyard back over to God. We have no need to hoard them because the divine Landowner provides all our needs. What's more, we already have an inheritance of life and love, brought to us by the Son. May we not see Jesus as a threat to our way of life but welcome him among us. May we not hoard what he brings but share it. And remembering these words of Scripture — "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone" (v. 42) — may we not reject Jesus but let him be the cornerstone of our lives.



—Heidi Hyland Mann



- 1st: 7:00pm, HLW - "Renewal"
- 2nd: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 2nd: 2:30pm, Zoom Study "Isaiah"
- 5th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 5th: 10:30am, All Saints' Sunday Worship
- 7th: 5:00pm, Open Sanctuary
- 8th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Solitude"
- 9th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study "Isaiah"
- 12th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 12th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 12th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 12th: 12:30pm, Congregational Meeting
- 13th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team Meeting
- 15th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle
- 16th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Community"
- 16th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study "Isaiah"
- 19th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 19th: 10:30am, Laity Sunday Worship
- 19th: 4:00pm, Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- 20th: *Partner* deadline
- 21st: 5:00pm, Open Sanctuary
- 23rd: Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
- 26th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 26th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 29th: 7:00pm, HLW - Advent Study
- 30th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study "Isaiah"

### Attendance & Offering Report

October	1	61	\$ 2,854.46
October	8	52	1,529.46
October	15	40	2,120.78

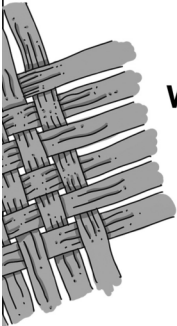
Blessings, Sheila & Sherry





# Woven WITH Gratitude

Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



### What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

### What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!




## PUZZLE PAGE


# PUZZLE TRAIN


## THANKS-FILLED GIVING


The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?


*Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.*

This becomes a plant \_\_\_\_\_ 

 Willing to give \_\_\_\_\_

The result of planting seeds \_\_\_\_\_ 

 The act of gratitude \_\_\_\_\_

Food made from wheat \_\_\_\_\_ 

Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_ of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be \_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. *2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV*



## JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# NOVEMBER 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.”*

