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#### Inside this issue:

All Saints Sunday	2
Veterans Dinner	3
Heavenly Living Workshop	4
Wednesdays Advent Study	5
HARC Interfaith Service; Advent I; Devotionals	6
Kitchen Committee Note	7
Hat & Glove Collection; Hanging of the Greens	8
News from Micah's Backpack; Christmas Poinsettias	9
November Birthdays & Anniversaries	10
Trustees Property Report	11
Sharing Team	12
JWUMC Supper Club	13
November Calendar	14
Puzzle Page	15

# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**NOVEMBER 2024** 

# The Partner

#### "Thanksgiving Legacy"

"While Jesus was at Bethany ... a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way?" ... and they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me ... Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

- Mark 14:3-6, 9

Jesus was so thankful for the woman who anointed him at Bethany! He was thankful for her generosity! He was thankful for how she did it, and what it meant! Jesus was so thankful that he assured everyone present that what she did for Him would be recalled in remembrance of her, wherever in the whole world the Good News is proclaimed! Her anointing Jesus would become her legacy! ... and not only hers ... but also part of Jesus' enduring legacy as well!

AND SO IT HAS! Almost 2000 years later, we are still reading about it, recalling the wondrous story!

I'm so thankful for my late sister, Linda. My big sister, she was always a most impactful presence in my life. She still is! Loving, kind, friendly, brilliant, loved to laugh, a servant-leader, a fierce advocate for those on the margins, lover of animals. Whenever you were in a car with her, and Linda was behind the wheel, she would kill you before she would run over a squirrel crossing the street. She led the cheering at all our family sporting events. I'll never forget her place in the stands at my high school ball games. She went to college, so I wanted to go to college. She majored in Sociology, so I did, too! Linda was the leading Shepherd for me when my parents where divorcing.

She was the first to understand and name our family's troubles.

She helped me understand them, name them, and heal.

She lived with cancer with Amazing Grace!

I miss her so much!

"Pastor's Letter" continued on p. 2



"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1

I am thanking God for her yet again this Thanksgiving season. On Sunday, November 3, Linda will again be on our All Saints Sunday Roll Call, with her beautiful picture. We will be remembering many of our cherished loved ones that morning with pictures and chimes and candles.

When Linda's name is called, and when I give thanks for her, I will be remembering and celebrating her legacy! I'll cherish again her lasting and enduring impact on those she loved and cared for, along with the loving difference she made on our world!

And I'll thankfully remember also that her legacy has become a part of my legacy!

Who Linda is, is forever a part of who I am. This is a wonderful way that she lives forever!

As each of us recalls and celebrates our Saints on November 3, we will celebrate all of their legacies! We will cherish also how they have become a part of ours!

Have a most blessed All Saints Remembrance, and may it lead you into a rich Thanksgiving season. May your time with Family and Friends at the outset of this rich holiday season remind you of, and refresh you with, the stories of who and what God has woven into your life to make you who you are!

Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

**Pastor Doug** 

## REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES ON ALL SAINTS SUNDAY!

On Sunday, November 3, we will again celebrate All Saints Sunday during our morning Worship Celebration. We are hopeful that you will join with us again in remembering, honoring, and celebrating your loved ones who have passed away in the last year, or in year's past.

As in recent years, we will honor our Saints in several ways.

When you come to worship on November 3, you may set a tea light or votive candle on tables in the front of the sanctuary, to honor your loved one(s).

These candles will be lit during our opening hymn. We will have candles here at church to give to those who did not bring a candle.

In addition to honoring your loved ones with a candle, you may also honor your loved ones by calling our church office to include them in a Roll Call of the Saints that will be shared during our worship service. You may also email us a picture of your loved one to include in the Roll Call; or you may stop by the church office with a picture, and we will see to it that it is included in the Roll Call. When your loved ones' names are read during the Roll Call, a chime will be rung in their honor. Members of John Wesley who have passed away in the last year will have a special candelabra candle lit in their honor.

If you have any questions about how to honor your loved ones on All Saints Sunday, please email or call the church office (301-733-0391).

Thank you for sharing in this most special Sunday for remembering and honoring our Saints!

Pastor Doug



## CHILI DINNER TO HONOR OUR VETERANS!

On Saturday, November 9 at 5:30 pm in our Social Hall, our Youth Group, assisted by our Service Team, will serve a Chili Dinner to 85 Veterans from our community to celebrate and honor their service to our country!



We hope to fill our Social Hall with Veterans, so if you are a Veteran, please join us. We would love to serve and honor you. If you have friends and family who are Veterans, they are welcome to come.

If they would like to come, please call our church office to RSVP that they are coming. We need to have an exact count of who is coming. We will have food and space enough for 85 guests.

Additionally, if you would like to come to help serve the meal, or assist with clean-up, please let us know by calling our church office (301-733-0391). It promises to be a beautiful evening!

You Must RSVP by November by November 4!!



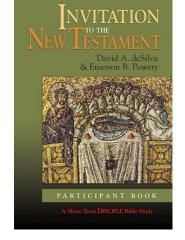


Page 4

## WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

We have an opportunity to engage in an 8-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. Please join us!!

We will study "Invitation to the New Testament" by David deSilva & Emerson Powery for 3 weeks in October/November and then break for an advent study for 5 weeks. At the beginning of January, we will finish with the last 5 sessions.



Explore the writings of the New Testament using the story of Jesus as

the starting point. This survey of the testament looks at how the early church took ownership of and was shaped by the story of Jesus and how the church learned how to develop as disciples and create communities of faith.

Participants find a deeper conversation with the writers of the New Testament and a renewal of our commitment to be shaped — personally and communally — by the story of Jesus. In the weekly video segments, listen as scholars fascinate you with facts and information that opens new understanding and enlightenment for your group. In the second video, sit in on a table conversation between guest scholars and debate key issues in the text.

Participants gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the New Testament as an integral part of the Christian Bible and a renewed discovery of our identity in God and God's vision for all things.

#### Discussion Topics:

- 1. Jesus Calls Us into God's Redemption Story October 23
- 2. Jesus Calls Us to a Transformed Life October 30
- 3. Jesus Calls Us to Minister to a Hostile World November 6

#### \*\*\* Advent Study - "Not a Silent Night" by Adam Hamilton \*\*\*

- 4. Jesus Calls Us to Complex Communities of Faith January 8
- 5. Jesus Calls Us to Serve One Another January 15
- 6. Jesus Calls Us to a New Relationship with Tradition January 22
- 7. Jesus Calls Us to Live in Light of His Coming Again January 29
- 8. Jesus Calls Us to Experience the Gifts of His Dying and Rising February 5







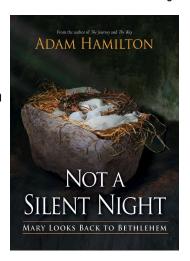


## WEDNESDAYS ADVENT STUDY

We have an opportunity to engage in a 5-week Advent Season 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 beginning November 13. Please join us!!!!

# "Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton

Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the



crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.

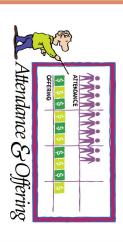
#### The five sessions are:

- 1. Beginning with the End November 13
- 2. The Piercing of Mary's Soul November 20
  - \*\* Thanksgiving Celebrations \*\*
- 3. Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished December 4
- 4. Mary, Full of Grace December 11
- 5. It Was Not a Silent Night- December 18

## **Attendance & Offering Report**

<u>Date</u>	In-person	Online	Total Attendance	Total Offering
Sept 29	52	-	52	\$ 2,390.00
Oct. 6	46	-	46	2,141.92
Oct. 13	59	4	63	2,619.38
Sept 20	36	3	39	875.00

~ Blessings, Sheila & Sherry





# You're invited to the **HARC Interfaith Community** Thanksgiving Service

# Sunday, November 24, 4:00 pm at Benevola United Methodist Church 19925 Benevola Church Road, Boonsboro, MD

This service is FREE and open to the public! Please join us for this uplifting service featuring Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, and Native American faith traditions. This will be a unique service. The first half will have no music. The second half will be filled with music. This is to honor the preferences of our different faith traditions.

This service will feature a ~ Community Choir ~ Would you like to participate? If so, please arrive at the church by 2:45 pm. You're invited to stay for a reception following the service!

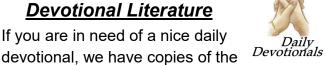
A free-will offering will be taken at the door of non-perishable food, cleaning & paper supplies, personal hygiene products, and monetary donations for Katie's Cupboard, Benevola UMC's food pantry. Make checks payable to Benevola UMC.

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

## December 1st — 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**



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.

## A NOTE FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE

Our kitchen is a commercial kitchen, licensed under the Washington County Health Department. It is important that we follow certain guidelines.

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 appliances are expensive to repair or replace; a recent burner replacement on the stove was \$500. Kitchen Committee pays for new pots and pans, new knives, pancake syrup dispensers, etc - things that are specific to kitchen use.

In the past year or so it has been necessary to add a filtering system to the ice machine, fix a line in the dishwasher, replace the single door refrigerator (thank you Larry Suddueth and Sheppard Pratt for the donated refrigerator), we received a generous donation from the Wilson Wright UMW Circle to purchase a new stainless steel table, and then we had to more recently purchase a double door commercial refrigerator (with the help of Memorial money).

We do have a couple people who rent the use of the kitchen. We welcome back Jay Trovato – AKA Señor's Cookies, who recently restarted his cookie business. So you might once again get the scent of cookies baking when you enter the back door.

But we still depend on fundraisers and donations to keep the kitchen running. 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 the food and fellowship that comes from a church kitchen.

Greg Hoover, Chair, Kitchen Committee



Before going to bed on Saturday, November 2, 2024, set your clocks back an hour. Daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 3rd!!

Page 8



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, December 1st.

Won't you please consider

helping a child in need?

# 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 meeting together after worship on Sunday, November 24. Please call or email the church office if you can help. Thank you!

#### **NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACK**

November is the month of thanksgiving!

This year we are very thankful to have the help of 3 clients from ARC of Washington County working with Micah's. Currently they are coming in every other week and they work on bagging fruit as well as packing the backpacks. We are blessed with 3 enthusiastic, hard-



working volunteers! It has been a pleasure getting to know them and having the opportunity to work with them.

We are continuing to be blessed with our long-time volunteers — Kay and Carol, Barbara and all the ladies in Susanna Circle, Linda, Jim and George, Buck and Judy, Donna and Edward, and Christopher! They all work on keeping the backpacks ready and delivered.

And we are thankful for everyone who donates to Micah's. It's a joy to walk into the Micah's room and discover a case of pudding cups, Vienna sausages, crackers, fruit, etc. Of course, the generous monetary donations make the food bank purchases and Walmart runs possible.

Thank you to everyone for your support! We are very thankful for all of you!

Happy Thanksgiving

WILSON WRIGHT CIRCLE I



#### **ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

We will have poinsettias in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 15th. 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 25, 2024**. The cost is still only \$15.00 each.

Poinsettia Orders

No. of Poinsettias ordered:					
In Memory/Honor of (circle one):					
Given by:					
Contact phone number:					



(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!)

## TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

As we move closer to the end of the year, the Trustees Property Committee has been busy with lots of projects to finish and some repairs to be addressed.

Some of those items include:

- \* The Courtyard Memorial Garden is basically finished maybe a few final touches yet. If you haven't seen it, take a look! The memorial plaque is up.
- \* Still some ongoing work being done in the basement of Rowe Hall.
- \* New baseboard heaters are to be installed in the basement area (NA group meeting space).
- \* We have signed a contract for stonework repairs in several areas around the church property.
- \* Brick and mortar repair work to be done on the north gable of 131 N. Potomac Street.
- \* A new double door commercial refrigerator was purchased for the kitchen after the old one failed (after 20+ years).
- \* Need to address the dip in the rear parking lot before winter.
- \* A new 2-sink countertop and cabinet to be installed in the first floor Ladies Restroom.
- \* There are plans to create a separate single unisex restroom beside the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Ladies Restroom. This is still a "real" project. We just need to find time to schedule this work with minimum down-time.
- \* The elevator pit experienced a water issue following heavy rains. This needed to be addressed and there will need to be some additional maintenance rustproofing to the metal parts in the pit.
- \* Exterior work at the **parsonage on Hamilton Blvd.** has been completed. A concrete patio area, new gates and fence repairs were completed this summer.
- \* The boiler in **131 N. Potomac residence** is showing signs of age and deterioration. We are currently reviewing the options.
- \* All the buildings are scheduled for an annual walk-thru before the end of the year.

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 request 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. We have a couple outside people who schedule to use our kitchen periodically. Outside groups wanting to use space in the building need to fill out a Building Use Form to be approved by the Trustees Property Committee.

Take care, stay safe, and God Bless!

Barbara Hoover, Chair Trustees Property Committee



## SHARING TEAM

Sharing Team met in September. Things are gearing up for the upcoming holidays.

- \* The Youth Group, along with Service Team, will be hosting a free meal on Saturday, November 9, for all veterans from 5:30 7:30 pm in our Social Hall.
- Coffee Fellowship continues to be held on the 2nd Sunday of each month, with UMW Susanna Circle hosting on November 10.
- \* Micah's Backpacks is running well, delivering close to 20 bags each week to the Ruth Ann Monroe School again this year. Thank you to those who are volunteering and for donations.
- \* Supper Club is bringing back the Christmas Caroling Sing-Along this year on Saturday, December 14 @ 2:00 pm (see details elsewhere in this newsletter).
- \* Kitchen Committee reports that a new commercial double door refrigerator has been purchased for the kitchen.
- \* Wednesday evening Bible Study is planning to do an Advent series.
- \* Service Team continues to work with outreach projects, including the current Sleep In Heavenly Peace fundraiser, the Veterans meal, and a Christmas Warming Event on Dec. 21 to distribute hats and gloves to the homeless and less fortunate.
- \* The HARC Lighthouse After-School Program is up and running. They are in need of Program Leaders and volunteers to assist. If interested, see Pastor Doug.
- \* Celebration Team is organizing teams of three to help with the offering during Sunday worship. Would you be willing to help one Sunday a month? See Pastor Doug.
- \* The HARC Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 24 @ 4:00 pm at Benevola United Methodist Church.
- The Houses of Worship Tour will be back again this year with John Wesley participating.

The next meeting will be held Monday, November 11 via ZOOM. Anyone is welcome to join and share at this meeting. If interested in learning more, contact Barb or Greg, or just call the church office for the Zoom link.

Blessings, and have a Happy Thanksgiving! Barb & Greg Hoover





## JWUMC SUPPER CLUB

# CHRISTMAS CAROLING SING-ALONG

Saturday, December 14

# 2:00 pm



**JWUMC Supper Club** will be hosting an old-fashioned Christmas Caroling Sing-Along on Saturday, December 14, starting 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.

After the meal, there will be a time for fellowship, followed by the singing of our favorite carols, where you get to pick the Christmas songs you want to sing. We will be accompanied by our own Stephen Pompa, who may also share a few special arrangements of our favorite carols.

This should be a relaxing afternoon of good food, good music and good fellowship. Plan to join us in the Social Hall on Saturday, December 14 at 2:00. All are invited, invite a friend, a relative, or anybody else you think might benefit from "a little bit of down time," and a nice way to get your Christmas season started. Join us for an afternoon of "seasonal fellowship."

<u>Plan to join us!</u> Be sure to let us know by December 9 if you are planning to attend so we have enough seating and food.

Either call or email the church office: 301-733-0391 jwumcmd@yahoo.com

or Barb & Greg Hoover: 301-797-5157 <u>bhoov72@aol.com</u>

## **DID YOU KNOW??**

Did you know... that when the Library was dismantled several years ago during the moving of the offices back to the church building, and the relocation of several of the rooms within the church, that most of the



Resource books were kept and are now available for use in our Conference Room (Rm. #101). Feel free to borrow any of these books. Just be sure to return them when you are finished.

And on the other hand... Want a "good read?" Try our Book Exchange. Created right before the pandemic, there was very little opportunity to share at that time. Located in the Conference Room, there are a variety of books: fiction, non-fiction, biographies, history, mysteries, devotionals – you name it, it might be there. How does it work? The idea is to take a book from that bookcase to read – and then leave one that you may have already read, that someone else might want to take and enjoy. If you have any books you would like to share, just leave them in the Book Exchange bookcase. Enjoy!

#### SIMPLE BUT LIFESAVING

In early 2024, Beatrice Johnson became deathly ill in hours. An upset stomach became dangerously low blood pressure; it turned out flesh-eating bacteria had attacked her entire body. When Johnson's kidneys started failing, she was put on life support. In a last-ditch effort, doctors added sodium bicarbonate — baking soda — to her IV.

Within hours Johnson was noticeably improved, and she left the hospital a month later. "I never thought something so simple would save my life," she said.

Another lifesaver many people find too

simple is God's grace.

We quip, "If something seems too good to be true, it probably is," and "Nothing in life is free."

We're used to payments or paybacks.
We balk if a friend offers to buy our lunch.
When a neighbor brings us homemade cookies, we don't dare return the plate empty.

So how can something as huge and holy as salvation be a free gift from God?

Don't we need to do something to earn it: follow the 10 Commandments? go to church? live a "godly" life?

All those things are good to do, but the key is to do them as thanks for God's gift of salvation, not to earn it. Jesus loves you and assures you of eternal life. Just accept the gift! If that seems simple, it's because it is — but it will also save your life. ~Heidi Hyland Mann



3rd: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages3rd: 10:30am, All Saints' Sunday Worship

6th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal

6th: 7:00pm, HLW - "New Testament" #3

7th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast 9th: 5:30pm, Veterans Dinner

10th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages

10th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship10th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

11th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team Meeting

13th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal

13th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Advent Study" #114th: 7:00pm, Trustees Property Team

17th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages

17th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

18th: Partner deadline

19th: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle

20th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle 20th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal

20th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Advent Study" #2

24th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages

24th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

24th: 11:00am, Hanging of the Greens

24th: 4:00pm, Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

25th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team

28th: Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed

29th: Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed





Make decorative stones as reminders of God's many great attributes.

#### What you need:

- Flat, smooth stones
- Printed, decorative napkins
- Paintbrush
- Clear-drying craft glue
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

#### What you do:

- Unfold the napkin, carefully separating the printed side from the solid side.
- Brush a thin layer of glue atop
   a stone. Lay the napkin (printed
   side up) on the glue and press down.
   Paint more glue over the napkin.
   Let dry.
- Turn the stone over and paint more glue on the back. Wrap the napkin edges around the stone, trimming as needed. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
- 4. On the stone, write an attribute of God (loving, wise, powerful, merciful, etc.).
- Repeat with more stones. Use them as gifts, paperweights, table decorations, etc.



# PUZZLE PAGE



# BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

Psalm 145:8	SGAICURO	
Job 36:5	HGIYMT	
Psalm 90:2	LTAVREENISG	
2 Peter 3:9	INETTPA	
1 Thessalonians 5:24	FUFHIATL	
Isaiah 40:25	OYHL	

Help me, Lord my \_\_od; save \_\_e \_\_ccording \_\_o your un\_ailing l\_\_ve.

Psalm 109:26, NIV

#### JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# NOVEMBER 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."

