

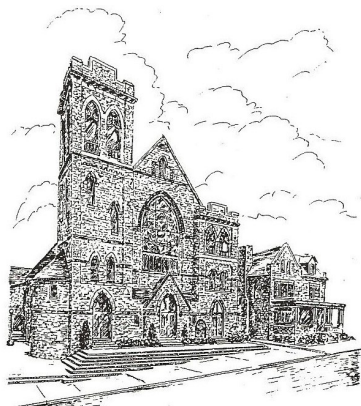
# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2024

## The Partner

Pastor's Report to Church Conference

*"It's About the Journey!"*



PASTOR:

Rev. Doug Hoffman  
revdhoff@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF  
MUSIC/ORGANIST:

Stephen Pompa  
stephenpompa26@gmail.com

CARETAKERS/CUSTODIANS:

Larry Gibson & Heather Pratt  
larry3271@gmail.com  
amylara0618@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Karen Stamper  
jwumcmd@yahoo.com

### Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	2
News from Micah's Backpack; Pastor's Discretionary Fund	3
Heavenly Living Workshop	4
Thursday Zoom Study; Attendance & Offering	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Sharing Team	7
Trustees Property Committee	8
JWUMC Supper Club; Mummers' Parade	9
Church Charge Conference; World Communion Sunday; October Calendar	10
Puzzle Page	11

"... Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfector of our faith, who for the Joy set before Him, endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God!" - Hebrews 12:1-2

For me, what stands out about our past year at John Wesley and my role in it as Pastor is how pleased I am and how excited I am about our Journey. I'm most pleased with the Journey we've shared and continue to follow! What a race it has been! It's been full of persevering faith, full of service, full of generosity, full of fruit, and full of humility that seeks God's Will above ours!

We spent the bulk of our year completing the UM Discipline's Paragraph 213 Assessment of Church Vitality. With our District Superintendent John Wunderlich, I led our 213 Task Force of 4 laity from our church and 3 additional pastors from neighboring United Methodist Churches. We worked hard to comprehensively assess our health, so that we might choose a course of action based on that assessment. I am so pleased at how we did! As a result, we have a clearer sense of direction, based on a hard, long, healthy look in the mirror, with God's help and Jesus' leading.

We put so much of our heart and soul into our 213 process that we took too long to do it, because we were so conscientious about including every point of view and caring about the ability of each of our members to understand it and then be able to act on it. Our fine-toothed comb may have been a bit too fine-toothed. Yet, at the same time, our journey through 213 was full of Holy Conferencing, and that's what matters most. We listened to and heard each other, and we respected each other, and we trusted that each of us was seeking and discerning the Holy Spirit's leading as best we could.

From our 213 journey, we have chosen to continue seeking Vitality as a growing church making Disciples for Jesus Christ in Downtown Hagerstown. And another thing I love about our Journey this year, is that we did not wait until our June vote on a Course of Action, to continue the significant progress we've been making toward revitalization these last several years. It has been my blessing and honor to lead this journey and its progress!

*"Pastor's Letter" continued on p. 2*

Our Youth Ministry has had another remarkable year. Our Youth Group grew from 6 youth to 12! Two new families with youth became active at our church, and all of their youth were welcomed into our Youth Ministry, with our strong youth ministry being a primary reason that these families were drawn to our church. Our youth embrace new adventures, and it showed in the new dimension added to their fellowship and ministry! They shared fellowship and outreach with youth from other churches. They added new twists on their growing friendship with the Veterans at the Northpoint Veterans Home! They completed their 2nd original Christmas Pageant, and even more of our youth represented John Wesley and our District as Delegates at Annual Conference! What a year! ... full of NEW stuff!



Our revitalized Mission has had another year of growth. Our Service team organized and offered 2 community meals, each serving over 200 of our neighbors. The team will also support a 3rd meal to Veterans in November, near the Veterans Day holiday! An amazing blessing this year has been the growth in congregational participation in these events! 15-25 disciples from our church family have helped prepare and serve the meals. We are also enjoying deepened partnerships with our neighboring United Methodist churches. 5-15 disciples from other churches assist regularly in our outreach.

We are working hard with our 213 follow-up to plan for reaching new families in our community. We believe we can draw young families again to our church. To do so, we must develop new ministry serving families with children. We are excited about our key role with HARC in developing new After-School programming serving our community. We have already succeeded in creating over 40 new clubs for the coming school year that will serve 18 children per club! Amazing! That's over 300 new children that will be served with this valuable outreach that gives kids after-school fun with great new content, while their parents can work a fuller day more worry-free of child-care needs. This outreach will give us opportunity to connect further with these children from these neighborhood schools and their families!

This year, we have progressed on Sundays at drawing, welcoming, and keeping guests, who are becoming active in our church! Our congregation is looking more like our community! It has been a joy to plan and craft worship with our Celebration Team and with our outstanding Director of Music Ministry, Stephen Pompa. I am enjoying worship leadership and my preaching as much as I ever have!

I'm blessed to lead this growth alongside our faithful laity and dedicated, gift lay leadership!

I continue to enjoy my pastoral visitation and pastoral care, through home, hospital, and nursing home visitation. It is also a great joy to support to ongoing growth of your discipleship and the discipleship of all our John Wesley church family! I am active in the equipping of our leading disciples, for their own disciple-making. I am active with them in Bible Study, visitation, consultation, dreaming together with them, and encouraging them. I taught Confirmation and confirmed 6 youth this year. I also enjoyed teaching an adult New Members Class with 3 adults.

What a journey it has all been! I am so pleased with our journey together in 2024! I am excited for 2025, as we continue to face steep challenges and wonderful opportunity together, with our Lord Jesus Christ and Almighty, Awesome God by our sides, for whom nothing is impossible!

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Doug

## NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACK

The shelves are restocked, and the first set of bags have been delivered!

We are looking forward to another great year working with Ruth Ann Monroe Primary School. Once again there are four churches sponsoring at RAMPS. Combined we have the capacity to feed 95 students and John Wesley will be sponsoring 20 of them.

That means by the end of May, John Wesley will have packed approximately 800 backpacks with equals about 1,600 snacks and 3,200 fruit cups. The four churches combined can deliver up to 3,800 bags with 7,600 snacks and 15,200 fruit cups to just that one school.

Thank you all for your donations, time and prayers that make this such a successful mission!

Blessings!

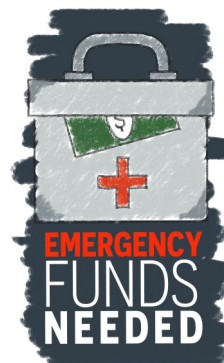
Wilson Wright Circle I



## PLEASE DONATE TO THE PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

As we enter the cold weather season, including its several holidays, please prayerfully consider making a donation to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund allows the Pastor to grant emergency help to families in our community in need of financial assistance. Through this Fund, neighbors will receive help to prevent a utility turn-off, prevent an eviction, pay a deposit for a new apartment, purchase groceries, or meet other pressing needs. Normally, we give our assistance in cooperation with assistance from other churches and agencies, in order to meet the total need presented by a family. This allows our Fund to assist a larger number of families throughout the cold-weather season and throughout the year.

Thank you for considering your donation to our Fund.



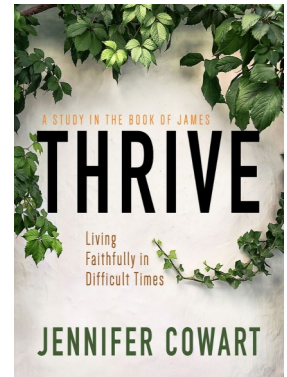
## WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

We will continue in the 6-week Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm ending October 16, 2024. Please join us!!!!

**“A Study in the Book of James—Thrive:**

**Living Faithfully in Difficult Times”**

**By Jennifer Cowart**



In *Thrive*, author and teacher Jen Cowart helps us develop the habits and attitudes necessary to thrive, whatever our circumstances. Discussion Topics:

4. Control - Taming the tongue. October 2
5. Humility - Developing the attitude of Christ. October 9
6. Prayer - Exercising the power tool of the faith. October 16

Next Session:

**Invitation to Psalms**

**Short-Term Disciple Bible Study**

Make a deeper connection to the world of the Psalms so that these well known scriptures can help you give voice to all aspects of our human experience — joy, faith, uncertainty and sorrow.

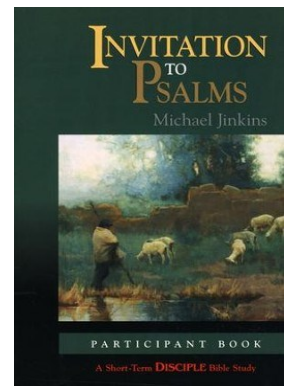
During two weekly video segments, experience a varied presentation of individual psalm texts, including dramatic reading, music, dance, and images. Listen to insights into specific psalms presented by one of two biblical scholars through an informal, roundtable conversation format.

Ideal experience for adults who are interested in the practice of prayer and worship and would like to connect prayer practice with Scripture. The study is accessible for adults with little prior Bible experience.

Discussion Topics:

1. Word of God, Words of Prayer – October 23
2. The Prayer Book of God’s People – October 30
3. Praying the Psalms – November 6

\*\*\* Advent Study – “Not a Silent Night” by Adam Hamilton \*\*\*



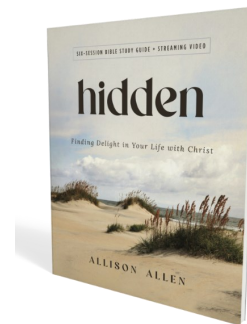


## THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY

We have an opportunity to engage in a Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Thursday from 2:30 pm until 3:30 pm ending October 17. Please join us!!!!

**“Hidden: Finding Delight in Your Life with Christ”**

**by Allison Allen**



You do not have to perform anymore. You are hidden in Christ and need nobody's favor. We live in a world that tells you that visibility is value, that recognition is your greatest reward. Even though we know it's empty, so many of us are enslaved to this culture of performance and people-pleasing, earthly accolades and social media likes. As a former actor, Allison Allen knows what it is like to feel like she had to perform—not only for others, but even for God's favor.

In this video Bible study, you are invited to let go of the pressure you feel and lean into the freedom of your inherent value in Christ. Throughout these sessions, you will spend time in the forgotten corners of Scripture and get to know some of the most hidden, least remembered people in the Bible.

What do they have to tell us about a life that does not seek to be seen?

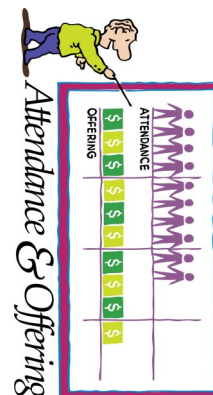
Sessions:

- 4. What Lies Beneath the Surface of Our Lives – October 3
- 5. Out of Hiding – October 10
- 6. From Strength to Strength – October 17

### Attendance & Offering Report

Date	In-person	Online	Total Attendance	Total Offering
Sept 1	36	3	39	\$1,615.00
Sept 8	50	2	52	1,508.15
Sept 15	41	6	47	1,809.38
Sept 22		3		1,755.00

~~ Blessings, Sheila & Sherry





# October BIRTHDAYS

- 1st: Ann Lashley
- 2nd: Michael Morgan
- 6th: Carol Easton
- 10th: Sean Hoover
- 11th: Gann Breichner
- 14th: Katie Ricker
- 21st: Sheila Collins
- 26th: Wade Markell
- 27th: Robert Alexander  
Jordan Payne
- 28th: Lisa Smith
- 31st: Karen Stamper



# October ANNIVERSARIES

- 3rd: Craig & Karen Nilson
- 19th: Ken & Iris Harnage
- 20th: Mike & Tracy Morgan

*(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!)*

## SHARING TEAM

Sharing Team did not meet in September.

However, the church picnic was held on September 8 at Marty Snook (Halfway) Park.

We had a lovely picnic with 45 people attending! Our friends from New Light Metropolitan Community Church joined us for this event. The weather was great; we had good food, good fun, and good fellowship. We had a short vesper service after the meal, and Tim Leber and the Christ Cream truck were there to serve us ice cream. We played corn hole, guess the weight of the watermelon, guess how many pieces of candy, and some other outside games, and of course...Bingo!

- ◇ We are now back to our fall schedule with Sunday School at 9:00, Worship Service at 10:30.
- ◇ Coffee Fellowship is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month. September was hosted by the Youth Group. Altar Guild/Worship Committee will host October.
- ◇ Micah's Backpacks continues to stay busy, delivering 20 bags each week to the Ruth Ann Monroe School again this year. Thank you to those who are volunteering.
- ◇ The Youth Group is working on plans for the coming year, which includes the upcoming Mummers' Parade.
- ◇ Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon ZOOM Bible Studies have resumed.
- ◇ Service Team continues to work with outreach projects, including the current Sleep In Heavenly Peace fundraiser, so that no child has to sleep on the floor.

Things are up and running for the fall.

The next meeting will be held Monday, October 14 via ZOOM.

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 being part of Family Life or just part of the Sharing Team, contact Barb or Greg.

Reminder that parade seats go on sale the beginning of October.

Blessings,  
Barb & Greg Hoover



## 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.



As we move into the 4th quarter of the year, we are looking at a list of pending items. We hope to get as many as possible done this year.

Some of those items include:

- ◆ Finishing the Courtyard Memorial Garden
- ◆ Finishing the recent work being done in the basement of Rowe Hall
- ◆ Waiting for a price for new baseboard heaters in the basement area (NA group meeting space)
- ◆ Need to review quotes for stonework repairs in various areas around the church and determine priority
- ◆ Brick and mortar repair work to be done on the exterior of 131 N. Potomac (where water is seeping into the attic)
- ◆ The double door commercial refrigerator in the kitchen has failed and needs to be replaced before the Mummers' Parade
- ◆ Need to evaluate the dip in the rear parking lot before winter
- ◆ We have been experiencing a high water bill, which appears to be focusing on the Education wing. We had several of the toilets rebuilt and hope this will resolve the problem.
- ◆ 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 1st floor Ladies Restroom
- ◆ Roof repairs have been made to both the main church building and to Rowe Hall.
- ◆ The annual maintenance inspection has been done on the boilers in all three locations.

As usual, the Trustees Property Committee is busy with lots of projects to finish and some repairs to be addressed.

Take care, stay safe, and God Bless!

Barbara Hoover, Chair

Trustees Property Committee





**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JWUMC SUPPER CLUB**  
**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**  
**SING-ALONG**  
**Saturday, December 14**  
**2:00 pm**



JWUMC Supper Club is hosting an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun! Beginning with a meal, we will follow with the singing of carols, when you get to pick a Christmas song to be sung in a Caroling Sing-Along, accompanied by our own Stephen Pompa. Mark your calendar and watch future *Partners* and bulletins for more information.

Barb & Greg Hoover



**97<sup>th</sup> Annual Alsatia**  
**Mummers' Parade**  
**October 26, 2024**  
**6:00 pm**



Don't forget to reserve your spot in front of John Wesley UMC for the best seats in town! Seats go on sale October 1st. Call the church office at 301-733-0391 to reserve chairs for you and your family.

Seats on the street are only **\$6 each**.

Again we are having 22 VIP seats on the porch of 131 NP for **\$25 each**.

Concession stand will be running and restrooms will be available.



Cumberland-Hagerstown District's  
**2024**  
 Church Conference



Saturday, October 12

3:00 pm

In-Person at Otterbein UMC

108 East Franklin Street

Hagerstown, MD 21740

All are invited to attend!



**Unified Christians**



On World Communion

Sunday, observed this year on October 6, Christians across the globe gather at the Lord's Table for the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Lord's Table stretches around the entire earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Evangelical Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names that are unfamiliar to us — all join in worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: remember him!

As we gather as Christ's family around that table of grace, remember that we are united in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world.



- 2nd: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 2nd: 7:00pm, HLW
- 3rd: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 3rd: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
- 6th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School
- 6th: 10:30am, World Communion Worship
- 8th: 1:00pm, JWCOR Service Team
- 9th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 9th: 7:00pm, HLW
- 10th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
- 10th: 7:00pm, Property/Trustees Team
- 12th: 3:00pm, Church Conference
- 13th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School
- 13th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 13th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 14th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team Meeting
- 15th: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle
- 16th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle
- 16th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 16th: 7:00pm, HLW
- 17th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
- 20th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School
- 20th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 21st: *Partner* deadline
- 23rd: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 23rd: 7:00pm, HLW
- 26th: 6:00pm, Mummies' Parade
- 27th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School
- 27th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 28th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team
- 30th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 30th: 7:00pm, HLW

# PUZZLE PAGE



Make this craft as a helpful reminder of Jesus' free gift of grace.

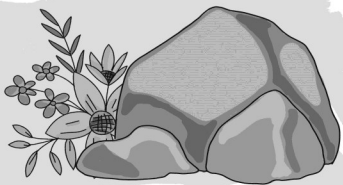


### What you need:

- Small cardboard box
- Small stones
- Tape
- Wrapping paper and bow
- Permanent marker

### What you do:

1. Fill the box with small stones to weigh it down. Tape the box securely closed.
2. Wrap the box and add a bow on top.
3. With marker, write a capital letter on each side of the box and the bottom to spell GRACE.
4. Use this as a decoration or paperweight, or give as a gift.
5. Explain GRACE to someone. For help, use Ephesians 2:8-9 and the acrostic **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.



## SAVED BY GRACE

Leaders of the early church discussed whether newly converted Gentiles must keep the Law of Moses. How did Peter answer?

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks below to complete Acts 15:11, NIV.

NO/WEGBEKLIBEVGEITIYS  
 TUHRCOUJGHRTHOEGPRAH  
 CEIOFXOUKRLHORCDJSESP  
 USGTHWATYWEOARBESPAVLED  
 RJUCSTQASHTHBEYFAROE



" \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_"  
 \_\_\_\_\_ " Acts 15:11, NIV



Answer: "No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." Acts 15:11, NIV





# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

129 N. Potomac Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
301-733-0391  
[www.jw-umc.org](http://www.jw-umc.org)  
[jwumcmd@yahoo.com](mailto:jwumcmd@yahoo.com)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## OCTOBER 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.”*

