

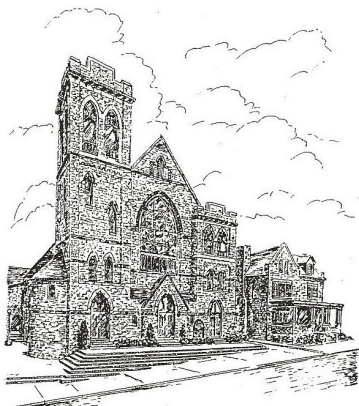
JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2025

The Partner

“Joyous Generosity!”

“God loves a cheerful giver!” - 2 Corinthians 9:7



PASTOR:

Rev. Doug Hoffman
revdhoff@gmail.com

**DIRECTOR OF
MUSIC/ORGANIST:**

Stephen Pompa
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VITALITY CONSULTANT:

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This month, on Sunday, October 12, we will launch a 5-week long campaign that will celebrate our generosity, while it asks us all to pledge our generous support for our ongoing ministry and mission in 2026! It will be a Generosity Campaign, advancing its theme, “Joyous Generosity.”

In my 32 years as a Pastor, these campaigns have most often been called Stewardship Campaigns. That has been a good thing, because campaigns like this celebrate our daily opportunity to be good, faithful stewards of the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Our “Joyous Generosity” Campaign will be a Stewardship Campaign. I enjoy framing it as a Generosity Campaign, because faithful stewardship is founded upon generosity, expresses our generosity, and is at its faithful best when we are most generous!

Our campaign will conclude on Sunday, November 9, with Consecration Sunday, when we will celebrate the results of our campaign with a festive celebration of worship at 10:30 am, followed by a luncheon reception in our Social Hall. While we enjoy delicious food and fellowship together, the campaign's results will be announced, celebrating the number of pledges made and the amount of dollars pledged toward the support of our ministry and mission for the upcoming year, 2026. In mid-October, you will receive a mailing with more detail about our Campaign, including a pledge card, to help you prayerfully consider and decide what you and your family would like to pledge, to support our ministries in 2026.

Please mark your calendars for Consecration Day, Sunday, November 9. We want you to be present for the celebration of your faithful generosity and stewardship that is making our experience together as the people of John Wesley more and more joyous day by day!

The Apostle Paul in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians teaches that “God loves a cheerful giver.” We are already a church full of cheerful givers! There are many other qualities about our giving that makes our giving cheerful. During our campaign, my preaching will enjoy exploring and explaining these wonderful, scriptural qualities!

“Pastor's Letter” continued on p. 2



However it is that our giving ends up being cheerful, God loves it! God loves to bless this cheerful, faithful giving in all of its forms. God can't wait to bless our generous giving of time, talent, and treasure and our outpourings of prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness! Our campaign offers us the opportunity to explore together how our giving can grow in its cheerfulness, as it grows in its generosity and in all of its other faithful qualities! During our campaign, we will be reminded again about how cheerful giving sits at the very heart of a healthy disciple's walk with Jesus Christ, so that it grows closer and closer each day!



I'm excited to join you in celebrating and deepening our generous experience with our Lord Jesus Christ!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Doug

"Joyous Generosity" Campaign

October 12	"Generosity is Personal"
October 19	"Generosity is Social"
October 26	"Generosity is Enough"
November 2, All Saints Sunday	"Generous Legacies"
November 9	Consecration Sunday

THANKSGIVING FOOD & CHRISTMAS GIFT MINISTRIES



Our John Wesley UMC family and friends help others in our community throughout the year. At the present time a local agency is matching donor organizations to families in need.

This year we plan to provide food for a family over the Thanksgiving weekend as well as fulfill their Christmas gift wish list during December. So that

you can plan, I'd like you to know food and donations for Thanksgiving will need to be received by Sunday, November 23rd and Christmas gifts and donations will be needed by Sunday, December 7th. Once we are matched with a family more details



will be shared. Thank you for prayerfully considering what you can do to help this family in need of our help this holiday season. Sheila is happy to answer any questions you may have.

THE SOUNDS OF JOHN WESLEY - UPDATE ON THE ORGAN



We have been having some ongoing issues with the organ that have caused the combination action component to fail. The combination action controls the organ stops, and therefore the different tones and volume.

The Trustees Property Committee and Leadership Team (along with Stephen Pompa) have been evaluating and discussing our options, moving forward. We are looking at replacing the complete relay and combination action system with a new, upgraded system. The new system will also give us options we did not previously have on our organ. The cost of this upgrade is \$45,500.00 and probably won't be completed until 2026.

Currently our organ is insured for a \$1.5 million replacement cost. The organ was built by M.P. Moller in Hagerstown in 1921, and subsequently rebuilt by Moller in 1942 and 1963. The organ was again rebuilt by the Reuter Organ Company in Lawrence, KS in 1993. Lewis and Hitchcock (aka Lawless Organ Company) have been working with us in recent years for all repairs and maintenance.

The organ is currently playable, but it becomes a complicated process to do manually what the combination action did. In the meantime we are fortunate to have an amazing pianist in our Music Director, Stephen Pompa, and we have an amazing instrument in our sanctuary piano. That equals amazing music on Sunday morning.

The Sounds of John Wesley is an ongoing capital campaign for keeping the organ in pristine condition. The current balance in that restricted account as of Aug. 31 is \$21,095.00, less than half of what is needed. The down payment has been made. We will still need about \$18,000.00 to cover the complete cost. There are Sounds of John Wesley envelopes, designated for the organ, included with your monthly giving envelopes. Please consider using them. If you might be considering an end-of-the-year gift, maybe consider designating it to the Sound of John Wesley organ fund.

We thank the congregation for their understanding, their prayers and their commitment to keeping our magnificent organ in quality condition. Our organ is part of the legacy of John Wesley United Methodist Church.

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

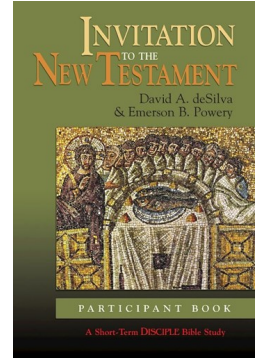
Barbara Hoover,
for The Sounds of John Wesley UMC Task Force



WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

We will engage in an 8-week in-person/Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm beginning October 8, 2025. Please join us!!!!

Invitation to the New Testament: Short-Term Disciple Bible Study



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.

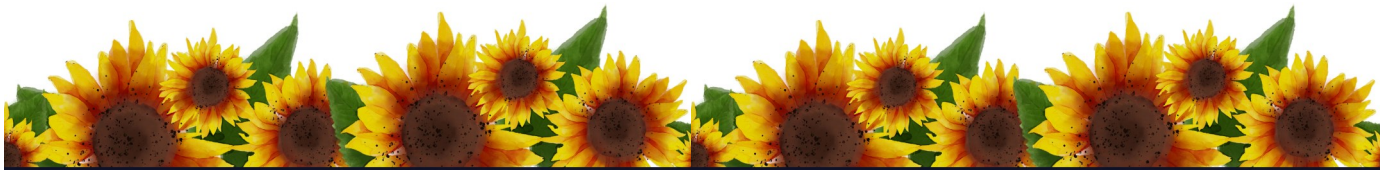
In the weekly video segments, listen as scholars fascinate you with facts and information that opens new understanding and enlightenment for your group. In the second video, sit in on a table conversation between guest scholars and debate key issues in the text. Participants gain a deeper understanding 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 8
2. Jesus Calls Us to a Transformed Life – October 15
3. Jesus Calls Us to Minister to a Hostile World – October 22
4. Jesus Calls Us to Complex Communities of Faith – October 29
5. Jesus Calls Us to Serve One Another – November 5
6. Jesus Calls Us to a New Relationship with Tradition – November 12

*** Advent Study ***

7. Jesus Calls Us to Live in Light of His Coming Again – January 7
8. Jesus Calls Us to Experience the Gifts of His Dying and Rising – January 14

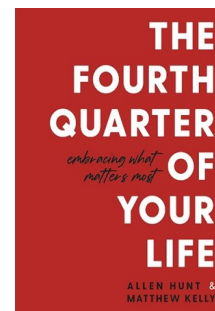


THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY

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 9. Please join us!!!!

“No Regrets – The Fourth Quarter of Your Life”

by Allen Hunt & Matthew Kelly



"I want to live the rest of my life with no regrets. And I am sure gonna try to figure out how. Just as she is turning 60, a life-altering event brings Lisa face to face with this startling realization. The mother of three beautiful children, grandmother to a sweet newborn grandson, a woman with close friends and plenty of activities to keep her busy, Lisa thought she was satisfied with her ordinary life. But now she just cannot shake the feeling that something is missing. Determined to die with no regrets, Lisa launches into a powerful journey to make the most of the fourth and final quarter of her life. Along the way, she enlists the help of Anthony, the happiest 97-year-old she has ever met, encounters a nun who sparks a soul-stirring experience, and discovers in herself greater strength than she knew she possessed."

No Regrets is the only book out there that provides a roadmap for how to make the most of the final season of life. If you, like Lisa, are searching for greater meaning in your life, then join authors Allen Hunt and Matthew Kelly as they reveal five incredible secrets to living intentionally and making the most of your own fourth quarter. No matter what quarter of life you find yourself in, you will be inspired, moved, and encouraged to make the most of the one life you've been given.

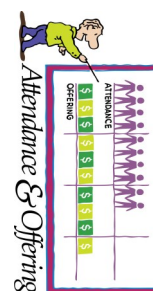
Discussion Topics:

4. Forgive. Often. – October 2
5. Be Open to Life – October 9

Attendance & Offering Report

Date	In-person	Online	Total	Total Offering
August 31	30	3	33	\$ 1,055.20
September 7	33	1	34	2,024.54
September 14	36	2	38	1,250.60
September 21	39	2	41	2,422.43

~ Blessings, Sheila & Sherry





- 1st: Ann Lashley
- 6th: W. Dieterich
- 6th: Carol Easton
- 11th: Gann Breichner
- 14th: Katie Ricker
- 21st: Sheila Collins
- 26th: Wade Markell
- 27th: Robert Alexander
- Jordan Payne



- 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 and let us know. Thank you!)



**JWUMC SUPPER CLUB
CHRISTMAS CAROLING SING-ALONG
Saturday, December 13
2:00 pm**



JWUMC Supper Club will be 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

CONNECTING FROM THE SHARING TEAM

Sharing Team met in September.

The annual church picnic was held on September 14 at Marty Snook (Halfway) Park. We had a lovely picnic. Our friends from the New Light MCC joined us again this year for the 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!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a success!

- ◆ 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 Altar Guild/Worship Committee. UMW Susanna Circle will host October.
- ◆ Choir Rehearsals, Wednesday Night Alive, Wednesday HLW Study and Thursday Zoom Bible Study have all resumed. WNA consists of:
 - 5:15 Choir
 - 6:00 Meal
 - 6:30 Worship
 - 7:00 Small group options and Bible Study
- ◆ Micah's Backpacks has started another busy year. We expect to be delivering about 20 bags each week to Ruth Ann Monroe School. Volunteers are needed to help pack and deliver. See Deb Markell if you are able to help.
- ◆ Lunches with Love continues to operate on Sundays. Janessa is currently preparing and delivering about 65 lunches each week. She could use some volunteers after church to help pack and deliver. Food and monetary donations are also always needed, especially cases of bottled water.
- ◆ Mummies' Parade is October 25. The Youth Group has begun working on plans for this year's event. Reminder that parade seats will go on sale the beginning of October. Still \$6.00.
- ◆ The Houses of Worship Tour will be back on the schedule this year, Dec. 26. John Wesley will once again be participating.

So things are up and running for fall.

The next scheduled Sharing Team meeting will be on Monday, October 13 at 7:00 pm via Zoom, to discuss and share ideas. If you would like to join us, contact Barb or Greg or the church office to get the zoom link.

Blessings,
Barb & Greg Hoover



TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustees Property Committee had not met yet in September, as of this writing.

Several larger projects have now been completed, to include:

- New Custodian/Utility closet
- Renovations to first floor Ladies RR in order to create a separate Unisex RR
- Flooring in the entrance-way to the Men's RR 1st floor has been replaced
- Repairs to sanctuary A/C
- Gas boiler removed and new heat pump system installed in 131 N. Potomac Street



The following recent projects are in the process or still in discussion:

- Renovations to the Parlor, as part of the new Wedding Venue effort
- Currently there are no immediate plans for the 131 N. Potomac St. property
- There are no immediate plans to hire a Custodian/Caretaker. We thank Richard Willson for taking over those responsibilities.
- Rowe Hall flat rubber roof needs to be replaced. We may be able to hold off until spring for that.

After much discussion and evaluation on the needed organ repair, a vote was taken at the Leadership Team meeting in September to accept the proposal from Lewis & Hitchcock (aka Lawless Organ Co.) for a system upgrade following a recent component failure of the combination action. The cost of the upgrade is \$45,500.00 and probably won't be completed until 2026. See separate article in this newsletter on the Sounds of John Wesley for additional details and explanation.

Again, we want to remind you that the code to the back door key lockbox was changed on August 1. If you need access to the building, be sure to contact Karen in the office.

A Trustee's work is never done. Again thank you to everyone for offering to help and lend a hand with the little tasks that never end...for picking up trash off the grounds, turning off a light, just reporting an issue.

Take care, stay safe, and God Bless!

Barbara Hoover, Chair
Trustees Property Committee





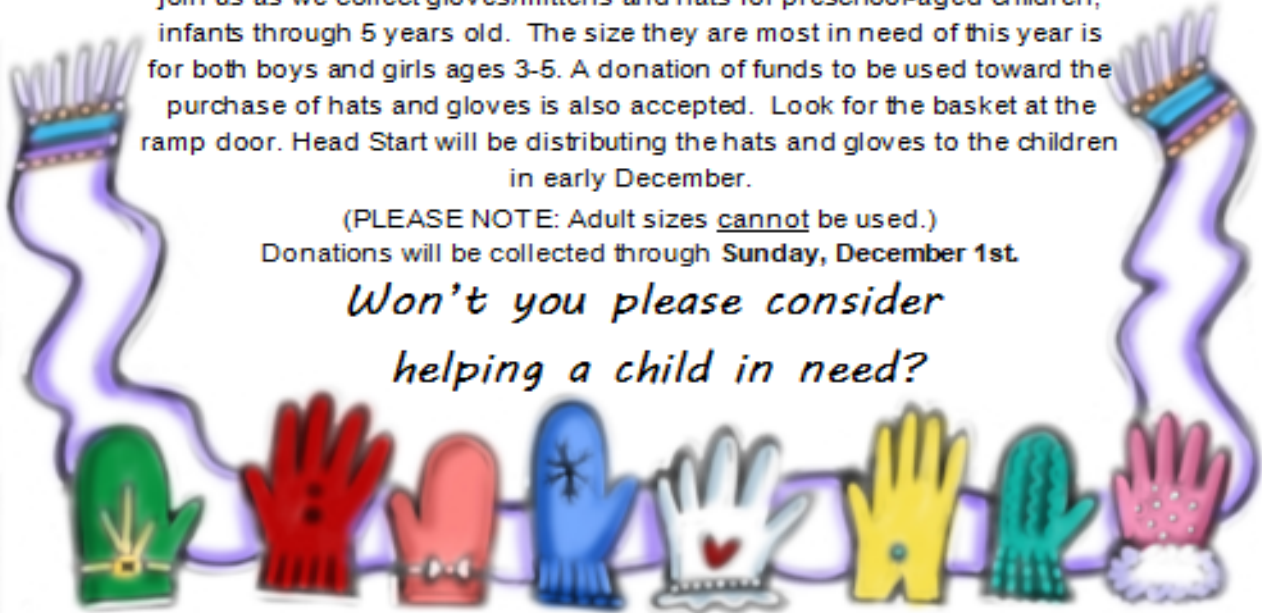
HAT AND GLOVE COLLECTION

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 basket 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?*



JOHN WESLEY GAZETTE

On August 24th, as I stayed hidden, I watched the Women of Faith Service. As always, they did a wonderful job and I needed to let everyone know how special these ladies are.

Caroline gets into trouble on her own, so I am giving thanks on her behalf for all the support that she received. To Barb Diefenderfer, her right-hand man, go between, and extra support, more than just friends. To Steve, for taking her music suggestions with grace and always coming through. To Karen, for taking the info that Caroline sends and making all things work. Ladies, Barb Hoover, Linda Sappington, Ann Lashley, Deb Markell, and Mary Licht. I want to give a hug for not saying No. For our Ice Cream Crew, I will not forget you.

BUT, MOST OF ALL, THE PASTOR AND CONGREGATION FOR ALLOWING THIS SPECIAL SUNDAY EACH YEAR.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, THIS IS NOSEY ROSEY SIGNING OFF!

A NOTE FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Each week a counting team processes your financial donations to John Wesley UMC. You can assist this team by using the contribution envelopes you should receive in the mail every two months. When you do so, please take the time to note on the memo line of your check where you want to direct your financial gift. If nothing is designated on your check or envelope, it will be applied to the general budget.

Some persons provide cash gifts to be deposited. It would be most helpful if the total amount of the cash is written on the envelope with a tally of the monies enclosed. This can be written on the envelope or enclosed on a separate sheet with in. For example, a cash gift of \$50.00 to the Sounds of John Wesley could include a note such as: \$50.00 – 1, or maybe \$20.00 – 2, \$10.00 – 1. This is especially helpful when a larger amount of cash is deposited by a group (A Sunday School Class, UMW circle, Men’s group, etc.) within the church which should also include the appropriate line item number. Every gift to John Wesley UMC is very much appreciated. Thanks for helping the counting team by following the above suggestions!



2025 Charge Conference

Saturday, October 18th

1:00 pm

In-Person at Rehoboth UMC

Lappans Road

Williamsport, MD

All are invited to attend!



- 1st: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 1st: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 1st: 7:00pm, HLW - "Slow Down" Session #4
- 2nd: 8:30am, Men’s Breakfast
- 2nd: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "No Regrets" #4
- 5th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
- 5th: 10:30am, World Communion Sunday Worship
- 5th: 11:00pm, Lunches with Love
- 8th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 8th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 8th: 7:00pm, HLW - "New Testament" Session #1
- 9th: 2:30pm, Zoom Study - "No Regrets" #5
- 12th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
- 12th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 12th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 12th: 11:00pm, Lunches with Love
- 13th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team
- 15th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle
- 15th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 15th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 15th: 7:00pm, HLW - "New Testament" Session #2
- 18th: 1:00pm, Charge Conference @ Rehoboth
- 19th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
- 19th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 19th: 11:00pm, Lunches with Love
- 20th: *Partner* Deadline
- 21st: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle
- 22nd: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 22nd: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 22nd: 7:00pm, HLW - "New Testament" Session #3
- 25th: 6:00pm, Mummies’ Parade
- 26th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School Class
- 26th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 26th: 11:00pm, Lunches with Love
- 27th: 6:30pm, Leadership Team Meeting
- 29th: 5:15pm, Choir Rehearsal
- 29th: 6:00pm, WNA Dinner
- 29th: 7:00pm, HLW - "New Testament" Session #4

PUZZLE PAGE



THE POWER OF PRAYER BOX

Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper

What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
—Colossians 4:2, NIV



98th Annual Alsatia Mummies' Parade
October 25, 2025
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.

Daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 2nd!!





JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

OCTOBER 2025

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.”*

