

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2023

The Partner

“One More Life”

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”
— John 10:10

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The acclaimed 2016 movie, “Hacksaw Ridge”, tells the remarkable story of Desmond Doss. A man of extraordinary faith and a conscientious objector who would not carry a gun, Doss fought through the misunderstanding of his principles to become the renowned army medic who saved the lives of countless wounded who fell in the brutal battleground known as Hacksaw Ridge in World War II Japan. The movie captures beautifully Doss’ courageous determination to go into harm’s way time after time to save “one more life.”

Jesus proclaimed in the beautiful verse above from John’s Gospel, that He came for us to have life. To the Glory of God, we have had an extraordinary year embracing and advancing the life we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are a church with vitality, and plenty of it, and we are full of blessing! At the same time, we continue to face heavy financial and strategic challenges, which have led us to thoroughly and comprehensively assess our current health, for the sake of helping us decide together our future course.

I am so pleased that while we have been doing our valuable assessment, we have been busy growing ministry and beginning new missions, for the sake of welcoming, meeting, blessing, serving, relieving, and empowering “one more life”! Day by day, we are joining Jesus in meeting and making disciples! We have had, perhaps, an unprecedented year of Ministry and Mission creation and growth!

Longstanding outreach like Micah’s Backpack has grown with new volunteers and mounting donations! We have added so much new outreach that we formed a new team to supervise it, our Committee on Relief (JWCOR). We are making a weekly difference for the relief and empowerment of those neighbors of ours in the grips of addiction, homelessness, hunger, and mental health crisis. We are making this difference in effective cooperation with a growing circle of community partners and specialists. And we are making this difference with a growing number of volunteers and generous donors from our

Inside this issue:

Pastor’s Page	2
Pastor’s Page; Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	3
Heavenly Living Workshop; Annual Alsatia Parade	4
Thursday Zoom Study	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Sharing Team	7
JWUMC Supper Club; Coat Drive & Cookout	8
Susanna Circle; Handbell Ringers Needed	9
Pastor Appreciation Month; October Calendar	10
Puzzle Page	11

congregation! Your gifts to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and to the work of JWCOR have allowed us to give away over fifty \$25 grocery gift cards, over 40 tents, over 40 sleeping bags, over 100 coats and other clothing to individuals, parents, and children. We have helped prevent evictions and helped with health costs. We have given countless referrals to services effectively provided by our partners. We organized an Easter meal that served over 50 neighbors without anywhere to go on Easter. And we will serve a cookout lunch this month to over 100 neighbors. So throughout this past year, we have served a total of over 250 neighbors with our outreach!



Every church's community is a mission field and should be seen as such. There is no doubt that our community here in Downtown Hagerstown is a mission field, and I see our growing outreach as a growing mission! I see the growing number of us embracing, participating in, and giving to it all as the missionaries who are seeing it through! How about that! Glory to God and to our Lord Jesus Christ!

Discipleship is alive and well and growing here at John Wesley! We continue to grow as Disciples through our ongoing ministry, including both new and long-standing ministry! Our Sunday Worship still sits at the center of our church life, and is experiencing new life. Worship attendance has moved from the 25-35 range in 2021, into the 45-55 range this year, with indications that we may see more increase in the year to come. We are welcoming new guests, who are often returning for more worship and fellowship. I look forward to leading a New Members Class in the coming months.

Excellent and varied Christian Education opportunity continues to bless us! The Wesleyan Class and our Youth and Children's Sunday School continue to offer outstanding Christian formation for our students of all ages. This past year, the Wesleyan and Youth classes began joining together each month for wonderful, intergenerational study and fellowship! And then during the week, two outstanding Adult Studies meet via Zoom, on Wednesday night and then on Thursday afternoon, for deep dives into topics and how they are addressed in scripture!

Our discipleship is being nourished by more and more frequent gatherings for fellowship, service, and fun! Our UMW circles remain valuable outlets for fellowship and service for our women, and our monthly Men's Breakfast continues to bless our men. We have welcomed the valuable return of regular Coffee Fellowship and have sustained it monthly! We are enjoying Supper Clubs, Creative Saturdays, and other fellowship with increasing regularity. Our church picnic was another highlight again this year!

We must celebrate the phenomenal year accomplished by our Youth, supported by their parents, who comprise one of the best Youth Leader Teams I've ever experienced! Our Youth Group has more than doubled its size, to 11 youth! This past year, they took the baton and led the planning and execution of our Mummies' Parade concession stand. For the first time, they also took responsibility for the Christmas Pageant, coming up with their own original story and script, and worked with Music Director Stephen Pompa to produce, rehearse, and offer their original Pageant, "A Modern Nativity"! It was a memorable and worshipful celebration of Christmas and a momentous accomplishment for our youth! Our Youth love mission and love to serve, and outreach kept them busy throughout the year. They volunteered at the JWCOR special events. They served dinner again at the REACH Shelter. They helped provide a Habitat for Humanity

Playhouse for a nearby family. When they donated a portion of their Mummer's fundraising to the nearby Northpoint House for homeless veterans, they not only delivered the check, but also enjoyed meeting and making friends with residents at the house. Earlier this month, they enjoyed cooking breakfast and serving and sharing the meal with their new friends at Northpoint.

As a result of our Youth Group's outstanding ministry, our District Superintendent took notice! ... and helped arrange for 2 of our youth to attend the June Annual Conference in Baltimore as District Youth Delegates! Our youth had a wonderful and valuable experience representing us and our District!

Our Youth Ministry also had a leading role in another new ministry of ours this past year! We planned and shared our first Summer Family Festival with our community. Launched from the Spirit of Vacation Bible School, this new ministry was determined to go outside of our doors to meet and greet new families with children in our community! It was determined to bear the gospel of Jesus Christ, by showing them the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through rich fellowship over food, fun, and the arts. We met, welcomed, and included artists from our community already working with the children and families we want to meet. Through our Family Festival collaboration with them, we made lasting friendships with partners who will help us do our next new things to grow our ministry to families and children. Over the two Thursday evenings of our Festival, we met 7 new families from our neighborhood, while we served 2 families from our church.

It is so exciting for me to see the Discipleship growing in our church from all this! More and more of us are volunteering and giving our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to these ministries! 25 volunteers helped with the Family Festival! A growing corps of volunteers are engaged in our outreach and service. Some of those newest to our church are helping lead us into our new life, joined by many of our long-time members! Together, we are committed, aren't we, to blessing "one more life"!

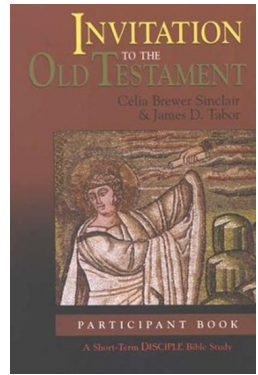
Pastor Doug

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 have an opportunity to engage in an 8-week Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm beginning September 13, 2023. Please join us!!!!

“Invitation to the Old Testament: Short-Term Disciple Bible Study”

This study approaches the Hebrew Scriptures by inviting participants to hear the story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many "voices" of the biblical text. Narrative, poetry, history and prophetic utterance all have their own distinctive characteristics and purposes, arising out of a particular historical, social, and cultural setting. To understand fully the story of God's covenantal relationship with Israel calls for listening to these various ways the story is told throughout the Old Testament.

We have books for class participants. Please pick them up in September from the sanctuary table. Discussion Topics:

4. Promise & Problem in the Land – October 4
5. Israel Has a King – October 11
6. Division & Rise of Prophecy – October 18
7. Exile & Response – October 25
8. Restoration & Renewal – November 1



**96th Annual Alsatia
Mummers' Parade
October 28, 2023
6:00 pm**

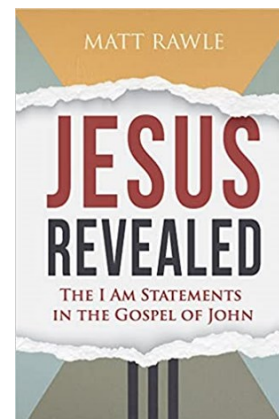


Don't forget to reserve your spot in front of John Wesley UMC for the best seats in town! Seats go on sale October 2nd. Call the church office at 301-733-0391 to reserve chairs for you and your family. Seats are only **\$6 each**. Concession stand will be running and restrooms will be available.

THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY

We have an opportunity to engage in a 6-week Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Thursday from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm through October 19, 2023.

Discover Jesus' character
through the "I Am" Statements in
"Jesus Revealed" by pastor and author Matt Rawle



In *Jesus Revealed: The I Am Statements in the Gospel of John*, author Matt Rawle explores the "I Am" statements in John as works of art that resonate throughout the Gospel and all of Scripture. He shows how these words point beyond themselves to the deep mystery of Jesus Christ. Join Matt on this journey and experience the profound truth at the heart of the "I Am" statements: that Jesus is light and life, and He calls us to Himself and offers us the hope of resurrection. Discussion Topics:

4. I am the Vine (John 15:5) – October 5
5. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6) - October 12
6. I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25) – October 19

Next Session:

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



Isaiah served as God's mouthpiece to the nation of Judah but also to the surrounding nations. His message echoes into our lives today as we read his call to rely on the Lord. Using the genres of poetry, narrative, and prophecy, Isaiah communicated clearly that followers of God could trust in Him.

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

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



October BIRTHDAYS

- 1st: Ann Lashley
- 2nd: Michael Morgan
- 4th: Florence Murdock
- 6th: Carol Easton
- 10th: Sean Hoover
- 11th: Gann Breichner
- 14th: Kyle Haught
Katie Ricker
- 15th: Susannah Will
- 21st: Sheila Collins
- 24th: Hannah Haught
- 26th: Wade Markell
- 27th: Robert Alexander
Jordan Payne
- 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 and let us know. Thank you!)

SHARING TEAM

Sharing Team did not meet in September.

However, the church picnic was held on September 10 at Marty Snook (Halfway) Park. We had a lovely picnic with 41 people attending! 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! A good time of food, fellowship, and fun was had by all.

- * Supper Club ended the month with a Pizza & Movie night on September 30, showing the movie 'God Bless the Broken Road.'
- * We are back to our fall schedule with Sunday School at 9:00, Worship Service at 10:30.
- * Coffee Fellowship will be 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 will have a busy year, having taken on additional students for this coming year at Ruth Ann Monroe School, in addition to helping get the program started for the year at Potomac Heights.
- * The Youth Group is been working on plans for the coming year. Fall plans include a retreat, Concession Stand for the Mummies' Parade, and the Christmas pageant. They are also helping with the outreach events.
- * Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon ZOOM Bible Studies have resumed.
- * JWCOR (Committee on Relief) continues to work with outreach projects, including the ongoing Tent Drive, CASA's Domestic Violence Commission drive through September (presentation to be made in October), and a Coat Giveaway on October 7. A Cookout Lunch for the Homeless was held on September 23.
- * The Sanctuary continues to be open for prayer on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, of the month for the local community as well as members of the congregation. 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

Things are up and running for the fall.

The next meeting will be held Monday, October 9 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



JWUMC SUPPER CLUB — PIZZA AND A MOVIE

JWUMC Supper Club has rescheduled their pizza and movie night for **Saturday, October 21st** starting at **4:00 pm** by donation (\$5 is suggested, but not required) to help offset the cost of the meal. Following the meal, we will be showing the movie - "God Bless The Broken Road." In order for us to have enough pizza and drinks, please call or email the church office if you will be attending. Plan to join us!



~Barb & Greg Hoover



SAVE THE DATE!
A SUPPER CLUB CHRISTMAS
Saturday, December 9
2:00 pm

Once again this year we will be holding a special afternoon event, with a covered dish meal, followed by entertainment by *Second Chances* and some caroling sing-alongs.

Mark your calendar and watch future *Partners* and bulletins for more information.

Barb & Greg Hoover



COAT DRIVE & COOKOUT!

JWCOR has rescheduled the Homeless Cookout to **Saturday, October 7th** which is

the same day as the Coat Drive. Tell all your friends and neighbors and invite everyone you see!

Plenty of food for all!





SUSANNA CIRCLE TO HOST VIRTUAL EL CAMINO PILGRIMAGE

Susanna Circle



Susanna Circle invites everyone to join them for a presentation by Deb Lawson who spent a part of the summer walking approximately 195 miles in 17 days to participate in the El Camino Pilgrimage in Santiago, Spain. Deb will speak at the Circle meeting on October 18 at 10:00 am at John Wesley Church.

Deb will tell you how she prepared for the trip and lived with only a backpack of essentials. She received spiritual blessings along the way and returned home with everything except a single toenail. She will share pictures that are stunning views of mountains she climbed and trails she trod.

Deb happens to be music director at the Williamsport United Methodist Church, a member of a flute choir and a weaving friend of mine. She leaves no stones unturned!

Please join us for the program and light refreshments on Wednesday, October 18th.

Blessings,

Barb Diefenderfer for Susanna Circle

WE NEED HANDBELL RINGERS!

Would you like to be a bell ringer? Handbell rehearsals are scheduled to start in October. It is not too late to sign up. You do not need to be able to read music. Just be ready to make a joyful noise! We would love to have any youth and adults join us. Any questions or for more information, contact Stephen Pompa.



Attendance & Offering Report

August	27	51	\$ 1,289.46
September	3	45	1,900.78
September	10	61	2,884.46
September	17	50	1,569.46
September	24	54	1,494.46

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry

Devotional Literature



Daily Devotionals

If you are in need of a nice daily devotional, we have copies of the Upper Room Devotional Guides and Our Daily Bread Guides. 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.



The month of October is set aside for the people of God to honor, bless, thank, encourage, and show appreciation to those who watch over us, pray for us, care for and love us. Let's show our thanks to Pastor Doug and let him know how much we care!



Unified Christians



On World Communion Sunday, observed this year on October 1, 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.



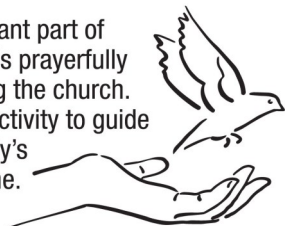
- 1st: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School
- 1st: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 3rd: 5:00pm, Open Sanctuary
- 4th: 7:00pm, HLW
- 5th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 5th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
- 7th: Coat Drive & Homeless Cookout
- 8th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School
- 8th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 8th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 9th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team Meeting
- 11th: 7:00pm, HLW
- 12th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
- 12th: 7:00pm, Property/Trustees
- 14th: 2:00pm, Church Conference
- 15th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School
- 15th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 16th: *Partner* deadline
- 16th: 7:00pm, Leadership Meeting
- 17th: 5:00pm, Open Sanctuary
- 18th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle
- 18th: 7:00pm, HLW
- 19th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
- 21st: 4:00pm, Supper Club Pizza & Movie
- 22nd: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School
- 22nd: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 25th: 7:00pm, HLW
- 26th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
- 28th: 6:00pm, Mummers' Parade
- 29th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Sunday School
- 29th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

PUZZLE PAGE



MISSIONARY-MINDED PRAYER

An important part of missions is prayerfully supporting the church. Use this activity to guide your family's prayer time.



What you need:

- Plastic bag (large zippered)
- Permanent marker
- Bandage
- Toy plane
- Heart-shaped drawing or toy
- Spoon
- Coin
- Hot-sauce packet



What you do:

1. Label the bag with details about the missionaries you'll be praying for (names, location, specific needs).
2. Add small prayer-prompt objects to guide your prayer time (bandage = health, plane = travel, heart = relationships, spoon = cultural connection, coin = finances, hot sauce = boldness).
3. Include other objects that will prompt prayer for missionaries' specific needs.
4. Place the bag where it will remind your family to pray regularly.

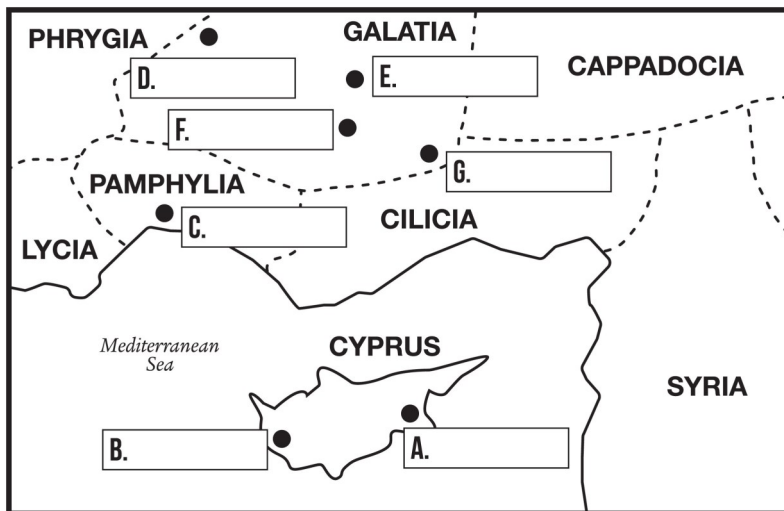
PUZZLE CITY SEARCH

God used Paul to spread the Gospel to many cities during his first missionary journey. Can you find them all?

Directions: From the fragments, guess each city and locate it on the map. Use the Bible references to help.



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. SALAMIS (ACTS 13:5) | E. ICONIUM (ACTS 13:51) |
| B. PAPHOS (ACTS 13:6) | F. LYSTRA (ACTS 14:6) |
| C. PERGA (ACTS 13:13) | G. DERBE (ACTS 14:6) |
| D. ANTIOCH (ACTS 13:14) | |



Answers: Salamis, Paphos, Antioch, Lystra, Derbe, Iconium, Perga, Paphos, Antioch, Lystra, Derbe





JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

OCTOBER 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.”*

