



JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2023

The Partner

“Let’s Go!”

*“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men and women.”
— Matthew 4:19*

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It’s September! School started at the end of last month, and our kids and grandkids are off on another year’s adventure! This is also when churches gear up their ministry again, and we are no exception here at John Wesley! Weekly choral music returns. The acolytes are back. Monthly Coffee Fellowship is back. Sunday School returns to full force. Weekday Bible Study resumes. Our Youth Group gathers regularly again, as do our United Methodist Women of Faith. Micah’s Backpack is ready to go. Favorite times of fellowship are being planned for the fall, winter, and spring. In its own way, the fall is such a wonderful time for new energy! It’s a wonderful time for gearing up and advancing our discipleship! Let’s Go!!

The verse above, with which Jesus calls his first disciples, is the scriptural centerpiece for what we in the church call “Evangelism.” Evangelism is bearing the Good News of Jesus Christ to all around us by what we say and do and by how we live. The Good News of Jesus is great news! It’s the best news! The Good news of Jesus, more than anything else, LOVES PEOPLE! The Good news of Evangelism loves others as it tells those same people about Jesus. The best Evangelism shows Jesus to our neighbors! It’s the best way to tell others about Jesus. Some of those to whom we bear the Good News of Christ may be getting it for the first time! Alleluia! Many of those to whom we bear the Good News of Christ will already know Christ! Alleluia! Either way, we get to have a part in how Jesus is making His latest disciples, either by being in on the beginning of a new disciple’s journey, or by getting in on and sharing the discipleship growth of one who has been journeying with Jesus for a while now! Alleluia!

All of the ministry we return to, in addition to the ministry and outreach we never stopped, present our next opportunities to advance our journeys as disciples! It also presents our next opportunity to advance someone else’s journey with our Lord Jesus Christ! ... while we

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advance ours! Alleluia! Let's Go!

All of our ministry leads us to meet others. We will meet again and again with each other in worship, education, fellowship, outreach, and mission. There are others who we will meet for the first time as we extend the Love of God and the Peace of Jesus Christ to neighbors through our growing menu of outreach and service! Evangelism begins with meeting someone ... and continues with loving them with the Love of Christ! The acting, speaking, and serving Love of Jesus Christ that we share will be Good News to any and all with whom we share it, whether it's with each other, or with someone new! It will make us Fishers of men and women and children! It will be a Discipleship Party!

It's September! Let's Go!!

Pastor Doug

NEWS FROM MICAH'S BACKPACK

Wow, it is hard to believe that it is September already and the kids have been back to school for a week!

The first backpacks of the year will be sent out on September 14. This year we will be sponsoring 15-20 students at Ruth Ann Monroe Primary School. We will be co-sponsoring with Hagerstown Church of Brethren, Hagerstown Church of the Nazarene, and Church of Jesus Christ LDS.



The first food order is arriving on August 31 and is made up of 54 cases of soup, lasagna, beef stew, fruit, juice, milk and cereal. Even with this order we will still be needing:

Stay Fresh Ritz Crackers

JIF to GO

Microwavable Popcorn.

Microwavable Mac & Cheese

Pudding Cups

Other assorted individual snacks

And with the increase in the number of students, more volunteers are greatly appreciated. If you would like to help out with packing the bags or delivering to the school, please contact the church office!!

Thanks to everyone for supporting this project and enjoy the Fall.

Blessings,

Wilson Wright Circle I

SHARING TEAM REPORT

Sharing Team met in August to share thoughts and ideas. Here is a recap of things happening...

- The church picnic is Sunday, September 10 at Halfway Park, Pavilion 4. 2:00-5:00 pm. Reservations are due into the office by September 5. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.
- The last summer Ice Cream Social was held on August 27, following the UMW Sunday Service. Coffee Fellowship will be resuming on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
- Blood pressure screenings will resume in October during Coffee Fellowship time.
- Supper Club will be hosting a Pizza & Movie night on Saturday, September 30, starting at 4:00. As of this writing the movie to be shown had not been decided. Watch for more information.
- Micah's Backpacks will have a busy year, as we have taken on additional students this year. See Deb Markell if you are interested in helping.
- The Youth Group is working on plans for the coming year. Fall plans include a retreat, Concession Stand for the Mummers Parade, and the Christmas pageant. They have also been helping with the outreach events.
- Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon ZOOM Bible Studies will resume in September.
- JWCOR (Committee on Relief) continues to work with outreach projects, ministering to the community. Included on the schedule is the ongoing Tent Drive, CASA's Domestic Violence Commission drive ongoing through September, a Homeless Cookout Lunch, scheduled for Saturday, September 23, and a Coat Giveaway on October 7.
- The Sanctuary is 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.



There's a lot happening and a lot to do!

Because of our currently smaller congregation and pool of volunteers, without the combined efforts of all the people on Sharing Team, we would not be able to offer all the events and opportunities that we do. If you would like to be a part of this committee, we meet via Zoom on the second Monday of the month. Or if you just want to offer your talents and assistance for any events, contact Barb or Greg.

Blessings,

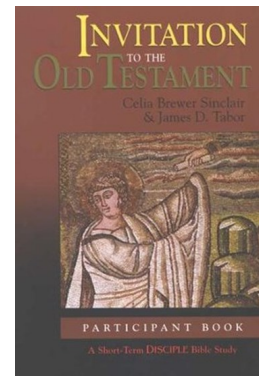
Barb & Greg Hoover

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:

1. Making of the Hebrew Bible – September 13
2. Creation Story of Israel – September 20
3. Out of Bondage – September 27
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

JWUMC SUPPER CLUB — PIZZA AND A MOVIE

JWUMC Supper Club will be holding a pizza and movie night on **Saturday, September 30th** 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 a 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!

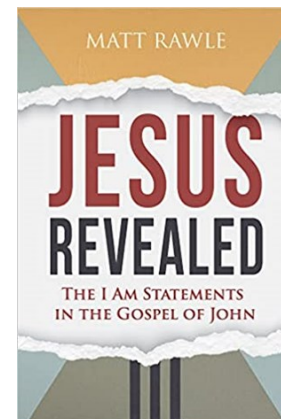
~Barb & Greg Hoover



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 beginning September 14, 2023. Please join us!!!!

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



Light. Bread. Shepherd. Life. The Gospel of John uses these and other symbols to paint a picture of who Jesus is. Through the "I Am" statements, Jesus describes himself with rich images, showing us that he is both fully human and fully divine and calling us as his followers.

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:

1. I am the Light of the World (John 8:12) – September 14
2. I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35) – September 21
3. I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) – September 28
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

Our love and sympathy extend to Linda Sappington and family on the death of her mother —

Marilyn Reeser



Our love and sympathy extend to Carol Divelbiss and family on the death of her brother — William O'Toole

Attendance & Offering Report

July	30	43	\$ 1,229.46
August	6	35	1,969.46
August	13	57	1,639.46
August	20	43	2,379.09
August	27	51	1,289.46

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry



Annual Picnic

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN-UP!
JW CHURCH PICNIC
Sunday, September 10
Marty Snook/Halfway Park - Pavilion #4



We have the same pavilion as last year – Pavilion #4 – but a different month. This year our picnic is being held on September 10; the same day that the fall schedule resumes.

Pavilion #4 is the last pavilion back (and easily accessed off of Bower Avenue, if you're coming from that direction). There is parking right there by the pavilion, the area is pretty flat. There is also playground equipment at that pavilion.

The committee has been working on plans; the time will be 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm, as in the past. We plan to have chicken again and a special cool treat from the Christ Cream truck after the meal. Some vespers and hymns, and as always, fun and games and good fellowship.

Chicken, drinks, and place settings will be provided. Bring a dish to share.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend. We will try to accommodate your choice of chicken pieces. So complete the form below or call the church office. Reservations are due by Tuesday, September 5.

~ Sue Baker, Barb & Greg Hoover and Your Family Life Committee ~

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR JOHN WESLEY T-SHIRT.



JWUMC CHURCH PICNIC – Sunday, September 10
2:00-5:00 pm – Marty Snook/Halfway Park – Pavilion #4
Chicken, drinks, and place settings provided – Bring a Dish to share

Name: _____

No. Adults: _____

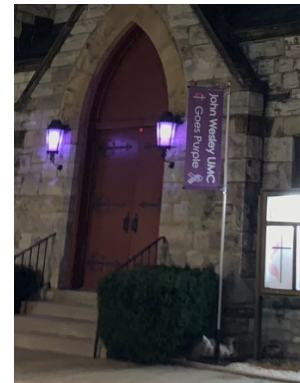
Children's names and ages: _____

Please note your Fried Chicken preference:

_____ Breast _____ Wings (2) _____ Thigh _____ Leg

JOHN WESLEY GOES PURPLE!

September is Addiction Awareness Month and it's time to "go purple"! Washington Goes Purple has been working to help educate our youth and community about the dangers of prescription pill misuse and other drugs and alcohol. Did you know 91 or more people die every day from heroin or prescription painkiller overdose? Washington Goes Purple is a substance misuse awareness education movement to encourage our community and youth to stand up against substance abuse.



18% of high school students report taking a prescription drug without a prescription and perceive fewer risks associated with misusing or abusing prescription stimulants than did their peers in 2009. We also know that in areas with high percentages of depression, there are high percentages of overdoses. Unfortunately, when an estimated 75-82% of heroin users begin with prescription painkillers, it's time to talk honestly to them and help #preventaddiction in the future.

John Wesley will be participating in some awareness activities. Each Sunday in



September our bulletin cover will be purple with a church wide

"Wear Purple" on **Sunday, September 17**. On September 14 we

will be assisting the Health Department in distributing NARCAN to individuals on the street. And also a Resource Fair held on

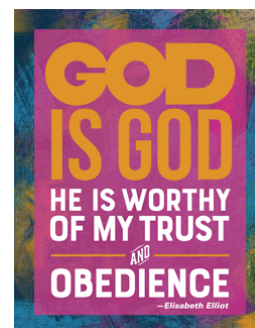
September 26 at Zion UCC. If you are interested in volunteering at any of these activities, please see Larry and/or Heather for more information.

Total Trust

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot says our sovereign God is worthy of unquestioning obedience in matters both large and small. Such trust yields mighty results, she adds, providing Christians with rest, peace and guidance.

"God is God," says Elliot. "Because he is God, he is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in his holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to."

About the role of obedience in prayer, Elliot asks, "Does it make sense to pray for guidance about the future if we are not obeying in the thing that lies before us today? How many momentous events in Scripture depended on one person's seemingly small act of obedience! Rest assured: Do what God tells you to do now, and, depend upon it, you will be shown what to do next."



REIMBURSEMENTS

We have a new financial policy in place. If you are in need of a reimbursement from the financial office, please fill out the form found in the treasurer's box and then place in the secretary's box. Karen will now be invoicing the bills to get ready for the treasurer. Thanks for your understanding in this matter.



HAGERSTOWN'S MUMMERS' PARADE

Save the date — October 28! We will be reserving seats to view the Mummers' Parade again this year. The Youth will be selling all kinds of yummy concessions. So plan to join us for this annual Hagerstown tradition! Tickets will go on sale October 2nd.

OPEN SANCTUARY

We are continuing to open the Sanctuary on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 5-7 pm. Any one in need of prayer may come! At around 6:45 pm, there will be a guest speaker who will give a brief devotion and prayer. This month the son-in-law of Don & Pat Eckard will be with us. Let's join together to pray for our church, city, and country.




WE WILL BE HAVING OUR
SECOND **CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY** ON
OCTOBER 21.

EVERYONE WITH ROOMS WILL
NEED TO CLEAN THEIR ROOMS.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP
WITH OTHER INSIDE WORK.

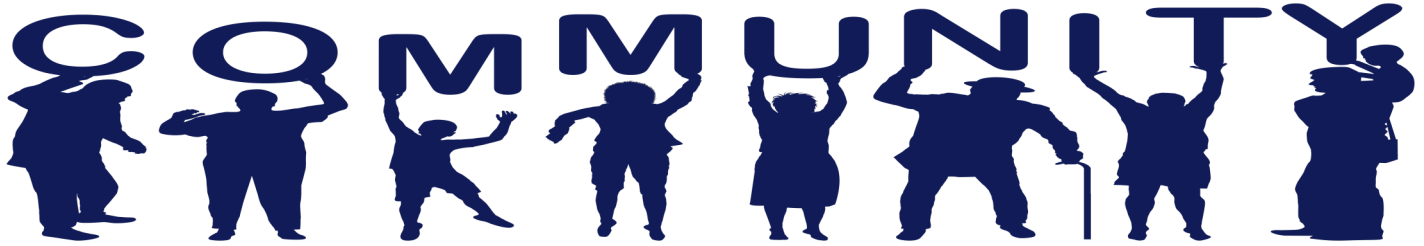
Clean up will be between 10 am to 3 pm

YOU ARE A GIFT!!

John Wesley Family,
I would like to thank my church family for the beautiful cards and positive prayers during my surgery and hospital stay. It's been quite an ordeal but with family and friends like mine pulling for me, I can only improve each day. I'm so lucky to have you. Thank you again.



~ Judy Shorb



Homeless Cookout Lunch

On September 23, 2023, we here at John Wesley UMC will be having a lunch cookout for the Homeless. We need grills, volunteers, donations, and lots of covered dishes. We will be opening in prayer then have lunch. After lunch around 1:30-1:45 pm, there will be free ice cream from Christ Cream. All donations can be made to John Wesley UMC. Please please make sure you put on the check "Homeless Cookout." Contact the office if you are willing to volunteer!



Resource Fair

A Resource Fair to serve those in need will be held at Zion UCC (201 North Potomac Street) on Tuesday, September 26. Some of the groups present will include CASA, Community Action Council, Children In Need, Sheppard Pratt Mobile Crisis, to name just a few. There will be resource information available as well.



Domestic Violence Commission

The Domestic Violence Commission is still collecting funds and other needed supplies (feminine products, diapers, wipes) for CASA. CASA is one of the top centers in Hagerstown for battered women and their children. This campaign will continue until the end of September when everything raised will then be given to CASA.



Happy September Birthday

- 5th: Francis Brown
Erin Moyer
Bennett Will
- 6th: Carol Divelbiss
- 7th: Caitlyn Donley
- 8th: Rikker Chapin
- 12th: Victoria Hockaday
- 15th: Zachary Kimmel
- 16th: Craig Nilson
- 17th: Sarah Saunders
- 19th: Marcus Peters
- 20th: Anna Marschner
- 22nd: Dana Grimm
Rev. Patrick Ricker
- 27th: Patricia Eckard
- 29th: James McMurtrie
Richard McNew
Sam Murray
- 30th: Judy Peters
Amy Rowan

Happy September Anniversary

- 1st: Norris & Barbara Diefenderfer
- 1st: Richard & Betty Willson
- 6th: Butch & Linda Sappington
- 8th: Steve & Kathleen Miles
- 11th: Major & Vangie Osborne
- 14th: Pastor Doug & Donna Hoffman
- 16th: Greg & Barb Hoover
- 19th: Wade & Debra Markell



- 3rd: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 3rd: 10:00am, Sunday Worship
- 4th: Church Office Closed
- 5th: 5:00pm, Open Sanctuary
- 7th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 10th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 10th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 10th: **10:30am**, Sunday Worship
- 10th: 2:00pm, Church Picnic
- 13th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Hebrew Bible"
- 14th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
Session 1 - Light of the World
- 14th: Book Drive Concludes
- 17th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 17th: **10:30am**, Sunday Worship
- 18th: *Partner* deadline
- 18th: 7:00pm, Leadership Team Meeting
- 19th: 5:00pm, Open Sanctuary
- 20th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Story of Israel"
- 21st: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
Session 2 - Bread of Life
- 23rd: 12:00pm, Homeless Cookout
- 24th: 9:00am, Wesleyan Class
- 24th: **10:30am**, Sunday Worship
- 27th: 7:00pm, HLW - "Out of Bondage"
- 28th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study
Session 3 - Good Shepherd
- 30th: 4:00pm, Supper Club - Pizza/Movie

PUZZLE PAGE



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

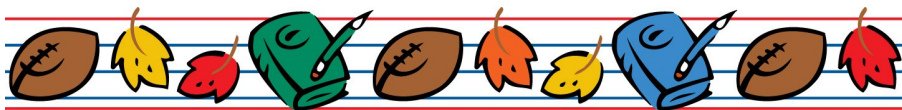
Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sand-box or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.



PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFE DCBA



R G S Z M P N B T L W
 V E V I B G R N V R
 I V N V N Y V I B L F
 R M Z O O N B
 K I Z B V I H U L I Z O O
 L U B L F , R Z O D Z B H
 K I Z B D R G S Q L B
 K S R O R K K R Z M H

1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER 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.”*

