



MESSENGER

April, 2024

MISSION

We, as individuals and as a congregation empowered by the Holy Spirit, strive to serve God by walking with Christ to reach the individual, touch the community, and serve the world.

John Wesley
United Methodist Church
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SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship Services: 10:00 AM
Sunday School: Children—during service
Adults—various times

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Newsletter articles and photos due by 12:00 noon on the 23rd of the month:
messenger@jwumc.com.



Reflecting on Miracles of Resurrection

Greetings! As we celebrate the Easter season, I wanted to share some reflections on the miraculous events that marked Jesus' time on Earth and the profound significance of His resurrection.

In Acts 10:38, the Bible speaks of Jesus being anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, going about doing good and healing those oppressed by the devil. The miracles performed by Jesus were acts of God's divine presence in our midst. Unlike the modern usage of the term "act of God" for tragic events, Jesus' acts were filled with goodness and grace.

From His miraculous conception to healing the sick and raising the dead, Jesus left an indelible mark. The miracle of Easter, His resurrection, stands as a testament that death could not hold Him. His sinless life and sacrificial death offer us the incredible miracle of salvation, providing not only abundant life in the present but the promise of eternal life.

1 Corinthians 15:17-22 emphasizes the centrality of the Resurrection to our faith. Without it, our faith would be in vain, and we would still be in our sins. Easter sets Christianity apart, offering hope beyond this life and eternal significance.

17And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Blessings,
Pastor Kalamba



Be “In” for “Outreach”

Several initiatives to reach Forest Park youths during summer have met success. Photography, Cooking, and Woodworking weekly two-hour sessions teach new skills and give positive summer experiences. Here is your opportunity to become a hero to youth. So much talent and love exist with our JW membership. Think about a fun activity, develop some expectations, and let’s work together to launch your dream. We are planning now for activities in late June thru the end of July. Give me a shout this week or next. It’s easy and fun.

Mark Upton—mgupton47@gmail.com



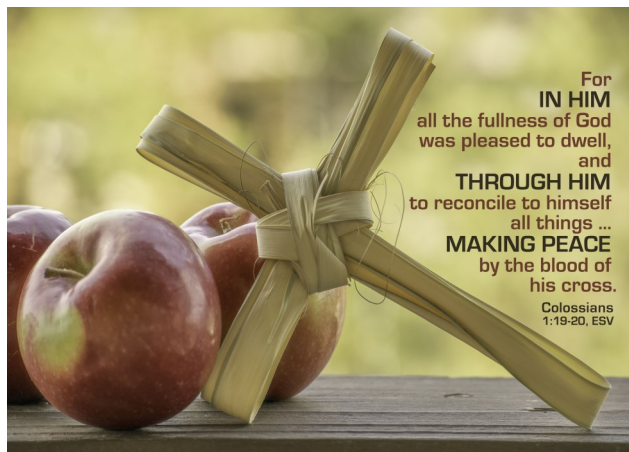
To my dear John Wesley family,

My heart is so full of gratitude to so many of you.

Through years of Steve’s ups and downs with health issues, you have always been there for both of us and our family. Over the years, with so many prayers, calls, messages, visits at home, in hospitals and rehab centers, rides to radiation, cards and food, you have shared God’s love and yours to lift us up and keep us going. Steve and I really appreciated the recent visits and calls by the pastor and our visiting team. They were so uplifting. I know that I and our family (all far away) are reassured that I will have the help I need in the days to come. Thank you.

I know some are wondering about a memorial service. We will have one at JW when both our sons’ families can be here, probably in the summer.

Blessings,
Cheryl Harper



First quarter giving statements will again for a 4-month statement this year distributed in mid May. It’s hard to print them from a camper in N. Carolina.

Many ask why we send these out quarterly. One reason is because I do make mistakes and I would rather find out early in the year rather than at year end. Also, we have had some checks that have gone astray if they are mailed and again, better to know

earlier than later.

If you would like a statement earlier, let me know and I can email it.

Tavane Cammarn, Financial Recording Secretary—Tavane@jwumc.com



We continue to demonstrate the living out of our Vision to Reaching, Touching and Serving. From January through the middle of March, our giving is most generous to causes outside of our own building.

Locally, we've given \$450 to SOUL Ministries, \$1052.70 to our pool project in Pleasant Run Farms, \$238.59 to Living Water Ministries in Hamilton, and \$241.50 each to the Augsburg Lutheran Meals Ministry and Pleasant Run Presbyterian Non-Food Pantry. We've shared with Human Relations causes for a total of \$82. Finally, we're shared nationally and internationally with UMCOR for the work they do to help with disaster relief causes when we cannot be the hands of feet ourselves.

Be on the lookout the first week of April on the board near the name tags in Dunlap Hall for an update on our total giving and expenses compared to our budget through the first fiscal quarter of 2024.



Prayer Chain Refresher

Please ALWAYS send prayer requests to:

prayerchain@jwumc.com

Whether it's day, night or weekends, always send your prayer requests to the address above. From that email address, your prayer request will be sent along to the main prayer chain distribution list by me (Christie) or by Tavane.

Anyone can send a request to the prayer chain. Also, feel free to call the office and we can write down your prayer request and send it out for you.

THIS PART IS VERY IMPORTANT- Please remember, when replying to prayer chain emails, you need to put the person's email address in the TO section of your reply. Otherwise, your response will only come back to the church office.

Thank you to everyone on the prayer chain for their faith and devotion in praying. You all are a powerful bunch!

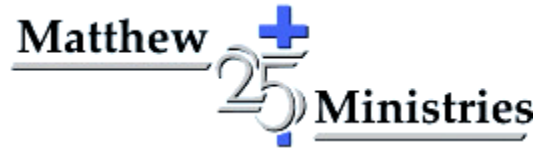
"The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace." ~ Psalm 29:11

If you have any questions about this information, or about the Prayer Chain in general, please contact me at christie@jwumc.com.



Pickleball

The 9:00 Sunday school class has converted half of Wesley Hall into two pickleball courts. We have three times reserved weekly for those of you in our congregation who would like to join us. We're set up for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-6:00 and Saturdays from 10:00 to noon. You need to enter by the back Wesley Hall door, and ring the door bell if you do not have a key. Contact



Matthew 25 Ministries Saturday Volunteer Opportunities

For the 2024 calendar year we have the scheduled the following dates to volunteer:

- Saturday April 20, 2024
- Saturday May 18, 2024
- Saturday June 8, 2024
- No dates for July and August 2024
- Saturday September 21, 2024
- Saturday October 19, 2024
- Saturday November 16, 2024

No December date

This is open to everyone in the congregation along with friends and family. Please do not be reluctant to volunteer. Our group is generally small and a great informal way to get to know someone else in the congregation!

We work from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We always as for sit down work.

We will meet in Matthew 25 Ministries, either in the lobby or the work area.

For your GPS the address is " 11060 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242".

If you are interested in volunteering, or have any questions, please contact Larissa Waldorf at email: waldorflarissa@gmail.com (home) or Larissa_waldorf@cinfin.com (work), or both, or call/text my cell phone 513-488-9169.



THANK YOU John Wesley for your generous contributions to SOUL Pantry!

For April and May we will be collecting: salad dressings, toothpaste, and paper towels.

Thank you so much for supporting this outreach ministry!

FAMILY MINISTRIES

I want to thank those who donated stuffed eggs and volunteered at the Easter Egg Hunt. None of this would have been possible without the generous support from the people in and connected to this church. THANK-YOU!

I have a few committed Sunday School teachers that show up time and time again, but we could use a few more teachers! If you ever thought about teaching children's Sunday School or want to look at a sample lesson or have any questions, please reach out and I will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for those who are already teaching!

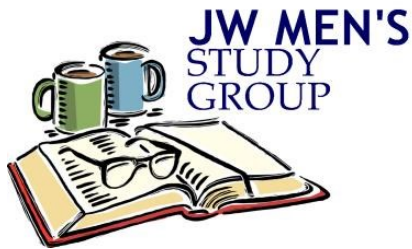
Youth family Sunday will be April 7th. Youth memorize your memory verse: Job 38:4, 10-11 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell Me, if you understand. When I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said; 'This far you may come and no further; here is where your proud waves halt'"? Do any work in your workbook in Lesson 1.4 titled Boundaries. Join us for dinner after adult and youth lessons.

April 20th youth will be volunteering at Matthew 25 from 11am -1pm. Come and see what this organization is all about and how they help those in need.

Youth will be doing an envelope challenge in the entire month of April. If you feel the desire to help the youth, this is a great way to not have to buy anything and just financially support the youth group. Take an envelope with a dollar amount on it in Dunlap Hall and put the exact amount in the envelope and then place the envelope in the offering or turn into the church office. The money will go towards summer outings and future camps.

FYI: Lunch and basket auction will take place on Sunday May 19th and VBS Camp Fire Light will be held June 10th -14th.





Grace>> more than we deserve, greater than we imagine by Max Lucado

First Saturday of each month in Room 8.

8 AM - Video followed by discussion.

9 AM - Breakfast at Frisch's on Hamilton Ave.

There is no book, no reading, no prep, and no homework. All you need to do is show up each month as you are able.



Room Use and Calendar Scheduling

In order to have a meeting or an event on the calendar, you must contact Christie at christie@jwumc.com or call me at 513-825-0733. If you haven't confirmed your meeting through me, then it's not on the calendar and another group might end up getting that spot or date. If you are setting up a special event on a Sunday during worship (selling cookies, setting up a registration table, providing cake or treats) you also need to contact me to get that on the calendar.

Regularly reoccurring monthly meetings don't need to be cleared through me once we talk at the beginning of the year and you are assigned a meeting date and time. Please let me know if you have to change your meeting time or date, whether it's a one time change or a permanent change.

If you use a room, please leave it exactly how you found it. Other groups use that room too and expect a certain amount of chairs, tables, and equipment to be in certain rooms. If you have to move anything out of a room, please make sure you put it back in the same room when you are done.

Keep in mind that all of our classrooms and meeting spaces are used by a variety of people throughout the week. No one group "owns" a certain room or meeting space so we all need to be kind and gracious as we go about the business of being the hands and feet of Jesus.

If you have any questions about meetings, scheduling, or room use, please always direct them to me, christie@jwumc.com or call me at 513-825-0733.

Be a rainbow in someone's cloud,

Devotions Along the Way

by Gary Ward



“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24

During this Lenten season, I’ve been meditating on the passion of Christ. During the last 24 hours of our Lord’s earthly life, here’s what He did:

- shared a final meal with His disciples
- taught them by example how to love by being a servant to others
- instituted a way to remember the new covenant He would establish
- prayed for strength to finish the work He came to accomplish
- allowed Himself to be betrayed and arrested
- endured the indignity of a shameful trial
- received a beating so savage He nearly died before the crucifixion
- hung on a Roman cross for six hours
- and finally died, becoming the atonement for the sins of all humankind

When it comes to *physical* pain, Jesus is not the only human to suffer so horribly. The Romans tortured and crucified countless thousands in similar manner over the centuries of their empire. Excruciatingly painful executions at the hands of other civilizations are well documented. But, the agony Jesus suffered must have been exponentially worse because it was more than physical. During the most important six hours in human history, punishment for the sins of everyone from Adam to future billions yet to be born was absorbed by one man. A man who’d never experienced sin. When the physical pain of crucifixion is combined with the unimaginable spiritual pain Christ suffered on our behalf, it seems to me, no person in human history suffered more.

Something profound and eternal transpired on Calvary’s cross. *All* of God’s anger – from the original sin until the day of Christ’s eventual second coming – was laid upon one person, Jesus Christ. Christ’s finished work on Calvary paid the price of reconciliation with God. This grace cannot be earned, only accepted or rejected.

That was a dark Friday – but we know a bright Sunday followed. His glorious Easter resurrection is the assurance we shall live with Him, forever. Halleluiah!





SHARING OUR BLESSINGS IN APRIL

Too often these days, we read about the overwhelming number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, including folks in nearby cities. For over 30 years, Found House IHN has provided a number of services to families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Last Spring, they opened an apartment complex for 26 families and continue to provide many services for those residents and others who need help.

On their Facebook page, they recently posted this message:

“🙏 Found House IHN expresses profound gratitude for the backing from congregations, volunteers, donors, and partners. Your unwavering support is the cornerstone of our mission, and we are immensely grateful for your contribution. 🙏

Thank you for playing an essential role in our journey! ⭐”

The Missions team hopes you get some satisfaction knowing that, in a small way, we are making a difference for families who need homes.

Three ways to SHARE OUR BLESSINGS:

- The first Sunday of the month put your offering in one of the baskets on the front pews when you go up to receive Communion.
- Any time during April, bring a check with Sharing/Found House on the memo line or cash in an envelope marked the same way and put it in the offering plate.
- You can also send a check to the church marked Sharing/Found House

As we appreciate our homes, especially during very cold days, we can feel good about helping provide this basic need for others.

Java Cafe News



We would like to thank our coffeemakers for the month of March. They are: Darlene Cook, Becky and Kent Bashor, Donna and Mark Upton, Wanda Parrot, and Pat Kirk.

April Coffeemakers are Sandy and Bruce Hayes, Betsa Marsh, Dave Medkeff, and Hope and Ron Stetler. Thank you all for keeping our coffee pots perking.

The Java Cafe Team



Stephen Ministers plant the seed. They: Listen; Explore feelings; Pray; Share Christ's love; Maintain confidentiality; Attend to the caregiving process and leave the results to God...



God Gives the Growth...

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.” I Thessalonians 5:11

Birthdays

- 1 Daniel Gerard
- 2 Bella Duhaime
- 3 Jack Hatfield
- 6 Dave Duhaime
- 10 Darlene Traylor, Kim Hutchison
- 12 Steve Starr, Trevor Robertson, Beth Katz
- 14 Katie Dixon
- 15 Nancy Starr, Joanna Duhaime
- 18 Louise DeGraaf, Brenda Schaller
- 19 Jay Clark, Heather Gerard
- 21 Tanner Ruberg
- 22 Sherri Lionberger, Matt Berry
- 25 Kyle Robertson
- 27 Andy Shreve
- 29 Sandy Hayes
- 30 David Waldorf



Anniversaries

- 1 Jess & Annie Anglin
- 3 Bob & Donna Lell
- 6 Rich & Lois Powell
- 9 Jim & Janice Brantley
- 10 Jim & Tisha Patton
- 15 Joe & Sue Liles
- 18 Harry & Peggy Schmidt
- 20 Gary & Leslie Stoelting
- 21 Daniel & Heather Gerard
- 27 Ron & Hope Stetler

