



MESSENGER

THE JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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.

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United Methodist Church
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SUNDAY MORNINGS

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

STAFF

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Accompanist Tisha Patton

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JWELC@jwumc.com

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

September 2025



The Faithful Hands Behind the Java Café



Every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., before the first notes of worship rise from the sanctuary, the sweet aroma of freshly brewed coffee fills the air. It drifts down the hallways, wrapping itself around conversations, smiles, and

the quiet joy of gathering together. This warm welcome doesn't just happen—it's made possible by a devoted team of men and women who lovingly serve at what we call the *Java Café*.

They come early, often when the sky is still dark. Some mornings bring rain, others bring snow, and sometimes the sun greets them with golden light—but no matter the weather, they arrive. With steady hands and cheerful hearts, they prepare the coffee, arrange the tables, and create a space where fellowship can flourish.

For our congregation, the Java Café is more than just a station for coffee and tea. It's a ministry of connection. It's the place where friendships begin, where laughter rings out, and where burdens are quietly shared over steaming cups. It's often the first smile that greets a newcomer, the first "good morning" that reminds someone they belong, the first step in softening our hearts to hear God's Word in worship.



We pause to lift up words of **gratitude and thanks** for these faithful volunteers. They are a blessing—Jesus' hands in action—serving with humility and joy. Through something as simple as pouring a cup of coffee, they remind us of the deeper truth: love is found in service, and fellowship is found in the breaking of bread—or in this case, the sharing of coffee.



Their ministry is quiet, but its impact is loud. Week after week, their service sets the tone for worship, reminding us that the church is not just a building, but a family. And families thrive when people give of themselves generously.

So, the next time you stop by for your cup of coffee, take a moment to notice the smiles behind the counter. Offer a word of thanks, a handshake, or even a prayer of blessing. For every cup poured is also a cup of kindness, poured straight from the heart of Christ.

May we never take their faithfulness for granted. And may their example inspire all of us to look for ways—big or small—to serve as Jesus served.

A Prayer of Blessing

Gracious God, we thank You for the faithful hands and willing hearts of our Java Café volunteers. Bless them for the love they pour into this ministry each week. May their service continue to bring joy, warmth, and fellowship to our church family. Strengthen them, encourage them, and remind them that through every cup poured, they are serving You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Matthew 25 Ministries Saturday Volunteer Opportunities



Now that summer is drawing to a close, we are again going to start our Saturday volunteer dates at Matthew 25 Ministries (M25M). Please join us if you can! We always ask for sit down work. The hours are 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will meet at M25M in either 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 or call/text my cell phone 513-488-9169.

Here are the dates for the rest of this year:

Saturday September 20, 2025

Saturday October 18, 2025

Saturday November 15, 2025

No date in December 2025

SAVE THE DATES



THE CHURCH PICNIC WILL BE HELD
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025,
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
SERVICE. MORE INFORMATION WILL
COME IN SEPTEMBER.

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS WILL RESUME ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 2025, FROM 5:30 –
6:45.



Another reminder heading your way that if you are a committee member—or especially a chair, during the next several weeks, you need to be thinking of your budget requests for the coming year. Use your last Budget vs Actual Report to see what you requested for 2025 and what you'd actually spent by the end of July. If you're aware of any new project or expense coming up, be sure to consider that in your new requests. The August reports will be available sometime the second week of September if you want more recent data.

Submit your requests to the treasurer before September 30 if possible so that the Finance Committee has time to prepare the overall church budget before the Charge Conference in early November. You may download the excel sheet and add your 2026 requests in another column; or if you prefer, you may just submit a list of your requests according to the line items within your budget so that the treasurer may input that data into the master budget sheet.

Festival of Sharing



It's time for the Festival of Sharing. Each year we gather kits for UMCOR to distribute when there are disasters in the world. This year we are asking for Hygiene Kits and Kids Kits. These kits are so very helpful when you have lost everything! Lists of supplies for these kits will be shared for the next few weeks. They are due on Sunday, September 7th. If

you can do one or more complete kits, that is wonderful, but if you can't, contributing individual items is helpful too.

Thank you for sharing God's love in such a useful way.

As a reference for shopping, you can click the link below to print a list at home, or you can find extra copies of the list on the Welcome Center.

[Shopping List](#)

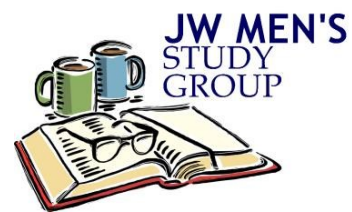
Shopping Tip

Here's a tip for school supply shopping. Because school has already started here, many of these items are hard to find.. One easy way to do it - go online to Walmart, Meijers, Target, etc and order items. You can probably pick them up the next day and save yourself lots of searching in multiple stores.

SOUL PANTRY NEWS

Thank you all so much for your monthly donations to support SOUL Pantry. Our shoppers appreciate your generosity. For the month of **SEPTEMBER** we will be collecting

SALT AND SUGAR.



"When to Walk Away, Finding Freedom from Toxic People" by Gary Thomas.

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.



SHARING OUR BLESSINGS IN SEPTEMBER



While no church can meet all the needs of the community, churches working together can meet more of those needs. We are blessed to help our coalition churches with some wonderful blessings they provide.

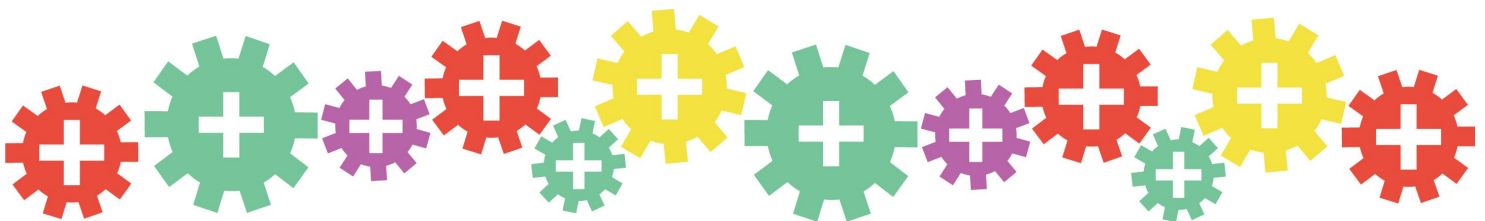
Augsburg Lutheran Church invites anyone to join them for a community dinner the third Sunday of every month. On August 17, they served 43 families (145 people.) They had to discontinue the hot meals but now do a “Take and Make” meal such as frozen pizza, salad and cookies or frozen entree, vegetables and cookies. They also have a small food pantry where the participants can choose some items to take home. The families are very appreciative of the blessings they share.

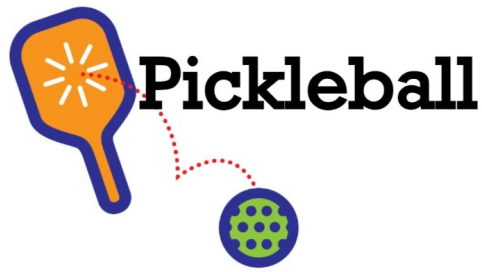
Pleasant Run Presbyterian Church has offered their Practical Grace Non-Food Pantry for a number of years on the third Saturday of the month, 10:00 AM to noon. They provide items which are not available as part of federal or state “food stamp” programs, such as paper goods, cleaning supplies, laundry detergents and personal hygiene products. They serve folks in the following zip codes: 45014, 45218, 45231, 45240, 45251. Participants need to register one time with valid ID and a current utility or other bill with name and address. They serve approximately 50 clients each month.

Two ways to donate to SHARING OUR BLESSINGS:

1. On Communion Sunday (first Sunday of the month), place donations in baskets on the front pews when you go up to receive Communion.
2. Any time during September, bring a check with Sharing/Coalition Ministries on the memo line or cash in an envelope marked the same way and put it in the offering plate. You can also mail your donation to the church office.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this wonderful ministry!





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 LuAnne Gerard if you have questions.



JAVA CAFE UPDATES FOR September

Thank you to our **August** Baristas: Nancy and Andy Shreve, and Sue and Dave Conaway. These Baristas not only keep our Cafe going but they do many other things for our church. These two couples wear many hats.

Our **September** Baristas are: Darlene Cook, Ellen Fisher, Linda Osterhaus, and Kathy Smith. I know for a fact that these four women not only make delicious coffee but also make the Java Cafe warm and inviting. Come in and see the fall decor and taste their coffee and hot chocolate. Aww!



Please join us for some coffee and fellowship in Dunlap Hall each Sunday morning from 9:00 to 9:50. You will love it!



United
Women
in Faith

Mission U was the last weekend in June and was fantastic. On July 11 we went on a Mission trip to Wesley Community Center Dayton. They work with mothers to be, and mothers with new born babies as well as programs through seniors. They use one-on-one program that involves many resources from the community for all their clients. A food pantry is also available.

We are collecting and assembling baskets for Wesley Community Dayton which will be given to each new mother and infant. Creative Needles and some other members have supplied some items for the baskets. Thank you everyone!

United Women of Faith have the opportunity to attend our Assembly on May15 through 17, 2026 in Indianapolis. The cost is \$365.00. Registration starts September 2, 2025.

Our first fall meeting is September 3 at 10:00 in the library. We are assembling the baby baskets for Wesley Community Dayton's basket auction. Please bring your donation for the baskets. A salad lunch will be enjoyed after the meeting. Please bring a salad to share.

SHORT STORIES FROM JW'S HOUSE

Hi, this is Bobby Woodward with a social justice message. [In this story, I flag all the places where Google AI helped me with the wording.] Towards the end of the previous century, I had a female team leader at work who was in her twenties. The rest of the group was composed of men in their forties and fifties. Occasionally, we would do a team lunch at a local restaurant. When the wait staff asked who gets the bill, we always gestured toward Angie. Sometimes they thought we were joking, especially since she looked like she was still in high school compared to the rest of us. Back then, it was rare for a female to be part of an IT team much less to be in charge of one. Angie was sent to 'transform' us into a high-performance work team.

Prior to our team transformation, it was common for meeting discussions to get rowdy. **AI meaning:** "Rowdy behavior is characterized by excessive noise, shouting, and a general lack of quietness or restraint." All of us were trying so hard to make our point that we were not listening to each other. Needless to say, a transformation needed to happen. What was Angie's reaction at her first meeting? She put a finger in each ear, closed her eyes, and started chanting 'LA,LA, LA,LA,LA,LA' as loud as she could. The whole room fell silent, as she pointed out that we needed to work on communicating with and respecting each other. This happened a few more times when we lapsed back to our old ways. Then it was like 'Oops, we lost our leader again!' By the time Angie moved on to a 'Manager' position, our team had been transformed into a high-performance work team. She was one of the best Team Leaders of my career!

As Christians, let's look at some parallels from my story. Jesus was sent by God to save us from God's wrath. Jesus transforms us to be more like Him. **AI meaning:** "Christian Transformation is a multifaceted process of spiritual change where individuals become more like Jesus Christ. It encompasses a new birth, a renewed mind, and a transformed life, leading to greater conformity with God's will and a deeper relationship with Him. This transformation is not a one-time event, but a lifelong journey of growth and sanctification."

Our leader is Jesus! Do we slip up and leave Him out of our discussions and decisions some of the time? Are we so focused on trying to make our point that we are unwilling to listen to each other? The Bible directs us (1 Thessalonians 5:17) to pray without ceasing. **AI meaning:** "'Pray without ceasing' doesn't literally mean constant, verbal prayer. It refers to maintaining a continuous, conscious awareness of God's presence and a spirit of reliance on Him throughout daily life."

Jesus never abandons me. He is always by my side. He calls my name, but does not chase after me. Jesus waits for me to include Him, so He can guide me back to my faith walk. I have to make a choice to follow Him each time I stray from my faith path. He is always there waiting for me to come back to God. **AI meaning:** "'Faith Walk' generally means living your life in accordance with your beliefs, particularly in a spiritual or religious context. It involves trusting in God's promises and guidance, even when circumstances are difficult or uncertain, and acting on those beliefs in daily life. It's about aligning your actions with your faith, rather than being solely guided by what is seen or felt."



2025 marks the 50th anniversary of Stephen Ministry. What began as an experiment with one St. Louis congregation in 1975 has developed into an international ministry of caring and hope. Today, more than 14,000 congregations and other organizations have enrolled in [Stephen Ministry](#). They represent more than 190 Christian denominations and come from all 50 states in the US, 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries. Over 80,000 people have been trained as Stephen Leaders. They, in turn, have trained more than 600,000 laypersons as [Stephen Ministers](#). These Stephen Ministers have provided one-to-one Christian care and support to more than one-and-a-half million [care receivers](#) in Stephen Ministry caring relationships—and have ministered to millions more in less formal ways.

Stephen Ministry began at John Wesley UMC in 2011. Over the years, scores of individuals – in and outside our congregation – have received confidential, one-to-one Christian care provided by our trained Stephen Ministers.

Gary Ward and Susan DeNyse have been our Stephen Leaders from the start in 2011, but this fall we will welcome **Annie Anglin** as a newly trained Stephen Leader from our Stephen Minister ranks. Welcome Annie!

If you or someone you know would like more information about Stephen Ministry care, please call the Church office: 513-825-0733.



News from Creative Needles

In addition to our mission outreach projects, many of us find time to make gifts for our family. With kids going back to school, I wanted to highlight some of the beautiful blankets and quilts they will be taking with them.

Debbie Canter's grandchildren, Lily and Andrew, will be taking these beautiful quilts with them to Ball State and Bowling Green respectively.



Pat Kirk's granddaughters will have fun Afghans on their beds at college. Alyssa will take the top one to the University of Washington, and Izzy will enjoy the bottom one at the University of Hawaii.



Karen Popen's granddaughter, Aubree, will take this pretty throw with her to IU.



Watch for more wonderful gifts in future issues of the Messenger

Devotions Along the Way



This month, allow me to share a favorite bicycle memory from a long time ago. It was the single Christmas gift I received when I was 10. I woke up Christmas morning, 1957 to find a shiny, green, 26-inch Huffy beside our Christmas tree. And not just *any* Huffy. It was the latest model with a built-in AM radio, powered by a battery pack on top of the rear fender. Imagine the Christmas morning joy of a 10-year-old with a new bike!

Still, there's another, more significant "bike" in my life. It's the tandem one upon which I ride with Jesus. Imagine that when we accept Christ into our lives, we begin a life-long journey with Jesus. When we encounter hills, valleys, and storms along the way, Jesus is there - helping to peddle when we tire, and peddling alone when our strength is gone. Having Jesus as our road-trip companion makes all the difference. The question is, who has the front seat? Surrendering the steering to Jesus is possible through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. Just to be "on the bike" is truly wonderful. But relinquishing the route to Jesus allows Him to take us on the journey of a lifetime guided by His perfect will. Our destination? It's described in Revelation 21. A place where: ***"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."*** Revelation 21:4 NLT

My ride has had a few steep hills and some difficult valleys, but there's been much joy in my journey with Jesus on the front seat. Yes, even better than a Christmas bike for a 10-year-old.





To Send A Prayer To The Prayer Chain

Please ALWAYS only send prayer requests to: prayerchain@jwumc.com



After receiving a request, remember if you want to send the person a personal message, you need to put their email address in the TO section of the email. If you do not change the email address, your message is sent back to the church office.

Room Use and Calendar Update

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. 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 remember be kind and gracious as we work together to go about the business of being the hands and feet of Jesus.



Christie Riggsby, Office Manager

"Be A Rainbow In Someone's Cloud"



Birthdays

- 2 Payton Ooten
- 4 Sally Gossard, Kurt Phillippo
- 5 Judy Grigsby
- 7 Sue Hamrick, Lauren Prescott, Karen Gillespie
- 8 Lance Ireland, Sandra Combs
- 9 Pim Kremer, Oliver Adams
- 11 Sam Melson, Josh Mullins
- 14 Jerry Bennett, Gary Ward, Shirley Harvey
- 15 Debbie Canter
- 16 Tom Richey, Jess Anglin
- 19 Mike Mullins
- 20 Beth Rimer, Gary Stoelting
- 23 Judy Kuhn, Wanoka Motz
- 24 Vicki Kelley
- 25 Megan Gillespie, Kabamba Kiboko
- 26 Bill Hamrick, Mike Shultz, Abbey Upton
- 28 Carolyn Medosch
- 29 Lisa Lester
- 30 Nicole Butts Toole, Bob Lell, Jean Morrison



Anniversaries

- 3 Steve & Tavane Cammarn
- 10 Fred & Barb Wetzel
- 12 Jim & Cindy Rahn
- 20 Paris & Sharon Lewis
- 24 Tim & Tracy Ruberg
- 28 Scott & Carol Kosarko
- 30 Martin & Shirley Harvey

