



THE JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# MESSENGER

## 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

## STAFF

**Pastor** RJ Davis  
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**Accompanist** Tisha Patton

**E.L.C. Admin.** Melissa Guanciale  
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noon on the 23rd of the month:  
[messenger@jwumc.com](mailto:messenger@jwumc.com).

May, 2022

The month of May is the season of Easter that leads up to Pentecost, which this year is on the first Sunday of June. That will also be my final Sunday in the pulpit here at John Wesley UMC. That means that during the month of May I will be sharing my final sermon series and I'm calling it, *Preparing for Pentecost*. In fact, we have already begun this series because it started the Sunday after Easter.

In this series I'll be sharing with you five attributes of an apostle and how those five attributes help us to be effective in carrying out The Great Commission. The Great Commission, to ***"go and make disciples of all nations,"*** is the mission of the church. The original disciples, who began to utilize all they'd learned, became apostles in order to be the first to fulfill the mission. They became the *appointed, anointed, authorized, accountable ambassadors* of Jesus Christ. They made the shift from having faith in Jesus to exercising the faith of Jesus in their ministry. Over the next few weeks we're going to unpack what all of that means for us today because their mission is now our mission and we will need everything they had in order to be successful.

I hope that you will join us in each of these worship opportunities as we endeavor to deepen our relationship with God and allow God to prepare us to reach individuals with his Good News, to touch our community with his love, and to serve in the world as an expression of his grace.

Pastor RJ



## COINS FOR THE POOR—MAY

### COALITION MINISTRIES

What are “Coalition Ministries?” A little history may help. For a number of years, JWUMC has been in a “coalition” with other area churches: Augsburg Lutheran Church, Pleasant Run Presbyterian Church and St. John Neumann Catholic Church. We have co-sponsored special service days in the community, such as Inasmuch Day. We have combined for Lenten Bible Studies and special services at Thanksgiving and Good Friday.

The Mission Team has decided to dedicate one of our collections to two very special ministries that serve our local community.

Augsburg Lutheran invites anyone to a community meal once a month. They even continued doing take-out meals during the pandemic. They recently added a small food pantry for those attending those meals. At a recent meal, they served 60 people from 20 families.

Pleasant Run Presbyterian has their Practical Grace Non-Food Pantry once a month. They supply the kinds of items people can't get with food stamps. These include paper goods, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products.

Of course, these both require funding so this is another way we can help our neighbors. ! ***If you wish to donate, you can bring your “coins” to in-person service the first Sunday of the month . You can also bring a check to JWUMC and place it in the offering plate any time during the month. In the memo line, mark it as “Coins” for Coalition.***

*Thank you for all the ways you serve the community!!*



Boy Scout / Cub Scout recruiting and enrollment party! Monday May 9 at 7:00 at the JWUMC back parking lot. Refreshments available. Spread the word! Contact Jim Rahn for more information.

## SHORT STORIES FROM JW'S HOUSE

Hi, this is Bobby Woodward from JWUMC social justice class. John Wesley's focus on social holiness during his lifetime is the reason that the UMC denomination has such a focus on social justice during current times. Some of us participated in the ORV district annual leadership training in February. The keynote address was "Finding the Courage to Try New Things" by Brad Aycock. Let's consider one set of questions from this presentation.

"In our country, only 20-30% of adults attend weekly worship services. Who will never experience the hope and love of Jesus if Sunday morning "church" is the only option? Given that 40% of the people work on Sundays, what are we offering them in our local churches?" – Brad Aycock

My wife and I grew up in a refinery town full of shift workers. Churches of all denominations and sizes had multiple Sunday morning services as well as Sunday and Wednesday evening worship. We frequently attended Friday evening worship as well. Some of my fondest memories in middle school were around singing with the men of the choir to present special music each Sunday at evening worship service.

In our own church, I remember the man who came to early worship so he could open his business later that morning. Then there are several who came to early worship between getting off graveyard shift and their daytime sleeping. I'm also thinking of nurses who could not be at worship because of working scheduled Sunday shifts. What about those who can't figure out how to come to church at all on Sunday morning? In worship service, I met a guy who lived a couple of blocks from our church. He came again a year later. Then he came again a year after that. At this point, I invited him to lunch to see what I could learn. This young man moved in with his grandparents to take care of them. He only made it to church once a year because he was working three jobs to pay their bills. Another time, Sam Shreve and I greeted a young lady in the parking lot after worship. I commented that we had not seen her in a while. She explained that she was a cook at the nearby hospital and had to work most Sundays.

In thinking about people who work on Sunday, I am reminded of a time in 2010 when I lived in a Jewish household for 6 months while away from home. I am grateful for the experience, but there were those rules to be followed around food. Every Sunday after worship service, I went to the same Chinese buffet where I could sample my favorite foods that were not allowed in the home. At one point the waiter asked if I had been to worship that morning. After my response, I asked about his worship experiences. He missed Sunday worship services because he had to work, waiting on people (like me) in order to pay his bills. This conversation was the moment that I realized that I had been taking people who work on Sunday for granted.

What are we offering them in our local church? We can take pride that our worship services are being recorded and saved on the internet to be viewed on demand. What else should we be offering "Sunday workers" in our local church? I believe the answers will be revealed to us over time as we keep our eyes and ears open while doing ministry in John's neighborhood.



We continue to be a financially healthy church due to so many faithful, generous people within our congregation. Our Ordinary Giving for March was \$40,947.21, and our Ordinary Expenses were \$38,951.80. Besides that, congregants gave over \$10,000 to mission causes both within and outside of our church walls.

For the year, after the first quarter, we stand at \$124,537.45 income of the \$491,982 budgeted which is right on target at 25% of our projected amount. Our Expenses stand at \$118,755.02 of the \$535.978 budgeted for just 22% of our projections. Our "Other Income and Expenses" stand at minus \$19,235.15 due to the Wesley Hall lighting and the front end HVAC replacement.

Thanks to all of you for your efforts and your support.



Believe it or not, Spring is here and the grass is growing. We are blessed to have faithful individuals who work to keep our grounds looking great. They are looking for some new members. While we do not know exactly when the grass will start to grow, we do know that it will. If you are interested, please contact Richard Dixon at 513-604-6148.

# *Devotions Along the Way*

by Gary Ward



**No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. Hebrews 12:11**

A lifetime ago, I served our nation as a member of the U.S. Air Force. I learned much in those four years, but perhaps the greatest lesson came in the first six-weeks. Anyone who's ever gone through Basic Training, also known as "Boot Camp," will understand. I arrived as a twenty-one-year-old C average college graduate, meandering through life with no specific goals. I left with the belief that I could march forward to accomplish far more than I ever imagined. Surviving Boot Camp fostered self-confidence and led to greater accomplishments in the years since.

The same can be said for our journey of faith. As an example, once God got the Israelites out of Egypt, He needed to get "Egypt" out of the Israelites. God did that through the desert. The wilderness experience was their spiritual "boot camp" where they eventually learned lessons of obedience and trust in God.

Another translation of Hebrews 12:11 reads this way: *"For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."* Discipline comes through the circumstances of life, and sometimes God permits situations that are "painful rather than pleasant," like the Hebrew's wilderness journey. Perseverance through the crucible of discipline produces positive, personal change, stronger faith and more effective disciples and apostles for God.

Are you going through a time of testing and discipline? Hold tightly to your faith in a loving God. Seek to understand what God is teaching, painful though it may be. Trust that a promised land of spiritual intimacy awaits on the other side.

An old hymn, sung for many generations, says it well:

***Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus,  
but to trust and obey.***

# Trust and Obey



## FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

VBS needs more volunteers. If you are willing to help, please let me know as this is the next big children's event and the more hands the better!

Do you need lawn work done? A one time clean up? Mulch laid down, flowers planted, sticks picked up or any other spring yard work? The youth group would love to help. Starting May 7, we will be available to meet your lawn care needs. All we ask in return is for you to donate to the youth group where the money will be used for youth events such as summer camp and youth outings. Please email Jennifer Flott at [familyministry@jwumc.com](mailto:familyministry@jwumc.com)

A HUGE THANKYOU!

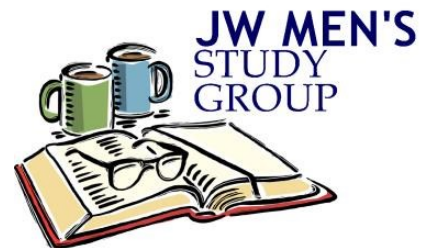
I cannot express enough how thankful I was for the egg donations, candy donations, group help from the Wizards, Creative Needles, JW women's group, Children's Team, and Boy Scouts stuffing eggs and anyone who volunteered at the hunt. It was because of the people from the church and groups such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and civic association that made the easter egg hunt such a huge success. Thank you for everyone's support!

## MEDIA

Calling all who are interested in joining our media team!

**We would love to have you.**

The media team needs 3 or more people who are interested in learning to do any and /or all parts of Sunday services. Please contact Barb Wetzal at [jrz6grl@gmail.com](mailto:jrz6grl@gmail.com)



**"More to Your Story, Discover Your Place in God's Plan" by Max Lucado**

First Saturday of each month in Room 8.

8 AM - Brief Max Lucado 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.



## John Wesley UMC is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.

Jesus calls all who believe in Him to carry each other's burdens. Stephen ministers take that call to heart through fifty hours of training. A Stephen minister of the same gender meets regularly with a person who is struggling and offers hope and encouragement to move forward one day at a time.

For more information, please contact:

Gary Ward: 513-373-8976 or at [gward@cinci.rr.com](mailto:gward@cinci.rr.com)

Or

Susan DeNyse: 513-218-0601 or at [sdenyse@me.com](mailto:sdenyse@me.com)



## **Birthdays**

2 Nancy Hillman  
4 LuAnne Gerard  
6 RJ Hoendorf, Reagan Kazy  
7 Erin Bates  
10 Ben Melson  
11 Ariana Sanders, Jack DeBord  
12 Bobby Woodward  
13 Mason Denterlein  
19 Kitty Converse, Mark Denterlein, Meghan Rimer  
20 Dave Conaway  
22 Ann Dugan  
24 Nancy Clark, Taylor Kazy  
26 Dawn Bates  
27 Grace Thompson  
28 Ben Clark, Turner Ruberg, Ethan Cameron  
30 Barb Wetzel, Wendy Puccini  
31 Rachel Hoendorf Anstaett



## **Anniversaries**

1 Ken & LuAnne Gerard  
5 Gary & Angie Ward, Dan & Sharon Felix

