



MESSENGER

May, 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
1927 West Kemper Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45240-1421
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Website: www.johnwesleychurch.com
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SUNDAY MORNINGS

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

STAFF

Pastor Kalamba Kilumba
kkilumba@jwumc.com
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Music Director
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Accompanist Tisha Patton
E.L.C. Admin. Melissa Fille
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.



What is ... The General Conference?

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church is the highest legislative body within the denomination. It

typically convenes every four years and is composed of delegates from all over the world.

During the conference, delegates discuss and make decisions on matters related to the doctrine, policies, and structure of the United Methodist Church. This includes issues such as church law, social principles, and the election of bishops.

The General Conference plays a significant role in shaping the direction and practices of the denomination.

From where do the delegates originate?

Delegates for the General Conference are elected from each annual conference across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States. They are chosen in equal numbers from both clergy and laity, totaling between 600 to 1,000 individuals.

Additional voting delegates represent autonomous churches that maintain a concordat relationship with The United Methodist Church. For instance, the Methodist Church in Great Britain dispatches four voting delegates to each General Conference.

The upcoming General Conference, presently rescheduled to convene from April 23rd to May 3rd in Charlotte, NC, will host 862 delegates, two fewer than in 2016.

A formula, based on the lay and clergy membership, determines the delegation size for each conference. Every conference is assured of at least two delegates — one clergy and one lay.

Approximately 44% of the delegates to the rescheduled General Conference come from outside the United States: 32% represent Africa, 6% the Philippines, and 4.5% Europe. 56% of the delegates come from within the United States.

General Conference delegates must meet specific requirements, and the selection process involves both clergy and lay members. Alternate delegates are also elected to ensure full representation during the conference.

Rev. Jenn Lucas serves as the District Superintendent to the Great Miami River District within the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Jenn brings her passion for ministry and extensive experience to her role. She has been in ministry since 1997, serving a church in Perrysburg, Ohio, which happens to be her stomping grounds. Interestingly, she grew up in Toledo, Ohio. Her journey into ministry began when she was touring with a choir group called the Continental Singers, and she felt a divine tug on her heart, urging her to do more. Since then, she has been dedicated to serving her community and fostering spiritual growth in others.

Rev. Lucas will be here at John Wesley UMC on May 5, 2024, to give the Sunday message. Please join us at the 9:00 a.m. Java Cafe Hour to welcome her.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2MLEFn3b8M&authuser=0>



Who knows what? When you have questions, who do you ask? From time to time, people have questions about how our finances operate within the Methodist Church.

The UMC operates according to financial guidelines that may be different from those of the church in which you grew up. In one small country church years ago, the same person counted the weekly offering, recorded it, deposited it, and then paid all of the bills. There was no one else on a “counting committee,” and there was no safeguard should that person have been less than honest.

All areas of our finances operate within the guidelines of the UMC and our bonded finance committee which is under the leadership of Sherri Lionberger. We have several finance committee members who work in pairs on a rotating basis to count the weekly offerings and make the bank deposit. They send the records to our financial secretary who is the only person who knows who and how much a person contributes to our church over a period of time. She records the information sent to her weekly and prepares a periodic statement of each person’s giving. Should you have questions about your giving, please contact Tavane Cammarn, our financial secretary.

On the other side of finance, our treasurer is in charge of paying all of the bills and keeping records and reports of all income and disbursements. She knows only the total amounts given towards general operating expenses or special missions giving but without any names being attached. Marilyn Shultz is our treasurer.

If there are questions about making purchases, the treasurer or our office manager, Christie Riggsby, would be the people to contact if you are unsure which committee your purchases would involve; but neither the treasurer or the office manager have any authority to approve purchases. Your committee should approve your purchase before you make it or submit the bill for payment so that all of your purchases fall within your group’s budget.



Pastor Kalamba's Bible Study May 9th-July 7th

10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Godspeed - By MATT & JULIE CANLIS

The Godspeed film follows the story of a young American pastor whose desire to change the world grinds to a halt in a slow Scottish parish. With the help of mentors Eugene Peterson and N. T. Wright, pastor Matt Canlis discovers how Jesus walked this earth at three miles an hour. He saved the world at a walking pace – a pace of knowing and being known.

The Godspeed documentary challenges each Christian to live at Godspeed – a way of life that allows them to be face to face to their Lord, their neighbor, and themselves.

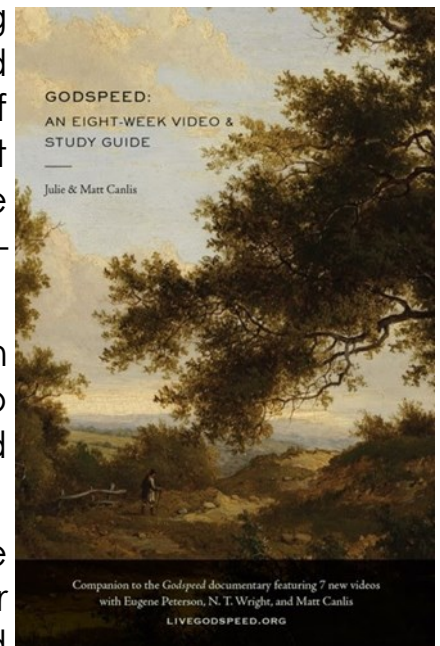
· The follow-on Videos & Study Guide dare us to live more deeply in our communities, knowing that our growth is not in size or numbers but in quality of life and relationships.

· Each member will need a personal copy of the Godspeed Eight-week Video & Study Guide, which includes space for personal reflection, Scripture meditation, and prayer.

In addition to the Godspeed Study Guide is Julie Canlis's book "A Theology of the Ordinary" where you can further explore the theology behind Godspeed.

Where to purchase the book?

<https://www.livegodspeed.org/shoppe/study-guide>



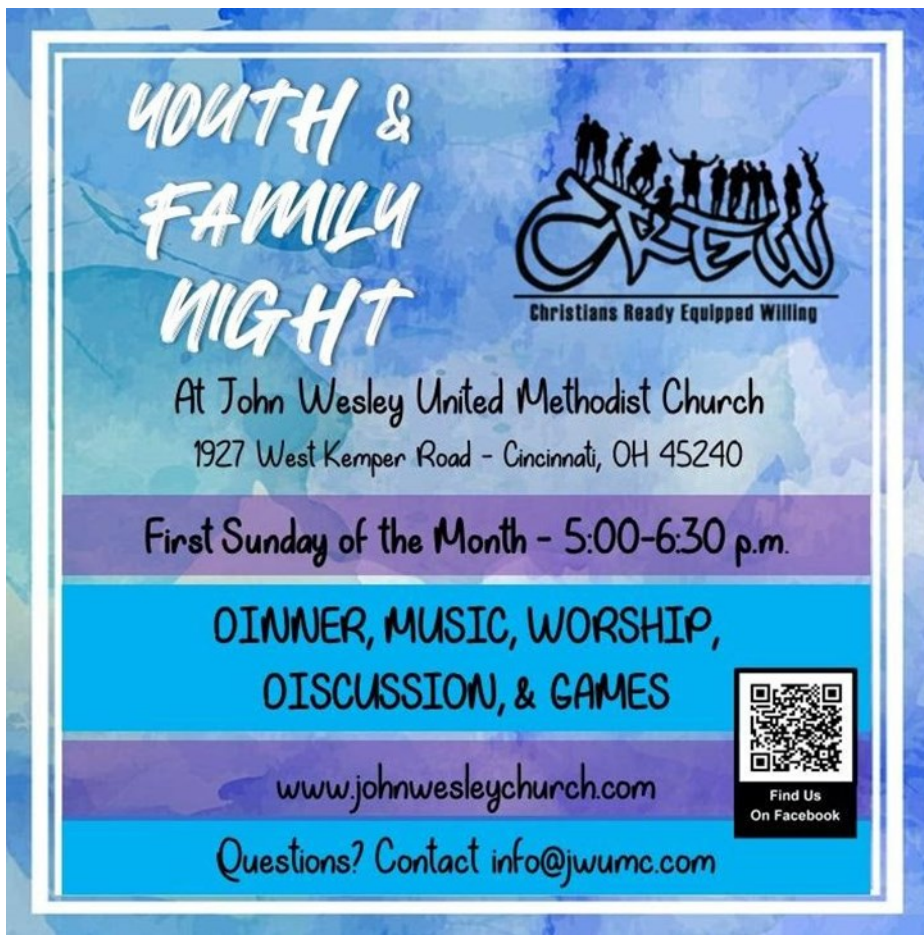
Join us for Fellowship Dinner

Drinks provided will be water, lemonade, tea and coffee.

Donations are welcome as they help cover the costs.

See you there!





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!

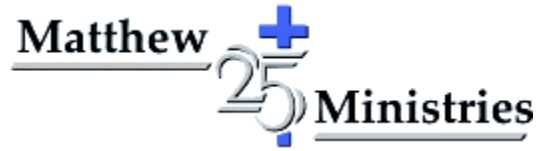
"The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace." ~ Psalm 29:11

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 Marilyn Shultz if you have questions.



Matthew 25 Ministries Saturday Volunteer Opportunities

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

- 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 ask 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.



SOUL PANTRY NEWS

Our church is filled with awesome people who are always helping others! I'm always so happy when I see our grocery cart filled with donations for SOUL Pantry. Everyone does appreciate your offerings.

The month of May we will continue to collect paper towels, toothpaste, and salad dressings.

Thank you again for your generosity.

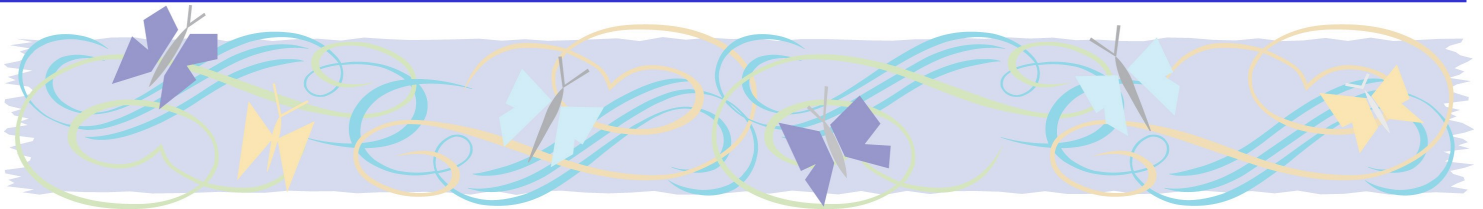
FAMILY MINISTRIES

When can you help? Where can you help? Summer is a busy month for most people along with the need for Sunday School teachers there is also a need for volunteers in the summer. Please consider supporting the Children and Family Ministries at the church.

The Youth Basket Auction will take place on May 19. Baskets can be brought into the church and left at the main office or in Jennifer's office. Please have baskets ready and turned in by Mother's Day May 12th. This will help the Basket Auction run smoothly. Dinner will be pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw and/or potato salad, drink, and dessert. Tickets will be \$5 per person and will start May 5th. If you can help with the Basket Auction, please sign up in Dunlap Hall.

VBS Camp Firelight will take place from June 10 to June 14 from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Come and be a leader or a helper to make this year's VBS a success. If you can volunteer, please sign up early as this will take some time to plan to make sure we have enough volunteers for this year's VBS. Sign-ups are in Dunlap Hall and leader guides are available. See Jennifer for your guide or with any questions or concerns.

Youth Group and Family Night will take place on May 5th and it will be our last one as we take a summer break. Youth Memorize your scripture verse: Mark 10:6 "But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female." Be ready to learn about Dominion- I have things to do. In lesson 1.6. Join us for fun, games, discussion, Bible learning, fellowship, and dinner. I hope to see you all there.



Java Cafe News



Thanks to our April Baristas, (Betsa Marsh and Dave Medkeff, Hope and Ron Stetler, Sandy and Bruce Hayes), for volunteering to make coffee, tea, and water and making our cafe look nice and inviting.

Our May Baristas are Sue and Dave Conaway, and Nancy and Andy Shreve.

****Please join us in the cafe at 9:00 on Sunday, May 5th, to meet and greet our District Superintendent, Jennifer Lucas.**

We will be serving a variety of tasty muffins and coffee and tea.



United
Women
in Faith

To all who supported our Soup Luncheon with pots of soup, desserts, attendance, help with setting up, tearing down, and serving.

To all who supported our Easter Candy sale. To the few members who came tirelessly daily for three weeks and members who came when able and also members who helped from home. Although we were missing a few this

year. Everyone helped to make this the best sale ever. Finally, to all who helped with the Seder Meal Maundy Thursday, Making, setting up and serving. A special Thank You to Bruce Hayes and Ron Stetler who became key players in helping with Seder Meal.

With everyone's support we are able to increase our Mission giving to Wesley Education Center for Children and Families and Wesley Community Center in Dayton. We are able to help the foodbank at Nome Community Center in Alaska, support the Youth with a donation for summer program and to Pastor's emergency fund.

Finally, we will use the proceeds for The United Methodist Women in Faith Pledge for Mission.

Thank You Again!

John Wesley United Women in Faith



SHORT STORIES FROM JW'S HOUSE

Hi, this is Bobby Woodward with a message about embracing the Trinity. A friend sent me an email some time ago that he was struggling with the concept of the Trinity (one God who exists as three distinct Persons — the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). He could pray to God the Father, but not to Jesus or the Holy Spirit. He also sent me scriptures that confused him. Here is a portion of my response:

Dear XXX,

My response to you is not going to be a theological one. I'm not going to attempt to directly answer any of the questions you pose with these scriptures. Instead I am going to share with you my own experience, strength and hope. I once attended a study called 'In Search of Historical Jesus'. The man teaching the course described himself as a 'recovering' Southern Baptist. The class was about half Catholic with the rest of us coming from various protestant denominations. The discussion that stands out in my mind happened one night because a participant wanted clarification about who (in the Trinity) we should pray to.

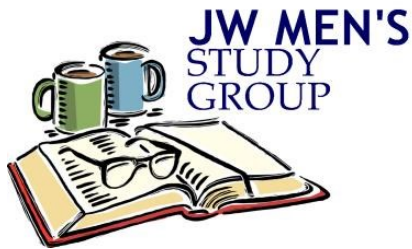
When it came to prayer, some people could pray to Jesus, but not to the Father or the Holy Spirit. Some people could pray to the Father, but not Jesus or the Holy Spirit. Some people felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, but could not pray to the Father or Jesus. At the time, I could pray with the Holy Spirit, but not Jesus or God the Father. I know this was because of my twelve step work with my higher power. My higher power is the Holy Spirit. This was intensely personal and hard for everyone in the room to open up and talk about – but we did it anyway. Regardless of where people were with this, there were things that we all had in common. Everyone felt guilt, shame, and embarrassment that they could not relate equally to all three forms of the Trinity. Everyone was also seeking to find God's truth for their lives.

This recovering Southern Baptist leader stood up and told us that it didn't matter which form of the Trinity we connect with in prayer because they are all parts of the same three in one God. He told us that we should keep praying to the form of the Holy Presence that made the most sense for us and to stay open to the possibility of someday having a close relationship with the other forms. I believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all three forms of God and I agree with the idea that it doesn't matter which representation of God we are most comfortable with in the moment. Keep seeking truth. Keep approaching God with a humbled heart and listening for His gentle whispers. Keep working on your own personal relationship with God.

Many Blessings,

Bobby

My friend now has the answers to his many questions as he has taken his place in eternity with God. As for my faith, it has matured to the point of being comfortable embracing and spending time with all three persons of the Trinity. All of that guilt, shame, and embarrassment has now faded away. I hold out to you: **Keep seeking to find God's truth for your lives.**



NEW STUDY

Anxious for Nothing - Finding Calm in a Chaotic World, 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,



JESUS CARES FOR YOU



Dear JWUMC Community,

First, thank you so much for your generosity in the last few months on our last trip to Forest Chapel, it took two cars to get everything over there! There were shoes, coats, scarves, jackets, and underwear. We received more women's clothing than men's.

Tuesday we took two stuffed boxes and one large plastic carry bag. We try to inspect everything before taking it over to be sure there are no tears or repairs needed. Thank you so much for your current donations of dresses, coats, spring jackets, underwear, and shirts. Again, we have gotten more women's clothes than men's clothing so if we could focus on men's items for now, that would be a blessing.

New call - for summer weight clothes. Please make sure that the items donated are washable and not dry clean only. Also, I'd suggest no women's shorts. I'm thinking that the women who need clothing are from a more conservative culture than here. We are still in desperate need of new packages of men's underwear size small and medium as well as men's pants in small and medium sizes.

Thank you so much for all of your help with this ministry!

Nikki Griffin



We need volunteers to keep the grass mowed during the spring, summer and fall. Andy Shreve and Dave Medkeff are the CMO'S (Chief Mowing Officers) and would appreciate your assistance. Dave and Andy can teach you how to operate the equipment and maybe promote you a CHO (Chief Helping Officer). A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Dunlap Hall.

Thank you for your cooperation in advance,

The Trustees

Devotions Along the Way

by Gary Ward



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

God knew all along that sin would infect God's creation. From the foundation of the world, God knew an ultimate remedy would be required – the sacrificial death of Jesus, God's only Son. Christ's finished work on calvary paid the price for our sins, and reconciled us to God.

But who among us has been sinless since accepting the gift of salvation by grace? Don't know about you, but I am a "recovering sinner," saved by grace. I'm guessing I'm not alone. Even the Apostle Paul confessed: ***I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.*** Romans 7: 22-25

Sin's infection remains within the human experience, even as we seek to live lives worthy of the high calling of our Lord. Christians aren't perfect, never have been, but we are forgiven. Christ died once for all and created a bottomless well of grace to deliver us from sin.

That is not to say we should intentionally give in to sin's temptation knowing grace is available. As forgiven people, our desire should be to live lives that reflect Jesus in all we do. But when sin does trip us up, don't give up on yourself – or God!

Max Lucado writes in Trade Your Cares for Calm, "What would the apostle (Paul) say to the guilt-laden person? Simply this: 'Rejoice in the Lord's mercy. Trust in his ability to forgive. Cast yourself upon the grace of Christ and Christ alone.' A happy saint is one who is, at the same time, aware of the severity of sin and the immensity of grace."

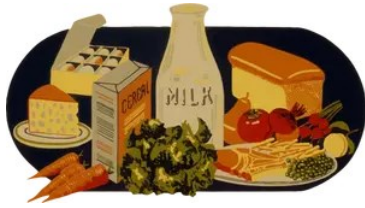
My grandfather was a minister of the Gospel for more than sixty years, and a wise man. He once taught his grandson a lesson about sin and temptation: "Gary, you can't stop the birds from flying around you head. But you can keep them from building a nest in your hair."

Here's to keeping "nests" out of our hair. But should you find one, grace is available.

Thanks be to God, who delivers us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Faithful
AND
Just





SHARING OUR BLESSINGS IN MAY COALITION MINISTRIES



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 meal the third Sunday of every month. Pastor Grace shared some lovely stories from those meals.

1. “One of our Shared Blessings friends celebrated his 80th birthday at the meal, joined by his wife and son. It was made special when the kitchen volunteers sang Happy Birthday to him and individually congratulated him. This family often contacts us for pastoral care and prayer.

2. We learned of a single mother who recently transitioned out of a shelter and didn't have enough food for a regular meal for her children. With the help of other friends, she got a ride to our pantry and was able to select food for a few days. One item she selected was powdered milk which we had on the shelf for a few months and wondered if anyone would ever want it. She was so happy when she saw the box and asked if she could 'really have it'. Something we think of as so simple, was a tremendous gift to her. Her thanks was given with tears.

Shared Blessings is not just a meal and the pantry. It is a time/place where people meet people and relationships take root and God's presence and love is ever present.”

Pleasant Run Presbyterian Church has offered their Practical Grace Non-Food Pantry for 10 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 May, 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 generosity supporting these wonderful ministries.



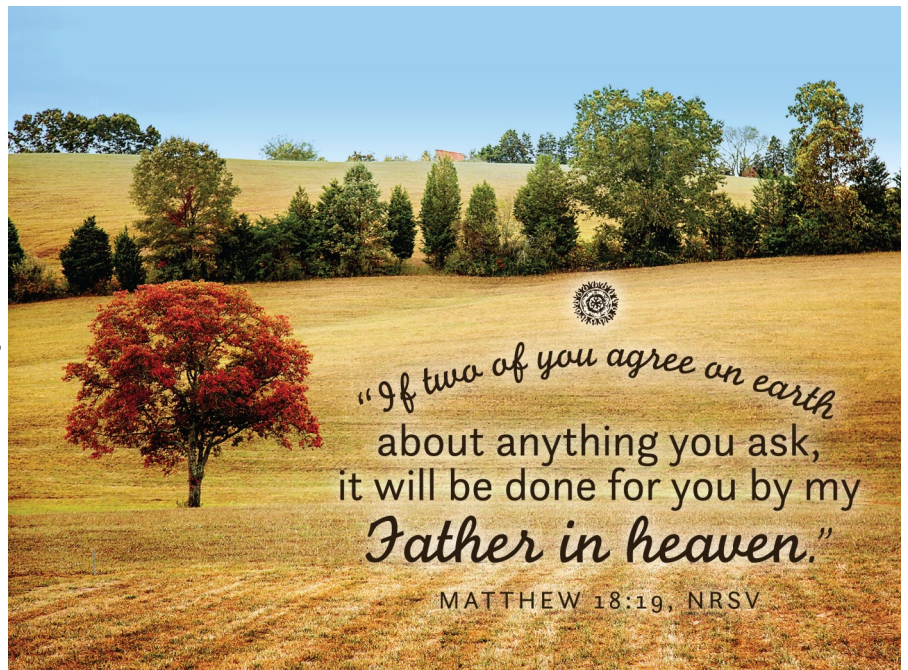
For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

When Stephen Ministers meet with a care receiver, they don't come alone. Stephen Ministers carry with them the promise Jesus made in Matthew 18:20: **For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

When a Stephen Minister listens, Jesus is there to listen. When a Stephen Minister offers words of understanding and compassion, Jesus is there to comfort and bless. Stephen Ministers learn early in their training; they are the care giver - Christ is the cure giver Who brings wholeness. It's through the presence and power of the risen Savior that burdens are lifted and wholeness is possible.

Won't you let one of our John Wesley Stephen Ministers walk with you during a difficult time in your life? Remember, they won't come alone.

Matthew 18:19 - Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.



Birthdays

- 4 Lu Anne Gerard
- 6 Reagan Kazy
- 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
- 27 Grace Thompson
- 28 Ben Clark, Turner Ruberg, Ethan Cameron
- 29 Ginny Miller
- 30 Barb Wetzel, Wendy Puccini



Anniversaries

- 1 Ken & Lu Anne Gerard
- 5 Gary & Angie Ward, Dan & Sharon Felix

