



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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Website: www.johnwesleychurch.com
E-mail address: info@jwumc.com

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship Services: 10:00 AM

Sunday School: Children—during service
Adults—various times

STAFF

Pastor Kalamba Kilumba
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Organist Sam Melson

Accompanist Tisha Patton

E.L.C. Admin. Melissa Fille
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messenger@jwumc.com.

August, 2022

Spiritual Journey Sermon Series – On the Journey

How many of us have been on some sort of journey?

A journey is travelling from one place to another, usually taking a rather long time. A journey has a starting point and eventually an end point. A journey is passage or progress from one stage to another. Many of us can say that spiritual life is a journey. Everyone goes from one stage of life to another! But sometimes we forget about how God is involved in our spiritual journey!

Friends, we are on a journey with Christ. Along the way on this journey, he will call us again and again into a deeper relationship and remind us that He is with us. We are called to a deeper knowledge, trust and love of the Lord. Throughout the month of August, the word of God will stretch us. At the same time, we will be challenged by following sacred texts and reminded that “All things are possible with God.”

You see, God knows our potential, and God is ever calling us to live into that potential. For as we walk with our Lord, and we learn from him.

Sunday, August 7th – The Scriptures tell us of the journey of a man named Elijah, who was a strong prophet of God. Elijah’s journey was not simply going from place to place but running to save his life. God made sure he remembered his spiritual walk and calling! 1 Kings 19:1-10, “Get up and eat”.

Sunday, August 14th – Three times in His commissioning of Joshua, God admonished him to have courage: necessary courage to complete the task of conquering the land and dividing it among the tribes, the courage required to keep the Law of Moses, disregarding all the pressures to compromise, and courage as the remedy for fear. Joshua 1:6-9, “Be strong and courageous.”

Continued on page 2

Sunday, August 21st – The Psalmist was traveling to Jerusalem to celebrate a religious feast. Devout Jews traveled to Jerusalem three times a year to keep the Lord's feasts. The journey took a few days. Like today, travel wasn't safe in the Middle East. The Psalmist was looking for help on his journey. Where would help come from? From the Lord. Psalm 121:1-2, "God is our helper".

Sunday, August 28th – Along the way on this journey, we will hear the Lord calling us, saying, "Follow me." What an exciting invitation to a way of life, to an adventure as we travel with our Lord to new and unknown places. John 10:1-5, "Jesus knows the way."



SHARING OUR BLESSINGS—AUGUST

Another new name to get used to! Interfaith Housing Network is now called FOUND HOUSE. Their ministry is still to provide temporary housing for homeless families while helping them find a permanent home with other supports. During the pandemic, they began using temporary housing in an extended-stay hotel. They are now starting to return to congregation-based overnight stays. A recent letter from the director shared the challenge of finding affordable housing at this time. She talked about the need for both volunteers and financial assistance. Our August collection will help financially. If anyone is interested in volunteering, call 513-471-1100. Their office is located at 990 Nassau St. in Cincinnati.

Two ways to SHARE OUR BLESSINGS:

On Communion Sunday (first Sunday of the month), put your offering in one of the baskets by the doors out of the sanctuary.

Any time during August, 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.

Thank you for your continued support of this very important ministry!



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR S.O.U.L. PANTRY

School supplies can be very expensive, especially for families with more than one child. Each year, S.O.U.L. helps client families with some of their needed school supplies, and John Wesley helps by donating those items. This year, they can use any items except 24 count crayons, pocket folders, or pencils. They already have enough of those. Any other items would be very welcome. Look for the grocery cart with signs saying School Supplies for S.O.U.L.

They will begin giving out school supplies on August 1 but we will continue collecting after that. Clients will continue to look for them throughout the month. Thank you for your help!!

Volunteer Opportunity at S.O.U.L.: Clients love to shop at our clothing ministry upstairs but, if there isn't a volunteer to staff it, they can't shop there. If you would be interested in being a regular, or a sub, call or email Cheryl for more information, 513-829-0936.

Festival of Sharing Hygiene Kits

This year we are focusing on Hygiene Kits because they are needed in every emergency situation.

They are due on Sunday, August 21st.

Each Hygiene Kit needs:

- One hand towel
- One washcloth
- One wide tooth comb (packaging removed)
- One fingernail or toenail clipper (packaging removed)
- One bath size bar of soap in its package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- 10 band aids
- \$2 for shipping
- Pack all items in a one-gallon Ziplock bag

Thank you for caring for others in their most stressful times.





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,

Christie



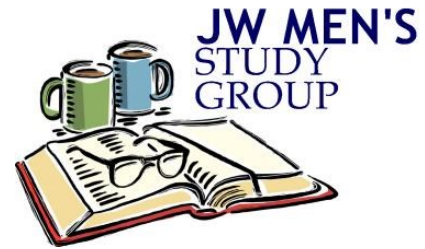


We're officially half way through our financial and calendar year, and we are doing well. Our income through June 30 is at 56% of our budgeted projections; some of this is due to many of our retired folks using their required RMD funds for their pledges, so those funds already contributed may represent their entire yearly giving. Our expenses stand at only 44% of our budgeted projections, but we do have several projects looming on our horizon that might cut into that excess of funds.

We have collected over \$18,000 to date for mission causes outside our walls, so we continue to follow our Vision of reaching, touching, and serving. Thank you letters we've received acknowledge how grateful so many of those we've touched are.

Our capital expenses so far this year include new lighting in Wesley Hall, a new HVAC system for the front of the building, and new computers for the offices as well since those were well beyond the life expectancy for technology. Our server is now up to date and can receive and install the updates to keep our records safe and running smoothly.

Ordinary income for June was \$36,848.57, and our ordinary expenses were \$37,839.55.



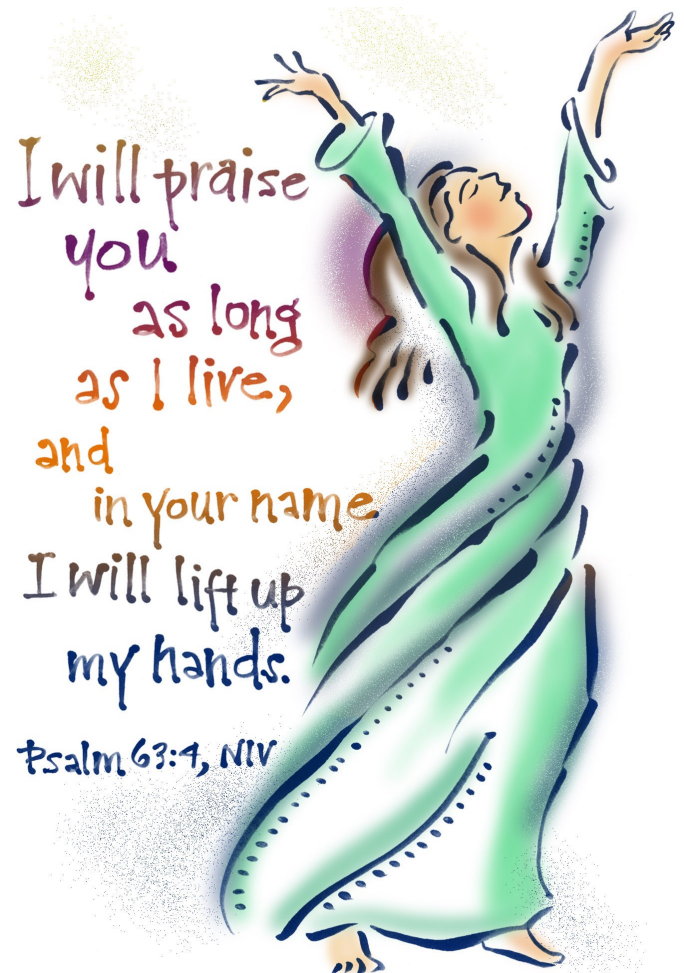
"Fearless—Imagine Your Life Without Fear" by Max Lucado

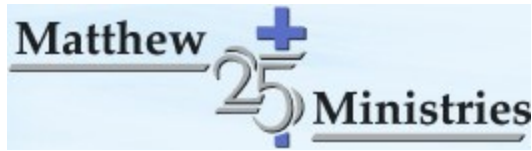
First Saturday of each month in Room 8.

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.





Matthew 25 Ministries is open again for volunteer work. We have been able to secure several time slots:

Saturday 8-13-2022 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Saturday 10-15-2022 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Saturday 11-12-2022 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

This is open to everyone in the congregation along with friends and family. This time around I am only doing direct sign up via email or phone (no sign-up sheet). If you are interested in volunteering please email Larissa Waldorf at waldorflarissa@gmail.com (home) or Larissa.waldorf@cinfin.com (work), or both, or call my cell phone 513-488-9169.

Matthew 25 Ministries has asked that I tell anyone who has not been there since June 2020 to go to their website and fill out a pre-registration form before their visit. Go to [Volunteer Registration - Matthew 25 Ministries | Matthew 25: Ministries \(m25m.org\)](https://m25m.org). Please note that they now have sign-in stations in the lobby, and if you haven't been there in a while you might need to take a few minutes to update your information. Then they will give you an ID card, which makes sign in much faster thereafter.

Please feel free to go to the Matthew 25 website, [Matthew 25: Ministries - HOME | Matthew 25: Ministries \(m25m.org\)](https://m25m.org) to review their current COVID-19 and general guidelines so that you know what to expect now-a-days! New to the organization is "Mrs. Yeaggy's Kitchen" which is Matthew 25: Ministries' newly remodeled full-service café, now open! Meals include a complimentary bottle of water and your choice of delicious entrée options. Visit [4.5.22 MYK2021 OnlineMenu PDF 8.5x11.pdf \(m25m.org\)](#) to view the menu online.



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. In the previous story about my family being homeless, I suggested that at 8 years old I was able to get myself into plenty of trouble.

Mom's Uncle Joe Z Tower was on the board of directors for Lakeview Methodist Assembly in the Texas Conference of the Methodist Church in 1962. He helped my folks get their temporary jobs that summer as well as a roof over our heads and food for our bodies. My sister, Marie Nannette Woodward, was old enough to attend church camp activities every week all summer long. Perhaps, Nan's experience that summer influenced her decision to become a teacher of young children. She later settled in the nearby town of Palestine, Texas working as an organist in the church and a teacher in the school.

As for me, I had great adventures exploring Lakeview each day. One of those adventures took place at the lake. One day, I decided to get into a boat that was tied to the end of the pier. It was kind of peaceful at first with the gentle swaying of the boat in the water. After a few minutes, I realized that the pier was getting further and further away. It was too late to do anything as the boat had already drifted beyond reach. I didn't exactly come prepared for this adventure as I had no oars, no life preserver, no food, and no water. One other little detail was that I didn't know how to swim... I felt all alone as it was pretty much just me and the clothes on my body.

Out in the middle of the lake, the only thing I had left was to pray that God would rescue me. After several hours of praying, I could see a boat coming towards me from another part of the lake. He had oars and was pulling an empty boat. When he got to me, he simply said "It's time to take the boats back, now!" I shook my head in agreement with him. This man was a lifeguard who lived in the cabin next to mine. Part of the lifeguard's job each day was to round up all the boats in the lake that were adrift or abandoned. Looking back, it feels like the story of Jesus rounding up the lost sheep.

There was a worn path around the lake. I could see the path from the middle of the lake, but I could not see how to get back onto the path without some help. God didn't make me step off the path. I did that on my own. I have wandered off God's path too many times into a wilderness, desert, or lake. In these situations, I felt lost, alone, turned around, and disoriented. This story illustrates that when I am not on God's path, I am vulnerable to harm. I got myself into trouble plenty of times that summer, but there was always someone from the camp to help guide me back on the path if I lost my way.

Even though it was hard in that moment, today I realize that I am a different person, a different kind of child of God as a result of that experience. God has a purpose and a plan for each of my steps, every day, and every place that he leads me. Faith in God means that I can be confident in every situation. The lamp at my feet will never go out. With God, I don't have to worry about not finding the path because His light endures forever. Imagine the possibilities when we trust in God and His plan rather than focusing on our own circumstances!

Devotions Along the Way

by Gary Ward



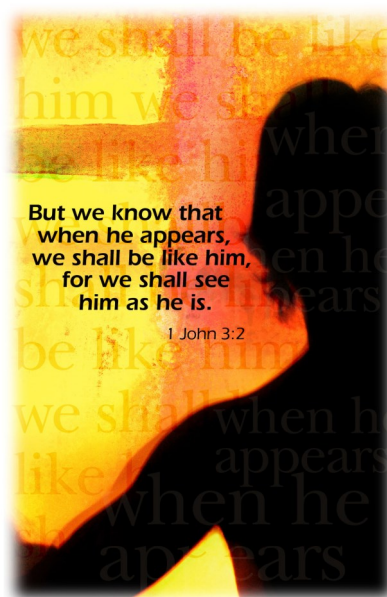
Dear friends, we are God's children now; and it has not yet been made clear what we will become. We do know that when he appears, we will be like him; because we will see him as he really is. 1 John 3:2 CJB

Between. It's an important word. It conveys location somewhere in the middle of left and right, or the middle of what has been and what is yet to be. As a congregation, that's where we are once again; *between* what we are and what we will become.

Our most recent "what has been" with Pastor RJ and Diana led us to a greater understanding of who we are: God's masterpieces- in progress; Disciples on the way to being Apostles. What we will become, beckons through the shepherding of Pastor Kalamba. We know what the finished product will look like because Jesus is our template, and "*when he appears, we will be like him.*" Perfection is not likely to be reached until He appears, but pressing toward that goal is what we are called to do.

I see exciting days ahead! Being that fifth Gospel, referenced in Pastor Kalamba's first sermon, means reaching out to those in John's neighborhood, inviting all to come and share this journey of grace, faith and hope. How do we do that? By having "open minds, open hearts and open doors," as a past UMC affirmation proclaimed. By offering our gifts, talents and time beyond those open doors as well as inside them. And by appreciating that the way to get from here to there is by following our roadmap: "***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.***"

The transformation of a congregation, a neighborhood and a world awaits...





Stephen Ministry is sometimes viewed as an option for only the most desperate of situations; a knot to hold at the end of one's rope. That's unfortunate because Stephen Ministry can help long before someone reaches that famous location. A much better metaphor is that of a "bridge." A Stephen Minister comes along during a difficult stretch in the road of life and serves as a connector to God's plans. *"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* (Jeremiah 29:11) They do this not through their own power, but through the power of Jesus Christ. By listening, caring, praying and encouraging, a Stephen Minister brings the healing love of Jesus to whatever situation you may be facing. Stephen Ministers are Christian caregivers who trust Jesus to bring wholeness to troubled lives.

Stephen Ministers are available here at John Wesley to walk with you down a difficult stretch of road. If you or someone you know would like more information about Stephen Ministry care, simply contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Gary Ward (gward@cinci.rr.com) or Susan DeNyse (sdenyse@me.com)

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Matt. 11:28



Birthdays

- 7 Darlene Cook, Amy Mackey**
- 8 Leslie Stoelting, Samantha Tabor, Zoe Gravitt**
- 9 Art Kuhn**
- 10 Stefanie Williams, Vi Riessinger**
- 12 Patrick Henebry, John Butts**
- 13 Lilly Duhaime**
- 14 Lynn Dixon**
- 15 Gilbert Koch, Bo Gravitt, Dale Martin**
- 19 Cheryl Borden**
- 23 Kevin Puccini**
- 24 Larissa Waldorf**
- 28 Gail Brannon, Ella Gravitt**
- 30 Bea Overgaard**



Anniversaries

- 1 Mike & Marilyn Shultz**
- 10 Tom & Kim Robertson**
- 11 Jim & Carolyn McCann**
- 12 Harold & Sue Ann Kraus**
- 15 Steve & JoAnn Faig**
- 16 Ray & Sue Bross**
- 17 Don & Lila Butts**
- 23 Mark & Donna Upton**
- 26 Bruce & Sandy Hayes**

