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 by reaching the individual, touching the community, and serving the world.

John Wesley
United Methodist Church
1927 West Kemper Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45240-1421
Phone: (513) 825-0733
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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
revkalamba@jwumc.com

Certified Lay Minister Dave Conaway
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Office Administrator Jen Spencer
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Organist Sam Melson

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Lessons from the Squirrels Preparing Today for Tomorrow's Season

As autumn arrives and the leaves begin to change, we are reminded of the beauty of God's creation and the changing seasons of life. Every season has a purpose, teaching us valuable lessons about preparation, patience, growth, and faith. As Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, *"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven"* (KJV).

One of the most fascinating sights of autumn is watching squirrels gather nuts and prepare their nests for the coming winter. They do not wait until the cold weather arrives before making preparations. Instead, they wisely use the time and resources available to them. As Christians, we can learn an important lesson from these small creatures: the time to prepare for tomorrow is today.

Just as the seasons change in nature, the seasons of our lives change as well. We experience times of joy and sorrow, abundance and need, growth and waiting. Each season gives us an opportunity to deepen our faith and strengthen our trust in God.

The squirrel's example reminds us to prepare today for tomorrow. We strengthen our spiritual lives through prayer, Bible study, worship, and fellowship before challenges arise. Jesus teaches in Matthew 7:24 that those who hear His words and put them into practice are like a wise man who built his house upon a rock. A strong spiritual foundation enables us to stand firm when the storms of life come.

We are also called to use each season wisely. God blesses us with opportunities, gifts, strength, and

resources so that we may serve Him and bless others. Let us not delay the good we can do today. Whether we are praying for someone, comforting a person in need, encouraging a fellow believer, or serving in our church, every act of kindness and faithfulness matters. Galatians 6:10 encourages us, "*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men*" (KJV).

Of course, not every season will be easy, and not every change will be comfortable. We may face uncertainty, disappointment, or questions about the future. Yet even when we do not understand our circumstances, we can trust the One who holds our future. While our situations may change, God's faithfulness never does.

For this reason, we must stay rooted in Christ. Just as strong roots help a tree withstand harsh weather, a firm foundation in God's Word sustains us through hardship and uncertainty. When life feels difficult, we can continue to pray, hold fast to His promises, and trust His wisdom and timing. Jeremiah 17:7 declares, "*Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is*" (KJV).

Pastor Kalamba

IT SEEMS EXTRA EARLY THIS YEAR. NOVEMBER 1 ENDS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME. SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK OR YOU'LL BE LATE TO SERVICE!!



Fall Back

Care Receiver Affirmations:

-At John Wesley United Methodist Church-

Stephen Ministry has been a huge help to me as I faced the daunting task of adjusting to widowhood, severe family illnesses, and decisions for my own future. Having a friend to hear me and pray with me eased the challenges and fears.

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I was going through a period in my life when I just needed someone to talk to, someone to guide me through an issue that was preventing me from having a closer relationship with Jesus. I was suffering with grief and loneliness and wasn't sure what direction my life should take. When I was told who my Stephen Minister would be, I thought, "How can I reveal what's going on in my life, what I need help working through, with this person? I don't even know her." But as it turned out, it was the best match I could have hoped for. Actually, it was better than anything I could have hoped for. God really knows what He's doing, doesn't He? I not only got to know her, I learned she was so compassionate, and so passionate about serving God and helping others, that we have formed a bond that has carried us past my issue and beyond.

If you are experiencing something in your life and you feel you have no one to talk to about it, I highly recommend a Stephen Minister.

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Imagine demands and stress being high and resources and abilities being low. You feel the turbulence of raging waters all around you, and you feel as if you are drowning. Then your Stephen Minister arrives, and the next thing you know, you're not drowning, you're floating, because they are holding your hand! You feel empowered by God's love and kindness through this caring and supportive human angel.

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I didn't see it coming. Why does this fall to me? I had worked and planned for some "me time." Anger felt good. Worry consumed my energy. I wasn't sleeping. My stress was toxic. A loved one who justifiably could no longer suffer my questions and complaints blurted out, "You need someone to talk to!"

Yes, I did. I apologized, and asked God for the courage to reach out for a Stephen Minister. God helped me make the call and set in motion a faith centered, confidential partnership. God through my Stephen Minister joined me on my journey.

Having someone to talk to lifted a burden and helped me concentrate on the things I could control and let go to God things out of my control. It is a blessing to have a friend in Christ. My Stephen Minister could not remove any of the heartbreaks but helped me see God working for the good.

I look forward to our coffee on the porch where we talk, pray, choke up and laugh. The experience is truly a gift from God.

If you are flaying about, worn out and worried like I was, ask God for the courage to reach out. God knows what we need. Feel his Love through a confidential, caring partner who is a Stephen Minister.

Forever grateful, a "not alone care receiver"

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My Stephen Minister: Prayer answered! I had been struggling for months with a very painful emotional experience. It was sapping my strength and my spirit. Sharing with friends was not helpful. I prayed constantly for God's guidance, and was led to ask for a Stephen Minister. She was God's answer! She listened with love as she walked along side me. She brought the Care; Christ brought the Cure. God works through Stephen Ministers.

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A Stephen Minister provides the care. Christ provides the cure. Asking for help is the first step in the healing process. Contact the Church office at: 513-825-0733 and ask to be put in touch with Pastor Kalamba or one of our Stephen Leaders (Gary Ward, Susan DeNyse, or Annie Anglin) to find out how Stephen Ministry can help.





Hanging of the Greens

November 28, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hanging of the Greens is November 28, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. till 12:00ish. There will be NO meal this year. (See the Fellowship Dinner announcement.) We will deck the halls of John Wesley in preparation of the Advent season. There will be some jobs that can be completed sitting down. Please join us for this fun, annual event.

November Fellowship Dinner

November 18, 2026

5:30-6:45 p.m.

The November Fellowship Dinner will be a chili cook-off this year. Please make your favorite chili recipe and bring it to share. There will be a vote to determine the best chili of 2026. Bowls will be provided, however, some folks like to bring their own muffin tins so they can have a little taste of everything. Not a chili maker—no problem! Bring your favorite dessert instead. Darlene and I hope to see you there! Kim



JWUMC NEEDS Your Help & THANK YOU Vickie Melson

JWUMC has been blessed by the long-term service of Marilyn Shultz as Treasurer and Tavane Cammarn as Recording Secretary. We hope they will continue to fill those roles for years to come as their expertise will truly be hard to replace.

Businesses always try to have a contingency plan for the unexpected. Marilyn and Tavane each have unique expertise. What would we do if either Marilyn or Tavane needed to take an extended break from their roles? Who could step in and help us get thru during an emergency?

Thank You Vickie: Vickie Melson has volunteered to back-up Marilyn. For the past several months, she and Marilyn have periodically met to familiarize her with what Marilyn does. She has agreed to step in if a need arose. She was NOT asked to make a commitment for anything more than that.

WHAT IS STILL NEEDED: *An individual is still needed to be a back-up for Tavane as Recording Secretary.* The primary role of that position is to accurately document contributions by individuals on a weekly basis and provide statements of giving four times per year. The work primarily involves data entry and spreadsheets in Microsoft Excel.

To be clear, this request to back-up Tavane is for blocks of your time to create familiarity when it can be conveniently scheduled. It is asking you to step in when, if ever, needed. It is NOT a commitment that you would become full-time in that role if a need arose

If you are interested in helping with the Recording Secretary back-up role, please talk to Tavane or Bruce Hayes, Finance Chair.



Being good stewards involves (as we've been reminded during the last many weeks with sermons, scriptures, testimonies, and videos) sharing our blessings with others outside our immediate circle of believers. As a congregation, we've shared generously with our actual "Sharing Our Blessings" offerings as well as other direct donations to causes beyond the walls of or building.

For the first nine months of this year, we've given over $2900 in Sharing Our Blessings offerings. You may remember that this giving began years ago when a retired pastor who'd been attending our fellowship challenged us one Sunday to think beyond ourselves and give some extra to share with those less fortunate than ourselves. He called this giving "Coins for the Poor," but we've since re-named the giving to reflect how our hearts are involved in blessing others and sharing with those who have needs from time to time.

We've shared those blessings with SOUL, Living Water Ministries, Found House Interfaith Ministries, Augsburg Lutheran Meals, and Resounding Joy. Letters of thanks we have from those ministries tell us how much appreciated our gifts have been.

Other mission giving for the first quarter of this year include UMCOR, the Freestore Foodbank, and the Festival of Sharing. Special collection Sundays resulted in giving to Native American ministries, and Peace with Justice, both ministries under the supervision of the United Methodist Church.

Our history of giving our monetary gifts to others is well-documented, and we've talked about those gifts often. Besides those gifts, though, are the many gifts our congregants share with various ministries outside our church with volunteer hours of working with or for those in need. We have heard about some of those opportunities to be good stewards and will hear of more as time moves forward. Your opportunities to become even better stewards are ever-increasing as we continue to learn and see new ways we can truly "share our blessings!"

YOUR GIVING MATTERS

Devotions Along the Way

By Gary Ward

Perhaps love is like a window-perhaps an open door
It invites you to come closer-It wants to show you more…
John Denver

The theme of JWUMC as a bridge leads to some obvious questions: A bridge to where? Why would someone be searching for a bridge? How would they find the bridge? Perhaps LOVE is the answer to each of these questions.

JWUMC is *a* bridge that leads to *the* Bridge – the transforming love and saving grace of Jesus Christ.

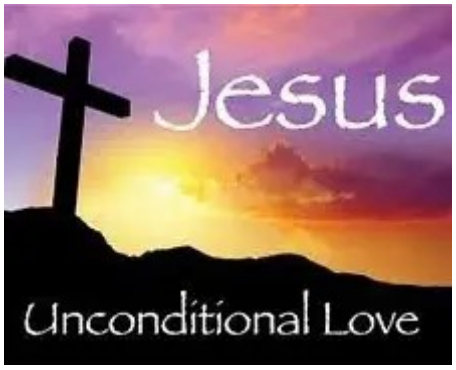
Just as in biblical times, Jesus today seeks *everyone*, including the outcasts, the misunderstood, and the rejected of society. We all seek love – though sometimes in the wrong places. Everyone needs a bridge that leads to Christ's unconditional, transforming love.

Searchers need to see our bridge first as a "window" and then "an open door", inviting them to come closer in order to show them more.

So, how can we be a window and an open door to those searching for such a bridge? By being the embodiment of Christ's unconditional love to *everyone* - without judgement, condescension, conditions, or exception.

Jesus, *the* Bridge, is our example.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12



The Bridge

The Story of a Searcher

By Gary Ward



Lost and alone, searched he with persistence

A pathway away from a worldly existence

Where glare of light and blare of sound outside abide,

But lasting fulfillment eludes within.

Many companions had he known, but none called “friend,”

So, none could he lean on when the world closed in

And none could he turn to to heal his soul, sick with sin,

Which hungered for a food as yet not found.

By chance - or was it - he walked to a hill

And there above it, in the distant break of morning’s soft light,

Felt strangely comforted in spite of his plight and his sorrow.

“Are you lost?” he heard a voice say.

He turned to a stranger, not ten feet away,

Who stood on the path that led past the hill and beyond,

He could see now, a chasm -

So wide the other side was but a glimmer in a sea of darkness.

“You startled me,” said he to the One who had found him.

“And yes, I am destressed while searching for a place I have yet to find.

But You seem kind, so perhaps You could tell me,

What lies beyond this valley whose light in the distance is calling?"

"It is my home, shared with many who, like you,

Were once lost and searching in a different direction, only to be found by Me.

So, you see, you are lost no longer, and no longer alone.

For I Am the Way and I will stay with you on your journey through the darkness."

"But how," said he, "can we travel so far beyond this hill and fulfil my desire to be In your home,

When I see no path to cross this vast divide that separates?"

"I made the journey on a bridge of wood and nails,

Now cared for by others who, like you, were searching for a new beginning.

This journey for you has now begun, though not the one you were thinking.

For you will return to your home before entering mine,

And there you will see Me again – in the eyes of those hungry for "food."

As you feed them, you will be fed.

You will see Me too in the hands of the dying, folded in prayer with only one care, That they will see Me, and seeing, believe that I Am.

Show them My face as they look upon yours.

Give them My hands when they reach out to you.

And holding them there in gentle embrace, together we will share the great grace That flows from the distant horizon.

At journey's end, return you will to this place by the hill

And searching for Me, I will find you.

I'll share with you then all the difference you made.

Then, together, we will cross the bridge you cared for.

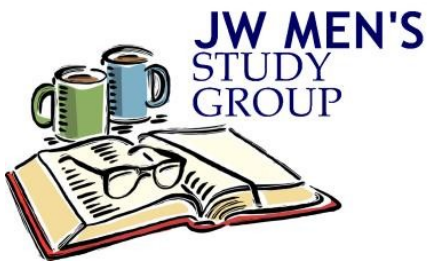
Matthew 25 Ministries Saturday Volunteer Opportunity

Our next chance to volunteer is Saturday November 21. We always ask for sit down work. The hours are now 11:30 AM to 1:30 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 cell phone 513-488-9169.

Please join us if you can!

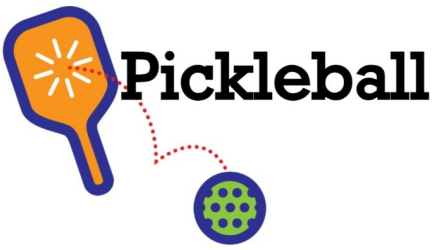




8 AM Unbreakable Courage - Strong Faith in an Age of Anxiety, Chaos, and Exhaustion by Max Lucado (Aug. 2026)

9 AM—Breakfast at Frisch's, Hamilton Avenue

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



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 9:00 to 11:00. You need to enter by the back Wesley Hall door, and ring the door bell if you do not have a fob. Contact LuAnne Gerard if you have questions.

News from Creative Needles



We are so blessed at John Wesley Church to have a wonderful group of women who are dedicated to making our altar area beautiful each Sunday. It really leads all of us to focus our hearts and minds on worship. Lila Butts designed and pieced together this beautiful new banner. Then Pat Kirk designed the Trinity symbol in the center, and she backed the quilt. Together they made this beautiful piece of art which will grace our sanctuary for years to come. Thanks so much to Lila and Pat as well as Karen Henebry and Susan DeNyse for decorating the altar area each Sunday in a way that enhances the theme for that day. These ladies also prepare the altar for communion the first Sunday of each month. We are all so grateful for all you do to enhance our worship service.



As a member of our Needles group, LuAnne Gerard has been working on two projects recently. The one on the left is a soft flannel bib. Several of our ladies have been sewing them at home for Sally Wessendorf to take to Children's Hospital.

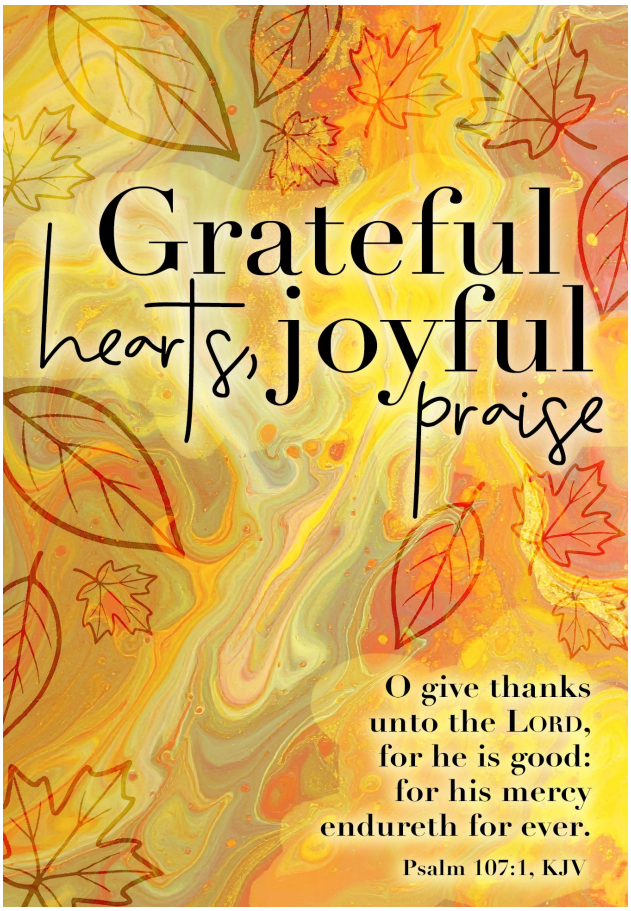
In class LuAnne is working on some beautiful red and white snowflakes on plastic canvas to be hung on her tree this holiday season.



There will be many volunteer positions available for this event. It is always so much fun. Those will be coming out shortly via the bulletin or the WOW.

Mark your calendars that set up time will start at 10 AM.

We are so blessed to be able to offer this event to our community.



JAVA CAFE NEWS

Thank you to our October Baristas: Darlene Cook, Donna and Mark Upton.

Welcome to our new Baristas for November: Nancy and Andy Shreve; Dave and Sue Conaway.

Every Sunday morning from 9:00-9:50 we serve excellent coffee with a variety of flavored creamers, yummy hot chocolate, variety of teas, and water.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!



SHARING OUR BLESSINGS IN NOVEMBER

For over 30 years, Found House IHN has provided a number of services to families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, mostly using overnight stays in churches. For folks in temporary housing, they operate a day center to provide child care and further assistance to the families.

One recent addition is called Rapid Re-Housing. Besides helping families find available housing, the program provides help with the initial deposit, rent and utilities for a limited time while families stabilize.

In addition to basic housing needs, they have many programs to help with special needs. One example is the Child Enrichment program to combat the negative effects of homelessness on children. To learn more about all their wonderful programs, check out their website: https://www.foundhouse.org

Three ways to SHARE OUR BLESSINGS:

1. On Communion Sunday (first Sunday of the month), put your offering in one of the baskets on the front pews.
2. Any time during November, bring cash or a check with Sharing/Found House on the memo line in an envelope marked the same way and put it in the offering plate.
3. You can also mail a donation to the church any time during November.

As we appreciate our homes, especially during the holiday season, we can feel good about helping provide this basic need for others.

SOUL PANTRY NEWS

Thank you for your donations of dental hygiene items.

The month of November we will be collecting Corn Masa for our SOUL clients. This product can be found in the baking aisle at the grocery stores. The Pantry has been completely out of this for several months. For our Hispanic clients this is a staple for their cooking. This would be a nice Thanksgiving surprise for our clients.



Thank you everyone for all that you do and contribute to those in need. It is so appreciative.

SHORT STORIES FROM JW'S HOUSE

Hi, this is Bobby Woodward with another personal family story. This story is from travel diary entries beginning August 9, 1923. The sections in quotes are from my Great-Great-Grandad, Reverend Charles Anthony Tower. He and his wife took seven days in their Model T Ford to get from Mineola, Texas to Lynchburg, Texas. As recent as 100 years ago, roads in the rural parts of the USA were more like wagon trails from previous generations.

JOURNEY TO SAN JACINTO BATTLEFIELD
August 9 (Thursday) – They drove 80 miles in Texas on US69 from Mineola to Alto in 9 hours. This same US69 in 2026 takes about 90 minutes (also a parallel toll road that is even faster). They spent several days camping in August heat.

August 10-12 – Friday, August 11, was his wife's 63rd birthday. It was also a Memorial Day for President Warren G. Harding who was buried on this same date in Marion, Ohio. [This was Harding's first temporary interment while his monument in Marion was being designed/built.] They drove west on TX21 for 8 miles in one hour to see some Indian Mounds and ruins. This same trip on TX21 in 2026 takes eight minutes. They returned to Alto for another night in the same campground. On Sunday, the local pastor in Alto, "had me preach morning and evening to his fine people in the fine doings of city airs. So, I did so to the best of my ability."

"August 13 (Monday) – Pulling up stakes this morning for a move in the direction of Daisetta, Texas in Liberty County where our youngest son, Rev. Joe Z Tower, is preacher in charge of the Methodist Church. [Local storeowner Newt Farris named the town by combining the names of Daisy Barrett and Etta White. Daisetta was founded in the wake of the development of the nearby Hull Oilfield in 1918 by Republic Production Company. The Hull Oilfield was discovered around 1908 by the Sun Oil Company when a salt dome was identified and explored in the area.] This day we drove through Nacogdoches, Lufkin, Diboll, Corrigan, Moscow, and Livingston. From Livingston, we drove some six and a half miles on the Liberty Road to a beautiful grove in front of the home of one J. T. Turner, a good old Methodist who let us have water and sold us a chicken [for supper as we set up camp. I suspect the chicken was alive… gave the neck a quick jerk, plucked the feathers out, and cooked it on their campfire.] Here we encounter the first hogs and some few ticks. We have a fine cool night and good rest." [To be continued.]



Recurring Monthly Meetings

Boy Scouts - Every Monday @ 7:00 PM - Youth Rooms
Girl Scouts—Every Monday @ 6:30 PM—Library
Missions - First Monday @ 1:30 PM - Rm. 8
C3* - First Monday @ 7:00 PM - Rm. 8
Creative Needles - Every Tuesday @ 9:30 AM—Library
Finance - First Tuesday @ 7:00 PM - Rm. 9
UWF - First Wednesday @ 10:00 AM - Rm. 9
Handbells Practice - Every Wednesday @ 6:30 PM - Rm 7
Choir Practice - Every Wednesday @ 7:30 PM - Sanctuary
JW Mens Group - First Saturday @ 8:00 AM - Rm. 8
Wednesday Wizards Fix-It Group - Every Wednesday @10AM
Stephen Ministry - 2nd and 4th Sundays @ 6:30 PM Rms. 11/12
Staff/Parish Team - Second Tuesday @ 7:00 PM - Rm. 8
Trustees* - Second Thursday @ 6:30 PM - Room 8
Church Council - Third Tuesday @ 7:30 PM - Rm. 8
Hospitality* - Fourth Tuesday @ 7:00 PM - Rm. 8
Pickleball - Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 4:00 PM & Saturdays @ 9:00 AM - Gym
Shirts & Skirts—Second and Fourth Saturday @6-10—Gym
Shirts & Skirts Lessons—Tuesdays, 7:00 to 9:00—Gym
TOPS—Saturday at 10:00 AM—Rm 8

***Meetings Vary - Check with Teams Leaders or Church Office**

Room Use and Calendar Update

If you have any questions about meetings, scheduling, or room use, please always direct them to **Tavane Cammarn, Tavane@jwumc.com, 513-633-6655**. 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.

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.



Birthdays

02 Ken Gerard
03 Chris Berry, Sandy Sanders
05 Chris Denterlein
06 Chris Starr
09 Kathy Smith
11 Eric Gerard, Kevin Schuler
13 Chris Fouse, Linda Osterhaus
17 Ben Eddy
18 Vickie Melson
20 Susan DeNyse
24 Tim Bates
25 Peggy Schmidt, Harry Schmidt
26 Donna Upton
27 Annie Anglin



Anniversaries

11 Ken and Anna Schuler
16 Phil and Karen Henebry
22 Art and Judy Kuhn
24 Dave and Sue Conaway
24 Dave and Larissa Waldorf
27 Bert and Brenda Cameron

