

March 2023



**Our Vision statement:**

*Learn God's word, Teach  
God's word and  
Share God's love*

**Our Mission Statement:**

*Wesley United Methodist  
Church is a community of  
Christ's disciples who strive to know, love and serve God  
more faithfully through Christ-centered worship,  
education, fellowship and true compassion that show  
God's love for all people in the name of Jesus Christ.*

**Office: 235-3070**

**Pastor Chuck Emery**

## Notes from the Pastor

At his Last Supper, Jesus gave us an action, a sacred, communal ritual, a meal that would summarize his core and lasting message for the world—one to keep repeating until his return. It's significant that the meal and the metaphor are based in the physical elements of daily life. Good stuff, and yet it has always been a scandal to overly spiritual people, starting at the very beginning: "This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?" (John 6:60).

The Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving," has four main aspects. In our conscious participation, we become more like Jesus. Which is why John Wesley recommended receiving Holy Communion every day!

First, we take our whole lives in our hands, as Jesus did. In very physical language, regular bread is daringly called "my body" and table wine is called "my blood." We are saying "yes" to both the physical universe itself and the suffering of our own lives and all the world. Second, we thank God, who is the Creator of that life and who allows and uses even death. We are choosing gratitude, and appreciation for the One which has the power to radically transform us. Our lives and deaths are pure gift, and must be given away in trust, just as they were given to us as a gift.

Third, we break it. We don't need to protect ourselves. The sharing of our small self will be the discovery of our true self in God. "Unless the

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Dates to Remember

Wednesday, March 1  
**Missions**  
2 p.m.

Sunday, March 23  
Boy Scout Breakfast  
8:30 a.m.

Monday, March 13  
**Trustees**  
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 14  
**Education**  
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21  
**Church Council**  
6:30 p.m.

Online Services still available to view on Facebook and YouTube. See page 4 for instructions on how to subscribe to the Wesley YouTube channel.

(Continued from page 1)

single grain of wheat dies, it remains just a grain of wheat” (John 12:24); the crushed grain becomes the broken bread, the whole and newly connected “Body of Christ.”

Finally, we chew on this mystery! This truth is known by participation and practice, not by more thinking or discussing. “Take this,” “eat and drink this”—not alone, but together, “until I return.” There we have the heart of the message, a “new covenant” of love that is not grounded in our worthiness but merely in our willingness to participate and trust. Eucharist is a risky and demanding act of gratitude for, solidarity with, and responsibility to the work of God—much more than a reward for good behavior “it is food for the hungry not a prize for the perfect.”



### BIRTHDAYS

1	Mark Fournier	15	Margaret Mortenson
2	Noah Adelmeyer	17	Dennis Monroe Tracy Roe
5	Ted Eckstein	19	Margaret Kurtz
8	Beverly Heisler	22	Linda Fournier
9	Scott Witzke	24	Gloria Smith
10	Janis Emery Kyle Fournier	31	Zachary Brickham
14	Velma Sowers		



**Daylight Savings  
Time**

**Begins at 2 a.m. on**

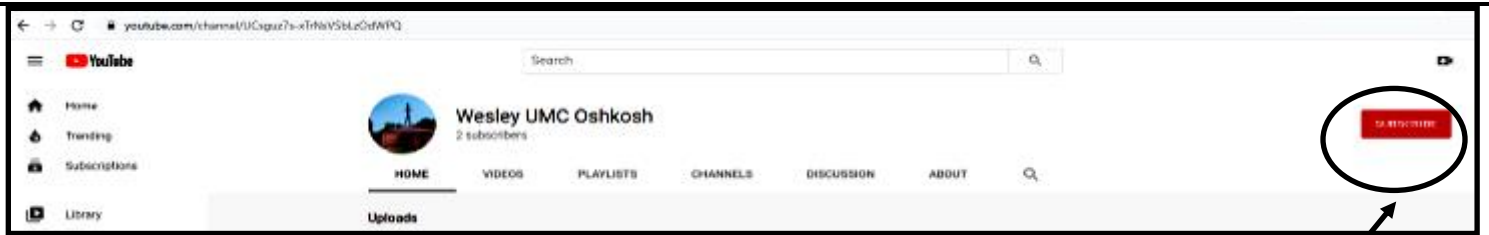
**Sunday**

**March 12, 2023**

### Newsletter Sponsorship

The sponsor for the March newsletter is Wally Dies. Please consider being a sponsor for the April—December 2023 newsletters. Your contribution helps defray part of the cost of the publication and is an extra gift of support to our expenses. Please contact the church office (235-3070) to ‘reserve’ your chosen month for 2023.





1. Open **YouTube.com**
2. Click the Search button
3. Key **Wesley UMC Oshkosh**



wesley umc oshkosh|

4. Press **Enter**
5. Click the **SUBSCRIBE** button when you first view this YouTube site.



## UMC CORNER

### Sunday, March 19, is UMCOR Sunday

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church. It operates under the guidance of the General Board of Global Ministries. UMCOR works to provide relief and long-term recovery assistance when a disastrous event overwhelms a community's ability to recover on their own, whether it occurs nationally or internationally. UMCOR has been rebuilding hope for nearly 80 years. (Read more about the work of UMCOR in the Mission of the Month article in this newsletter.)

UMCOR Sunday is the special Sunday of the United Methodist Church when all gifts marked "UMCOR Sunday" go to pay for the administrative and operating costs (the costs of doing business) of UMCOR. This ensures that UMCOR is able to keep its promise that 100% of other designated gifts goes to the specific project you have chosen to support.

On Sunday, March 19, a special envelope will be included with your bulletin. It will be marked UMCOR Sunday. Your generous gift will help UMCOR continue its great work in helping communities and individuals recover from earthquakes, storms, fires, wars, and other devastating events. If you want to give and don't have access to an envelope, just be sure to mark your donation UMCOR Sunday and our financial team will get it to the right place.



UMCOR, which stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief, will be our mission focus for the month of March. UMCOR is the humanitarian relief agency of the United Methodist Church and operates under the guidance of the General Board of Global Ministries. It is the committee that takes action when disaster strikes around the globe. It is often said that UMCOR is the first to arrive on the scene of a disaster and the last to leave. Currently UMCOR is involved in relief efforts after the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. It is also providing aid and assistance to the people in war torn areas of Ukraine, as well as help to those who have fled to surrounding countries. UMCOR teams are also at work in areas around the United States that have been devastated by floods, fires, and storms. These are only a few of the areas where UMCOR is actively acting as the hands and feet of Christ's church, helping people in their darkest days. 100% of the monies donated to UMCOR projects goes directly to that relief effort. None goes to administrative expenses.

This is possible because on Sunday, March 19, we will be observing UMCOR Sunday, formerly known as "One Great Hour of Sharing." Money given for this Sunday will go directly to cover the operating budget of UMCOR. This allows UMCOR to funnel 100% of other donations throughout the year to the specified relief projects. When making a donation, please designate whether you are supporting a specific project or the UMCOR Sunday effort. This will help our financial people make sure the money goes where you want it to go.

To learn more about UMCOR visit: [www.umgiving.org/UMCOR](http://www.umgiving.org/UMCOR)

### **Are you interested in MASA?**

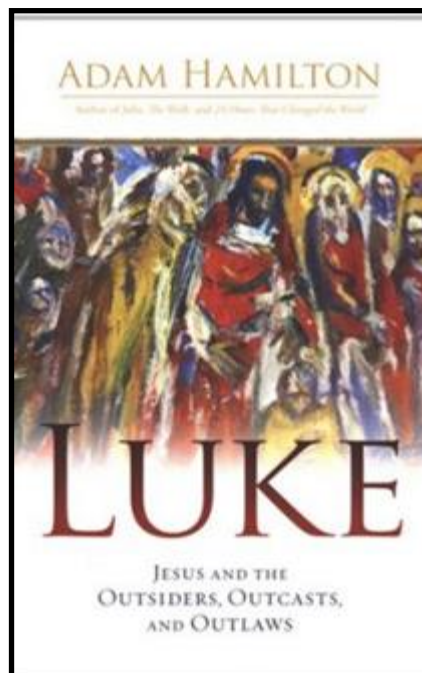
MASA invites anyone at Wesley who is interested in learning more about MASA, anyone who has helped with a MASA event, or anyone curious about MASA to come to the MASA Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 5 pm. The dinner will be at 222 Church Street, here in Oshkosh at Calvary SonRise Church. The speaker will be Nate Gordon. If you want a glimpse of Nate's ministry as a mission aviator, you can take a look at his recently published book, [Airborne at the End of the Earth](#).

Give your reservation to Shirley Hiland or Vernita Green. Looking forward to seeing you.

Mission Team

## **LENTEN STUDY**

The Education Committee is happy to announce that we are having a Lenten study again this year. It is a study on the book of Luke and is a 6-week course that began on Sunday, February 19, and will finish on Sunday, March 26 (the Sunday before Palm Sunday). Each class begins with a 10-15 minute DVD recounting a chapter in Adam Hamilton's book "Luke: Jesus and The Outsiders, Outcasts & Outlaws" with a discussion to follow. Even if you haven't read the chapter for that week, the DVD will provide enough information that you would be able to easily participate in the discussion. Through Luke's stories, we will find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. We'll meet the ordinary, even unexpected, people who Jesus chose to be his friends and do his work—people who aren't perfect, may be struggling, and don't yet have their acts together—people just like us. Reminding us that Jesus loves us, whoever we are. Books are 155 pages long and cost about \$15.00 depending on what site you order from. Donna LaPoint will lead the class. Classes will be offered on Sunday mornings in Sunday School Room #8 following worship service. The current adult class meeting at this time has agreed to take a short hiatus so they will be able to attend the Lenten Study. All are welcome, attend as you are able—no prep needed.





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# Looking Towards Easter



## Easter Flowers

This Easter we will not be ordering flowers for the sanctuary. Instead, we'd like to ask our congregation to bring potted plants, labeled with your name, in by Good Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>. Plants can be taken home after the Easter service.

Let's make the sanctuary look beautiful this Easter!





## Easter Services & Events

Breakfast *Served by Boy Scouts* March 12<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30  
Palm Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> Easter Breakfast @ 8:30 AM  
Maundy Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM  
Good Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM at Wesley  
Easter April 9<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM \*no sunrise service



# March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2 p.m. Missions 5:30 p.m. MA	2 10:30 a.m. "Christian Believer" Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	3	4
5 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon. Lenten Study	6 5:30 p.m. MA	7 10 a.m. TOPS	8 5:30 p.m. MA	9 10:30 a.m. "Christian Believer" Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	10	11 
12 8:30 a.m. Boy Scout Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lenten Study	13 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Trustees	14 10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 Education Committee	15 5:30 p.m. MA	16 10:30 a.m. "Christian Believer" Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	17 	18
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b>						
19 9:30 a.m. UMCOR Service Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lenten Study	20 5:30 p.m. MA <b>First Day of Spring</b>	21 10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 Church Council	22 5:30 p.m. MA	23 10:30 a.m. "Christian Believer" Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lenten Study	27 5:30 p.m. MA	28 10 a.m. TOPS	29 5:30 p.m. MA	30 10:30 a.m. "Christian Believer" Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	31	MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly

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**Change Service Requested**

**March**



*The Wesleyan Connection is  
published monthly for the  
members and friends of Wesley  
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