

March 2026



**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

We have begun our Lenten journey. Lent is often referred to as a 40 day trip into the "wilderness" with Jesus. It is important to create a map for yourself so that you arrive at the place you are called to be when we get to Holy Week.

Jesus was driven into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit so that he could discover what it meant for him to be the Son of God. Each of us in our baptism is named a child of God, and so as with Jesus we need to understand what we are called to be in this moment. So our journey is a spiritual one of discovery, transformation, and renewal.

Identity is the focus of the Tempter in the scene of Jesus' temptation. "If you are the Son of God," Satan begins. In other words, "How do you know you are God's Son?" Hence the core of the temptation: "Wouldn't it be better to know for certain? Turn stone to bread, jump from the Temple, worship me....and you will never know doubt again. You will know. You will be sufficient on your own." The temptation is the same, but Jesus responds by refusing to establish his own work and identity on his own terms but instead remains dependent on God. Jesus knows who he is, that is, by remembering whose he is.

Might it be that a part of being human is being aware that we are insufficient that we are not complete

in and of ourselves, that lack is a permanent part of our condition? To be human, in other words, is to be aware that we carry inside ourselves a hole, an emptiness that we will always be restless to fill. Today we might imagine that hole to be shaped just like a new car, or computer, or better house, or the perfect spouse.

But after laboring and sacrificing and obtaining these things, the emptiness remains. Blaise Pascal once described this essential condition of humanity as having a "God-shaped hole," and this is what Jesus demonstrates. There is no filling of that gap, no permanent erasing the hole, except in and through our relationship with God. Or, as St. Augustine said, we humans are always restless.

Yet that, also isn't quite the full picture. To be Christian is not to have that hole, that need, that awareness of finitude erased once and for all. Rather, to be human is to accept that we are, finally, created for relationship with God and with each other. Perhaps the goal of the life of faith isn't to escape limitation but to discover God amid our needs and learn, with Paul, that God's grace is sufficient for us.

Perhaps faith, that is, doesn't do away with the hardship that are part and parcel of this life, but rather gives us the courage to stand amid them, not simply surviving but actually flourishing in and through Jesus, the

**Dates  
to  
Remember**

**Tuesday, March 10**

**Education**

6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 11**

**Missions**

1:00 p.m.

**Sunday, March 15**

**Pat Witzke 90th Birthday  
Celebration**

**Tuesday, March 17**

**Church Council**

6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 18**

**Happy Elders**

11:30 a.m.

**Worship**

1:30 p.m.

(Continued from page 1)

one who was tempted as we are and thereby knows our struggles first hand. This same Jesus now invites us to find both hope and courage in the God who named not only him, but all of us, beloved children so that we, also, might discover who we are by recalling those we are.



### BIRTHDAYS

1	Mark Fournier	15	Margaret Mortenson Susan Davies
2	Noah Adelmeyer Ben Stein	17	Tracy Roe
7	Gregory King	19	Margaret Kurtz
8	Beverly Heisler	20	Margaret* Mains
9	Scott Witzke	22	Linda Fournier
10	Janis Emery Kyle Fournier	24	Gloria Smith
14	Dale Lager	28	Hadley Rens



Daylight Savings Time  
Begins at 2 a.m. on  
Sunday  
**March 8, 2026**

**First Day  
of  
Spring  
Thursday  
March 20, 2026**



## Education News—Heifer International



Dear Sunday School Parents/Grandparents:

We are excited to announce that the children's Sunday school offering from January until the end of March will be used to purchase at least one flock of chicks through Heifer International.

Heifer International has been around for more than 80 years working with people all around the world to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth.

We are asking for the parents/grandparents help to get the children excited about this project by finding small chores around the house that the children can do to earn money to put in their weekly offering. Ideas: taking out garbage, unloading the dishwasher, sweeping, folding laundry, etc. Let's help the kids participate in this important mission project.

Let's see how many flocks of chicks we can purchase.

Thank you,

Wesley Education Committee



## Vacation Bible School 2026

Warmer days are ahead and Vacation Bible School will soon be here! Camp ELM Tree (Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist), an ecumenical partnership started in 2023, hosts VBS at member churches each summer. Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church will be hosting this year.

**When:** Monday, July 27—Thursday, July 30

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. (Dinner Included!)

**Ages:** 3 & potty trained through 5th grade

UMCOR, which stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief, will be our mission focus for the month of March. UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development 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. In 2025 UMCOR responds to 30 floods, 11 tropical storms, 5 fires, 6 tornadoes, 29 migration events, 3 landslides, 5 earthquakes, 7 conflict/civil unrest, 3 public health emergencies, and 16 other kinds of disasters. In all of these instances UMCOR acted 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 the relief efforts. None goes to administrative expenses.

This is possible because on Sunday, March 15, 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 their relief projects. When making a donation, please designate whether you are supporting UMCOR relief projects 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: [umcmmission.org/umcor](http://umcmmission.org/umcor). UMCOR also has an active Facebook page which gives up-to-date information on all their current projects.



### *Easter Flowers*

We are looking for individual's to bring spring flower arrangements for Easter Sunday to be placed in the Sanctuary. If you would like to donate a spring flower arrangement, please place them in the church kitchen by April 2nd.



## Newsletter Sponsorship

Sue Davies is the sponsor for the March 2026 newsletter. Please consider being a sponsor for the May—June, November or December 2026 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 2026.

## Lenten Book Study Wednesday Nights

Jesus For Everyone—Not Just Christians by Amy Jill Levine. It can be purchased on Amazon for \$11.49. Figuratively speaking we'll be meeting Jesus in His time and ours on subjects of Economics-Chapter 1, Wednesday, February 4th, Enslavement-Chapter 2, Wednesday, February 11th, No Class Ash Wednesday, February 18th, Ethnicity and Race-Chapter 3, Wednesday, February 25th, No Class Wednesday, March 4th, Healthcare-Chapter 4, Wednesday, March 11th, Family Values-Chapter 5, Wednesday, March 18th and Politics-Chapter 6, Wednesday March 25th. If any of the text found in the Bible were to mean only one thing, preachers and biblical studies professors would need to find another career. We will look at what a biblical text might've meant to an early century Jewish audience, a gospel reader and what it means to readers today.

The book study started on February 4th. We meet on Wednesday's at 5:15 p.m. Please read the chapter before class. There is a synopsis for each chapter found in the introduction part of the book. Each chapter has a separate topic, so you can drop in for any or all of study sessions. I will provide a soup supper for the first class and would appreciate volunteers to sign-up to bring their favorite soup for the remaining classes. The sign-up sheet will be available the first night of class. The class will not meet on Ash Wednesday, February 18th and also there will not be class on Wednesday, March 4th. The last class will be on Wednesday, March 25th which is Wednesday before Palm Sunday, March 29th.

The pastor at First United Methodist is organizing a meet and greet with this author April 21st and April 22nd for the three Methodist churches in town. First United Methodist church is looking for help serving and donating baked goods/refreshments for one or both of these days. After studying this book, we can look forward to meeting the author!

Please let me know if you are interested in attending this study and/or can help with serving & refreshments at the meet & greet at First United Methodist

Donna LaPoint, Lay Speaker  
920-233-2819

## Pat Witzke's 90th Birthday Celebration

Please join us on March 15th after the church service to celebrate Pat Witzke's 90th birthday. We will be serving cake and punch.



## Ingathering Kits for May Collection. Shop the sales!

Ingathering Mission of the Month is not until May. However, it has been pointed out to us that if the list was published earlier, we as Wesley members and friends could watch for sales. So we can all start looking now! We have found a free source of 5 gallon pails with lids. Do not buy.

### Personal Dignity Kit Supplies (Place in 1-Gallon Resealable Bag)

- 1 Hand Towel (no kitchen towels)
- 1 Washcloth (no dishcloths)
- 1 Bar Soap (3-4 oz)
- 1 Shampoo (12-19 oz, tape top)
- 1 Deodorant (2-3 oz, stick/roll-on/pump, tape top)
- 1 Lotion (8-10 oz, tap top if unsealed, no pumps)
- 1 Adult Toothbrush (no multi-packs)
- 1 One-Gallon Resealable Plastic Bag (items go inside)
- \$2 Donation (for toothpaste & carrying bag, added by Midwest Mission)

### Home Care Kit Supplies

Items should be placed in a 5 gallon bucket.

- 1 Bucket: 1 five-gallon bucket with a resealable lid. Free buckets found.
- 1 Liquid Household Cleaner: 58-80 oz total (no spray bottles)
- 1 Dish Soap: 42-64 oz total
- 1 Liquid Laundry Detergent: 100-150 oz. total
- 1 Scrub Brush: 1 brush (with or without handle)



## United Methodist Circuit Rider Quiz

- 1. Who were the original Methodist circuit riders?**
  - Men who promised never to marry so they could travel a lot
  - Electricians who drove trucks and fixed computer circuit boards
  - Itinerant preachers who traveled a specific route preaching the gospel
  - Horseback riders who performed a traveling circus
- 2. The first female Methodist circuit rider was:**
  - Rose Dawson
  - Betsy Ross
  - Helenor Alter Davisson
  - Annie Oakley
- 3. What does it mean to be an itinerant preacher?**
  - You are a preacher-in-training
  - You are a substitute teacher
  - You are a temporary preacher interviewing for a job
  - You are willing to accept whatever assignment your bishop gives you
- 4. What is the definition of a preaching circuit?**
  - A meandering trip through the wild frontier without regular stops
  - A specific geographic route to new or established congregations
  - A 5-mile circular path between 2-3 churches
  - An electrical path through which electrons flow
- 5. On a typical ride once around the circuit, the rider traveled.....**
  - 10-20 miles
  - 50-100 miles
  - 100-200 miles
  - 200-500 miles
- 6. What were the most treasured items in a circuit rider's saddle bag?**
  - Food for the journey
  - Water to brush teeth
  - Books to read and sell
  - An iPad for daily news
- 7. The circuit rider Peter Cartwright was known as....**
  - A charismatic preacher who inspired hundreds at camp meetings
  - A baptizer of more than 8,000 people and 10,000 new members
  - An Illinois legislator who was once elected over Abraham Lincoln
  - All of the above
- 8. Pastors in Zimbabwe in the 1970s didn't have horses, so they rode circuits on....**
  - Wagons pulled by burros
  - Zebra
  - Elephants
  - Bicycles
- 9. The preacher who rode 265,000 miles on horseback and helped grow Methodism in America was:**
  - Francis Asbury
  - Charles Wesley
  - Thomas Coke
  - Thomas Jefferson
- 10. John Wesley believed that preachers who moved from place to place were more effective.**
  - True
  - False

# MOSAIC Covenant

Your participation in the work of the Mosaic Covenant in Wisconsin will bring such a delight to the hearts and souls of those who are in need of God's promise.

## How to Become a Mosaic Covenant Missions Church

1. Make a commitment to pay 100% of your apportionments
2. Select Projects or Missionaries to support in each color band of the Rainbow Covenant.

**Red:** Local Mission

**Orange:** Special Sundays

**Yellow:** Conference Projects

**Green:** National Advance Projects

**Blue:** International Advance Projects

**Violet:** In Mission Together/Bolivia Partnership

**Burgundy:** Missionary Support

## Wisconsin Mosaic Covenant 2025

Wesley United Methodist Church  
761 Florida Avenue  
Oshkosh, WI 54902 920-235-3070

North East District  
100% Apportionment Giving

### Special Sundays

Fund 1005 Human Relations Sunday  
Fund 1015 UMCOR Sunday  
Fund 1025 Native American Sunday  
Fund 1035 Peace with Justice Sunday  
Fund 1045 World Communion Sunday  
Fund 1055 UM Student Sunday

### Local Mission

Ecumenical Food Pantry  
MASA Housing for 4 missionaries for 6 days + supper for 235 people  
Salvation Army  
    Salvation Army Red Kettle at Wesley  
    Christmas Store at Salvation Army  
Public School Volunteers—several  
Habitat for Humanity: Restore One Volunteer  
Teachers Closet—donations  
Boys and Girls Club  
Oshkosh Humane Society  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace

### Conference Projects

Ingathering for Midwest Mission 5 plastic sleeping mats: 6 mat makers  
Ingathering kits 33 hygiene kits, 4 cleaning buckets  
Hosted NE District drop off site for Midwest Mission (Ingathering) no takers  
VIM—Lake Lucerne—3 people  
Bolivia Partnership  
Rooted and Rising

### National

#5710 Red Bird Mission  
Wounded Warriors—stamps (2 hours of preparation)

### International

Jabez School, Liberia  
UMCOR  
Patricia Marques  
MASA (Proclaim Mission) Speaker

**In Mission Together:** Liberia, Jabez Elementary and Junior High School, WUMC member on us BD 75 hours

**United Methodist Covenant Missionary Project:** Temba

**Apportionments:** 2025 Paid in Full



# March 2026

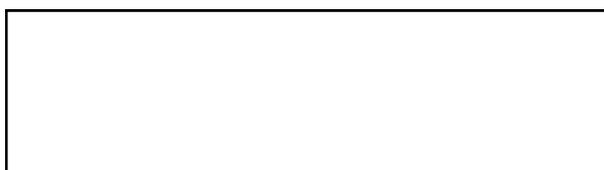


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
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<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study <b>Pat Witzke's 90th Birthday Celebration</b>	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 Church Council	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 Happy Elders 1:30 p.m. Worship 5:15 p.m. Lenten Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
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<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making		MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly MG = Morning Glory Singers CC = Chancel Choir		

Wesley United Methodist Church  
761 Florida Avenue  
Oshkosh, WI 54902-6549  
(920) 235-3070

**Change Service Requested**

**March**



*The Wesleyan Connection is  
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members and friends of Wesley  
United Methodist Church,  
761 Florida Avenue,  
Oshkosh, WI 54902-6549*

*Charles Emery, Pastor  
Church Phone: 920-235-3070*

*Email:  
wesleyumc761@yahoo.com*

*Church Web:  
www.umcwesley.com*

*Facebook:  
Wesley United Methodist  
Church*