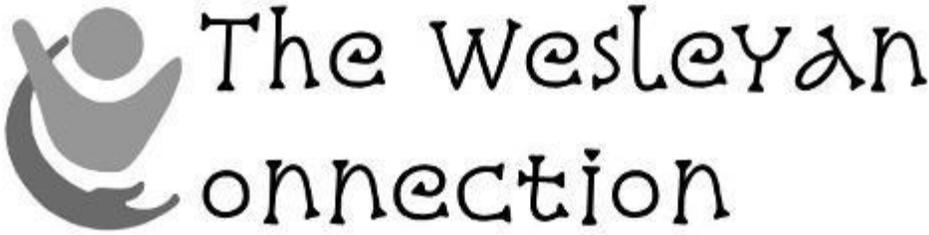


January 2024



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

As we begin a New Year we are asked to pause, take a long look at our life, review where we have been, look forward to where we are going, and make resolutions aimed at correcting or re-directing the direction of our life. Those resolutions are meant to force us to change, to mend flaws in our character, and to make us better people. Implied in all this is the notion that we know what needs to change and all that is required is the will to do it.

This year I am going to change the way I approach this process. Instead of listing things I need to do or accomplish to become a better person, I am going to try and change my posture, from *willfulness to willingness*. When I am the one who decides I am exercising my control over whatever change needs to take place in my life, it is an act of willfulness. I know best. I am in control. When I adopt an attitude of willingness, I cede the control to God.

- Willingness is listening. Willfulness is talking, on and on, with a purpose, an explanation, an agenda.

- Willingness is opening to the expression of what lies within. Willfulness is deciding not to share, not to change.
- Willingness is being ready to see what happens next. Willfulness leads to the carrying of burdens, the grudging effort of living through hardship and stress.
- Willingness means breathing, relaxing, slowing down, and knowing that everything is happening in perfect time. Willfulness seeks escape, capture, solitude, revenge.
- Willingness allows space, tears, time and the lightness of understanding that the world will get on just fine without our personal cares, without our solo list of things to do, and without our refusal to play. We come full circle and awake to a new day..

In order to surrender control, we have to develop a deep trust in God. It starts by getting to know God. We have the Bible. We have prayer. We have the Church. In these ways we offer our mind, our

(Continued on page 2)



**January 4, Thursday
Pizza Orders Due**

**January 7, Sunday
9:30 a.m. Worship
New Members Joining**

**January 14, Sunday
9:30 a.m. Worship;
Human Relations Day
Communion**

**January 20, Saturday
7:30 a.m.
Pizza Making
11:30 a.m.
Pick up orders**

**January 21, Sunday
9:30 a.m.
Rev. Jakes/Jabez**

Online Services still available to view on Facebook and YouTube. See page 3 for instructions on how to subscribe to the Wesleyan YouTube channel.

(Continued from page 1)

soul, our body to God willingly not willfully. That's what Micah is getting at when he says God wants us to walk humbly with God.

From the very beginning, God invited man into relationship with him (Genesis 1:26-29). It is through this relationship that we establish and strengthen trust and faith. This is how God created us.

Our relationships with friends, family members, and our spouses require our time and attention. Friends don't come to us out of the blue and ask us for advice. They get to know us, learn to trust our heart and our intentions.

Our relationship with God grows the same way. In Psalm 40:3-8, the Psalmist writes:

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

How do we have the courage to trust God rather than look to the proud? How do we have the desire to obey God rather than push back rebelliously against the boundaries he establishes?

Hebrews 11:1-3 says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

Take time to build that relationship this year with God. Let this be a year of willingness rather than willfulness. What would happen if you chose to surrender to God's call for your life without knowing the next step?



BIRTHDAYS

1	Treu Monroe	19	Jim Bohlen
2	Jerry Vienola	20	Craig LaPoint
5	Robert Roe	22	Vicki Thomas
10	Lindsay Lovell	24	Randy Lovell
11	Gray LaPoint		Annastasia Krystek
	Rick Yell	25	Brian Kline
17	Kathy Krueger	26	Michael LaPoint



Newsletter Sponsorship

There is no sponsor for the January 2024 newsletter. Please consider being a sponsor for the February-December 2024 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 2024.

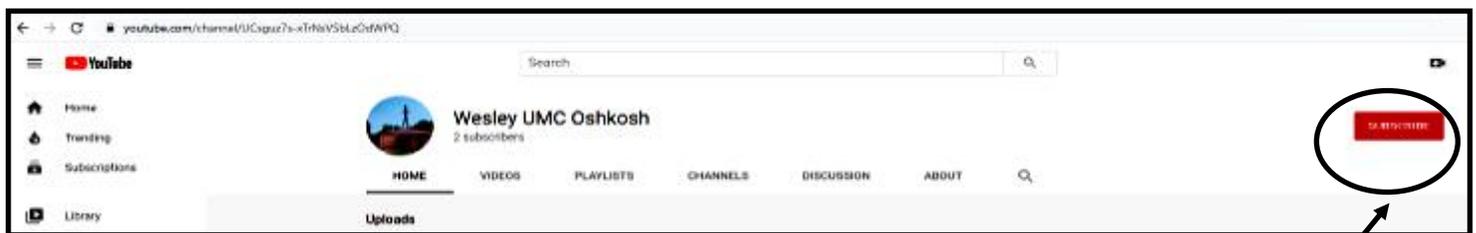


Education

We Wish You A Merry Christmas from our Sunday School. That says it all. The children shined in their rendition of this song on the bell chimes on both Sunday, December 10, and on Christmas Eve. Thank you to the parents for getting the children there for practices and the performance and to Craig LaPoint for being their director. Everyone who witnessed their performance could see how much the children enjoyed it. Thank you to all who made this happen.

The next meeting for the Education Committee will be Wednesday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna LaPoint
Education Committee Chair



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.

We will have a special treat as Rev. Jakes and Esther will be coming to Wesley to share some of the experiences and excitement and needs of Jabez. He is planning on coming on January 21 just days before he leaves to return to Liberia to live. He is retiring from the pulpit ministry as of December 31, 2023.

This newsletter will give you a brief outline of the building of Jabez. Then Rev. Jakes will share more of the recent high points and difficulties faced along the way. Keep in mind that the Mission of Jabez is to use Christ-centered programs to model and teach devotion, academics, service to community and self-sufficiency. Our vision is that graduates will be academically, socially and spiritually prepared to be witnesses of Christ's love in their communities and the world. These ideas are the basis of what happens at the school.

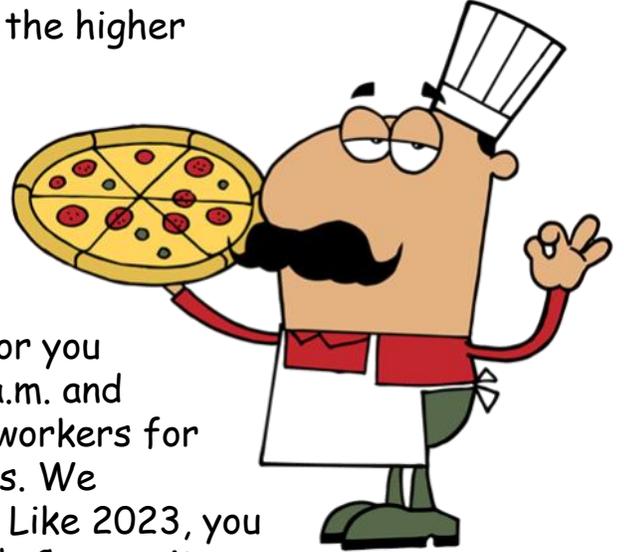
- The dream started in 2006 with Rev Jakes and Mrs. Esther Voker purchasing lots of land on which the school would be built in Gompa City, Liberia- West Africa.
- In 2007 an architect was contacted for developing blue-prints.
- In 2008 block molding equipment and concrete mixture were purchased and 17,000 sun dried bricks were molded.
- By 2009 the project was consecrated and ground broken.
- In 2010-11 the foundation and walls were built.
- In 2012-13 the doors, windows, chalkboards were installed.
- 2013 Faith Elementary was registered with the Local Education Office-Liberian Government and 87 students were registered. Then the name was changed to Jabez Elementary and Junior High School.
- 2014 a mission team from Trinity, Sherman Avenue and Racine 1st UM Churches went to Liberia to paint and stock the library.
- In 2014 a group met extensively to build foundational statements and policies and develop a Board of Directors to help with the school and raise funds.
- In 2015 a group of 3 returned to Jabez to follow up on the work done in 2014.
- In 2016 a group of 10 traveled to paint classrooms inside and outside.
- By 2017 it was recognized that an auditorium and more classrooms were needed. The Board of Directors okayed the project and in 2018 a generous donor made it possible to begin the building of the auditorium with three additional classrooms.
- In 2018 the Student Congress desired to build a Peace Hut which was completed.
- By 2019 the classrooms and auditorium were completed and dedicated. Jabez was able to celebrate its 6th anniversary at the Sherman Avenue, Madison Wisconsin.
- The 2019-20 school year opens with 186 students. Since then, the school continues to grow in students' enrollment, extra-curriculum programming, staff and etcetera. To God be the glory!

Rev. Jakes will be here on Sunday, January 21, to share the "rest of the story" in this our 10th year. Please set aside this day to greet Esther and Jakes, bid them farewell as they head back to Liberia, and hear the exciting present news and needs of Jabez Christian School. Please indicate Jabez on any offerings and donations given for the school.

PIZZA 2024

Wesley is back to selling and making pizzas for 2024. There are three production lines, each devoted to one particular kind of pizza. There are three choices of pizzas, cheese, sausage and pepperoni. Pizzas sold and made will be 12-inch crust only and there are no combination pizzas. Prices stay close to the same as last year, just a little higher from last year to reflect the higher cost of ingredients. Please remember, this is a fundraiser, our largest fundraiser of the year. There will be no change in the taste or quality of the pizza.

Orders must be in by Thursday, January 4th, 2024. The date of making the pizzas is Saturday, January 20th. We start at 7:30 a.m. or you start when you get there. Pick up starts at 11:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m.. There is a sign-up sheet for workers for that day in the narthex along with the order forms. We encourage you to bring friends. We need the help. Like 2023, you can donate money to supply pizzas for the Oshkosh Community Food Pantry. The order form gives you that option. We donated **360** pizzas in 2023 and our goal is to donate over that in 2024. You could also make a cash donation to help increase the profit in this fundraiser. So go forth and make your sales. Sell to your friends. Sell to your enemies. Buy and give to your friends, neighbors, enemies and relatives. Let's make this an all-church event. Don't be left out! See you on the 20th of January.



Randy Lovell - Pizza Ministry



Help Needed

Members needed for the Technology Committee and in the Sound Room. If you are interested in working and/or learning computer technology, making decisions about learning what we need at Wesley, to include audio and streaming technology, please call the office at **920-235-3070 T-F from 10 a.m.—2 p.m.**



UMC Wesley CORNER

Human Relations Sunday is January 14, 2024

The United Methodist Church celebrates Human Relations Day to further the development of better human relations by involving congregations in community and youth outreach. It is celebrated on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. This offering was originally established in 1972 to fund Self-Determination Projects, The Black Community Developers and the Police-Community Relations Program. In 1988, the offering was designated to support ministries of social justice and outreach to at-risk youth. The fund is administered by the General Board of Global Ministry and the General Board of Church and Society.

Your gifts on Human Relations Day help train over 125,000 volunteers. Fifty-seven (57%) percent of giving on Human Relations Day supports Community Developer Programs. Thirty-three (33%) of The Human Relations Day offering is allocated for United Methodist Voluntary Programs administered by the General Board of Global Ministries. One of these programs is the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. The UMVIM network offers guidance, organization, and training for more than 125,000 volunteers serving with the poor; building churches, assisting in disaster response, community health, and leadership training each year.

We are each a child of God and each one of us is special and unique. On Human Relations Day, we remember how together we can help everyone experience kindness, respect and love, just as God intended.

We can celebrate the beauty of a diverse community where each person brings something unique and valuable. Be that special person for God in our community.

Mark your envelope for Human Relations Sunday when you donate through the offering.

January

From the Study Book "Disciple's Path - a guide for United Methodists"

In answer to the question about why I am a UM, I say, "I am a United Methodist because I follow Christ because: of the:

1. Wesleyan balance between God's Providence and human freedom.

Not a micro-managing deity.

God loves us enough, made us, so we can reject or affirm.

God gave us freedom.

God's intention is to have everyone receive God's saving love and redeeming grace in Jesus Christ.



January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Pizza Orders Due	5	6
	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "A Disciple's Path - 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30p.m. Morning Glories 7 p.m. Chancel Choir		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 a.m. Worship No Communion New members joining 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Trustees	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Education	10:30 a.m. "A Disciple's Path - 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30p.m. Morning Glories 7 p.m. Chancel Choir		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday Human Relations Day 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Council	1:30 p.m. Worship Com 5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "A Disciple's Path - 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30p.m. Morning Glories 7 p.m. Chancel Choir		Pizza Making 7:30 a.m. Pick up Orders 11:30 a.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 a.m. Worship Rev. Jakes/Jabez School 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "A Disciple's Path - 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30p.m. Morning Glories 7 p.m. Chancel Choir		
28	29	30	31			
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30 p.m. MA			

New Facebook Page

As of January 1st all of our Facebook Updates & Streaming Services will be on our New page "Wesley United Methodist Church Oshkosh". To join our page is easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. At the top of your Facebook Page is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon on it.



2. Search for "Wesley United Methodist Church OSHKOSH" (the page is the only Wesley page with Oshkosh in it) The pictures you will see when searching says New Facebook Page (there is no church picture right now so the page is easier to find. The pictures look like this

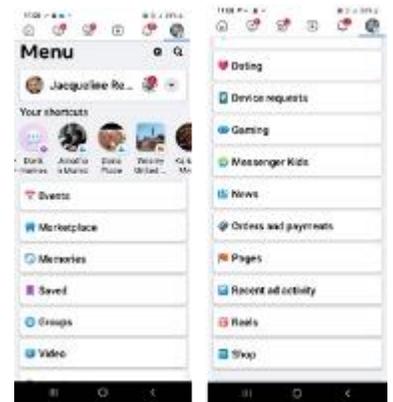


3. Click on the like  symbol

Click follow  symbol

That's it! Our posts and updates will now be on your feed.

To visit our page just click on the pages icon
It's by the buttons for friends, events, photos etc...,
You will see us along with other pages you follow then just click us and you're there!



If you do need help to find our page just see Jacquie before or after church or call her at 920-312-8581

DRIVERS and RIDERS Needed



Ash Wednesday will be February 14, 2024. Wesley's service will be at 6:30 PM. To ensure everyone interested in attending will be there we would like to have people that would like a ride (RIDERS) to church, sign up by calling the church office @ 920-235-3070 or using the clipboard on the table in the narthex. People willing to drive (DRIVERS) others to church please sign up in the same manner as RIDERS.

If this type of support is needed and would be used, we may set it up for future events.

For more information, please contact Debbie Zimmerman @ 920-385-8356

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

Change Service Requested



*The Wesleyan Connection is
published monthly for the
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*