

January 2025



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

“Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5:24)

There is an old Chinese parable about a water carrier who had two jars. Each day, he carried the jars on a yoke across his shoulders to bring water to his master's house. One of the jars was whole, and the other was cracked. By the time he arrived, the cracked jar would always be half-empty, its water having leaked along the way.

One day, the cracked jar spoke to the water carrier, filled with shame. “I feel so guilty,” it said. “I leak water every day, and I fail to do my job properly. Why don't you replace me with a better jar?”

The water carrier smiled kindly and said, “Tomorrow, as we walk back from the stream, look at the ground along your side of the path.”

The next day, the cracked jar noticed something remarkable. Along its side of the path, flowers were blooming—bright, beautiful flowers that were absent on the other side. The water carrier said, “I have always known about your crack. I planted seeds along your side of the path, and each day, as you leaked water, you helped these flowers grow. Without you, this beauty would not exist.”

What we see as flaws can often hold unexpected purpose. The world may tell us to strive for perfection, but it's our imperfections—the cracks in our lives—that create beauty, growth, and goodness. Like the cracked jar, we are all vessels, carrying both strengths and weaknesses. And often, it is through those cracks that the light and life flow.

The prophet Amos calls us to let justice and

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**Dates
to
Remember**

Wednesday, January 1

Office Closed

Sunday, January 5

Pizza Orders Due

Monday, January 6

1:30 p.m. Worship Meeting

Saturday, January 11

8:30 a.m.

Church Visioning Retreat

Thursday, January 14

6:30 p.m. Education Meeting

Saturday, January 18

7:30 a.m.

Pizza Making

11:30 a.m.

Pick up orders

Tuesday, January 21

6:30 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, January 22

1:30 p.m. Worship

(Continued from page 1)

righteousness flow like a mighty stream. Perhaps that stream flows not in spite of our imperfections, but because of them. The cracks in our hearts—our struggles, vulnerabilities, and losses—can water seeds of compassion, resilience, and connection. When we embrace our imperfections, we allow space for healing and for unexpected beauty to emerge.

John Wesley held that we were all to seek to become perfect. That did not mean that we made no mistakes, or did nothing wrong. It meant that we were to seek to be perfected in love. Seeing how God can take even our imperfections and use them to fulfill God’s purposes can help us to understand what it means to be perfected in love.

Today, as you move through your life, consider this: What cracks in your jar are leaking water along the way? What flowers might they be nourishing? Trust that even your imperfections hold meaning and purpose, and that you are part of God’s ongoing work of creating beauty and justice in the world.

We are in this together.



BIRTHDAYS

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



Online Services still available to view on Facebook and YouTube.

Newsletter Sponsorship

There is no sponsor for the January 2025 newsletter. Please consider being a sponsor for the February-December 2025 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 2025.

Jabez School in Liberia, Africa

Jabez Elementary and Junior High School and Trauma Counseling Center was envisioned and born out of the historical events that impacted the lives of all Liberians, especially the Gompa Community, its environs, my family and me.” Rev. Jakes Voker.

Liberia was founded by the American Colonization Society 1816 to repatriate and resettle the Freed African Slaves and in 1947 became an independent country. The country has suffered many devastating political unrests. The final blow was in 1989 with a full blown civil war amongst six splintered rebel groups. That lasted until 2004 when the United Nations with the backing of President Bush intervened.

Rev. Jakes’ family was gravely affected and are survivors of the brutal rebel war which saw a loss of life, flogging, and the burning of their homes. Twelve years into the 15 year war, Rev. Jakes was blessed with a half-tuition scholarship. He came to the United States alone. Eventually his family was reunited with him in the United States. His comment, ”Why such undeserved blessings!” “After prayerful discernments, their response was, “Blessed to be a blessing”.

How would they be a blessing? The answer was through “a Christ-centered education and trauma counseling ministry”. In November of 2006, Rev. and Mrs. Voker purchased six lots of land. In 2009 a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the building of 8 classrooms, a small auditorium, a mini-library, two offices, a half bathroom, and teachers’ lounge. Congregations and individuals had caught the dream.

Rev. Jakes and his family wanted the school to be a stable, consistent, Christ- filled, on-going resource to the community. In order for that to happen a group of interested individuals met to develop biblically based-Christ-centered Foundational Statements including theological rationale, value-owners and community need and an extensive set of Board Policies. Vision and mission, targets, and milestones were established. All of this is needed to keep stability and consistency. A USA Board of Directions and a local school board and parent group were established. They serve to establish strategic directions and initiatives and do the day to day work of the school.

The school’s growth has been amazing. The school opened in 2013 with 87 students, The need was great as was expected. The space had soon been outgrown. In 2016-17 Jabez Student government designed a school flag and they also made a request for the building of a Peace Hut. The Peace Hut is derived from the Palava Hut from ancient times. Here is where citizens of Liberia sat and discussed pertinent matters of welfare for their community. And as we so often learn, God provides. A memorial gift by the family of Ken Walenski furnished the funds.

The addition of a larger auditorium and three new classrooms in 2018 made the buildings adequate for the population. The auditorium was not complete, yet usable for the 2018 closing program. At the same time, another request, the building of a Peace Hut, came through student government. The Peace Hut is derived from the Palava Hut from ancient times. Here is where citizens of Liberia sat and discussed pertinent matters of welfare for their community. And as we so often learn, God provides. The family of Ken Walenski, a long time friend of Jabez, furnished the funds to build the Peace Hut in his memory. The concept of the Peace Hut is a valuable resource for the school and the community.

In 2020 we began development in four areas. The areas are an improved computer Lab, an agriculture program through our start-up of an oil palm farm, a sewing program thanks to donations by the Brothers sewing machine company and beginning research on a food program at the school.

Watch the bulletin inserts in January to see the latest developments.



UMC Wesley CORNER

Human Relations Sunday is January 19, 2025 The first of six special Sundays in United Methodist Church

Between 1972 when Human Relations Sunday was first established and 1988, the offering was established to fund Self-Determination Projects, The Black Community Developers and the Police Community Relations Program. In 1988 it was changed and the offering collected was given to ministries of social justice and outreach to at-risk youth.

One of the better known programs is United Methodist Volunteers In Mission Program. This group offers guidance, organization and training for more than 125,000 volunteers assisting in disaster relief and leadership training among other areas. UMVIM is part of the United Methodist Voluntary Programs administered by the General Board of Global Missions.

This Sunday reminds us that God asks his followers to be that special person for God in our community. Possibly this is one way for you. We know that together, as children of God, we can be that person, together with many others, that help our fellow citizens experience kindness, respect and love. We do that through monetary donations and/or with our own hands and feet.

The Sunday is always celebrated the Sunday before the national celebration of Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. Please mark your envelope for Human Relations Sunday when you donate through the offering.

Church Visioning Retreat

We have been talking about a visioning retreat on Saturday, January 11 for weeks. Now I want to give you more details and urge you to set aside this day to begin planning our future journey.

We will gather around 8:30 a.m. with some coffee and...

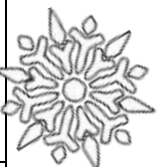
- 9:00 a.m. devotion
- 9:15 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. – Learning time with breaks
 - Practices of fruitful congregations
 - Effective leadership
- 12:00 p.m. - Potluck lunch
- 12:30 p.m. – Next Steps
- 2:00 p.m. -- Head home

Bring your ideas, questions, hopes and dreams.





January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MA—Martial Arts TOPS— Take Off Pounds Sensibly MG—Morning Glory Singers CC—Chancel Choir			1 Office Closed	2 2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	3	4
5 Pizza Orders Due!	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	1:30 p.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		8:30 a.m. Church Planning Retreat
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 p.m. Education	5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		Pizza Making 7:30 a.m. Pick up Orders 11:30 a.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 a.m. Worship Human Relations Day 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 p.m. Church Council	1:30 p.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
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Change Service Requested



*The Wesleyan Connection is
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