



Jefferson United Methodist Church
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

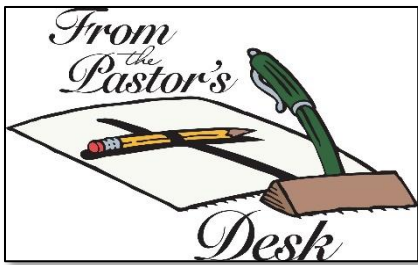
Office hours are 8:30 - 2:00 M-F
Lunch: 11:30 – 12:00 daily

Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

August, 2023

Volume 107





Goodness, gracious! It is August, which does not seem possible. It has been a busy summer, and we are rapidly approaching our new program year. This year as we seek to be as faithful a congregation as we can, we will be spending much time around JUMC's slogan of, "Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World." This slogan originated during Pastor Meredith's leadership, and I felt it could be a

wonderful way to recenter and reorient our faith lives around these principles. We will be lifting this up in our worship services, our budgeting, our meetings, and our studies together. There are so many potential ways that we can grow and learn as a church, and I look forward to being a part of the journey with such a great church family. Most of all in this moment, I want to offer my thanks and love to each of you. We all know this year has been a difficult one. There has not been any consistent stability and normalcy. With my health and medical leave, staff transitions, working to fine-tune and rebuild some of our administrative practices and protocols, and much more, it has left some feeling uncertain and uneasy. I hope this year will be one of much joy, learning, and growth. I thank you for your patience as we all get used to being on this faith journey together. It still will not be easy, but I put my faith first in God and then in all of you that we can discern a bright future of love together. Please know that I am always available if you want to talk or have concerns. I would like to live us with a prayer from St. Paul found in Ephesians 3, "I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lizzie





Verse of the Day

Our steps are made firm by the Lord when God delights in our way.

- Psalm 37:23

Voice of the Day

I have no idea what I'm supposed to do. I only know what I can do.

- Captain Kirk, Star Trek Into Darkness (2013)

Prayer of the Day

Lord, when we're overwhelmed at all life throws at us, teach us to take life on one step at a time.



Thanks to all who planned and helped with our Messy Church: Family WOW.

Our Week of Worship was great fun. We spent time playing, learning, and eating together, both young and old. Thank you especially to Crystal Rivera, Miki Gage, and Kathy Housel for their leadership in making sure this happened. We hope to incorporate Messy Church within our yearly programming. Please let us know if you have a passion for bringing kiddos and families into our church family and community. Thanks again to all who helped!



Jefferson Scout Troop 41 is selling discount cards for \$10 each. Many local participating locations and some different ones from the Falcon Band Cards. Contact Lauri Allen if you would like to purchase one.



BOOK CIRCLE

August

The Measure

by Nikki Erlick

Meet at the JUMC parking lot at 11:30 AM on Thursday, Aug. 10 to travel to Holden Arboretum to walk a bit, discuss the book, and eat our own packed lunches. Bring a drink, altho' there are some that one can purchase there. There are also usually some deli sandwiches for purchase there. We should be back by 3:30. Let Mary Howe know if you can join us.

September

The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise

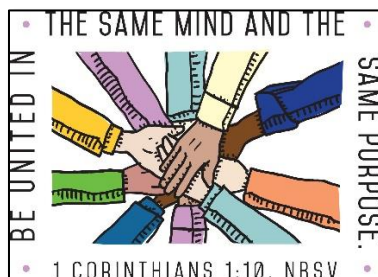
by Colleen Oakley

Please join us & keep reading!

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!

Jefferson United Methodist Church:
Where Do We Stand and Where Do We Go from Here

Many in the church are still wondering where we stand in the many conversations, concerns, rumors, and more about all that is happening in the United Methodist Church around inclusion, disaffiliation, and everything in between. Jefferson UMC will absolutely be remaining in the United Methodist Church. The Ad Board spent time in conversation and discernment and voted to remain in the UMC, and this will be our direction. I know some are worried because you think that a vote must happen, but in reality, many churches chose to not do a formal vote or to do like JUMC and discern as our Administrative Board. We as a congregation look toward being an affirming congregation, and we are participating and learning more from the East Ohio Conference in how to be a Lighthouse Church and an Oasis Group, which offers our church community as a safe harbor to those who have lost their church homes due to disaffiliation. I know many are frustrated with how things have taken place, and as your pastor, I am sorry for the confusion, fear, and anger some of you have felt in the last several months. I know we miss those that have chosen to find a church community that better fits their needs and theology, and we mourn their loss. It is my sincere hope that, we can, however, move forward as a church and a community and seek to look for ways to share in the radical love and hospitality of Christ. Please keep JUMC in prayer as we move forward, and if you would like to be a part of conversations for how to be a more open and affirming community, please let Pastor Lizzie know.

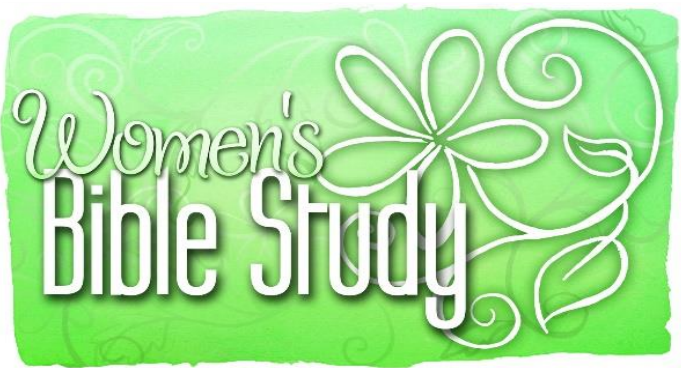




Beginning in September, Pastor Lizzie will be leading a Bible Study around the resource, Covenant Bible Study. "Covenant Bible Study guides small groups through a comprehensive, in-depth study of the whole Bible over twenty-four sessions broken into three eight-session modules. Unlike the learning participants may have experienced in other groups, this study emphasizes the biblical concept of covenant as a unifying theme through both the Old and New Testaments. It underscores the unique relationship that God chooses to have with us as God's people. This relationship is grounded in the faithfulness of God's love and on our ongoing commitment to stay in relationship with God while we share signs of God's love with others.

Each Covenant Bible Study participant needs a Participant Guide and a Bible. The Participant Guide walks study participants through the daily scripture readings and offers space to interact personally with the readings, the group experience, and the weekly meditations. This single volume Participant Guide contains the materials required for all three modules: Creating, Living and Trusting.

Our study will begin on September 12, 2023. We will meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The first 8 weeks will be held from September 12- October 31st. There will be more information to follow. Please let Pastor Lizzie know if you have any questions.



**Anxious for Nothing:
Finding Calm in a Chaotic World Study**

Do you sometimes feel weighed down with worry? Could you use some calm? While anxiety is a part of life, it doesn't have to dominate our lives. With God as your helper and His promises at your side, you can sleep better tonight and smile more tomorrow.

Join us for our next Women at the Well study on Thursdays from 10:30 to noon in the parlor. We will be using Max Lucado's Study Guide "Anxious for Nothing." Lucado has also written an accompanying book but for this video study, you will only need the STUDY GUIDE, not the book, unless you want to purchase the book for your own use and to enhance the lessons. The study guide is available at Amazon or Christianbooks.com or at any Christian bookstore.

The study will begin Thursday, Sept. 14 and lasts 5 weeks. If you have questions, contact Laurie Krieg at 440-858-3884. Please read introduction and Chapter 1, up to page 22 for the first week.

MUSIC Ministry



The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir will start on Aug. 30 with a potluck dinner starting at

7:00. Singing for the Chancel Choir will follow! Anyone who is interested in joining either group can contact Ruth Rea by text/call at 216-319-9748. Ask any current members about the great time we have every Wednesday evening! There is lots of singing, ringing, fellowship and always laughter. Come and join us for the fun.



In anticipation of our fall programming starting back up, we are recruiting new members for our praise team!!! Please email Cynthia for more information: arriannacraulnober@yahoo.com

Our music coordinator, Cynthia, would like to grow our children/youth music ministry program. If your child plays any musical instrument, enjoys singing, or would like to play handbells, please let her know.



BUDGET
Update

JUMC “General Fund” Monthly Summary through <u>June 30, 2023</u>	
Monthly Budget	\$29,718
Average Monthly Contributions	\$22,871
Average Monthly Expenses	\$25,791
“Shared Ministries” (Conference Apportionments) Paid	50.0%

JUMC “Building Fund” Summary as of <u>June 30, 2023</u>	
Total Expenses (Phases 1-3 plus new entrance driveway)	\$660,344
Paid to Date	\$535,344
Congregational Loans (Payable by 12/31/2024)	\$60,000
Congregational Loans (Payable by 12/31/2027)	\$65,000



Hello to all the churches;

For our August special Manna is giving our clients the fixings for a Tuna Noodle Casserole supper. Donations of Tuna Helper, cans of tuna (not packets), evaporated milk, canned peas, and jello would be appreciated. We are always encouraged by the responses we receive. Thank for helping us help those who sometimes fall short in meeting their monthly food needs.

Lorna Westlake

- August 13 – Backpack blessing
- August 20 – Hamilton Road in worship
- September 10 – Program year “kickoff”
- October 1 – Blessing of the pets
- October 14 – Charge conference @ JUMC

2023 Pastoral Annual Conference Report

At the 2023 Annual Conference of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, United Methodist gathered from all over the east Ohio region. It was a time of wonderful worship, deep prayer, discernment for our future, and mourning over disunity and loss. Yet, even amid death and goodbyes, it was also a time of renewal and a look towards the future. It was a time when looking towards resurrection was never more important. “Our mission is yet alive,” declared Bishop Malone during her Episcopal Address. “Now is the time for us to focus forward. This is a time of remarkable opportunity in the life of The United Methodist Church.”

445 clergy and 471 laity gathered and the John Knight Center in Akron. Jefferson UMC sent John King as our lay delegate to Annual Conference, and Jaime Ebersole served as the President of the CCYM as she addressed the conference body and served in leadership during worship.

Many of you are aware that one of the most predominant conversations at this year’s conference was over the conversation of disaffiliation from the UMC, for those who did not want to align towards accepting and inclusion for the LGBTQIA+ community within their local church community. Of the 651 churches in the conference, 237 churches voted to disaffiliate effective this past July 1st. The list of the disaffiliating churches can be found on the conference website.

414 churches remain as United Methodist congregations. “That includes 37 of the current 49 large membership churches (76%) with average worship attendance of 100 or more, 222 of the 326 churches (68%) with an average worship attendance of 26-99, and 155 of the 276 small membership churches (56%) in the Conference that average 25 or fewer people in worship.” Jefferson UMC is one that chose to remain with the UMC and seeks to be an open and affirming congregation. As we seek to live this out, we will have representation to learn how to be more welcoming as we learn what it means to be a Lighthouse and Oasis Church.

Oasis groups are small groups that ideally meet outside the church walls where clergy and members can meet on neutral ground for healing, connection, prayer, and study,” Rev. Beth Ortiz shared. “And we have Lighthouse churches which are congregations who are deeply committed to the United Methodist Church, who are hospitable to guests and these churches, who are already excellent in so many ways, have committed to continue to seek their own path towards perfection through a series of trainings on hospitality, on moving a guest to fully-welcomed member of the faith community, on leading through change with grief therapy tools and more.” Right now, Kathy Housel and Carol Baker will be trained alongside myself to be a part of the Lighthouse Church training and fellowships. Be on the lookout for when we give updates for what we are learning.

Another big part of Annual Conference this year was the voting and approval to redistrict the conference. The proposed plan is redistrict from our current 10 district model to a 4 district model, which will be effective on January 1, 2024. While this may seem like a large jump from the previous model, it is not an unprecedented reality to look for transformative ways to better utilize our gifts, especially as so many mainline Protestant churches are in a state of decline. Rev. Kelly Brown, the District Superintendent for the Three Rivers District and co-superintendent for the Ohio

Valley District said, ““In presenting this proposal, we are asking that we commit to making room for flexibility in our system so that we can grow stronger and get better at living into our shared vision and mission and our connection with each other. By supporting this proposal, we commit together to become more flexible so we can become stronger and live into a future of creative ministry with courage.”

As we also look towards a stronger future as a church and a conference, we spent time in discernment, prayer, and conversation around our budget and fiscal responsibilities. The, “Annual Conference members approved the proposed 2024 budget of \$9,428,531, which is a reduction of 3.5% from the 2023 budget.”

During each conference session, we study certain legislation and resolutions that we as a conference and local church feel we can either uphold or not. In this past conference season we passed the following three resolutions and another which was not approved.

The Annual Conference approved three resolutions:

- [***Resolution 2023-01: “Advocating for the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation”***](#)

Be it resolved that the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church: Joins the United Methodist General Board of Church & Society, as well as numerous other Christian denominations and organizations, in endorsing H.R. 2590, Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act.

- [***Resolution 2023-03: “Supporting the Christmas Covenant”***](#)

Now, therefore be it resolved: we, the East Ohio Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church support the Christmas Covenant legislation in full, including the creation of a US Regional Conference.

- [***Resolution 2023-04: “East Ohio United Methodists Against Hate Crimes”***](#)

Therefore, be it resolved: that the people of the East Ohio Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church publicly and swiftly condemn acts of hate violence, with special concern given to those in our geographic jurisdiction, so that the world may know that Christ’s people are opposed to such violence and so that the victims and their communities may know that we stand with them. We urge that a task force will be formed to create a Statement concerning this. That Statement of support would be made available to members of the congregations of East Ohio Conference and their neighbors to sign.

The Annual Conference did not approve one resolution:

- [***Resolution 2023-02: “Request for a Special Annual Conference for Disaffiliating Churches”***](#)

This information is only a brief recap of all that happened at the conference. I can say that your delegate John King took his responsibilities to heart, and he was faithfully there for the entire conference, taking notes, praying, and even dancing with our District Superintendent, Rev. Edgar Brady. We all spent time praying and seeking how to faithfully lift-up the needs of JUMC and even more importantly trying to discern where and who Christ is calling us to be as a church in today’s world. I ask that you hold our church, our conference, the United Methodist Church, and the Church Universal in prayer always, without ceasing. May God grant us grace, love, and much fruit.

June 30, 2023

Students Go on Field Trips from School

The rainy season is starting now in Cambodia, and it the time for all the farmers to start farming the rice or some other crops. Besides that, we have 2 of our students who are majoring in animal science and veterinarian who had a field trip to visit the villages and the farms. Sou Tongla who studies animal science went to visit a farm in Battambang with her classmates. And Lim Laiheang who studies to become a veterinarian went to visit a village in Pursat to teach about some animal diseases and the way to prevent animals from those diseases.



Soul Tonglay with a calf at the farm in Battambang.



Lim Laiheang and her classmates explain about animal diseases to people

We have fun during our bible study!



We used to study English with Bong (sister) Rachel every Thursday. But because Rachel left, we do not have English class anymore, so we decided to play some games during our bible study. And YES, we had so much fun trying to guess our own words by asking our friends the Yes/No question in English. Through this game, we learned how we cannot see or know what we are doing right or

wrong in our lives. We discussed that this is why we need to ask God to guide us in the right way so that we can live out God's will and be pleasing to God.

Graduation Ceremonies!

We are so proud of our 1st and 2nd year graduates from Susanna Wesley House who are receiving their degrees officially (no ceremonies were possible due to the pandemic). Six of them attended the same university which is Royal University of Law and Economics. It was a special event for all of them and their family who can come to celebrate their graduation together. One of the parents who came to celebrate with her daughter said: "I am really proud of my daughter that she received her degree, and I am very happy that she can wear the graduation gown!"



How to Support: An annual tuition for most of the universities in Phnom Penh is about \$700.

Online support: <https://advance.umcmission.org/p-393-children-and-youth-scholarships.aspx>

Children and Youth Scholarships; Advance # 3020791

To donate by check: Please make your check payable to **Advance GCFA** and write the **Advance # 3020791** on the memo line. (Address: Advance GCFA PO Box 9068 GPO New York, NY 10087-9068)

Contact: Janice Lee (Susanna Wesley Dormitory Coordinator) - janicechristian@gmail.com



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2	Lynn Leary Alice McGinnis
3	Barb Gildersleeve Barb Heath
6	Rob Ebersole David Lehnert Cindy Lawson
7	Mary Daubenspeck
8	Deb Hoprich Andrew Hamper Sandy Hoffman
9	Carol Crist Pam Zack
12	Donna Patterson Greg Hamper
15	Miki Gage
16	Chris Litwiler Judy Kampf Martha Lamson
20	Tom Westlake
21	Pamela Hodgkinson
26	Fred Ebersole, Jr.
27	Lee DeyErmand Piper Waller

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9am - Fellowship 10am - Worship	31 9am - Pickle Ball 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	1 10am - Ministry Team 4pm - Christian Cafe @	2	3 9am - Pickle Ball 10:30am - Women's	4 8am - WIC 10:30am - Yoga	5
6 9am - Fellowship 10am - Worship	7 9am - Pickle Ball 12pm - Blood Drive 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	8 Election Day 10am - Ministry Team	9	10 9am - Pickle Ball 10:30am - Women's 3pm - Quilters	11 8am - WIC 10:30am - Yoga	12 8:30am - Stephen Min.
13 9am - Fellowship 10am - Worship	14 9am - Pickle Ball 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	15 4pm - Christian Cafe @	16	17 9am - Pickle Ball 10:30am - Women's	18 8am - WIC 10:30am - Yoga	19
20 9am - Fellowship 10am - Worship	21 9am - Pickle Ball 4pm - Finance meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	22 10am - Min. Meeting	23	24 9am - Pickle Ball 10:30am - Women's 12pm - R & R Beckers 5pm - Worship	25 8am - WIC 10:30am - Yoga	26 10am - Quilters
27 9am - Fellowship 10am - Worship	28 9am - Pickle Ball 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	29 10am - Ministry team	30	31 9am - Pickle Ball 10:30am - Women's	1 8am - WIC 10:30am - Yoga	2