



Jefferson United Methodist Church
125 East Jefferson Street
Jefferson, OH 44047
440-576-4561
admin@jeffersonumc.com
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

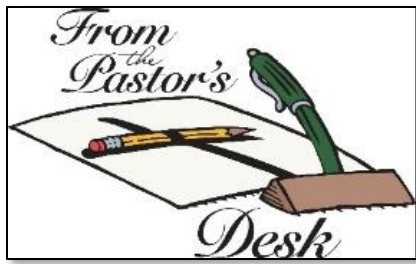
Office hours are 8:30 - 2:00 M-F
Office closed 11:30 – 12:00 daily for lunch.

**Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.
Our Motto: Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve the World**

February, 2025

Volume 127





In Charles Shultz's famous comic strip "Peanuts," Charlie Brown's best friend Linus is constantly seen holding his blankie. Wherever he goes, the blankie comes with him. Despite the ridicule he receives from many, most notably his sister Lucy, Linus carts the blankie around without fail. It gets soaked, it gets covered in mud, and it gets trampled on, but it is still always there. And if he doesn't have it, then Linus is just not himself – unsure, nervous, panicky, unable to function properly.

Linus isn't the only one who has a security blanket. I think many of us have that one special item which serves the role of Linus' blankie – at least at some point in our life. I know as a kid I had to carry two Cabbage Patch dolls around. And you know what? I think that is why I have always enjoyed Linus' character – because he's real...a representation of the insecurities and desires for protection we all have.

So, the question is, why do we become so attached to these "security blankets?" Or better yet, why do we always cover ourselves with them or with the covers in our bed when we are scared? I'm sure you can remember a time you sat in your bed with the covers pulled tight for fear of a storm...or a noise you heard...or you just felt scared. Whatever the case may be, you wanted to make sure you were covered...and figuratively speaking, that's what our "security blankets" are for too!

Yes, we all have a desire to feel safe and covered. We want to ensure ourselves that we are protected...that we have something which is covering us from danger. But the truth is, these objects don't actually protect us...they just make us feel safe, which is all that really matters. But there *is* something which does truly protect us from danger and from our fears – God's Love.

See, God provides when we need Him – that is, God covers us with His love, providing us protection from danger and fear. More than any security blanket, God fully covers us and we can feel safe knowing that His love is all around, working in and through us each day of our lives. We truly are covered with love – the love from God which provides us hope for the future and new possibilities.

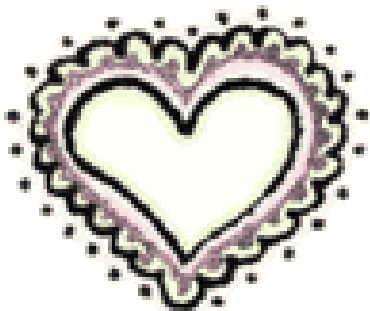
We all face darkness in our lives. But, when we walk in that darkness, we can feel secure with Jesus at our side. That is the grace which delivers us each day – the knowledge that God swoops in and covers us with His love, thus saving us from danger and fear. And this covering is far better than any "security blanket" or bed covers. So, as we celebrate love this month on Valentine's Day, why don't we all rejoice that we have been covered with love?!



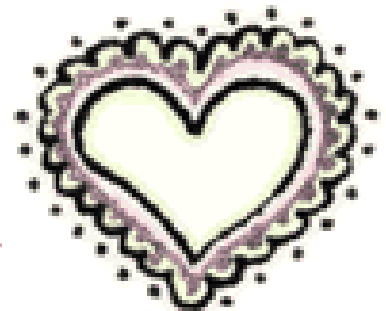
FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Sophia Shelko |
| 3 | Rebecca Feick |
| 9 | Heather Whetsell |
| 10 | Roger Leininger |
| | Sue Mizer |
| 16 | Phil Spencer |
| 20 | Glade Heath |
| 21 | Susan Shadle |



HAPPY
Birthdays





Verse of the Day

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

-Deuteronomy 15:11

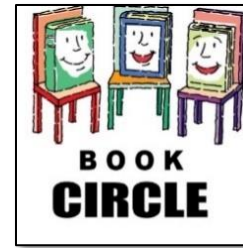
Voice of the Day

A lack of generosity refuses to acknowledge that your assets are not really yours, but God's.

- Timothy Keller, "Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just" (2010)

Prayer of the Day

God, open our hearts and hands to those in need, reminding us that all we have is a gift, meant to be shared in justice and generosity.



Join us on Thursday, February 20 at noon at Church to talk about

The Women by Kristen Hannah.

Other books in the future:

March

The Color of Water

by James McBride

April

The Lion Women of Tehran

by Marjan Kamali

May

The Lotus Shoes

by Jane Yang

June

James

by Percival Everett

We'd love to have you join us!

**God is
LOVE.**

1 JOHN 4:16



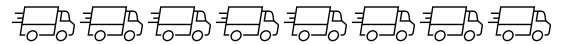
SUSANNA'S CUPBOARD

Just in time! We have discovered a new angel to make hats! Our hatmaker for years was Donna Hurn, and over the course of time she made literally hundreds of hats for our Susanna Friends. She has retired now, with our utmost gratitude for her long and faithful service.

Edna Williams has offered to make hats! Thank you, Edna, and welcome to the team. Your hats are very popular.

Thank you to all who continue to bring in donations of white crew socks. These are essential in winter, a matter of health as well as comfort. Imagine living outdoors, or in a house without heat, and wearing boots or shoes without socks. Thank you, kind people.

In His Service, Susanna

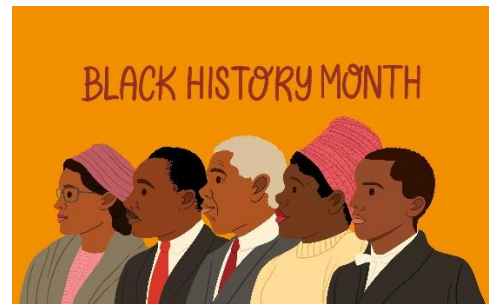
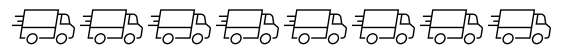


MANNA DRIVERS



What's a little snow? Or a lot of snow, for that matter! Our drivers never miss a delivery day. We work as a team,

supplying our own coverage for days a driver cannot serve. We cover each other for appointments, mission trips, illness, and vacations. We also restock the storage room for the Manna Team who works for the next day's regular Friday open hours. It takes work and a strong spirit of cooperation to serve our clients and each other. Thank you, devoted Manna drivers!



Compassionate God, who sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities, create in us new hearts and enlarged visions, to see the image of God in every person irrespective of background, race and ethnicity. May we be generous in our love of others as we work towards ending racism and injustice; creating communities of human flourishing, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.

Jefferson United Methodist Church

Our Mission:

“Making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Our Vision:

“To honor Christ’s command to go into our community and make disciples, by accepting all, affirming all, and transforming all into the likeness of Jesus Christ.”

Our Purpose:

“Love God, Love Others, Serve the World”

2025 THEME

“Who We Are: Our Story and How We Share It”

2025 QUESTIONS TO PONDER

“What is our story?” AND “What ‘new way can we share our story?’”

THREE-FOLD FOCUS

- (1) community involvement & visibility**
- (2) communication**
- (3) spiritual fellowship & development for ALL ages**



Six-Week Study Begins March 6

More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said. In this six-week study – *The Message of Jesus*, by Adam Hamilton – we will explore six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book will explore Jesus’s preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the “I am” sayings in John, and more. Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing! Study will be offered **Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. AND 6 p.m.** Please sign up on the clipboard or in the office during the week. Suggested donation for the book is \$10.

So, join us as we discover "Pictures of the Church: Who We Are" and begin the journey to define our story and how we want to share it!



Join the JUMP TEAM!

Jefferson United Methodist Praise Team
is seeking instrumentalists and vocalists to play
at our Contemporary music featured Sunday services
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

We rehearse on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month
from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Contact our music coordinator Maribeth Davis
after Sunday service

440 344-4582

marimilt33@gmail.com

Susanna Wesley Ministries

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Susanna Wesley House

Shine Project

Children's Ministry

Christmas celebration *(Written by Nya - GMF)*



Our recent Christmas celebration was a joyous time. This was the first collaboration between SWH and the Shine project, and we were very excited to celebrate Christmas together. Beyond the festivities, we had the opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, and the love, hope, and peace He brings to our lives through

sharing meals, drama, and games. These moments reminded us of the great gift and blessings in our lives. We are thankful to our Lord Jesus for this wonderful fellowship.

Learning Laos *(Written by Nya - GMF)*

The cultures of Cambodia and Laos share many similarities, yet they remain distinct, particularly in language. After the evening devotion, we have the privilege of a 5-10 minute Lao lesson with Bong (sister) Nya, a GMF who serve at SWH. In these brief sessions, we learn basic phrases and vocabulary. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop our language skills. We are excited to learn another language and hope to use it for basic communication.



Prayer points *(Written by Nya - GMF)*

- Please pray for the Cambodian people. Many still do not know God. Pray that during the Christmas season, they will experience His love and peace. May they come to understand the true meaning of Christmas and accept Jesus as their Savior.
- Additionally, pray for our students on their faith journeys with Jesus. Some are not yet believers. May they come to know and understand the true love of God.

Shine Project - Vocational Training Program

During the Christmas season, we want to share a bit about Jesus Christ with our participants. To that end, we have invited our women's pastor to tell them about God. After hearing about God, they have decided to attend church with us on Sunday. We do not know if they believe in Christ, but we are pleased that they have opened their minds to see what Christians are doing. We pray that God will lead them to His ways in the future.

(Written by Youlika)



Children's Ministry



about 15 to 20 children. After they got a TV set it was much easier for the teacher and also good for the childrens to dance and watch school sunday school story.

Thank You for Support

Merry Christmas to all childrens around the world! Wesley Methodist Church is one of the churches in Phnom Penh District.

They have



How to Support: An annual tuition for most of the universities in Phnom Penh is about \$600.

Online support: <https://advance.umcmision.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: Reasey Long (Susanna Wesley Ministries Coordinator) - reasey1155@gmail.com

JEFFERSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2025 Ministry Plan

Why do we exist?

Our Mission: “Making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

What does our mission call us to do?

Our Vision: “To honor Christ’s command to go into our community and make disciples, by accepting all, affirming all, and transforming all into the likeness of Jesus Christ.”

How do we carry out our vision?

Our Purpose: “Love God, Love Others, Serve the World”

What are the concrete steps to living out our purpose?

Three-Fold Focus:

- (1) community involvement & visibility
- (2) communication
- (3) spiritual fellowship & development for ALL ages

How can we “streamline” our focus in the coming year to fulfill our purpose?

2025 Theme: “Who We Are: Our Story and How We Share It”

2025 Question to Ponder: “What is our story and what is a new way we can share it?”

Our Story (churchwide focuses throughout the year):

“Who We Are: Pictures of the Church” (January until Lent)

“The Story of the Passion through the Eyes of the Gospel Writers” (Lent)

“Living the Adventure of Faith: The Story of Our Faith Through Those Who Lived It”
(April-June)

“Our Story Through the Eyes of Children: The Gospel in Children’s Books” (Summer)

“Radical Vision: Sharing Our Story by Seeing People through the Eyes of Jesus”
(September)

“Celebrate the Faith: The Past, Present, and Future of Our Story” (Fall Stewardship)

“Our Story through the Eyes of Overlooked People of the Nativity” (Advent)

2025 Goals and Focuses

Community Involvement and Visibility

- Build connections with DFC Trailer Park
- Build connections with Children's Services
 - Help send foster children to Summer Camp
 - Begin work towards a county-wide Respite Camp for Foster Children (Andover UMC is taking lead)
 - Other opportunities
- Continue to have visibility at Community Events
 - Friday Night Outs
 - Covered Bridge Festival
 - Have a float at the Christmas Parade
 - "Sponsoring" school sporting events, etc.
 - Other opportunities that arrive
- Continue support of current missions
- Fresh Expressions
 - Reaching out into the community to hold ministries "where people are"
 - "Gather 'Round the Grill"
- Establish connections with local businesses
- Hold some "Life Classes" (*this is a long-term goal, not for 2025*)

Communication & Hospitality

- Update and grow our website
- Continue to shape and develop online worship/ministry
- Continue to up our social media presence, particularly on Facebook

Spiritual Fellowship & Development

- Studies
 - Sunday School and Bible Study
 - Book Studies
 - Thematic Studies
 - Consider development of Small Groups
- Grow our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
 - Youth "Rallies" about 3 times a year
 - Summer Camp for Special Needs Children that will hopefully lead to a Special Needs Ministry
 - Quarterly Family Nights
- Worship & Music

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26</p> <p>Loose Change Sunday</p> <p>9:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Yoga -</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10am - Ministry Team</p> <p>6pm - Safety meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Women at</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8am - WIC</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Yoga -</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am - Ministry Team</p> <p>4pm - Christian Cafe @</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:15am - Private Event</p> <p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Women at</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8am - WIC</p> <p>6pm - CHRISTO</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p> <p>8:30am - Stephen Min.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Yoga -</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am - Ministry Team</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30pm - Praise team</p> <p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Women at</p> <p>12pm - Quilters</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8am - WIC</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Yoga -</p> <p>12pm - Blood Drive</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am - Ministry Team</p> <p>4pm - Christian Cafe @</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Women at</p> <p>12pm - Book Circle</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4pm - Finance</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8am - WIC</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p> <p>10am - Quilters</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Loose Change Sunday</p> <p>9:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Yoga -</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10am - Ministry Team</p> <p>6pm - Safety meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Women at</p> <p>12pm - R & R Pasta</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8am - WIC</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p>