



Jefferson United Methodist Church
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

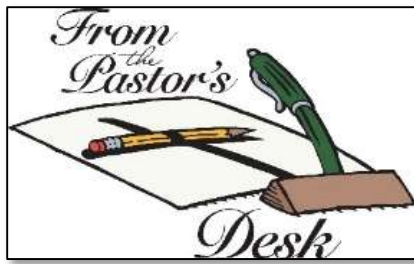
Office hours are 8:30 - 2:00 M-F
Office closed 11:30 – 12:00 daily for lunch.

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

March, 2025

Volume 128





Lent is approaching! Soon, we will be in the middle of our six-week journey towards the cross – a journey in which we learn about sacrifice, confession, repentance, and forgiveness. This journey is not an easy one. In fact, it can be quite painful at times. However, it is also vital in our walk with God. As we attempt to be better disciples, we must go through these moments of self-sacrifice – moments when we abstain from those things which are keeping us from God...moments in which we come to grips with ourselves and realize that we need to change if we want to be true disciples of Jesus Christ.

For these reasons, it is common practice to give something up for Lent – so much so that to many, this is all Lent is about...which we know is not the truth. Now, in my opinion, the whole giving up something practice is not necessarily a bad thing, but only if we approach it in the right way. That is, we are not to simply give something up because it is expected...we can't make Lent only about this! Nor should we give up something silly which embarrasses the entire purpose of Lent and makes a mockery of the Lenten spirit. For example, take a look at these Lenten quotes I found online:

"My brother thinks he should give up work for Lent."

"I'm giving up speaking to people I don't like for Lent."

"This year, as in every year, I'm giving up Lent for Lent."

"I'm giving up nothing for Lent. Shouldn't be too difficult."

"I get the whole sacrifice aspect of Lent, but I don't think God wants me to be miserable. So there's no way I'm giving up booze."

It is statements like these which infuriate me about the whole concept of giving something up for Lent – because people make a joke out of it. The whole reason we give something up is forgotten – the idea of self-sacrifice intended to strengthen our bond with God.

Therefore, I challenge you this Lent to take a long look in the mirror and see what is truly holding you back from a full relationship with God. Before you give something up, think about whether this something is going to help you practice self-sacrifice, or whether it is something which you are just doing because you want to say you are giving something up and do not want the challenge of sacrificing something you like. That is, do not make a mockery of Lent. Furthermore, I challenge you to add something in Lent which replaces what you are giving up – something which will help you grow closer to God...something like daily devotion or intentional prayer...something which will help you be a better disciple. Keep the real meaning of Lent alive as we journey all the way to the cross!



MARCH

Birthdays

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 4 | Dave Flaum |
| 5 | Mike Czayka |
| 6 | Glenn Jackson II |
| 13 | Linda Springer |
| | Rick Zack |
| 16 | Al Bonnema |
| 17 | Bev Burlingame |
| 27 | Ben Allen |
| 28 | Lauri Allen |
| 30 | KayAnn Brabender |



HAPPY
Birthdays





Verse of the Day

We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed.

- 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

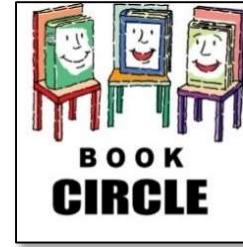
Voice of the Day

The human capacity for burden is like bamboo — far more flexible than you'd ever believe at first glance.

- Jodi Picoult, “My Sister’s Keeper” (2004)

Prayer of the Day

Creator, thank you for your strength that keeps us resilient, like the flexibility of bamboo under great burdens.



Join us at the church on Thursday, March 20 at noon with your own lunch and beverage to talk about:

The Color of Water

by James McBride

Upcoming books:

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!



Manna Drivers

Neither sleet, nor hail, nor rain, nor any other kind of preposterous weather has kept us from our appointed rounds, thank Heaven! We continue to serve those unable to get to Manna to receive food. And it's worth it.



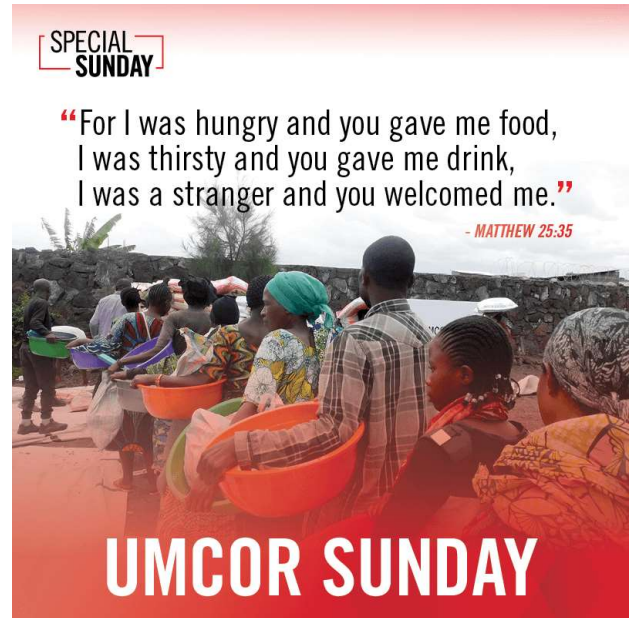
YES! This has indeed been A WINTER to remember this year! And thanks to your kindness and generosity, many have enjoyed the comfort of socks. And mittens. And hats. And scarves. And food. And hot chocolate. You have made the great difference between anxiety and knowing there will be enough. Enough to eat. Enough to keep warm.

Thanks to you, Susanna's Cupboard has been a source of comfort in Jefferson for five winters. You have done this together as Jefferson United Methodist Church. This has become a part of our story. Thank you.



**Wednesdays in Lent,
March 12-April 9
12 p.m.**

Peoples Baptist Church
3837 West Ave., Ashtabula
Enjoy lunch, singing, and a message!
Sponsored by the Ashtabula
Ministerial Association



**UMCOR Sunday
March 30, 2025**

The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.



Ash Wednesday Service will be
Wednesday, March 5 at 7 p.m.



2nd Annual Resurrection Madness



It will soon be March! Come and experience the Madness!!!

Lent will be here soon, and before we know it, we will be celebrating Easter and the truth that Jesus Christ is risen for each one of us, and with it, sin and death have been defeated! It quite frankly was the greatest event in human history – and it most certainly was full of “madness!”

In March, sports fans know that there is another Madness that happens – NCAA’s March Madness, also known as the college basketball tournament. So, once again, this year, let’s participate in the Madness while remembering the “madness” of the resurrection.

Outside the office during the week and outside the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, there will be a big board with a grid containing 100 squares. For \$10 a square, you can put your name in one of those squares (or contact the church office or Pastor Jeremy to add your name). The money will go to kickstart our Capital Campaign for a new roof on the parsonage. After squares are filled, each square will be randomly assigned a number 0-9 on the top/bottom AND a number 0-9 on the left/right. For each game during the NCAA March Madness Tournament (Men’s AND Women’s), whoever’s name is in the square corresponding to the last digits of the final score (top/bottom – winner of game; left/right – loser of game) wins that game and is given a point. For example, if the final score of a game is 86-79, whoever’s name is in the square with 6 on the top/bottom and 9 on the left/right, receives a point. At the end of the tournament, whoever has the most points wins and receives bragging rights and a collection of gift cards to some of our local establishments.

This all is simply for fun and to help kickstart our Capital Campaign for a new roof on the parsonage. So come and experience the “madness” of the resurrection this season, and have fun with the madness of NCAA basketball all in one. But most of all, remember the amazing madness of God’s love for us – that He sent us Jesus Christ to die and then rise again so that we can be forgiven! Alleluia!!!



Our CHRISTO mission team sends along a HUGE thank you for your continued support. They were able to raise more than \$1500 at their silent auction in February. This money will help to fund their upcoming mission trip to Charleston, WV in June. Thank you so much!

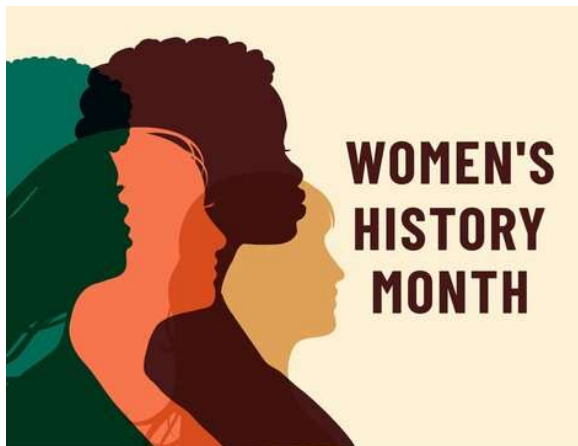
CPR NEWS

On Sunday, February 23rd, 25 members of our church family joined Cooper McMannes and his fellow EMTs/ Paramedics from JERD in our Youth Room for a 2-hour class in CPR/ AED applications. His realistic approach to recognizing and treating heart and choking emergencies occurring in infants, children and adults was easily understood. With 8 adult mannikins, 4 baby mannikins, and 5 instructors everyone got to apply the new skills with encouragement gladly provided. Applying enough force with the mannikin on the table for those you are vertically challenged is very difficult to accomplish. However, in a real situation, the victim will be on the floor, which makes it significantly easier to make those green lights appear. So, do not dismay.

The class was well worthwhile, and it provided a great opportunity to discuss the need and value of having Advance Health Care Directives. This includes Health Care Power of Attorney and Living Will. These forms are available in the Health Ministry office; they are free and do not require an attorney to complete. (Not to be confused with a Financial Power of Attorney, which would require an attorney.) I am happy to meet anyone and/ or reply to text messages to explain medical terms and language. I encourage you to realize the value and peace of mind it provides. "We always think we have plenty of time until we don't." The author of the quote is unknown, but the words ring true.

We have 14 more in our church family who are on the list to take the class and there is room for more to be added. A date will be set soon but will not be quite as convenient since Cooper has no Sunday availability until June. However, with a few more signing up we can have the class at the church, so call or text.

Martha Haluszka, Health Ministry **440 862 2331**



Compassionate Creator, we give special thanks during this Women's History Month for all women. Open our hearts and our awareness to the ways your Holy Spirit has been at work through the lives of women throughout all of history. We pray today for women of every vocation. May they experience your nearness,

guidance and love. God, equip us for the building of a world where all women are supported, celebrated and welcomed. Amen.



Saturday, March 15
5 p.m. in the Youth Room
Movie, Popcorn, and Pizza
ALL are invited! Bring a friend!!!



Once again, our Easter butterflies will be fluttering into the sanctuary to raise money for our Change the World fund. Stay tuned later this month for more information and for an opportunity to purchase your butterflies.

PRAYER *list...*

Katy Profeta
Jeannie Hoffman
Jeff Ward



Nursing /Care facility

Barb Gildersleeve –
Sanctuary of Gen.
Mark Kelly - JHC
Loretta Colby - JHC
Roger Sekanina—JHC
Sandy Hoffman - JHC



Nicholas Litwiler
Billy Beckwith
Amy Spencer

Susanna Wesley Ministries

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Susanna Wesley House

Shine Project

Children's Ministry

Welcoming New Students *(Written by Nya - GMF)*

We are thrilled to announce that we have four new students joining our Susanna Wesley family this year. We hold them in our prayers as they begin their university journey. We are looking forward to supporting them on their educational journey and helping them feel right at home in our community! Let us introduce each one of them to you:



Learning New Skills *(Written by Nya - GMF)*

There is always a great opportunity to learn and grow in many different skills. We feel blessed to be part of SWH, where we constantly have the chance to learn and try new things at the dorm. We recently started our first baking class with Bong Nya and hope to make it a monthly event. This is a new experience for many of us, and we are excited to learn from her. We hope that through these classes, we can improve our baking skills and apply them in the future.



Shine Project - Vocational Training Program

AS we celebrate the Happy New Year, we congratulate one of our participants, Nam Vanna, who has successfully graduated from her makeup and hairstyling program! This



achievement is particularly significant, as she was unable to complete high school, yet she has developed a skill that she is truly passionate about. We

are all excited for her and her future endeavors, and we encourage everyone to keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she pursues her dream of opening her own business one day. *(Written by Youlika)*

Children's Ministry

Thank You for Support



We have provided the TV set to Zion Pheakdey Methodist Church in Battambang before Christmas. It has become a great source of entertainment and learning for children and church members. They gather to watch educational programs, which makes their time at the church even more enjoyable. It's wonderful to see them engaging with each other and having fun while also benefiting from the content they watch! It costs \$450 to buy 55" TV and a stand.

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

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>23</p> <p>Loose Change Sunday</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</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>28</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>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7pm - Ash Wednesday</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Study</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Office closed</p> <p>8am - WIC</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>6pm - Ad Board</p> <p>7pm - SPRC</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 - Bible Study</p> <p>12pm - Quilters</p> <p>2pm - Community</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>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 - Bible Study</p> <p>12pm - Book Circle</p> <p>2pm - Community</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8am - WIC</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Private event WH</p> <p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p> <p>10am - Quilters</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</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 - Bible Study</p> <p>12pm - R & R Pasta</p> <p>2pm - Community</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8am - WIC</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Loose Change Sunday</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Yoga -</p> <p>6pm - Missions</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10am - Ministry Team</p> <p>4pm - Christian Cafe @</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Study</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p> <p>6pm - Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8am - WIC</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p>