



## Hardin/Wyandot Charge

John Stewart UMC  
130 W Johnson Street  
Upper Sandusky OH 43351

P 419-294-2867

Forest UMC  
111 E Dixon St  
Forest OH 45843

p 419-273-3148

Wharton UMC  
208 E Sandusky St  
Wharton OH 43359

p 419-294-2867

If you have something that you want to share, please email to Sue Pummell by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month:

[churchoffice@johnstewartumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@johnstewartumc.com)



*Please let the office know if you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email or on the website ([johnstewartumc.com](http://johnstewartumc.com)) instead of a mailing. We will need your email address.*

***Church Closures due to bad weather.....***

***We will leave it to your discretion. The Pastors will be ready each Sunday with a sermon and they will be recorded as well if you are unable to attend the service for any reason.***

## Upcoming Events

**January  
28<sup>th</sup>**

JS Youth Chicken Dinner – presale tickets only. \$6 carry out

**February  
5<sup>th</sup>**

Scout Sunday

**14<sup>th</sup>**

**Happy Valentines Day**

Red Cross Blood Drive @ JS  
FLC 12:30 – 5:30 p.m.

**27<sup>th</sup>**

Leadership Council – 7 p.m.

**March  
1<sup>st</sup>**

Ash Wednesday Service

**16<sup>th</sup>**

Life Screening @ JS  
FLC 8:30 – 5:30 p.m.

A big **Thank You** to everyone for their prayers, cards and phone calls .

They were much appreciated. I am doing much better.

Thanks again!  
Maxine Ulrich

## Winter-Spring Small Groups

Coming to the Forest, John Stewart, and Wharton congregations: an opportunity to get involved with a small group for prayer, study, and spiritual growth. The groups will use a study guide called, **Five Marks of a Methodist**. This experience is for those who still feel a need to learn the basics of Christian living. This class explores why and how we follow Jesus. Participants will have a variety of daily activities, including some prayer exercises, exploration of hymns and traditional prayers, and conversation suggestions to learn about why and how other people follow Jesus. Groups are set to meet 6 times over 5 weeks beginning the week of February 26th @ JS and March 5 @ Forest & Wharton. Watch for sign-up sheets and get in a group! All small groups will tentatively finish by Easter Sunday on April 16.

## Home Repair Work Camp 2017

The Youth of JSUM are again planning to participate in a mission experience, conducting home repair for low income families. The initial plan was to travel to Union Beach, NJ, where homes are still being repaired from hurricane Sandy's destruction back in 2012. Yes, it takes years for people to rebuild—the low middle income and high low income families sometimes being caught between eligibility criteria.

However, with the recent fires in the Gatlinburg, TN area, conversation has been started over whether to change plans and go where there will be a more immediate need. Please pray for our youth and their parents as they discern where God is calling them in their service to the Kingdom.

Contributions for this mission effort can be made to John Stewart UMC with "Youth Mission" printed on the memo line of your checks or written on the outside of your offering envelopes. It takes \$450 to send one student for the experience of a week of 25-30 hours of service.



## JANUARY

**19<sup>TH</sup> JOHN STEWART @ SYCAMORE,  
WHARTON HOME**

**26<sup>TH</sup> WHARTON @ TEC B+, JS @  
SYCAMORE**

## FEBRUARY

**2<sup>ND</sup> JOHN STEWART @ WHARTON**

**9<sup>TH</sup> WHARTON @ SYCAMORE, JS @  
SCUTCH**

**16<sup>TH</sup> JS HOME, WHARTON HOME**

**23<sup>RD</sup> JS HOME, WHARTON @ TEC B-**

## MARCH

**2<sup>ND</sup> JS HOME, WHARTON @ NAZARENE**

**9<sup>TH</sup> JS @ TEC B1, WHARTON HOME**

**16<sup>TH</sup> LEAGUE TOURNAMENT @ TRINITY  
EVANGELICAL 6:30 P.M.**

**NOTE: WHARTON GAMES ARE PLAYED  
AT FOREST UMC**



## **New Hymnal Survey: Favorite and Least Favorite Hymns**

The United Methodist Church plans to present a new hymnal to General Conference for approval in 2020. We want this hymnal to represent the whole denomination, and invite all United Methodists to participate in several surveys related to hymnal content. The link for the first survey, which is about favorite and least favorite hymns in The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, and Worship & Song, can be found at:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/new-hymnal-survey-favorite-and-least-favorite-hymns>

This first online survey will be available through January 9, 2017.

The next survey, which will focus on desired content for the new hymnal, will be released later in January. Other research related to music, worship, and culture from around the global United Methodist community will follow.

## **Merry Christmas indeed.....!**

We certainly felt overwhelmed by your many thoughtful gifts offered to us for Christmas. We are truly blessed to be in your service and in service to the Kingdom of God.

Thank you! Your pastoral staff and spouses:

*Pastor Brian & JoAnne*

*Pastor Bob & Becky*

*Pastor Doug & Sue*

# Forest United Methodist Church

Hardin-Wyandot Charge

## Forest-Wharton Community Food Pantry

The Forest-Wharton Community Food Pantry is in its 18<sup>th</sup> year of helping families in need. Peggy Pfeiffer and Lois Thiel were part of the original planning committee and they continue to help at the Pantry on a monthly basis.

When the Pantry started, we were helping 10-15 families a month. In December, 2016 we serviced 73 households.

The Pantry is a community pantry with many area churches helping with food donations as well as helping on servicing day. Between 16-20 individuals help on servicing day.

The Pantry services on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, unless a holiday prevents this or a weather condition prevents servicing.

Clients are given an ample 3 day supply of food as well as dish soap, detergent, personal soap, shampoo, tooth paste, paper towels, toilet paper and facial tissues.

In November and December, we give them an additional sack with food items for a holiday meal. All area churches help by providing one item for these holiday sacks.

In November, families with children 17 and under may sign up for gifts for each child. Area churches help provide these gifts.

We are truly thankful for a church community willing to help those in need.



1. Pray that we can meet all the needs.
2. Donate items or funds to the pantry.
3. Volunteer on servicing day.

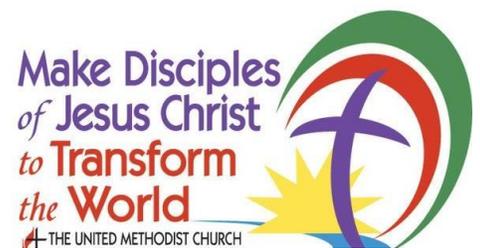


- January 17 – Walk with Terri, 6 pm, Fell. Hall  
January 18 – USDA delivery for Food Pantry, 10:30 am  
January 19 – Dart-ball, 6:30 pm, east end of Fell. Hall  
January 23 – Food Pantry, organization, 9 am; servicing, 1-3 pm  
January 24 – Walk with Terri, 6 pm, west end of Fell. Hall  
January 29<sup>th</sup> - \$5 on the 5<sup>th</sup> offering Sunday for Children’s Home  
January 31 – Walk with Terri, 6 pm, Fell. Hall  
February 1 – Worship Team Meeting @ 5:30 pm  
February 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Dartball @ 7:30 pm  
February 7, 14, 21 & 28<sup>th</sup> – Walk with Terri, 6 pm, Fell. Hall



The first Sunday of the month *Fellowship Lunches* will be starting again. We would like to thank all that have signed up to prepare the meals. There are still 3 months which we need volunteers for. If you can help with one of them, please let us know. The first lunch for this year will be February 5, headed by Cathy Morris.

## Facebook Page



Forest United Methodist Church now has a Facebook group page! If you would like to be a member of this group, all you have to do is go to the page, “The Forest United Methodist Church,” and click the join button. This is a closed group, meaning only members can see what is on our page.

We are doing our best to add announcements, scriptures for the upcoming sermon, prayer requests and praises, and other items of interest to the page. Once you have joined, please feel free to add things, such as your own group’s announcements or a prayer request, as the need arises, and of course comment on the things that are there. Pictures are always welcome as well. We would love for this page to be an active one, where we can share and discuss things in between Sunday mornings. Please join us 😊

5 January 2017

## **JSUM Extravagant Generosity**

### **—Finance Committee**

Attendance: Sara Lou Binau, Scott Cisar, Anne Denman, Doug Frisch, Sherry Goodman, Mike McPherson, and Pastor Brian Excused: Jeff Bowen

### **Apportionment Contribution Summary for the year 2016:**

As per the decision set forth by the last Leadership Council meeting at John Stewart UM, the Northwest Plains District apportionments for 2016 are set to be paid in full (100%): \$5,305

In addition, \$7,430.21 has been paid year to date to the West Ohio Conference.

The total payments, if no other apportionments are paid, will be \$12,735.21. Of this amount, \$10,615 was received through designated giving.

In 2015, a total of \$17,324.70 was paid (as a combination to both the District and the Conference in equal proportion).

As you look at your latest Fund Balance report, you can see that cash reserves now sit at \$29,148.53 after the final 2016 payroll and *most* other final invoices are paid (There will be a few left to post yet this week, including what will be done for a last Conference Apportionment payment).

The question now comes, are we able to pay more to the Conference as we end our 2016 fiscal year? Final payment to Conference for apportionments for 2016 needs to be paid next week and would have to come from our cash reserves in the Church Operations fund.

What you will need to know as you make this decision:

- 1) Designated giving for apportionments was down in 2016 over 2015 by 32%
- 2) Pledged Offering receipts were down in 2016 over 2015 by 22.8%
- 3) Non Pledged Offering receipts were up in 2016 over 2015 by 15.2%
- 4) Loose plate offering receipts were up in 2016 over 2015 by 36.1%
- 5) Total receipts for apportionments and operating fund in 2015: \$234,417. Total receipts for apportionments and operating fund in 2016: \$201,317
- 6) Pledges are up for 2017 over 2016 by 1.7% (\$152,980—pledged commitments)

The following options were discussed:

- A) Consider the year completed; pay no more apportionments.
- B) Match the amount paid last year by using cash reserves with one final payment of \$4,589.49 to the Conference.
- C) Pay 1% more on our 2016 commitment over what the percentage was paid out last year by using cash reserves with one final payment of \$5,485.23 to the Conference.

**Anne made a motion to make a final apportionment payment of \$5,485.23 to the West Ohio Conference out of the cash reserves. Mike offered a second to the motion. Motion carried with no one dissenting.**

### **2017 Budget Proposal**

The budget that had been pieced together after two previous meetings was reviewed once again. No further revisions were made.

**Doug made a motion to present the budget to the Leadership Council for final adoption. Mike offered a second to the motion. Motion carried with no one dissenting.**

Meeting notes are continued on the next page:

## **JSUM Extravagant Generosity**

### **—Finance Committee**

Meeting notes continued:

#### **Cash Reserves Management**

Currently, \$9,000 is held in the Designated Miscellaneous fund (also found on the Fund Balance report). It was transferred from the Council Edward Jones account in October 2015, authorized by the Council for the purpose of covering an anticipated \$4,500 shortfall of expenses for the sanctuary sound/video. By the end of 2015, there was enough money that had come into the Memorial fund to finish covering the costs of the sanctuary project and the transferred funds were not used. The Council set a goal to have 90 to 180 days of annual expenses as a cash reserve balance in the Church Operations fund. So the group discussed whether it was time to release the \$9,000 from the Designated Miscellaneous fund and place it with the Church Operations fund. A minimal cash reserve goal based upon 2015 and 2016 expenses would be about \$52,000.

Sara Lou also clarified that the balance of the Council Edward Jones account is fully available to the Leadership Council. Now that the congregation's finances have improved over the past three years from where it was in the middle of 2013, the Council Edward Jones account can be used as an investment tool to hold the Leadership Council's Church Operations fund cash reserves. Sara Lou explained that the investment is diversified, tying up some funds for longer term, some for shorter term, and some left liquid. The congregation could benefit from higher investment returns on the cash reserves rather than having a higher

than needed Church Operations balance in the checking account where it earns very little.

**By consensus, the group decided to keep \$10,000 in the Church Operations fund (checking account) to begin 2017 and transfer the balance into the Leadership Council Edward Jones account.**

#### **JSUM Endowment Fund and Program**

Doug offered an update about the JSUM Endowment investments: the portfolio grew by 6.1% as of December 31. Of the designated accounts, the UMW requested a withdrawal of \$280. Doug is still waiting for a decision about withdrawals from the leadership of the Tammy Clifford Scholarship fund and from the Trustees Maintenance fund. IRS does require a minimal withdrawal from the Endowment portfolio, but its purpose is to generate additional principal to keep up with the cost of living so that it can always fund future ministries.

The group did not feel it necessary to recommend a withdrawal from the General Endowment fund, reserved for designation and use by the Leadership Council.

Doug is also hoping yet this winter to explore opportunities to develop education workshops for families or individuals who might want to know more about annual budgeting investments, or end of life planning. He will be connecting with the West Ohio Conference Council on Development Assistant Director, Stan Ling. He was our resource person and guest speaker for the 2016 Consecration Sunday.

These notes are offered by temporary scribe,

Pastor Brian

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Wharton Church had a makeover! Looks absolutely beautiful!