



“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, rejoice!” [Philippians 4:4](#)

It is time to think of all the great things the Lord is doing in our lives and rejoice. We all spend way too much time frustrated and complaining when we should be rejoicing in all the blessings that has been provided to us by our wonderful giving Lord. We can rejoice that winter will soon be behind us and the sunshine of spring is near. Anyone who knows me already knows I am a warm weather person 😊. We should also be rejoicing because we are in the season of Lent, a time for self-reflection and repentance. Also a time to praise the Lord for all He sacrificed for us through his loving grace. Do you realize we worship the only God that allowed himself to be sacrificed on a cross for our sins? Did you know we worship the only God who defeated death and rose from His grave? In history all others who claimed to be god died and never rose again from their grave. If that isn't enough to rejoice in, then I don't know what else could be.

There is more reason to feel joy. We have special services coming up for this season. We will be teaming up with several other churches for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Whenever we team up with other churches that gives me “joy”. I always think that someday we will all be together in heaven. We will not be divided by walls and different buildings and denominations. We will be one big loving family of faith worshiping our God whom we all love! The thought of that is reason to rejoice.

We also have reason to rejoice with our small groups. We are in the middle of our study on the “Five Marks of a Methodist” The groups have been well attended and the sharing have

**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**

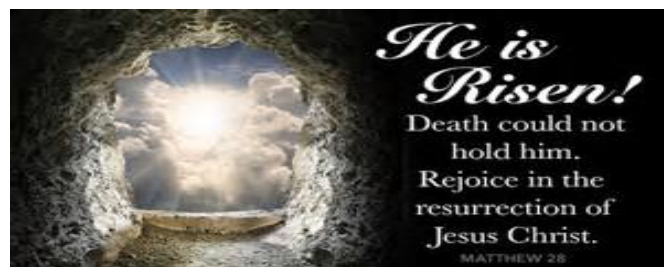
208 E Sandusky St  
Wharton OH 43359

been wonderful. I cannot say enough how valuable these small groups can be for both our personal and church family lives. (If you still want to come and plug into a group feel free to join us) We can never study His word and pray together enough. These groups are a joy to me and I rejoice.

How are you doing with the “thing” you gave up for Lent, if you gave up anything? For some, that may not be a joy. Remember, if you did give something up or if you added a discipline to your life, ask yourself, “Why am I doing it?” I have heard several people tell me what they gave up for Lent. I have asked several people why they gave “it” up. I am sad to say that almost all have answered, “Because it’s Lent”. Many people know that custom of giving something up, but do not know why. Remember when you are giving something up you should be replacing it with something Godly. God takes great joy in spending extra time with you. Remember to spend time with Him while you are giving up whatever it is you gave up. When you do that you will feel joy and rejoice.

There it is folks... many reasons to feel joy and rejoice! Happy Easter to all my church family!

May God bless all of you! ~ *Pastor Doug*



# Forest United Methodist Church

Hardin-Wyandot Charge

---

## Forest UMC Leadership Team Meeting Monday, March 6, 2017

- We are short on funds to meet all of our obligations.  
OPTIONS:
  - 1) Get more money;
  - 2) Cut expenses;
  - 3) Pray; or
  - 4) Combine 1,2,&3
- Support Staff Positions
  - Treasurer?
  - Organist?
  - Paid vs. Volunteer?
  - SPPRC to meet 03/15/17
- Forest Christian Pre-School
  - Terri Exline was approved to serve on Pre-School Board
- Trustees
  - Cleaning of Sanctuary scheduled for Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Clean and organize sometime after Easter
  - General cleaning to be done after school's out (floor strip/wax)
- Gospel Praise Gathering 4/23/17
  - We have hosted this "Bill Gaither-like" event for several years
- Next scheduled meeting: Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm



---

## Forest-Wharton Food Pantry



**USDA delivery** for Food Pantry will be April 19 at 10:30 am

**The Forest-Wharton Food Pantry:** organization will be April 24 at 9 am; servicing will be from 1-3 pm on the same days.



You can re-enroll in April at [Kroger.com/CommunityRewards](http://Kroger.com/CommunityRewards). You'll continue earning donations for the Forest United Methodist Church every time you shop and use your Card!

It's time to re-enroll for the new year of Kroger Community Rewards. Participants need to re-enroll in the month of **April** in order to continue contributing to the *Forest United Methodist Church* through the May 1st 2017 to April 30th 2018 year.

For a member to re-enroll their card they simply go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)

- Click "sign-in"
- Put in their email address and password that they used to enroll their card.
- Put in the group number or part of the name of the organization.
- Choose the correct organization.
- Click Enroll.

You are now enrolled for the May 1st 2017 to April 30th 2018 year of Kroger Community Rewards. If you are having an issue with your password and or email address please 1-800-KROGERS, press 5 for customer service, press 5 to speak to a customer service representative.

If it's the first time you are registering, you will need to set up your account first.

- For a member to enroll their card the simply go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)
- Click "create an account"
- Put in their email address and password. Confirm their password
- Enter plus card OR alt ID number
- Go to Community Rewards (near bottom)
- Follow through the steps. (Name, address, etc.)
- Put in the group number or part of the name of the organization.
- Choose the correct organization.
- Click Enroll.

You are now enrolled for the May 1st 2017 to April 30th 2018 year of Kroger Community Reward.

**Thank you for participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program!**



**Free Summer Lunch Program** planned on Tuesdays (beginning May 30, 2017) at Gormely Park in Forest.

Volunteers are needed to serve food and help clean up!

Sponsored by the Forest United Methodist Church

Contact Elois Cramer  
419-273-2897

---

## Forest Christian Preschool Class Wish List



The Preschool is in need of the following items:

Band-Aids  
Hand sanitizer  
Rubber gloves  
Bleach  
Carbon monoxide detector

Pencils  
Staples  
Glue sticks  
Dry erase markers  
Crayons

Birthday hats  
Trash bags  
Colored pencils  
Markers  
Blue/black/red pens

Gently used toys: baby dolls, doll clothes, “Hot Wheels” type tracks, building sets like “Lincoln Logs”, “Tinker Toys”, gears, magnetic construction kits, etc.

Please place items in the boxes at the FUMC west and east doors. Thank you!

---



## *Walk with Terri*

Tuesday nights at 6 pm in the FUMC fellowship hall.  
All are welcome.



# 2017 Community Holy Week Services

## Maundy Thursday Service

April 13, at Patterson United Methodist Church & Trinity Evangelical, 7 pm

## Good Friday Service

April 14, at John Stewart & Wharton United Methodist Church, 7 pm

## Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast

April 16, at Heritage Christian Union Church, 7 am  
& Mission Church, 8 pm



Regular Easter Sunday worship, 9 am at Wharton, 10:10 at John Stewart &  
10:30 am at Forest United Methodist Church

---

## JS Youth

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** – Baked potato bar following 10:10 service/hard boiled eggs & baked goods for donation

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** – Breakfast following the Sunrise service in the FLC

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>** – Work days/Spring Cleanup or other odd jobs – We come to you!

---

## Wednesday Night John Stewart UMC Community Dinners

@ 5:30 p.m. All are welcome for food and fellowship! Menu is subject to change.

### April:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Sausage –n- gravy over biscuits
- 12<sup>th</sup> Pasta - Casserole
- 19<sup>th</sup> French toast casserole - applesauce
- 26<sup>th</sup> Grilled cheese – tomato soup

### May:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hot dogs – chips – baked beans
- 10<sup>th</sup> Shredded Chicken – pasta salad
- 17<sup>th</sup> Beef stew over biscuits – fruit
- 24<sup>th</sup> MYSTERY DINNER (last meal for the year)



# What is the Staff Parish Relations Committee?

The primary goals of SPRC is to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support and respect the pastors, staff and their families. We are also here to nurture the congregation as a whole. This does not mean we are the “complaint department” for all things negative within the church. We are here to listen but would encourage everyone to go directly to the source of conflict to have issues resolved.

If a church member voices a concern to a member of the SPRC, that person will be encouraged to speak directly to the pastor or staff member. If they have already done so but are dissatisfied, the SPRC member will encourage them to further speak to the pastor or staff or reflect upon other positive responses and forgiveness. If the issue continues and is important, the SPRC member will encourage the person to write down the concern, date and sign it. The SPRC cannot deliver verbal concerns to the committee.

Once a written concern has been received, the SPRC member will take it to the entire SPRC. The chair will write an acknowledgement that the written concern has been received and will

be discussed. It will be at the discretion of the entire committee if the concern has merit and deserves further attention or has no merit and deserves no attention. If it is determined to be a legitimate concern, the committee along with the pastor or staff will discuss the issue and together decide on a course of action. If warranted, a joint written statement will be made to the entire church or just to the individual who initiated the concern. All SPRC members are obliged to share only the approved joint statement without additions or deletions.

The SPRC may receive individual letters only and not petitions from groups. ~Anne Denman

## **The members SPRC for this year are:**

Anne Denman, Carol Minehart, Betsy Bowen and Dylan Ham for John Stewart UMW;

Alice M Fay, Elois Cramer and Stanley Seabert for Forest UMW

Richard Pfeiffer and Gary Walter for Wharton UMW.

---

## **John Stewart UMC Leadership Council**

### ***Minutes of the Meeting February 26, 2017***

Sara Lou opened with “Jesus Moments”

17 members present: Sara Lou Bina, Scott Cisar, Anne Denman, Todd Goodman, Carol Minehart, Susan DeVene, Jeff Bowen, Betsy Bowen, Jim Minehart, Andrea Culley, Rylee Goodman, Dylan Ham, Sherry Goodman, Sue Pummell, Pastors: Brian Arnold, Bob Greene and Doug Pummell. Visitors: Becky Greene, Howard Culley and Duane Ham. Prayer was offered by Pastor Brian. “Jesus” moments were shared. Minutes from the last meeting were available. Minutes were approved. Sara Lou thanked those involved with providing the lunch.

### **Visitors:**

- Becky Greene is putting together a Women’s Retreat titled “Sweet Life Café”

scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> at JSUMC from 9–4 p.m.. The Hardin/Wyandot charge are all invited as well as friends/family. Becky asked for at least \$150 to go towards the cost of the retreat and is also charging \$35 per person. Motion to use \$150 from budget to cover the cost from Anne 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol – discussion: this may be divided among the common ministry fund to be discussed at SPRC. The expense will be taken from church programs fund. Motion was amended by Anne and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol. Motion passed.

## **Committee Reports**

**Finance:** Giving has been good.

Our water bill was high at the end of last year due to running toilets and a leak in the organ

humidifier. Sherry would like to thank the City of Upper Sandusky. They provided the church with cases of bottled water, bags of ice and gallon water for our Wednesday night dinner since the water was once again on a boil alert.

SPRC: The charge SPRC will be a meeting on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Dylan Ham volunteered to fill in the remaining spot for John Stewart.

Trustees: A new organ humidifier was put in because of a leak. The History room has been painted. The flower bed outside will be fixed as well as the stone. The screen in the bell tower will be repaired to detour bats. The fans in the family life center are on the list of projects to be completed as well as sealing some of the walls.

Radical Hospitality: The signs are all up around the church. This project was done by ViZual Express out of Marion.

Passionate Worship: There has been a change in the worship to try to have a smoother flow. Some miss the “greet your neighbor” some do not. Positive comments with the new flow of the service were given.

#### Others:

- Betsy Bowen said that there will be Native American days at the schools in October. Chief Roll will be there. This all stems from the outreach from the Mission Church 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The Mission Church has a write up in the Rural Electric magazine.
- The Mission Church received a grant for \$2500.00 for educational purposes.
- UMW will host the district meeting brunch at JSUMC on April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 – 1:30 p.m.
- Prayer Connectors: have 12 members – these members are available at the 10:10 service for prayer before and after the service (Prayer Timers). Phyllis Koehler takes care of the Prayer Nook. Judy Mumma handles the Prayer chain calls. You can see Susan DeVene if you want to be a member of the Prayer Timers.

#### **Business:**

Budget: Balance sheet looked good for February 2017. We need to get our apportionments giving up. We paid all of our district apportionment in 2016. Numbers are close to last year and we need to have a cash reserve set up for unforeseen expenses. Budget figures were discussed. Scott Cisar motions we approve the budget/Rylee Goodman 2<sup>nd</sup> There was a discussion regarding maintenance expenses (yearly needs) vs building improvements (i.e. Roof repair). Motion passed.

EJ Council Account: Scott Cisar will be added as a signer on the account and Doug Frisch will come off. Motion by Anne/Todd 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion passed.

Leadership Council vacancies: There are positions open in Missions, Extravagant Generosity, Faith Forming Relationships, Hospitality and a Vice Chair needed for Trustee and SPRC.

Sherry made the motion to change the “Young Adult Representative” to “Young Adult/Youth Representative” and to have Jenny Ham fill this vacancy. Carol 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Thank You Jesus signs – Sherry was in NC and came across “Thank You Jesus” signs. She would like to have all of Wyandot County put these signs in their yards for Holy Week. The signs are \$8 each, but we would sell them for \$10 - \$2 will go to the Open Door Resource Center. Sherry would like to order 150 signs to get started. All orders are due by March 16<sup>th</sup>. JS will make up the flyers and give them to the area ministers so their congregations may order as well. Scott Cisar motioned to approve the pre-ordering of 150 signs, Rylee 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

For more information regarding the signs go to [www.thankyoujesussigns.com](http://www.thankyoujesussigns.com) , this was started by a 16 year old boy!

**Next meeting: Monday, April 24, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Committee Reports due: April 20<sup>th</sup> to the church office

Adjournment: without objection meeting was adjourned by Sara Lou Binau

Pre-Sorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Upper Sandusky, OH  
Permit No. 12

JOHN STEWART UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
130 WEST JOHNSON STREET  
P.O. BOX 333  
UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO 43351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



**April 1<sup>st</sup>** – 8:00 a.m. UMW District meeting @ JSUMC  
**April 6<sup>th</sup>** - 4:00 p.m. BBQ Pork Fundraiser for Boy Scout Troup #125 @ JSUMC (only 300 meals will be served)  
**April 9<sup>th</sup>** – Palm Sunday- New Members/Confirmation  
**April 16<sup>th</sup>** – EASTER MORNING – He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!!  
**May 6<sup>th</sup>** – Vender event @ JSUMC in the FLC 1p.m – 5 p.m.  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>** – Women’s Retreat 9 – 4 p.m.... more information to come☺