



UMCOW Chef Salad Days

Wednesday, March 18

(Order deadline: March 11)



Help is needed cutting meat, peeling eggs, etc. earlier in the week.

Sign-up sheets will be at the Welcome Center. Thank you!

Outreach Ministries

There are many ways that our church supports the community.

Below is a short list of specific requests for donations for

Seeds of Hope and Tioga County Homeless Initiative.

There are bins at the Welcome Center for donations.

If you would like to get involved with our

Outreach Ministry, please contact the office at 570-724-1968.

SEEDS OF HOPE

Seeds of Hope Partners, Inc. in Wellsboro, PA is a volunteer-driven organization that assists families in crisis, specifically targeting the provision of basic needs like furniture (notably beds), household items, and clothing.

Current needs:

- Twin: sheets, blankets, mattress pads
- Full: blankets & mattress pads
- Bed Pillows
- Hygiene: deodorant, shampoo & mouth wash

Urgent needs for blankets

TIOGA HOMELESS INITIATIVE

Tioga County Homeless Initiative provides a warm, safe and caring environment for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness.

Donations requested:

- Men and women's
 - Body wash
 - Shampoo - Conditioner
 - Deodorant
 - Razors
 - Shaving Cream
- Laundry Soap
- Toilet Paper

Food items and frozen food will be accepted, too!

The Messenger - March, 2026

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WELLSBORO

Dear Friends,

Do you ever find it hard to slow down? Do you ever find your schedule is so full that you don't know where the time has gone. You wake up in the morning, hit the ground running, and by the end of the day, you are just exhausted. Life has a way of doing that sometimes. Maybe for you, your days are filled with caring for others. Others, work demands have got you feeling overwhelmed at times. Maybe, this season has your calendar filled with so many different medical appointments, you forget which doctor you're going to see now. In times of busyness and chaos, it makes it hard to focus on anything else.

Maybe the only time you spend with God is just lamenting your situation, yelling at God at why it is all so frustrating, or just questioning why God would do this to you. For many people, when their life is hectic, their time with God is one of the first things to go. All our attention shifts to whatever the most pressing demand is for that day. Let me just say – all that is completely normal and there is absolutely no shame in that respond.

The good news is that we don't have to stay in that respond. We don't have to keep our faith on the back burner of life during times of chaos. It is during the season of Lent, that we are reminded of our need to slow down. Even when everything around us is moving 100mph, we can pause and spend time with God. It doesn't have to long, just long enough to ground you in God as you go through your day. Psalm 121:1-2 reminds us, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

I encourage you to keep reading the rest of the chapter. It is a wonderful reminder that God is always with us. Even when we're overwhelmed, God is still there. As you continue your way through Lent, I want to encourage you to take time to slow down each day. Use those prayer beads and allow yourself time to listen to and connect with God each day. If you did not receive a set or want a set to share with someone else, please let me know. And through all the ups and downs of life, we can praise God for his constant presence and love that is poured out on us.

In His Service,
Pastor Liz Jackson

Are you passionate about reaching young families in our community?

Camp and Retreat Ministries, Young People's Council, and Discipleship Ministries have joined forces to create a learning experience called *Pathways of Partnership*. Gather with other leaders in the conference to explore new ways to connect with young people and families in our community. Learn avenues and inroads that other ministries and local churches are using to creatively expand relationships and collaborations in their communities. Presenters for this are Rev. Beth Jones – the director of Deep Green Journey, and Laura McLean – Cultiv8 Group of Discipleship Ministries of the UMC. Both speakers bring unique perspectives on how we can engage with people – in nature and with the environment we create. Come explore the possibilities and identify keys to cultivating healthy, rich soil where youth can grow and thrive – both in traditional settings as well as the beautiful nature around us.

There are two opportunities to attend. Friday, March 27th at Calvary UMC in Harrisburg or Saturday, March 28 at First UMC in Hollidaysburg. Attend with Pastor Liz, who will drive you to the event. Please let Pastor Liz know by March 15th if you are interested in attending.

Bible Reading Challenge

Our lives thrive on rhythms. Our bodies function better when we get up and go to bed at roughly the same time every day. We create rhythms when we take our medications, eat our meals, and even when we take a shower. We find rhythms for work and rhythms for rest. We can find it easier to connect with God if we make that a natural rhythm of our lives. Maybe for you, your special time with God is first thing in the morning, or while eating your breakfast, or during lunch, or it's the last thing you do before you fall asleep. If you don't have a rhythm yet, don't be afraid to try out a couple of times, to discover what works best for you. You might be surprised to find how your faith will grow when you spend time with God each day

March 1 – Psalm 62-64
March 2 – Psalm 65-67
March 3 – Psalm 68
March 4 – Psalm 69-70
March 5 – 1 Samuel 23
March 6 – 1 Samuel 24
March 7 – Acts 1
March 8 – 1 Samuel 25
March 9 – 1 Samuel 26
March 10 – Acts 2

March 11 – 1 Samuel 27
March 12 – 1 Samuel 28
March 13 – Acts 3
March 14 – 1 Samuel 29
March 15 – 1 Samuel 30
March 16 – 1 Samuel 15
March 17 – Acts 4
March 18 – 2 Samuel 1
March 19 – 2 Samuel 2
March 20 – Acts 5

March 21 – 2 Samuel 3
March 22 – 2 Samuel 4
March 23 – Acts 6
March 24 – 2 Samuel 5
March 25 – 2 Samuel 6
March 26 – Acts 7
March 27 – 2 Samuel 7
March 28 – 2 Samuel 8
March 29 – Acts 8
March 30 – 2 Samuel 9
March 31 – 2 Samuel 10



Date	Nursery Volunteers	Liturgists	Church Fellowship Schedule
March 1	Greg Jackson	Jim Paxson	Sam Erdo & Cathy Mack
March 8	Sarah Shoffler	Bev McKnight	Barb & Tom Auman
March 15	Bev Perry	Bill Shoffler	Shoffler Family
March 22	Bev McKnight	Karen Blackwell	Brenda Coder & Pat Newruck
March 29		Seth Watkins	Sheila & Craig Fields
Media Ministry		Dave Bowen	<u>Contact Numbers:</u> Altar Flowers: Church Office 570-724-1968 Church Fellowship: Bev McKnight, 570-724-4582



CHURCH ATTENDANCE & INCOME



Date	10:30 Worship	Sunday School	Church Income: Feb. 1 thru Feb. 22, 2026	
February 1	69	11	Funding Ministry Income	\$14,981
February 8	91	9	Other Income	\$500
February 15	77	13	Total Income	\$15,481
February 22	60	11	<i>Funding Ministry Budget for 4 weeks</i>	\$18,698



March Birthdays

- 1 - Gilbert Acorn
- 14 - Shirley Spencer
- 17 - Karen Blackwell
- 22 - Sarah Shoffler
- 24 - Gere Reist
- 25 - David Huck
- 30 - Todd Crumb

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School starts the Monday following Laurel Festival, June 22-26. More details are coming. If you are interested in helping in any way, please see Cheryl Seely, Sam Erdo, or Pastor Liz. All volunteers with the Community VBS must have completed their Safe Sanctuary training and have their clearances on file in the office.

Lenten and Easter Worship Opportunities

Midweek Lenten Services – 12pm at First Presbyterian Church (March 4, 11, 18, 25). Lunch will be provided after the service. Come hear our pastors from the Ministerium speak on the Fruit of the Spirit.

- March 4 – Chris Osterbrock (First Baptist Wellsboro)
- March 11 – Millard Cook (St. Paul’s Episcopal)
- March 18 – Brett Kennedy (Vineyard Wellsboro)
- March 25 – Kent Fowler (Mount Zion Full Gospel)

Maundy Thursday Service – April 2 at 6:30pm in Epworth Hall. Bring a dish to pass. Communion will be served.

Good Friday

Community Cross Carrying Walk for Jesus – 10am, meet at the Chamber of Commerce
Service – 7pm in the sanctuary

Easter Sunrise – 6:30am, outside. Meet in the front of the church building. Communion will be served. Breakfast will be served immediately following the service.

Easter Service – 10:30am in the sanctuary. Communion will be served.

New Worship Opportunity

We are excited to announce the launch of a new worship opportunity at our church: *Connections*. Beginning March 29th at 3pm and continuing on the last Sunday of every month, this special service will be held in the Rotunda.

Connections will offer a smaller, more intimate setting designed to help us slow down, draw closer to God, and deepen our relationships with one another. Through meaningful worship, prayer, and communion, we will create space to truly connect - heart to heart - with God and with one another.

Whether you are seeking a quieter worship experience, a deeper sense of community, or simply another opportunity to grow in your faith, we invite you to join us.

Mark your calendar for March 29th at 3pm, and come experience *Connections*.

Going to the Hospital? Need a visit?

Pastor Liz is ready to visit you in the hospital, pray with you before your surgery, or just talk with you if you need to. You are never alone in whatever challenge you are facing.

Are you thinking about joining the church?

Have you been considering joining the church? Do you want to know what it means to be a member?

Well, you're in luck. The last Sunday of every month, following the service, grab a snack and meet with Pastor Liz to learn more about membership in the church. We will meet in Pastor Liz's office. There is no need to sign up; just come out.

Everyday Discipleship

Small Steps, Deep Faith: Simplicity and Trust

As we continue in the season of Lent, allow this time to be a time of simplification – let go of what distracts you so you can focus more fully on God. Simplicity is not about doing without for the sake of sacrifice alone, but about creating room for trust. When we release what weighs us down, we make space for God's grace to work more freely in our lives.

Try it out

- Fast from something small one day a week (social media, sweets, screen time, caffeine)
- Declutter one drawer, shelf, or space while praying, "God, help me let go of what I no longer need."
- In prayer, replace "sorry" with "thank you," focusing on gratitude instead of guilt.

Rise Against Hunger

The Wellsboro Ministerium is partnering with the Wellsboro Rotary Club to help fight against food insecurity around the globe. You are invited to participate in our Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Party on March 22nd at 1pm at the Vineyard Church. Come out and work shoulder to shoulder with other community members as we prepare to package 20,000 meals to be sent across the world. Sign up online using the QR code below, or at the Welcome Center.

If you can't stand to pack meals but still want to help, we need to raise \$8,335.20 as a community for these meals. You can donate online or place a donation in the offering plate. Make sure to mark it "Rise Against Hunger."



Many thanks for your support of the nursery through our year-end giving tree.

New contributions this month include: a child's tea party set, an ice cream cone set, a BBQ set, a pot & pan set, and a big supply of Pampers! Children love pretend play - its their way of making sense of their world and helps them learn new language. Did you know that a child's work is play?!

We welcome Bill Shoffler, Bev Perry, & Annie Shoffler as nursery volunteers - thank you for completing your clearances & Safe Sanctuary training!

Volunteers are needed for April, May & June - the sign up is in the Welcome Center.

We are increasing our public awareness of the nursery. If you listen to KC101 we would love to know if you hear our special announcements on Tuesday/Thursday mornings at about 7:30 and Monday/Wednesday/Friday afternoons about 3:00 pm.

Children's Ministry



A big thank you to Lori Albin for taping a video about the nursery and getting it posted on our Facebook page. A special thank you to her nephew Sam for his hard work on our FB page.

In case you missed it, the Souper Bowl of Caring and Jim Paxson's birthday party was a huge success. \$700 was collected for the Wellsboro Food Pantry in honor of Jim Paxson!

And in case you missed seeing Jim Paxson on a bobble-head, here you go!

Thank you everyone!



Clearances and Safe Sanctuary Training

Lots of amazing opportunities for reaching out to our community are upon us – First Fridays, Community VBS, even an opportunity to serve in the nursery. None of these things can happen without volunteers who have their Safe Sanctuary training, their Child Abuse Clearances, and their Criminal Background checks. They are all free and good for 5 years. If you need help, Sarah Shoffler and Sam Erdo can help walk you through the process. It can be done online or through the mail. Forms and instructions are available at the Welcome Center.



The Lord's Laughter

A little boy told a church member that he had decided he wanted to become a pastor when he grew up. When asked why, the boy replied, "Because then I can stand up and walk around and talk during church."

A school chaplain had an indignant parent telephone him and complain, "I called you yesterday, but there was no answer." When he replied that Monday was his day off, she commented, "The devil never takes a day off."

"That's right," the chaplain answered, "and if I didn't take one, I'd be just like him."

The parent laughed and never complained again.

Letter to God from a seven-year old girl:

"Dear God: We read Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday school they said You did it. So I bet he stole Your idea."

Thank you Jim Paxson for the funnies!

2026

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9am - Sun. School 10:30am - Worship Service <i>Fellowship</i> 7pm - NA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4pm - Quilting 6pm AA 6:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>2pm - Tai Chi 3pm - Soul v</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12pm - Lenten Service 1pm - Tai Chi 2:15pm - Tai Chi 6:30pm - Praise Team 6:30pm - Scouts 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10am Journey Bible Study 3pm - Tai Chi 5pm - Tai Chi</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7pm - AA</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>LOOSE CHANGE SUNDAY (<i>Haven</i>) 9am - Sun. School 10:30am - Worship Service <i>Fellowship</i> 7pm - NA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10am - Food Pantry 4pm - Quilting 5pm - BPW 6pm - AA 6:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2pm - Tai Chi 3pm - Soul v 6:30pm - Admin Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p>SALAD ORERS DUE 12pm - Lenten Service 1pm - Tai Chi 2:15pm - Tai Chi 6:30pm - Praise Team 6:30pm - Scouts 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10am - Journey Bible Study 3pm - Tai Chi 5pm - Tai Chi</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7pm - AA</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9am - Sun. School 10:30am - Worship Service <i>Fellowship</i> 7pm - NA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4pm - Quilting 5pm - Girl Scouts 6pm AA 6:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2pm - Tai Chi 3pm - Soul v</p>	<p>18</p> <p>SALAD DELIVERY 12pm - Lenten Service 1pm - Tai Chi 2:15pm - Tai Chi 6:30pm - Scouts 7pm - Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10am - Journey Bible Study 3pm - Tai Chi 5pm - Tai Chi</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Messenger Deadline 7pm - AA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>BPW - All day Epworth Hall</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9am - Sun. School 10:30am - Worship Service <i>Fellowship</i> 7pm - NA</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4pm - Quilting 6pm - AA 6:30pm - Bell Choir</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am - Food Pantry 2pm - Tai Chi 3pm - Soul v</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12pm - Lenten Service 1pm - Tai Chi 2:15pm - Tai Chi 6:30pm - Praise Team 6:30pm - Scouts 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10am - Journey Bible Study 3pm - Tai Chi 5pm - Tai Chi</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7pm - AA</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9am - Sun. School 10:30am - Worship Service <i>Fellowship</i> 7pm - NA</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4pm - Quilting 6pm AA 6:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>31</p> <p>4pm - Quilting 6pm AA</p>	<p>***Note: Pastor Liz will be out of the office March 3 - March 6, 2026 (Safe travels Pastor Liz!)</p> 			

Main & Queen Streets
PO Box 547
Wellsboro PA 16901

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THE MESSENGER—MARCH 2026



Submissions of items for the April 2026 *Messenger* are needed in the Church Office by Wednesday, March 20, or as soon as possible after that date.

United Methodist Church of Wellsboro
36 Main Street
PO Box 547
Wellsboro PA 16901
Church Office Phone: 570-724-1968
Hours 8:00am to 2:00pm M -T-THURS.
8:00am-12:00pm FRI.
Email: umcow@epix.net
Website: www.umcow.org

Rev. Elizabeth Jackson, Pastor
Cell Phone 717-332-1916
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.