

Dear Friends,

In this current season of life, there are few days when I get a full night's sleep. If the girls do not wake me up, it's the dogs. It can be really easy to be upset or resentful because all I want to do is just sleep uninterrupted. Yet, if I allow that bitterness to take hold, I miss seeing the gifts that I can so easily miss. When I am woken up in the early morning hours and I struggle to fall back to sleep, I find that God gives me names of people to pray for. If it is getting close to dawn, I find joy in hearing the birds chirping away. I get to witness, at times, the way that the room slowly fills with light, even with the curtains closed. There are blessings all around, even if I wish things could be different.

Life rarely goes the way we expect or anticipate that it should be. We can either be upset and follow a 'woe is me' approach. Or, we can look for the ways that God is moving. Even when life doesn't go according to our plans, God is still at work. Even if it feels like our lives have been turned upside down, God is still there, continuing to ground us. Even if it feels like nothing will ever work out, God still has a plan. God is still moving, even in those times when we can't see God at work. Don't believe me? Think about the last challenge you experienced in life. I guarantee you will see the ways God worked through that (even when you couldn't in the moment). The same is true right now.

This month, I want to encourage you to look for the blessings, even if they happen to come at 3 o'clock in the morning, even if they happen before you've had your first cup of coffee, even if they happen when you just got awful news. I promise, God is still at work. God is still loving you through whatever you are experiencing. And hold onto the words of Psalm 71. I encourage you to read the entire chapter, but I will just share verse 14 for now: "As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more."

May your attitude be one of praise, may your eyes be opened to the ways that God is moving in this world, and may your hearts be warmed by the blessings from God that are all around you.

In His Service,
Pastor Liz Jackson

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.

Going to the hospital? Having surgery? 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.

Attendance & Income for April

Date	10:30 Worship	Sunday School		Church Income
April 5	94	0 Easter Service	Funding Ministry	\$11,037 Total + e-giving
April 12	65	13	Other Income	\$2,541.83 (no loose change)
April 19	71	14	Total Income	\$13,578.83
April 26	71	12	Needed Budget	\$16,956



William Carson, May 3

Kelly Wetherbee, May 9

Kermit Shrawder, May 12

Linda Grogan, May 15

Julie Wetherbee, May 17

Chuck Erdo, May 18

Joyce Wilson, May 21

Edward Wilson, May 29

Larry Snyder, May 31

IMPORTANT DATES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FELLOWSHIP</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>
May 3	Cheryl Seely Linda Grogan	Anna Mengel	
May 10 <i>Mother's Day</i>	Betty Reist Rowan Reist	Jean Dutchess	Bev Perry
May 17	Kim & Jim Zapert	Todd Crumb	
May 24 <i>Pentecost</i>	Lory Albin Maryann Fisher	Ann Serva	Bev McKnight
May 31 <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	Joyce Wilson Julie Wetherbee	Terry Borneman	

Contact Numbers:

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Church Fellowship: Bev McKnight (570)724-4582

Media Ministry: Dave Bowen (contact office)

The Messenger May, 2026

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WELLSBORO

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.

May 1-1 Kings 3
May 2-1 Kings 4
May 3- Acts 18
May 4-1 Kings 5
May 5-1 Kings 6
May 6-Acts 19
May 7-1 Kings 7
May 8-1 Kings 8
May 9- Acts 20
May 10- 1 Kings 9
May 31- 2 Kings 2

May 11- 1 Kings 10
May 12- Acts 21
May 13-1 Kings 11
May 14-1 Kings 12
May 15- Acts 22
May 16- 1 Kings 13
May 17- 1 Kings 14
May 18- Acts 23
May 19- 1 Kings 15
May 20- 1 Kings 16

May 21- Acts 24
May 22- 1 Kings 17
May 23- 1 Kings 18
May 24- Acts 25
May 25- 1 Kings 19
May 26- 1 Kings 20
May 27- Acts 26
May 28- 1 Kings 21
May 29- 1 Kings 22
May 30- Acts 27

Everyday Discipleship

Small Steps, Deep Faith: Serving with Love

Faith comes alive when it is put into action. Jesus showed us that love is not only something we feel – it is something we do. Acts of service, no matter how small, reflect God's love to the world. When we serve others, we often discover that our own faith is strengthened in the process.

Try it out

- Do one intentional act of kindness each week.
- Pray for the person you serve, whether silently or aloud.
- Reflect on the gifts God has given you and ask how they might bless someone else.

Calling All Graduates

We will be celebrating our graduates during the June 7th service. Please contact the church office by May 20 with your plans after graduation and a picture we can share during the service and in next month's newsletter.

Connections Worship

Join us in the Rotunda at 3pm on Sunday, May 31 for a special worship opportunity, where we will take time to slow down and connect with God and one another. Communion will be provided. This worship opportunity is offered the last Sunday of every month.

Clearances and Safe Sanctuary Training

Lots of amazing opportunities for reaching out to our community are upon us – First Fridays, Community VBS, and 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.

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School starts the Monday following the 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.



Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously

On May 17, we will be having Miracle Sunday, a day when United Methodists around the world join in sacrificial giving to permanently endow theological education for pastors outside the United States. Through this offering, we help prepare 500 students each year for ministry, strengthening the church for generations to come. This special offering will be collected during the church service. If you will not be at the service, please send in your donations to the church office, marked 'Miracle Sunday.'

CALLING ALL CAMPERS

The Susquehanna Conference has two camps that have lots of opportunities for all ages (Kindergarten through adult). Camp Penn (Waynesboro, PA) and Wesley Forest (Weikert, PA) are two great options. We also have a connection with Sky Lake (Windsor, NY) to attend. Check out suscrm.org for more information about all the summer camp offerings this year.

The church will provide a **full scholarship** to a child who has never been to camp before. You do not need to be a member of the church to receive this. If you have a grandchild or neighbor in mind, please share with them. See Pastor Liz for information about the scholarship.

Collection Opportunity for Mission Central

This year at Annual Conference, we are collecting items for both the Activity Kit and Care Kit. The Northern Wilds District is collecting metal nail clippers (no individual nail files or emery boards) and bath soap (2.5oz or larger, in packaging; no Ivory, Jergens, or Lisa brand soaps). Please drop off your donations to the Welcome Desk by Sunday, May 31. Thank you for your generosity!

Upcoming Study

Starting May 31, we are going to be using the book *Dynamite Prayer: A 28 Day Experiment* by Rosario Picardo and Sue Nilson Kibbey. *Dynamite Prayer* is a daily prayer guide that will show you how to begin a practice of "breakthrough prayer," a way of praying where we ask God to open new doors and reveal new possibilities, fueled by the Spirit's power. This 28-day adventure will take you from feeling stuck, overwhelmed, and uninspired to curious and expectant as you surrender your own preferences and ideas and courageously follow the miracles God brings into your life.

Books are available for purchase for \$10. Please sign up by Sunday, May 24 to ensure your book arrives on time. Information on small groups will be available later this month.

THANK YOU!

“Thanks to our great church family for all the cards, calls, concerns, & prayers following my accident. My recovery is progressing & your support has meant so much! Thanks for your thoughtfulness.”

■ Ernie Coder

“A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter Church Dinner. We appreciate all the time and effort folks put in to plan, set up, host, and clean up for the event.”

■ Cathy Mack & Sam Erdo

SPECIAL NOTICE.

- The thin plastic collections that previously happened at the church will be no longer happening, as the company is moving in a different direction. Please help us spread the word. We believe Tops & Weis still does the collections if you would still like to recycle your bags.
- If anyone has pictures of Barb Williard that they would like to include for the Rotunda bulletin board to honor her, please get them to Sam Erdo by either text, email, or in person by May 1st. Thank you.
- The HUB relies completely on donations to continue their mission work. Throughout the month of May, we are asking for donations of needed supplies to create hygiene kits which will be assembled through volunteers at the Hub. We will be taking all donations to the next session, June 4th. Attached to the back of the calendar, you will find the list of needed items.

SALAD DAYS ARE BACK!

May 3rd, we will begin taking salad orders! These are due by Wednesday, May 13th. Salad pick up will be by Wednesday May 20th.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

There will be a special time of prayer as a community on the Green, Thursday, May 7, marking the National Day of Prayer. Come join your neighbors in prayer, as we lift up one another, our community, our country, and the world.

PO Box 547
Wellsboro PA 16901
United Methodist Church of Wellsboro
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE MESSENGER - May, 2026



LOOSE CHANGE:
May 10th
Vacation Bible School

We often call it a gift, a mystery.
We have the power to make & take.
Let's think about this, I know we all can relate.
A brand new human, bright-eyed to the world.
We cannot tell time, we cannot tell where or when.
Something will happen but we can see that brand new
Baby Boy or Baby Girl
Life is a treasure, a gift not to be destroyed.
You cannot throw a child away as if it were a toy.
The actions you take can certainly make or break.
Take the time to consider the life you make.

-Jessie, 10th grade

HUB Hygiene Kit Materials

- **One hand towel** (from 15x25 to 17x27 inches)
 - No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels
- **One washcloth**
 - No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towel
- **One comb**
 - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
 - No pocket or rattail combs or picks
- **One nail clipper**
 - No emery boards or metal nail files
- **One bar of soap**
 - No Ivory or Jergen's brands
- **One adult toothbrush**
 - DO NOT remove from packaging
 - Personal advertising not acceptable
- **Ten adhesive bandages**
 - Common household bandages acceptable
- **One 1 gallon size sealable bag**

Please place all supply items in the “Hub” tub at the Welcome Center no later than May 31st.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make the checks payable to the United Methodist Church of Wellsboro with “Hub” on the memo line. You can drop them off in the offering plate on Sunday or the church office will accept them, as well.

Thank you!

Any questions, please contact Pat Newruck (570)724-2393