

FEBRUARY

2025



United
Women
in Faith

The United Women in Faith will be holding a Rummage Sale from Thursday, March 6 through Monday, March 10, 2025.

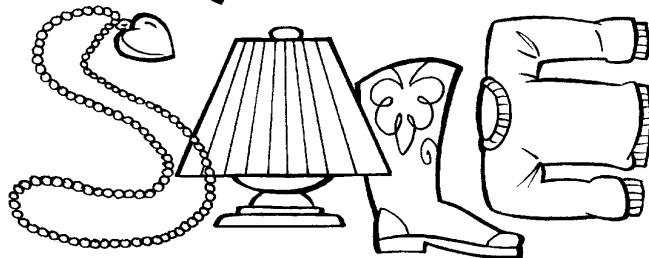
RUMMAGE

Thursday, March 6th - 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, March 7th - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, March 8th - 9 a.m. to Noon

During Food Pantry, Monday, March 10



Your trash is someone else's treasure.

UWF Plans for 2025

Saturday, February 1st—11:00 am—Create Friendship Bags for the Valentine Season.

Saturday, March 1st—11:00 am—Favorite Bible Verses

Bring your Bible and share some of your favorite passages. A time of sharing and discussion!

Saturday, April 5th—2:00 pm Annual TEA PARTY!

Join us as we celebrate Tea and Each Other! We will have a Spiritual Gift Tea Party! Join us for this annual event which will highlight “Gifts if the Spirit”!

Saturday, May 3rd—11:00 am—Contemplation of Mothers. And share thoughts on how Mary, Jesus’ mother felt through his life.

Saturday, June 7th—11:00 am—Being Calm through Art.

We will color and feel calm with our friends and our creations!

No meeting in July or August

Sunday, September 14th—Noon—Ice Cream Social with Congregation!

Everyone is invited to join us after church and enjoy ice cream, toppings, and time together!

Saturday, October 11th—11:00 am—UWF Business and Planning Meeting

What worked and what didn’t work this year! Time to plan for 2026!

Saturday, November 1st—11:00 am—TBA

These are our plans for this year. They are, of course, subject to change and amendments due to weather, health, and life in general. But we hope you can join us for some, or all, of these activities this year. Contact us with Questions.

Thank you!

Cheryl Seely & Amy Goehring

Dear Friends,

On the very first Sunday of the year, everyone received a small container of Play-Doh. Now, it's not every week we get to play with Play-Doh during the church service. But the purpose of the Play-Doh was to help us remember that God is the one who shapes and molds our lives. It is so easy to try and run our lives ourselves. It is so easy to go about life and make decisions before thinking that we should pray first. It is a fast-paced world, and there are times when we feel like we need to make decisions just as quickly so we don't get left behind.

This year, I invite you to slow down. Say the prayer on the side of your Play-Doh: "God, you are the potter. Shape and mold me. Soften my heart and guide my life. Amen." It is a bold prayer, and it is a challenging prayer. It means that we are giving over our control to God. Too often, we live our lives like we have all the control over them. While we would like to be in control, what we discover is that when God is in control, the outcome is a whole lot better. God does know us better, sees our future more clearly, and has our best interests at heart. That is why we can trust God to shape and mold our lives.

Isaiah 64:8 reminds us, "Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." We are not the potter, no matter how much we would like to be. But we are the clay, to be shaped and molded for God's good purposes. We need to hold fast to the words of Ephesians 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." We are created to bring honor and glory to God. If we are going to do that well, we need to trust in God to shape our lives.

As you think about your own life, does anything need to change for God to have control over your whole life? I'm not just talking about a part of it. I'm talking about giving God control over the entire thing. Are there parts of your life that you have been unwilling to hand over to God? Are there things in your life that you feel like you can't trust God with, things that you haven't shared with anyone else? God even loves those hidden parts of ourselves. We are met with love when we go before the potter each and every time.

Sure, we might moan and groan, resisting what God is trying to do in our lives, but think again about that small container of Play-Doh. When you get it out and play with it, does it fight you? Does it resist what you are trying to do? Does it ever say, "Stop trying to make me into a tea cup, I want to be a football!" No, and we would be terrified if it would! But the Play-Doh is flexible and easily shaped in our hands. What if we were that way in God's hands? What if we were willing to change and adapt, flex and soften to those things God is calling us to do? Well, our lives would look a lot different then. Let us pray we can be more like Play-Doh in God's hands this year.

In His Service,
Pastor Liz Jackson

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	Liturgist	CHURCH FELLOWSHIP
February 2	Diane Colton	Trudi Dibble & Marie Weaver
February 9	Maryann Fisher	Souper Bowl Luncheon
February 16	Bill Carson	Cheryl Seely & Linda Grogan
February 23	Anna Mengel	Marie & Brian Andrews
Media Ministry: Dave Bowen	Contact Numbers: Church Fellowship: Bev McKnight, 570-724-4582	Please notify the Church Office if you are exchanging Sundays with someone on the fellowship schedule, so the names can be listed correctly in the bulletin.

Are you thinking about joining the church?

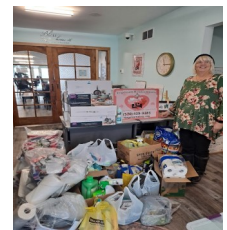
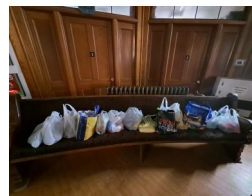
Have you been considering joining the church? Do you want to know what it means to be a member? Well, you're in luck. The last Sunday of every month following the service, grab a snack and meet with Pastor Liz to learn more about membership in the church. We will meet in Pastor Liz's office. There is no need to sign up, just come out.

NewsLetter DEADLINE

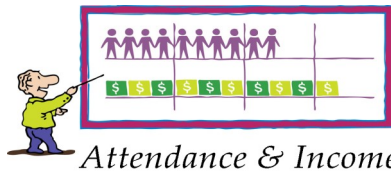
A reminder that articles, news and schedules for the March Messenger are needed in the Church office by Thursday, Feb. 20.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated shampoo, conditioner, and body wash to the Tioga County Homeless Initiative! Pastor Liz, along with other members of the Wellsboro Ministerium, took all the items donated by the churches in our community to bless the shelter on January 21. The shelter was greatly appreciative of what we were able to do as followers of Christ.



The Loose Change Collection on Sunday, February 9, 2025 if for Wellsboro Ministerium.



Date	Worship	Sunday School	Church Income (Jan. 1-31, 2025)	
January 5	55	15	Funding Ministry Income	\$13,589
January 14	65	16	Other Income (Fundraising, Donations)	\$ 910
January 19	64	11	Total Income	\$14,499
January 26	78	10	<i>Funding Ministry (Budget)</i> (4 Sundays)	\$18,923
	65	13		

**PRAY FOR OUR
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
MILITARY**

Please remember those serving in the military service in your prayers.

- S/Sgt. Matthew Enderle
- CSSN Michael R. Lesko
- Ensign Ryan A. Proveaux
- Major Regan E. Rogers Malcolm, M.D
- E6 Conner Snyder



The Church Office is currently open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. And Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. The office is closed on Wednesday.
The office will be closed for the President's Day Federal Holiday, February 17.



February Anniversaries

18—Erwin & Nancy Baker

February Birthdays

- 8 - Jim Paxson
- 8 - Elliot Grey Holcomb
- 9 - Tom Auman
- 11 - Walter Colton
- 11 - Lennox Oliver Huck
- 12 - Amy Nichols
- 14 - Beverly J. Lorz Smith
- 15 - Callie Jackson
- 16 - Keith Goehring
- 16 - Marie Weaver
- 26 - Ted Carson

Bible Reading Challenge

When 2025 started, we were so eager for something new. Yet, new habits and patterns of behaviors to too quickly dropped and forgotten, and we revert to our “old ways.” We don’t want our time with God to become quickly forgotten about. You are encouraged to continue diving into God’s word each day, learning more about who God is and how God is calling you to live your life. Even if you haven’t started, jump in and see what God is trying to show you through God’s word.

February 1 – Genesis 22	February 15 - Genesis 29
February 2 – Matthew 11	February 16 - Matthew 15
February 3 – Genesis 23	February 17 - Genesis 30
February 4 – Genesis 24	February 18 - Genesis 31
February 5 – Matthew 12	February 19 - Genesis 32
February 6 – Genesis 25	February 20 - Matthew 16
February 7 – Genesis 26	February 21 - Genesis 33
February 8 – Psalm 1-2	February 22 - Genesis 34
February 9 – Psalm 3-5	February 23 - Matthew 17
February 10 – Proverbs 1	February 24 - Genesis 35
February 11 – Matthew 13	February 25 - Genesis 36
February 12 – Genesis 27	February 26 - Matthew 18
February 13 – Genesis 28	February 27 - Genesis 37
February 14 – Matthew 14	February 28 - Genesis 38

Get More Out of Reading the Bible

Meet with Pastor Liz on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:30pm in the Sunday School Room to discuss the Bible readings, have any pressing questions you have answered, and grow in your faith with others. Please note that we will **not** meet on February 9th (Super Bowl Sunday). We will meet only on February 23rd.

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.

Spring Chef Salad Sales

Wednesday March 29th and Wednesday May 7, 2025 have been scheduled for Chef Salad Day Sales in the Spring. Since Holy Week and Easter fill up the middle of April we will not have a salad sale in April. Although bottles of dressing will always be available.



What is discipleship?

When we first get to know God, we are focused on learning what it means to be a disciple. It is a brand new understanding and mindset. As we seek God, we are still at the beginning of recognizing God’s grace at work in our lives. Our eyes are slowly being opened to the ways that God has been moving in our lives all along. It is quite an amazing thing when we know the ways God is working when we have been unaware. As we are still figuring everything out, one of the best ways to do that is by coming together for our worship service on Sunday mornings. It is here where we get to learn more about who God is. In worship, we receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. And in worship, we have the opportunity to fellowship with other believers. It is reassuring to know that we are surrounded by other like-minded folks.

When you see someone who is new, it is important to help them feel connected, help them to learn more about our church, and most of all, let them know they are welcome. This can be as simple as speaking with them after the service, inviting them to our fellowship time after worship, or letting them know when something special is going to happen. It is important to remember that we are all coming to church to seek God more. While we are all at different parts of the journey, we are able to do this together and support one another. After all, that’s what being Jesus’ disciple is all about.

Our Mission and Vision

The church's mission examines what we do, while the vision examines where we are headed in the future. The church exists to make disciples, and the vision outlines how we aspire to live that out here in Wellsboro. The vision for the UMC of Wellsboro is that we are a thriving congregation, **Giving, Praising, and Serving** in love for Christ. Each month, we will examine who we are and where we are going.

In January, we examined giving. Giving goes beyond what we put in the offering plate. It is giving our time, our talents, and our service. It is about how we live our lives to share the love of Christ. It is about giving our love to others. It is about sharing our resources with others in need. What we give brings honor to God.

When we look at praising, it is hard not to think about Psalm 150:6, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” What comes to mind first when we talk about praising is music. We praise God through our singing. The choir, bell choir, chimes, and praise team praise God through their musical offerings. But praising involves much more than that. We praise God when we pray. In our prayers, we can acknowledge how God is moving and working around us. We can praise God for answers to prayer. We can praise God for God’s presence in the midst of difficulties because our God never leaves us.

But praising doesn’t just stop with our musical offerings and our prayers. We praise God in all that we do. We can start and end our day by praising God. We can praise God while we’re brushing our teeth, when we’re doing the laundry, and even when we’re grocery shopping. We can praise God in the phone conversations and those unexpected meetings while in the waiting room at the doctor’s office. We can praise God when we show kindness to the stranger. Hebrews 13:15 reminds us, “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.” How do you praise God in your daily life?

Administrative Council Update

Tom Auman, Linda Grogan, and Marie Weaver went off the Council at the end of 2024 and will be taking a breather for at least one year before coming back to the Council. Bill Carson, for a one year term and Craig Fields, and Cathy Mack both with three year terms just joined the council.

Rev. Daniel Wilt, District Superintendent of the Northern Wilds District met with the Council at the first meeting of 2025 to help explain how the Simplified Structure (minimum of 9 members) of Ad Council should work and flow through the business of the church. The Council, sets policies and makes decision through honest conversations that are sometimes hard to discuss and sometimes hard to make the appropriate decisions. Rev Wilt also offered any assistance that the council might need from him in helping to allow our church to succeed.

Council approved Terry Borneman move ahead with the Cross Walk for Jesus planning down Main Street on Good Friday, April 18th. The budget was approved for 2025 with a 1.7% increase over 2024. The Frozen Food project has received a donated freezer and a group of ladies prepared 34 meals for the project and placed them in the freezer. Approval was given for Hamilton Gibsons Children’s Choir to use the Sanctuary for a concert on Sunday, May 18, 2025. AA was approved to use Epworth Hall for an additional meeting place on Saturdays at 7:00p.m.

Trustees reported that all of the chairs in Epworth Hall have been updated with new metal pads on the legs. Light fixtures have been updated in several areas of the church to LEDs, and four weak or defective standby batteries in the Emergency lighting system have throughout the church have been replaced.

**United Methodist
Church of Wellsboro**

PO Box 547
Wellsboro PA 16901

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
WELLSBORO, PA
PERMIT NO. 56**



THE MESSENGER— FEBRUARY, 2024

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.

Lenten Study

During worship this Lent, we will be using the book, "Healthy Money: A 30-Day Journey toward Spiritual, Emotional, and Financial Freedom." There will be a signup sheet in the Rotunda for those interested in participating in a study and diving deeper into the topics brought up in this book. Please indicate if you need the church to order the book for you. Books can be purchased on Amazon. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Liz.

Financial Report

On Sunday, February 2nd, the Finance Committee presented a brief report to the congregation. The discussion noted the many missions of the church-- both locally and globally. Expenses for 2024 were 213,413 and gratefully, giving was 219,312. The 2025 projected figures were shared which includes anticipated expenses of 227,074 and a giving goal increase of 7,762 (+3,5%). An itemized copy of the fiscal report is available upon request.