



THE JOHN WESLEY COMMUNICATOR



John Wesley United Methodist Church
Volume 19 No. 2

6922 N. Ritchie Highway
Telephone - (410) 766-6981

Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061
December 2025

Celebrating

*The 175th Anniversary of John Wesley United Methodist Church
"Theme: The Path to Restoration"*



*"For now I have chosen and sanctified this house,
that My name may be there forever;
and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. "*

2 Chronicles 7:16 (NKJV)

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Percell Moore, Pastor
Rev. Sarah Schlieckert, Harbor District Superintendent
Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, Baltimore-Washington Conference

Editor's Message

December 1, 2025

Greetings,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

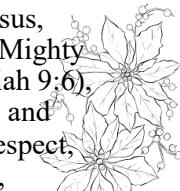
Now that we have celebrated our 175th Anniversary, we look forward to the promise of restoration, as expressed in the theme, "The Path to Restoration".

We reflect on the ***past*** when we continuously praised the Lord despite enormous, sometimes horrific, obstacles; supported one another in our common goal to build and grow our church; and loved ourselves and others.

We see a ***present*** world of political turmoil, drug infestation, crime, economic instability, etc., and we are discouraged. However, we must remain faithful to God and remember that He is in control and is the One and only God all by Himself! "Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

On Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, "And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6), we look to Him, Who exemplified love, peace, and harmony; and we envision a ***future*** of love, respect, encouragement, communication, collaboration, cooperation, and compassion in a church "where hearts are strangely warmed, and everybody is somebody".

"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you" (2 Corinthians 13:11). - NIV



*Happy Church Anniversary,
Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Blessed New Year.*

Peace!

Deborah Williams

Editor

Editor

Deborah Williams

Staff

Linda Mouzon
Maria Rawlings
Chidinma Uzodinma
Terrance Watts



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
February 5, 2026 or ASAP**

Quarterly Calendar

December 2025

Sunday, December 07, 10:00 AM

Worship Service and Holy Communion

Saturday, December 13, 1:00-3:00 PM

Dance Ministry's "Joyful Celebration"

Sunday, December 14, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Children's Christmas Play

Sunday, December 21, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Sunday, December 28, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Wednesday, December 31, 7:00 PM

Watchnight Service

January 2026

Sunday, January 04, 10:00 AM

Worship Service and Holy Communion

Sunday, January 11, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Sunday, January 18, 10:00 AM Worship Service

Sunday, January 25, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

February 2026

Sunday, February 01, 10:00 AM

Worship Service and Holy Communion

Sunday, February 08, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Sunday, February 15, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Saturday, February 21, 11:00 AM

Veterans' Celebration of Black History Month

Sunday, February 22, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Ongoing Classes, Meetings and Practices

Bible Study - Tuesdays - 7:00 PM (via ZOOM)

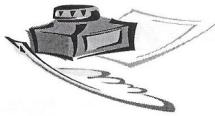
Children's Church School - 2nd and 4th Sundays
10:00 AM

Dance Rehearsal - Tuesdays - 6:00 PM

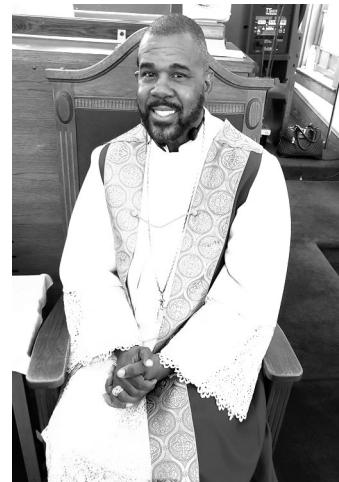
Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays - 6:00 PM

United Women in Faith's Meeting
1st Monday of the month (Zoom) - 7:00 PM

United Methodist Men's Meeting
1st Monday of the month - 7:00 PM



*A Message From
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Percell Moore, Pastor*



Beloved John Wesley Family,

It is amazing how time flies! Ushering out fall and entering the cool days of winter reminds me of how life is filled with swift transitions. There's something about the word "winter" that makes us brace ourselves. The air grows colder, the nights stretch longer, and everything around us seems to slow down. The once-vibrant trees now stand bare; fields rest from their harvest, and the world takes a collective pause. And isn't that how life feels sometimes?

We go from a season of joy, growth, and momentum, when everything seems alive and fruitful, to a time when the warmth fades, and all we see is barrenness. Dreams feel distant, prayers seem unanswered, and hope can grow thin. The phrase, "Winter is coming", made famous by Game of Thrones, warns of hardship on the horizon. Yet for believers, it carries a deeper, spiritual truth: winter will come, but so will God's sustaining grace.

Even in the craziness of government shutdowns, political unrest, numerous wars, famine and hardship, we still have much to be thankful for. Why? Because we have a higher hope in Christ Jesus!

Even through the seasons of life and the church, our advent prepares us to be hopeful, watchful and vigilant that God is doing a new thing as we start afresh. Why? Because in every season, sunny or stormy, blooming or barren, God is still God.

Beloved, know that winter has a purpose. So trust in God's timing, stay rooted in the Word, embrace grace for each day, keep a grateful heart, and expect spring to come sooner than you realize!

Yes, winter is coming, but that's not a threat for the believer. It's a promise that when it comes, God will be there too. His grace is enough. His Word is unshakable. His love is unchanging. When you belong to Jesus, no season can destroy you; it can only develop you.

Hold fast. Stay faithful. Keep your heart warm with worship because spring is on its way, and when it comes, you'll see why winter was worth enduring.

Though cold outside, may your hearts always be warmed by the love of Jesus Christ, one to another. May you have *Blessed, Holy Days*, with profound love and heartfelt thanksgiving,

Reverend Dr. Kenneth P. Moore, Sr. Pastor, John Wesley UMC, Lady Tonica & Noelle

On July 20-27, the Pastor, First Lady and some church family and friends enjoyed a cruise to Nassau, Half Moon Cay, and Celebration Key, Bahamas. What a get-away!



Crusin'

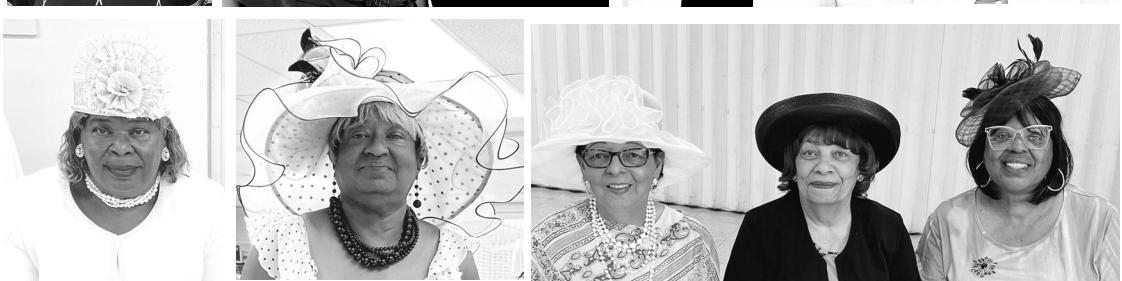


High Tea and Hat Gala

Joyce Howard brought one of her organizations, the Norma L. Barkley, SGA, to John Wesley UMC on July 20, 2025, for a High Tea and Hat Gala. It was an afternoon of style, grace, and elegance.

The theme was “Strength in Sisterhood: Building One Another Up through Unity and Mutual Support”.

Rev. Doreen Robinson was the guest speaker. Denise Payne, liturgical dancer, performed. There was a parade of women in hats, resulting with a winner in each of three categories: most beautiful, biggest, and most unusual.



Classic Car Show, with Flea Market, Yard Sale, and Fish Fry

We held a Classic Car Show on September 6, 2025. Steven and Lynn Smothers were the Coordinators. The Ushers had a fish fry and flea market, and the Veterans' Ministry had a yard sale. D.J. Lyric was our disk jockey. There was a lot going on that wonderful day!



Bible Study

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” - 2 Timothy 2:15

You are invited to attend the weekly Bible Study via Zoom on Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Each week in December, January, and February, we will focus on a given scripture and related scriptures. Prior to the session, you will receive an e-mail with a reminder of the Zoom identification code us02web.zoom.us and password 142985. Please see the following schedule:

December 2025

- 12/02/25 - The Lord's House To Be Established - Isa. 2: 1-7
- 12/09/25 - Praise to God for Deliverance - Isa. 25:1-7
- 12/16/25 - God's Message of Comfort - Isa. 40:1-10
- 12/23/25 - The Lord's Servant Brings - Isa. 49:1-7
- 12/30/25 - Blessings of the Faithful - Isa. 61:1-6

January 2026

- 01/06/26 - Paul's Testimony to Timothy - 1 Tim. 1:12-20
- 01/13/26 - Instructions for Worship - 1 Tim. 2:1-8
- 01/20/26 - Qualifications for Church Leaders - 1 Tim. 3:1-8
- 01/27/26 - Attributes of a Man of God. - 2 Tim. 2:1-7

February 2026

- 02/03/26 - The Fall Into Sin - Gen. 3:1-12
- 02/10/26 - God Speaks to Isaac - Gen. 26:1-6
- 02/17/26 - Jacob Wrestles at Peniel - 32:22-30
- 02/24/26 - Joseph Wrongly Imprisoned - Gen. 39:7-16, 20-21



On September 27, 2025, the choir, joined by the ushers, proudly presented Ronald Woodson's adaptation of the play, "The Glory Train".

As the program states, "This powerful story, that explores the idea of heaven and the unexpected realities that await the passengers as they arrive at each stop, has been a blessing to many church congregations throughout the years." Nine passengers boarded "The Glory Train". Who would get to Glory?

Cast:

Narrator and Soloist - Trey Watts
 Train Engineer - John Thornton
 Conductor - Letha Kitt
 Deacon I'm the Man - Steven Smothers
 Sister I'm All That - Vickie Thornton
 Sister Bling Bling - Ronda Walker
 Sister Selfishness - Thomasena Brown
 Sister Cash - Linda Mouzon
 Sister Slip Around - Dolores Bynum
 Sister Snobbishson - Rochelle Jones
 Sister Muck D. Muck - Denise Payne
 Sister Living Right - Diana Jones
 Devil - Terrance Watts
 Devil's Helper - Alexander Clark
 Devil's Helper - Tay Tay Simmons



People Get Ready

People get ready.
 There's a train a comin',
 You don't need no baggage;
 You just get on board.
 All you need is faith,
 To hear the diesel's hummin';
 You don't need no ticket;
 You just thank the Lord!

The Morning Train

I'm going home on the morning train,
 You know, I'm going home on the
 morning train,
 Well, that evening train may be too
 late,
 And that's why I'm going home on the
 morning train...

This Train

This train is bound for glory, this train,
 This train is bound for glory, this train,
 This train is bound for glory,
 Don't carry nothing but the righteous
 and the holy,
 This train is bound for glory, this train.

This train don't carry no gamblers, this train,
 This train don't carry no gamblers, this train,
 This train don't carry no gamblers,
 Liars, thieves, nor big shot ramblers,
 This train is bound for glory, this train.

This train don't carry no liars, this train,
 This train don't carry no liars, this train,
 This train don't carry no liars,
 She's streamlined and a midnight flyer,
 This train don't carry no liars, this train.

This train don't carry no smokers, this train,
 This train don't carry no smokers, this train,
 This train don't carry no smokers,
 Two bit liars, small time jokers,
 This train don't carry no smokers, this train.

This train don't carry no con men, this train,
 This train don't carry no con men, this train,
 This train don't carry no con men,
 No wheeler dealers, here and gone men,
 This train don't carry no con men, this train.

This train don't carry no rustlers, this train,
 This train don't carry no rustlers, this train;
 This train don't carry no rustlers,
 Side street walkers, two bit hustlers,
 This train is bound for glory, this train.



Congratulations! 1st Quarter Honor Roll Students

Abigail Abanukam
Monarch Academy
(Tina Ekemam's daughter)

Elijah Ciejlik
Marley Middle School
Robert Woods' grandson

Laila Alexander
Chesapeake M.S.
(Sponsor- Audrea Matthews)

Briella Emedoh
McArthur M.S.
Christine Emedoh
Lindale M.S.
Keeon Emedoh
Overlook E.S..
(Mabel May Emedoh's children)

Haydyn Harper
Cromwell E.S.
Jacobi Jones
Lindale M.S.
Jeremiah Jones
North County H.S.
Zaina Jones
Hilltop E.S.
Damir Toppins
Corkran M.S.
Nayah Wooten
Glen Burnie H.S.
(Sandra Jones' grandchildren)

Grace Matthews
Annapolis Area Christian School
(Michael Matthews' daughter and
Audrea Matthews' granddaughter)

Landon Robinson
Glenarden Woods E.S.
(Veta Robinson's grandson)

Cameron Stevens
Lindale M.S.
(Sponsor - Audrea Matthews)

Chierika Uzodinma
Park E.S.
(Chidinma and Jackson Uzodinma's
daughter and Priscilla Nwankpa's
granddaughter)

Noah Wilson
Northwest Academy
(Rene Newman-Price's grandson and
Evelyn Price's great-grandson)

Dance Ministry on the Road

On October 3, 2025, the Adult and Youth Dance Ministry performed at The Victory Cathedral Worship Center in Durham, NC. It was a night filled with worshiping and praising God with local choirs, dancers, and musicians. The group visited the Museum of Durham History and learned that Durham is the city of medicine and the home of Duke University and Black Wall Street.



Let's Glow Crazy!

On Friday, October 10, the 175th Anniversary Committee held a youth gala, "Let's Glow Crazy".



FUN!

Anniversary Gala

Finally, the Anniversary event we'd all been waiting for, "The Gala"! It was held at the Marriott Airport Hotel in Linthicum Heights, MD, on Saturday, October 11, 2025. A good time was had by all!



Family and Friends' Day

The culminating event, celebrating our church's 175th Anniversary, was Family and Friends' Day on Sunday, October 12, 2025. Pastor Moore commended the Anniversary Committee, who had vigorously worked throughout the year on various Anniversary events leading to the finale'. Michael Matthews enthusiastically, powerfully, and impressively danced to Rev. Jamal Bryant's "The Airplane Sermon". After the worship service, friends broke bread with our church family. The food was scrumptious and plentiful.

Kudos to the Anniversary Committee

Chairperson - First Lady Tonica Moore
Vice Chairperson - Lynn Smothers

Tina Ekemam
Michele Jacobs
Morgan Jacobs
Angela Johnson
Emma Krouser
Michael Matthews



John Wesley UMC-GB's doors hang on welcome hinges. We treat our family as friends and our friends as family. We are known as "the church where hearts are strangely warmed, and everybody is somebody".





Veterans' Celebration

Theme: God's Grace,
Our Gratitude, Their Sacrifice



We celebrated Veterans on Sunday, November 09, 2025. Our guest speaker, Rev. Bruce K. Jackson, Retired Navy Commander and Pastor of Mt. Zion UMC, in St. Inigoes, MD, based his text on Romans 5:6-11. He talked about sacrificing the material for the spiritual. He referenced Abraham, Job, Naomi, and, of course, Jesus, Who made the ultimate sacrifice. He applauded Veterans on their many sacrifices and encouraged all of us to love one another as Christ loved us and to be a blessing to others.

Pastor Moore presented the Veterans with a certificate of recognition, signed by Delegate Mike Rogers, and a U.S. Honor lapel pin in appreciation for their dedication and commitment to the Armed Forces.



Crab Feast - November 15, 2025 - Yum, Yum!





Spotlight on New Members



Priscilla Nwankpa (grandparent), Chidinma and Jackson Uzodinma (parents), and their children: Ebube, Chierika, and Ekene; joined John Wesley UMC-Glen Burnie on Sunday, September 28 2025.

Hello Family,

I'm Ogbuchukwu Jackson Uzodinma. I'm thrilled to introduce myself as a new member of JWUMC. Born in Mississippi, but with Nigerian roots, I'm grateful for my West African heritage. As a lifelong believer in the gospel, having grown up in the Anglican Communion Church, I'm excited to be part of a community that shares my values. I'm blessed to be married to my wonderful wife, Chidinma, since 2014, and we've been gifted with three lovely children. We're delighted to have found a spiritual home here at JWUMC, and we're looking forward to growing in faith and serving the Lord alongside our new church family.

Anniversary



Fred and Joyce Howard celebrated their 40th Anniversary on July 20, 2025. Tameka Johnson, daughter, hosted a masquerade party for them at the Roland Terrace Democratic Club on July 19, 2025.

Hello Everyone,

I'm Deaconess Priscilla Nwankpa. I'm happy to introduce myself as a new member of JWUMC. Originally from Nigeria, I've had the joy of visiting my daughter and her family here, and we're so glad to have found a spiritual home. As a lifelong believer in the gospel, having grown up in the Anglican Communion Church, I've always been passionate about spreading the Word of God. As a widow and retired teacher, I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord in this new chapter of my life. I'm blessed with three amazing children, and my only daughter, Chidinma, is a constant source of joy. We were drawn to John Wesley UMC's commitment to Biblical teachings, and we're excited to grow in faith together. I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you better and praising God together.

Hello Everyone,

I'm Chidinma Uzodinma (née Nwankpa). I'm thrilled to introduce myself as a new member of JWUMC. Originally from Nigeria, I moved to Maryland from California in 2014. As the Bible says, "He has done everything well" (Mark 7:37), and I'm grateful for the new journey God has brought me to. I'm glad to be part of this community with my family. We're drawn to this church's commitment to spreading the Word of God, and we're excited to grow in faith together. As the psalmist says, "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life" (Psalm 27:4). I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you better and serving the Lord as a family.



**In Memoriam - 2025
Gone, But Not Forgotten**



**Sunrise - October 23, 1935
Sunset - June 24, 2025**

Barbara Armstead Queen, AKA "Sis", had a life anchored in faith. She served as the Church Secretary and an usher at John Wesley UMC-GB for over 20 years. When her daughter, Rev. Iantha Queen Brown, became pastor of Refuge Ministries II, she and her husband joined her, but they retained their membership at JWUMC.



Book Reviews

Have you read any good books lately? Can you suggest one for us to read? Are you willing to write a review of one for the March newsletter? If so, let us know. To arouse your interest, here are some books that we recommend for your reading pleasure:

107 Days

by Kamala Harris

Reading this book gave me mixed feelings. It chronicles Kamala Harris's 2024 presidential campaign from Biden's debate with Trump to election day. Initially, I thought it would be a favorable retelling for Harris, but by the end, I empathized with her because of the challenges she faced from the press, the administration, the public, and the Trump campaign. The narrative felt more focused on Trump than on Harris, portraying her as someone doing her best against overwhelming opposition. Despite commendable efforts, they weren't enough. I hope the current political climate, defined by deception and performance rather than truth and civility, is only temporary.

First, the media seemed to focus on "style over substance", such as what she wore or how she laughed. Next, there was the Biden administration that, according to her as Vice-President, gave her difficult assignments but refused to back her up, thereby robbing her of a record to run on. Their main focus was that there was to be no "daylight" between her and Biden's positions. Finally, there was the venality and absurdity of the Trump campaign. How long can one "go high" when dealing with a pathological liar? Throughout all of this, and even in spite of her own gaffes and missteps, she managed to go the distance and finish the race with grace and dignity. For that, I admire her.

I highly recommend this book because it's not only a good read, but to a certain extent, it is also history.

*Gloria Thigpen
Friend of JWUMC*

Good Dirt

by Charmaine Wilkerson

What is "Good Dirt"? Is it just rich soil? Does it symbolize a family heirloom, a jar from which the rich clay of Africa was made? Does it refer to the historical African-American enclave, where the affluent Freeman family lived before a family member was killed, and the heirloom was shattered?

In this multi-generational saga, the plot alternates between the times of slavery, when the heirloom was created, and the present.

The story begins on the day that was supposed to be the happiest of Ebby Freeman's life, her wedding day! Instead, her Caucasian fiancé ghosts her, and she is devastated. Already grief-stricken, haunted, and traumatized by the unsolved murder in her childhood, the jilting embarrasses her and exacerbates her pain and suffering; so she flees to France.

So, why did Henry, her fiancé, abandon her? Was it a racial thing? Could he not handle her emotional outbursts? Did he have anything to do with the murder (but that was 20 years ago)? Did he know who may have committed the murder (now that's another story!)?

What happens after Ebby is jilted? Do Henry and Ebby get back together? Is the crime ever solved? Does Ebby ever recover from her traumatic experiences? What about the heirloom, "Old Mo"? Does it still have a significant role in the family?

Well, you'll have to read this captivating book to find out.

Deborah Williams

The Tenant

by Freda McFadden

Meet Blake Porter. He's got the job, the fiancée (Krista), the Manhattan brownstone; everything seems perfect, until it isn't. Out of nowhere, he gets fired on suspicion of leaking company secrets. Suddenly, the fancy life starts slipping: mortgage payments, pressure; you know the vibe.

Blake and Krista decide to take in a tenant to keep the brownstone afloat. They pick Whitney Cross - seemingly sweet, quiet, and good with money. But then, weird stuff begins: missing soap, disappearing cereal, a stench of decay in the house, creepy neighbor reactions, and weird noises at night. You get the tension. The more Blake tries to hold everything together, the more he realizes something's so wrong.

What I loved:

- Blake's panic and confusion were intriguing.
- Whitney's evolution from "great tenant" to "huge nightmare" was surreal.
- The themes (success, facade, and the risk of letting someone into personal, domestic space) were plausible.

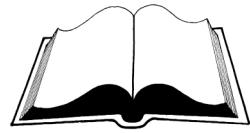
What I found:

- Blake's arrogance and sense of entitlement were strong early on, but I honestly understood.
- The house turned into its own character. The brownstone felt heavy, oppressive.
- Some of the twists felt a bit trite, but the execution was masterful.

I would highly recommend this book, especially if you're into quick-reads, suspense, and horror.

*Aja McNeal
Deborah Williams' Niece
Friend of JWUMC*

Bible Quiz: Miracles



Multiple Choice