

January 2023



WUMC Community Pathway

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

As we venture into the new year, I realize Christmas seems like it was so last year! Decorations and trees are coming down as we look forward to 2023. The one thing we need to remember is that Christmas is a season, not just a day. It begins December 25 and extends till January 6. The twelve days of Christmas are the days after Christmas, not a countdown prior to the holiday. On January 8 we will conclude the Christmas season by celebrating Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany is important because it highlights the Magi visiting Jesus, signifying that Christ's presence in the world is for all people.

This year the New Year brings with it a time of discernment. Each church in our parish is being asked by church leaders to determine the direction of the church, based on issues relating to human sexuality. This process began during Advent with meetings facilitated by our parish lay leader and district superintendent.

As we look for ways to continue the discussion, I will be asking for your help. Please let me know if you have questions regarding the United Methodist Church, the Global Methodist Church, the process of disaffiliation, or what the implications are for our church and parish. There will be a drop box at the back of the church for questions, or you can send them via email to jdmessner@gmail.com. I will do my best to provide an objective answer to your questions. I will not advocate for the church to disaffiliate from or stay with the United Methodist Church. My goal is to make sure you have the information you need to make an informed decision.

As this discussion continues it will be important to remember the lessons of the Magi: Be careful of who you are following, be aware of people trying to feed you false information, realize that Christ is the one true king and worthy of everyone's worship and praise.

It is important to know who you are following. There is a lot of information available regarding the church and disaffiliation. Unfortunately, just because someone says it, it does not make it true. Much of what is being said and published are half-truths, misconceptions, and words taken out of context. I will do my best to cut through the rhetoric on both sides of the issues we are facing and focus on the truth.

The truth is that Christ is the light that entered a dark world. Just as the Magi followed the star, we need to keep our focus on the light of Christ and not the distractions of this world. Christ came for each of us. We are all sinners and unable to earn God's love. However, we are all able to receive God's grace, if only we ask. I am convinced this is what the Magi saw when they visited and worshiped the Christ child, so many centuries ago. It is why wise ones still seek Him.

Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, Christ Jesus the King; He is the one we come to glorify, honor, and praise each Sunday in worship and every day of our life. If that is where our focus is centered, both in our lives and in our church, God will continue to bless us in our journey of faith!

May God continue to bless you and yours in 2023!

JANUARY 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1

10:15 Wor-
ship/
Communion
Svc./Coffee

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10:15 Wor-
ship Svc., fol-
lowed by
POTLUCK

9

10

11

3:30 Samaritas

12

13

14

15

10:15 Wor-
ship Svc., fol-
lowed by
Coffee

16

Unified Parish
SPPRC meeting
5pm @Fife Lake
UMC

17

18

Unified Parish
Council
meeting
6:30pm @ Fife
Lake UMC

19

20

21

22

10:15
Worship Svc./
Coffee

23

AD Council
Meeting 6pm

24

25

3:30 Samaritas

26

27

28

29

10:15
Worship Svc

30

31

AA SCHEDULE

Monday, 7:00pm

Saturday, Men Only 10am

Saturday, Everyone, 7pm

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS!

JANUARY

4th Sue Burrows

6th River Goss

7th Clara Hasenick

8th Sue Morrison

8th Donn Hubbell

9th Carol Walter

11th Jan & Steve Donker's Anniv.

13th Sherry Boucher

14th Marcy Block

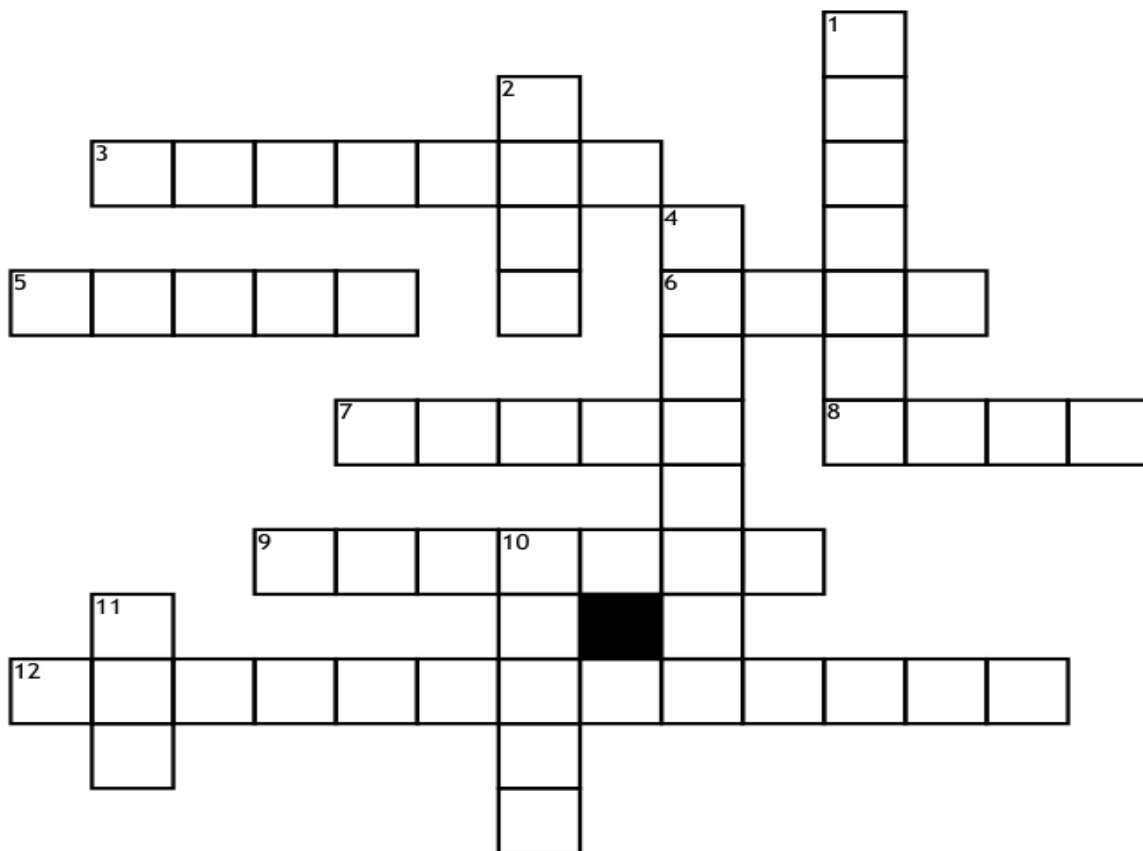
15th Jaclyn Voice

18th Pam & John Hamstra's Anniv.

24th Zach Reece

31st Sue Mull

Winter



Across

3. You wear these on your hands.
 5. You wear this around your neck.
 6. What is the temperature in winter?
 7. You wear these on your feet
 8. What do you use to slide down a hill in the winter?

9. What is made of three snow balls and has a face?

12. What winter holiday do you give hearts?

Down

1. What is formed by water and freezes into spikes?
 2. What is white and falls from the sky?

4. What can you do on a frozen lake or pond?

10. What is the color of snow

11. You wear this on your head

2023
happy new year

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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