



Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 am — 1:00 pm

“Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge Him. As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”
Hosea 6:3



What's Next, Wesley?

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7

As we journeyed through Lent, I was working on our next worship series. It's a big one! It's the series where I've promised to involve the **whole church in discerning where God is taking Wesley next**. Yes! How are we to use our gifts, talents, and resources to serve our Lord? We want everyone to have an ear to God and a voice in this process.

As I prepared, I thought about Nehemiah's story and the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem. I spent some time praying over how this story might speak to us regarding discerning our next faithful steps. Frustratingly, it just did not come together, and I was getting a little anxious about having this series ready.

Before I tell you about the miracle that happened, let me explain what we are seeking to accomplish. For any organization to function well, it must have a **mission** and a **vision**. WAIT! Please don't tune me out here. I assure you, what is going to happen at Wesley is nothing like the often eye-watering and teeth-grinding process of working on a mission and vision in a business. Please read on.

Fortunately, we already have a mission. Jesus established the mission of the church 2000 years ago, and it has not changed. I'll talk about that on April 14th. Furthermore, I believe God already has a vision for us. We don't need to develop one. We simply need to hear from God. Thank you, Lord!!

Now, when I say **vision**, I'm not talking about a statement we hang up in the entryway or the fellowship hall. I'm not talking about a slogan we stick at the end of our emails or on our letterhead. The vision we are seeking from God is our collective understanding of who we are as a church and what we are to be doing. Our vision will be that deep belief, shared by all of us, as to **how** we are called to fulfill the mission Jesus has already given us.



It's not really a list of ministries or missions. It's the heartfelt sense we collectively feel that God has called us to a particular direction and specific results from what we do in the world. When a church understands God's vision for it, most everyone is serving, praying, and giving in that same direction.

Now, back to the miracle. When I realized that the Nehemiah story was not a fit, I

knew God had another plan. I sat in my office on a quiet day. I put a notepad on my knee, picked up a pen, and said, "Okay, God, what is your plan for this series? How are we to involve everyone in discovering your plan?" I've spent time listening in prayer before, but this was like I was ready to take dictation. Before long I knew God was whispering Matthew 7:7 to me: Ask, and you shall receive. Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you. Any anxiousness left as I knew God was confirming that we are doing what God desires. Asking, seeking, and knocking are God's immediate plans for us. But that did not clarify a Sunday series to lead us through our seeking. I sat and listened a bit more. Trying hard not to talk- a silent seeking. My eyes landed on a familiar book on my bookshelf. I knew instantly this was God pointing it to me. Still, I argued with God a little that there has to be another path for the series.

I relented, picked up the book, and began looking at the chapter headings. The title of the book is "Experiencing God" by Blackaby and King. I sensed God saying, **"I'm inviting the people of Wesley into an experience of my love."**

(Continued on page 3 - Pastor)

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APRIL WORSHIP

April 7, 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter

THEME: Laity Sunday: **Timeline**—How God works through the timeline of our lives.

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 29:11-14 ; Proverbs 3:5-8

MESSAGE: *“Intersecting Timelines”*

WHAT TO EXPECT: Chris Brandt will be preaching. Enjoy this lay-led service. Pastor Bob will be with the children in the Children’s church and then join in at the end of the worship service to lead us in Holy Communion

Sundays at 9:00 am
with Children’s Church

Adult Sunday School
10:30 am

Worship with us Online

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wesleyumcmvl/>
- Website: <https://www.wesleyum.org/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVh5ckeYZuoHGIVgqY3wQtQ>

April 14, 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

THEME: The Great Commission is given by Christ. The church has only ever had one mission—to make disciples of Jesus. Our job is not to build the church; Jesus builds the church. Our job is to make disciples.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 28:16-20

MESSAGE: *“We Know Our Mission”*

April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter

THEME: If we, as God’s people, don’t individually and collectively know God’s plan for us, we will fade away. Without living into God’s vision, God and God’s work become increasingly distant. We will end up serving other masters.

SCRIPTURE READING: Proverbs 29:18 ; Proverbs 3:5-6

MESSAGE: *“Without God’s Vision, We Perish”*

April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

THEME: We have been created to be in a love relationship with God and to experience God in our lives. We can settle for knowing about God, but experiencing the love of God daily is what God intends for us. Experiencing God’s love happens when we are seeking and following his plan for us.

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 1:18-ff ; Mark 10:17-27

MESSAGE: *“Experiencing God”*

“Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.”

Psalm 85:11-13

Sunday Servant Schedule

Ushers & Greeters



April

- April 7**
Jeff & Becky Wolfe
- April 14**
Nevin & Malinda Kern
- April 21**
Sandy Corl
Donna Donaldson
- April 28**
Washington Family

Worship Leaders

April

- April 7**
Christopher Albright
- April 14**
Cindy Thomas
- April 21**
Ginny Rech
- April 28**
Joe Bower

New Membership Class Beginning April 28



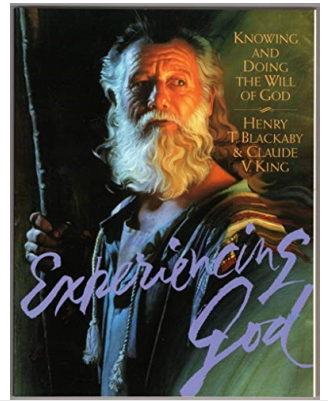
Several Wesley regulars have expressed interest in joining the church. On April 28th, we will begin a new members class (note the change from the original April 21). The class will take place during Sunday school at 10:30 am in the fellowship hall. Sunday school regulars and anyone who wishes may join the class, which will run for 4-5 weeks. You are not obligated to join if you attend the class. Just come and consider whether membership is a good next faith-step for you.

(Continued from page 1 - Pastor)

Asking, Seeking, and Knocking means you will find me and my love in powerful ways. Yes, you will also learn my vision for you as my church, but this is an opportunity to deeply experience my love.”

How cool is that! I'm not at all sure I'd have put that together. Yes, seeking God's vision for us is seeking God, and I know God will be faithful. If we are willing to seek and knock together over the coming months, we will experience God, God's love, and know God's perfect plan for our church. Jump into this with your whole heart. Let's experience God!

Experiencing God with you,
Pastor Bob



UMC General Conference Starts in April

Our denomination's General Conference will take place from April 23 through May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. This body is made up of clergy and laity from United Methodist churches around the globe. More than 1,000 legislative petitions aiming to shape the denomination's future will be before these delegates. Let's pray for this monumental effort and ask that God's Spirit preside over the deliberations.

If the past is any indication of what to expect during this event and immediately after, we will likely hear numerous inaccurate and partial reports. Further, things decided at the General Conference must then be deemed permitted by our Judicial Council. That means decisions sometimes get reversed. May we be careful not to be part of the confusion.

Regardless of the outcomes, our church leaders are ready to consider any effects on our church and determine if actions should be taken. We will seek to be transparent about this process. If at any point you feel confused or uncomfortable about what you are hearing, please talk to us. We will be glad to hear your concern and help with providing as much clarity as possible.

Once the dust settles from the General Conference and any expected Judicial Council responses, if there are changes that could affect us as a church, Pastor Bob and Wesley leaders will hold Q&A sessions for those with questions. These Q&A sessions will be offered both in-person and online. No question is a stupid question. If you have a concern, let's talk.



Listening To God 2024

We have begun a project to listen to the leading of our Shepherd and to discern what are our next faithful steps as a church.

Listening activities for each of us will ramp up after Easter. For now, please faithfully pray this prayer as part of our daily time with God.

God, speak to us.

God, open our hearts and our ears.

Let us hear the voice of our Shepherd and follow. Amen

The Work of Our Faithful Trustees

Wow, a lot has been going on! Our Trustees **and others helping them** have:

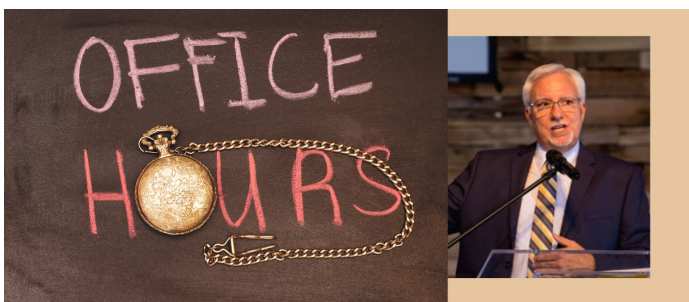


- Documented and enhanced our **water treatment system** as prescribed by the Department of Environmental Protection
- Met with our **elevator maintenance** company to ensure we are in compliance with the inspections that the state and our insurance company require
- Received a bid from ARCS, our HVAC vendor, to repair the **furnace boiler**. We scheduled the repair for September. The cost will be \$8000.00—more about that below
- **Cleaned up and prepared our facility** (inside and outside) for the Lenten Brunch.
- Effected repair and planned additional work on our **floor scrubber**, which is not performing well
- Installed new upper **parking lot lights**
- Coordinated numerous **rentals**, including MPR setup
- Worked on our **live stream setup** to adjust for recent network changes
- Obtained approval and funding from the Trust Fund committee to purchase 2 new **office PCs**
- Obtained approval and funding from the Trust Fund committee to purchase **oil-based candle-lighting equipment** to make alter candles easier for acolytes to light
- Replaced a broken **paper towel dispenser** in the preschool restroom
- Ordered additional **propane**
- Installed several **motion sensor lighting** fixtures in hallways

Yes, our boiler was temporarily fixed. We're praying it gets us through this heating season. The Boiler is constructed in segments. Several segments will need to be replaced. ARCS, our HVAC vendor, always takes very good care of us. They have indicated that the repair will cost \$8,000.00. We've scheduled this repair before the next heating season in September. Without redirecting your giving to our regular budget or capital campaign, If God leads you, will you help us make this climb to repairing our boiler? As always, thank you for your faithful stewardship.



God's Work
Our Hands



Pastor Bob's Schedule and Contact Information

Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

It is recommended that you call to be sure he is in the office as he does attend outside meetings and visits homebound and hospitalized.

Pastor Bob takes Friday as a Sabbath. He may not be available for calls or emails on Friday. The best way to reach him is to leave a message on his cell number (*listed on the back cover of the bulletin*).

His email is revbobyder@gmail.com and is the most efficient method of ensuring he receives your email in a timely manner, rather than through the church administrative email.



Wesley Outreach, Activities, & Announcements



Wednesday, April 3
6:30 – 8:00 PM

MOM2MOM

Mom2Mom
April 3

This month will be game night following our family meal. All mothers are welcome to join us.



VBS Volunteer meeting

Tuesday, April 10

6:00 PM

Please come to plan and plug in to this big outreach ministry. Your hands are not only necessary, but also welcome!



Children's Fellowship

April 14

1:00—3:00 pm

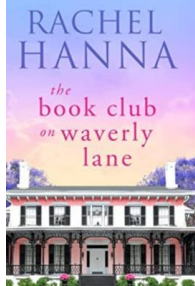
the kids will make care packages for chemo patients and if weather permits, we'll make and fly kites. Reminder, that this month only, CF will be in the Fellowship Hall (and/or outside).

Women's Book Club

April 15, 2024

7:00 pm

Our next meeting will be on April 15 at 7pm at the home of Chris Miller. We will be discussing "The Book Club on Waverly Lane" by Rachel Hanna.





Men's Breakfast

April 30

9:00 AM

ALL men of our community are invited to attend a homemade, hearty breakfast buffet and time of fellowship. A free will donation is taken, free to all, come and join us!

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Preschool Registration



Wesley Preschool Now Enrolling for 2024-2025 School Year

We are now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Classes are available for children ages 1½ - Pre- Kindergarten and are designed to meet the needs of a child during each stage of their most formative years.

For additional information or to request an application, please contact Wesley Preschool at 717-957-4481. Applications are also available on Wesley United Methodist Church website at <https://www.wesleyum.org/preschool>.



JOB OPENING

Come join our team!

Wesley Preschool has several openings for the 2024-2025 school year. We are looking for substitute teachers.

To receive an application, please contact Holly Bitner at (717) 580-0049 or email: wesleyum.preschool@gmail.com

For consideration, fill out an application and return it to:

Wesley Preschool
450 Sylvan Street
Marysville, Pa 17053



Wesley Family,

What a ride! When you receive this newsletter, our Wesley Family will be fresh off the Lent Express and Easter; filling our souls with grateful recognition, positive affirmation, and refreshed determination to follow Jesus' examples-honoring his sacrifice. As we all struggle with the realities of the world beyond our community, one only needs to partake of and share Wesley on the Hill to be mindful of the positivity we radiate.

I truly hope you were one of the many who attended the Lenten Brunch & Music Celebration, nothing but smiling faces after the time of singing, eating, and enjoying community conversations. How nice it was for Wesley to host and help bring like-minded people of the community together at our House of Worship on the Hill. The Council of Churches is now planning to discuss the possibility of holding additional similar events. On Saturday March 23rd the kids had a great time hunting for eggs, followed by moving from country to country (table to table) learning, crafting, and building friendships in Wesley's safe place on the hill. March was a very busy month with all things Easter coming early and crammed into one month.

These events and many others are all happenings that turn into experiences for Wesley Family, friends, and community and you make them possible through your continued support. Thank you! Because of your dedication, we have made up for our missed Sundays and have been able to maintain our financial momentum, allowing us to continue to change lives

and invite others to join us at Wesley on the Hill.

Below are Finance updates for you as we work hard to keep our "House" in order. Good, not so good, and happy there is no ugly to report:

- **Lenten Offering:** As of this writing I do not have a total for the Lenten Envelope offering but thank you in advance! We will be sharing half to the Marysville Fire Co. and half to the East Pennsboro EMS Ambulance Service; our First Responders who are always there when we need them!
- **Hope for the Future Capital Campaign:** On March 10, we were able to pay \$20,000 directly on principal!! Thank you to the special people who understand how much this can help Wesley's operating and future. We are approaching the 2-year mark, in May, of our original 3-year campaign. So far, we have paid \$201,000 toward our principle. Of the \$50,000 gift from the Susquehanna Conference, we have \$22,500 left which we use to supplement our quarterly mortgage interest payments. The portion are not covered fully by offering gifts to the Building Fund. We are happy to be able to continue to apply every dollar you give toward the Capital Campaign directly to principle. And lastly, we have an accumulated balance of \$1,000 right now prior to Easter Sunday, rebuilding from your support to be able to apply another principal payment sometime in April. Thank you!
- **Heating Season:** Your gifts enabled us to pay the \$3400 propane bill from January, and we will only need about \$800 delivered this week to finish out our propane heating season. Meanwhile, the next update is both good and not so good! The central oil-fired boiler leak was stopped (for now) with appropriate chemicals. That

was a mini gift that it could be contained and then stopped. However, analysis and subsequent contractor estimates indicate we should move forward with a repair. The good news is because the boiler is brand name and not real old, they can replace sections to make it whole again. The dampener on that is the estimate is \$8,000 or more. It is likely the Trustees will move forward with this in August or Sept. This expense would normally come out of the Property Fund. Pray we can accomplish that without depleting our emergency property reserves.

- **Office Upgrade:** New computers will be coming in soon to replace the desktop computers (ancient!) our office now uses. The plan is to hopefully complete installation, testing, back up, and synchronization for May. While necessary for security and speed, it will much improve function for Wesley.
- **Technology Assessment:** The power outage and related equipment failures we experienced pointed out that we need to do a top to bottom shake down review and plan for our future, which will provide an accurate assessment of our capabilities. Trustees will oversee the assembly of a church wide exploratory committee to begin a review process of inventory, assessment, and eventual final evaluation for planning present and future needs. Your input is welcome. Yes, that will cover a wide range of technology. In today's similar operations, everything is tied into the in-house network including the copier, phone system, and any security devices. But since the buck stops with Finance, I feel an obligation to help you, our family of faithful supporters, know that your church strives to safeguard your interests

(Continued on page 8 - FINANCE)

WESLEY'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Or Adonai Practice	2	3 6:30 PM–8:00 PM Mom2Mom	4 10:00 AM–11:00 AM Prayer Together 5:30 PM–8:00 PM Indoor Soccer 6:30 PM–8:30 PM Emmaus Walk 6:30 PM–7:30 PM Prayer Together 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	5	6 12:00 PM–4:00 PM Baby Shower— Collins 9:00 AM–3:00 PM Emmaus Walk Team Meetings
7 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30 AM–11:30 AM Adult Sunday School	8 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56	9	10 6:00 PM–7:00 PM VBS Volunteer Meeting	11 10:00 AM–11:00 AM Prayer Together 5:30 PM–8:00 PM Indoor Soccer 6:30 PM–7:30 PM Prayer Together 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	12 3:00 PM–9:00 PM Scrapbooking Event	13 9:00 AM–6:00 PM Scrapbooking Event 10:00AM–12:00PM United Women in Faith Leadership Meeting
14 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30AM–11:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM–5:00 PM Birthday Party— Mucebi 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Children's Fellowship	15 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 7:00 PM Women's Book Club 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Or Adonai Practice	16 6:00 PM–7:00 PM Marysville Baseball 7:00PM–9:00PM Wesley Church Council	17	18 10:00 AM–11:00 AM Prayer Together 5:30 PM–8:00 PM Indoor Soccer 6:30 PM–7:30 PM Prayer Together 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	19	20
21 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30AM–11:30 AM Adult Sunday School	22 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Worship Team Planning Meeting	23	24	25 10:00 AM–11:00 AM Prayer Together 5:30 PM–8:00 PM Indoor Soccer 6:30 PM–7:30 PM Prayer Together 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM AA Group	26	27
28 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30AM–11:30 AM Adult Sunday School	29 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Or Adonai Practice	30 9:00AM–10:00AM Men's Breakfast				

“So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil.”

Deuteronomy 11:13-14

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and keep you openly informed on our inner successes and challenges.

- Trustees: The transition in leadership is taking place. Thank you, Bob Miller, for all that you have done for Wesley in your years of leadership. Your mother, Renee, is fortunate that you live close and can shift your focus to provide care for her. Meanwhile, I want to recognize that the Trustees have stepped up, divided duties, and are moving forward. They do not receive the recognition they deserve for the combined hours, skills, and projects they use to maintain our Wesley on the Hill. In the process, many times they are saving Wesley real dollars by not hiring out for a paid contractor, instead tackling things with available bodies! Thank you!!

I, too, am happy for Jack Snyder who by now has his own flower garden in Heaven and, in his truly quiet humble nature, is becoming the new guy information source for all things green! Not to mention, he is walking around, bending over his flowers, and enjoying everything pain free.

As spring heads into summer, our United Methodist Annual Conference will occur in Williamsport. There will be other United Methodist Conferences elsewhere and news spots on TV and wherever you obtain your news updates. Our conference is continuing to work on the efficiencies of reorganizing and improving our conference for our changing times. In these times, now more than ever we should all rely on Pastor Bob, our own conference attendees, and official Susquehanna Conference newsletters to keep

abreast of our United Methodist happenings; not Tik Tok, not Facebook, not hard left or hard right postings. On many levels, other areas of the country really do not represent Central PA, and I certainly should not need to explain how news media embellishes, high spots, and reports out of context. Many times, tailoring reports just to special interest groups, not the mainstream.

By the time you read this, I will be back home from surgery and hopefully rehabbing at a fast pace. I want you to know that I practice what I tell you. Roxanne was shaking her head at me, but I insisted on plugging our regular plans and new trips into our summer calendar. I have faith and I am in the good hands of you, our Wesley Family. I tell you this because in last month's newsletter, I reminded you that the Monday after Easter begins the planning for the rest of the year. I am already on it, (even if with a walker!) and I encourage you to look on the bright side; Wesley is here for you, too. Make your plans for vacations, attending Wesley functions, enjoying company of friends, and sharing with your community. Make those reservations and enjoy life. As the song states: "Be positive, be happy". Your Wesley Family will be right here to come home to.



David Palmer, Finance Chairperson

"Every man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." II Cor. 9:7

How Does Your Spiritual Garden Grow?

REBECCA BARLOW JORDAN

Ask Jesus to make you like a beautiful "well-watered garden."

The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. Isaiah 58:11 (NLT)

For years I had dreamed about lush flower gardens, and even filled a notebook with pictures of beautiful flowers and various styles of gardens. Each time I found a new idea online or in a garden magazine, I'd show my husband. I knew gardening was my passion, not his, so I tried to be careful not to pressure him. I never thought my dreams would become reality.

But a few years ago he actually suggested we draw up some ideas for a perennial garden. I was in garden heaven, creating, planning, choosing—and then planting several garden areas. They were not as exquisite as the ones in my idea notebook, but they were beautiful to me.

I soon discovered, however, that what I enjoyed was not garden-

ing, but gardens. Gardening requires maintenance: watering, fertilizing, mulching, and yes, pulling weeds. At times, the work is overwhelming just to keep the garden growing and beautiful. Maintenance was low on my "enjoyable" list. But, oh, the joy of sitting in my garden among the fragrant flowers! It is well worth the work.

The Christian life is sometimes like that. We fall in love with Jesus, with His Word, with becoming more Christlike. Everything looks beautiful. Until the maintenance comes. The discipline of faithfulness challenges us; temptation distracts us; and difficulties threaten to overwhelm us. Growth requires intentionality. To keep the garden of our heart beautiful and well-watered, we must cooperate with Jesus, the Master Gardener. Sometimes, that work costs us time, comfort, pain. But a well-watered, maintained garden—whether a physical one or a spiritual one—will proclaim His beauty. Jesus makes all the work worthwhile.

FAITH STEP: *Do you enjoy gardens or gardening? Ask Jesus to make you like a beautiful "well-watered garden." Cooperate with Him today by including a spiritual discipline such as time in His Word, prayer, or Bible study.*

<https://guideposts.org/prayer/prayers-for-stronger-faith/how-does-your-spiritual-garden-grow/>



JUST FOR KIDS

And Kids at heart!

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."
Matthew 6:28-29

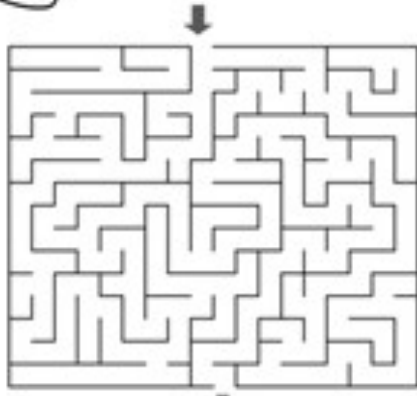
For GOD
 so LOVED
 the world that
 He gave His ONE
 and only SON
 that whoever
 BELIEVES
 in HIM
 shall not
 perish but
 have ETERNAL
 LIFE.

JOHN 3:16

Spring Maze



Can you find the way through the maze to water the plants?



"All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field."
Isaiah 40:6

 **Wesley United
Methodist Church**

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Marysville, PA 17053

Return Service Requested

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Find us on the Web!
www.wesleyum.org

*"Your Church on
the Hill"*

**Wesley United Methodist
Church**

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