



## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins." Mark 2:21-22

With the coming of a new year, many of us consider what we would like to do differently. Whether we try to set aside more time for family, eat more balanced meals, or learn a new language, I think we all have used the coming of a new calendar year as an opportunity for personal progress. In the verses above, Jesus shares the importance of not combining old practices with new faith. While originally in the context of fasting, this passage has two helpful images that remind us to live into our freedom found in Christ. In 2026, I pray we each feel the freedom to pour ourselves into new or reinvigorated practices. Maybe we need to leave some things behind in 2025: past hurts and grudges, fear of change, materialism, or our reliance on ourselves over our trust in God. Maybe in 2026, we need to learn some new practices to help us pour into our faith. If this resonates with you, there are a couple of opportunities we have at the church.

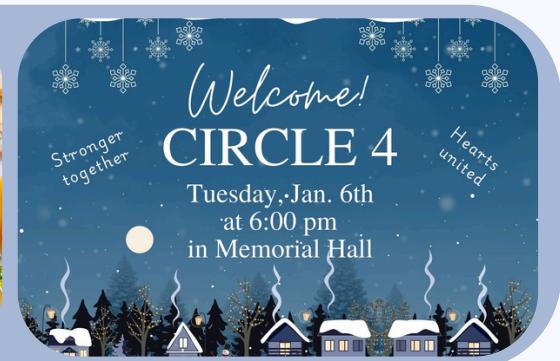
First, I invite you to join me on a six-week hands-on journey where we explore a new practice each week. This group will meet on Wednesdays at 2:30.

Second, consider attending our calendaring meeting on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be a space where we reflect on the direction of our ministries and create space for all to contribute and serve. Third, give some thought to setting up a time to chat with me. Every week, I offer walk-in hours at the church but am always available outside of these hours. I would be honored to be a listening ear and to pray with you. You can reach out to the church office at 270-756-5901, to my cell at 713-454-3778, or to my email at [twelch@kyumc.net](mailto:twelch@kyumc.net).

May we use the freedom we find in Christ Jesus to let go of anything that separates us from God. I pray we find the courage to make space for our spiritual lives within 2026. I am excited to see how God uses these upcoming 365 days as we live into our calling as people of the faith.

In Christ's hope,

Rev. Tess Welch



# happy NEW YEAR!

## CALENDARING MEETING

As we look ahead to a new year filled with hope and purpose, all church members and friends are invited on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm in Memorial Hall for an important planning meeting.

We will discuss our upcoming calendar and discuss exciting ministry opportunities like Vacation Bible School, Camp Loucon, local mission projects, community outreach, and more. This is your chance to share ideas and help guide how we will live our faith and serve our community in the coming year.

Please help us spread the word within our church. January's calm allows us space to thoughtfully prepare and align our plans for the coming year.



## SPIRITUAL PRACTICES SMALL GROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 2:30 IN THE HEART AND SOUL ROOM FROM JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> TO FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>  
(1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, & 2/11)

Join us for a six-week hands-on journey exploring a spiritual practice each week. This group will be different from a traditional Bible Study and will be a lot more hands on. We will meet Wednesdays at 2:30 in the Heart and Soul Room from Jan 7<sup>th</sup> to Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. Come as often as you can; even a single session can make a meaningful difference in your walk with God. This group will be a great space to experiment with different practices and consider what your Lenten practices might look like. Interested in the material but can't make the time? Contact Pastor Tess and she can distribute the materials for an at home study.

## CIRCLE IV CHRISTMAS BLESSING



Our Circle IV group sponsored a family of three, soon to be four, for Christmas this year. They provided clothes for the parents and children, diapers, wipes, slippers, toys, hats, coats, and more. Their thoughtful outreach brought hope and joy to a family by meeting their needs with love and grace. We are proud to have compassionate leaders among us who heed the instruction in Hebrews 13:16, "do not neglect to do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Praise be!



## FROM COURT TO COMMUNITY BLESSING BOX FILLED BY VOLLEYBALL TEAM'S KINDNESS

A special thank you to Charli Moreland and her all-star volleyball team for their incredible generosity. They collected a remarkable two tubs full of shelf-stable items as a part of our Reverse Advent Calendar project which went to stock our Blessing Box. Their kindness and commitment are a wonderful example of living out our call to serve and love our community. We are grateful for their efforts and the tangible difference they have made to help bless our neighbors.



## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Our first Administrative Council meeting is Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Heart and Soul room. This will be a key gathering as we approve the church budget and engage in leadership formation to strengthen our church. Join us as we set the foundation for a purposeful and well-supported year ahead.

## JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> WORSHIP – INTRODUCTION OF 2026 LEADERS

At our first worship service of 2026, on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, we will take a moment to introduce all our church leaders – both those continuing in their roles and those newly stepping into leadership. We will learn who is responsible for what area of ministry at our church and pray over them. This will serve as an introduction to a new year and help us start our year with prayer and gratitude.

## ONLINE GIVING – COMING SOON

We're excited to share that our church is working to launch a secure online giving platform for a modern way to practice faithful stewardship, integrating technology with your commitment to God's work. Our Administrative Council has approved Vanco, a trusted service used by over 25,000 churches nationwide. Stay tuned on our website for updates as we prepare to offer this new way to give!

## The Blessing Team

PRAYERS LIFTED. LIGHT SHARED.  
Every Monday at 9:30 am  
in the  
Heart & Soul rm

## craft Group

Wednesday thru Friday

9:30 am

in the Heart & Soul rm



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[www.hardinsburgumc.org](http://www.hardinsburgumc.org)  
[YouTube.com/Hardinsburgumc](https://www.youtube.com/Hardinsburgumc)

January 2026 Newsletter



Welcome Home

TO HARDINSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAYS  
10 AM WORSHIP  
IN PERSON & ON YOUTUBE