

***The Newsletter of the West Branch  
United Methodist Church***

How Can I

Belong at

WBUMC?

**WORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**SACRIFICIAL  
SERVICE**

**GIVING**

**TRANSFORMING  
AND  
NURTURING**

## WHAT I AM READING/LISTENING TO/WATCHING



Hi! This is a monthly section where I am going to lift up something I have taken in and think it's good enough to suggest.

I am reading *Deep & Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend* by Andy Stanley. Andy Stanley is the Lead Pastor of North Point Community Church in Atlanta, GA. I must confess, I know very little of his theology except what leaks through in the book. What the book is full of is great ideas on methodology on how to do church.

We've made the creation of a Discipleship Pathway our goal for 2018. This journey has taken on a twofold nature. One is a path for guests to move from being guests to active members (making disciples of Jesus Christ.) The other is for active members to engage in a lifelong journey of following Jesus more closely (being disciples of Jesus Christ.) This book has helped me look at our pathways and programs, and prepare to have some discussions. We'll be continuing this work in Council on Ministries and you should be seeing the fruit of our work very soon!

Blessings,  
Rev Alexis

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### ***FIFTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION - April 29th***

**9:30am Service - Choir! Praise band! Children singing!**

Followed by a potluck. Please bring food to share and your own plates/utensils. Napkins and beverages will be provided.

If you participated in our Lent Prayer Partners, you will get to meet your people at this event.

Let's be together as one big church family!

## APRIL SCRIPTURES

April 1

*Easter*

*Communion*

*"Back to the Garden"*

John 20:1-18

Revelation 21:22-22:5

April 8

*Pulpit Exchange*

*We will receive Sue Thomas,  
from the Friends Church  
and Rev. Alexis will be headed  
to St. Bernadette's  
Catholic Church*

April 15

*"Must Be Preached"*

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36-48

April 22

*"Cornerstone"*

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

April 29

*9:30 am*

*Fifth Sunday Celebration*

*"Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch"*

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

## Worship Opportunities

\*\*\*\*\*A sneak peek ahead\*\*\*\*\*

Mark Johnson will be back to preach on Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day) . He will be here for both services.

### WORSHIP ON-SITE

**9:00 am Sunday worship**

Blended worship featuring liturgy, hymns, praise music, a choir, and a message. Communion is offered once a month.

**10:30 AM SUNDAY REFUGE**

Flexible worship style primarily featuring acoustic praise music with our Refuge Band. There is usually some kind of experience tied into a message that is more conversational in nature.

### WORSHIP OFF-SITE

*You Tube Search for our channel WBUMC Iowa, or follow the link from our website or Facebook page. Services are usually posted by Thursday of that week.*

### WORSHIP AT CRESTVIEW

**2 pm, April 5, 2018**

**All welcome** to this 30 minute worship time.

The next anticipated date is May 3, 2018

**Note:** a local church provides a worship experience @ Crestview each Thursday @ 2 pm.

**(FYI:** Ruth Blayer will lead Worship @ Crestview on April 12, 2018 representing the WB Friends Church.

**Lynn Freed, office administrator, will be  
on vacation March 31-April 15.  
She will thoroughly be enjoying her family  
and friends in Arizona (a long overdue trip) !!  
If you need immediate assistance,  
contact Reverend Alexis, 319-430-0700,  
alexis.johnson@iaumc.net**

**OFFICE HOURS AND CALLING AHEAD**

***Staff schedules change from week to week.***

*It is always a good practice to make appointments  
or to call ahead to make sure we are there!*

**Rev. Alexis' cell number is [319-430-0700](tel:319-430-0700),  
even if she's working from home, she can usually  
come over to the church with 20 minutes notice.**

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***Sharing the Weight Blanket Party***

Another blanket party is scheduled for **April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>** in the Fellowship Hall. We will be working from **9:00 am-3:00 pm** each day. Come and go at your leisure.

In 2017 over 20 weighted blankets made here at WBUMC were donated to both the elementary and the middle school special education departments.

Contact Carolyn Anderson at 319-530-8021 or [ande5800@gmail.com](mailto:ande5800@gmail.com) to sign up. We need a head count to know how many supplies to have ready for the party. Invite your friends to join us. Remember there are many jobs that do not require being able to sew. It is an inspiring project.

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**To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly,  
kindhearted, and humble in spirit. 1 Peter 3:8-11**



The Mental Health Group  
will meet April 11 at 7 pm

This information and support group is open to the entire community, and usually meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 7pm, at WBUMC. Contact Lisa Kofoed (facilitator, 319-936-2051) for additional information.

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***Come enjoy a special program by the 1<sup>st</sup> graders from the WB Hoover Elementary School. Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Mary Martha Fellowship will host this special event.***

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***Youth "Talent" Show  
Sunday, April 15, 2018 from 6 - 7pm with dessert to follow***

The youth are planning a "talent" show and dessert fundraiser again this spring! Individual performances are open to anyone and will feature the Refuge praise band. If you would like to perform, please contact Ben Colbert or Rev. Alexis.

Come celebrate the talents of our congregation and enjoy fellowship and dessert! Through this free-will offering we are hoping to raise \$1000 to support all ages of students attending SGU and summer church camps.

#### APRIL LEADERS / VOLUNTEERS

##### Worship Leaders

1<sup>st</sup>: Ed Spencer  
8<sup>th</sup>: Barb Wilcox  
15<sup>th</sup>: Sara Oswald  
22<sup>nd</sup>: Nancy Slach  
29<sup>th</sup>: Bev Spencer

##### Fellowship

1<sup>st</sup>: Peg Anderson &  
Nancy Lathrop  
8<sup>th</sup>: Connie Tisinger  
15<sup>th</sup>: Homemaker's Class  
22<sup>nd</sup>:  
29<sup>th</sup>: Pot Luck

I want to say a huge thank you to all of our teachers and volunteers who are making Church School possible. It takes so many people investing in our young disciples, for this work to be successful. The disciples are growing toward God and it is inspiring to see. If you have not been to Wednesday evening, I would encourage to come 6:30-7:00pm and share a meal with the kids. The energy is very life-giving. Blessings, Rev. Alexis

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The youth sang 10,000 Reasons for both the 9am and 10:30am Palm Sunday services.

Everyone really enjoyed this!

Good job kids!

## **FAMILY CHURCH (DISCIPLESHIP) NIGHT SCHEDULE**

### **6:00 pm PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade**

Every Wednesday night our church is filled with excitement and enthusiasm. Our lessons have ideas based on our Bible, God and Jesus.

- Show respect to God because He is in charge of everything.
- You respect God when you respect the people God made.
- Friends love.
- Friends accept each other.
- Remember everything belongs to God.

### **6:00 pm Confirmation Class (7-8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**6:30 pm Community Meal**

**7:00 pm J8:11 Jr. (5-6<sup>th</sup>) & Confirmation Class (7-8<sup>th</sup>)**

**7:30 pm J8:11 Worship**

**7:45 pm J8:11 Sr. (9-12<sup>th</sup>)**

**Missions Garage Sale will be April 28.** If you have donations for the sale you may begin bringing them to the church basement April 25. There will be a designated spot for donated items so look for signs!

Sorting and pricing will take place Thursday and Friday, 26 and 27. No early sales.

Join us Saturday, we open at 7:30, close at noon. Last hour will be a bag sale, \$1 for everything you can fit in the bag!

Volunteers will be appreciated. We will set up tables after Wednesday night events, and helpers are welcome to show up to set up tables and take down chairs. Pickup of donated items can be arranged ahead of time. The mission committee hopes to see you Saturday the 28th. Helpers beforehand and afterward for cleanup earn an extra crown in Heaven!

Contact any member of missions committee with your questions. Bob and Rosamond Cumings, Amy Colbert, Shirley Patrick, Linda Albright, Barb Wilcox.

All proceeds support mission projects locally and around the world.

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See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God, that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled. Hebrews 12:15

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### ***Prayers & Squares***

**This small group meets regularly the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm in the WBUMC Fellowship Hall. Please call Gloria Scharnweber at 643-2872 for more information regarding Prayers & Squares.**

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### **United Methodist Women, will host the**

**Tasting Bee Bountiful Baskets will be on Wed. April 18. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and serving begins at 6:30. Tell your friends, and call 643-5941 for your tickets! \$6.00 this year! If you are interested in helping out in any way, please call the same number 643-5941, and let Bev Spencer know. See you there!**

## C.U.P.S.

**C**onnecting & Coffee  
**U**nderstanding faith &  
WBUMC news  
**P**rayer  
**S**haring Fellowship

**Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am, Room UL25**  
**April 3, 10, 17, & 24, 2018**

**All welcome, come when you can.**

*We intentionally pray for the  
prayer list, and others.*

We also share a time when the Bible is read and discussion can be shared.

Know that you are welcome to add to the discussion, or just take it in quietly.

*NOTE: CUPS will be inviting ALL to a fellowship gathering on April 24. (See related article)*



*Fun...Fellowship...Laughter...Community  
building...*

**Special fellowship gathering**  
**9:30-11 am, April 24, 2018.**

The C.U.P.S. group will be hosting a **special fellowship gathering**  
**at 9:30 am on Tuesday April 24, 2018.**

Anyone who can make it is invited!

We will gather in the WBUMC **Fellowship Hall.**

Refreshments will be provided.

**“Coffee & Devotions” at Crestview**  
**11 am, Monday, April 2, 2018**

The next anticipated date will be **@ 11 am on May 7, 2018**

*“We are one in mission; we are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ the Lord of all. A single great  
commission compels us from above  
to plan and work together  
that all may know Christ’s love...”*

The Faith We Sing (TFWS) # 2243

**Fellowship time beginning @ 10:00 am each Sunday.**

Those attending either the 9:00 am worship or the 10:30 am worship can enjoy  
fellowship and refreshments together.

*We are all part of the same body of Christ.*

## **Prayer Cards**

The Wednesday Discipleship night continues to offer an opportunity  
to **say a prayer and send a card** to designated persons.

**Thank you to those participating in this caring outreach.**

For more details contact Ruth Blayer, [pstrblayer@msn.com](mailto:pstrblayer@msn.com)

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**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** If you would like more information about our Prayer Shawl Ministry or care to join this informal small group contact Jan Mather at 319-643-5581, or by email at [jm799@aol.com](mailto:jm799@aol.com). Printed information about our Ministry and instructions is available in our WBUMC library or by contacting Lynn in the office.



### **Prayer Shawl or Prayer Quilt**

You are welcome to take a shawl or quilt for someone you know who needs a hug and prayer, whether for an illness, grief or life crisis, or whatever you feel the need. If you take one, please give us the recipient’s Name/Date by recording in the Prayer Quilt/Shawl Journal. We hope to track to whom and where they go. Just let the recipient know that the shawl or quilt represents our love and care. We hope to enfold them with God’s love and our prayers. There is no cost. Please give them the Note Card with the gift.

*To start a conflict is to release a flood, stop the dispute before it breaks out. Proverbs 17:14*

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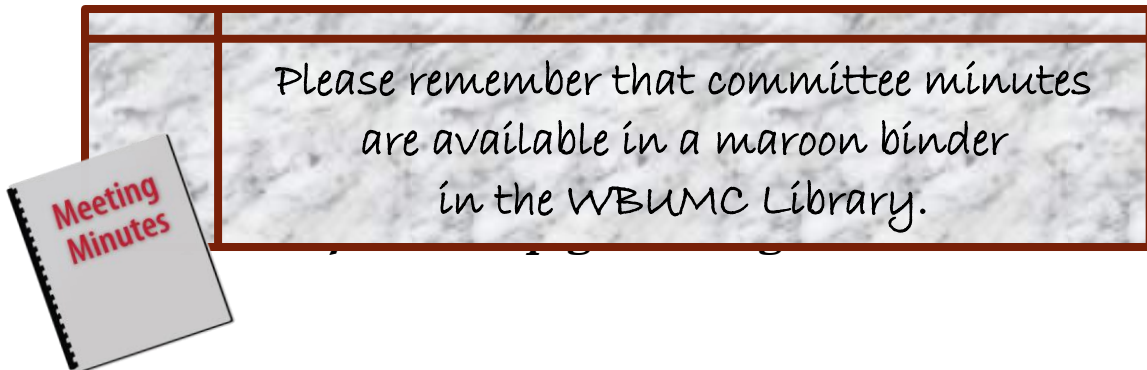
## **ELEVATOR PROJECT UPDATE**

- Total Pledged \$293,511
- Total Project Cost: \$625,000
- Loan Balance: \$133,836

We are pleased to announce that West Branch United Methodist Church has been established as a charitable organization eligible to receive Thrivent Choice Dollars.. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to WBUMC. We plan to use Thrivent Choice grant funding to help with our Accessibility Project.

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This year's statistics:			Last year's statistics for the same weeks:		
Week	Attendance	Giving	Week	Attendance	Giving
<b>2/25/18</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>\$5009</b>	<b>2/26/17</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$946</b>
<b>3/04/18</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>\$4532</b>	<b>3/05/17</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>\$5493</b>
<b>3/11/18</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>\$2747</b>	<b>3/12/17</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$1945</b>
<b>3/18/18</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>\$2929</b>	<b>3/19/17</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>\$4772</b>
<b>3/25/18</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>\$1998</b>	<b>3/26/17</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>\$2274</b>
<b>YTD AVG</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>\$3696</b>	<b>YTD AVG</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>\$3531</b>



Please remember that committee minutes are available in a maroon binder in the WBUMC Library.

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COMMUNITY BUILDING...

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## Prayer Chain

Thank you to those who have kept the church informed of prayer concerns and provided updates and kept us aware of hospitalizations. Please know

we would rather have three calls from family/caring friends than miss a need. Please contact the church office with prayer requests or to join the prayer chain. 643-5489 or [youbelong@westbranchumc.org](mailto:youbelong@westbranchumc.org)

Hubert Hoskins, father of Gary Hoskins, has passed away. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

Joan Lewis

Darlene Lenz, as she awaits medical tests and results.

Our church family Volunteers: school, community, and church.

Camie Kelley

Amanda Polson-Tinebra, Lynn and Shirley Patrick's granddaughter

To the Crestview residents including:

Joan Jamison

Darlene Lenz

Mary Phelps

Audrey Rex

Byrdetta Wehrman

Those struggling with mental health.

Jim Blayer

Christi Musgrave, battling cancer, cousin of Katie Herring.

Madi Nargang, niece of Phil and Amanda Rushton; cousin of Gabby.

John Wilcox.

Larry Meyer, Lynn Patrick's brother-in-law.

Kathy Fountain, a friend of Dale and Carol Thomas.

Jim Smith, Deb Fiderlein's dad.

Dakota, a friend/student of Andy Corr.  
Karen Fieseler.

Barb Dinnen, Connie Laughlin's cousin.

Rusty, Kathy Harmon's cousin's son.

Carsten, son of Paul and Jessica, friends of Rob and Jenni Herring.

Sebastian, son of a co-worker of Andy Corr.

Nicki Hesseltine, friend of Tracy Schutte.

Brady Verlo.

Erica Hoover, cousin of Tami Streinz.

Nick Holbrook, friend of Matt & Kris Brack.

Will, Gina Cousin's brother.

Unity and our Church.

Family members going through transition.

Those who are caregivers.

Those walking the road of recovery.

Missionaries in the United States and around the world, including the Kies family, missionaries in Mutare, Zimbabwe.

For all those caught in the middle of the conflicts around the world.

## April Birthday's



- 2 Sydney Lamont
- 2 Mark Scharnweber
- 4 Lou Pine
- 4 Jessica Kusick
- 5 Jesse Lumpa
- 7 Alice Scott
- 7 Braden Dlhj
- 7 Clarence Crew
- 8 Anne Weinard Heckman
- 8 Brad Wasion
- 13 Margaret Wick
- 13 Elizabeth Taylor
- 16 Chelsee Shortt
- 16 Jerry Sexton
- 18 Tony D'Ambrose
- 20 Gale Gates
- 22 Jerry Radford
- 23 Jack Dragovich
- 23 Laurie Dauber
- 24 Amber Corr
- 24 Will Bridges
- 25 Dennis Albrecht
- 26 Al Tisinger
- 29 Janlyn Slach
- 30 Brady Verlo

## Your Church Staff & Contact #'s

**Office #:** 643-5489

**Pastor:** Reverend Alexis Johnson 430-0700

**Care Ministries Pastor:** Ruth Blayer 530-6648

**Office Admin/Ministry Assistant:** Lynn Freed 800-3654

**Music Director:** Dale Thomas

**Refuge Musician Leader:** Ben Colbert

**Custodian** Becky Knoche

[youbelong@westbranchUMC.org](mailto:youbelong@westbranchUMC.org)

[revalexis@westbranchumc.org](mailto:revalexis@westbranchumc.org)

WestBranchUMC.org

### **April 1**

*Easter*

Communion

*"Back to the Garden"*

John 20:1-18

Revelation 21:22-22:5

### **April 8**

*Pulpit Exchange*

We will receive

*Sue Thomas* from  
the Friends Church

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*"Must Be Preached"*

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36-48

### **April 22**

*"Cornerstone"*

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

### **April 29**

Fifth Sunday Celebration

9:30 am

*"Phillip and the Ethiopian Church"*

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

**Sorry if we don't have your birthday on our list; please contact the office so we can add it on for next year!**