

**Wesley United Methodist Church**

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Ishpeming, MI 49849



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**JANUARY 2026**



## January Birthdays

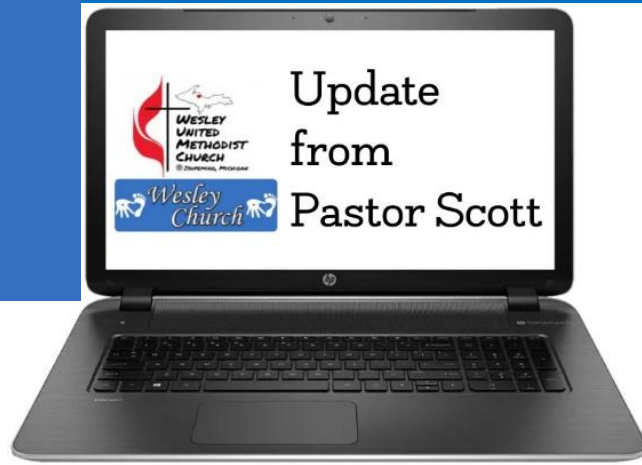
- 2 James Roberts
- 5 Kimberly (Grigg) Phillippi
- 6 Karen Graham
- Travis Gracyalny
- Kenna Hanson (c)
- Rev. Vicky Prewitt
- 7 Elliot Gracyalny (t)
- 9 Brad Wootke
- 13 Emily Morton (t)
- 15 Shirley Hicks
- 16 Mary Lou Maki
- 17 Mabel Smith
- 18 Alan Nylander
- Emily Miller
- 20 Michael Blanck
- 21 Jon Palomaki
- 22 Ron Hendra
- 24 Chad Hintsala
- 25 Camryn Kestila (c)
- 28 Richard Farley
- 29 Ian Hanson
- Isaac Yeager (c )

## January Anniversaries



- 22 Jim & Pat Blewett





## Putting Our Love Into Action

If you didn't know, I am currently enrolled in a program called Practical Church Leadership at Dakota Wesleyan University. I am taking courses all year on communication, vision, and more. I am also working on a year-long project.

My project is to help our church better tell our story, to better communicate our why. I don't have to tell you, you already know: we do a lot of great things in mission, service, education, worship, and more. But I think what we as a church do not do as well is communicate what we do. I do not think we do a good job of telling the story of our church. I do not think we do a good job of telling our why.

Hold that thought.

When you think of companies like **Nike**, do you immediately think to yourself "**Just do it**"? Or:

<b>McDonald's</b>	"I'm loving it"
<b>Burger King</b>	"You Rule!"
<b>Skittles</b>	"Taste the rainbow"
<b>Apple</b>	"Think Different"
<b>M&amp;M's</b>	"Melts in your mouth, not in your hand"
<b>State Farm</b>	"Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there"

— that is a *brand tagline* or identity. Sometimes it is called a jingle. A **brand tagline**, in a very short phrase, tells what the group does and who they are. It conveys identity, purpose, direction, and offers an invitation to others to connect.

After all, who wouldn't want to taste the rainbow?

For my communication class, we had to brainstorm a tagline. I shared ours with the leadership board, and *going forward, our tagline for Wesley Church is "putting our love into action."* So what does "putting our love into action" really mean? *It means that who we are as a church is not simply what we believe or say. **We believe in doing.** Jesus said, "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples" (John 13:35, NLT).*

Our love becomes visible in meals for the community, in coats for children, in snacks for classrooms, and in support of missionaries.

Over the next year, you will see our communication strategy grow clearer. You will hear more stories of lives touched. You will be invited to share one small way you have seen love become action. Would you begin watching for those moments? Maybe even write one down and send it to the office, or mention it to me after worship. Your story might strengthen someone else's faith. Your story might help lead others to Jesus Christ.

**We are Wesley Church, and we put our love into action.** May everything we do point to the God who first loved us, and may our community see Christ through our hands, our feet, and our stories. Amen.

**Pastor Scott**

**1 John 3:18**



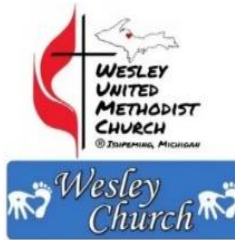
Putting our *love* into action



Wesley  
Church  
Ishpeming, Michigan

January 2026

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## SUNDAY SCHOOL



**9:00–9:50 a.m. before worship!**

**Pre K-1st:**

Downstairs classroom with  
Abigail Johnson & Johanna Solka

**2nd-3rd:**

First classroom upstairs with  
Brianna Johnson & Annie Yeager

**4th-8th grades:**

Second classroom upstairs with  
Pam Olgren



## Happy New Year !

I am hoping that you all had a joyous Christmas with loved ones! The Holiday season can be very tough for many but if you can focus on the reason for the season and surround yourself with loved ones I do believe it's possible to find some joy !

***If you need to smile- please consider watching the service from 12/14 which included the children's pageant.*** (Here is a direct link if you wish: [bit.ly/4sjqKg9](https://bit.ly/4sjqKg9) They did an awesome job and I was so proud of them ! Even with some last minute changes they all came through. There's always something magical seeing Christmas through the eyes of a child.

A special thank you to all who donated to **Toys for Tots!** We had a box full of toys to donate.

**Sunday School will resume on Sunday January 11th at 9:00 a.m.!**

Wishing you all a Christ filled 2026 !

*Pam Olgren*



## Joys

Person to Pray for	Need	Person requesting
1. Kris Culliton & Skip Anderson	Thanks for healing/Kris doesn't need another MRI for 1 yr. long, happy relationship Going to TX to spend Christmas with Grandbaby & Daughter prayers of celebration for 3 years of sobriety she is home recovering well from head injury. I hope Christmas goes good for everyone Joy! Stem Cell Transplant a success- he is in remission	Dorothy Kuhn
2. Me (Alex) & Brittany		Alex
3. Trina- safe travels		Trina Johnson
4. Brad Stille		Nicole Stille
5. Madison		Dick Derby
6. Everyone		Brock Verville
7. Lee Woods		Patti Kainulainen

## Concerns

Person to Pray for	Need	Person requesting
1. 18 Yr. Old Tripp Stratton	cancer treatment for 6 <sup>th</sup> time=Going home for Christmas Then back to hospital in NY for more treatment.	Dorothy Kuhn
2. Ann Marie, Gail, Jason, Bruce & Tracy	healing from ongoing health problems	Dorothy Kuhn
3. David Culliton	healing from back, leg , & eye problems	Dorothy Kuhn
4. Crystal Davis	having heart valve surgery in Houston	Dorothy Kuhn
5. Debbie, Alan, Sarah, Katie, Lindy, Morgan, Vance	health & travel mercies	Barb Palomaki
6. Jill, Jean & Ann Marie	healing & strength	Shirley Hicks
7. Janis (my niece)	continued prayers healing from neck surgery	Cookie Holmgren
8. Gail Puller	having fewer anxiety issues-thankful for years of prayers	Dick Derby
9. Caitlin	Healing from depression & anxiety	Dick Derby
10. Henry	miracle healing from constant seizures	Dick Derby
11. Daphne Flack (2.5 yrs)	continued prayers for healing & saved vision	Patti Kainulainen
12. Lee Woods	continued prayers for succ. Stem cell transplant & heal	Patti Kainulainen
13. My niece Janis	continued healing from surgery	Cookie Holmgren
14. Lee Woods & Niece Janis	continued healing	Cookie Holmgren
15. My great grandma	recover from surgery & hospital stay	Ansley Kestila
16. Mr. Tom (Erickson)'s family	feel better (he passed away unexpectedly)	Brock Verville
17. Linda Quayle	recovery from antibiotic resistant sinus infection	Judy Smith
18. Linda Quayle	her dog died unexpectedly	Judy Smith
19. Gordon Grigg Jr.	get better and come home from hospital	Kelsey Grigg
20. The Forward family	prayers for the loss of their dog Bronx	Heidi & Reese Verville
21. Sarah	peace, faith, strength & total recovery	Jacki Crimmins
22. Mark Stillwell	prayers- his cancer has returned	Brenda Wootke
23. Michelson Memorial UMC (Grayling)	prayers for the congregation- health & healing	D.S. Kristi Hintz
24. Linda R.	prayers- diagnosed with kidney cancer	Rev. Scott Sherrill
25. Brad & Mary Lea (Charlie Yeager stepparents)	healing for Mary Lea- Understanding for Brad and peace for them so they may be able to live together again.	Charlie Yeager
26. Brad Stille	fell outside yesterday- needs pain relief & healing	Nicole Stille
27. Travel mercies for those traveling	Safe travels to everyone- especially Hanson family	Pam Olgren
28. Lee Woods	continued prayers for healing from side effects	Patti Kainulainen
29. Jill & Jean	healing & strength- joy for having safe trip home	Shirley Hicks
30. Grandma Mary	she had the flu-I hope she feels better	Brock Verville
31. Family of Michael (Beans) Farragh	peace & comfort he passed away recently	Karen Graham
32. Linda Quayle	battling upper respiratory illness & insomnia	Judy Smith





## Discipleship – A Call to Follow Jesus

It is the start of a new year and we are inclined to express how “time flies” seemingly so quickly. But it is in fact a new year and we are also inclined to look into it with many perspectives that inevitably fall into two camps: *I’m dreading what’s ahead, or, this is going to be my best year ever!* As Christians, standing upon our faith and trust in God, let us look into the light of each new day, give thanks, and find the “best”.

Bob Gass meditations in **Word for You Today** inspire for the new year – Theme: Optimism! “God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good” (Ge 1:31). “Before the age of two Helen Keller lost her vision and her hearing to scarlet fever. In an instant, her world went dark and silent. Then a godsend teacher named Anne Sullivan arrived and broke through Helen’s solitary confinement and touched her soul. [Keller: 1880-1968. Her first word was ‘water’ done by placing her hand under a pump flow and touch-writing the letters on her hand, identifying a thing, or experience, with a word.]

As a result of Anne’s dedication, Helen learned to speak and write; **Helen became the first deaf/blind person to earn a bachelor’s degree.** She also authored a dozen books, including a manifesto on her philosophy of life, Optimism.

Helen wrote, *‘No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars, or sailed to uncharted land.’* The last page of her book echoes the first page of Scripture: *‘Optimism is the harmony of man’s spirit and the spirit of God pronouncing His works good.’*”

Bob Gass continues: “If God’s spirit is within you, optimism is the order of the day. Optimism isn’t at odds with the reality around us. [Reality often being difficult.] It simply means we’re anchored to another reality – the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ – that is deeper and stronger and longer than we can ever perceive with our five senses.

Helen Keller proved that with an optimistic spirit; even the most difficult circumstances cannot define you. And even if you cannot change them, you can overcome them. As amazing as the human eye is, more amazing – the mind’s eye that enables us to imagine the unthinkable and believe the impossible.

Helen said, **‘The only thing worse than being blind is having no vision’**

*“In this world you will have trouble, but be brave! I have overcome the world”* (Jn16:33). *“Whatever circumstances you find yourself in, they don’t have to define you of defeat you.*

George Bernard Shaw [Playwright and activist 1856-1950] wrote: *‘People are always blaming their circumstances for who or what they are. I don’t believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can’t find them, they make them.’* Doubt is letting our circumstances dictate how we feel and what we believe. When that gets between us and God it creates a smokescreen. Faith is putting the promises of God between you and your circumstances. It doesn’t mean we deny reality. It means we’re in touch a greater reality – Jesus Christ the risen savior. Jesus has overcome the grave, and He has overcome the world.”

Let us give resounding thanks for this new year. Let us grab optimism and hold onto it tightly. We go into each new day with our God, who goes with us. When we say **‘Happy New Year’** let our hearts shout, **“Praise God.”**

Dick Derby  
Missions





January 2026  
MISSIONS: *The hands & feet of Jesus*

## Missions News

Hello Friends,

Our next **Missions Team Meeting** will be **Tuesday, January 6th at 6:00 p.m.** We will meet in the **lounge**.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend--*come & share any Mission Project ideas with us - we welcome your input!*

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**Community Dinner:** Along with our Monthly community Dinner we also offered a soup and bread dinner on 11/20/25, 12/4/25 and 12/18/25. It was very much appreciated by those who came to feast and fellowship with us. **Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** Community Dinner will be *Chicken Stuffing Casserole, salad and dessert.*

**December Mission Projects:** We had **Nepal Missionaries Dr. Lester and Mrs. Debra Dornon** with us at Wesley on Sunday 12/7/25. We also had our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday meal a week early so we could celebrate their mission. We have collected funds to donate to their mission, but totals are not available at the time of the newsletter printing.

I want to thank everyone for all your donations to our Christmas Family that we purchased gifts for. I heard they were very surprised by our generosity and very grateful.

**January's Mission Project:** is to financially support Michigan Disaster Preparedness and Response.

***I want to thank everyone for your generous giving to our Mission Projects You have been a blessing to many.***

*Judy Smith*

Missions Team Coordinator





# January 2026

## Faith in Action

January 2026: Prayer & Encouragement



**Pray for 30 days**

Pastor, Church & Community  
*(Work of Piety)*



**Write 5 Notes**

Encourage Others  
*(Work of Mercy)*



**Listening Prayer**

Jesus' Parables in Matthew  
*(Listening for God)*



**Read Matthew**

Gospel Study  
*(Work of Piety)*

<http://bit.ly/faithinactionJan2026>

### Camp Michigamme to Suspend Operations After 104 Years of Ministry

<https://northernskies.michiganumc.org/camp-michigamme-news/>



Northern Skies District Leadership have announced that Camp Michigamme, located on the shores of Lake Michigamme in the Upper Peninsula, will not reopen for the 2026 season due to financial challenges including declining membership, reduced attendance, rising maintenance costs, and insufficient reserves.

Over the next six months, the Northern Skies District Leadership Team will be securing the property, hosting three listening sessions, and making a final decision by March 2026.

**If you are interested in attending any of the listening sessions- the dates/times/locations are below**

### Camp Michigamme Listening Sessions

Saturday, January 24th	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (Eastern)	Marquette Hope Connection Center
Saturday, January 31st	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (Central)	Crystal Falls U.M.C
Saturday, February 14th	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (Eastern)	Gladstone Memorial .U.M.C.



*Wesley*  
**Church**  
Ishpeming, Michigan

**January 2026**

12/14/25

Sunday School  
children during  
Christmas  
Pageant.



12/24/25

Ending our  
Christmas Eve  
worship with  
Silent Night.



# January 2026

Go to: [www.ishpemingwesley.org/calendar](http://www.ishpemingwesley.org/calendar) to see on our website

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m. ENDOWMENT 12:00 p.m.	5 TOPS 4:00 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.	6 Nurtured Mama's MeetUP 5:30p.m. MISSIONS TEAM 6:00 p.m. LOUNGE	7 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. LEADERSHIP BOARD BUDGET 2026 5:15p.m. Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	8 Community Fellowship Dinner 5:00-6:30 p.m.	9	10 Private Party Fellowship Hall
11 SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Meal 11:00 a.m.	12 TOPS 4:00 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.	13	14 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17
18 SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.	19 TOPS 4:00 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.	20	21 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	22	23 FEB 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.	24 Michigamme Listening Session @ Mqt Hope Connection Center 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
25 SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.	26 TOPS 4:00 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.	27 LEADERSHIP BOARD 5:15p.m.	28 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31