

Wesley United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 342
Ishpeming, MI 49849

For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a SAVIOUR, which is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be a sign unto you;
Ye shall find the babe
wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying,
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE,
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.



PASTOR.....	REV. SCOTT SHERRILL
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/FINANCIAL SEC.....	RENEE LARSON
ORGANIST.....	DIANE JOHNSON
JANITORS.....	EVELYN NICHOLAS & GRADY GAUTHIER
OFFICE.....	906-486-4681
ADMIN EMAIL.....	church@ishpemingwesley.org
PASTOR EMAIL.....	pastor@ishpemingwesley.org
WEBSITE.....	www.ishpemingwesley.org
FACEBOOK.....	www.facebook.com/WesleyUMCLovesIshpeming

DECEMBER 2025



December 2025



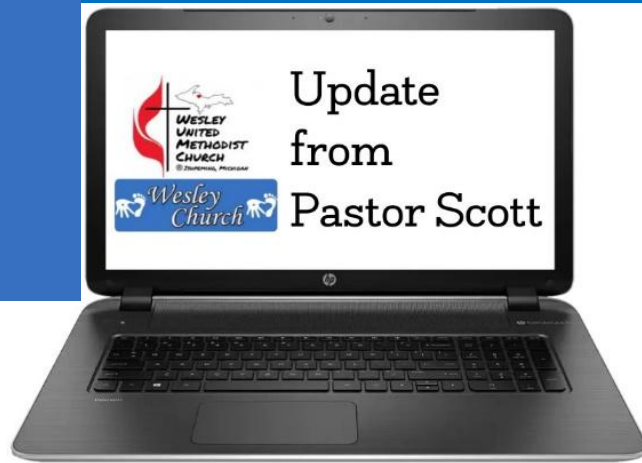
December Birthdays

- 1 Jim Blewett
- 3 Sue Grigg
- 4 Sarah Ylitalo
Lynn Roberts
- 6 Rebecca Dales
Maxwell Roberts (c)
- 8 Nancy Mankee
Jerry Ylitalo
- 9 Kelsey Grigg
Robert Wootke
- 11 Reese Pleaugh (c)
- 12 Ellen Roberts
- 13 Christy Blewett
- 14 Nancy Nora
- 18 Ellia Goodreau-Yeager (c)
- 20 Cindy Lawson
- 21 Jenifer Rajala
- 23 Ashley Stille
- 25 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!
- 26 Sam Johnson
- 29 Rose Sunne
- 31 David "Lu" Holmgren

December Anniversaries

- 5 Paul & Sue Wolfson
- 6 Mike & Renee Larson
- 7 Bill & Kim Potter
- 12 Sam & Trina Johnson
Harry & Tammy Snell
- 16 Gary & Sheri Johnson





Tradition Followed By Change

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.... *(if you are singing the song now, stay with me!)*. As I type tonight we have our Community Thanksgiving Service, a new tradition where we worship together with other Ishpeming area churches. In 2 days it will be Thanksgiving. Our family meal is the traditional one: turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, Jello salads, desserts galore and lots of post dinner Tums.

And immediately after we begin the Christmas season. Maybe you like to shop for Black Friday deals? Maybe you have a full calendar of Christmas recitals and dance recitals in December?

And all through December at the church we will hang the greens, eat lots of good food, sing traditional Christmas songs and get ready for the birth of Christ. **Christmas Eve is 4pm** at Wesley Church. I hope you can attend.

*(A quick food parenthetical: **We have our after church Potluck on Dec. 7th** bring your favorite UP food.*

*On **Dec 14th** from **11am -3pm** at **Texas Roadhouse** is a **Dine to Donate fundraiser for Keep Kids Warm**. Bring the flyer in the newsletter and **10% of your sales will go to Keep Kids Warm**.*

*And we have **Community Dinners on Dec 4th, 11th and 18th at 5pm**. If you know someone that needs a hot meal please invite them).*

December is a time of traditions celebrated by food, song, ritual, family and worship. Tradition keeps us rooted and grounded.

But a curious thing happens on Jan.1. Jan 1 is marked by change. New Year's resolutions. Promises to make changes in our habits, or life. Perhaps you will make a resolution to exercise more or read more or quit a vice?

January is a time of change. Of new beginnings. Of second chances. Change helps us grow and adapt and become something new.

What I to make sure you know in the middle of your traditions and found in your new beginnings: God is in both places. God is always in your time honed traditions and God is in your new changes, your new frontiers, your new year.

Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. Emmanuel God is with us.

Pastor Scott

Hebrews 13:8

Isaiah 43:19

Matthew 1:23





Wesley
Church
Ishpeming, Michigan

December 2025



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

Merry Christmas,

It seems the season is upon us, ready or not! Thankfully we have many ways to help get your heart ready here at Wesley!

There will be an **Advent Bible study** starting, and our **December Mission project** is a **7–8 person family in need** from the **Ishpeming Salvation Army Angel Tree**. Please note, we are **collecting toys until Sunday December 7th** for **Toys for Tots**– the box is right outside the sanctuary!

Hanging of the Greens was Sunday 11/30 after worship and the Sunday School Children's program will be part of the special **Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 14th during worship**. Finally we will have our **Christmas Eve service 12/24 at 4:00 p.m.** Please note, we have our last Sunday School on **December 14th until January 11th**– when we will resume in the new year.

With the first snow fall the kids were watching it out the fellowship hall window and thinking about Christmas! Christmas through the eyes of a child can bring great joy . But it can also be a time of great sadness. Please always be kind, generous and listen .

The kids have been practicing for their part in the Christmas program and always seem to get so excited when we begin. Remember parents, we will be having a **dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 13th at 10:00 a.m.** with a **Sunday School party to follow** .

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas! May the joy of the meaning for the season carry you throughout the year !

Pam Olgren

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION





Joys & Concerns Month Of Nov. 2025 (11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23 & 11/30)

Joys

<i>Person to Pray for</i>	<i>Need</i>	<i>Person requesting</i>
1. Kris Culliton & Skip Anderson	Thanks for healing	Dorothy Kuhn
2. Moira	She turns 9 tomorrow (11/10)	Miller Family
3. John & Sandy	leaving Friday for warmer weather. See you in the spring	Sandy Mead
4. Betty Woods	Doing better- started physical therapy	Patti Kainulainen
5. Ian Hanson	travelling to see best friend in Minneapolis next weekend.	Courtney Hanson
6. Greta (David McCartney's daughter)	prayers answered- blockage cleared	David McCartney

Concerns

<i>Person to Pray for</i>	<i>Need</i>	<i>Person requesting</i>
1. 18 Yr. Old Tripp Stratton	prayers for new procedure-cancer 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. Lindy, Diane, Sarah, Katie, Vance, Morgan, Jon & Brandon	continued health	Barb Palomaki
5. Family of Kevin (Cal) Carlson	he passed away from A.L.S.	Barb Palomaki
6. Family of Ann Steede	she passed away	Barb Palomaki
7. Jill	healing & strength	Shirley Hicks
8. Jean	strength	Shirley Hicks
9. Ann Marie	healing & strength	
10. Jill	prayers for healing & strength	Jenifer Rajala
11. Family & friends Curt LeSage	Curt passed away-will be missed	Jenifer Rajala
12. Kathleen & James	prayers strength & healing-both recovering ongoing health	Jenifer Rajala
13. Jean P.	recovering from a stroke-prayers healing & return vision	Jenifer Rajala
14. Family of Curt LeSage	he passed away-pray for peace & comfort	Kelsey Grigg
15. John		Annie Yeager
16. Marge Hebert	pray for successful surgery to remove lung cancer	Sandra Mead
17. Ellen Hebert	pray for her pregnancy complications	Sandra Mead
18. Paula Ross	pray for healing following surgery	Cookie Holmgren
19. Lee Woods	healing & recovering from stem cell transplant	Cookie Holmgren
20. Janis (my niece)	continued prayers healing from neck surgery	Cookie Holmgren
21. Lee Woods	comfort & healing from sepsis	Cookie Holmgren
22. Lee Woods	successful stem cell transplant	Patti Kainulainen
23. Lee Woods	engraftment of stem cells transplanted will be succ.	Jacki & David Crimmins
24. Trina Johnson	pray for healing after knee surgery- swollen	Judy Smith
25. Linda Quayle	suffering ear & sinus infections & insomnia	Judy Smith
26. Caitlin	Healing from depression & anxiety	Dick Derby
27. Henry	pray for miracle- having constant seizures	Dick Derby
28. Sue Manninen	that there is no new cancer	Sandy Mead
29. Maddie & Family	12 yrs old- treatment stopped- will remain at U of M for pediatric hospice care. Peace for Maddie, parents & siblings.	Deb Sherrill
30. Daphne Flack (2.5 yrs)	continued prayers for healing & saved vision	Patti Kainulainen
31. Trina	healing from surgery	Emily Miller & Judy Smith
32. My niece Janis	continued healing from surgery	Cookie Holmgren
33. Family of Virginia Holmgren	she passed away on Tuesday	Alex Alspach
34. My sister Rhonda Hawkins	prayers- her husband's memorial service was Wed.	Paulette Kordish
35. Betty Woods	prayers for healing & strength	Patti Kainulainen
36. Kris & Denny Arcand	Denny in hospice, not expected to live through weekend	Al & Rose Sunne
37. Everyone hunting	pray for their safety	Karen Graham
38. Hannah Stille	prayers- recovery from mono	Karen Graham
39. My grandma	healing from a cold	Hallie Kestila
40. Baby Milo & family	undergoing chemo brain cancer. 4 mths old. Prayers for healing & comfort through side effects	Courtney Hanson





**Wesley
Church**
Ishpeming, Michigan

December 2025
MISSIONS: *The hands & feet of Jesus*

Discipleship – A Call to Follow Jesus

One of our Faith In Action items for the month of October was to read the Gospel of John. Recall, John and his brother Andrew were fishermen, living on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus called them to follow him, telling them he would make them “fishers of men.” The two brothers left their nets and boat to follow Jesus. Reference Matthew 4:18, Mark 1:16-20, and Luke 5:1-11. John wrote his Gospel after Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. Let us revisit this Gospel through commentary in the Life Application Study Bible to gain a fitting perspective about Jesus, who’s birth we now celebrate. From that perspective let us do more than celebrate. Let us grow in our faith and relationship to God, who loved us so much that He humbled himself to become flesh and walk among us. John 1:14.

Study Bible Excerpts:

The purpose of John’s Gospel is to “...make it clear that Jesus is not just a man; he is the eternal Son of God. He is the light of the world because he offers this gift of eternal life to all people.” “...the only source of eternal life.”

“John discloses Jesus’ identity with his very first words, ‘In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God,’ (John 1:1-2). In every chapter Jesus’ deity is revealed. His true identity is underscored through the titles he is given: the Word, the only Son, Lamb of God, Son of God, true bread, life, resurrection, vine. Jesus is also identified by a formula: ‘I AM.’ When Jesus uses this phrase, he affirms his preexistence and eternal deity. Jesus says, I AM the bread of life (6:35); I AM the light of the world (8:12; 9:5); I AM the gate (10:7); I AM the good shepherd (10:11, 14); I AM the resurrection and the life (11:25); I AM the way, the truth, and the life (14:6); and I AM the true vine (15:1).

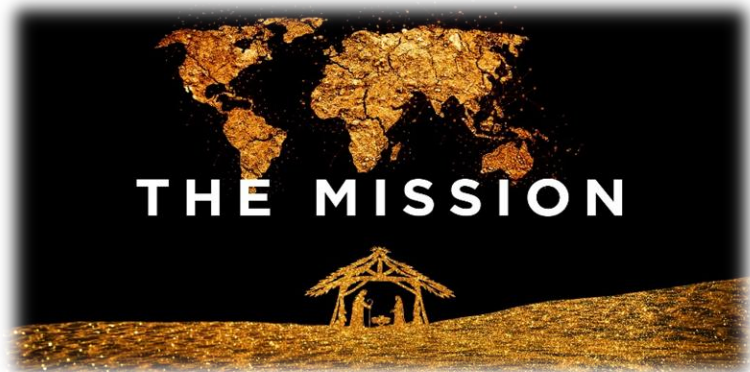
“The greatest sign, of course, is the Resurrection, and John provides a stirring eyewitness account of finding the empty tomb. He also records various post- Resurrection appearances by Jesus.”

“John, the devoted follower of Jesus, has given us a personal and powerful look at Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God.”

Throughout history, from the grandest scale of events to our personal experiences, a record has been kept so that the event is not lost to time. John’s objective was to record for all time that Jesus was in fact the Son of God. As Christians we know there is a vast difference between Christmas commercial and Christmas spiritual. Yes, the tree, the presents, the carols, and the gatherings are special. But as we enter Christmas let us reaffirm our absolute belief, as John recorded it, that Jesus, Son of God, God incarnate, came to earth – because: “God so loved the world that He gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).” We carry this in our hearts. At Christmas, let us proclaim it!

Merry Christmas and God’s peace.

Dick Derby
Missions





Wesley
Church
Ishpeming, Michigan

December 2025
MISSIONS: The hands & feet of Jesus

Missions News

Hello Friends,

Our next **Missions Team Meeting** will be **Tuesday, December 2nd 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!*

1st Responder Dinner- We received many thanks from the First Responders who enjoyed a delicious Lasagna Dinner, fabulous desserts and wonderful fellowship.

Community Dinner: Our November Community dinner was Stew, Cornbread Biscuits, salad and dessert. Our **December 11th dinner** will be: **scalloped potatoes & ham, green beans, salad & dessert.** Thursday 11/20 Chicken Noodle Soup and Bread dinner was greatly appreciated. **We are now having free dinners every Thursday at 5pm- to help more people in need.**

December Mission Project(s): We will be collecting monetary donations for our December Mission Project which will go towards **Nepal Missionaries Dr. Lester and Mrs. Debra Dornon** who will be here with us on **Sunday December 7th.** Don't forget we moved 2nd Sunday Meal up a week! U.P. Foods are the theme!

We are also helping a family with **7-8 people for the Salvation Army Angel Tree.** There is a tree on the glass in narthex and underneath on the table are cups with gift ideas for each family member. Please take a tag or two with items and purchase/return items to the church. Please wrap the gift and attach the tag to the gift. *(that will help us know what gifts are still needed.)* P.S. Thanks to Project: Keep Kids Warm we were able to deliver needed winter outerwear to the Salvation Army before Thanksgiving for this family.

Operation Christmas Child- Our 48 boxes were delivered to Cross Bridge Church and a generous donor covered the 500.00 in shipping costs that go along with 48 boxes-we are so appreciative of that help! I (Judy) have the labels that went with each Christmas box - and in January we can use the information on the labels to find out where our boxes were sent.

Project: Keep Kids Warm: A Huge Thank you to all the volunteers! It is no easy task to keep shopping for needed outerwear, fulfilling requests, getting the clothes ready for pick up and continuing to keep smiling. THANK YOU!

Thank you,
Judy Smith

Missions Team Coordinator





December 2025

Christmas Love Gifts 2025

Christmas is coming!

Traditionally at Wesley, we invite our church family to give a Christmas Love Gift in the form of a monetary donation in honor/memory of a loved one.

If you would like to give a Christmas Love Gift to the church, there are 3 ways to do so:

- 1.** Put your gift in the offering plate during Sunday worship.
- 2.** Give your gift Online at: www.ishpemingwesley.org/offering
or Scan the Code at bottom of this page.
If you choose this option- PLEASE email or call the office so we note that you donated a Love Gift and get the information for the Christmas Eve bulletin.
- 3.** Mail your gift to us at: **P.O. Box 342 Ishpeming, MI 49849**

If you would like the memorial/honor information published in the bulletin for the Christmas Eve Service, be sure to have the information to the church office no later than:

4:30 p.m. Monday, December 22, 2025



SCAN ME



Christmas Love Gifts 2025

Enclosed is my Love Gift to the church.

Please put the following in the Christmas Eve Bulletin:

In honor/memory of: _____

Presented by: _____



December 2025

2025 Ishpeming Wesley United Methodist Church By The Numbers



2025 Worship Attendance

Average In Person: 66
Average Online: 166
Average of both: 232



Baptisms/New Members

3 Baptisms
6 New Confirmands
3 By Transfer



FAITH IN ACTION actions

ADULTS **265**
CHILDREN **74**



Small Group Participation

4 groups
29 different people attending



Project: Keep Kids Warm

366 requests so far this season



November Food Donations

301 items as of 11/18/25 to local food pantries

FAITH IN ACTION

DECEMBER 2025 - WORSHIP & SHARING



Watch and discuss a RightNow Media lesson

Work of Piety - Study & Learning



Call 5 people in the church you haven't spoken to in he while

Work of Mercy - Connection & Encouaregent



Bring a friend to a Christmas Eve or Advent service

Work of Mercy - Evangelism

Go to this link to check in with what you've completed
bit.ly/faithinactionDec2025



WE ARE NOW HAVING A SIMPLE MEAL EVERY THURSDAY IN OUR FELLOWSHIP HALL! PLEASE, IF YOU NEED TO EAT, OR ARE LOOKING FOR FELLOWSHIP, COME ON BY!

OPEN TO ALL!
COME & HAVE FELLOWSHIP & A GOOD MEAL!
DONATIONS ACCEPTED BUT NOT REQUIRED.

THURSDAYS
5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
WESLEY CHURCH
801 HEMLOCK ISHPERING
BEHIND FIRST BANK OFF OF US 41



December 2025

PROJECT: KEEP KIDS WARM

Winter Outerwear

(Warm Coats, Snowpants, Boots, Hats, Mittens Etc. for infant-age 18 yrs.)



Bring this flyer or a photo of it to Texas Roadhouse and Dine to Donate for Project: Keep Kids Warm!!
SUNDAY 12/14/25



DINE TO DONATE

⇒ *Support* ⇐

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH-KEEP KIDS WARM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
11AM-3PM**

10%

DONATION NIGHT

for Wesley United Methodist Church-Keep Kids Warm. Present this flyer at the Marquette location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to Wesley United Methodist Church-Keep Kids Warm!

**906-936-6517
3440 US-41 WEST
MARQUETTE, MI**





Wesley Church
Ishpeming, Michigan

December 2025

Through Ministry Shares, our congregation's ministry extends beyond our local community to places where we may never physically go. From providing disaster relief through UMCOR to supporting missionaries worldwide, Ministry Shares make it possible for Wesley Church to be the hands and feet of Christ on a global scale.

2025 MINISTRY SHARES

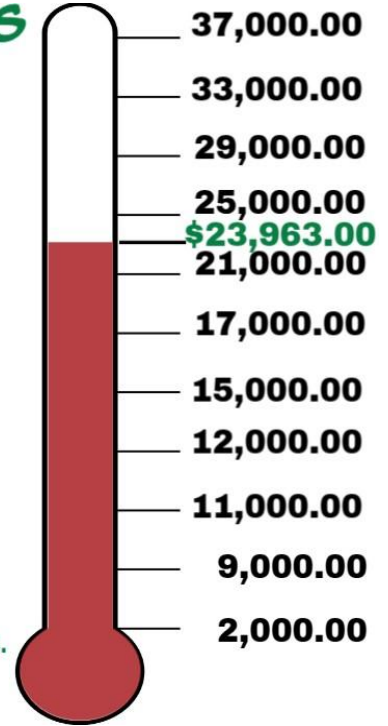
District **\$3,392.28**
Pension **\$8,700.00**
Conference **\$21,551.00**

TOTAL BY CLOSE OF 2025 \$33,643.38

SCAN CODE
To go to our ONLINE GIVING WEBSITE!



We need \$9,680.38
to complete payment of all 3 Shares.
(District, Pension, Conference)



3 WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE at:
www.ishpemingwesley.org/offering
OR scan the code →



Sundays: Put in Offering Plate
Mon-Fri.: Drop off at the church office



Mail a check to:
P.O. Box 342 Ishpeming, MI 49849



December 2025

Go to: www.ishpemingwesley.org/calendar to see on our website

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 TOPS Al-Anon 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	2 Nurtured Mama's MeetUP 5:30p.m. LEADERSHIP BOARD (CHAPEL) 5:15p.m. MISSIONS TEAM (LOUNGE) 6:00p.m.	3 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	4 Community Fellowship Dinner 5:00-6:30 p.m. Thurs. Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	5	6
7 MISSIONARIES VISIT Dr. Lester & Mrs. Deborah Dornon are visiting us! SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m. 2nd Sunday Meal 11:00 a.m.	8 TOPS Al-Anon 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	9	10 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	11 Community Fellowship Dinner 5:00-6:30 p.m. Thurs. Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	12	13
14 SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m. (Churchwide Christmas Pageant during worship)	15 TOPS Al-Anon 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	16 Teal Lake Assisted Living Worship 2:00 p.m.	17 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	18 Community Fellowship Dinner 5:00-6:30 p.m.	19	20
21 SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.	22 TOPS Al-Anon 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 4:00 p.m.	25 OFFICE CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 OFFICE CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS!	27
28 SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.	29 TOPS Al-Anon 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.	30	31			