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Contact Us:

319-653-5446

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thur: 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

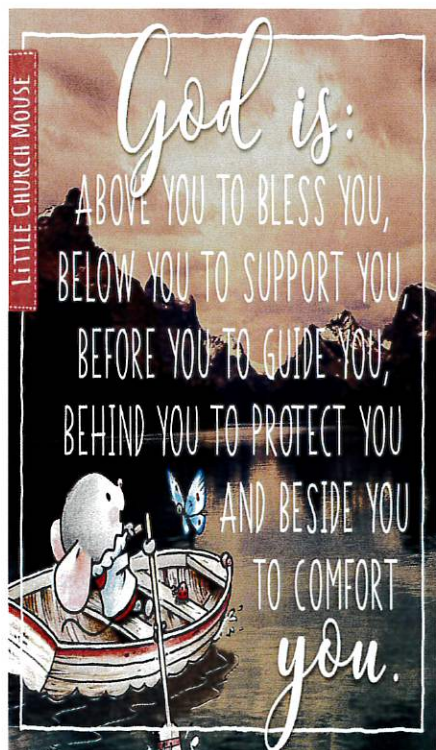
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THE MEETING HOUSE

Washington United Methodist Church

JULY 2026

United Methodist Vocabulary Quiz

1. What is the person called who assists in a worship service, including the lighting of candles?
 a. Server b. Acolyte c. Greeter d. Usher
2. A way to partake of the elements in the Lord's Supper is:
 a. Intinction b. Carefully c. Reaffirmation of faith
3. If you are outside the Church and want to enter the sanctuary, what do you usually go through?
 a. The front porch b. The threshold c. The upper room d. The narthex
4. What is a station?
 a. A military checkpoint b. A cable television channel c. A pastor's only Church
5. When local Churches send part of their offerings to their district and conference, it is called...
 a. Tithe b. Apportionment c. Investment
6. Before we have a relationship with God, he offers us what kind of grace?
 a. Prevenient grace b. Amazing grace c. Justifying grace
7. What's the name of the four-year period after each General Conference? aA. Olympiad b. Fortnight c. Quartet d. Quadrennium
8. If you want to serve as a local pastor, deacon, or elder, you would apply for what?
 a. Permit b. Candidacy c. Admission
9. What do we call the bread and wine used in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper?
 a. Components b. Elements c. Delicious
10. If you want to know what United Methodists believe, you would start with what section of The Book of Discipline?
 a. The Index b. Articles of Religion c. List of Bishops d. Nicene Creed

Answers on page 11



July 2026 Pastor's Corner



In Genesis 28:15, we read the following: Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place-and I did not know it!"

It can be a challenge to see God. **However, we can see God at work in each other.** There are lots of people in Church who do a lot of things behind the scenes and do not want recognition for their work. We are grateful for their generosity of service to Washington United Methodist Church, the Church we love.

On July 1, 2025, you cautiously welcomed a new pastor to the Church. I was an outsider and an unknown to the Iowa United Methodist Church Conference and to Washington United Methodist Church. I did two sets of interviews, one with the Bishop's Cabinet and one with Rev. Brian Oliver, the District Superintendent for the Southeast District in conjunction with the Washington UMC Staff/Parrish Relations Committee.

During the interview with the Bishop's Cabinet, which included a few District Superintendents from other districts, it was apparent to me that some of them clearly were not interested in hiring me, as I was seen as too much of a liability. Others were interested, but didn't know where to place me. I think they all saw me as intelligent and experienced, but maybe not someone that could be trusted. For some unknown reason that I can only attribute to the Lord's hand in this situation, I landed in the Southeast District. Rev. Brian and Washington UMC took a chance on an unknown outsider who pastored difficult congregations and encountered multiple conflicts with Church leaders in two states in two UMC conferences. Seriously, who in their right mind would want to hire someone with that record?

Maybe we all have woken up from our sleep, including me, and are declaring, "Surely the Lord is in this place-and I did not know it!"

I'm glad to be doing this Scripture series in Genesis with you. This is my first time doing a series on Genesis and I have come to love and appreciate Jacob. Jacob is a trickster who becomes a master manipulator. He uses his intelligence to get his way over others, including his twin brother Esau and his father Isaac. Jacob makes enemies along the way with his actions. He is also misunderstood in his family. Life becomes very difficult for this tricky outsider. However, God meets with this intelligent, manipulative deceiver and blesses Jacob. Jacob comes to realize that he can't use his wits alone, he needs his relationship with God. Jacob awakes from this sleep and says, "Surely the Lord is in this place-and I did not know it!"

Pastor Corner con't...

When people I meet ask me what I do for a living, I tell them that I have the privilege of serving the best Church in Iowa as their pastor, which fills me with immense pride and gratitude. This Church is overflowing with generosity and very gifted people who share their talents with the Church.

What can you do to show people who do not know that the Lord is in Washington United Methodist Church? One thing you can do is to invite them to Church on Sunday and tell them you will take them out to lunch afterwards. You can invite them to Bible study with Shirley Textor after Church on Sunday or with me on Thursday evenings. You can invite them to the Movie and a Dinner Church on the last Sunday in July. You can pray for your Church and the staff. You can give regularly and generously to the ministry of the Church so that we can continue to bless others who need the hope that only Jesus can give.

I am grateful to do ministry alongside of you as your pastor. I am also looking forward to going on vacation to tell people how the Lord is in Washington UMC, even when we did not know it.

See you in Church!
Pastor Alyssa

Save the date and time! July 26 at 5:00 PM at
Washington United Methodist Church!



Come to the Fellowship Hall at 5PM on July 26 with your Church family to enjoy dinner and a movie together during the summer months! Please feel free to bring along your family and friends!

This month, we will celebrate Christmas in July! We will enjoy the classic Christmas movie **It's a Wonderful Life**, directed by Frank Capra! We will see the black and white version of this movie starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed, with Henry Travers playing the part of Clarence. When it was released in 1946, it was considered a flop at the box office. When the copyright expired in 1974, TV stations began broadcasting it during Christmas and people rediscovered this now Christmas classic.

George Bailey is a man who gives up on his personal dreams to help others in his community. A series of events drives George into attempting to end his life when his guardian angel, Clarence, intervenes. George is convinced that his family and the people of Bedford Falls would be better off without him. Clarence shows George what life would be like if George never existed.

We will have a sign-up sheet for people to bring food, drinks, and dessert. See you then!

COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE

 Study

**A new Old Testament Bible Study
 Exploring the book of *Judges*
 starts June 25 at Washington UMC
 in the Fellowship Hall!**

On Thursdays at 5 p.m. starting on July 25, Pastor Alyssa will lead a Bible study on the book of Judges.

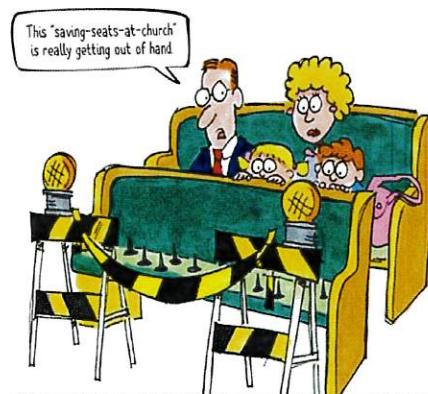
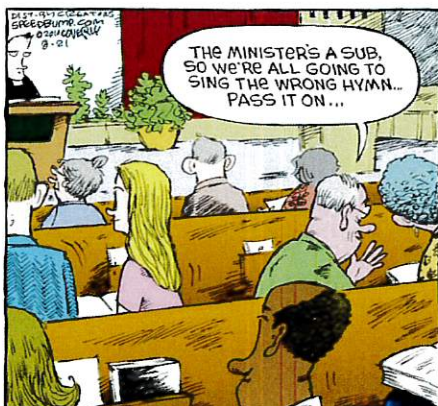
We already read about the time of exile in Daniel and Esther. We touched on the reasons why the Jews were sent into exile, but the book of Judges helps us understand why the Jewish people were sent out of their promised land.

The book starts out with the Jews entering their promised land after being released from slavery in Egypt. The judges are appointed to help run Israel and we will look at these judges in the study. We will look at the well-known judges such as Deborah, Gideon, and Samson, as well as others who are not well known, such as Othniel, Ehud, and Jephthah.

Judges shows the best and the worst of the Jewish people. There is violence and some disturbing events. God does not stay silent and is active in the lives of the Jewish people.

This study is a starting point that will help us look at the history of Israel and will perhaps help us understand the cultural conflicts of modern-day Israel. This book will also be the beginning of a longer Bible study in which we will study 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings.

You are encouraged to come any time you are available. It's a fascinating study and you will enjoy it. It's also a good study to start off with if you are unfamiliar with the Bible. Pastor Alyssa will provide the Scripture readings and questions. Bring something to write with. **Note: there will be no Bible study on July 9 & 16.**



Pastor Alyssa's Thank You's for July

- **Thank you** for allowing me to take some vacation time in July. I appreciate all of those who are filling in for me while I am away visiting family in North Dakota and Washington state, as well as friends in Montana. I am grateful for you!
- **Thank you** for all of your generous donations towards the different missions that the Church does. I look forward to presenting my friend Pastor Gail of the Blackfeet United Methodist Parrish (BUMP) mission with your gifts of money and DVDs. We are both grateful and overwhelmed by your generosity for this mission to our Blackfeet Tribe sisters and brothers in Montana. Thank you!
- **Thank you** to all of you who volunteer to serve the Church you love. We all appreciate all of the little things you do behind the scenes.
- **Thank you** for your generous financial gifts for this ministry, from your regular tithes to your generous gifts. The Church leadership appreciates the trust you have in us to be good stewards of the money you entrust to us. Thank you!
- **Thank you** to those who work hard to keep the Church clean and beautiful. We all love the care you put into the flowers that give such beautiful color to the Church grounds. Thank you!
- **Thank you** for celebrating with me the wonderful Church that we love at Annual Conference in West Des Moines. I am so proud to share in the #BeUMC award with this Church and to show the folks in Des Moines that great things are happening in this part of Iowa!
- **Thank you** for allowing me to spend a week as the Clergy in Residence at Wesley Woods for one week of summer camp. It was a joy to spend some time with the kids, leading chapel services, and to do some reflection. It was my first experience attending a Church summer camp.
- No summer camp experience is complete without some poison ivy, right? **Thank you** for your prayers as I continue to recover from my bout with poison ivy that I picked up at Wesley Woods.
- **Thank you** for the time away to allow me to complete some required continuing education. It was a good class and a good opportunity to connect with other UMC clergy in the Iowa Conference.
- **Thank you** for attending the different spiritual growth opportunities that we have going on at the Church, such as the Men's Bible Study, Shirley's Bible Study, the Judges Bible Study, and Dinner and a Movie Church. It's always good for the people of God to gather together to fellowship and go deeper in our relationship with God.
- **Thank you** for the love and hospitality you are showing to my Dad as we spend the summer together. He appreciates all of the love and support that you have shown me and he loves this Church!
- **Thank you** for your prayers for the ministry and leadership of the Church.

Pastor Alyssa is extending an invitation for you to become a member of Washington UMC.

Here are several options for you to consider:

Baptism-if you are interested in baptism of yourself or of a child, Pastor Alyssa would love to do a baptism for you at the end of May. Please call the office or speak to Pastor Alyssa. You will need to meet with Pastor Alyssa before the baptism takes place.

New Members Class-if you are interested in transferring your membership to Washington UMC or becoming a full or associate member, Pastor Alyssa is planning on scheduling some classes in July. Please note that you need to be baptized before you can become a full member of the Church. Please call the office or speak to Pastor Alyssa.

Confirmation-if there are any young people who are interested in Confirmation classes, Pastor Alyssa is planning on scheduling some classes starting late summer or early fall. Please note that you need to be baptized before you will be able to be a full member of the Church. Please call the office or speak to Pastor Alyssa.

JULY MISSION

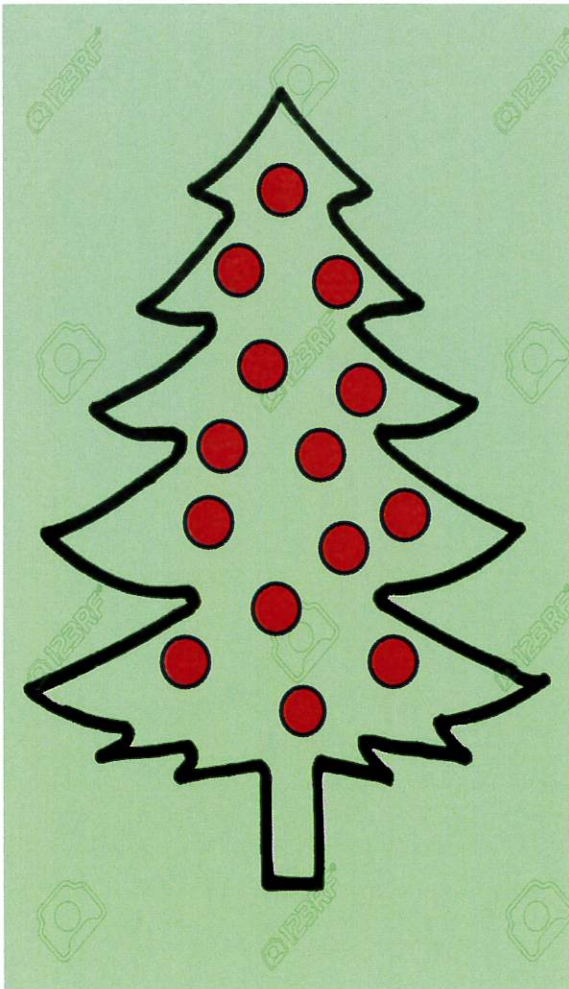
CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Rinella from HACAP has Christmas in July every year

The money raised for this mission will help buy basic clothing and school supplies for local families as it can cost between \$50 to \$70 to get supplies for a new school year

Many of these families are struggling financially and this helps the children have what they need to start the new school year.

***LOOK FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN
THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY***



Pick an ornament off the tree
Put your donation in the pocket of the ornament
Place in the collection plate



TRUSTEE MEETING JUNE 11, 2026

Attendance: Bruce Timmins, Richard Gilmore, Toni Adrian, Jill Moore, Julie Timmins. Meeting opened at 6:03 PM with prayer.

Key Building & Maintenance Issues:

Water Usage: A large water bill (\$900) was traced to boiler-related issues, including faulty valves and a reserve tank problem. Water consumption has since returned to normal levels.

Boiler Inspection: Multiple repairs are needed, including:

- Covering exposed electrical breakers.
- Replacing pressure relief valves.
- Installing proper metal/copper discharge piping on a water heater.
- Updating fire extinguisher inspections.
- Replacing leaking and corroded boiler components.

HVAC Discussion: Trustees are considering whether to continue investing in the aging 29-year-old boiler system or transition to a high-efficiency furnace and central air system. Estimates will be obtained.

Other Repairs: New flooring and window coverings were installed, lighting upgrades completed, and several maintenance work orders remain open.

Facility Improvement Projects:

Driveway Project: Trustees are reconsidering plans to improve accessibility, including curb removal and potential sidewalk construction.

Digital Sign: Quotes are being sought for a new outdoor worship sign. Estimated cost is \$15,000–\$20,000 for a digital sign. Staff and the pastor prefer a digital option.

Kitchen Countertops: Trustees discussed replacing serving-window countertops, but agreed that cost estimates and project prioritization are needed before proceeding.

Daycare Issues

Pastor Alyssa raised concerns about bathroom cleanliness, supervision of young daycare staff, and building upkeep. She recommended more frequent inspections and clearer contract expectations.

Trustees discussed:

- Requiring daily bathroom cleaning logs.
- Reviewing and revising the daycare contract.
- Increasing rent to reflect rising utility costs.
- Limiting contract terms to one year.

The daycare's desired expansion is currently impractical because bringing the building up to fire-code requirements for more children would be very expensive.

Trustee meeting con't...

Cleaning Contract

The Church has been paying the cleaning contractor \$275/week for 7–10 years.

After discussion, trustees approved increasing the rate to **\$300/week** and renewing the contract for one year. Motion passed unanimously.

Additional Items

Bruce will document boiler shutdown/startup procedures for trustees and staff.

Roof drainage concerns were discussed, including cleaning drains and evaluating additional scuffers.

Finance has funds available for a commercial refrigerator and kitchen exhaust fans; Bruce will investigate purchasing opportunities.

Major Decisions Made

Increase the cleaning contract from **\$275/week to \$300/week** and renew for one year.

Review and potentially revise the daycare contract, including cleanliness expectations and rent levels.

Continue pursuing estimates for boiler repairs, HVAC replacement options, driveway improvements, and a digital sign.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



MISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2026

Present: Deb Lueck, Sue Meeks, Dianne Gray, Roger Schroeder, Kim Charlier, Jennine Wolf

Jennine provided a spreadsheet and explained the Foundation Missions Giving amounts and the Congregational Giving amounts listed and stated what had been paid to date. All agreed that the congregation has been very generous in their Missions giving.

Next month our Mission will be "Christmas in July". Jennine suggested that she (or someone in our Missions Committee) get up in front of the congregation each month to give a detailed description of what the Mission will be for that month.

Jennine also suggested that when we have our "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" Mission this year, we should ask the congregation not only for monetary donations but also for an additional option of giving linens and comforters for the cause.

Dianne mentioned the serious issues our congregation faces with members who have dementia and their caregivers. What can we do to help? Should we be donating to Respite Care? She will check with people who might have some answers.

Our next Mission Meeting will be September 17, at 1 p.m.

Sue Meeks

THINGS FOR YOU TO KNOW

Men's Bible Study

This Bible study is focused on helping men grow in their faith, develop healthy relationships with other men, and become better leaders in their homes, Churches, and communities.

Please join this growing group of men as they develop spiritually and personally!

Every Monday at 9:00 a.m. in the Church library



ENCORE CAFÉ

ENCORE EXPRESS MEALS –Sponsored by Heritage on Aging
Immanuel Lutheran Church on 2nd & 4th Thursday each month
Meals for seniors 60+

These meals are for ALL seniors over 60--Regardless of income

There is a suggested price is \$5.00 if you have it.
Great food-socializing-educational information available.
For reservations and any questions call 319-653-3950

SEE YOU THERE!

Answers to the Quiz

1. b

2. a

3. d

4. c

5. b

6. a

7. d

8. b

9. b

10. b

Celebrate Recovery

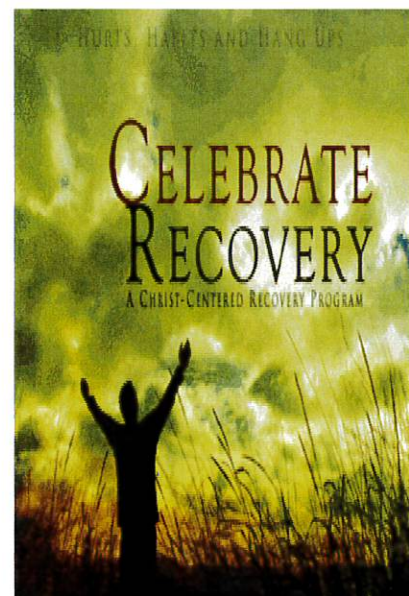
This recovery program is a Christ centered curriculum with foundations firmly established in the Bible.

**Recovery from drugs, alcohol, trauma,
physical/mental/emotional abuse
or any other hang-ups or hurts you have experienced.**

Every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Supper and childcare provided.

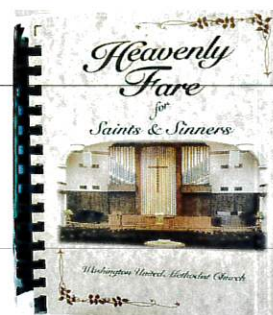
*Please consider volunteering your time
to help with this program*

Contact Chuck Clifton at 319-480-2012 with any questions



THE RECIPE CORNER

Recipes taken from the:
"Heavenly Fare for Saints & Sinners" Cookbook
(page 85 & 64)



Breakfast Pizza

From the kitchen of Marilyn Whitenack

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1 lb. bulk pork sausage or bacon | 5 eggs |
| 1 (8-oz.) pkg. refrigerated crescent rolls | ¼ c. milk |
| 1 c. frozen loose pack hash browns, thawed | ½ tsp. salt |
| 1 c. shredded sharp cheddar cheese (4-oz.) | ½ tsp. pepper |
| 2 T. grated Parmesan cheese | |

In skillet cook sausage and/or bacon (can use both); drain off fat. Separate rolls into triangles and place on ungreased round pizza pan, points toward the center; press seams together. Spread meat and hash browns on crust; sprinkle with cheese. Mix together eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour onto crust. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese over all. Bake in 375° for 25 to 30 minute. Makes 6 to 8 servings.



Frozen Fruit Cup

From the kitchen of Donna Greiner

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 6 oz. frozen orange juice | 16 oz. pkg. frozen strawberries |
| 6 oz. frozen lemonade | 1 (20-oz.) can crushed pineapple, undrained |
| 1 c. sugar | 6 bananas, sliced |
| 2-1/2 c. water | |

Mix together the orange juice, lemonade, sugar and water, Add strawberries, pineapple and bananas. Freeze in cups. Yield: about 21 small cups.



JULY BIRTHDAYS



<u>2</u> Howard Charlier Marilyn Whitenack-90th
<u>3</u> Brandon Collett
<u>4</u> Robert Helscher Cathi Hill
<u>6</u> Chris Marshall
<u>7</u> Christine Doonan
<u>8</u> Dawn Schindler
<u>9</u> Fred Stark
<u>11</u> Renaë Crull Matthew Smith Andrew Venega

<u>12</u> Stephanie Loy
<u>13</u> Barbara Wilson
<u>24</u> James Peterson
<u>25</u> Addison English
<u>15</u> Brenda Fishback
<u>16</u> John Carter Denise Chalupa Doug Tindal
<u>17</u> Sydney Williams
<u>18</u> Larry Guy Maggie Kielenstyn

<u>22</u> David Adrian Bev Zwicki
<u>23</u> Jennifer Young
<u>26</u> Jaimee Edwards Stephanie Fishback
<u>27</u> Greg Sinn
<u>28</u> Sue Basten Rich Crull
<u>29</u> Nicole Greiner Cindy Guy
<u>30</u> Gary Collins Vicki Helfrich Sandi Ropp Brenna Weidman

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Duane & Linda Van Winkle	07/06	41 years
Gary & Linda Collins	07/07	63 years
Christine & Trent Doonan	07/07	14 years
Tim and Elizabeth Timmins	07/07	19 years
Chris & John Marshall	07/09	50 years
Dianne Gray & Roger Schroeder	07/14	8 years
Michael & Elaine Moore	07/26	36 years
Larry & Brenda Fishback	07/27	35 years
James & Nicole Peterson	07/28	25 years
Jamie & Matt Schneider	07/31	16 years



JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Bible Study 5:00 p.m. FH	3 Pastor's day off	4 
5 Communion Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m. Library Pastor Alyssa vacation 5-20	6 Men's Fellowship 9:00 a.m.-Library Pastor vacation	7 Zoom Prayer 1:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery 6:30 p.m. FH Pastor vacation	8 Pastor vacation	9 Trustee's Meeting 6:00 p.m. Library No bible study Pastor vacation	10 Pastor vacation	11 Pastor vacation
12 Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m. Library Pastor vacation	13 Men's Fellowship 9:00 a.m.-Library Pastor vacation	14 Zoom Prayer 1:00 p.m. Worship Meeting 5:15 p.m. Library Celebrate Recovery 6:00 p.m. FH Pastor vacation	15 Pastor vacation	16 No bible study Pastor vacation	17 Pastor vacation	18 Pastor vacation
19 Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m. Library Pastor vacation	20 Men's Fellowship 9:00 a.m.-Library Pastor back from vacation	21 Zoom Prayer 1:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery 6:00 p.m. FH	22	23 Care Note Ministry 1:00 p.m. Library Bible Study 5:00 p.m. FH	24 Pastor's day off	25
26 Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m. Library Dinner & a Movie 5:00 p.m. FH	27 Men's Fellowship 9:00 a.m.-Library	28 Zoom Prayer 1:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery 6:00 p.m. FH Ad Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. Library	29	30	31	12



JULY

Meeting House

Washington United Methodist Church
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Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.