

Children's Ministry & Youth Group

Happy New Year! The Youth Group and Children's Ministry are running into 2024, and we are ready for an exciting upcoming year.

But first, we want to thank everyone for making this Advent Season and Christmas a success. Our Breakfast with Santa brought in 95 people to our church, and each one had a great time! Our Youth Group was a part of the Wentzville Christmas Parade, and we had a fun time connecting with the community. We also had our Qdoba fundraiser that brought in a total of \$873.35; WUMC got a donation of 25% of this total! It was an amazing night of fellowship for many. Lastly, we want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the Christmas Play. We had 25 members of the Christmas Program this year, and they did an outstanding job performing for Christmas Eve Service, and bringing the Nativity story to life.

Now, in January, The Youth Group will be starting a new study series, centered around the make-up and meanings of the Bible. Youth Group will be taking an in depth look at both the Old and New Testament, as well as understand ways that we can utilize scripture and prayer in our everyday lives. 2024 also marks the start of a new ministry for Youth Group, in the form of Mentorship from Church Members. We are so excited to start this journey, as Mentorship will open Youth Group's studies to more points of view, as well as provide Youth Group opportunities to expand their faith goals this year.

Another part of Youth Group's 2024 will include their Mission Trip to Central Methodist University; to support this trip, Youth Group will be hosting the Family Church Dinner on Wednesday, January 10th. Any donations received at this dinner will go to the Mission Trip fund.

The Children's Ministry will be flourishing as well in 2024, as we look forward to adding new people, new ministries, and new events this year. Our first exciting addition is the group Pathfinders. This will be a Pre-Teen Youth Group that meets every 4th Tuesday of the month, from 5:30-7:30pm, with plans to become more frequent in the future. Pathfinders first meeting will be Tuesday, January 23. Please email crobertson@livelovegrow.org call 314-221-6376, or see Carole Ann for more information or if you have questions! Thank you for your continued love and support!



Adopt-A-Family



This year Adopt-A-Family had 2 local restaurants that partnered with us for this Christmas season.

A big thank you to Gingham's, St. Charles and Olive Garden, Wentzville for their great support and partnership.

Olive Garden Restaurant of Wentzville partnered with WUMC Adopt-A-Family but also on a recommendation from AAF, they requested items for Birthright in Wentzville, consisting of baby clothes, diapers, wipes, toys, etc. Great community involvement and outreach by all!

The generosity of their patrons and employees was greatly appreciated!

Drive Up Food Bank - 300 Total Family Served



A Note From the Pastor

John 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him, all things were made; without him, nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, which was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

A family was gathered next to the Christmas tree. They began to open gifts. Dad and Mom's gift was very well wrapped. When they opened it, a beautiful silver picture frame appeared. The little son exclaimed, "What a beautiful frame, Dad! But where is the picture?"

Christmas is a beautiful frame we celebrate, but where is the photo? The apostle tells us, "Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God." The Christmas frame is for us to meet with the image of God in our midst. For Jesus Christ to be born in our lives.

Each believer is a picture frame, individual, different from others, in which Jesus Christ wants to shine. He has chosen you and me to take his presence into the world. Jesus shines for every human being. Not only for those we know but also for strangers. Our vocation and task are to bring the light of God to everyone who approaches us.

In this new year, I encourage you to work together to do the mission of the Church. We often focus on other issues and forget the essentials, making disciples.

Our goal as a congregation for this 2024 should be to grow as disciples and make disciples. This will help us illuminate the portrait we are called to work on. This year, we will have new challenges, goals, and opportunities to serve God and our neighbors. Take the chance to shine with the light of Christ.

I thank God for each of you and all your work and effort during 2023. During these six months that I have been sharing with you, I have learned a lot, and you have been a blessing to my life and ministry.

I also appreciate all your love samples with your cards and gifts at Christmas to me and the staff. But mainly, I appreciate your presence every Sunday.

Every day, I pray for your lives so that you can be filled with His Holy Spirit and grow together as a family of faith. Let's keep going, as our work is just beginning, and we must keep trying to show the image of God in each of us.

God bless you, and Happy New Year! *Pastor Elsie*



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

JEANNIE STARR



Thank You

I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your faithful giving to Wentzville UMC.

Gifts like yours allow us to continue functioning as a healthy and vibrant church. We desire to continue to reach out to our community with love and make disciples, and you are helping us make this possible.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to collect at our Christmas offering \$5,517.00, which will be used to further the mission and vision of our church.

Blessings.

*live. love. grow.**

Pastor Elsie 314-479-8175

church@livelovegrow.org

Weekly Activities

Mondays

Hand Bells (6:30 pm)

Tuesdays

Men's Wkly Brkfst (7 am)
Quilters (8 am)

Wednesdays

Youth Group (5:30 pm)
Choir Practice (6:15 pm)
Redeemed (7:45 pm)

Thursdays

Bible Study (1 pm)
Bible Study (6 pm)

Birthdays

- 1/1 Marino Chacon
- 1/2 Tammy Winters
- 1/3 Jana Mayer
- 1/8 Danielle Krewson
- 1/10 Barb Hethcote
- 1/11 Dan Benwell
- 1/15 Lee Ann Englehardt
- 1/19 Ann Bartram
- 1/19 Richard Brown
- 1/20 Dixie Carlson
- 1/22 Robert Crowley
- 1/22 Al Crowder
- 1/24 Sue Thornell
- 1/30 Millie Fulton
- 1/31 Clayton Herbst
- 1/31 Marilyn Warren

This Month

- 1-2 OFFICE CLOSED
- 8 Drive Up Food Bank (9-11 am)
- 10 Family Dinner -Youth Group (5 pm)
- 15 MLK Day - OFFICE CLOSED
- 20 Men's Breakfast Golden Corral (8 am)
- 23 Pathfinders (5:30-7:30 pm)
- 24 Book Club (2 pm)
- 25 Needlework For Missions (9:30 am)
- 29 Life Screening (8-4 pm)
- 31 Senior Game Day (1 pm)

Men's Group

Emil Moore, Executive Director and Pastor at the Dream Center in Troy, MO. was the guest speaker at this breakfast.

Dream Center is a faith-based residential program helping men deal with life controlling issues such as drug addiction/alcohol addiction, depression, etc.

The program is designed to provide a healthy foundation so as to eliminate distractions their daily lives.



Men's Group Breakfast Meeting

Start off the new year, with good food, fun, and fellowship, as the Men's Group will meet on Saturday, January 20th at 8 am at the Golden Corral in O'Fallon. Have Questions? Call Kermit at 636-734-2171

United Women in Faith

It's LEAP Year for UFW as we leap forward into a new year of mission focusing on women, children, and youth. We are changing a few things , so come and join us! Only 8 UWF meetings in 2024, and we are moving those NOON meetings to Fridays.

Mark your 2024 calendars for:
2/9, 3/8, 4/12, 5/10, 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, and 12/13.

We finished off 2023 with a fun Christmas Party playing Friendly Feud, a gift exchange, a craft project, and learning why Dec. 25th was chosen to be Jesus' birthday. Our mini bazaar and cookie/candy sale went very well, and all the proceeds will be used to help women, children, and youth. THANKS to all in the congregation who donated cookies, handmade items, and holiday decor. We heard several comments from customers about what nice holiday items we had for sale. For any more information, contact Edith Talley, Cathy Galaway, or Sally Adams. Come join us!



"Spotlight" Member of the Month



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Kermit has been a member of Wentzville UMC for 29 years. If you've heard the behind-the-scenes work, that's his middle name.

He is always willing to work and help in any way he can in all ministries. And often, without being asked, he is there to solve whatever is needed.

Thank you, Kermit, for being an example of love and service to God and others.

Pastor Elsie

"KERMIT, Thanks from United Women of Faith! You have been very generous with donating gift baskets, raffle items, and doing the legwork to get our bazaar signs this year. Thanks for always wanting to help!"

Sally Admans

"Hey Kermit, I wanted to take this time at the end of the year to THANK YOU for all you have done to help our church thrive this year. You are amazing! I appreciate all your efforts to engage with all the members and your support financially with writing grants and fund-raising. You and Beth are a real blessing to our church."

Love you, Karen Collins

"Kermit, thank you so much for all you do for me, especially getting the mail, and WUMC. Your generosity and kindness makes such a difference in our lives."

Paula Finke

"Thank you Kermit for your dedication to Adopt A Family. Your continuous fundraising efforts keep Adopt A Family operating year after year in service to the community. You are truly the cornerstone of Adopt A Family."

Lisa Morgenthaler

"You are the silent helper, like the holy spirit, who keeps our church a shining beacon of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in this community. Know that your volunteerism does not go unseen and that you are appreciated by many!"

Thank you! Todd Oberlin

"Kermit is always there to support the life of the church in any way he can; I am thankful for all his hard work and dedication, and the inspiration he is for all."

Carole Ann Robertson

Food Pantry

Canned Fruit
Canned Pasta
Crackers
Dish Soap
Laundry Detergent
Pasta Sauce
Salt & Pepper

Worship
(attendance)

December 3 - 196
December 10 - 193
December 17 - 250
Dec. 24 AM - 188
Dec. 24 PM - 360

Great News!

The Missouri United Methodist Foundation has announced that they have awarded a \$3,000 grant to WUMC that will be allocated as such: \$2,000 Operation Backpack and \$1,000 Children's Ministry.

The check will be presented at church services on Sunday, February 25th, 2024.

Go Green!

Thanks to ALL who have supported and participated in the WUMC recycle programs in 2023. For 2024, as a reminder, we have 3 programs.

Aluminum Can Program: Located just west of the parking lot. Cans are taken to Didion Recycling in St. Peters, who support our program. Please ensure all cans are in plastic bags. Money collected support Caring and Sharing Food Pantry in Wentzville.

Cell Phones, laptops, and printer ink cartridges: Located outside of the church office. Money collected support our Youth Mission Programs.

Paper Recycle Bin: Located northwest corner of church parking lot. Although no money is collected, keeping paper/cardboard out of our landfills is very important. Please make sure boxes are broken down and that only paper items/corrugate are placed in bin.

Finally, the church has green bins located in the church cafe, and Christian Life Center, where paper can be deposited.

Cantata

Undoubtedly, the Cantata was a great success. It was so good to celebrate and sing together about the birth of Jesus. The joy was reflected in everyone who attended and talked about the stories and the new things they had heard.

A big Shout-out to the Choir, Rolling Tones, Musicians, Readers, and Todd, who did an excellent job on the Cantata. Thank you for all your time and dedication to making it a success. Blessings.

