

TIDINGS OF WELLER



*"The Church on the Hill with a Heart for All:
Learning, Loving, Sharing and Serving God"*

MARCH 2026

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!!!

Forgotten Miracles of Saint Patrick

By Jim Ignasher

It's been said that everyone's Irish on Saint Patrick's Day, celebrated with green beer, green clothing, and corned beef and cabbage. Everybody knows the day is named for Saint Patrick, a Christian missionary who lived centuries ago and is known for expelling all the snakes from Ireland, but how many know that he had the ability to heal the sick and raise the dead? Or why he used the Shamrock as a tool to spread Christianity across Ireland?

One of the earliest miracles attributed to Patrick occurred at his baptism when a blind man named Gormus arrived after having a dream that Patrick could cure him. While holding Patrick's hand, he made the sign of the cross on the ground, and suddenly a spring of fresh water erupted from the earth. Gormus washed his eyes with the water and his sight was immediately restored.

Patrick had been baptized on a large flat rock which came to be used in local disputes as a lie detector. Anyone who gave false testimony while touching the rock would cause water to trickle forth from it.

As a young boy Patrick was charged with watching the family's flock of sheep. One day a baby lamb was carried off by a wolf and he was blamed for the loss. That night he prayed that the lamb be returned, and the following day the wolf brought the lamb back and laid it at Patrick's feet, unharmed.

There was a time when honey was widely used for medicinal purposes, and one instance records that Patrick was able to turn a bowl of water into honey to treat a sick woman.

While in his teens Patrick was kidnapped, taken to Ireland, and sold into slavery to a pagan chieftain. After six years in captivity, an angel came to him in a dream and showed him a place where gold was buried. He retrieved the gold, and some sources say he bought his freedom, others say he escaped, and fled back to Scotland. In either case, he became a priest and later a bishop, and eventually made his way back to Ireland and began his ministry.

While ministering to the pagans, he used the three-leaf Shamrock to illustrate the Christian belief that the Holy Trinity, (The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost), are one God in three Divine persons.

It's recorded that Patrick resurrected the dead at least 33 times. In one case two daughters of the King of Dublin had died, and the King, who'd heard of Patrick's miraculous abilities, sent for him. The King promised Patrick that if he could bring the girls back to life he would convert to Christianity. Patrick took the hands of the girls and appealed to God. Suddenly the burial chamber was filled with light and the girls rose from death. The King kept his word and was baptized.

Another account speaks of a dying Irish King named Echu who wanted to convert to Christianity. He sent for Patrick, but died before his arrival. Patrick brought the king back to life long enough to be baptized and receive Holy Communion, after which the king passed away a second time.

There was an incident involving of a powerful magician who interrupted Patrick's teachings in front of a large crowd of people and blasphemed the Lord. In the next instant the magician was killed by a bolt of lightning, and all in attendance converted.

One day a thief stole a goat that belonged to Patrick and ate it. When accused, the man denied it, until the sound of a bleating goat was heard coming from the man's stomach. Then the beard of a goat suddenly grew upon his face, which some say is where the term "goatee" originated.

Patrick died on March 17, circa 493, and it's said that there was no darkness in Ireland for twelve days after his death. He's reportedly buried in the graveyard next to Down Cathedral located in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland.

There are those who claim some of the miracles surrounding Saint Patrick are mythical, yet they can't deny the immense influence he had on the Christian world, the Catholic Faith, and the Country of Ireland. Today there are thousands of cemeteries and churches worldwide named after him, as well as a special day on the calendar – March 17th.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day to one and all, for everyone can celebrate – Irish or not.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Please join us!

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service and 10:30 a.m. Praise Service

Weller United Methodist Church

101 N. Altamont Avenue, Thurmont MD 21788

301-271-2802 www.wellerchurch.com

Sermon By Phone: 240-288-1302

pastormark1umc@gmail.com

secretary@wellerumc.com castbiz.net

Office Hours: Tue/Thur 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Wed 8:00 am-11:30 am

Pastor Mark Eyler

CCLI #988176

Weller UMC Sermons

Did you know that you can listen to Pastor Mark's sermons each week by phone, or watch one of the services on Facebook and YouTube!

Listen: If you know someone who doesn't have internet access or you'd like to listen to it again, please call 240-288-1302.

Watch: You can watch all recorded sermons on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WellerUMC -or- on YouTube by searching "WellerUMC WorshipAcct".

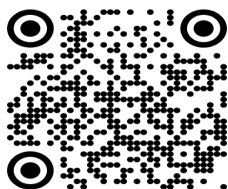
WUMC Sunday School 9:30 am	<u>Pre K—Kindergarten</u> Debbie Stull & Joan Staub (in Church Nursery)	<u>1st thru 5th Grade</u> Donnie & Kelly Wastler (in Weller House)	<u>6th thru 8th Grade</u>
WUMC Sunday School	<u>Adult</u> Sarah Pickett and Roger & Becky Harbaugh (in Library)	<u>Adult</u> Fred Younkens (in Weller House)	

Worship Attendance

February 1	98
February 8	90
February 15	103
February 22	91

QR Codes for Quick Access! On your cell phone, go to camera settings and turn on QR codes button and return to main camera screen. Hold phone camera over a QR code below to get a link you would like to access. When link shows on your screen, click on the link.

Facebook



You Tube



Website



Tithing



**MARCH
BIRTHDAYS
&
ANNIVERSARIES**



03/01	John & Vickie Howes (A)	03/11	Alan Brauer, Sr.
03/01	Sandy Shaffer	03/13	Leo & Vanessa & Krietz (A)
03/02	Blake Purcell	03/14	Heidi Dennie
03/03	Brody Mathias	03/17	Melissa Mathias
03/03	Skyla Smith	03/22	Trey Benvengi
03/04	Linda Henning	03/22	Louise Shaffer
03/04	Kaia McKay	3/22	Dawn Sweeney
03/05	Gayle DeSalvo	03/23	Joan Zahn
03/05	Dakota May	03/27	Larry & Donna Eby (A)
03/05	Bob Miller	03/28	William LeGore
03/06	Donna Eby	03/29	Sheri Kuhn
03/06	Karen Purcell		
03/08	Ernie Staub		
03/09	Dick Shank, Sr.		
03/10	Jonah Connally		

TRUSTEES NEWS by Ed Schildt

The Trustees started the New Year with a few improvements in the church to make our time of worship and gathering more enjoyable for everyone. Additional improvements are being planned in 2026. Stay Tuned !

A new Eco Friendly water fountain was installed in February on the main floor. The fountain features a bottle filling station as well as the traditional fountain drinking spout. Check out the bottle counter on the fountain that shows you how many plastic bottles you saved from going in the landfill. Pretty Neat !!

The new bulletin boards and cabinets are nearing completion and should be finalized and in place for the Easter Celebration. Bob Follin shared a quick peak of his work and they are nothing short of amazing ! Once completed additional finishing touches will be done in the narthex.

Trustees are seeking bids to place a new cover mat and new mulch on the playground area once the snow has melted away. Contact Ed Schildt if you have any contractors or suppliers we can contact regarding the bids.

Trustees anticipate the start of the sidewalk and step replacement in the spring as soon as the weather cooperates and our contractor is back to work. The contractor's recovery continues to progress.

Stay Tuned for spring clean up dates to be announced. We will clean up and spruce up around the Church and Weller House to prepare for the spring and summer season.

If you are interested in serving as a trustee please contact Ed Schildt (240-285-8079)

Blessing from your Trustees

MICHELLE'S MOMENTS by Michelle Merico

03/01/26 When you trust God's plan, even "no" starts to sound like grace.

03/08/26 As long as God keeps waking you up, He's not finished with you. There's still a plan.

03/15/26 It's hard to hear God's voice when you've already decided what you want him to say.

03/22/26 God often does His deepest work when life feels most uncertain.

03/29/26 Some people count what others have. I count what God has done. My cup isn't full because of more - it's full

Cemetery NEWS by Nancy Rice

The year of 2025, saw quite a bit of activity in the cemetery. Thanks to the generosity of several private donors, family members of relatives resting in the cemetery, money collected from Colorfest parking and our bake sale fundraising efforts, we were able to get 8 dying trees removed without having to spend money from regular monthly donations.

Several out of state donors, motivated by family connections, sought our assistance with keeping grave-stones clean. Nancy was happy to oblige; offering to clean their loved ones headstones. After emailing before and after pictures, these families sent generous donations to the Cemetery Fund.

We are very thankful to have gotten these trees removed before they caused damage to surrounding, very old headstones. It is expected that at least 4 more trees will need to be removed this year.

Chairman Bob Miller is coordinating a hands-on workshop in the cemetery with a Mt. Olivet Cemetery volunteer. This event, possibly planned for this Spring, will address needed repairs to gravestones.

In late April, the Cemetery Board will be having another bake sale with all proceeds going towards tree removal.

MISSION TEAM NEWS by Pat Alexander

Coming Up! Our next trip to **Mission Central** will be on Thursday March 12th. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex with more information. We'd love to have you join us! It's a large operation and help is always needed. There are usually different kinds of jobs to do but there is always the volunteer room if you need to sit down to work. They also accept donations of various kinds, for example: walkers, canes, crutches band aids, and other medical supplies plus school supplies, hygiene items (unused), clothing, shoes, cleaning supplies, nutrition supplements (unexpired), computers and other electronic equipment. There is a bin in the hallway for these and we take what's in the bin when we go to volunteer.

We had 2 speakers from the **Frederick Rescue Mission** this past year. You may be interested to know that in one year, the Mission counted 15,794 people receiving clothing, 96,591 received groceries, and 98,628 meals were served. That takes a lot of volunteers!

The Thurmont Food Bank here in Thurmont has been really busy, also, with many families driving through the line on food distribution days. Due to everyone's generous donations of coats and cold weather clothing that were delivered to the Food Bank earlier for distribution, and donated food put in the Food Bank Bin in the hallway at church and delivered to the Food Bank weekly, Weller has been able to hopefully make a positive impact on our community.

If you have any questions, call Pat Alexander at 301-514-2638.

FINANCE NEWS by Jim Monroe

Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

A summary of our giving and expenses for the month of January:

Weller UMC	Giving	Spending	vs. Giving	Notes:
General	\$ 13,705	15,006	(1,301)	
In & Out Designated	-	2,100	(2,100)	Xmas '25 offer to Pregnancy Center
Cemetery	830		830	
Missions	1,040	162	878	
Capital	870	-	870	
Steeple Fund	-	-	0	
Youth	20	-	20	
Memorials	550	3,539	(2,989)	Final Elevator payment
Elevator Fund	-	-	0	
Parsonage	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>	Rental income
31-Jan-26	19,015	20,807	(1,793)	

General Expenses	Jan
<u>Category</u>	<u>\$ 17,106</u>
Pastor	\$ 4,558
Staff	\$ 3,052
Tax	\$ 233
Insure	\$ 1,050
Balt-Wash	\$ 2,815
Office	\$ 449
Church	\$ 1,356
Fuel	\$ 1,307
Weller	\$ 186
Community	\$ -
Worship	\$ -
Designated	\$ 2,100

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTER FLOWERS FOR 2026

To all Alter Flower donors: Flower donors have been transferred to the 2026 calendar. Please let Nancy Rice know if you do not wish to donate the flowers for the week(s) assigned.

JANUARY

(Bob and Louise Shaffer)
4th Virginia Gelwicks (W)
11th Robert Black (W)
18th Pat Black (G)
25th Dottie Davis (G)

FEBRUARY

(Bob and Louise Shaffer)
1st Kim Grimm (G)
8th Fred Henning (G)
15th Karen & Ed Schildt (W)
22nd Penny Toms (P)

MARCH

(Karen Younkins)
1st Larry & Donna Eby (P)
8th Dennis & Paulette Mathias (P)
15th Gary Roberts (P)
22nd Donnie Wastler (P)
29th Debby & Paul Shultzaberger (P)

APRIL

(Kim Clever)
5th Joan Freeze (W)
12th Helen Gelwicks (W)
19th Virginia Gelwicks (W)
26th Charlene Stitely (W)

MAY

(Nancy Rice)
3rd Fred Henning (W)
10th Gary Roberts (W)
17th Kim Lavigne (W)
24th Cindy Hart (R)
31st Robert Black (W)

JUNE

(Nancy Rice)
7th Dottie Davis (G)
14th Pat & Henry Alexander (G)
21st Rick & Kathy Wivell (G)
28th Kim Grimm (G)

JULY

(Nancy Rice)
5th Marilyn Worsham (G)
12th Carol & Robert Long (G)
19th Chooi Hah & Jim Monroe (G)
26th Robert Black (G)

AUGUST

(Joan Staub/Debbie Stull)
2nd Ken & Anita Drye (G)
9th Bill Clayton/Ann Day (G)
16th Dennis/Paulette Mathias (G)
23rd Carol & Robert Long (G)
30th May Morrison (G)

SEPTEMBER

(Nancy Rice)
6th Rosie & Eugene Andrew (G)
13th Nancy Rice (G)
20th Larry & Donna Eby (G)
27th Bob & Christine Miller (G)

OCTOBER

(Karen Younkins)
4th Phyllis Wynkoop (G)
11th Fred Henning (G)
18th Earl Weant (G)
25th Fred & Karen Younkins (G)

NOVEMBER

(Kim Clever)
1st Kim Clever (G)
8th Phyllis Wynkoop (G)
15th Jim & Peggy Royer (G)
22nd Fred Henning (W)
29th Debbie & Steven Kurz (B)

DECEMBER

(Nancy Rice)
6th Ruby & Susan Storer (B)
13th Joan Zahn (B)
20th Gayle DiSalvo (B)
27th Gayle DiSalvo (W)

Weller United Methodist Church
 Hilltop Singers and Hilltop Ringers

Proudly Presents The Song Everlasting



Palm Sunday Cantata
 March 29, 2026

At a combined service beginning at 9:30 a.m.
 101 Altamont Ave. Thurmont MD

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont'd)



WUMC Fellowship 2026 Events

March 21st: Talent Show at 6:00pm Pie and Cake Silent Auction

March 29th: Pancake Breakfast (After Cantata)

May 9th: Ladies Tea 2:00pm-4:00pm

*May 15th: Sight and Sound Theatre Bus Trip (7:00 PM Show with Dinner at Hershey Farm)

June 12th: Sock Hop 6:00pm-8:00pm

August 2nd: Bowling at 2:00pm

August 9th: Church Picnic at 12:00 pm

September- Paint Night or Basket Weaving (need more info)

October 17th: Chili Cook Off & Candy Bingo at 5:00pm

November 14th: Friendsgiving at 5:00pm (Potluck)

December 11th: Christmas Carolling 6:00pm-8:00pm

December 20th: Christmas Dinner- Time TBD (depending on Cantata)

****Sight and Sound– Stay tuned for information on ticket pricing.***

*****Dates and times subject to change as date nears***

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday

July 11, 2026

6:00pm



Baseball season is right around the corner. And the Frederick Keys are once again a minor league affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles. This year the annual Weller fellowship event at a Keys game will be Saturday, July 11, 2026. As always there will be fireworks after the game. So put this date on your calendar and join the group. See some of the Orioles' top prospects as they work their way up to Camden Yards. More details about the game and a sign-up sheet will be coming during the next couple of months. Stay tuned!

If anyone has questions, please call Henry Alexander at 301-639-5649.

THANK YOU'S

**You made such a difference,
and it is so deeply appreciated.**

.....
Thanks to the two ladies
that came to visit me
I would like to thank
everyone for their prayers
also for the bag of goodies.
many thanks for the prayer
shawl it really helped.
may God bless you all
Laluy

THANK YOU'S (Cont'd)



Rebekah Mercer

Weller United Methodist Church,

-Samantha

Kiley

Thank you so much for
allowing us to use the Church
for our program's spaghetti
dinner fundraiser. Your generosity
and support truly mean a lot!

C O R A

Coach
Joene
Wolfe

Coach
Kelsey
McClure

Thank you,
Fearless Elite

CATOCTIN PREGNANCY CENTER

P.O. Box 1168
130 South Seton Ave. #3 Rear
Emmitsburg MD 21727
(301) 447-3391

25 February 2026

Pastor Mark Eyler
Weller United Methodist Church
101 N. Altamont Avenue
Thurmont, MD 21788

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all the parishioners of WUMC who contributed to your Christmas and Christmas Eve Services and decided to send the total of \$2,100/00 to the Center! Their generosity and kindness goes a long way to helping the Center be able to assist all of the mothers and fathers who come to us with compassionate care.

As you know, the Center is run on an entire volunteer basis and receives no support other than donations such as yours. We are so grateful for our donors and helpers for their support of our pro-life efforts to help all mothers and fathers in their greatest time of need.

May all pro-life believers be filled with peace and JOY!

Best Regards,

Barbara Lowrie

Barbara Lowrie
Administrative Assistant

Check #12133
\$2,100.00
Dated 24 January 2026



**BAPTISM OF
EMERY LYNN EYLER
FEBRUARY 8, 2026**



VALENTINES DINNER AND "NOT SO NEW, NEWLYWED GAME" FEBRUARY 14TH, 2026





February 16, 2026 - Bishop Easterling's Lenten Letter 2026

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

— Isaiah 58: 6-7

Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, who calls us not only to follow him, but to be formed by him, to be remade in his image, which is love, and to participate in the healing of the world.

My friend and colleague, the Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque, once joked, "Your bishop loves Lent with its fasting and sacrifice. I do not." She was right. I do love Lent. I love this season because it invites us to slow down, to become intentional with our faith and to recenter our lives on Christ. I have found no practice that does this more purposefully than fasting. Therefore, as we enter this sacred season, I invite us into a communal fast, not as religious performance, not for self-improvement, but as a return to the heart of discipleship.

In a world saturated with noise, anxiety, consumption, and competition, the Church is summoned again to quiet, costly, countercultural practices that shape saints. John Wesley taught that the Christian life is sustained not by sincerity alone, but by disciplined participation in the means of grace: prayer, Scripture, fasting, Christian conferencing, generosity, and works of mercy. Beloved, these are not optional practices; they are the pathways through which God forms transformed hearts and lives.

This fast may take many forms, such as abstaining from food, social media, habits, comforts, or practices that dull our attentiveness to God, but its purpose is singular: to make space for God to reorder our loves, reshape our minds, and reform our lives. Fasting is embodied prayer. It declares that Christ is our true sustenance and that our deepest hunger is for the living God. It is also a protest against forces that teach us to consume without conscience and distract ourselves from suffering. When we fast, we resist the lie that fullness is found in accumulation and bear witness that fullness is found in communion with God. That communion with God, that prayer, that conversation opens us to be more fully transformed into God's will.

Yet Scripture reminds us that not every fast pleases God. Through Isaiah, the Lord calls us to loose the bonds of injustice, share bread with the hungry, and refuse to hide ourselves from our own kin. The fast that pleases God is never merely personal. It is never satisfied with private piety divorced from public justice. Spirituality without solidarity is sentimentality, and devotion without justice is distortion.

Beloved, there is a hard truth we must confront: our society does not suffer from material poverty, but from spiritual bankruptcy. Surrounded by abundance, we have grown thin in courage, distracted in prayer, hesitant in costly love. In such a moment, discipleship cannot be cheap, comfortable, or superficial. To follow Christ is to be summoned into costly obedience, into a life where grace is not a commodity but a call, not a sentiment but a summons. The Church does not exist to secure its own survival, but to bear faithful witness, even when that witness unsettles, disrupts, and risks privilege. To fast in this way is to align our bodies, budgets, and voices with the liberating work of God.

As we fast, we are also called to attentive, mindful discipleship. Recently, I was deeply moved by the venerable monks who walked for peace, embodying disciplined presence, compassion, simplicity, and nonviolence. They did not walk for themselves, but for the world to know peace. Their witness reminds us that discipleship is not selfish, hurried, or distracted. It is deliberate, grounded, awake to the presence of God and neighbor in every step. In a culture that rushes past one another, mindfulness becomes holy resistance, seeing Christ in the ordinary, hearing the Spirit in the quiet, responding with love rather than fear.

By Easter, my hope is that we will emerge more deeply rooted in Christ, more courageous in justice, more generous in love, and more joyful in faith. I pray that our churches will be renewed in witness, our leaders strengthened in calling, and our people more deeply formed as disciples whose lives testify that Christ is alive.

May this fast be holy. May this season be transformative. And may Easter find us risen with Christ.

Blessings and peace,
Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling

MARCH



2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 *Worship Services, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.	2 *Office Closed Beginner Bible Study 6-7:30 pm	3 *Book Club, 7:00pm	4 *Offices Closes at 11:30 am.	5 Trustees Mtg 6pm Handbell Practice (6:00-7:00 p.m.) Choir Practice (7:15-8:30 p.m.)	6 *Office Closed	7 KEY: BLACK: WORSHIP SVCS & OFFICE INFO BLUE: MTGS RED: HOLIDAYS OR OTHER SPECIAL DATES
8 *Worship Services, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.	9*Office Closed Beginner Bible Study 7-8:30 pm Outreach Mtg 6 pm	10 Council Mtg 6 pm	11 *Offices Closes at 11:30 am.	12 Handbell Practice (6:00-7:00 p.m.) Choir Practice (7:15-8:30 p.m.)	13 *Office Closed	14
15 *Worship Services, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Potter's Hand's Puppets (both ser- vices)	16 *Office Closed Beginner Bible Study 6-7:30 pm	17	18 *Offices Closes at 11:30 am.	19 Handbell Practice (6:00-7:00 p.m.) Choir Practice (7:15-8:30 p.m.)	20 *Office Closed	21 Talent Show 6 pm Cake and Pie Silent Auction
22 *Worship Services, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.	23 *Office Closed Beginner Bible Study 6-7:30 pm	24	25 *Offices Closes at 11:30 am.	26 Handbell Practice (6:00-7:00 p.m.) Choir Practice (7:15-8:30 p.m.)	27 *Office Closed	28
29Palm Sunday Cantata 9:30 Combined Service Pancake Breakfast after Cantata	30 Beginner Bible Study 6-7:30 pm	31				