

CALENDAR OF NEWSLETTER EVENTS*

Traditional Worship
8:45 & 11:15AM
Anchor Worship
11:15AM
Sunday School
10:00AM

412 Parkersburg Road
Savannah, GA 31406
www.iohumc.com
Office Hours:
M-TH: 8AM-5PM
F: 8AM-3PM
t: 912.355.8527
f: 912-355-9113

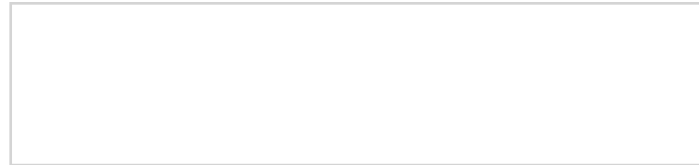
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Weekly eNewsletters
at www.iohumc.com

February 2012

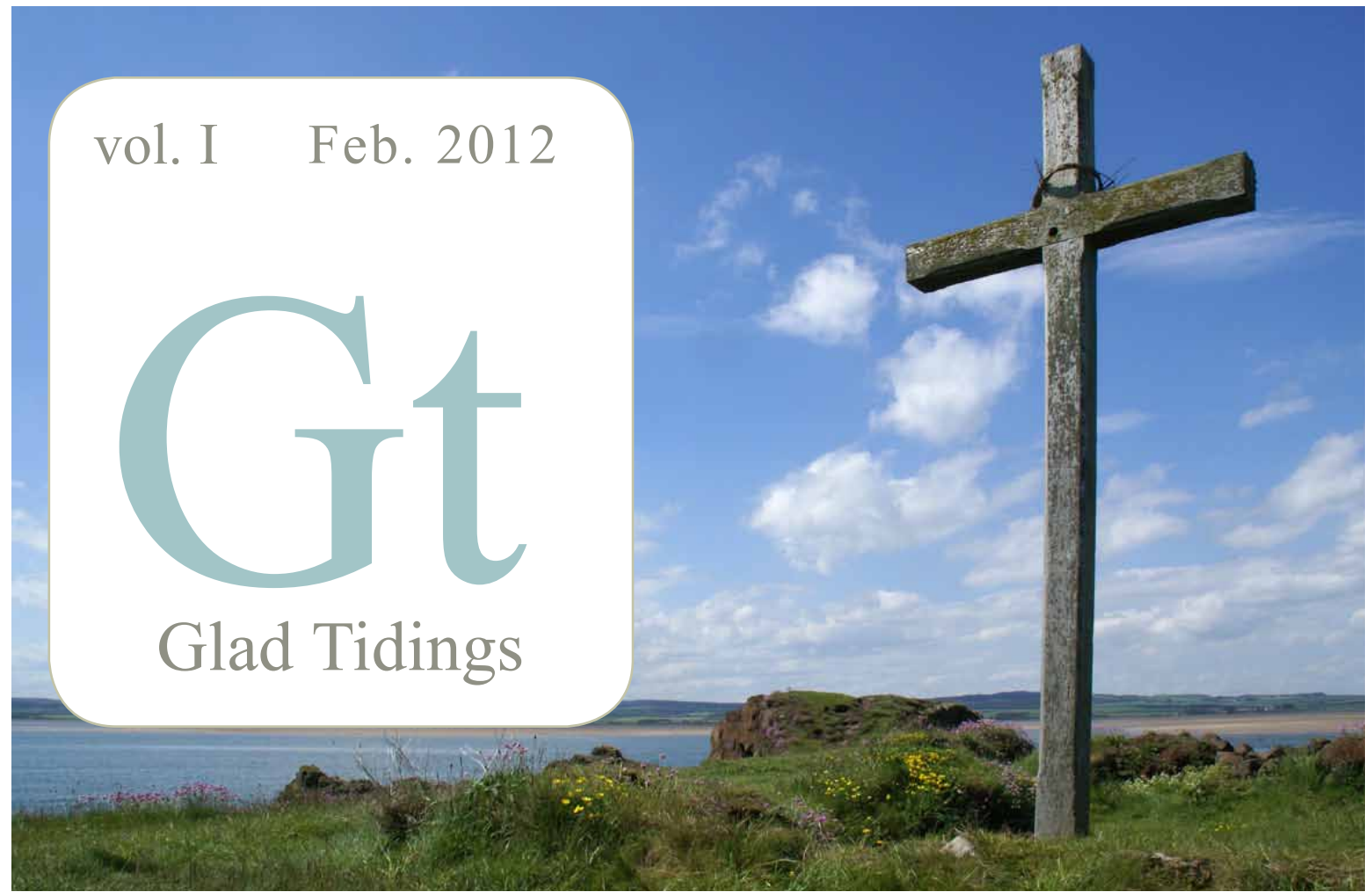
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Souper Bowl Sunday UMYF Super Bowl Party	6	7	8	9 Prayer Shawl Meeting	10	11 Love Walk 2012
12 UMW / Baby Recognition Sunday Lovestrong	13	14 Adult Ministries Valentine's Day Luncheon	15	16	17	18 Chancel Choir Retreat
Faith in Practice Medical Mission Teams						
19 H.O.P.E. Youth Choir Tour Info. Meeting	20	21	22	23	24	25 Living for God, Girls' Retreat
26 Interfaith Hospitality Network Begins	27	28	29			

* A complete calendar of all Isle of Hope UMC events can be found online at www.iohumc.com.

GLAD TIDINGS (USPS-706-200) PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ISLE OF HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 412 PARKERSBURG ROAD, SAVANNAH, GA 31406. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA. POSTMASTER: SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO GLAD TIDINGS, 412 PARKERSBURG ROAD, SAVANNAH, GA 31406.



Isle of Hope
United Methodist Church
412 Parkersburg Road, Savannah, GA 31406



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ISLE OF HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Journey to Hope...

There are two kinds of people in this world. There are those who love Theodor Seuss Geisel and those who don't. I'm one who does. I think Dr. Seuss, as he is best known, was a genius at conveying profound truth through delightful characters and enchanting verbiage. His last book, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, written the year before he died, is one of my favorites. In it he writes,

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where you'll go..." I like that; and I really like this part of the book,

"And when you're alone there's a very good chance, you'll meet things that scare you right out of your pants. There are some, down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on." He sure has some of us pegged doesn't he? O.K., I'll be the first to admit it. There have been times in my life when I've gotten stuck on the road between "hither and yon." There have been times I've felt so scared that I didn't want to go on; times I've been so hurt I just didn't want to take another step; times I've been so confused by circumstances or people, I didn't know which way was up; times when

...God sometimes has to stop me before He can turn me...

the "brains in my head and feet in my shoes" were so frozen by the uncertainty of the moment, it seemed as though life had ground to a standstill. Maybe you've been in that spot on the "road between hither and yon." What I love so much about Jesus is that he has walked the entire road, and he understands how difficult and scary it can be. On February 22, 2012, we move into the Lenten/Easter season. As we do, we're going to turn our attention to the "road between hither and yon." It's the road Jesus traveled on the way to the cross. In Luke 9:51 we are told,

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Adult Ministry News
A Lenten Invitation
Membership Care
Ministries



Lovestrong
Living for God
Girls' Retreat
Youth Lagniappe



H.O.P.E. Youth
Choir Tour
Winter / Spring
Bible Studies



Core Connections
UMW / Baby
Recognition
Sunday
Love Walk 2012

Adult Ministry News

LOVE YOU BUNCHES
VALENTINE'S DAY
LUNCHEON

Entertainment will be provided by our own Amanda and Jim Morrow. Our program will be presented by Carolyn Smith, a dear friend to many of us, a fellow Methodist and a great Bible leader.

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Location: Fellowship Hall

Time: Program at 11:30AM;
Lunch at 12:30PM

Cost: \$5.00 in advance

Reservations: Sign up in Sunday School or call the church office at 912-355-8527. Deadline is Sunday, February 12th.

For more information, contact Ann Grotheer at 912-354-2500.

P.S. Ed Poenicke is coming Friday, March 16th.

A Lenten Invitation *Chancel Choir Retreat*

Each year the Chancel Choir enjoys a day apart at beautiful nearby Wesley Gardens. This is the beginning of our journey through Lent, because as we turn our attention musical-

ly to the Easter cantata, we turn our hearts' attention to the cross. Neither destination is easily reached. While it is impossible for us to know fully the depth of Christ's sacrifice, during the

process of learning the music we grow into a deeper understanding, a more profound appreciation, of the love that inspired it. A familiar mystery unfolds. As we give ourselves to the task, God gives himself to us so that we might share his message of hope and grace to others.

We invite you to join us **Saturday February 18th from 9:00-2:00PM at Wesley Gardens.** After the retreat, our Wednesday rehearsals will begin at 7:00PM with the



Easter cantata, then the regular choir will practice weekly anthems from 8:00 to 9:00PM. The cantata will be presented in traditional worship on Palm Sunday, April 1st. For more information,

contact Kevin Vogelsang at kvogelsang@iohumc.com.

Here is a radical vision I sometimes have: the entire congregation has prepared the Easter cantata together, and on Palm Sunday we all stand in the sanctuary facing the cross as we sing together. *Or was that John's vision?*

Membership Care Ministries

One of our joys as a church is to share the love of God with those who reside in assisted living and nursing care facilities and with those who are home bound. A list of these individuals is available to church members from the church office. If you feel called to minister to these beautiful people, contact the church office at 912-355-8527 for further information.

The Journey to Hope | continued from page 1

"As the time drew near when Jesus would be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind and set out on his way to Jerusalem." Jesus knew full well the path he was walking would lead to the cross. He kept walking. Along the way, he encountered people, just like you and me, who were stuck on "the road between hither and yon." He came in contact with people who were dealing with lots of issues and lots of problems. He found people whose "brain in their head and feet in their shoes" were stuck. Jesus helped them. I believe he can help you and me too. He knows what it's like to walk down hard roads. He made up his mind to walk the road to the cross because he

knew he would find us on it. In his great love and power, he moves people from despair to hope. So if you need some hope right now, you'll want to join us on this Lenten journey. You know, I agree with Robert Louis Stevenson, "To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive..." Christ can enable us to travel hopefully on the "road between hither and yon." I've got a book by Wendell Berry entitled, *A Place on Earth*. Sometimes when I feel stuck on my journey, I like to remember something he said, "It may be when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work, and when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real

journey." That's certainly been true in my life. I've discovered that God sometimes has to stop me before He can turn me. It's like a friend of mine once told me, "Mike, rowing harder ain't helping if the boat's headed in the wrong direction!" So, if you feel like life for you has ground to a halt, or you've reached a bend in the road between "hither and yon"- hold on! You just may be in the best place you've ever been for an encounter with the God who comes to us with hope! He has walked that road before. He made it all the way. You can too- with his help. On the Journey to Hope,
Mike

City Wide Night of Worship: *Savannah Bound*

Written by Marshall Akin & Clint Cail

Last summer, the H.O.P.E. Choir took a trip to Colorado Springs, CO. On Wednesday night of that week, we attended a City Wide Night of Worship in Acacia Park in Downtown Colorado Springs. A high school senior from the area hosted the event. Surrounding churches met together and donated food and their time to this event. The evening included feeding two hundred plus hungry people, a time of worship, and individuals sharing their testimonies. Seeing the amount of hungry people lined up waiting for food got us thinking about how many hungry people we had back in Savannah.

This event opened up so many doors in both of our lives. Seeing such a large group of hungry people standing, singing, and worshiping really hit home. When we returned home, we decided that we wanted to do something like this in our own hometown. We got with some staff members and other people from church

and what was a dream, soon started to become a reality. However, we were told that if we wanted to make this happen, then we were going to have to do the work. After months of praying and planning, we will be putting Savannah's version of City Wide Night of Worship on **Friday, March 23rd, from 5:30-8:00PM at Johnson Square.** There will be food, fun, sharing and we will close the night with worship led by us.

We are asking anyone from the congregation who feels called to provide a covered dish for this event. We will have a sign up table this month in the main hallway of the church. If this is something you would like to help us with, you will have the choice to sign up to provide a vegetable, starch, dessert, pasta, etc. If you are a youth or adult and are interested in helping set up, serve food, or help clean up after the event, contact Clint Cail (912-306-5333) or Marshall Akin (912-596-747).

All are invited to attend this City Wide Night of Worship. This has taken much planning and praying, and we are hoping for a great turn out. We are excited to see all that God does on March 23rd 2012 and we hope to see you there!

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 5th we will celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday and support Second Harvest Food Bank. Please bring non-perishable food items and place them in the soup pots as you enter the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall for worship or in the large bins in the hallways. Our communion offering that day will also go to Second Harvest and will help to purchase child friendly foods for the Back Pack Buddies program.

Love Strong

Recently I heard the passage **Luke 14:12-14**, which reads, "When you give a dinner, do not invite your friends or rich neighbors...invite the poor, crippled, lame, blind, & you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." After I read this, I thought, "How cool would it be if our youth group actually did something like this?"

On February 12th, that's exactly what we are going to do. The youth of Isle of Hope UMC are going to use Lovestrong & the Valentine's season as an opportunity to outreach, serve and cater to those who might be passed over & let them know that they are loved not only by us, but by our Savior, Jesus!

If you are in 9th-12th grade and interested in serving or playing music, contact Mackay Lee, Director of Student Ministries at mlee@iohumc.com.

Living for God Retreat & 2012 Passion Conference

We have a retreat coming up for our 6th-9th grade girls. Annie Downs will be coming from Nashville to talk to our students about walking with God and overcoming self-image issues. The weekend is **February 24th-26th** and the cost is \$110. We will be going to the Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon, GA for a fun filled weekend. You can learn more about her by going to her website www.annieblogs.com or reading her book "From Head to Foot, All of you living for all of Him." We have a few spots left, so if you would like your daughter to attend, please sign up with Marjo in the main office.



GA for the Passion 2012 Conference. The theme was Freedom in order to raise awareness of the 27 million people enslaved in our world today.

On the last night, we had a candle vigil around a statue of a hand that we contributed to building. The hand was covered in prayers that had been written by the students attending the conference. This event was incredibly moving and God was undeniably present. To be in the Dome worshipping

with 45,000 other college students was simply amazing. In addition to raising awareness, these college students raised over \$3 million to put an end to human trafficking. To find out more about Passion 2012, visit www.268generation.com or CNN's Freedom Project website and search "Passion 2012."

* Photo Courtesy of Robert Daniel

The first week of 2012, Mackay and I took 10 of our college students to Atlanta,



H.O.P.E. Youth Choir Tour | 2012

Plans are underway for this year's H.O.P.E. Choir Tour. We have decided to travel to the Outer Banks area of North Carolina for a combination of performances, service through local churches and mission agencies and Christian fellowship. The trip will be June 15-21, followed by our Homecoming Program in Traditional Worship on Sunday, June 24th. There will be a meeting for all participating youth and their parents on February 19th at 5:00PM in the Berean Classroom, after the choir sings in worship that morning. For more information, contact Kevin Vogelsang at kvogelsang@iohumc.com.

Christian Education: Winter/Spring Bible Studies

Sign up now by calling the Christian Education Office, 912-355-8527 ext. 29 or email Meg Procopio, Minister of Christian Education at mprocopio@iohumc.com.

Some Statistics for a New Year - Serving and Being Served

Did you know in 2011 **32** classes of bible study and small groups were offered? There were **251** participant's in these groups.

Our PLACE class had a total of **38**, we really hope to see this number increase. Our dream is that our whole church family will participate in this five week experience as we find our place in life and ministry. **6** participants who completed Disciple 1 continued to Disciple 2. GodSquad our 5th grade ministry averages **12** students while KFC and UMYF averages **30 to 40**.

Sunday morning Sunday School number for September 2011 are:

Children	423
Youth	238
Adults	729

Are you counted in some of these numbers? Lets get our intentions in 2012 to be present! You are missed when you're not here!

Parent to Parent

Sharing your faith with your Pre-school! Please join me Sunday, February 26th for this small group time together, 4:30-5:30PM in the Green House with an invitation to snack supper (\$2.00 per person) and continue our discussion around the table. Please e-mail Meg Procopio at mprocopio@iohumc.com to let us know you'll be there!

PLACE

Would you like to discover your personality type? Learn about your spiritual gifts? Have a firm awareness of your abilities and connect them with your passions even as you map out your life experiences? If so, you're invited to PLACE a five or seven week experience with Rev. Karen Prevatt on Sunday, February 5th for seven Sundays or Wednesday, February 1st for five Wednesdays. Book cost \$10.00.

Inviting all Men 30-50 Something!

10:02 men's small group that meets on Sunday mornings at 10:02AM in the Hanger and on Wednesdays at 7:02PM, is beginning a new series! Please join them as they dig in to "Courageous" and Honor begins at Home". For more information contact Alan Smith or Mac Newell.

Manna Café - Up & Running

I hope you're enjoying coffee and fellowship on Sunday morning. Please help us keep our children safe. Please no unattended children in the café, the coffee is quite hot! Also, help us by giving a dollar donation. This will ensure we get to keep offering this delicious coffee.

Youth Lagniappe

UMYF Super Bowl Party I Join us Sunday, February 5th from 6:00-8:00PM at Brenda and Eddie Boaen's (6 Colonel Estill Ave.) as we enjoy food, fellowship and football!

Boxtops for Education I Please remember to save them for the Isle of Hope Elementary School. There is a glass jar outside the church office for collection. For a complete list of products with Boxtops visit www.boxtops4education.com.

Missions Outreach

Please be in prayer for the **Faith in Practice Medical Mission Teams** that will travel to Guatemala on February 10-18 and February 17-25 and the people they will serve on their journey. Church members on the teams are: Mike Ricker, Wanda Kay North, Tom and Elizabeth Shook, Fred and Karen Daniel, Bob Johnson, Beth Palmer, Joe Stewart and Julie and Scott Vann. Prayer guides will be available in the church office on Sunday, February 5th.

We will host families with **Interfaith Hospitality Network** in the Green House from February 26-March 4, 2012. We are looking for people of all ages who will offer hope and encouragement to families living in homelessness. Volunteers may help with set-up, prepare or serve dinner, stay overnight and assist with clean up and laundry. Joan Connelly will be in the hallway on Sunday, February 12 and 19 to assist volunteers with finding a way to serve or you may call her at 912-398-3807.



Isle of Hope UMC *December Financial Report*

Isle of Hope United Methodist Church
Selected Financial Information
Quarter Ending December 31, 2011

	Actual 12/31/11	Budget 12/31/11
Receipts:		
Pledged Contributions	\$ 1,517,305	\$ 1,749,509
Unpledged Contributions	753,681	423,118
Other Income	54,826	46,275
Mission Revenue	47,929	N/A
Total Receipts	2,373,741	2,218,902
Expenses:		
Education Ministries	123,045	146,606
Trustees	456,935	455,955
Office	52,194	56,202
Staff Parish	878,360	985,907
Missions/Conference	592,184	551,429
Church Food	35,222	42,248
Miscellaneous	3,861	4,069
Total Expenses	2,141,801	2,242,416
Net	\$ 231,940	\$ (23,514)
Outstanding Green House Pledges:		
		\$ 127,610
December Memorial Contributions to Green House		\$ 1,205
December Non-Pledged Contrib to Green House		\$ 6,690

We are now accepting memorials and honorariums for Sunday Altar Flowers for 2012. Contact the church at 912-355-8527 for available dates. The cost is \$60.00. Suggestion: Birthdays, Anniversaries or Graduation.

Friends 'n Needles Prayer Shawl

In 2011, Friends 'n Needles contributed to Wesley Community Center \$2000, All Walks of Life \$3000, Backpack Program at Isle of Hope School \$1000, Mission on the Move in Mexico \$1000, Faith in Practice Medical Mission \$2000, Safe Shelter \$500, The Christ Child's Nest (TCCN) \$500 (Angel Mission Project to TCCN approx. \$3000). We want to thank everyone who purchased our items making all this possible.

Our next meeting will be February 9th from 11:00-2:00PM with our regular lunch. Come and learn to knit or crochet.



Core Connections Class | March 25th

Core Connections is a relaxed, 3 hour session led by our pastors in which you will learn about our church and your role as a member. At the end of the session you will have an opportunity to commit to church membership. Our next Core Connections Class will be held **Sunday, March 25th from 2:00 – 5:00PM**. You can register online at www.iohumc.com (click on Core Connections) or call the church office at 912-355-8527. **Parents:** Childcare is provided for children birth - 5 years old. Please make sure that you request childcare at the time of registration.

UMW/Baby Recognition Sunday: *Feb. 12th*

Each year it is with great honor that Isle of Hope United Methodist Women recognize babies born to our congregation during the preceding year. All 2011 babies will be recognized on February 12th during the 8:45 and 11:15AM Traditional Services and the 11:15AM Anchor Service. Information and an RSVP card will be mailed to the parents of the 2011 babies by January 20th. *If you do not receive the information in the mail, please contact Ashley Stutzman at 912-598-1957.* We want to be sure all babies are recognized.

Traditional Services 8:45 and 11:15AM

Carole Chase will be our guest speaker. Her sermon will be "Taking a Closer Look." Carole has been a spiritual education teacher, a missionary, and the director of spiritual life at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church in Macon. She has done mission work in Russia, the Solomon Islands, New Orleans following Katrina, and in North Carolina following Hurricane Floyd. We are blessed to have her with us as part of UMW Sunday.

Anchor Service

11:15AM

Martha Nesbit will be our guest speaker. Martha is a wife, mother, and close friend to many of us at IOH. She is an accomplished author and a founder of Oglethorpe Academy Charter Middle School. She has entertained, cooked, and loved the boys and girls living at the children's home in Tapachula, Mexico thru "Mission on the Move." Martha has successfully discovered how to use her talents and share God's love, at the same time. We are thrilled to have her speak on UMW Sunday. This will be a special Sunday, with women participating in the worship services and where we will recognize the youngest members of our congregation born in 2011. Please join us for one of these meaningful services as we recognize the special blessings that God gives us through the women and babies of our church.

Upcoming Events:

Mark Your Calendars!

March 3rd, 9:00AM

UMW Day of Service

Come follow Jesus as we serve in His name in our community. Watch for further details.

March 27th, 6:00PM

"A Model Heart"

30th Annual All Daughter Banquet

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of delicious food, fun and fellowship. Help us celebrate 30 years of this wonderful tradition!

Wesley Community Center's Love Walk 2012

Saturday, February 11th beginning at 9:00AM at Wesley Community Center (1601 Drayton Street). Wesley Community Centers is a United Methodist ministry that provides childcare and services for homeless families or families living in poverty. Invite your Sunday School class, UMW Circle friends or UMM friends to walk as a group and let's raise strong support for this vital ministry. Sponsor sheets are available at the Connection Point Board or in the church office.