WELLSPRING

A Publication of Wells Church — A United Methodist Congregation

November 2026

We Move to a Season of New Opportunities

By Dr. Lewis Logan
Senior Pastor

Turn the clocks back an hour. Turn in charge conference reports. Turn out at the polls. Turn toward the holiday season. Leaves turn amber and orange, fall turns to winter and 2026 turns toward 2027. Turn, turn, turn.


Logan

I feel as though I'm singing Pete Seeger's 1959 song or the Byrds' folk-classic adaptation — and risking a copyright complaint from the legal team of Ecclesiastes 3, with a nod to the Kemetic wisdom division!

Time, that intrepid traveler, keeps its rhythmic tempo leading us to Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026, at 2 a.m., we turn our clocks back one hour — a small step backward as we continue moving forward.

Later that same Sunday, we will celebrate those who have turned from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant. Now it is our turn to honor their legacy and carry it forward.

Thank you to everyone who submitted reports on time. And thank you for showing up, time after time: leading, sharing, repairing infrastructure, meeting, writing, strategizing, joining Zoom calls, giving, caring for one another, worshiping, working, "WellsFesting," Tuesday Morning Ministering, giving thanks and simply being Wells.

Season, Page 2



WellsFest Co-chairs Charles Araujo (far left) and Anne Karges (far right) presented a check for $45,000 to Shower Power representatives during the Sunday worship service on Oct. 25, representing all the net proceeds from WellsFest 2026. Pictured front from left are: Charles Araujo, Charlene Smith, Glenda Smith, Charles Elliott, Cindy Britton, Anne Karges, (back row) Josh Osborn and Nick Spradley, executive director of Shower Power.

WellsFest Donates $45,000 to Support Shower Power

Wells Church presented a check for $45,000 to Shower Power to aid in its work helping the homeless in Jackson.

The $45,000 "big check" was presented to Shower Power representatives during the Oct. 25 worship service, The amount represented all of the net proceeds raised by the WellsFest festival that was held on Sept. 26.

Nick Spradley, Shower Power executive director, and several of the Shower Power volunteers accepted the donation and thanked Wells.

"Thank y'all so much from the bottom of our hearts...Thank you," Nick said "Thank you guys for everything that went into WellsFest, for organizing it. You guys were awesome. It was a well-oiled machine. It was such a pleasure to be a part of it."

WellsFest Co-Chairs Anne Karges and Charles Araujo praised Shower Power and also thanked WellsFolk who contributed and volunteered.

"We could not have done this without you," Charles said, "Without you none of this would have happened. It is you that make this happen."

Shower Power supports the homeless in Jackson by providing access to hygiene services, clothing, medical essentials, birth certificates and state ID cards. The ministry has grown and is in the process of expanding.

This was our 42 year to hold WellsFest. Each year a different beneficiary is chosen and throughout the years, WellsFest has raised more than $1.6 million for area nonprofits.

All net proceeds go to the beneficiary.



Nov. 1 Jeff Jennings, Tina Jennings
Nov. 2 Francine Reynolds
Nov. 3 Liz Brandon, James Mason, Ron Duerson/Permenter
Nov. 4 Michelle Shrader
Nov. 5 Lynn Forsythe, Amanda Pennington
Nov. 6 Pam Johnson, Gwen McGowan, Amanda Ringer-Pigott
Nov. 8 Kathi Acy, Mark Butler, Foster Wilburn
Nov.10 Kathleen Kelly
Nov. 11 Linda Pilgrim, Will Spell
Nov. 13 Sharon Butler, Jane Everly, Anthony Tonkel Puckett, Bishop Sharma Lewis-Logan
Nov. 15 Ian Watson, Charles Williams
Nov. 17 Ruby Tobias
Nov. 19 Katherine Perkins, Tom Sheffield, Glen Gates Taylor
Nov. 20 Dani Jennings Campeau
Nov. 21 Rusty Perkins
Nov. 22 Hunter Farmer Campbell, Craig Orgeron
Nov. 23 Jill Conner Browne, Me'ah Moreno
Nov. 24 Rose Casano, Richard Campbell
Nov. 25 Kasen Johnson
Nov. 26 Peggy Hampton, Chris Cumbest, Sue Lawrence, Hans Schrock
Nov. 27 Harry Tiebe
Nov. 28 Deborah Blakeney

If your birthday is in November and isn't listed here, please let us know.

2026 Wells Church Giving

Jan.	$44,428	July	$38,437
Feb.	$30,345	Aug.	$25,340
March	$37,910	Sept.	$55,236
April	$39,164	Oct.	
May	$32,575	Nov.	
June	$28,516	Dec.	

Based on the 2026 budget, $43,897 is needed monthly to support operations and ministries of the church in 2026.

Season

Continued from Page 1

May I say it in my beautiful cultural lingo? Thank you for keeping it "100!"

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, Hebrews 12 calls us to lay aside every weight that trips us up and run the race before us, looking to Jesus, who initiates and perfects our faith. We live out that call through our spiritually discerned, faith-filled vision:

"Growing the family of God by following Christ's call to love God and neighbor."

Our mission gives that vision practical expression. At Wells United Methodist Church, we are an inclusive community committed to:

- Loving God and neighbor by welcoming everyone as they are to join us in worship, fellowship and service.
- Caring for the physical and spiritual needs of all God's children through acts of justice and mercy.
- Sharing life and resources in safe spaces where all experience God's grace and belonging.

— SWOT Session II
Oct. 24, 2026

What I value most about the vision and mission statements born from our SWOT process is that everyone had an opportunity to contribute. Could we carry that spirit of collective presence and participation into record midterm turnout on Tuesday, Nov. 3?

Could the values expressed in our vision and mission guide our support for public policies and public servants? Can we look beyond labels, soundbites, and titles to focus on care for our neighbors and the environment, acts of justice, initiatives of mercy and the sharing of human and natural resources?

November turns our attention to "Environmental Justice and Sustainability/Global Missions." We face a pivotal moment when essential natural resources are not only in danger, but also can pose dangers.

As we turn toward the rest of November, these opportunities invite us to remember, serve, give thanks and prepare:

- **Nov. 8:** Honor our members who served in the U.S. Armed Forces
- **Tuesday, Nov. 24, 7 a.m. (Food Preparation) 9 a.m. (Serving):** Tuesday Morning Ministry Thanksgiving Dinner
- **Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-noon:** "O Give Thanks" on Thanksgiving morning worship and family dinner
- **Sunday, Nov. 29:** First Sunday of Advent season

Ecclesiastes reminds us that each season has its purpose. There will be times to mourn, times to laugh, times to gather and times to disperse.

To everything there is a season. Turn, turn, turn.

Write Dr. Logan at DrLoganListening@wellschurch.org.

Wells Memorial United Methodist Church Staff

Dr. Lewis Logan, Pastor

Chuck Reynolds, Choir Director
Jamie Ward, Accompanist
Ashley Rogers, Children's Director
Sue Keen Hyland, Pastor, Tuesday Morning Ministries
Harry Tiebe, Facility Manager
Jane Everly, Pastoral Assistant
Kay Olliver, Treasurer
Elaine Collins, Nursery Coordinator

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Wells Notes

'O Give Thanks'

Wells is adding a new way to give thanks and serve others on Thanksgiving. The church will be offering a special "O Give Thanks" Thanksgiving Day worship service and community dinner in the Tonkel Fellowship Center.



The worship service will begin at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 26, with dinner served at 11 a.m.

Let's give thanks this Thanksgiving by coming together in thanks and love for our community.

Charge Conference

This year's Charge Conference, the church's annual business meeting, will be held following the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 1. There will be a potluck lunch. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Men's Breakfast

The Wells Church Men's Group will meet for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, in the Tonkel Fellowship Center.

This is a time for men to gather for breakfast, pray and share a time of fellowship. Please join us.

November Sermon Focus

Our pastor, Dr. Lewis Logan, will be focusing on a different theme each month. The November theme is: Environmental Justice, Sustainability/ Global Missions.

The scripture of the month of November is: *"Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land."*

—2 Chronicles 7:14

Give Thanks for Diversity

By Ashley Rogers
Children's Director

As a child growing up in the late 80s and early 90s, I am no stranger to the custom of schools hosting Thanksgiving pageants that parade around young students in costumes depicting Pilgrims wearing bonnets and shoe buckles and Native Americans donning culturally insensitive and historically ambiguous vests and feather headdresses.



Rogers

I participated in these programs several times myself, always opting to be on "Team Indian" since I am an enrolled and proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. When I began teaching in 2008, I was relieved to discover that at Green Elementary, there was no expectation of a Thanksgiving pageant and that teachers were welcomed and encouraged to teach broader lessons on what transpired that first Thanksgiving and what uncomfortable truths most picture books omitted.

Now that I have children of my own, I find myself wanting to teach my children accurate history while also leaning heavily into the idea that as children of God, this national holiday can be used to celebrate so much more than a series of events in the past. We can use the time set aside for Thanksgiving to really look around us and give thanks for all of the people, cultures and diverse thought that make up our world.

God loves variety! Just look at the world God created. God didn't make only one kind of flower, one type of animal or one color of bird. Instead, God filled the earth with a beautiful explosion of different shapes, sizes, sounds and colors. The same is true for God's greatest creation: people.

The writer of 1 Corinthians reminds us in Chapter 12 that the church is like a human body. A body isn't just one giant eye or one big foot — it needs many different parts to work properly. Every culture, background, language, religion and unique personality is a special part of God's family. When we come together, we reflect the full picture of God's creativity!

This month, I invite families to focus on giving thanks for the beautiful diversity in our church, classrooms, community and world. Here are some ways to celebrate together at home:

- Learn Someone's Story: Read a book about a different culture or country during family reading time.
- Try New Flavors: Cook a traditional meal from another part of the world and thank God for the people who created it.
- Pray Internationally: Spin a globe or point to a map, and pray together for the children living in that country.

When we appreciate our differences, we show the world what God's love looks like. I pray that as we enter the fall festiveness of Thanksgiving and then quickly pivot to Advent, your family is blessed with the joy and excitement of togetherness and that you create space to reflect and give thanks for all of God's abundant gifts. Thank you for partnering with us as we teach our young people to love like Jesus!

Write Ashley at ashleyrogers@wellschurch.org.

WELLS CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION
Loving • Caring • Sharing
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NOVEMBER 2026

Love God, Love Others and Love Yourself

By Sue Keen Hyland
Pastor Tuesday Morning Ministries

The lectionary text for the last Sunday in October was a familiar passage from Matthew 22.


Hyland

Jesus is asked by the Pharisees which commandment in the law is the greatest. He responds saying to love God with all that you are, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

It's sounds pretty easy, doesn't it? Love God? Got it. Love my neighbor? I can do that too. I look around our city and our world, and it makes me wonder what we've missed, because I am afraid that most days, there's not a whole lot of neighborly love happening.

I've been known to shorten this passage to "Love God and love each other." That's simple. It's easy to say, and sometimes easy to do, but when we shorten those verses in that way, we skip an important part.

It's not actually as easy to love our neighbors as we might hope. I find it difficult when they don't think like me. I find it especially difficult when they cut me off in traffic. I find it especially difficult when their personality doesn't mesh with mine. I found myself trying to give reason to why I might withhold my love, and the only thing that I could come up with is that sometimes I don't love my neighbor simply because I don't want to. What's the big deal? We can't all get along. Does it really matter that much?

Jesus' answer to that would be yes, and here's why. God created you, God created me, God created each of us, and God loves what God created. We will never look into the eyes of a neighbor that God doesn't love, and if God loves them, we must love them too. But "they" aren't the only ones we have to love. If we are going to love our neighbors, we have to love ourselves. How am I to find God's spirit of love within anyone else if I cannot find it in myself.

I hope that during this season of loving and giving to our neighbors, you will also love you. As you lavish love on others, would you lavish that same love on yourself? Would you offer the same grace to yourself that you offer to others, and in your grace offering, would you see how your love for others might change? Would you see how it grows? Would you see how it feels to love you, and love everyone else?

Write Sue at suehyland@wellschurch.org