

Our Ministry Staff

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*Scan the QR code below to give online to God's work at Wesley UMC.  
Your generosity is appreciated!*



**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
130 W. Third St.  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815  
(570) 784-1407  
[wesleybloom.com](http://wesleybloom.com)  
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## Wesley United Methodist Church

*"Joining our neighbors and following Jesus on a lifelong adventure  
to share God's love in new places and empowering ways."*

**February 23, 2025  
10:30 AM**

# WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7th Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 23, 2025 10:30 AM.

**Welcome to Wesley Church!**

*We gather in this place as friends and siblings united in Christ. You are loved and welcomed here at Wesley.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

\*OPENING HYMN "Jesus Loves Me" #191 United Methodist Hymnal

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, we thank you today for the gift of children. For those in our midst and those beyond these walls, we pray. We seek your grace for ways our world hurts children through things done and said, and through things left undone or unsaid. We invite your blessing to be upon each child, those who feel loved and those who do not know safety, peace, or love. May we as a church, always and everywhere, first and foremost, welcome and care for children, near and far. Surround them with your Holy Spirit, that they may feel our prayers and know their worth. This we pray in the name of the one who came to us as a child, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF MEDITATION "Star-Child" #2095 The Faith We Sing Hymnal

SCRIPTURE LESSON(S)

\*GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 10:13-16

Liturgist: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE *Dwell Orphan Care Update* Lynn Warwick, Church Engagement Specialist

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY & PRESENTATION OF GIFTS  
"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" #95 UMH

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN "Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands" #273 UMH

\*ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

\*The congregation is asked to stand as you are able.

*Altar flowers are given by Lisa and Dave Mitchell to the glory of God and in memory of our mothers, Laura Mitchell and Clayone Tweed.*

*Wesley Church holds licenses with CCLI to display hymn lyrics and livestream weekly services.  
CCLI General License #599132 CCLI Streaming License #CSPL118159*

## Prayer List

Family of Nelson Kulp  
Tammy Ambrose  
Family of Pat Frances  
Charlotte Stryker  
Carla Fedder  
Family of Seann O'Brien  
Clare Jackson  
Roberta Berger  
Family of Marjorie Laytar  
William Beyers  
Cheryl Beck  
Family of Dave Ford  
Marlene Hewlett  
Josh Lahr Family  
Stone Family  
Cathy Arnaout  
Bodenman Family  
Cindy Williams

### Active & Former Military

Pat Backer  
Michael Bejger  
John F. Bodenman  
Steven Cornelison  
Marty Davis & Bold Tigers  
Alex Gunsch  
Ashley Long  
Tayler Murren  
Michael Rich  
Joshua Schaffer

Tom Cooper  
Sally Snyder  
Linda Dennen  
Nancy Swisher & Family  
Robin Payne Buchert  
Cameron Murphy  
Barb Riley  
Family of Kathy Bohl  
Donna Wallace  
Dean Shultz  
Mary Jane Parker  
Rick Heddens  
Carol DeGreen  
Kyle Foust  
Glover Family  
Jill Adams  
Family of Fred Bennett  
Sandy Norton

Jason Bejger  
Matt Brewer  
Todd Campbell  
Jason Drumm  
Drue Gerasimoff  
Andrew Hikes  
Gabe Slodysko  
Kayla Baldwin  
Caleb Ross  
Jared Slodysko

## This Week at Wesley

Sun.	2/23	9:15 AM—Sunday School Classes for Adults, Youth, & Children ( <i>Ed. Wing</i> ) 10:30 AM—Worship Service w/ Update on Dwell Orphan Care ( <i>Sanctuary</i> ) 11:30 AM-4:00 PM—Family Covered Dish Lunch & Game Day ( <i>Social Hall</i> ) 2:00 PM—Starlight Ministry ( <i>Coffee Café</i> )
Mon.	2/24	
Tues.	2/25	6:30 PM—Community Bible Study @ Bill's House Apartments ( <i>375 West St.</i> )
Wed.	2/26	6:30 PM—Steering Team/Journey Bank Endowment Meeting ( <i>Coffee Café</i> ) 7:00 PM—Stepping Stones to Recovery, Al-Anon Support Group ( <i>Ed. Wing</i> ) (For more info., e-mail to: <a href="mailto:stepstone2re@gmail.com">stepstone2re@gmail.com</a> )
Thurs.	2/27	
Fri.	2/28	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Sat.	3/1	10:30 AM-12:30 PM—Community Friendship Meal ( <i>Social Hall</i> )
Sun.	3/2	9:15 AM—Sunday School Classes for Adults, Youth, & Children ( <i>Ed. Wing</i> ) 10:30 AM—Worship Service w/ Holy Communion & Cuba Mission Team Report ( <i>Sanctuary</i> ) 2:00 PM—Starlight Ministry ( <i>Coffee Café</i> ) 2:00 PM—Cub Scout Pinewood Derby ( <i>St. Columba RC Church, 342 Iron St.</i> )

## This Week's Staff Office Hours

Staff members are often in the church more than listed below but may sometimes need to miss scheduled hours due to unforeseen circumstances. It's always a good idea to directly contact a staff member to set-up an appointment. Staff contact information can be found on the back of the bulletin.

**Rev. Mark Reisinger, Pastor: Monday-Thursday, 9am-Noon**

**Phyllis Jones, Administrative Assistant: Monday-Thursday, 9am-2pm**

**John Stone, Treasurer: Monday & Wednesday, 9am-2pm**

### Sunday Hospitality Team:

Greeters & Ushers: Men of Wesley (2/23)  
Wendy Krum, Bev Wintersteen, Gloria Young, & Jim Huff (3/2)

Liturgist: Bob Dunkelberger (2/23)  
Kathy Beidler (3/2)

Nursery Attendants: Jane Bercher & Glenda Kowalski (2/23)  
Judy Ryan, Bev & Taylor Wintersteen (3/2)

## Wesley Ministries & Opportunities to Serve

**Children's Nursery & Grace Garden:** A staffed nursery, located in the hallway between the Murray Ave. & Third Street entry areas, is available during worship for children ages 18 months-6 years old. An infant nursery is available down the hall from the primary nursery. Wesley's "Grace Garden," located in the front of the sanctuary, is also available for younger children during worship with coloring books and other opportunities for God's children to engage in quiet play while still being a part of the worship service. Parents are asked to be present with their children while using the Grace Garden or Wesley's infant nursery room.

**Email and Bulletin Announcements:** If you have announcements you would like included in our Thursday church email blast or an upcoming bulletin, please submit to the church office no later than Noon the Tuesday prior. All submissions sent after Tuesday at Noon will be included in the following week's email and bulletin. To contact the church office, email [office@wesleybloom.com](mailto:office@wesleybloom.com), or call 570-784-1407.

**What's Happening @ Wesley Weekly E-mail:** Every Thursday Wesley Church sends out a weekly e-mail that includes the upcoming bulletin and other important announcements and news about what's happening at Wesley Church. If you'd would like to receive this weekly e-mail, contact Pastor Mark: [mreisinger@susumc.org](mailto:mreisinger@susumc.org).

**Wesley Steering Team:** The primary governing body of Wesley UMC, the Steering Team, meets on a monthly basis. All members of Wesley are invited to attend to hear more about the programs and ministries of Wesley Church. A Zoom option is available. Meeting minutes are provided in the Third Street entry area and via our weekly e-mail blast. The ST will next meet on Thursday, March 20, 6:30pm, in the Coffee Café. Contact Pastor Mark ([mreisinger@susumc.org](mailto:mreisinger@susumc.org)) with any questions.

**PAW Ministry:** The latest edition of Wesley's Prayer AnyWhere online prayer ministry, coordinated by Cynthia Willis, is available on Wesley's Facebook page...check it out! [www.facebook.com/wesleybloomsburg](https://www.facebook.com/wesleybloomsburg)

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** All knitters and crocheters are invited to the next gathering of Wesley's Prayer Shawl Ministry on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 1pm in the Coffee Café. If you know someone who would appreciate the comfort a prayer shawl brings, or for additional information, contact Mollie Harris (570-387-0368) or Janet Lee (570-847-4895). The next gathering will be on Monday, March 10, at 1pm.

**Bloomsburg Food Cupboard Collection:** The Bloomsburg Food Cupboard requests specific donations, items that are greatly needed, each month of the year. Please consider picking up a few items to donate, leaving them at Wesley's "Donation Station," just inside the Murray Ave. door or at the designated location in the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. entry area. Specific items being collected in March are rice and canned potatoes.

**Soup For Veterans:** Wesley is collecting cans of soup to be distributed to military veterans through the Columbia County VA Clinic. Bring your cans of soup each Sunday to the table located in the Third Street entry area.

**"Keep It Flowing" Quarter Collection:** The Women of Wesley are collecting quarters! Each month all money collected will be donated to a different ministry of Wesley UMC. Money collected in February will go toward the cost of weekly altar flowers. There's a table in the back of the sanctuary where you can drop your change. In January we collected \$37.32 for Wesley's Prayer Shawl ministry.

**Men of Wesley:** The MoW meet for breakfast at Morris Family Restaurant (6305 Columbia Blvd.) at 8am on the 4th Saturday of each month. The next breakfast gathering will be at on Saturday, March 22. All men are invited to this time of food and fellowship!

## Wesley Ministries & Opportunities to Serve

**Becoming a Member of Wesley UMC:** If you feel as if it might be time, in this new year, to make a new commitment in your journey of following Jesus and participating in the life of Christ's Church, now is a great time to consider becoming a member of Wesley UMC. If you would like to talk more about what it means to be a member, reach out to Pastor Mark (570-784-1407 or [mreisinger@susumc.org](mailto:mreisinger@susumc.org)).

**Sunday School Classes:** Wesley's regular Sunday School classes meet every Sunday morning at 9:15am. All are invited to attend these times of learning & fellowship. Here's a list of our current Sunday School class offerings, all meeting in Wesley's Education Wing (*Flr. 2R*):  
*Adult "Pilgrimage" Class: Rm. 2R-1, Studying Paul's letters, led by Dennis Frohlich*  
*Youth SS Class (Grades 6-12): Rm. 2R-2C, led by Kelly Stiner & Kathy Beidler*  
*Grades 3-5 Kids SS Class: Rm. 2R-2B, led by Jane Bercher*  
*Grades K-2 Kids SS Class: Rm. 2R-4, led by Kathy Heddens*  
*Preschool SS Class: Rm. 2R-4, led by Bev Wintersteen*

**Community Friendship Meal:** Thank you to the groups that volunteered to serve the Community Friendship Meal in 2024! This ministry would not be possible without the many volunteers and groups who help prepare and serve the weekly meal. We are in the process of scheduling groups for Saturdays in 2025. If you know of a group that might be willing to serve, please have them check out the information found on the Wesley United Methodist Church website – [wesleybloom.com](https://wesleybloom.com), and clicking on the Friendship Meal link. Questions can be emailed to Brian & Jane Bercher at [bloomfriendshipmeal@gmail.com](mailto:bloomfriendshipmeal@gmail.com).

**Wesley Church Covered Dish & Game Day:** The Women of Wesley are hosting a covered dish lunch and game day for all to attend on Sunday, Feb. 23, 11:30am-4pm, in Wesley's Social Hall. Bring a dish to share and your favorite board game, card game, etc., to have an afternoon of fun with your Wesley UMC family!

**Ash Wednesday Worship:** To mark the beginning of the season of Lent, a 7-week season of preparation for Easter, Wesley will hold an Ash Wednesday worship service in our sanctuary at 7pm on Wednesday, March 5. All are invited to begin the Lenten journey with this service of repentance that will include the receiving of ashes.

**Online Giving to Wesley UMC:** In an effort to be better stewards of our financial resources and create an easier process for online financial giving to Wesley in 2025, we have moved to a new online giving company, American Church. Reach out to Wesley's Treasurer, John Stone ([treasurer@wesleybloom.com](mailto:treasurer@wesleybloom.com)) with questions and to sign-up for regular online giving. You can also scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin to be taken directly to the site to sign-up for online giving. As always, your financial generosity to Christ's work at Wesley is appreciated!

**Bloomsburg Food Cupboard Donations Needed:** The Bloomsburg Food Cupboard distributes approximately 320 Panther Packs each Friday to local school children to supply them with weekend food. At this time, the Food Cupboard's supply of individually packaged fruit cups is running low. If you could donate a few, the BFC, and the families we serve, would be very grateful! Donations can be delivered directly to the Food Cupboard or brought here to Wesley UMC and left at the "donation station" inside the Murray Ave. entrance. Thank you for giving!

**A special "thank-you" to all who have prepared and delivered meals to Wesley's former Financial Secretary, Cindy Williams, over the last several weeks! Cindy extends her gratitude for all those involved!**

Sunday, February 23, 2025

## Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

*The church is the church only when it exists for others. — Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



Near the quiet town of Nashua, Iowa, nestled among the rolling hills and verdant fields, stands a humble yet iconic place of worship known as The Little Brown Church in the Vale. This charming structure, with its distinctive brown exterior, is more than just a building; it is a testament to unwavering faith, community spirit, and the enduring power of God's love.

The Little Brown Church began at a time when the country was divided by tensions over the issue of slavery. Despite limited resources and the challenges posed by the Civil War, the founders pressed on with their mission. They trusted that God would provide, and indeed, God did. Their perseverance bore fruit, and the church was completed and dedicated in 1864.

In subsequent decades, the church became famous thanks to the popularity of the hymn inspired by this very church, "Come to the Church in the Wildwood."

*There's a church in the vale by the wildwood, / No lovelier spot in the dale;  
No place is so dear to my childhood, / As the little brown church in the vale.*

Refrain

*Come to the church in the wildwood, / Oh, come to the church in the dale,  
No spot is so dear to my childhood, / As the little brown church in the vale.*

Its lyrics speak of a sanctuary that offers peace, comfort and a place to commune with God, far removed from the noise and distractions of the world. The hymn reminds us that no matter where we are, God's presence is a sanctuary for our weary souls.

In the Reconstruction period after the Civil War, the church closed for a while as the country went through an economic downturn. But after reopening, it began to flourish, and today, thousands visit the Little Brown Church every year as tourists, or to worship or even get married. It still stands after a little more than 160 years as a beacon of hope and faithfulness.

Its existence encourages us to remain steadfast in our own lives, knowing that our efforts in the Lord's work are never in vain. "Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, thank you for your church through which you express yourself to the world.  
Amen.*

**Daily Bible Readings**

- Sunday: Romans 1-4
- Monday: Romans 5-8
- Tuesday: Romans 9-11
- Wednesday: Romans 12-16
- Thursday: Proverbs 1-3
- Friday: Proverbs 4-7
- Saturday: Psalms 19-21

## Verse to Remember

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. —Psalm 19:14 (NIV)

## 7-WORD SPLIT

**CLUES**

**SOLUTIONS**

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. To feel relaxed and at ease (11 letters)           | _____ |
| 2. To sip (5 letters)                                 | _____ |
| 3. An unwelcome joke at another's expense (5 letters) | _____ |
| 4. Winsome and attractive (6 letters)                 | _____ |
| 5. To evaluate carefully, consider (5 letters)        | _____ |
| 6. Relative (6 letters)                               | _____ |
| 7. Preparing an orange, say (7 letters)               | _____ |

**DIRECTIONS**

Study the numbered clues in the list to the left. Find a word to match each clue. The number in parentheses at the end of each clue represents the number of letters in each solution. You can only use each letter combination once, but you will need every one to finish the puzzle.

*Answers below.*

<b>PE</b>	<b>PRE</b>	<b>NG</b>	<b>FO</b>	<b>TTY</b>	<b>US</b>
<b>IN</b>	<b>BLE</b>	<b>INK</b>	<b>WEI</b>	<b>RTA</b>	<b>CO</b>
<b>DR</b>	<b>PRA</b>	<b>GH</b>	<b>COM</b>	<b>ELI</b>	<b>NK</b>



**BRAIN TEASER:** Here are three words:  
**job, polish, herb.**  
 What is special or interesting about these words?  
*(Answer to the right)*

**Answer:** Each one is pronounced differently when the first letter is capitalized!

**SOLUTION:**  
 1-com/fo/ta/ble  
 2-dr/ink  
 3-pra/nk  
 4-pre/tty  
 5-wei/gh  
 6-co/us/in  
 7-pe/eli/ng

## WE EXIST TO SUPPORT FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES IN CENTRAL P.A. SO THAT CHILDREN HAVE A SAFE, LOVING, FOREVER HOME IN WHICH TO DWELL.

Every child deserves to know that someone is crazy about them. Being a foster or adoptive family can be a beautiful thing. It can also be brutal. We call that "brutiful". God never intended for us to make this journey alone. We were created for community. The foster and adoptive community needs an army of love and a network of support around them so that they can best love on the ones that God has entrusted to their care. We believe that everyone can do something.

We are helping families remain committed. Raising an emotionally connected child will change the trajectory of their lives. The journey can be challenging. Dwell is here to empower and equip the community to be involved with defending the cause of vulnerable children while also encouraging families in the process. We offer resources that support foster and adoptive families so that children have a safe, loving, forever home in which to dwell.

## HERE ARE SOME WAYS WE SERVE:

### THE HOPE CHEST

The HOPE Chest is our "foster closet". This space serves foster, adoptive, and kinship families that receive emergency placement of children. Often, children enter care with little to no clothing or hygiene items. The Hope Chest provides new and gently used clothing and hygiene kits for vulnerable children to call their own. Items are packed in a new duffel bag or tote because no child should carry their belongings in a trash bag. \*Check our website and social media frequently for updates on current needs and information on donations.

### PARENT CARE GROUPS

Foster/Adoptive parent support groups are offered monthly to enhance connection and provide vital support. Let's face it, this journey is beautiful but it's also brutal. We call that "brutiful"! Come hang out with other parents who "get it".

### TRAUMA INFORMED TRAINING

Throughout the year, Dwell offers trauma informed trainings using the Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Model. TBRI is a therapeutic model that trains caregivers to provide effective support and treatment for at-risk children. TBRI has been applied in orphanages, courts, residential treatment facilities, group homes, foster and adoptive homes, churches, and schools. These trainings will be open to foster and adoptive parents as well as educators, community leaders, children's ministry workers and other adults that work with kids that come from hard places. All are welcome.

### ADOPTION SCHOLARSHIPS

We know the expense for a domestic or international adoption can be difficult. Many of our board members are adoptive parents themselves. Dwell would love to put adoption within reach for more families by providing grants to qualified families in need of financial assistance. We invite you to visit our website for further information on this project.

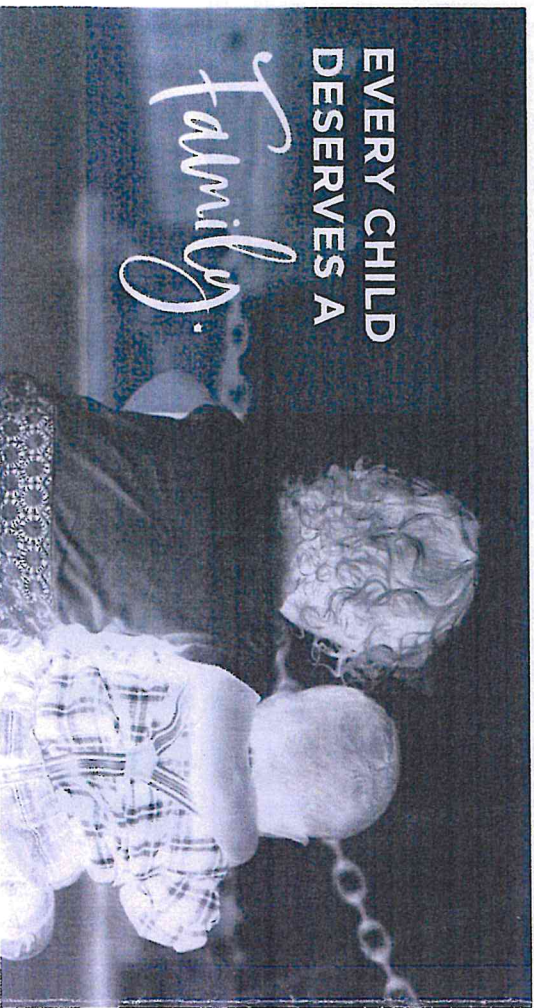
### CARE PACKAGES

When a foster or adoptive family receives new placement of children, we show up with a family care package and dinner! The first few months of a new placement are very stressful on everyone. All items in our Dwell care packages are meant to help encourage attachment and connection as well as offer some respite and fun to the family. Common items include blankets, books, family games, stuffed animals, art supplies, sensory items, lego sets, gift cards and other treats.

### FAMILY ADVOCACY MINISTRIES (F.A.M.S.)

Dwell equips the local church to create support systems for vulnerable children and the families who love them. We recognize the deep need for consistent and sincere love, hope, nurturing, and accountability to help children in the foster care system thrive. We call these support teams Family Advocacy Ministries (F.A.M.S.) Visit our website to learn how your church can step into the space of caring for orphans, vulnerable children, and the families who love them.

EVERY CHILD  
DESERVES A  
*Family.*



### A RECENT RECIPIENT TOLD US:

"Getting that package in that first week of getting our two teen foster kids was an unbelievable encouragement. Knowing that there were people we didn't even know praying for us, and caring about our needs gave us what we needed to love on our foster children even more. We will forever be grateful!"

## FOSTER AND ADOPTION

Every child deserves a family. More than 23,000 children age out of the US foster care system every year. That's a lot of children who have never had the comforts of a stable, secure family unit. Currently in Pennsylvania alone there are over 2,500 children in foster care waiting to be adopted.

Want to be a foster family in Lycoming County or learn more about how to adopt? Foster and adoptive families are always needed and there is a high demand for families willing to foster teens, sibling groups, & children over the age of ten. Visit our website for a list of local, Lycoming County foster care and adoption agencies that can help guide you through the process. You can also contact SWAN (Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network) at 1-800-585-7926 or [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org) at any time to learn more about adoption from foster care in Pennsylvania.

## YOU CAN HELP. YOU HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY.

Whether you're an individual wanting to lend skills, a small business owner looking to collaborate or a local church wanting to get involved in orphan care ministry, Dwell Orphan Care seeks to get the whole community involved with caring for families that are fostering and adopting children.

The stress on a family unit increases dramatically during the first few months of a new placement. Foster and adoptive families working on bonding and attachment often need extra support. They need a team around them.

Could you drop off a meal? Fix a car? Help with homework? Do some landscaping? Help with transportation? Donate diapers, baby items, furniture, etc? Help with childcare (clearances required)? Be a mentor or listening ear and shoulder to lean on for another foster/adoptive family going through a rough time? Consider visiting our website and joining our mailing list. We want to help you be involved!



Contact us to get involved:  
[www.DwellOrphanCare.org](http://www.DwellOrphanCare.org)  
Scan QR Code to go to the website.



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**WE ARE THE**

**VILLAGE.**