

Survey Free Response Comments:

I hope we will continue to develop ourselves as a loving community of worship and service - supporting one another and others on the path of love of God and one another and all our brothers and sisters, whatever their faith. I am very grateful to be a member of this loving community. Thank you.

Continue to spread the word of Jesus along with myself and others.

continue to be a great church that we can call my religious home

great leadership, welcoming to the community, small groups, good music. membership growth

Going forward, continuing to be a welcoming Bible-based congregation with continuing growth in 1) providing children's religious education opportunities and activities, 2) providing community outreach and community charitable giving, 3) supporting (researched) Christian missions/missionaries in USA and abroad, 4) increase in membership, and 5) adding new buildings and/or improvement of existing buildings for JWUMC and community needs as the church continues to grow.

I hope we find a way to reach the unchurched young and old around our community. So many have a clear need for God in their lives but don't know how to get reach the gap. I would like to see an emphasis on trying to invite new people to our services as a regular part of who we are.

The United States population is deeply divided between "liberals" and "conservatives", right and left, Republicans and Democrats, "Trumpists" and non Trumpists, believers of the "Big lie" and non-believers, those who seek truth and fact and those who promote conspiracies... the list goes on. I know our church congregation shares the divisions. What are we going to do about it? Can we talk to each other?

To see: more social involvement with the community in order to help the homeless, the poor, the immigrants, and others who is in need of help. To see: programs aimed at our teenagers to keep them from leaving the church after their confirmation, like music, bands, sports, discussion clubs, etc.

Yes I am staying in the falmouth, ma.

Hope the change of ministers won't change how I feel about the church. Miss the chapel where we had communion EVERY Sunday

Excited for our new pastor, also crying over the retirement of Rebecca. I would like the church to cultivate it's emphasis on it's music and I would like the church to offer a LGBTQIA support groups and meetings. It would be wonderful to see the church reach out to the LGBTQ community to offer support and/also educate the congregation

Pray together, worship together. Continue to do what we are doing even to a higher standard for the best of life and the coming of Christ

I would like to see an emphasis on seeking and growing the church with young families. Young families need our support and love and also the church cannot grow or have meaning unless we have younger families.

I hope the worship service remains gospel based and doesn't completely abandon a traditional worship service for the contemporary music/evangelical style. Don't want to politicize the pulpit. I also wish the intimate chapel service to come back with communion every week.

I feel the church has done a very good job in supporting the community. The community outreach is excellent and should continue.

I know God's church will grow stronger and stronger, younger people and the older will work harder and friendly to open hearts and open doors. John Wesley will always be a strong church. Amen! Letting the children understand more simple questions that teach them about God strengthen their understanding - work on.

Hope for no political rhetoric flow from pulpit. Church is kindness personified. Naturally, I hope the church will continue their acceptance of 12 step programs on their campus. This church is perceived as the "doing" church.

I work full time and grandma of two - I'm pretty busy. I love attending church and enjoy the sales the church has - I look forward to being more involved when retired and have more time to enjoy the bible studies more! I pray for Pastor Rebecca and Pastor Rene and am so happy Rebecca and hubby will continue as parishioners <3

The fact that you are putting out this survey shows commitment. Just keep on keeping on.

That it will continue to have a vibrant Sunday worship focused on living out the word—to love one another and do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Have more children in the church. More young couples.

I pray that God will guide our church in doing His will. That as our church focuses on God and Jesus our faith and love for one another will strengthen in depth and breadth. I hope more people will attend our church, experience meaningful worship services and become better people as they grow in knowledge and relationship. With such realistic goal more gifts will be discerned and more needs met. Our church will be a light locally and globally.

I hope our church will stay out of the divisive political issues that plague our nation. There are two sides to every issue and to placate one side will just inflame the other.

Honestly if it can continue on the current path I would be happy. We are about to go through a major transition with the retirement of our much loved Pastor. Also several very active members have/are recently leaving the church either for relocation or changes in conference policy. I would like to hold on to or grow membership in order to continue our spiritual growth, fellowship and outreach missions.

I would love to see the church provide a contemporary service with lots of contemporary Christian music with a younger choir. No robes. Hearing more "preaching" of the gospel that enlivens the congregation.

Over time, I have become somewhat dismayed with the tone and lessons being taught through the sermons. They have actually caused me to question my faith, my relationship with God and my church. I feel I spend a lot of time in church and doing things for church but nothing for the world or people outside the church. Don't get me wrong, I love this church and the people I have come to know through my activities, but I feel we spend way too much time worrying about and talking about our church and not the world around us. I would really like to see our church become more outward reaching and a real part of the community - more flexible. I would like to see us find ways to move our offerings outside the walls of the church - so that those who are not comfortable walking into a church or being a part of a church can participate in worship and educational offerings. We need to reach people where they are - not try to get them to come to us.

I hope that the new ministry team, minister and music, continue to offer a challenging worship and meaningful worship experience and that the current level of outreach to the community and the world continue to increase.

I would like to see a vibrant church where members are involved in each other's lives. A church that addresses relevant issues facing young people today and a church with a significant number of young people (under 30). A church that loves God and each other deeply and expressively.

I pray that John Wesley will remain a vibrant church in our community. That our new Pastor will continue the spiritual programs that Pastor Rebecca has developed over the last eight years. That we return to the 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday church services. One thing we need now and in the future is more available space. New addition to the Education Wing? Use of the old Parsonage Building as a Thrift store or meeting space?

I hope the church continues outdoor services. I hope covid disappears, as well as the anxiety it causes.

Pray for a wonderful and joyful retirement for Rebeca and John. Support for our new Pastor Rene and Wanda. Continue membership drives.

An athletic church team would be fun or just playing more games, more camps, etc.

Over the next few years I hope that there will be more worship and newer worship.

I hope to see this congregation look outside itself more, and for more members to be mature Christians. Our church is very good at being a social club, raising money, and playing follow the leader. A few members are responsible for almost everything, spiritually and practically, and many people won't take a step without checking with the pastor. More members need to take responsibility for their own inner lives, and then act on that both in the church and the world outside the church walls.

Focus on the Bible Remain true to the Bible Sadly this pastor has decided the future for the church already Why does nobody visit the I'll or even call them?

To increase community outreach. To increase young members and children in our congregation. To participate in more learning experiences.

I believe younger families are needed to become members, in order for this Church to survive.

I would love for the church people to get to know each other better. I also wish that we would have an alternative worship with praise and music. Work with other churches in the area jointly on some projects.

as stated previously, i think it would benefit John Wesley to lean towards a more contemporary service, or at least offer it sometimes. Maybe a saturday evening service? We need live music and an upbeat, younger presence to draw a younger community which is a problem at many churches in NE. i appreciate traditional services, but we are a dying breed. Bible study groups need to be led by qualified people, and leave socializing and talking about unnecessary subject for later. I was really turned off by bible studies that half of the time were taken up by people's medical conditions and status. At the time, i had young children and really wanted to learn. But my time was very limited. Still is. I want to take serious classes and learn.

The church should make a special effort to engage and recruit young families. The efforts of community involvement should be strengthened and encouraged.

I wish for it to grow in number with new families with children; to outwardly talk about more difficult and controversial social and political issues; to offer me more service by personal contact and more non Sunday worship times.

When you asked if church attendance has decreased in the past few years, I said "yes", because of the glaring elephant in the room that wasn't on your list - The Pandemic!

I actually like what this church offers me personally....I enjoy attending the weekly Sunday services, I like that the church opens it's doors to groups of needs within the community, it

shows we are a compassionate and caring church. I like to volunteer with the fundraising events the church occasionally holds...seems to have a very positive impact within the community. The educational programs are not of interest to me, not important. I feel like I belong to a church family. I love John Wesley United Methodists Church!

I love Pastor Rebecca and John!

I wish for the youth program to expand and grow

Vision - JWUMC discerns a 'picture' of who and where we are as a congregation (happening with the strategic plan, I believe). Followed by active engagement within our 'community' (schools, gov't leaders, service organizations, businesses, etc.) understand where we as a congregation can best serve the 'community'. Develop action plans to fulfill the identified needs of the community. And introspectively develop / strengthen a discipleship pathway for all to pursue as so moved.

We need a variety of services and service times to attract a wider more diverse group of people. Including more youth and young adults. I was expecting a larger increase in number of children participating in Sunday school when we hired a full time youth director. Though there has been strong retention of youth.

JWUMC, a fixture in Falmouth for many years, wishing continued growth and renewed friendships.

I pray Rev. Rene Perez will be an excellent pastor and will continue in Pastor Rebecca's tradition - giving excellent sermons and caring for church members.

Bring more outside in with plays, more music

Dream of a live vibrant church with young families and adults.

More youth. A pastor who is caring and preaches Christ.

Covid has influenced some of my answers (such as frequency of church attendance). I have been a member for over 40 years and have seen lots of changes in leadership but not as sweeping as this time. The church has grown from struggling to well established. I have some concern about being too comfortable as a result. We need to improve our worship services - I prefer more formal services than at present (better quality music, for example). I hope we can improve and expand our interactions with the community - we have a lot to offer. I am satisfied with our position on LGBTQ issues. But I have concern for the wider church dealing with these issues. We need to return to more involvement by the congregation in governing the local church.

Churchs everywhere are dying. I want ours to live! I'm scared but not pessimistic.

To be an agent for spreading the Good News to others by word and deed. The church has such opportunities for spreading good will and charity and should let it be known in the community so others may see and want to be a part of spreading the Good News.

Higher involvement in community, other churches, and social issues. Stronger and visible connectional denominational direction that today is almost invisible. Without it we can easily become a church that only exists because of a good minister but an inward thinking congregation.

Church to gather new and additional programs to attract new members and further church programs.

My desire and hope would be to reach out and help our underprivileged population, more than we are doing at this time "in our community".

Help more people in need

My wish for our church's future over the next five years include more involvement of our congregation and community in order to make our church truly stand out from the rest. We have a great church already but even more involvement with the community would make it better.

We currently live in a hurting, broken, and divisive world that is badly in need of the love and hope of Jesus Christ. My vision for our church is to continue to grow not only in size, but more importantly spiritually and in the love of Christ, and to be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus Christ for those who need it.

I would like us to focus more on the Bible and it's teaching rather than political or social issues.

I pray that the church will survive the split and go on as it has been doing.

Church vans would be nice to help transport youth and adults places.

I dream of keeping both the internal warmth and the concern for those outside the doors intact. I wish for a major outreach plan for helping the children:families who are in trouble around us

I would like to see our church do more for our neighboring countries as well as our own community.

Grow the staff to allow for more community outreach & support. Seek out a new unique worship experience that may attract new members without changing the current worship service.

i think this is a great church, very family together , have a good family meals and get together. yard sales and plant sales to help the church, the church is always there to help families or persons having a hard time, i love this church, i am so sorry to see Rebecca leaving, but i have seen many others leave and start a new life, we will be blessed with another great pastor. with heart and soul. Amen

I believe the church needs to focus on attracting younger individuals and families. There are a number of ways this can succeed over the long term such as: 1. Adding a more contemporary worship service in addition to the more traditional service 2. Adding a second full time minister to share duties with the senior minister. 3. Even in the traditional service, introduce somewhat more contemporary Christian music. 4. Building the youth programs to attract young people who can later encourage their parents to attend. 5. More outreach to the community 6. Launch a more robust small discussion group ministry

Our worship experience is strong, our fellowship is also very strong. We are blessed with generous, talented, loving people in our community. Our minister is wonderful. I'd like more short term adult studies. With all due respect, I sometimes think we run the risk of a Christian social club environment...i would would like to see more emphasis on individuals developing our Christian faith and using it in mission.

That JWUMC continues to grow in faith, increase the number of young families with children to attend and offer JW for community use.

Like to see church building expand i.e. second floor for more use for group activities. Add another minister to increase adult activities such as Bible studies.

An awakened awareness of God's universal presence everywhere- in our church but also in the world and in people outside it, attracting others by its message of love, acceptance, and equity for all.

That John Wesley successfully transitions to a new pastor and leadership. Rebecca and John are difficult to replace and have been wonderful to the church and it's family. We need new members to join with us and a new group and generation of leaders to step up and be involved. With God's help that will happen.

I look forward to some innovation by our new pastor. Pastor Rebecca will be a tough act to follow, but we are hopeful and sure that a new regime will reorganize and energize our congregation.

My vision, especially with all our current changes, is to not make significant changes at this time, but to let us all bond together. Between Covid, Pastor retiring, church friends moving away, new pastor coming, I think we need to pause for awhile and regroup, so to speak and reestablish the common bonds that have held us together prior to these difficult times. I highly support our reaching out to our community to help in ways that we can, bring groups into our

church to use the facilities which makes people/groups feel welcome and in itself is an outreach. We have gained a few people that attend our church now coming from, for example, AA.

JWC has great potential. It has something for everyone. We are a courageous church, opening our church to self help groups during Covid and taking stands on controversial issues. We are welcoming, encouraging new people to join into church activities and spiritual programs. We persevere in our youth education programs, knowing the importance of them despite dwindling numbers. We love our Pastor but realize that she cannot stay forever and are ready to welcome our new Pastor and help him to lead us. We lament those who have left us but it's they who have left for their own reasons, and realize that we must continue to forge ahead. We know that we are Jesus' people and that this is His church, and that we must continue to lead and serve in our community and for our God. Thanks for the survey, it was a good self-assessment as well.

I would like to see the church focus on the word of God in the way he has asked us to care for each other here and in the world. I want the church to somehow attract families with children so they can learn the teachings of the bible and to know God. The church to be open to the needs of the community and a place where they feel welcomed. The church to focus its resources on the needs(missions) of people and not the beautification of the building. Feed the world physically and spiritually, accepting all as children of God.

I hope that we retain our spiritual and inspiring worship services. I hope that we are tolerant of people with opposing views and not just the opinion du jour. I hope we can reach out more to those who are ill or shut in. I hope we don't jump on bandwagons. I pray we continue to keep Christ at the center of everything. I hope that we continue all our outreach programs. I like our music program.

That we can attract more young families with children. Families willing to participate in the future of JW. Hoping everyone will embrace the new pastor as we have Rebecca.

I sincerely hope that John Wesley is able to preserve what we as a congregation have built. I recognize it's very easy for me to advocate for the status quo, especially since I'm not doing the work involved in maintaining it! But I believe JWUMC is genuinely exceptional, and change for the sake of change is much more likely to kill the goose than it is to produce a whole bunch of golden eggs. I'd particularly like to advocate against "contemporary" worship services, which alienate the most loyal parishioners without drawing in new members in anything like the size and strength of what we'd be losing. There are many worse things for a church to be than "traditional." Thank you for your time!

This survey and the current movements of church personnel has me uneasy as I look to the future. Our church has few young couples/ younger families and a huge elderly population. With all the changes I worry that people will leave the church and we do not/will not have a younger part of the congregation to grow with the church. We need to do better recruiting

people ages 20-40 if we want to have growth and stability in the future.

That we become a vehicle for support and hope in our community and that we become better at helping individuals develop a personal relationship with God.

I hope that this church may attract younger people, families and diversity. Our community is just more than older, white folks. We began attending because of the beach service and the warmth generated by the minister. I hope that this would extend to more aspects of the church.

The beach services are what attracted us to the church initially. We kind of like things the way they are currently. We appreciate the leadership and guidance of Pastor Rebecca. As far as the future is concerned a lot depends on what the new pastor brings to the table. In any event Pastor Rebecca will be missed.

The church has done well over past few years. We should expand our interaction with the community even more than we currently do (and we do quite a bit). We may not accept this, but our minister is the chief sales person of the church. We should figure out how to expand that role. For example new minister should be active in Falmouth New Comers Group. Recruiting active, well off people does not mean we ignore the less fortunate, we should do that too. For the "Robin Hood" principal to work we need more "rich" people too.....

I have found that this church over the last 12 or so years of being a member has been a loving, accepting, involved, friendly and spiritual place. I do not think it will ever change given the nature of its mission, and the people involved.

I see the congregation continually growing in membership, in involvement in the community, and in recognition as examples of the message of Christ. I see a church community excited about being together as followers of Jesus and sharing that good news.

I hope to combine the past with the present. To keep some of the traditions I so love, while realizing the world is changing, and so are the people with in it and we need to be respectful of that so that everyone feels welcome at JWUM. Also, please keep the live stream going so those of us that live out of state may still continue to attend services even if from afar. Thank you for all you do.