



**THE METHODIST MESSENGER**  
MONTHLY UPDATES OF THE ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
312 E. Main St., P.O Box 236 Fruitland, Maryland 21826

**Our Mission Statement:** We are First and Foremost a Church with the Mission of "Bringing People to Christ and Christ to People".

**For February**

<p><i>I will need everyone's submissions for the newsletter by the 24<sup>th</sup> of every month to get everything together for the following months newsletter. Unless someone wants me to edit something then I will, but if not then I will and paste as is.</i></p>	<p><b>Ushers</b></p> <p>If anybody wants Business Cards then I can make them for you.</p> <p>It comes in 10 on a sheet for \$10 dollars.</p> <p>You can email me for more information.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	<p><b>Birthdays and Anniversary</b></p>
<p><u><a href="#">Paul Nelson</a></u> 417 Snow Hill Rd. Salisbury, Maryland 21804 <u><a href="#">443-591-0494</a></u> <u><a href="mailto:Pnelson37@gmail.com">Pnelson37@gmail.com</a></u></p>		



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Just a reminder of AVON SSS BUG GUARD sales all profits will be donated to St John's. Please call Jean Powell 443-235-2431 for more information.

Thank you for your support!

**Fruitland School**

It's again time to provide 30 children with a weekend food bag. If you would like to help with this Mission's project, we need snack donations of assorted chips or individually wrapped cookies.

Items are needed by the third Sunday of each month starting in September. We will pack the bags after the service on the fourth Sunday.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Frieman at  
410-603-2028.

Thank you for your support.

## One Board Meeting Summary

January 12, 2026

Good news! We ended the year with about the same amount in the budget as we started – approximately \$20,000.

Pastor Shannon proposed a new deaf ministry initiative in partnership with Deaf Independent Living Association (DILA) and she is interested in everyone's thoughts. If we like the idea, her friend Lynn could begin by interpreting worship services twice a month, starting with the first and third Sundays. The previous church in the area to offer this service lost their interpreter a couple of years ago and there is interest among the deaf population in finding a new church home.

The new camera system has been purchased and will soon be installed. We would like to have several people trained on its use.

We are getting bids for the installation of a WiFi enabled thermostat for the Sanctuary so it will be easier to adjust the temperature to a comfortable level by the start of the service.

We are getting a bid for an electronic sign for the front of the church.

There will be additional opportunities very soon if you would like to help clean out and organize some of the storage areas around the church. Next up will be the areas to the left and right of the altar.

Pastor Shannon will soon be asking for volunteers to serve on a Worship Committee. Please consider this opportunity.

***Reminder – Everyone is welcome to attend One Board meetings. See Linda for information.***

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***Reminder – Everyone is welcome to attend One Board meetings. See Linda for information.***

## **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

“To grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.”—Isaiah 61:

3

A faint spirit, the oil of mourning, the ashes of grief—God promises to deliver us from these.

What a blessing it is to serve a God who turns the sorrow of grief into a time of praise!

February is upon us and February 18th is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. On Ash Wednesday, we will recall the biblical custom of covering ourselves in ashes. By doing this, we mark ourselves in two ways: as those who are in mourning for our crucified Christ, and as those who are filled with a heart of sorrow for their sins.

While our Advent celebrations are filled with joy as we remember the birth of our King, Lent is when we focus on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Traditionally, many believers choose to participate in some sort of fasting during this time—people have been known to fast from various foodstuffs as well as television and Internet usage. Others decided to study the Bible more closely or experience a time of solitude. Perhaps you will commit to attending services from now until the glory of Easter, including the Holy Week services, or dedicating a larger portion of your day to a time of prayer.

Whatever your personal preference, Lent can be the time when you decide to let go of old habits and develop a more joyful, Christ-filled way of living. I would like to invite you to join me as we prepare for a time of tremendous spiritual growth and renewal.

Blessings in Christ,  
**Pastor Shannon**

### Sermon titles and scriptures for February

1<sup>st</sup>- God's Promise of Blessing- Psalm 15, Matthew 5: 1-12

8<sup>th</sup>- God's Promise of Guidance- Psalm 112: 1-10, Matthew 5:13-20

15<sup>th</sup>- God's Promise of Freedom- Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119: 1-8

18<sup>th</sup>- **ASH WEDNESDAY- 6 PM**- Since Jesus Came into My Heart- 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

22<sup>nd</sup>- Lenten series “Boot Camp” starts: Need For Change- Psalm 32, Matthew 4: 1-11