



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 March 2026

I will need everyone's submissions for the newsletter by the 24th 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.

Ushers

If anybody wants Business Cards then I can make them for you.

It comes in 10 on a sheet for \$10 dollars.

You can email me for more information.

Thank you

Birthdays and Anniversary

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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.

From the Pastor's Desk

A Season of Turning- Joel 2:12-13 “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Lent invites us into forty days of intentional reflection — a journey that begins in ashes and leads us to the empty tomb. In the United Methodist tradition, Lent is not about guilt. It is about grace. It is about turning — turning our hearts back toward God, turning away from what distracts us, and turning toward the practices that help us grow in love of God and neighbor. As the prophet Joel reminds us, “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful.”

Lent is not a season of shame. It is a season of turning to return to our greatest Love.

Lent lasts 40 days (not counting Sundays), echoing:

- Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness
- Israel's 40 years in the desert
- Moses' 40 days on Mount Sinai

It begins on **Ash Wednesday** and ends as we enter Holy Week. The purple you see in the sanctuary is the color of repentance, preparation, and royalty — reminding us that we are preparing our hearts for Christ the King. This season is historically filled with prayer, fasting and meditation, helping us to strengthen our understanding of and connection with God. May we utilize this season and grow as individuals and as Christ's body, the church! **Blessings,**

Pastor Shannon

Sermon Titles and Scriptures for Lent

March 1st- Reset, Genesis 12:1-4a, Jogn 3:1-17

8th- Hydrate- Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42 (Summary)

15th- Redefined- 1 Samuel 16:1-13, John 9:1-41 (Summary)

22nd- Dead End?- Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11: 1-45 (Summary)

29th- Celebrate and Wait- Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

April 2nd- 6 PM Maundy Thursday Service- The 12 Disciples

April 3rd- 6 PM Good Friday Service- Stations of the Cross

EASTER- The Stories Women Tell, John 20:1-18, Colossians 3:1-4