



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 November

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.

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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

Thank you for your support.

From the Pastor's Desk

Psalm 119:105 NKJV "Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

I think the reference to light is a good one for this time of year. Traffic lights that slow us down on our way to shop. Christmas lights that dazzle and distract. Signs that light up drawing us to the biggest and best sales. But what place does the Light of the World have among parties, shopping, and Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations?

Unfortunately, we live in a world where Jesus is not talked about much in mixed company, and Christmas has been come so commercialized as to be almost unrecognizable as the celebration of Christ's birth. Thanksgiving is a day for spending time with family, eating too much and now, unfortunately, a day where people get a jump on their Black Friday shopping. So how do we bring the True Light back to the focal point? My prayer this year, as we move into Advent, and we light the candle each week is that we use that moment in time to refocus on the reason for the season and allow that image to carry us through each week.

I admit that I will need to be very intentional about not losing sight of Jesus this holiday season. For those who do not know Pastors can get overwhelmed during the holidays, where we balance needs of our ministries, with needs of family and a need for some time to recharge ourselves. It will be a challenge, but it is one challenge that I must succeed in, so I do not lose my focus and joy, in the holiday season I love. This is a time where splitting focus can be dangerous and cause us to live too much of this world. As your pastor I will be praying for you this Thanksgiving and Christmas season and I would ask the same from you.

Blessings,

Pastor

Shannon

November Scriptures and Sermon Titles

2nd- All Saints Day- Inheritance- Ephesians 1: 11-14 Early, 15-23 Late

9th- Homecoming Service/Communion with meal to follow- A God Worth Living and Dying
For- Psalm 145:1-5,17-21, Luke 20: 27-38

16th- Endure, Rejoice, Repeat- Isaiah 12, Luke 21: 5-19

23rd- Rooted in Righteousness, Watered by Grace- Col. 1:11-14, Jeremiah 23:1-6

30th- ADVENT- Exchanging Despair for Hope- Psalm 121:1-8, Matthew 24:36-44

Communal Prayer

"Lord keep us focused on you this holiday season. Keep us from getting caught up in the commercialism and excess of the season. Allow us to see others in need and to show the love that Christ showed us when He took human form. Please help us to make time for you during the holidays. Amen."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ONE BOARD MEETING – OCT. 14

Financial Status

- The balance in the Operating Budget at the end of September was \$8,854.23. We still have two large bills that will be due this year – an insurance payment and an apportionment payment. Weekly donations continue to fall below the amount needed to fully meet our obligations. A successful Bazaar is critical for us to continue to have a positive balance. The good news is that we have not had to ask the Trustees for funds to cover operating expenses so far this year.
- The current balance of the Mid-Atlantic investment for the Endowment Fund is \$478,292 and the balance in the Trustees account is \$28,234. The bill to cover the recent water leak must still be paid.

Additional Business

- To help secure the building, a camera will be installed at the exit near the Men's Kitchen because that door has been left open several times recently and no one knows who is using it.
- To comply with requests from our new insurance company work days are being scheduled over the next several months to clean out/organize storage areas to ensure walkways are clear. We are also contacting foundation companies so the water issue in the basement is properly addressed.
- We are investigating the following:
 - An electronic sign in front of the church
 - A new camera to video the service
 - Use of electronic giving in addition to traditional methods
 - A new photo directory
- We endorsed Pastor Shannon's ideas to:
 - Form a Worship Committee
 - Hold a Leadership Retreat in January to ensure everyone on One Board understands their role and responsibilities

Questions? Ask any One Board member.

Laverne Gladmon, Lori Nelson, Alice Ledger Ness,
Buddy Pennewell, Melissa Richardson, Linda Stark,
Roger Vandergrift