



**THE METHODIST MESSENGER**  
**NEWSLETTER 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 July 2024*

**Nursery duty**

First Sunday Nancy Ruark  
 Second Sunday Pat Kern  
 Third Sunday Patti Miller  
 Fourth Sunday Dudley Bowman  
 Fifth Sunday David Craft

**Money Counters**

1st Sunday Steve Carey (key) 410-603-4877  
 Ellen Vandegrift 410-726-5730  
[evandegrift@ymail.com](mailto:evandegrift@ymail.com)

2nd Sunday Kim Ruark 443-880-3291  
[kruark.cpa@yahoo.com](mailto:kruark.cpa@yahoo.com)  
 Judy Elliott (key) 302-381-2641

3rd Sunday Frank and Jennifer Frieman 410-603-2028  
[jfrieman@comcast.net](mailto:jfrieman@comcast.net)  
 Ellen Vandegrift (key) 410-726-5730  
[evandegrift@ymail.com](mailto:evandegrift@ymail.com)

4th Sunday Kim Ruark 443-880-3291  
[kruark.cpa@yahoo.com](mailto:kruark.cpa@yahoo.com)  
 Judy Elliott (key) 302-381-2641

5th Sunday Substitutes Kelly Johnson 410-251-6853  
 Pat Kern 443-783-6423  
[epkern67@comcast.net](mailto:epkern67@comcast.net)  
 Ellen Vandegrift (Key) 410-726-5730  
[evandegrift@ymail.com](mailto:evandegrift@ymail.com)

Extra Key – Laverne Gladmon 410-941-3247  
[lgladmon@yahoo.com](mailto:lgladmon@yahoo.com)

7 Flo  
 14 Buddy  
 21 Lori  
 28 Patty

**Children Message:**

**Pat**

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**Ushers:**

**John Watcher**

**David Craft**

**Ellen Vandegrift**  
 410-726-5730 [evandegrift@ymail.com](mailto:evandegrift@ymail.com)

Paul Nelson  
 417 Snow Hill Rd.  
 Salisbury, Maryland 21804  
 443-591-0494  
[Pnelson37@gmail.com](mailto:Pnelson37@gmail.com)

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**Scriptures**

**Birthdays and Anniversary**

1 Anna Richardson  
 4 Carrie Taylor  
 6 Lance Ness  
 7 Tim Dennis  
 8 Riley Bowman  
 Lori White Nelson  
 Lisa Marvel  
 10 Alexandra Wakeman  
 12 Darrell Jackson  
 13 T.G. Hutchison  
 22 Murray Shores  
 23 Karen Sadvari  
 25 Sylvia Shores  
 Dudley Bowman



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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!

July 27<sup>th</sup> Lions club of Fruitland is hosting BBQ chicken event at Redmans Lodge. Chicken is usually ready by 10am

Beautiful Children of God who express your faith through St John's UMC,

I am so excited to begin my time with you. My first act is one of pastoral care. I would like to meet with each one of you. As we share a beverage or a meal I want to hear about your faith background, what excites you about being part of a faith community - specifically why you are here at St John's, and what you may need next as you continue to grow closer to God, God's people, and all of God's creation. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are dedicated to St John's and the surrounding community. So let me know when and where you would like to connect – in person (you choose the location), through Zoom (I will send you a link), or even through FaceTime, Video Messenger or an old school phone call. I have openings on other days other as well. I will bring a sign-up/schedule for July and August to church with me the first Sunday we worship together, but you can reserve a time to connect now by texting me (302-985-7603). I look forward to hearing from you.

I would also like you all to watch Bishop Esterling's sermon from Annual Conference this past month. You can find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRaPZX-OUIY>

Her message begins at about 31 minutes. Please give yourself at least 30-40 minutes of uninterrupted time to take in what she has to say. You may want to take notes or watch it more than once. I have done both.

I would like to gather with a few people (4-6) at a time to discuss Bishop Esterling's message. I will come to your home, meet at the church, or gather in a public place. We can share a meal, a simple beverage or dessert, or simply enjoy and allow the conversation to sustain us. The choice is yours. You get to create the environment and experience for those you invite. This is a place for those gifted in hospitality or shepherding to shine! Feel free to invite family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. If you are feeling called to be a host such an evening and you don't know where to begin, reach out to me and we will create this together. I will facilitate these group conversations, we will see where the Spirit leads, and at the very least, we will have a time of love, laughter, and getting to know one another.

Please text or call to let me know if you are eager to host or participate in one of these groups.



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July 2024

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Independence Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> VBS decorating and rehearsal 9 am  Seventh Day Adventist worship 9am-1 pm
<b>7</b> Worship and Sunday School 10:30 am  Covered dish lunch after church	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Seventh Day Adventist worship 9am-1 pm
<b>14</b> Worship and Sunday School 10:30 am	<b>15</b> VBS 6-8:30 pm	<b>16</b> VBS 6-8:30 pm	<b>17</b> VBS 6-8:30 pm	<b>18</b> VBS 6-8:30 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Seventh Day Adventist worship 9am-1 pm
<b>21</b> Worship and Sunday School 10:30 am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Seventh Day Adventist worship 9am-1 pm
<b>28</b> Worship and Sunday School 10:30 am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			



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One Board Meetings,

It has been brought to our attention that perhaps it is not clear who is able to attend One Board Meetings. Most meetings are open, any active participant may attend, and may offer their opinions on what the Board is discussing but only members have a vote. At the end of some meetings the Board may transition into "executive session" where confidential matters (such as would have been discussed by the SPRC, will be discussed, at that point, only Board members may remain in the room. In the interest in openness and communication, we hope some of you will attend.

Thank you

It is hard to find the words to thank you all. Thank you for the last ten years, thank you for the lunch and all the hugs and heart-felt good-byes and thank you for the very generous gift. I will never forget you, and will always give thanks to God for all the things we shared.

I will keep you in prayer as you host VBS, and hope everything goes well, and I know you will plant some seeds of faith in the children not knowing how it will grow. This is important work and I commend you all for the way you embrace it.

May God continue to bless the ministry of this church and may you and Pastor Carm explore new ministry paths together.

With love and prayers,

Karen