



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 December

<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>Ushers</p> <p>Jennifer & Frank Frieman jfriedman@comcast.net</p> <p>Ellen Vandegrift vandergrift@ymail.com</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>Birthdays and Anniversary</p>
<p><u>Paul Nelson</u> 417 Snow Hill Rd. Salisbury, Maryland 21804 <u>443-591-0494</u> <u>Pnelson37@gmail.com</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.

Greetings in the name of Jesus the King!

Welcome to the Advent season! Can you think of some of the Biblical themes of this season? Certainly, the love and faithfulness of God our Father is high up there, but have you ever considered the idea of *hope*? Although it may not be the first thing that comes to mind during the Christmas season, there is much to consider.

Hope is a very prominent theme in Advent. The anticipation of the coming Messiah is always in light of the hope we have in his return. Just as the Israelite hoped for their deliverance, we too look forward to the final deliverance. Christ's return in glory where he will create a new heavens and a new earth. As the prophet Isaiah proclaims:

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

*They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31*

God has promised us deliverance. God encourages us by his Holy Spirit, to cling to the promises, to love God's word and to cherish God's statutes. God makes clear paths for our feet so that we continue to press forward in a world which is often so dark. We eagerly anticipate the coming of our Lord, who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn 1:4).

Come and let us rejoice in the hope of our Lord. Amen.

Blessed Advent,
Pastor Shannon Harris

December Sermon Titles and Scriptures

7th-Anxiety for Peace- John 14:25-28, Romans 15:4-13

14th- Sorrow for Joy- Psalm 30, Luke 1:47-55

21st- Fear for Love- 1 John 4:7-19, Matthew 1:18-25

24th- 4:30 Christmas Eve- Darkness for Light- Luke 2:8-14, Isaiah 9:2-7

28th- Carol Sing (Pastor Off)

Community Prayer

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace each day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give. Today may we be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today may we be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. Let us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Written by Ruth C. Duck in *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, Updated (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2012), 5. For use in worship, using the following attribution: Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press.



GIFT EXCHANGE: DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Use these daily scripture readings to invite your congregation into personal daily devotions. You might create a bulletin insert or bookmark with the daily scriptures and series logo to give out the first week of the series. To go a step further, provide some teaching about how to read scripture for personal devotion. For example, you could introduce a practice like [*lectio divina*](#).

Daily scripture readings can also serve as the basis for daily posts on Facebook or Instagram. Include a discussion question that connects the scripture reading to the week's worship theme.

Week 1: Despair for Hope

Sunday – Psalm 121:1-8
Monday – Psalm 21
Tuesday – Isaiah 41:14-20
Wednesday – Romans 8:24-2
Thursday – Ruth 1:6-18
Friday – Psalm 146:5-10
Saturday – 1 Samuel 2:1-8

Week 2: Anxiety for Peace

Sunday – John 14:27
Monday – Psalm 124
Tuesday – Philippians 4:4-7
Wednesday – Isaiah 54:1-10
Thursday – Isaiah 4:2-6
Friday – Luke 12:22-43
Saturday – Isaiah 30:19-26

Week 3: Sorrow for Joy

Sunday – Psalm 30
Monday – Psalm 42
Tuesday – John 10:10
Wednesday – Psalm 80:1-7
Thursday – Ezekiel 47:1-12
Friday – Revelation 21:3-4
Saturday – Revelation 21:5-7

Week 4: Fear for Love

Sunday – 1 John 4:7-19
Monday – Psalm 33
Tuesday – Isaiah 9:2-7
Wednesday – Psalm 145
Thursday – Psalm 147
Friday – Psalm 102
Saturday – John 15:12-17

Week 5: Meaninglessness for Purpose

Sunday – Jeremiah 29:11
Monday – 1 Peter 2:9
Tuesday – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Wednesday – Matthew 28:19-20
Thursday – Romans 8:28
Friday – Matthew 5:13-16
Saturday – Ezekiel 34:11-16



Christmas 4



Fruitland Police Department
208 S. Division St.
Fruitland MD 21826



Hello

Fruitland Police Department is seeking help from the community to assist with contributions for our 2025 Christmas for Kids Program.

Over the last 10 years, we have had great pleasure in helping more than 500 kids have a better and brighter Christmas. This year, FPD is partnering with local churches to provide children with presents from "Santa" on Christmas morning. FPD will also be partnering with the Fruitland Fire Department to conduct our annual Toy Parade, where Santa will be handing out toys to all children in the community from the back of a fire truck.

Without the help and support of the community, it would not be possible to provide great programs. The goal of the Fruitland Police Department is to continue to make a difference in the community and improve the quality of life for our residents. With the help of donations from supporters such as you, we will continue to see improvements in our community in 2025. Our donation goal for 2025 is \$3,000.00!

We would appreciate any help you may provide to help us in our efforts. We hope to hear back from you soon!

To make a donation, please see the attached donation form. Let's make the children of Fruitland smile!!

Officer First Class Chelsea Griffin
Fruitland Police Department

208 S. Division St.
Fruitland, MD 21826
Phone: 410-548-2803
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Her email is: cgriffin@fruitlandpolice.com