



DEEP ROOTS VISIBLE GRACE

February/March 2021

A newsletter for the families and friends of New Market UMC.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



Valley of the Shadows

I think as we look back at the past year and look forward to the year to come, we can experience many feelings of uncertainty. It seems that we have emerged from the dark shadows of 2020 and still have trouble seeing the light. Many of us have lost loved ones expected and unexpected, lost jobs, lost work hours, lost community, lost rhythm, and may be on the verge of losing hope. That is why I think during this Lent it is so important to not only look at the cross but to fall on our knees and squeeze the life-giving essence out of it and into our very souls. There is hope at the cross, there is promise at the cross, there is redemption at the cross. During each Sunday of this Lenten season, I will be concentrating on one of the seven words that Jesus spoke from the cross.

In the Episcopal tradition, these reflections would have been done in three hours on a single night during the Good Friday service. I believe that neither you, nor myself, have that kind of stamina, so the Sunday's during Lent it is. To assist me in these reflections I will be utilizing two main resources, Fleming Rutledge's "The seven Last Words from the Cross" and Adam Hamilton's "Final Words". I will also use Hamilton's book for our Thursday evening Advent studies.

In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven "final words", statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves.

Sunday 02/21- **Father Forgive Them**- Genesis 9: 8-17 and 1 Peter 3: 18-22

Sunday 02/28- **Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother**- Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 and Mark 8: 31-38

Sunday 03/07- **My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?**-Psalm 19 and 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

Sunday 03/14- **Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise**- Numbers 21: 4-9 and Ephesians 2: 1-10

Sunday 03/21- **I Thirst**- Jeremiah 31: 31-34 and Hebrews 5: 5-10

Palm Sunday 03/28- **Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit**- Philippians 2: 5-11 and Mark 11; 1-11

Good Friday- 4/04- **It Is Finished** Isaiah 52:13-53 and John 18 and 19

In-Person Worship to Resume on February 17, Ash Wednesday

The Home Safe Team has convened in January and February and has determined to resume in-person worship for Lent. The first service will be at **7:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, February 17th**. The first in-person worship service for the 11:00 a.m. service will be on **February 21st**.

The factors considered in making this decision were based on the following criteria.

1. A congregant who was present in worship on Christmas Eve and the last Sunday in December tested positive for COVID-19. The protocols that your Home Safe Team established for inside worship were effective and no other worshipers became ill.
2. The positivity rate for Frederick County has started to decline.
3. Available beds at Frederick Health Hospital have increased.
4. The beginning distribution of the vaccine with our elder members who have had the opportunity to get vaccinated has begun and is underway.

The Team made the decision to resume worship with two caveats in mind.

1. In-person worship would be suspended for at least 30 days if a positive case is reported by a congregant who was present in worship.
2. That every person present in the sanctuary adhere to all the protocols set forth by the home safe team, as outlined below.

In-Person Worship Protocols:

- A. Please take your temperature at home. If it is registering out of your normal range, or above 99.9, please stay home. If you have a fever, feel ill, or feel you are at high risk for COVID-19, please stay home and worship with us on-line.
- B. To make sure we have a place for you and your family-- and to adhere to the CDC guidelines of contact tracing-- **you must sign-up that you are attending this service** online or by calling the church office. Failure to sign-up will result in your having to wait outside until the service starts to see if the service is not at capacity. Priority will be given to members of NMUMC. The current capacity is 30 persons on the first floor and 10 persons in the loft.
- C. Please wear a mask that fully covers your nose and extends to your chin, from the moment you leave your car until you return to your car.
- D. Please maintain 6 feet of physical distance from all those that do not live in your home. (Pews have been separated in the sanctuary to maintain this safe distance.)
- E. Please refrain from all physical contact including handshakes, hugs, etc. Air hugs are great!!
- F. Please wash your hands with soap and water or utilize hand sanitizer every time you enter our building (Touchless sanitizer dispensers are available when you enter and exit the building).
- G. Please ensure that children 5th grade and younger are always accompanied by an adult who is mindful of their physical distancing and hand/face hygiene.
- H. Bathrooms will be available with sanitation stations in each one.
- I. All doors will remain open before and after the service for safe entry and will be clearly labeled entrance and exit only. The stairs to the loft are similarly marked.
- J. No congregational singing is allowed at this time.

While on our property, we appreciate everyone's cooperation in following these precautions to keep our community safe. Please know these guidelines may be stricter than mandated. ***Our priority is your health.*** The Zoom worship will continue at 9:30 a.m. until the weather is conducive to return to the parking lot. The on-line worship will be new every week and can be accessed from our web page. Please continue to keep the Home Safe Team and our worship teams and services in your prayers. We thank you for your patience and your flexibility.

NMUMC Home Safe Team

On-line Small Group Gatherings

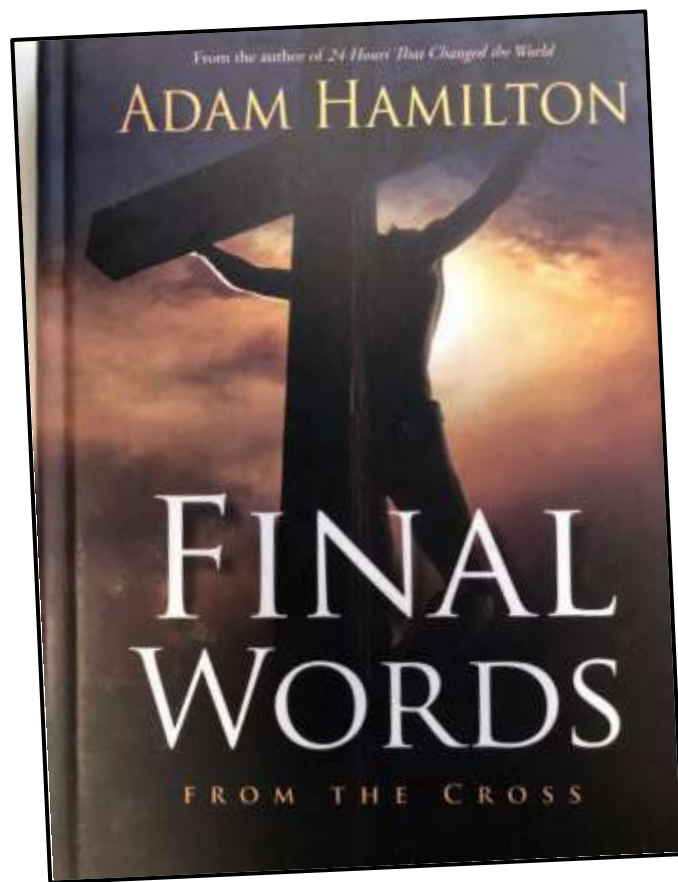
Lenten Small Group Study

In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven "final words"—statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves.

Mark Your Calendars!

Join us on Zoom on Thursday evenings during Lent as we explore Adam Hamilton's "**Final Words from the Cross.**" Each Thursday, we will examine one of the statements that meant so much to Jesus that they were the last words he spoke in his human form. **The Lenten Small Group Study, led by Pastor Scott, will begin on February 18, and continue into Holy Week.** The study will be held from **7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

We have six books available; if you are interested contact Pastor Scott. The book used in the study can also be purchased through Abingdon Press or [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). A zoom Link will be communicated next week.



New Zoom Bible Study With Pastor Jay:

Join **Pastor Jay** in a study of the book of Mark. Weekly on Wednesday at 7 p.m. or Thursday at noon.

[Click Here](#) to join on Wednesday's at 7 p.m.

Meeting ID: 942 2332 5887

Passcode: 490451

[Click Here](#) to join on Thursday's at noon.

Meeting ID: 997 5414 6075

Passcode: 540785

In person adult and children's Sunday school have been suspended until further notice. Groups will meet by Zoom only.

Lenten Devotions

Lent in a Bag for Adults

What is “Lent in a Bag?”

“Lent in a Bag” equips you with symbols of the season of Lent to help you have prayer or conversation at home.

Instructions for Devotions

For your own devotion, daily or weekly, choose one of the symbols to reflect on as you make your way through the season of Lent. Invite those around your table or by yourself, to pick one of the symbols as a starting point for conversation for the meditation.



Sand:

Hold the container of sand in your hand. Read and reflect: Between his baptism and the beginning of his adult ministry, Jesus went into the wilderness, crossing the desert and rocky earth for 40 days, “to be tested.”

What constitutes wilderness in your life? What have you learned there?

How do you know you have left the desert or wilderness for a new life in Christ?

Rock:

Take the rock out of the bag. Read and reflect:

While in the wilderness, Jesus was invited to transform stone into bread. Though he resisted the temptation there and then, he became justly renowned for feeding people who were hungry for food, or for love, or for a word of encouragement, or simple acceptance. Might there be a stony place in you that needs transforming? Some attitude or habit that, with a little attention, might even become a gift for you and others? Are there stones you are still holding onto (anger, remorse, regret, judgment) that need to be dropped? Drop the stone (John 8a: 1-11) as the men did in this story, keep on dropping it until you are free from this burden, or carry it in your pocket during Lent to remind you of the grace that Jesus offers.

Human Figure (Fork Person):

Find the Fork Person figure. Read and reflect:

Because Jesus was, as we confess, fully human, he gets us, understands us from inside our skin, and knows from experience that we are each capable of great things, Godly things. And no matter what we do, he keeps on inviting us to join in his work, which has become our own work. This Lent, what might you plan to do over these 40 days?

When Easter arrives, will you reflect Christ who lives in and through you?

Candle:

Light the votive candle. Read and reflect:

Lent begins in the dimness of late winter and ends with the burst of bright spring. Jesus is, according to John’s gospel, the “light of the world.” That light shone brightly in the disciples, who chose to follow Jesus. Jesus insists to us that we are the light of the world. So where do you shine? How do you keep your light lit? How can you help “light” others with hope?

Special Thanks to Sharon Coleman

SPRC and all the folks at New Market would like to thank Sharon for her many years of service as our church secretary. Last fall, Sharon accepted a position as a teachers aid at HOPE preschool and was also performing the duties of secretary at NMUMC. After much discernment she has decided that the demands of teaching at the preschool and managing a family does not leave enough time or energy in the day to continue to accomplish the secretary demands at NMUMC. We would like to thank Sharon for all of her care, concern, and diligent work ethic that she has brought to NMUMC. If you would like to send a card of thanks or a gift showing your appreciation, you can send it to:



Sharon Coleman
6705 Hemlock Point Rd
New Market, MD 21774

Opportunities to Serve

SPRC, in conjunction with the finance team, have decided not to hire a replacement secretary at this time for NMUMC. A decision will be made in the spring after more information can be secured to ensure monetary support for the position. Until then we are looking for volunteers to help at the office on a regular basis.

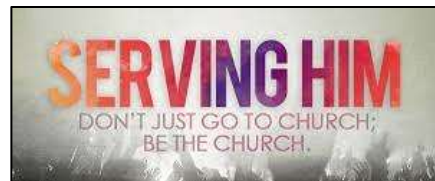
Office Volunteer A

Weekly- Print and fold bulletins if needed in the future.

As Needed- Update church triangle sign.

As Needed- Special printouts (poinsettia, easter flowers, flyers, Jesse tree labels).

As Needed- Update church brochures.



Office Volunteer B

As Needed- Update church directory, update church records, (i.e., baptisms, deaths, membership).

As Needed- Keep church calendar updated with meetings, groups, and rentals.

As Needed- Create sign-ups for services and ministry drives.

Office Volunteer C

As Needed- Wedding coordinator for New Market and Fairview Chapel

Church Council Recording Secretary: Attend all council meetings via zoom or in person to take minutes. Church Council meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (must be a member)

Mini Pantry Organizer and Leader: To weekly check on supplies and order needed items to keep the pantry fully stocked. Collaboration with Grace Episcopal Church to retrieve their donated items. Communication to community about food drives and available items that are available at the food pantry. Pantry will be installed on March 13th at the Ed Building. (See page 7)



Hope 4 Kids Food Packing:

will be packing food packs on Monday, February 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the New Market UMC Schoolhouse building. As of now, all spots are filled, but we do have a few substitute spots open. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication with Hope 4 Kids!

[February 15 H4K Packing](#)

[March 15 H4K Packing](#)

Hope 4 Kids' Valentine

Hope 4 Kids wishes to send out Valentine's Day wishes to some very special folks who help keep our mission alive!

Kurt Cooper has been H4K's treasurer for the last 7 years!

Mike Schaeffer has worked with the food bank and is the brains behind the excel sheet madness!

At New Market: **Matthew Coffey, Kelly Herzing, Joann Price and Mary Lou Benota** make sure everything runs smoothly at packings

Missy Cooke always has our labels created so we stay organized!

Amanda Berry, Dave Loudermilk and Tom Geary have served as critical members of H4K, ensuring the food packs are delivered to the schools weekly

Andrew and Rebecca Hodgkins, John and Diane Derr, and Shawnee Shaw for your willingness to shop and pick-up food from the food bank for H4K!

Thank you for your time, energy, and mileage dedicated to Hope 4 Kids, especially during this unique time!



Ladies In Faith Together

LIFT meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. by Zoom. All women of all ages are invited!!!

Each meeting is full of thoughtful conversations, games, book recommendations, and devotions.

Zoom links will be in the Thursday emails but to make sure you don't miss anything, email Donna at declawson16@gmail.com to get on the LIFT email.



"Let the little children
come to me"
Even by Zoom!!

**Zoom Sunday school every other
Sunday starting February 21st
at 1:00 p.m.**

Lent bags that have the materials for each Zoom class, and a few extra fun things, are now available in the kitchen of the Ed Building. You can pick them up at any time.

Can You Really Have Fun While Helping Others? Absolutely!!



Painting Parties Have Begin at Crossroads Freedom Center

The apartments are ready for painting and we would like to organize a weekday crew and a weekend crew. There will be painting parties held every Saturday at 10 a.m. and every Thursday at 10 a.m. until the apartments are completed. We will meet at the center 4730 Ijamsville Rd, Ijamsville, MD 21754. Please bring your own paintbrush, pan, and roller. Please Contact Pastor Scott if you plan on attending. 240-409-8119

Mini Outdoor Food Pantry

Coming this March, NMUMC will have its own mini food pantry! Boy Scout Troop 628 will help Nick Clague install the pantry on the northern side of the Ed Building as Nick's Eagle Scout Project. Stay tuned for communications about our first food drive to fill the pantry.



To Mars and Beyond!!!

Vacation Bible School 2021

We are looking for volunteers to help NMUMC put on the best VBS possible considering the current circumstances. We have tentatively set the date as August 2nd through August 6th at 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m. Contact Pastor Scott at pastorscott62@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Easter Egg Roll or Parade!

Save the Date:
March 27th 2021,
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The outreach team is in the planning stages of how to have a safe and fun Easter outreach with the community. This may involve a parade/scavenger hunt through town or socially distanced safe games. Stay tuned and let Linda New know if you would like to volunteer or become involved. Linda can be reached at 301-882-7151





Finance Team News

NMUMC By the Numbers for December are:

Category	Amount
Deposit Totals	\$24,975.38
Regular Offering	18,753.38
Building Fund	100.00
Christmas Offering	1,100.00
Cup of JOE Ministry	
Debt Reduction	2,350.00
Hope 4 Kids	105.00
Memorial Fund	
Organ Fund	300.00
Parsonage Rent	2,100.00*
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	100.00
Pre School Rent	
Thanksgiving Offering	50.00
Upper Room	17.00
Online Giving Totals	\$3,435.21
Regular Offering	3,351.70
Online Fees	83.51

Christmas Offering

Thank you for your support of the Crossroads Freedom Center which was designated as the recipient of the Christmas Offering in 2020. This ministry, provided to help men on their road to recovery from addiction, is a one- or two-year residential program on their campus in Ijamsville.

A total of \$1,675 has been donated and is being sent to Crossroads.

NMUMC By the Numbers for January are:

Category	Amount
Deposit Totals	\$11,102.64
Regular Offering	8,050.64
Building Fund	
Christmas Offering	575.00
Cup of JOE Ministry	
Debt Reduction	1,250.00
Hope 4 Kids	65.00
Memorial Fund	
Organ Fund	150.00
Parsonage Rent	*
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	1,000.00
Pre School Rent	
Thanksgiving Offering	
Upper Room	12.00
Online Giving Totals	\$1,574.44
Regular Offering	1,550.10
Online Fees	24.34

*Oct/Nov rent both received in Nov; Jan 2021 rent received in December

Replenishing Funds Used to Pay Off Loan

Through January, a total of \$16,200 has been credited toward replenishing the \$32,000+ in funds that were taken from the checking account to pay off the loan on the parsonage and schoolhouse. These funds are from donations, parsonage rental, and the Thanksgiving offering.

Donations to our debt reduction initiative are still being accepted.

Pastor Scott Clawson
 E-mail: hometownchurch@comcast.net
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