

January | February

NEWSLETTER

"So This is Christmas?"

As I was struggling with the task of writing the Pastor page for our January/February Newsletter, I confided in our administrator, Amanda, of my entire lack of interest in doing so (when I say confided I mean complaining). She suggested to just take a hymn and re-interpret it. Well, so much for that. I did start thinking about John Lennon's song "So This is Christmas". The song encompasses all my hopes for Christmas and the coming of the new year.

At the end of every year I ask myself the same question that John Lennon asks: **"And what have we done? Another year over and a new one just began."** What have we done? We have diligently been working on the feasibility of the concept of new ministry spaces with mixed results and, yet, with a very dedicated VAL team we press on. We immersed our youth group with field trips to destinations (African American Museum, Flight 93, a ghost walk, and trip to Museum of the Bible) that sparked deeper discussions about God and how we interact in our world. All of our special events were a huge hit (Easter Egg Roll, Trek or Treat, and Christmas in New Market) and we also added some new relationship building events with 5th Sunday pot lucks and Spaghetti Dinners. Our Sunday Schools continue to be strong, and we have one of the most active women's groups in the Frederick district. Adult studies remain steady, although my wish for the New Year is to grow our Tuesday morning study. We continue to meet people with food insecurities through H4K and the 24/7 Pantry. The preschool remains at capacity. Our finances are strong. God is good.

"And so this is Christmas, I hope you had fun. The near and the dear ones, the old and the young. A very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year, let's hope it's a good one, without any fear."

With all that is going well there are also things that could be better. Despite all our loving endeavors there is still overwhelming needs that are not being met not only in our world, but in our local community. My hope for 2024 is to concentrate on the gaps in our community. The unseen holes that people are not only falling through, but feel that they are trapped.

"And so this is Christmas, for weak and for strong, for rich and the poor ones, the world is so wrong. And so happy Christmas, for black and for white, for yellow and red ones, let's stop all the fight."

I believe we the people who, serve God here at NMUMC, can not only make a difference in our community, but can offer pathways to transformed lives-- transformed lives fully disciplined in Christ. In this issue you will see that we are hosting a ministry fair. If you are not currently involved in a ministry at NMUMC, we would like to find a place for you to serve. If you are serving, we would like to make sure you are in the "right pew" (do your passions match where you are serving?).

And so, servants of God, "I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I know it will be a good one, and with Christ among us, without any fear." I know if we continually follow in the footsteps of the life of Jesus that leads us to the cross and out of the empty tomb, we can turn back around and offer that hope to all we meet.

Pastor Scott

Christmas at Sunway



‘Visualizing Abundant LIFE:

(Loving, Inviting, Fellowship, Enrichment) VAL Team

A quick update on where our project stands. V.A.L. (Visualizing Abundant Life) Building Team Update

1. The cemetery deal did not go through. We were relying on this property acquisition to allow for the building to comply with the zoning ordinance.
2. We reviewed the project with the county planning department. We acknowledged the project would not meet zoning. The County could not come up with a path that would allow a zoning variance.
3. We have had a brief conversation with the town about annexing the property into the town. They have offered to work with us to implement our vision but we need to work out details. We plan on meeting with the town sometime after the new year.

Once we meet with the town we will schedule a team meeting to discuss.

We understand that this process can seem long and arduous but we need to continue to focus on the vision while keeping an open mind. Please keep our team in your prayers.



New Market Town Cemetery Update

The results of the lot holder meeting held on November 19th was not favorable for NMUMC's transfer transaction from the New Market Cemetery Company. The building team is currently in conversations with the county and the cemetery company to see what options are open to build the new ministry center. Please keep this project and your teams in your prayers.

Special Thanks

We would like to acknowledge the tremendous job that was accomplished by Scot and Patti Morrow in restoring the shutters on the west facing facade of the Sanctuary. Scot did the repairs and Patti surrendered her basement. Well done, Good and faithful servants.





Fellowship

Melinda McCollum and Krista Romagnoli will be joining Charlene Bishop, Alice Crutchley, Jane Garner, Linda Kornreich, Cindy Naugle, Linda New, Elaine Nicholls and Carole Zimmerman on the committee for 2024.

We are looking forward to providing more opportunities for food and fellowship and hope that you will join us!

Calendar for 2024 (subject to change; more information to follow)

FEBRUARY 13: Shrove Tuesday Dinner, 6-7PM

MARCH 1-15 or after April 15: Community Fundraiser for pediatric research or leukemia society, time TBD.

MAY 15: Pasta (Lasagna) Dinner, time TBD. Both regular and vegetarian lasagna will be offered, along with salad, bread, and dessert.

JUNE 30 – 5th Sunday Potluck after 11:00 worship service (theme: picnic food w/hot dogs and sloppy joes)

JULY 4 Motorcycle Race food stand?

AUGUST VBS Ending Activity: Will provide ice cream if the VBS staff agrees/requests.

SEPTEMBER 29: 5th Sunday Potluck after 11:00 worship service (theme: baked potato bar with Jello salads and desserts)

OCTOBER: Church-wide dinner at local restaurant

DECEMBER 29: 5th Sunday Potluck after 11:00 worship service (theme: soups and salads w/bread and desserts).

Best wishes to all for a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy 2024. Merry Christmas!



January

Jan 2 – 7pm – Trustees

Jan 6th – 8am – Men's Breakfast

Jan 9th – 12:30pm – Circle of Friends

Jan 9th – 6pm – Hope4Kids Packing

Jan 15th- 6:30pm – LIFT Meeting

Jan 16th – 7pm - Council Meeting

February

Feb 3rd – 8am - Men's Breakfast

Feb 6th – 7pm – Trustees

Feb 12th - 6pm – Hope4Kids Packing

Feb 13th – 12:30pm -Circle of Friends

Feb 13th – 3pm - SPRC

Feb 13th – 6pm – Fellowship Dinner

Feb 20th – 7pm - Council Meeting



***Adult Sunday School - Sundays at 9:30 at the Schoolhouse
January and February of 2024
Susan Stevens***

We will begin the new year with The Epiphany. Many of us were introduced to Epiphany through the familiar silhouetted-image of Three Wise Men bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. On This Twelfth Day, or Three Kings Day, otherwise known as Epiphany, we invite you to enter into a time of study and meditation of The Light Who Shines in the Darkness.

Matthew 2:1-12

“ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."”

In January we start afresh with a series titled, Becoming a People of God, in the new year ready to join Jesus in His journey, on our journey, with a glory filled opportunity to go beyond the celebration of Christ’s arrival. We will thoughtfully consider the first Sunday in January as that of our send-off as we join Jesus on a path that takes us into Ordinary Time[s] and ultimately the beginning of Lent. In February we move through Becoming a People of God to Crossing Over(Transfiguration Sunday) and to the exploration of The Depths of Love with the Author of Love, Himself!

What will you offer to God in the coming year as we continue in the tradition of Advent to prepare for the return of Jesus? The gift of time? The gift of your talents? Your service in the community? Your witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion?

Come join us! We look forward to seeing you!



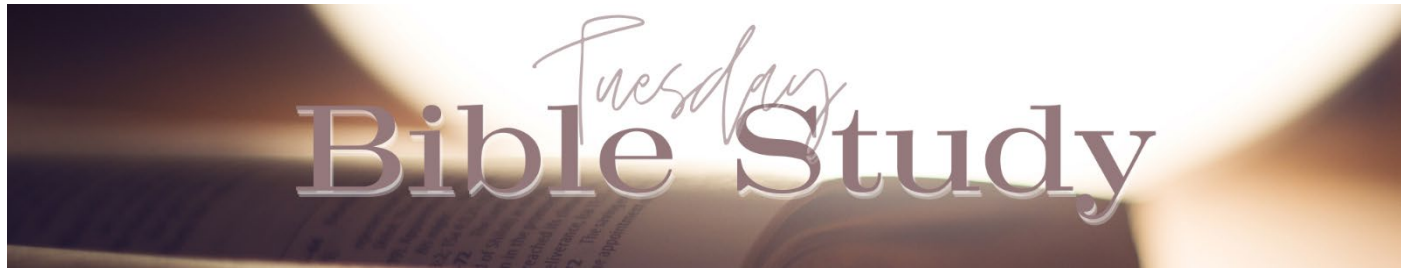
Certified Lay Minister, Candidate
Update 12/23
Susan Stevens

As I embark on the final coursework for Module IV this January, I will be organizing a final draft for a Family Life Ministry to bring to New Market United Methodist Church through continued prayer and guidance from the Holy Spirit, Pastor Scott and a Mutual Ministry Team. I invite you to think about how ministry for families could be of benefit and support to you and your family.

Questions to consider: What does it look like to be living our lives as ambassadors of the Kingdom for Jesus? Are you interested in learning more about parenting skills? Grandparenting skills? Are you interested in friendship and recreation with other Christian families? What activities would be helpful to you? Would you like to see improvement in your relationships within your family? Are you interested in strengthening family worship? Family Prayer? And learning about what Jesus has to say about families?

Please look for additional information in our church announcements at the start of the new year for updates on Family Life Ministry. Contact me at any time with questions and ideas as you consider how this ministry can benefit you and your family!

Peace and joy to you!
Susan Stevens, Certified Lay Servant
240-277-2581



Tuesday Bible Study | 10:00 AM

This group study is led by Pastor Scott every Tuesday morning. Everyone is invited to participate even on an irregular basis. Every Tuesday we meet to check in with each other, pray for each other, and study the upcoming Sunday's lectionary scriptures. This study is immensely valuable to Pastor Scott and helps to focus his preaching concentration for the upcoming Sunday.



Winter Weather Policy

The following procedure will be used for the cancellation of church meetings, events, office hours and church services for the winter of 2023-2024.

Church meetings, events and office hours during the weekday will follow the Frederick County Public School closings. If schools are closed for the day or have early dismissal due to inclement weather, all scheduled in-person activities will be automatically canceled for that day and evening.

During the weekend all activity and service cancellations will be posted by 8AM via the following venues. A church wide email will be sent out with information or you can visit our church website (www.newmarketumc.com) and the information will be at the top of the page. If you are not connected to the internet, please inform our church office and you will receive a call if there is a cancellation.

GUEST PREACHER

Guest Preacher: January 7th

We will have a special guest preacher coming to New Market UMC all the way from Taiwan! Joseph Swanson and his wife Emmy are full-time missionaries in Taiwan and will be coming to New Market to share about their calling and their ministry there. The Hanson family worked closely with Joseph and Emmy when they spent a year doing ministry in Taiwan! Don't miss Joseph's message on Judges 6:11-24 and the calling of Gideon! Cake will be served between services to celebrate and visit with our special guests!



Youth Group Lock In

NMUMC Youth group will have a lock-in at church from 7pm Saturday, January 27 - 9am Sunday, January 28! Fire pit, games, crafts, Bible study, prayer and a movie will fill the night with fun! Youth will provide a walking waffle bar for church members in the morning at the Schoolhouse at 9am! Hope to see you all there!



BIRTHDAY	NAME
January 9	Rowland New
February 5	Charlene Bishop
February 14	Kimberly Williams
February 21	Chris Berry
February 22	Caleb Clawson
February 28	Scott Morrow

F.R.O.G.



Fully Rely On God

Children's Ministry



WINTER SEASON

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below and mark them.



A	S	C	A	R	F	E	I	R	X	Z	S
C	N	B	D	C	J	F	J	H	Q	P	N
S	O	C	K	S	U	G	K	L	M	N	O
B	W	C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	A	Y	W
D	F	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	Z	M
S	L	E	D	G	E	Q	C	O	L	D	A
E	A	F	J	H	R	T	U	A	V	W	N
D	K	K	G	L	M	I	T	T	E	N	S
B	E	A	N	I	E	M	S	N	R	P	O

- SNOWFLAKE
- SNOWMAN
- CHIMNEY
- SLEDGE
- SOCKS
- BEANIE
- MITTENS
- JUMPER
- COLD
- SCARF
- FIREPLACE
- COAT



If you would like to be part of our teaching team or have any questions about our Children's Ministry, contact Donna Clawson at declawson16@gmail.com or 301-418-0863.



Category	November 2022	December 2022	Total for 2022
Deposit Total	18,819.47	104,364.56	488,784.02
Regular Offering	15,131.50*	27,324.99*	230,691.85*
Building Fund	1,620.00	69,159.50	83,009.37
Building Rent		200.00	1,622.80
Christ's Carpenters		775.00	1,011.86
Community Care/Food Pantry	910.00	250.00	3,160.00
Fossett Property	100.00	100.00	117,557.00
Holiday Flowers	325.00	56.00	1,118.00
Hope 4 Kids	25.00	175.00	2,380.00
Memorial Fund		475.00	3,600.00
Misc. Income-IRS refund		53.07	In misc. income for year
Miscellaneous Income			1,979.14
Missions (CrossRoads)	50.00	2,961.00	3,011.00
Missions (Ukraine)			550.00
Organ Fund		150.00	1,900.00
Outreach (Samaritan's Purse	160.00		160.00
Parsonage Rent		2,100.00	25,200.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	380.00	580.00	3,380.00
Pre-School Rent			8,175.00**
Preventive Maint.-solar lights	117.97		In misc. income for year
Upper Room		5.00	83.00
Vacation Bible School			195.00
Online Giving Totals	1,632.04	2,086.54	18,376.75
Regular Offering	1,577.40*	2,050.10*	17,999.00*
Poinsettias	25.44		25.44
Online Fees	29.20	36.44	352.31
*Offering Needed to Meet Monthly Budget Goal in 2022: \$20,918.25 Monthly Goal not met in November; exceeded in December Total Offering Needed to Meet Yearly Budget Goal: \$217,549.80 Yearly Goal was met!			

**4th quarter rent not yet received



Welcome

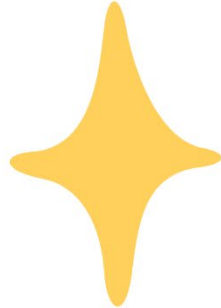
2023 MEMBERS

Kim Williams
Harry and Alice Crutchley
Shawn and Heather Benjaminson

Janis Rex
Sean and Joanne Robbins
Dan and Kate Wright

Member Spotlight

THE BENJAMINSONS!



Heather, Shawn and their children Ethan, Keira and Aiden have lived in Frederick County for 19 years. They enjoy spending time outdoors either hiking or camping.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

January

January 7th (Epiphany): Special Guest Speaker
Communion (Name Tag) Sunday

January 14th: New Member Sunday at both services
-9:30 Dennis and Sue Thorton
-11:00 William (Woody) and Linda Halter

January 21st: Mission Fair Sunday between services.

Representatives of all ministry teams will be available to answer questions on what ministries may be right for you to engage with.

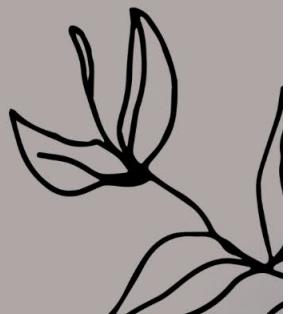
February

February 2 Presentation of the Lord and Communion (Name Tag) Sunday

February 13 Shrove Tuesday Gathering at the Schoolhouse

February 14 Combined (New Market, Mr Carmel and Fairview Chapel)

Ash Wednesday service at New Market, 7:00 pm



WORSHIP HELPER SCHEDULES FOR JANUARY/FEB 2024

(If any of these times do not work out for you – contact the office)

Month	Date	Time	Position	Name	Time	Position	Name
J a n u a r y	1/7/2024 (Communion Sunday)	9:30 AM	Acolyte	David Knight	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Sarah Hanson
			Lay Reader	Amanda Berry		Lay Reader	New Family
			Usher/Greeters	Lafoon Family		Usher/Greeters	Carolyn Geary and Elaine Nicholls
	1/14/2024	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Ryan Robbins	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Kasey Barboza
			Lay Reader	Joanne Robbins		Lay Reader	Kate Hanson
			Usher/Greeters	Robbins Family		Usher/Greeters	Carolyn Geary and Elaine Nicholls
	1/21/2024	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Emma Roeder	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Ben Hanson
			Lay Reader	Kate Wright		Lay Reader	Sarah Hanson
			Usher/Greeters	Melinda McCollum		Usher/Greeters	Carolyn Geary and Elaine Nicholls
	1/28/2024	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Wyatt Turner	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Sarah Hanson
			Lay Reader	Michelle Matusiak		Lay Reader	Lily Hanson
			Usher/Greeters	Bishop Family		Usher/Greeters	Carolyn Geary and Elaine Nicholls
Month	Date	Time	Position	Name	Time	Position	Name
F e b r u a r y	2/4/2024 (Communion Sunday)	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Brooke Rudge	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Kasey Barboza
			Lay Reader	Chris Berry		Lay Reader	Doreen Bass
			Usher/Greeters	Bishop Family		Usher/Greeters	Carolyn Geary and Elaine Nicholls
	2/11/2024	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Liam Turner	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Ben Hanson
			Lay Reader	Krista Romagnoli		Lay Reader	Kasey Barboza
			Usher/Greeters	Anderson Family		Usher/Greeters	Elaine Nicholls and Linda New
	2/18/2024	9:30 AM	Acolyte	David Knight	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Sarah Hanson
			Lay Reader	Charlene Bishop		Lay Reader	Marilyn Fritz
			Usher/Greeters	Lafoon Family		Usher/Greeters	Elaine Nicholls and Linda New
	2/25/2024	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Brooke Rudge	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Kasey Barboza
			Lay Reader	Berta Lafoon		Lay Reader	Carole Zimmerman
			Usher/Greeters	Melinda McCollum		Usher/Greeters	Elaine Nicholls and Linda New



NEW MARKET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

New Market United Methodist Church encourages faithful discipleship for Jesus Christ by participation in Prayer, the Word, Worship, Fellowship and Service.



Phone Number
301-865-3530



Mailing Address
5501 Old New Market Rd PO
Box 111, New Market, MD 21774



E-mail Address
hometownchurch@comcast.net



Website
newmarketumc.com

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs | 11 AM- 4 PM

**If you have any special events or meetings coming up in March or April,
now is the time to submit the information via the church email:
hometownchurch@comcast.net**