

JANUARY / FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



NEW MARKET UMC WINTER 2026 NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS SEASON'S ISSUE:

- Upcoming Meetings/Events
- Our After Epiphany Worship Series
- Christmas in New Market
- Fun events in February
- Look back on Christmas!

newmarketumc.com



A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

The quote "A long obedience in the same direction," originally from Friedrich Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*, describes the necessity of patient, consistent effort toward a goal. Nietzsche was a prominent atheist who famously declared the "death of God," arguing that the concept of God was no longer a viable source of meaning in the modern world . . . a statement that signifies a profound rejection of traditional religious belief and morality in favor of human self-overcoming (a continuous process of self-reflection and elevation). To overcome oneself, one needs to be able to self-evaluate in a critical manner and, most importantly, work on what needs to be worked on and the creation of new values.

Despite this quote's origin, it was popularized in Christian circles by Eugene Peterson for describing Christian discipleship as a faithful, lifelong journey of following Christ, not a series of quick fixes. Peterson used it to emphasize steadfast commitment and spiritual growth through ordinary, consistent actions, making life meaningful.

As a society, we are no less obsessed with the immediate than when Eugene Peterson first wrote this Christian classic. If anything, the advent of email and the Internet may have heightened our desire for instant solutions. But Peterson's time-tested prescription for discipleship remains the same—a long obedience in the same direction. Tucked away in the Hebrew Psalter, Peterson discovered "an old, dog-eared songbook," the Songs of Ascents that were sung by pilgrims on their way to worship in Jerusalem. In these songs (Psalms 120-134), Peterson finds encouragement for modern pilgrims as we learn to grow in worship, service, joy, work, happiness, humility, community, and blessing.

Starting on the first Sunday of January until the end of Lent, I will be exploring these themes of living a disciplined life. I encourage you to purchase the book so that you can more deeply follow the sermon series. The Tuesday morning Bible study will use this book and its study book companion. We invite you to join us at 10:00 AM every Tuesday. There is a saying that many churches are a mile long and an inch deep. I would like to lead us into a discipleship path that is a mile deep and a mile long.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

January 4 | Epiphany of the Lord - "Discipleship"

Matthew 2: 1-12, John 1: 1-18

January 11 | Baptism of Our Lord - "Providence"

Matthew 3:13-17, Psalm 121

January 18 | Second Sunday after Epiphany

"Worship" - Psalm 122, Proverbs 27: 17-27

January 25 | Third Sunday after Epiphany

"Service" - Psalm 123, John 13: 12-17

February 1 | Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

"Help" - Psalm 124, Matthew 11: 27-30

February 8 | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

"Security" - Psalm 125, John 17: 6-12

February 15 | Transfiguration Sunday

"Joy" - Psalm 125, Galatians 5: 22-26

February 18 | Ash Wednesday (service times TBA)

"Repentance" - Psalm 120, Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

February 22 | First Sunday in Lent

"Work" - Psalm 127, John 5: 19-24



Coming Up:

Frederick Dept. of Aging Focus Group:
January 22 | 9:00 AM | Schoolhouse

Game Day: January 24 | 2:00 PM |
Schoolhouse (setup begins at 1:00 PM)

Youth Group Snow Tubing Trip: January 25
1:30 PM | Contact the Church Office

Confirmation Class: February 15 | 7:00 PM

Youth Group Nursing Home Visit:
February 15 | 4:00 PM

Shrove Tuesday Dinner: February 17
6:00 PM | Schoolhouse (setup begins at
3:30 PM)

Ash Wednesday (Service Times TBA):
February 18

Confirmation Class: February 22 | 7:00 PM

Every Month

Men's Breakfast: 8:00 AM | Burger King in
New Market (January 3, February 7)

Circle of Friends: 12:30 PM | Schoolhouse
(January 13, February 10)

Hope4Kids Packing: 6:00 PM |
Schoolhouse (January 13, February 10)

SPRC: 3:00 PM | Ed. Building
(January)

Every Month cont.

Stephen Ministry Supervisory
Meeting: 6:00 PM | Sanctuary
(January 13, February 10)

Church Council: 7:00 PM
Ed. Building (January 20, Feb. 24)

Trustees: 6:00 PM | Ed. Building
(January 6, February 3)

Every Week:

Sunday School | 9:30 AM | Ed.
Building and Schoolhouse
Adults in the Schoolhouse and
Children in the ED Building

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal |
Mondays at 6:30 PM | Ed. Building

Tuesday Morning Bible Study |
Tuesdays | 10 AM | Sanctuary

Bible 101 | 6:00 PM | Ed. Building
Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

11 AM Choir Practice | Thursdays
6:45 PM | Ed. Building

Generosity Meeting | Thursdays
10 AM | Pastor's Office

Saturday Morning Bible Study |
Saturdays starting January 31
10 AM | Contact Nick Wood

A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION

FELLOWSHIP UPDATES

The Kick-off to the Holidays dinner took place at Dutch's Daughter on November 16. The delicious meal and the fellowship were enjoyed by the 26 persons in attendance.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

January 24 – Game Day, 2-4 PM.

Bring your favorite game and a snack to share with others for a fun afternoon.

February 17 – Shrove Tuesday Dinner
6-7 PM

The menu for this popular event is: pancakes, grits, breakfast casseroles, bacon, sausage, applesauce, water, milk, hot tea, and coffee.

A free will offering is requested to help defray the cost of the meal.

A sign-up sheet will be posted at the end of January to help us determine how much food to prepare.

May 31 – 5th Sunday Potluck
after the 11:00 service

BIBLE 101

**WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM IN THE ED. BUILDING
STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 7TH.**

Pastor Scott will be hosting an in-person study on Wednesdays at 6 PM in the Ed Building that will start with the first chapter of the Bible, Genesis. This study will be held from January 7th through February 11th, and then continue after Lent on April 8th.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL RECKLESS GRACE

**SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE
STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 4TH.**

Curriculum books will be supplied for attendees. Pastor Patty Robinson will be leading the class and will begin the year with the study described below.

Grace is the ultimate expression of love.

We all know we need grace and forgiveness, but why is it so difficult to extend them to ourselves and others?

In *Reckless Grace*, Bill Vanderbush and Brit Eaton challenge our understanding of forgiveness with powerful biblical evidence and show us how to step into the fullness of grace, bringing reconciliation and restoration to our relationships using:

- practical steps and accessible tools to help identify and overcome barriers to grace
- carefully crafted exercises and reflections that explore past and present hurts and work toward healing
- gentle guidance in becoming gospel-centered and releasing grace into a fallen world.

God isn't reckless, but the way He extends grace defies all reason. This inspirational book will help you learn to freely give what we have been freely gifted.

Please come and join us in this exploration of one of the most loved and important, but least understood, Christian premises - GRACE.

A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION

LENTEN ZOOM STUDY

Pastor Patty will be hosting a Zoom bible study during Lent every Wednesday at 7 PM from February 25th to April 1st.

FAIRVIEW CHAPEL HIATUS

The 8:15 AM service at Fairview Chapel will be on hiatus during the winter and will resume on March 8th.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

All scheduled in-person activities, including church meetings, events, and office hours during the weekday, will automatically be cancelled if schools close for the day or have an early dismissal due to inclement weather.

During the weekend, all activity and service cancellations will be posted by 8 AM via the following venues. We will send out a church-wide email with information, or you can visit our church website (www.newmarketumc.com) and find the information 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.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY TUESDAYS AT 10:00 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

BEGINS JANUARY 6TH AND CONTINUES
WEEKLY UNTIL SUMMER

Starting in January we will be studying Eugene Peterson's book "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction." There is a study companion that we will also be using. The class normally runs for 2 hours, but you can leave whenever you need.

We live in an age of instant gratification—but perseverance (or "long obedience") requires something different from us: a deepening life of prayer. With prophetic and pastoral wisdom, Peterson draws inspiration from Psalms 120–134. He shows us how to grow in worship, service, joy, work, happiness, humility, community, and blessing.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Nov 12-Jan 1 | Drop-off in Sanctuary

We are collecting warm weather clothing (coats, sweaters, scarves, gloves, etc.).

Contact Susan Stevens for more info: 240-277-2581

A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION

YOUTH IMMERSION EVENTS

January 25: Snow Tubing

February 22: Visit a nursing home to share music, prayers, love, and conversation with our shut-in community

March 20–22: Ignite Youth Conference in Ocean City, MD

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation Classes will resume in February

Spring Session (mix of online and in-person):

- Online, 7–8 PM: Feb 15, Feb 22, Mar 1, Mar 8
- In-person: Mar 15, 1–4 PM field trip to the Grotto of Lourdes (Stations of the Cross with sponsors)
- In-person: Mar 20–22 at the Ignite Youth Conference in Ocean City

Please let Kate Hanson know if your child would like to participate so she can plan accordingly.



WORSHIP HELPERS | JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Date	Time	Position	Name	Time	Position	Name
1/4/2026 (Communion Sunday)	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Emery Kocher	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Sarah Hanson
		Lay Reader	Kate Wright		Lay Reader	Jane Leffel
		Usher/Greeter(s)	Melinda McCollum		Usher/Greeter(s)	Carole Zimmerman
1/11/2026	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Ryan Robbins	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Kasey Barboza
		Lay Reader	Joanne Robbins		Lay Reader	Cindy Naugle
		Usher/Greeter(s)	Sean Robbins		Usher/Greeter(s)	Elaine Nicholls
1/18/2026	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Liam Turner	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Ben Hanson
		Lay Reader	Susan Smith		Lay Reader	Doreen Bass
		Usher/Greeter(s)	Bishop Family		Usher/Greeter(s)	Andy Jakab
1/25/2026	9:30 AM	Acolyte	David Knight	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Sarah Hanson
		Lay Reader	Michelle Matusiak		Lay Reader	Kasey Barboza
		Usher/Greeter(s)	Kocher Family		Usher/Greeter(s)	Naugle Family
Date	Time	Position	Name	Time	Position	Name
2/1/2026	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Brooke Rudge	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Ben Hanson
		Lay Reader	Chris Berry		Lay Reader	Vincent Pakenham
		Usher/Greeter(s)	Anderson Family		Usher/Greeter(s)	Margie Matz
2/8/2026	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Emma Roeder	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Sarah Hanson
		Lay Reader	Krista Romagnoli		Lay Reader	Carole Zimmerman
		Usher/Greeter(s)	Lafoon Family		Usher/Greeter(s)	Andy Jakab
2/15/2026	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Wyatt Turner	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Kasey Barboza
		Lay Reader	Charlene Bishop		Lay Reader	Riley Family
		Usher/Greeter(s)	Melinda McCollum		Usher/Greeter(s)	Elaine Nicholls
2/22/2026	9:30 AM	Acolyte	Emery Kocher	11:00 AM	Acolyte	Ben Hanson
		Lay Reader	Berta Lafoon		Lay Reader	Kate Hanson
		Usher/Greeter(s)	Bishop Family		Usher/Greeter(s)	Andy Jakab

BY THE NUMBERS, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2025

BY THE NUMBERS

Category	October 2025	November 2025	Online Giving	
Deposit Total, Weekly Giving	180,880.28	120,055.11	Total Offering, October	2,606.13
Regular Offering	21,834.72	25,295.11	Regular Offering	2,566.95
Fellowship, 10/17 Taco Tuesday	389.00		Online Fees	39.18
Fellowship, 11/16 Brunch		1,395.00		
Food Pantry	100.00	150.00	Total Offering, Nov.	2,198.35
Holiday Flowers		607.50	Regular Offering	2,161.95
Hope 4 Kids	655.00	310.00	Online Fees	36.40
Memorial Fund	200.00			
Miscellaneous	326.56	500.00	Total Holiday Flowers	29.60
New Ministry Center	153,265.00	84,355.00	Holiday Flowers	29.00
Organ Fund	300.00	150.00	Online Fees	.60
Outreach – Care Team		20.00		
Outreach – shoebox postage		200.00		
Outreach – Trek/Treat	40.00		The Monthly Budget Goal WAS Met in October, but WAS NOT MET in November.	
Parsonage Rent	3,150.00	3,150.00		
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	260.00	520.00		
Pre School Rent		3,042.50		
Youth Ministry	360.00	360.00		

More on By the Numbers information listed above

- The Regular Offering received in October totaled \$24,401.67 – which exceeded the monthly goal by \$2,385.99.
- The Regular Offering received in November totaled \$27,457.06 – a shortfall of \$62.54.

Charitable Contributions

The Giving Statements issued by NMUMC at the end of each calendar year contain the statement “No goods or services were provided in return for these contributions.” In order to be in compliance as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, monies paid for holiday flowers, mission trip attendance, show tickets, free will offering at dinners, egg sales, etc. will not be included on the Giving Statement.

The 2025 statements will be emailed by January 31; those not having email will receive their statement through the USPS.

Questions regarding a statement should be directed to Carole Zimmerman (cgzimm@comcast.net or 240-215-7083).

**Your continued giving to support the ministries and programs of
New Market United Methodist Church,
as well as your commitment to assist in funding the
New Ministry Center is greatly appreciated.**



HOLIDAY FUN WITH NMUMC





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



Website
newmarketumc.com



E-mail Address
hometownchurch@comcast.net

NEW MARKET UMC
5501 OLD NEW MARKET ROAD
PO BOX 111
NEW MARKET, MD 21774