



## Church COVID Policy

Masks are optional. Social distancing is still recommended. Masks, COVID test kits, and hand sanitizer are available for free in the narthex.

**Mission Statement**  
The mission of Sandy Mount UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.  
(Matthew 22:37-39; 28:19-20)

**August 2024**

**Church Staff**  
**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Robert E. Walker, Jr.  
**Organist:** Connie Clarke  
**Praise Team Leader:** Tapiwa Chakanaka  
**Office Administrator:** Rebecca Earle  
**Custodian:** Kathy Branson

**Sandy Mount United Methodist Church**  
2101 Old Westminster Pike  
Finksburg, MD 21048  
Email: [SandyMountumc@comcast.net](mailto:SandyMountumc@comcast.net)  
Website: [SandyMountumc.com](http://SandyMountumc.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sandymountumc](http://www.facebook.com/sandymountumc)

## August Worship Schedule

8/4 10am Combined Service  
8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25 9am Outdoor  
Service with Doug Brooks  
8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25 10am Summer  
Services



THE VINE  
Inside this  
issue:

- Message from the Pastor 2
- Message from Pastor Continued 3
- Service Opportunity 4
- Wednesday Nights at the church 5
- Book Club 5
- Altar Flow-er 6
- Food Give-away 7
- New Sign Fun raiser 8
- Retreat Report 9
- Fellowship Breakfast 10
- In Between Cafe 11
- Chancel Choir Re-hearsals 11
- Faith, Hope and Recovery 12
- Church Directory Information 12
- Praying for our Country 13
- Thanking SMUMC 14
- Birthdays 14
- Calendar 15

August 2024  
Message from the Pastor  
Annual Conference Report 2024



Theme: “like fire shut up in my bones.”

This year’s annual conference had a different feel to it. It was not as heavy, bogged down with the heaviness and anticipation of tense debates over disaffiliation and the theological debate over the language in the discipline around the inclusion of LGBTQ members of the church in ordination and pastoral duties.

As always there were classes for all to register to learn from. The workshops include.

**Gardens in the desert: how the adaptive church can lead to a whole new life: a vision for how we become god’s church now for god’s intended future.**

**The speaker is senior pastor Rev. Michael beck at St. Paul UMC in Ocala, fl. He directs fresh expressions initiatives for discipleship ministries, speaks and teaches at seminaries, churches, and conferences, and is the author of multiple books from Abingdon press.**

**The second workshop was the art of neighboring: reimaging church in our literal neighborhoods.**

**Leader: Cristin Cooper is the owner of Coop’s Soups and a licensed local pastor, focusing on fresh expressions, in the Baltimore Washington conference. She is also a successful fresh expressions practitioner, guides participants through a deep-listening practice to reveal the places in our neighborhoods where neighbors could – with a little creativity and a genuine community partnership or two – encounter god’s grace and grow in deeper intimacy with god’s love.**

**Becoming yourself: an introduction to positive intelligence**

**Leader: Rev. Rod Miller is a positive intelligence coach and a long-time pastor and coach in the Baltimore Washington conference.**

**Bless: five everyday ways to love your neighbor and change the world.**

**Learn five practical practices you can use to bless and reach people outside the church and the faith.**

**Leader: Rev. Bill Brown is the director of innovative evangelism for the Baltimore Washington conference.**

**Connecting for change: introduction to missional action planning (map)**

**Leader: Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Daniels, Jr. is lead pastor of Emory UMC in Washington dc and a map consultant for the Baltimore Washington and Peninsula-Delaware conferences.**

**How ‘truth or dare’ can lead to birthing a fresh expression**

**Leaders: Raimon Jackson, creator of the well, is a spiritual entrepreneur and innovative pioneer in the field of fresh expressions. Taeron Fleming, co-leader at the well, is a creative leader in ministry and fresh expressions with experience in pastoring cross-cultural ministries.**

**Leaders are not born, they are grown.**

**Leader: Jack Shitama is the director of the center for vital leadership for the Baltimore Washington and Peninsula-Delaware conferences.**

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	2	3
4 9:00am Outdoor Service (w/Doug Brooks) 10:00am Summer Service (Communion)	5       Y Chipmunks Summer Camp	6	7 7:00pm The Chosen	8 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	9 6:00pm Message and Singing Country Acres Outreach	10 9:00am Breakfast with Guest Speaker
11 9:00am Outdoor Service (w/Doug Brooks) 10:00am Summer Service	12	13 3:00pm Bingo Country Acres Outreach	14 7:00pm The Chosen	15 5:00pm Food Giveaway 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	16	17
18 9:00am Outdoor Service (w/Doug Brooks) 10:00am Summer Service	19	20 1:00pm Craft Country Acres Outreach	21 7:00pm The Chosen	22 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	23	24
25 9:00am Outdoor Service (w/Doug Brooks) 10:00am Summer Service	26	27	28 12:00pm Book Club 7:00pm The Chosen	29 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	30	31

Articles due for  
September VINE

# Thanking SMUMC

Thank you for all the love, prayers and cards everyone showed as we said goodbye to our precious daughter. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Love,  
Tom & Marge

Ted and the people of Sandy Mount,

Thank you for making our moms celebration of life memorable and perfect. To the ladies (and gentlemen) of the kitchen, we cannot thank you enough for your preparation, kindness and professionalism. We felt our mom there that day, thanks to you.

Love,  
The Ryan Brothers

I want to thank all of those people who stepped up to help with the Sandy Mount Retreat. To name everyone is not possible as I will surely leave someone out. What I can say is there were many people who helped to make the retreat happen. The event was awesome, and I feel certain those who attended left feeling linked by love!

Scarlett

## August Birthdays

<b>3</b> Jim Fisher	<b>11</b> Belinda vonGunten	<b>15</b> Marge Rosso
<b>7</b> Kim Hawkins	<b>12</b> Christopher Vollmerhausen	<b>19</b> Jennifer Glass
<b>8</b> Katheryn DeGroff	<b>13</b> Colby Taylor	<b>31</b> Rick Barrick
<b>9</b> Buddy Wheat Kathy Bailey		



**Living well: a holistic approach to a balanced life**

**Leaders:** the living well team is a group of clergies from across the BWC/pen-del affiliation.

**The power of prayer in congregational transformation and outreach.**

**Leader:** Rev. Lillian C. Smith is the Pastor of Cheverly UMC, a congregational developer, and a person who has a desire for every person to embrace and live out their God-given call.

**The state of humanitarian immigration**

**Leader:** Sarah Selim Milad is the managing attorney of MD & DC, just neighbors and a graduate of the American University, Washington college of law. As an immigrant from Egypt, Sarah resonates with the plight of immigrants fleeing persecution and feels privileged to serve them.

**Funding ministry through planned giving, endowments, and major gifts**

**Leaders will be from the Mid-Atlantic foundation.**

**A new retirement plan for clergy called compass was approved by the general conference. BWC restructures for discipleship**

BWC's plan for restructuring took another step forward as members voted to move from eight (8) districts to six (6).

The plan includes structure for increased missional impact and vitality.

The plan goes beyond simply redistricting. There are three main components.

Five to twelve local churches will be grouped in a collaborative hub in a shared, geographically based mission field. Each hub will have a designated connecting church, to facilitate collaborative work and vitality.

A group of hubs will be organized in one of six non-geographic districts, based on the population density. This will create opportunities to network across perceived boundaries and learn from one another in diverse, yet similar, contexts.

The hubs and districts will be organized into two administrative regions, supported by a centralized administrative team.

The grouping of hubs begins this June with information gathering. A list of hubs will be published in January 2025. Also, in January, the boundaries of the administrative regions will be announced. A list of churches in each district is expected to be published in March 2025. The annual conference will be held next year, in May 2025 and restructuring will become fully operational on July 1, 2025.

**GC2020 calls for regionalization.**

The postponed 2020 general conference was held in charlotte, N.C. the conference made headlines by removing restrictive language about LGBTIQ people from church law, adopting a new set of social principles, and approving a plan for regionalization.

**Regionalization will require a constitutional amendment. It must be voted on by every annual conference and receive two-thirds of all votes cast by all annual conferences worldwide in aggregate to pass.**

If passed, it will restructure the denomination to be more contextual in different regions of the world served by the church. the current central conferences in Africa, the Philippines, Europe, and the us would become regional conferences with the same authority to pass legislation for greater missional impact. The BWC, like others, will not vote on regionalization until the 2025 annual conference session. Two additional amendments to the denomination's constitution will also be considered next year.

**To welcome people into church membership regardless of gender or ability, And strengthen the denomination's stance against racism and colonialism.**



# Service Opportunities

## Food Pantry



Please remember that we are always looking for donation's for our food pantry. It is important that we can keep the food pantry stocked to help those in need in our community. We accept non perishable foods. The drop off area is in the closet across from the church office, or donations can be put directly in the food pantry. If you have any questions, please contact the Office Administrator.

## Country Acres Outreach

We serve the residents by leading craft activities, organizing bingo games, and offering a monthly worship service with singing and a message. Our ministry dates are noted on the calendar in this newsletter.


If you have any questions, contact Audrey Boyle at 240-593-6462.

Please mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors!

## Clothing & Shoes Donations

If you have any shoes or clothing items to donate, please drop them in the large bin located in our church parking lot. The bin is emptied monthly by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Because of our effort to help their program, they donate \$75 each month to SMUMC.





# PRAYING FOR OUR COUNTRY

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." - 2 Chronicles 7:14

COUNTRY

**IS FOR CONVICTION OF SIN**  
Pray that God would open our eyes to personal and corporate sin and would call us out of darkness into light. Ask Him not to abandon us to wrong thinking, but to forgive us and cleanse us and break the chains that bind us. Pray that He'd give us the strength and willpower to forsake, repent, and turn completely away from the sin that entangles and enslaves us. Pray that He'd enable us to live as servants of righteousness instead. (Acts 26:18, Romans 1:28, 1 Kings 8:50, Psalm 51:2, Isaiah 58:6, Isaiah 55:7, 2 Corinthians 7:9-10, Hebrews 12:1, Romans 6:18)

**IS FOR AN OUTPOURING OF GOD'S SPIRIT**  
Ask God to revive our hearts and draw us unto Himself. Pray that He'd fill us with His Spirit, that we might speak the Word boldly and with such authority that others would recognize we have been with Jesus. Pray that He'd empower us to walk in His presence, according to His calling, dedicating ourselves to the good works He prepared beforehand for us to do. (Psalm 80:18, John 6:44, Acts 4:31, Titus 2:15, Acts 4:13, Psalm 140:13, 2 Timothy 1:9, Ephesians 2:10)

**IS FOR UNDERSTANDING AND WISDOM**  
Pray that God would grant us an extra measure of wisdom, that He would fill us with knowledge and understanding and discernment. That we would see things as He sees them and would stop calling that which is good "evil" and evil "good." Pray that we would center our minds on what is true and right and noble and pure and lovely. (James 1:5, Philippians 1:9, Psalm 119:125, 2 Kings 6:17, Isaiah 5:20, Philippians 4:8)

**IS FOR NEWS YOU CAN USE**  
Ask God to raise up an army of journalists, reporters, and newscasters who are more concerned with proclaiming truth than with pushing politically-correct propaganda or propping up ratings. Pray that He'd break our country's addiction to celebrity gossip and sensationalized accounts of current events and that we'd instead learn to use the news, not as entertainment, but as motivation to pray and to make a difference in our world for good. (1 Corinthians 13:6, Proverbs 22:21, Galatians 1:10, Exodus 23:1-2, Proverbs 16:28, 2 Thessalonians 3:11, Colossians 4:2-3, Matthew 25:35-36)

**IS FOR THE TRUTH TO PREVAIL**  
Pray that truth would be spoken in love, that it would be proclaimed, not only over our newswires, but in our homes, in our churches, in our schools, and in our courtrooms, as well. Pray that parents would guide their children in the truth, that pastors would rightly handle the Word of Truth, that judges and juries would uphold the truth, that the Spirit would help us discern truth from error. (Eph. 4:15, 3 John 1:4, Deut. 11:19, 2 Tim. 2:15, Zech. 8:16, John 16:13, John 8:32)

**IS FOR RIGHTEOUS LEADERS**  
Pray for those in authority over us, that they might fulfill the purpose for which God placed them in their current position. Pray that those elected/appointed to office would be trustworthy, and God-fearing, and that they would issue decrees that are just. Ask God to grant wisdom and discernment, both to the elected and to those doing the electing. (1 Timothy 2:2, Romans 13:1, Exodus 18:21, Proverbs 8:15, Daniel 2:21, Acts 1:24)

**IS FOR YOURSELF—WHERE REAL CHANGE STARTS**  
Humble yourself before God and plead for mercy. Pray that whatever work He wants to do in your country would begin in your own home, in your own heart. Ask Him to enable you to recognize and address the log in your own eye, rather than focusing your attention on the speck in your brother's. Pray that He would deliver you from evil and help you live an exemplary life in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity. (James 4:6, 2 Chron. 34:27, Luke 6:42, Matt. 6:6, 13, 1 Tim. 4:2)

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## Faith, Hope and Recovery:

### A Conference on Substance Use and What We Can Do Together

*will be held on Friday, September 27th, from 8:30-3:30 at Crossroads Church in Westminster.*

This day is being presented by The Prevention and Recovery Think Tank and Crossroads Church. We have an amazing agenda of speakers from many walks of life and we look forward to bringing this to you.

Please use the attached flyer to invite others in your organization who are interested in learning more about addiction and how to be the hands and feet of Jesus in dealing with this disease which affects so many in our communities.

We ask you to register for this event. There is a QR code on the flyer, or you can use this link:

<https://crossroads140.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/1304/responses/new>

If you have questions or for more information, you can contact me at:

[mgibbs@crossroads140.com](mailto:mgibbs@crossroads140.com)

## **SANDY MOUNT UMC - CHURCH DIRECTORY INFO**

Please note that Sandy Mount has **TWO** directory resources:

**The 2019 Printed Directory** (free to all those who were photographed for it, and available for \$5 to anyone else - see Kara Urban to get one). This printed directory is only current as of the date of publication.

**The Online Instant Church Directory** (see Access Directions below) This is the **MOST up-to-date** information as it is maintained by us. If you have changes to your contact info, or wish to provide a new picture, you can send the information directly to the Directory Administrator, Kara Urban ([kdurban@comcast.net](mailto:kdurban@comcast.net)), or provide it to the church secretary who will pass it along. Updates to this online directory are immediate.

If you are relying on the 2019 printed directory, we strongly advise that you check it against the *Instant Church Directory* prior to doing any mailings.

### **Instant Church Directory - ACCESS DIRECTIONS**

1. **Via Computer** - through your browser, go to **Members.InstantChurchDirectory.com** - for your initial visit, click on the words "*create a login now*" and follow the directions. **Note:** the email address that you use, **must** be one that you have provided to us for publication in the directory - this is how you are verified as an authorized user. If the email address doesn't match, no verification link will be sent. - after you click "*request login*", you will receive an email confirmation with a link to click on which will bring you back to the website. - enter your email address and a password that you create, and click "*sign in*" - for future visits, just sign in using this same password.
2. **Via Mobile App** - If you have a smartphone, ipad, Kindle Fire, etc. you can view the directory through the mobile device. - Under your "applications" icon, search for "Instant Church Directory". - Download the app - it's free. - You will then be prompted for your email address (which, as specified above, **must** be one that you have given us to list in the directory - this is how the directory remains secure so that only church members can access it). - You will receive an email containing an auto-generated password. - Return to the mobile app and enter this password. - The directory will now be an icon on your device and will automatically update whenever changes are made by the administrator. **Note:** If you "sign out", you will have to go through this process again. You can close the icon without "signing out" though.

## Wednesday Nights at the Church!

Please join us to watch the acclaimed series of  
**"The Chosen"**

Wednesday's **August 7, 14, 21, 28 at 7:00pm.**

Feel free to bring your beach chairs if you'd like a more comfortable seat.

There will be light refreshments provided.

For more information please reach out to Audrey Boyle.

## Book Club

**Please Join us here at  
SMUMC for Book Club!  
We are always looking  
for new members. We  
meet the 4th  
Wednesday of each  
month at noon. Feel  
free to bring your lunch  
and chat about the book.**

**Upcoming Meetings  
August 28**

**"Sunflower Sister"  
&**

**September 25**

**"Remarkably Bright Creatures"**



## Altar Flowers

Rebecca Earle will be handling the orders for The Cutting Garden each month. She will be calling the last week of each month concerning what is needed for the new month.

August 26<sup>th</sup>—for the month of September

September 23<sup>rd</sup>—for the month of October

October 28<sup>th</sup> -for the month of November

November 25<sup>th</sup>—for the month of December

Please keep these deadlines in mind and know that the order cannot be changed once Cutting Garden has been contacted.

The price is still \$50 for 2 vases, the procedure for dedication is the same.

We need a person to help Rebecca if we are to have a poinsettia tree. This process begins in late September.

I have enjoyed serving in this capacity for a good many years. It is time for a change. 😊 Connie

Payment Policy: Please put your check in the offering but label it altar flowers along with your envelope number, if you have one, to help the counters channel the money to the correct account.

Flower Dedication: Please let Rebecca know the Monday before the flowers are given. Complete the dedication form and place it in the secretary mail box or you can call the office.

### August Flowers:

4<sup>th</sup> Scarlett Fisher

11<sup>th</sup> Tina Von Gunten

18<sup>th</sup> Connie & Russ Clark

25<sup>th</sup> Still needed

### September Flowers:

1<sup>st</sup> Kara Urban

8<sup>th</sup> Still need

15<sup>th</sup> Tina Von Gunten

22<sup>nd</sup> McDonough

29<sup>th</sup> Stacey Esgar

When taking your flowers please leave the sleeves for the next week and use a plastic bag to transfer your flowers home. Care should be taken so that the altar cloths do not get drip marks on them. Please remove the sleeves and carry them to the back of the sanctuary before placing the flowers in your bag. Empty the water in the vases on the parking lot then return the sleeves to the vases on the altar. TIP: Large zip-lock bags work really well. Thank you.



Worship, Sunday School, and In-between Café for Fall 2024

10 am First Sunday of each month--Combined Service with Communion/After Hour Café with Casa de Bendicion immediately following the service.

September 1, October 6, November 3, and December 1.

All other Sunday's -2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday's of the month consult your calendar or the calendar in the VINE.

8:45-10 Praise Worship\*\*new time\*\*

10-10:45 Children's Sunday School

10-11 In-between Café

10:20-10:55 traditional prep for organ and choir

11-12 Traditional Worship

Chancel Choir will sing on the fourth Sundays for the fall season at the 11 am service. Our Praise team will continue to lead the 8:45 service. Both groups serve joyfully and with gratitude for how God works in their lives.



September 19, 2024 4-5:30pm in the sanctuary.

**Event: Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

**Needed: A heart to sing for God's glory.**

**Requirements: We will sing the fourth Sunday of each month at 11 am service October-May.**

**Please consider lending your voice for the Glory of our Lord. Additional information contact: Connie Clarke 410-861-8774**



# Fellowship Breakfast

*Saturday, August 10, 9AM*

*Sandy Mount UMC Fellowship Hall*

Have you ever wondered about Hospice Care, what it's all about, does insurance pay for it, who is eligible? Here is your opportunity to find out.

Joining us on this day will be:

**Brenda Pennington**

**Bridging Life Hospice**

The mission of Bridging Life Hospice is to improve the quality of life for patients needing end-of-life care, allowing them to live as fully and comfortably as possible by providing quality care, pain and symptom management, and support for their families.

Brenda will be telling us about all the wonderful methods of care they provide for the patient and for the family. Did you know they have a grief camp for children ages 7-18 at Camp Hashawa, and it's FREE!

You are encouraged to attend the breakfast, bring your questions, bring a friend, enjoy the fellowship, and learn about hospice care.

# FOOD GIVEAWAY

Westminster  
Rescue  
Mission  
**Finksburg**

## What:

We will be providing meat, dry and canned goods, and more!

## When:

3rd Thursday each month from 5-6pm.

## Where:

Sandy Mount United Methodist Church:

2101 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg.

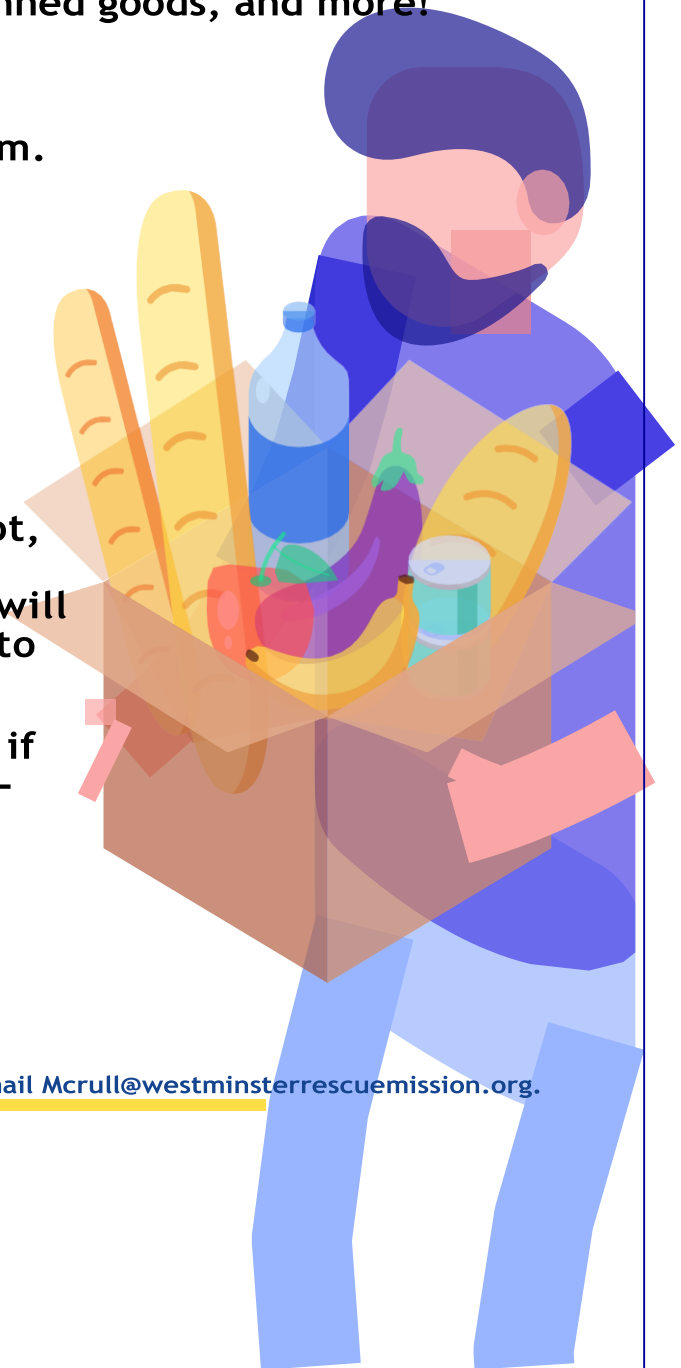
## Note:

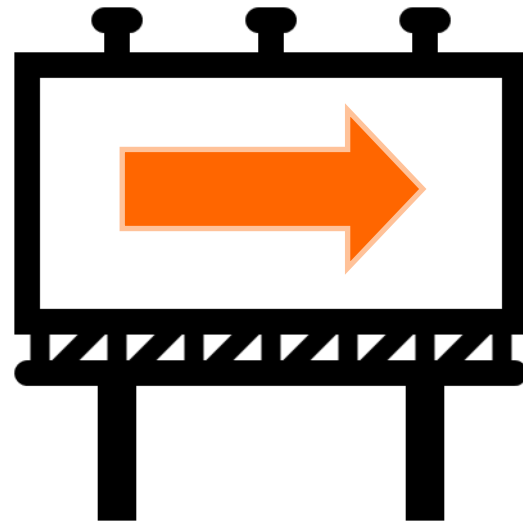
You will be directed to park in the lot, line up for check in, and then walk through to select foods. Volunteers will be present to assist loading items into your vehicles.

Please bring reusable shopping bags if you have them. Bags will also be provided on site.

In the case of inclement weather, we will resume a drive-thru format.

For more information call or text 443.547.8055 or email [Mcrull@westminsterrescuemission.org](mailto:Mcrull@westminsterrescuemission.org).





## POINT THEM IN OUR DIRECTION

**YOU ASKED AND WE LISTENED! THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL IS ANNOUNCING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF:**

### **A FUND RAISER FOR A NEW SIGN**

**FOR SOME TIME THERE HAS BEEN A DESIRE TO REPLACE OUR PRESENT SIGN WITH A MORE MODERN VERSION. OUR PRESENT SIGN IS BEGINNING TO DETERIORATE, AND RATHER THAN PAY FOR REPAIRS THE COUNCIL HAS VOTED TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF REPLACING IT.**

**THE TYPE OF SIGN WE ARE HOPING TO OBTAIN IS ONE THAT LIGHTS UP AT NIGHT AND HAS ROOM FOR SEVERAL LINES OF TEXT. ADDITIONALLY, TEXT CAN STAND STILL OR SCROLL, AND THERE WILL BE COLOR AND LETTER STYLES.**

**IT IS OUR HOPE THAT A SIGN OF THIS TYPE WILL HELP TO ADVERTISE OUR EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND INCREASE OUR ATTENDANCE. TRAFFIC TO SANDY MOUNT SCHOOL, SANDY MOUNT PARK AND THE FINKSBURG LIBRARY PASSES OUR CHURCH. LET'S POINT THEM IN OUR DIRECTION!**

**SIGNS OF THIS TYPE COST BETWEEN \$15,000 AND \$20,000. WE HAVE RECEIVED ONE VERY NICE DONATION TO START US OFF. THE FUND RAISER WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> AND TED WILSON WILL MATCH EVERY DONATION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>.**



## Report on Sandy Mount Retreat and Survey

The retreat was moved from Emory Grove to Sandy Mount UMC at the last minute because of the intense heat. Twenty-seven people attended and together we fellowshiped, played, ate, discussed the goals of our church, and worshipped our God.

There have been comments about surveys taken in our church with results never being shared with the congregation. We want to share our results with you and hope you will find them meaningful.

We received very few replies to our request for you to share your ideas for our church. However, most of the ideas were similar, which enabled us to divide them into five categories. The attendees were divided into five groups, given a category, and asked to come up with an idea that could be put into action. The results follow:

### **Christian Education:**

Weekly Bible Study beginning with Book of Ruth. Sundays 3-4:30 and Tuesdays 11-12:30. Beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>. Lead: Pastor Walker

### **Activities:**

Quarterly events: Fellowship Breakfast planned for August 10 and October 19. Lead: Audrey Boyle

### **Advertising & Communication:**

Electronic Sign- this is something that has been on the want list for some time and is on the way to becoming a reality. The cost will be between \$15,000 and \$20,000. We have received a generous donation for the sign, and Ted Wilson has stated he will match every donation made for the sign.

### **Worship Service:**

Monthly Pot-Luck dinner with some type of worship element. Beginning in September on Wednesdays at 6pm. Lead: Sally Wilson

### **Reaching Out:**

End of summer event to include House of Blessings, Chipmunks and invite community. No one volunteered to lead an event of this type.

### **Homebound Members:**

This idea was not among the original ideas. Connie Clarke brought it to the group from the floor. We need to pay more attention to our members who are no longer able to attend church because they are in care homes or homebound. The group unanimously agreed that this needs our attention and Katie McDonough stepped forward to take the lead.

**Retreat Committee:** Kara Urban, Janet Mathias, Debbie Meekins, Scarlett Fisher