



Church COVID Policy

Masks are optional. Social distancing is still recommended.
Masks, COVID test kits, and hand sanitizer are available.

December Worship Schedule

12/1 10:00am Communion Service
12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29
8:00am Service Doug Brooks
12/8, 12/15, 12/22,
8:45am Contemporary Service
12/8, 12/15, 12/22,
11:00am Traditional Service
12/24 Christmas Eve Services
6:00pm Contemporary
9:00pm Traditional
12/25 Christmas Service with Dough Brooks
9:30am
12/29 10:00am Combined Service

December 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: Sandymtunc@comcast.net
Website: Sandymountumc.com



December 2024



THE VINE

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December 2024

Message from the Pastor

THIS IS THE MOST WONDERFULL TIME OF THE YEAR.

To the People of Sandy Mount United Methodist Church:

There is evidence that this is the Most Wonderful Time of the Year. People are more loving, more generous, more in tune with the needs of humanity. We, the followers of Jesus, await the birth of Jesus anew, every year. What is the motive for buying and giving gifts? Do we give them in honor of the newborn king or something else? Are we buying and giving gifts as a symbol of our ascension in this society or for love of each other and love of God? Have we become so entrapped in the societal, commercialized meaning of Christmas that our first love is nowhere to be found? Some will not say Merry Christmas because it may offend others. Some will not come to church because of the stigma the church has had in their lives.

Please do not forget the reason for Advent. JESUS! God’s love wrapped in swaddling clothing to live among us and show us how to enjoy life and life more abundant.

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON IS JESUS.

I realize for some Christmas is not as happy as it should be. Some are unhappy because of a loss. Loss of loved ones that have left a hole in their heart. There is one who can close the hole, bring joy to your soul, and help you to find happiness this season and every season. JESUS is his name. Jesus, the lily of the valley, Jesus, the bright and morning star. We will sing to his glory the rest of 2024 and all of 2025 because He is God’s only begotten son, who gave up eternity in heaven to save the entire world. He died on the cross, the most horrendous death known to humanity, just for us the world. Jesus deserves all the praise we can give. Miracles have occurred because of the power of Jesus. Jesus has risen loved ones from the dead. Jesus is the reason for the season.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2025 to you all!

From the family of Rev. Dr. Robert E. Walker, Jr., and Rev. Dr. Denise Norfleet - Walker.

December						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00—Communion Service	2	3	4	5 1:00pm-Crafts (Country Acres Outreach) 4:00-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm- Praise Team Rehearsal	6	7
8 8:00am—Service (Doug Brooks) 8:45- Praise Service 10:00-Children’s Sunday School 10:00- In Between Café 11:00- Traditional Service	9	10	11 7:00pm- Wednesday Nights at the Church	12 4:00-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm- Praise Team Rehearsal	13	14 12:00pm-Wreaths Across America (Cemetery)
15 8:00am—Service (Doug Brooks) 8:45- Praise Service 10:00-Children’s Sunday School 10:00- In Between Café 11:00- Traditional Service	16	17 3:00pm- Bingo (country Acres Outreach)	18 12:00pm- Book Club 7:00pm- Wednesday Nights at the Church	19 4:00-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Food Giveaway 7:00pm- Praise Team Rehearsal	20 6:00pm - Message and singing (Country Acres Outreach)	21
22 8:00am—Service (Doug Brooks) 8:45- Praise Service 10:00-Children’s Sunday School 10:00- In Between Café 11:00- Traditional Service 5:00pm Christmas sing along/Potluck Christmas Cards Due	23	24 Christmas Eve 6:00pm-Praise Christmas Eve Service 9:00pm- Traditional Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day (Office Closed) 9:00am-Christmas Service (Doug Brooks)	26	27	28
29 8:00am—Service (Doug Brooks) 10:00am- Combine Service	30	31 New Year’s Eve				

Hebrews 10:23

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.”

December Birthdays

2	12	15	18
Bruce Wahlgren	Audrey Boyle	Jan Piern	Justin Hawkins
Zach Pittinger	Hannah Schaeffer	Ronald Markline	21
Andrea Henderson	Tracy Tiaht	Stuart Friedrich	Shannon McDonough
6	14	16	24
Sara Davidson	Theodore Young	Bev Kuchera	Denise Reske
10			31
Robert Alexander			Rick Kuchera



Service Opportunities

Food Pantry



Please know that we are in **NEED** of donations for our food pantry. It is important that we 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. You can also make a monetary donation that can be placed in our offering. If you have any questions, please contact the Of-

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 \$50 each month to SMUMC.



2024 Shoppes at Sandy Mount Holiday Bazaar

I struggle every year with how to adequately convey how grateful I am to EVERYONE who has helps make our Bazaar the success that it always is. Yet I feel like I end up saying the same thing over and over again. There are so many pieces that go into making it all happen, some of them big, some of them smaller; much that occurs in the weeks leading up to the bazaar, and a lor that is worked on all year. We all have our gifts to offer - time, strength, artistic ability, organizational skills, cooking & baking talents, patience, an eye for design, monetary gifts, a willingness to help in any way. ALL these things are pieces to the puzzle that is the Bazaar. If any one piece was missing, the puzzle wouldn't be complete. If you've helped with even one of the activities below, you are one of those vital pieces.

Crafting 2 mornings a week at the Wilson Workshop, or making things on your own for us to sell	Donating supplies to the crafters
Moving display pieces and product from the storage closets to their designated places (and putting it all back again)	Washing dishes
Setting up the Bake Shoppe, Treasures in the Attic, Fancy Finds, WhoVille Happenings, the Red Room Christmas Shoppe, Face Painting, the Nativity Display, and the Café	Making pumpkin rolls
Copying, cutting, and folding the various paperwork that we use (menus, placemats, event guides, etc.)	Securing the vendors
Planning the café menu, shopping for all the supplies, preparing & serving the food	Scheduling volunteers
Decorating the hallways, Narthex, Fellowship Hall, and bulletin boards	Setting up the outdoor nativity
Putting out the signs advertising the Bazaar (and taking them down)	Lending nativity sets and card tables
Donating items for the Treasure Room and/or the Silent Auction	Setting up the beautiful Nativity Display
Putting out the "Day of" signs (and taking them down)	Baking goodies for the Bake Shoppe
Clearing rooms out, and setting them back up	Volunteering to work during the Bazaar
	Taking flyers to hand out
	Planning the logistics for the whole event
	Any other way that you've helped
	Chairing a Sub-Committee



THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR BEING PART OF THE PUZZLE

Kara



Andrea Henderson	David Miller	John Fisher	Rick Casey
Anna Bicking	David Urban	JOY FISHER	RICK KUCHERA
Annalee Fincham	DEBBI MEEKINS	Kalene Chmura	RUBY DINATALE
ASHER FINCHAM	Doug Brooks	Kathy Bailey	Sally Wilson
Audrey Boyle	DOUG TURNBAUGH	Katie McDonough	SANDY POE
BECKY GERRARD	Faye Haines	KYLER URBAN	Scarlett Fisher
Eelinda vonGunten	Fran Hoffmeister	Lisa Fincham	Sharon Spencer-Kable
Beth Mangano	GENE VONGUNTEN	Luke Denton	Stacy Eogar
Bev Kuchera	George Dittlinger	Lyell Friedrich	STEVE BOYLE
Bev Markline	Ginny Schrider	Mark Young	Stuart Friedrich
Bob Wellman	Heather Wray	MATT MATHIAS	Sue Brooks
BRUCE HEWITT	JACKIE GEORDT	NICOLE CAPLE	Sue Ogle
Carl vonGunten	Jady Fisher	PAM HAINES	TAPIWA CHAKANAKA
CASEY BOYLE	Janet Mathias	Dam Lindsay	Ted Wilson
Catherine Spencer	Jeff McDonough	PASTOR WALKER	Terri Dittinger
Cecelia Kelly	Jennifer Glass	Patty Hinkle	TINA VONGUNTEN
Cindy Blob	JENNY JOHNSON	Paula DiNatale	Tom DiNatale
Cindy Taylor	Jenny Wawrzynski	Deachy Caple	TOM POE
Connie Clarke	Jim Fisher	Rebecca Earle	Vinnie DiNatale
CONRAD VOLLMEYERHAUSEN	Jody Ledford		Violet Hayes
Dave Caple			

(Sub-Committee Chair Names are highlighted)

To date we have grossed a little over \$13,500 but are waiting for our final expense numbers. We'll keep you posted.



Christmas Giving

As the holiday season rapidly approaches, we are all reminded that it is better to give than receive. Sandy Mount UM Church supports many charities locally, nationally, and globally. The church needs your financial support to continue to give to these charities and to meet our expenses. This year the Finance Committee will be placing special Christmas envelopes in the bulletins on December 15th and December 22nd. We ask everyone to please make a donation, using the special envelopes, so we may continue to function as a giving and loving church. On behalf of the Finance Committee, Merry Christmas.



Christmas Offering

Name _____

Address _____

Check No. _____ Amount _____

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.
2 CORINTHIANS 9:15



December 11, 2024 7:00pm

December 18, 2024 7:00pm



Ministry in Action

Food Giveaway



We served 72 families
on November 21st

Christmas Outreach at Sandy Mount - 2024



The *Giving Tree* is *Sandy Mount's* method of delivering *Christmas Outreach*. The idea behind it is to provide you with choices about where you want to direct your help, without making you feel pressured that something new is being asked every time you turn around. The "Ornaments" on the tree represent items that we are collecting to support the following charities this Christmas:

Sandymount Elementary School
Sandy Mount UMC Food Pantry
Carroll County Veterans Independence Project (VIP)

Select an "ornament" or "ornaments" from the *Giving Tree* located in the Narthex. Purchase the item(s) requested and place your unwrapped donation in the designated box located under the tree. "Ornaments" can be returned to the collection box by the tree so that they can be used again.

We are sponsoring 3 families at *Sandymount Elementary School (SES)* this year, and *Pam Haines* will be providing a detailed sign-up sheet of items needed, which will be located either in the Narthex or main hallway. Please sign up for the item(s) you are willing to provide. They should be returned wrapped with a note indicating the family and child that they are for. The sign-up sheet will indicate the due date and where they should be placed. Please see *Pam* if you have any questions about how *SES* works.

We are collecting non-perishable food items for our *Food Pantry*. This is an on-going need, and since the *Food Pantry* is on site, there is no due date. "Ornaments" represent items that are most needed.

VIP is in need of toiletry items for the Veterans that they serve. Donations can be either full or travel size. We are also collecting items for their coffee station. Please have donations in by December 15th so they can be delivered to *VIP* well before Christmas.

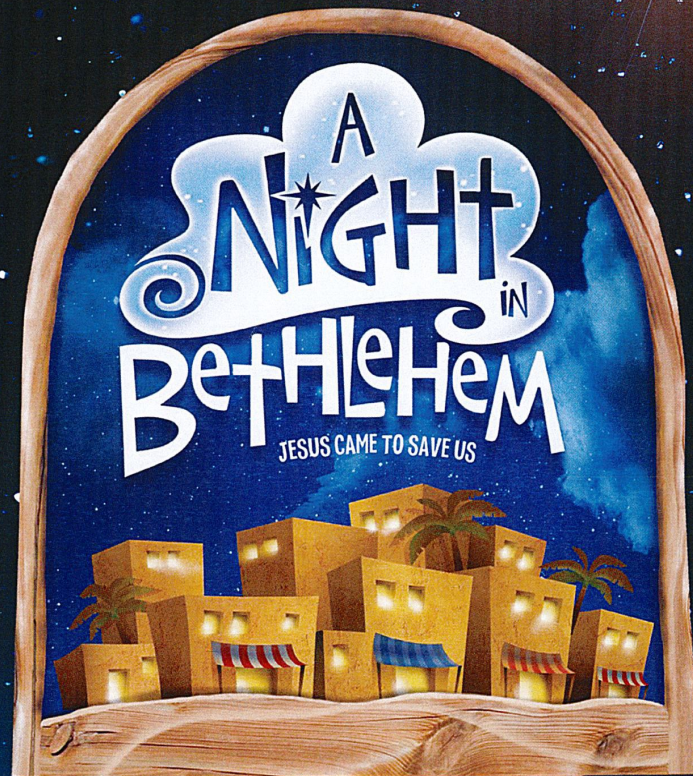
The "envelopes" on the tree provide an opportunity to offer financial support without having to go out and shop for something. Money can be designated to purchase gifts for *SES* families, items for the *Food Pantry*, toiletries for *VIP*, or for *General Outreach* to be used where needed. Just indicate how you would like your donation to be directed, enclose cash, or check payable to SMUMC, and place the envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning, give to *Kara Urban*, or place in the office in-box.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding *Christmas Outreach*, please see *Kara Urban*.



**WESTMINSTER UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
at Center & Main St.



Experience the night Jesus was born

DECEMBER 6—7 5:30—8 PM

For more information and to register for this
free event, visit our website WUMCMD.ORG



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:

Distribution is run in a client choice format. Please park in the parking lot, line up for check in. You will 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 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.



Altar Flowers \$50 for 2 vases

Payment Policy: Please put your check along with a note stating the date you are dedicating flowers for the altar. This will clarify where the money is to be credited for the counters.

Flower Dedication: Please let Rebecca know the Monday before the flowers are given. Please leave the dedication form in the Secretary mailbox, email or call.

December 23th is the last day to sign up for January Dedication. 2025 Flower sign-up chart will be going up the first week of December.

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
1 st - Rebecca Earle	5 th - Still Need
8 th - Steven Boyle	12 th —Still Need
15 th - Susan Miller	19 th - Still Need
22 nd - (Poinsettia's Tree)	26 th - Still Need
29 th - (Cutting Gardens Closed)	



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.**



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


December 18

"Bright Lights, Big Christmas"

&

January 22

Book TBD





Wreaths Across America

December 14, 2024 at noon
Sandymount Cemetery



Sandymount Cemetery has joined 40 other cemeteries in Carroll County participating in the 'Wreaths Across America' program. Everyone is welcome to join us on Saturday, December 14th at noon for a ceremony honoring our deceased veterans and the placement of a wreath on each veteran's gravesite. Sandymount has 89 veterans, serving from the War of 1812 through the Vietnam War.

Everyone is welcome to sponsor a wreath that will be placed at Sandymount. There are several Sponsorship Levels starting at \$17. Honor your vet and help with the wreath laying ceremony.

Please place the code '**MD0316/MDSMMC**' in the remarks section of your check and mail to Tom Poe at the church. Please return the order form by November 15, 2024. If you wish to volunteer or have questions, contact **Tom at 443-881-4599**.

There will be some order forms in the back of the Sanctuary.

To access the order form here please click the link below.

You may need to right click and open the form in a new tab.

[Sponsor A Wreath Form](#)

Join CCVIP for the 4th Annual

Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 5th 2024
600PM-730PM
95 Carroll Street
Westminster, MD

Hot Cocoa
Cookies and Treats
Music
Activities for Kids

VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROJECT

Christmas Cards

It's that time of year. And we once again will be offering a Sandy Mount Post Office Service. Cards are due by Sunday, December 22nd, and can be placed in the collection box located in the Narthex. They will be sorted that afternoon and ready for pickup on Christmas Eve.

For your convenience we do have address labels available for purchase (\$5 a set, payable to SMUMC) However, to avoid waste we are asking that you let Rebecca know if you want to purchase a set before they are printed. She can be reached at the church office.

410-861-5788
sandymtunc@comcast.net

I will have the printed sets requested to hand out at church Sunday.

Any questions, let me know.
 Kara (410-596-7183)



Music and Worship News-December 2024



Advent Services:

December 1st 10 am Combined worship with Communion.

December 8, 15, and 22 worship at 8:45 and 11am.

December 24, 2024 Christmas Eve Services:

Tuesday at 6 pm there will be a Praise Service with a family friendly format. There will be lots of opportunities to hear the Word, sing God's praise and conclude with special candle lighting reflecting the nature of the season.

Tuesday at 9pm there will be a Traditional Service. Passages from the Gospel of Luke will be read and select carols will come between the readings. The Chancel Choir along with a smaller group of singers will be providing special music to glorify God. The tradition of individual candle lighting and reflection will conclude the service.

December 25, 2024 Christmas Day Service:

Wednesday, at 9:30 am. Doug Brooks has a long tradition of providing this worship opportunity for Sandy Mount.

December 29, 2024 The first Sunday after Christmas Day

10 am combined worship.

January 5, 2025 Epiphany Sunday

10 am combined worship with Communion

We hope you take time to worship during the Advent and Christmas season. May hope, peace, joy, and love fill our worship, hearts, and homes as we come together in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Christmas Potluck and Sing-Along

Sunday, December 22 at 5:30pm.

Please sign up for this event and join your church family to celebrate the season.

Your Fellowship Committee

