



February Worship Schedule

2/2 10:00am Communion Service
2/9, 2/16, 2/23,
8:45am Contemporary Service
2/9, 2/16, 2/23,
11:00am Traditional Service



Church COVID Policy

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

February 2025

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

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)

Sandy Mount United Methodist Church
2101 Old Westminster Pike
Finksburg, MD 21048
Email: SandyMtumc@comcast.net
Website: SandyMountumc.com



February 2025



THE VINE

The Vine January 2025



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Message from the Pastor

I greet you in the mighty name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus. The last quarter of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 have been challenging. BUT GOD! I have seen the death of our eldest son and participated in his ceremonial washing and burial, and he is Muslim.

Now, I go to eulogize my sister, God's sister, if you will. She has been more than a God sister; she has been a sister to me; she and her husband have counseled me, prayed with me, and showed me what it means to live in Christ. They weren't perfect; I didn't expect them to be. I'm not perfect, and they didn't expect me to be either. What Ada and Johnny Lee expected was to do the best I could do. I pray that I live into their expectation for me. I solicit your prayers for me this weekend as I eulogize and evangelize my sister. Celebrations of Life should be times of joy and seeing how that person showed the love of God while living so that they testify to what is possible for those left behind with the understanding we will meet again someday.

As I pondered what to preach for my sister's eulogy and listened to the various presenters at the Financial Leadership Conference in Lancaster, PA, I was inspired to organize the portion of the Body of Jesus Christ called Sandy Mount UMC with a theme: Moving from Surviving to Thriving in 2025.

We must recognize that our transition from earth to glory is a move from surviving on earth to thriving in heaven.

For all of us, this is not an indication of our spiritual level, nor does it suggest that better days are not ahead. It is a realization that better days are available with a change in mindset and willingness to see that God's plan has never been for us to stay in one place too long on our spiritual journey. God's plan has always been to trust in Him and allow Him to lead us mainly because we don't know where he wants us to go. Like Abraham, we are to go because He said come and follow me. I have greener pastures for you if you only follow me. We have enough to do the will of God here in this place. We have enough people to do the ministries to make disciples for the transformation of our neighborhoods. Jesus told the disciples to start with Jerusalem and go outward from home. Allow us to begin with home and our neighborhoods. Family members need Jesus, and neighbors need Jesus. What if we started there? What if we used our homes like the first church, the Acts 2 church, as the places to organize Bible studies, fellowship gatherings, and testimonials about how the lord has changed our lives? We want young families with children, so we must have things in place with expectations that they are coming. WHY? Because we are lifting up the name of Jesus and inviting them to "Taste and See" how good the Lord has been and can be. Let's move from Surviving to Thriving in Jesus' name!

Yours in the excellent name of Jesus our Lord and Savior,

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Walker, jr., Pastor Sandy Mount UMC

| February | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10:00am—Communion Service 2:00pm- Bible Study | 3 | 4 12:00pm- Bible Study | 5 1:00pm- Craft Country Acres Outreach 7:00pm- Wednesday Nights at the Church | 6 4:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm- Praise Team Rehearsal | 7 | 8 |
| 9 8:45am- Praise Service 10:00am-Children's Sunday School 10:00am- In Between Café 11:00am- Traditional Service 2:00pm- Bible Study | 10 | 11 12:00pm- Bible Study 7:00pm- Finance Meeting | 12 7:00pm- Wednesday Nights at the Church | 13 4:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Message & Singing Country Acres Outreach 7:00pm- Praise Team Rehearsal | 14 | 15 |
| 16 8:45am- Praise Service 10:00am-Children's Sunday School 10:00am- In Between Café 11:00am- Traditional Service 2:00pm- Bible Study | 17 Office Closed | 18 12:00pm- Bible Study 3:00pm- Bingo Country Acres Outreach Last Day for March Alter Flowers | 19 7:00pm- Wednesday Nights at the Church | 20 4:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Food Giveaway 7:00pm- Praise Team Rehearsal | 21 Articles due for March VINE | 22 |
| 23 8:45am- Praise Service 10:00am-Children's Sunday School 10:00am- In Between Café 11:00am- Traditional Service 2:00pm- Bible Study | 24 | 25 12:00pm- Bible Study | 26 12:00pm- Book Club 7:00pm- Wednesday Nights at the Church | 27 4:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm- Praise Team Rehearsal | 28 | |

February Bible Verse



1 Corinthians 16:14



Let all that you do be done in love.



February Birthdays



| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Cindy Martin | 13 Conrad Vollmerhausen | 19 Linda Palmer |
| Clint Martin | | 20 Jim Goge |
| Heather Baronw | 14 Russell Clarke | 24 Debbie Barrick |
| 9 Jeff Frattali | Ted Wilson | 27 Steve Boyle |
| 10 Lois DeGroff | 16 Rachael Horton | |
| | William "Bill" Yanke | |

ELECTRONIC SIGN DONATIONS

There were not sufficient funds collected to cover the cost of purchasing and installing an electric sign at Sandy Mount UMC.

The church council has made the decision that an electronic sign is NOT a good financial Return on Investment, at this time, for the use of church funds. We, as a church, are currently in a fiscal crisis and have suspended paying our apportionments to the Baltimore Washington Conference.

The council has recommended the following options for our electronic sign fund donors:

- (1) Donors may request the return of their monies donated to the sign fund.
- (2) Donors may designate their funds for other specific church uses.
- (3) Donors may donate their funds to regular church expenses.

Please complete the form below and return it to the finance committee.

The council thanks all of our church attendees for their continued financial support of the many ministries provided by SMUMC.

God Bless,
SMUMC Council members

Name _____

Amount \$ _____

Check one below:

- 1. Return funds to me. ()
- 2. Use my donation for _____. ()
- 3. Use my donation for church expenses. ()

Signature _____

Service Opportunities

Food Pantry



Please know that we are in **NEED** of donation's 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 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

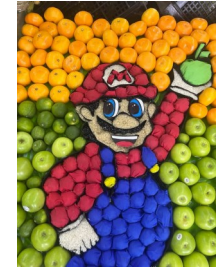
If you have any shoes or clothing items to donate, please drop them in the large bin located in our church parking lot. The bin is emptied monthly by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Because of our effort to help their program, they donate \$50 each month to SMUMC. 



Baleadas are famous here. I had gone to talk to my friends daily that worked in the cafeteria and they gifted me a Baleada. A tortilla with refried beans, scrambled eggs and mantequilla or a special butter.



Tapiwa doesn't eat piggies, but the one day a pig was served. They cooked the whole head...not sure if anyone ate it!



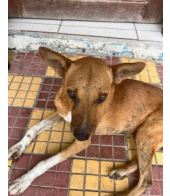
Saw this in the grocery store! Encouraging kids to eat their citrus



Their eggs aren't stored in fridges.



Stopped at a gas station and saw "TridentX" - never have i ever seen that type of gum in the States



I love dogs...pained me to see this one was struggling!



Wild horses grazing in a pasture close to the school. They were very friendly horses!



Kiddos being read a story in spanish by one of the mothers on the team!



in the center of town people sell their art-work they created.



My new friend I made. He works on the bus that travels from city to city, similar to Greyhound but not as luxurious. He does it 6 days a week, and doesn't see his family as often as he'd like to die to him working zz



Had a little reunion with the student helpers I met the year prior!



Students escorting me around the town after long day in the clinic!



At the closing ceremony with the high school boys that helped behind the scenes! Really kind!



Tapiwa and the high school boys! haha



One of the American technicians and a Honduran nursing student were really enjoying the company of one another



Took a free dance class in the evening after a long day at the clinic.



Teaching one of the students how to line dance haha!



At the closing program one of the nursing student's and I were matching with pink. She said she wanted me to be her husband haha!



Got roped into worship leading overseas for our morning devotions.



Took a picture with one of the soldiers that was onsite to ensure our safety being American. He was holding his gun for the picture so I grabbed a broom to hold haha!



Selfie with Honduran police officer



Tapiwa dropped off at the airport!



Setting up the pharmacy!



Preparing the labels for the prescriptions



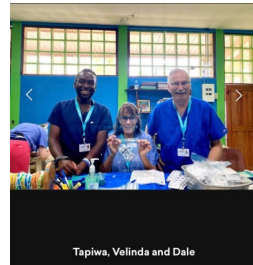
Dental clinic!



Selfie with some of the doctors on the team!



Selfie with one of our dentists on-site, Susan. Koto the maintenance man in the background



Working and training Velinda and Dale in the pharmacy since they have never worked in a pharmacy a day in their life haha!



People waiting to be served, this doesn't show the whole scene but just a glimpse! It is hot so they preferred to wait under the tent



When patients arrive to the clinic they are given Piperazine to treat worm infections. Then they are taken to a pavilion area to hear the gospel message in Spanish. Once that has been completed they are given forms to be taken around the clinic. Medical, Dental, Optical and Pharmacy.



Your Sandymount Contemporary Worship Leader interviewing the patients, hearing and sharing their stories.



Patients waiting to have dental surgery



Team building. We would wake up early morning and hike down the mountain and then back up. Back up was the worst climbing up that steep mountain. If some of you older Sandymounters decide to join me on the next mission trip, bring 2 canes instead of one to climb the mountain haha!



Selfie with the maintenance crew. If there's ever an issue call Koto or Olvin and they will help save the day!



Really got close with the ladies in charge of cooking the food for the trip, to ensure I could get seconds if I still happened to be hungry! haha



Selfie with the American Director of this trip who also happens to be the Head Elder at my home church.



At the school where we hosted the clinic, in their cafeteria, they were selling some Honduran foods! Made new friends here too. Mother, mom's sister and the mididos help to serve the community.

FOOD GIVEAWAY



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 Mcruell@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.

February 18th is the last day to sign up for March Dedication.

| <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 nd —CLOSED | 2 nd —Connie Clarke |
| 9 th —Steve Boyle | 9 th —Still Need |
| 16 th —CLOSED | 16 th —Sally Wilson |
| 23 rd — Bev Markline | 23 rd —Still Need |
| | 30 th —Still Need |

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

February 26
"The Nurse's Secret"
&
March 26
"All the Colors of the Dark"





This beautiful woman emphasized how she wants her first three names featured in this interview. Maria-Martha-Lydia, who is 47, drove two hours to receive the services from Medical Missionary International. She enjoys her work as a cook. She came primarily to fix her smile, and for a leg problem that has been bothering her for some time. She says she's "not in pain but just wants services". She is, "very grateful and appreciates" the services we offer here, and is excited to receive care with us.



Meet 15 year old Guiver! His first time to the Mission was last year, 2023. He heard we were coming back, and had to figure out a way to come to receive service. Guivar says he primarily came to "get my teeth fixed". He also says "it's a beautiful program offered here" He's looking forward to coming again next year too. (edited)



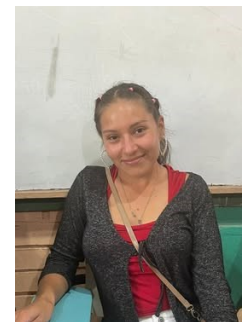
Meet Marlo!! Marlo is a 14 year old student, who is very excited to receive care with us! He was scrolling through Facebook and saw Mission coming to his community and wanted to take advantage of the benefits! He said, "I want a clean mouth today!" He is "very grateful" for the services we offer here and appreciates all we are doing for him and his community. For fun Marlo enjoys driving cars at 14 years old!



Meet Maritza!! She is a 26 year old Honduran woman and stay-at-home mother, who enjoys singing and being with her son who's 5 years old. She heard about Medical Missionary International scrolling through her Facebook account. When dealing with her physical ailments, she tries her best to, "lean on God for support to carry her through the pain". She appreciates the patience that she had to learn waiting in our long lines to receive care, is happy to be in our clinic, and already eager to come back next year!



Meet Obdulio!! He is a 39 year old male, who works as an electrician and cook. He enjoys playing his guitar in his spare time. He heard about Mission through his local community. He appreciates the "kind souls and willingness of the medical staff to take time out of their busy lives to come and help his community". He came looking to receive dental care due to challenges on one side of his mouth, making it difficult to eat, and have strength to make it through the long work day. He appreciates the services we offer and is looking forward to coming back next year!!



Meet 23-year old cook, Onelia who heard about the Brigade through some friends. She drove 3 hours to San Luis, looking to receive mouth care. She says, "it's very beautiful that this program takes care of many people."



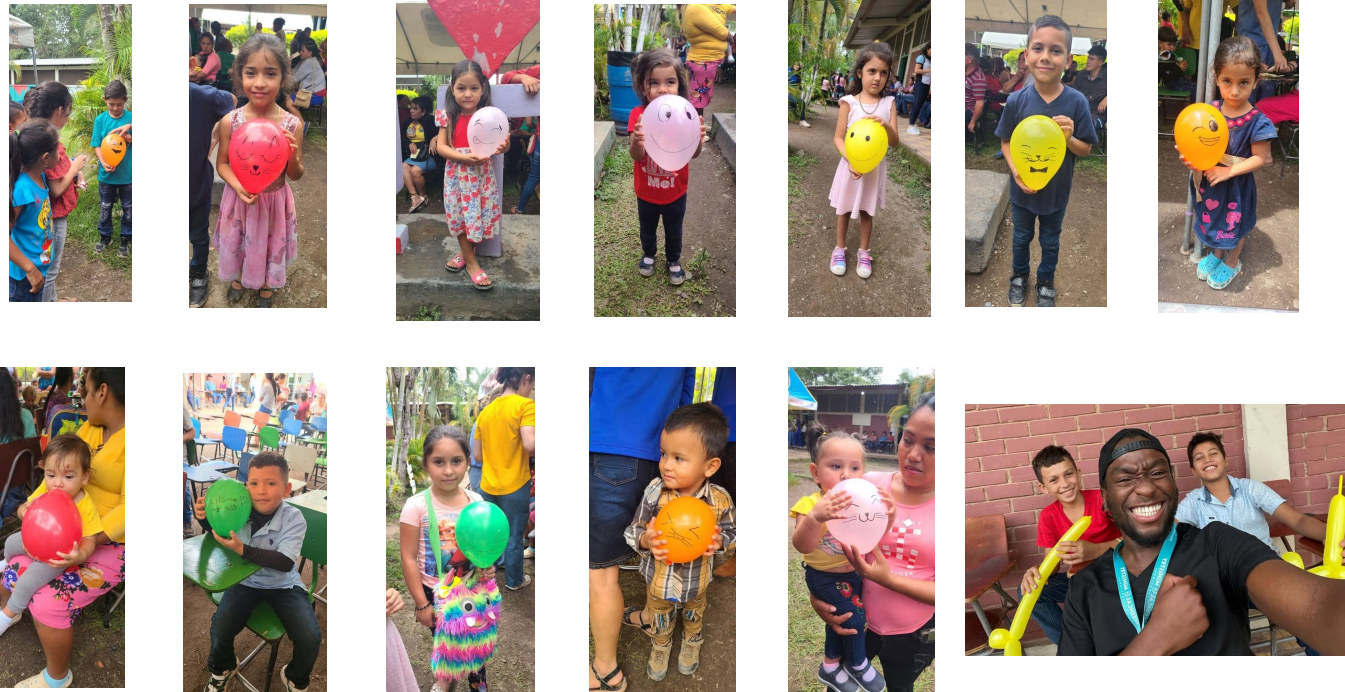
Meet 30-year old cook Maria! She heard through a friend that Mission was coming to the area. She drove 3 hours in carpool to arrive in San Luis for the Brigade. She is looking to receive mouth services, and feels that it is "not a bad experience" (edited)



Meet Nelson!! Nelson is 45, and was driving on his way home when he heard on the radio Mission was coming to his area. He was having some terrible shoulder pains, preventing him from going to work in the medical field. Nelson says, "I really enjoy the services and attention I receive here, thank you". (edited)

Tapiwa's Mission Trip

Balloon Ministry pics for vine article - Honduras



Meet 16-year old student Diana! Her mom's friend told her about the brigade coming, and came 40 minutes by carpool to come receive dental services at the brigade. She's excited for a super clean mouth!



Meet 26-year old Isetia, a stay at home mom & cleaner, who carpoled over an hour to come. She came to her first brigade in 2023, and wanted to come back for more dental, and medical care. She says, "thanks again!"



Meet 21-year old Hector, who lives in San Luis doing construction by trade. He heard about the Mission through people in his local community. He walked about 36 minutes to come to the clinic, and is excited to get his teeth cleaned! (edited)



Meet 36-year old Rosinda, who enjoys milking cows on a farm for work! Hearing through her child's teacher at the local school about the brigade, she knew the medical and dental services would be right for her. The 25 minute drive for her was worth it because of the warm, welcoming interactions with all the volunteers/ staff.



- February 5, 2025 7:00pm
- February 12, 2025 7:00pm
- February 19, 2025 7:00pm
- February 26, 2025 7:00pm

Country Acres Outreach



Thanking SMUMC

The outreach committee coordinated with staff at Sandymount Elementary School to sponsor 3 families for Christmas this year. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide gifts from their wish lists as well as Walmart and grocery gift cards. Staff at the school shared that these families were having a difficult time this year so our help with Christmas meant a lot to them. This is just one way we can continue to share and reach out to those in need in our community.

Veterans Independence Project (VIP)

Our Giving Tree donations of coffee supplies and toiletries were delivered to the Veterans Independence Project on January 8th. They are always very grateful for the support of our generous and thoughtful congregation. Patti Jennings, their kind receptionist, wants to share that VIP is extremely busy serving the local veterans and greatly appreciates our support in this endeavor.

Thank you everyone for your continuing support of our veterans and VIP.

Jenny Wawrzynski, SMUMC Outreach Team