

March 2025



March Worship Schedule

3/2 10:00am Communion Service
3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30
8:45am Contemporary Service
3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30
11:00am Traditional Service



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



March 2025

Church Staff
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Walker, Jr.
Organist/Choir Director: Connie Clarke
Praise Team Leader: Tapiwa Chakanaka
Office Administrator: Rebecca Earle
Custodian: Andrea Henderson

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)



THE VINE

The Vine March 2025



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Message from the Pastor

The Lenten season is upon us.

In the Christian church, Lent is a period of penitential preparation for Easter. In Western churches, it begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter. It provides a 40-day period for fasting and abstinence (Sundays are excluded), in imitation of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. Almsgiving, the practice of giving money or food to the poor and performing other acts of charity, is also encouraged. It is a time of reflection and growing closer to our Lord, Jesus. Some holidays come before we end Holy Week. The first is Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is when all the items used to make bread are used up and/or discarded. Thus, the church celebrates the annual Pancake Supper. The flour using yeast is a symbol of sin rising within the person. Scripture tells us that "false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough!" Galatians 5:9 The Israelites were instructed not to use yeast from Egypt to Canaan. The 40 days, they wandered to get to Mt. Sinai. The thin wafer is used for unleavened bread at communion.

Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God. It marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. It is commonly observed with the distribution of ashes and with fasting. Eastern Orthodox churches begin Lent on Clean Monday and, therefore, do not observe Ash Wednesday.

It was the practice in Rome for penitents and grievous sinners to begin their period of public penance on the first day of Lent in preparation for their restoration to the sacrament of the Eucharist. They were sprinkled with ashes, dressed in sackcloth, and obliged to remain apart until they were reconciled with the Christian community on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter. When these practices fell into disuse (8th–10th century), the beginning of the penitential season of Lent was symbolized by placing ashes on the heads of the entire congregation. **We will worship with Trinity and Deer Park UMC on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7:00 P.M.**

St. Patrick Day

St. Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock. As we journey through this Lenten Season, let us sacrifice and give up one thing for these 40 days of Lent that hinders us from practicing penitence and reconciliation. Let us come to Holy Week as renewed, revitalized, freshly anointed members of the Body of Christ who will not faint in doing good.

In His Service,

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Walker, Jr., Pastor



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:00am—Communion Service 11:00am- 2:00pm- Bible Study	3	4 12:00pm- Bible Study 7:00pm- Congregational Care Meeting	5 Ash Wednesday 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 World Day of Prayer	1 8
9 8:45am- Praise Service 10:00am-Children's Sunday School 10:00am- In Between Café 11:00am- Traditional Service 1:00pm- SPRC Meeting 2:00pm- Bible Study	10	11 12:00pm- Bible Study 7:00pm- Administrative Council Meeting	12 7:00pm- Wednesday Nights at the Church	13 4:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm- Praise Team Rehearsal	14 6:00pm Message & Singing Country Acres Outreach	15
16 (Easter Flower orders due) 8:45am- Praise Service 10:00am-Children's Sunday School 10:00am- In Between Café 11:00am- Traditional Service 2:00pm- Bible Study	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 12:00pm- Bible Study 3:00pm- Bingo Country Acres Outreach	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 April VINE	22
23 8:45am- Praise Service 10:00am-Children's Sunday School 10:00am- In Between Café 11:00am- Traditional Service	24 Last Day for April Altar Flowers	25	26 12:00pm- Book Club 7:00pm- Wednesday Nights at the Church	27 4:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm- Praise Team Rehearsal	28	29
30 8:45am- Praise Service 10:00am-Children's Sunday School 10:00am- In Between Café 11:00am- Traditional Service	31					

March Bible Verse



Joel 2:12-13

2:12 Yet even now, say the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

2:13 render your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.



March Birthdays

1 Ann Marie Reter Ryan DeGross	13 Betty Harry Baley Mumford	16 Caitlyn Erlichman George Pittinger
3 Florence Krauk	14 Wanda Schaeffer	24 Emily Reter
4 Deb Farinholt	15 Carolyn Dinst	26 Gregory Alzander Jean DeGross
11 Edward Geordt Kara Urban	15 Adam Geller Cindy Blob	31 Jeff McDonough Roland Mann



Worship opportunities for March and April 2025

“It is good to praise the Lord, and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.” Psalm 92:1-2

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

- A service will be at Trinity Lutheran in Smallwood at 7:00 pm.
- A mid-day service is offered at Wesley Freedom UMC in Eldersburg 12:00 pm.

Palm Sunday Services are on April 13, 2025, 8:45 and 11:00 am.

The services will begin as a celebration of Christ’s Triumphal entry into Jerusalem and transition into the Passion of Christ to prepare for Holy Week. Palm branches will be distributed.

Maundy Thursday Service on April 17, 2025 will be at 7:00 pm with Communion. The Praise Team will lead this service.

Good Friday, April 18, 2025 the sanctuary will be open for prayer from 9:00am-2:00pm.

Easter Sunday morning services: April 20, 2025

Sunrise Service, 6:15 am led by Doug Brooks, followed with a light breakfast in the fellowship hall. This service is determined by the rising of the sun, so check with Doug as it gets closer to the date.

Easter Sunday -- We will celebrate our Savior’s Resurrection with Praise, Prayer and Proclamation, both at 8:45 and 11:00am.

Special Easter flowers are available for dedications and may be taken after the Easter Services are concluded.



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.



EASTER

Easter Flowers from Sweetbay Farms

It is time to plan your order for Easter Flowers. Below will be a list of flowers and there prices. Please follow the details carefully then submit your order form, dedication, and payment in an envelope labeled Easter Flowers. A \$2.00 delivery fee will be added to your order regardless of how many plants you order.

Orders are due by Sunday, March 16th (Late orders can not be honored)

Please indicate the quantity of flowers you want for each item. Total your order and make your check out to SMUMC labeled Easter Flowers.

- _____ 4.5" Mum \$5.50
- _____ 6" Hyacinth \$10.50
- _____ 4.5" Hyacinth \$5.50
- _____ 6" Daffodil \$10.50
- _____ 4.5" Daffodil \$5.50
- _____ 6" Tulip \$10.50
- _____ 4.5" Gerber Daisy \$7.00
- _____ 6" Easter Lily \$13.50
(White Blooms Only)
- _____ \$6.00 loose bunches of flowers for the outside Cross

\$2.00 + _____ = _____
Delivery + Flower total = Total for your order

Name _____
(Name for order/your name)

Dedications

Only names will be listed in the bulletin.

In Honor of: _____
(Name of living person or persons)

In Memory of: _____
(Name of decease person or persons)

For additional dedications please use the back of this form.

Thank you!!

Finance Committee Lenten article for March.

Updated article will be in the April Vine.

As the Lenten season rapidly approaches, we are reminded of the Christian tradition of giving up a favorite food or activity; just as Jesus gave up his life for our sins. Your sacrifice could be your favorite chocolate or cup of coffee or a night at the movies. We, the Finance Committee, will be placing special Lenten envelopes in the bulletins on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We ask that whatever amount you saved during this period of Lent, you place in the special envelopes and turn the envelope in on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. Your Lenten sacrifice will help to continue the ministries of Sandy Mount.

Community Table News March

Our team from Sandy Mount will be serving at Community Table on

Thursday, March 27, 2025.

Our Outreach Committee continues to support feeding the hungry in a variety of ways. Those of you who help with this effort continue to be consistent in your service. We are grateful to each and every one of you that serve. The Community Table Team is always open for other members in our congregation to come and serve or eat with us. This initiative is funded through your offering. We begin preparing the meal at 9:30 am and serve lunch at 12pm. We are usually finished, cleanup included, by 1pm. Want to know more? Pick up a flyer from the back table in the sanctuary, look on the bulletin board in the hall, contact person C. Clarke or contact

CommunityTable@WesleyFreedom.org

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 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.

March 24th is the last day to sign up for April Dedication.

<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
2 nd —Connie Clarke	6 th — Still Needed
9 th —Closed	13 th —Still Needed
16 th —Sally Wilson	20 th —Easter Display
23 rd —Closed	27 th —Kathy Baily
30 th —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

March 26

"All the Colors of the Dark"

&

April 23

"Killers of the Flower Moon"



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