

# MESSENGER



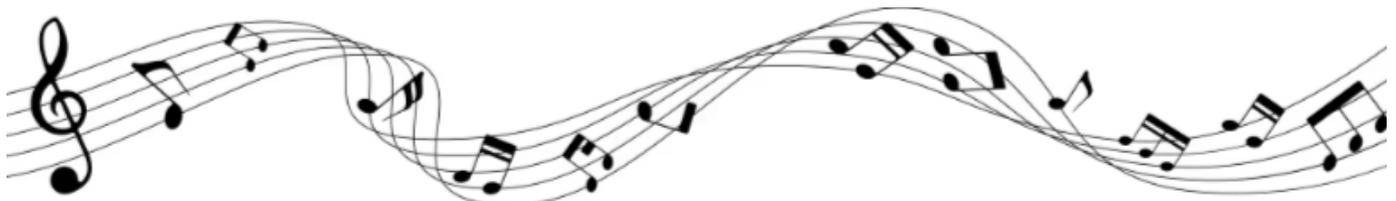
Pastor's Pen:

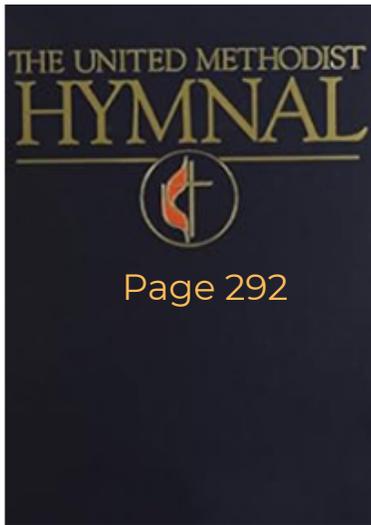


## *What a love story!!*

Isn't it amazing all that **God** is doing? I mean, just to come up with all this companionship stuff, and to make a creation where it could all take place is pretty wild, right? But even when the whole place became wrecked by hijackers and selfish, sinful children, **God** never gave up on his original project. **God** entered into creation and showed us love up close and personal! While we were still helpless the bible passage goes, even while we were yet sinners, it says, **God** demonstrates His own love toward us (Romans 5:6,8 NASB).

This Valentines Day, let's remember the greatest love—the most wondrous love ever: this amazing love shown to us by the **Maker of the Stars** when he walked along these shorelines. There's a great tune about it on page 292 of our United Methodist Hymnal:





In Jesus love,  
Pastor Mike Cantley

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life  
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
to lay aside his crown for my soul.*

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing:  
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme I will sing.*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And through eternity I'll sing on.*



# Rising to the Occasion

Sunday  
Worship

On January 18th, we were blessed to have **Owen Furry** fill in for **Pastor Mike** as he was on a well deserved vacation. **Owen** led the worship and gave a very insightful sermon. He is a senior at Catocin High School and is planning to attend Messiah University in the fall. His parents are **Adam** and **Jackie Furry**. We all wish him well as he continues his journey. Many thanks to **Bonnie Gillum** for leading the worship with scripture readings. Also, a thank you to **Trudy Price** who shared her message with the children.



Owen Furry



Bonnie



Trudy



# January 25<sup>th</sup> Service via Zoom



We had too much snow to safely conduct church service in person. **Pastor Mike** welcomed everyone on-line and led us in prayer. Reading the scriptures were: **Pat Brabson, George Tuggle** and **Brooke Cantley**. **Pastor Mike** then shared the weekly message. He then had a time of sharing and closed with a prayer. There were 35 members on-line during this challenging time. Way to perservere.



## Oldies and Goodies



Trudy



Mary

The Oldies and Goodies' 1st gathering for 2026 was on January 15th. **George Tuggle** led the group in prayer before the meal. **Mary Harner** provided pulled pork for the main dish which was delicious! Thank you **Mary!**

Trudy Price put our brains to the test with 2 games. The 1st one was lots of trivia about the month of January. Winners were **Pat Brabson, George Tuggle, Bonnie Gillum** and **Karen Wivell**.

The 2nd game was a numerical quiz with **George Tuggle** as the winner.

Thank you, **Trudy!**



The next Oldies gathering is on February 19th at noon at the church. Everyone is always welcome!

## Pride

My grandchildren, **Ronnie and Lilly Long**, were Inducted into the *National Honor Society* on January 19th at South Western High School.

My husband and I are very proud of them.  
**Mary Harner**



# Help Needed to Carry Out the Lord's Word

## \*\*\* Sunday School Teachers and Helpers\*\*\*

On January 18th, I had the pleasure of spending time with the young disciples. We discussed spiritual gifts. Some gifts mentioned were music, giving, knowledge, teaching, love and encouragement. I asked the kids to write on a piece of paper what they think is/are their gifts. Naturally, a lot of the kids were thinking of actual presents. Some were too young to know what the spirit has gifted them. I'd like to share some of the responses.

**Dominic** - love, giving, faith

**David** - singing carols and sending cards (encouragement/exhortation, service/help)

**Bo** - knowledge

**Each one should use whatever gifts he/she has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms - 1 Peter 4:10**

**Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us - Romans 12:4-6.**

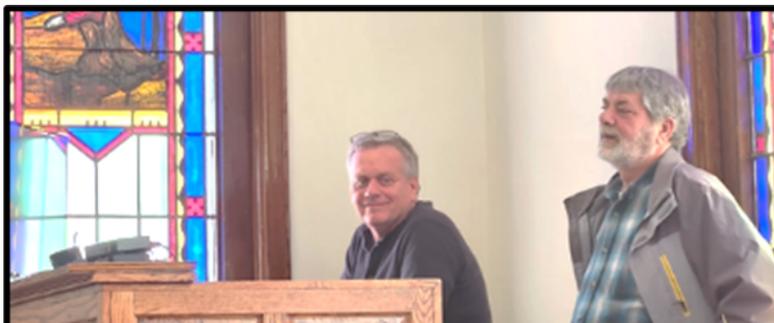
For a reference of spiritual gifts, check 1 Corinthians 12:1-31. If you have the gift of teaching or can help, we need you in the youth ministry.

If you are interested, contact **Trudy Price** at 717-337-2897 for more information or questions you may have. If you have not yet been approved by our Safe Sanctuary Committee, contact **Heather Fitzgerald** at [faithisfirstnow@gmail.com](mailto:faithisfirstnow@gmail.com) to go through the process.

Thank you, **Trudy**

## \*\*\* Audio Visual Technicians \*\*\*

We need volunteers to run the presentation during worship on a rotating basis. If you can help, please contact **Debbie Henning** at 410-259-5814 or [debbiehen@gmail.com](mailto:debbiehen@gmail.com). There will be training on February 8th and 15th following the service.



**Larry Henning and Dale Kaas**

## \*\*\* Host Fellowship after the Service \*\*\*



## Take 2 in '26!

**We need a few more leaders willing to take two turns hosting fellowship in 2026.**

Hosting fellowship is fun and easy. Coffee and bagels are provided by the church. If you like, pick up a pre-paid gift card from **Susie Honaker** to purchase donuts. We can also reimburse you for other goodies that you provide. Please call **Susie** (301-785-5732) or the church office and leave a message if you are willing to host fellowship two times in 2026! Thank you.

## Mark Your Calendars



### **Caring Committee/ Visitations after 10:30**

Visitation to shut-ins will be after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday School. A light lunch will be served before we leave. All are welcome to join us.



### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7 pm**

We will have our annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** next Tuesday evening, February 17th, from 5:00 - 7:00pm. Come on out and enjoy pancakes with lots of toppings, sausage (donated by the Boltons of Groff's Content Farm!), fruit cocktail, donuts, orange juice, milk and coffee. Invite your family and friends!! There will be a basket for donations benefiting **SHIP** (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) of Frederick County. **SHIP** provides critical resources and urgent services to the hundreds of Frederick County youth who experience homelessness each year. Their last report stated there are over 900 students in Frederick County Public Schools who are homeless. Flyers are on the table in the lobby for you to take and give to family and friends. Sign-up sheets are on the table for food donations and help with the dinner.





## Ash Wednesday, 7pm at Thurmont UMC

Join area United Methodists for a shared Ash Wednesday Service at the Thurmont UMC, 13880 Long Road, Thurmont, MD 21788. Invite your family and friends for another opportunity to support Owen Furry as he will be preaching.



## Oldies and Goodies – 12pm

Jim and Vicki Cramer will be providing pork chops and spare ribs for the main dish. Come and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship.



## Easter Flower Orders now - March 1st

You are invited to purchase Easter Flowers in honor or in memory of someone. The flowers are available for purchase to decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Order forms are available on the lobby table. The closing date to order is Sunday, March 1, 2026. Please complete the information on the order form and return it to Carol Amoss with your check payable to "T.C.U.M.C." and note "Flowers" in the memo line. Please retain a copy of your order. Thank you.



## Tom's Creek Community Cemetery News



To the residents of the Emmitsburg community. The Tom's Creek Cemetary Committee is **raising the price** of a single burial plot from \$1,000 to \$2,500. This will take effect on 4-1-2026. If you are interested in purchasing one or more please call 240-315-5073