

February 2024



Magothy United Methodist Church



Magothy Messenger

Welcome to the season of Lent!

Lent comes from the Old English word *lencten*, means lengthening of the daylight hours, which is what occurs in spring. Lent, in its traditional Christian sense, is an annual season of fasting and penitence in preparation of Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and lasting 40 days (not counting Sundays) to Easter Sunday. It is a time when we attempt to be honest with ourselves and with God about our sins.

The season of Lent invites us to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need for a savior; it invites us to renew our commitment to daily repentance. It invites us into a forty-day period of self-denial, a time to focus on one or more practices of imposed self-discipline so that we can remind ourselves of the depth of our sinfulness and the frequency of our failings in our journey with God.

The forty days of Lent are meant to recall for us Jesus' forty days

of temptation by Satan in the desert. How we enter into the disciplines of the season affects how much we grow over the 40 days. Christians are forever trying to place ourselves...all that we are...in God's hands at all times. That's a hard thing, a seemingly impossible thing, and sometimes a scary thing.

We need to remember that we enter the season as Easter people. We are called to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has already conquered sin and death. In that remembrance, we should be motivated by faith and drawn by trust – trust that He has given us repentance as a grace – a personal gift of God to us that comes for the purpose of instilling life in us. God loves us so much that God gave us his Son to bring God's redemptive love to us: we are called

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The mission of Magothy United Methodist Church is to:

- Share Christ's Love**
- Hear the Word of God**
- Serve People**

Our vision: To build a Christian community that serves the least, the lost and the lonely

Two, Count 'em, Two Bible Studies

Magothy has two Bible Study groups that meet in the church Library. One meets on Mondays from 1 to 2 p.m. and the other is Monday evening from 7 to 8 p.m. Free Bibles are provided, if you need one!

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE: Yes, we have TWO Monday Bible Studies. Since they will not focus on the same study material, you may attend one or both!

Each group decides which study they'd like to pursue.

Both Bible Study groups invite new members.

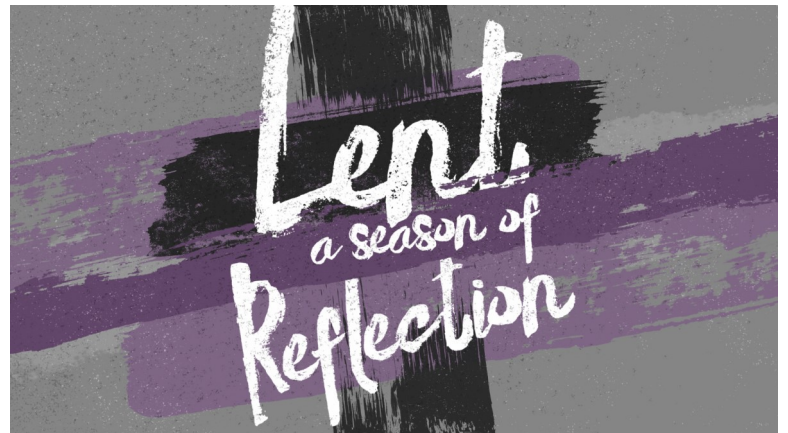
NOTE: If you'd like to attend the evening group but have difficulty driving at night, let us know and we'll work on carpool arrangements.



Pastor's Corner (continued from Page 1)

to remember that "... God sent His only begotten Son so that all who believe in Him might not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him" [John 3:16 – 17]. We who journey the Lenten wilderness are called to remember God's faithfulness and extraordinary love as we make our way towards the Easter celebration. And I believe our Lenten practice should be out of response to this unfathomable love – not out of guilt, not out of obedience to rituals, but out of the overwhelming gratefulness for God's love on our behalf.

I encourage you to be attentive to God's Spirit – is God drawing your attention toward an attitude or specific quality that



God desires to purge or to enlarge in you? Or is God perhaps forming in you a vision or picture of your journey in faith, a gift of hope to encourage you? Ask God to reveal the ways that you might be fuller of God's grace and love than you could have ever imagined. May our forty days produce a God-given strength within us that we never knew could be possible!

Pastor Martin

Lenten Thoughts

Lent is a season of re-dedication, denial and expressing gratitude. I am personally so very thankful for the blessing of our pastor, church family and the historical heritage of Magothy UMC.

In my heart of hearts I am sure every brother and sister in Christ who attends Magothy shares their love, commitment, service and finances from their hearts and to the best of their abilities.

We have the most wonderful church family that is faithful to Magothy and each other. Although some have passed or moved away we are still strong in numbers and growing. Everyone at Magothy cares deeply for our church and its continued growth. Like any family we don't always agree but we do continue to love and support each other as well as our wonderful church.

During this Lenten Season let us please be mindful of loving one another and to serve in the way our Lord Jesus Christ instructed us. Always remember Colossians 3:23-24:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters".

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Parker

We welcome letters, stories, poems and, yes, even cartoons you'd like to share in future editions of the Magothy Messenger newsletter. Email to Secretary@Magothy.org or drop off at the office.

Caring & Sharing Ministry Opportunity

Magothy's Caring & Sharing ministry meets regularly to address cards to comfort church family members who have been sick or have experienced a loss. This group has recently expanded their outreach to include celebrating birthdays, too.

Caring & Sharing welcomes your donations of adult and child birthday cards, get well and sympathy cards that will help to show love and caring to the recipients. Donated cards may be left in the basket outside the church office. Reach out to Barbara Albrecht with any questions antBarbx2@gmail.com

Community Breakfast

Our community breakfast is amazing!

This fresh, hot, bottomless breakfast is \$8 for adults; free for children 11 and under. Breakfast is served each third-Saturday of the month.



Mark your calendar to join in for the next breakfast on **Saturday, March 16th**, serving from **7 to 10:30 a.m.** in St. Patrick's Day style.

We welcome volunteers for roles before, during and after each breakfast. If you would like to volunteer please contact Robin Bartlett, robinbartlett1518@gmail.com

Winter Relief is Coming to Magothy March 18-25!

Our Winter Relief or week is **Monday, March 18 through Monday, March 25, 2024**. As many of you know, Magothy UMC has hosted people who don't have permanent housing for a full week once per year for well over a decade (except for 2021 when the program was cancelled due to COVID). The program is organized and administered by the Arundel House of Hope, a non-profit organization located in Glen Burnie. Approximately 40 churches are participating in the program this season. Generally, we host about 30 clients, but this year it will probably be 15 or less due to success in finding permanent housing and the milder winter weather.

WHAT WE WILL NEED:

Chaperones – We need at least 2 chaperones for each shift. The evening shifts are 7:00 pm to midnight. The overnight shifts are midnight to 6:00 am. On weekends we need chaperones during the day, split into 3-hour shifts for morning, mid-day, and afternoon. (Monday through Friday, clients are transported to the Arundel House of Hope facility during the day.)

Food and Meal Providers – We serve hot breakfast and dinner on-site each day. On weekends, we serve lunch on-site. Typically, small groups of volunteers will prepare, serve, and in many cases, provide the food. On weekdays, bagged lunches are provided to the clients as they leave each morning. Thus, we need volunteers to make and bag the lunches each night before. Donations of packaged snacks, bottled/canned drinks, are encouraged.

Funding – Typically, this ministry costs about \$1,500 each year. This includes food, supplies, transportation, laundry, Dish TV service, and any unanticipated costs. (We get some food from the foodbank and volunteers, but typically only about half the total need.)

We carried over \$800 extra funds from 2023, but for the balance could use small monetary donations above your normal giving, designated for Winter Relief. Donations may be placed in the offering plate, in envelopes marked "For Winter Relief" or sent to the church office.

Please pray about how God is calling you to serve this year.

The sign-up charts are up in the Fellowship Hall now!

Questions?

Jim Schmidt coordinates our Winter Relief program at Magothy UMC.

GeoJim26@gmail.com

Children's Sunday School

Many thanks go out to the teachers and assistants who teach the children faithfully each Sunday. It takes a lot of discipline, faith and love.



Our current materials are about how to "Love Like Jesus". Soon we'll be working in our new topic: "Walking with the Waymaker". In those sessions, we'll delve into Jesus's miracles in the Bible, showing how the miracles demonstrate his divinity and his constant presence in times of difficulty.

Our policy is to have a lead teacher and one or two assistants each week in order to have smooth, safe learning environment for our young people.

Are you willing to help us keep growing our Sunday School ministry? We could use a few more assistants that would fill in occasionally during the Children's Sunday School time at 10:30 on Sundays. text 443-871-8421 or email: jeanniekelly@rocketmail.com

GO Games - They're a Hit !

Have YOU been to the GO Games yet? Go Games is a happening event at Magothy, usually hosted during the 4th week of each month, that focuses on our young people up to 6th grade age.

We have played ping pong (thanks to the Dolch family), Twister, corn hole, and something we call "The Mystery Game." Curious about what that is? You'll have to drop by and see it in action! Our games are continually changing. Come join in and use up that pent-up energy.

We're going to go bowling in March during the school spring break—Tuesday, March 26th from 1 to 3 p.m. at Severna Park Lanes.



If you need a ride, let us know (we can set up carpool rides together).

WHO: Children and Youth, Parents & Guardians, and teen/adult helpers are invited, too.

Barb Albrecht is the Coordinator for Go Games - antBarbx2@gmail.com

An Update from Magothy's Finance Committee

Many thanks to our gracious church family for your ongoing financial support of Magothy UMC and her ministries.

The Mission of MUMC is to Share Christ's Love, Hear the Word of God, and Serve People. We accomplish this mission statement every time we open our doors for the recovery groups, the monthly breakfast, Doorstep Mission, youth activities, and so much more. Thanks to your generous donations to our Manna fund, we also help individuals from our church family and community with financial assistance to avoid eviction, pay utility bills and meet other urgent needs. What a blessing to know that people are comfortable coming to Magothy to get help and experience God's love.

Like most churches, we're not yet back to the levels of engagement we had before 2020. We have seen church attendance and giving both rebounding since the Pandemic, though a bit slower than we'd hoped. You'll recall that we told you back in late 2022 that our usual "reserve" fund levels were running lower than usual. The \$27,000 raised through the Niftee Thriftee "matching money" fundraiser, and other generous year-end gifts that year restored that reserve.

We closed 2022 in good financial shape. By careful spending, conducting a pledge drive, and drawing some funds from that 2022 reserve in 2023, we were able to carry out all of our missions and ministry, and again met all our obligations, including paying 100% of our mission shares! This is quite an accomplishment for any church.

As we move into 2024, the Finance Committee will keep you posted on the state of our finances. The monthly Finance Committee meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month at noon in the library (unless otherwise calendared), and all are welcome.

If you have any questions about church finances, or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to the Chair, Sarah Bazen at sarahbazen@yahoo.com or to any member of the committee. It will be exciting to see what God has planned for us this year!

2024 Finance Committee:

Sarah Bazen, Chair
Rev. Martin Brooks
Bill Buck
Robin Bartlett
Edson Beall
Thomas Carr
Erma Ellecamp
Elaine Grahe
Felicia Granofsky
Josephine Pritt

Our Services for Holy Week 2024



On Palm Sunday, March 24th, Magothy will be hosting our guests from Winter Relief, so there will be no 10:30 service in Fellowship Hall.

We will hold one worship service complete with Bell Choir music in the White Chapel at 9 a.m. on Palm Sunday. Magothy UMC Church of the Deaf also invites our hearing church congregation to join in at their Palm Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. in the White Chapel, where there will be

voice interpreters as well as ASL.

On Holy Thursday (March 28th) and on Good Friday (March 29th) , we will hold joint services with the Deaf church in the White Chapel at 5:30 p.m. each evening.

Easter Sunday will be glorious - Those who wish to celebrate a sunrise service are invited to join in as the Pasadena Area Clergy gather their congregations at Kurtz's Beach for a service beginning at 6:30 a.m.

Magothy UMC will hold one Easter Service at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Those who buy and dedicate Easter lilies will be able to take their plants home at the close of that service in

Fellowship Hall. Magothy UMC Church of the Deaf also invites our hearing church congregation to join in at their Easter Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. in the White Chapel, where they will have voice interpreters as well as ASL.



Holy Week 2024 at Magothy UMC

Palm Sunday

March 24th

9 a.m. in White Chapel

10:30 Deaf Church Svc.

Holy Thursday

March 28th

5:30 p.m. in White Chapel

Good Friday

March 29th

5:30 p.m. in White Chapel

Easter Sunday

March 31st

6:30 a.m. Kurtz's Beach

10 a.m. Fellowship Hall

10:30 Deaf Church Svc.

Magothy Trustees Want You to Know ...

Trustees for Magothy UMC:

Ken Zimmerman, Class of 2025 Chairman
and Secretary

Mike Levy, Class of 2026, Vice President

Robin Bartlett, Class of 2024

Jane Hartlove, Class of 2025

Sonny Moreland, Class of 2024

Josephine Pritt, Class of 2026

Jim Schmidt, Class of 2024

The Trustees named above are very active in maintaining the three buildings and large property. This group meets monthly. Pastor Brooks, Felicia Granofsky (Treasurer) and Lee Catlett (Administrator) also usually attend our meetings.

The Trustees have continued to monitor and make repairs to The White Chapel, Educational Bldg/Fellowship Hall, and Harmony House plus the Chapel in the Woods. We faced many challenges last year but at the same time attempted to make some changes to save money.

Some actions taken in 2023:

- A new copier lease was negotiated due to the previous lease expiration. With a better lease rate and less cost per page, Church will own a copier within three years. Users need to be more cognitive of what is being copied and the number of copies.
- Installed Wi-Fi thermostats in the Fellowship Hall and White Chapel. Now one can control temperature settings more and by mobile phone or PC. Should see future savings in energy costs. Just installation cost for thermostats to the church.
- The Anne Arundel County Fire Marshall did an inspection and found some deficiencies that have been corrected. This

did cost the church some money. Plus received free material and labor from others. Within one year need to install ceiling tiles in the basement below Magothy Cooperative Preschool- Approx cost \$2000 plus free labor by the Preschool.

- The Harmony House had a metal roof leak that had to be repaired plus some ceiling damage. Misc repairs were done. The escrow account helped cover some expenses.
- The Chapel in the Woods has a new shed.
- Some trees have fallen on the property.
- We continue to pay for lawn services, snow removal, pest control, HVAC maintenance, insurance, fire systems inspections and utilities. These expenses are very high and continue to increase. Bills are always being reviewed to ensure fees are fair and reasonable.

Projects on the “to-do” list:

Some of these projects are critical needs and some are longer term. The ideal would be to combine volunteer help wherever possible, to reduce costs, with professional help, as required. Minor repairs are now often being contracted out due to members not able to do the work or no volunteers.

1. The Harmony House outside stairway should have Bilco cellar metal doors installed to cover the full area way down the steps to stop leaves clogging up the drain and prevent water coming in the basement. Approx cost \$4,000.
2. The Educational Building/Fellowship Hall has a fire alarm system that is very old and parts are starting to be hard to find. The system is outdated. We have very few strobe smoke detectors, which the Deaf community is very concerned about. The existing system cannot be upgraded. It is not central station

Trustees Report (continued)

3. The White Chapel has no fire alarm system. Approx costs \$35,000.

4. The Educational Bldg/ Fellowship Hall exterior building needs painting. We have wood that needs replacing that is rotten. Approx cost \$5,000.

5. The Harmony House needs exterior painting for \$5,000 plus. Shutters need to be painted too. The gutters on the Educational Bldg/Fellowship Hall and White Chapel need to be cleaned out and re-secured in sections. Approx. Cost \$2,500.

6. The old shed in The Chapel in the Woods needs to be removed from the property. Approx Cost \$500.

7. Leaf removal is now being contracted as the Boy Scouts did the work before.

8. The church's stained-glass window coverings require some repairs and replacement. Approx Cost \$45,000.

9. The Harmony House monthly deposit to the escrow account should be increased by about \$125/month

Generated Income:

1. Anne Arundel County continues to pay monthly lease payments, utilities, and water/ sewage bills for Harmony House. Lease will be increased soon.

2. Magothy Preschool continues to pay monthly lease payments. Plus assist in making repairs and cover expenses. They are a real asset to the church.

3. The Nifty Thrifty Shop is a real help in making donations to the church building repairs. Magothy does not pay their insurance or utilities.

4. Magothy Church of the Deaf assists with expenses (electric, capital improvements).

5. Some outside organizations or private parties do make donations from using the building. But

other groups need to contribute to cover the cost of air conditioning and heating the rooms.

Summary:

The Trustees need more members to do the management of the property. Gordon and Elaine Grahe's time and talents surely will be missed.

- Keep in mind the Trustees are not here to hinder the use of building activities but want to make sure the project is planned with no unsafe or unhealthy issues.
- The church is fortunate to have a church member as the Custodian who looks out for the Trustees' interest. The Church Secretary is helpful in being on site for contractors and informing the Trustees. Working with the Church Treasurer is a pleasure for managing the expenses and reports.
- The Trustees continue to monitor all new building expenses priorities, which is most beneficial. All work will be based first on health, life safety and building code.
- The costs of Trash Removal, Pest Management, Fire Inspections, Building Insurance, Lawn Maintenance, and Electric/ Gas have all seen increases in 2023

Reminders:

- Please reset thermostats in rooms when not be occupied to 60 degrees and reset when occupied to 71 degrees.
- Insure all interior doors and exterior doors are closed/shut all the way. Sometimes doors do not close automatically. Ensure doors are locked. Exterior doors have been found to be unlocked the next day.

If you see any unsafe conditions or issues in the building, please let a Trustee know or contact the church office.

Examples of Daily Practices for Lenten Season

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the 40 days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why we have 6 Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joy.

Lenten Calendar 2

	Sunday <i>(celebrate)</i>	Monday <i>(pray)</i>	Tuesday <i>(communicate)</i>	Wednesday <i>(help)</i>
Week 1	<i>Celebrate!</i> (Mini-Easter)	Pray for someone that's hard to get along with	Tell someone you love them	Do someone else's chore
Week 2	<i>Celebrate!</i> (Mini-Easter)	Pray for your family	Call someone you haven't talked to lately	Forgive someone
Week 3	<i>Celebrate!</i> (Mini-Easter)	Pray for our schools/teachers	Write a letter to someone you love	Give at least 5 pieces of clothing to Goodwill
Week 4	<i>Celebrate!</i> (Mini-Easter)	Pray for our leaders	Introduce yourself to a neighbor	Give a bottle of water to someone who's thirsty today
Week 5	<i>Celebrate!</i> (Mini-Easter)	Pray for something in the news today	Write a thank you note to your favorite teacher/mentor	Ask to help someone with a task today
Week 6	<i>Celebrate!</i> (Mini-Easter)	Pray for our church	Give 3 genuine compliments today	Notice someone who is feeling down and give them a pep talk

why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these d with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

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Thursday <i>(read)</i>	Friday <i>(create)</i>	Saturday <i>(walk)</i>
Psalm 150:6 <i>(and remember it throughout the day)</i>	Make a list of 20 things you're thankful for	Walk for at least 10 minutes & pay attention to what you see
1 Thess. 5:16 <i>(and remember it throughout the day)</i>	Pick a hymn or worship song. Listen/sing/read the lyrics!	Take a 'trash collecting' walk (bring a bag!)
Ephesians 4:32 <i>(and remember it throughout the day)</i>	Draw/color a picture of something that reminds you of God.	When you walk today, pray for the houses as you pass them
Psalm 56:3 <i>(and remember it throughout the day)</i>	Make a card for someone special	When you walk today, listen to the sounds along your path
Psalm 136:1 <i>(and remember it throughout the day)</i>	Draw/color how you feel when God forgives you	Invite someone new to walk with you today
Psalm 145:9 <i>(and remember it throughout the day)</i>	Play your favorite song and dance!	Walk somewhere new today!

Find your path of self-reflection and spiritual discovery, and invite others to join you as you seek to observe a holy Lent. There's not one prescribed way. Instead, we are each encouraged to find our own method of confronting our sinfulness, remembering our mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Lenten Calendar at the left is an example from a United Methodist Church in the western United States. How would YOU create a chart of meaningful reminders of your own plan for observing Lent?

Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something, to study the Bible, or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Survival Revival It's Coming April 27th!

Magothy UMC and Mt. Zion UMC-Magothy are inviting the community to an uplifting event right here in The Chapel in the Woods. On Saturday, April 27th from 4 to 6 p.m., Pastor James Gordon, Pastor Martin Brooks and Pastor Johnnie Randolph will preach and pray with the gathering, and Mt. Zion's Gospel Choir will keep the trees swaying along to their heavenly music.

If you or someone you know needs to have their spirit revived, their outlook on life renewed, or their faith strengthened, this is the time and place! Come and help Magothy make disciples for Christ. It's time to come home!

Survival Revival 2024

It's Time to Come Home

**Place: The Chapel in the Woods
at Magothy UMC, Saturday, April 27th - 4 p.m.**

Rain or Shine (will move indoors, if rain)

Magothy UMC and Mt. Zion UMC-Magothy invite YOU to an afternoon of encouraging preaching, uplifting music, and beautiful prayer, all with the intent of helping seekers to come to Christ and to help Christians deepen their relationships with the Risen Lord.

For more information, please contact
(call or text):

Pastor Martin Brooks (410) 739-1488 or
Pastor Johnnie Randolph (301) 814-3264



**Magothy UMC
(410) 255-2420**

**Info: Magothy.org
3703 Mountain Road
Pasadena, MD 21122**

Magothy United Methodist Church

3703 Mountain Road

Pasadena, MD 21122

www.magothy.org

www.facebook.com/magothyUMC

Church Office: (410) 255-2420

Pastor: The Reverend Martin P. Brooks

Office (410) 255-2634, Cell (410) 739-1488

Email: pastor@magothy.org

Regular Worship Schedule (except 5th Sundays)

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in the Historic White Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Classes for Adults (September—June)
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Praise Music Service in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◇ Sunday School for children and youth following Children's Time at 10:30 service
- ◇ Holy Communion is shared, usually the first Sunday of every month

5th Sundays:

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Classes for Adults
- 10:00 a.m. One Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday School for Children follows children's time in the service