

HOPE IN ACTION

SANDY RUN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH (SRMBC)

SUNDAY SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Joel D. Churchwell

Facebook Live 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

YOUTH CHURCH

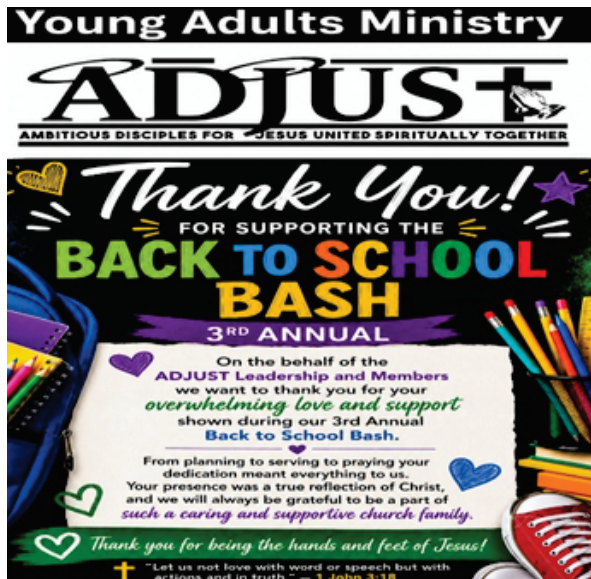
Director Jennifer Cooper

1st & 3rd Sundays of the Month
During 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
(currently for ages 6-12 yrs)

BIBLE STUDY

Virtual or In-Person
Resumes Sept 22 & 23
Midday Tuesday - 12:00 noon
Wednesday Night - 6:00 p.m.
Register: www.sandyrunmbc.com

Back To School - Blessed & Backpack Ready!



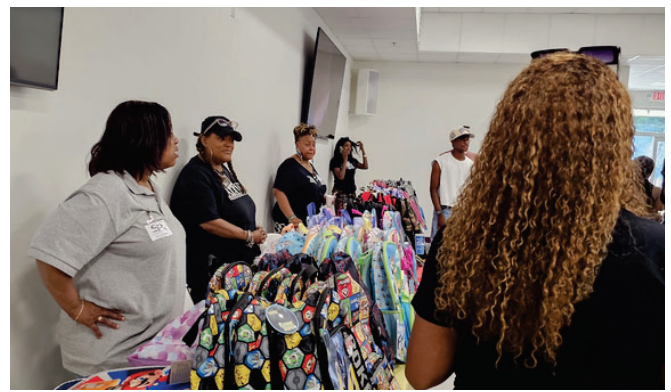
We are overflowing with gratitude to everyone who made our Young Adults Ministry's 3rd Annual Back to School Bash such a huge success. Saturday, August 1st, from 12:00-2:00 p.m., Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church was the place to be! Outside, fun filled every corner of the parking lot; inside, backpacks loaded with ample school supplies for grades PreK-12 filled the Fellowship Hall tables.

Attendees could visit booths and receive educational information set up by the Onslow County Library, Onslow County Health Department, Onslow County Council of the Arts, and Marine Federal Credit Union.

The Jacksonville Fire Department's fire truck on site and our local Jacksonville Police Department were exceptional at starting conversations and interacting with our youth.

The smell of hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill, popcorn, snow cones, a gigantic inflatable jumping house, face painting, musical chairs, corn hole, bracelet-making, and music by a professional DJ filled the air and joined the chatter of students and families bursting with summer stories as they prepared for the next chapter of an academic school year.

To God be the Glory, and many thanks to the over 350 people who attended for being the hands and feet of Jesus! The New International Version of 1 John 3:18 says "...let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." This was more than a weekend event—by the grace of God, it reminded us of what the power of community and partnering together can accomplish!





Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church started in 1854 under a bush shelter across the street from where she currently stands. One hundred seventy-two years later, she still stands as a living testimony of God's grace, His will, and His plans. From her humble beginnings to the blessings we see now, His hand has guided her journey. Every prayer prayed, every soul touched, and every act of love has been a stepping stone in who she has become. On August 16th we celebrated not just the years, but the blessings, prayers, and service that have shaped our church into the community of faith she is today as The Hallmark of Hope. During our morning worship service, we shared our church's foundation, heartbeat, and future through a cinematic presentation featuring personal stories from members, pictorial memories cataloged over the years, and hopes and visions from our Pastor — Rev. Dr. Joel D. Churchwell. This anniversary video was a unique approach that connected historically,

generationally, and emotionally with many in attendance. The guest messenger for the occasion was Rev. Dr. Ricky L. Banks--President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. With a scriptural background in Acts 12:5, we were blessed to receive an insightful message entitled "Much Prayer; Much Power."

On this 172nd anniversary, we honored our journey, knowing that we are all part of something greater. Let us look forward to a bright future filled with hope, unity, and purpose for Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church, our Hope Community, and all who reside within Tract 26. Psalm 100:5 reminds us that "...the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations." (New International Version). Let us press forward with renewed strength, knowing that the same God who brought us this far will carry us into even greater works. May our hearts remain steadfast, our hands ready to serve, and our voices lifted in praise--as the journey continues, and His promises never fail.

A Steward of Liberation

ANNA MURRAY DOUGLASS

A common pattern in popular historical understandings of the abolitionist movement is to view men as the central characters in the drama against slavery. However, women fought, died, and sacrificed for freedom as often as men did. In many cases, the husband in a married couple gets all the attention, but in reality, he could not have succeeded without his spouse. The case of Anna Murray and Frederick Douglass clearly shows that no great men would be remembered without the great women who stood beside them.

Anna Murray was born in Maryland around 1813, though her exact birth date is unknown. Her parents had been enslaved but were freed just one month before Anna was born, making her the first of twelve children born into freedom. She left home at seventeen years old to support herself as a seamstress.

Frederick Douglass and Anna Murray met sometime in 1838 in Baltimore, perhaps while attending the same church. Their affection was hindered because Anna was free while Frederick was enslaved, and her role in Frederick's emancipation is lesser known. She sewed for him the sailor's uniform he used as a disguise to board a ship bound for the North. She also borrowed a freedman's certificate that Douglass could use as a sort of fake ID during his escape. She also provided the money for them to settle in Massachusetts and begin a life together.



Throughout their forty-four-year marriage, Anna Murray Douglass used her prodigious skills as an organizer and manager to run their household. As her husband's notoriety increased, Anna Murray Douglass "in every possible way that she was capable of aided him by relieving him of all the management of the home as it increased in size and in its appointments. She also risked her life by harboring Douglass as a fugitive slave until English friends raised enough money to purchase him out of slavery in 1845. She opened her home as a stop on the Underground Railroad to assist others escaping from slavery.

In all her efforts, Anna Murray Douglass professed faith in God and aspired to live a life of Christian integrity, as shown by ensuring the family regularly read a chapter of the Bible around the table, each member reading a verse in turn until the chapter was complete. This was no mere exercise or hollow ritual for Anna. She strove to live a Christian life rather than just talk about it.

Even though we rightly remember Frederick Douglass for his daring, his speaking, his writing, and his activism, he may never have made it out of slavery if not for the tireless efforts of his wife, Anna Murray. Her steely strength and humble willingness to work without renown exemplify the spirit of justice.¹

[1] Tisby, J. (2024). *The Spirit of Justice: True stories of Faith, Race, and Resistance*. Zondervan.

A Healthy Community Starts Here



When you read that declaration, "A healthy community starts here," what thoughts come to mind? Are those sentiments physical, spiritual, relational, and/or emotional in nature? If so, these core dimensions of wellness are interconnected and significant in the social determinants of health that shape our community's quality of life. It is also central to our ministry context and enrichment series study on *Community-The Structure of Belonging* to ensure effective equipping in our conversations, outreach, and advocacy with and for our neighbors and businesses in census tract 26. Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church's 5K Fun Run/Walk and Faith and Blue event on Saturday, October 17, 2026, is an annual no-cost opportunity to engage these values! Sandy Run is an active organizational partner and a bridge between residents of census tract 26 and the public safety community of Police, Fire, and EMS leadership and members of

Jacksonville and Onslow County. Scan the QR code to register for the 5K and sign the famed wall or sign up to volunteer in the vestibule. Whether you decide to walk/run or volunteer, make sure you register or sign up to enjoy a dynamic day of fellowship and community engagement.



A Word from the Well A New Season of Stewardship

Dear Sandy Run Family,

I joyfully invite us into a new season of ministry as we begin developing our own teaching curriculum for the 2027 Vacation Bible School. For years, we have envisioned a curriculum that reflects who we are, what we believe, and the ministry God has entrusted to us; now, with prayer and purpose, we move from vision to creation.

God has blessed our congregation with ministry leaders, teachers, creatives, and servants whose gifts can help shape lessons for every age group we serve. Therefore, this will be a shared work of faith, born from the heart and witness of The Hallmark of Hope.

The curriculum will be rooted in Christian Stewardship, a biblical foundation Dean Felicia Churchwell has taught through our Christian Leadership School. As we continue to embrace stewardship not simply as a principle, but as a way of life, I believe our worship will deepen, our prayer will be the voice of our faith, our giving will become an expression of hope, and our community conversations will become open doors for ministry and meaningful connection. In this spirit, "The Hallmark of Hope" will continue to stand as a center of connection, hope, generosity, and faithful transformation; faithfully stewarding all that God has entrusted to us for His glory and the good of His people (read Psalm 24:1-2).

Let us prepare through prayer, study, collaboration, and vision. We are not simply writing lessons; we are shaping a resource that can strengthen faith, form disciples, and bless generations.

With faith and expectation,
Pastor Churchwell

Youth Church

Every 1st & 3rd Sunday!

We would love for all children ages 6-12 to join us for Youth Church every first and third Sunday during our morning worship service. We have a great time learning about God through fun, engaging, and age-appropriate Bible lessons. In Youth Church, children explore God's Word, learn how to apply biblical truths to their everyday lives, and enjoy meaningful activities that help build their faith. We would love to have your child join us as we learn and grow in God's Word while having fun together!



Future Connections

Monday - September 14, 2026

Be A Hopeful Friend Outreach
Carolina Rivers Nursing &
Rehabilitation Facility
6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Saturday - September 19, 2026

Pink Table Talk: Breast Cancer Awareness Event
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
SRMBC Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tuesday - September 22, 2026

12:00 noon
Midday Bible Study
"Promises~Prayer~Faith~Obedience"

Wednesday - September 23, 2026

6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study
"Promises~Prayer~Faith~Obedience"

Sandy Run MBC



"The Hallmark of Hope"

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