



AGAPE Grapevine



Dear Bethesda,

As we bask in the warmth of this radiant August sun, we find ourselves surrounded by the beauty of God's creation at the height of its abundance. It is fitting then, that we take this moment to reflect on the theme of stewardship, particularly as it relates to the natural world around us.

Scripture reminds us of our divine assignment in Genesis 2:15, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." This sacred task, handed down from our earliest forebears, holds as much significance today as it did in Genesis. It asks of us not merely to inhabit this earth but to nurture and care for it as stewards of God's creation.

As Methodists, we understand that our faith cannot be confined within the walls of a chapel or be expressed solely through words or prayers. Instead, our faith asks us to extend our devotion to God in our daily lives, and that includes how we interact with nature. After all, God's love for us is manifest in every leaf, every blade of grass, and every cool breeze we enjoy. As we look after creation, we not only fulfill a divine mandate but also embark on a journey of spiritual growth.

This journey of stewardship may be as simple as making more sustainable choices in our daily lives. Recycle where possible, conserve water, choose locally grown produce to support our farmers and decrease carbon footprint. It might be teaching our children to respect and care for animals, showing them that every creature, big or small, is a valued part of God's kingdom.

This August, I invite each of you to deepen your role as a steward. Seek ways you can appreciate and protect the natural world around you. May your actions serve as a testament to your love for the Creator and His creation. By doing so, we'll draw closer to the Divine, growing in faith, understanding, and love. In this month and beyond, let's embrace our duty as caretakers of this beautiful planet entrusted to us. And as we do so, let's remember that stewardship extends beyond our physical environment—it is a mindset that values all life, cherishes relationships, and seeks to serve God through service to His creation.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Zac Wheeler

GRACE EXTENDED

Thank you, Bethesda! I have had many positive comments and offers to contribute "time, talent and service" to GRACE EXTENDED MINISTRY. I have begun to organize a "steering committee". This committee will be approximately eight people and will include at least one youth and/or young adult. We will work together to create a mission statement and assign areas of service. Each area will have a leader from the steering committee. The leader will then develop a list of "following folks" who are willing to contribute to that specific area. For example, one steering committee leader will be responsible for coordinating/tracking greeting cards sent on behalf of Bethesda. This leader will divide the actual task among the "following folks".

HOW YOU CAN HELP NOW! I am seeking PRAYERS. GRACE EXTENDED will be making prayer cards to leave when visiting, include with greeting cards and use several other ways. I am asking you to write some short (no more than 4-5 sentences) prayers. This way we can have a variety of thoughts and styles. My email is Mkblackburn@hotmail.com. **The sole purpose is for reproduction.** You may make it specific to health, grief, new baby, etc. or simply extending GRACE. Prayers will be rotated, and writer will not be identified.



Thank you,
Kathy Blackburn

It's Time! Mark Your Calendar for Shorebirds Baseball - Sign Up Now

The UMM invites the entire Bethesda family and friends to join us for an evening of friendship, fellowship, good food, and baseball.

Call the Church Office to sign up or drop by at your convenience to make payment.
Office hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 2 pm

Executive Club (a/c)
Club seats outside
Friday, August 18th, 6:00 p.m.
\$39.00 per person

All You Can Eat - Baseball menu:

- BBQ Pulled Chicken
- Grilled Hamburgers
- Gilled Hot Dogs
- Pickles & Sliced Cheese
- Baked Macaroni & Cheese
- Potato Chips
- Watermelon
- Pop Corn
- Pepsi Soda Products
- Water, Tea, Lemonade

The important thing now is to get your name on the list in order for your ticket(s) to be reserved. Don't forget!

See Nevette Muir, Jack Layton or any UMM member to get your tickets. This event is always fun. Come out and enjoy the good food and fellowship.



Reservations and payment will be due to the Church Office or any UMM member by Sunday, August 13th. Remember family and friends are welcome!

Make checks payable to: Bethesda UMM

Brenda Sawyer will be on vacation the week of August 21st. If anyone is available to volunteer in the church office a few hours that week please contact the church office at 410-742-8855. Thank you.



Santa's Angels

Thank you for all of your generous bids for our July auction! Your bids will help us to support our families in need at Christmas!

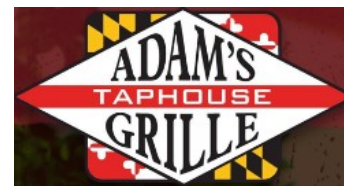
Our next auction will be November 1st!

TEXA1S ROADHOUSE GIFT CARDS for Sale!
We are continuing to sell Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards (Denominations of \$25 or \$50) for Texas Roadhouse. Additionally, we will offer you a free appetizer with each \$50 purchase while supplies last. This would be a fabulous gift for a loved one on their birthday or anniversary! You may place an order by calling Lora Adkins at 410-726-2977 or email me at kadkins30@comcast.net or call Lois Moorhead at 410-430-3086. Thank you in advance for your continued support of Santa's Angels.

Thank you for your ongoing generous support of Santa's Angels!

Senior Singles

Thursday, August 10th - 1 pm
Meet at Adam's Ribs in Fruitland, MD
RSVP Sandy Mills, 410-422-7305,
or Dr. Dan 443-735-3292



The Senior Singles will do Brunch on Sunday, August 27th at 12 noon at Evo Public House Call Ann Suthowski at 410-742-8310 to RSVP and for more information.



August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
6 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 10th Sunday after Pentecost Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 11th Sunday after Pentecost Dead the Ball Game \$5 club	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 12th Sunday after Pentecost	21 Brenda Sawyer on vacation this week	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 12:00 PM Senior Singles Brunch at Evo 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 13th Sunday after Pentecost	28 12:00 PM UWIF Executive Board Meeting @ Tamara's 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting - Fireside Lounge	29	30	31		



Time to Think About our Silent Auction!

Though we are enjoying the summer weather and seasonal activities, it's not too soon to start thinking about our annual Fall Festival, which will be on **Sat., Oct. 7**. Once again, Bethesda will host a yard sale, baked goods sale, Silent Auction and of course we will be selling our delicious oyster sandwiches, homemade ice cream, and many more wonderful treats.

Our Silent Auction typically features over 100 baskets/gift cards/gifts on which guests may bid. Many of those items are donated by local businesses but some come from people like you! If you have items in your home, which are brand new or have never been used and would be appropriate to give to someone as a gift, please contact Nancy Rowe at 443-880-6867. We may be able to use them in one of our gift baskets. We try to have baskets for everyone in the family, so keep that in mind as you are sorting through things at home that you have never used and would like to donate.

If you have a connection to a business which would contribute a gift card, free passes, gifts, or merchandise, please contact Nancy. These would be greatly appreciated!

Likewise, please be looking for things in your home that would be appropriate for our yard sale. It will feature small pieces of furniture, baby/children's games/toys, kitchen equipment, home decorations, glassware, dishes, books, sports equipment, jewelry, etc. Contact Melanie Donophan after 5:00 PM (443-880-1743) with questions.



The Executive Board will meet on Monday, August 28th at 12 noon at the home of Tammy Taylor-Evans.

I hope you enjoy this perspective on the dog days of summer by Edward Grinnan of Guideposts. Heat waves are a fact of summer in New York. When one hits, Manhattan turns into a concrete desert. A lethargy settles over the populace; even my dog is affected. The minute Millie steps outside our building and senses the temperature hovering above ninety, she does an about-face.

"Come on, Mil," I snapped at her one steamy Saturday morning last year before the day became too hot. "You need exercise." She gave me one of those pleading looks dogs are so good at and then set out in the direction of the dog run, moving slowly, deliberately. I tried to speed up but she was having none of it. Finally we arrived. Millie greeted her friends, took a long sloppy drink from the communal water bowl, and settled herself for a nap in the shade, under the bench where I was sitting checking my BlackBerry.

Napping was not exercise. I glanced up and scanned the dog run for a ball I could throw. What I saw slowed me down. Dogs were everywhere, relaxing in the shade, wading sedately in the big kiddie pool we all chipped in for, stretching languidly or just sitting peacefully with their people. And everyone appeared very content. Owners read books and newspapers, sunned themselves, chatted and, yes, even napped, heads lolling to the side. A briny breeze wafted softly from the Hudson, rustling the trees. Otherwise, all was quiet.

Millie was right. What was all the hurry about, especially in this heat? Slow down. Take a break. I turned the phone off, slipped it into my pocket and closed my eyes. Today was going to be one of those days when nothing happened. And that was good.

And, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest. Zechariah 1:11

Lord, sometimes You need to tell me when to slow down, because I'm not always as smart as my dog.



United
Women
in Faith

<https://guideposts.org/daily-devotions/seasonal-devotions/a-devotion-for-the-dog-days-of-summer/>



From: The Office Staff, Music Staff, and
Ministerial Staff of Bethesda United
Methodist Church

Agape



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Bethesda United Methodist Church
406 N. Division Street
Salisbury, MD 21801
Phone: 410-742-8855

E-mail: bethesda-umc@outlook.com
Web Address: www.umcbethesda.org

Editor: Brenda Sawyer

Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM—Contemporary Worship
—Memorial Room
10:30 AM—Traditional Worship
—Sanctuary

[Facebook.com/bethesdasalisbury](https://www.facebook.com/bethesdasalisbury)

School Supplies for Students of Wicomico Middle School's 2023-2024 Year

Happy August to our Bethesda Family! The summer is flying by, and the fall season is right around the corner, and that means our kids are headed back to school after Labor Day. Wicomico Middle School is the school that Bethesda UMC is partnered with in our community to help support the 100+ teachers and 900+ students. One of the support activities we do is collect and donate school supplies. Now is a wonderful time to shop for these items as they are "on sale" at many retailers like Target, Staples, and Walmart. Below is a list of basic school supplies and personal items requested for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students that are in need. If you would like to make a monetary donation, I can shop for you! Please make checks payable to Bethesda UMC with a memo of Wi-Middle School Supplies. Donated items may be placed in the box by the Church's Ramp Door, given to Walter or myself, or dropped off to the church office by August 31, 2023. Please continue to enjoy your summer, be safe, stay healthy, and thank you for your continued support and generosity!
 --Lois Lake-Moorhead (Mobile # 410-430-3086 – call or text)



Composition notebooks – Wide Rule	Spiral Notebooks (1 or 3 subject) Wide-Rule
Binders	Dry Erase Markers
#2 Wooden Pencils	Sharpies
Erasers – large pink or cap erasers	Folders – pocket or 3-prong with pockets
Black or Blue Pens	Personal Hygiene items
Deodorant (boys or girls)	Tissues

Music News

One of my guilty pleasures is listening to my Sirius XM Radio when I am driving around the county visiting schools. I even have the app on my phone so that I can listen to programs at night and in the early morning when something awakens me. My favorite channels are the Broadway channel, the Big Band channel, Hair Nation, and Radio Classics. The Radio Classics channel plays many of the old-time radio shows including comedy, drama, and even science fiction. I have come to really enjoy "Johnny Dollar" and "The Whistler."

Last week all of their programming revolved around Christmas in July. The shows they played had something to do with Christmas, either Marshall Dillon was protecting Dodge City from people who were stealing children's presents or characters in Dimension X were talking about getting their spaceship back to Earth for Christmas.

The station reminded me that it is my traditional time to listen and choose Christmas cantata music and then plan backwards to when the choirs return to offering anthems in the worship services. For me, it is always enjoyable to listen to current composers' original and arranged Christmas themes and how the narration or staging can add to the overall effect. It is also nice to sit on the deck on a sultry summer evening sipping sweetened iced tea thinking about the snowfall that might cover my backyard in December. One of our choir members suggested that we host a community sing-along of Handel's *Messiah*. However, I think that I will encourage our members to go to a *Messiah* event at another church because I love it when we present our cantata on Sunday morning the week before Christmas.

So, if you are one of the people who celebrate Christmas in July or if you simply start your count-down and shopping, I would encourage you to take this time to focus on the miracles that happen everyday that make our lives worth living. We will soon celebrate Christ's birth with wonderful music - Christmas music that I am planning now on the porch in 80-degree weather (in between Radio Classic programs).



See you in church,
 Jeff



Kid's Café: Project School Clothes

Project School Clothes is a way for our Kid's Café program to supply school clothes and supplies for the children in our program. Many organizations are collecting school supplies and handing them out to those in need. Here at Salisbury Urban Ministries, we would like to focus on the needs of our 13 children.

Monetary donations are being asked for Salisbury Urban Ministries to be able to buy school supplies and clothing for the Kid's Café. Any size donation is gratefully accepted. Below are some ideas:

- \$ 5 helps to buy pencils & scissors
- \$10 helps to buy loose leaf paper & notebooks
- \$15 helps to buy a backpack
- \$20 helps to buy a shirt, sweater, or pants
- \$30 helps to buy a winter coat

Supplies and clothing will be handed out to the children in time for the start of school. The monetary donations will help throughout the school year to buy items and clothing as the need arises.

- Monetary donations can be made as directed by your church

Thank you for all the support!

Questions, contact us at 410-749-1563 or sbyurbanministries@gmail.com

Do you play party bridge? Ann Suthowski is looking for bridge players. Please call Ann at 410-742-8310.



Salisbury Urban Ministries
 Kid's Café School Clothing Project 2023



The Kid's Café School Clothing Project is a way for our Kid's Café program to provide school clothes and supplies for the children in our program. At Salisbury Urban Ministries, we would like to focus on the basic needs of our children.

For the project this year, we are asking for monetary donations by **AUGUST 15TH 2023**.

These donations will help purchase school clothing and supplies throughout the year.

Questions, contact us at 410-749-1563 or sbyurbanministries@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of the children God has called us to serve.

American Cancer Society: Relay For Life (Crusaders For HOPE Team) "Sunday of HOPE" Celebration is September 17th

If you would like to order a luminaria "In Honor of," "In Memory of," or "In Support of" a loved one, please complete and submit the form below, make your donation by check or by cash, payable to the American Cancer Society, and place in the offering plate, drop off at the Bethesda UMC office, or give directly to Susan Webster by Sunday, September 10th.



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

I would like to order _____ luminaria(s) as part of the "Sunday of HOPE" Contemporary and Traditional Services on September 17, 2023. Suggested donation: \$10.00 per luminaria. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Name #1 _____ Honor Memory Support

Name #2 _____ Honor Memory Support

Name #3 _____ Honor Memory Support

Name #4 _____ Honor Memory Support

Together our collaborative efforts are having a positive impact on the fight against cancer in our community. **If you would also like to make a donation to other local cancer nonprofits, you may write a separate check payable to Women Supporting Women or Coastal Hospice at the Lake. (More info to follow in the September Agape)**

Bethesda's Fall Festival Date is Set

Come ONE, Come ALL -- We are busy prepping for **Bethesda's Fall Festival** scheduled for the **first Saturday in October -- 10/7/23**. Again, this year, there will be a **Yard Sale** (starts @ 6:30AM), **Silent Auction** (starts @ 9AM) and lots of **homemade food and desserts!!** Bethesda's Women in Faith will have a

stocked table with lots of **homemade** goodies, sweet potato biscuits and pies, homemade canned relishes and beets. The United Methodist Men will be making their delicious homemade ice cream -- vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, pineapple, and new this year, peach!! Watch for details in September to pre-order some of these items. Remember to invite friends and family now to join you for Bethesda's largest fundraiser of the year. Below is how you can help guarantee another successful fundraiser for Bethesda. Thank you for your continued help and support!!



Agape 6



EVENT	What you can do	Delivery/Date Needed	Questions? Contact
Yard Sale	Collect items from home, or neighbors and friends' homes -- toys, games, books, household items, dishes, jewelry, artwork, sports equipment, tools, picture frames, baskets, yard tools	Deliver items to the Memorial Room in the back by the kitchen <u>before Sept. 25</u> Remember, no clothes, old TV's, or large furniture.	Melanie Donophan 443-944-5169
Silent Auction	Donate a "themed basket", a special service or craft, gift card, other new items no longer needed. If you know of a business willing to donate an item, please provide ideas to Nancy.	Contact Nancy Rowe for delivery instructions.	Nancy Rowe 443-880-6867
Food Items needed: (you may donate the food item or donate \$'s to cover the cost of the items)	50 lbs. sugar 30 lbs. flour 24 lbs. frozen peas 20 lbs. chuck roast for soup 40 pie shells 24 cans evaporated milk 22 bunches celery 10 lbs. white potatoes 6 lbs. onions 6 lbs. turnips 3 heads cabbage 2 gals. Crushed tomatoes 2 gals. Chopped tomatoes 6 gals. Miracle Whip 2 Heads of Lettuce 2 boxes sandwich bags 7 gallons Oysters 20 loaves white bread 2 loaves wheat bread 3 cans baking powder 3 gallons Vegetable Oil 2 cases Water 10 dozen eggs 2 lg. cans Crisco 8 boxes Frozen Dumplings Pure Vanilla Extract -- 8 oz. 1000 Napkins 200 Brown Paper Lunch bags	Money Donations needed by September 25, 2022 - see Lois or Walter Moorhead Checks can be made payable to Bethesda UMC with notation in memo section of "FALL FESTIVAL FOOD" Delivery of donated items are needed by Tuesday, October 4th to the Kitchen in Memorial Room Please let Lois know when items are delivered to the kitchen!!	Lois Moorhead 410-430-3086 (call or text) loisannlake@hotmail.com (email) Walter Moorhead 443-859-5698 (call or text)

Soup Luncheons Return!

Thursday, September 21, 2023
Thursday, October 19, 2022
11 am -- 1 pm

Take-Out/Pick-Up

Delivery Available for orders of \$100 or more

Menu:

Vegetable Beef Soup
Chicken Salad
Baked Ham on Roll
Baking Powder Biscuits
Iced Fudge Brownies
Homemade Custard Bread Pudding

Fax orders to 410-742-8856
Call 410-742-8855 to place orders by phone

We could really use your help!

Call 410-742-8855 to find out how to volunteer

Agape 5

Bethesda:

Just a huge thank you to all of you that make our monthly luncheons possible. The volunteers that prepare and cook the food, the ones that pack the orders, those that deliver orders and the ones that take lunches to our shut-ins. A special thanks to Brenda S that takes our orders, and Mark that tries to keep the kitchen and memorial room in top notch condition so we can do our work. I also want to thank those of you that purchase our food, tell others about our lunches so they will order, it takes a whole church to make this happen. Because of everyone's help the monthly luncheons contributed over \$21,000.00 to Bethesda's budget. Thanks again to everyone that helps make this happen. Looking forward to September and if you would like to help, please let us know. I hope I did not leave anyone out in my thank you, it not only takes a village it takes the whole church. Penny



Summer is Here and so are Pickled Beets & Sweet Bell Pepper Relish!!

Anne Beach and team are busy prepping to make her famous Pickled Beets and Sweet Pepper Relish. Last year, she made over 125 pints of each, and sold out before the Fall Festival. She has received orders for both already. If you are interested in pre-ordering pints of either of these items, please contact the church office by either emailing your request to bethesda-umc@outlook.com or calling, 410-742-8855, Monday-Friday, 9AM to 2PM. Pick-up of items will be arranged by the end of August. Checks should be made payable to Bethesda UMC with memo of "Fall Festival". **First come, first served, so order today!!**

Name:	
Contact Phone Number:	
# of Pints of Pickled Beets @ \$8/Pint	
# of Pints of Sweet Pepper Relish @ \$9/Pint	
TOTAL \$'s.	

Pictured below are Dave Roberts, Scott Beach, Walter Moorhead, Anne Beach and Ann Taylor.

