



AGAPE Grapevine



FEBRUARY 2023



Bethesda Family:

February is a month of love and reflection, and as we move forward in the year, it is important to take a moment to focus on our spiritual growth.

As a minister, it is my duty to guide and support my congregation on their spiritual journey. This month, I encourage you to set aside time each day for personal reflection and prayer. Take a moment to quiet your mind and focus on your relationship with God.

In addition to personal reflection, I also encourage you to strengthen your relationships with others. The Bible teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and one of the most important ways to do this is by actively listening to and supporting those around us.

I also want to remind everyone of the importance of self-care. It is easy to get caught up in the busyness of everyday life, but it is important to take time for yourself and to nurture your physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.

This month, I encourage you to make time for personal reflection and prayer, strengthen your relationships with others, and take care of yourself. If you need any support or guidance on your spiritual journey, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our congregation.

Let us continue to walk hand in hand with God and each other.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Zac Wheeler

Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness

November 12 through the end of March 2023.

Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness Update!

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help donate food to this program. Bethesda is going to commit to one lunch per month: we will provide the sandwich fillings, chips, drinks and other essential items for the shelter to bag for guests. Watch for a sign-up sheet monthly to highlight needs! It's easy - you sign up for an item, bring it to the church kitchen a few days before and I will transport it to the shelter. Thank you for your support!!

Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness Needs

YOU! In addition to the once-a-month lunch commitment we are making, there are many ways in which you can provide help to this program! Volunteers are needed for check in (2 shifts/day), snacks, breakfasts, lunches, dinners, are needed. Clothing, personal items, gift cards and financial donations are welcome! To donate/sign up/ send a gift:

1. Go to handsandheartsshelter.org
2. Scroll down to either Check-In Desk or Meal Sign-up.
3. For Check-In Desk, find the day and time you wish to volunteer. Click Sign-Up. Add your name.
4. For Meal Sign-Up, find the day, meal or select items you wish to provide. Click Sign Up. You then detail the menu for Dinner, or whatever you choose.
5. To donate: go to Menu at the top right of the Home page, scroll down to donate and complete donation on line.
6. HHEH also accepts Amazon gift cards, Walmart gift cards, men's clothing, cleaning supplies, and more. Contact Debbie Day, debday26@comcast.net for more needs, questions or if you need help signing up.

In His Service, Debbie Day

Are you interested in signing up to provide one lunch a month from Bethesda! Just click on the link to sign up:

<https://forms.gle/K1MRgiPA6SzBe1c6>.



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

Agape



Agape Grapevine is published monthly by

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)

LIVE Worship Services—Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Next Soup Luncheons

Thursday, February 16, 2023
 Thursday, March 16, 2023
 11 am - 12:15 pm (Take-Out/Pick-Up)
Delivery Available for orders of \$100 or more

Menu:

**Chili and Cornbread (February)
 Peas & Dumplings (March)**

- Vegetable Beef Soup
 - Chicken Salad
 - Baked Ham on Roll
 - Baking Powder Biscuits
 - Iced Fudge Brownies
 - Homemade Custard Bread Pudding
- Email: Bethesda-umc@outlook.com
 Call: 410-742-8855

Santa's Angels Update – Fund-raiser Scheduled

**SAVE THE DATE April 1st thru April 20th !
 Mark your calendar now!**

We are scheduled to begin our online auction hosted on April 1st on our Facebook page. Santa's Angels Facebook URL is fb.me/santasangelssalisbury and you will see this picture.



Last year, Santa's Angels provided needed items to 151 families in our local community. This helped more than 500 children to receive needed coats, clothes, shoes, blankets, books and toys. Your generous support made this possible. We are looking forward to your support again this year starting with our online Facebook auction starting at 7AM on April 1st and ending at 8PM on April 20th.

Please call Lora Adkins if you would like to make a donation for the auction as we are in the beginning stages of collecting items. (410-726-2977).

We look forward to your participation in our online auction. Please follow and share our Facebook Auction page. Please bid often on the items.

ASH WEDNESDAY
Worship

Join Us 7:00 p.m. on February 22, 2023

TEXAS 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 birthday or for Valentine's Day! You may place an order by calling Lora Adkins 410-726-2977 or email me at kadkins30@comcast.net or call Lois Moorhead 410-430-3086. Thank you in advance for your continued support of Santa's Angels.

Additionally, I inadvertently left out one of our generous contributors to Santa's Angels in the January Grapevine. Please know we were pleased with the substantial donation to Santa's Angels from the Donnie Williams Foundation!



SAVE THE DATE

"Care for the Cause"

Community Fundraising Event

Sunday, February 26, 2023

3 PM

Christ United Methodist Church

211 Phillip Morris Drive, Salisbury

Admission: **Free Will Offering**

Music / Entertainment / Refreshments

Fundraiser Supporting Salisbury Urban Ministries'

- Lazarus Food & RX Program
- Men's Welcome Center
- God's Kitchen
- Kid's Café After-School Program



Hosted By

Asbury, Bethesda, Christ, Grace, St. Andrews, Trinity and Wesley Temple United Methodist Churches

Salisbury Urban Ministries, non-profit 501c3

www.sbyurbanministries.org

410-749-1563



THANK YOU!

Dear Bethesda Family:

Thank you for your generous support over the past year (2022). It is because of donors like you that we are able to help those in need. Total: \$1,500. We look forward to your continued support next year as we share the good news of life change.

In His Service,
 Celeste Savage, Executive Director
 Hope And Life Outreach (HALO)

Dear Bethesda Church, (College Boxes Volunteers)

Thank you so much for the box of goodies. I really enjoyed receiving it. I have love my first semester at NC State. Thank you for thinking of me.

Kennedy Hudson

Dear Friends at Bethesda United Methodist Church,

Thank you for the recent donation to Salisbury Urban Ministries. Your gift of \$3,200 will help us in our mission to provide programs that serve and minister to the needs of materially impoverished people in our community. It is only through the kind of support of individuals, the churches and our community that we can continue to service people in need. Thank you again for your generous support of this Ministry!

Pam Alexander

Music News by Dr. Jeff Baer

Unsung Hero

Many of you know how much the Baer family loves to go to Disney—especially Mrs. Baer. Trish has a personalized license plate and an automatic Disney vacation countdown timer on her phone. At the penning of this article, a set of wooden blocks on our mantle displays that there are 144 more days until our next Disney adventure. But, this article is not about how we do something exciting and different each time, nor is it about the 18 hour drive with a several hour rest stop to nap and watch the sunrise at the Georgia Welcome Station, nor the incredible food and beautiful weather standing in Thunder Mountain lines; **it is about a celebration of the person who makes this whole trip possible.**

Ray Brokamp. Yes, Ray Brokamp! Ray served as the organist at Bethesda for many years and has recently retired and moved back to Salisbury. Ray is an incredible pianist and organist and has been the driving force in the maintenance and repair of our historic Steinway piano. When we purchased the piano in the 90s, Ray played the dedicatory recital.

Ray is such a gentleman and is always so understanding when I say, "Ray, could you play sometime in June? I don't really know the specific date; you'll have to ask Trish." He smiles and says, "Sure, I think I can make it work."

I know that Bethesda is in good hands when Ray is at the organ (and piano) bench. I feel very fortunate that he is willing to answer the call to be a servant leader and lead the music while I am away. I don't get to thank him publicly often, so I would like to take this opportunity to praise his talents and abilities!

Thank you, Ray. Thank you so much! "See ya real soon!" (In 144 days).

Contemporary Music News
 by Phil Perdue

The Bethesda Contemporary band would like to thank all the attendees who have been at the early service in the new year so far. We are so happy to have a growing attendance and hope it will continue to grow.

Circle Meetings for February 2023

- Circle Esther - Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 pm - Todd House
- Circle Eve - Tuesday, February 7, 11:30 am - Dayton's Restaurant
- Circle Martha - Wednesday, February 1, 10:30 am - Todd House
- Circle Mary - Tuesday, February 14, 2:00 pm - Todd House
- Circle Rachel - Monday, February 13, 1:00 pm - w/ Alison Soper
- Circle Ruth - Monday, February 6, 10:00 am - Todd House
- Circle Sarah - Wednesday, February 8, 1:00 pm - Todd House



United Women in Faith

February 2023

Monthly Planner



United Women in Faith

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p>Jan 2023</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | <p>Mar 2023</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | <p>1</p> <p>8:30 AM UMM - Davton's</p> <p>10:30 AM Circle Martha Meets at Todd House</p> <p>8:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House</p> | <p>2</p> <p>8:30 AM Devotions with Rev. Zac</p> <p>7:00 PM Church Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM God's Way Bible Study - Fireside Lounge</p> <p>7:00 PM Step by Step AA</p> | <p>3</p> <p>8:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House</p> <p>Deadline for Goody Box</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM AAMtg @ Todd House</p> <p>5th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>Communion</p> | <p>6</p> <p>10:00 AM Circle Ruth - Todd House</p> <p>7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room</p> | <p>7</p> <p>11:30 AM Circle Eve meets at Dayton's Restaurant</p> | <p>8</p> <p>8:30 AM UMM - Davton's</p> <p>10:30 AM Circle Martha Meets at Todd House</p> <p>8:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House</p> <p>Quilt / Sewing Workshop SS</p> <p>Pack Goody boxes for Valentine's Day</p> | <p>9</p> <p>8:30 AM Devotions with Rev. Zac</p> <p>1:30 PM Senior Snippet meet at Olive Garden</p> <p>7:00 PM Church Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM God's Way Bible Study - Fireside Lounge</p> <p>7:00 PM Step by Step AA</p> | <p>10</p> <p>8:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House</p> | <p>11</p> |
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| <p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room</p> <p>7:00 PM AAMtg @ Todd House</p> <p>6th Sunday after Epiphany</p> | <p>13</p> <p>1:00 PM Circle Rachel meets at Alison Smart's House</p> <p>7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room</p> | <p>14</p> <p>2:00 PM Circle Mary meets at Todd House</p> <p>7:00 PM Circle Esther meets at Todd House</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> | <p>15</p> <p>8:30 AM UMM - Davton's</p> <p>8:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House</p> | <p>16</p> <p>8:30 AM Devotions with Rev. Zac</p> <p>11:00 AM Soup Lunch</p> <p>7:00 PM Church Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM God's Way Bible Study - Fireside Lounge</p> <p>7:00 PM Step by Step AA</p> | <p>17</p> <p>8:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House</p> | <p>18</p> <p>2:00 PM Baby Shower - Memorial Room Alysia</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM AAMtg @ Todd House</p> <p>Transfiguration of the Lord</p> | <p>20</p> <p>12:00 PM UMM Executive Board Meeting Memorial - 12 people</p> <p>8:00 PM UMM Meeting Call at Home Square</p> <p>7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room</p> <p>Practical Day - Office Closed</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> <p>8:30 AM UMM - Davton's</p> <p>7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service</p> | <p>23</p> <p>8:30 AM Devotions with Rev. Zac</p> <p>7:00 PM Church Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM God's Way Bible Study - Fireside Lounge</p> <p>7:00 PM Step by Step AA</p> | <p>24</p> <p>8:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House</p> | <p>25</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM AAMtg @ Todd House</p> <p>1st Sunday in Lent</p> | <p>27</p> <p>7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room</p> <p>7:00 PM Church Council meets in</p> | <p>28</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

February, 2023

Winter is my least favorite time of year. Thankfully, February – usually the coldest month of the year – is short. Just like the earth goes through seasons- spring, summer, fall, and winter- so do we. It's usually during the "winter" season that most people get discouraged. It's because during this time we don't "see" anything (if much) happening in our lives. Everything looks dead. I want to encourage you if you are going through a winter season... it's not dead, it's just dormant. The trees don't die in winter time just because they have no leaves on them... they are just dormant. They are taking a rest, drinking in nutrients, getting prepared for the next season when they will have to put on new buds and leaves. The sap may be low, but it's still there. The tree still has life in it.

We may feel "dead" but we aren't... the "sap" is just low. God has allowed us to have a "resting" period in order to prepare us for the next season in life...which will be the season to blossom. So, enjoy the "winter". Take advantage of this time to "regroup". Reach out to a friend or someone in need of a friend. Read a book or work a jigsaw puzzle. Make a pot of soup or other comfort food. Each season doesn't last forever, so make the most of each one as it comes. We need all of them.

Inspired by <https://www.thechristianwoman.com/devotions/its-winter-time>

Tammy Taylor
UWIF President

"Seeing is Believing" Our Stained Glass Windows - continued

Remember that Bethesda is built on the "cruciform principle". The floor of the church makes a perfect design of the cross. Starting at the pulpit "crossing of the Cross", then we have the vertical arms of the Cross.

Moving into the Nave from the pulpit (on your right, after David and Isaiah), we have windows depicting the sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Martha is shown serving food and drink, symbolizing her need to be always busy with deeds. And Mary is shown holding a rose - a symbol of her desire to worship and sit at the Lord's feet, so that her might teach her. The symbol for Martha is the Messianic rose and for Mary, the Easter Lily.
Dr. Dan



Agape 4

Stories from the Basement Help and Outreach Point of Entry, Inc. by Donna Clark, Director

The holiday season is over and the H.O.P.E., Inc. office just opened Tuesday. We had received grant money to continue our Adult Dental Outreach and the reception room was full of people trying to obtain help for many different issues. It was chaotic, loud, and the room was full of a sense of anticipation. Our volunteers worked nonstop to help everyone who asked for assistance and as I was sitting beside a client discussing the dental program, I observed an elderly man sitting by himself singing. He obviously had mental health issues and he appeared frightened but, he was singing a hymn I had heard as a little child. I don't know the name of it but it suddenly conjured up images of my grandmother sitting in church beside me and I felt a sense of warmth and love wrap around me. The moment passed quickly and I was soon moving on to the next person requesting assistance. Once the day ended and I sat at my desk taking a deep breath, I remembered that moment and realized that God's hand is everywhere; if we just open ourselves to His love. That client was calling for God's help at a time when he was uncomfortable and confused. I was busy concentrating on the work in front of me but, God's blessing showered the reception area and allowed our staff to meet the needs of all who entered the office and helped keep him calm. Please keep us in prayer as we enter this New Year with a major increase in homeless and disadvantaged people.

Psalm: 121



January 2023 Soup Lunch Pictures

These are only a few of the many Volunteers who make this awesome lunch possible on a monthly basis. There's also a caravan in the parking lot, loading up delicious homemade food for delivery. Thanks to all who volunteer!



Agape 5

Senior Singles Thursday, February 9th

We will meet at Olive Garden at 1:30 pm



Bring a Valentine card with an encouraging or loving message—do not address the card. We will do a Valentine Card Exchange.

All singles over 60 are welcome!
Bring a friend with you—enjoy the fellowship
AND the food!!! New folks are welcomed.
God Bless!

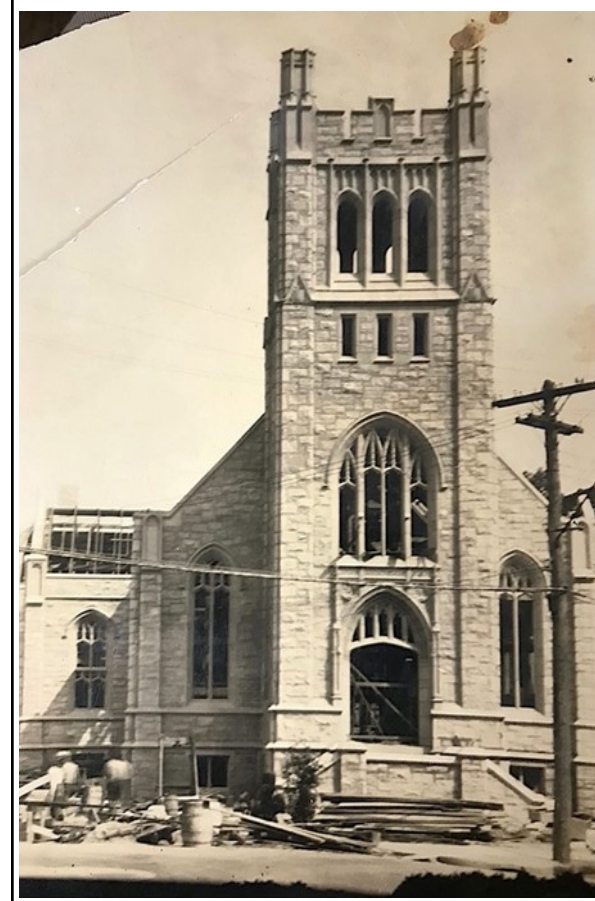
RSVP Sandy Mills, 410-422-7305 (new #)
or Dr. Dan 443-735-3292

Hello All – Anne Beach is putting together the items needed to can those famous pickled beets and pepper relish this coming summer. As we all know, the price of everything has increased, and Anne usually cans over 250 pints of these items, which means she needs to find 250 pint size jars, rings and lids. The jars and rings can be reused if in good condition. If you have any pint size canning jars or rings that are in good condition (or new) and would like to donate to Ms. Anne to use, it would be greatly appreciated. Last year, Ms. Anne sold over \$2,000 worth of these canned items, and she donated all the monies back to Bethesda Church. You may drop off the jars/rings at the church office, or deliver to Anne Beach or Lois Moorhead. Every jar donated is one less that Ms. Anne has to purchase, plus you will be recycling! Thanks so much for your continued support of Bethesda Church.



Do you know what was happening on the corner of N. Division St. and William St. in February of 1923?

One hundred years ago, in February 1923, construction workers were busy building the NEW Bethesda Methodist Protestant Church, with hopes of completion by June...and they met their goal!



That means that this coming June 2023 will be the 100th anniversary of the very first worship service held at Bethesda Methodist Protestant Church. Yes, that is what it was called at that time and those words are carved over the front door of our church!

Plans are in the works for a celebration of this very special occasion on **Sunday, June 4, 2023**. Please 'save the date' and share this with friends/family who you know would like to join us for this special service.

More information will follow in the months to come!

