



AGAPE Grapevine



*The congregation of Bethesda United Methodist Church
cordially invites you to attend the
100th Anniversary Celebration
of our Church Building on North Division Street
Sunday, June 4, 2023
10:30 am service*

*After a centennial walk from Broad Street,
our worship service will include beautiful music, stories about
Bethesda's history and recognition of our new
50+ and 70+ year members*

Dear Members of Bethesda,
Grace and peace be with you all. As your pastor, I wanted to take a moment to share with you why I continue to cherish and love our Methodist Church, even in the midst of denominational turmoil. While we acknowledge that no institution is perfect, there are remarkable qualities within our Methodist tradition that have profoundly shaped my faith and the lives of countless believers throughout history.

First and foremost, I am deeply moved by our commitment to the Gospel message of God's grace. Methodism has always emphasized the transformative power of God's love and the belief that every person is worthy of redemption. This theology of grace has the ability to touch the lives of individuals, bringing hope, healing, and a sense of purpose. It is a powerful reminder that no matter what denominational disagreements may arise, God's love is constant and abundant.

Secondly, I appreciate the emphasis our Methodist Church places on the pursuit of personal holiness and social justice. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, taught that faith should be lived out through acts of compassion and justice in the world. This commitment to both personal and social transformation has inspired countless Methodists to engage in meaningful work, advocating for the marginalized, caring for the vulnerable, and striving for a more equitable society. It is through these efforts that we become a tangible reflection of Christ's love in the world.

Additionally, our Methodist tradition encourages thoughtful engagement with scripture, reason, tradition, and experience. This holistic approach allows us to wrestle with complex theological questions, recognizing that faith is not stagnant but ever-evolving. It invites us to learn from our past, draw wisdom from our heritage, and adapt to the challenges and opportunities of the present. This openness to growth and understanding is crucial, especially in times of denominational turmoil, as we navigate the complexities of our faith together.

Lastly, the Methodist Church is a community of diverse voices, perspectives, and backgrounds. Our willingness to embrace this diversity is a testament to our belief in the unity of all believers. It is within this rich tapestry of experiences and perspectives that we can learn from one another, challenge our own biases, and truly embody the inclusive love of Christ.

In conclusion, dear friends, while denominational turmoil can be disheartening, let us not forget the remarkable aspects of our Methodist Church that have brought us together in worship, fellowship, and service. Let us continue to hold fast to the core values that define us: God's grace, personal holiness, social justice, thoughtful engagement, and a welcoming community. Together, we can navigate these challenging times, supporting one another in faith and embodying the love of Christ to a world in need.

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Zac Wheeler

June 18, 2023



From: The Office Staff, Music Staff,
and Ministerial Staff of Bethesda

Agape



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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.



SALISBURY URBAN MINISTRIES

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR

LAZARUS FOOD PANTRY:

- Ramen noodles
- Canned tuna & chicken
- Peanut butter

KIDS CAFÉ:

- Individually packaged snacks for summer camp

MEN'S WELCOME CENTER:

- Bug spray

Donations can be dropped off at
Salisbury Urban Ministries Office
 326 Barclay St
 Or call 410-749-1563

Santa's Angels

Santa's Angels Update – Fundraiser Scheduled
SAVE THE DATE July 1st!
Mark your calendar now!

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



Please consider donating items for us to use in our auction or a theme basket for our auction. We have already started collecting! If you have something to donate, please contact Lora Adkins (410-726-2977). Some of the items which have been donated are: Full detailing by Pohanka, Texas Roadhouse Gift card package, Smith Island Cakes made by Nancy Dennis, wine baskets, and lots more. Check these items and bid on them to help our children this Christmas!

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

TEXAS ROADHOUSE GIFT CARDS for Sale!
We are continuing to sell Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards (Denominations of \$25 or \$50). 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 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.

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



The Rose Garden in front of the Church is planted in Memory of Bob Beach and in honor of Bethesda's 100th Anniversary by his family. Submitted by Anne Beach

THANK YOU!

Altar Guild: Dear Bethesda Family,
 Thank you so much for the Beautiful Mother's Day Flowers. It was so good to be back in church. Sent with Love, Margaret (Maggie) Brown



- Ellie Long, James M. Bennett (Parents: Creston and Caroline Long)
- Kristin Allen, graduated from Radford University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Major in Dance and Minor in Theatre (Parents: David and Brenda Allen)

It's Time!
Mark Your Calendar for Shorebirds Baseball

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

Shorebirds Baseball 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 |

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.




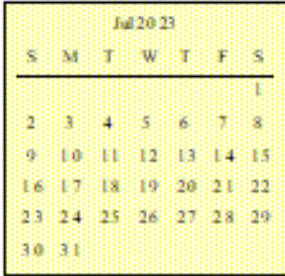
Congratulations on your Confirmation
 May 21, 2023
 Everyone at Bethesda is proud of you!

Carissa Noel Hayes, Camdyn Alaina Hayes
 (Parents: David and Tracy Hayes)

Zeny Lydia Hatton
 (Parents: Earle and Kimberly Hatton)

Rev. Zac Wheeler with (L to R)
 Carissa Noel Hayes, Zeny Lydia Hatton
 and Camdyn Alaina Hayes

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 				<p>1</p> <p>8:30 AM Devotions/Rev 7:00 PM Step by Step AA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 1st Sunday after Pentecost Centennial Service & Communion</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:30 AM Circle Ruth - Jo Jo's Restaurant 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:30 AM Circle Eve - Dayton's Restaurant RSVP Peggy</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 AM UMM - Dayton's 10:30 AM Circle Martha - Todd House</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 AM Devotions/Rev 9:30 AM Devotions 1:00 PM Senior Circle @ Todd House 7:00 PM Step by Step AA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Communion Last Sunday School Class until Sept.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:30 AM Circle Mary - Longhorn Steakhouse 7:00 PM Circle Esther - Todd House</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 AM UMM - Dayton's 12:00 PM Circle Rachel - Dinkside Grill 12:00 PM Circle Sarah - Olive Garden</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30 AM Devotions/Rev 7:00 PM Step by Step AA</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00 PM UMM Meet at Deli at Pecan Square</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 AM UMM - Dayton's 10:30 AM God's Will Bible Study - Todd House Summer Solstice</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30 AM Devotions/Rev 7:00 PM Step by Step AA</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 PM Kindred Ice Cream Social</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 4th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 PM Combined Church Council Meeting - Memorial Room</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 AM UMM - Dayton's 10:30 AM God's Will Bible Study - Todd House</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:30 AM Devotions/Rev 7:00 PM Step by Step AA</p>	<p>30</p>	



June, 2023 -

Summer is one of my favorite seasons. Trees are full of leaves; flower and vegetable gardens are in full bloom, and shorts and a t-shirt rule the day. Daylight is plentiful and it appears that there is more time for everything. As a kid, I remember playing outside until well past dark. We sometimes like to complain, "It's sure hot outside," but we still enjoy the feelings of freedom and relaxation that summer gives.

Summer brings opportunities for laughter and happiness – the picnics, the vacations, and the get-togethers. Author Barbara Johnson says, "Human beings thrive on laughter. Since most of us can't afford vacations in Hawaii, we have to learn to make our own fun! The best way to do that is to keep your state of mind green and golden: find, recycle, or produce joy wherever and however you can."

Scripture is abundant with reminders about the place that joy should have in our lives: "Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'" –Psalm 126:2

"Shout for joy to God, our source of strength! Shout out to the God of Jacob!" –Psalm 81:1

Joy grows from a deep place in our souls where we meet with God honestly and humbly. A place where we learn more about Him and how our relationship can grow stronger. In this place we discover a peace that is 'beyond all understanding' (Philippians 4:7). Through this peace we can begin to experience a joy that is not dependent on the happenings of the moment – because our strength is not in ourselves, but in Christ.

Summer is a great time for us to experience the joy that living in Christ brings us, allowing us to enjoy all that God provides. As we experience God's joy through the beauty of nature, the sound of children's laughter, or recounting a funny story with friends and family, be sure to share it. Our joy is multiplied when we do.
Tammy Taylor, UWIF President

Written by Lt. Colonel Patty Richardson, Divisional Director of Women's Ministries <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/northern/news/the-joys-of-summer/>

Based on The Purpose of Frustration - Daily Hope with Rick Warren - August 7, 2019 - Daily Hope with Rick Warren (oneplace.com)

"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.

After Apostle Paul, moving on through church history, we come to our own John Wesley - the scholar and founder of the Methodist movement in England's 18th century. Since he was a man of fervent prayer, the small symbol at the bottom is that of hands clasped in prayer.

Beside Wesley stands Francis Asbury, whom Wesley sent to establish Methodism in the New World. He is dressed in the boots of the American frontier and is said to have traveled 268,000 miles on horseback in his ministry. Thus, his symbol is that of a Methodist Circuit Rider. Asbury supervised thousands of Riders during early American.

Speaking of transportation, it was John Wesley who once said, as he was approaching 80 years of age - that the only concession he was making to age was that he was "now going to travel in a horse and buggy"!

Dr. Dan



Agape 4

Centennial Walk

Sunday, June 4th is here! The 100 year celebration of our church building will be begin with a “centennial walk” commemorating the move from the former Broad Street location of our church to the current building that we know as Bethesda United Methodist Church. Here are some details for your consideration.

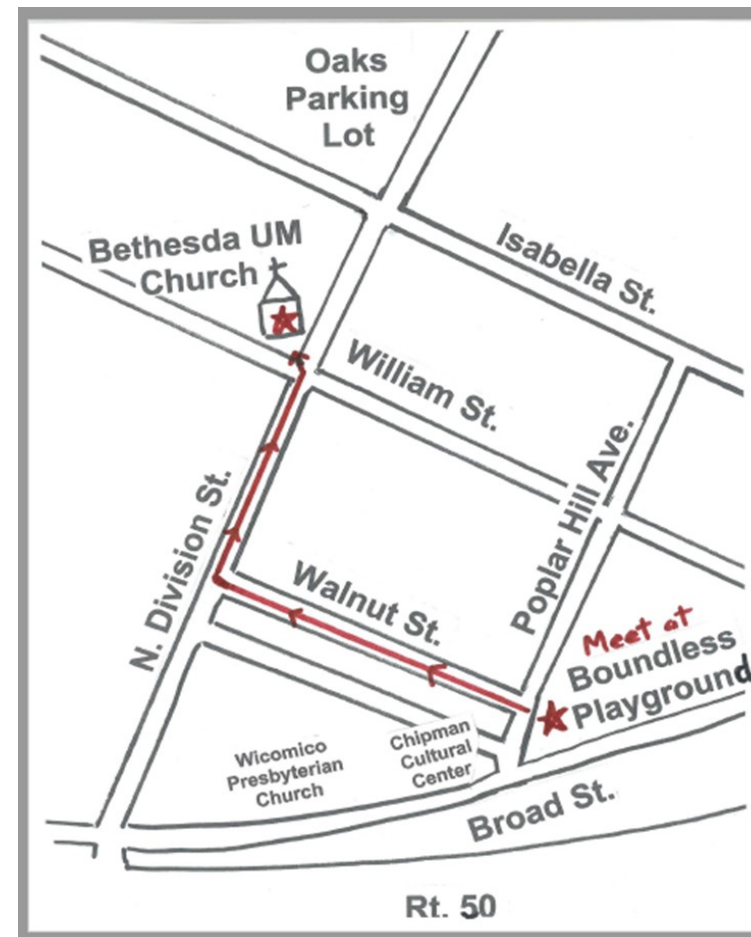
The walk is approximately 0.3 miles and should take less than 20 minutes for most to complete. Participants need to arrive at the Boundless Playground at Poplar Hill Ave. and Broad St. (next to the Chipman Center) **before 9:40 AM** and ready to begin the walk promptly at 9:45 am. Our walking route will take us west on Walnut St. from the playground then north on North Division St. to the church. We will have a police escort to ensure our safety.

As parking at the playground is very limited (and you don't want to leave your vehicle there during the worship service!), please consider parking at the “Oaks” parking lot and walking to the playground if at all possible. This option may actually save you some time! Otherwise, all passengers should be dropped off at the playground. Drivers can then proceed to the church parking lot by the ramp door where a limited “shuttle service” will be provided to return you to the playground site. Please be sure to allow ample time to get to the playground before 9:40 am.

If you are not able to actually walk, then consider gathering outside in front of the church building shortly before 10:00 am to watch the procession and greet the walkers as they arrive! It should be an inspiring sight!

Our choir will lead the way! Just as they did in 1923. For more information, contact Stewart or Alison Soper (smsoper@comcast.net or 443-880-1869) or the church office. We hope to see you there!!

See the map to the right for route of walk →



Agape 5

Circle Meetings for June 2023

- Circle Esther - Tuesday, June 13, 7:00 pm - Todd House
- Circle Eve - Tuesday, June 6, 11:30 am - Dayton's Restaurant, RSVP Peggy Hastings 410-726-3614
- Circle Martha - Wednesday, June 7, 10:30 am - Todd House
- Circle Mary - Tuesday, June 13, 2:00 pm - Todd House
- Circle Rachael - Wednesday, June 14, 12:00 pm - Dockside Grill
- Circle Ruth - Monday, June 5, 11:30 am - Jo Jo's Restaurant
- Circle Sarah - Wednesday, June 14, 12:00 pm - Olive Garden



United
Women
in Faith

Music News

by Dr. Jeff Baer

Congratulations!

One hundred years ago there was a week-long celebration of Bethesda's new church building. It seems as if we have been celebrating this centennial anniversary for even more than that!! We received new members through confirmation, we honored high school and college graduates, UMW circles led a worship service centered around our mothers, and we were able to hear many of our talented instrumentalists play in an ensemble during Youth Sunday.

On June 4, we will be treated to musical offerings by the Chancel Choir, Dave Rainey, and Ray Brokamp. I look forward to worshipping with you and celebrating our faith over the summer!

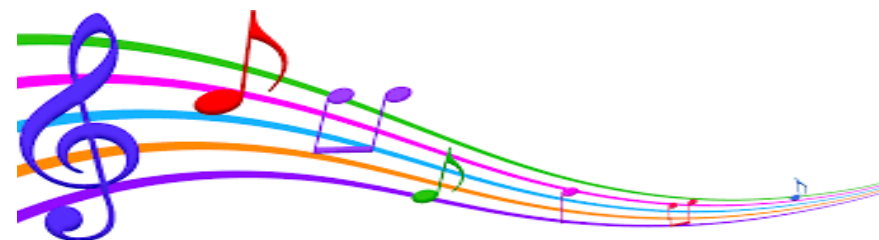
And one other celebration in June...Nikko will be turning 13 on June 29. I am so proud of him and his service to Bethesda as a go-to acolyte!

See you in church,
Jeff

Contemporary Music New

by Phil Perdue

100 years! The Bethesda Contemporary Music band is proud to be a part of this great church and all its glorious history! Happy birthday Bethesda Church building!



Senior Singles
Thursday, June 8th
1:00 pm

Join us on the Patio.
All singles 60 and over 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
or Dr. Dan 443-735-3292



Mark you Calendars!
Ed Weeast will be hosting a new Bible Study titled “God’s Will Bible Study”
in the Todd House for the Summer
Starting Wednesday, June 21st at 10:30 a.m.