



# AGAPE Grapevine



September 2023



September is a month of transformation. The vibrant green leaves begin their shift to brilliant hues of reds, oranges, and yellows. Children don their backpacks and step into schools, filled with the anticipation of a new academic year. It's a season of growth, exploration, and learning — both within and outside classroom walls.

Education in its truest sense is not about merely accumulating facts. It's a journey of character development, of shaping minds and souls towards righteousness, compassion, and a deeper understanding of God's world. James reminds us, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" (James 1:5). Our seeking of knowledge, then, can be an act of worship, a pursuit to better serve God and His kingdom.

Let us also remember the educators among us. From Sunday school teachers to university professors, these individuals dedicate their lives to the noble task of imparting knowledge and nurturing minds. Their role mirrors that of many biblical figures — Moses instructing Joshua, Elijah mentoring Elisha, and Paul guiding Timothy. They, too, are part of this grand tradition of spiritual and intellectual mentorship.

Parents, as you support your children this school year, remember to nurture their spiritual education alongside the academic. Share with them stories from the Scriptures, lessons about God's boundless love, and teachings about kindness, patience, and righteousness.

Every day presents an opportunity for a 'Godly lesson'. For those who are lifelong learners, consider this a call to continually seek wisdom and knowledge in both the sacred and the secular. Dive into a new Bible study, join a church reading group, or attend lectures and seminars. Embrace the spirit of September — a spirit of learning and growth.

In this season of new beginnings, may we all approach learning with open hearts and minds, seeing in every lesson a reflection of God's profound truths. Whether it's in a classroom, at home, or within the walls of our church, let's strive to grow in wisdom, ever drawing closer to the heart of God.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Zac Wheeler

## HAPPY LABOR DAY



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**  
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Web Address: [www.umcbethesda.org](http://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.**

**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

**Senior Singles**

Thursday, September 14th  
 Meet at Church to Carpool to Seaford



RSVP Sandy Mills, 410-422-7305,  
 or Dr. Dan 443-735-3292  
 and

The Senior Singles will meet for Brunch on  
 Sunday, September 24th at 12 noon  
 at The Irish Penny



Call Ann Suthowski at 410-742-8310 to RSVP  
 and for more information.

If you know ANYONE that attends  
 Bethesda and would be interested in  
 acolyting/crucifer, refer them to me.  
 Text me if you have any questions.  
 (443) 880 - 6598 -Katie Soper



**UMM**

All the men of Bethesda United Methodist Church are  
 invited to an evening with the United Methodist Men.

On the third Monday of each month, we'll gather in the  
 Deli at Pecan Square (next to the Pemberton Food  
 Lion) at 6pm for GOOD FOOD, CONVERSATION, AND  
 A WORD OF REFLECTION. We are usually done by  
 7:15pm so that you can run to your next evening  
 activity.



**Santa's Angels**

Our next auction will be November 1<sup>st</sup>!  
 We are collecting items for this auction. If  
 you would like to donate a basket or make a  
 donation, please call Lora (410-726-2977)!  
 Your support is needed and appreciated!

**\$\$--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](mailto:kadkins30@comcast.net) or call  
 Lois Moorhead at 410-430-3086.

Save the Date for  
**Santa's Angels Inaugural Golf Tournament**  
 on May 17, 2024!

Come join us for a day of fun and fellowship!

- If you have a business please consider contacting us  
 for a large (\$400) or small (\$150) sign on your  
 Favorite hole!
- You have plenty of time to get a team of four together  
 to play that day. (\$400).

Also, if you would like to make a monetary donation, we  
 would appreciate any and all donations as this will help  
 us to offset the expenses for our prizes, gifts for players,  
 and other incidentals to make the day perfect for all  
 participants.

**Inaugural Santa's Angels Charity Golf Tournament**



Prizes for 1st, 2nd, &  
 3rd Place Teams

**Date: May 17, 2024 at 1pm**

**Location: Nutter's Crossing Golf Course**

**4-person Scramble Format**

Santa's Angels is a local charity that has helped provide  
 Christmas for families in need on the Lower Eastern Shore  
 of Maryland & Delaware for over 30 years!!! We are  
 100% volunteer and rely solely on donations and fund-  
 raising to support our efforts. Play some golf and help us,  
 help the kids have a memorable Christmas!!

**You DO NOT want to miss this tournament: Mulligans,  
 Move Up on a Hole, Hole-in-One Contests, Longest Drive  
 (Men & Women), Closest to the Pin, 50/50, Silent Auction,  
 Chinese Auction, Putting Contest, and Food!!**

Levels	What You Get for Money	Cost
Tier 1 (Eagle)	Team (4 ppl) + Large Sign on a Tee Box + Clubhouse Sign + Donor Ad	\$1,000
Tier 2 (Birdie)	Team (4 ppl) + Small Sign on a Tee Box + Donor Ad	\$500
Tier 3 (Par)	Large Sign with Your Business or Organization Placed on a Tee Box	\$400
Tier 4 (Bogey)	Small Sign with Your Business or Organization Placed on a Tee Box	\$150
Tier 5	Team Only (4 ppl)	\$400

Player #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Player #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Player #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Player #4 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tier Selected \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Methods Accepted: Cash, Check (Payable to Santa's Angels), or use the Give Send Go App. Reg-  
 istration includes: Golf, Food After Your Round, Cart Usage, and a Goodie Bag.

**There are many ways to participate!!! Sponsor a Hole, Enter a  
 Team, or Donate Money Directly to Offset Our Costs!!**

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



Dr. Dan, Ardelle and Rebecca Rich sincerely  
 thank everyone for sending birthday cards to  
 Ardelle recently. The cards are lovingly displayed  
 for her to enjoy.

A very special Thank You to Donna Wheelock,  
 Anna Marie Blankenship and Shirley Michaels for  
 working in the church office during my vacation!  
 Another special Thank You goes to Brenda Allen for  
 checking emails! You ladies are amazing!

Dr. Baer and Rev. Zac also helped me by giving  
 me two weeks worth of bulletin information. Thanks  
 so much! It is all appreciated.

- Brenda Sawyer

We would like to thank our Bethesda family for  
 their cards and calls following my Mother's death.  
 It is comforting to know we have a caring church  
 family.

- David and Martha Roberts

**"Welcome Our Warriors" Back to School**

United Methodist Church is being invited to  
**Wicomico Middle School's "Welcome Our  
 Warriors" First day Back to School Greeting** for  
 students on **Wednesday, September 6, 2023, from  
 7:00am - 7:45am**. This is in an effort to show  
 students how important they are and how thrilled  
 the teachers and staff are to have them start a new  
 school year! Wicomico Middle School would like to  
 have as many people from the community as  
 possible! Come join Bethesda's Team for a  
 wonderful way to start the morning, and see all of  
 those smiling students kick off another school  
 year!!! If you are interested in joining Lois & Walter  
 Moorhead, please call/text us (410-430-3086 or  
 443-859-5698), or send us an email to  
 ([loisannlake@hotmail.com](mailto:loisannlake@hotmail.com)). The goal is to recruit  
 20 folks to complete this.

(There may be a brownie treat as a reward!!)

Thank you for supporting our  
 Faith Based Partner school.



**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 donations by cash or by check 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 Bazaar & Festival

It is September, and we are busy prepping for this big fundraising event for the **first Saturday in October – 10/7/23**. There will be a **Yard Sale** (starts @ 6:30AM), **Silent Auction** (starts @ 9AM) and lots of home cooked **food and desserts!!** **Bethesda's United Women in Faith** will have a stocked table with lots of home cooked goodies, our famous sweet potato biscuits and pies, and 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. **Bethesda's Youth Group** will also participate again this year! 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!! – **Bethesda's Fall Bazaar & Festival Committee**



EVENT	What you can do	Delivery/Date Needed	Questions? Contact
<b>Yard Sale</b>	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 <b>before Sept. 25</b>  Remember, no clothes, old TV's, or large furniture.	Melanie Donophan 443-944-5169
<b>Silent Auction</b>	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
<b>Food Items needed:</b>  (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. 2 Heads of Lettuce 2 boxes sandwich bags (200) 7 gallons Oysters 3 gallons Vegetable Oil 64 Bottles of Water 10 dozen eggs 2 lg. cans Crisco 8 boxes Frozen Dumplings 1000 Napkins 200 Brown Paper Lunch bags	<b>Money Donations needed by September 25, 2023-</b> see Lois or Walter Moorhead  Checks made payable to Bethesda UMC with notation in memo section of <b>"FALL FESTIVAL FOOD"</b>  <b>Delivery of donated items are needed by Tuesday, October 4th</b> 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)  <a href="mailto:loisannlake@hotmail.com">loisannlake@hotmail.com</a> (email)  Walter Moorhead 443-859-5698 (call or text)



## 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.

Be sure to put **October 7** on your calendar now! Thanks for your continuing support!

## Bethesda's Fall Bazaar & Festival Pre-Order Items

We will hold pre-order sales for Sweet Potato Biscuits (\$9/Doz.), Sweet Potato Pies (\$10/9-inch Pie) and Ice Cream (\$4/Pint or \$8/Quart). If you would like to pre-order, please either complete the online form @ <https://forms.office.com/r/qwsJsFUg36> or contact the Church Office @ 410-742-8855 or email at [Bethesda-UMC@outlook.com](mailto:Bethesda-UMC@outlook.com) by Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Don't delay as quantities will be limited! Thank you for your continued support!

September 2023 - All women attending Bethesda UMC are invited to join United Women in Faith. Small groups (Circles) meet monthly for fellowship and prayer (and usually food!) Circle meetings resume this month.

- Circle Eve - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 11:30 for lunch
- Circle Mary - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.
- Circle Martha - 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.
- Circle Rachel - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 1:00 p.m.
- Circle Ruth - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 10 a.m. with lunch following meeting

### The Secret of Contentment

So what does contentment mean? It is an inner sense of rest or peace that comes from being right with God and knowing that He is in control of all that happens to us.

If you struggle with contentment, you are not alone. I sometimes find myself wishing for more or asking why? I believe most people wrestle with it one way or another. Some people may not even realize they are searching for contentment, but they are constantly seeking after the 'next thing' they can do or obtain in life. In Philippians 4:12, the apostle Paul tells us he has *learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want*. The word "learned" indicates Paul had to grow into being content. It takes practice & doesn't happen overnight. So be patient with yourself.

Here are a few reminders to help us learn contentment:

- Cultivate a thankful heart.** When we fail to thank God for his blessings, discontentment creeps in to our hearts. We may start to believe God is holding out on us. Strive to thank God in all circumstances.
- Focus on today** - When we constantly look forward to the next season, the next big event, or even the next meal, we completely miss the moment we're in and the blessings found in it. Another day like today will never come again.
- Trust in God's Provision** - God is in the business of providing for us. He does provide for us everything we need each day. Remember Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness. We need to open our eyes to the ways he is providing for us each day.
- Contentment is found in Christ alone.** At the end of the day, our circumstances will not make us happy. No matter how much money we have, what kind of house we own, or what friends we surround ourselves with, nothing can fulfil us the way Christ can. We will not be content based on anything material or circumstantial.

Christ is the only one who can fill the insatiable desire in each of us for something more, because God created us for all our desires to be met in him alone. Christ will help us learn contentment as we rely on him as we go through each day. He will show us that he can satisfy our deepest longings and needs if we seek him above everything else. Christ loves us so much and wants to meet our needs. As we lean on him, we too can say with Paul, "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content."

Yours in Christ, Tammy Taylor-Evans



**Agape 4**

Miss Anne Beach throwing out the 1st pitch for Shorebirds Game 8/18/23. Nice Night for a Game!



**This Is My Father's World**

Love. Rev. Zac spoke a little about love in his sermon yesterday. I might agree that we sometimes use the word "love" about things that we only prefer, but it is indeed true that without love, we are nothing. Many people say that they love a certain comfortable sweatshirt, others say that they love some kind of Starbucks syrupy coffee concoction. I am not sure that Paul's discussion of love had to do with clothing or cappuccinos.

I do love Autumn. The sights, the smells, the tastes! I think about my time in Pennsylvania. Crisp Fall days where the deep blue sky contrasts with the reds, yellows, and oranges of the maple and chestnut trees' leaves. I remember the sounds of raking and the smell and crunch of the leaves on the ground. I fondly remember those days of hayrides to the apple orchard where you were allowed to pick one apple each (when I started teaching at Mardela, I learned that they are not hayrides, they are straw rides). Apple cider and pumpkins. Love it all!

Another thing I love about Fall is when the choir returns to lead the services. It has been a little lonely in the chancel, but I am so thankful for those people who have helped me with special music. The choirs work very hard for 9-10 months out of the year and they deserve a break from their commitment. Now it is time for them to return refreshed and ready to inspire a deeper connection to our God through their music.

Rehearsals will resume on September 6 and 7, 2023. Bell Choir will be on Wednesdays at 6:30 and Chancel Choir will be on Thursdays at 7:00. Please contact Jeff if you have any questions or need more information. New members are always welcomed—you will Love being part of our ministry.

See you in church,  
Jeff

**This Is My Father's World**  
United Methodist Hymnal #144

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature **sings**, and round me **rings**  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
His hands the wonders wrought.



Summer is coming to a close. The summer attendance has been good in spite of vacationing. We are hoping the fall attendance will be like our pre-pandemic attendance. Hope to see you there!  
Phil

**Agape 5**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Circle Meetings in September**

**Circle Eve -**

Tuesday, September 5, 11:30 am at Dayton's,  
RSVP Peggy Hastings 410-726-3614

**Circle Martha -**

Wednesday, September 6, 10:30 am at Todd House

**Circle Mary -**

Tuesday, September 12, 2:00 pm at Todd House

**Circle Rachael -**

Monday, September 11, 1:00 pm with Mary Lynn Deckert  
at 31989 Buckhaven Court

**Circle Ruth -**

Monday, September 11, 10:00 am at Todd House

**Circle Sarah -**

Wednesday, September 13, 1:00 pm at Todd House

Happy Almost Fall Everyone,  
I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for the kind words about the new signs up in the Oaks Parking Lot. Last year when I was planning my Eagle Project, I knew that I wanted to do something for the church and putting up new signs in the lot just seemed like the thing to do. Everyone that I have been working with throughout the process have also been very helpful. I would like to thank Mr. Roberts for helping out as the beneficiary representative and assisting with the details. Thank you to the Methodist Men for donating money towards the signs. I would also like to shout out Home Depot for donating all other supplies that I needed. The signs are made of a recycled material that should last for decades, and I hope they do just that.  
Many thanks, James Craft



If you love to shop and you love to save money, then we have great news for you!! Boscov's department stores are once again inviting area non-profit organizations to take part in their one day event called "Friends Helping Friends," and Bethesda is on board!! Get your Christmas shopping lists ready for **Wednesday, October 18!**

It's easy! You purchase a shopping pass for \$5 and Bethesda gets every penny of that \$5. Shoppers may use their shopping pass at Boscov's on Wednesday, October 18 from morning until night (8:00 am until 11:00 pm) and receive 25% off most of the items in the store. Some exclusions apply.

The best part is that many, many items in the store will already be reduced 30%, 40% or 50% off the original price AND shoppers will receive an additional 25% discount with the pass! If you purchase only one item for \$20, you will only pay \$15 and the shopping pass has already paid for itself!

This event is called "Friends Helping Friends" because EVERYONE wins! Shoppers get great deals, Boscov's benefits from customers shopping there, and non-profit groups earn money.

Shopping passes may be purchased at any time from Nancy Rowe or from Brenda in the church office. We will also be selling them at our fall bazaar. Circle leaders may contact Nancy to have some ready for your circle members at the September or October meeting.

Thanks for your support...and get your Christmas lists ready to have fun shopping on October 18!

**You can still order Pickled Beets & Sweet Pepper Relish!!**

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

Anne Beach and her team made tons of her famous Pickled Beets and Sweet Pepper Relish. The beets sold out quickly; then 50 more pounds of beets were purchased and quickly pickled! Miss Anne doesn't want anyone to miss out that wants them this year.

If you are interested in pre-ordering pints of either of these items, please contact the church office by emailing your request to [bethesda-umc@outlook.com](mailto:bethesda-umc@outlook.com) or calling, 410-742-8855, Monday-Friday, 9AM to 2PM. Checks should be made payable to Bethesda UMC with memo of "Fall Festival". **First come, first served, so order today!!**