



AGAPE Grapevine

April 2023

As we welcome the month of April, our hearts rejoice in the beauty of spring and the promise of new life it brings. The blossoming flowers, the chirping birds, and the gentle warmth of the sun are all tangible reminders that winter has passed, and a new season has arrived. In a similar vein, we are reminded of the new life that can be found in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As Christians, we are called to be a reflection of this new life in our thoughts, words, and actions. We are to embody the teachings of Jesus and share His love and grace with others. Spring serves as a beautiful reminder of this responsibility, as we witness the world around us coming to life and blooming with vibrancy and color.

To foster our spiritual growth and further embrace the new life in Christ, we can take several steps:

1. Prayer and Meditation: Strengthen your connection with God through daily prayer and meditation. Set aside time each day to communicate with Him and seek His guidance.
2. Bible Study: Immerse yourself in the Word of God. Regularly read and study the Scriptures to deepen your understanding of His message and to apply His teachings in your daily life.
3. Fellowship: Engage with fellow believers in worship, Bible study, and other church activities. Encourage and support one another in your spiritual journeys, as we are all called to grow together in Christ.
4. Service: Show your love for God by serving others, whether it be through volunteering at church, participating in outreach programs, or simply offering a helping hand to those in need.
5. Witnessing: Share your faith with others and be a living testimony of God's love and the transformative power of Jesus Christ.

As we journey together in our faith, let us remember that we are not alone.

The same God who orchestrates the changing seasons and brings forth new life in nature is also at work within us, guiding and empowering us to grow in His love and grace. As Romans 6:4 states, "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

In closing, let this April be a month filled with gratitude for the new life we have found in Christ and a renewed commitment to living out our faith in every aspect of our lives. Let us celebrate the wonders of God's creation and allow the beauty of spring to remind us of the love, hope, and transformation that can be found in Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous April, filled with the warmth of God's love and the promise of new life in Christ!
Grace and Peace, Rev. Zac Wheeler



HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE

You are invited you to join us for Holy Week services at our church. Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

Sunday April 2, 2023

9:00am 10:30am Palm Sunday
1-2pm Easter Egg Hunt (Oaks Lot)

Holy Thursday

7:00pm Worship and Communion

Good Friday

7:00pm Combined Worship
(Bethesda, Trinity, Asbury, Wesley Temple)

Easter Sunday

9:00am Contemporary Worship
10:30am Traditional Worship

HE IS RISEN
Forgiven
For God so Loved the World
LAMB of God
love
He is Risen Indeed
CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY
HALLELUJAH
Eternal Life
Redeemer
my savior



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.

EASTER LILIES



Every Easter, Bethesda decorates our sanctuary with beautiful lilies purchased by members and friends, "in honor of" or "in memory of" loved ones. If you would like to take part in this longstanding tradition, please fill in the form below and enclose it with your donation. Put it in the offering plate or send to the church office in an envelope to "Bethesda Altar Guild". Thank you!

Questions – Pat Oberholtzer at 410-251-0935 or patober@comcast.net.

*** PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY ***

Donor _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donation \$ _____ Phone _____

Deadline for requests is April 4, 2023

Senior Singles Thursday, April 13th



Meet at Jo Jo's at 1:30 p.m.

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

Agape 2

Next Soup Luncheons

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Thursday, May 18, 2023

11 am - 12:15 pm (Take-Out/Pick-Up)

**Delivery Available for orders
of \$100 or more**

Menu:

Peas & Dumplings (April)

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 – Fundraiser Scheduled

SAVE THE DATE April 1st thru April 20th!

Mark your calendar now!

We are scheduled to begin our online auction 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 at (410-726-2977).

We already have a homemade wooden American Flag, 2 homemade Smith Island cakes, Baby boy set, Baby Girl set, and Pro Golf coupons. Looking forward to your donation. It can be a single item that you no longer need and we will add to it.

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) for Texas Roadhouse. Additionally, we will offer you a free appetizer with each \$25 purchase while supplies last. This would be a fabulous gift for a loved one on their birthday or just to go out to dinner! You may place an order by calling Lora Adkins at 410-726-2977 or email kadkins30@comcast.net or call Lois Moorhead 410-430-3086. Thank you in advance for your continued support of Santa's Angels.

Agape 7

THANK YOU!

Dear Mrs. Mary Lynn,

Thank you for the perfect care package! It came at the best time since the first round of exams were starting up. These care packages always remind me that I had people routing for me throughout my entire time at college. I'm sad it will be my last one since I am graduating in May, but I am grateful even more so because of it! Thank you.

Kristin Allen

Dear Bethesda Members,

This is Andrew Golba and I just wanted to email you and say thank you for the box with the supplies in it. It was a very nice treat to go to my mailbox and see it was there. Thank you so much!

Andrew Golba

Dear Bethesda Church,

Thank you so much for the goodies! It made me feel extra loved over Valentines Day. You are so generous and I can't wait to see you again!

Alexzander Baer

Dear Bethesda Friends,

Thank you for the many prayers, cards and sympathies you have shared with us since the passing of David's brother, Ken Allen. Please keep us in your prayers as we work through the days and months ahead.

David & Brenda Allen and Family



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

A luncheon will follow the service in the Memorial Room

An RSVP by 5/22/23 for the luncheon is requested

due to limited seating

Please contact Brenda Sawyer at

410-742-8855 or Bethesda-umc@outlook.com

THANK YOU!

Hand and Hearts Ending Homelessness

I would like to thank each and every one of you who donated to the Homeless shelter this winter. We were able to commit to providing lunch for 40+ homeless men during the months of November through March. In addition, several of you went further and provided other meals at other times for this group of men. It was amazing to see the level of commitment and generosity from this congregation, as I put out our needs several days before the luncheon and the donations flooded in! Even when I wasn't sure if we would be able to cover a meal, in the end more came in than I had anticipated and no one's donation was turned away. (Kind of reminds you of the Loaves and Fishes!!) We became known at the Shelter for "always being able to count on Bethesda"! They would ask me how we do it! At the risk of leaving someone out, I won't name you all, but you know who you are! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

In His Service, Debbie Day

Dear Bethesda Church,

Thank you for bringing Ernie and I some of the delicious Food that all you guys help prepare. We also appreciate the delivery crew. It's always good to see them. We miss being able to help in the kitchen. Thanks again. We love all of you.

Love, Ernie & Connie Watson

Dear Bethesda Church,

Mark, Rachel and I thank you for your prayers for safe travels for my cousin's funeral. Gary Sager was my cousin who died in Waverly, Ohio. The funeral was a good homecoming. Thank you.

Alice Marine, Rachel Marine and Mark Chubert

April 2023

Monthly Planner



United Women in Faith

April, 2023

Easter is just a week away! Celebrating Christ's resurrection is certainly a joyous occasion. But when the worship service is over and the family dinner is finished, are you still joyful? It's easy to be joyful when times are good, but with so much famine, sickness, war, and hate in the world today, it can be challenging to be joyful day in and day out.

Throughout the Bible we are commanded to be glad, rejoice, and shout for joy. (Psalms 16:11, John 15:11, Nehemiah 8:10, Psalms 118:24) These verses tell us joy doesn't just happen; we must take action in order to experience joy. Deliberate joy is an act of obedience in response to who Christ is and what he has done for us.

What brings joy to our hearts differs from one person to the next. Too often we deprive ourselves of the things that make us happy saying we are "too busy" or "I'll get to it tomorrow." But finding joy in the Lord is a gift we can and should embrace daily. Finding this joy is a spiritual discipline that needs to be practiced to reap the benefits of the gift.

Over the years we may find different ways to unleash joy. It could be gardening, cooking, painting, sports, the beach, or more time spent with family & friends. For me, it's time with my grandkids and bike riding. As we learn what makes us happy, we must set aside time to enjoy these blessings on a regular basis. If not, we fail to renew our spirit and struggle through life.


So, if you enjoy praying, go on a prayer walk and feel the sense of tranquility that time spent with God brings. If listening to music soothes your soul, treat yourself to a faith-filled concert. If you like cooking, prepare a meal or sweet treat for someone else to share your joy. Whatever gives you joy, take time to engage in that activity.

Although joy may not be the immediate outcome in all circumstances, Jesus reminds us that it is the inevitable result when we focus on Him. In happy or sad times, in comfort or difficulty, we can find joy in the presence of the Lord – an unexplainable joy like no other. Tammy Taylor, UWIF President

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> Mar 2023 S M T W T F S 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 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> May 2023 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 </div>				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 1 12:00 PM Circle Sarah - meets at Spring Tea 12:00 PM UWF Spring Tea in Memorial Room </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 2 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 1:00 PM Devotions 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House Faith Study @ Concession </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 3 10:00 AM Circle Ruth - Todd House 6:30 PM Centennial Comm. Mtg Fireside 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 4 11:30 AM Circle Eve meets at Dayton's Deadline for Lily requests </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 5 8:30 AM UMM - Dayton's 10:30 AM Circle Mtg at Todd House 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House 7:30 PM Prayer for Good Friday </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 6 8:30 AM Devotions/Rev 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Worship 7:00 PM Step by Step AA </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 7 7:00 PM Combined Worship (Bethesda, Trinity, Asbury) Good Friday </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 8 </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 9 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House Easter Sunday </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 10 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 11 1:00 PM Circle Rachael - Mary 2:00 PM Circle Mary - Todd 7:00 PM Circle Esther - Todd House </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 12 8:30 AM UMM - Dayton's 9:00 AM Elevator 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 13 8:30 AM Devotions/Rev 1:30 PM State Reps @ Todd House 6:00 PM Choral Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Gateway Bible Study in House Lounge 7:00 PM Step by Step AA </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 14 6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 15 </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 16 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Contemporary Band playing at The Century Church in South DE 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 2nd Sunday of Easter </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 17 6:00 PM UMM Meet at Deli at Penn State 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 18 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 19 8:30 AM UMM - Dayton's 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 20 8:30 AM Devotions/Rev 11:00 AM Soup Lunch 7:00 PM Choral Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 7:00 PM Step by Step AA </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 21 6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 22 </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 23 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 3rd Sunday of Easter </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 24 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 25 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 26 8:30 AM UMM - Dayton's 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 27 8:30 AM Devotions/Rev 7:00 PM Choral Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 7:00 PM Step by Step AA </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 28 6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 29 </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 30 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House 4th Sunday of Easter </div>						

"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.

As we continue our stained glass tour on the back wall, we come to a beautiful portrayal of Jesus healing a lame man. He admonishes him: "Rise, take up Thy bed and walk." (to the left)

Then on the Division St. wall, we begin with the Apostle Peter holding the "keys to the kingdom" given to him by Jesus. His Symbol is of an upside-down cross. Tradition has it-not scripture, but tradition -that when Peter was about to be martyred for his faith, he said he was not worthy to be crucified like his Lord-so his persecutors crucified him upside down. That window is also dedicated to the devoted Men of Bethesda.



Dr. Dan



Rev. Wheeler was asked to provide the invocation for the Maryland State Senate in Annapolis on March 7, 2023.

What an honor!
We are very proud of you Rev. Wheeler!



Music News by Dr. Jeff Baer

As we quickly approach the Easter season of 2023, I am excited to share some information about our upcoming services.

New this year is a Good Friday service at 7:00 pm. Bethesda is hosting and a choir of singers from Asbury and Bethesda will be singing movement 6 from John Rutter's *Requiem*, "The Lord Is My Shepherd." This movement was written as a single anthem before Rutter composed the *Requiem* and some of its thematic material can be found in the movement that precedes the psalm. It is written to be accompanied by an oboe, an instrument that is often associated with shepherds. Todd Riddleberger will be playing the oboe part and Dr. Michael Stefanek, music director at Asbury, will be accompanying on organ.

At the church where I grew up, the Good Friday service included the Tenebrae readings that we typically use on Maundy Thursday. The descent into darkness always affected me and helped me process Christ's profound sacrifice. Using the text of the 23rd Psalm helps us realize that our Good Shepherd will stop at nothing to protect his sheep.

On Easter Sunday we will Celebrate the Lord's Resurrection with joyous and uplifting music. We are thrilled to welcome Logan back from college to play for us. Bethesda is so fortunate to have such wonderful singers and instrumentalists. Many other churches have to find community members to play for services. **A great thank you to Cory, Ray, Ellie, Zander, Stewart, Sherri, Orville, and Logan who offered special music for the Lent and Easter seasons.**

We are indeed blessed!
See you in church,
Jeff

Contemporary Music News
by Phil Perdue

Easter, such a holy time is almost here. Hope to see a lot of our faithful members and guests! **If you would like to see the Bethesda Contemporary Band in a different setting, we will be at The Centenary Church in Laurel, Delaware on April 16th (Sunday evening) at 6:00 p.m.** It should be a very enjoyable and fulfilling event. Hope to see you there!



Circle Meetings for April 2023

- Circle Esther - Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 pm - Todd House
- Circle Eve - Tuesday, April 4, 11:30 am - Dayton's Restaurant
- Circle Martha - Wednesday, April 5, 10:30 am - Todd House
- Circle Mary - Tuesday, April 11, 2:00 pm - Todd House
- Circle Rachael - Tuesday, April 11, 1:00 pm - at Mary Lynn's, Sonia Crandell, hostess
- Circle Ruth - Monday, April 3, 10:00 am - Todd House
- Circle Sarah - Saturday, April 1 at Spring Tea



TWO MONTHS AND COUNTING!

We are getting closer to our 100th anniversary celebration of our church building on N. Division Street on Sunday, June 4. It will be a special day as we commemorate our centennial walk from Broad Street, worship together in our sanctuary with beautiful music, welcome former clergy, recognize our newest 50+ and 70+ year members and celebrate the history of our church with a few special surprises. We will enjoy fellowship together in the Memorial Room with a delicious luncheon following the service.

We hope that you will enjoy seeing many photos of the past 100 years, including this rendition of our church, drawn by architect George Savage of Philadelphia.

A few changes were made from his original sketch. Can you find them?

