Bethesda United Methodist Church





Bethesda Family

As we step into the month of February, a month marked by Valentine's day and expressions of love, let us reflect on the powerful message of love that is at the heart of our faith. Love is not merely a sentimental feeling but a profound and transformative force that shapes our lives as Christians.

In the bible, we are reminded of the greatest expression of love in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." This verse encapsulates the essence of our faith-God's sacrificial love for us and the call for us to love one another in the same way.

In February, we have the opportunity to put love into action in several ways:

Community Outreach: Let us continue our outreach efforts by supporting local food banks, shelters, and those in need. Your generosity and acts of kindness make a significant difference in the lives of others.

Prayer and Support: Reach out to fellow members of our congregation who may be going through difficult times. Your prayers and support can bring comfort and hope to those in need.

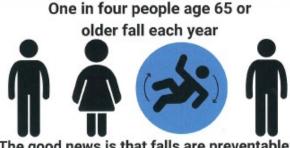
Fellowship: Join our church events and gatherings, whether in person or virtually. Building and nurturing relationships within our church family is a vital aspect of our faith journey.

Study and Reflection: Take some time this month to dive into the bible, exploring the teachings of Jesus on love and compassion. Reflect on how you can incorporate these teachings into your daily life.

May our actions be a testament to the love of Christ that dwells within us, and may our congregation continue to be a beacon of love and hope in our community.

In closing, I want to express my deep appreciation for each and every one of you. Your commitment to our church and your unwavering love and support are a source of inspiration to me and to all who are part of our church family. Let us journey together in faith, hope, and love, and we look forward to the blessings that God has in store for us in the days ahead.





The good news is that falls are preventable: Stepping On can help!

A FREE 7-week workshop can help you prevent falls

Every Tuesday, March 5th - April 16th, 2024 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm Bethesda United Methodist Church The Memorial Room

Stepping On has been researched and proven to reduce falls by 31%

> Interested? Contact: Nancy Hedlesky 410-742-0505 ext. 131 nhedlesky@macinc.org

This is class is not only for Bethesda members. You do not have to commit to the entire 7 weeks! Come to the classes that work with your schedule. If you can't stay for the entire 2 hours, that's not a problem.

- Simple and fun balance and strength training
- The role vision plays in keeping your balance
- How medications contribute to falls
- Ways to keep from falling in your community
- What to look for in safe footwear
- How to eliminate fall hazards in your home
- Bring your sandwich, drinks and dessert provided

You must pre-register because we need a minimum of 8 participants to hold this class.

With love and blessings, Rev. Zac Wheeler

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

Save the Dates: Soup Luncheons

Thursday, February 15, 2024 (Chili & Cornbread) Thursday, March 21, 2024 (Peas & Dumplings) 11 am — 12:15 pm

Take-Out/Pick-Up

Delivery Available for orders of \$100 or more

Menu:

Vegetable Beef Soup Chili and Cornbread (February) Peas & Dumplings (March) 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

Email orders: bethesdasalisbury@gmail.com

We could really use your help! Call 410-742-8855 to find out how to volunteer

Senior Singles - Thursday, February 8, 2024 Meet at Salisbury Outback Steakhouse at 1 pm



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

New people are always welcome!

Care for the Cause

Salisbury Urban Ministries' Fundraiser

Sunday, February 25, 2024 @ 3:00 PM

Trinity Family Life Center

31193 Mt Hermon Rd, Salisbury

Admission: Free Will Offering

Checks payable to Salisbury Urban Ministries

A non-profit 501c3

Fundraiser Supporting Salisbury Urban Ministries Lazarus Food Pantries Lazarus Prescription Assistance

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 Churches

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Santa's Angels

Agape 2

\$\$--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 her at 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.

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

GiveSendGo website: www.givesendgo.com/ SantasAngels2024

Inaugural Santa's Angels Charity Golf Tournament



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 fundraising to support our efforts. Play some golf and help us, help the kids have a memorable Christmas!!

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

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 I	/loney		Cost
Tier 1 (Eagle)	Team (4 ppl) + Lar	ge Sign on a Tee E	lox + Clubhouse Sign + Donor Ad	\$1,000
Tier 2 (Birdie)	Team (4 ppl) + Sm	all Sign on a Tee B	ox + Donor Ad	\$500
Tier 3 (Par)	Large Sign with Yo	ur Business or Org	anization Placed on a Tee Box	\$400
Tier 4 (Bogey)	Small Sign with Yo	ur Business or Org	anization 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 Or	ganization Name			
Tier Selected		Total Cost		
Payment Meth	ods Accepted: Cash, C	heck (Payable to San	ta's Angels), or use the Give Send Go A	pp. 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!!

Agape 3

Women

in Faith

Each year, we celebrate Valentine's Day during the month of February. To me it is a warm - bright spot in the cold of Winter. It's theme is Love and Love is mentioned 310 times in the King James Version of the Bible. John 15:12 – My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Luke 6:31 – Do to others as you would have them do to you. Corinthians 16:14 - Do everything in Love. Proverbs 17:17 - A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. Jesus wants us to Love each other and that is what Bethesda's Church Family does. The United Women In Faith ladies are a wonderful example of this Love because each month we meet, we share, we comfort, we laugh, we share a meal and we love. Again - if you want to join a circle please contact me and I will be glad to help you find one that fits your schedule. United Pat Oberholtzer

Oaks Parking Lot – Storm Damage

On January 10, the strong wind and rainstorm that dropped several inches of rain and 50+ MPH winds across Delmarva, caused one of the very large evergreen trees in the Oaks Parking Lot to go down. Dave Roberts, Bethesda's Trustee Lead, contacted a vendor, Phillips Ventures to assist. Price Phillips was on-site the next day to safely bring down the tree, clean up all the limbs and debris, and haul the tree wood away. We would like to thank both Dave Roberts and Price Phillips for reacting guickly to this emergency need and doing a super job.

Before





Contemporary Service

The after holiday attendance has been good at the 9am service. Thanks to all attendees. We would like to grow the attendance this year. Please invite friends and don't forget the hospitality table is back! Phil Perdue

Traditional Service

Do You Hear...In the next several months, there will be some changes to the part of the organ that is in the back balcony (the antiphonal organ). An antiphonal organ is a division of a pipe organ that is situated away from the main ranks of pipes so that an "answering" or "distance" effect can be presented. I often have used the antiphonal organ when the choir is in the back of the church before the Processional. Think about an antiphonal organ as a surround sound speaker that resonates from behind you. Our antiphonal organ division used to be situated above the ceiling in the back balcony and was later moved to its current position. The pipes that are visible are a façade and were donated from a church in Seaford.

Unfortunately, due to a bell tower water leak, the antiphonal organ had to be taken offline last summer. Before replacement or repair, we will need to dismantle the ranks of pipes, store them, identify the cause of the water damage, repair the problem, and then determine how to proceed with repair or replacement. This repair is very important to us, and we are considering all aspects of the available options. Please know that we are carefully considering the ramifications of all our potential actions.

As I answered Nikko Sunday morning when he asked me, "Dad, what would happen if water started leaking on the painting of Jesus?" I answered, "Son, it's complicated, but I assure you that we will do everything possible to preserve our church's stuff." Our building is valuable to us, and it is part of our continued ministry and Christian mission in Salisbury.

I look forward to worshipping with you during the very moving season of Lent-especially during Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day. See you in church! Jeff



After

410-251-0935

UWIF President

Agape 4

Salisbury Urban Ministries – A Local Charity Serving Local People in Need

Salisbury Urban Ministries is one of the local community charities that Bethesda UMC supports on a regular basis, not only monetarily but also with services. Our Rev. Zac Wheeler is the Chairperson of the Parish Council, and several members support the Lazarus Food Pantry and God's Kitchen on a regular basis.

Salisbury Urban Ministries (SUM) began in 1992 after clergy and laity met together to develop programs for the communities materially impoverished. Their mission is to develop and implement programs that serve and minister to the needs of materially impoverished people. Locally, the poverty rate is over 30%. The programs in place are:

- **Kid's Café** an after school and summer program that provides a safe learning environment for children in the community to help them flourish academically, socially, and civically. About 15 children from East Salisbury and Beaver Run Elementary schools participate in this program.
- Lazarus Food Pantry This program seeks to aid the lowest income families in Wicomico County. The food pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week from 10:00am-12:00pm. There are 3 locations Salisbury, Pittsville, and Willards. In 2023, they helped 4,448 individuals with food an increase of 37% from 2022. This represented a distribution of 4,472 bags of food either purchased from the Maryland Food Bank or individual donations.
- **God's Kitchen** a community outreach program hosted by Grace Methodist Church that addresses the need for meals and health services for the homeless and impoverished. Forty -eight organizations host lunch at Grace MC on Saturdays, 11:00am-12:45pm. Approximately 200 meals are served each week.

Prescription Assistance - available to economically deprived residents in Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties. The program is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am-12:00pm.

Bethesda UMC budgets \$8,000 annually to help support SUM's Mission. We allocate \$2,000 to the Lazarus Food Pantry and \$6,000 to SUM. In the past, these budgeted funds were not available to be donated until the end of December. This year we would like to focus on donating these monies to SUM by mid-year for SUM to meet their 2024 objectives. How can you help?

Continue to make your tithes and offerings on a regular basis. Options are available to complete online or in person. Make a special donation to specifically support SUM, by noting in the memo section of your check or online.

On Communion Sundays, offering plates on the first pew benches go to help support these feeding ministries – place extra money or check there to help.

Anna Marie Blankenship, Mary Lynn Deckert, and Barbara Wilgus are regular helpers with the Food Pantry each week and can share firsthand the need of our community.

The Bible references many times and in many places God's thoughts on sharing, helping others and feeding the poor. Some of the most familiar are **2 Corinthians 9:7** *"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*; **Acts 20:35** *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*; and **Isaiah 58:10-14** *"Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. The LORD will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength."*.

Salisbury Urban Ministries' programs are set-up to help those peoples in our local community that need extra help. We want to help SUM continue with those programs. Consider this as you make your regular or special offerings. All support is greatly appreciated, and we will continue to update the status of our financial goal for 2024. Check out SUM's Facebook page for events and updates -- https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064311896842





SHOWING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH AN EXTENDED HAND TO ALL

GRACE EXTENDED

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well." (Romans 12.6).

Grace Extended is supported by so many amazing people with a variety of gifts and talents. The volunteers have visited, sent cards, and delivered shawls/blankets as gestures from Bethesda church family.

We have had many people asking about learning to crochet and knit to contribute to our ministry called Threads of Grace. Below is the information about a crochet class. All are welcome. We have plenty of yarn and crochet hooks. I hope you will join us.

Threads of Grace, Crochet Class, February 21, 2024 at 2 pm, Memorial Room

Call Kathy Blackburn for information 410-251-7714





Teachers are a gift from God. I have heard that many times. I love sharing my time and my little talent with our children of Bethesda Church. I just wanted to share with you that Sunday School is open every Sunday starting at 9 am. We have someone in the Nursery as well! It takes a big heart to shape little minds and a whole lot of patience, perseverance, caffeine (lots of caffeine) and literally every ounce of one's energy, blood, sweat & tears. Your Sunday School teachers take the time to prepare and plan for a quick great hour! Come join us on Sunday mornings. We look forward to seeing you in Sunday School!

Melanie Donophan



United Women in Faith

Circle Meetings in February

Circle Eve -	Tuesday, February 6 11:30 am at Dayton's RSVP Peggy Hastings 410-726-3614	m sa d a e
Circle Martha -	Wednesday, February 7, 10:30 am at Todd House	o [.] It
Circle Mary -	Tuesday, February 13, 2:00 pm at Todd House	y m in fr
Circle Rachael -	Tuesday, February 6, 1:00 pm with Mary Lynn Deckert	a A p
Circle Ruth -	Monday, February 5, 10:00 am at Todd House	L e T
Circle Sarah -	Wednesday, February 14, 1:00 pm at Todd House	p g

College Boxes

We are starting to make plans to send our traditional Valentine's boxes to our out of town college and graduate students, and those serving in military service. Needless to say, we would appreciate



donations of snacks (that you know young people like) and useful items (small tissue packages, pens, pencils etc.) by Feb 4th and brought to church or the church office.

It is VERY important that parents or students up date your mailing address for this mailing (and all mailings). We do not use an address that has been used in the past, because some individuals change locations from semester to semester, or service address from assignment to another place. I would like the addresses ASAP. so we can know how many boxes to prepare for packing.

Look for me at church on Sundays with any questions, or email me at <u>marylynnandbill@comcast.net</u>.

Thank you for your continuing support of this fantastic project which started with Halloween 1989, and has been going strong every since! Mary Lynn Deckert

Agape 6

Greetings Bethesda Friends,

On Thursday, January 25, 2024, the One Committee Council gathered to review the December year-end budget report and address agenda items. Our commitment to regular financial reviews remains a top priority and will continue monthly. The pie charts included in this month's Agape illustrate our 2023-year end position for income and expenses.

Dave Roberts has been diligently assessing maintenance needs at Bethesda. Immediate priorities include recent updates to the plumbing system, including the purchase of a new sump pump. Addressing the leak in the bell tower is at the forefront of the maintenance agenda, with quotes being sought for the necessary repairs. Regrettably, water damage has impacted parts of the organ situated beneath the bell tower and are beyond repair. However, the focus is currently on resolving the leak to prevent further damage.

We are still in search of a chairperson and members for our Safe Sanctuary Committee. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please reach out to Rev. Zac.

A warm welcome to Mary Ann Fardelmann, our newest member on the One Committee Council, serving as Council Secretary. Thank you, Mary Ann, for your volunteering spirit.

Stepping into the new year, I am honored to lead as your church council chair. Excited about the possibilities ahead, I look forward to collaborating with Rev. Zac, committee members, our dedicated staff, and all members of our

congregation. Together, let us stand united in our mission to Grow Deep, Branch Out, and Bear Fruit.

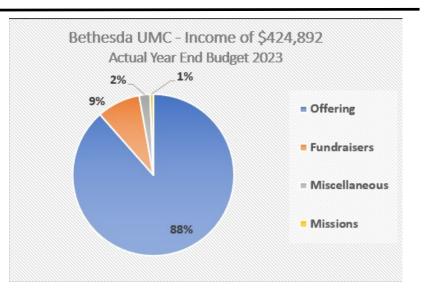
Wishing God's blessings upon all.

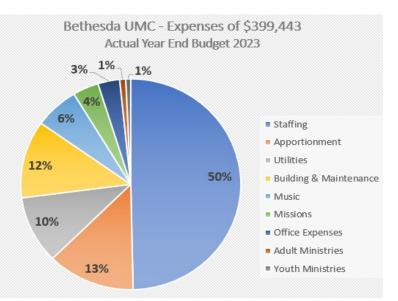
Melanie Smith

Bethesda Actual Year End Budget 2023

Income:	\$424,892
Offering:	\$375,985
Fundraisers:	\$36,935
Miscellaneous:	<u>\$9,201</u>
Missions:	\$2,771

Expenses:	\$399,443
Staffing:	\$198,366
Apportionment:	\$51,588
Utilities:	\$41,392
Building & Maintenance:	\$47,549
Music:	\$26,076
Missions:	\$15,272
Office Expenses:	\$12,761
Adult Ministries:	\$3,569
Youth Ministries:	\$2,870





THANK YOU

On behalf of our family Rebecca and I wish to thank everyone for the flowers, visits, food, cards, and prayers on the passing of our beloved spouse and mother, Ardelle. All of it was greatly appreciated!

Dr. Dan and Rebecca





A BIG thank you to everyone who has started using our "new" google email: bethesdasalisbury@gmail.com .

Brenda Sawyer

Dear Santa's Angels:

We wanted to thank you for your generous help during the holidays. Our Mardela families are very grateful for all their gifts. Wishing you all a wonderful 2024. Loa Neston and Cathy Ramey

Thanks to the Soup Kitchen for providing the soup and other goodies to Connie and I. Thanks to the many delivery persons and their nice visits, Nevette & Sue, Jim Royal, Stewart Soper, Jack Layton, Ed & Pat Weeast, David Perdue and David Roberts. Thanks again for all the wonderful people helping with this awesome task.

Happy New Year to Everyone and God Bless. Love, Ernie and Connie (Watson)

Hands & Hearts Ending Homelessness Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the meals for the homeless shelter this past month. We were able to serve 40 men a hot meal of Bethesda's homemade vegetable soup, with biscuits, brownies, chicken salad and bread pudding. In addition, so many of you helped to complete the lunches for the men to enjoy the following day. Our next commitment to the shelter will be on Thursday, February 15th. We will be providing a hot evening meal in addition to lunch fixings for the following day. Be on the lookout for a Sign Up Sheet in the bulletin on Sunday, February 11th. Thank you so much! We are so blessed by the generosity of so many at In His Service, Debbie Day Bethesda!

EASTER LILIES

Agape



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 in an envelope to "Bethesda Altar Guild". Thank you!

Questions – Pat Oberholtzer at 410-251-0935 or <u>patober@comcast.net</u> **** PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY **

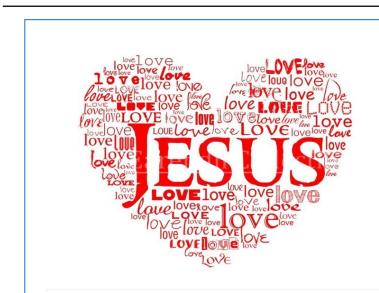
Donor				
In Memory of		5 (S		<u>. 1996</u>
la la last de la la		<u> 19</u>	5	
In Honor of		<u>n 11</u>		
Donation \$	Phone_			
Deadline for requ	iests is March	n 25,	<u>2024</u>	

Congratulations to Justin and Katie (Vincent) Serenjyi . Their daughter, Savannah Lee Serenyi, born September 22, 2023, was baptized at Bethesda U.M. Church on January 27, 2024.

Rev. Dr. Dan Rich officiated.



Bethesda United Methodist Church 406 N. Division Street Salisbury, MD 21801



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



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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

February 2024 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House	2	e
 4 Communion 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 11:45 am Altar Guild Mtg. 4 pm Youth Group meets at Todd House 7 pm AA meets at Todd House 	5 10 am Circle Ruth meets at Todd House 7 pm Boy Scouts meet in Memorial Room	6 11:30 am Circle Eve meets at Day- ton's RSVP Peggy Hastings 1:30 pm Circle Rachael meets at Mary Lynn's	7 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 10:30 am Circle Martha meets at Todd House 6:30 pm Handbell Re- hearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Fireside Lounge	8 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 1 pm Senior Singles meet at Outback Steakhouse (Salisbury) 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House	9 3pm Pandora Messick – Recep- tion after Cindy Anno's service in Memorial Room	10 12 pm Souper Bowl of Car- ing at Asbury to benefit SUM
11 Transfiguration Sunday 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 7 pm AA meets at Todd House	12 7 pm Boy Scouts meet in Memorial Room	13 2 pm Circle Mary meets at Todd House	 14 Ash Wednesday 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 1 pm Circle Sarah meets at Todd House 7 pm Ash Wednesday Svc Valentine's Day 	 15 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 11 am Soup Lunch 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House 	16	17
 ¹⁸ 1st Sunday in Lent ⁹ am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc at Todd House 7 pm AA meets at Todd House 	19 President's Day – Office Closed 6 pm UMM meets at Deli at Pecan Square	20	 21 21 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 2 pm Crochet Class held by Grace Extended Mem. Rm. 6:30 pm Handbell Re- hearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 	 22 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 5:30 pm Church Council meets in Fireside Lounge 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House 	23 Set up for Eagle Scout Ceremony	24 2 pm James Craft Eagle Scout Ceremony in Sanctuary/Memorial Room
 25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 3 pm Care for the Cause SUM Fundraiser-Trinity Life Center 4 pm Youth Group meets at Todd House 7 pm AA meets at Todd House 	26 7 pm Boy Scouts Room Room	27	28 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 8:30 am Adult Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 6:30 pm Handbell Re- hearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Fireside Lounge	 29 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House 		