



AGAPE Grapevine



Bethesda Family:

As we find ourselves in the heart of summer, we also commemorate the founding of our nation, when the United States declared its independence. This month, it seems appropriate to parallel our temporal celebration with a spiritual one by reflecting on the concept of spiritual freedom, as presented in Galatians 5:1: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

In our lives, we may find ourselves burdened by many types of "yokes" - personal guilt, societal pressures, or the heavy expectations we place upon ourselves. The promise of Christ's love, however, is one of liberation from these constraints. As Christians, we believe that our faith sets us free, not from our obligations to one another, but from the bonds of sin and death, offering a path to redemption and eternal life.

As we reflect on our nation's history, we should also take time to consider our own spiritual journey. Just as the signatories of the Declaration of Independence had to make conscious decisions and take deliberate actions to create a new nation, we too must consciously choose to embrace the spiritual freedom Christ offers us. This does not mean a life without challenge or difficulty, but rather a life in which we are free to grow, learn, and make choices guided by our faith and God's love.

This July, as we enjoy the festivities of Independence Day, let's also celebrate the spiritual freedom that our faith gives us. Let us stand firm in our beliefs, unburdened by the yokes of slavery, and open our hearts to the transformative power of God's grace. The journey to spiritual independence is ongoing, requiring patience, perseverance, and above all, trust in God.

Remember, each one of us is an integral part of this spiritual journey. As a congregation and as individuals, let's continue to encourage, support, and pray for one another. Let's celebrate the freedom we find in Christ together.

May God bless you all and grant you a joyful and liberating month of July.
Grace and Peace, Rev. Zac Wheeler

Grace Extended

Greetings Bethesda!

Scott and I want to express our sincere gratitude for the love and care extended to us by your prayers, calls, texts, cards, and visits. We have witnessed God's GRACE through you. Scott continues to improve. Each achievement is a celebration of God's love!

On June 4, 2023, Reverend Wheeler's sermon prompted Bethesda to be a church of action. He emphasized the word "GO" in the scripture reading and called on the congregation to be the "HANDS and FEET OF GOD." Scott and I have witnessed exactly that from so many of you. We are being called to respond.

Reverend Wheeler and Church Council have approved a new ministry at Bethesda. Dr. Dan Rich has agreed to provide spiritual counsel and guidance. The ministry is called GRACE EXTENDED. The team will serve on behalf of Bethesda to optimize congregational and community outreach. The mission of GRACE EXTENDED will be to act as instruments of God's Grace by sharing time, talent, and service. Through a spirit of Grace, we will demonstrate Christian kindness and God's commandment to "love thy neighbor as thy self" (Matthew 22:39).

Please keep this ministry in prayer. There will be a wide variety of ways to contribute, participate and "GO." Watch the Agape and the weekly bulletin for updates.

With Humility and Gratitude,
Kathy Blackburn



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

Agape



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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.



Justin and Brooke Day welcomed their son, **Parker Steven Day** on June 14, 2023. He has big brothers Cooper, Carter and Walker. Proud grandparents are Debbie and Randy Day and Steve and Suzy Benedict.

Cora Lee Cronshaw was born on June 17, 2023 to proud parents Joshua and Katherine Cronshaw (sister is Annie Cronshaw). Grandparents are David and Martha Roberts and Jeffrey and Angie (deceased) Cronshaw.

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!

Senior Singles

Thursday, July 13th - Ray's Shanty
Meet at Church at 7 to carpool
RSVP Sandy Mills, 410-422-7305
or Dr. Dan 443-735-3292



The Senior Singles will do Brunch on Sunday, July 23 at 12 noon at Brew River. Call Ann Suthowski at 410-742-8310 to RSVP and for more information.

Agape 2

It's Time! Mark Your Calendar for Shorebirds Baseball - Sign Up Now
The UMM invites the entire Bethesda family and friends to join us for an evening of friendship, fellowship, good food, and baseball.

Call the Church Office to sign up or drop by at your convenience to make payment.
Office hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 2 pm

Executive Club (a/c)
Club seats outside
Friday, August 18th, 6:00 p.m.
\$39.00 per person

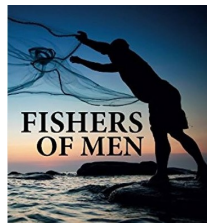
All You Can Eat - Baseball menu:
BBQ Pulled Chicken Grilled Hamburgers
Gilled Hot Dogs Pickles & Sliced Cheese
Baked Macaroni & Cheese Potato Chips
Watermelon Pop Corn
Pepsi Soda Products Water, Tea, Lemonade

The important thing now is to get your name on the list in order for your ticket(s) to be reserved.
Don't forget!
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.



"God's Will" Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Todd House
Leader: Ed Weeast



Contemporary Music News
by Phil Perdue

It's summer! Vacation time! We really do appreciate seeing you at church when we can. Have a great summer and we love every Sunday you're available to be there!

Dr. Jeff Baer
Be Back Next Month



Dear Members of Bethesda:

Thank you so much for your ongoing donations to HHEH throughout our 5 months. Your generosity and Debbie Day showing up with a car load each trip made such a difference. Needless to say the chicken salad sandwiches were a huge hit and a welcome change from ham or turkey and cheese for lunches!!

A special thanks to Debbie for coordinating this project to support an amazing mission for the homeless men.

Sincerely,
HHEH Board

Dear Bethesda Altar Guild, Nevette Muir and "God's Loving Servant,"

Thank you for the gorgeous Altar Flowers that were delivered to our home on Sunday June 11, 2023. I am humbled by your thoughtfulness. They are just beautiful.

In His Service
Debbie Day

Agape 7

We celebrate our freedom on the 4th of July, or Independence Day, but our real freedom came at the expense of God's own Son. It was a freedom from the bondage of sin because of Jesus, who died for all who would believe in Him, and, truly, we were free at last.



Salisbury Urban Ministries
Kid's Café School Clothing Project 2023



The Kid's Café School Clothing Project is a way for our Kid's Café program to provide school clothes and supplies for the children in our program. At Salisbury Urban Ministries, we would like to focus on the basic needs of our children.

For the project this year, we are asking for monetary donations by **AUGUST 15TH 2023**.

These donations will help purchase school clothing and supplies throughout the year.

Questions, contact us at 410-749-1563 or sbyurbanministries@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of the children God has called us to serve.

New 70+ Year Members

*Bolded name was accidentally omitted from original list in the June 4, 2023 bulletin.

- ◆ Richard C. Insley, Jr. (3/29/1953)
- ◆ N. Philip Adkins (5/11/1952)
- ◆ David Henry Calloway, John D. Howard (12/23/1951)
- ◆ Ann Dashiell Taylor (4/2/1950)
- ◆ Nadine Phillips, Claudia Baldwin (2/5/1950)
- ◆ **Beverley Cordrey Lynch (12/25/49)**
- ◆ Mabel Long (7/10/1949)
- ◆ Robert Price (4/24/1949)
- ◆ Barbara Hottton Furbush (5/9/1948)
- ◆ Barbara W. White, Delbert Maurice Davis (5/12/1946)
- ◆ Pat Morgan Evans, Sylvia Ray Mears (5/14/1944)
- ◆ Olive McCready (4/9/1944)
- ◆ Elaine Elliott (4/6/1941)

70 Year Members (L to R, bottom to top)

Bobbie White, Elaine Elliott, Ann Taylor, Pat Evans

Nadine Phillips, N. Philip Adkins



Centennial Celebration June 4, 2023

The History of Bethesda United Methodist Church



Did you enjoy watching the video, "The History of Bethesda United Methodist Church" during our centennial service on June 4th? Our own Todd Riddleberger was the producer/director of this wonderful film, and you are welcome to watch it again and share it with family or friends.

Bethesda's Website

1. Go to umcbethesda.com
2. On the menu, select "About"
3. Scroll down to the photo of the cornerstone ceremony labeled
4. 'Bethesda 100 Year Celebration'
5. Click on the **red** arrow to start the video.

OR

Facebook

1. Go to Facebook
2. Search Bethesda United Methodist Church Salisbury
3. Scroll down to Bethesda 100 Year Celebration
4. Click on **youtube.com**



Bethesda United Women in Faith

July, 2023



I love spending more time outdoors in God's creation during the summer. I especially treasure time on the beach. Finding a seashell, listening to the rhythm of the ocean waves and watching for and hoping to spot some dolphins.

We don't always see dolphins swimming in the ocean, but we know they are out there. Sometimes the dolphins are jumping and playing around in the waves right in front of us, but we miss seeing them because we aren't looking for them. Sometimes we are looking in the opposite direction, and sometimes we are too busy scrolling on our phone to see the dolphin show right in front of us.

God's presence in our lives can feel like that at times. We know God is out there, but we don't always see Him. Sometimes we may be going about our day, trying to see God, but we aren't looking in the right direction. Or, we are too busy carrying out our to-do lists to notice God moving right in front of us. Perhaps we look where we last found God, but He is nowhere in sight.

But don't be discouraged. God promises to draw close to us when we draw near to him. He wants to be found, and he promises to be found when we seek him with our whole heart. (Jeremiah 29:12-13)

If you've been trying to see God, don't give up! Keep looking. Keep searching. And just like the dolphin fins that pop out of the water when you least expect it, you'll see God moving all around you.

Blessings,
Tammy Taylor
President, UWIF



**"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.

Last of all, the windows in the transept balconies depict the four evangelists - Mark and Matthew on the William St. side, and Luke and John on the Division St. side. They, of course, were the authors of our four Gospels.

This completes our tour of our Sanctuary. So if we truly believe what we see, then all of these symbols invite us to renew our commitment to Christ each and every day that we live!



I would encourage you to use the Sanctuary, not just for corporate worship on Sunday or for special services, weddings, funerals, etc. But take the opportunity to come in for moments of silent meditation when the Sanctuary is empty. Come in and see, absorb, and reflect on the serene beauty around you. And remember the tremendous witness of those great saints who came before us. Focus on one or more symbols and allow them to restore your soul! And I think you will find, that "Seeing really is Believing"!

Dr. Dan



Centennial Walk
June 4, 2023



A sincere “thank you” to everyone who helped make June 4, 2023, such a wonderful day for our church! Over 220 of us gathered in person to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our church building and what a momentous occasion it was!

The morning began with a delightful, centennial walk from Broad St. to Bethesda, which was enjoyed by at least 80 people!! Our worship service was filled with incredible music from our chancel choir, organ, piano and trumpet....and even included several pieces that were played 100 years ago at the first service on June 3, 1923. It was spectacular! We recognized our special guests, including former pastors and their families, and our newest 50+ and 70+ year members. We heard some of our church members’ special Bethesda memories, enjoyed a very meaningful pastoral prayer and were uplifted by a powerful message from Rev. Wheeler. These were all part of this service, bringing praise to God through our music, words and prayers. A fabulous video, featuring over 150 cherished photos and narration, told the story of our church’s history and gave us a new appreciation of the visions and dedication of those members who built and supported our church through the years. The centennial service helped us to realize how blessed we are to be a part of Bethesda.

A delicious luncheon was served in our beautifully decorated Memorial Room, following the service. Everyone had a chance to enjoy our new ‘history wall’ with a timeline of our church’s history, presented with photographs and captions. The new ‘photo wall’ reflects the faces in our church today. A curio cabinet, donated by the late Rev. George Godfrey and Mrs. Carolyn Godfrey, displays some treasured memorabilia of our church.

Another addition to the Memorial Room is a bookshelf, holding 13 photos albums. The albums are collections of photos and memorabilia of our altar guild, confirmation classes, fellowship groups, ministers, mission trips, music programs, UMM, UWIF, and youth groups. Howard Grise contributed his personal albums, loaded with photos of past Homeless Shelter programs and of the restoration of the Good Shepherd mural. A collection of the “Remember Me” stories has been added to the shelf, too. Since those albums will stay in the Memorial Room, we hope that you will take time to enjoy them. Another album with over 150 photos of our 100th anniversary celebration will be added very soon.

We are so grateful to the people who worked so hard to make this day so very special for all of us. Over 70 people had a direct hand in helping and we are so appreciative of their hard work, which was because of their love for and devotion to Bethesda Church. Thank you to our entire congregation for your encouragement and your kind words after the service.

At the end of the video, the words of Mistle Towers were shared, and those words are as important today as they were in 1992 when she wrote them: “Let’s cherish and nurture this legacy so that the light of Bethesda will shine brightly deep into the future.”

Sincerely,
Debbie Day and Nancy Rowe
Co- Chairmen



Kid’s Café: Project School Clothes

Project School Clothes is a way for our Kid’s Café program to supply school clothes and supplies for the children in our program. Many organizations are collecting school supplies and handing them out to those in need. Here at Salisbury Urban Ministries, we would like to focus on the needs of our 13 children.

Monetary donations are being asked for Salisbury Urban Ministries to be able to buy school supplies and clothing for the Kid’s Café. Any size donation is gratefully accepted. Below are some ideas:

- \$ 5 helps to buy pencils & scissors
- \$10 helps to buy loose leaf paper & notebooks
- \$15 helps to buy a backpack
- \$20 helps to buy a shirt, sweater, or pants
- \$30 helps to buy a winter coat

Supplies and clothing will be handed out to the children in time for the start of school. The monetary donations will help throughout the school year to buy items and clothing as the need arises.

- Monetary donations can be made as directed by your church

Thank you for all the support!

Questions, contact us at 410-749-1563 or sbyurbanministries@gmail.com



Debbie Day presents our new perpetual plaque to Rev. Zac Wheeler. This plaque lists names and dates served of all senior pastors who have been appointed to our church since 1841.

New 50+ Year Members

*Bolded names were accidentally omitted from original list in the June 4, 2023 bulletin.

- ◆ Marilyn Mathes Beste, David J. Grise, Mark L. Lange, Mark H. McKinley, Alan V. Wilber (5/20/1973)
- ◆ James P. Royal (3/11/1973)
- ◆ Frances Florence Briddell, Donna Briddell Bunting (12/31/1972)
- ◆ Margaret Dolores Hann (6/25/1972)
- ◆ Elijah Stanton Adkins III, Kathryn Adkins, Otis Esham Jr. Carmen Frey Goshorn, Gary Lee Maczisz, Constance
- ◆ Farlow Schubert, Lynn Taylor Schwemlein, Toni Franks
- ◆ Watson, Beth Beach Hughes (5/21/1972)
- ◆ Keith Alton Adkins, Betty Ann Bounds, Robin Cockey,
- ◆ Linda Kent, Pandora Sue Moore Messick (11/28/1971)
- ◆ Franklin Douglas Jones, Lois Lake Moorhead, Douglas Wayne Naarup, James Albert Robertson, Thomas Paul Walston, Linda Briddell Weber (5/23/1971)
- ◆ Barry D Sakemiller, Sharon Sakemiller (3/28/1971)
- ◆ Deborah Johnson, Marie Simpkins (11/15/1970)
- ◆ Gloria Jean Bounds Shores, Kennedy Lynn Smith,
- ◆ Russell Twilley(3/15/1970)
- ◆ Mary Elizabeth Pinto (12/14/1969)
- ◆ Sherri Trader Hynes, JoAnne Mitchell (5/18/1969)
- ◆ Susan Gemeny (4/18/1969)
- ◆ Carolyn P. Corine (3/21/1969)
- ◆ Ronald G. Ayres (10/20/1968)
- ◆ Jacqueline Silvia Eberts (10/11/1968)
- ◆ Beverly Baldwin (4/28/1968)
- ◆ Elsie English Jones (4/7/1968)
- ◆ Alison Soper, Paul Dawson, Illene Dryden Hurley (4/30/1967)
- ◆ Lora Lake Adkins, Robert J. Lake (3/1/1967)
- ◆ Sam L Prillaman, Sandra Prillaman (12/11/1966)
- ◆ **Scott Beach, Patricia Graham Oberholtzer, Shirley Robertson Mewshaw, Sharon Stinebaugh Perdue, Sue Sturgis Sherwood (4/24/66)**
- ◆ Ann Cartwright Ward Clouser, Everett Parker Shockley 4/25/1965)
- ◆ Anna Marie Blankenship, Pat Geer (2/23/1964)



50 Year Members (L to R, bottom to top)
Carmen Goshorn, Alison Soper, Pat Oberholtzer, Lynn Schwemlein, Pandora Messick

Kathryn Adkins, Sherri Hynes, Sharon Perdue

Jimmy Royal, Sue Sherwood, Scott Beach, Anna Marie Blankenship, Pat Geer Keith Adkins, Ron Ayers