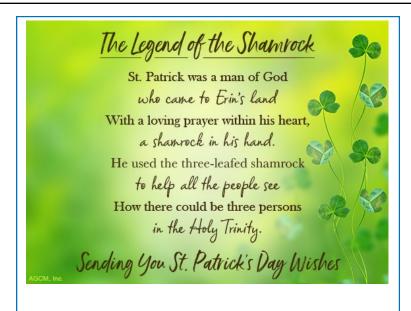
Bethesda United Methodist Church 406 N. Division Street Salisbury, MD 21801



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

# 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

# **Bethesda United Methodist Church**



# AGAPE Grapevine

# MARCH



Dear Friends,

As we approach the season of Lent, we are reminded of the importance of reflection, repentance, and renewal in our lives. Lent is a time of spiritual discipline and sacrifice, a time when we focus on our relationship with God and our journey of faith.

During Lent, we are called to follow the example of Jesus Christ, who spent 40 days in the wilderness, fasting and praying. It is a time for us to draw closer to God, to examine our lives, and to seek forgiveness for our sins.

Lent is a time for prayer and reflection. We can use this season to deepen our prayer life, to spend more time in contemplation, and to meditate on the Scriptures. Through prayer and reflection, we can draw closer to God and gain a greater understanding of his will for our lives.

Finally, Lent is also a time for acts of service and charity. As we reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we are called to follow his example and to serve others. We can do this by volunteering our time, giving to those in need, and showing compassion and love to those around us.

In conclusion, I urge you to embrace the season of Lent as an opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal. Let us commit ourselves to prayer, and acts of service, as we draw closer to God and seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ.

May God bless you during this holy season.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Zac Wheeler

### **Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness**

November 12 through the end of March 2023.

Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness Update!

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help donate food to this program. Bethesda is going to commit to one lunch per month: we will provide the sandwich fillings, chips, drinks and other essential items for the shelter to bag for guests. Watch for a sign-up sheet monthly to highlight needs! It's easy - you sign up for an item, bring it to the church kitchen a few days before and I will transport it to the shelter. Thank you for your support!!

**Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness Needs** 

**YOU!** In addition to the once-a-month lunch commitment we are making, there are many ways in which you can provide help to this program! Volunteers are needed for check in (2 shifts/day), snacks, breakfasts, lunches, dinners, are needed. Clothing, personal items, gift cards and financial donations are welcome! To donate/sign up/ send a gift:

- 1. Go to handsandheartsshelter.org
- 2. Scroll down to either Check-In Desk or Meal Sign-up.
- 3. For Check-In Desk, find the day and time you wish to volunteer. Click Sign-Up. Add your name.
- 4. For Meal Sign-Up, find the day, meal or select items you wish to provide. Click Sign Up. You then detail the menu for Dinner, or whatever you choose.
- 5. To donate: go to Menu at the top right of the Home page, scroll down to donate and complete donation on line.
- 6. HHEH also accepts Amazon gift cards, Walmart gift cards, men's clothing, cleaning supplies, and more. Contact Debbie Day, debday26@comcast.net for more needs, questions or if you need help signing up.

In His Service, Debbie Day

Are you interested in signing up to provide one lunch a month from Bethesda! Just click on the link to sign up: https://forms.gle/K1MRgjPAm6SzBe1c6.

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

Reminder!
The back door, ramp & steps will be closed on Sunday, March 3, 2023 for renovation.

Lent: a period of fasting and regret for one's sins that is observed 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

How are you observing Lent this year?

# **Next Soup Luncheons**

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Thursday, March 16, 2023
Thursday, April 20,2023
11 am - 12:15 pm (Take-Out/Pick-Up)
Delivery Available for orders
of \$100 or more

### <u>Menu:</u>

# Peas & Dumplings (March)

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 <u>SAVE THE DATE April 1<sup>st</sup> thru April 20<sup>th</sup></u>! Mark your calendar now!

We are scheduled to begin our online auction on April 1<sup>st</sup> on our Facebook page. Santa's Angels Facebook URL is <u>fb.me/santasangelssalisbury</u> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and ending at 8PM on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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 <a href="mailto:kadkins30@comcast.net">kadkins30@comcast.net</a> or call Lois Moorhead 410-430-3086. <a href="mailto:Thank you in advance for your continued support">Thank you in advance for your continued support of Santa's Angels.</a>



#### Dear Bethesda Family:

We would like to thank all of the folks that donated snacks and money for mailing the "college boxes" to our 10 college students that are away from home for Valentines Day. We are hoping we will hear that they all arrived safely, and maybe even shared with friends.

Mary Lynn Deckert

A sincere thank you to Susan Overbeck for her generous donation of 2 dozen canning jars! Anne Beach will put them to good use for canning her pickled beets and pepper relish.

We all continue to be in awe of the Monthly Soup Lunch Volunteers. These folks work very hard every month. The shopping, prepping and cooking are done so efficiently most of us don't think about it! But, it is alot of work. The day of the lunch is always busy. The packing, delivering and visiting with shut-ins is very essential to our success month after month. We are looking for some new folks to help!

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# **Circle Meetings for March 2023**

Circle Esther - Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 pm - Todd House

Circle Eve - Tuesday, March 7, 11:30 am - Dayton's Restaurant

Circle Martha - Wed., March 1, 10:30 am - Todd House

Circle Mary - Tuesday, March 14, 2:00 pm - Todd House

Circle Rachel - Monday, March 13, 1:00 pm - w/Penny Bradford

Circle Ruth - Monday, March 6, 9:00 am - Todd House

Circle Sarah - Wednesday, March 8, 1:00 pm -, Todd House



#### One Committee Model

Name	Responsibility
Lois Lake Moorhead	Church Council &
	Trustee
Courtney Coco	Church Council
Walter Moorhead	SPPRC Lead & Trustee
Steve Rybacki	SPPRC
Penny Bradford	Finance Lead & Trustee
Nevette Muir	Finance
Mark Evans	Trustee Lead
David Allen	Trustee
Jason Loar	Member at Large
Laura LeBlanc	Member at Large
Rev. Zac Wheeler	Sr. Pastor

#### BETHESDA UMC APPAREL ORDER FORM

TOTAL AMO	UNT EN	CLOSED:		\$		
ADULT	S	М	L	XL	XXL	
YOUTH	S	YM	<b>)</b>	/L	YXL	
SIZE:						
COLOR:						
ITEM:						
PHONE:						
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HOODIF - FL		•		-	\$23 FOR X	
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POLO SHIRT				\$30.00	\$33 FOR 3	ХX
(SUGGESTED				-	) \$17 FOR ) (R)	ΚX
LONG SLEEV	E T-SHIR	RT		\$15.00	\$18 FOR	ΧX
SHORT SLEEV	/E T-SHI	RT		\$12.00	\$15 FOR	ХX

Please make checks payable to: United Women in Faith.

Deadline to order is March 31, 2023

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# March 2023

# Monthly Planner

Smlay	Medig	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thersday	Finlay	Saturday
Feb 2823  S M T W T  1 2  5 6 7 5 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28	3 4 10 11 2 3 17 18 9 10 24 25 16 17	Apr 2023  T W T F S  1 4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 23 28 29	8:30/AM/UMM - Deyton's  10:30/AM/Circle Martha Meets at Todd House  6:30 PM Handbell Refreensal  7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House	2 8:30 AM Devotions/Rev Zac 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Way Bible Study- Fireside Lounge 7:00 PM Step by Step AA	3 6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House World Day of Prayer	4 1:00 PM Memori Service for Ken Allen at Holloway Funeral Home
9:00 AM Contemporary Service  10:30 AM Traditional Worship  7:00 PM AA Mig @ Todd House 2nd Sunday in Lent Communion	9:00 AM Circle Ruth - Todd House 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room	7 11:30 AM Circle Eve - Dayton's Restaurant	8:30.AMTUMM - Daytorfs  1:00.PM Circle Sarah- Todd House  6:30.PM Handbell Rehearsal  7:00.PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House	9 8 30 AM Dandors Ray Zac 9 30 AM Dandors Group 1 30 PM Serior Singuigh Cases? Princes Array- Carped from Chursh 266 PM Cressal Chur Renwool 266 PM Code Way Side Shuly- Predito Lourge 7 30 PM Step by Step AA	10 6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House	11
900AM Contemporary Service  1030AM Traditional Worship  700 PMAA Mig @ Todd House 3rd Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Books	13 1:00 PM Circle Rachael wPenny Bradford 7:00 PM Boy Soout Meeting Memorial Room	14 2:00 PM Circle Mary - Todd House 7:00 PM Circle Esther - Todd House	8:30 AM UMM- Dayton's 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House	8:30 AM Devotors/Rev Zac 11:00 AMSoup Lunch 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Reheareal 7:00 PM God's Wey Bible Study - Freside Lounge 7:00 PM Step by Step AA	17 6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House	18
9:00 AM Contemporary Service  10:30 AM Traditional Worship  7:00 PM AA Mtg ② Todd House  4th Sunday in Lent	2() 6:00 PM UMM Meet at Deli at Pecan Square 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room	21	22 8:30 AM UMM - Dayton's 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House	8:30 AM Devotions/Rev Zac  7:00 PM Chancal Choir Rehearsal  7:00 PM God's Way Bible Study- Freside Lounge  7:00 PM Step by Step AA	24 6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House	25 6:00 PM Lions Club - Melanie Donophan (120 people)
9:00 AM Contemporary Service  10:30 AM Traditional Worship  7:00 PM AA Mtg ② Todd House  5th Sunday in Lent	27 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting /Fireside Lounge	28	8:30 AM UMM-Daytor/s 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House	8:30 AM Devotions/Rev Zac  7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  7:00 PM God's Way Bible Study- Fireside Lounge  7:00 PM Step by Step AA	31 6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House Deadline for shirt orders	





Lent began last week on Ash Wednesday, but it's not too late to set some goals for this important season. Traditionally a time to reflect and refocus our lives in preparation for Resurrection Sunday, we may be tempted gloss over Lent and Holy week in a rush to get to get to the "good stuff." But it is in the practice of prayer, fasting, and charity that the true impact of Christ's triumph over sin and death can be experienced. To fully realize the beauty and hope of the Risen One, we must also know the disorientation of the darkness.

Keeping our eyes fixed on Christ will help us stay strong in our Lenten sacrifices and offerings. When we intentionally fast, give alms, and pray with a heart that desires to know Jesus, we move beyond rules and requirements. Just as we prepare for major events such as weddings or new babies, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' death and resurrection. After all, it is a meaningful Lent that will lead to a truly joyous Easter morning.

**Tammy Taylor** 

# "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 come to the back wall, we find a wonderful picture of Jesus and the children with the inscription: "Suffer the little children to come unto me". Now today, we find the word "suffer" here to be rather archaic - it actual means "Allow the children to come unto me, and do not hinder them".

Let us pause in the Narthex for two unexpected, often overlooked treasures! First, on the wall there is a plaque in memory of Fred Paul Adkins, Chairman of the Building Committee when our present building was built in 1922-23. If we look deeply into the coat closet in the Narthex we find a real, little-known treasure, an actual piece of the cornerstone of the Broad Street Building which states: "M P Church, 1870 (MP stands for Methodist Protestant). See a picture of the cornerstone on the next page.

Dr. Dan



#### **Stories from the Basement** Help and Outreach Point of Entry, Inc. by Donna Clark, Director

We have seen God at work many times over the years but, it never ceases to be amazing when it happens. Our AmeriCorps volunteer has been out of work due to illness but, she has constantly been on her computer looking for free things we could use for our clients. She has managed to get a great deal of useful things such as Nike hoodies and other clothing. She asked about getting free blankets about six weeks ago and the decision was yes, as long as we got them while the weather was still cold. She ordered 1,000 free blankets which translated to eleven pallets with twelve boxes per pallet. The freight company called on a Thursday and announced that the blankets were going to be delivered the next Monday; creating a sense of panic. The church garage was half full of church equipment and miscellaneous items. One item was an electric wheelchair that had been donated several months ago and no one had expressed a need for it. That same Thursday afternoon a message was left by a gentleman who was looking for financial assistance to purchase an electric wheelchair. Fast forward to Saturday morning, we had a volunteer with a lift truck at the garage and the willingness to deliver the wheelchair to the person who needed it. While that was happening, Church members cleared the garage and we were ready for the delivery. On Monday the blankets arrived and we had enough volunteers to make things go smoothly. The word was sent out to our collaborating agencies that blankets were available and in three days more than half of the blankets were distributed. Many thanks to all who helped make it happen but, most of all, t hank you Lord!. God at work! Psalm: 67

### Congratulations! To Mayor Jacob R. Day

Maryland's 63rd Governor, Wes Moore, has appointed Mayor Jacob R. Day to his cabinet as Secretary of Housing and Community Development. Jake resigned from his position as mayor January 27th, 2023 after completing 2 years as President of the City Council and 2 terms as Salisbury Mayor for a total of 10 years in community service to Salisbury. Born in Salisbury, Jacob is the son of Randy and Debbie Day. He was baptized, attended Bethesda Sunday School, Youth Group, served as a crucifer and as a member of the Boy Scout Troop #149. Jacob holds degrees from the University of Maryland, Carnegie Mellon and Oxford University in Architecture, Urban Design and Environmental Policy, respectively. He is a Major in the Army Maryland National Guard and spent a year deployed in Djibouti, Africa from June 2020 to May 2021. Jacob has 2 beautiful daughters, Lilly and Olivia.





Hello Friends – Anne Beach is putting together the items needed to can those famous pickled b eets and pepper relish this coming summer. As we all know, the price of everything has increased, and Anne usually cans over 250 pints of these items, which means she needs to find 250 pint size jars, rings and lids. The jars and rings can be reused if in good condition. If you have any pint size canning jars or rings that are in good condition (or new) and would like to donate to Ms. Anne to use, it would be greatly appreciated. Last year, Ms. Anne sold over \$2,000 worth of these canned items, and she donated all the monies back to Bethesda Church. You may drop off the jars/rings at the church office, or deliver to Anne Beach or Lois Moorhead. Every jar donated is one less that Ms. Anne has to purchase, plus you will be recycling! Thanks so much for your continued support of Bethesda

Church.





Sometimes no news is good news. The Bethesda Contemporary Band has no news other than spring is around the corner and we appreciate the attendance and support we have received through the winter season. We are excited about the Lenten season leading up to Easter. Thank you!



## **Senior Singles** Thursday, March 9th



#### Meet at Bethesda at 1:30 pm to carpool from Church to Caesar's Pizza Palace in Princess Anne, MD

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

# Do You Know Our Cornerstone History?



As we prepare for the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary** celebration of Bethesda's church building on June 4, 2023, we have been re-discovering our church's history. What a treasury of memorabilia we have found!

Our current church on N. Division St. and William St. is Bethesda's THIRD location. The first meeting place was

at what is now 329 Camden Ave., selected soon after our church was established in 1841. As the church membership increased, it became necessary for a larger facility to be built. In 1870, a new church was built on Broad St., across the street from Wicomico Presbyterian Church, and it became the second home to the Methodist Protestant Church.

In 1919, when the congregation and Sunday Schools numbered over 800,

Bethesda's minister, Dr. Richard Shipley, encouraged members to consider building a new, larger church so the church began its search for another location. In the winter of 1921, the Todd property on the corner of N. Division St. and William St. became available and was

purchased. Ground was broken in November 1921, construction began, and the cornerstone was laid in March 1922. By June of the following year, the beautiful new church had been completed and the first service was held on June 3, 1923.

During the construction of the new church, the decision was made to incorporate the old cornerstone from the Broad St. church into the new building. It was embedded into the vestibule wall at the new location, where it remains today!

Be sure to peek in our coat closet to see that cornerstone, marked "M. P. Church, A.D. 1870." (The M.P. stood for Methodist Protestant. The name 'Bethesda' was not established until 1896.)

We are collecting photos of events/activities that have taken place over the last 100 years. Some of those events took place at BUMC and others may have been at other locations when BUMC groups traveled, such as youth group mission trips or outings of our fellowship groups. If you have photos in your collections, PLEASE contact Brenda Sawyer in the church office. She can copy those photos so that we can include them in the photo albums that we are creating to preserve these precious memories for years to come.



