

Bethesda Beacon

A publication of Bethesda United Methodist Church

www.Bethesdaum.com

April 2018



Whenever Katie and I get the chance to explore new places, one thing we always love to do is check out the antique shops. It's fun to imagine the history behind the old books, the beat-up furniture, the gizmos and whats-its that we can't begin to identify. I'm sure there is a story behind each of those items. They just aren't our story. Then we come home and there are our antiques. The shelf my grandfather made, the rocking horse that Katie's father made, the black and white photographs of both of our families. These are more than antiques. They are special because they tell our story. They tell us where we came from, and they help us to understand who we are.

The United Methodist Church is turning fifty years old this month. On April 23rd, 1968, the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren to form the denomination we are today, the United Methodist Church. And it seems that at fifty years old, we are going through a mid-life identity crisis. The church is struggling over questions of human sexuality, inclusion, and Biblical authority. When we are struggling to understand who we are and where we are going, it's good to look at where we have come from. As a church, we have a rich heritage of faith. Starting with the Wesley brothers in the early 1700's, we have been a family of faith that focused on scriptural integrity, social responsibility, and personal holiness. As a denomination, we have a long history of faithful people who have found their own way to love and serve God and love and serve others.

This summer we will be opening up our "family photo-album" and looking again at what we have inherited from our faith-family. Our Sunday morning worship in June and July will focus on understanding who we are today through the lens of the beliefs that have been passed down to us. In the next few weeks, please think about what questions you might have about what it means to be Methodists and Christians. Why do we believe what we believe? Why do we do the things we do? If you ever had a question about the church, the Bible, our faith, or social issues we face, this is the time to ask. You can fill out a form in the church entrance or office, or you can email it to the church. No need to put your name on it, questioners will be kept confidential. The more questions we get, the better our "summer school" will be.

ALSO, I want to remind you that our Stephen Ministry program will be getting a re-boot this month. This is a ministry where we support each other through listening, sharing, and caring. Stephen Ministers go through an education and training program that will sharpen their gifts and give them the resources to care for others. If you think you might be interested I would invite you to come to an informational meeting on Sunday, April 8th, right after the worship service. If you have any questions, call Jan Flowers, or contact the church office.

God Bless you in this Easter Season!

Brother David

Thoughts for April 2018: Sunday School

Have you ever wondered why we have “Sunday School”? When did it begin...what is its real purpose? Sunday school actually began in the 1780’s in England to teach children who worked during the week reading, writing, arithmetic and a knowledge of the Bible. The first Sunday school in the USA began in the 1790’s in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. These early Sunday Schools were very large, community-wide, and interdenominational.

Sunday School has come a long way in 228 years. It is no longer basic education for children. It is, however, basic Biblical information and understanding for all ages – infants to senior citizens.

The real question is: *Why is Sunday School needed today, in 2018?* According to the 2014 "The State of the Bible" report by Barna Group and American Bible Society, a majority of U.S. adults (81 percent) said they consider themselves highly, moderately or somewhat knowledgeable about the Bible. Yet less than half (43 percent) were able to name the first five books of the Bible. The statistics are similar to the previous 2013 report which also showed that only half knew that John the Baptist was not one of the 12 apostles. Only 25% of millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) read the Bible at least once a week.

Take time during April to pray for our Sunday School, for the students and for the teachers. Prayerfully consider joining a Sunday School class. There are four adult classes - visit and find one that fits. It’s a place for the entire family, with classes for infants, children and youth. Let’s all move toward becoming more Biblically literate!

On Sunday, May 6, we will celebrate Sunday School in Effingham County. This is a tradition in our county, for our congregation, since Wednesday, May 28, 1879, making 2018 the 139th year! Begin praying now for this year’s convention to be a great success!

Diane Wilhelm, Prayer Ministry Coordinator

APRIL NURSERY SCHEDULE

1st Cathy Hickman & Wendy Zittrauer
 8th Wanda Evans & Izzy Granat
 15th Dencie Edgy & Jana Fox
 22nd Vickie Oliver & Nichole Hadden
 29th Ricky & Johnna Stringer

4/1/18: Easter Sunday

7:00am Sunrise Service
 8:00am Breakfast
 9:00am Sunday School
 10:00am Worship Service



Children’s Church Workers

1st Sunday	Tina Keener
2nd Sunday	Lyna Morgan
3rd Sunday	Lyna Morgan
4th Sunday	Vickie Oliver
5th Sunday	Kathy Morgan

Promotion Sunday is JUNE 3rd, 2018

Please send me names and grades of all students being promoted.

Also ALL students who are graduating and what school they are graduating from.

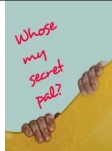

We don’t want to leave any names off, so please send me an email with this information to Bethesdaumc@planters.net

Thank You in advance!

Children’s Ministry April Schedule (K - 5th grade)

1st	No meeting
8th	Meeting @ 4:30pm
15th	Meeting @ 4:30pm
22nd	Meeting @ 4:30pm
29th	Meeting @ 4:30pm



<p style="text-align: center;">Happy April Birthday Wishes</p> <p>2nd Ashton Meador 4th Chris Kasabian 8th Alice Smith 11th Joshua Stapleton 16th Marcus Kessler 16th Odell Olsen 17th Kylie Bohl 17th Caroline Grayson 18th Scott Kessler 18th Breanna Lively 21st Jeffrey Wendelken 22nd Palmer Dasher 23rd Connor Wadsworth 25th Evan Zeigler 25th Gloria Kasabian 27th Kathy Morgan 28th Morgan Kessler 30th Makenzie Kessler 30th Laura Grayson</p>	<p>The 2018 Annual Conference Session at Jekyll Island will begin with an Opening Worship Service on Sunday evening, June 3, at 6:30 p.m. Conference will conclude with the Sending Forth Service on Tuesday, June 5. Below is a tentative schedule of events.</p> <p>Sunday, June 3, 2018 2:30 PM Registration Opens 6:30 PM Opening Worship Service 7:45 PM Laity Orientation & Clergy Session</p> <p>Monday, June 4, 2018 8:30 AM Opening Plenary Session 11:00 AM Golden Anniversary/Retiree Recognition 12:00 PM Lunch 1:00 PM Gathering of Family & Friends of Deceased Servants 2:00 PM Memorial Service 3:20 PM Afternoon Plenary Session 5:45 PM Methodist Home Barbecue 7:30 PM Ordination/Commissioning Service</p> <p>Tuesday, June 5, 2018 8:30 AM Morning Plenary Session 12:00 PM Lunch 2:00 PM Afternoon Plenary 3:15 PM Fixing the Appointments/Sending Forth 4:00 PM Adjournment</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Stephen Ministries meeting April 8th at 11:30am Following worship service</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Sprouts Family Picnic on April 21st</p> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Secret Pal Banquet</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, April 22nd at 5pm</p> </div> </div>	<p>Prayer list:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Pastor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Ministries at Bethesda UMC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Military</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leaders of America</p> <p>Carolyn Bannister Woody Brewster Diana Cato Irma Davis Jason Duboise Harry Edwards Reba Edwards Emmory Ely Ethan Ferguson JD Fulcher Tony Hickman Betty Hinely LouDean Hinely Ashley Helmey Pam Jernigan Mark Jones Kelsey Keener Tina Keener TJ Kessler Ginger Kieffer Samantha LeNeave Jake Long Clayton Morgan Scott Morgan Caroline Morton Gibson Nease Eileen Olsen Allen Perry Melanie Rahn Connie Shuman Irene Stanford Joyce Wadsworth Jaymie Wilson Wannette Yarbrough Alma Zettler Bernard L. Zipperer</p> <p>If you have someone you want to add or remove from the prayer list please send me an email, call the office or leave a note on my desk.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thank you, Linda</p>
<p>Happy April Anniversary Wishes:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>4/15 Clay & Lyna Morgan Married 29 Years</p> <p>4/17 Mark & Darlene Jones Married 48 Years</p> <p>4/17 Ricky & Johnna Stringer Married 3 Years</p> </div> </div>		
<p>Jennifer Granat is looking for someone to assist in sending out birthday and anniversary cards each month.</p> <p>If you are interested and would like to know more please see Jennifer.</p>	<p>Bethesda Women's Association Tues. April 17th, 18 @ 7:00pm Hostesses: Janice Nease & Debbie Smith Program: Jackie Waters Place: Social Hall</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">UMW Hope Landry Circle meeting April 24th at 7pm Social Hall</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">MAY 6TH SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION EFFINGHAM CAMPGROUNDS</p>	
<p>NO Administrative Council Meeting During April</p>	<p>Combined Newsletter deadline is April 16th for the May & June 2018 Bethesda Beacon <i>(Linda will be out of the office the month of May)</i></p> <p>Please turn in all announcements, articles, or other information by this date. Thank you!!</p>	

Bethesda United Methodist Church

3608 Midland Rd.
Guyton, GA 31312



Developing Totally Committed Christians by worshipping, winning, fellowshipping, discipling and serving

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Bethesda UMC Youth
We invite all youth (grades 6 - 12)
to join us for the following



April 2018

- Sunday, April 1 **Happy Easter!!! (No UMYF)**
-Youth Secret Bunny reveal
- Wednesday, April 4 Bible study 6:30-7:30pm (Sticky notes)
- **Krispy Kreme \$ and orders due**
- Sunday, April 8 UMYF-Shopping for socks/sticky notes 4:30-6:00pm
-**Krispy Kreme delivered 11am**
- Wednesday, April 11 Bible study 6:30-7:30pm
- Sunday, April 15 Worship/lunch/PHP 10am (\$ lunch/ice cream)
-**Dollywood signup & \$100 dep. due**
(June 7-10, total cost \$250)
- Wednesday, April 18 Bible study 6:30-7:30pm
- Sunday, April 22 **Secret Pal Banquet 5pm**
- Wednesday, April 25 Bible study 6:30-7:30pm (Household bags)
- Sunday, April 29 Worship/lunch/Jump Shot (Statesboro) 10am
(\$ for lunch/drinks/\$16 Jump Shot)

“May the Lord bless you and keep you”
Questions?? Tammy Saxon 308-5258 or Jennifer Granat 484-0267

SPROUTS CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Coming up in April.....

- **BIBLE SCIENCE!!** – We’ll learn about Jesus while performing SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS! Stories will include Jesus feeding 5000 and Jesus walking on water.
- **Sprouts Family Picnic** on April 21st

DATES FOR APRIL

- Sunday, April 1 – HAPPY EASTER! No SPROUTS
- Sunday, April 8 – **SPROUTS! @ 4:30 PM**
- April 15 – **SPROUTS! @ 4:30 PM**
- Saturday, April 21 – SPROUTS FAMILY PICNIC!**

We are planning a Saturday group picnic for all Sprouts and their families.
Plan to join us for food, fellowship, and fun! Details coming soon.

- Sunday, April 22 – **SPROUTS!**
- Sunday, April 29 – **SPROUTS!**

Thank you for sharing your children with us!!