



The Bethesda Bugle

BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH

A Global Methodist Church Serving the Preston Community Since 1785

July/August, 2025 Volume 16; Number 6

Peach Festival Update

The Peach Festival will be here before you know it! What commitment to this important event at Bethesda can you make? We need help in these areas:

- Peach Cobbler makers and helpers on Thursday and Friday
- Food order takers and expeditors
- Set up on Friday and take down on Saturday help
- Ice cream scoopers
- Items for the bake table
- Peach peelers on Saturday.



Contact [Terri Hudson](#), Peach Festival Volunteer Coordinator to volunteer for your job as soon as possible; if you had a job last year or in prior years and would like to continue in that same role OR a different role, please reach out to Terri with your wishes.

Schedule:

August 7: Peach Cobbler making in the kitchen; 9 am

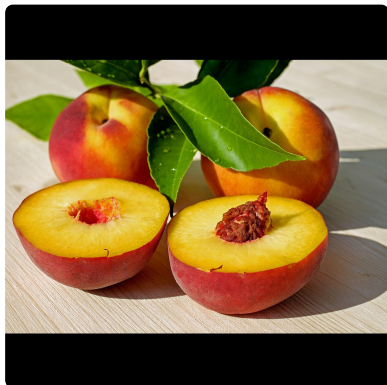
Bring your apron, hand mixer, and favorite bowl!

August 8: Peach Cobbler making in the kitchen; 9 am

Bring your apron, hand mixer, and favorite bowl!

August 8: Peach Festival set up: time TBD

August 9: 23rd Annual Peach Festival and Craft Show at Preston Fire Hall; 9 am - 2 pm



Words from Pastor Nate

Greetings and blessings from Bethesda Methodist Church. It's hard to believe that it is already August and time for the Peach Festival. First and foremost, thank you to everyone who made VBS a successful one. We had eight or nine children every night and the team got share Jesus with them in a controlled environment. We had lots of energy and excellent students! They were actively participating in all that we had them do and had a great time. I want to personally thank the Blake family for building an amazing set for Wonder Junction. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to this church. Thanks to Kari and everyone who was involved with VBS. We couldn't have pulled it off without your beautiful set or without the help from Kari, Suzy, Lisa, Erica, Alexis, and Terri and anyone else that I might have missed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that was contributed.

This as you know it is the Bethesda Methodist's 240th birthday—a milestone to be celebrated. For our anniversary service in October, there will be a special preacher along with special music as part of the celebration. Plan to attend our Homecoming Service on October 12, 2025 at 10:00 AM and bring your friends and family as well. The service will be followed by a covered dish luncheon where we will be able to commune with one another in celebration of God's gift to Bethesda Methodist Church: 240 years!

The air conditioning units have been installed downstairs, in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall. A quick shout out to Jimmy Knotts for getting everything working in time for VBS. He was here working over the 4th of July so that it was working for us in time. So if you see him around the community, thank him for the wonderful job he did installing the new units. Mr. Knotts will be back to remove the old system out of the kitchen and finalized the rest of the contract shortly.

The Outreach team has decided to cancel the soup and a show event originally planned for September. With all the other events leading up to the Anniversary, it seemed that the volunteers needed time to rest and breathe.

In November, BMC will be hosting a new event to help cover the costs of the AC system: Bingo for a Cause. This will be held on November 16 with the doors opening at 12:30 and games beginning at 2 pm in the Preston Fire Hall. Please call Lisa Brown at 410-310-4671 with any questions or to volunteer for this important fund raiser for the air conditioning upgrades. If you have any other ideas for fundraising, please share with Pastor Nate or Kari Farnell.

As we move into this busy month, I want everyone to remember these verses from Philippians 4:4-9: **4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! 5 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.^[a] 6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard**

your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. 8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. 9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

We have so much to be thankful for at Bethesda. These verses remind us not to worry but instead, focus on Jesus in all that we do so that we may share Christ with everyone we come across. As we prepare for our anniversary, think of ways that we can effectively worship the Lord for blessing our congregation with so much. It is always amazing what the Lord does not only **for** us but also **through** us; His work is always more than we could ever expect. We have to remember to cast our anxieties, our fears, and our pain to the cross for Jesus to take. This will lighten our load as believers of Christ. Follow Christ without fear and continue to serve him so that others may see his light through us.

It is such a blessing to be your pastor and I pray that the congregation will be here for another 240 years. Let us go into the fall season full of Jesus and hopeful for the future of the Bethesda Methodist Church, a Global Methodist Church.

Amen and God Bless,
Pastor Nate

Image by Couleur on [Pixabay.com](https://www.pixabay.com)



Science A Part of VBS

Students learned about how a train steers around corners without using a steering wheel!



Sam Talks with Ms. Alexis

Our friend, Sam, helped us understand the Bible lessons a little deeper each night. He talked with Ms. Alexis about each lesson.



Bible Lessons A Key Component

Pastor Nate led the students in activities and lessons about the Bible stories each night.

Another Successful VBS!

Bethesda held our annual VBS this year on July 7-10. We averaged 8 children per night. This year's theme was "Wonder Junction", which featured an Old Western Theme. Students learned all about Jesus, His ministry, His death and resurrection, and His plan to return. Each evening, the students also learned about certain creatures that can help us remember all about Jesus. Tiny the Cougar Kitten reminds us that Jesus came to earth as a baby. Mighty the Bison reminds us how Mighty

Jesus is. Champ the Bear reminds us that Jesus died and then came back to life and Mission the Horse helps us remember our Mission to tell others about Jesus.



As usual Suzy helped guide the students through lively and entertaining music and Mike and Jean Blake were responsible for the decorating, which included a large cardboard and duct tape train. The students enjoyed craft and science time, as well as, games and snacks. Our Mission project for this week was to raise money for the Children's Hunger Fund. We were able to raise \$352.00.

As we do every year, the week of VBS fun was followed by VBS Sunday on July 13. Students were able to sing three songs for the adults and watched a Powerpoint of the fun they had during the week. Following the service, attendees were invited to build their own sundaes.

Thank you to everyone that came out to help during VBS and also to those that came prior to VBS to help prepare the crafts ahead of time.

Kari and the Outreach Committee



How Can I Support Bethesda Methodist Church?

OUR FAITHFULNESS TO OUR CHURCH VOWS TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH

BY OUR PRAYERS

Remember with prayers, cards, calls, and visits to those in the hospitals, nursing and rest homes, the sick and shut in. If you would have a specific name of someone needing prayer, please contact the Church Office.

BY OUR PRESENCE

We are thankful that we can participate in worship at our 9:00 AM Choptank, and 11:00 services in multiple ways. You are welcome to our coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall each Sunday at 10:30 AM. Watch the 11:00 service livestreamed on Facebook or the post afterwards. We can all worship together!

BY OUR GIFTS

Generosity abounds at BMC! You are continuing to support the mission and ministry through your giving. Thank you for giving your gifts by mail, Easy Tithe, or in person. We need your faithful gifts.

BY OUR SERVICE

We are truly thankful for those who continue to serve here at BMC. For the Ushers and Greeters, for the Musicians, for the Ministers and Staff, for the congregation that volunteers continually.

BY OUR WITNESS

We are witnesses for Christ in all we do! Everywhere! We witness as we live holy lives that point to His grace. We witness as we share the good news of Jesus in word and deed.

Photo by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay; Our Faithfulness by First Methodist Church, Morehead City NC

Upcoming Events at Bethesda

Pastor Nate is leading Bible Study on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM or Friday at 1:00 PM beginning the week of July 20.

July 23: Handbell Practice @ 6:30 PM

July 30: Handbell Practice @ 6:30 PM

August 9: 23rd Annual Peach Festival, Preston Fire Hall, 9 AM - 2 PM

October 12: Homecoming Celebration: one service at 10 AM followed by a covered dish luncheon

November 16: HVAC Fundraiser "Bingo For A Cause". Doors open at 12:30 PM with games beginning at 2:00 PM. Preston Fire Hall. Call Lisa Brown to donate or help; 410-310-4671.

"I Don't Know" Prayer

Did you know there's a prayer called
the "I don't know" prayer?

You just go somewhere quiet,
and you sit at the feet of God,
and you say:

"I don't know."

I don't know where to go from here.

I don't know what is happening.

I don't know how to process this.

I don't know what to do with these
emotions.

I don't know how to handle this situation.

And then, with whatever little grain of
faith you have, you say:

"But You know."

And you leave it there.

God most certainly hears your prayer.

If you believe the power of prayer, put
Amen and send it to someone who need it



Bethesda Methodist Church of Preston

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