

#### CHURCH EVENTS AT A GLANCE

##### April

3 Seder Observance & Meal  
Fellowship Hall, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

5 Easter Services

•Sunrise Service, Choptank Marina, 6:15 AM

•Traditional Service, Sanctuary, 10:00 AM

##### May

2 Mother's Day Tea & Brunch  
Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

11 Manic Monday Meal  
Fellowship Hall, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

##### July

6-9 VBS: Snowball Mountain Challenge  
Fellowship Hall, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

##### Official Board

Third Wednesday of each month  
Fellowship Hall, 6:30 PM

With Eastertide now upon us, we should take some time and reflect on what this important day and season means for us. Easter is, of course, the celebration of the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Our Savior Jesus Christ. Without Jesus being resurrected, we would have nothing to stand on as Christians, and we would not have the promise of salvation, which comes through Jesus alone. I am grateful for Jesus and all that he was willing to do for us. If we put our trust and faith in Christ, we will be saved.

The aspect of Easter that really sticks out to me as we celebrate is this: we must remember how much God loves us, that he handed over his only son to extreme suffering and death in order to save *us*. God could have let us perish and fall away, back into the dust from which we came. Instead, he gave us a way out of death and into eternal life by his side. There is nothing greater than this gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Since Jesus suffered and died for our sins, he has given us the keys to eternity. This simple truth should cause us to jump with joy: that God had a plan to deal with humanity's sins, to save us from ourselves, even though we rebelled, resisted, and were willfully ignorant of what he was doing.

I hope that all of you can find time during your Easter celebrations, among the family gatherings, egg hunts, and baskets of candy, to thank God for the monumental – and profoundly personal – sacrifice he made for us. Have a wonderful Easter this year. He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

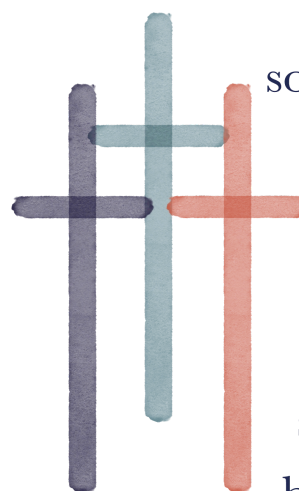
*Pastor Nate*



**NATE'S NOTES**



Pastor Nate and Chris Farnell represented Bethesda at a GMC district event on Saturday, March 21. See next page for a report.



For God  
so loved the world,  
that he gave  
his only son,  
that whoever  
believes in *him*  
should not perish  
but have *eternal life*.

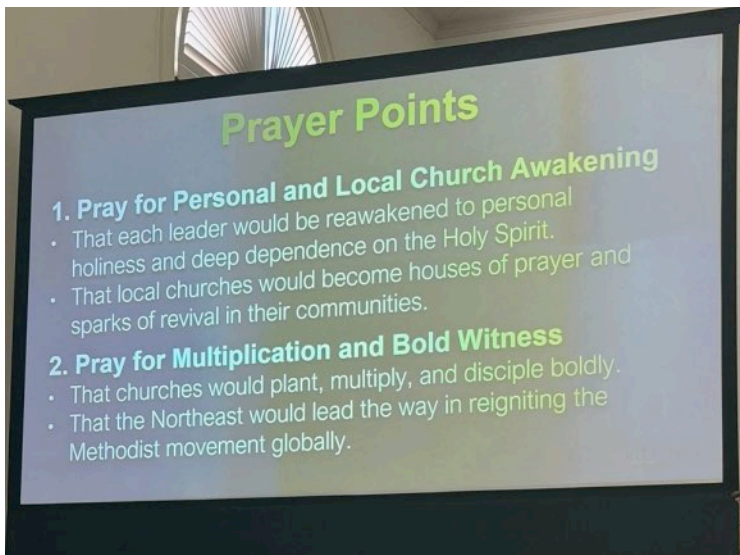
John 3:16

## DISTRICT AWAKENING

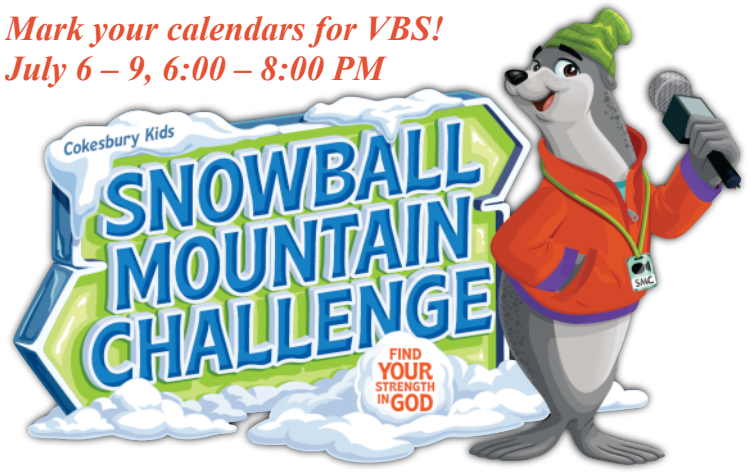
Chris Farnell and I went to a district-wide awakening event, "Fanning the Flame," at Centreville Methodist Church, on Saturday, March 21. Representatives from over thirty Global Methodist congregations in our district and Delaware attended and shared all the great things happening across our part of the Northeast Annual Conference. The amount of growth that is happening is wild! There are baptisms, churches growing, and new congregations being planted in order to offer Global Methodism for everyone.

All those who attended were asked to talk about one good thing that is happening in our churches. When it was my turn, I told the others about how Bethesda's food pantry is helping people out here in Preston. The message of the day was that people are seeking Jesus and are not worried about a building or the regular struggles associated with a church. I took away from this experience the conviction that Bethesda needs to improve its efforts to share Jesus with people, and try to be less bogged down with worries about the costs of the church. We have to offer experiences where people can see what we are doing – and want to be a part of it. It was an inspiring morning!

*Pastor Nate*



*Mark your calendars for VBS!  
July 6 – 9, 6:00 – 8:00 PM*



## Scouting America Troop #461 Spaghetti Dinner

*Support your local Scout troop by  
attending their annual spaghetti dinner!*

**April 3, 4:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Preston Firehouse**

**\$12.00**

## EXPERIENCE THE PASSOVER DISCOVER THE MESSIAH

- Enjoy this unique, fun and educational experience.
- Uncover deep and meaningful connections between this ancient celebration and its prophetic fulfillment in Jesus.
- Meal included.



There is no charge,  
but please reserve a seat by  
March 25 so we can prepare.

Email or text:  
kari21632@yahoo.com  
410-200-5815



Join us Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Bethesda Methodist Church  
155 Main St, Preston, MD

Everyone is welcome (age 12 and older)

## OFFERING • MARCH 2026

Service Date	Attendance 9:00	Attendance 11:00	Weekly Total
3/1	11	28	\$1,648.00
3/8	12	39	\$965.00
3/15	9	27	\$1,535.00
3/22	10	30	\$820.00
Weekly required income:		Average weekly income:	
\$2,088		\$1,405.83	

"What's in a name?" Juliet famously asked Romeo, hoping that the young lovers might put the feuding of their families in the past and build a new world of their own, together. Christians are often called "Easter People," a title applied by St. Augustine almost 2,000 years ago and quoted by Pope John Paul II in the 1980s. It is meant to convey a sentiment similar to Juliet's: that by dint of Christ's Resurrection we have stepped out of the endless human cycle of sin and death and into *our* own, new world, predicated on hope and love. But while Shakespeare and Augustine had the same idea, the saint knew something that the playwright perhaps did not: that Easter People are *already* living in a new world, one inaugurated by Christ that exists in the here and now. The troubles of the past are behind us because the Resurrection demonstrates that the new world is *today* – we just need to catch up to it.

Contemplating Easter People reminds me of another name: Pontius Pilate. This is a man who had significant power within the Roman world, yet lacked the ability to perceive what the future *could* be. It was easier to cling to the past, stick with what he knew, play it safe, and crucify Christ. He had no way of knowing how that action would change the world, nor the vision to imagine or hope for it. The result was one of the great ironies of history: this pivotal figure in the Christian story has been virtually erased by time, with only the Gospels and a few references by Roman historians to prove he ever existed. Until a fragment of a monument, now called the "Pilate Stone," was discovered in Israel in 1961, archaeologists were not even certain Pilate was a real person and not a literary invention. By *his* own choice Pilate clung to the old world, and remained trapped there, his memory reduced to the miserable role he played in Christ's ignominious death and glorious Resurrection.

For all that we are supposed to be Easter People, I fear we are more akin to Pilate. We lack the vision to see that the risen Christ is already in our midst, that the new world is upon us and we haven't realized it. We look backward rather than forward because it's safe. We need to look forward. "Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized," Romeo told Juliet, never looking back. That's Christ's desire for *us*, too.

Eric Cheezum



### REFLECTIONS ON BETHESDA

## The Romans Sent a Message. God Sent One, Too.

The rulers of the Roman Empire wanted everyone under their power to understand clearly that it would be very costly to try to overthrow their government. They conceived the idea of crucifixion as a way of sending an unforgettable message to all people under their control. Death on a cross would be a slow, excruciatingly painful death. The cross would be put in a very public place so as many as possible would get the message: Don't even think of defying Roman rule! That is why Christ was crucified on Golgotha hill close to a busy road where no passerby could miss the shocking scene.

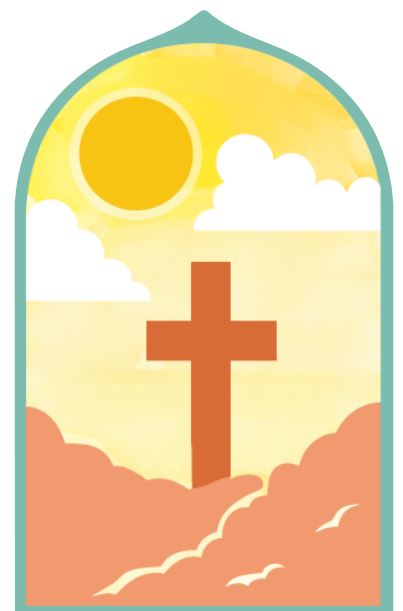
Christ was guilty of nothing. Yet his enemies hated him so much that they told Pilate, Rome's representative in Jerusalem, that Jesus was a danger to Roman rule. Christ's enemies said to Pilate, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar" (John 19:12). Pilate caved in to the clamor of the crowd and allowed Jesus to be crucified.

But those who saw to it that Jesus suffered death on the cross did not know that God had a message to send as well. God victoriously raised Christ from the dead! God touched the body of his Son and returned it to life: glorious, dynamic life – life in all of its fullness.

God turned the cross, the executioner's tool of death, into a dramatic symbol of victory. The empty cross and the empty tomb, along with the resurrected body of Christ, reveal God's victory over the worst deed humans might do — the assassination of the Holy. That is why we put crosses everywhere: boldly, proudly, joyously, triumphantly. It is why we glory in the cross always. It stands eternally "towering o'er the wrecks of time," as hymnist John Bowring once wrote.

After the Resurrection, Jesus' friend, Peter, explained God's message to all of Christ's enemies with these bold and certain words: "This Jesus, you crucified and killed ... But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it ... This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses .... Therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:23-24; 32, 36). That is what Easter is all about. All praise to the living Lord!

ChurchArt.com



Christ the Lord  
is Risen Today



# BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH

*A Global Methodist Congregation*

P.O. Box 147 • Preston, Maryland 21655

*Celebrating 240 Years of Continuous Ministry*

## OFFICE & CONTACT INFO

**Main Office**                      **Jo Benner, Admin. Asst.**  
T – F, 12:00 to 3:00 PM  
Phone: (410) 673-7538  
Email: [office@bethesdapreston.faith](mailto:office@bethesdapreston.faith)

**Pastor's Office**                      **Nate Weaver, Pastor**  
Office Hours: T – Th, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Home Visitations: Fridays  
Phone: (410) 673-7538  
Email: [pastornate@bethesdapreston.faith](mailto:pastornate@bethesdapreston.faith)

## SERVICE & CLASS SCHEDULE

### Sunday Services

Contemporary Worship  
9:00 AM  
Fellowship Hall

Traditional Worship  
11:00 AM  
Sanctuary

### Sunday Classes

Bethesda Bible  
Adventures  
9:00 AM

# THE PROMISE OF



# *Easter* NEVER FADES.