



# THE GRAPEVINE

at Arnolia United Methodist Church  
March / April 2024



**Our Mission:**

**FOLLOW JESUS.  
GROW DISCIPLES.  
SERVE OTHERS.**

**Purpose Statement:**

**GATHER** as followers of Jesus Christ;  
**GROW** as disciples;  
**GIVE** of ourselves; and  
**GO** into the world in service.

## **The Future of Arnolia United Methodist Church A Report from the Arnolia Leadership Team Craig Nickerson, Chair**

On August 24, 1910, a group of people met at the home of Mr. John C. Dorfler in Baynesville for the purpose of forming a new Sunday School. The nearest church was three miles away, a long walk in those days, and they were anxious to worship closer to home. Over time, the group expanded, built several different buildings, and has grown into the Arnolia we know today.

Our history is filled with stories of transformation, growth, and change.

Our worshipping congregation is now below ninety people, our expenses continue to outpace our income, and it is becoming harder to find the volunteers needed to sustain our ministry in the community. Despite these difficulties, Arnolia continues to transform lives and fulfill our mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. We are feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and ministering to those in the prison of addiction. Our building is used by a preschool, an elementary school age science, technology, engineering, and math program, a children's choir, and our thrift store provides reasonably priced (or no cost) clothing and household goods for the community. God is hard at work among us!

In 2023, we made the difficult decision to move to a three-quarters time pastor. Despite this move, our expenses have continued to rise while our income has not kept pace. For example, just like your BGE bill has increased so has Arnolia's, yet giving is not increasing at the same rate. We are also waiting to formulate search plans for the next Director of Music until we know our financial situation has improved. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider your financial support of Arnolia.

Given our situation, the Leadership Team is now faced with making additional difficult decisions. We believe Arnolia is about to go through another transformation. Regardless of where the transformation takes us, Arnolia will always have its identity and will continue to exist.

We are in a period of prayer and discernment as we decide whether we should enter a cooperative arrangement with one or more other United Methodist churches in our area for the purpose of pooling our resources, enhancing our shared ministries, and enabling us to further advance God's Kingdom in this world.

Today, we're asking every member of Arnolia to join with us in this effort of actively praying for our congregation and the Leadership Team as we discern our future. We are encouraging everyone to use this prayer in this process:

*God, may your preferred will break through, change history, usher in and accomplish through us your new hopes, dreams and possibilities—both in the life of our church, and in our own lives. We surrender our wills for yours, in order to fully follow you. Amen.*

The goal of the Leadership Team is to make a decision regarding our future direction in March, and then to work with resources from the Conference in April to shape our direction. We will provide more information to the congregation as the process unfolds and will bring final decisions regarding our future to the entire congregation for discussion.

The Leadership Team appreciates the support of everyone in the congregation, and we thank you for supporting us all in your prayers.

## Backpack Buddies

**DID YOU KNOW?** That each week during the school year our Backpack Buddy volunteers meet at the church to prepare 12 Backpack bags, each with individual portions of microwaveable Compleats, Mac n Cheese, Chef Boyardee dinners and a carton of tuna/chicken salad with crackers. The bags also include an individual serving of shelf milk, a packet of instant oatmeal, a breakfast bar, veggie cup, a fruit cup, microwaveable popcorn packet and a snack such as cheese crackers, Rice Krispie Bar or pretzels slipped into the bags.

**DID YOU KNOW?** That in the next day or two after the bags are packed, Ralph Wilson or John Gorsuch will stop by the church to pick up the bags and deliver them to the elementary school. They are greeted warmly by the staff in the office, usually with a “Thank you” from one of the secretaries or a teacher who happens to be in the office at that time. The bags are put into a large storage container in the office storeroom, protecting the food from any inquisitive school mouse that might have snuck into the office in the middle of the night. The counselors who have determined which families could need food assistance, contact the families to ask if they would like the weekend meals for their child and if so, the bags are handed out to the students before the last school day of the week.

**DID YOU KNOW?** That the Backpack Buddies receive \$50 each month from Outreach (Arnolia’s Thrift Store). But the largest portion of food this project depends on for its success each week are the donations of designated food YOU bring in and the monetary contributions YOU provide.

**THANK YOU!** Thank you for the heavy cartons of shelf milk or the one carton of tuna salad with crackers that you have brought to church and placed under the Communion Table. **THANK YOU** for the dozens of Chef Boyardee cups or for the one cup of Mac N Cheese that you have placed in the Backpack cupboard. And **THANK YOU** for your encouragement and inquisitive thoughts. YOU have made all this possible.

The Backpack Buddies **THANK YOU!**

And our Committee, John, Ralph, Dottie, Gayle and Marlis **THANK YOU!**

# MARCH

## FEATURED BACKPACK BUDDY FOOD ITEM

**“Ten for Ten PLUS One”**

***Ten items for ten months PLUS one celebrating twelve years!***



Designated food item for March will be Tuna/Chicken & Crackers. This item can be purchased at BJ's or most food stores. It has also been found at most Dollar Tree stores for \$1.25 per box. The flavors recommended are Chicken Salad, Tuna Salad and Ranch Tuna Salad

# APRIL

**Designated food item for April** is pudding cups. This item can be found in most food stores. It is sold in 4 cups to a pack.



### Note of Thanks from Oakleigh Elementary School Counselor

Dear Arnolia Church,

Thank you for the recent generosity that Arnolia displayed to one of our families at Oakleigh Elementary. After experiencing a house fire and losing all of their possessions, the family was in need of a lot of support. The church thrift shop allowed the mom to come in and “shop” for items that she was able to take at no charge. Mom was given time, space, and assistance throughout the process. Oakleigh appreciates our partnership with Arnolia.

Thank you again,

Becky Yackley



# Get Involved

at Arnolia United Methodist Church

## 2024 SPRING FLEA MARKET



Arnolia's 2024 Spring Flea Market will be held on **Saturday, May 4 from 9am to 2pm.** The price of a vendor

space is now \$25. Vendor contracts are available in the hallway outside the sanctuary and online at <https://arnolia.org> .

Donations for our white elephant tables may be dropped off in Wilson Hall Tuesday mornings from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

Volunteering for the flea market is a fun way to spend time with fellow church members and members of the community! We will need donations for a bake table and volunteers to handle sales at the checkout tables on the day of the flea market. Check the bulletin board outside the sanctuary for the volunteer sign-up sheets. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.



**Palm Sunday – March 24**  
**10 AM Service**

**Maundy Thursday – March 28**  
**7 PM Service**

**Good Friday – March 29**  
**7 PM Service**

**Easter Sunday – March 31**  
**10 AM Service**



*Created by Mary Cox*

**May 19**  
**10 AM Service followed by**  
**picnic on the lawn.**

# Connections

at Arnolia United Methodist Church

## Church Email, Website, and More

Have you updated your address book? Our email address is: [arnoliaumc@arnolia.org](mailto:arnoliaumc@arnolia.org)

Rev. Meredith is available by

[Rev.Meredith@arnolia.org](mailto:Rev.Meredith@arnolia.org)

Sign up with the Church Office to receive emails each week! Visit our website ([arnolia.org](http://arnolia.org)) for updates on upcoming events!

Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/arnoliaumc/](https://facebook.com/arnoliaumc/)

## Church Office Hours and Address

Mondays – Thursday: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

1776 E. Joppa Road

Baltimore, MD 21234

## The Grapevine 2024 Schedule

The Grapevine is published bi-monthly. Updates will be available on our website and in the bulletin as well as in email announcements. Please make sure you email or drop off your articles to the church office. To keep postage costs down, we will mail the Grapevine only to those who are homebound or who live far away.

## Mailing The Grapevine

To keep postage costs down, we will mail the Grapevine only to those who are homebound or who live far away.

## Grapevine Edition Due Date for Articles

May / June	04/12/24
July / August	06/14/24
September / October	08/09/24

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



01	Beverly Conrad
04	Barbara Menegatti
06	Karis Arnold
	Jack Arnold
	Faith Hovatter
	Gary and Marlis Collins – 53 years
13	Anne Libis
16	Jim and Joan Walstrum – 38 years
17	Mary Cox
	Joan Walstrum
24	Sherry Youngbar



02	Gary Grape
	Elizabeth Turek
-06	Kathleen Wilson
	Ralph Wilson
08	Reese Davis
	Ralph and Kathleen Wilson – 51 years
16	Rich Krebs
	Carole Rathmell
22	Paul VanEssen
26	Kimberly Cox
30	Matthew Grauer

*If your info is missing or incorrect, please inform us so we can correct our errors or deletions. Also, if you were not acknowledged, please let the office now so we may update our list.*

# MARCH 2024 – Arnolia United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	<b>1</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	2
3 10 am Worship Service 11:15 am Chancel Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 12 Noon Pastor's Study 6 pm (via Zoom) Recovery Bible Study	<b>6</b> 7:30 pm Rejuvenate	<b>7</b> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open	<b>8</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	9
Daylight Savings Time Begins 10 10 am Worship Service 11:15 am Leadership Team	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 12 Noon Pastor's Study 6 pm (via Zoom) Recovery Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open	<b>15</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	16
17 10 am Worship Service 11:15 am Chancel Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12 Noon Pastor's Study 6 pm (via Zoom) Recovery Bible Study	<b>20</b> 7:30 pm Rejuvenate	<b>21</b> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open	<b>22</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	23
Palm Sunday 24 10 am Worship Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 12 Noon Pastor's Study 6 pm (via Zoom) Recovery Bible Study	<b>27</b>	Maundy Thursday 28 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open 7 pm Service	Good Friday 29 7 pm Service	30
Easter Sunday 31 10 am Worship Service	1 Church Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6

**The Church Office is open Monday – Thursday from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

# APRIL 2024 – Arnolia United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 12 Noon Pastor's Study 6 pm (via Zoom) Recovery Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7:30 pm Rejuvenate	<b>4</b> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open	<b>5</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	6
7 <b>10 am Worship Service</b> <b>11:15 am Planning Retreat</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 12 Noon Pastor's Study 6 pm (via Zoom) Recovery Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open	<b>12</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	13
14 <b>10 am Worship Service</b> <b>11:15 am Leadership Team</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 12 Noon Pastor's Study 6 pm (via Zoom) Recovery Bible Study	<b>17</b> 7:30 pm Rejuvenate	<b>18</b> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open	<b>19</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	20
21 <b>10 am Worship Service</b> <b>11:15 am - SPRC</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 12 Noon Pastor's Study 6 pm (via Zoom) Recovery Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open	<b>26</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	27
28 <b>10 am Worship Service</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 12 Noon Pastor's Study 6 pm (via Zoom) Recovery Bible Study	1	2	3	4

**The Church Office is open Monday – Thursday from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**



# Serving on Sundays at Arnolia United Methodist Church

## Volunteers

Your commitment to the roles below is a gift for our Sunday morning worship life. Thank You

**The Ushers for this schedule: Joan Bond, Jim McGee, and John Gorsuch.**

Date	Greeters	Presenters	Acolytes	Readers	Comm. Stewards	Comm. Helpers
03/03/2024	Karen Long	Drennan Nickerson	Conner Goble	Rich Krebs	Paula & Mike Pfeifer	Paxton Catterton
03/10/2024	Barbara Conrad	Joe Anna Funk	Jaden DuBois	Tad Wolfe		
03/17/2024	Wayne Grauer	Evelyn Hartig	Tad Wolfe	Conner Goble		
03/24/2024 Palm Sunday	Janice Lark	Paula Pfeifer	Faith Hovatter	Dick Disharoon		
03/28/2024 Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM	Dottie Wilard	Drennan Nickerson	Beth Krebs	Rich Krebs	Dick Disharoon Ralph Wilson	Rev. Dr. Alicia Vanisko
03/29/2024 Good Friday 7:00 PM	Rae Virgilio	Joe Anna Funk	Tad Wolfe	Paula Pfeifer Janet Hovatter		
03/31/2024 Easter Sunday	Wayne Grauer	Drennan Nickerson	Paxton Catterton	Paula Pfeifer	Marlis Collins Dottie Willard	Jaden DuBois
04/07/2024	Karen Long	Paula Pfeifer	Jaden DuBois	Dick Disharoon	Beth and Rich Krebs	Conner Goble
04/14/2024	Barbara Conrad	Joe Anna Funk	Paxton Catterton	Beth Krebs		
04/21/2024	Janice Lark	Evelyn Hartig	Conner Goble	Paxton Catterton		
04/28/2024	Dottie Willard	Paula Pfeifer	Faith Hovatter	Tad Wolfe		

If you are unable to fill your assignment, please contact someone on the list to fill in for you. Please let the church office know of any changes or contact Sue in the church office for any assistance.

Thanks,  
Sue Jackson  
410-665-7005