



THE GRAPEVINE

at Arnolia United Methodist Church

March / April 2025



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.

Greetings beloved people of Arnolia,

Winter is easing up on us and spring is coming soon. I've been enjoying our journey through the Narrative lectionary since September. And I was so excited to see how many people loved our Advent series from A Sanctified Art. So, when October rolled around, and they announced that their Lenten series would mostly follow the Narrative lectionary, I was excited. And then, I saw the title for the series: *Everything In Between: Meeting God in the midst of extremes*. Back in October that theme resonated with me.

Since then, the USA political climate has dramatically changed. And somehow this theme feels like it was perfectly timed. Even just the overview from our upcoming Lenten series keeps speaking to me today. Below is one reflection on theme:

“In a world that feels polarized in just about every possible way, I find it difficult to discern my voice, and even more so at times, to align with God’s voice in the midst of it all. Countless media outlets vie for allegiance, using shock and outrage to try and force people to pick a side or develop a stark all-or-nothing worldview. It’s exhausting. The more I try to engage with this binary thinking, the more it all just kind of folds in on itself and falls apart. I long for a faith with nuance that honors the multiplicity and complexity that I experience in my life. I believe that God is in fact not contained by our categories or influenced by our dividers and walls. What would it look like to loosen our grip on our preconceived ideas, and approach our search for God with a

'beginner's mind'? What would it look like to learn from one another and to grow through mutual understanding without compromising what matters most? As we journey this Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday and everything in between, I hope we closely encounter God, get in tune with ourselves, and experience deeper connection with one another. Perhaps, we'll be surprised by where we find God, and also where we find ourselves."

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman of A Sanctified Art

I look forward to this Lenten journey with all of you through our weekly services and devotionals. I pray that we are drawn closer to one another and to God in this season so that we can be surprised by God in the coming months.

Blessings,

-Rev. Yost (they/he)

Get Involved

at Arnolia United Methodist Church

FLOWER POWER: Help Arnolia to raise funds to support our food costs at the two flea markets, our missions, and our church activities. *Visit our personalized website by May 15, 2025.* See the informational flyer attached.

ARNOLIA LOG CABIN CHOCOLATES FUNDRAISER!



Arnolia has launched an Easter Candy Fundraiser! We will be taking orders for candy products through **Sunday, March 30**. Flyers and order forms are attached or are available at the ushers' desk at the back of the sanctuary. All candies will be delivered by or before **April 13**. This is a very profitable fundraiser for Arnolia. Please spread the word to family, friends, neighbors! Your order can be given to Beth or Richard Krebs or dropped off to **the church office**.

Checks made payable to Arnolia United Methodist Church.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Ash Wednesday – March 5
at Linden Heights
5:30 PM Pancake Dinner
7 PM Service



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday – April 13
10 AM Service

Maundy Thursday – April 17
7 PM Service

Good Friday – April 18
7 PM Service

Easter Sunday – April 20
10 AM Service

Get Involved

at Arnolia United Methodist Church

ARNOLIA'S 2025 SPRING FLEA MARKET

Saturday, May 10 from 9AM to 2 PM



Arnolia's Flea Market takes many people to be successful! Before the Flea Market, we will need

volunteers to set up tables in Wilson Hall. Home baked goods can be donated to sell at the bake table. On the day of the Flea Market, volunteers can help the vendors find their spaces, work at the check-out tables, help in the kitchen or serve the food. Volunteering for the flea market gives you a chance to spend time with fellow church members and members of the community! Check the bulletin board outside the sanctuary for the volunteer sign-up sheets. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

THERE MAY BE SNOW ON THE GROUND, BUT THE SPRING FLEA MARKET IS IN THE AIR!

It's time to start planning on purchases for our food sales. The bake table is pure profit, since all the baked goods are donated.

The food sales have expenses that need to be deducted to arrive at our profit. As we all know, prices for food have risen, which have cut into the amount we make from our food sales. This was evident with the Fall Flea Market.

Some of you remember years ago when Arnolia had Spaghetti Dinners. Members of the congregation contributed what we needed, ground beef, spaghetti, tomatoes, bread and butter etc.

I am asking for your help, so that we are able to contribute more from food sales to our General Fund.

I usually buy most items from BJ's to get the best price, and Aldi's for hot dog and hamburger rolls.

The following list is what I purchase, the amount needed and price. I'm not asking you to make the purchase, but adopt an item, or part of the items needed, and donate the money in an envelope marked Flea Market Food. I will do the shopping.

Ground Beef

\$4.69	25 lbs.	\$117.25
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Hot Dogs - Oscar Mayer

\$6.99	5 packs	\$ 34.95
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Hot Dog/Hamburger Rolls

\$1.19	25	\$ 29.78
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Utz Potato Chips

\$13.99	2	\$ 27.98
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Misc. Canned Soda - 36

\$17.99	5	\$ 89.95
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Water

\$3.99	2	\$ 7.98
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Misc. Condiments

\$25.00		\$ <u>25.00</u>
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TOTAL		\$332.89
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These are February prices; they will probably increase some. Most can be purchased in advance, except for ground beef and rolls. I always watch for any coupons BJ's offer. Arnolia Members have always been willing to help when needed, so thank you in advance for contributing to offset the food purchases for the **Spring Flea Market**.

Joe Anna

Missions Meeting Highlights

Paula Pfeifer & Marlis Collins, Co-Chairs

On February 16 members of the Mission Committee met and voted to continue supporting the 5 mission programs that we served in 2-24. Their report is as follows:

EVERSTAND (formerly Board of Child Care) provides housing and support for youth in Maryland, DC, West Virginia and Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Mike and Paula Pfeifer reported that the Jacksonville Senior Center members have an ongoing knitting group which has provided hand knitted hats and other knitted items to Everstand. **Paula Pfeifer, Contact Person**

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief and General Board of Global Ministries) During the year we have supported UMCOR by sending checks to both Global Ministries to help cover administrative costs and the Disaster Relief for the Turkey/Syria earthquake victims. Currently we are collecting cleaning supplies for emergency response buckets. We have several buckets ready to be delivered to May Chapel and several partially filled buckets yet to complete.

Rev. Yost, Contact Person

ACTC (Assistance Center of Towson Churches) We fund ACTC to help provide assistance to people in need in Baltimore County.

Janice Lark, Contact Person

BACKPACK BUDDIES Beginning February 2025 we are providing 13 students with weekend meals. Arnolia is identified as a Safe Place for Oakley Elementary students and faculty in event of an emergency during school hours.

Marlis Collins, Contact Person

HELPING UP MISSION 10 unsolicited bags of clothing and baby supplies were recently dropped off at the Thrift store for Helping Up Mission. These items were picked up by Brian Murphy from HUM. Carol reported that HUM was thrilled with the art supplies and baby gifts that were collected this past Christmas. Brian told Carol that he had never seen such an outpouring of response.

Carol Tiernan, Contact Person

ARNOLIA THRIFT STORE Our thrift store, under the leadership of Karen Long and Drennan Nickerson, plays an important role in Missions. Not only is it a drop-off site for Helping Up Mission, the store has also supplied men's clothes to HUM when needed. Another example of responding to a need was shared by Karen who reported that recently they received a call from a friend who said the nurse at a middle School needed leggings to have available for the female students. Karen was able to supply the school with various sizes of leggings and sweatpants. Special thank you to all the volunteers who work at our thrift store. You are a blessing to many!

And Jesus answered them – “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

Check the bulletin board and table display in the hallway at the back of the sanctuary for more information concerning Arnolia's 5 Mission Projects or reach out to our committee Contact Persons for information on a specific mission project. Next Mission Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, March 16, following worship at 11:15.**

You are welcome to join a Missions meeting at any time.

Fundraiser!

Spring Flower Bulbs

Dahlias • Lilies • Perennials • Seed Mats • More!



Order Flower Bulbs & Support Our Cause!

Online Orders Delivered Directly To Your Door!

Flower Power and Arnolia are proud to offer an earth friendly alternative in the fundraising world. We offer only the finest, best-quality bulbs and plants available from growers in Holland and the U.S. AND offer an unconditional, 100% replacement guarantee! They ship right to you.

Help Arnolia UMC to raise funds to support our food costs at the two flea markets, our missions, and our church activities.

Visit Our Personalized Website By 05/15:

<http://arnoliaumc.fpfundraising.com>

Contact For More Information:

Kim 410 336 2928 Sue 410 665 7005

Turn In Paper Order Forms By: **OnLine Only**



BACKPACK BUDDIES UPDATE

Beginning in February our number of Backpack Buddy Weekend Meals has increased by 3. We are now preparing and delivering 13 bags of meals to our elementary school each week.

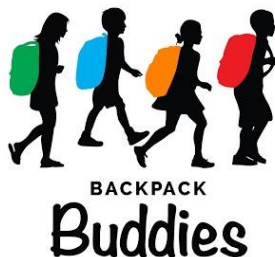
THANK YOU ALL for your continued support of the weekend meals for our Buddies! So far this school year, your shopping and financial donations have supplied all the Mac & Cheese, Pudding, Cheese Cracker Sandwiches, Single Serving Shelf Milk, Hot Cocoa Mix, Instant Oatmeal, Tuna/Chicken Salad with Cracker, Fruit Cups, Hormel Compleats, microwaveable Veggie Cups, Breakfast Bars and snacks.

Now we have turned the corner, having only 4 more months in this school year to support our students and their families. Your continued generosity can make the difference in the daily learning of 13 children and their families.

Although our Backpack Buddies Monthly Shopping list is still available, stop by the Mission bulletin board in the hallway and see our display of all the food items that go into each bag every week. From now until the middle of June, if you find a great sale on any of those items, feel free to purchase any of the items for the remainder of the school year. Just remember to check expirations dates to make sure the items will be safe up through June 15, 2025.

While at the Mission display, check out the information on all our mission programs. It's a good way to get acquainted with Arnolia's Missions.

Children are not the people of tomorrow, but people today. Janusz Korczak



Backpack Buddies Shopping List

SEPTEMBER

Mac & Cheese Cups

Pudding Cups

OCTOBER

Chef Boyardee Cups

Cheese Cracker Sandwiches



NOVEMBER

Single Serving Shelf Milk

Hot Cocoa Mix

DECEMBER

Individual Servings of Instant Oatmeal

Dry Cereal

JANUARY

Tuna/Chicken Salad with Crackers

Fruit Cups

FEBRUARY

Hormel Compleats

Breakfast Bars

MARCH

Single Serving Microwaveable Veggie Cups

APRIL

Breakfast Bars

Hormel Compleats

MAY

Fruit Cups

Cheese Cracker Sandwiches

JUNE

Individual Snack Bags

Chips and Pretzels

Designated Food Items for 2024—25 School Year

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Check expiration dates allowing for several months beyond the date you purchase the food.
- No nut products
- Fruit cups in 100% fruit juice
- Snacks low in sugar



Where We Stand

at Arnolia United Methodist Church

WHERE WE STAND FROM A FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

Craig Nickerson, Leadership Team Chair

Arnolia has been richly blessed. We have a strong core of volunteers willing to work together to advance our mission. The congregation is providing good financial support, and our leadership team works well together.

We finished calendar year 2024 with a small surplus of income over expenses. However, there were several significant changes in 2024 leading to this surplus. First, we have new Pastor at a substantially lower salary than our previous Pastor. Second, we are only paying the new Director of Music / Organist half of what we were paying the previous one (and didn't pay one at all for 8 months in 2024). Third, we only paid 90% of our Mission Shares (conference obligations) in 2024. Finally, our Thrift Store is realizing significant income from sales (\$36,000 in 2024). Together, these helped us finish the year on the positive side.

The New Year has begun a little differently. Just like everyone else, our BGE bills have significantly increased (the January 2025 bill was higher than any previous bill we've received), and the weather so far this winter is requiring us to spend money on snow removal. Our expenses are higher than our income, and any "extra" money left at the end of 2024 is quickly being spent. Continuing to meet our financial obligations and 100% of our Mission Shares (conference obligations) will require continued strong financial support from our members.

As a congregation, we're asking for three things from you in 2025.

First, please continue to keep Arnolia and its leadership in your prayers. We cannot overemphasize the power of prayer to transform our lives and provide guidance for the future.

Second, please step up and volunteer in support of our activities. The Spring Flea Market is fast approaching. The Thrift Store is open every Thursday and can always use volunteers, and we continue to be involved in many mission activities. Arnolia can only continue making a difference in this world if we all work together and volunteer our time.

Finally, please continue providing financial support to Arnolia ensuring our ability to pay our bills, support our ministries, and continue supporting the mission activities of the congregation.

We are confident Arnolia will meet our commitments, continue to minister to the people of the community, and work to advance God's Kingdom in this world. We need your prayers, your time, and your financial support to make it happen.

Implementing Vital Change in the Baltimore-Washington Conference A Report from the Arnolia Leadership Team

In the face of declining church membership, declining attendance, and declining religious participation, the people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference decided to focus on moving closer to Christ, to focus on transformational, outward-facing, community-driven ministry, and to do so in a collaborative manner consistent with our shared values. Vital Change involves refocusing on being the hands and feet of Christ in the community, reconnecting to our values, and restructuring to support our goal of 100% of our churches being 100% vital.

In support of this Vital Change, the following structural changes are being made in the Baltimore-Washington Conference:

1. all churches will be part of a collaborative hub,
2. all hubs will be part of geographic districts, and
3. non-mission-related, specialized administrative duties will be centralized to support churches, rather than requiring each district to provide these services.

For Arnolia, this means we will be placed into a collaborative hub with 5 – 12 other churches within the same geographic region. The primary purpose of a collaborative hub is to support the creation, improvement, and growth of transformational, disciple-making, outward-facing, community-driven mission. Each collaborative hub will use missional action planning, or MAP, a process of discovery, ideation, experimentation, and evolution to create and implement a missional action plan for the hub. Collaborative hub plans should help identify centers of expertise and reflect shared priorities and how people will support each other. Even as churches are connected in hubs, each church maintains its existing administrative structure (e.g., unified board, board of trustees, finance, SPRC, etc.) that makes decisions and provides leadership to each church. Each collaborative hub determines the details of how they connect and what their collaborative ministry looks like.

We are expecting the collaborative hubs to be announced after Easter. We prayerfully believe only positive impacts will come from this change, allowing Arnolia to strengthen our mission work in the community.

We ask everyone to keep our conference leaders in their thoughts and prayers. If you'd like more information about these changes, please consult the Vital Change website at:

[https://www.bwcumc.org/news/creating-vital-change/resources-for-creating-vital change/](https://www.bwcumc.org/news/creating-vital-change/resources-for-creating-vital-change/).

A video about this topic from Rev. Yost: <https://youtu.be/noohDrd67jc>

Connections

at Arnolia United Methodist Church

Church Email, Website, and More

Have you updated your address book? Our email address is: arnoliaumc@arnolia.org
Rev. Yost is available by Rev.Yost@arnolia.org
Sign up with the Church Office to receive emails each week! Visit our website (arnolia.org) for updates on upcoming events! Follow us on Facebook at 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 Schedule

The Grapevine is published bi-monthly. Updates will be available on our website and in bulletins 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 2025	04/11/25
July / August 2025	06/13/25
September / October	08/08/25



- 01 Beverly Conrad
- 04 Barbara Menegatti
- 05 Nick Boellner
- 06 Faith Hovatter
Gary and Marlis Collins – 54 years
- 16 Jim and Joan Walstrum – 39 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 – 52 years
- 16 Rich Krebs
- 19 Suzanne Boellner
- 22 Paul VanEssen
- 26 Kim 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 know so we may update our list.

MARCH 2025 – Arnolia United Methodist Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2 10 am Worship Service	3	4 12 Noon Pastor's Study	5 Ash Wednesday at Linden Heights 5:30 pm Dinner 7 pm Service	6 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open 6:30 PM Celebration Ringers 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	7 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	8
9 10 am Worship Service 11:15 Leadership Team	10	11 12 Noon Pastor's Study	12	13 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open 6:30 PM Celebration Ringers 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	14 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	15
16 10 am Worship Service 11:15 am Mission Meeting	17	18 12 Noon Pastor's Study	19 7:30 PM Rejuvenate	20 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open 6:30 PM Celebration Ringers 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	21 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	22
23 10 am Worship Service 11:15 am SPRC	24	25 12 Noon Pastor's Study	26	27 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open 6:30 PM Celebration Ringers 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	28 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	29
30 10 am Worship Service	31	1	2	3	4	5

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

APRIL 2025 – Arnolia United Methodist Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		12 Noon Pastor's Study	7:30 PM Rejuvenate	10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open 6:30 PM Celebration Ringers 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10 am Worship Service 11:15 Leadership Team		12 Noon Pastor's Study		10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open 6:30 PM Celebration Ringers 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday 10 am Worship Service		12 Noon Pastor's Study	7:30 PM Rejuvenate	10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open Maundy Thursday here w/ Linden Heights 7PM	Good Friday 7 PM	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday 10 am Worship Service	Church Office Closed	12 Noon Pastor's Study		10:00 am – 2:00 pm Thrift Store Open 6:30 PM Celebration Ringers 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Confirmation/New Members 10 am Worship Service		12 Noon Pastor's Study				

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, John Gorsuch, and Jerry Finley.

Date	Greeters	Presenters	Acolytes	Readers	Comm. Stewards	Comm. Helpers
Mar. 2, 2025	Rae Virgilio	Paula Pfeifer	Beth Krebs	Dick Disharoon	John & Gayle Gorsuch	Paxton Catterton
Mar. 9, 2025	Karen Long	Joe Anna Funk	Tad Wolfe	Andrew Virgilio		
Mar. 16, 2025	Jerry Finley	Drennan Nickerson	Faith Hovatter	Conner Goble		
Mar. 23, 2025	Barbara Conrad	Paula Pfeifer	Paxton Catterton	Rich Krebs		
Mar. 30, 2025	Doug Thomas	Arlene Chen	Conner Goble	Beth Krebs		
Apr. 6, 2025	Barbara Conrad	Joe Anna Funk	Paxton Catterton	Paula Pfeifer	Marlis Collins Dottie Willard	Conner Goble
Apr. 13, 2025 Palm Sunday	Wayne Grauer	Paula Pfeifer	Tad Wolfe	Rich Krebs		
Apr. 17, 2025 Maundy Thurs. 7PM	Janice Lark	Drennan Nickerson	Faith Hovatter	Dick Disharoon	Paula & Mike Pfeifer	Rev. Dr. Alicia Vanisko
Apr. 18, 2025 Good Friday 7 PM	Dottie Willard	Joe Anna Funk	Beth Krebs	Paula Pfeifer		
April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday	Rae Virgilio	Paula Pfeifer	Conner Goble	Paxton Catterton	Dick Disharoon Ralph Wilson	Beth Krebs
Apr. 27, 2025	Carole & Dick Disharoon	Drennan Nickerson	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