

# MAYO CONNECTION

JULY/AUGUST 2021 EDITION

MAYO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Summer



REV. AMANDA MCMURTREY, PASTOR

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# *Message from the Pastor*

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ,

One of my favorite pastimes is to reflect on the insights that God shares through creation, especially in considering the changing seasons. When I think of July and August, I think hot and humid. I mean we do live in Maryland right! But then I remind myself, that is exactly how it should be in summer. If it snowed here in July, I would not be pleased. Each season holds its own gifts and challenges, as does each season of life.

When you think of ‘summer’ what images come to mind? Among my list are: Beach, insects, sunshine, allergies, fun, hot, fruit, thunderstorms, camping, sweating, playing, yard work...so many thoughts come to mind. When you look at my list or think of your own, do you sort it into good and bad? Joy and curse? While my list may look like a list of the ups and downs of summer, I would argue it is just summer in Maryland and each item on my list is a gift from God.

Here is the interesting thing about gifts from God, they are all given with immense love and to provide for our needs as human beings, but much like birthday gifts, our joy in receiving is not nearly as consistent. Remember when you were a kid and you received an amazing toy your heart desired and some socks? They were both given with love and provided for you, but I bet you weren't as excited about the socks as you were about the toy. Yet, if you never had another pair of socks I'm sure you would feel their loss.

I want to remind you that seasons, on earth and in our lives, are what we make of them. Sweating and sunburn aren't my favorite parts of summer, but I do love the benefits of sunshine to my body and soul. Plus they are both reminders that God created my body to protect me and it is working. As you walk through the days of summer consider this scripture verse:

*He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. (Jeremiah 17:8)*

Jeremiah reminds us that heat isn't deadly when we plant our roots in the deep waters of God. Drought doesn't touch us and we can always bear fruit, but only if we drink of the spiritual waters that are the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Our baptism signifies our first sip of those life-giving waters, but it is a constant spring that wells within us.

Are you tending to your roots? Are you thirsty for spiritual waters? Where will you find a cool drink in the midst of summer days? Summer is not good or bad, it is just summer. Life is not good or bad, it is just life. Seasons will come and go as God has ordained them, but God's love is steadfast and Christ remains our life-giver. So let us enjoy the snowballs and pool parties and seek to accept heat and humidity...for we wouldn't have one without the other!

Peace be with you,

*Rev. Amanda McMurtrey*

Pastor Amanda





### **Summer Worship Schedule**

*8:15 AM - Outdoor in the Chapel in the Woods (half hour, casual service)*  
*10:15 AM- Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*

### **UMW Lunch Out Returns!!**

**Every 1st Wednesday of the Month @ 12 Noon**

*We are limited to 6 people, but let's eat!*

*July 7th || Glory Days*

*3 Lee Airpark Dr, Edgewater, MD 21037*

*Please RSVP to Pastor Amanda by July 5th at [mayopastoramanda@gmail.com](mailto:mayopastoramanda@gmail.com)*

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*August 4th || Pirate's Cove*

*4817 Riverside Dr, Galesville, MD 20765*

*Please RSVP to Pastor Amanda by August 2nd at [mayopastoramanda@gmail.com](mailto:mayopastoramanda@gmail.com)*

### **Men's Breakfast**

**Every 3rd Saturday of the Month @ 8:00 AM**

*July 17th and Aug 21st || MUMC Fellowship Hall*

**No Adult Sunday School in July and August.**

***Join us again in September!***

### **Fall Ministry Plans:**

Please reach out to Pastor Amanda if you have an idea for a ministry, mission or program for the fall. She will be planning for Bible studies, sermon series and more during the summer and your thoughts are encouraged and welcomed! Please reach out to Pastor Amanda by emailing her at [mayopastoramanda@gmail.com](mailto:mayopastoramanda@gmail.com).



Anne Arundel County

# BACK SCHOOL PROGRAM



**Students returning to school are in need of help.**



Remember the excitement of the first day of school. Your new backpack, notebooks, pencils, scissors and crayons. Share the memory by assisting a child who needs help getting ready for the next school year.

The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services' Back to School Program is matching donors with students in need of school supplies. The Back to School Program benefits children from low income families. We plan on helping 8 children at Mayo Elementary, in the Kindergarten through the fifth grade. We will also help 8 students at Central Elementary.

The average cost is \$50-\$75 depending upon their grade.

Please help a child by using the sign up sheets located on the table as you enter the church lobby. All items must be brought to church by Sunday, August 8th.

If you have any questions please ask Jackie Wiser, Connie Lamb or call the church office. If you are making a cash or check donation please label Back to School Fund.

Thank you for your support.



## Pastor's Suggested Summer Reading

Here are two of my favorite summer reads, plus a third if you want a bit more:

Let me know what you think! Feel free to email me at  
[mayopastoramanda@gmail.com](mailto:mayopastoramanda@gmail.com) or make an  
appointment to discuss a book over a hot beverage!

### *Together: A story of shared vision by Tom Sullivan and Betty White*

A sweet yet powerful story about a man who loses his site and finds healing in the relationship he builds with his guide dog Nelson. I've read this book at least 6 times and still love it!

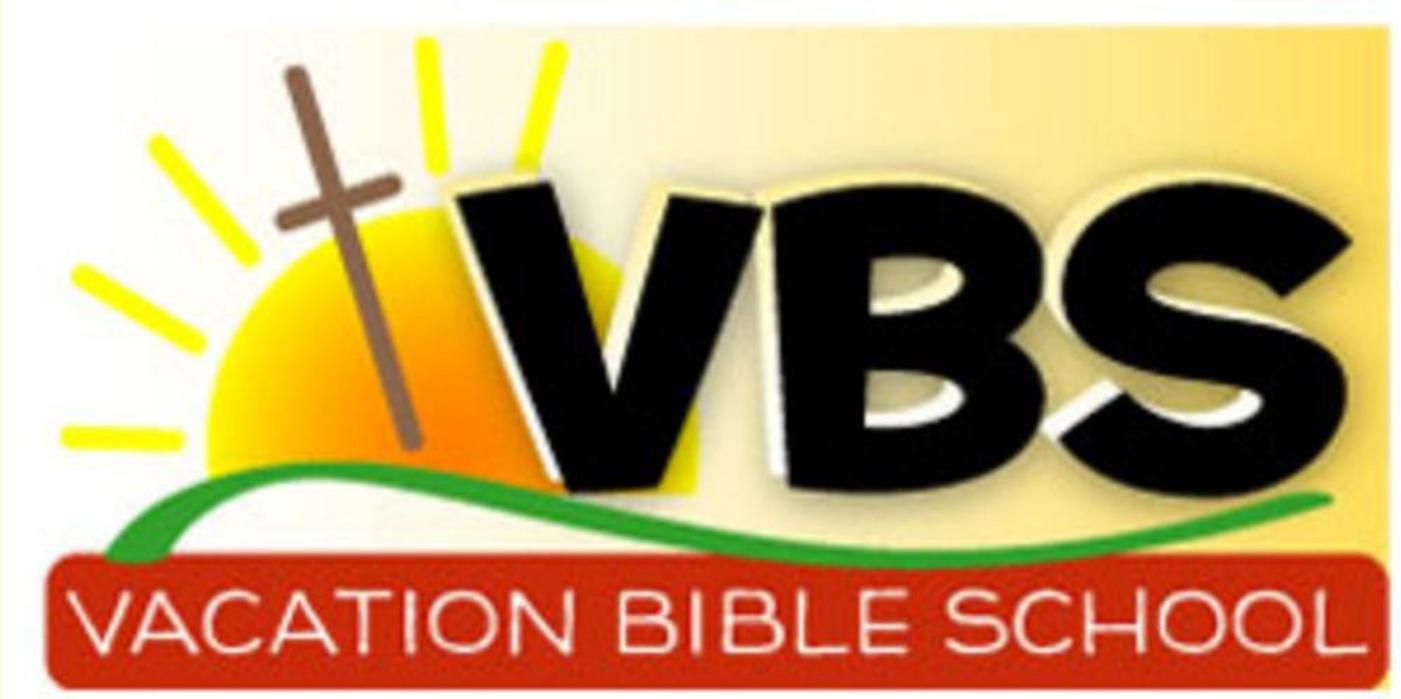
### *Prayer for Sale by Sandra Dallas*

A historical fiction work that shares the story of two women in a Colorado mining town. They find insights into life through their relationship and their connection with quilting.

### *The Thirteen Apostles by J. Ellsworth Kalas*

If you want something a little more intellectual, but not too heavy give this book a try. Interesting information about the men who walked with Jesus in ministry and mission and became the first evangelists.





### Volunteers Needed!

*Need volunteers for VBS – August 9th -12th (evening times, TBD)  
We will be having VBS for our church families to offer a safe environment for some fun and worship!*

*If you would like to help with the event or with the preparation please, reach out to Pastor Amanda by emailing her at [mayopastoramanda@gmail.com](mailto:mayopastoramanda@gmail.com). Persons must be willing to wear a mask indoors to help with the event in person.*



Join our  
mailing list

Visit [www.mayoumc.com](http://www.mayoumc.com)

Watch us on  
YouTube™



# PRAYER REQUEST

Beloved, we seek to keep an active list of those who need ongoing or long-term prayer throughout the month. However, over time this list needs to be refreshed to ensure it serves as the helpful prayer tool it is designed to be for the congregation.

If you have someone you would like listed on the long-term prayer list please submit their name to [mayouumcmd@gmail.com](mailto:mayouumcmd@gmail.com) or call 410.798.6110 and leave a voice message by the 15th for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Please continue to pray for our shut-ins,

**Doris Haschert**

**Leila Youngren**

and for all those who are confined to their homes during the pandemic. Let us also continue to pray for victims of COVID-19, our national and local leaders in our government, the victims of the recent violence around the world and other victims of natural disasters, our military personnel and their families, and all those in need of healing.

## LET US PRAY

THE POWER OF PRAYER