



Emmanuel United Methodist Church
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The Lamplighter

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church

Welcome September

New month, new chapter, new
page and new wishes.

May the month give you courage,
strength, Confidence, patience,
self-love & inner peace. May
everyday in September fill your
days with Hope, love, sunshine
and energy. Let there be Joy,
Fun and Laughter.

The Lamplighter

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2024

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Do you have something for our newsletter? Send items to the editor, Rick Bergmann at lamplighter@eumcbeltsville.com



From the
Pastor's
Desk...

Leaving A Christian Legacy

In July 2024, Rev. Dr. Joseph Daniels posted:

...I wish to affirm the incredible legacy of Bishop Felton Edwin May (deceased). While during the conference, another was given credit and accolades for the life-changing and neighborhood transforming initiative called Holy Boldness-- an initiative which brought hope to struggling communities in and around Baltimore, MD and Washington, D.C. in the late 1990's and early 2000's --- it was Bishop May who spearheaded the initiative. Without Bishop May's leadership, we would not have benefitted from the national and international Communities of Shalom effort and other efforts bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the streets and developing and redeveloping neighborhoods in struggling city areas. Congratulations Bishop Easterling for your trailblazing leadership and for making history this week! Rest in peace and utmost respect to you, Bishop May -- your labor is not in vain. May God be glorified!

After reading his post I was reminded of my own story and journey into ministry:

It was through the tent ministry of a Saving Station hosted one summer by Rev. Steve Tillett in a Holy Boldness community outreach on Alabama Ave. at First United Methodist Church, Bradbury Heights in Washington, DC, where I first became acquainted with The United Methodist Church in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. I grew up in Canaan UMC church in SC and had relocated to the metropolitan area four years earlier. Although I was going to different (primarily Baptist) churches, I had never set foot into a UMC church since I moved into the District. However, one fateful summer day, I passed by an attention-grabbing tent ministry where I noticed the sign with the familiar cross and flame logo. Months later I made an early morning decision to visit that particular UMC church, and consequently the whole trajectory of my life changed: I re-established my relationship with the UMC, where I accepted my call to ministry. I was ordained by Bishop May the first year of his episcopal assignment as the first African American Bishop of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference. Not until I was sharing my call story with Bishop May did I know he was the visionary for the Holy Boldness movement and the Saving Station that turned my Sunday morning visits away from local Baptist churches to a life- and career- altering commitment to my neighborhood Methodist church.

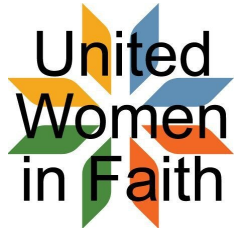
Also, I was reminded by Rev. Dr. C. Anthony Hunt, who wrote: One of the things that the late Bishop Felton Edwin May used to often challenge and encourage his preachers to do is to act with Holy Boldness (Acts 4:31). Then Bishop May would say that "if you're doing it in Jesus' name, who's going to fire you?"

To GOD be the GLORY!

Pastor King

Fall Community Yard Sale is coming this October!

The United Women of Faith and the Beltsville Cats are working together to save you time and money! Our tentative date is October 19 from 10:00-2:00. The United Women of Faith will be selling lunch and crafts. The Beltsville Cats will host a yard sale. They will have adoptible kittens for viewing and adoption information. Look for more information in the announcements and the October Lamplighter. Have a purrfect day !



Thank you to our Worship Leaders!



Worship is a team effort, the Pastor is supported by our musicians Alisa, Steven, Theresa, and Byron, as well as lay members of the congregation. At Emmanuel, Ricky Whitecotton has worked hand in hand with the pastor to plan each and every service. The worship service has been guided by our 2 dedicated worship leaders, Debbie McNitt and Susie Mendolsohn. We couldn't do this without this support. Ricky Whitecotton will be transitioning off of the team this fall. If you would like to join this amazing team, speak to Pastor King. Remember, churches only work when everyone takes part. Pray about it and see if you can help!

Church Office Support



THE CHURCH OFFICE

Our church office is a vital part of the business of Emmanuel. We have a dedicated supportive team in our office that works together to support the Pastor. We do have some changes in the office this fall. Currently, we have a finance team: Margie Matthews (CPA), Jacqueline Harrison, Suzie Mendohlson, and Ted Ladd. On the administrative side of things, Sister Donna Williams and Rick Bergmann are covering the tasks

of the office. We thank you for your support and patience. If you have questions, you can email the pastor at PastorKing@eumcbeltsville.com, the office at office@eumcbeltsville.com or finance at finance@eumcbeltsville.com.

Fall Food Distribution Schedule

Emmanuel's Food Distribution takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month from 8 am to 11 am. They could always use help so if you are interested reach out to Mekai, Yolanda, or email community_outreach@eumcbeltsville.com.

Upcoming dates are*:

- Saturday, September 28, 2024
- Saturday, October 26, 2024
- Saturday, November 23, 2024
- Saturday, December 21, 2024

**Dates near holidays may change. We will update you if they do.*

Ministry Opportunities and Transitions

Greetings:

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

As the Whitecottons and Westons are transitioning to churches which are more suitable and appropriate for their respective family lives, we will miss them terribly but wish them continued blessings in their new church homes. With their departures also come new opportunities for those who wish to engage in the ministries of the church through worship planning, Bible Study, and computer/technology support.

Additionally, anyone who is musically inclined or has desire to serve in any capacity may make their desire known to the pastor, church leaders, or contact the church office. Training is available for anyone who would like to explore any unfamiliar opportunities. Any church or community member is welcome to express their interest (or make a suggestion) for consideration.

Thanks and Blessings,

Pastor King
Ted Ladd, Board Chair
John Claye, Lay Leader



EMMANUEL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

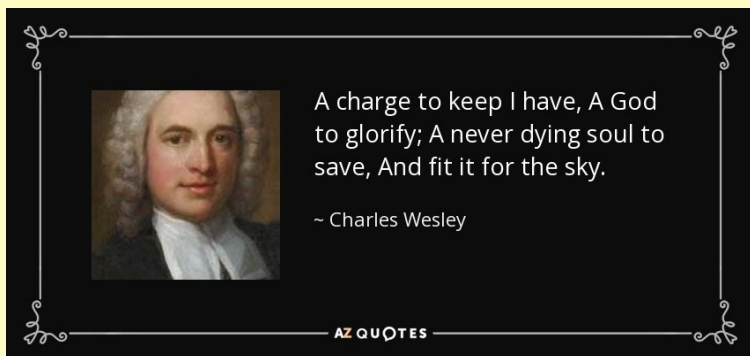


We will be having an Emmanuel Anniversary Celebration on Sunday September 29 after service in the fellowship hall! Details will be coming soon, so stay tuned!

**Emmanuel's Annual Blessing of the Animals
will take place Sunday, October 6 at 10 am
outside at the cross on the hill! Bring your pets or pictures of your pets
and the Pastor will give them a special blessing during service!
(If it rains, the service will move into the Fellowship Hall!)**



History of Hymns: “A Charge to Keep I Have” UMH 413



“A Charge to Keep I Have” by Charles Wesley, The United Methodist Hymnal, 413

*A charge to keep I have,
a God to glorify,
a never dying soul to save,
and fit it for the sky.*

In their recent book, *Presidential Praise: Our Presidents and Their Hymns* (Mercer University Press, 2008), authors C. Edward Spann and Michael E. Williams Sr. note that the title of President George W. Bush’s autobiography, *A*

Charge to Keep, was drawn from Charles Wesley’s hymn.

The choice of this title is but one indication of the role this hymn has played in the life of President Bush, as well as the influence of this hymn 250 years beyond its composition.

As is the case with hymns by the Wesleys, “A charge to keep I have” is grounded in Scripture. In this case, Leviticus 8:35 is the primary source: “Keep the charge of the Lord, that ye die not” (KJV).

The hymn was included in *Short Hymns on Select Passages of Holy Scripture* (1762), a massive two-volume collection of 2,030 hymns based on biblical texts from Genesis to Revelation. UM Hymnal editor Carlton Young also points out additional references: 2 Peter 1:10, Hosea 6:2, and Matthew 25:30 and 26:41.

Wesley scholars F. Hildebrandt and Oliver A. Beckerlegge propose in their commentary on the important Wesley hymnbook *A Collection of Hymns for Use of the People Called Methodists* (1780) that Charles Wesley (1708-1788) based his text on Mathew Henry’s *Commentary on Leviticus*. Henry notes:

“We have every one of us a charge to keep, an eternal God to glorify, an immortal soul to provide for, needful duty to be done, our generation to serve; and it must be our daily care to keep this charge, for it is the charge of the Lord our Master, who will shortly call us to an account about it, and it is our peril if we neglect it. Keep it ‘that ye die not’; it is death, eternal death, to betray the truth we are charged with.”

This hymn is an unequivocal call to commitment to follow the Master and to fulfill our vocation through service. The language is unambiguous. Our calling is to save a “never dying soul” and “fit it for the sky”—that is for eternal life with Christ. This eschatological goal is central to Charles Wesley’s hymns: Our goal is heaven.

In the second stanza, we find that we fulfill this calling by our service to “the present age.” Fulfilling this calling requires us to engage “all [our] powers.” The third stanza is a petition that God should “arm [us] with jealous care” as we live in God’s sight. Wesley is not afraid to offer a stern admonition that we will one day be required to give “a strict account” of our activities in pursuit of our calling.

The final stanza is perhaps the most uncompromising. The singer begins with the imperative verb—a petition to the unnamed Holy Spirit—to “Help me to watch and pray . . .” Rather than suggesting a positive reward for faithfulness, Wesley warns us of the outcome “if [we] our trust betray”: we “shall forever die.”

Hymnology scholar Fred D. Gealy notes that there have been several attempts to alter the final lines in order to soften the ominous judgment that is implied. The *Historical Companion to the Influential Hymns Ancient and Modern* concludes the hymn with these two lines:

*And let me ne’er my trust betray,
But press to realms on high.*

The British Methodist hymnal, *Hymns and Psalms* (1983) altered the final two lines as follows:

*So shall I not my trust betray,
nor love within me die.*

Professor Gealy notes that the “alteration [of these lines] weakens the intensity of the hymn. The Gospel always comes with [both] threat and promise.”

This hymn has traditionally been a favorite at annual conferences, or in African-American congregations at the conclusion of Holy Communion. The tune BOYLSTON was composed by the famous New England music educator Lowell Mason (1792-1872) and was first found in his *The Choir, or Union Collection of Church Music* (1832).

Annual Conference Session ignites spirit of vitality

By Melissa Lauber

The theme of the 240th session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference was “Like Fire Shut Up in My Bones.” It could also have been “Grand Slam!”

The conference opened as a thousand United Methodists cheered on Bishop LaTrelle Easterling as she threw out the first pitch at the Baltimore Orioles game and Gunnar Henderson hit a grand slam.

A similar feeling of something unique and exciting happening unfolded at the conference, held May 29-31 at the Hilton Hotel in Baltimore, where several clergy and lay members expressed a sense that “God is doing something new in The United Methodist Church.”

Living into a New Day

Bishop Easterling acknowledged this spirit of renewal during opening worship when she acknowledged how the General Conference, which met just weeks ago, overturned the denomination’s prohibitions on same-gender marriage and the ordination of homosexuals and removed the language from church law that said homosexuality was incompatible with Christian teaching.

At General Conference, “There was joy and hope for our future together, she said. “The delegates seemed to understand at a visceral level the phrase, ‘unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, charity in all things.’ This exemplifies our identity in Christ. Now it is time for us to live into this future together.”

“Beloved,” the bishop stressed, “now is not the time for mandates and dictates and constraints; rather, now is the time to immerse ourselves in the Word of God. Now is the time to study together, to learn together, to wrestle with our Wesleyan theology, to hear God speak a fresh word into our lives, and we need to lift as we climb.

“We don’t need boards, councils, and committees, rushing to control the church,” she said. “We need to engage in some deep conversation as we are led by the Spirit. We need to pray with fervor and intention: *Veni Creator Spiritus! Come Holy Spirit!*”

Members, like the Rev. Michael Parker of Journey UMC, spoke about what feels like a new Spirit-filled future.

“For 4,231 days I woke up to the threat and possibility of being asked to leave a vocation I love because of how I love,” he said. He felt he had “lived quieted and closeted,” but the weight has now lifted from his shoulders, and he is able to “live more authentically and love God’s people authentically.”

The Rev. Chet Jechura of Good Shepherd UMC in Baltimore was ordained on May 31. Before the historic questions were asked of the ordinands, he [offered a prayer](#) on behalf of the BWC’s Queer Clergy Caucus.

Reflecting on his ordination, Jechura believes the church is experiencing “a movement of the Holy Spirit filled with resurrection hope, glory, and power to boldly live an open-hearted and heart-warming evangelical witness of God’s inclusive and expansive love for all.” If we believe in God’s love and sanctifying grace,” he said, “we will see God’s glory. Like fire shut up in my bones, I know this to be true.

New Ways of Connecting

To better equip local congregations for ministry in this season following COVID, disaffiliations, declining membership and diminished connections, which have brought challenges to the church, a task force announced a plan for restructuring the conference.

The Restructuring Task Force spent several months gathering input and insights at listening sessions throughout the conference. This input led to a unique plan that increases connectionalism and vitality and better positions churches to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Congregations will be placed in hubs of 5-12 churches, which will be led by a Connecting Church and resourced by a conference staff person. These hubs will be placed in six non-geographic districts based on population density. The districts will be in one of two administrative regions. ([Learn more](#) about the restructuring.)

Conference members helped launch the restructuring plan by voting to decrease the number of districts from eight to six. The restructuring efforts begin this month with an extensive survey that will be sent to local church leaders. The configuration of the hubs is expected to be announced in January, the districts will be formed in March, and the plan will go into effect in July 2025.

In addition to restructuring, the conference laity heard from the Rev. Michael Beck, director of the denomination’s Fresh Expressions, who invited them to re-define how they think about church.

Continued on next page

Annual Conference continued from previous page

Fresh Expressions, Beck explained, are innovative faith communities that connect with people in their daily spaces and rhythms of life. They are based on relationships and can be held anywhere – in dog parks, burrito joints, tattoo parlors, online, around dinner tables, anywhere people gather in their daily lives.

“This is about creating a community of belonging and letting the Holy Spirit do the rest,” Beck said. The BWC offers training in creating Fresh Expressions, which includes a Fresh Expressions Academy.

Conference members also learned about a vast array of resources offered by the BWC’s Discipleship Ministries to help them grow more vital as they seek see all the people, live and love like Jesus, deepen discipleship and multiply their impact.

Last year, the BWC’s Director of Connectional Ministries, Christie Latona, reported that the BWC engaged 18,220 people in missional experiences, awarded \$1,023,600 in grants, and had 58 churches experiment through Catalyst Initiatives and Missional Action Planning to learn how to respond more faithfully to God’s call.

The Discipleship Council also announced a new resource, the Public Interactive Data Report Tool, which provides a wealth of information to connect people in mission and ministry.

Stewardship and Vision

The focus of BWC leaders to equip and empower churches continued in the stewardship arena, as members adopted a budget to keep more money at the congregation level to increase mission and ministry in local communities.

Members passed an 18.4 million budget, with mission shares set at \$12,223,047. They also adopted a reduced benevolence factor of 17.4 percent and a collection rate of 87 percent.

In other stewardship actions:

- The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits provided information about Compass Retirement Plan, a new defined contribution retirement plan for clergy.
- The Commission on Equitable Compensation increased the base salary for the 2024 Clergy Salary Table by 3 percent, or \$1,497, which will make the base salary \$51,407. They also approved an increase in housing allowance by 2 percent or \$441, which will make the recommended housing allowance \$22,477.
- The Board of Trustees reported that a lawsuit continues against the BWC, brought by 37 churches that objected to the terms of disaffiliation established by the General Conference and the Conference Board of Trustees.
- Members also voted to approve the closure of four churches: Mount Vernon UMC in Whiteford, Saint Matthews UMC in Baltimore, Violetville UMC in Baltimore and Mount Savage UMC in Mount Savage; and Members celebrated the ministry of Paul Eichelberger, who they voted to re-appoint to serve as conference treasurer for the next four years.

In other action, the BWC members:

- Celebrated the ordination of two Deacons and 14 Elders and the commissioning of one Deacon and six Elders, along with the commissioning of a home missionary. The ordination sermon was preached by Dr. Carla Works, dean of Wesley Theological Seminary.
 - Participated in Bible Study led by Dean Works, which drew upon an examination of history and deep theological insights, as she explored Romans 12:1, 9-12 and how we are called to offer all that we have and all that we are to become a living sacrifice to God.
 - Voted on four resolutions that create a special Camping Sunday on the second Sunday of February, encourage congregations to raise awareness of Sickle Cell Disease, celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Reconciling Ministries Network, and to not oppose the proposed amendment to the Maryland Constitution establishing a right to reproductive freedom.
 - Gave thanks for the ministry of 33 pastors who retired, together representing 789 years of service.
 - Offered an apology and a pledge to more faithfully respond to victims of sexual misconduct and violence.
 - Donated supplies for Adullum Community Health Care at New Waverly UMC in Baltimore; raised \$9,000 in a collection for Seeds of Security, a ministry that addresses the needs of domestic violence survivors; and collected \$1,958 for a new clergy renewal leave grant program.
- Endorsed the Rev. Amy McCullough, pastor of Grace UMC In Baltimore, as a candidate for the episcopacy.

Continued on next page

Annual Conference continued from previous page

- Heard a report from the General Conference delegation about the recent session in Charlotte, N.C., and the votes which will take place next year on three constitutional amendments, one of which will be on the regionalization of the global church.
- Offered thanks to Delores Martin, who served as the BWC Lay Leader for 12 years and welcomed Amelia Duroska as the new Conference Lay Leader.
- Honored 32 saints of the conference in a memorial service, at which the Rev. C. Anthony Hunt preached on history and remembrance.
- Heard a report from the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women who praised the BWC for their work in gender equity and encouraged this work to continue.
- Danced with the youth of the conference and learned about *Ignite*, a new youth retreat coming to Ocean City on March 7-9.

Prayed for the world, including those affected by the collapse of the Key Bridge in Baltimore, for the nation at the announcement of the verdict in former President Donald Trump’s trial, for the people of Palestine, and of Darfur, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

At the opening of the session, Richard Church of the Committee on Native American Ministries joined Bishop Easterling in a land acknowledgment ceremony. In his welcome, Church said “Aanii,” which in the Ojibway language means, “I see your light.” The people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference responded, “Aanii.”

And when the session ended with an altar call on the afternoon of May 31, they took that light into the world – releasing the fire shut up in their bones.

The 241st session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be held May 20-22, 2025.

Worship Through Giving: How Can I Give?

Online: www.eumcbeltsville.com/giving or scan the QR Code below. This is a great way to keep up with your giving if you are out of town, are sick or if you can’t come to church.

Through the Mail: mail your offering to 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.



- 6. Isaac Oluwafemi
- 9. Jessica Leatherman,
- 10. Ester Hatton
- 11. James Mackey, Jr.
- 12. Tracy Fuller
- 15. Elsie Cline
- 18. Robert Galloway
- 21. Bob Miller
- 23. Dela Martin, Chinasa Onukwubiri
- 29. Victoria Galloway, Ascenna Scotland
- 30. Kathryn Griffin, Jennifer Embrey



- ♥- HAPPY ♥ 1. Roy and Carrie White
- ANNIVERSARY 27. Ann and Ted Ladd

Please pray for our homebound

- Glen and Pauli Colburn
- Bob Humphrey
- Ernie Kilbourne

Christian Love and Sympathy to the families of

- Pradeep Singh (friend of Tammy White)
- Mike Pelicano (friend of the Uricks)
- Uncle of Willie Taylor
- Ada Herrate (friend of Debbie McNitt)
- Melvin Smith (friend of Rick Bergmann) whose father in law passed away.



Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Use this link if you wish to attend virtually: <https://bit.ly/3SVutjU> or go to zoom.us and click join a meeting.

The meeting number is 978 3988 9289. The Password is EUMC



You can call in on any telephone (cell or landline) at 1-301-715-8592

If you’re calling on the telephone the information is

Meeting ID: 978 3988 9289 Passcode: 479360



September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship (S & Zoom) 6 pm Boy Scouts (CSR)	2 Office Closed 	3 Office Closed	4 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Auditions (FH)	5 Office closed 7 pm UpStage Artists Auditions (FH)	6 9:30-2:30 Office Hours	7 5 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)
8 10 am Worship (S & Zoom) 6 pm Boy Scouts (CSR)	9 9:30-2:30 Office Hours	10 Office closed	11 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Bible Study (Zoom)	12 Office closed	13 9:30-2:30 Office Hours	14 5 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)
15 Worship (S & Zoom) 6 pm Boy Scouts (CSR)	16 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Mousetrap Rehearsal (FH)	17 Office closed	18 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Bible Study (Zoom)	19 Office closed 7 pm Mousetrap Rehearsal (FH)	20 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Mousetrap Rehearsal (FH)	21 5 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)
22 Worship (S & Zoom) 6 pm Boy Scouts (CSR)	23 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Mousetrap Rehearsal (FH)	24 Office closed 7 pm	25 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Bible Study (Zoom)	26 Office closed 7 pm Mousetrap Rehearsal (FH)	27 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Mousetrap Rehearsal (FH)	28 5 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)
29 10 am Worship (S & Zoom) 11 am Church Anniversary Luncheon (FH) 6 pm Boy Scouts (CSR)	30 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Mousetrap Rehearsal (FH)	 <h2 style="color: red;">EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</h2> <p style="color: red;">BELTSVILLE, MD</p> <p style="color: red;">Life is a journey, don't travel it alone</p>				

Calendar Room Key:
(FH)- Fellowship Hall (Sanctuary Building)
(CSR)- Chester Stewart Room (Education Building)
(Zoom)- Virtual
(S)- Sanctuary

Emmanuel is on Instagram!
 Follow @eumc_beltsville  Instagram



Join us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville>



Virtual Bible Study

Wednesdays from 7 pm-8 pm! Join us online for Bible Study on Wednesdays from 7 pm to 8 pm. Come and discuss the Bible and learn from each other and other Emmanuel folks! No preparation needed! You just need to log on! Go to <https://bit.ly/3PPrgjE> to join us. The Meeting ID is 929 3284 2856 Passcode: bible Any questions, email Rick Bergmann at rick.bergmann@eumcbeltsville.com



Agatha Christie's

THE MOUSETRAP



November 1, 2, 8, 9 at 7:30 pm and November 3 and 10 at 2 pm

Cost: \$10.00

Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

www.upstageartists.com



Deaf Ministry 101

Saturday, September 21, 2024
9am – 12pm

Saint Mark United Methodist Church
1440 Dorsey Rd Hanover, Maryland

Register by scanning the QR Code or going to
<https://bit.ly/3yzzrL7>

(or by emailing Lyates@bwcumc.org)

September is Deaf Awareness Month.
Celebrate Deaf Awareness Month
by learning Deaf Ministry 101!



Quick Sandwiches for Supper

The Irwin
Egg Salad
Swiss Cheese
Lettuce & Tomato
Mustard
Rye Bread
Served with chips



Spicy Turkey Burger
Grilled Turkey Burger
Pepper Jack Cheese
Lettuce &. tomato
Spicy Brown Mustard (Optional)
Lightly toasted Italian Bread with garlic butter
Served with Sweet Potato Fries

Salmon BLT
Grilled salmon with Old Bay
Crisp Bacon slices
Lettuce & Tomato
Mayo
Toasted Wheat Bread
Served with celery and carrot sticks

Community Member

Marilyn Thomas has a Yamaha
Baby Grand Piano that she is
looking to donate to someone.

If you or someone you know
would be interested in this
beautiful instrument, contact
Ms. Thomas at

marilyn72thomas@gmail.com



“

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**HAPPILY WE BASK IN THIS
WARM SEPTEMBER SUN,
WHICH ILLUMINATES
ALL CREATURES.**

– HENRY DAVID THOREAU