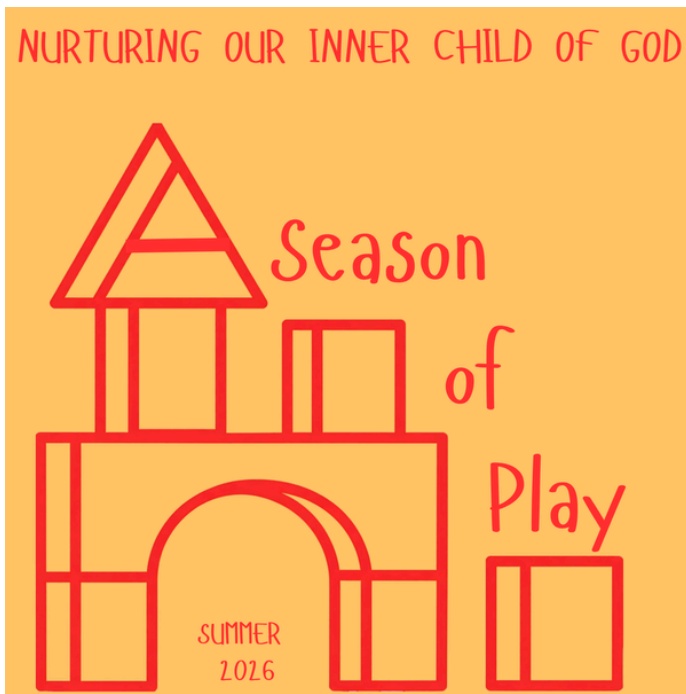


NURTURING OUR INNER CHILD OF GOD



North Bethesda United Methodist Church

August 16, 2026

A Season of Play Week 5 - Playdough

Prelude

Simon Charette

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Kim Santoro

Look around. What wonders we behold!

We see others, gathered here to worship and praise God.

Each person here is a unique, beloved creation of God.

Each person here is given special gifts and talents by God.

God is like a potter who shapes and forms our lives.

We have been called to be faithful to God's intention.

Come, let us worship the Creator who has given us life.

Let us send our praises to God who knows us completely, and loves us.

*Opening Hymn

"God, the Sculptor of the Mountains"

TFWS 2060

Word for All Ages

Hymn

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

TFWS 2193

Prayers of the People

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:26-2:3

Kim Santoro

Reflection & Response

Hymn

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH 393

Reading

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Kim Santoro

Hymn

"Breathe On Me, Breath of God"

UMH 420 V. 1,2

Reading

Psalms 51:10

Kim Santoro

Hymn

"Change My Heart, O God"

TFWS 2152

Reading

Romans 12:2

Kim Santoro

Hymn

"Spirit Song"

UMH 347

Reading

Micah 4:1-5

Kim Santoro

*Unison Prayer

Receive these symbols of our commitment, gracious God. Receive the visions that we trust come from you, and the gifts we offer to help bring them to life. Bless and clarify our intentions. Unite us in courageous response to your call, and send us out in joyful creativity. We pray in Christ's name, as your children. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

UMH 150

*Blessing

Rev. Kara

Postlude

Simon Charette

*Indicates rising in body and/or spirit.

The Call to Worship is by Nancy Townley and the Unison Prayer is by Rev. Kara.

Take Note!

- Our back-to-school **Blessing of the Backpacks** will take place in worship on Sunday, August 23rd. Everyone who is starting a new school year in any capacity is invited to bring your backpack or some other symbol of the learning journey for a special blessing. We'll also enjoy a special "Breakfast for Coffee Hour" after worship; bring your favorite breakfast item to share!
- It's almost time for our annual **Church Picnic!** Join us on Sunday, August 30th, in the Fellowship Hall after worship. We'll provide hamburgers and hotdogs (and games & prizes!), and would welcome contributions of side dishes and desserts. We are also looking for a few folks willing to take shifts at the grill. You can sign up to bring food or help grill via the sign-up sheet after worship, or by talking to Diane Walsh-Barberisi, chair of our Membership & Evangelism Committee.
- Joye Jones will be offering **training for liturgists**, especially for those who haven't done it but want to try! If you have been a liturgist but haven't taken the training, this is your chance. And, if you've taken the training before and want to brush up, this is for you, too. Any age is welcome as long as you can read aloud clearly! There will be two sessions: Sunday, September 13 and Sunday, September 20. Both sessions will be held in the Sanctuary following the worship service, around 11:30 am. You need to attend only one of them. If you're interested, please let Joye know by September 10, indicating which date you prefer. If you have no preference, Joye will assign a date. Talk with Joye Jones: joyefulj@verizon.net or 240-481-9724.
- We are forming a **Disciple Bible Study Cohort** to begin next month, and there is still space for those who would like to join. *Disciple* is a 34-week course in which participants read and study the Bible in a committed group for the purpose of learning and transformation. Meeting days and times are currently TBD based on what works for the people who are interested. Email Bob Dean (rdean58@gmail.com) or Scott Roby (scottroby1125@gmail.com) with questions or interest.
- Calling all parents of **3rd-5th graders!** We are hoping to provide opportunities to help our older elementary students connect with one another in their pre-youth group years. We're envisioning offering a social and/or service activity once every few months and would love feedback and participation from parents. Please email Rev. Kara if your child is about to start grade 3, 4, or 5, and we will set a time for an initial meeting!

Staff Contacts

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 Simon Charette, Director of Music: simon@northbethesdaumc.org



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