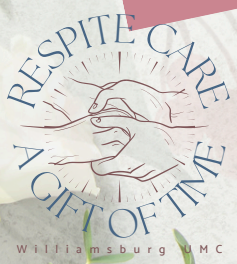


2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

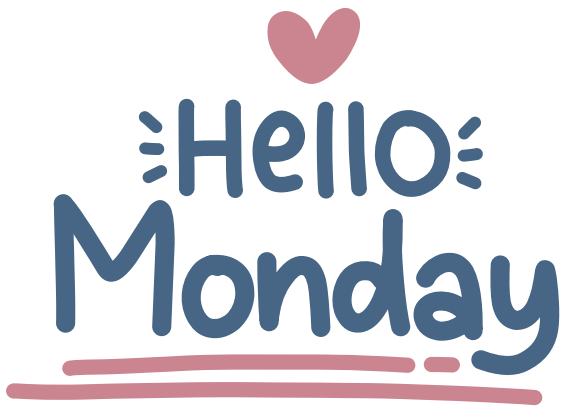
# RESPIRE

*care*



Located at  
500 Jamestown Road,  
Williamsburg VA, 23185  
t. 757-229-1771

## WHAT'S NEW AT RESPITE



We are thrilled to announce that we are now open on Mondays! Our Monday opening isn't just about serving our existing clients for an additional day; it's also an opportunity to serve new clients. It is a testament to our commitment to supporting caregivers and enhancing the quality of life for care recipients.



The goal of Respite is to continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. With the help of donations from supporters we can continue to encourage caregivers through support groups, networking opportunities and educational programs. Your donation also helps us to engage our members through enhanced music, exercise, art, education, and fellowship.

*GET INVOLVED*

If you are passionate about serving dependent seniors, we are always looking for volunteers. We are also hiring for part-time positions. You are welcome to reach out to Executive Director Conny Jude if you might be interested in either of these positions.

## Respite Elects New Board



*From left to right: Pastor Meghan Roth-Clayton, Nancy Fazzone, Carolee Dekker, Jeannie Niebel, Bo Bohanon, Rev. Neil Bright, Barbara Montieth, Rachael Carter, Deborah Hewitt, Conny Jude.  
Not pictured: Tabitha Patterson, Denise Butler, Ginger Palmore*

### New Board Off to a Fast Start

The Respite Care program started the year in great shape, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff, volunteers, generous donors, and previous board members. Coming through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone involved with the program persevered to re-open the program and continue to bring in fantastic music, art, and other activities for our members.

The Board that took office this January is building on this strength and success. New Board Chairperson Deborah Hewitt said, “The program is already in great shape. This year, we aim to take the program forward in some new ways.” The energetic board is already doing just that.

The purpose of the board is to help support the Executive Director and staff provide the best programming and care for Respite Program members at a reasonable cost. Most of the work of the board is done by its committees. Committee work is already well underway. The Fundraising Committee has developed some new activities that will add to our funds without a great deal of effort. That’s the best kind of fundraising! They also have some new ideas for making our traditional fundraisers, the Garden Party and Christmas Concert, even more fruitful, largely by reaching out to new sponsors.

The Scholarship committee has met with leaders of other community organizations to build partnerships that we hope will bring us new Respite members from areas of Williamsburg we have not reached previously. They are working on streamlining the Scholarship application process to make this less of a chore for applicants. They are even tackling the difficult issue of providing transportation to applicants who do not have a means of getting to or home from the program.

The Public Relations committee is developing plans to ‘get the word out’ about this wonderful program more broadly in the community. The use of social media, the press, speaking at community events, and broader distribution of our brochures and newsletters are among the plans.

Respite is always looking for volunteers. We are also hiring for part-time positions, and you are welcome to reach out to Executive Director Conny Jude if you might be interested in either of these positions. You can also support the program with contributions of any amount. Every dollar helps provide more and better activities and care for our wonderful members.

## GARDEN RESTORATION



The Respite Care garden has been completely renovated, making it beautiful, useable, and easy to maintain. The outdoor space right outside the Respite room on the church's lower level is a favorite place of Respite members. Most days in the spring, summer, and fall, weather permitting, they spend time out there taking in the sunshine and fresh air while enjoying the beautiful surroundings.

They can now enjoy it again, thanks to a grant from the family of a former long-time Respite member. The garden has taken various incarnations over the past several years. It was initially planted with a camellia, some azaleas, nandina, and canna flowers. Over the years, roses and ground cover were added. At one point, herbs such as rosemary and mint were planted in the garden for the Respite members to care for and enjoy tasting and smelling.



Last fall, the key structural changes were made to the garden. Most old plants were removed particularly the overgrown herbs and roses. The large camellia in the corner was retained along with the healthy azaleas. The nandinas were transplanted to where the canna had been. Instead of using mulch or groundcover small river rock was used in the large planting area, and larger rocks were laid near the church building to tie in with the entrance to the Memorial Garden.

This spring, colorful tulips, Johnny jump-ups (small pansies), ivy, and a few other flowers were planted in the containers located in the garden. As final steps, lantana will be added near the camellia, and the walls will be power-washed.

Come by and see the garden for yourself when you are at the church. You will see why it is such a popular place for our Respite members to 'hang out.' If you enjoy gardening, particularly container gardening, Respite is looking for 2 to 3 people to help change out the seasonal flowers each season. It is easy work—1 to 2 hours four times a year. The flowers will be provided! Special thanks to Laura Viancour for sharing her expertise in finalizing the garden design and for doing the initial container plantings.

# Dementia Support Group

2nd Tuesday of  
every month from  
3:30-4:30pm in  
Room 174

For caregivers taking care of loved ones with various forms of dementia. You don't have to travel this journey alone. Please join us for information and support.



# INVEST IN A LEGACY OF COMPASSION

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In every community, there exists a unique space where compassion meets action. For many in our community, that space is found within the Respite Care Center at Williamsburg United Methodist Church.

Our center serves as a lifeline for dependent seniors and their caregivers, offering stimulating activities, essential social engagement, and a comforting environment. Every dollar contributed to our cause directly impacts the well-being of our members, fostering a culture of compassion and dignity.

But we can't do it alone.

## Why Your Support Matters

- Continuity: Consistent quality care for our senior members
- Expansion: Broaden our range of activities and outreach programs
- Resourcefulness: Acquire updated materials and equipment to better serve our community
- Accessibility: Financially assist families who may not afford the full cost of care

When you invest in the Respite Care Center, you're not merely donating; you're becoming a part of a legacy of compassion that enriches the lives of both the elderly and their loving caregivers.

## Ways to Give

- One-Time Donation
- Monthly Contributions
- Sponsor an Event or Activity

Make your tax-deductible donation today and take the first step in becoming a part of our vibrant and loving community!

With heartfelt gratitude,

*The Respite Care Center Team*

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**Online Donations:**  
Scan QR code with  
your phone camera  
or follow the below  
link:



**DONATE BY MAIL:**  
Please mail your check to  
**United Methodist Church  
Respite Program**  
500 Jamestown Road,  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

**[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/RESPITECAREMINISTRY](https://tinyurl.com/respitecareministry)**

**Questions: Cornelia Jude, Executive Director 757-229-1771 Ext. 354**

**RESPITE CARE**  
**WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**500 JAMESTOWN ROAD**  
**WILLIAMSBURG VA 23185**

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