



Bensalem

United Methodist Church

November 2025 THE BUZZ

A Message from Pastor Sophy ~

Dear BUMC Community--

Maybe it's a bit cliché, but I tend to think a lot about gratitude and hospitality as we head towards the Thanksgiving holiday. This year, I'm feeling very grateful for something I never anticipated getting so excited about: a parking lot! (No one warned me when I was in seminary that I'd pray so much about pavement when I became a pastor!) Our parking lot has been in desperate need of some TLC for quite some time, and this month it will be milled and completely resurfaced. I am so grateful for the ways our congregation and Day School are coming together to make this possible. The potholes and crumbling curbs have limited our ability to hold events and build community, especially around the holidays-- but not this year! **The Church and Day School will be closed on November 20th and 21st while our pavers are working.** On Sunday, November 23rd, we'll have one combined worship service at 10am, during which we'll bless and consecrate our new parking lot together. On Saturday, December 6th, we'll hold a Christmas Open House with games, crafts, and fun for the whole family. Then on December 13th, come by for our Annual Christmas Cookie Walk! You and your family are warmly invited to join in the fun.

All of this brings me to hospitality-- to the holy work of welcoming people, making sure they have what they need, and helping them to feel a sense of belonging. Certainly, one kind of hospitality is a safe parking lot where children and folks with mobility challenges can easily move around. There are so many other kinds of hospitality that we practice here at BUMC, from our greetings in the narthex on Sunday mornings, to our school supply drive for the Parx racetrack ministry. I want to lift up in particular our new immediate aid initiative for folks experiencing financial hardship. This, too, is a sacred kind of hospitality. Every Communion Sunday, we'll be collecting grocery, gas, and pharmacy gift cards that can be quickly given out in the event of need. (You can also bring in non-perishable food items.) These cards won't solve the problem of

Bensalem United Methodist Church

4300 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem PA 19020

Rev. Sophia Gamber
rev.sophygamber@gmail.com

Office Phone: 215-245-1215
bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com

Website: Bensalem-umc.org

Sunday Morning Services: October - May

Traditional: 8:30am - Chapel
Traditional: 8:30am - Facebook Live
Celebration: 10:00am - Sanctuary

Sunday Morning Services: June - September

Traditional: 8:30am - Chapel
Traditional: 8:30am - Facebook Live
Celebration: 10:00am - Chapel

Holy Communion:
1st Sunday of the month

Outdoor services: June - September

Celebration 10:00 services are scheduled to be outside the last Sunday of the month weather permitting.

Our Mission:

"To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Our Vision:

"BUMC is a welcoming congregation centered in Christ. We commit to love and grow in connection to Christ, one another, and the world."

food insecurity, but they will bring some relief, and they demonstrate our commitment to making sure everyone has what they need to be well. If you have a need, please contact me or the church office. There is no shame in needing help. None of us can live this life on our own strength alone.

Please join me in praying for folks experiencing financial hardship, and for the successful completion of our parking lot project. With praise and thanksgiving, may we lift up all the children, families, and community members we'll welcome onto our campus in the days to come. May we root ourselves in Christ's love and kindness, and may we overflow with thankfulness. Looking forward to seeing you on Sundays, folks!

With love and care in Christ, Rev. Sophy

A Joyful Update on the BUMC Parking Lot!

We are able to share some long-awaited news! Pending weather, we will break ground on our **new parking lot on November 20th, and the work will be completed on November 22nd.** Your prayers, persistence, and generosity literally paved the way! (Get it? It's a parking lot pun!)

Getting to this point has taken a lot of work behind the scenes! In June 2025, BUMC applied for a loan with the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the UMC to cover the cost of the parking lot



repairs. Our paperwork was beautiful! Due to staffing issues and scheduling snafus at the Conference, our application review was delayed. In August, we were finally approved for the loan! But lest it be easy, we then faced further administrative obstacles to getting the funds transferred to us.

Paul Lacerte, our BUMC Leadership Board Chairperson, made many phone calls, sent many emails, and even tracked down 200-year-old paperwork (true story) until the money we were approved for was finally safely in our bank account. I hope you'll join me in offering him many thanks for his efforts!

Our parking lot repairs will allow us to safely welcome people of all ages, abilities, and mobility needs onto our beautiful church grounds. We'll be able to host more events, invite community groups into our space, and gather with greater ease.

Ministries

United Women in Faith
Bensalem Christian Day School
Christian Education
Fishing Club

Donations

General Offering
Missions
Food Pantry
PARX seasonal gift requests
Anniversary Fund
Capital Campaign

Online Donations



Webs
Vince

r submissions:
vn Lacerte

thebuzz@bensalem-umc.org

November Birthdays

5 - Joyce Dworsky
8 - Gerald Silcox
9 - Beverly Moore
9 - Connie Grove
12 - Betsy Pitcher
17 - George Dworsky
18 - Linda Evans
25 - Ken Moore

November 2nd



Capital Campaign Update

I want to lift up the ongoing work of our three-year Capital Campaign. As we come near the end of our first year, we're making really positive progress towards meeting our goals. The members of BMUC have pledged \$129,370 total, and we have already raised about \$70,871. Some of the funds have already been put to good use to repair plumbing, heating and air conditioning, the Fellowship Hall oven, our fire suppression system and many more items. Your ongoing generosity is still needed though! We will repay our Conference Loan for the parking lot from Capital Campaign funds, and there are many other important updates and repairs to our buildings that need to be made. The loving gifts of this congregation are making those things possible and allowing BUMC to step into the next season of faithful, transformative ministry.



Fall Church Work Day

Saturday, November 1, 2025

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Please help with jobs/projects that need to be done,
in keeping our facilities and outside grounds
in good condition.

There are inside jobs/projects to be done, if you don't feel
comfortable working on the outside grounds.

Come when you can – Leave when you must!

Join Us for Food and Fellowship immediately following Fall
Work Day.

Thank you, Property Management Team



A Big Thank You!

Thank you to the Boyntons for donating the "215 Years Anniversary" banner. The Boyntons would like to thank Jim C and Paul from the Property Committee for putting together the framework and installing the banner on the church grounds.

It's Showtime

Willow Manor Players is presenting *Oliver*, directed by Kim Bantle-Taylor. The show will be performed **November 7 and 15 at 7:30 pm and November 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 2:00pm**. Performances will be held at Keith Valley Middle School, 227 Meetinghouse Road Horsham. See the link or QR Code below to order tickets.

<https://www.willowmanorplayers.com/>



YOU are Invited!



United
Women
in Faith

The next meeting of United Women in Faith (UWF) is **Saturday, November 8th in the Kurtiz Room at 9am**. We will share a light breakfast, a mission moment, a short lesson, a response moment and lots of friendly conversation. Women of all ages are encouraged to participate and bring a friend or family member. This year we are learning how to 'Carry Our Faith Forward'.

Please contact Linda Evans by phone at 215-322-6964 or email at llevans@outlook.com if you have any questions. I hope YOU will join us.

Laity Sunday

This year, Laity Sunday at BUMC is on **Sunday, November 9, 2025**.

This special day celebrates the ministry of **all** Christians (yes, we are **all** called to be in ministry at BUMC). Each of us has different God-given gifts which can be used to help others come to know our Lord. This special Sunday encourages congregations to highlight the gifts and callings of lay people within the church.



The church service on this day is led totally by the laity (our lay Leader, Liz Gruenbaum, and all of us "regular people") of the church. As we did last year, part of the service will be a short Reader's Theater skit. This year it's called: "*Wake Up! The Harvest is Ready!*" Needed at each service that Sunday are: 2 liturgists, 7 actors, a "Call to Worship" leader, a prayer reader, and some special music providers.

Just so you know before you commit, 1-2 rehearsals are needed for the skit. These will occur on November 4- 8 (exact days and times to be announced). If you can be a part of this year's Laity Day, please either email George or Joyce Dworsky at worsky4@gmail.com, or call us at 215-946-5044 (please leave a message if we are not at home). Please tell us whether you can participate at the 8:30 am service, the 10:00 am service, or, if needed, could you do both services?

Please let us know your willingness to participate, TODAY!

We are looking forward to a spirit-filled Laity Sunday!

Thank you! *George and Joyce Dworsky*

Thank You, Thank You, Mr. Boscov!



The UWF sales of the "Friends Helping Friends" coupons was very successful. The UWF women were able to raise \$475 toward our pledge to Eastern PA UMF Missions Fund and local church needs. Most of the dollars received came from sales made while selling them at Boscov's at the mall on two Saturday mornings! We also gratefully thank those of our church family who purchased the coupons

from us.

Fishing Club

Our Fishing Club (*currently meeting on Sundays from 5:30-7pm*) will begin **meeting after the late service worship (about 11:10am) starting in late November**. We will meet in the Kurtiz room for a lesson, arts & crafts, games (outside if weather allows,) music and lunch.



We have been learning about the elements of worship. So far, we've studied Praise and Service. Soon, we will discuss Singing, Preaching, Thanksgiving, Offering and Praying. We link scripture to the topics and use different strategies to involve everybody.

We recently met at Styer's farm for a bright and sunny afternoon of apple picking, visiting the pumpkin patch, and a picnic with fellowship. We will try to include at least one outing per month.



Fishing Club families are invited to participate in BUMC's fall Work Day on Saturday, November 1st between 9 am and noon. There are plenty of leaves to rake, and other jobs for our kids to do.

Come to a meeting in November and discover how much fun we have--all are welcome! PS: Did you know that we have a Facebook page called "The Fishing Club at BUMC"? Check it out anytime.

A Day to Honor Our Veterans



On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity "to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

Wanting to recognize more specifically America's veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when "*they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more*" (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).

Out to Lunch Bunch

Please Join Us and Bring a Friend on **November 19th at 11:30am**. We will be enjoying a meal with fellowship at the Garden of Eatin', 964 Woodbourne Rd, Levittown. Please use the sign-up sheet, located in the narthex.



Bensalem Christian Day School

The Day School has been underway for almost two months now and our students have adjusted well to their teachers and school.

Early in October, the school observed Fire Prevention Week and we were fortunate to have fire-fighters from Bensalem Township visit with our classes. Our classes went on their first field trip to Styer Orchards for Tot Time. We picked apples and pumpkins. Our three-year olds and four-year-olds went to Shady Brook Farm.



Our annual Fall Festival welcomed the season with pumpkins and fall decorations culminating with our Halloween Parades and related events held at the end of the month.

“Food For Others” Canned Food Drive



In keeping with the spirit of Thanksgiving, the children at our Christian Day School would like to share just a small portion with those less fortunate. The children are asked to bring one or two items of canned food to share with needy families in our community. The collected canned food will be distributed to The Bensalem Lions Club who will make Thanksgiving gift baskets for families in need.

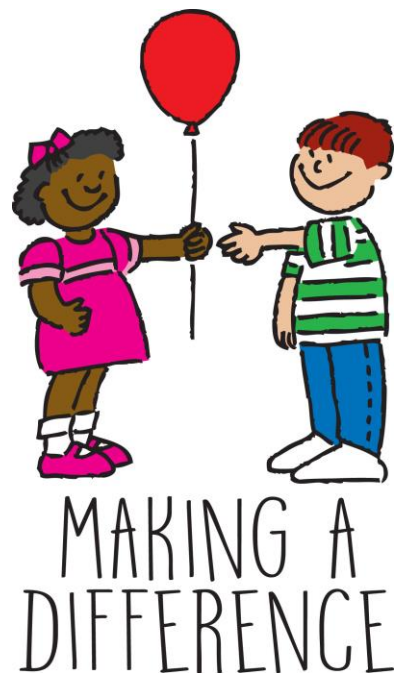
If the spirit moves you to donate some canned food, drop them off in the collection boxes located in the church narthexes **by Friday, November 14th**. Please keep the school in your prayers and stop in to visit anytime.

Lisa Woods, Director

Friends of Bensalem Christian Day School (BCDS)

We are a new group that plans to serve, literally, as “friends” of our onsite day school.

We aspire to boost school staff morale, help with fundraising, partner in philanthropic/mission endeavors, and strengthen the connection between our church and school families in any way we can. Our first such partnership will be supporting the BCDS annual “Food for Others” drive, which benefits those in need locally. **Non-perishable goods may be placed in the box in the Narthex or back of the chapel. They will be picked up on November 14th.**



The BCDS families will also be invited to share in our Fishing Club’s Heifer Project, “Coins for Cows.” If you would like to be part of this group, please reach out to Anne Drybala or Lisa Woods. Thanks for considering!

2026 Calendars!



Thank You for all the 2026 calendars you have brought to the church. The church family has provided 140! (so far) calendars for the men served by the "Seamen's Church Institute" in Philadelphia. The crewmen use them to keep track of when and where they will be in port throughout the year, and when they will be able to see their families. The calendars will be picked up early this month.

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you! **800-324-9458** and use code: **HABC001**



We have great news! Bensalem United Methodist Church will be hosting a Life Line Screening event on **Monday, November 17, 2025**. Life Line Screening is the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease-risk screenings since 1993. Life Line Screening is extending a discounted offer to all BUMC members which will identify your risk level for the following diseases:

1. Carotid Artery Disease
2. Peripheral Arterial Disease
3. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
4. Atrial Fibrillation

[Click here](http://www.ilsa.social/habc) (www.ilsa.social/habc) or call 800-324-9458 to schedule your appointment! A simple screening can be worth a lifetime.



Hanging of the Greens

Help us prepare our church for Advent and Christmas!

Sunday, November 23rd

Join us right after the 10:00 Service.

Please, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Lobby.

Pizza and drinks will be provided.

Please stay and be a part of this joyous time!

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift –
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day.

Amen.



To Support BUMC Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 6, 2025

From 1:45– 4 :15 PM

We Need Your Help to Make the Open House a
Great Event for Our Guests! Volunteer Opportunities
Include: Snack Station · Kids Craft Table · Greeters ·
Games Host --Set-Up · Fire Pit Supervisor · Greeters
Be Part Of The Team!



Cookie Walk – It's a GO!!

Our Annual Christmas Cookie Walk will be **Saturday, December 13 at 9:00 a.m. sharp!** Thank you to the volunteers willing to bake and there is lots of time & space for more. The sign-up sheet for bakers is posted in the Narthex. Any questions, please contact Anne D. or Pat C.



Please make the following change to your Directory.

Keeling, John & Janine

Jay, Emily

6540 Jefferson Ct.

Bensalem, PA 19020

JanineKeeling86@gmail.com

Jkeeling1387@gmail.com (John)

267-439-2220 (Janine's cell)



Paige Schiefer



Paige's faith journey began before she understood what church truly meant. It started with her Great-Grandmother, Marie Carp, a woman of faith whom she looked up to. When Paige was around two years old, Marie began taking her to Bensalem United Methodist Church, It helped build her spiritual foundation.

Bensalem UMC quickly became more than just a church – it became her safe space when things were tough at home. She was surrounded by family and people who loved her: her Great-Grandmother Marie, (Grandmother) Jeannette Schnarr, (Mother) Amber-Lynn Schiefer, (Father) Robert Schiefer, and her Uncle John Schiefer. Each of them has helped shape her role within the church. Bensalem UMC has always been a part of her family ever since she can remember.

As a child, Paige participated in the children's choir and Sunday school. As she grew older, she found purpose in being involved and especially helping other kids. She helped by dressing up as the Easter Bunny during the annual Easter Egg Hunt, helped at the Palm Sunday breakfast, and even cleaning the kitchen. She also did the Angel Tree and helped children in need. She has always enjoyed helping out and being part of the church family.

Outside of church, she is busy with other responsibilities. Paige is a full-time college student at Millersville University. She is majoring in Early Childhood education and can't wait to work with children. She currently has a job at Dunkin' Donuts which she works at on weekend home visits when she can. Paige may not be home on the weekends as much as she would like, but she still holds Bensalem UMC close to her heart. She will, on occasion, watch the Facebook livestream and she always asks about everyone. Even though she is busy and away from home, Church is always a place where she feels grounded.

Two of her favorite memories at Bensalem UMC are her Baptism and becoming a member in 2025. These moments reminded her to stay true to herself. She values what she has learned through the years and looks forward to growing more in her faith.

Photo Time!

Are you and your family in our last church picture directory? (It's tan in color and was printed in 2018) We cannot create a completely new directory- but we would like to prepare a photo book for the church office and include YOU! These pictures are helpful to our pastor and our planning committees.

So, would you please take a "selfie" of you and/or your family on your phone and send it to Connie Kurtiz to be printed up as a vertical picture. (OR print it up yourself if you choose) and give the vertical 5x7 shot to Connie. Thank you in advance for your participation!



TECHNOLOGY TEAM



Our church is in need of people to add to our wonderful, faithful Techno Team. If you are computer literate in any way, you could be a part of running our Sunday morning, on-screen presence, at our 10am Celebration Worship Service. We would like to add enough people so that each person would only need to do techno once a month, or less. Training is minimal and would be provided.

Also, looking ahead to the New Year, 2026, we will be searching for people to livestream our Celebration Service. We currently are livestreaming our 8:30 am Traditional Service (Thank you Bob and Linda Evans and Nate Whiegar!), but we

would like to offer both styles of worship in our future online presence.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in either of these two areas of service, please let Joyce Dworsky, (215 946 5044; worsky4@gmail.com) or anyone on our Communications Team know.

Parx Christmas

This Christmas, **United Women in Faith** is requesting donations of food and grocery store gift cards. We are asking those who are able to once again participate in Reverse Advent. This charitable initiative encourages giving, instead of receiving, during the Advent season. Traditionally, an advent calendar counts down the days to Christmas by providing a small gift each day. In contrast, from December 1 to 24, Reverse Advent participants are asked to **DONATE** a food or personal care item each day to help those in need.

As we did previously, we are requesting non-perishable/shelf stable food items for the families of the Parx backlot employees or the men who live in the on-site barracks. You choose which list of items to donate. Keep in mind that the men living on-site only have a microwave for cooking and have limited kitchen tools.

Once your list is complete, bring your boxes/bags to church and place them around the Christmas tree in the narthex of the main church or the tree in the chapel and know that you're giving a Christmas present to people who really need it.

Not only is Reverse Advent a fun thing for families to do together, it teaches children/youth the importance of helping others and seeing the bigger picture at Christmas. If purchasing all the items on the list would strain your budget, perhaps you and a family member or friend can share the task of purchasing the items or simply donate what you can afford.

Your donations will be given to Rev. Dr. Rick Bunker, Chaplain at Philadelphia Park, for distribution to the backlot personnel and their families. As we celebrate our Savior's birth, let us spread the joy of his coming.



Reverse Advent
Family Donations List

Date	Item	Date	Item
Dec. 1	Cereal	Dec. 13	White rice
Dec. 2	Oatmeal	Dec. 14	Diced tomatoes w/chilies
Dec. 3	Peanut Butter	Dec. 15	Canned chili
Dec. 4	Jelly	Dec. 16	Canned tuna
Dec. 5	Tomato soup	Dec. 17	Canned chicken
Dec. 6	Chicken noodle soup	Dec. 18	Shelf stable milk
Dec. 7	Box of pasta	Dec. 19	Canned pasta
Dec. 8	Spaghetti sauce	Dec. 20	Canned corn
Dec. 9	Instant mashed potatoes	Dec. 21	Canned black beans
Dec. 10	Stovetop stuffing mix	Dec. 22	Crackers or cookies
Dec. 11	Brown gravy mix	Dec. 23	Complete pancake mix
Dec. 12	Velveeta mac & cheese	Dec. 24	Canned fruit

Reverse Advent
Men's Donations List

Date	Item	Date	Item
Dec. 1	Microwave mac & cheese	Dec. 13	Shelf stable milk
Dec. 2	Spam	Dec. 14	Canned chili
Dec. 3	Cup of soup	Dec. 15	Canned stew
Dec. 4	Cup of noodles	Dec. 16	Canned tuna
Dec. 5	Snack pack pudding	Dec. 17	Canned chicken
Dec. 6	Snack pack fruit	Dec. 18	Canned pasta
Dec. 7	Snack pack applesauce	Dec. 19	Canned pasta
Dec. 8	Granola bars	Dec. 20	Canned corned beef hash
Dec. 9	Peanut butter	Dec. 21	Crackers/Cracker packets
Dec. 10	Trail mix or nut packets	Dec. 22	Men's shampoo
Dec. 11	Ramen noodles	Dec. 23	Men's shave cream
Dec. 12	Microwave popcorn	Dec. 24	Men's Deodorant

Upcoming Events at a Glance

November 1st - Fall Work Day
 November 2nd - Daylight Savings Ends (Fall Back)
 November 8th - United Women in Faith
 November 9- Laity Sunday
 November 11th - Veterans Day
 November 17th - Life Line Screening
 November 20th - Parking Lot Ground Breaking

November 23rd - Parking Lot Blessing
 November 23rd - Hanging of the Greens
 November 27th - Happy Thanksgiving
 December 6th - BUMC Open House
 December 13th - Cookie Walk
 December 21st - Caroling at Juniper Village
 December 24th - Christmas Eve Services

BUMC Celebrates 215 Years.

A visit by area dignitaries. A wonderful service. Pastor Sophy (#140) added her name to the list of 139 Pastors who have served BUMC! And...of course, had food and fellowship!



Bensalem United Methodist Church
4300 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem PA

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Parking Lot Groundbreaking

Thursday, November 20th 10AM

Parking Lot Blessing

Sunday, November 23rd 10AM



Native American Heritage Month 2025

November is Native American Heritage Month, also referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. George H. W. Bush pushed forward a joint resolution that made November of 1990 the first official National Native American Heritage Month. Since then, cultural sites, museums, and native tribal councils have organized events to highlight their rich and diverse culture and history, to educate the young and to help Indigenous people continue to thrive.

Native American Heritage Month is more than dates on the calendar. It is a reminder to honor Native communities, their traditions, and the important contributions of Indigenous communities in the United States. While we often hear the Americas referred to as the “New World,” the culture and history of this area of the world was anything but new when it was first discovered by Europeans.

This month is also meant to raise awareness about the unique historical and present-day struggles of Indigenous people in the US. Today, many Native American families still face challenges in housing, education, and access to essential services and clean water. The funds for many support programs previously created by local, state and federal organizations to help address these issues and improve the quality of life for Native nations have recently been cut or the programs have been discontinued.

American Indians and Alaska Natives make up about 2 percent of the total US population. There are hundreds of tribes across the nation, but, according to research, most people can only name a few, and even fewer are represented in today’s media.

For those of us living in Eastern Pennsylvania, this month is a wonderful opportunity to research our local history and learn more about the Lenape people who first called the land we now live on home. The Lenape are the original inhabitants of eastern Pennsylvania, southern New York, New Jersey, and northern Delaware (collectively referred to as the Lenapehokink--"land of the Lenape"). For over 10,000 years they have been the

Members of the Lenape Nation Of Pennsylvania are the descendants of the Lenape people who stayed in their homeland and of those who went west to Ohio and returned. They are the Indigenous people of this land now called Pennsylvania. All members must submit records of their Lenape genealogy to be considered for membership. Today they are active in the revival of tradition and community.

Pennsylvania is the only state in the land of the Lenape that has not recognized its Indigenous peoples. Lenape nations in Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Canada have been recognized by their respective federal governments. Lenape nations in New Jersey and Delaware have been recognized by their respective state governments.

The Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania is actively pursuing recognition by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with the support of their many community friends and partners in Pennsylvania (and beyond). They are people who work in Pennsylvania businesses, vote for Pennsylvania officials, protect Pennsylvania rivers and watersheds, and attend Pennsylvania schools, colleges, and universities. They are currently calling on Pennsylvania officials to affirm their rights and acknowledge the legacy of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania. They have struggled for over 30 years in their attempt to garner recognition as the remaining Indigenous people of Pennsylvania. They also invite us all into a more harmonious and peaceful relationship with these lands at this point in our collective human history. Go to <https://www.lenape-nation.org/> to learn more.

Every day is a good day to learn about Native People, communities, and issues. But this is especially true during Native American Heritage Month. Celebrate by learning about the history and culture of Native peoples, attending events celebrating Native-cultures, or sharing the stories of Native tribes and individuals. Start with small actions and help keep these traditions alive.

Regardless of how you choose to recognize the accomplishments of Indigenous peoples, be sure to pass the information on to family and friends or make it a group effort. We can all be part of creating a world in which Indigenous Peoples' contributions, culture, and history are respected, and where policies, practices, and procedures improve outcomes for Indigenous People and communities.



Did you know...



Question 1: Why did the United States government establish Indian reservations?

Answer: The government aimed to resolve the “Indian problem” by forcibly relocating Native Americans through policies like the Indian Removal Act (1830). This led to events like the Trail of Tears and the Navajo Long Walk, displacing Tribes from their ancestral lands.

Question 2: How did the government decide where to locate the reservations?

Answer: Reservations were typically placed in arid, unsuitable areas for agriculture and isolated from growing settlements. As settlers expanded westward, the government reclaimed most lands, pushing Native Americans to less-desirable territories. Currently, reservations occupy just 2.3% of the originally promised land.

Question 3: If I were to visit an Indian reservation, what should I expect to see today?

Answer: You would see a proud people — strong in tradition and values — but living in or near third-world conditions. Drive around the reservation and you’ll see many of our people living in run-down houses and trailers, many of which are without electricity, telephone, running water, or a sewage system. Native Americans on reservations face extreme poverty, making them the poorest population in the Northern Hemisphere.

Question 4: How can these conditions exist in a rich and powerful country like the U.S.?

Answer: Historical government policies concentrated Native Americans in remote, barren regions with added transportation costs. Reservation lands, held in trust, discourage outside investment and job creation. Unemployment rates range from 35-85%, and basic services are often hours away, contributing to challenging living conditions. Even the most basic services — healthcare, retail stores, pharmacies, and schools — are often an hour or more away, and families are forced to choose between using what little money they have to buy gasoline for the car or food for the children.

Question 5: Why didn’t I know about this before?

Answer: Lack of awareness is common, and sharing information is crucial to addressing the issue. Urgent needs include food and water; one in four Native Americans on reservations lacks sufficient food. Southwest Reservation Aid® (SWRA) focuses on building self-sufficient communities, starting with providing essential resources.

See how you can take action and spread awareness to address immediate needs... —>



Merry Christmas

Join in the Fun!
Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 6 2025
From 2 - 4 PM

Celebrate the Joy and Wonder of the Season

Lots of Family-Friendly Activities
Kids Crafts • Music • Stories • Face Painting
Tasty Treats • S'mores • Games • Photo Op

Bring your family! Invite your friends!
Let the fun begin!

Bensalem United Methodist Church
4300 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem PA



B NOVEMBER 2025 B

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BEL – Belmont Hills CRN – Cornwells FST – Faust RSH – Rush STR – Struble VLY – Valley	SHF – Shafer SNY – Snyder BHS – Bensalem High	National Native American Heritage Month				1 All Saints Day
2 Standard Time Begins	3 Marking Period #1 Ends	4 Election Day – Professional Development Schools Closed, Offices Open	5	6	7 SHF Veterans' Day Program SNY Veterans' Day Program BHS Student of the Month Breakfast	8
9	10	11 Veterans' Day – Schools and Offices Closed	12 Report Card #1 on SCP	13 STR Picture Re-Take Day World Kindness Day	14 VLY Picture Re-Take Day BHS Drama Club presents Rumors – 7 PM	15 BHS 14th Annual Craft Fair – 9 AM to 2 PM BHS Drama Club presents Rumors – 7 PM
16	17 BEL Picture Re-Take Day VLY Book Fair thru Nov. 21 American Education Week thru Nov. 21	18 CRN Picture Re-Take Day FST PTG Meeting – 6:30 PM	19 CRN Red Robin (Horizon Blvd) Fundraiser – 4 to 8 PM CRN Barnes & Noble Night (Neshaminy) – 5:30 to 8 PM FST Picture Re-take Day RSH Picture Re-take Day Education Support Professionals Day	20 National Parental Involvement Day	21 Substitute Educators Day	22
23 National Family Week thru Nov. 29	24 CRN Kids Helping Kids Jump-A-thon	25 Act 80 Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences No School for Students, Offices Open	26 Act 80 Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences No School for Students, Offices Open	27 Thanksgiving Day – Schools and Offices Closed	28 Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed	29
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Updated: 10/16/2025