

Bensalem United Methodist Church

October 2025 THE BUZZ



A Message from Pastor Sophy ~

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9 NIV)

Grace and peace in Christ, BUMC beloveds!

Friends, October is upon us! This is one of my favorite times of year, when the summer heat is finally receding and the leaves are starting to show their glory. The last of the summer produce is harvested, the pumpkins and gourds grow fat on their vines, and the earth starts preparing to rest and recover from its season of growth. This is often a time when I celebrate the lessons I've learned and consider the growth that I still need to do in the seasons to come. I invite you to take a moment to pray through the verse from Galatians above and reflect on what this past year has held for you. Where have you witnessed goodness, growth, and grace? What new lessons have you learned? How is God calling you to reflect on the gifts and challenges of this past season? What good are you being called to do? If you've grown weary, how can you care for your body and spirit in the days to come?

This October will bring us many opportunities to celebrate our amazing church community and reflect on what's to come. It's truly a jam-packed month! Coming up first are special services for World Communion Sunday on October 5th in celebration of our unity with Christians around the world. We'll close out this month with our Halloween Trunk or Treat on Saturday October 25th, followed by our **215th Anniversary Celebration Service and Hymn Sing on October 26th**. BUMC has been in ministry to the Bensalem community for 215 years! Praise God! For 215 years this church has not given up and has not grown weary of doing good! What a blessing and a gift. I am so excited to celebrate the harvests of your faithful and loving efforts.

With joy and gratitude-- Pastor Sophy

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: 10:00m – 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."

Celebration Worship Service Reminder

This Sunday, October 5th, the late service returns to the main church. This is also World Communion Sunday. We will be celebrating with different breads and juices that are used in other parts of the world. Come join us!



Celebrating 215 years of Service!
October 26th, 2025 One Service at 10 am.



In a rural section of Pennsylvania known as Bensalem, an event of great importance took place. A group of people gathered to dedicate a church – a new church. The year was 1810. The first person from Bensalem, of whom we have any record, to embrace the Methodist religion was Mrs. Martha Vansant,

who experienced the blessings of a renewed heart at a camp meeting in Newtown in 1805. Our historic chapel was built in 1810, and in 1811, Francis Asbury, the very first bishop of the Methodist Church, preached on our church grounds! We have come a long way since then, as we continue to serve God and the Bensalem Community. **Please join us for our Special Anniversary Service on October 26th.**

Anniversary Sunday Hymn Sing

The Anniversary Hymn Sing will take place on **Sunday, October 26 from 2 – 3 pm** in Bensalem UMC's Historic Chapel. We will sing favorite hymns as we celebrate 215 years of praising and serving our Lord in the Bensalem community.



2025 Charge Conference

This year's Charge Conference will be on Monday, October 27th, at 7:00pm in the Main Sanctuary. Charge Conference is an opportunity every year for the members of BUMC to meet with their pastor and District Superintendent to discuss last year's mission and ministry, review our finances, elect new leaders, and set clergy compensation. We will celebrate all that we've accomplished together through Christ over the 2024-2025 year, and we'll think critically and prayerfully about our goals for the coming year. ALL church members are encouraged to attend, ask questions, and share ideas (there will be snacks!). Please keep your church SAS Board, pastor, and District Superintendent in prayer.

Ministries

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

Donations

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

Online Donations



Website and Newsletter submissions:
Vince Drybala and Dawn Lacerte
thebuzz@bensalem-umc.org

October Birthdays

2 - Dick Moore
3 Lillian MacCauley
5 Sophia Hennessey
7 - Bill Wingert
13 - Anne Drybala
21 - Joan Grow
25 - Kim Bantle- Taylor
25 - Nancy Zielanski
30 - Jacob Cridland



Fishing Club

Our BUMC Christian Education program will begin on **Sunday, October 5th at 5:30 pm** on the church's front lawn (weather permitting.) We are excited to offer a multigenerational curriculum that is intended to have all participants grow in their faith while having fun.



People of all ages and stages are encouraged to attend. We would prefer that you attend with your child(ren) rather than merely dropping them off and returning to pick them up later.

We endeavor to have something for every interest: games, food, music, Bible based activities and lessons. We also plan and support family outings and mission work that our children and youth can help accomplish.

We actually do “go fishing” from time to time. Our all-encompassing goal, though, is to create some “fishers of men” as Jesus instructed us. Come and bring a friend!

United Women in Faith Invite YOU

The next meeting of United Women in Faith (UWF) is **Saturday, October 11th in the Kurtiz Room at 9am**. Women of all ages are encouraged to participate and bring a friend or family member.

The meeting includes a light breakfast, a mission moment, a short lesson, a response moment, and lots of friendly conversation. This year we are learning how to ‘Carry Our Faith Forward’.

Please contact Linda Evans by phone at 215-322-7172 or email at llevans@outlook.com if you have any questions. I hope YOU will join us!



Out to Lunch Bunch

Please Join Us and Bring a Friend on **October 15th at 11:30am**. We will be enjoying a meal with fellowship at Peppi's Pizza, 138 N. Flowers Mill Rd, Langhorne. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.

On the Lighter Side-

After starting a new diet, I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window was a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, “Lord, it is up to you. If you want me to have any of those delicious baked goods, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery.”

And sure enough, God answered my prayer! On the eighth time round the block, there it was!

October 16th is World Food Day

Each year on October 16, World Food Day is held to commemorate the founding of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This year FAO is celebrating its 80th anniversary. World Food Day is dedicated to raising awareness about global hunger and malnutrition.



The theme for this year's World Food Day campaign - *Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future* - reflects the urgency and promise of collective action. Progress depends on what we are able to do together: across institutions, across borders, and within communities. According to the FAO, more than 3.1 billion people (about 42% of the world's population) are unable to afford a healthy diet, causing rising hunger and malnutrition. Children and women are often those most affected.

World Food Day emphasizes the importance of providing a greater diversity of nutritious foods in our fields, in our markets, and on our tables. This initiative seeks to enhance food security and nutrition for everyone while promoting sustainability and resilience in food systems. It advocates for a global commitment to ensuring access to safe, affordable, and nutritious foods, addressing the interconnected challenges of hunger, poverty, and climate change.

Food is a human right and a blessing from God (1 Corinthians 9:4; Exodus 23:25). Human decisions, however, such as unfair government policies, corruption and land grabbing, can leave people hungry. Changes due to human-caused climate change also contribute to food shortages. Effective government and corporate policies can create more equitable food systems.

Farmers produce enough food to feed more than the global population, yet hunger persists. Around 673 million people are living with hunger due to extreme weather events, such as floods, drought, and prolonged hot weather, conflicts, economic downturns, and inequality. Additionally, 1.3 billion tons of food is lost or wasted annually (that's roughly 20% of all food produced). World Food Day reminds us that we all have a role to play; we can reduce food waste, donate to a local food bank, support small scale farms, and call on our government to tackle inequality and poverty and to protect the environment.

Donate \$5.00 For Missions



Donate \$5.00 to support Bensalem United Women in Faith mission projects and receive a 25% off BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS One Day Only Discount **Shopping Pass**. Passes apply to purchases made at any Boscov's location or online on Wednesday, October 22, 2025*. Stores will be open 8 am to 11 pm. In addition, you will be eligible to win fabulous register-to-win prizes including shopping sprees and more!

This is an easy way to support missions and save at Boscov's! Tell your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. See Connie Kurtiz or any UWF member to get your Shopping Pass now.

**Some exclusions apply. See Shopping Pass for details.*

Laity Sunday

This year, Laity Sunday will be celebrated at BUMC 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 4th, 5th, or 6th (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 them 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, on or before Monday, October 27th.

We are looking forward to a spirit-filled Laity Sunday, once again, this November!

Thank you!

George and Joyce Dworsky

Christmas Cards for Prisoners Project

It’s that special time of year again. Time to share Christmas greetings with inmates! Receiving a card with an encouraging note sharing the message of God’s love from someone “outside” is a welcome and meaningful gift.

Bensalem United Women in Faith would like church members to write a few caring words and only sign their first name to cards that we will supply. **They should be returned on or before Anniversary Sunday, October 26.** Packets, each containing 6 cards, will be available in boxes in the Narthex outside the main sanctuary and the chapel. Take as many packets as you will be able to complete. Please follow the directions included with the packet.



Your participation is a perfect way to remember the true reason for the Christmas season.

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



Bensalem Christian Day School



The Day School has been underway for almost a month now. There are still a few openings left. Please stop in the Day School office for more information.

Special thanks to Nancy, our Custodian and the Property Management Team for all their help in preparing the building for the start of this school year. Your continued support for the Day School is much appreciated.

Please stop by anytime to visit our Day School.
Lisa Woods, Director

Thank You!

We were blessed to have people from our congregation to share their special music with us during our worship services this summer! Our thanks go out to **Betty Miles, Joyce and George**

Dworsky, Jim Stubenhofer, Greg Boynton, Connie Kurtiz and Michael Pugh.

You all added so much to our worship experience!

Now, an important request: Do you sing or play an instrument? (Or know someone who does??) We are seeking singers and musicians to help out with accompaniment and music ministry during our 8:30 am Traditional Worship Service, as well as special music for our 10:00 am Celebration Service. All instruments, vocal parts, and skill levels are invited to share their "joyful noise!"

Please contact Pastor Sophy if you are interested or want more information.



IMPORTANT !

Hello to all BUMC staff and volunteers who work with our children, youth, or vulnerable adults. You should have received an email last month from Joyce Dworsky, asking you to send for, or renew your required Child Abuse or Criminal Background Clearances. These clearances are free for volunteers, are good for 5 years, and are required by BUMC's Safe Sanctuaries 2025 Policy. This policy is required of us by our Eastern Pa. UMC Conference, in order that we may work with the children, youth, or vulnerable adults of our church. People often say, "Oh, nothing bad can happen here," but it can and it does happen in churches that have said those very same words! It is our responsibility to keep all the people who walk through our doors, or who worship with us online, safe, while sharing the love of God with them.



Also required, is Safe Sanctuaries Training, once a year, for everyone requiring clearances. On Wednesday, September 17, thanks to Rev. Don Keller of Scottsville UMC, we held a training session at our church, which was also shared on Zoom that evening, thanks to the technical know-how and hard work of Bob and Linda Evans!

We know that many of you were not able to take part in that training. However, you must still receive training, somehow: either at another church, or through our Conference. Luckily, a training session was just announced, through the Conference. **"A Safe Sanctuaries training will be provided via Zoom on Saturday, October 11, from 9:30am-12pm"**. Below is the link to register:
<https://member.gnjumc.org/default.aspx?page=3352&occurrenceId=867&profileId=1679>

FRIENDLY REMINDER: Also, if you have not yet given copies of your new or updated clearances to Joyce Dworsky or Anne Drybala, please do so ASAP. If you need help or have questions about training sessions, we will be happy to assist you. We are required to keep your clearance copies under lock and key, and to have you update them as that becomes necessary.

In all of our ministries with children, youth, and vulnerable adults, our Church is committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ at all levels of the church, so that each child/youth/vulnerable adult will be "...surrounded by steadfast love, established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal." (Baptismal Covenant II, United Methodist Hymnal, p. 44)



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/>

2026 Calendars Arriving?

PLEASE pass them along to Connie Kurtiz. As we have done for several years, they will be donated to the seamen on the cargo ships that come into the Port of Philadelphia. The crewmen keep note of the dates that they will be in ports where they might get to see family members. Your donated calendars go to these men. Right now we have 110 calendars turned in. Connie Kurtiz will collect the calendars until **November 9th**, when they will be picked up by a representative of the "Seafarer's International House" which is an arm of the "Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia".



6th Annual Cookie Walk



Our Annual Cookie Walk will be **Saturday, December 13th at 9:00 a.m. sharp!** We need volunteers willing to bake or the Cookie Walk cannot be held. The sign-up sheet for bakers is posted in the Narthex. Any questions, please contact Anne Drybala. or Pat Cielinski.

Summer Services Outside

As in the past, this June through September, our BUMC family worshiped in God's fresh air in front of our Historic Chapel, built in 1810. Summer worship for the second service (Celebration Service) was held outside on the last Sunday of each month, weather permitting. What a joyful experience!



Ott's Taekwon- Do

ITF Taekwon-Do emphasizes core values, or tenets, that guide student behavior, including courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control, and indomitable spirit. Taekwondo Do training improves muscular strength, flexibility, endurance, agility and reflexes. Students will learn effective self-defense techniques, building confidence and a sense of security. Ott's Taekwon-Do offers traditional martial arts training for individuals of all ages and skill levels.





Joyce & Ernita Johnson



We are blessed to celebrate the inspiring journey of two devoted members of our BUMC family — Joyce and her daughter Ernita, whose legacy of faith and service spans over five decades.

Joyce first came to Bensalem United Methodist Church in 1971 when she began working as an aide at the Day School. Although she lived in Levittown at the time, she brought her two young children with her and soon made BUMC their spiritual home, officially joining in 1975.

Joyce's daughter, Ernita, grew up at BUMC and was confirmed here as a young adult. Both children attended faithfully throughout their youth. Ernita went on to attend Penn State University, then moved to Michigan, where she had a successful 31-year career at Ford Motor Company and earned her MBA from Northwestern University. Yet, no matter how far she went, Ernita always came back to worship at BUMC during breaks and vacations.

Joyce's late husband, Ernest, and son Mark also joined in worship from time to time.

Joyce has given generously of her time and talents over the years, serving on many church committees and roles, including Palm Sunday Breakfast setup, Christian Day School Board, Sunday School Teacher, Communion Steward, Sunday Service Nursery Attendant, and Advent Reader.

Following her mother's example, Ernita rejoined BUMC in 2021 and has jumped into service with enthusiasm. She is currently the Lead Usher for the 8:30 AM service, a member of the Worship Committee, and a volunteer on several of the same committees her mother served.

Joyce has dedicated her life to early childhood education since 1971 and has owned her own facility since 1992 — and she's still going strong today!

After retiring in 2017 from Ford, Ernita has worked as a consultant and now serves as the Director of the family-owned daycare center. She is also an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Philadelphia Green's Ladies Golf Club.

When asked about their favorite moments at BUMC, both Joyce and Ernita agreed: fellowship with other church members has always been the most meaningful. From Palm Sunday breakfasts to the annual church picnic, it's the time spent with the BUMC community that stands out.

We are so grateful for Joyce and Ernita's enduring presence, leadership, and love for BUMC. Their story reminds us that the heart of our church is found in the people who serve, love, and grow together through every season of life.

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

See the attachment for more information.

[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.

Pocono Plateau - Thank You



Pocono Plateau would like to take a moment and thank the amazing summer volunteers who make our summer season possible. If you are interested in being a volunteer in 2026 and want to learn more about what that means, please email director@poconoplateau.org. We welcome you to explore serving in this transformational ministry!

Becca & Jason Caporale-Guarino (Becca and Jason are the son and daughter-in-law of Mike and Lori Caporale) - We cannot imagine summer without these two! For the past few years, they have given up many weeks in summer to be with us as an extra set of hands during our overnight season. Whether in the kitchen, helping with maintenance, driving the camp van, boosting morale, or organizing summer staff bonding experiences, Becca and Jason's love for Pocono Plateau shines through in their willingness to be the hands and feet of Christ.



TRUNK or treat

Please join us

Saturday
October 25

11AM to 1PM

BENSALEM UMC

4300 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem PA

Join in the Fun!
Christmas Open House

Saturday, November 29, 2025
From 2 – 4 PM

Celebrate the Joy and Wonder of the Season

Lots of Family-Friendly Activities
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

Upcoming Events at a Glance

October 5th - World Communion Sunday
 October 5th - Fishing Club
 October 11th - United Women in Fatih
 October 15th - Out to Lunch Bunch
 October 16th - World Food Day
 October 22nd - Boscov's Shopping
 October 25th - Trunk or Treat
 October 26th - BUMC's **215th Anniversary!** (One combined service, Main Sanctuary, at 10 am)
 October 26th - Hymn Sing in our Historic Chapel
 October 27th - Charge Conference
 November 1st - Fall Work Day
 November 9- Laity Sunday
 November 17th - Life Line Screening
 November 23- Hanging of the Greens
 November 29th -Christmas Open House
 December 13th - Cookie Walk



OCTOBER 2025



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	Crime Prevention Month Italian American Heritage Month Learning Disabilities Awareness Month	National Bullying Prevention Month National Principal's Month Polish American Heritage Month	1	2 Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday/ International Day of Nonviolence School Custodian Appreciation Day Yom Kippur – Schools and Offices Closed	3 CRN Fun Run Gr. K-2 – 9:30 AM CRN Fun Run Gr. 3-6 – 2:45 PM CRN Fun Run Assembly – 3 PM	4
5 Fire Prevention Week thru Oct. 11	6 VLY Picture Day	7 Sukkot thru Oct. 13	8 STR Picture Day International Walk/Roll to School Day	9	10	11 BHS Band Clothing Drive – 9 AM to 12 PM
12	13 National School Lunch Week thru Oct. 17	14 FST PTG Meeting – 6:30 PM Shemini Atzeret	15 CRN ELD Family Engagement Night – 6 PM SNY Picture Re-Take Day Simchat Torah	16 BEL Picture Day VLY School-Wide Night	17 CRN Egg Drop Gr. 3 & 5 – 2:30 PM CRN Trunk or Treat – 6:30 to 8 PM (Rain Date: Oct. 24) FST Picture Day FST Trunk or Treat	18 Dhanteras
19	20 Diwali – Schools and Offices Closed National School Bus Safety Week thru Oct. 24	21 B.A.D.G.E. Meeting in Shafer Library – 7 PM CRN Picture Day CRN Title I and H&S Meeting – 7 PM	22	23 RSH Family Fun Night – 6 to 7:30 PM Red Ribbon Week thru Oct. 31	24 BHS Homecoming Game vs. Truman – 7 PM United Nations Day	25 SNY Fall Fling at BHS 11 AM to 4 PM
26	27 RSH Picture Day	28 SHF Picture Re-Take Day	29	30	31 CRN Halloween Parade – 2:30 PM Halloween	