



# Bensalem United Methodist Church

## February 2026 THE BUZZ

### A Message from Pastor Sophy ~

Dear BUMC Beloveds,

As we step into the heart of February, we find ourselves at a unique intersection of the calendar. The season of Epiphany, when we encounter revelations of Christ's divine nature and majesty, gives way to the long season of Lent- a solemn time of prayerful introspection, meditation, and preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday ushers us into a dual encounter with our mortality and our need for forgiveness, reconciliation, and God's grace. Our journey through Lent towards Holy Week and Easter calls us to practices of confession and repentance as we consider the ways we have fallen short of God's call to love our neighbors and be peacebuilders for God's Kingdom.

Our Sunday Worship in February and March will be centered on two core themes: *Welcoming* and *Peacebuilding*. For the first three weeks of February, we'll explore how God calls Christians into practices of bold Biblical welcome and radical hospitality towards strangers, neighbors, and each other. Later, as we begin our journey to Holy Week and Easter through the season of Lent, we'll dig into the stories of Jesus' earthly ministry to discover what it means to be peacebuilders in our own time. This journey is one we are meant to walk together, and I invite you to do so by checking out any of the fellowship, scripture study, prayer, worship, faith-based advocacy, and community care opportunities shared in this newsletter. Read a little further to find the worship details for Ash Wednesday, the Wednesday night Lenten Services, and Holy Week.

Beloveds, we are living in a season of history that requires our moral attention, spiritual witness, and commitment to living out some of the highest ideals of Christian life: safeguarding human dignity, building beloved community, and working together for peace, justice, and the common welfare of all. At a time when people are quick to pick a side, cast blame, and declare some people more worthy of safety and dignity than others, we are called as Christians to practice a radical welcome of all people. In a world that is increasingly violent, chaotic, and cruel, we are called as Christians to be peacebuilders. *So Beloveds, let us learn the things that make for peace, from the One who is called the Prince of Peace.*

Grace and peace in Christ our Lord,  
Pastor Sophy

### Bensalem United Methodist Church

4300 Hulmeville Road  
Bensalem PA 19020

**Rev. Sophia Gamber**  
[rev.sophygamber@gmail.com](mailto:rev.sophygamber@gmail.com)

**Office Phone: 215-245-1215**  
[bensaleumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bensaleumcoffice@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:  
1<sup>st</sup> 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:**

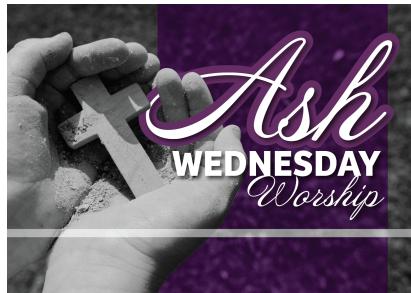
"BUMC is a welcoming congregation centered in Christ. We commit to love and grow in connection to Christ, one another, and the world."

## Ash Wednesday Worship Service

### 6:30pm Wednesday February 18th, BUMC Historic Chapel

Every year on Ash Wednesday, we gather as a community to face two deep truths: we are limited and mortal, and we all have gone astray from God's will for a loving, just, and peaceful life for all creation. Together, we will remember that we belong to God and we ask for God's grace to guide us back to ways of peace.

Can't make the Ash Wednesday Service? Stop by BUMC from 11:00am to 1pm on February 18th to receive a blessing and imposition of ashes.



## Ecumenical Wednesday Lenten Worship Services

Our Ash Wednesday service is the first night of the **Ecumenical Lenten Worship Series, hosted every Wednesday night at 7pm during Lent (Wednesday February 18 - Wednesday April 1)**. These services will be hosted at different churches throughout the Bensalem/Lower Bucks County area.

- Feb 18 Ash Wednesday: Bensalem UMC
- Feb 25 Peace Lutheran Church, 3900 Humeville Road Bensalem, Pa
- Mar 4 Wilkinson United Methodist Church, 1601 State Road Bensalem, Pa.
- Mar 11 Bensalem Presbyterian Church, 2826 Bristol Road Bensalem, Pa
- Mar 18 Eddington Presbyterian Church, 3650 Bristol Pike Bensalem, Pa
- Mar 25 Bensalem African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1200 Bridgewater Road, Cornwells, Pa

## Friends of Bensalem Christian Day

### School

Our Friends of Bensalem Christian Day School will offer a "Parents Night Out" on the evening of **Friday, February 13th from 6-8:30 pm**. If you are interested in participating (as child care helper or as an evening out without your child(ren), please reach out to Anne Drybala ([adrybala@comcast.net](mailto:adrybala@comcast.net) or 215-208-0181, text preferred) or Lisa Woods (215-245-1215 please leave a message if she's busy at school.)

Thank you for supporting our beloved preschool.



## 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



Website and Newsletter submissions:  
Vince Drybala and Dawn Lacerte  
[thebuzz@bensalem-umc.org](mailto:thebuzz@bensalem-umc.org)

## February Birthdays

2 - Ivan Lacerte  
10 - Sean Hennessey  
11 - Marie Carp  
22 - Judy McNally

## February 2nd



## Fishing Club

Fishing Club continues to meet on Sundays after the 10 am worship service, weather permitting. We encourage everyone to stay and check us out, because we aspire to be an inclusive, intergenerational group.

We are thankful to everyone who donated hats, mittens, socks and scarves to our community outreach project. We were proud to share them with the Red Cross Homeless Shelter in Levittown.

On Saturday, February 7th, we will meet at Bensalem High School for open swimming-all are welcome, families are invited. Come join the fun.

We will then have a "Super Bowl Tailgate" meeting after church on February 8th. In addition to fun food and games, there will be a lesson on "Victory through Christ."

Come "fishing" with us anytime!



**"BEHIND THE SCENES".....**Did you receive a church worship bulletin last Sunday ? Ever wonder how it was organized.... and printed.....and folded ? Look at the picture and you'll see. These faithful folks gather every Thursday and take the service outline from Pastor Sophy ....add to that the activities coming up and mission donation opportunities and carefully fit all that information into the program you receive each Sunday morning ! NOT an easy task ! So a large THANK YOU to this faithful group



**2026 - 2027**  
**Day School Registration** **Mark your calendars! Spread the Word!**



**Day School Open House**  
**February 23rd and 24th**

**9:30am to 11:30am**

## Bensalem Christian Day School

During the month of January, our children learned more about wintertime and good health habits. Many songs and art projects centered around these topics.

During the week of January 26th, each class had special Teddy Bear days. Each child brought his/her favorite stuffed animal to school.

February is heart month, so we will be talking about our hearts and how to keep them healthy.

**On February 13th, we will be having a Parent's Night Out from 6pm-8:30pm. On Saturday, February 28th from 9am-2pm we will be having a Book, Media, Game, Toy and Puzzle Sale.**

Registration for September 2026 is underway and we are holding our **Open House on February 23rd & 24th from 9:30am-11am**. If you or someone you know would like more information or needs a registration form, please email me at [bensalemchristiands@gmail.com](mailto:bensalemchristiands@gmail.com) or call 215-245-1610.

Lisa Woods, Director



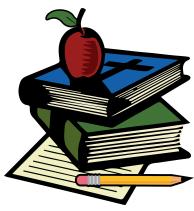
### Out to Lunch Bunch

Please Join Us and Bring a Friend on February 17th at 11:30am. We will be enjoying a meal with fellowship at the Sunrise Diner, 416 Bristol Pk, Croyden, Pa. Sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.

### Book, Puzzle, Game, Toy and Media Sale

### Combined Fundraiser for BUMC and Bensalem Christian Day School

February 28, 2026



Do you have any gently used books, games, puzzles, toys or media (DVDs, music CDs, video games, or audio books) you'd like to part with? As you make room in your home for the Christmas gifts you received, we'd like you to consider donating any gently used items you no longer want, need or have room for to the church/day school fundraiser which is planned for February 28th. You may leave your donations in the Kurtiz Room on Sunday or bring them to the day school office during school hours. Please clearly mark your donations for the fundraiser.

Great reasons to support this project:

- Provides affordable literature for readers of all ages.
- Gives people the opportunity to clear their bookshelves/closets of already-read books and
- other no longer used items
- Recirculates materials in an environmentally responsible way.
- Helps promote a love of reading and learning.
- Proceeds will support church and day school programs.



The sale precedes Read Across America Week 2026, which coincides with Dr. Seuss's birthday and promotes reading among children and young adults.

# HAVE YOU *Met* ? Marie Carp

Marie Carp is a woman of strong faith, deep family values, and remarkable resilience. As the beloved matriarch of her family, she has spent her life passing down her faithfulness, not only to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren but to everyone blessed to know her.



Marie's Methodist journey began around ten years old. A neighbor invited her to attend a Methodist church and that invitation planted a seed that would grow into a lifetime of discipleship. She first worshiped at Trevose UMC, then Cornwells UMC, and eventually found her church home at Bensalem United Methodist Church. Bensalem UMC is where her family legacy continues today.

Marie served faithfully in the Choir, singing from 1992 through 2020, providing service with her voice and presence for nearly three decades. Beyond Sunday mornings, she has always loved the fellowship of the church community — Out to Lunch Bunch, picnics, holiday events, cookie walks, and Easter egg hunts. Spending time with her church family has always been meaningful to her. She loves that everyone is so nice and inviting.

Outside the church, Marie has devoted her life as a mom, and spent 30 years cleaning homes and commercial properties. She carries her faith into daily life, allowing God to guide her steps.

She has nurtured a multigenerational faith within her family. Five great-grandchildren have been baptized at BUMC. Marie especially cherishes seeing younger generations step into the same sanctuary that shaped her own life, including her great-granddaughter Paige joining the church. Her most cherished memories are her great-grandchildren's baptisms and watching them grow in faith. To her, these moments are not just milestones — they are living evidence of a legacy of faith continuing forward.

## Stop, Look and Listen

Why should we observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."



We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

**Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.**

## 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 **Wednesday, March 18, 2026**. 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.llsa.social/habc) ([www.llsa.social/habc](http://www.llsa.social/habc)) or call 800-324-9458 to schedule your appointment! A simple screening can be worth a lifetime.

## United Women in Faith February Meetings



**United  
Women  
in Faith**

The next meeting of BUMC United Women in Faith is **Saturday, February 7 at 9am** in the Kurtiz Room. There will be a short meeting after which we will package the chili for distribution on Sunday, February 8 (Super Bowl Sunday). Note: Meeting was moved to the first Saturday in February to accommodate the chili sale.

We will have a second opportunity to gather on **Saturday, February 21 at 10am** in the Main Sanctuary for a special program presented by George Dworsky to celebrate Black Inventors whose creations still impact our lives. **Don't miss this opportunity to learn, celebrate, and connect as we honor the incredible achievements of Black Inventors.**

*Our purpose is to support one another in spiritual growth; nurture fellowship among our members; support each other, and all women, as members of the Body of Christ, through advocacy for justice and equality.*

## Rachel, Lucas and Family Launching into the New Year

Greetings from the Fultzes! We hope this update finds you healthy and in good spirits. We've launched into 2026; let's launch into the latest from Southwest Germany!

Rachel continues to help at the elementary school. A highlight of her mornings at the school is "recess duty" which is a great time to connect with the students and keep everyone safe and happy. The students LOVE when it snows and really enjoyed creating huge snow balls and snowmen shortly after school resumed in January.



Rachel has been hosting a Bible Study in our home on Monday mornings. These ladies are studying the books of 1, 2, and 3 John and are committed to studying scripture and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests:

- Continue to pray for Lucas's students and clients he works with in therapy. Our prayer is that they would experience healing and wholeness.
- Please pray for health for our family.
- Pray for continued opportunities to share Christ with others.

We thank God for all of you often. Thank you for your continued prayers and support! Sending you all love and hugs from Germany.

## Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day can create a variety of emotions for different people. For some, it creates great satisfaction celebrating the love you have between you, your spouse, and your friends & family. For others, it can cause feelings of loneliness. Whether you are single or in a relationship, let these Bible verses encourage you to celebrate, for God has unconditional and indescribable love for us.

No matter your age or stage in life, Valentine's Day can be celebrated because of God's great love. Share these Scriptures on February 14th and throughout the year to spread the love with those you hold near and dear!

[1 Corinthians 13:13](#) 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

[1 John 4:8](#) 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

[Song of Songs 2:16](#) 16 My beloved is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies.

[John 3:16](#) 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

[1 John 3:16-17](#) 16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

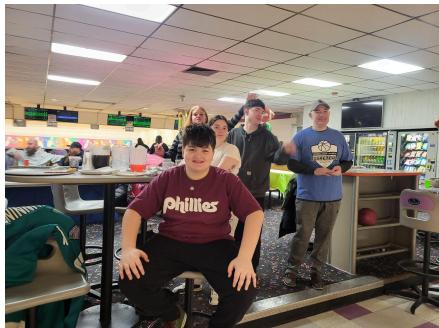
God  
demonstrates  
his own  
love for us...  
ROMANS 5:8



<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-valentines-day/>

## Fishing Club January 24th Bowling Activity

A great time was had by all! Join us at our next activity! All ages welcome!  
(Thank you, Betty Miles, for the pictures! Betty, Jaxson, Dani, and Gabby bowled too!)  
Thank you, Colin, for organizing this adventure!



Happy 100th Anniversary! February Is



2026 marks an important US milestone, the 100th anniversary of federal recognition for Black Americans. What began as a singular week of learning and recognition called Negro History Week in 1926 is now an annual month-long celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time to recognize their role in U.S. history. It is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans - from activists and civil rights pioneers to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.

The architect of this movement was Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a historian and educator, who holds the distinction of being the second African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University, following W.E.B. Du Bois. Dr. Woodson, the son of formerly enslaved parents, understood that denying people of their history denies them of their humanity. To combat that, he launched Negro History Week to coincide with the February birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, the two figures he felt were most tied to African American freedom.

His goal was to integrate Black history into the educational curriculum, public libraries, local churches, and communities at large across the nation. He designed the week to be a permanent shift in how America viewed and understood itself.

For 40 years, it was embraced by educators, elaborated upon by churches, and programming was built around it by civic groups, museums, libraries and other organizations.

In 1976, the United States, under President Gerald Ford, formally expanded the recognition into **Black History Month** with the essence of Woodson's vision remaining unchanged: Black history is part of American history.

The 100-year anniversary prompts reflection not only on what has been accomplished, but also on why this work continues to matter.

Black History Month is often associated with familiar icons - Martin Luther King, Jr, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman - yet the deeper intention is about uncovering thousands of stories once ignored: scientists, entrepreneurs, artists, academics, inventors, policy leaders, soldiers, and everyday citizens who shaped the nation.

For students, leaders, and global citizens, Black History Month is not simply a date on the calendar; it is a powerful reminder to recognize the generations who fought for inclusion in the historical record, even when

our nation resisted acknowledging their humanity. It is about building cultural competency, learning from systemic injustice, and developing the leadership skills required in an increasingly diverse world.

And as the world pauses in 2026 to honor a century of commemoration, the message remains as clear — and necessary — as ever:

**Black history is American history. Remembering it strengthens us all.**

**Learn · Share · Celebrate**

**29 Ways You Can Participate in Black History Month** - Courtesy of The UMC General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR):

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/29-ways-to-participate-in-black-history-month>

**33 Children's Books for Black History Month** - From The UMC General Board of Church and Society

<https://www.umcjustice.org/latest/33-children-s-books-for-black-history-month-1290>

**Black History Month for Kids | Learn about the month-long celebration of African American history** - From Learn Bright

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsKPi4vYu\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsKPi4vYu_4)

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate the accomplishments of Black Americans, be sure to pass the information on to family and friends or better yet, make it a group effort.

Help create a world in which the contributions, and history of Black Americans are respected, and where policies, practices, and procedures improve outcomes for all Americans.

# FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>Report Card #2 Available on SCP National School Counseling Week thru Feb. 6 Groundhog Day</b>	3 FST Art Night – 5 to 7 PM STR Brighter Bites Pick Up 2:30 – 4 PM	4 FST Brighter Bites Pick Up 2:30 – 4 PM STR PTO Meeting – 6 PM	5 STR EL Night – 6 to 8 PM	6 VLY Visiting Author Day BHS Student of the Month Breakfast BHS Soph Hop	7
8	9 <b>Professional Development Schools Closed, Offices Open</b>	10 FST PTG Meeting – 6:30 PM	11	12 RSH PTG Dance – 6 to 8 PM BHS Musical – CHICAGO THE MUSICAL, Teen Edition – 7 PM	13 STR Valentine Celebration Day BHS Musical – CHICAGO THE MUSICAL, Teen Edition – 7 PM	14 BHS Musical – CHICAGO THE MUSICAL, Teen Edition – 1 PM and 7 PM <b>Valentine's Day</b>
15 <b>Maha Shivaratri National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day</b>	16 <b>Presidents' Day – Schools and Offices Closed</b>	17 STR Brighter Bites Pick Up 2:30 – 4 PM	18 FST Brighter Bites Pick Up 2:30 – 4 PM <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Ramadan thru Mar. 19</b>	19 B.A.D.G.E. Meeting in Shafer Library – 7 PM	20 CRN Family Bingo Night – 6 PM FST VIP Dance BHSSA Designer Bag Bingo at Maltese Room – 6 PM	21 PJAS Regionals at Snyder
22	23 <b>Public Schools Week thru Feb. 27</b>	24 STR BHS Chorus Assembly – Gr. 5 & 6 – 9:15 AM	25 FST Beginner Concert – 7 PM <b>School Board Action Meeting – 7:30 PM</b>	26	27 STR PTO Glow Dance – 6:30 to 8:30 PM	28
			<b>African American History Month</b> <b>National Children's Dental Health Month</b>		BEL – Belmont Hills CRN – Cornwells FST – Faust RSH – Rush STR – Struble VLY – Valley	SHF – Shafer SNY – Snyder BHS – Bensalem High



BENSALEM  
CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL  
4300 HULMEVILLE RD, BENSALEM PA  
PHONE NUMBER: 215-245-1610

# OPEN HOUSE

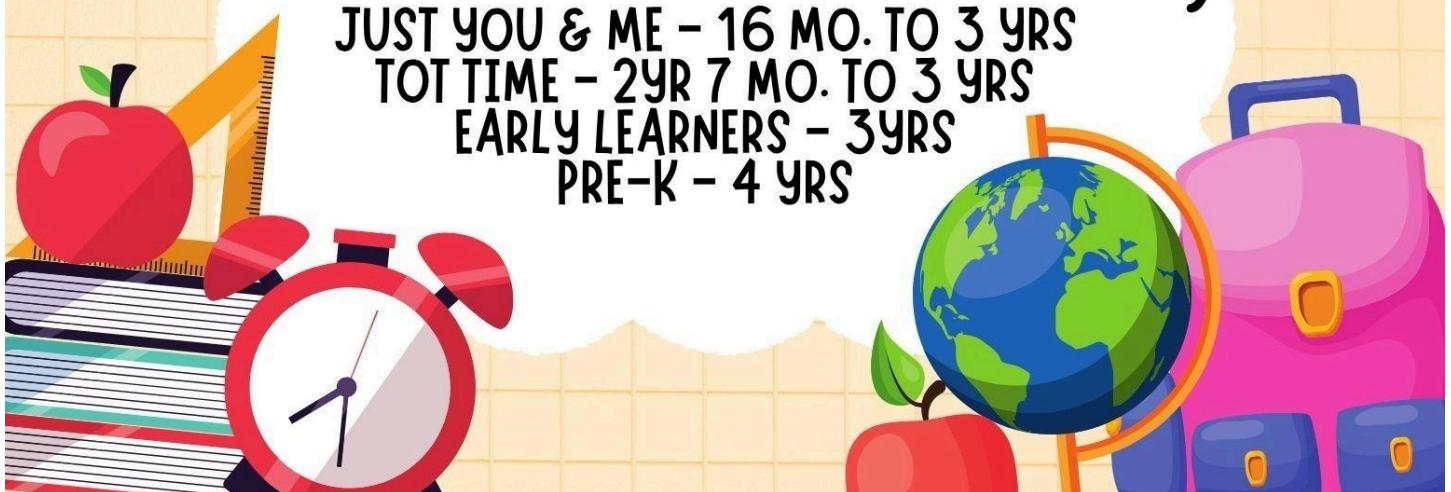
FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup>

Can't make it!  
Schedule a  
personal tour!

9:30 to 11 AM

## \* HALF DAY PROGRAMS

JUST YOU & ME - 16 MO. TO 3 YRS  
TOT TIME - 2YR 7 MO. TO 3 YRS  
EARLY LEARNERS - 3YRS  
PRE-K - 4 YRS





# Book, Media, Game, Toy & Puzzle Sale

**28 February**  
**9am - 2pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Coffee & snacks for sale all day;  
\$5 hot dog, chips, & drink combo starting at 11am.

Types of items for sale:  
gently used books, games, puzzles, toys, and  
media(DVDs, CDs, video games, audio books)

Bensalem United Methodist Church  
(Across from Bensalem High School)  
4300 Hulmeville Road  
Office Phone: 215-245-1215  
[bensaleumumoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bensaleumumoffice@gmail.com)



# You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!



**Bensalem United Methodist Church  
4300 Hulmeville Road  
Bensalem, PA 19020**

**March 18, 2026**

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings**.

**Trusted by over 11 million customers.**

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

**Who should attend:** Anyone **age of 40+**

**Special Pricing for \$129**

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

**4 ways to book your appointment...**

Scan here:



Call 800-324-9458  
and use promo  
code: HABC001

Visit  
[LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](http://LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC)

Text the word  
"circle" to  
216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

CELEBRATE



You Are Cordially Invited To Join Us

As We Commemorate Black History Month  
By Celebrating Black Inventors  
Whose Creations Still Impact Our Lives

Speaker: George Dworsky  
Will highlight both famous and little-known  
African American inventors whose  
innovations changed our world.

**Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 10AM**  
Bensalem United Methodist Church - Main Sanctuary  
4300 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA 19020  
(Across from Bensalem High School)

Presentation will be followed by light refreshments.  
Don't miss this opportunity to learn, celebrate and  
connect as we honor the incredible achievements of  
Black Inventors.

ALL ARE WELCOME!