



# Bensalem United Methodist Church

April 2026 THE BUZZ

## A Message from Pastor Sophy ~

Dear BUMC Beloveds—

Happy April, all! I am sitting down at last to write this message after spending the afternoon hunting through the aisles of Dollar Tree, Target, and our local thrift store trying to find fun items to send to my two young nieces for their Easter baskets. My eldest niece, now three years old, is starting to ask basic questions about the Easter story. Recently, we read through an illustrated Bible together over FaceTime. She pointed at Jesus, taunted by the crowd before his death, and she asked, “They hurt him? Why? He’s the nice man.” And then, a few pages later, she said, “Oh, look! He’s okay!” In this brief moment of wonder, I saw a tiny seed of understanding begin to root.

Easter is arguably the most important celebration of our faith, but with pastel eggs and bunnies and incredibly yummy treats everywhere, the heart of this holiday can sometimes get overlooked. It can be difficult to tell the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection in ways that kids can understand— and adults too! As a new pastor and an auntie, I’ve found it helpful to stick to some core truths, seemingly simple but deeply profound when we really consider them.

The first core truth is that Jesus loves everyone— not just the people in our neighborhoods or the people we like, but truly, *everyone*. Jesus cared for people, helped people, and taught them to be kind and just. His life was full of love, and that love is still with us today. The second core truth is that because of Jesus’ love, new life is everywhere. Even when it feels like the world is ending or when we think all is lost or everything is hopeless, we know that somehow new life is possible. Easter is fundamentally about hope— it’s a reminder that good things can come even after the hardest times. We can connect this to springtime: new flowers blooming after a long cold winter, or to Easter eggs: new baby chicks hatching into their new life. The third core Easter truth is that because we’re loved and because we know there’s hope for the future, we should try to share as much love and hope with others as we can, in as many ways as we can, for as long as we can. Easter is not just a story— it’s also about how we live

### Bensalem United Methodist Church

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#### 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.”

our lives. What are we going to do with this amazing love and hope we've found? These core Easter truths are not just for children – they are for each of us. Their meaning deepens and grows as God calls out to us through the Easter story. How is God speaking to us now, in these days of foreign wars, rising prices, economic instability, political insecurity and social division? What does the Resurrection mean for people facing job loss, grief, health challenges, addiction? What does it mean for *you*? We know, praise God, that cruelty, suffering, and sin did not have the last word in God's story – and through Christ, they shall not have the last words in ours. With that confidence bolstering our courage, let us ask again: *what are we going to do with this amazing love and hope we've found?* How are we going to share it? It is a joy to live in these questions with you –

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Sophy



**Join us for a meaningful Holy Week journey from Palm Sunday to Easter.**

**Palm Sunday - Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Traditional Service  
Historic Chapel - 8:30am  
  
Celebration Service  
Main Sanctuary - 10:45am

**Holy Thursday - Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Main Sanctuary - 7pm

**Good Friday - Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Historic Chapel - 7pm

**Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**"He is Risen"**  
Sunrise Service  
Historic Chapel - 6:30am  
Traditional Service  
Historic Chapel - 8:30am  
Family Service  
Main Sanctuary - 10:00am



**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**

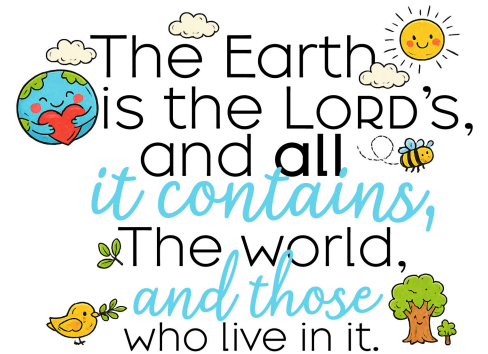


Website and Newsletter submissions:  
Vince Drybala and Dawn Lacerte  
[thebuzz@bensalem-umc.org](mailto:thebuzz@bensalem-umc.org)

**April Birthdays**

- 4 - Caleb Reinert
- 11 - Ava Pitcher
- 15 - Rodger Reinert
- 17 - Jim Cieliski
- 17 - Louka Lagoudakis
- 21 - Sarah Cridland-Jaco

**Earth Day  
April 22nd**



PSALM 24:1

## Capital Campaign and Kirby Smith Update

I would like to give you an update on our three-year Capital Campaign, "Paving the Way to the Future". As of March 8th, we have completed our first year of the campaign and made positive progress towards meeting our goals. The members of BUMC have pledged \$129,370 total, and we have raised \$78,731.

Before the campaign officially began, approximately \$25,000 had been donated. (total funds received  $\$25,000 + \$78,731 = \$103,731$ ) Using these funds, we were able to repair the sewage system in the parsonage, upgrade the outside lighting, perform mold remediation, repair cement areas around the church, and remove bushes to address the mold situation.

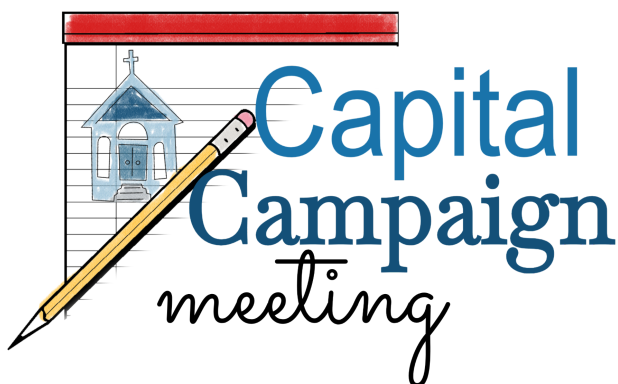
The \$78,731 has been applied toward the \$25,000 payment to Kirby Smith for its expertise in the Capital Campaign industry. Another project completed is the beautiful parking lot, which we were able to finish before winter, with assistance from a loan through the conference. This is a major win for BUMC. There is more: heating and air conditioning (band-aid fix), a fire suppression system, freezer repair in the kitchen, emergency lighting, and an unexpected 80-gallon water tank with attachments that not only broke but then needed to be brought up to code.

What is next? During the major snowstorm, the roof over the parsonage leaked into the house, the sanctuary steps are deteriorating, the sound system needs upgrading, and the air conditioning units need replacing (the current ones are not repairable). Of course, there are always items that will come up lurking in the walls.

Kirby Smith - I have heard, Where is Richie? What is he doing? He just disappeared. I have called Richie and spoken with him over the months; he always answers my calls and answers my questions. I did address your concerns with him. The \$25,000 payment was for a one-year contract (August 2024 - July 2025) for his consulting and advertising to help us jump-start the campaign. He has fulfilled his commitment to BUMC.

That said, he will continue to advise us for the next 2 years of campaigning. He recently sent out another capital campaign mailing, which you should have received. Richie and Harry will start calling members of the congregation over the next few weeks. Speak to them, one-on-one, regarding your concerns. Richie has graciously planned to come out on **April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm** to address the congregation. Please come out to the **Capital Campaign Town Hall in the Main Sanctuary, on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm**. Come with your questions and concerns, and speak to Richie directly.

In Peace, Paul Lacerte



THURSDAY, APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>  
At 6pm  
MAIN SANCTUARY

## Unsung Heroes: The Faces Behind Our Ministry

Submitted by Dawn Lacerte

April is National Volunteer Month, a time to celebrate and recognize the contributions of volunteers. It is an opportunity to join the impact of volunteerism and encourage more people to get involved in the church community. This is also a great month to reaffirm your commitment to giving back.

Volunteering means *freely offering your time and service to help*. **Volunteers are the unsung heroes of our church ministry.** They show up early, stay late, and quietly make everything happen. These people are real-life heroes who have decided to spend their free time helping BUMC. BUMC appreciates your service and time to this ministry. We respect the commitment and service you faithfully fulfill and continue to fulfill to your church community.

Volunteers are not just "workers" in our ministries – they are beloved children of God placed in our community. While volunteers are expected to show up and fulfill their scheduled responsibilities, I would like the BUMC community to remember that our volunteers have families, jobs, friends, and commitments outside of their serving roles at BUMC. This means that we understand that life happens: family issues, work stress, or personal struggles.

Do you know a volunteer in our church community? Are you a volunteer and do not realize it? Volunteering starts with our youth. Our son, Ivan, asked, "What is volunteering?" I said it is something you do because you would like to help and do not expect anything in return. For example, I do the newsletter. I told Ivan that he volunteers. He said, "I do?". I explained that he read the lesson at service, collected for the Heifer project, helped with the Palm Sunday breakfast, helped with the fall and spring cleanup days, and much more. He said, " I do that because I enjoy it and it is fun".

Are you interested in volunteering? Many ministries can use your assistance. A volunteer will train you, even if you can only help one day a month or write thank-you cards. BUMC will appreciate your involvement. You can reach out to Pastor Sophy, and she will put you in touch with the proper lead volunteer.

On behalf of BUMC, I want to express our deep gratitude for your volunteer services. Your commitment to our ministries has been a gift to our community. We are truly blessed to have you as part of our team, and we look forward to working with you next week and every week thereafter.

***Thank you for giving your time without expecting applause,  
for it is your quiet service that keeps hope alive  
and inspires others to follow your example.***





Saturday, April 11, 2026

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

Please help with jobs/projects  
that need to be done,  
in keeping our inside facilities and  
outside grounds in good condition.  
Come when you can - Leave when you must!

Thank you, Property Management Team

Submitted by Pat Cielinski

**Please join us on:  
Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm  
in our Main Sanctuary.**

**We are hosting:  
Cross Roads Inspirational  
Rock Band**



Cross Roads is a Christian Band, based at Willow Grove UMC. Last summer, about 8 of our members went to hear them and we were extremely impressed with their music and their mission.

This is a free concert and all the band asks of us is a free-will offering and the ability to offer their CDs, T-shirts, etc. for sale.

**This will be a BUMC community outreach event for our church,  
so please invite others!**

**There will be an intermission, at which time we will be serving light  
refreshments in the Kurtiz room.**

**A sign-up sheet for finger foods and drinks will be posted in the narthex,  
beginning on Palm Sunday. Please help out by sharing some tasty goodies.**

**Questions? Contact Joyce Dworsky at [worsky4@gmail.com](mailto:worsky4@gmail.com) or 215-946-5044.**

Submitted by Joyce Dworsky

## A Letter From the Lay Leader

What is the definition of “laity”? Merriam Webster says it is: “1. The people of a religious faith as distinguished from its clergy. 2. The mass of people, as distinguished from those of a particular profession or those specially skilled.” According to Resource UMC, “Laity of the church are called to be disciples who fulfill the Great Commission through acts of service that heal and liberate a broken world.” Simply put, a lay person is the person you see in the mirror every morning. The only person in BUMC who isn’t a member of laity is Pastor Sophy.



The UMC definition says, just as pastors are called to service in our churches, we lay members are too! You’re going to be hearing a whole lot about the Laity Academy and other training opportunities. Often people say that they can’t preach or talk to a group, so they aren’t really right to go to any Laity classes. It’s important to know that you don’t need to do the Basic Class, if you don’t want to! When we post these learning opportunities, simply look at the course selections and pray about them.

In John 15:16 we read, *“You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.”* (The Message)

The most recent Tools for Ministry offered workshops on how to do church audits, on websites, being lay leaders, immigration, cross culture/cross religious studies. Four of us went to this year’s Tools for Ministry and took the same workshop—“When Faithful Churches Feel Stuck.” God put us where he wanted us. The very first point the workshop facilitator made was that in many churches 90% of the work is done by 10% of the people and this formula makes people tired.

As humans, most of us look at all the things that need to be done and feel overwhelmed. But, in God’s house, it shouldn’t be like that. As believers, we’re called to serve in many ways. Micah tells us that we are supposed to “act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” In Matthew, Jesus tells us that we’re to care for the hungry, the sick, the naked, the homeless, and the stranger.

When you invite a neighbor to church, you’re doing ministry. You’re also doing ministry when you work on the bulletins, sing in the choir, write cards with the Caring Connection, maintain our facilities, and have a role in worship services. Going to share a meal with a much-loved church family member who can’t attend as they used to, bringing them home Communion, calling and checking on our BUMC family members are gifts we can share. But it’s equally important to know your weaknesses. I’m awful at sending cards; they don’t get mailed. I loathe the phone. I usually don’t remember to make the call until after 11 pm, which is rude.

Think about the service you can do here. Pray on it. You know what you’ve been blessed with and you also know the Holy Spirit is not going to let you fail. Set aside time this month to sit and talk with the Lord. He’s ready to fire you up for his kingdom.

Peace,  
Liz

## Out to Lunch Bunch

Submitted by Penny Manning

**Please Join Us and Bring a Friend on April 15th at 11:30am.** We will be enjoying a meal with fellowship at Garden of Eatin, 964 Woodbourne Rd, Levittown, Pa. The Sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.



## Bensalem Christian Day School

Submitted by Lisa Woods



Spring has certainly sprung here at the Day School. During the month of March, most of our songs and projects have focused on the changes in the weather, the appearance of new life as spring begins.

In the middle of March, we celebrated the “Wearing of the Green” on St. Patrick’s Day.

In the beginning of April we will be celebrating Easter and will be getting chick eggs to watch them hatch into baby chicks. At the end of April, we will be having our Alex’s Lemonade Walk to raise money for childhood cancer.

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is currently underway, and applications are available at the Day School Office, on our website, or by calling us at 215-245-1610. Also, we have started taking applications for our summer camp program which is held in the month of July.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our school.

Lisa Woods  
Director

## Bensalem Christian Day School Registration

Submitted by Silke Mitchell

**Registration is officially open for 2026/2027 enrollment.**  
Please visit our [website](#) for information about our programs.

We appreciate your interest in Bensalem Christian Day School. Choosing the right preschool for your child is an important decision. You are welcome to visit our school and observe classes in making this decision. If you would like additional information about scheduling a visit or registration, please get in touch and we will be happy to help. Please reach out with any questions by phone 215-245-1910 or by email [bensalemchristians@gmail.com](mailto:bensalemchristians@gmail.com)



## Bensalem Christian Day School Summer Camp

Submitted by Silke Mitchell, prepared by Dawn Lacerte



BCDS Summer Camp Exploration Program is **June 29th through July 31st**. Ages 3-5 are welcome to attend. The registration is for one-week intervals. Campers will attend Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 12:30pm daily, with the exception of the first week which is Monday through Thursday. The cost for the first week is \$116.00 and the remaining weeks are \$145.00 per week. There is a 5% discount for families that sign up for all five weeks at once. Every week will focus on a different exploration ranging from nature to space. Join us in exploring new adventures.



HAVE  
YOU

# Met ? Liz Gruenbaum

Liz's connection to Bensalem United Methodist Church began through a simple invitation and community involvement. She first came to BUMC when Vince and Anne Drybala brought their cub pack to the church and both of their sons were in second grade. Although Liz didn't begin worshipping right away, that experience started her long relationship with the church.

She has been part of the BUMC community for about 35 years. Over time, her involvement has grown into a deep and meaningful commitment.

Family has been an important part of her church journey. In fact, attending Sunday worship at BUMC was part of her second date, showing, early on, just how important faith was in her life. Her son was confirmed at the church, and after years of prayer, her sister's family also joined before later moving to Delaware. She also treasures her lifelong friendship with her sister, "Betsy Pitcher".

Liz enjoys several hobbies outside of church, especially crocheting, which she jokingly calls her "superpower." She has always loved reading and now especially enjoys listening to audiobooks.

Her career has centered around teaching and caring for others. While she says her favorite role is being a grandmother to her five grandsons and one granddaughter, she also spent 19 years teaching full time after graduating from Temple University in 2005. After her school closed, she continued working in education and now tutors and serves as a Title 1 coordinator for St. Francis/St. Vincent's Homes for Children.

Liz's faith journey includes many meaningful experiences. One moment that stands out is when she felt guided to volunteer for children's messages at a previous church. Later, after feeling a bit lost, she found a new sense of purpose at BUMC.

She enjoys serving in many ways at BUMC. She has been involved in Sunday School as a superintendent and teacher, has written weekly study guides, and she currently serves on the pulpit supply team. It is in being a part of the pulpit supply, where she finds both challenge and fulfillment. While speaking carries a sense of responsibility, it also provides an opportunity to dive deeply into Scripture and grow in faith.

Psalm 121 reminds her that help comes from the Lord, while Matthew 25 (the sheep and the goats) serves as a constant call to care for those in need, including the sick, hungry, unhoused, imprisoned, and newcomers. She also holds close the message of John 13:34, a simple yet powerful reminder to love one another as Christ loves us.

Her life story includes a surprising amount of adventurous detail. She moved 27 times in her first 27 years, beginning just 13 days after she was born! This early pattern of change helped shape her adaptable spirit, and she notes that if she ever had to leave her current home, she would gladly return to Germany. To her, life has always been, and continues to be, an adventure.

Submitted by Amber-Lynn Schiefer

## United Methodists Lead Witness For Immigrants

with them.”

By Erik Alsgaard, Feb. 25, 2026 | WASHINGTON (UM News)



United Methodists and other faith leaders march toward the U.S. Capitol on Feb. 25 during “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice” in Washington. Holding the left end of the banner are United Methodist Bishops Minerva Carcaño, LaTrelle Easterling and Cynthia Moore-Koikoi. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

Bishop Minerva Carcaño speaks during “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice,” at Upper Senate Park in Washington. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

More than 2,000 people of faith gathered in and around three churches on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 25 to worship, sing and be spiritually prepared for a march around the Capitol to bring attention to the plight of immigrants in the United States.

Bishop Julius C. Trimble, top executive of Church and Society, also highlighted the support he hoped immigrants would feel from the witness.

“Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice” included faith leaders from several traditions, including United Methodist bishops, clergy and laity, who came together to stand in solidarity with immigrants.

“This is a gathering not only to march, but to demonstrate our support for immigrants,” he said. “It is also a faithful resistance to the detrimental actions that have been taken by the current administration to decrease civil and human rights.”

Capitol Hill United Methodist Church served as host for the worship service, which reached standing-room-only within minutes of the doors being opened. Ebenezer United Methodist Church and St. Mark’s Episcopal Church served as overflow locations where worshippers watched the livestream.

Trimble said that the church takes seriously the call of Christ to love our neighbor from Matthew 25.

Retired Bishop Minerva Carcaño, who helped organize the event as chair of the United Methodist Immigration Task Force, said that the purpose of the Faithful Resistance was to witness to the Christian faith and to let immigrants know that they do not stand alone. “It is a movement, a rising movement,” she said, “of people who stand for justice and who are wanting to express their faith in a very public way.”

“What we saw happening in Minneapolis and Chicago and Washington, D.C., is overreach; it’s time for the church to not only raise our voice but to also stand in solidarity with those whose lives have been lost,” he said. “Today, the church is saying that we’re taking seriously the commandment to love God and to love neighbor, and to welcome the stranger.”

Bishop Carcaño said the planning for the witness began last fall, with a team comprising ecumenical leaders from across the country, including staff of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society and Commission on Religion and Race. “The vision,” she said, “has been to just show up in D.C. and give this public witness. Our hope is that immigrants across the country would feel our presence and know that we stand

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling of the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Area brought the sermon, preaching from Psalm 24. “The earth is the Lord’s,” she said, quoting Psalm 24:1. “It all belongs to God. *All*,” she emphasized. “It does not belong to empires or corporations,” she said. “Not to colonizers and patriarchs. Not even to the church. It is the Lord’s.”

The bishop said that many people today are practicing “theological malfeasance,” believing that they can own the world when, in fact, it’s not ours. “We find ourselves here because we have succumbed to a heretical understanding of possession,” she said. “We have had, in much of Western Christianity, the miseducation of the

baptized. We act as if we own creation. We have been taught that some are more entitled to land than others. That some are inherently entitled to freedom while others can only exist in a subservient posture.

“We have been taught that some countries are more noble than others. Our theological colonization shows up when we Christians defend immigration policies that privilege wealth, whiteness and Western passports while criminalizing black and brown bodies and the global South.”

Interrupted several times by applause, the bishop said that the current political system of injustice is “antithetical to the will of God.” She reminded the congregation that Jesus was a migrant, and she lamented over what she has seen popping up in some churches: American flags in the sanctuary and some congregations reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. “The flag is not the symbol of our salvation,” she said, “nor of our redemption. The eagle never flies higher than the cross.”



*Bishop LaTrelle Easterling gives the sermon during worship for “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice” at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church in Washington. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.*

Richard Church, a lay person from Covenant United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland, attended the event as a member of the Committee on Native American Ministries of Northeast United Methodist Church. He helped bring the invocation for the worship service at Capitol Hill United Methodist. “I’m here as part of the movement for equality,” he said. “This is all part and parcel of my faith, which drives me to serve my neighbor, and all people are my neighbor.”

Rabbi Marc Israel, who serves at Tikvat Israel in Rockville, Maryland, sat in the altar area to help demonstrate the interfaith nature of the witness. “Standing up for the immigrant is the backbone, the

heart, of what our faith is about,” he said, “Our founding story as Jews is the Exodus from Egypt where we are told that God brought us up out of Egypt so that we would know the heart of the stranger. We, therefore, must love the stranger, care for the stranger and protect the stranger.”

The Rev. Stephanie Vader, the host pastor at Capitol Hill United Methodist, said that the day was full of meaning for her and her church. Her church has been involved in migrant ministry since 2022 when they responded to a need: Thousands of immigrants were bussed to Sanctuary Cities, including Washington, and simply dropped off with no resources.

The Capitol Hill church sprang into action, providing temporary shelter, food and other resources. “This is a really important part of who we are and what we do,” she said, “because Jesus was also an immigrant. He also migrated down from heaven to be with us.”

Vader said that more than 14,000 migrants have come through her church in the past four years. Today, the church hosts a free store — they call it a “tienda” — where people can come get supplies at no cost. They also deliver groceries to families who are afraid to leave their homes, and have hosted immigration clinics.

One of the many groups marching down East Capitol Street was a group of Episcopal priests and lay people from the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes in Michigan. Each of them was wearing a red knit cap with tassels and black cassocks. “The red hats were associated with the Norwegian resistance under the Nazis, and they caught on during the events in Minnesota,” said Matt from Alpena, Michigan, who would not give his last name. Feb. 26, 1942 — almost 84 years to the day — is the day the Nazis outlawed this form of resistance. “We came all the way here to stand with our faith siblings against the immigration policies the U.S. has been imposing,” said the Rev. Jess Hart, pastor at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

At the end of the march, participants gathered at Senate Park, just north of the Capitol, where faith leaders spoke alongside Democratic Reps. Shri Thanedar, Mary Gay Scanlon and Delia Ramirez. Ramirez said she is a proud United Methodist and the daughter of María Elvira Ramírez, a Guatemalan immigrant. “She helped me understand that my neighbors’ struggles are also mine, and that their liberation, our safety and our peace are interconnected.

“We know there are forces that seek to vilify, target and divide us,” she said. “In the face of those forces, I ask

you to continue being instruments of peace. I need you to love where there is hate. I need you to forgive where there is injury. I need you to hope where there is doubt.”

After Senate Park, hundreds of United Methodists spent time visiting Republican and Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

The Rev. We Chang, director of Connectional Ministries for the New England Conference, said he wanted to be a part of Faithful Resistance “to live out a covenant we made with God and one another at our baptism to resist evil, injustice and oppression that has been being enforced by our own government against the immigrant and the people of color.”

The Rev. Chong James Kim, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Flushing, New York, also made the trip to Washington to show his support for his immigrant brothers and sisters.

“Policies that divide people through fear and exclusion and treat immigrants as criminals stand at odds with the spirit of the Gospel,” he said. “In this time, the church is called to respond not with fear but with love, not with exclusion but with hospitality, not with division but with justice and mercy.”



*The Rev. Lydia Muñoz leads singing during worship for “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice” at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church in Washington. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.*



*Faith leaders join in chanting near the U.S. Capitol during “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice,” in Washington. From left are Bishops LaTrelle Easterling and Alfred Johnson and the Rev. Erica Robinson-Johnson. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.*



*Faith leaders chant in front of the U.S. Capitol during “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice” in Washington. Holding the left end of the banner is United Methodist Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi. Third from left is Bishop Héctor Burgos-Núñez. At center is the Rev. Eric Mayle of Edgehill United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.*



*United Methodist Bishops Alfred Johnson (left) and Cynthia Moore-Koikoi hold the left side of the banner as participants in “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice” walk past the U.S. Capitol in Washington. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.*



The Rev. Lydia Muñoz (with drum) leads singing while participants in “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice” make their way toward the U.S. Capitol in Washington. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

Participants sing during worship for “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice,” at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church in Washington. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.



Participants in “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice” gather near the U.S. Capitol in Washington. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.



Alsgaard is a retired elder in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

News media contact: Julie Dwyer, news editor, [newdesk@umnews.org](mailto:newdesk@umnews.org). To read more United Methodist news, [subscribe to the free UM News Digest](#).

Watch event livestream: A recording of the [Faithful Resistance livestream](#) is available at [ResourceUMC.org](http://ResourceUMC.org).

## B APRIL 2026 B

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
World Autism Awareness Month National Poetry Month	School Library Month		1 April Fools' Day Paraprofessionals Appreciation Day	2 World Autism Awareness Day Passover thru Apr. 9 Spring Break – Schools and Offices Closed	3 Good Friday Spring Break – Schools and Offices Closed	4 School Librarian Appreciation Day
5 Easter	6 National Assistant Principals Week thru Apr. 10 Spring Break – Schools & Offices Closed	7 World Health Day	8 VLY Grades 3-6 Spring Concert – 6:30 PM Marking Period #3 Ends	9 BEL/STR Spring Concert at Struble – 7 PM	10 CRN Family Hero Dance – 6 PM BHS Student of the Month Breakfast BHS Jazz Festival – 6 PM	11
12	13 BEL/RSH/STR Beginner Orchestra Concert at Belmont – 6:30 PM CRN/VLY Band Concert at Valley – 6:30 PM	14 FST PTG Meeting – 6:30 PM SHF/SNY Instrumental Concert at BHS – 7 PM Holocaust Remembrance Day	15 Report Card # 3 Available on SCP	16 B.A.D.G.E. Meeting at Shafer Library – 7 PM	17 CRN Kids Helping Kids Walk-a-Thon – 9:30 AM FST Color Run SHF/SNY Spring Choral Concert at BHS – 7 PM	18
19	20 PSSA ELA Testing Window thru Apr. 24 Public School Volunteer Week thru Apr. 24	21 BHS Spring Choral Concert – 7 PM School Bus Driver Appreciation Day	22 Administrative Professionals Day Earth Day School Board Action Meeting – 7:30 PM	23 BEL/STR Beginner Band Concert – 7 PM National Student Leadership Week thru Apr. 30	24 National Student Leadership Week thru Apr. 30	25
26	27 BHS Senior Class Trip thru Apr. 30 PSSA Math & Science Testing Window thru May 1	28	29	30	BEL – Belmont Hills CRN – Cornwells FST – Faust RSH – Rush STR – Struble VLY – Valley	SHF – Shafer SNY – Snyder BHS – Bensalem High

# *Worship With Us*

## **Palm Sunday - Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Traditional Service  
Historic Chapel - 8:30am  
Celebration Service  
Main Sanctuary - 10:45am

## **Holy Thursday - Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Main Sanctuary - 7pm

## **Good Friday - Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Historic Chapel - 7pm

## **Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

### **"He is Risen"**

Sunrise Service  
Historic Chapel - 6:30am  
Traditional Service  
Historic Chapel - 8:30am  
Family Service  
Main Sanctuary - 10:00am

*He is*  
**Risen**

MATTHEW 28:6

Bensalem United Methodist Church  
(Across from Bensalem High School)  
4300 Hulmeville Road  
Bensalem PA 19020  
Office Phone: 215-245-1215  
[bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com)

Submitted by Kathy Boynton, Created by Silke Mitchell and Dawn Lacerte



***Truly Experience Holy Week this Year!***

***All are Welcome!***

**Bensalem United Methodist Church**  
**4300 Hulmeville Road Bensalem, Pa. 19020**  
**(Across from Bensalem High School)**

***Palm Sunday Services***

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Traditional Service 8:30 am (Chapel)**

**Time Change: Celebration Service 10:45 am (Main Sanctuary)**

Worship and celebrate with palm branches at our services,  
marking Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem --  
(For within the week, events will bring Him to the shadow of the cross.)

***Come Join Us in the Upper Room!***

**Holy (Maundy) Thursday**

**April 2, at 7pm**

**(Main Sanctuary)**

The Last Supper will be reenacted as we join Jesus and the 12 disciples.  
Watch as the Master shares his final Passover Meal with his closest followers.  
Listen as each one tells his story. Observe Judas as he plans to betray the Son of God.  
Receive Communion, served by the disciples.  
Understand the importance of Jesus washing the feet of his followers.  
Witness as Jesus travels to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray on this Holy Night.

***Good Friday Evening Tenebrae Service***

**April 3, at 7pm**

**(Chapel)**

**Were YOU there when they crucified my Lord?**

Bear witness to the story of the suffering of our Lord as He completes  
his Father's plan for our redemption.  
Be a part of this service of darkness, symbolizing the approaching darkness of Jesus' death.  
Watch as the stone is rolled to seal his tomb.

***Easter Sunday — He Is Risen!***

**April 5**

**Sunrise Service (Chapel) 6:30 am**

**Traditional Service (Chapel) 8:30 am**

**Celebration Service (Main Sanctuary) 10:00 am**

***Come Join Us on Our Holy Week Journey!***

Submitted and Created by Joyce Dworsky

CROSS ROADS  
INSPIRATIONAL ROCK BAND

WWW.XROADSROCK.COM



**COMMUNITY  
CONCERT**

**APRIL 18TH  
7PM - 9PM**

BENSALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
(ACROSS FROM BENSALEM HIGH SCHOOL)  
4300 HULMEVILLE ROAD, BENSALEM, PA 19020

ALL WELCOME

REFRESHMENTS

FREE WILL OFFERING

Submitted by Joyce Dworsky, Created by Silke Mitchell and Dawn Lacerte




# OPEN HOUSE

## Half Day Programs

- ✓ Just You & Me - 16 mo to 3yrs
- ✓ Tot Time - 2yrs 7mo to 3yrs
- ✓ Early Learners - 3 yrs
- ✓ Pre-K - 4yrs

 **Monday**  
May 11th

 **Tuesday**  
May 12th

 **6:00 PM**  
**8:00 PM**

 **9:30 AM**  
**11:00 AM**

 **4300 Hulmeville Rd**  
**Bensalem PA**

## CONTACT US

 **215-245-1610**

 **[bensalemchristiandayschool.org](http://bensalemchristiandayschool.org)**



Submitted by Silke Mitchell, created by Dawn Lacerte

Bensalem United Methodist Church



## Flea Market

New & Used Merchandise

Breakfast & lunch items, snacks & beverages will be available

**Saturday, May 16, 9AM-1PM**

Rain Date: Saturday, May 30

**4300 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA**

Across from Bensalem High School

### See You There!

For more information, email church office at:

[bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com)



Submitted and Crested by Linda Evans



## Bensalem Christian Day School

*Where the heart of learning begins!*

**2026-2027  
REGISTRATION  
OPEN!**

*Your family may be eligible  
for our special  
Community Servant Discount!*

**Healthcare Professionals** and  
**Bensalem Township Employees**  
(including Teachers, Police, Fire,  
EMT, Pubic Works, Administration, &  
Military Personnel)  
receive a **3% tuition discount.**

*Student(s) must be registered by  
August 21, 2026.*

*This is our way of saying thank you  
for caring for our families. It's our joy  
to help care for yours!*

Register now at [www.bensalemchristiandayschool.org](http://www.bensalemchristiandayschool.org)



### PROGRAMS BY AGE:

- ✓ **Just You and Me** - 16 mo.-3 yr.
- ✓ **Tot Time** - 2yr. 7 mo. by 8/31
- ✓ **Early Learners** - 3yr. by 8/31
- ✓ **Pre - Kindergarten** - 4yr. by 8/31

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- ✓ Special Education Support & Speech Therapy
- ✓ Highly Skilled & Loving Educators
- ✓ Small Classroom Size
- ✓ Affordable Tuition Rates

### CONTACT DIRECTOR LISA WOODS FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- ☎ 215-245-1610
- ✉ [bensalemchristiands@gmail.com](mailto:bensalemchristiands@gmail.com)
- 📍 4300 Hulmeville Rd. Bensalem, PA

Submitted and Created by Silke Mitchell

**9AM TO  
12:30PM**

**JUNE 29TH  
TO JULY 31ST  
WEEKLY**

# **BCDS SUMMER CAMP**

**AGE  
3-5  
YEARS**

**\$145 PER  
WEEK**

**EXPLORING NEW  
ADVENTURES EVERY WEEK!!**

**REGISTRATION OPENS  
MARCH 24TH**

**CALL 215-245-1610  
TO REGISTER**

**SPECIAL PRICING  
FOR FIVE WEEK REGISTRATION**

**BENSALEM CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL  
(ACROSS FROM BENSALEM HIGH SCHOOL)  
4300 HULMEVILLE ROAD, BENSALEM PA 19020  
OFFICE PHONE: 215-245-1610  
BENSALEMCHRISTIANDS@GMAIL.COM  
BENSALEMCHRISTIANDAYSCHOOL.ORG**

Submitted by Silke Mitchell, Created by Dawn Lacerte