

Bensalem

And they were all filled with the

HOLY SPIRIT.

United Methodist Church

ACTS 2:4
May 2026 THE BUZZ

A Message from Pastor Sophy ~

Dear BUMC Beloveds—

Spring has arrived, and with it some exciting opportunities to grow in faith, community, and connection at Bensalem UMC. We've got a lot coming up this month, and I encourage you to ask God to guide you as you read through this edition of the Buzz. Consider asking God, "How are you calling me to connect with my community this month? How are you calling me to grow in my faith and service to others in this new spring season? What seeds of change or growth were planted here that still need tending?"

Each of us will explore these questions differently and find different answers, but one thing that comes to mind immediately for me is our Capital Campaign. The BUMC community took a leap of faith last year when the seeds of the Capital Campaign were first planted, and we are now starting to see clear signs of an incredible harvest! You can read more about this in the update from Leadership Board chairperson, Paul Lacerte. The physical improvements we're making will strengthen and deepen the hospitality, hope, and welcome that we are able to share as we journey into the years to come! Our work is ongoing though— these seeds still need tending— and it requires our continued generosity and faithful stewardship.

If you are interested in being more involved in nurturing these seeds we've planted and shaping the direction of the church, I'd love to talk more! I'll be hosting a series of community conversations over the summer and fall, where I'll invite folks to share the dreams we have for our church's future and consider how to carry the work of the Capital Campaign and Strategic Planning Team forward. In the meantime, drop me a note with your thoughts about these questions, or simply hold them in prayer with God:

What do you hope this church looks, sounds, or feels like three years or five years from now? Who is sitting in the pews? How have we expanded our welcome? What activities, small groups, or ministries are helping people connect with God's love?

I am excited to see the growth that God has in store for us, and I am so grateful to be a co-worker in God's garden with you all.

Gratefully, 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
Healing Service
5th Sunday of a 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."

Richie Musser Capital Campaign Townhall Meeting Minutes - 4/23/26

20 in attendance in person; 5 in attendance on zoom

Pastor Sophy opened with prayer

Richie Musser: such a joy to be back. Driving into the parking lot was a pleasant shock. Reflected on the progress from the feasibility study to present. Now over 50 families are involved. Others have said they're planning to join in and he's asked them when. Thanked Dawn for all of the work she's done. We have 3 incredible people who are honoring confidentiality; Dawn Lacerte, Greg Boynton and Dan Taylor. Paul has been a huge asset.

Next steps – they're following up and sending updated information to the church.

- 2 signs of a healthy church.
- 1 Budget – we're on track.
 2. We came together

Paul – money has been spent to repair, update, replace many things around the campus. Before the campaign started in March, some folks stepped up to accomplish many necessary items. Focusing on our due diligence, we are now working on our AC units that can no longer be patched together. A new company will do maintenance, replacement, etc. The back steps will be done, probably in June. The contractor's house burned down. The permits are all in and the work will start as soon as he's able. Vince has been working on updating the sound system in the Sanctuary. He got one bid as high as 30K and finally got one for an expandable system for 7k. Anonymous families have donated to the sound system so the cost will be a little more than 2k.

When people go on vacation, our bills don't go away. Remember to leave your envelope.

Pastor Sophy: Some folks have asked about restarting the strategic visioning team. She wants to have discussions throughout the summer to have input for as many people as possible. If folks are interested, we can continue to be involved in visioning team meetings on a quarterly basis.

Richie Musser: Many times people forget the reason for caring for the church. It's for bringing people to Christ to save souls. We have a very, very special church!

Our Capital Campaign contract did expire, since it was a 1-year contract with phone support for the second and third years. However, Ritchie came back for a town hall because Paul told him we wanted him to come to talk to us. For the low, low price of free.

No questions from people in the Sanctuary or on zoom.

Pastor Sophy: closed us in prayer.

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

May Birthdays

- 14 - Eleanore Schoen
- 20 - Kathy Boynton
- 20 - Joanne Miller
- 25 - Carol Kulik
- 26 - Diann Vangine
- 27 - Hannah Reinert
- 30 - Ellena Lagoudakis



Pray Across America in 2026! - National Day of Prayer, May 7th

Submitted by Dawn Lacerte

Join us in praying the following Scriptures and prayers, prayerfully selected by National Day of Prayer Task Force leadership across America. This guide includes prayers for every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; uniting us as 'one nation under God', seeking the Lord together.

In 2026, the National Day of Prayer Task Force will commemorate two historic milestones: 250 years of prayer in America and 75 years of prayer for America. As we observe the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, alongside the 75th annual National Day of Prayer, we recognize this as a significant and sacred moment in our history. We believe God is stirring the hearts of believers across our nation to increase their prayers for America in this pivotal year, and this guide is designed to help launch and sustain those prayers.

Prayer Across America Guide

Pennsylvania

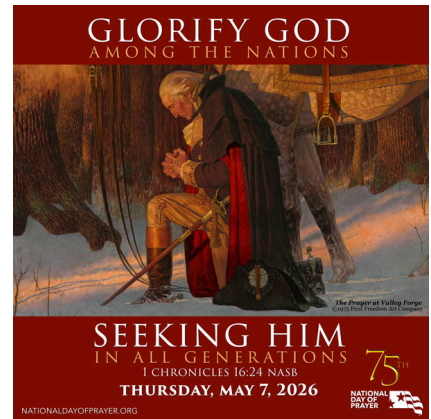
Population: 13,002,700

Capital: Philadelphia

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous. Psalm 125:3

Father God, we are so thankful for the inheritance that you have blessed Pennsylvania with, the place that You chose to be the birthplace of the U.S.A., the presentation of the Declaration of Independence, the formation of our Constitution, and even the capital of the nation for a time. We confess to You that we have allowed this great inheritance to be overrun by the scepter, the authority, of darkness. We repent of our sins and not being the light that You have called us to be. Now we declare Your promise that this "scepter of wickedness" will not stand on Pennsylvania's territory any longer. Where You started this nation You will now use us to reignite this nation! May Pennsylvanians live our state motto, "Virtue, Liberty, and Independence." We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Amen.

https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/get_involved/personal_and_corporate_prayer_resources



Fishing Club Submitted by Anne Drybala



Our Fishing Club friends have been busy in the life of our church. In addition to our meetings, they have helped at BUMC Work Day, participated at our Crossroads Concert, and been frequent contributors to our worship Children's Time.



There will only be a few more sessions before our summer break. Join us any Sunday morning after the 10 am worship service for fun, food and learning. We are open to all ages and families are welcome.



A Mother's Day Prayer

by Magrey deVega

(Submitted by Dawn Lacerte)

God of Provision and Unconditional Love,

On this day when we acknowledge the importance of motherhood among us, we first give thanks that you are a loving parent to us all. From your being, all life was born, and in your bosom all creation is nurtured. You have formed us in your image as your children, and gathered us together as a brood under your wing. You have united us as kindred members of one human family, and we are grateful to be your offspring together. We celebrate your divine love, reflected in human expressions of motherhood.



We give you thanks for the mothers among us, and ask that you strengthen them in their daily tasks. Grant them wisdom in the lessons they teach, patience in the discipline they foster, and persistence in their promotion of decency and compassion, both by word and example. May they be given the honor and thanks they deserve but often do not receive.

We thank you for all motherly figures: grandmothers, aunts, sisters, wives, step-mothers, foster mothers, guardians, babysitters, teachers, health care providers, neighbors, friends, loved ones, and many others, who practice self-sacrifice and embody compassion to all who are privileged to be in their influence. Grant them vigor to carry on their work, and the satisfaction that the holy privilege of their task affords.

We acknowledge to you, O God, that even amid our grateful celebration, many of us come with restless spirits, reluctant to name the difficulties of this day.

For some, this day brings the sorrowful awareness of their own inability to conceive biological children. Draw your tender spirit near their feelings of self-betrayal, impotence, and grief, and remind them that those who struggle with infertility have always shared a special place in your heart. We pray for those who have suffered miscarriages, those fatigued by fertility treatments, and those struggling through the process of adoption. May they remember that in your power and through your church, they can still leave a lasting legacy beyond themselves.

For some, this day is marked by loneliness and grief, as they spend this first Mother's Day as a widower, an orphan, or a parent who has lost a child. To those who today live in the wake of the death of a loved one, grant glimpses of the resurrection. Bring to them a steady restoration of their broken hearts, allow them to live into their future with hope, and empower them to carry out the legacy of lessons instilled within them.

For some, this is a day that surfaces ongoing tensions that exist within our personal relationships and family dynamics. We ask for healing from the wounds of our past, a path of forgiveness for wrongs both experienced and committed, and the rebuilding of trust forged in honesty, authenticity, and love.

We give you thanks for the wide spectrum of motherhood represented among us today: new mothers and young mothers whose children are in their most tender years; mothers of grown children who transition into empty nests and a new chapter of self-discovery; mothers and grandmothers of advanced years, whose twilight of life is marked by frailty of body but a potency of spirit. Theirs is a cumulative reminder that though our lives are marked by transition and change, your nurture and affection for all your children remains the same.

Therefore, remind us to live with a child-like faith, curious to every wondrous mystery, attentive to your every instruction, obedient to your every command, and willing to share with every one of your children. We give you thanks, O God, who is a loving Mother and Father to us all, and in whose name we pray,

Amen.

https://ministrymatters.com/2013-05-08_a_mother_s_day_prayer/

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 times 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, 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 that 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 May 20th at 11:30am. We will be enjoying a meal with fellowship at Peppi's Pizza, 143 Flowers Mill Rd, Langhorne. Sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.



Let Us Know Who Is Graduating!

Submitted by Joyce Dworsky



Please let the office know, either by note, phone call, or email (bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com), if someone in our church family is graduating from High School, College, Technical School, or Grad School this year.

Tell us their full name, the name of their school, and their plans for the future (e. g. If they are graduating from High School and are going on to college, give us the college name and their possible major or future plans).

Please do this ASAP, so that they will be included in our graduate listing. That way, our church family can also celebrate their accomplishment upon their graduation!



Pentecost Sunday, May 24th

Submitted by Dawn Lacerte

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in [Acts 2](#) describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-pentecost>

Grateful for Those Who Gave All

Submitted by Dawn Lacerte

We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake. May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Margaret U. Whyte Scholarship Fund of Bensalem United Methodist Church

Are you a student pursuing a career in teaching or full-time ministry?

The Leadership Board is seeking candidates for the *Margaret U. Whyte Scholarship Fund of Bensalem United Methodist Church of Bensalem, Pennsylvania*, which is available to, "Any person of Christian character who is a needy member of Bensalem United Methodist Church, who is preparing to become a teacher or a full-time minister in the Methodist Church...". This gift (currently \$ 600+ per semester) will be awarded to one applicant (or divided between the top two applicants). It can be awarded in either July or December, and paid to their institution, usually to the college bookstore, in the name of the student.



All applicants are asked to submit a letter to the Leadership Board stating: *the applicant's name, the program of study chosen, the school in which the student is enrolled, and the reason for applying for this scholarship.* These are the criteria that will be used by the Leadership Board in selecting recipients. *Please submit this letter by either May or October.*

Margaret (Peg) Whyte was a teacher at the Brown School in Philadelphia, and was an active member of BUMC for many years. This fund was set up by her husband, Dave (also a former member), and the Whyte family in 1990, with the understanding that, as the principle grew, the interest would be used to aid people studying to become a teacher or a minister. If you meet the aforementioned criteria, please take advantage of the opportunity. Questions? Contact Pastor Sophy, or a member of the Leadership Board.

Submitted by Joyce Dworsky



Spirit in Partnership God Poured Out Trinity Sunday, May 31st

Submitted by Dawn Lacerte

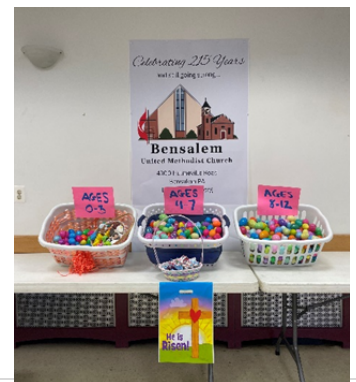
Trinity Sunday invites us to celebrate the mystery of God's partnership in creation – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – calling us to join in God's ongoing work of love and renewal.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/god-poured-out/trinity-sunday-year-a-planning-worship/trinity-sunday-year-a-graphics>



BUMC's 2026 Easter Egg Hunt Views

Here are a few pictures from this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Many thanks to Anne Drybala for organizing this year's event, to the Evans Family (egg stuffers extraordinaire), to all who helped make that day possible, and to (of course) the Easter Bunny



Find Strength For Your Journey!

Submitted by Linda Evans



The next meeting of United Women in Faith is **Saturday, May 9th at 9am in the Kurtiz Room**. The meeting will include a light breakfast, mission moment, lesson titled, 'Dreams of More', Response review and lots of fellowship. If you'd like, bring a breakfast item to share.

All women are invited to take part in this welcoming ministry. Our meetings endeavor to challenge, inspire and energize members to be more involved in ministry and mission through prayer and study, as we strive to make a difference by putting our faith, hope and love into action. Become part of this amazing community of friends.

The Purpose of United Women in Faith: United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities. We serve God and our communities locally, throughout Eastern Pennsylvania, the United States and the world.

Bensalem Christian Day School



With the arrival of May, we have just one more month of school. Plans are already underway for our special Mother's Day and Graduation programs.

We will be having a "Learning Can Be Fun Camp" from June 1st-5th this year. As in the past years, we will be having summer camp from June 29th -July 31st. Please stop by the office to pick up a registration. Thank you!

Registration for September is still underway. We have openings in all of our classes and will continue to register children during the summer months. Please spread the word to interested relatives, friends and neighbors.

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



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.



SPRING FAIR!

Flea Market/Vendor Fair

Submitted by Joyce Dworsky



Friends of the Bensalem Christian Day School is sponsoring a Vendor Fair and Flea Market **on Saturday, May 16th on our front lawn from 9 am until 1 pm.**
(Rain date is 5/30.)

A wide variety of crafts and goods will be available, as well as "attic treasures." There will also be concessions, including snacks, beverages and a grab and go lunch.

Only a few spots remain available at \$25 each, so don't delay!

Please contact Edith Kitchin to request the Vendor Reservation Form by email at

edith.kitchin@yahoo.com (don't forget the dot and the 'i' in kitchin), if interested in a space.

**Please come and bring a friend, and tell your neighbors.
Proceeds will support both our church and our day school. Hope to see you there!**

Happy Spring from The Fultzes in Germany!

We hope that you are doing well. We are excited to share some pictures and updates of what God is doing around us and through us in Germany this spring. Thank you for partnering with us in order to support missionary families, their children, and our local German community through your support and prayers.

Since our last update, we have been busy with things like supporting Black Forest Academy students at their sporting events or hosting baby showers for expectant Mamas. Rachel continues to be part of a weekly women's Bible study and she supports a community of moms in the area. Lucas continues to meet with students at Black Forest Academy and individuals in the community and abroad, for therapy. We are thankful to be part of this community in these ways.

Thanks for joining us in prayer for the wonderful ministry to German families and English speaking missionary families through the elementary school, CSK.





Cross Roads Concert Thanks!

Many thanks to those persons who worked tirelessly to prepare for our April 18th, Cross Roads Inspirational Christian Rock Band Concert, especially Bob Evans (Linda too) and Jim Cielinski (Pat too) who spent much time at the church working with band members to make sure that their equipment and electronic needs were met!

Also, a big thank you to those of you in our congregation who attended and supported our event, and to those who brought delicious treats for our refreshment time!

Over and over again, we heard from the band members how impressed they were with our church's hospitality. Thank you all so much!

Here are a few pictures from the evening:

The Band:

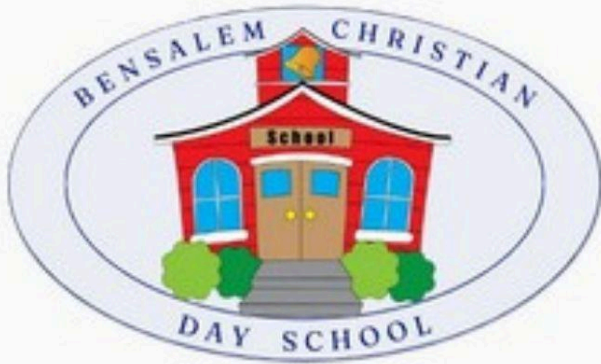


Dancers joining in:

Ivan helping the rhythm section!



The concert ended with everyone (band and congregation) joining hands together in prayer.




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**



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

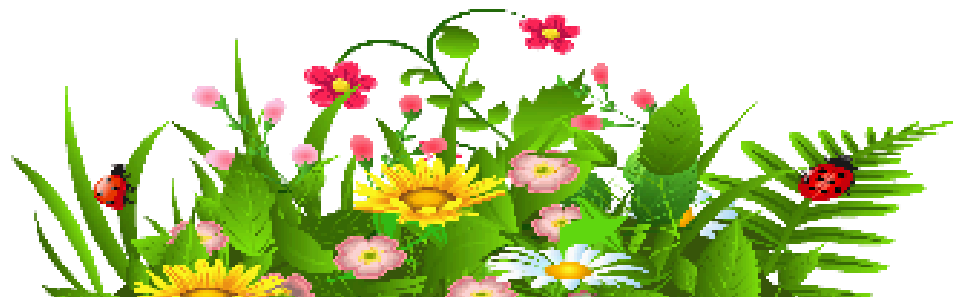
4300 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA

Across from Bensalem High School

See You There!

For more information, email church office at:

bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com



Submitted and Created 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



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
- 📍 4300 Hulmeville Rd. Bensalem, PA

**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