



July 2026 THE BUZZ

Bensalem United Methodist Church

A Message from Pastor Sophy ~

Dear BUMC Beloveds—

Happy Fourth of July, and welcome to the dog days of summer! A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to go through a box of items that Connie Kurtiz saved from July, 1976— the year our nation celebrated its 200th Anniversary. This box was full of treasures, from guides tour booklets of festivities in Philadelphia to themed restaurant placemats festooned with patriotic cartoons. There was such a sense of celebration! Someone in the room said, "Everyone was patriotic that year. It was so exciting to be alive for such an occasion."

In conversations with many others since then, I've been struck by how this year — the 250th Anniversary — seems to feel different. With ongoing political division, rising costs, and worries over war, some community members have expressed to me that it is challenging to know what or how to celebrate. The Bible is rich with people who may have felt similarly — people like the prophets Isaiah and Habakkuk, for example, who loved their community and their nation, and also named clearly that some things were not as they should be. They remind us that people can express love for their country by calling out unfairness, holding each other accountable to shared values, and trying to make life more compassionate, just, and fair for everyone.

I pray that your Fourth of July festivities are meaningful this year — that they be full of family, celebration, gratitude, and appreciation for all the very best of who we are as a nation. There is much to celebrate, and many who have dedicated their life's work and given their life's sacrifice to care for their fellow Americans and make our nation a better place. In their honor, and those who are to come, I pray that we take time to acknowledge that we still have work to do as we strive to be a place of liberty and justice for all. May the Spirit lead us all into our most faithful responses to the world's needs, and may God's amazing love be our guide and our strength.

Wishing you a joyful, meaningful July —

Grace & peace,
Pastor Sophy

Bensalem United Methodist Church

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Bensalem PA 19020

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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."

Independence Day - July 4th

Submitted by Dawn Lacerte

Prayer

Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth.
Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed
the responsibility of government and leadership
in the nations of the world.

Give to them the vision of truth and justice,
that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together.

Give to the people of our country
zeal for justice and strength of forbearance,
that we may use our liberty in accordance with
your gracious will.

Forgive our shortcomings as a nation;
purify our hearts to see and love the truth.
We pray, all these things, through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

(ANDY LANGFORD, U.S.A., 20TH CENT.)



<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/book-of-worship/independence-day>

Save the Date! Wed. October 21.

Please buy your coupon from a member of United Women in Faith (UWF).
These funds go to our Mission Pledge to the Conference Fund for
reaching out to others.

Boscov's
FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS
IN-STORE & ONLINE
ONE DAY ONLY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 - SHOP 8AM - 11PM

25% OFF*
LOWEST SALE PRICES
SHOPPING PASS

Enjoy 25% off* your purchase in-store or online. Not valid with other discounts or promotions. Present this pass at checkout to receive your discount.
Valid Wednesday, October 21, 2026 only.

\$5 DONATION PER PASS

100% of proceeds benefit the local non-profit organization where the pass was purchased.
*See reverse side for a list of merchandise receiving 15% and 10% Off as well as exclusions.
For more details visit [boscovs.com/category/friends-helping-friends-event](https://www.boscovs.com/category/friends-helping-friends-event)

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

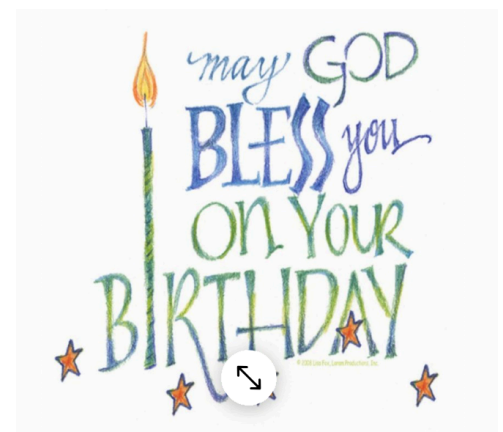
Online Donations



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

July Birthdays

- 2 - Carol Blacknell
- 5 - Jackie Chaykowski
- 10 - Robin Allen
- 12 - Brandon Schilling
- 13 - Arlene Phillips
- 14 - Jocelyn Vansant
- 16 - Betty Miles
- 17 - Jaxson Colfer
- 18 - Regina Hennessey
- 25 - Caleb Curry
- 25 - Margaret Sleppy
- 29 - Frank Schilling, Jr





BUMC School Supply Drive

Helping Students Succeed

Bensalem United Methodist Church is once again celebrating Christmas in July. The Worship Team is asking for donations of back-to-school supplies for local children. In addition to donating supplies to Rev. Rick Bunker for distribution to the children of Parx backlot employees, we would also like to provide supplies to the YWCA who support many Bensalem children through programs throughout the year. Please help by donating any of the following school supplies:

- Pocket Folders
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Pencil Erasers
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Mechanical Pencils
- Mechanical Pencil Lead
- Blue, Black & Red Pens
- Highlighters
- Glue Sticks
- Rulers
- Pencil Cases
- Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks & Composition Books

Please place donations on the front pew in the chapel between **July 5 and August 9**. This allows time to sort, package and distribute the supplies. If you don't have time to shop, please place your financial donation in an envelope clearly marked for the school supply drive and we'll do the shopping for you.

Together we can make a difference for local kids by giving them the supplies they need to start the school year off right. In Bensalem Township, a quarter or more of the students live below the poverty line. A pencil case, a box of pencils or a pack of erasers may seem like a small gift, but for a student without them, it provides the opportunity to participate in the classroom.

To make the school supply drive a success, please post info on social media and reach out to family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors. Help make the first day of school a happy one for as many students as possible.

Out to Lunch Bunch

Submitted by Penny Manning

Please Join Us and Bring a Friend on July 15th at 11:30am. We will be enjoying with fellowship at 11:30 at the Sunrise Diner, 416 Bristol Pike, Croydon Pa. Sign-up sheet is located in the Chapel narthex (lobby).



Bensalem Christian Day School

We will be holding our annual MINI SUMMER CAMP program from June 29th through July 31st. All children, ages 3-5, are welcome to attend. The registration will be for one-week intervals. Campers will attend Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily, with the exception of the first week which will be Monday - Thursday. The cost for the first week will be \$116.00 and the rest of the weeks will be \$145.00 per week. There will be a 5% discount for families that sign up for all five weeks at one time. Please phone the Day School Office (215-245-1610) to register! We still have openings for our school year 2026-2027. Please contact the office for a registration form. Also, you can print one off our website at bensalemchristiandayschool.org.



Have a fun-filled summer and keep our summer camp and day school in your prayers!

Lisa Woods
Day School and Camp Director

Looking Ahead...

A decorative banner consisting of a string of alternating green and red triangular pennants. The banner is tied with light blue bows at both ends.

Community Outdoor Concert



Saturday September 12th or 26th (TBD)

(More info in next month's BUZZ)

Summer Special Music Still Needed

There are still about 4-5 uncovered Sundays which need special music for the summer. If you, or anyone you know (they do not have to be a BUMC church member), would be willing to share your musical talents with us this summer, please check out the sign-up sheet in the Chapel narthex to choose a Sunday. The special music is not limited to singing – piano and other worshipful instrumental musical offerings are welcomed!



A "Note" of Thanks!



*What a special group you are, BUMC family!
As I move from the keyboard to the pew, I am grateful for
all your support "through the years", and I will have
wonderful memories to ponder in the days ahead!*

*All praise to God for His gifts of good health and strength
to serve Him through music.*

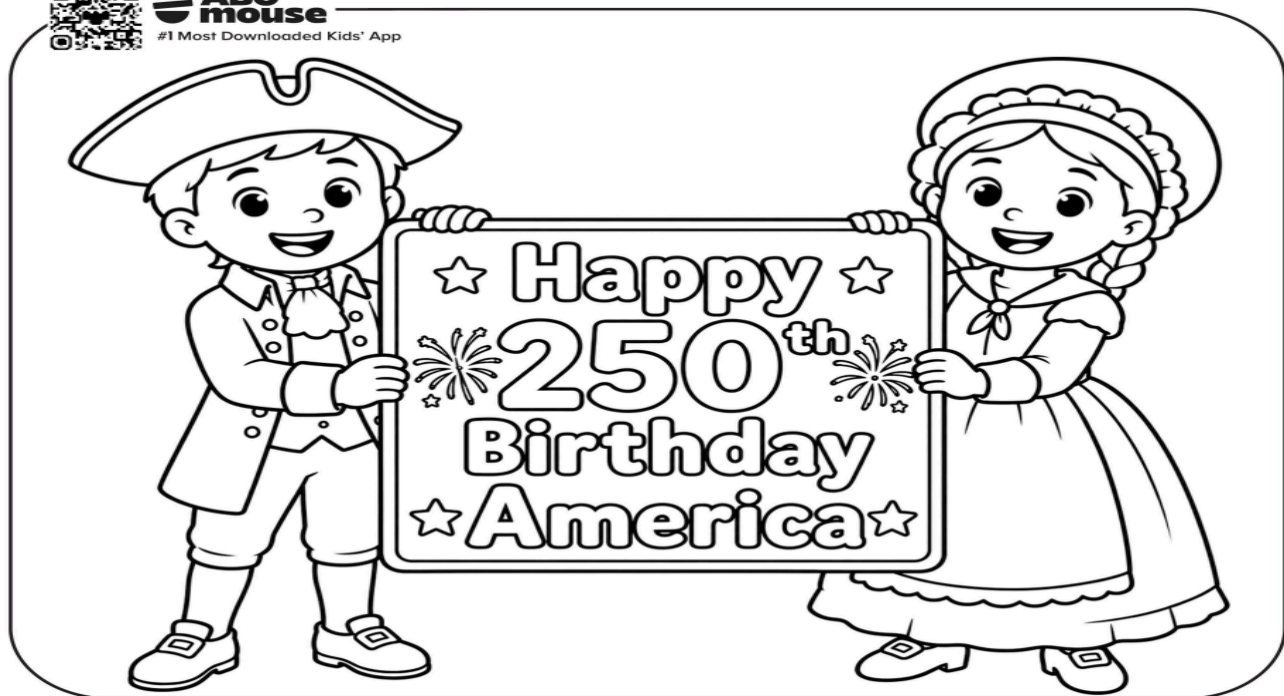
Your gift of flowers will be a lovely reminder in my garden!

Bless you! Connie Kurtz



ABCMouse

#1 Most Downloaded Kids' App



Letter from the Lay Leader July 2026

Half way through summer already! That means it's time for the Eastern PA UMC Laity Academy on July 31 and August 1, 2026 at Eastern University. This year's theme is *Foundations of Faith* (Psalm 40:2b, 3a) Laity Academy is an amazing opportunity for us to learn new things, meet wonderful people who are also United Methodists, and get a spirit refill through the conversations and interactions you'll have. We get a chance to hear what other churches are doing that has worked, and things that haven't, different ministries others are doing, and ideas that some churches are hoping for partnerships to develop and grow. There are three sessions. One is Friday evening, and two on Saturday with breakfast and lunch served on Saturday.

First things first: going to Laity Academy does not mean you must preach! You also don't need to work toward being a Christ Servant Minister. While I loved the Basic course, you also don't need to start with it – or ever take it, unless you hear a call to preach. If your heart leads you to caring or leading ministries, there are courses for those too.

There are 3 categories of courses this year, in addition to the Basic course.

SPEAKING: which enhances communication skills for preaching and teaching;

LEADING: which equips participants to lead various aspects of church life;

CARING: which focuses on pastoral care and empathy.



The Caring courses: 1] A Practical Pathway To Cultural Competency

 2] What To Say To People Who Are Hurting

The Speaking courses: 1] Preaching To Be Heard

 2] Preaching By The Numbers

The Leading courses: 1] Creation, Evolution, Intelligent Design Theory

 2] Forgiving Biblically: How God & Jesus Instruct Us To Let Go

 3] From Calling To Leading: Practical Skills For New Church Leaders

 4] Let's Talk About It - Re-Discover the Lost Art of Communication

 5] Methodist Theology - Through The Lens Of John Wesley's Sermons &
Charles Wesley's Hymns

 6] Mission, Ministry & Funding

We can car pool for the relatively short trips. I like the new-ish format of Friday and Saturday, an improvement over the old whole weekend, 2 nights in a hotel weekend. There are 2 hours of prep work for some courses or homework for others.

Registration closes on July 20. The conference does have some scholarship funds available.

So, pray on it and please don't hesitate! Here is the link for it:

<https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Laity-Academy-2026-Course-Catalog-final-DW.pdf>

Peace, Liz

Traditional Worship Service and Facebook live: 8:30 am
in the Chapel.

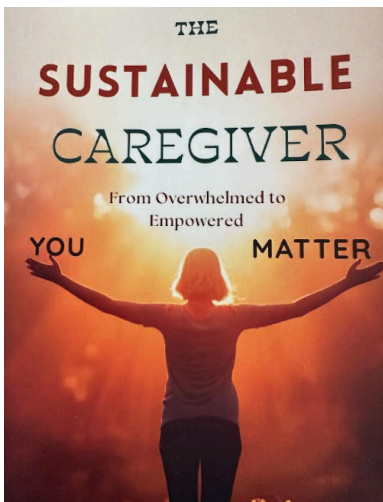
Celebration Worship Service: 10:00 am, also in the
Chapel.

The Celebration Service will meet outside on the
Chapel lawn on the last Sunday of each summer month
(weather permitting).



Please bring a lawn chair on those Sundays.
This schedule will continue through the month of September.
Come and worship with us!

Submitted by Joyce Dworsky



SAVE THE DATE!!

On July 25, at 10am in the Kurtiz Room, the United Women of Faith will have a guest speaker. Linda Chester.

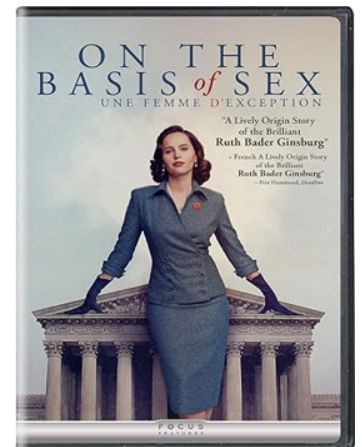
Linda just published her new book called, "The Sustainable Caregiver" Linda Chester is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University. She was an insurance broker – until she became a family caregiver for over a decade. She experienced burnout firsthand and realized that caregivers are often expected to give until they have nothing left. That's not sustainable. So she wrote The Sustainable Caregiver, a book offering 46 practical tools for managing stress, guilt, and the logistics of care. Her signature message 'You can't pour from an empty cup' Please join us in welcoming Linda Chester.

Submitted by Betty Miles



Watch

On the Basis of Sex (Rated PG-13)
American biographical legal drama
film based on the life and early
cases of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Saturday, July 11, 2026
9AM to 11AM



Meet in the Kurtiz Room
For Breakfast and a Movie
All Youth and Adults Welcome

Sponsored by BUMC United Women of Faith
We Hope You'll Join US!



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

Submitted and Created by Silke Mitchell