

JUNE 2026 THE BUZZ

Bensalem United Methodist Church

A Message from Pastor Sophy ~

Dear BUMC Beloveds—

Spring has given way to Summer here in Bucks County, and all around us are signs of growth. The trees are full with their summer leaves, the grass needs mowing, and the flowers are in bloom. Eastertide has passed, Pentecost is over, and we have entered the liturgical season known as “Ordinary Time.” This is a months-long period that mimics the summer growing season, and it is an apt time to give thanks for growth, hard work, and persistence. In our homes, schools, workplaces, and our beloved church, there is much to celebrate and give thanks for. To all of our recent or soon-to-be graduates, I offer a hearty “congratulations and well done!” for your hard work. I am so excited to see how your stories will unfold! I’d also like to extend a moment of celebration for Ms. Connie Kurtiz, who took to the piano bench again this past year and blessed us every Sunday with her musical gifts, as she has time and again throughout her life and career. She has decided to retire and return to the pews, and I hope you will join me in celebrating her music ministry and praising God for the gifts that God has poured out through her. As we move through the summer and into the fall, we will continue to seek out creative ways to bring meaningful music into our worship experiences. If you are interested in sharing your musical gifts, please let me know!

Our annual church picnic will take place the first Sunday of June—if you haven’t marked your calendars yet, please consider this your personal invitation! It will be a joyous occasion. I look forward to celebrating all that this community has accomplished together since this time last year, and all that God has in store for us in the days to come. May we patiently and faithfully journey forward with one another, giving thanks along the way, and encouraging one another as we strive to do the work of love. Summertime blessings to you all, and see you at the church picnic!

Grace + Peace, Pastor Sophy



Bensalem United Methodist Church

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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.”

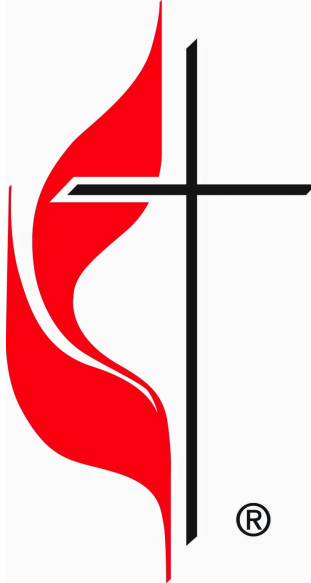
Our Vision:

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

Methodist Flag (Flag Day - June 14th) History and Significance

Submitted by Dawn Lacerte

The history and significance of the Cross and Flame emblem are as rich and diverse as The United Methodist Church. The insignia's birth quickly followed the union of two denominations in 1968: The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church.



Following more than two dozen conceptualizations, a traditional symbol – the cross – was linked with a single flame with dual tongues of fire. The resulting insignia is rich in meaning. It relates The United Methodist church to God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame). The flame is a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3).

The elements of the emblem also remind us of a transforming moment in the life of Methodism's founder, John Wesley, when he sensed God's presence and felt his heart "strangely warmed." The two tongues of a single flame may also be understood to represent the union of two denominations.

The insignia, one with lettering and one without, was formally adopted by the General Conference in 1968 and registered in 1971 with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Since 1996, the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) of The United Methodist church has supervised the emblem's use.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/a-mark-known-the-world-over>

THANK YOU Submitted by Dawn Lacerte

Thank you to our dedicated Property Committee members Paul Lacerte and Jim Cieliski. During the major storm in May, several large tree limbs came down blocking access to the main parking lot. Within an hour of the limbs coming down they were cleared. Day School was able to open on time and the scheduled wedding went on without a hitch.



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

June Birthdays

2 - Pastor Sophy Gamber
7 - Connie Kurtiz
7 - Penny Manning
12 - Sarah Lorenzo
19 - Marie Edmiston
24 - Jeanette Schnarr
29 - Dan Taylor



A Prayer for Fathers

Submitted by Dawn Lacerte

Dear Lord, Bless every father and every grandfather with the best of your spiritual blessings today. Let him know he is not alone in the tasks you have given him to provide for and support those under his care. Show him how much you delight in his work, and affirm the value of whatever You have given him to do – both as a father or grandfather and as a child of Yours. Confirm his worth daily so he has no reason to doubt whether he is loved in the eyes of his Heavenly Father.

Create in him a deep sense of trust in You, knowing that He can count on You to help him lead and protect those dependent on him. Let him know that every unselfish act of love and encouragement he has offered has been a gift that You receive gladly. Show him how effective the prayers of a godly man really are, and what a difference he has and can make to those around him, no matter how big or small the assignment.

When challenging times push him beyond his limits, assure him that You can take Him further into the realm of possible impossibility. Speak deep into his spirit the powerful words he longs to hear from You – that nothing can ever separate him from Your love. Help him to grasp firmly the promises of Your Word, standing with faith on the things You declare are true. Reward him for his faithfulness past, present, and future, assuring him that true success and satisfaction don't lie in his accomplishments or accolades, but in the steadfast, Christ-like character You are forming in him.



Demonstrate to him Your amazing grace and forgiveness as he seeks to love and to know you with all of his heart, soul, and mind. Release him from unwanted burdens of false guilt, and bless him for his willingness to keep short accounts with You, forgiving both himself and others. Help him to see his children or grandchildren through Your eyes, realizing that in Your hands is the safest place they can ever be. Strengthen his confidence in the Only One who can bring good out of any situation.

Teach him how to meet the needs of his child's life that are within his ability to do so, but help Him to trust You for the rest. Push out any needless fears, and grant to him godly wisdom and spiritual guidance to lead and direct those precious children in Your path, knowing he must also release them into Your hands with prayerful love.

Complete any healing of past hurts or regrets that may interfere with parenting or grandparenting his children. Strengthen in him a sense of joy, humility, and playfulness that draw his family close. When plans don't develop as he hopes, or dreams are not yet realized, open his eyes to see beyond this world to a greater joy that never disappoints, and to a Father who will never leave or abandon him or his loved ones.

Give him a passionate faith, a persevering spirit, and a powerful testimony that overcomes any weakness or doubt, as he wears the [armor of God](#) daily You have provided for him as a spiritual leader and child of God.

Today, on special days, and for all the days of his life, fill him with the best of Your blessings, so that one day he will stand before you and hear Your ultimate words of praise, "Well done, my son, well done!" In Jesus' Name, Amen. *(written by Rebecca Barlow Jordan)*

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/fathers-day-prayers-to-pray-for-your-dad-or-husband.html>

June 7th All-Church Picnic!



10:00 am: One Combined Service in the

Main Sanctuary

Stay for the picnic immediately following on church grounds

Worship...Food...Fellowship...Games
(Hot dogs provided or bring a packed lunch)

Sign-up sheet to bring an item to share.

Plan to spend time with your church family
and bring a lawn chair, if you can!

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



Congratulations & Blessings to our 2026 BUMC Family Graduates!

Griffin Cielinski: (Grandson of Jim & Pat Cielinski) Griffin graduated from Jordan High School in Sandy, UT. He will be attending the University of Utah, and will be majoring in the medical field.

Madison Cielinski: (Granddaughter of Jim & Pat Cielinski) Maddie graduated from Kingsway Regional High School in Woolwich, NJ. She will be attending Rowan College in South Jersey and will major in the Health Science program.

Reagan Cielinski: (Granddaughter of Jim & Pat Cielinski) Reagan attended Salem Community College and will be pinned as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). She will continue her studies at Salem Community College with her goal of becoming a Registered Nurse (RN).

Alexis Girard: (Daughter of Karen and Larry Girard) Alexis graduated from Holy Family College, where she earned her Master's Degree in Special Education.

Gwen Girard: (Daughter of Karen and Larry Girard) Gwen will be graduating from the Bucks County Technical School, where she majored in welding.

Bridget Manning: (Granddaughter of Penny Manning) Bridget graduated on May 29 from Lakeside Girls Academy. She will be attending Kutztown University in the fall where she will be studying Marketing.

Owen Manning: (Grandson of Penny Manning) Owen graduates on June 16 from Council Rock North High School. He will be attending The College of New Jersey and will be studying Psychology.

Silke Mitchell: (Daughter of Dawn and Paul Lacerte) Silke graduated from Holy Family University with a Master of Science in Pre K-12 Special Education. She is currently working at School Lane Charter School, IB Campus.

Frankie Pavlik: (Grandson of Greg and Kathy Boynton) Frankie will be graduating from Yorkville High School in Illinois. He will be attending and playing baseball for Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois.

Submitted by Joyce Dworsky

Out to Lunch Bunch

Submitted by Penny Manning

Please Join Us and Bring a Friend on **June 17th at 11:30am**. We will be enjoying a meal with fellowship at DeLorenzo's Pizza, 914 Trenton Rd, Fairless Hills, Pa. Sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.



Congratulations and Blessings, Pastor Sophy!

**ON TUESDAY, MAY 19TH , AT OUR 2026 EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE
IN WILDWOOD, NJ,
PASTOR SOPHY WAS COMMISSIONED
IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.
THIS IMPORTANT STEP IN HER MINISTRY WILL LEAD TO HER ORDINATION IN TWO YEARS!**



PASTOR SOPHY BEING COMMISSIONED BY BISHOP CYNTHIA MOORE-KOIKOI



Pastor Sophy with her fellow pastors (front row) awaiting their commissioning

Home Church: First UMC of Germantown (Philadelphia)

Churches Served: Golden Hill UMC (Bridgeport, CT.; New Milford UMC (CT)

College/University: Ursinus College (BA. Rel. Studies/Sociology)

Seminary: Yale Divinity School (MDiv)

Submitted by Joyce Dworsky

June, 2026 Lay Leader Letter

Hi, all.

Seems unbelievable that it's June. This is Pastor Sophy's last month in her rookie year. It's been a time of change for Bensalem United Methodist Church and that's what life and living is all about.

June is a big birthday month in my family, with 3 grandchildren and my dog celebrating. June is the month for high school graduations and weddings. June is also the month that summer arrives with family vacations, school breaks, and, quite often, soaring temperatures ahead of us. June, I think, is a month of change; of new things starting after older things come to an end.

On May 24, we celebrated Pentecost, aka the birthday of the church. This event was the beginning of the evolution of change for the church from a small group of followers, who, individually, were rather insignificant. But Jesus, in his first week after Resurrection, breathed his Spirit onto them. Later a huge crowd from around the known world crammed together for the Feast of the Wheats and the Holy Spirit burned into the room, separating into tongues of flame which hovered over those leaders who were present. Those flames sparked the change that led the Word to be shared around the world—right here to you and me.

You know I have to ask: what does this mean to you? To me? It means that we're supposed to keep that spark going. I know God knows that I am not a door-knocker, but I admire those of you who are. But I know I can share my spark in different ways. I can teach, share my skills, or even just have simple conversations with people I meet. I stepped out of my comfort zone at Friendly's and asked a random family if they would use the voucher to support the Day School. They have no connection to the school or BUMC, but they said yes.

How can you step out of your comfort zone? I realized recently that it's amazingly easy to drop Bensalem HS in a conversation, adding "my church is right across the street." Give that a try. Look around your neighborhood, around our community. Talk to someone who may see your spark in a way you don't. There are people in the church who will be happy to talk to you. Say some prayers and listen to the Holy Spirit. You'll know where you're needed. And you will have the power of the Spirit so you won't fail. So what's next?

Peace,

Liz

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning Sunday, June 14th, summer services will occur in our air-conditioned Historic Chapel



Traditional Worship Service and Facebook live: 8:30 am
Celebration Worship Service: 10:00 am

Note: 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 these Sundays.
This schedule will continue through the month of September.
Come and worship with us!

Submitted by Joyce Dworsky

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED FOR SATURDAY MORNING



Join BUMC United Women in Faith (UWF) for Breakfast and a Movie

Saturday mornings are perfect for enjoying a delicious breakfast and a classic racial / social justice movie. Join us in the Kurtiz Room for coffee, juice and a spread of breakfast goodies before the movie. Stay after the movie for lively discussion.

Mark your calendars now and join us on the following Saturdays at 9AM:

- The Long Walk Home June 13
- On the Basis of Sex July 11
- TBD August 8

The Long Walk Home is a historical drama set in Montgomery, Alabama. The movie follows Odessa Cotter (Whoopi Goldberg), an African-American woman who works as a maid/nanny for Miriam Thompson (Sissy Spacek), a well-to-do white woman.

A boycott of the city-owned buses forces Odessa to walk to and from work. Miriam Thompson offers to give Odessa a ride to work two days a week to lessen the fatigue caused by her long walks. This decision becomes an issue for Miriam's husband, and other prominent members of the white community who want the boycott to end. Miriam is forced to choose between what she believes is right or succumb to pressure from her husband and others.

On the Basis of Sex is the true story of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, her struggles for equal rights, and the early cases of a historic career that lead to her nomination and confirmation as a U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice. Unable to find a position as a lawyer (none of the firms she applied to would hire a woman), Ruth took a job as a Rutgers Law School professor teaching "Sex Discrimination and the Law."

In 1970, Ruth's husband brought a tax law case, *Moritz v. Commissioner*, to Ruth's attention. Charles Moritz, a bachelor, hired a nurse to help care for his aging mother so he could continue to work. He was denied a tax deduction for the nursing care because the tax code limited the deduction to "a woman, a widower or divorcée, or a husband whose wife is incapacitated or institutionalized". Ruth believed if she could set a precedent ruling that a man was unfairly discriminated against based on his gender, that precedent could be cited in cases challenging laws discriminating against women.

The film closes with the real Ruth Bader Ginsburg ascending the steps of the Supreme Court building, symbolizing her legacy in the fight for justice and equality.

Submitted by Linda Evans

“How is God asking you to grow?”

A Reflection on Spiritual Formation

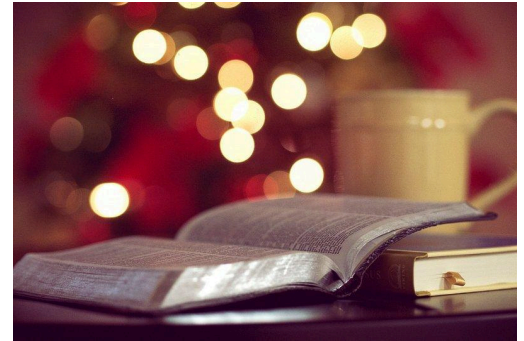
Nancy Oczkowski

At each of our monthly Leadership Board meetings, members of the Board take turns offering reflections on spiritual formation and leadership development. This month, Nancy led our spiritual formation reflection.

Every Christian, no matter how long they've been going to church or how mature they are in their faith, needs to dedicate time to grow their personal relationship with God and develop their faith. This also applies to people in leadership positions, like those of us on the Leadership Board. All of us will need to do this in our own unique ways.

I grew up going to a United Methodist Church with my mother. During that time, I learned many of the more popular Bible stories. Due to the illness of my mother, I stopped reading the Bible for many years. This happens to many of us: life circumstances or difficulties come up, and we sometimes lose connection to our faith. It was only recently through my son Bobby and then after his death six years ago, that I was able to reconnect to God and to my faith.

Recently, I decided I wanted to grow in my faith even more and to spend more time reading the Bible. In my experience, you reach out to someone who knows something about the thing you want to learn about, so I decided to ask Pastor Sophy to help me get started. We started at the very beginning, a very good place to start! I took a deep dive into the Book of Genesis. I was particularly struck by how God acknowledges Abram's faithfulness and leadership by giving him a new name (changing Abram to Abraham). This has been a very meaningful experience to me so far.



I offer this reflection as an invitation to everyone else here. No matter how long we have been going to church or how often we read our Bibles, there are still ways that God needs for us to grow. Please take a moment now, and consider how God is asking you to grow your faith. Is there an area of your life where committing to a certain prayer practice or meditation or Bible study could help you in what you are facing? Who are the people in your life who can help you as you journey forward in your faith?

This is important for us to do as leaders of the church on the Leadership Board, so that we can lead faithfully, share God's message, and show others in the church that it is never too late to reconnect to God and grow spiritually.

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



Thursday, June 18th, at the Oxford Valley Mall

The volunteer day for “Knock Out Hunger” this year will be **Thursday, June 18th at Oxford Valley Mall**. Please let Betsy Pitcher or Connie Kurtiz know if you want to volunteer, ASAP!

Each participating organization must sign up the exact number of volunteers for that day. **You must be on that list to participate!**

What will you do? You will stand around a table wearing your attractive hair covering (Ha!), and put meal items through a funnel into bags that will contain a nutritional meal for a family – **OR** – you might weigh bags – **OR** – fill boxes – all while talking with new friends and laughing at the “oops” that occur.

You will hear a bell ring each time that another carton of meals is completed.

Last year, thousands of meals were assembled!

Come, -- Be a Blessing!

Submitted by: Connie Kurtiz

Poultry Raising Project of the United Methodist Women Organization in SE Mozambique



The Food and Agriculture Organization, The Kyeema Foundation, and the UMW, are partners supporting a poultry-raising project to improve food security & income for vulnerable households in Mozambique. The project aims to foster sustainable livelihoods by encouraging local production of feed while reducing dependency on external aid and while empowering young people and women to become self-sufficient farmers.

After completing a course in chicken rearing and health management, young adults and women are then provided with chicken kits. The kits contain 10 chicks, poultry assets, tools, feeders and drinkers as well as vaccines, vitamins and feed.

One student, Jorge, completed 12th grade and had 2 unsuccessful attempts to enter the University, due to lack of funding. This poultry project now gives him and his family better income, and through its profits, he can now pursue his higher education studies.

Another student, Leopordina, finished the 12th grade and applied to tech school to become a teacher, but was not admitted. With the profits from her chicken business, she now looks forward to returning to school and getting a degree in Portuguese teaching.

When higher education is no longer an option in Mozambique, many youth turn to fishing, agriculture, migration to South America, or even arranged or early marriages as alternatives.

This program can be (and has been), a way to achieve their goals of higher education!

*Submitted by Deb Duarte
BUMC United Women in Faith*

Our Christian Day School Graduation 2026

On Thursday, May 21st, our BUMC Christian Day School held their graduation ceremony in our main sanctuary. What a joy it was to witness these precious children as they prepare to enter Kindergarten in September!



Some of the children getting in line for their graduation processional.



The 2026 Day School Graduates as they sang songs and recited poetry.



A big thank you to our wonderful teachers and staff, to our director, Lisa Woods, and to our proud Day School parents!

Bensalem Christian Day School

We had a wonderful year with the children at school.

From June 1st – June 5th we will be having a Learning can be Fun Program.

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.**

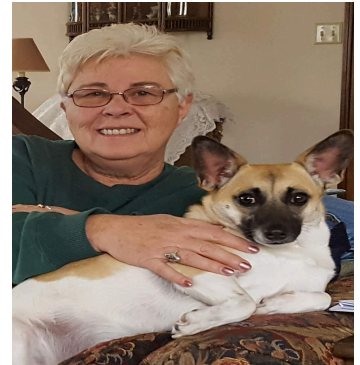
Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our school

Lisa Woods
Director





Hazel Sloan Downes



Hazel Sloan Downes recently celebrated her 75th birthday this past January. She was born and raised in Philadelphia, in the Feltonville section, attended Clara Barton Elementary School, and graduated from Olney High School in 1968. She later attended Temple University night classes and obtained her realtor's license.

In 1970, Hazel married, and in 1972 she had her son, Ricky. She was divorced in 1984 and became a single mother for many years. In 1989, she married her wonderful husband, Mark E. Downes, and moved to Bensalem. Her work experiences included Sears, while going through high school, Bell Telephone, as a clerk right after high school, Century 21 Boland, as an office manager, and Ronald S. Mintz/C&M Homebuilder, as an administrative assistant for more than 40 years. Presently, Hazel is retired and loving it.

For decades, Jimmy and Genieve Mills asked Hazel to come to church. It wasn't until Jimmy's funeral service that she stepped into Bensalem UMC and heard Pastor Sophy speak. She was moved by the Holy Spirit and started attending church regularly in November of last year. Hazel says, "So in death, Jimmy Mills finally got me to attend church. It's so good to be home again, in God's house."

Hazel has a passion for gardening. In years past, she had many garden areas on her property and won numerous ribbons at the Trevoise Horticultural Society's Annual Flower Show held at St. Ephrem's Church each August. Unfortunately, age has slowed her down, and she has downsized her gardens considerably. Hazel shared that she once read an article saying there are antidepressants in the soil, which she strongly believes. "It is seldom that you will see an unhappy gardener," she says. Recently, Hazel has taken up crocheting and thoroughly enjoys it. Since she only knows a few stitches, she has been making scarves and blankets, which she donates to the Bucks County Emergency Homeless. She says crocheting helps her relax, and someone is benefiting from what she is doing. If anyone has extra yarn they won't be using, Hazel would gladly accept donations for her project.

Hazel says these verses have sustained her through many trials, tribulations, and storms in her life: Matthew 18:19-20 and Mark 9:23. "Faith is easy when you don't have to use it," she shares. "Repeating God's promises, day after day, helped rebuild my faith and gave me strength that I desperately needed." Hazel says that when life is turned upside down by sickness, physical and/or mental, grief from the death of a loved one, separation, financial problems, work-related struggles, or any hardship, people sometimes fade away when problems become long-term. Sometimes it may feel impossible to find your way through life's hardships. Her advice is to draw nearer to God. "God never leaves you," Hazel says. "Even when He is silent, He is there for you. You just have to ask and believe that He has a plan for you. It is His will, His way, and His timing. The answers to our prayers may not always be what we want, but He is there to get us through whatever life throws at us. There is power in prayer, and I am here to testify to it."

Submitted by Amber Schiefer



Report from BUMC's Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Joyce Dworsky

Our UMC new guiding vision which Pastor Sophy preached about in a 6 week sermon series:
Love boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously!

This is my second year as your Lay Delegate to the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and, once again, the experience was SO uplifting: the Bible Studies, the messages, the praise music, the wonderful and diverse leaders of our conference (Did you know that the UMC has accepted women pastors for 70 years now?), the leadership and vision of our Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, and even the discussions and voting on resolutions, which she conducted in a civil, fair, loving manner--this cannot be conveyed to you, unless you experience it yourself. I left the conference feeling SO blessed to be a United Methodist!

There is so much that happens during those three days, so I will try to be as concise as I can without sacrificing the important concepts that we were instructed to relay to you.

As you can see from the graphic above, this year's theme was Prayer. **Prayer should be the engine in ALL aspects of our church life – if it is not, we will be lost in our church's ministry.** One Korean pastor stated, "As life gets more comfortable, prayer, sadly, decreases." This cannot be allowed to happen. Although the focus of the Conference Bible studies was the entire chapter of Isaiah 55, *Isaiah 55:6 was a core scripture: "Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call on Him while He is near."*

We learned the history of prayer in both the Korean and African American traditions. **We learned that prayer is not passive** – it should be active, liberating, and transformative – from victims to victors – from groans to glory!

Goals of our EPA Conference going forward:

- **Every church will be asked to create a plan as to how we will develop disciples** in our congregation and community.
- **Over the next ten years, our emphasis will be on Youth and Young Adult development** (We often say, "How do we bring young people back to OUR church? It is not OUR church, it is CHRIST's church.") Many kids not only live in Food Deserts (especially in urban areas), but they live in HOPE Deserts. We must take the church to them, learn their language, and listen to them! We must learn to look at church in a different way.
- **We must go back to our Methodist roots.** John Wesley preached in fields to the unwashed. We need to consider this in our ministries. Wesley taught that you preach with the scripture in one hand and the newspaper in the other.
- **Each church will be asked to Imagine what our church CAN be.**
- **Our Conference will strive to connect more to the global UM Church.**
- **Our conference will renovate our unsafe and deteriorating EPC office building.** (Monies will not come from apportionments.)

How do we discern if something we want to try at our church is God’s will? We ASK the following:

- How does what you want to do impact others? Does it bring them closer to God or push them away?
- Is it **KINDOM** building? (Notice this new term – **not kingdom but kin dom.**)
- Listen for understanding – not to correct ideas – but to listen and try to understand other points of view.
- If something does not have the result that you expected or has a negative effect, repent, try to fix the problem, and ask for redemption. **Start fresh each new day!**

In closing, our Bishop wanted to correct something that many United Methodists, even some clergy, do not understand.

The United Methodist Church does not believe that the Bible is the inerrant word of God.

The United Methodist Church believes that the Bible is the inspired word of God, written by mortal men whose writing reflected the culture of their time period and their own mortal personhood.

The EPA Annual Conference is such a wonderful experience! Visitors, although they cannot vote, are welcome to experience God through this spirit-filled event. Consider attending next year!

B JUNE 2026 B

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	BEL – Belmont Hills CRN – Cornwells FST – Faust RSH – Rush STR – Struble	VLY – Valley SHF – Shafer SNY – Snyder BHS – Bensalem High	LGBTQI+ Pride Month Fireworks Safety Month thru July 4	Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Class of 2026		
	1 BHS Gr. 9 Dorney Park Trip	2 FST Picnic Day (Gr. K-3) SHF Choir Sings at Trenton Thunder – 7 PM BHS Night of Champions – 6 PM	3 BEL Market Day FST Picnic Day (Gr. 4-6)	4 VLY DARE Graduation – 9:30 AM SHF 8th Gr. Formal – 6 to 9 PM BHS Class of 2026 Senior Awards Night – 6 PM	5 BEL 6th Gr. Fun Day CRN Choir Sings at Trenton Thunder – 7 PM	6 SAT Testing (Digital) at BHS
7	8 BEL Senior Alumni Breakfast CRN Senior Alumni Breakfast/ Parade – 8 AM FST Senior Alumni Breakfast – 8 AM RSH Senior Alumni Luncheon – 11:30 AM STR 6th Gr. Breakfast & Yearbook Signing – 9:30 AM STR Senior Alumni Breakfast – 8:15 AM VLY Senior Alumni Breakfast – 7:45 AM BHS Senior Sunset/Video – 6:30 PM	9 FST Kindergarten Promotion – 10 AM VLY 6th Gr. Promotion – 9:15 AM SNY 8th Gr. Dance – 6 PM BHS Micro-credential Breakfast & Ceremony BHS Class of 2026 Reflections – 6 PM	10 FST 6th Gr. Promotion – 9:30 AM RSH 6th Gr. Promotion – 9:30 AM RSH Kindergarten Celebration – 2:30 PM VLY 6th Gr. Picnic SNY 8th Gr. Promotion BHS Auditorium – 12:00 PM BHS Sophia's Senior Picnic/Tailgate	11 BEL 6th Gr. Promotion – 9:30 AM CRN 6th Gr. Promotion – 2:15 PM STR 6th Promotion – 9:30 AM SHF Talent Show BHS Class of 2026 Commencement – 6 PM	12 SHF 8th Grade Promotion at BHS – 10:15 AM Last Day of School Grades K-11	13
14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19 Summer Schedule Offices Closed Juneteenth	20
21 Father's Day First Day of Summer	22	23	24	25	26 Summer Schedule Offices Closed	27
28	29 School Board Action Meeting – 7:30PM followed by Adoption of Final Budget for 2026-2027 Fiscal Year	30				



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

**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
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**SPECIAL PRICING
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(ACROSS FROM BENSALEM HIGH SCHOOL)
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OFFICE PHONE: 215-245-1610
BENSALEMCHRISTIANDS@GMAIL.COM
BENSALEMCHRISTIANDAYSCHOOL.ORG**

Submitted by Silke Mitchell, Created by Dawn Lacerte