



Bensalem United Methodist Church

August 2026 THE BUZZ

A Message from Pastor Sophy ~

Dear BUMC Beloveds —

Perhaps it's because I come from a family of teachers, but I tend to see August as the threshold into a new year. In August, I often find myself holding anticipation for what's coming in one hand and gratitude for what I have right now in the other.

This month is when many of us will begin looking ahead to the fall, all while still trying to savor the last drops of summer's goodness. It's also the time of year when I notice that whatever I've been trying to grow over the summer is finally ready to harvest, or getting close — the bold red tomatoes, the many-colored zinnias, the endless zucchinis. What do you see coming up over the horizon? How can you prepare your heart, body, and mind to receive it? And what has grown within you, or within our community, that might need a moment of celebration or gratitude?

I have officially crossed the one-year anniversary mark as your pastor at Bensalem UMC, and I feel such profound gratitude for the year we have had together. To say that I prayed for the past ten years to be here with you all is not an understatement, and so to God and to you all, I say *thank you*. I'm also looking ahead with joyful expectancy to new and evolving ministry opportunities for us here. Many of you have expressed interest in church leadership, social justice ministries, music for worship, children's time and youth group, and supportive care programs for those who are grieving, caring for ill or aging loved ones, and living with mental health challenges. Wow! Look at God's compassion moving through you all! August will be a time to nourish and plan for all of these things, and I am eager to be in conversation with you all as we go. Please reach out to me if you'd like to get involved. God calls each of us to work together in His vineyard, and there is surely space for you in this garden.

I hope to see you all at our Back to School Blessing services on Sunday, August 30th! In the meantime — be well, beloveds of God.

Pastor Sophy Gamber

Bensalem United Methodist Church

4300 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem PA 19020

Rev. Sophia Gamber
rev.sophygamber@gmail.com

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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."





National Purple Heart Honor Mission

Submitted by Dawn Lacerte

Celebrated on each August 7, National Purple Heart Day offers Americans a special opportunity to say "Thank You" to the nearly two million brave men and women who fought for our nation's freedom, and bear the physical scars of war.

To salute these brave Americans' service and sacrifice, the National Purple Heart Honor Mission hosts a national tribute ceremony each August 7. The event offers Purple Heart recipients the chance to gather together to share personal narratives about the true cost of freedom and what it takes to protect our great nation.

They were welcomed like the heroes they are. In a first for the White House, President Donald J. Trump invited Purple Heart recipients from across the nation to the East Room on National Purple Heart Day on August 7th.

<https://www.purpleheartmission.org/national-purple-heart-day>

Bensalem Christian Day School

The Bensalem Christian Day School has been active this summer with their annual summer camp. The campers had a great five weeks. The camp staff did a great job creating exciting activities for the campers each week.

We still have openings for our school year 2026-2027. Please contact the office for a registration form. Also, you can print one on our website at bensalemchristiandayschool.org.

Please keep our day school in your prayers.

Lisa Woods
Day School and Camp Director



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

August Birthdays

8 - Senia Letenauchyn

10 - Tom Kurtiz Jr

11- Jonathan Reinert

19 - Dave Newill

21 Joe Hennessey

22 - Nathan Pitcher

26 - Janice Jardine

27 - Frank Schilling Sr

29 - Zoe Lagoudakis

30 - Kathie Letenauchyn

30 - Ginny Craig



News from the Property Management Team

Submitted by Pat Cielinski

Did you know that BUMC has a Property Management Team?

This Team continues to maintain the parsonage, building facilities and outdoor grounds of our church. Many hours are spent repairing, replacing, and upgrading systems, required by inspections for safety reasons. There is always a team member present at the many inspections.

The PM Team has approved reputable companies/contractors to do major projects.

- Two Heat Pump Package Units were installed on the roof to allow air conditioning to circulate in the Kurtiz Room, Pastor's Office, Main Office, and Room 3/4.
- Tree Project - several large, dead tree branches were cut down and chipped. This was due to some branches falling, causing damage, and a concern for safety reasons.

Thanks to the Lawn Crew, good guys – George Allen, Greg Boynton, and Jim Cielinski (all in their 70's), who keep all the grounds cut & looking wonderful.

The PM Team also handles all Building Rentals, 5 of which are ongoing, as well as one-time events. This is a reach-out to the community and funding to assist our church budget.



As you can see, we are a busy team and are always asking for volunteers to help, or if you'd like to join our team, please let us know.

Jim Cielinski, Pat Cielinski, Bob Evans, Paul Lacerte, Nancy Pczkowski, Jim Stubenhofer
– Property Management Team

Back-to-School Blessing

by the Rev. Marilyn E. Thornton

Bless my paper and my pen. Guide my spirit deep within.
Help me think and help me play, This whole school year, day by day.

As I move from class to class, guide my footsteps; clear my path.
Keep my tongue to speak your words. Let your will for me be heard.

In every subject high or low, May God's excellence be shown!
Keep me strong to reach the prize, To grow in grace, becoming wise.

Whether far from home or near, May I hold God's precepts dear.
To do my best at every task; For this blessing, I do ask.

Help my family be a part As I lift my mind and heart.
As I study, work, and pray, Be with them throughout the day.

Of whom much is given, much is required.
May learning be your greatest desire!

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-back-to-school-blessing>

Submitted by Dawn Lacerte



Greetings from the Lay Leader

August, 2026

When this arrives, Betty M, Nancy O, and I will be finishing up at the 2026 Laity Academy. I don't remember how many I've gone to, but every one has been a blessing and taught me so much. I admit that I talk about training opportunities incessantly. Some of you have rolled your eyes when I started, but there is a very good reason I feel this way.

Our United Methodist Church is driven by the laity. And what does that mean? Simply – us. I went to one of my favorite sites: UMC.org. It's got answers for any question you can think of. **In the UMC glossary *laity* is:**

From *laos*, meaning "people of God," and used to describe members of a congregation or parish.

Source: Sharing God's Gifts Glossary of United Methodist Terms

You don't need to become a Christ Servant Minister (CSM) to go to trainings. You only have to want to serve. There are three areas of service for CSMs: *Caring, Leading and Communicating*. The important thing to realize is that the UM church doesn't ask you to do something and not give you the tools; exactly how God won't leave you hanging when you respond to his call. These are the categories. 1. **LEADING**: equips participants to lead various aspects of church life. 2. **CARING**: focuses on pastoral care and empathy. 3. **SPEAKING**: enhances communication skills for preaching and teaching. Being a CSM doesn't mean you have to preach, but if you feel led to preach there are speaking courses.

Some CSMs chose to specialize. Caring can be their focus. Betty and Linda's Grief Share is a caring ministry. Nancy and I are taking different courses in Leading. Nancy's class is studying John Wesley's words and practices. My course discusses resources for mission and ministry programs and possible available funding from the UM church at large. We deliberately chose different classes so we can share with everyone.



From the UM Discipline: *The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs.* The United Methodist Church is laity driven. Our worldwide church relies on us. Decision makers in Nashville cannot be expected to understand a church's needs in Bucks County or Center City. Our church depends on each member to accomplish mission, especially because we better understand the needs of the community we serve. Realistically, Pastor Sophy cannot accomplish everything that needs to be done for our church and our community. But *we* can.

Quick pop quiz: Laity is responsible for which of the following missions of the church:

- a] leading Bible study b] property maintenance
- c] leading a committee/team d] supporting the church financially
- e] all of the above

If you want more information, check out: Ministry of the Laity–

<https://www.epaumc.org/connectional-ministries/congregational-ministry/laity/>

Peace,
Liz G

Summer Outdoor Worship

Engage with God in his Creation

Second Service at 10:00am on the lawn in front of the Chapel began the last Sunday in June. These outdoor Services will be held on the last Sunday of each month through September. Next services outdoors August 30th, and September 27th. Be sure to bring a chair and enjoy Worship and Fellowship in the God's fresh air.



Submitted by Dan Taylor

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.

Updates for Church Directory

Downes, Hazel
2233 Camel Dr.
Bensalem, PA 19020
215-480-8064 (cell)

Williams, Benjamin
3241 Hulmeville Rd.
Bensalem, PA 19020
609-677-3605



Also, there are January 2026 Directories available.
If anyone would like a copy, please contact Pat Cielinski.

A coupon from Boscov's. At the top is the Boscov's logo. Below it, in large red letters, is "FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS". To the right of "FRIENDS" is a yellow circle with "IN-STORE & ONLINE" in black. Below that, in red, is "ONE DAY ONLY". Underneath, in black, is "WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 - SHOP 8AM - 11PM". The main part of the coupon is a red box with "25% OFF*" in large yellow letters, followed by "LOWEST SALE PRICES" in white. Below that, in large yellow letters, is "SHOPPING PASS". In smaller white text, it says "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." Below that, in yellow, is "\$5 DONATION PER PASS". At the bottom, in small white text, it says "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".



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 August 19th at 11:30am. We will be enjoying a meal with fellowship at 11:30 at Apollo's Pizza, 2255 Bristol Pk, Bensalem Pa. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.



HAVE YOU Met? **Callie & Kevin Curry**



Callie has been a part of the Bensalem UMC family since she was born in January 1998. Her middle name was given in honor of Pastor Russell Stahley, and she truly grew up within the church walls.

From attending Bensalem Christian Day School to singing in Cherub Choir, Happiness Choir, and the Praise Team, participating in Sunday School, playing a role in the Family Christmas Eve Service each year, and attending Vacation Bible School every summer, BUMC has always been a central part of her life.

After marrying Kevin in June 2024, they began attending church together. Kevin officially became a member of Bensalem UMC in October 2025, and together they are now raising the newest member of their family, their adorable one-year-old son, Caleb Curry.

Callie is the daughter of Don and Laura Hadfield, the younger sister of Donny and Alyssa Hadfield, and the granddaughter of the late Laura Freeling.

Over the years, Callie has enjoyed serving the church in many ways. She was a VBS camp counselor each summer, sang with the Praise Team, and worked in the nursery from March 2017 through March 2020. Today, Kevin serves as an usher during the Celebration Service and occasionally reads Scripture.

Some of their favorite church memories are especially meaningful. For Callie, it was watching Caleb be baptized in January 2026 and welcoming him into the same church family that has loved and supported her since birth. Kevin's favorite memory is becoming a member of Bensalem UMC in October 2025.

Outside of church, Callie enjoys taking trips to New York City to see Broadway shows and spending time doing arts and crafts. Kevin enjoys watching scary movies, playing video games on his PlayStation, and, most of all, spending time with his beautiful wife and son.

Callie has been a Kindergarten teacher at Saint Ephrem Catholic School since October 2020. Kevin has been a table games dealer at Parx Casino since June 2023.

Callie's favorite Bible story is Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). She first learned the story in Cherub Choir through song and even acted it out. Every time she hears the story – or teaches it to her Kindergarten students at Saint Ephrem – it brings her back to those special memories of Cherub Choir with Lori Caporale, climbing onto a chair to pretend she was Zacchaeus in the tree trying to see Jesus.

A fun fact about Callie and Kevin is how their love story began. Kevin delivered pizza to the Hadfield house each week. After talking about the weather for six months, Callie decided to write Kevin a note telling him she thought he was really cute and slipped it into the pizza money. They have been inseparable ever since!

Submitted by Amber Schiefer

You May Have Missed a Wonderful Program!

If you were not among the 15 people present on Saturday morning, July 25th, in the Kurtiz room, you missed a wonderful presentation by author **Linda C. Chester!**

This opportunity was a joint venture of our UWF (United Women in Faith), and our Grief Share Group at BUMC. The discussion was meaningful and participants felt safe to share some of their caregiving stories. Even if you feel that you have never been in a caregiving situation yet, Linda's book and this program gave insight into how to deal with that situation, should it ever occur in your life.

We thank Linda C. Chester, as well as Betty Miles, who, along with Linda and Bob Evans, organized and set up for the event. Connie Kurtiz and others brought delicious goodies. Most of all we thank the people in attendance for a very heartfelt time of sharing!

Submitted by Joyce Dworsky



Update on our future Community Outreach Concert with the Christian Rock Band, Cross Roads:



We were hoping to have the band perform in an outdoor concert at BUMC in September, but due to scheduling conflicts with the band members, we are now looking at Saturday, October 24, or Saturday, November 7.

**Keep your eyes peeled for
the finalized date
in our September Buzz.**



Submitted by Joyce Dworsky

The Fultzes - Happy Summer!



We hope you are enjoying your summer and staying cool. We've finished the 2025-26 school year and are soaking in summer break. Thank you for following along with our family and what God is doing in Germany!

We've been enjoying some time in Minnesota visiting family. It's been a wonderful chance to spend time with family and friends and recharge a bit! Our visit has flown by, but we are thankful for the time and memories we have had together.

Prayer Requests:

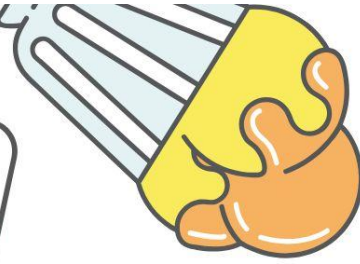
-Please pray for our travels as we return to Germany on July 18th. Traveling across the ocean with a 16 month old is quite an experience.

-For relief from the heat! The heat wave in Europe was quite intense before we left. Our apartment does not have air conditioning and it can get very warm!

-As we look ahead to next school year, we are praying for energy and enthusiasm to engage with students and staff once again and to be led by the Spirit in all our conversations and interactions.

B AUGUST 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				1
2	3	4 Continued School Board Action Meeting – 7 PM	5	6	7 Summer Hours Offices Closed	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Summer Hours Offices Closed	15
16	17 New Teacher Orientation	18 New Teacher Orientation	19 New Teacher Orientation	20 New Teacher Orientation	21 Summer Hours Offices Closed	22 SAT Testing (Digital) at BHS
23	24 BHS Walk the Halls – 10 AM to 12:00 PM New Teacher Orientation	25 BHS Walk the Halls – 5 to 7 PM Professional Development	26 **SHF Newly Registered Students/Families Open House – 1:45 to 2:45 PM Professional Development School Board Action Meeting – 7:30 PM Women's Equality Day	27 SNY Walk the Halls – 2 to 5 PM Professional Development	28 BEL Kindergarten Orientation – 9:50 AM CRN Kindergarten Orientation – 9 AM CRN New Student Orientation – 11:30 AM FST Kindergarten Orientation – 9 AM RSH Kindergarten Orientation – 9:30 AM RSH Open House/Welcome Back – 12 PM STR Kindergarten Orientation – 10 AM STR New Student Orientation (Gr. 1-6) – 12 PM VLY Kindergarten Orientation – 10 AM Professional Development	29
30	31 First Day of School for All Students (K-12)					



CELEBRATE SUMMER

YOU'RE INVITED TO
OLD FASHION
ICE CREAM SOCIAL

AUGUST 20TH

6PM TO 8PM

FREE EVENT

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL
BRING A LAWN CHAIR

BENSALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FRONT LAWN

If you have a game, such as corn hole,
ladder golf or Giant Jenga,
that we can use,
please notify Connie Kurtiz.

Submitted by Linda Evans; Created by Dawn Lacerte



**Bensalem Christian
Day School**



Open House

Where the Heart of Learning Begins



**August 15
9 am to noon**

**Bensalem United Methodist Church
4300 Hulmeville Road
215-245-1610**



Submitted by Silke Mitchell; Created by Dawn Lacerte



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, Public 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