

Bensalem United Methodist Church

September 2026 THE BUZZ

A Message from Pastor Sophy ~

Dear BUMC Beloveds —

The backpacks are packed! The classrooms are decorated! The thermometer is somehow still in the 80s but I know a change is coming soon! There's much to be excited about as autumn approaches, and I am especially excited about what's ahead for BUMC. This fall, we're celebrating our existing small group ministries and starting some exciting new ones, and I hope you'll check them out!

Small group ministries are sacred spaces. These are spaces where we can wrestle with big questions, find comfort and support in difficult times, share a laugh and a good meal, or connect with other folks our age. Above all, they're places outside of worship where we can be authentic ourselves and form meaningful, genuine connections with others and with God.

This community has longstanding small groups that are open for anyone to attend, such as Bagels and Bibles on Tuesday mornings and Out to Lunch Bunch each month. Earlier this year, we also started two new small groups that have absolutely taken off: the Grief Support Ministry and the Marvelous Makers Craft Nights. These two very different groups have flourished over the last few months, in large part because they're spaces where people can just be themselves, whether they're healing from loss or learning to knit.

Finally, starting this month, we're launching two new small groups focused on spiritual growth and faith formation. One is a monthly youth gathering that will connect spiritual formation to creativity, nature, and science, and the other is a monthly adult Sunday school class that will explore Methodist beliefs, history, and practices. I hope you'll check these out!

May we all find spaces where we can deeply connect and grow in our faith, and may this church be one of them. I hope to see you in a small group sometime soon!

Grace & peace — Pastor Sophy



Bensalem United Methodist Church

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Sunday Morning Services: October - May

Traditional: 8:30am – Chapel
Traditional: 8:30am – Facebook Live
Celebration: 10:00am – 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."

A Prayer of Blessing and Thanksgiving for Grandparents (September 13th)

"Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of our grandparents. We thank You for their lives, their wisdom, and the faith they pass down to the next generation. Lord, on this Grandparents Day, we ask that You shower them with Your grace. Grant them physical health, peace of mind, and the joy that comes from Your presence. Just as Your Word promises that they will still bear fruit in old age, bless their daily efforts and let their lives be a shining light of Your love. Protect them from loneliness, and surround them with family who cherishes them. We pray that our homes may remain united, honoring the foundation they have built. In Jesus' name, Amen."



www.crosswalk.com/devotionals

Ministries

United Women in Faith
Bensalem Christian Day School
Christian Education
Youth Group
GriefShare
Marvelous Makers

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

A Young Christian serving.....



This is Jay Keeling...

He served this summer by giving time to help out at the Day School Summer Camp.

The teachers and children really enjoyed having him working along on camp activities.

Other Christians Serving.....

In early August, Kevin and Erica Cielinski, along with their three children, Neil, Shane, and Keylin, traveled to Chisec, Guatemala, on a mission trip with their church. The church helps support a local village Life Center, which provides regular meals and tutoring for neighborhood children. During the trip, the Cielinski family had the opportunity to meet the child they sponsor, assist with Vacation Bible School, and lead crafts for the local community.



September Birthdays

3 - Mike Caporale
6 - Genevieve Mills
14 - Wendy Stubenhofer
14 - Ernita Johnson
20 - Pat Silcox
22 - Isabel Hennessey
22 - Ben Reinrt
23 - Stephanie Oldham
23 - Vince Drybala
27 - Dawn Cridland
30 - Pat Cielinski



Spotlight on New (and New-ish) Small Groups at BUMC

BUMC Youth Group returns this Fall!

*1st and 3rd Wednesday Nights, 6:30pm – 7:30pm
September 2nd to December 16th.*

Youth Group is back! After meeting with parents, youth group leaders, educators, and kids in the congregation, we're so excited to announce that the BUMC Youth Group will return this Fall! This group is a dedicated youth-focused space for kids ages 8-16 years old to get to know each other, play, learn, and serve together as they grow in the knowledge of God's amazing love for them and all of creation. We'll dive deeper into Bible stories and Christian teachings through science experiments, team work challenges, arts and crafts, nature exploration, community service, and more! *Contact Pastor Sophy with questions: rev.sophygamber@gmail.com*



First Sunday Fundamentals: Adult Sunday School

*1st Sundays, 11:30am – 12:30pm
September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, and December 6th*

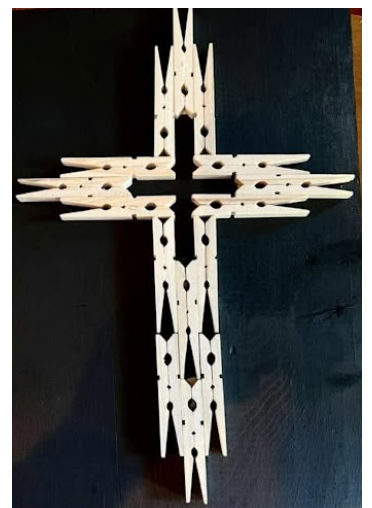


Starting this September, *First Sunday Fundamentals* will meet every month on Communion Sunday. This monthly meeting is geared towards folks who are new to United Methodism and curious about membership, as well as adult members of the congregation who want to deepen their understanding of Methodist faith. We'll explore topics like grace, salvation, the meaning of Holy Communion and Baptism, and different ways Methodists have been living out their faith from the time of our founding in the 1700s to the present day. All are welcome, especially those considering becoming members of the congregation. *Contact Pastor Sophy with questions: rev.sophygamber@gmail.com*

Marvelous Makers Craft Nights

*2nd Tuesdays and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Fellowship Hall*

The Marvelous Makers Craft Night is now entering its fifth month, and by popular demand we've decided to expand from one meeting per month to two! We'll now meet on 2nd Tuesday nights and 4th Wednesday nights from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Crafters and artists of all skill levels are invited to these casual social gatherings. Don't have a craft but want to learn? Great! For those who are interested, we'll also have guided craft projects to do together, and there's always extra knitting, crochet, coloring supplies (and more!). Please consider inviting a crafty friend or two from outside the church community! *Contact Liz Gruenbaum with questions: lizgruenbaum@gmail.com*



BUMC Grief Support Ministry

Tuesday nights, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

September 1st to November 17th, then resuming in January

BUMC Grief Support Ministry meets on Tuesday nights to provide a compassionate, non-judgmental space where people, who are experiencing grief and loss, can come together for mutual support and care. This group also provides grief-related educational resources and opportunities for guided reflection to help support people wherever they may be in their grief journey. We also pray together, explore what the Bible says about grief, and share honestly about how our faith has been changed, challenged, deepened, and more by our experiences of loss. This group is open to people in the congregation and the broader community who are grieving the death of a loved one. Contact Betty Miles with questions: bettymiles@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

FALL ALL-CHURCH WORK DAY

Saturday, November 7, 2026

8:00 am to Noon

**Jobs/Projects for Outdoor Grounds
& Inside Facilities will be scheduled.**

**Come when you can & leave when you
must!**

**Submitted by Pat Cielinski (Property
Management Team)**



Out to Lunch Bunch

Submitted by Penny Manning

Please Join Us and bring a friend on **September 16th at 11:30am**. We will be enjoying a meal with fellowship at Salvatore's Cucina, 1150 Bristol Oxford Valley Rd, Levittown Pa. A sign-up sheet is located in the Chapel lobby (narthex).



Bensalem Christian Day School

The Bensalem Christian Day School has been active this summer with their annual summer camp program. The campers had a great 5 weeks. The camp staff did a great job creating exciting activities for the campers each week.

I would like to ask for prayers for our school as we begin a new school year. We know that God will bless our school – our staff, our students, and our families.

Lisa Woods, Director

Greetings from a Lay Leader

September, 2026

Hi, all. I have some thoughts about Jesus and Peter and the whole walking on water thing. Until this week I had always read it as Peter, once again enthusiastically jumping up to be with Jesus, which is a good thing. Did you know the ASL sign for the United Methodist Church is the same as the one for enthusiasm? I think we can take Peter's enthusiastic behaviors as a forerunner of Methodism, just not the methodic parts of Wesley's habits. Think about the things he did. He didn't want Jesus to wash his feet at first but then he wanted clean hands and head too! He was offended when Jesus said that even Peter would betray him, when Jesus asked 3 times if Peter really loved him. I always suspected that Peter was one of the naysayers when it was time to feed the 5,000, too. Thinking before acting was definitely not one of Peter's strengths.

There is an Episcopal priest whose brief messages have popped up on my feed, named Rev. Joseph Yoo. He's one of my favorite kinds of preachers—his lessons focus on the red letter parts of the Bible. Recently, I saw his lesson on Peter walking on water. I had to listen to it three times. It was a completely different perspective. Yoo postulates that Peter is not the main character of Matthew's passage, 14:22-33. He introduces his thoughts by saying—paraphrasing here—*of course* Peter gets out of the boat. Would we act differently? I don't doubt that we need to focus on what Jesus calls us to do and how He empowers us, through the Holy Spirit, to accomplish that. But there's another part of this event that I never thought of. Peter's call to Jesus to be saved starts with "Save me!" It's a simple prayer, one we've all made. Jesus responds immediately. Jesus catches him. Yoo feels this is the key to understanding Peter and Jesus's interaction. Peter calls for help. Jesus puts out his hand, he reaches him to save him. I don't feel "why did you doubt?" was a rebuke as much as it was one of the times when we're disappointed with someone who should have known better. Peter knows Jesus will always save him, but then he paid attention to the world.



Yoo believes that Jesus reaches out to us first, then he teaches us what we need to know.

This is probably what we were supposed to learn. We aren't called to just lecture "sinners" or let someone muddle through their own difficulties. We're called to share the gospel. We do a pretty good job here at BUMC. Our outreach to PARX families is proactive. Our missionary team actively supports those who serve God in unfamiliar regions. We look for opportunities to help the least and the lost, and isn't that what it's all about? Where's the next place we're being led?

Peace,

Liz

"Exciting News"

We now have two clothes Re-cycling Bins. They are located on the left side of the driveway going to our back parking lot.

Please donate your unwanted clothing, shoes, and some accessories (see boxes for a list of acceptable items). It benefits our Church, our Day School, and the community.

Any questions? Contact:
Nancy Oczkowski 267 251 8219



Special Music to Continue Throughout the Year! Submitted by Joyce Dworsky

At a recent Worship Team Meeting, it was decided to continue our special music during worship throughout the year. It has been a wonderful offering to our summer worship, and we would like it to continue.

A new sign-up sheet for special music (October through January 3rd, 2027) will appear in the church lobby (narthex) after Labor Day. Providing worship music of any kind is a wonderful offering as part of BUMC's Music Ministry. There is no age requirement either! Kids, youth, and adults of any age, can provide a joyful addition to our services. It does not have to include singing – instrumentals of any kind are also welcomed.



If you, or someone you know, can help us enhance our worship with music, please sign up. If you can provide your ministry at both services, that would be wonderful, but if not, let us know which service time is best for you.

(By the way, if you are not an early riser, like me, as long as you can be at the Traditional Service by 9 am, you would be in time for your special music because we would place you during the offering. For those who can't stay for the second service, we could schedule you right after the Welcome at the beginning of the Celebration Service, so at either service you could come and leave when you must.)

Has God given you some musical talent? Are you willing to let His light shine through you?

If you have questions, please contact Joyce Dworsky at worsky4@gmail.com or at our home phone at 215 946 5044. If I am not there, please leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP.

POP-UP Choir

We are going to try something new.

What is a pop-up choir?

This is a choir open to ANY youth or adult (no prior choir experience necessary). It is a choir where you would commit to sing with the choir for one specific Sunday as our special music for that Sunday. You would commit to two short rehearsals for one song only. If you can sing at both services, that is great. If you can do only one, that is great too.



(By the way, if you are not an early riser, like me, as long as you can be at the Traditional Service by 9 am, you would be in time to sing with us because we would sing during the offering. For those who can't stay for the second service, the pop-up choir would sing after the Welcome at the beginning of the Celebration Service, so at either service you could come and leave when you must.)

Our first Pop-up Choir will be singing a Communion anthem, "With All Who Love Thy Name, O Lord" on World Communion Sunday, October 4th. Celebration Service will be returning to the Main Sanctuary that Sunday.

There will be a separate sign-up sheet for the Sundays when the Pop-up Choir will be singing between now and January 3, 2027.

If you have questions, please contact Joyce Dworsky at worsky4@gmail.com or at our home phone at 215 046 5044. If I am not there, please leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP.



Save the Date Anniversary Celebration Program

When: Sunday, October 26 from 2 - 3 pm
Where: Bensalem UMC's Historic Chapel
Why: To Celebrate 216 Years of God's Faithfulness



Thank You for Your Generous Support!

Bensalem United Women in Faith and the Worship Committee would like to thank those who contributed school supplies for Christmas in July. These were shared with the YWCA in Trevoise for after school programs in Bensalem apartments and with Rev. Bunker for distribution to needy students. Together we are helping local students start their school year with new backpacks and supplies. *Thank you everyone!*

Donate \$5.00 For Missions



Donate \$5.00 to support Bensalem United Women in Faith mission projects and receive a 25% Off BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS One Day Only Discount Shopping Pass. Passes apply to purchases made at any Boscov's location or online on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026***. Stores will be open 8 am to 11 pm. In addition, you will be eligible to win fabulous "register-to-win prizes" including shopping sprees and more!

This is an easy way to support missions and save at Boscov's! Tell your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. See Connie Kurtiz or any UWF member to get your Shopping Pass now.

**Some exclusions apply. See Shopping Pass for details.*



Connie and I would like to thank everyone who came to the Ice Cream Social despite the weather report, and for the host of toppings generously donated by attendees. Lots of ice cream was eaten. Conversation was lively and there was much laughter. Numerous games were enjoyed.

If you missed this opportunity for fellowship and community, look at the church events calendar each Sunday in the bulletin. BUMC has a lot going on.



Join the United Women in Faith Find Strength For Your Journey!

United Women in Faith (UWF) is excited to invite you to our next meeting on **Saturday, September 12th** in the Kurtiz Room at 9am. The meeting will include a light breakfast.

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.*

National Hispanic Heritage Month



Hispanic Heritage Month is an annual celebration of the history and culture of U.S. Latino and Hispanic communities. It is observed each year from September 15 to October 15 for celebration, reflection, and recognition of the contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Generations of Hispanic Americans have helped make our country strong and prosperous. Hispanic Americans make up approximately 19.5% of the total U.S. population.

The 2026 theme, 'Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together', emphasizes the role of Hispanic Americans in driving progress and innovation. The theme highlights the transformative contributions of Hispanic Americans in various fields such as science, art, politics, and community activism. This theme encourages individuals and organizations to unite and explore how Hispanic culture continues to shape a more inclusive future.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month can be both enriching and fun. You can participate in the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month by attending a concert, art festival, museum exhibit, or parade, enjoying traditional Latino dishes, or simply by taking time to learn more about Latino identity and the historical legacies that enhance our communities and continue to shape our nation. Relax with a good book by a Hispanic author or about Hispanic history. Listen to Mariachi music. Watch a family friendly movie that celebrates Hispanic culture such as "Coco" or "Encanto" or watch a documentary about the Latino experience. A quick internet search will help you identify family-friendly movies, documentaries, podcasts, or YouTube options. Learn about prominent Latinos such as Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, actor Jenna Ortega, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, award-winning actor, performer and writer Lin-Manuel Miranda, singer Celia Cruz, or baseball player Roberto Clemente. Exploring culture is a great way to learn about other people while deepening respect for our nation's diversity.

Logan Schiefer

Logan is 10 years old and has been part of our church family on and off over the years. He has attended for holidays, special church events, his parents' vow renewal, and occasional Sunday services.

His family who attends church includes his parents, Amber and Robert Schiefer, his sister, Paige, his brother, Damien and his great-grandmothers, Jeannette Schnarr and Marie Carp.

When Logan isn't at church he enjoys playing video games and hanging out with friends. He also loves being outdoors: going to the river, fishing, having mud fights, riding his scooter, and playing football.

One of Logan's favorite things about church, so far, is finding Moses the Mouse in the Chapel during the Traditional Service!

When asked what makes him feel welcome at church, Logan said that everyone says hello and gives him hugs when they leave. Although he admits it can be a little weird when some of the people giving him hugs are strangers!

If Logan could create a new church activity, he would love to go outside at night for a bonfire, make s'mores, and have Pastor Sophy tell stories about God instead of ghost stories.

Finally, Logan was asked who he would invite to church and it could be anyone. His choice would be simple: Sir Charles, his dog! Logan thinks having Charles sit with him at church would definitely make it more fun and he might come more often.



Submitted by Amber Schiefer

Ice Cream Social Fun Thank You!

Although it rained Thursday, August 20th and we could not do outside lawn games as planned, we still met, enjoyed "make your own sundaes", and fellowshiped with one another. Over 33 ice cream lovers took part in the Kurtiz Room. Thanks to Connie K. for bringing her pennies game, which proved to be not only fun, but also quite loud at times! The rain did not dampen our spirits.



Many thanks to Linda and the Evans family, and Connie Kurtiz for organizing the event. (Linda was a great ice cream dipper!) Also, thanks to the people who brought the delicious toppings, drinks, ice cream and cookies.

Come join us at events like these. We get to know you better, relax, and celebrate together with joy!

"ABCs of successful child rearing" - Ann Landers, Philadelphia Inquirer

Submitted by Connie K



Dear Ann Landers: My husband and I have three children, ages 23, 17, and 15, who are decent and successful. Many relatives and friends have commented on what great kids we have, and several of our younger friends have told us they admire our parenting skills.

With so many young parents without extended families, perhaps our alphabet of child-raising ideas can help. I did not include "Love" or "Honesty" because I assume those are already in place.

-- Jo Frisbie von Tiehl on Pasadena

Dear Jo: With pleasure. Thanks for a unique contribution.

A is for Accountability. Hold your children accountable for their behavior.

B is for Boundaries. Set specific limits, and make clear the repercussions if those limits are exceeded.

C is for Consistency. Hold to principles and practices.

D is for Discipline. Make the punishment fit the crime. Never discipline in anger.

E is for Example. Children are in greater need of models than critics. Set a good example.

F is for Forgiveness. Practice it, and teach its importance.

G is for Giving. Teach the joy of giving, not only to family and friends, but to strangers in need.

H is for sense of humor. Keep your sense of humor. Promote laughter with your children.

I is for Imagination. Be creative, and play with your children. Make up stories or songs when you read and sing with them.

J is for Justice. Be fair, and insist that they be fair, also.

K is for Knowing your children's friends and their parents as well as their teachers.

L is for Listening. Listen to your children. It will teach them how to listen to others, and their thoughts will give you insights.

M is for Morals. Be sure your own standard of conduct is sound.

N is for No. Use it and mean it.

O is for Outdoors. Provide as much outdoor activity as possible. Teach respect for nature.

P is for Pressure. Reduce the pressure on your children, but insist they maintain high standards.

Q is for Questions. Pay close attention to their questions, and give simple answers unless they demand more.

R is for Respect. Show respect, teach respect, and earn respect.

S is for Source of Strength. Share your own faith or beliefs with your children.

Faith can be their port in the storms of life later.

T is for Togetherness. Have special, designated times to be together as a family -- but know when to let go, too.

U is for Uniqueness. Understand the uniqueness of each child, and let that child be who he or she is.

V is for Voice. Tone of voice can convey more to a child than the words spoken.

W is for Words. Keep your word. Promises broken destroy trust.

X is for examine. Examine constantly, and be aware.

Y is for You. Take care of yourself mentally, physically and spiritually. A happy parent helps a child to be happy.

Z is for Zowie! Who would have thought they would grow up so quickly?



Bensalem Day School - thanks you!

This is a thank you to Genevieve Mills and her son, CJ Mills for offering his back yard, and for hosting the potluck picnic for the teachers and friends of the BCDS on Saturday, August 13th.



Fundraiser:



Wednesday, September 30th, 4 pm to 10 pm.

Come join us at Texas Roadhouse, on Street Road in Bensalem for a delicious meal, and help raise funds for our Church and our Day School at the same time!

Keep your eyes and ears open! More details, announcements, and flyers will be available soon.



It's Finally Official!
 The Christian Rock Band
Cross Roads will be returning to
 BUMC for a free community
 evening event on **Saturday, November 7th!**
 Please save the date, tell your friends and
 neighbors, and plan to support our
 community outreach event.
 (More details to follow in the October Buzz.)

B SEPTEMBER 2026 B

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Library Card Sign-Up Month		1 SHF Back to School Night – 6:30 PM	2 BHS Back to School Night – 6:00 PM	3	4 Labor Day Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed	5
6	7 Labor Day – Schools and Offices Closed	8 International Literacy Day	9	10 CRN Back to School Night – 6:30 PM	11 Patriot Day	12 SAT Testing at BHS Rosh Hashanah
13 National Arts in Education Week thru Sept. 19 National Grandparents Day Rosh Hashanah	14 FST Back to School Night – 6:30 PM	15 National Hispanic Heritage Month thru Oct. 15	16 National School Backpack Awareness Day	17 VLY Back to School Night – 6:30 PM Citizenship/Constitution Day	18	19 BHS Marching Band Clothing Drive (9 AM – 12 PM) outside Band Room & Mattress Sale (10AM – 5 PM)
20	21 International Day of Peace Yom Kippur – Schools and Offices Closed	22 STR Back to School Night – 6:30 PM First Day of Autumn	23 School Board Action Meeting – 7:30 PM	24 SNY Back to School Night – 6:30 PM	25	26 BHS Clothing Drive – 9 AM to 12 PM Sukkot
27	28 National Good Neighbor Day	29 RSH Back to School Night – 6:30 PM	30 BEL Back to School Night – 6:30 PM		BEL – Belmont Hills CRN – Cornwells FST – Faust RSH – Rush STR – Struble VLY – Valley	SHF – Shafer SNY – Snyder BHS – Bensalem High