

Bensalem United Methodist Church



MARCH 2024 THE BUZZ

A Message from our Pastor

¹⁸ Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord:
If your sins are like scarlet,
will they become like snow? If they are red like crimson,
will they become like wool? (Isaiah 1:18 NRSVUE)

First, let me say that I'm using this scripture out of context for my purpose. It's not a good thing to do. To help alleviate the problem, here's the context: This is the very beginning of the book of Isaiah. God, through Isaiah, is blasting the Israelites for not doing the things required of them: i.e. taking care of the poor, the widows etc., and for doing things like worshipping foreign gods. Then God says something like, if you don't think I'm right, come talk to me about it and we'll see. That's this beginning phrase: "Come now, let us argue it out....".

I'm borrowing that phrase to invite you to a casual Congregational Meeting/Coffee with the Pastor on Sunday, March 17th at 9:30 AM in Ivins' Hall. That's the Sunday School hour between the two worship services. The congregation has been through a lot of changes in the last 18 months or so, and there are lots of side conversations happening about it. I want us, as a congregation, to come together and have some conversations about all that's happening. Some members of the Leadership Board will be there to help provide information and answer questions.

Before anyone has a heart attack, thinking that something awful is happening, let me say right now **THE CHURCH IS NOT CLOSING!** That seems to be the first thought that people have whenever a congregational meeting is announced. My hope is that we will have these meetings on a quarterly basis, just so that information is being shared as widely as possible. Additional meetings can be scheduled if a need arises and I'm certainly open to the

Bensalem United Methodist Church

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Parsonage Phone: 215-245-7669
aabonham@gmail.com

Website: Bensalem-umc.org

Sunday Morning Services:

Traditional: 8:30am – Chapel
Traditional: 8:30am – Facebook Live
Sunday School: 9:30am - Parlor
Celebration: 10:45am – Sanctuary

Holy Communion:
1st Sunday of the month

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."

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



*Buzzing
with
Fellowship!*

possibility that a member asks for a meeting to ask questions or share concerns.

In the meantime, please remember, if I have said or done something that has caused you distress or made worship uncomfortable in any way, come talk to me. I don't ever want worship to be uncomfortable for people to attend. If talking to me without some moral support is hard, please ask a Leadership Team member to come with you. They are all ready to do that. I need to make these conditional statements:

- ❖ Talking to me on Sunday morning is not good.
- ❖ Sooner is better than later. If too much time goes by, I won't really remember what I said or why.

Mark your calendars for March 17th @ 9:30 and "Come now, and let us argue it out..." as we talk about the life of Bensalem United Methodist Church.

In Christ's love and work,
Pastor Alice Ann

PLEASE JOIN US!
Palm Sunday Breakfast
Sunday, March 24, 2024
9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

(no charge, just a free will offering)

Please mark your calendar
and join us for a
delicious breakfast and a happy fellowship
time with our church family/community.

Jim Cielinski, Paul Lacerte,
and Liz Gruenbaum
are our Master Chefs.

A sign-up sheet will be posted
in the Sanctuary and Chapel Narthex
for you to let us know if you are able to attend.

We'd like to get an approximate number
in order to purchase the right amount of food.

Any questions, please contact
Pat Cielinski or Penny Manning

Ministries

United Women in Faith
Bensalem Christian Day School
Christian Education
Music Ministry
Youth Ministry

Donations

General Offering
Missions
Food Pantry
PARX seasonal gift requests
Anniversary Fund

Online Donations



Time to
Spring Ahead
March 10th



Spring
WORK DAY
Coming Soon

UMCOR SUNDAY – March 10, 2024

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides relief, response, and long-term recovery grants when natural and human-caused disasters overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. Working together with United Methodist churches and local partners, UMCOR can address immediate needs as well as achieve sustainable recovery.

When you give generously on UMCOR Sunday, you make a difference in the lives of people who hurt. Envelopes will be provided with bulletins.



Bless you!

On March 17, when we remember the Christian missionary, St. Patrick, Irish blessings abound. Here are two benedictions to share with friends in the faith:

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.



2024 UWF Easter Gift Bags



Help United Women in Faith (UWF) fill Easter gift bags to bring joy to needy girls and boys, ages 1 to 16, living in Bensalem. The bags will be given to Rev. Dr. Rick Bunker, Chaplain at Philadelphia Park, for distribution to the children/teens of backlot personnel.

Easter comes early this year, so it's not too soon to start shopping for:

- Stuffed animals, small toys, games, puzzles, crafts, and art supplies
- Activity books, coloring books and new or gently used books
- Outdoor toys such as sidewalk chalk, bubbles, balls, kites and frisbees
- Wrapped candy, snack bags & other treats

Please place items in UWF boxes in the narthex of the main sanctuary or the chapel, **not later than Sunday, March 17**, so there is time to assemble the bags and deliver them to the Chaplain for distribution. Please mark all donations for "Parx Easter Bags".

Your support is essential. Help spread the word by posting on social media and asking friends and family to participate.





Peppi's
Flowers Mill Shopping Center,
Langhorne, Pa.

*Wednesday, March
20th at 11:30am
Please join us and
bring a friend!
Signup sheet in narthex.*

Prayer Requests

Please reach out to Carol Kulik with any prayer requests. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain, please reach out to Carol Kulik at carol.kulik@gmail.com



March Birthdays

4 – Joe Hennessey, Jr
7 – Ronald Vangine
8 – Jennifer Hennessey
Marie Reinert
9 – Jimmy Mills
10 – Yiorgo Lagoudakis
Jim Mitchell
Jeanette Schilling
Edith Kitchin



14 – Dave Cridland, Sr.
16 – Dollie Campbell
17 – Greg Boynton
Michael Miller
20 – Pastor Alice Ann Bonham
21 – Judy Kane
23 – Cathy Miller
26 – Ken Vansant
29 – Debby Gontkof

Bensalem Christian Day School

February has been a month full of special days here at our Day School. We started the month with learning about our heart and how to keep it healthy. Then the children enjoyed learning new songs and making special projects to celebrate Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, and Lincoln and Washington's birthdays.

During the second half of the month, emphasis was placed on learning good health habits, especially taking care of our teeth.

At the end of the month, we had our Open House.



In the middle of this month of March, we will celebrate the, "Wearing of the Green" on St. Patrick's Day.

At the end of March, we will talk about the Easter Story, and the Easter Bunny will visit our school

Don't forget, please – registration for the 2024-2025 term is currently underway and applications are available at the Day School Office or on our website at bensalemchristiandayschool.org

Thank you for your continued support of our Day School.

Lisa Woods, Director

Volunteers - Thank You!!

I need to acknowledge and thank a whole bunch of people for stepping up and volunteering for extra duty. While Nancy Oczkowski was home recovering, several folks stepped up and took over her job. On behalf of the congregation, thank you so very much: Pat Cielinski, with her great organizational skills, made the schedule so everyone knew when to show up. Jim Cielinski did a terrific job of doing a crash course in teaching the volunteers what the job entailed. The following are those who volunteered in the Main Building:

Greg & Kathy Boynton, Jim & Pat Cielinski, Anne & Vince Drybala, Joyce & George Dworsky, Paul Lacerte, Kathy McDermott, and Jeanette Schilling. The volunteers for the Chapel were: Linda Evans and Kathy McDermott

Jim Cielinski also took on the task of cleaning the main sanctuary.



Sunday School

Sunday School recently studied a unit about "Light" and how Jesus is the Light of the World. We have begun to explore our new Bibles to learn.

We continue to play games, do crafts, and sing with Miss MaryAnn each week.

We also created lovely Valentines for some of our elderly friends and delivered them to share our "Light."





LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES

*Please join us for Lenten and Easter services. Dates
and times to keep in mind:*

Palm Sunday – March 24

Services at 8:30 AM in the chapel and
10:45 AM in the main sanctuary

Holy Thursday – March 28

Service and Communion at 7:00 PM
in the main sanctuary

Good Friday – March 29

Tenebrae Service at 7:30 PM
in the chapel

Easter Sunday – March 31

Three services:

- Sunrise service begins at 7:00 AM
in the chapel
- 8:30 AM in the chapel
- 10:45 AM in the main sanctuary



Age Groups:
1 – 3 years
4 – 6 years
7 – 12 years

Easter Egg Hunt March 30th at 1pm

We need your help to put smiles on our youth.

WAYS TO HELP:

Donate eggs and/or candy.

(Please leave donations in church office)

Assist the Easter Bunny with the eggs before the event.

Set-up/Clean-up the day of the event.

Please reach out to Betsy Pitcher for more information.



Easter Lilies

Note: Easter
flower order
forms will be
available in
the bulletins a
few weeks
before Easter

2024 Super Bowl Chili Sale

Chili and Football Go Hand in Hand



Bensalem United Women in Faith (UWF) would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2024 Super Bowl Chili Sale. Together you purchased 22 quarts and 17 pints of chili, which raised \$343 to support UWF mission projects throughout the year. Congratulations!!

Men's and Women's Joint Fellowship Meeting Announcement



The next meeting of the Men's and Women's Joint Fellowship is Saturday, **March 9th in the church parlor at 9am.** The meeting will include a light breakfast, a short lesson, a mission moment, and lots of fellowship.

All are welcome to **be part of this fellowship opportunity.** Please contact Linda Evans by phone at 215-322-6964 or email at llevans@outlook.com if you have any questions.

Women's History Month: Celebrating Rebecca Lukens

"If it is to be, it is up to me."

In the early 1800s, Rebecca Lukens and her husband took over a small water-driven iron mill that made nails along Brandywine Creek in rural Pennsylvania. They had big plans to build up their small business, but before their expansion plans could get underway, Rebecca's husband died, leaving her at the age of 31 with four young children and a fifth on the way. She could have sold her interest in the mill and merely played the expected role of housewife. But due partly to a promise she'd made to her dying husband, and, in spite of severe financial strain, she took over management of the ironworks herself. She had made up her mind that their dream was achievable, and that, "If it is to be, it is up to me."

Rebecca Lukens was equal to the challenge in every way. She carried through with the expansion plans, enlarging the mill and the product line to include plate iron. She provided the iron hull and boiler plates for the Navy's first iron ship in 1825. Many Mississippi riverboats came to rely on Lukens' ironwork for their boilers. For thirty years she dauntlessly managed the business, surviving a severe economic depression, developing her company into one of the nation's major ironworks of that era, and doing all this in what was then a man's world with a man's kind of business. In 1985, Lukens Steel became a Fortune 500 company, built by a can-do tradition handed down from its remarkable early leader, in whose honor it is named.

Throughout our lives, we too will often face challenges. And in those challenges lie opportunities for each of us to achieve and grow – provided we, like Rebecca Lukens, each make up our minds that, "If it is to be, it is up to me."



March is Women's History Month

Women's History Month is an important time to recognize and honor the achievements of women. It is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually during March in the United States since 1987.

During Women's History Month, make time to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to U.S. history. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women's history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States. See a summary of significant milestones at <https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/womens-history-us-timeline>. It is an impressive list of accomplishments.

2024 Theme

The 2024 Women's History Month theme is: **Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**. The theme recognizes women who speak up, work for fairness, and exclude no one in their quest for freedom and opportunity. It recognizes women throughout the country who understand the need to eliminate bias and discrimination from our social interactions and institutions.

See a list of women who have shaped our history at: <https://draperandkramer.com/news-and-insights/womens-history-month-celebrating-iconic-women-in-history/>

Women of the UMC

Many women have helped shape the history of Methodism as pastors, teachers, missionaries and leaders. See how by accessing these excellent UMC resources:

Women in UMC History: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/partners/gcsw/home/about-us-and-news/our-history/women-in-umc-history>

Women in ministry find shoulders to stand on:
<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/women-in-ministry-find-shoulders-to-stand-on#:~:text=From%20historical%20figures%20like%20Susanna%20Wesley%2C%20Phoebe%20Palmer,provided%20strong%20shoulders%20for%20others%20to%20stand%20on.>

6 Methodist women who fought for the vote:
<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/6-methodist-women-who-fought-for-the-vote>

This month is also an opportunity for all of us to reflect on how far we have come in terms of gender equality, and how much further we still need to go. By recognizing the accomplishments of women throughout history, we can inspire future generations of female leaders and innovators.

Inspiring Quotes for Women's History Month(from
<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>)

"Women are like teabags. We don't know our true strength until we are in hot water." – [Eleanor Roosevelt](#) (1884-1962), political figure, diplomat, activist, First Lady.

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity," [Amelia Earhart](#) (1897-1937?), aviation pioneer.

"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right." – [Rosa Parks](#) (1913-2005), civil rights activist.

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." - [Shirley Chisholm](#) (1924-2005), U.S. Congresswoman.

"My mission in life is not merely to survive but to thrive and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." – [Maya Angelou](#) (1928-2014), memoirist, poet, civil rights activist.

"It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent." – [Madeleine Albright](#) (1937-2022), U.S. Secretary of State.

"Champions keep playing until they get it right." – [Billie Jean King](#) (1943 -), tennis champion.

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." - [Alice Walker](#) (1944 -), novelist, short story writer, poet, social activist.

"One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."
– [Malala Yousafzai](#) (1997-), Pakistani female education activist, Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

by phone at 215-322-6964 or email at levans@outlook.com if you have any questions.

Greetings from the Fultzes!



Rachel continues to co-lead a group of high school girls each week. They meet together to study God's word, pray, laugh, and eat snacks. It has been a blessing to share life with these freshmen each week and to watch them grow in their bond with each other and the Lord. Lucas has stayed quite busy with counseling, both in his community work as well as at school. Lucas' caseload with community counseling is also full, and this is both a praise and a prayer request--praise that people are working hard to be healthy, along with a request for prayer for Lucas, as he engages with students and missionaries, and for the clients in counseling.

Theo is really growing and learning like crazy. We're so thankful for our healthy and happy little man.

Thank you for being a part of what God is doing in the lives of missionary families and German families in our area.



Mardi Gras at BUMC



It was Mardi Gras in Fellowship Hall just before the start of Lent. BUMC folks enjoyed a covered dish dinner, played Bingo and participated in fun and challenging games. It was a fun night and great to share time and fellowship with members of the BUMC family. Thank you to everyone who put this great event together.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BEL – Belmont Hills CRN – Cornwallis FST – Faust RSH – Rush STR – Struble VLY – Valley	SHF – Shafer SNY – Snyder BHS – Bensalem High	American Red Cross Month Irish American Heritage Month	Music in Our Schools Month National Nutrition Month	Social Work Month Women's History Month Youth Art Month	1 BHS Blue/Gray BHS Student of the Month Breakfast Read Across America	2 BHS 100th Anniversary Gala
3 National School Social Work Week thru Mar. 9	4 National School Breakfast Week thru Mar. 8	5	6 SHF H&S Meeting – 5 PM	7 PMEA Region VI Choir BHS H&S Meeting – 6:30 PM	8 PMEA Region VI Choir VLY 4-6 Dance Maha Shivaratri International Women's Day	9 PMEA Region VI Choir SAT Testing (Digital)
10 Daylight Saving Time	11 Elementary/BHS Orchestra Concert at BHS – 6:30 PM First Day of Ramadan	12	13	14 BCMFA Festival thru Mar. 16 CRN Roller Skating Party – 6 to 8 PM RSH Bingo Night – 6:30 to 8 PM	15	16
17	18	19	20 District Choral Concert at BHS – 7 PM	21	22	23
24 St. Patrick's Day	25	26 Elementary Band Concert at BHS – 6:30 PM First Day of Spring	27	28 B.A.D.G.E. Meeting in Shafer Library – 7 PM	29 RSH School Spirit/Pretzel Day BHS Junior Prom	30
31 Holika Dahan	SNV Spring Concert at BHS – 7 PM Holi	School Board Action Meeting – 7:30 PM		Spring Break – Schools and Offices Closed	Good Friday Spring Break – Schools and Offices Closed	
Easter						