

Bensalem United Methodist Church



NOVEMBER 2024 THE BUZZ

From the Pastor's Desk ~

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. (Psalm 98:1a NRSVUE)

I adopted this verse of scripture when I was in seminary. I use it as a tag on my emails and often on my letters. I think it's a good attitude reminder. I find, particularly the closer to the election things get, that I am prone to having a negative attitude or just being easily irritated. And yet – I KNOW that God is always doing marvelous things.

I think the question is: What do I do to keep that reality in front of me always? A couple of things have happened over the last few days that are helpful. The first was the Prayer Retreat that happened on October 19th. The conversation and the observations made by the participants were particularly meaningful. One of the comments was that while coloring one of the pages, the "colorer" commented that picking the colors for the picture caused them to wonder how God had created all the colors that were created.

A second thing was an email conversation with a friend. In it she described some of the difficulties facing her and her husband as they manage his neurological disorder. In the email, she reminded me that saying the Lord's Prayer daily, even multiple times a day, was incredibly freeing. One can trust God for today's needs and not worry about tomorrow. Additionally, confessing one's sins freed up emotional space to create more capacity to be loving and life affirming.

Thirdly, I received an email from an on-line forum. The content included the following quote:

INSPIRATION

Courage is a word that tempts us to think outwardly, to run bravely against opposing fire, to do something under besieging circumstance, and perhaps, above all, to be seen to do it in public, to show courage; to be celebrated in story, rewarded with medals, given the accolade; but a look at its linguistic origins leads us in a more interior direction and toward its original template, the old Norman French, Coeur, or heart.

Bensalem United Methodist Church

4300 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem PA 19020

Office Phone: 215-245-1215
bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com

Parsonage Phone: 215-245-7669
aabonham@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: 8:45am – Chapel
Traditional: 8:45am – Facebook Live
Celebration: 10:00am – Chapel

Holy Communion:
1st Sunday of the month

Outdoor services:

July, August and September

10:00 services are scheduled to be 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."

Courage is the measure of our heartfelt participation with life, with another, with a community, a work, a future. To be courageous is not necessarily to go anywhere or do anything except to make conscious those things we already feel deeply and then to live through the unending vulnerabilities of those consequences. To be courageous is to seat our feelings deeply in the body and in the world: to live up to and into the necessities of relationships that often already exist, with things we find we already care deeply about: with a person, a future, a possibility in society, or with an unknown that begs us on and always has begged us on. Whether we stay or whether we go - to be courageous is to stay close to the way we are made...

— David Whyte, poet and philosopher

If you would like to know the on-line forum to which I subscribe, let me know and I will share it.

As I'm coming to a close, the words to a hymn have started filtering through my brain. I'll close with them:

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled: To God all praise and glory. UMH #126

God bless,

Pastor Alice Ann

Don't forget This Weekend!!!



This Saturday, November 2, is Work Day at our church from 8am -12pm. Come whenever you can, and leave whenever you must. Your help is greatly needed.

ALSO...

Ministries

United Women in Faith
Bensalem Christian Day School
Christian Education: The Fishing Club
Music Ministry

Donations

General Offering
Missions
Food Pantry
PARX seasonal gift requests
Anniversary Fund
Capital Campaign

Online Donations



Website submissions:

Vince Drybala

Newsletter submissions:

Dawn Lacerte

thebuzz@bensalem-umc.org

November Birthdays

5 – Joyce Dworsky

8 – Gerald Silcox

9 – Beverly Moore

9 – Connie Grove

17 – George Dworsky

18 – Linda Evans

25 – Ken Moore



FALL LUNCHEON

This Saturday is also our Fall Luncheon. Even if you have not yet purchased a ticket, just let Linda Evans or Betsy Pitcher know that you are coming, and you can purchase your ticket at the door. The menu is: homemade soup, salad, turkey or ham sliders, and assorted desserts! Work Day folks, you are encouraged to join us! Proceeds benefit our capital campaign. Come, relax, and enjoy a delicious lunchtime meal!

This Sunday: Hymn Sing

This Sunday, November 3rd



When: THIS Sunday, November 3rd, from 2 - 3 pm
Where: Bensalem UMC's Historic Chapel
What: Sing Favorite Hymns and Praises to God
Why: Celebrate 214 Years of Serving Our Lord



November Scriptures and Sermon Titles



Nov. 3 Celebrating All Saints
 Ruth 1:1-8, Mark 12:28-34
 Title: Do You Suppose?

Nov. 10 Laity Sunday
 Hebrew 12:1-2
 Title: The Time Machine

Nov. 17
 Jeremiah 25:30-32, Mark 13:1-8
 Title: Domsday Deceivers

Nov. 24 Christ the King Sunday
 John 18:33-37
 Title: The Voice





Do you have a strong desire to visit some of our shut-ins or folks who, for one reason or another, can't get out to church? Are you able to give up two hours a month?

Then, consider joining our Visiting Angels teams. We are hoping to develop, over time, 3 teams of 3 people each.

You would join with two other BUMC members at a specific location. You would be given a lunch to share together and everything that you need. You will pray with the person before, and after your visit, and additionally, you will offer them communion.

Any concerns that you have about praying or administering communion can be taken up with Pastor Alice Ann or Betsy Pitcher.

Beginning on October 27, there will be a sign-up sheet available. Please give this your prayerful consideration. We are hoping to begin our visitations immediately after the holidays.

Cookie Walk December 14th at 9am



Cookie Walk needs YOU! We need more volunteer bakers to make our fourth annual "Cookie Walk" a success.

Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Anne Drybala (adrybala@comcast.net) or Pat Cielinski (pcielinski@comcast.net) with questions.

Let's continue to grow this delicious holiday tradition for our community, and to benefit BUMC. Thanks in advance!

Winter Opportunity

Mark your calendars for December 30. We will be heading to the BC/BS Riverfront ice skating rink. This is part of our Sunday evening intergenerational Sunday school, AND...all members of the congregation and their families are welcome to join us!



You will have to go online to order your tickets. (\$5 admittance and \$12 to rent skates). There are PVC walkers for those a wee bit nervous! Or...just come and enjoy watching everyone skate while enjoying the holiday decorations. We will be leaving the church parking lot at 3:30.p.m. This will provide us with an opportunity to get down there in the light, but also allow everyone to see all of the decorations as it gets darker. Please do not allow a fear of driving in the city to keep you from going, since there is a possibility that we can do some carpooling. Any questions, see Anne Drybala.



Fishing Club

Our new Fishing Club continues to meet most Sunday evenings for a simple meal, games, crafts, music and a Bible lesson. Our hope is to grow an intergenerational community of folks bound by faith and an interest in having fun and getting to know one another.

During October, we were blessed with great weather and a field trip to Styer's Orchards to pick apples and pumpkins. We also got in one last fishing trip (before next spring.) We also enjoyed some campfires.

Looking ahead, we're planning some fun community service opportunities and an ice skating trip. Come join us on Sundays, from 5:30-7 pm, out on the front lawn or in the Kurtiz room. Questions or concerns? Please talk to Anne Drybala, Betsy Pitcher, Nancy Oczkowski, Joyce Dworsky or Pat Cielinski.



Bensalem Christian Day School

The Day School has been underway for almost two months now and our students have adjusted well to their teachers and school.

Early in October, the school observed Fire Prevention Week and was fortunate to have fire-fighters from Bensalem Township visit with our classes. Our classes went on their first field trip to Styer Orchards for Tot Time and our Early Learners class. We picked apples and pumpkins. Our four-year-olds went to Shady Brook.



Our annual Fall Festival welcomed the season with pumpkins and fall decorations culminating with our Halloween Parades and related events held at the end of the month.

Please keep the school in your prayers and stop in to visit anytime.

Lisa Woods
Director

Painting With a Twist

Folks from our congregation, with a few friends added, participated in a painting party at *Painting with a Twist*. Everyone had fun and came away with a painting to decorate for the fall holiday season.



Peppi's Pizza
Langhorne PA

Wednesday,
November 20th
at 11:30am
Please join us and
bring a friend!

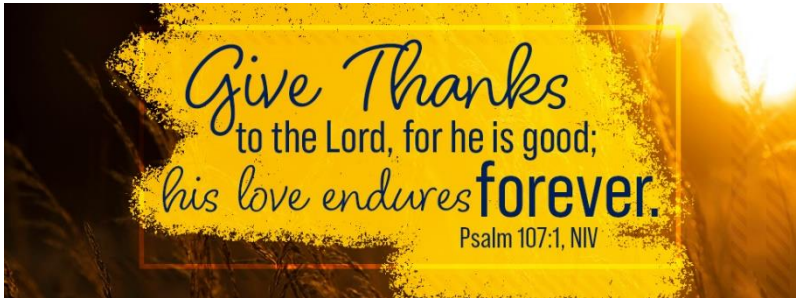


Prayer Requests

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





November 24th
After
Celebration
Service

Children's Gift Collection

*Spread
Christmas*



Please join United Women in Faith in bringing Christmas joy to children and teens living in Bensalem. Your donation of small toys, games, coloring and activity books, craft kits, puzzles, sports equipment, socks, T-shirts, dolls, Matchbox cars/trucks, Play-Doh, books, etc. (think Dollar Tree & Five Below) will deliver hope and cheer. Please place donations in the UWF boxes in the narthex.

The gifts will be given to Rev. Dr. Rick Bunker, Chaplain at Philadelphia Park, for distribution to the children/teens of the backlot personnel. As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, let us spread the joy of his coming.



United Women in Faith November Meeting Announcement



**United
Women
in Faith**

The next meeting of United Women in Faith is Saturday, **November 9 at 9am in the Kurtiz Room**. Women of all ages are encouraged to participate and bring a friend or family member. Help make a difference in our church, community and around the world by putting your faith, hope and love into action.

Christmas Cards for Prisoners Project



Many thanks from Bensalem United Women in Faith to all who participated in this year's Christmas Cards for Prisoners Project. Your participation means so much. It is a perfect way to remember the true reason for the Christmas season and to share the message of God's love with someone "inside".

Sunday, Dec. 1, Historic St. George's UMC Christmas Musical Program includes choral groups, instrumentalists, soloists and Temple University Singers. We'll sing carols along with these wonderful voices, accompanied by the 150-year-old pipe organ. Program begin at 3:30 pm. Please contact Linda Evans or Connie Kurtiz if you'd like to car pool.

**Spread Christmas Cheer!
Sing Loud for all to Hear!**



Sunday, Dec. 8, 2 pm Christmas Sing-along in Main Sanctuary
Everyone Welcome - Invite Family, Friends and Neighbors
Get in the Spirit of the Season Singing Traditional Songs and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2 pm Caroling at Juniper Village, 3200 Bensalem Blvd,
Bensalem, PA 19020. Meet in the lobby.

Friday, Dec. 20, 6:30 pm Blue Christmas Community Service in historic chapel. A service of wholeness and healing for anyone experiencing grief, sadness, loss, loneliness, pain, heartbreak. This is an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope found in Christ.

HAVE
YOU *Met* ?

Judy Kane

I moved to Bensalem in the fall of 2017 to be near my son and his family. I noticed BUMC and looked it up on Facebook. The 8:30am Traditional Service seemed to be just what I was looking for.

The first Sunday service I attended, I was warmly welcomed by Gloria Guy and people in the congregation, and I felt that I had found my church home!

I have been involved in UWF (United Women in Faith), Bible study, choir, and taking attendance for the 8:30 am service. I love the fellowship of the UWF, the chili sale and Christmas cookie packing. The social functions at BUMC are so much fun, and the Christmas caroling at Juniper Village is a high point of the Christmas season.

I have been out of the work force for many years now. Vocal music has been my hobby, from community chorus to Barbershop! I've been taking care of the library where I live, and I would like to thank everyone who has donated books. The residents are really enjoying them. I hardly have time to put them on the shelves before they are borrowing them!



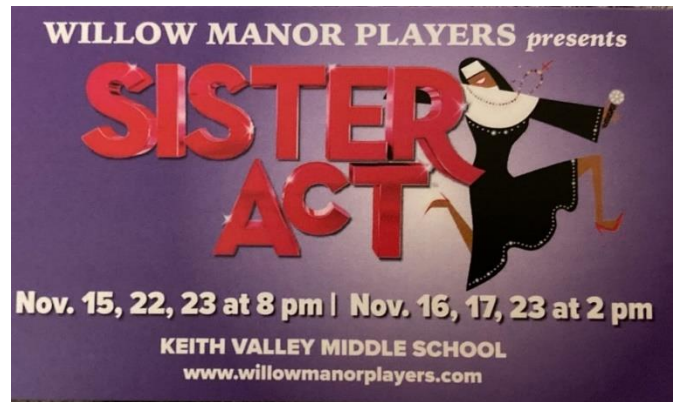
I can't really say what my favorite moment is with BUMC. Every service and activity seems to be special in its own way. I'm so lucky to have found this church and all of you!

God Bless!



Willow Manor Players Presents “Sister Act”

Directed by Kim Bantle-Taylor. November 15, 22, 23 at 8 pm and November 16, 17, 23 at 2 pm at Keith Valley Middle School 227 Meetinghouse Road, Horsham. For tickets and information visit Willow Manor Players website <https://www.willowmanorplayers.com/> .



How to Celebrate Native American Heritage Month

This month I encourage everyone to take the time to celebrate Indigenous peoples – the people who stood on the land before us. At all times, and especially now during Native American Heritage Month, recognize the culture that is interwoven in our everyday lives – from architecture, to street names, to sports, to many of the foods we eat today. Native American Heritage is engrained in many of the things we do and see.

When it comes to Native American Heritage Month, what comes to mind is not the responsibilities of Native people, but the responsibilities of others to consider Native people more. There is a responsibility to go beyond the “status quo” lack of education provided in our country today. There is a responsibility to not just celebrate the role Native Americans played and continue to play in our country, but also learn about authentic Native History and contemporary Native issues.

The stakes are high

Going beyond the celebration to really learn about Native issues is especially important nowadays. This fall, a decision is forthcoming from the U.S. Supreme Court on whether to overturn the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The policy, which was put into place to protect Native children, is once again on the chopping block. And despite the ongoing misunderstanding and disregard for Native cultures, Indigenous peoples continue to have to fight to save their children, families, and communities. If their children are taken, they have no future as tribal peoples.

ICWA is being sacrificed with the overriding goal of diminishing tribal sovereignty. The loss will make it easier for future generations to continue to extract precious resources from Indian lands, remove policing power from tribal communities, repeal the Federal Indian Gaming Act, and do away with other federal policy that acknowledges tribal sovereignty.

So, what will mean more than a celebration?

This month, it is indeed a time to celebrate Native cultures. I challenge you however to do even more. Warm up with a pumpkin spice latte, but remember that pumpkin is an Indigenous food from North America. Watch the First Nations' documentary [GATHER](#), which is available to stream on

several streaming services. Read books by Native writers. Try an Indigenous recipe, there are lots of readily available recipes that are delicious.

Other ideas: Plan a garden for next spring (read about corns, beans, and squash) or lend a hand in a community garden. Go snowshoeing, or play basketball or lacrosse, which have Indigenous roots. Find out more about the Lenape, the Indigenous peoples who occupied the land on which we currently reside.

Moreover, take the time to consider history anytime anyone proposes impeding the rights of Native Americans, and spread awareness around what such actions will do to Native communities and tribal sovereignty. Support Native communities with mutual respect, with an approach that is responsive and inclusive of the communities' needs and solutions. Acknowledge and draw on the expertise and genius of Indigenous peoples. Remind people that the beauty and resilience of Indigenous peoples has never ceased to exist. They've been here all along, every November, every month, every year. And that is a reason to celebrate and more.

Regardless of how you choose to recognize the accomplishments of Indigenous peoples, be sure to pass the information on to family and friends or make it a group effort. We can all be part of creating a world in which Indigenous Peoples' contributions, culture, and history are respected, and where policies, practices, and procedures improve outcomes for Indigenous People and communities.

From <https://www.firstnations.org/news/how-to-celebrate-native-american-heritage-month>.



Lucas and Rachel Fultz update!

Greetings from the Fultzes! We pray this letter finds you doing well and having a wonderful autumn. We're about a month and a half into the school year but a lot has happened since our last update. First of all, we're adding to our family this spring with Baby Fultz this March! We are very excited and so very thankful to be able to share this new with you.

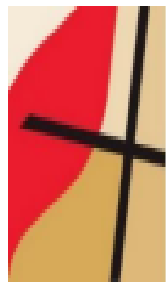
From Lucas:

If you missed it in our previous updates, Lucas is taking a leave of absence from Black Forest Academy this year to focus on community counselling and caring for Theo while Rachel is teaching.

From Rachel:

It has been a very busy start for the school year for Rachel. With lots of new staff at the elementary school, there has been a lot to do to help teachers prepare and then begin the school year. In addition, the second grade teacher arrived after the start of the school year from South Korea, and has been given time to adjust to life in Germany. This meant that Rachel has taken over many duties and responsibilities in the second grade classroom in addition to teaching fourth grade English to the German students. Also, she has a student teacher from the Netherlands that she is mentoring.

For much of our time in Germany, we've been blessed that the funds coming into our mission agency account have roughly equaled what's coming out each month. Thank you so much for your financial partnership that has allowed us to focus on our roles in Germany!



SOUTH-EAST REGION

UNITED METHODISTS
OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Pastors and Leaders,

As we work together as disciples of Jesus Christ and meet the needs of those who are least fortunate, I am sharing the attached letter from our siblings serving Arch Street UMC who are seeking assistance with their community outreach.

Please prayerfully think about joining this effort, if you are able, and let us know your decision. The need for underwear is growing. We are not able to accomplish everything alone, but together we can make a difference. The South-East Region is hoping to support Arch Street UMC in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Blessings,

Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark

South District Superintendent

Dean of the EPA Cabinet

Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III

East District Superintendent



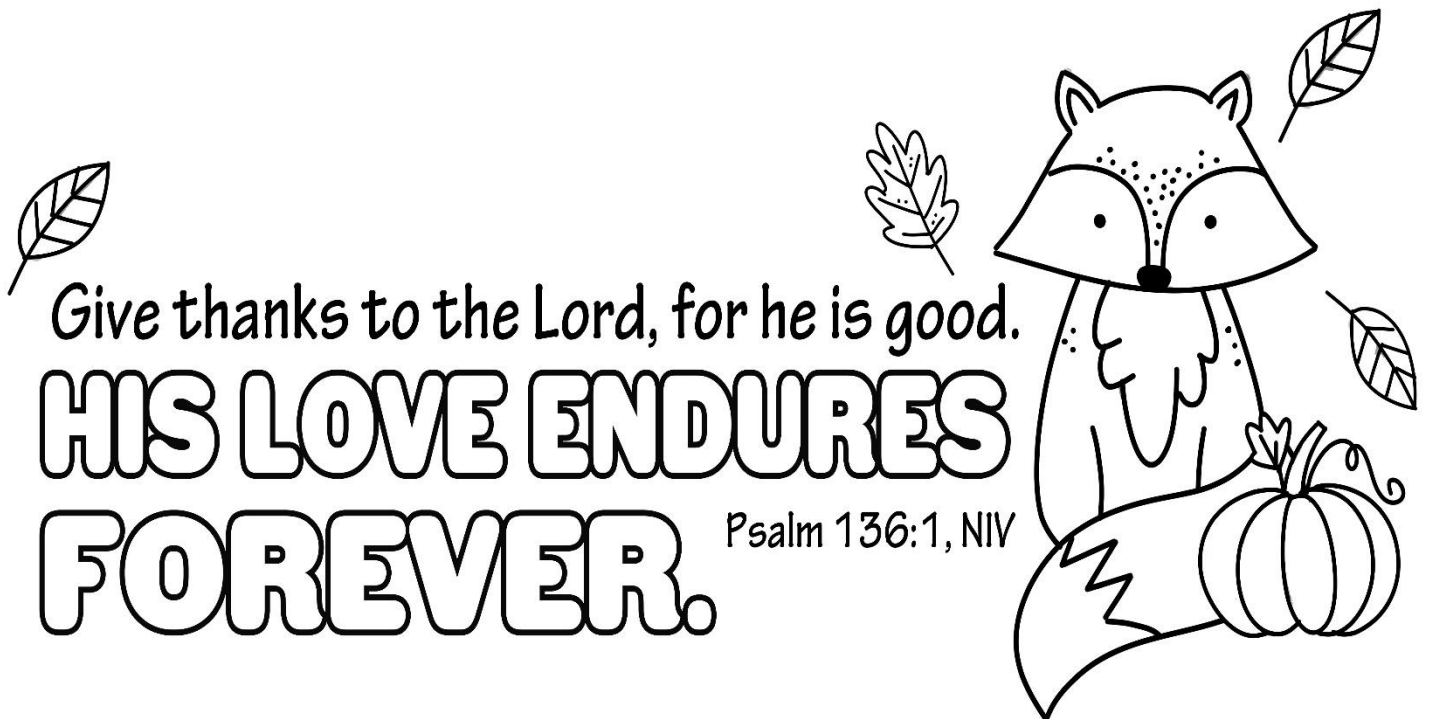
Arch Street United Methodist Church's nonprofit The Center-Philadelphia operates a weekday daytime Drop In Center serving our unhoused/unsheltered neighbors in Center City Philadelphia called Grace Cafe Daytime Services. The Drop In Center offers showers, laundry, long and short term case management, housing assessments, clothing, hygiene supplies, wellness services (including blood pressure, blood sugar checks, footbaths and care coordination), home cooked nutritious meals, computer lab access, a low-barrier lending library and a safe place for respite during the day.

Last year the Drop In Center received more than 9500 individuals and offered more than 30,000 separate services. About 20% of those accessing the Drop In Center are seniors over the age of 60 and nearly 20% identify as Veterans. About 70% of those we serve are men. In recent months we have experienced a significant increase in need.

Underwear is one of the most needed and most requested items. A new pair of underwear not only offers dignity but increases an individual's overall health and wellbeing. We distribute 4000 pairs of underwear each year with the need increasing significantly in recent months. The cost of underwear has increased significantly and we are unable to keep up with the increasing need. We are in need of new men's underwear (of all styles - however, the most commonly requested style is a boxer brief) in sizes ranging from medium to xlarge. Donations can be ordered via our [Amazon Wishlist](#) or dropped off at Arch Street United Methodist Church (55 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107). Please contact Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck at (darlene@archstreetumc.org) for more information.

B NOVEMBER 2024 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	National Native American Heritage Month		1 All Saints Day Diwali – Schools & Offices Closed	2 BCMEA String Day SAT Testing (Digital) at BHS
3 Standard Time Begins	4 STR PTO Meeting – 6:30 PM	5 Election Day Professional Development – No School for Students, Offices Open	6 RSH PTG Meeting – 7 PM SNY DC Parent Meeting – 6:30 PM	7	8 SHF Veterans Day Program SNY Veterans Day Program BHS Student of the Month Breakfast Report Card # 1 Available on SCP	9
10	11 Veterans' Day Holiday Schools & Offices Closed	12	13 World Kindness Day	14 STR Picture Re-Take Day VLY Picture Re-Take Day SNY Picture Re-Take Day	15 SHF Picture Re-Take Day BHS Drama Club presents <i>Cue</i> – 7 PM	16 BHS 13th Annual Craft Fair – 9 AM to 2 PM
17	18 BEL Picture Re-Take Day American Education Week thru Nov. 22	19 CRN Picture Re-Take Day	20 BEL PTG Skate Party – 5:30 to 8:30 PM RSH Picture Re-Take Day FST Picture Re-Take Day Education Support Professionals Day	21 National Parental Involvement Day	22 BHS Class of 2028 Designer Bag Bingo Substitute Educators Day	23 PMEA District 11 Choral Auditions
24 National Family Week thru Nov. 30	25	26 Act 80 Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences No School for Students, Offices Open School Board Action Meeting – 7:30 PM	27 Act 80 Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences No School for Students, Offices Open	28 Thanksgiving Day – Schools and Offices Closed	29 Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed	30



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.
 Psalm 136:1, NIV