



Bensalem United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 2024 THE BUZZ



From the Pastor's Desk ~

"¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, ¹² the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12 NRSVUE)

I love these words. They are quintessentially Christmas. Yet as I sit and write this, it's mid-November, 50+ degrees, and autumn is very evident outside the window. I don't think I'm quite ready to be talking about Christmas. Actually, that's a good thing because there is something that happens before Christmas that often gets lost in the shuffle.

Advent happens before Christmas. Advent is observed those pesky four Sundays before Christmas Eve. This year they are December 1, 8, 15, & 22. It's hard to observe Advent when everything around us is already singing carols and other Christmas songs, and putting up manger scenes and Santas with reindeer. Why bother making the effort? Advent helps us to remember why it's important to ponder the fullness of Jesus life, death, resurrection and return.

This year at BUMC, we will be pondering Jesus as the best gift giver ever through the sermon series: **Gift Exchange**. Jesus came so that we could have life and a more abundant one at that. Our abundant lives get lost as we get weighed down with anxiety, despair, and other sorts of emotional hardships. As we move through the sermon series, we will hear about the ways that Jesus wants to exchange these hard, harsh emotions for gifts of joy, hope, peace, and purpose.

I hope you will make every effort to follow the daily scripture readings and Sunday worship services. If you are unable to be in worship, please join the 8:30 Traditional Service on Facebook Live.

I pray that, as we move through the upcoming season of Advent, that our hearts are filled with all the good gifts that God has for each of us.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Alice Ann*

Bensalem United Methodist Church

4300 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem PA 19020

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

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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."



YOU'RE INVITED
TO
THE BONHAM'S
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

4306 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem PA

Sunday, December 22, 2024

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm



Join us for a time of fun, food and
fellowship.

Come when you can, leave when you
must.



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



Ministries

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

Donations

General Offering
Missions
Food Pantry
PARX seasonal gift requests
Anniversary Fund

Online Donations



Website submissions:

Vince Drybala

Newsletter submissions:

Dawn Lacerte

thebuzz@bensalem-umc.org

December Birthdays

1 – Daniel McKenney

5 – Luke Myers

12 – Tom McKenney

12 – Wendy Lagoudakis

14 – Colin Heffner

15 – George Allen

16 – Gloria Guy

17 – Debbie Duarte

18 – Nathaniel Whiegar, Sr

21 – David Jardine

22 – Unis Bedell-Whiegar

29 – Joyce Johnson

30 – Elizabeth Gruenbaum

HAPPY
Birthday
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Advent and Christmas sermon series: *Gift Exchange*

During the season of Advent and Christmas, the Worship Team has decided to use another sermon series: *Gift Exchange*. The following is the list of Daily Scriptures that will be the core of the sermon series. Please follow along as you prepare for Sunday morning worship. The Bagels and Bibles bible study will be using these scriptures as well.

Week 1: Despair for Hope
Sunday – Psalm 121:1-8
Monday – Psalm 21
Tuesday – Isaiah 41:14-20
Wednesday – Romans 8:24-26
Thursday – Ruth 1:6-18
Friday – Psalm 146:5-10
Saturday – 1 Samuel 2:1-8

Week 2: Anxiety for Peace
Sunday – John 14:27
Monday – Psalm 124
Tuesday – Philippians 4:4-7
Wednesday – Isaiah 54:1-10
Thursday – Isaiah 4:2-6
Friday – Luke 12:22-43
Saturday – Isaiah 30:19-26

Week 3: Sorrow for Joy
Sunday – Psalm 30
Monday – Psalm 42
Tuesday – John 10:10
Wednesday – Psalm 80:1-7
Thursday – Ezekial 47:1-12
Friday – Revelation 21:3-4
Saturday – Revelation 21:5-7

Week 4: Fear for Love
Sunday – 1 John 4:7-19
Monday – Psalm 33
Tuesday – Isaiah 9:2-7
Wednesday – Psalm 145
Thursday – Psalm 147
Friday – Psalm 102
Saturday – John 15:12-17

Week 5: Meaninglessness for Purpose
Sunday – Jeremiah 29:11
Monday – 1 Peter 2:9
Tuesday – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Wednesday – Matthew 28:19-20
Thursday – Romans 8:28
Friday – Matthew 5:13-16
Saturday – Ezekiel 34:11-16



Winter Opportunity - Fishing Club



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!

The price? \$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 3:30p.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. Anyone wishing to attend, please contact Betsy Pitcher (267 205 8186) **prior to Dec. 5**. She is working on possibly getting a group rate for larger groups. Tickets must be ordered online. At this point she has 16 going. All money would be due to her by Dec. 8th.



Bensalem Christian Day School

November was a very busy and fun-filled month, which culminated with a "Food for Others" program. The children gathered in the sanctuary for a Thanksgiving Service in which they sang songs and presented food products to the Bensalem Lions Club.

Thanksgiving Feasts were held the week of November 25^h. It was truly inspiring to see all the children celebrating Thanksgiving at their classroom feasts.

Preparations for Christmas are already underway, as this joyous season begins. Discussions in school will be centered around the holidays, the custom of giving as well as receiving gifts, and, most important, the story of the birth of Jesus. We will be having a Christmas Concert December 20th in the Sanctuary at 9:30am.

Also, the Day School will be collecting toys for needy children in the Lower Bucks County area. There are tags on the tree upstairs or the wreath downstairs. Please deliver the item you purchased unwrapped to the Day School Office **by December 2nd**.

Wishing you a blessed holiday focused on God's greatest gift – Jesus!

Lisa Woods, Day School Director



Blue Christmas Community Service
Service of Healing and Reflection

For all those struggling this holiday, this service is an offering of peace and hope for the Holidays.

Friday, December 20
6:30 pm

Bensalem United Methodist Church – Historic Chapel
4300 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, Pa. 19020
(Across from Bensalem High School)
bensalem-umc.org



On Sunday, November 10, BUMC celebrated Laity Sunday—a day to remind us that we are ALL part of the laity of the church. Just as Jesus came to serve others, we are ALL called to serve and participate in the work and mission of the church.

This year, it was decided to try a skit, instead of a sermon, to spread the message that God calls all of us to do His will. The chosen skit was from *The Skit Guys* and was entitled, "The Time Machine", by Rob Courtney. It was a humorous, but also a serious look at what would have happened if many of our famous Bible heroes had acted towards God in the way that some of today's Christians do. There were two casts for the two services, with many people acting in both:

The Time Machine Cast (Directed by George Dworsky)

Narrator: Linda Evans (8:30 am) Betsy Pitcher (10:00am), **Noah:** Greg Boynton, **God:** George Dworsky
Abraham: Ernita Johnson (8:30 am) Harry Galindez (10:00 am), **David:** Nancy Oczkowski, **Moses:** Dan Taylor
Nathan: Judy Kane (8:30 am) Kathy Boynton (10:00 am), **Peter:** Colin Heffner, **Jesus:** Liz Gruenbaum
Paul: Genevieve Mills (8:30 am) Cathy Roberts (10:00 am), **Luke:** Luke Myers, **Andrew:** Jimmy Mills (8:30am) and Bill Wingert (10:00 am), **Time Traveler:** Joey Heffner



8:30 am Cast



10:00 am Cast

The combined choir sang at both services, and the Fishing Club shared four songs with the congregation at the second service.



Fishing Club Rehearsal



Fishing Club at Laity Sunday

It was a day of celebration, but also a day to remind us of the many different ways in which we are called to serve our Lord!

Fishing Club December Plans

Fishing Club gave thanks for all of our blessings during November. We are continuing to welcome new friends, and folks of all ages are invited. You need not attend every week to benefit--come when you can.

We have already begun to learn what "Advent" means and explore our Bibles. An Advent craft will keep us learning about the birth of our Savior.



For the month of December, we plan to have regular Sunday evening meetings on **12/01, 12/08 and 12/23**. We meet 5:30-7 pm in the Kurtiz Room to enjoy a light meal, games, crafts, music and Bible study. On the afternoon of **Sunday, December 15th**, we will journey to Juniper Village to sing Christmas carols to the residents and spread some joy and cheer (and cookies.) All are invited, and it's always heartwarming to see the appreciation of the folks living there. And on **Monday, December 30th**, interested friends and family will travel down to Penn's Landing to ice skate at the Blue Cross River Rink. We also hope to see the Christmas decorations downtown on this outing. All are welcome. We will meet at the BUMC parking lot at 3:30 pm to travel down.

Come and be a "fisher of men" with us anytime!

Our Wonderful Staff

We are taking a special "**Christmas Collection**" to recognize and thank our wonderful paid staff (Pastor Alice Ann; Custodian, Nancy Oczkowski; Music Director, Mary Ann Schauder) for their great work throughout the year. If the Spirit so moves you, please place your gift [cash or check] in an envelope that will be provided and return it to an usher **no later than the December 22 service**. Thank you and God Bless!



Children's Gift Collection

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 make a child's Christmas brighter. Please place donations in the UWF boxes in

the narthex **not later than Sunday, December 8th so there is time to assemble the gift bags.**

The gifts will be given to Rev. Dr. Rick Bunker, Chaplain at Philadelphia Park, for distribution to the children/teens of backlot personnel at their annual Christmas celebration.

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, let us spread the joy of his coming.



Men's and Women's Fellowship December Joint Meeting



The next meeting of the **Men's and Women's Joint Fellowship** is Saturday, **December 14 at about 9:30 am in the Kurtiz Room** (immediately following the annual cookie walk). Everyone can participate in the Cookie Walk and the meeting. Men and women of all ages are encouraged to participate and bring a friend or family member.

We will be filling containers with cookies for Christmas carolers to give to shut-ins at Juniper Village. If you can, please bring cookies (homemade or store bought) to help fill containers. Extras will be shared among attendees.

Please contact Linda Evans by phone at 215-322-6964 or email at llevans@outlook.com if you have any questions.

Spread Christmas Cheer! Sing Loud for all to Hear!



Sunday, Dec. 8, 2 pm Christmas Sing-along in Main Sanctuary
Everyone is 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. This is a fun way to share the spirit of Christmas.

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.

Did you know that 82% of people would come to church if a trusted friend invited them?
It's easier to invite a friend to something like Christmas than to a regular Sunday morning.

churchgrowthmagazine.com

December 29 Worship Announcement

The Worship Team has decided that there will be one (1) worship service on Sunday, December 29th. It will be at 9:30 AM in the Chapel. Please mark your calendars.



Anne and Vince Drybala

Years ago, Anne and Vince did the "Church Shopping Tour" of local Protestant churches. Good friends of theirs had just been married at BUMC, and they recommended the church and its Pastor, J. Val Hastings, Sr. When Anne and Vince visited, they were warmly welcomed by Charlie Inglin (Connie Kurtiz's father), and soon they fell in love with our church. Their children grew up in our church and were active in Sunday School and Youth group until they moved to NYC.

Vince and Anne have been extremely involved over the years:

Vince is currently the Leadership Board Chairperson, Lay Leader, Financial Secretary, Capital Campaign member, Web Site Creator and Webmaster, offering counter, part-time techno person and a substitute preacher. He, along with Anne, are regulars at Bagels and Bibles (at Bensalem's Redhouse Bagels). He was previously the Finance Committee Chair for 8 years and was a Charter Representative for the Boy Scout Troop that we sponsored here at BUMC. He took the Disciple Bible Study twice, and led several sessions for Pastor Alice Ann when she couldn't be there. In addition, he was a full time techno person from when we originally went to the contemporary worship format, currently in use at the 10:00 am service.

Upon joining the church, Anne was almost immediately asked by Connie Kurtiz to teach Sunday School and organize the Acolytes. She has served on the Day School Committee for many, many years, and she sings in the choir. She is co-chair of the annual Cookie Walk, and is one of the organizers of our new Fishing Club. She remains committed to working with children and youth. She has organized Vacation Bible School, has served on the Leadership Board and on the Worship Committee.

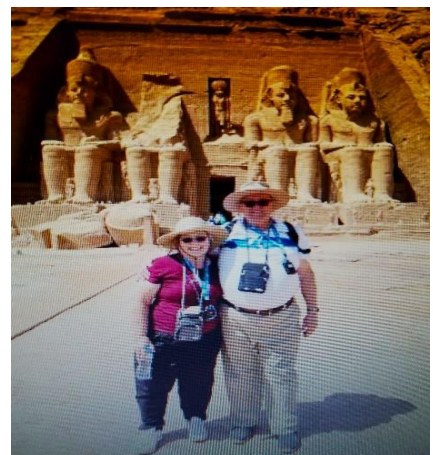
Anne especially enjoys singing and working with children. She enjoys being with her BUMC friends in many capacities. She also really enjoyed the Disciple Bible Study. Vince is a huge Eagles fan and a season ticket holder since 1972. He enjoys computer games. They both love seeing their grandkids, who bring them such joy! They both love to travel, and have been to Israel twice, to Egypt on a Nile River Cruise, to the Kingdom of Jordan, and, most recently they took a river cruise down the Rhine River from Amsterdam to Zurich, Switzerland. They also have a motor home and love going to places in it, such as Disney World.

Anne and Vince are now both retired. Vince retired after 32 years as an Avionics Test Engineer at Boeing Helicopters Division, located in Ridley Park. He likes to tell people that he got to , "...break things and play with some really cool toys." Anne has worked in retail management and Early Childhood Education, in both teaching and in administrative roles.

Vince's favorite moment at BUMC (among very many), was the first time he actually preached from the pulpit. He remembers that every face he could see in the front of the church was really paying attention to his words, and the congregation actually applauded when he finished. That experience warms his heart every time he thinks of it.

Anne finds it hard to narrow down her favorite experience to just one moment—there are so many happy memories! However, she has definitely felt the Holy Spirit's presence at BUMC!

May we all experience the power of the Holy Spirit
as we worship together at BUMC!



Trunk or Treat and Trick or Treaters at BUMC

Trick or Treaters got to show off their costumes the Saturday before Halloween. Plenty of interesting and funny costumes were seen in our church parking lot from the Chapel circle entrance to its exit. The Trick or Treaters got to show their costumes visiting a variety of decorated cars and enjoying a chance to show their artistic talent at the Coloring Table. Thank you to everyone who made this event successful.



Fall Work Day

It was a busy day at BUMC on the second Saturday in November. Before the Fall Harvest Luncheon, eighteen BUMC folks and friends worked very hard inside and outside to make BUMC a beautiful place to Worship and visit. The Property Management Team appreciates everyone's hard work.



Harvest Luncheon

The second Saturday in November was not only Work Day at BUMC. The Fall Harvest Luncheon was held. Turkey and Ham Sliders highlighted the menu along with soup salad, and delicious desserts. Those in attendance were also treated to a great selection of music. Spring and Harvest Luncheons are becoming a tradition at BUMC.



Anniversary Hymn Sing

Bensalem United Methodist Church is 214 years old! The Anniversary celebration included an afternoon Hymn Sing organized by Linda Evans, accompanied by Connie Kurtiz on piano, and led by George and Joyce Dworsky.

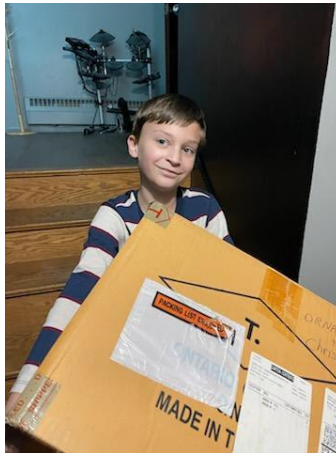


Amazing Grace
how sweet the sound



Hanging of the Greens

We had over 40 people volunteer to decorate the main sanctuary and chapel for the Christmas season! We were able to get almost everything done in an hour. Thank you to all who participated. A special thanks goes to Greg and Kathy Boynton for doing all the prep work. The event ended with fellowship and pizza donated by the Boyntons. Thank you!





SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE
OF PHILADELPHIA & SOUTH JERSEY

1321 Intrepid Ave., Ste. 310
Philadelphia, PA 19112
(215) 940-9900

Helene Pierson
Executive Director

November 16, 2024

Pastor Alice Ann Bonham
Bensalem United Methodist Church
4300 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem, PA 19020

Dear Pastor Bonham:

Thank you for your generous contribution of approximately 90 calendars and bibles to our Ditty Bag program for the holiday season!

Over our 181 years of service in ports along both sides of the Delaware River, our organization has seen many changes in the needs of seafarers and the issues they face. What remains unchanged is our mission of supporting hard-working seafarers who are far from home, giving them a trusted local connection, and letting them know someone cares and appreciates what they do. Our Ditty Bag program is a much-appreciated cornerstone of our service, and we are proud that it continues to grow with support of individuals, churches, and businesses throughout the community.

Your help makes this mission possible. The seafarers are blessed to have such faithful friends. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Gratefully,

Executive Director

cc: Connie Kurtiz



Hello winter

