

Bensalem

United Methodist Church

February 2025 THE BUZZ

From the Pastor's Desk ~

"... Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord...."

(Isaiah 1:18 NRSVUE)

These words come from the beginning of Isaiah's ministry. God has been reminding the Israelite people about their part of the covenant relationship. God will be their God if they worship him and not false idols, and if they remember that God brought them out of Egypt. In other words, God is reminding them that they have not been living up to their end of the covenant.

God is aware that, like most children in a dispute, their response is going to take some form of, "We did too!" God responds with, "Let's come together and share our sides of the story and see where things fall out."

Congregations can be like that. Please note, I am not trying to call you all children. I'm just aware that sometimes communication does not work as intended or hoped. In the hopes of improving the communication efforts, I have decided that I will have a monthly **"Coffee With The Pastor."** I'll be holding it **in my office or The Kurtiz Room, on the 2nd Sunday of the Month following the 10:00 AM service.** There will be no particular agenda. Folks are welcome to come and talk, or ask questions, about anything. I will talk about any up-coming events and ask if there are concerns.

Times of transition are hard. I want to make the next several months as uncomplicated as possible. I invite you to come and talk out anything that might be on your mind and heart.

In Christ's love and work,
Pastor Alice Ann

Dear Friends of BUMC,

Thank you so much for your very generous Christmas Gift. I am so blessed to be the pastor of this congregation. I get so much joy. I have every intention of using this gift in March when I take some vacation time to go see the Phillies during Spring Training. I'll be sure to take pictures. Thanks again!!!

- Pastor Alice Ann



Bensalem United Methodist Church

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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: 8:45am – 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."

Welcome Rev. Sophia Driscoll Gamber appointed to Bensalem UMC



Rev. Sophia Gamber (she/they) is a deep listener, strategic visionary, and a builder of people. She has a heart of a shepherd and has served previously as an Assistant Pastor and an Intern Youth & Outreach Minister, in addition to holding various social service and advocacy roles. Sophia has demonstrated their pastoral heart as a chaplain in hospice, oncology, and pediatric healthcare settings. Sophia holds a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and Sociology & Anthropology from Ursinus College as well as a Master of Divinity from Yale University School of Divinity. Pastor Sophia coupled with Bensalem UMC's desire to grow and thrive through diversity and

continued ecumenical partnerships, providing more opportunities to evangelize the community with creativity and a fresh approach that will yield discipleship for years to come. Pastor Sophia's passion for meeting people where they are is exactly what makes this a good ministry match.

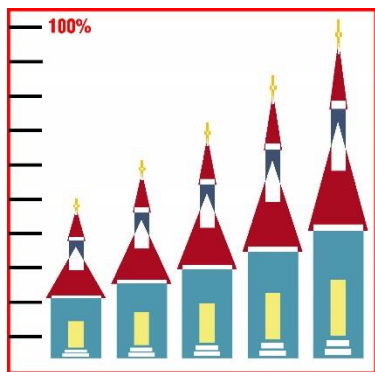
Her appointment will begin on July 1st.

<https://www.epaumc.org/appointments/2025-appointments/>

Greetings from the Capital Campaign Committee

**Sunday, February 23rd
Town Hall Meeting
after the combined service
at 9:30 am
in the Main Sanctuary**

This will mark the start of our campaign and the beginning of our "Journey in Faith".



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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
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

February Birthdays

2 – Ivan Lacerte
10 – Sean Hennessey
11 – Marie Carp
22 – Judy McNally





The **Visiting Angels** began with a visit to Joan Grow at Juniper Village. Connie Kurtiz, and Jay and Cathy Roberts were the first ones to venture out.

If you would like to have a visit, make your wishes known by calling the church or contacting Betsy at 267-205-8186.

If you would like to do the visiting, please let Betsy know. If you aren't sure you can visit but would like to help out by making the lunch, snack, and drink, that would certainly help. Please consider getting involved.

Special Black History Month Event

In recognition of February as Black History Month, BUMC will host a very special guest speaker on **Saturday, February 8th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Main Sanctuary**. Pastor James Duckett, former



pastor of Wilkinson Memorial UMC, and a good friend of Pastor Alice Ann, will be here to share glimpses into his life as an African American man growing up and living in the United States. It is hoped that by hearing his unique life experiences, we will each gain a better understanding of what it is like to be Black in America. You don't want to miss out on this exceptional opportunity.

Fellowship and refreshments will be available in the Kurtiz Room following Rev. Duckett's presentation. This event will take the place of the United Women in Faith Meeting.

Bensalem Christian Day School

During the month of January, our children learned more about wintertime and good health habits. Many songs and art projects centered around these topics.

During the week of January 27th, each class had special Teddy Bear Days. Each child brought his/her favorite stuffed animal to school.

This month is heart month, so we will be talking about our hearts and how to keep them healthy.

Registration for September 2025 is underway. If you or someone you know would like more information or need a registration form, please email me at bensalemchristians@gmail.com or call 215-245-1610.

Lisa Woods, Director



Garden of Eatin'
Woodbourne Rd, Levittown

*Wednesday, February 19th
at 11:30am*

Please join us and bring a friend!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to Joanne Miller for years of mailing church family birthday cards.

Thank you to Betty Miles for taking on this outreach practice to spread God's Love

Fishing Club:

Our Fishing Club continues to enjoy everything from ice skating to Bible studies, music, food and indoor games.

For 2025, we are working on local missions and community service activities that our children and youth can participate in to live into their faith.

Our first endeavor is collecting soup and monetary donations for the "Souperbowl of Caring." These donations will go to our neighbors in need at Parx, Bensalem." Thank you for your participation.



Valentines for kids

Valentine's Day isn't just for schoolchildren and sweethearts. Loving parents should strive to give their children these life-changing gifts during February and beyond.

- **Acceptance:** Say and show that you love children for who they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
- **Self-confidence:** Help boost kids' trust in themselves. Give this gift with a hug.
- **Peace:** Model how to give your worries to God. Offer this present with laughter.
- **Gratitude:** Help children be genuinely thankful for each new day and for all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- **Faith:** Introduce children to Jesus, the best friend they'll ever have. Do this by taking them to church and Fishing Club regularly.



A prayer for Presidents Day



Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.

HAVE
YOU

Met ?

Dan and Kim Taylor



Dan and Kim first attended Newtown UMC but, upon moving to Bensalem, they joined BUMC in 1991. Their sons, Zac and Colin (who was confirmed by Pastor Stahley) also attended.

Dan has been **very** involved over the years. He was our Church Council chairperson and our Techno Team chairperson, both for over 10 years. He has also served, as our SPRC chairperson, Worship Committee member and chairperson, and Communications Team chairperson and member. Dan is one of the original members of our SAS Leadership Board. For years, Dan organized our BUMC outings to Trenton Thunder games. He is also known as our beloved "Sign Man" for the church sign on the front lawn of BUMC.

Dan and Kim have enjoyed Pot-Luck and Roast Beef dinners, the Christmas Bazaars, the Baked Potato Luncheons, Game Nights, the Cookie Walk, and Palm Sunday Breakfasts. Through the years, Dan has enjoyed and participated in the Holy Week, Christmas Eve, and other worship service skits/reader's theaters directed by George Dworsky. Actually, Dan enjoys any BUMC activity where the congregation gathers to share fellowship!

Outside of church, Dan worked in local radio for over 13 years at WBUX radio in Doylestown. For over 12 years was the Stage Crew Advisor in Bensalem School District and had many BUMC youth as students on the Stage Crew. Currently, Dan works at Waste Management (WM) and has been there for over 13 years. He is still working, but is looking towards retirement sometime in 2026!

Kim was Manager/Buyer of the Beehive Gift Shop at St. Mary Medical Center for 27 years, until Covid caused the shop to close, and then Trinity Health converted its space into its scheduling offices. Kim worked at Bucks County Bank when she and Dan were first married. She was a performer at the Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, along with Dan's mother, who introduced them in the summer of 1981! Currently, Kim directs Community Theatre, where she recently directed "Sister Act", enjoyed by many BUMC attendees, and she is on a break from cooking for a family, who has a 6-year-old and a 6-month old, but are spending, a year travelling overseas.

Dan and Kim have so many memories from BUMC, but no single one stands out. Dan says, "The best memories are (and were) made with fellow members and the time we share together!"



Kindness kickbacks

Random Acts of Kindness Day, observed each year on February 17, is a reminder of the power of altruism. Followers of Jesus express kindness selflessly, out of love for God and our neighbors. Yet in return, we reap emotional — and even physical — benefits.

Researchers have identified a “helper’s high” that can ease anxiety and depression. Spontaneous or planned acts of “pro-social spending” have been shown to reduce blood pressure, improve heart health, reduce pain and even extend longevity.



For maximum impact, experts recommend getting creative with random acts of kindness and mixing them up. But no matter how you spread kindness, you’re bound to experience blessings in return!

The Fishing Club Choir singing on Christmas Eve 2024



February is Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time to recognize their role in U.S. history. It is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans - from activists and civil rights pioneers, such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Martin Luther King Jr., and Rosa Parks, to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more. It was initially seen as a way of teaching students and young people about the contributions of Black Americans; today it is seen as a celebration of those who have impacted our country through their leadership and achievements. So, in celebration of Black

History month, the paragraphs below highlight pioneering and groundbreaking Black Americans in U.S. Methodist history.

Harry Hosier, 1750 - 1806
Methodist Preacher Circuit Rider

Adapted From the General Commission on Archives and History

Harry Hosier was America's first Black Methodist preacher. "I really believe he is one of the best preachers in the world," was the opinion of Thomas Coke, who, along with Francis Asbury, was one of American Methodism's first two bishops. "There is such an amazing power that attends his preaching, though he cannot read; and he is one of the humblest creatures I ever saw."

Despite such accolades, very little is known about Hosier's life. He was born about 1750, perhaps as a plantation slave in North Carolina. He experienced Christian conversion at some point and when he was about 30 years old, he met Francis Asbury and became his traveling companion as a circuit riding preacher. Soon he began to exhort after the sermon, urging the listeners to apply the preacher's words to their lives. Later, he was the principal speaker at services.

He and Richard Allen were the two non-voting African American representatives at the 1784 Christmas Conference, which officially organized American Methodism. His famous sermon, "The Barren Fig Tree," preached at Adam's Chapel in Fairfax County, Virginia, in May of 1781, was the first recorded Methodist sermon by a Black person in America. Likewise, his sermon in Chapeltown, Delaware, 1784, was the first sermon preached by a Black minister to a white congregation.

Hosier drew large, multiracial crowds who would come from near and far to hear him. The Methodist Church grew by leaps and bounds from the ministry offered by Harry Hosier.

Francis Burns, 1809 – 1863
Missionary Bishop

Adapted From Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications

The Rev. Francis Burns was an American Methodist minister who served as a missionary in Liberia. He was the first Missionary Bishop, and the first African American Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church (elected in 1858).

His early life was spent in Greene County, NY. His family was poor, and at the age of four he was indentured to a farmer. At age eight, he was indentured to the Atwood family. Mrs. Atwood, a Methodist class leader, permitted Francis to attend school with her children during the winter season.

Francis joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at age fifteen and at seventeen showed interest in preaching. When his indenture expired at age twenty-one, Francis worked as a teacher and became licensed to preach in the Catskill Hudson District. Others took notice of his preaching skills and encouraged him to study to become a missionary. His opportunity to do this came in 1834, when he accompanied the Rev. John Seys to Liberia.

After ten years as a missionary teacher and leader in Liberia, he traveled to New York to be ordained by Bishop Edmund Janes. Returning to Liberia, Rev. Burns taught in Monrovia Seminary and in 1845 succeeded Rev. Seys as editor of *Africa's Luminary*, the quarterly publication of the Missionary Society in Liberia. Rev. Burns also served for many of these years as president of the Liberia Conference.

In 1856, the General Conference approved the election of a missionary bishop in Africa. The Liberia Conference elected Rev. Burns as their first bishop in 1858. The importance of this action for Methodism, especially Methodism in Liberia, cannot be overestimated.

The legacy of Liberian-based Methodist ministries started, organized, and led by Bishop Burns continues to flower in many forms today. United Methodists in Liberia number just over 300,000. Though not the largest Christian denomination in Liberia, United Methodists have had a significant influence in public life, including as two the nation's last three presidents (Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 2006-2018, and George Weah, 2018-2024).

Rev. Sallie Alford Crenshaw, 1900-1986 **Missionary Pastor**

Adapted From Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications

Sallie A Crenshaw was ahead of her time, serving as a missionary and pastor when ministry was limited for women, especially Black women. Born around 1900 in LaGrange, Ga., of Irish, Cherokee and African American descent, Sallie Alford Crenshaw was reared in Chattanooga. A graduate of the Chattanooga public schools, she attended Tennessee State Normal School, Gammon Theological Seminary, Clark College and the University of Nebraska and was the first Black student to attend Tennessee Wesleyan College. Since ordination was closed to women, she became a missionary under the auspices of the Methodist Board of Missions.

In 1935, the Board of Missions sent her to minister to the black coal miners around Bluefield, W.Va. She lived with desperately poor mining families, often sleeping on the floor, teaching them, especially the children, what she could. At the same time, she was pastoring churches in the East Tennessee Methodist Conference. Over her career, she served as supply pastor to 12 churches, including several in Chattanooga. She was later appointed as the first African American to travel the country, preaching to both black and white congregations and promoting church desegregation. In 1958, two years after The Methodist Church approved full clergy rights for women, Crenshaw became the Rev. Crenshaw. She was the first woman ordained by the East Tennessee Methodist Conference.





RESCHEDULED B3T UNITY WEEK EVENTS

Building A Better Bensalem Together Coalition, along with
PARX Casino

invites you to join us on
Monday, February 17, 2025 for a (Free) B3T Breakfast
Celebration
PARX EAST at '8:00am'

**LIMITED SEATING-RESERVATIONS R 'REQUIRED
FOR THIS BREAKFAST**

NO LATER THAN- 'Tuesday, February 11, 2025'
(Email 'Subject') – "B3T UW@ B3Tcoalition@gmail.com

Please join us also on

Monday, February 17, 2025 at 12:30pm St. Gregorios
Malankara Orthodox Church
4136 Hulmeville Rd. Bensalem

Please remove shoes before entering temple. Refreshments will
be provided.

If you have any questions, please email - 'subject' 'B3T
Diversity-U.W. at B3Tcoalition@gmail.com For updates: check
the B3Twebsite: WWW.BensalemB3T



New: Diversity Bible Study

Beginning on March 3 at 6:30, there will be a new Bible study at Bensalem United Methodist Church.

We will be focusing the study on the topic of diversity. Have you been uncertain about your place in God's Kingdom, based on your race or sexual orientation? Have you experienced discrimination issues due to your age, ability, or body size??

If any of those topics make you feel uncertain or challenge your ability to see yourself in God's kingdom, this adult Bible study is for you.

Any questions, ask for Luke Myers or Betsy Pitcher.

Leave a message at the church and one of us will get back to you. Phone: **215-245-1215**.

B FEBRUARY 2025 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	African American History Month National Children's Dental Health Month			1
2	3 National School Counseling Week thru Feb. 7 STR PTO Meeting – 6:30 PM	4	5	6	7 BHS Student of the Month Breakfast BHS Soph Hop	8 BHS Band Mattress Sale - 10AM to 5PM Aux Gym
9	10 Professional Development Schools Closed, Offices Open	11	12	13 CRN Title I Family Academic Trivia Night Game Show – 6 PM RSH Family Dinner Dance – 6 to 8 PM VLY ELD Family Night – 6 to 8 PM BHS Musical (Footloose) – 7 PM	14 STR Valentine's Day Celebrations BHS Musical (Footloose) – 7 PM Valentine's Day	15 BHS Musical (Footloose) – 1 PM BHS Musical (Footloose) – 7 PM National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day
16	17 Presidents' Day – Schools and Offices Closed	18	19	20	21 CRN Valentine's Day Family Bingo – 6:30 PM STR PTO Glow Dance – 6:30 to 8:30 PM	22 PJAS Regionals at Snyder
23	24 BHS Spirit Week thru Feb. 28 Public Schools Week	25 School Board Action Meeting – 7:30 PM	26 FST Beginner Concert – 7 PM Maha Shivaratri	27	28 Interim Progress Reports Available on SCP VLY K-3 Dance BHS Blue/Gray	

REVISED 1/17/2024

For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)