

# Bensalem United Methodist Church



**March 2025 THE BUZZ**

## **From the Pastor's Desk ~**

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NRSVUE) I'm not really sure why these words appeared in my head as I sat down to write. I had thought that I would write something about Lent. It may happen before I get to the end, but I'm not sure yet.

What I am sure of is that seasons are changing. The days are staying light a little bit longer. The trees are starting take on a reddish-brown hue. This is always an indication that buds have formed and are just waiting for things to warm up enough to pop out. I heard a robin while walking the trash to the dumpster. Spring is around the corner.

I love the change of seasons. Each season brings with it its own sets of experiences. Summer is warm and full of color. It's a time for spending time in the mountains or at the beach. Maybe just spending time with our feet in a backyard kiddie pool. Fall is the season for different colors; cooler air, and joy for the relief from the heat. Winter is cold with dull colors. They are the colors of dormancy and waiting. It's a time for huddling under blankets with a hot cup of something and watching a movie or reading a book. It's a reminder that we can slow down and rest awhile. And then there's Spring. A time for rebirth and new life. Trees pop with leaves and blossoms that fill our visions. They remind us that life renews.

Just as there are seasons of the year, there are seasons of life. (Cue the Broadway musical song...) Sometimes the seasons are physical changes; like a toddler growing into a child. Other times the seasons are about emotional change; like learning to forgive the one who has caused harm in our lives. Seasons can be contemplative or physical. Perhaps all at the same time. Lent is a season (got here) for us to put time aside to work on our relationship with God so that when Holy Week, and ultimately Easter arrives, we are ready to receive ALL that God, through the Holy Spirit and Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, has prepared for us – New Life, New Hope, New Purpose.

I encourage, "... you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word." (UMBOW322)

Grace and peace,

**Pastor Alice Ann**

## **Bensalem United Methodist Church**

4300 Hulmeville Road  
Bensalem PA 19020

**Office Phone: 215-245-1215**  
[bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com)

Parsonage Phone: 215-245-7669  
[aabonham@gmail.com](mailto: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:  
1<sup>st</sup> 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."

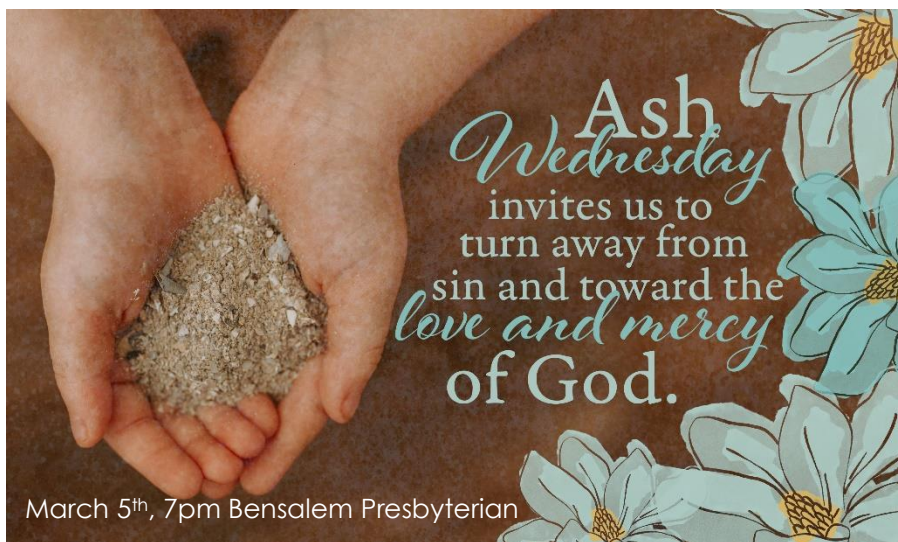
## In all his glory

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, many Christian churches celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. After telling his shocked, uncomprehending disciples that he would die and rise again, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain. Suddenly Jesus appeared to be glowing! "He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light" (Matthew 17:2, ESV).



Moses and Elijah appeared, and a voice said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (verse 5). Jesus' disciples fell to the ground, overcome by fear. But Jesus touched them, told them not to be afraid and led them down the mountain.

The disciples witnessed firsthand the glory and Godhood of Jesus, who would soon die for the sins of the world and rise again to give us life.



**CROSS OF ASHES** — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

## 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](mailto:thebuzz@bensalem-umc.org)

## March Birthdays

- 4 – Joe Hennessey, Jr
- 7 – Ronald Vangine
- 8 – Jennifer Hennessey
- 8 – Marie Reinert
- 8 – Tom Hoffman
- 9 – Jimmy Mills
- 10 – Yiorgo Lagoudakis
- 10 – Jim Mitchell
- 10 – Jeanette Schilling
- 10 – Edith Kitchen
- 14 – Dave Cridland, Sr
- 16 – Dollie Campbell
- 17 – Greg Boynton
- 20 – Alice Ann Bonham
- 21 – Judy Kane
- 22 – Joey Heffner
- 23 – Cathy Miller
- 26 – Ken Vansant
- 29 – Debby Gontkof



## Community Lenten Services 2025

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. There are community Lenten services scheduled and listed below. All are on Wednesdays and begin at **7:00 PM**.

Please mark your calendar for March 12<sup>th</sup> in particular. The service will be at our church, and we will provide snacks afterward. Note that Pastor Alice Ann will be preaching on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bensalem AME church.



Date	Host Church	Preacher
March 5	Bensalem Presbyterian	Skip
March 12	Bensalem United Methodist	Donna
March 19	Eddington Presbyterian	Jean
March 26	Peace Lutheran	Marianne
April 2	Bensalem AME	Alice Ann

## Capital Campaign Committee

Last Sunday, February 23, we held our Town Hall, an opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns about our upcoming Capital Campaign.

However, by the time this goes to print, our attention will be turned toward our **Commitment Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**. That Sunday will be dedicated to our personal/family commitment to support the endeavors of our BUMC family as we Pave the Way for the Future.

Regardless of your financial commitment to this project, we are asking that you commit your prayers, your time and your talents to move us forward. We all have an obligation to commit this to our heart and into our prayers as we embark on this journey.



## Updates for new Church Directory

### Letenauchyn, Kathie

Number listed is no longer in service.  
Cell phone #: 267-934-4515

### Johnson, Ernita

15 Tupelo Lane  
Langhorne, PA 190477

### Miller, Joanne

New Cell phone #: 267-717-5401

### Steblein-Dunn, Kelly

Address: 2517 Dunksferry Rd.-Apt. C306,  
Bensalem, PA 19020

**Simeti, Alice** Cell phone#267-615-3452

## Google Reviews

Do you enjoy Bensalem United Methodist Church?

Write a [review](#) and tell everyone about your experience. Positive reviews will encourage the community to join us. Pull up Bensalem United Methodist Church Reviews on your browser and review us! You will help someone find their forever spiritual home.



*Write a Review*

## Prayer

Prayer is how we communicate with God. In prayer, we share our hearts. We also pause to listen for wisdom and guidance. As John Wesley wrote, "All that a Christian does, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer, when it is done in simplicity, according to the order of God."

## Breath Prayer

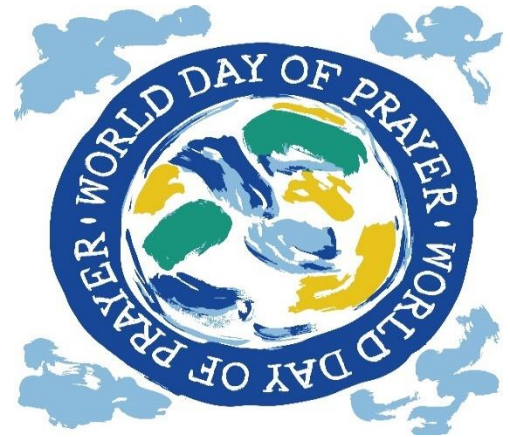
Breathe in. Breathe out.

Did you know that something as simple as breathing draws us closer to God?

The ancient practice of breath prayer ties a short, rhythmic prayer to our breathing. It's simple, and a meaningful way to practice mindfulness.

Take a few moments to breathe deeply and feel a sense of presence and connection.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/breath-prayer>



## Bible Study

**On March 3**, our first Bible study will be in the Kurtiz room at 6:30 PM. All are welcome! We will be doing a **five-week study** using materials that we have purchased. Below you will find a description of the class directly from the website:

This study was inspired by the cultural reality that diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts have been happening throughout our society in every sphere—church, workplaces, and higher education. Now, these efforts have either fizzled out, sidelined, or been erased altogether.

Additional inspiration came from a primary question many faithful people of God have wrestled with: "What does diversity, equity, and inclusion have to do with my faith as a Christian?"

This five (5) week small group study is designed as a foundational study so as disciples of Jesus we may begin thinking about what diversity, equity, and inclusion is and how it applies to our faith.



## Men's and Women's Joint Fellowship



The next meeting of the **Men's and Women's Joint Fellowship** is **Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** in the **Kurtiz Room** at **9am**. Men and women of all ages are encouraged to participate and bring a friend or family member.

The meeting will include assorted breakfast items, a short lesson, a mission moment, and lots of friendly conversation. The lesson will address the remarkable journey of the football team from the California School for the Deaf in Riverside, CA. Their story is a

celebration of inclusivity and the ultimate in sportsmanship. Please contact Linda Evans by phone at 215-322-6964 or email at [llevans@outlook.com](mailto:llevans@outlook.com) if you have any questions. Otherwise, I hope to see you Saturday morning.

# 2025 TOOLS FOR MINISTRY



**Date: March 8**

**Time: 8:00 am -**

**12:30 pm EST**

**Eastern University**

1300 Eagle Rd, St Davids, PA

19087

*We're all called to ministry and the UMC is ready to strengthen us.*

The link for information is: <https://www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar/south-east-region-tools-for-ministry/>

There are several classes that I would love to attend but we can only take 2!

- Pre-registration is \$12.
- On-site registration is \$15.

This is always an enlightening, nourishing time, especially because we meet folks from other UM churches and share what's worked, how some new things were attempted, and lift each other up.

Let's coordinate courses and carpooling.

If the \$12.00 cost is prohibitive, money is available to help.

Call or email me at 215-919-9335 or [lizgruenbaum@gmail.com](mailto:lizgruenbaum@gmail.com)

Peace,  
Liz



## **Souper Bowl**

**– Soup and Chili available \$4.50 pint/ \$9.00 quart.**

See Connie Kurtiz or any of the UWF ladies.

**Thank you for your continued support!**

The proceeds of this "souper" sale support UWF mission programs throughout the year.

**Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) Board – Leadership Board**

Dollie Campbell	George Dworsky	Liz Gruenbaum – Secretary	Carol Kulick - SPRC
Paul Lacerte – Chairman	Luke Meyers	Nancy Oczkowski	Betsy Pitcher
Jim Stubenhofer – Vice Chairman		Bill Wingert	Pastor Alice Ann
		Kathy McDermott – Treasurer	

<p><b>Worship Team</b></p> <p>Kathy Boynton Greg Boynton Jim Cielinski Dave Jardine Ernita Johnson Mary Ann Schauder Pastor Alice Ann</p>	<p><b>Worship Planning/Techno</b></p> <p>Greg Boynton Kathy Boynton Vince Drybala Joyce Dworsky Liz Gruenbaum Jim Stubenhofer Dan Taylor Pastor Alice Ann</p>	<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>Pat Cielinski Vince Drybala Joyce Dworsky Connie Kurtiz Dawn Lacerte Dan Taylor Pastor Alice Ann</p>	<p><b>Missions</b></p> <p>Connie Kurtiz Linda Evans</p>	<p><b>Property Management</b></p> <p>Pat Cielinski Jim Cielinski Paul Lacerte Nancy Oczkowski Cathy Roberts Jim Stubenhofer</p> <p>Lawn Greg Boynton</p>	<p><b>Day School</b></p> <p>Jim Cielinski Vince Drybala Ann Dryala Ernita Johnson Penny Manning Jeanette Schnarr Lisa Woods</p>	<p><b>Capitol Campaign Strategic Planning</b></p> <p>Unis Bedell Whiegar Dollie Campbell Jim Cielinski Pat Cielinski Vincent Drybala George Dworsky Joyce Dworsky Linda Evans Paul Lacerte Nancy Oczkowski Betsy Pitcher Cathy Roberts Jim Stubenhofer Wendy Stubenhofer Dan Taylor Nate Whiegar Bill Wingert</p>
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**Weekly Events** Bagels and Bibles, Fishing Club, Visiting Angels, Choir

**Monthly Events** United Women and Faith, Out to Lunch Bunch

**Annual Events**

Unity Week  
Souper Bowl  
Palm Sunday Breakfast  
Easter Baskets  
Easter Flowers  
Egg Hunt  
Spring Fling  
Spring Work Day  
Church Picnic

School Supplies collection  
Autumn Lunch  
Fall Work Day  
Trick or Trunk  
Hymn Sing  
Hanging Greens  
Christmas Flowers  
Cookie Walk  
Caroling

Any questions, suggestions, concerns please feel free to reach out to me directly Paul Lacerte at 267-549-3668 or [paulcertes@gmail.com](mailto:paulcertes@gmail.com). I can speak with you before or after services as well.

If you would like to reach out to a committee representative please reach out to me directly Paul Lacerte at 267-549-3668 or [paulcertes@gmail.com](mailto:paulcertes@gmail.com) for contact information.

## OUR SPECIAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN STARTS NOW!

February 10 to March 15, 2025

Order a dozen **Krispy Kreme doughnuts using our special link** and 50% of your order will be donated back to the **Chaplain's Emergency Need Fund!** Together, we can offer a lifeline to those who are the backbone of the race track community, and share the love of Jesus!

Place your order here: [grouprai.se/krispykreme55180m](https://grouprai.se/krispykreme55180m) OR scan the QR code below.

**Just visit your local store to redeem your order!**

*Can't order a dozen yourself? No worries!*

**Help spread the news with friends, colleagues, Sunday bulletins, newsletters and on social media.**

God Bless You,

Jafet Herrera

Assistant to the Chaplain



 **KRISPY KREME DOZENS TO SUPPORT  
Race Track Chaplaincy of America- PA**



Order a dozen **Krispy Kreme** doughnuts and **50% of your order** will be donated back to the **Chaplain's Emergency Need Fund!**



[grouprai.se/krispykreme55180m](https://grouprai.se/krispykreme55180m)



\$15  
per order



50%  
donated back

*Salvatore's*

1150 Bristol Oxford Valley Rd  
Levittown, PA

*Wednesday, March  
19th*

*at 11:30am*

*Please join us  
and bring a  
friend!*

*Signup sheet in narthex.*



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!**

**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**SPRING  
WORKDAY!**

**8AM - NOON**



## Fishing Club

Fishing Club began exploring ways to help others in our community. Our first outreach effort was organizing a "Souper Bowl of Caring" by collecting canned soups, other nonperishables and monetary donations for several weeks. Our "Fishers" proudly gathered about 300 pounds of food which will be shared with our Parx Casino families right here in Bensalem.

Our lessons focused on Martin Luther King and loving by helping others following Christ's teachings. We are planning an all-ages indoor roller skating event at Philly SkatePlex on Saturday, March 8th, from 12- 3 pm. Cost is \$10 Admission, \$6 Skate rental fee (if needed.) Contact Betsy Pitcher for more details. Please come and join the fun to skate (or to watch and fellowship with us.)

And remember, EVERYONE is welcome to join us on Sunday evenings for fun, learning and laughter.



## EVENT INFORMATION FORM

**Did you know?.....**that if you are the planner/organizer/leader of an event that will be held at the BUMC facilities/property, then you will need to complete an Event Information Form. Please list all the details about the event on the form.

The forms are in a packet on the Bulletin Board, outside the church office. Once the form has been filled in, please give to Pat Cielinski or put in her church mailbox. Any questions, contact Pat at [pcielinski@comcast.net](mailto:pcielinski@comcast.net) Thank you!

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

**When planning or requesting an event, the following people need to be contacted for approval, depending on the situation:**

1. **Property Management Team – If activity is being held in the church facilities, approval is needed for building usage.**
2. **Leadership Board – The Board needs to be informed of the Event.**



**WHEN FORM AND APPROVALS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED,  
PLEASE RETURN THE FORM TO PAT CIELINSKI.**

**THANK YOU!**

# Bensalem United Methodist Church

EVENT INFORMATION FORM



Form Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EVENT PLANNER CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

EVENT DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ EVENT TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

EVENT NAME/DESCRIPTION: \_\_\_\_\_

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CHURCH LOCATION (*Check all that apply*):  Kurtiz Rm  Ivins Hall  Fellowship Hall  Front Lawn

FRONT SIGN: Date of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Write verbiage for sign: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

EVENTPRICE: \_\_\_\_\_

EVENT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPROVAL NEEDED BY:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Pastor	Initials: _____	Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Property Management Team	Initials: _____	Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member	Initials: _____	Date: _____

**ROUTE COPIES TO:**

Pat Cielinski (Calendar)  
 Church Office (Sunday Bulletin)  
 Bulletin Board



Thank you everyone who contributed non-perishable food items for The Fishing Club "Souper Bowl" or to help support the Competition between Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and Bishop David M. Wilson, of the Great Plains Conference. All of your donations were

given to Rev. Bunker for the food pantry. **Thank you!**

## 2025 UWF Easter Gift Bags

Once again United Women in Faith (UWF) are asking for your help to fill Easter gift bags with small toys, books, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and Easer candy. Each year these bags 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 as part of their annual Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt.

Now is a good time 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 narthex of main sanctuary or chapel **not later than Sunday, April 6**, so there is time to assemble the bags and deliver 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.

### 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 beginning of March, we will celebrate Read Across America and in the middle of this month, we will celebrate the "Wearing of the Green" on St. Patrick's Day.



Don't forget, please – **registration for the 2025-2026 term is currently underway** and applications are available at the Day School Office or on our website at [bensalemchristiandayschool.org](http://bensalemchristiandayschool.org)

Thank you for your continued support of our Day School.

Lisa Woods, Director

## Souper Bowl Challenge

The Eagles won the Super Bowl, but the real winners are food pantries across Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey. We soared together and collected more than 34,606 pounds of food! Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi got in on the fun, donating 27 pounds of food at Honolulu First UMC.



## Women's History Month

### What is Women's History Month?

Women's History Month takes place from March 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> every year. In 1980, Jimmy Carter designated the second week of March as National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded National Women's History Week into a month-long celebration.

### Why Do We Celebrate Women's History Month?

Women's History Month is an opportunity to honor the women in our lives – mothers, grandmothers, wives, daughters, granddaughters, and friends. In addition to honoring those around us, it is also a great time to learn about the female trailblazers who came before us and honor the impact they have had on our nation's history.

### Learn More About the Issues Affecting Women Today

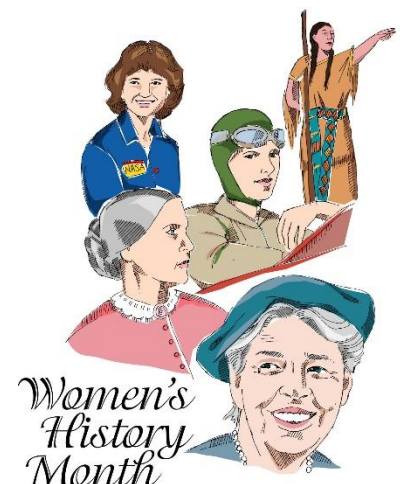
While women have certainly come quite a long way in America, they still face far more obstacles than men in nearly all aspects of life: education, work, healthcare, legal rights, violence and much more. Women earn less than men on average, and are underrepresented in leadership careers and politics. They suffer gender-based violence, human trafficking, inadequate healthcare, higher rates of poverty, lack of education, more food insecurity than men, discriminatory social institutions – the list goes on. See Top 20 Issues Women Are Facing Today at <https://www.humanrightscareers.com/issues/womens-issues/>.

### Women Educating & Inspiring Generations

The theme for Women's History Month 2025 is, "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." This theme celebrates the collective strength, equality, and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership, shaping the minds and futures of all generations.

### Importance and Relevance

Education has always been a powerful catalyst for change, and women have been at the forefront, driving this transformation. From classrooms to boardrooms, and from grassroots movements to global initiatives, women educators and leaders have played a pivotal role in nurturing minds and inspiring action.



## **Dorothy Height (1912-2010)**

Dorothy Height was a civil and women's rights activist, serving as the National Council of Negro Women President for 40 years. In the 1950s and 60s, she fought gender bias and was a key figure in the struggles for voting rights, desegregation and employment opportunities. She did much of her work outside the spotlight. Height was on the platform with Martin Luther King Jr. as he gave his "I Have a Dream" speech and with Barack Obama when he was sworn in as the first African-American president in 2009. In 1989, President Reagan awarded her the Presidential Citizenship Medal. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 from President Clinton and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush in 2004, accepting it "on behalf of millions of people – particularly women – whose work goes unnoticed." After her death, the U.S. Post office near Union Station in Washington, D.C., was named in her honor, the first federal building in the district named for an African-American woman.

President Obama, when he delivered the eulogy at her memorial service, said that she "deserves a place of honor in America's memory."

Watch [President Obama's eulogy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OggmKOAXpWg) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OggmKOAXpWg>

## **Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)**

Mary McLeod Bethune, the daughter of former slaves, is known as a dedicated champion of African-American education, an influential member of President Franklin Roosevelt's "Black Cabinet", and an important civil and women's right leader. In 1940, she became vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), an American civil rights organization formed in 1909. She held this position for the rest of her life.

As a youngster, she taught her siblings and former-slave parents how to read. Mary knew that education was one of the few ways Black citizens, especially Black women, could break the cycle of poverty. There were very few schools for Black girls. So, on October 3, 1904, she opened the Daytona Literary and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls with \$1.50, faith in God, and five little girls. Within two years, the school, which focused on practical, employable skills, including domestic science, sewing, agriculture, and teaching, had 250 students! In 1911, she realized that none of the local hospitals served Black patients. In response, she added a nursing program so that the school could open its own hospital. Today, graduates of the school, now known as Bethune-Cookman University, become leaders in business, education, health sciences, the arts, and more.

Mary also championed the rights of African-American voters. When women won the right to vote in 1920, she organized African American men and women in Florida to go to the polls. She made it a priority for her students to vote. She raised money to pay poll taxes and offered special classes for the literacy tests, mandated by Jim Crow laws that tried to silence black voices.

Bethune's own voice was definitely heard. She led the way in desegregating the American Red Cross and Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She was a bipartisan adviser to three U.S. presidents, serving the Coolidge, Hoover and Roosevelt administrations.

Trudie Kibbe Reed, the first woman president of Bethune-Cookman following Bethune herself, said of the university's namesake, "She had a vision of giving education and empowerment to any of God's people who needed help." "She encouraged civic engagement, and that included voting."

### Women of the United Methodist Church

As leaders, teachers, missionaries, and organizers, women have shaped the history of Methodism. In their work with the poor and disenfranchised, women have initiated important social and political reform. Today, United Methodist female clergy serve as pastors, bishops, district superintendents, seminary faculty and administrators, conference staff, and much, much more. You are invited to explore the inspiring stories of women who have made important contributions to the life of the church. [Learn more...](#)

# B MARCH 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	<b>American Red Cross Month</b>  <b>Irish American Heritage Month</b>	<b>Music in Our Schools Month</b>  <b>National Nutrition Month</b>	<b>Social Work Month</b>  <b>Women's History Month</b>  <b>Youth Art Month</b>		1  <b>First Day of Ramadan thru Mar. 30</b>
2 <b>National School Social Work Week thru Mar. 7</b> <b>Read Across America</b>	3 <b>National School Breakfast Week thru Mar. 7</b> <b>Interim Progress Reports Available on SCP</b>	4	5  <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	6  PMEA Region VI Band Festival thru Mar. 8	7  BHS Student of the Month Breakfast BHS Senior/Senior Art Show at Juniper Village	8  SAT Testing (Digital) at BHS <b>International Women's Day</b>
9  <b>Daylight Saving Time</b>	10  STR PTO Meeting – 6:30 PM <b>Budget WS #1 – 6 PM</b>	11  CRN H&S & Title 1 Parent Information Meeting – 7 PM	12  RSH PTG Meeting – 7 PM	13  PMEA Region VI Choir Festival thru Mar. 15 CRN Spring Concert – 6:30 PM RSH Bingo Night – 6 to 8 PM <b>Holika Dahan</b>	14  <b>Holi Pi Day</b>	15
16	17  <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	18  VLY Spring Concert – 6:30 PM	19  SNY NJHS Induction – 6 PM	20  Bensalem Hosts BCMEA Festival thru Mar. 22 <b>First Day of Spring</b>	21  VLY Gr. 4-6 Dance	22  FIRST Mid-Atlantic Robotics Competition at BHS
23  FIRST Mid-Atlantic Robotics Competition at BHS	24	25  <b>School Board Action Meeting – 7:30 PM</b>	26	27  B.A.D.G.E. Meeting in Shafer Library – 7 PM CRN ELD Family Night – 6:30 PM STR Gr. 5 Science Fair – 6 PM	28  BHS Junior Prom	29
30  <b>Eid-al-Fitr</b>	31  SHF NJHS Induction – 6 PM					

REVISED: 2/13/2025



### 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





## **Pastoral Letter Addressing the Plight of Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees in the US Epiphany 2025**

Jesus said, “When you welcome the stranger, you welcome me....” Matthew 25:35

At no time has the church in the US had a greater opportunity to welcome Jesus among us as he journeys with migrants, immigrants, and refugees than today. We your bishops are clear that the situation these beloved of God face as the Trump Administration comes to power threatens their humanity, livelihood, and basic human rights.

For decades, a broken immigration system in the U.S. has kept migrants, immigrants and refugees in this country living in the shadows of society in a state of perpetual fear. They have come to the U.S. under forced circumstances fleeing extreme poverty, hunger, political and religious persecution, war, cartel and gang violence, and the severe impact of climate change. Some are actively recruited by large U.S. companies who need their labor. Yet migrants, immigrants and refugees help to sustain the U.S. economy, serve our families caring for our children and our elderly, cleaning our homes, landscaping our properties, building our roads and the houses we live in, and cultivating and picking the crops that feed our families. They are our neighbors, our friends, and members and pastors of our churches.

Deplorably, racist, xenophobic, nationalistic, and anti-migrant hate speech has become standard rhetoric for many US politicians, including President-elect Donald Trump. He has stated that under his administration he will order the mass deportation of the 11 million undocumented migrants who live and work in the U.S. He has threatened to use military and law enforcement at all levels for this mass deportation. If allowed, this mass deportation of migrants will cause further racial profiling, the separation of families, the undermining of communities and congregations, the weakening of the economy of this country and its democratic systems of law and justice. President-elect Trump has also threatened to end birth-right citizenship, dismantle Refugee resettlement in this country and further strip away the possibility of the U.S. welcoming Asylum Seekers onto this land.

We are living in a dark time that more than ever calls us to be the light of Christ, people of faith who take our baptismal vow to “resist evil in all its forms,” with utmost seriousness.

As United Methodists we have firmly declared through our *Social Principles* that we are called to actively welcome the migrant, immigrant, and refugee among us.

- Affirming the dignity, worth and rights of migrants, immigrants and refugees.
- Recognizing that displaced people are particularly vulnerable as their in-between status often provides them with few protections and benefits, leaving them open to exploitation, violence and abuse.
- Urging one another to welcome migrants, refugees, and immigrants into our congregations, providing concrete support, to them including help with navigating

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restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies, and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment and other kinds of support.

- Opposing all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants or refugees.
- Decrying attempts to detain displaced people and hold them in inhumane and unsanitary conditions.
- Challenging policies that call for the separation of families, especially parents and minor children.
- Opposing the existence of for-profit detention centers that are used for the purpose of detaining migrants, immigrants, and refugees including minor children.

*(Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, The Political Community Basic Rights and Freedoms, Section G. Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees)*

We your bishops call upon the people of The United Methodist Church to pray for migrants, immigrants, and refugees among us and to welcome them with the fullness of Christian love, remembering that as we welcome these, our brothers, and sisters, we welcome Jesus our Lord.

Bishop Tracy S. Malone  
President - Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church



**POCONO PLATEAU**  
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

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In the heart of the Poconos, Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center is in a beautiful mountaintop setting of 750 acres of wooded land, two lakes, natural wetlands and a variety of wildlife habitats. The Plateau is just one hour from Allentown & Scranton and about two hours from Philadelphia, Lancaster, and New York City.

**Our Mission**  
To provide welcoming spaces immersed in natural surroundings for all to experience the Spirit of God and love of Jesus through community, recreation, and reflection.

**Visit Pocono Plateau during our OPEN HOUSE event!**  
Saturday, June 7, 2025 • 10am - 2pm.



Pocono Plateau is a ministry of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

**Register Online at [www.poconoplateau.org](http://www.poconoplateau.org)**



**SUMMER 2025 CAMP THEME**



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LENT Lent LENT Lent