

Bensalem United Methodist Church



April 2025 THE BUZZ

From the Pastor's Desk ~

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9 NRSVUE)

These words were spoken to Joshua shortly after Moses died. God was reminding him to not be afraid about the shift that was happening in his life and the life of the people of Israel. The leader who had been with them from the moment of the Exodus to just before stepping into the Promised Land had died, and it was now time for Joshua to lead. Oh boy! If I were in Joshua's shoes, I'd have been terrified.

Transitions are always hard, and pastoral transitions for churches are some of the more difficult ones. There are all sorts of things that need to be navigated: emotional connections, worship style preferences, anticipating new working relationships and so much more. Every denomination has rules and expectations about how these transitions go. The United Methodist Church does as well.

Sunday, June 1, will be my last Sunday. There will be one worship service followed by the Annual Church picnic. During that worship service, I will say my formal good byes to the congregation. During the picnic, I will say my informal good byes. I'll hang out as long as folks want me to stay. Then on June 5, my family and I will be moving out of the parsonage. The remainder of June will be my final vacation days. During those weeks until July 1, the congregation will be under the care of the Transition Team. The Transition Team Members are Paul Lacerte, Carol Kulik, Liz Gruenbaum, Dan Taylor, and Pat Cielinski. Sunday morning worship will be led by our illustrious team of lay speakers. Arrangements have been made for pastoral coverage, if a need arises.

I'm sharing the above because I want to relieve any uncertainty that may be floating about. There is no need for great amounts of anxiety about the next several weeks. God wants us to be "strong and courageous" in the midst of change because God is with us.

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: 10:00am – 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."

In the next few weeks, the Transition Team will be putting together information and reminders about all sorts of things. If you have any questions, please ask them. I hope to see you all at the picnic on June 1.

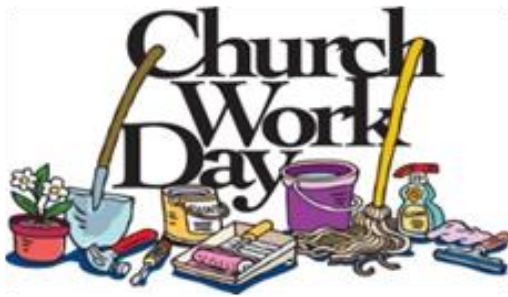
Blessings,
Pastor Alice Ann

Capital Campaign: Paving the Way for the Future

We want to offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who have blessed the church through their participation in the campaign so far. We continue to have families step up in generosity and leadership to give an updated total **pledged amount of \$118,963.**

It is our hope that all Bensalem UMC households are able to participate at a meaningful level for them. We will be following up with families in the coming weeks

to answer any questions. You may also reach out directly to Richie at 484-364-0781 or rmusser@kirbysmith.com. Thank you for your dedication, support and generosity!



Saturday, April 5, 2025

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Please help with jobs/projects
that need to be done,
in keeping our facilities and outside grounds
in good condition.**

Come when you can – Leave when you must!

**Thank you,
Property Management Team**

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

April Birthdays

- 4 – Caleb Reinert
- 11 – Ava Pitcher
- 15 – Roger Reinert
- 17 – Jim Cielinski
- 17 – Louka Lagoudakis
- 21 – Sarah Cridland-Jaco



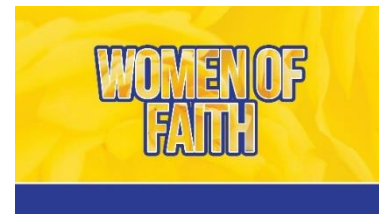
United Women in Faith Invite YOU to Our April Meeting

The next meeting of **United Women in Faith (UWF)** is **Saturday, April 5th** in the **Kurtiz Room** at **9am**. Women of all ages are encouraged to participate and bring a friend or family member.

The meeting includes a light breakfast, a mission moment, a short lesson, a response moment and lots of friendly conversation.

Please contact Linda Evans by phone at 215-322-6964 or email at

levans@outlook.com if you have any questions. Otherwise, I hope to see everyone on April 5th.



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 Easter 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.

Easter Garden of Memories or Dedication

Our BUMC tradition of decorating the church for Easter Sunday with Daffodils and Tulips continues. Order forms are in the narthex (lobby) of both the main church and the chapel. You may indicate for whom the flowers are dedicated to or in memory of. **The last day to order is Sunday, April 13th and the cost is \$8.00 each.**

If you can't make it to service, call or text Kathy Boynton (215-962-4679) to place the order.



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



PLEASE JOIN US!

Sunday, April 13, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

(no charge, just a free will offering)

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

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

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Sanctuary & Chapel narthex. We'd like to get an approximate number attending, to purchase the right amount of food.

Any questions, please contact Pat Cielinski or Penny Manning.

Palm Sunday Worship Services:

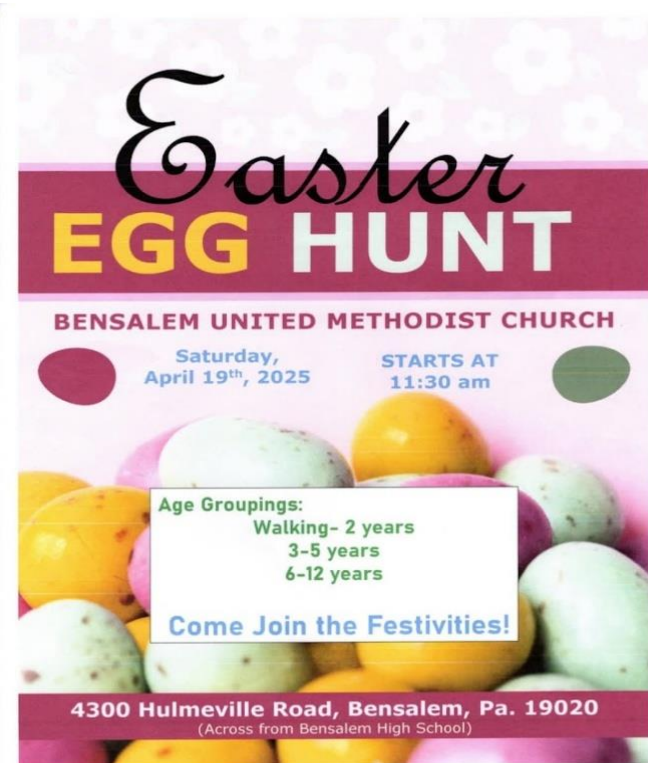
8:30 a.m. – Traditional Service in the Chapel

10:45 a.m. – Celebration Service in Main Church

(Note the time change due to the breakfast.)

PALM BRANCH — When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Churches still use them to remember that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before God's throne.





Sunrise Diner

Bristol Pike
Croydon, PA

*Wednesday, April 16th
at 11:30am*

*Please join us and bring
a friend!*

Signup sheet in narthex.



Easter Services

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Sunrise Service at 6:30am in Chapel

Service at 8:30am in Chapel

Service at 10:00am in Main church

Spring = Grass/Weeds = Help, Please

The season for mowing and trimming the grounds around the church has once again arrived. Help with the riding mower, walk-behind, push mower and weed whacking is needed. If you have a hankering to be part of the team, please contact Greg Boynton at 215-630-0974 or see me at church. We will train! Sincere thanks, everyone.



Join the Lawn Crew



Bensalem Christian Day School

Spring has certainly sprung here at the Day School. During the month of March, most of our songs and projects have focused on the changes in the weather, the appearance of new life as spring begins.

In the middle of March, we celebrated the "Wearing of the Green" on St. Patrick's Day.

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is currently underway, and applications are available at the Day School Office, on our website, or you can call us at 215-245-1610. Also, we have started **taking applications for our summer camp program** which is held in the month of July.



Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our school.

Lisa Woods, Director

Updates for new Church Directory



Miles, Betty

6315 Fuller Dr.
Morrisville, PA 19067
Cell phone # is the same

Simeti, Alice

267-615-3452 (cell phone)

Vangine, Ronald & Diann

1900 Byberry Rd. - #210
Bensalem, PA 19020
215-892-4111 (Ronald's cell)
Diann's cell phone # is the same



Administrative Professional's Day

Thank you to the Bensalem United Methodist Church Administrative Professional team. There is an entire team of Administrative Professionals that continue to volunteer their time to help keep the administrative duties functioning without hesitation.

What is an administrative duty you ask?

- Producing the Bulletins, newsletter, fillers, certificates
- Monitoring emails, mailings, calendar, website
- Church Directory
- Organizing events
- Treasurer and Financial Secretary
- And many, many more duties

This is only a few of the daily administrative duties handled by our Administrative Professional Team. A blessed Thank You to the entire team!



HAVE
YOU *Met* ?



Greg and Kathy Boynton

Back in 1995, Greg and Kathy wanted to attend a church where they both would feel comfortable. Kathy was raised Catholic. Greg was raised Methodist, but had attended Lutheran churches for 20 years. They planned to visit several churches in the area. BUMC was their first stop. They felt welcomed and at home here very quickly, and ceased their church search.

Kathy's daughter, Stephanie Needle, also regularly attended BUMC from 1995 to 2021, while living at home, and was involved in many church activities, as well as Youth Group and Youth Choir (S.P.I.C.E.).

Over the years, Kathy has been a Choir member, Counter, Communion Steward, as well one of our most faithful Techno Members ever since 2001! She was Worship Chairperson in the early 2000s and is, once again, our current Worship Team leader. She has been active in our plays/reader's theaters, our church dinners, our Bible studies, our Easter Egg Hunt, and many other activities.

Greg has also served in so many ways. He was on the Finance Committee, serving as Chairperson for 3 years; He was our Financial Secretary in the past, was on SPRC, serving as Chair for 6 years. He has been on our Church Council/SAS Board, serving as Chair for 8 years and Recording Secretary for 1 year. Greg was also a Choir member, and was our MC for dinner shows, as well as our plays/reader's theaters. Currently, Greg is our Worship Team, Recording Secretary. He is still our Celebration Worship Planning Team leader, and has been for many, many years! He continues to serve as one of the Celebration Service Worship Leaders and is one of our Pulpit Supply (fill in) preachers, as he has for the past 23 years! He is one of our Counters, a member the Strategic Planning Committee, is on the Support Property Management Team by heading lawn care, and he does all of this while being our Thursday morning Bulletin Crew's **bulletin folder extraordinaire!!**

Greg and Kathy both enjoyed BUMC's themed church dinners, which are always fun and provide many laughs.

Outside of church, Kathy worked for 30 years at the same company doing various jobs involving employee benefits and payroll. Greg served as the Human Resources Manager in various manufacturing companies for 40 years. Both are now retired.

Greg and Kathy's favorite memory or moment with Bensalem UMC, was when Pastor Stahley officiated their marriage in our historic Chapel on June 6, 1998. It was a hot day! Also, they are blessed with the many friendships and close relationships that they have formed since joining our church in 1995. They say, "*Thanks to God for bringing us to BUMC!*"



Earth Day 2025 Tuesday, April 22, 2025, is Earth Day 2025. **It is also the 55th anniversary of Earth Day.** While Earth Day is not a federal holiday, many celebrate the day through environmental education, awareness and action. It is a day we all get to express our love towards the earth and to recognize that conserving water and other natural resources, planting trees, and reducing the use of plastics, can go a long way in the fight against climate change.

The theme for Earth Day 2025 is **“Our Power, Our Planet”!** This powerful statement emphasizes our collective responsibility in transitioning to renewable energy sources and creating a sustainable future. The goal is ambitious but achievable: triple renewable energy generation globally by 2030. By harnessing the power of the sun, wind, geothermal, and other clean energy sources, we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, combat climate change, and build a greener, more resilient world for generations to come.

There are many ways you can get involved and make a difference for our planet on Earth Day and every day:

Visit www.earthday.org for learn how to make this world cleaner, greener, and healthier for everyone. You will find quizzes, fact sheets, articles and more to educate yourself and your family to make smart energy choices and to help you celebrate Earth Day at home, at work, at school and in your community.

Attend a local Earth Day event or create your own event and register it on the Earth Day website.

Join the Great Global Cleanup by organizing a clean-up in your community or participate in a clean-up in your area.

Plant a tree. Trees are powerful tools for combatting the climate crisis and supporting biodiversity.

Watch [22 Minutes With](#): one of the original founders of Earth Day from 1970, Denis Hayes, reveals why he is backing renewable energy. Or watch the groundbreaking documentaries *Kiss the Ground* and *Common Ground*, which will premiere on Earth Day on Prime Video, to learn more about the power of regenerative agriculture to heal our planet and combat climate change.

Join the Earth Day social squad [here](#) and they will send you posts to spread the news with a simple click.

This Earth Day, take action! Get the whole family involved. Walk in a park in your community. Organize a nature-themed scavenger hunt. Host a yard sale and encourage secondhand shopping to prevent goods from going to the landfill. Plant a pollinator garden using native species to support local populations of butterflies, bees, and other organisms critical to sustained biodiversity.

Do your part. Skip plastic. Eat less meat. Use energy efficient light bulbs. Reduce, reuse, and recycle. We all can make positive changes for this amazing planet we call Earth. Every action matters; we all have a role to play. Let's get started!



Let Us Know Who Is Graduating!

Please let the office know, either by note, phone call, or email (bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com), if someone in our church family is graduating from High School, College, Technical School, or Grad School this year.

Tell us their full name, the name of their school, and their plans for the future (e. g. If they are graduating from High School and are going on to college, give us the college name and their possible major or future plans).

Please do this ASAP, so that they will be included in our graduate listing. That way, our church family can also celebrate their accomplishment upon their graduation!



The United Methodist Stance on Immigration

The revised Social Principles adopted by the 2024 General Conference state:

“We affirm the dignity, worth and rights of migrants, immigrants and refugees, including displaced and stateless people. ... We urge United Methodists to welcome migrants, refugees and immigrants into their congregations and to commit themselves to providing concrete support, including help with navigating restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies, and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment and other kinds of support. We oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants or refugees.”



B APRIL 2025 B

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
World Autism Awareness Month National Poetry Month	School Library Month	1 RSH Beginner Concert – 7 PM April Fools' Day	2 CRN 3rd Gr. Related Arts Showcase – 6:30 PM Marking Period #3 Ends Paraprofessionals Appreciation Day World Autism Awareness Day	3 FST Spring Concert – 7 PM	4 BHS Student of the Month Breakfast BHS Jazz Festival – 6 PM School Librarian Appreciation Day	5 BHS 2nd Annual Multi-Cultural Day 12 – 2 PM
6 Ram Navami	7 CRN/VLY Band Concert at Valley – 6:30 PM STR PTO Meeting – 6:30 PM National Assistant Principals Week thru Apr. 11 World Health Day	8 SHF Spring Concert at BHS – 7 PM	9 PMEA All-State Festival thru Apr. 12 RSH PTG Meeting – 7 PM VLY Spring Concert – 6:30 PM Report Card # 3 Available on SCP Budget WS #2 – 6 PM	10 BEL/STR Spring Band & STR Choral Concert at Struble – 7 PM CRN/VLY Band Performance at PMEA Conference	11 CRN Kids Helping Kids Walk-a-thon – 9:30 AM CRN Family Hero Dance – 6 PM STR Author Day	12
13 Passover thru Apr. 20	14 BEL/RSH/STR Beginner Orchestra Concert at Struble – 6:30 PM Public School Volunteer Week thru Apr. 19	15 BEL/STR Beginner Band Concert at Struble – 7 PM	16 BEL/RSH/STR Advanced Orchestra Concert at Struble – 6:30 PM	17 Spring Break – Schools and Offices Closed	18 Good Friday Spring Break – Schools and Offices Closed	19
20 Easter	21 Spring Break – Schools & Offices Closed	22 PSSA English Language Arts Testing Window thru Apr. 25 BHS Senior Class Trip thru Apr. 26 School Board Action Meeting – 7:30 PM Earth Day School Bus Driver Appreciation Day	23 SNY Spring Concert at BHS – 7 PM Administrative Professionals Day	24 Holocaust Remembrance Day National Student Leadership Week thru Apr. 30	25	26 SNY Spring Fling at BHS 11 AM to 4 PM
27	28 PSSA Math & Science Testing Window thru May 2	29 BHS Spring Choral Concert – 7 PM	30	BEL – Belmont Hills CRN – Cornwells FST – Faust RSH – Rush STR – Struble VLY – Valley	SHF – Shafer SNY – Snyder BHS – Bensalem High	

