

# Bensalem United Methodist Church



## May 2025 THE BUZZ

### From the Pastor's Desk ~

*<sup>3</sup>I thank my God for every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy <sup>5</sup>for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace....*

(Philippians 1:3-7c NRSVUE)

These words from Paul's letter to the Philippians seem appropriate as I write my last "From the Pastor's Desk" piece. I do, indeed, thank God for every memory of you. My time as pastor of BUMC is a highlight of my 27 years of ministry. I have learned so much through our time together.

Who knew that when I started here in July of 2018, all that would come about. During the shut-down of the Covid epidemic we learned how to do ministry together in a different way. The Facebook worship that was started then, continues with the help of good volunteers. The administrative structure was changed. I know that it's still a work in progress, and that not everyone is convinced it was the right choice. In Wesley's language, "it's moving on to perfection." Most impressively, the Capital Campaign is underway. There is over \$120,000 pledged and between \$30,000 and \$40,000 has already been given. Prior to that, I and members of the Leadership Board gave approximately \$30,000 to make improvements in the outdoor lighting, the new waste line for the parsonage, repairs to the front Ivins' Hall steps, plus the removal of bushes and mold remediation in the Fellowship Hall closet.

In addition to these financial items, ministry and missions have continued and increased. The two Reverse Advent Food Box drives brought in an additional hundred, if not thousands, pounds of food for the PARX chaplaincy program. This was in addition to the yearly backpacks, Christmas, and Easter bags, and the food

## 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: 10:00am – 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."

given for Souper Bowl. Additionally, over the last few years BUMC has been supporting a missionary family, Lucas and Rachel Fultz. Rachel is the granddaughter of a former pastor, Blake Nicholson.

The Cookie Walk has become a congregational and community tradition. I know when it was started people thought it was a crazy idea. Yet, last year numerous people told me that they wait each year for it. This past year, some people were in the parking lot at 8:00 AM! It is also exciting to think of The Fishing Club. It's an unconventional way of providing Christian Education on Sunday evenings. Bagels and Bibles has been up and running for a year and a half. Thanks be to God for the faithful people of Bensalem United Methodist Church.

It is with joy and sorrow, that my time in full-time ministry comes to a close with all of you. I cannot thank you enough for the trust you have placed in me or the joy you have brought to me over these last seven years. I pray God's blessings on all of you and pray that you and Pastor Sophy will have many years of active ministry in Bensalem.

With incredible amounts of gratitude, hugs, and blessings in Jesus Christ our Lord,

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 \$126,763.

BUMC has received \$36,502 of the pledged amount as of the end of April. 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 [musser@kirbysmith.com](mailto:musser@kirbysmith.com). Thank you for your dedication, support and generosity!



## 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)

## May Birthdays

7 – Barbara Weikert  
14 – Eleanore Schoen  
20 – Kathy Boynton  
20 – Joanne Miller  
25 – Carol Kulik  
26 – Diann Vangine  
27 – Hannah Reinert  
30 – Ellena Lagoudakis



National Day of  
**PRAYER**  
Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

**2025 National Prayer – May 1, 2025**

God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

You have caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; therefore, we hope in what we do not see. This world is not our home or reality, but the Lord is our Rock, our Truth, our certainty.

God of hope, we pour out our praise and are filled with Your powerful presence.

We pour out repentance of sin and are filled with forgiveness and righteousness.

We pour out pain from the attacks of the enemy—anxiousness, fear, anger—and You fill us with courage, assurance, and love.

We pour out our needs, the desires of our hearts, and are filled with Your Kingdom provision and purpose.

We pour out our hearts for our nation, for the people and places, relationships and responsibilities the Lord has established: the Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Arts, Entertainment, Media, and Government. May all who live, serve, and steward in these be filled with Your purpose, wisdom, strength, and truth.

Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, as we have hoped in You.

In abounding hope, anchored by our hope in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen!

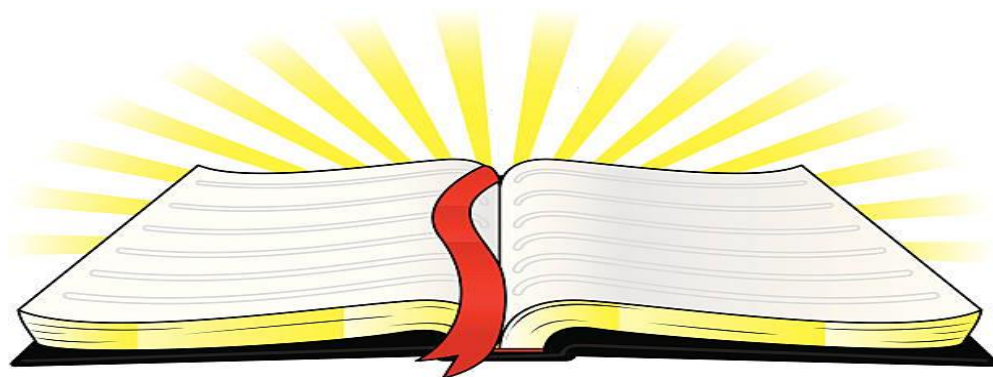
*Written by NDP Task Force President, Kathy Branzell*

<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/equipping/2025-national-prayer>

# **RISING STRONG**

(Sermon Series for May)

## **Daily Scripture Readings**



### **Week 1: Rising from Skepticism (Thomas)**

Sunday – John 20:24-28  
Monday – Proverbs 3:5-8  
Tuesday – Matthew 21:18-22  
Wednesday – Mark 9:21-24  
Thursday – Matthew 28:16-17  
Friday – Hebrews 11:1-3  
Saturday – Jude 1:22

### **Week 3: Rising from Hatred (Saul/Paul)**

Sunday – Acts 9:1-22  
Monday – Hebrews 10:24-25  
Tuesday – Ephesians 4:11-16  
Wednesday – Colossians 3:14  
Thursday – Colossians 3:23  
Friday – 1 Corinthians 12:12-27  
Saturday – Psalm 133:1

### **Week 2: Rising from Denial (Peter)**

Sunday – John 21:15-19  
Monday – Deuteronomy 6:1-9  
Tuesday – Luke 10:25-29  
Wednesday – Mark 12:28-34  
Thursday – 1 John 5:1-5  
Friday – 1 Peter 5:5-11  
Saturday – 1 Corinthians 13:13

### **Week 4: Rising from Quarreling (The Church)**

Sunday – Acts 15:1-21  
Monday – 2 Corinthians 13:11-14  
Tuesday – Galatians 3:26-29  
Wednesday – Philippians 2:1-11  
Thursday – Romans 12:9-21  
Friday – Romans 14:19  
Saturday – Romans 15:5-7



## **All-Church Picnic and Retirement Party!**

### **Sunday, June 1, 2025**

*This year's picnic will be a Retirement celebration and thank you for  
Pastor Alice Ann's service to our Church.*

*Please join us to say goodbye and to wish the Bonhams  
much joy together as they embark upon a new adventure./*

**10:00 am: One Combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

**Picnic/party outside immediately following.**

***Please see the sign-up sheet in the church lobby regarding an item  
that you will bring to share.***



## Pastor Alice Ann Retirement Gift

We are taking a special "**Retirement Collection**" to recognize and thank our wonderful Pastor for her years of service to BUMC. If the Spirit 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 May 18<sup>th</sup> service**. Thank you and God Bless!



## SPRING CHURCH WORK DAY was held on April 5, 2025.

THANK YOU to those that came, put their all into it, and did a wonderful job in making our grounds and facilities look welcoming. We had a small group (13 adults & 1 youth) working, but they were Strong and Mighty! Both outside and inside jobs were done. There are still other projects to be worked on, and if you're available, please contact Jim Cielinski or Jim Stubenhofer. Reminder: that a Fall Work Day will be scheduled and we would appreciate more volunteers to step up at that time.

Property Management Team



## Spring/ Summer = 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 whacker is in need. 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.



## Community Outreach

Community Outreach is looking to work with at least 4 activities from September to June, that involve our community. As we grow, we look forward to having more activities. The egg hunt and the Trunk or Treat count as 2 of the 4.

I'm looking for 4-6 people to be involved. The first meeting will be May 15 at 11:00am. Any questions please email me, Betsy Pitcher, at [epitcher@yahoo.com](mailto:epitcher@yahoo.com) or call or text me at 267-205-8186.

## United Women in Faith Invite YOU to Participate

The next meeting of **United Women in Faith (UWF)** is **Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** in the **Kurtiz Room** at **9am**. Please **note change** to the third Saturday of the month. 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. This year we are learning how to 'Carry Our Faith Forward'. During this month's lesson we will be discussing how scriptures and songs have informed our faith.

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. I hope YOU will join us on May 17th.



## PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Palm Sunday breakfast was a success and a Fun Time of Fellowship with 72 people attending!

**THANK YOU** to all our volunteers – the Saturday workers that set up the tables & chairs, did the place settings and additional items, decorating and prep-work for food. Also, thanks to the Sunday workers that did prep jobs (sticky buns, juice), cooking, breakfast servers (young and older?), and the Clean-up Crew.

**THANK YOU** to our Master Chefs for preparing the delicious breakfast!

Last, but not least, thanks to Pat and Jim Cielinski, and Penny Manning who did all of the behind the scenes planning to make this event happen!





# SPRING Vendor \* Craft Fair \* Flea Market

**SATURDAY  
May 17th, 2025  
8AM-2PM**

First United Methodist Church  
201 Mulberry Street  
Bristol, Pa. 19007

Reps from Mary Kay \* Home Interiors \*  
Pampered Chef \* Color Street Nails & more!

Artisans featuring Specialty T-Shirts \* Crocheted Gifts  
Jewelry \* Wood Art \* Car Art \* Mugs \* Cakes \*  
Baked Goods \* Pickles \* Candles \* Crystals \*



Flea Market vendors selling Coca Cola memorabilia  
Vintage & antique items, toys, models, die cast,  
craft supplies & much more!

**Rain or Shine**

INFO: kelli070881@yahoo.com  
267-243-6015

*Peppi's Pizza*

Flowers Mills Shopping Center,  
Langhorne Pa

*Wednesday, May*

*21st*

*at 11:30am*

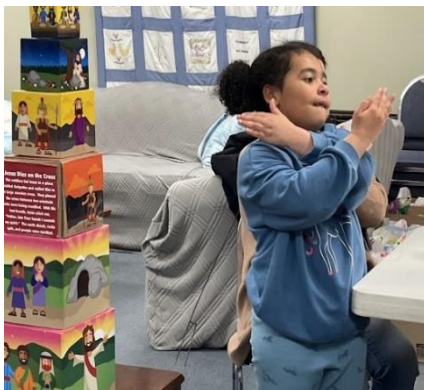
*Please join us and  
bring  
a friend!*

*Signup sheet in narthex.*



## Fishing Club

April found our Fishing Club friends using their picture Bibles to learn about Jesus Christ. We had lessons about Lent, the parables He told, Holy Week, His resurrection and His grace. We also enjoyed singing Easter songs with Mary Ann, eating and playing games. We are anxious for spring weather so that we can get outside for our meetings and also to do some community service activities. We helped with our BUMC's annual Palm Sunday breakfast. We've been especially blessed to have Lily offer our closing prayer several times.





## 2025 UWF Easter Gift Bags

Bensalem United Women in Faith (UWF) would like to thank everyone who donated items for the 2025 Easter Gift Bags. Together we provided 144 filled bags and other items to Rev. Dr. Rick Bunker for distribution to the children of Parx backlot employees. Thank you for all your support.



## Bensalem Christian Day School

With the arrival of May, we have just one more month of school. Plans are already underway for our special Mother's Day and Graduation programs.



As in the past years, we will be having summer camp from June 30th – Aug 1.

Please stop by the office to pick up a registration. Thank you!

Registration for September is still underway. We have openings in all of our classes and will continue to register children during the summer months. Please, spread the word to interested relatives, friends and neighbors.

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

Lisa Woods, Director

## **Congratulations to ELLENA LAGOUDAKIS...**



Ellena was selected as the only student to represent Bensalem High School at the Pennsylvania State musical event at the Kalihari resort in the Poconos. In singing competitions while there, Ellena competed with other singers in her section, placing fifth at the state level!



## **Last Call for 2025 Graduates!**

Please let the office know, either by note, phone call, or email ([bensalemumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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).





## BUMC 2025 Easter Egg Hunt in Pictures:





## 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](mailto:carol.kulik@gmail.com)

## Update for BUMC Directory:

Please add the following to your Directory.

**Linda Cooper**  
107 Liberty Drive  
Bensalem PA 19020  
Phone: 267-522-8920  
Email: none

**Heffner, Colin**  
c/o Nancy Oczkowski  
509 Western Ave.  
Bristol, PA 19007  
[Colinheffner17@gmail.com](mailto:Colinheffner17@gmail.com)  
267-264-3765 (cell)

**Silke Mitchell**  
3315 Bristol Rd,  
Bensalem, PA 19020  
215-341-3189  
[smitchell9799@gmail.com](mailto:smitchell9799@gmail.com)



## New Members:

**Tom Hoffman**  
**Joyann Myers**  
**Paige Schiefer**

**Kelly Steblein-Dunn**  
**Linda Cooper**  
**Colin Heffner**

**Patrica McAllister (Wingert)**  
**Silke Mitchell**

## "He ascended into heaven..."

During his earthly ministry, Jesus could be physically present in only one place at any given time. "Only those could speak to him who came to where he was," explained Archbishop William Temple. "If he was in Galilee, people could not find him in Jerusalem; if he was in Jerusalem, they could not find him in Galilee" (from *Readings in St. John's Gospel*).

Spiritually speaking, Christ's Ascension means he is with us wherever we find ourselves. Christ desires to be present with us everywhere we go. His presence is universal. He is here now. "Believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16, NRSV) — that is what the Ascension affirms.





## A Mother's Day Prayer to Honor and Bless Moms

Heavenly Father, I speak this prayer to you now in gratitude and praise for the gift of mothers. My mother, those of my friends, relatives, those I'll never know, all mothers. Thank you for the role they play in the family unit. Thank you for their teachings, wisdom, patience, and understanding. Thank you for the physical, emotional, and spiritual gifts they possess.

I pray that you help mothers all across the world to be a blessing to their children.

Whether delivering affirmation or discipline, I pray that you help every word and action to be done in love. And I pray that children worldwide will take time to honor their mothers and that you will show them how to do so uniquely.

I pray that these mothers also act as a blessing beyond their households, reaching into their extended families, communities, churches, and schools. I pray that the impact of motherhood is revered throughout society and that these women are acknowledged for their everyday impact on the world. May you guide each of them into fulfilling their purpose here on Earth. Amen.

- Aaron D. Brown

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/beautiful-prayers-for-moms-this-mothers-day.html>



Make these sweet sandwiches  
for a Mother's Day tea party.

### What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!





*Fishing Club Teachers*



You're  
Appreciated  
more than  
you know.

# B MAY 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>PSSA Mathematics, Science &amp; Make Up Testing Window April 28 to May 2</b>	<b>Asian Pacific American Heritage Month</b>  <b>Better Speech &amp; Hearing Month</b>	<b>National Physical Fitness Month</b>	1  BHS Band (Percussion)/Orchestra Concert – 7 PM <b>National Physical Ed/ Sports Week thru May 7</b> <b>School Principals' Day</b>	2  STR PTO Color Run – 6 to 8 PM BHS Student of the Month Breakfast <b>School Lunch Hero Day</b>	3  SAT Testing (Digital) at BHS
4  VLY 50th Anniversary Celebration	5  BHS AP Testing thru May 16 <b>National Teacher Appreciation Week thru May 9</b> <b>Cinco de Mayo</b>	6  District Fine Arts Festival at BHS Gym – 6 to 8 PM <b>National Teacher Day</b>	7  BEL DARE Graduation – 2 PM RSH PTG Meeting – 7:30 PM District Fine Arts Festival at BHS Gym – 6 to 8 PM <b>Budget WS #3 – 6 PM</b> <b>National Bike &amp; Roll to School Day</b> <b>National School Nurse Day</b>	8  <b>Interim Progress Reports Available on SCP</b> District Fine Arts Festival at BHS Gym – 6 to 8 PM SNY 8th Grade Trip to DC thru May 9 BHS Band Concert – 7 PM	9  BHS Senior Prom <b>School Communicators Day</b>	10
11  <b>Mother's Day</b>	12  RSH Spring Concert – 7 PM STR PTO Meeting – 6:30 PM BHS Spring Keystone Testing Window thru May 23	13  BEL Spring Choral Concert – 7 PM CRN H&S & Title I Parent Info Meeting – 7 PM	14  BEL Laser Light Show (K-2 – 9:15 AM 3-6 – 10:20 AM) VLY K-2 Concert – 6 PM SHF Parent Orientation Meeting for Incoming 7th Gr. – 6:30 PM SNY Parent Orientation Meeting for Incoming 7th Gr. – 6 PM	15  FST DARE Graduation – 9:30 AM STR Good Behavior Dance – 6 to 7:30 PM VLY Field Day BHS Jazz Band Concert – 7 PM	16	17  <b>Armed Forces Day</b>
18  PJAS at Penn State thru May 20 <b>National Speech Pathologist Day</b>	19  5th Gr. Gifted Transition Meeting at Struble – 1:30 to 3:30 PM	20  <b>Election Day – Professional Development</b> <b>Schools Closed, Offices Open</b>	21  <b>Adoption of Proposed Final Budget followed by Public Q&amp;A – 6 PM</b>	22  BEL Field Day (Rain Date: May 23) STR 2nd Grade Salute to America Show – 6:30PM	23  CRN 2nd Gr. America Show – 2:30 PM FST Field Day (Rain Date: May 27) SHF Field Day SNY Field Day	24
25	26  <b>Memorial Day – Schools &amp; Offices Closed</b>	27  CRN Field Day (Rain Date: May 29) STR Field Day (Rain Date: May 28) <b>School Board Action Meeting – 7:30 PM</b>	28  RSH Picnic Day BHS National Honor Society Induction – 6 PM	29  <b>Ascension</b>	30  BEL 6th Grade Market Day CRN Movie Night – 7 PM STR 4th Gr. Wax Museum STR PTO Wellness Fair 6 to 8 PM	31  <b>World No Tobacco Day</b>