



BETHANY IN BERLIN

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christ's Love Grows Here

Bethany UMC



Newsletter



December 2025 Edition

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PASTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Church Family,

As we enter this holy season of Advent and Christmas, I find myself reflecting on how God often does His most beautiful work in seasons of change. The story of Christ's birth is the story of God doing a brand new thing in the most unexpected place. A quiet town. A crowded inn. A simple manger. Yet from that humble beginning came hope for the entire world.

I believe Bethany may be experiencing one of those "manger moments." Over the past year we've welcomed new faces into our fellowship, reconnected with familiar ones, and found ourselves opening doors to new opportunities for ministry. Our efforts alongside other churches in our local area through the Hub remind us that God is drawing His people together in fresh ways. He is helping us notice the needs around us and respond with compassion and creativity. Something new is growing, even if we cannot fully see the shape of it yet.

At the same time, our roots matter. We remain grounded in the faithfulness, generosity, and love that have shaped this church for generations. These gifts anchor us. But the same Spirit who steadies us also invites us to move forward: to imagine new ways of serving, new ways of welcoming, and new ways of sharing Christ's love with a community that is itself constantly changing.

This Christmas, may we embrace the wonder of a God who comes to us unexpectedly, who transforms ordinary places into holy ones, and who calls us to remain open, hopeful, and ready for what comes next.

May Christ be born anew in us this season.

With grace and peace,
Rev. Jacob T. Jackson



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WORSHIP SERVICES

ROOTED IN PROMISE

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13

#216 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming; #218 It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

12/7

12/14

STREAMS IN THE DESERT

Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11

#2085 He Came Down; #246 Joy To The World

EMMANUEL

Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7

#242 Love Came Down at Christmas; #238 Angels We Have Heard on High

12/21

12/28

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

John 1:1-18

#234 O Come, All Ye Faithful; #249 There's a Song in the Air

Life Crisis Center

The Life Crisis Center is a local non-profit agency that was established in 1976. The Center's mission is to improve the quality of life in our community through crisis intervention and violence prevention. The licensed, professional staff uses national best practice treatment models to serve Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset Counties.

We advocate for and provide a wide range of services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Through prevention, intervention, therapy, legal services, advocacy, and collaboration, we work to provide a safe place for healing. Some of the comprehensive support services offered to the community include a 19 bed safe home, intensive case management, supervised visitation, counseling, legal services, victim support, abuser groups, and outreach. The LCC is a United Way agency of the Lower Eastern Shore.

Additionally, the LCC also houses the suicide hotline and is the designated information and referral center for Maryland 2-1-1 for the entire Eastern Shore of Maryland. Through an array of supportive and therapeutic services, it is our hope that survivors and their families find healing and hope for the future.

Services Provided:

- 24 Hour Hotline
- Counseling
- Safe Accommodation
- Legal Services

Statistics (Why We Help):

- 1 in 4 girls is sexually abused before the age of 18.
- 1 in 6 boys is sexually abused before the age of 18.
- 1 in 5 children are solicited sexually while on the internet.
- A woman is beaten every 15 seconds.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44 in the United States- more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined.
- Less than 30 percent of sex crimes are reported to the police.

United in Mission:

Shared Ministry & Hub Meetings

Join **Bethany, St. Paul's, Atlantic, Stevenson, Community Church at Ocean Pines, Curtis, New Bethel, Calvary, St. John's, and Showell** as we continue to strengthen our connectional ministry across congregations.



- ✓ Combine Resources and Talents
- ✓ Build Relationships Across Congregations
- ✓ Live Out Our Shared Call to Discipleship

HUB/SHARED MINISTRY MEETING
JAN 14th, FEB 11th, & MAR 11th AT 2 PM
BETHANY UMC

Focus on service projects for
our community and shared worship
opportunities for our churches



7



ADVENT EVENTS

2025



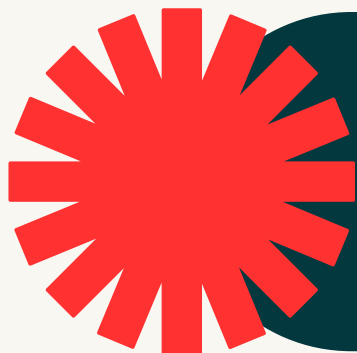
ANNUAL COOKIE WALK FUNDRAISER

Sat Dec 6 2025
8 am until sold out



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sat Dec 13 2025
3 pm



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Wed Dec 24 2025
4 pm

BETHANY UMC
8648 STEPHEN DECATUR HWY
BERLIN, MD 21811



SMALL GROUPS

DECEMBER

2025

TUES
@
1PM

DISCIPLE CLASS

No meetings in October

PRAYER GROUP

December 3rd
December 10th
December 17th
December 24th
December 31st

The prayer group at Bethany is a relaxed group that meets regularly to share prayer concerns, give thanks, and seek guidance from God through collective prayer and reflection.

WED
@
10 AM

WED
@
11 AM

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

December 3rd - Faithful Week 2
December 10th - Faithful Week 3
December 17th - Faithful Week 4
December 24th - No Bible Study
December 31st - No Bible Study

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

December 3rd
December 10th
December 17th
December 24th
December 31st

The women's bible study group at Bethany is a relaxed group that meets regularly over a variety of activities such as watching faith-based TV, studying the Bible, enjoying fellowship, or dinner.

WED
@
6:30 PM

BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS

11 AM

**JUL 2
-
AUG 20**

THE SHAPE OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

8-week plan developed by The Bible Project. No book required.

SIMON PETER

**SEP 10
-
OCT 15**

6-week plan developed by Adam Hamilton. Book recommended.

**OCT 29
-
NOV 12**

OLD TESTAMENT VIOLENCE

3-week plan developed by Rev. Jackson. No book required

FAITHFUL

**NOV 26
-
DEC 17**

Advent Bible Study

4-week plan developed by Adam Hamilton. Book recommended.

BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS**11 AM****JAN 7
-
FEB 11**

THE BIBLE WITH AND WITHOUT JESUS

6-week plan developed by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler.
Book Recommended.

THE FINAL DAYS

**FEB 25
-
APR 1**

Lenten Bible Study

6-week plan developed by Matt Rawle. Book recommended.

**APR 22
-
MAY 13**

INTERPRETING HEBREW POETRY

4-week plan developed by The Bible Project. No book required

THE CIRCLE MAKER

4-week plan developed by Mark Batterson. Book recommended.

**MAY 27
-
JUN 17**

SPECIAL SPOTLIGHT

For December's Special Spotlight, we asked the children and youth at Bethany to write or draw the Christmas story from their perspective.

Long long ago.

an angel came to Mary and told her she was to have a beautiful baby. Mary then talked to Joseph about what the angel had told her. They traveled to Bethlehem and arrived at a stable. They were surrounded by many beautiful animals during the birth of baby Jesus. The shepherds were the first to arrive. Months later, three wise men arrived with gifts. The three wise men warned Mary to avoid king Herod, for he was getting and taking all male children of two years and younger. Mary and her family then fled to Egypt to keep her baby safe.


- Bella Rosamilia


- Delaney Rosamira 11-23-25

Long ago, an angel came to Mary and said she was going to have a baby. Mary was shocked. She was going to tell Joseph that she was pregnant. Joseph was excited to know Mary was pregnant. They traveled to a place to give birth to the baby. They would use a camel or walk to go to the place. It would take a long time. They settled in a barn to give birth to the baby. They lived with a cow and donkey. To give birth, the shepherds were out and saw a big star and an angel said a baby was born in a barn. Then they came and played the baby. The baby was named Jesus son of God and Mary. The baby was a baby boy.

Long ago, an angel went to Mary and the angel said you are going to have a baby. Mary was shocked she told her boyfriend her boyfriend was shocked. They traveled and traveled they went to a ~~barn~~ barn

by maria

This is a long time ago in a town
 lived a girl named Mary now Mary was
 very little like 13 years old. One day
 to Mary's surprise a angel ~~gabled~~
 came to Mary his name
 was Gabrielle. He told Mary
 She was going to be the mother
 of God's son and her cousin
 will have a boy. Mary traveled
 to see her cousin to
 hear the good news. She
 told her and went back
 to ~~Josif~~ Joseph. ~~Joseph~~
 was stressed because
 want if she ditched ~~her~~
 him. When ~~Josif~~ Joseph feel asleep
 a ~~man~~ told him 

to leave a go to
 Terusalem. ^{Joseph} ~~Joseph~~ wake up.
 they left as fast
 as they could. They traveled
 fast too. because they
 were being hunted. They
 arrived at a barn because
 there was no room a
 the other house or inns.
 Jesus was born. the
 first people that came
 to see him was the
 Shepherd. Then came the
 Kings they gifted him
 gold and incense and 
 They left to go home,
 and started a family Audrey Ferguson

Once there was a man Jesus and
 he was a baby. An angel came to Mary
 and said you will have a baby and that
 baby is Jesus. Mary was shocked and
 Joseph was told by Mary that they
 were having a baby. Joseph was happy
 but scared and surprised so he had to
 find a way to get to a place to have
 the baby and raise him. They
 found a barn but it was not that bad.
 Also there had animals. Then
 there was baby Jesus and there was
 animals then shepherds came because they
 were following the star the brightest star
 months later then the three kings
 came and brought gifts.

BY

Dana Rosamilia

ongoing, The angel said to Mary that
she was gonna have a son named
Jesus and was the Son of God.
and went to tell Joseph (her boyfriend)
They were both stunned and he was
excited but also worried because of
how young they were. They traveled
searching for a safe place to
have the baby. They saw a wood
stable and decided that was the
place they were gonna have the
baby there. Then the shepherds
were following the North star
and found them. Months later
Three Kings came and gave
gifts to them. They accepted the
gifts and continue their happy
life.

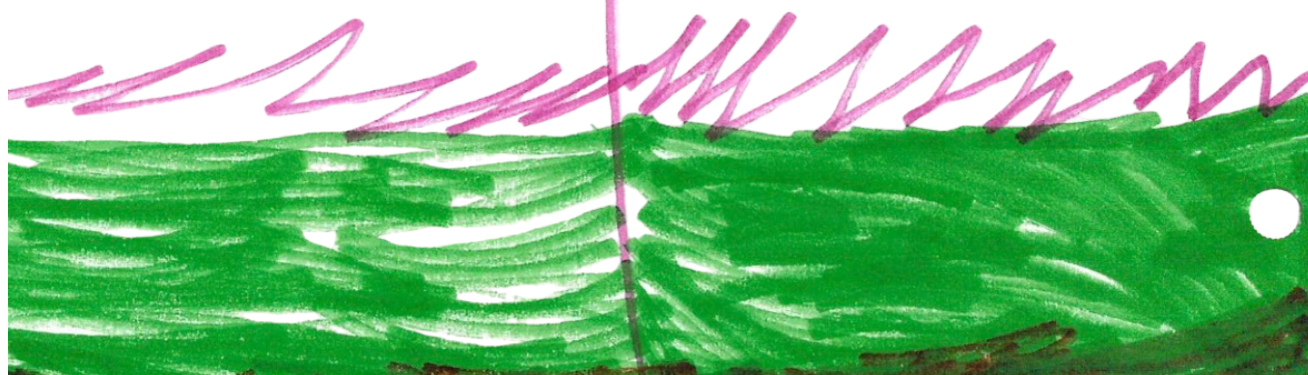
-Graciela



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ELISA ☆☆☆



DECEMBER

2025

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	4	5	6 8 AM - 11 AM Annual Cookie Walk
7 10 AM Sunday Service w/Communion Mission Moment: Life Crisis Center 10 AM Children's Sunday School	8	9	10 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	11	12	13 3 PM Shared Ministry Christmas Concert
14 10 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Sunday School	15	16	17 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	18	19	20
21 10 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Sunday School	22	23	24 10 AM Prayer Group 4 PM Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27
28 10 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Sunday School	29	30	31 10 AM Prayer Group	27	28	29
	31					

BETHANY BIRTHDAYS

9 – Holly Jackson
10 – Jackie Shockley
12 – Pete Dell

14 - Delaney Rosamilia
23 – Brian Mongelli
31 - Angela Sonnier

EXTENDED PRAYERS

1. Baby Hazel
2. Catherine
3. Christina
4. Gloria
5. Joanne
6. Kim
7. Kristy
8. Walter
9. Wilma
10. Kevin and Linda Anderson
11. Russel Bagnall, Jr.
12. Callie Biter
13. Melody Bennett
14. Drew & Cassidy Bolyard
15. Tracy Burr
16. Anton Christiansen
17. Scott and Mary Collins
18. Kelli Conroy
19. Evan Craig
20. Brantley Cropper
21. Francis Daigre
22. Megan Durham
23. Barbara Eftekhari
24. Shirley Feldhaus
25. Bette Finley
26. Richard Finley
27. Sharon Goetz
28. Barbara Grispin
29. CJ Herbert
30. Dennis Herlyn
31. Rebekah Jackson
32. Robert Lebo
33. Lisa Lord
34. Helen Maloney
35. PJ Maloney
36. Jenna Martin
37. Linda Miner
38. Nathan Mitchell
39. Tom Mosely
40. Lily & Joe Nicosia
41. Suzanne Nimmo
42. Jeff Pan, Sr.
43. Pat Parks
44. Liberty Porch
45. Mason Prather
46. Michelle Reugebrink
47. April Rosamilia & family
48. Rick Rosensteel
49. Barbara Riley
50. Carol Snair
51. Carson Taylor
52. John & Cathy Tenorio
53. Frank & Nancy Tribuno
54. Charles W.
55. Joyce Wagner
56. Peggy Warfield & family
57. Ken & Judy Williams