



BETHANY IN BERLIN

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christ's Love Grows Here

Bethany UMC

Newsletter

January 2026 Edition



PASTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Church Family,

As we begin a new year together, I want to take a moment to reflect on an important question: *Why are we willing to grow?*

Growth is not always easy. It can feel uncomfortable, uncertain, and sometimes even risky... especially in the church, where so much of what we do is deeply meaningful and rooted in memory and tradition. Growth can raise questions and stir emotions, and that is both normal and faithful. The church has always lived in the tension between honoring what has shaped us and responding to where God is leading us next.

Our willingness to grow is not about chasing trends or changing for the sake of change. It is about faithfulness. Throughout Scripture, God's people are called to listen, to discern, and to move when the Spirit leads. This will sometimes be into unfamiliar places. Jesus himself often invited people to leave what was comfortable in order to step into deeper trust, deeper love, and deeper discipleship.

We are willing to grow because our calling remains the same: to love God, love our neighbors, and bear witness to Christ in the world. Growth allows us to speak that same gospel in ways that can be heard, felt, and lived by those around us today. We are also willing to grow because the church does not exist for itself alone. We are here for the sake of the world God loves; our neighbors, our community, and future generations. Growth is one way we practice hospitality, making room for others to encounter grace, belonging, and hope.

As we move into this year, I ask for your prayers, your patience, and your openness. Some new efforts we embark on for growth will work well; others may not. That is part of faithful growth. What matters most is that we walk forward together, grounded in grace and guided by the Spirit.

May this year be one in which we listen deeply, love generously, and trust that God—who has been faithful in the past—is still at work among us now.

With grace and peace,
Rev. Jacob T. Jackson



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Bethany United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP SERVICES

**EVERYONE WANTS IT, FEW
HAVE IT, WE ALL NEED IT**

1/4

Isaiah 26:3-4; Colossians 3:1-2

#462 Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus; #2032 My Life is in You Lord

1/11

**MAKE YOUR LIFE A
WORK OF ART**

1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:4-7

#122 God of the Sparrow; #593 Here I Am, Lord

**THE LAMB OF
GOD**

John 1:29-42

#2113 Lamb of God; #2232 My Life is in You Lord

1/18

1/25

**IN THE MIDST OF
EVERYDAY LIFE**

Matthew 4:12-23

#338 Where He Leads Me; #344 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Art League of Ocean City

The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship programs and public service projects.

The non-profit Art League of Ocean City facility features a spacious two story gallery, a pottery studio, classrooms, art library and five working artist studios. The galleries display new exhibits of regional and local artists monthly. The receptions, as with all of our activities, are open to the public. In addition, we offer workshops for artists of all ages and skill levels, a summer art camp program and community events like our Plein Air Painting Competition and Sand Castle Home Tour.

Mission Statement

To promote artistic expression and appreciation for the creative arts in our community.

Vision Statement

To be a cultural center and regional catalyst, inspiring creativity, providing accessibility to and promoting an understanding of the value of the arts.



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



BETHANY UMC'S

Youth Planning Pizza Party

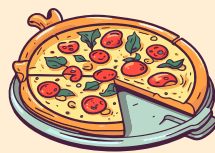


Calling all Bethany families!

Come enjoy a fun evening with FREE pizza and great company! Children and youth will collaborate with the NOW team and Rev. Jacob to discuss a Youth Dance Party, Family Worship Service Nights, Youth Groups, Sunday School, and more.

Sun, Jan 18th

4:30 PM



Bethany UMC
8648 Stephen
Decatur Hwy
Berlin, MD 21811

Questions? Call

(410) 641-2186



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASSES RETURNING IN FEB 2026
CONFIRMATION CLASSES RETURNING IN APR 2026



INTERESTED IN JOINING BETHANY? HAVE
QUESTIONS? ASK REV. JACOB ABOUT
MEMBERSHIP IN THE UMC.
AVAILABLE IN PERSON OR ZOOM. PLEASE ⁸
EXPRESS INTEREST ON A BLUE CARE CARD.

Fundraiser Dinner

*Meal Includes: Pot Roast,
Potatoes, Green Beans,
Beverage & Dessert*

Dine-in or Carry-out

\$20/meal

Call ahead or scan to
reserve your meal online.
Meals are first come, first
serve unless reserved.



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**Friday, January 30th
4:30 PM to 6:30 PM**

SMALL GROUPS

JANUARY
2026
**TUES
@
1PM**

DISCIPLE CLASS

No meetings this month.

PRAYER GROUP

January 7th
January 14th
January 21st
January 28th

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
@
11AM**

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

January 7th - The Bible With and Without Jesus, Week 1
January 14th - The Bible With and Without Jesus, Week 2
January 21st - The Bible With and Without Jesus, Week 3
January 28th - The Bible With and Without Jesus, Week 4

WOMEN'S LIFT GROUP

January 7th
January 14th
January 21st
January 28th

The women's L.I.F.T 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****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

Introducing L.I.F.T. – Ladies in Faith & Fellowship Together

The Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study began in the fall of 2021 with a group of 18 women eager to grow in faith and fellowship.



Our first study, *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs, set the foundation as we completed weekly assignments, watched her video teachings, and began forming the special bonds that define our group today. Over time, our numbers have shifted, and we are now a close-knit group of 14 women who pray together, love Jesus, and truly enjoy one another's company.

Over the past four years, we have:

- + Prayed faithfully for one another, as well as for friends and family
- + Participated in a variety of Bible studies
- + Watched Christian-based movies and shows, including *The Chosen* series, which dramatically portrays the life of Jesus
- + Supported our church through outreach programs and fundraising projects
- + Shared fellowship through dinners, concerts, and craft activities

Whether we gather at church or serve in the community, our love for Jesus shines through every time we meet. Looking ahead to 2026, we hope to place a greater focus on community outreach and service. While we are still discerning what that will look like, we are open to ideas and opportunities where God may lead us. Women of the church, we invite you to join us—and bring a friend—for faith, fellowship, and growth. Please contact one of us for more information.

Pictured L-R standing: Jan McKinney, Yvonne Jackson, Jackie Sterling, Mary Martinez, Moira Biddle, Joyce Stambaugh, Cathy Pastore, Carole Schauer, Edna Watkins. Seated L-R: Bobbi Jo Fields, Megan Cooke, Donna Behe.

Not pictured: April Rosamilia, Kay Brittingham, Linda Moran

JANUARY**2026**

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 8 AM - 11 AM Annual Cookie Walk
4 10 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Sunday School	5	6	7 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	8	9	10
11 10 AM Sunday Service Mission Moment: Ocean City Art League 10 AM Children's Sunday School	12	13	14 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 12 PM Prayer and Care 2 PM HUB Meeting 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	15	16	17
18 10 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM Youth Ministry Pizza Planning Party	19	20	21 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 12 PM NOW Meeting 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	22	23	24
25 10 AM Sunday Service Ministry Moment: Outreach 10 AM Children's Sunday School	26	27	28 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	29	30 4:30-6:30 PM Fundraiser Dinner	31

BETHANY BIRTHDAYS

3 – Bella Rosamilia 12 – Savannah Jackson 28 - Jacob Mongelli
 5 – Mara Ferguson 17 - Allyson Clark 30 – Rev. Connie Paulson
 11 - Tom Rictor 28 - Joyce Balderson 31 - Arlene Baldwin

EXTENDED PRAYERS

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