



**BETHANY IN BERLIN**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Christ's Love Grows Here*

# Bethany UMC



# Newsletter



## February 2026 Edition

# PASTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Church Family,

It can feel a little jarring to realize that Lent is already here. Christmas decorations were just packed away, Advent still feels close, and suddenly we are being invited into another season of reflection and preparation. Time moves quickly, and the church year reminds us how swiftly we move from waiting, to celebration, to examination.

A theme I expored during my Advent sermon series was the truth that God is often working beneath the surface. His work is often done quietly, faithfully, even when we cannot yet see the fruit of that work. Lent invites us to trust that same truth again. This season does not always come with emotional highs or dramatic moments of clarity. You may not feel anything extraordinary as you pray more intentionally, as you fast, as you give something up, or as you sit honestly before God. And that's normal.

Lent is not about producing visible results. It is about making space. As we reflect, as we open ourselves honestly before God, and as we loosen our grip on the things that distract or control us, God is still at work. God is still shaping our hearts. God is still deepening our faith. God is still forming us more fully into people of love and grace. Even when the work feels hidden, it is never wasted.

My prayer for us this season of Lent is not that we strive harder, but that we remain open, trusting that God is working in us and through us, even in the quiet.

With grace and peace,  
Rev. Jacob T. Jackson



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FEBRUARY

2026

# WORSHIP SERVICES

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

**2/1**

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

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

**2/8**

**HEY JUDE: THE SALVATION WE SHARE**

Jude 1:1-4

#552 Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather; #2203 In His Time

**HEY JUDE:  
ECHOES**

Jude 1:5-13; 2 Timothy 3:1-9

#435 O God of Every Nation; #560 Help Us Accept Each Other

**2/15****2/22**

**HEY JUDE: TWO WARNINGS**

Jude 1:14-19

"Lord, I Need You"; #454 Open My Eyes That I May See

# Habitat for Humanity

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County believes that all people deserve a decent, safe place to lay their heads. We help to provide the dream of first time homeownership to hardworking families in our community, and provide critical home repairs for existing homeowners. Families always pay back the cost to build or repair their homes, Habitat provides the opportunity and helps them to do so affordably. Join us as a volunteer or donate to the cause and help us help families in our Worcester County, MD community!

## Family Services

Habitat for Humanity is an international, non-governmental, nonprofit organization devoted to building simple, decent and affordable housing. We believe everyone deserves a decent and safe place to live.

## Events

We hold a variety of events throughout the year to collect donations of furniture, tools, building materials and household items. Each event supports the construction of homes for local families.

## Volunteer

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. Consider giving up just a few hours of your time to learn valuable skills, meet some incredible new people and change the lives of local families forever.



# 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 FEB 11<sup>th</sup>, & MAR 11<sup>th</sup> AT 2 PM BETHANY UMC**

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

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 7  
EXPRESS INTEREST ON A BLUE CARE CARD.

# SOUP-ER BOWL sunday

Join us after service on February 8<sup>th</sup> for a soup fundraiser to support Diakonia, helping provide food, housing, and hope to neighbors in need.

## How You Can Help:

- Bring a pot of soup to share
- Buy soup after worship to enjoy at home for game day
- All proceeds will go directly to Diakonia

Whether you love to cook or just love to eat, this is an easy way to make a difference while enjoying homemade soup.

## Why Diakonia?

Diakonia serves individuals and families in our community facing food insecurity and housing challenges. Your participation helps extend care and compassion beyond our church walls.



# WALK WITH US THROUGH LENT

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

18

FEB

ASH WEDNESDAY | 6:00 PM

A REFLECTIVE SERVICE MARKING THE  
BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN SEASON

29

MAR

PALM SUNDAY | 10:00 AM

CELEBRATE JESUS' ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

2

APR

MAUNDY THURSDAY | 5:30 PM

MEAL IN THE UPPER ROOM

AN INTIMATE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE COMBINING  
SCRIPTURE, REFLECTION, AND A SHARED MEAL  
FEATURING FOODS SIMILAR TO THOSE JESUS AND  
HIS DISCIPLES WOULD HAVE EATEN AT THE LAST SUPPER  
LIMITED SPACE – ADVANCE SIGN-UP REQUIRED

5

APR

EASTER SUNDAY | 6:00 AM AND 10:00 AM

SUNRISE SERVICE AT ASSATEAGUE STATE PARK | 6:00 AM

BREAKFAST AT BETHANY UMC AROUND 6:45 AM

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP | 10:00 AM

EASTER EGG HUNT FOLLOWING THE 10:00 AM SERVICE

ALL ARE WELCOME. COME AS YOU ARE.

# FAMILY WORSHIP NIGHT

Dinner • Worship • Breakout Activities

Bring the whole family for a night of food, fun, and worship! Each evening begins with a shared dinner, followed by a brief worship service featuring contemporary Christian music and a short message. Afterward, kids and youth will go to age-appropriate breakout groups with games, crafts, activities, and meaningful conversation.



**Friday, March 20 — 6:00 pm**  
**Friday, April 17 — 6:00 pm**  
**Friday, May 15 — 6:00 pm**



**Bethany UMC**  
8648 Stephen Decatur Hwy  
Berlin, MD 21811



**(410) 641-2186**



**[bethanyberlin.org](http://bethanyberlin.org)**

**All ages welcome!**



# SMALL GROUPS

FEBRUARY

2026

**TUES**  
@  
**1PM**

## DISCIPLE CLASS

No meetings this month.

## PRAYER GROUP

February 4<sup>th</sup>  
February 11<sup>th</sup>  
February 18<sup>th</sup>  
February 25<sup>th</sup>

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

February 4<sup>th</sup> - The Bible with and without Jesus Week 5  
February 11<sup>th</sup> - The Bible with and without Jesus Week 6  
February 18<sup>th</sup> - No Bible Study  
February 25<sup>th</sup> - The Final Days Week 1

## WOMEN'S LIFT GROUP

February 4<sup>th</sup>  
February 11<sup>th</sup>  
February 18<sup>th</sup>  
February 25<sup>th</sup>

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

Lenten Bible Study  
6-week plan developed by Matt Rawle. Book recommended.

FEB 25  
-  
APR 1

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



In January, Rev. Jacob and Megan met with our youth and their families to hear what they would like to see at Bethany. They shared many thoughtful and exciting ideas, some of which we are already putting into action. Beginning in March, we will be bringing back **children's messages**, launching **Family Worship Nights**, and exploring ways to incorporate more contemporary Christian music into our regular worship.

Below are additional ideas shared by our families:

**Worship**  
Singing in worship  
Playing instruments in worship  
Youth choir  
Family Worship Night

# SPECIAL SPOTLIGHT

## **Kids & Youth Activities**

Playing outside

Movie nights

Coloring and painting

Interacting with youth from other churches

## **Missions & Service**

Cleaning up the community

Beach clean-ups

Volunteering at a food pantry

Helping local charities

Writing letters to homebound members or nursing homes

Visiting retirement homes

Serving at homeless shelters

We are grateful for the voices of our youth and families and look forward to continuing to grow together as a church community.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY  
2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>10 AM Sunday Service</b> <b>10 AM Children's Sunday School</b>	2	3	4 <b>10 AM Prayer Group</b> <b>11 AM Bible Study</b> <b>6:30 PM LIFT Group</b>	5	6	7
8 <b>10 AM Sunday Service</b> <b>10 AM Children's Sunday School</b>	9	10	11 <b>10 AM Prayer Group</b> <b>11 AM Bible Study</b> <b>12 PM SPRC Meeting</b> <b>2 PM HUB Meeting</b> <b>6:30 PM LIFT Group</b>	12	13	14
15 <b>10 AM Sunday Service</b> <b>10 AM Children's Sunday School</b>	16	17	18 <b>10 AM Prayer Group</b> <b>11 AM NOW Meeting</b> <b>6 PM Ash Wednesday</b> <b>7 PM LIFT Group</b>	19	20	21
22 <b>10 AM Sunday Service</b> <b>10 AM Children's Sunday School</b>	23	24	25 <b>10 AM Prayer Group</b> <b>11 AM Bible Study</b> <b>6:30 PM LIFT Group</b>	26	27	28

## BETHANY BIRTHDAYS

2 – Norma Timmons 18 – Kate Mongelli  
 6 – Shelvey Stammer 18 – Olivia Mongelli  
 15 – Sherry Lorah 22 – Cathy Pastore

23 – Debbie Young  
 26 - Joe Dell  
 26 - Robin Boord  
 \*29 - Yvonne Jackson

# EXTENDED PRAYERS

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