



BETHANY IN BERLIN

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christ's Love Grows Here

Bethany UMC



Newsletter



February 2026 Edition

bethanyberlin.org info@bethanyberlin.org 410-641-2186
Rev. Jacob T. Jackson pastor@bethanyberlin.org 443-953-4550

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 explored 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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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 11th, & MAR 11th 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 8th 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



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY | WED. AT 11 AM

"THE FINAL DAYS" BY MATT RAWLE

FEBRUARY 25 – APRIL 1

JOURNEY THROUGH THE FINAL DAYS OF JESUS'
EARTHLY MINISTRY

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

All ages welcome!



SMALL GROUPS

FEBRUARY
2026
**TUES
@
1PM**

DISCIPLE CLASS

No meetings this month.

PRAYER GROUP

February 4th
February 11th
February 18th
February 25th

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

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

WOMEN'S LIFT GROUP

February 4th
February 11th
February 18th
February 25th

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



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.

FEBRUARY**2026**

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Sunday School	2	3	4 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM LIFT Group	5	6	7
8 10 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Sunday School	9	10	11 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 12 PM SPRC Meeting 2 PM HUB Meeting 6:30 PM LIFT Group	12	13	14
15 10 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Sunday School	16	17	18 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM NOW Meeting 6 PM Ash Wednesday 7 PM LIFT Group	19	20	21
22 10 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Sunday School	23	24	25 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM LIFT Group	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
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. Patricia Brodsky
15. Scott and Mary Collins
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 Hebert
25. Rebekah Jackson
26. Helen Maloney
27. PJ Maloney
28. Jenna Martin
31. Nathan Mitchell
32. Lily & Joe Nicosia
33. Suzanne Nimmo
34. Pat Parks
35. Liberty Porch
36. Mason Prather
37. Rick Rosensteel
38. Carol Snair
39. Ryan and Chrissie Spencer
40. Carson Taylor
41. Cathy Tenorio
42. Frank & Nancy Tribuno
43. Charles W.
44. Joyce Wagner
45. Peggy Warfield & family
46. Ken & Judy Williams