



BETHANY IN BERLIN

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christ's Love Grows Here

Bethany UMC

Newsletter

May 2026 Edition



PASTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Church Family,

As we step into May, we begin to feel steady movement toward summer. There's a sense of renewal not just in creation, but in the life of our church.

By the time you are reading this, we have had our first flea market of the year, a time of fellowship, outreach, and shared joy with our wider community. Our confirmation classes continue into May, marking an important season of growth and commitment for the teens taking steps in their faith journey. We also prepare for Annual Conference, where church representatives join with the wider local church body to discern, worship, and seek God's direction together.

In the midst of all this activity, we also recognize Mother's Day. As we reflect on this, I am drawn to the words of Paul, who, in describing the love and care found in Christ, uses deeply nurturing, maternal language. In passages like Galatians 4:19, Paul writes, "I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you." He also describes ministry as being "like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children." These are powerful images that speak to sacrifice, patience, and a love that labors for the sake of another.

Paul reminds us that the love of Christ is not distant or detached, but intimate, nurturing, and deeply invested in our growth. It is a love that forms us, carries us, and remains with us through every season. In many ways, it reflects the kind of care we celebrate on Mother's Day, a love that shows up faithfully.

As we move into these warmer months and all that they bring, may we be a church that embodies that same kind of love. A love that nurtures faith in others, that invests in the next generation, and that welcomes our community with open arms.

I look forward to all that God will do in and through Bethany in the coming months.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Jacob T. Jackson



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Welcome	2
Table of Contents	3
Worship Services	4
Mission Minute	5
Community Events	6-9
Small Groups	10-11
Special Spotlight	12-13
Calendar	14
Extended Concerns	15



Bethany United Methodist Church

bethanyberlin.org info@bethanyberlin.org 410-641-2186

Rev. Jacob T. Jackson pastor@bethanyberlin.org 443-953-4550



WORSHIP SERVICES

**DISCIPLESHIP: DISCIPLES
SERVE JOYFULLY**

5/3

John 13:3-17

"Build My Life"; #467 Trust and Obey

5/10

**DISCIPLESHIP: DISCIPLES
LEAD COURAGEOUSLY**

1 Peter 5:2-7; Acts 4:27-33

"Build My Life"; #374 Standing on the Promises

**DISCIPLESHIP: DISCIPLES
TRANSFORM THE WORLD**

5/17

Guest Speaker

"Build My Life"; #144 This Is My Father's World

MAY

2026

WORSHIP SERVICES

EVEN IN THE DARKEST PHASE

5/24

Isaiah 60:19-20; John 1:1-5

#57 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing; #122 God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

5/31

CHURCH & STATE

Mark 12:13-17; John 18:33-37

#382 Have Thine Own Way, Lord; #368 My Hope Is Built



Salisbury Urban Ministries (SUM) began in 1992 after clergy and laity met together to develop programs for the community's materially impoverished. SUM became a United Way Agency in 2000 and received the Community Foundation's Richard A. Henson Foundation Award for Excellence in 2001.



In June of 2011, SUM received the Kim Jefferson Award for outstanding urban ministry. The Light of Literacy Award was given to Kid's Cafe' in 2018. Salisbury Urban Ministries is designated as a Maryland Food Bank Tier 1 Strategic Partner. Salisbury Urban Ministries's mission is to develop and implement programs that serve and minister to the needs of materially impoverished people.

Their ministries include their Kid's Cafe, Lazarus Food Pantry, Prescription Assistance, and God's Pantry.

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
MAY 6th, June 10th, and July 15th AT 2 PM
BETHANY UMC**

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

LOCAL 2026 CONFIRMATION CLASS OPTIONS

COMMUNITY CHURCH
OCEAN PINES, MD
WEDNESDAYS
3:30 PM TO 4:30 PM
APRIL 15TH, 22ND, 29TH
MAY 6TH, 13TH, 20TH
CONTACT REV. DALE
(302) 381-8834

BETHANY UMC
BERLIN, MD
FRIDAYS
6 PM TO 7 PM
APRIL 17TH, 24TH
MAY 1ST, 8TH, 15TH, 22ND
CONTACT REV. JACOB
(443) 953-4550

YOUTH FROM OTHER CHURCHES ARE
WELCOME AND CAN JOIN THEIR HOME
CHURCH WITH PERMISSION OF THEIR
PASTOR.

YOUTH WHO ARE IN SIXTH GRADE AND
ABOVE OR WHO ARE TWELVE YEARS OF
AGE AND ABOVE ARE INVITED TO
PARTICIPATE.

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, May 15 — 6:00 pm



Bethany UMC
8648 Stephen Decatur Hwy
Berlin, MD 21811



(410) 641-2186



bethanyberlin.org

All ages welcome!



Miracle Sunday Offering

What It Is and Why It Matters

On May 17, we will join more than 30,000 United Methodist congregations around the world in a special offering known as Miracle Sunday. This is part of a six-week journey where churches unite in prayer, worship, and generosity.

What Is the Offering For?

The Miracle Sunday offering supports The Endowment for Theological Education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. This is a permanent fund designed to:

- Provide ongoing scholarships for students preparing for pastoral ministry
- Equip future church leaders to serve in some of the most challenging parts of the world
- Strengthen the global church for generations to come

Why Is This Needed?

There is a significant gap in access to theological education worldwide:

- In the United States, over 70% of pastors have formal theological degrees
- Outside the U.S., fewer than 5% of pastors have that same opportunity

This offering helps address that gap by investing in leaders who will guide, care for, and grow the church in places where resources are limited but faith is strong.

What Impact Will It Have?

The goal of Miracle Sunday is bold:

- To fund 500 scholarships every year
- To support pastors who serve in difficult and often underserved communities
- To create a lasting legacy, since the endowment continues to provide funding year after year

Why Is It Called “Miracle Sunday”?

This is more than just a fundraiser. It is an act of faith.

We trust that God can multiply our gifts and use them to make a lasting difference in the world. As Scripture reminds us, this is about equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. Every contribution matters.

How Can You Participate?

- **Pray** for the global church and those preparing for ministry
- **Learn** through our six-week series and shared stories
- **Give** as you feel led on Miracle Sunday

BETHANY UMC'S

2026 FLEA MARKETS



SAT.
MAY 2

8 AM TO
12 PM

SAT.
SEPT 5



CRAFTER AND BAKE SALE

VENDOR DETAILS
(TABLES AVAILABLE OR BYO)

\$15 FOR
1 SPACE
\$25 FOR
2 SPACES

CONTACT MARY MARTINEZ
OR USE QR CODE TO RESERVE

410-382-2661
MARYM8346@COMCAST.NET



BREAKFAST FOR SALE
VISIT FROM WORCESTER
COUNTY PUP

CHILDREN'S CRAFT
TABLE

OUTDOOR WEATHER
PERMITTING

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BETHANYBERLIN.ORG
410-641-2186 | INFO@BETHANYBERLIN.ORG
8648 STEPHEN DECATUR HWY
BERLIN, MD 21811

BETHANY UMC'S

GOSPELRANZA

Concert and Dinner

A CELEBRATION FEATURING LOCAL UMC
SINGERS AND PRAISE DANCERS.
DIRECTED BY DR. TROY BANKS
AND REV. MARKEL THOMAS



SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2026
4:30PM

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
8648 STEPHEN DECATUR HWY
BERLIN, MD 21811

410-641-2186

CALL OR TEXT TO RESERVE
TICKETS.
TICKETS INCLUDE DINNER, DRINKS,
AND DESSERT.
DINE IN OR CARRY OUT.
PRE-ORDERS RECOMMENDED.

SMALL GROUPS

MAY

2026

TUES
@
1PM

DISCIPLE CLASS

No meetings this month.

PRAYER GROUP

May 6th
May 13th
May 20th
May 27th

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

May 6th - Interpreting Hebrew Poetry Week 3
May 13th - Interpreting Hebrew Poetry Week 4
May 20th - No Bible Study
May 27th - The Circle Maker Week 1

WOMEN'S LIFT GROUP

May 6th
May 13th
May 20th
May 27th

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

BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS

11 AM

**JULY 9
-
AUG 12**

WHO ARE WE? CHILDREN OF GOD

6-week plan developed by the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. No book required.

WHO ARE WE? UNITED METHODISTS

6-week plan developed by the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. No book required.

**SEPT 2
-
OCT 7**

**OCT 21
-
NOV 18**

A POSTURE OF CONFESSION

5-week plan developed by Rev. Jacob T. Jackson. No book required.

THE CASE FOR CHRISTMAS

Advent Bible Study

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

**DEC 2
-
DEC 23**

SPECIAL SPOTLIGHT

2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE



AVERY LORAH

In the fall, I plan to attend High Point University in North Carolina.

Throughout my high school career I worked at Wockenfuss Candies, and was a regular volunteer for the American Cancer Society.

I'm excited to work this summer, go to the beach, and spend time with friends and family before I leave for college.

**NEXT MONTH THE
FEATURED GRADUATE
WILL BE
HUNTER BAGNALL**

CHURCH CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 6 PM Confirmation Class	2 8 AM Flea Market
3 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class	4	5	6 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 2 PM HUB Meeting 6:30 PM LIFT Group	7	8 6	9
10 Mother's Day 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class SUM Fruit Collection Geranium orders due	11	12 Annual Conference	13 Annual Conference 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM LIFT Group	14 Annual Conference	15 6 PM Family Worship Night	16
17 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class Miracle Sunday Offering	18	19	20 10 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM LIFT Group	21	22	23
24 Pentecost 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School	25	26	27 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 12 PM NOW 6:30 PM LIFT Group	28	29	30
31 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School Peace with Justice Offering						

BETHANY BIRTHDAYS

4 – Linda Moran
11 – Shirley Findlay

12 – Jackie Sterling
20 – Hannah Dell

22 – Edna Watkins
28 – Tom Hart

EXTENDED PRAYERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Cathy | 32. Leneve Savag |
| 2. Dee | 33. Andrew Schauer |
| 3. Gloria | 34. Ryan and Chrissie Spencer |
| 4. Joanne | 35. Carson Taylor |
| 5. Wilma | 36. Cathy Tenorio |
| 6. Kevin and Linda Anderson | 37. Norma Timmons |
| 7. Russel Bagnall, Jr. | 38. Frank & Nancy Tribuno |
| 8. Callie Bitner | 39. Charles W. |
| 9. Melody Bennett | 40. Joyce Wagner |
| 10. Drew & Cassidy Bolyard | 41. Peggy Warfield & family |
| 11. Patricia Brodsky | 42. Ken & Judy Williams |
| 12. Scott and Mary Collins | |
| 13. Evan Craig | |
| 14. Brantley Cropper | |
| 15. Francis Daigre | |
| 16. Jen Elliott | |
| 17. Shirley Feldhaus | |
| 18. Bette Finley | |
| 19. Richard Finley | |
| 20. Sharon Goetz | |
| 21. CJ Hebert | |
| 22. Rebekah Jackson | |
| 23. Helen Maloney | |
| 24. PJ Maloney | |
| 25. Jenna Martin | |
| 26. Nathan Mitchell | |
| 27. Lily & Joe Nicoso | |
| 28. Suzanne Nimmo | |
| 29. Pat Parks | |
| 30. Liberty Porch | |
| 31. Mason Prather | |

LOCAL, REGIONAL & GLOBAL

1. Active duty military and veterans
2. Desire to find common ground and peace in our world
3. First Responders and Caregivers
4. Friends & members of Bethany UMC
5. God's direction for ways to help the homeless
6. Human Trafficking
7. Immigrant Crisis
8. Issues surrounding abortion
9. People who don't know Christ
10. People struggling with violence, racism, unemployment, injustice, mental health & drug issues
11. The United Methodist Church & all denominations, Lower Shore District, Pen-Del Conference
12. Troubled relationships & marriages
13. Vulnerable youth in our community
14. World Conflicts
15. World Hunger, Water Availability