



BETHANY IN BERLIN

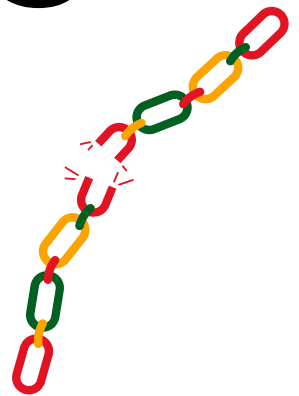
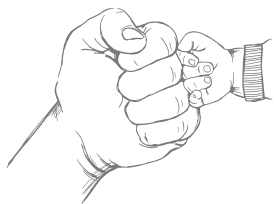
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christ's Love Grows Here

Bethany UMC

Newsletter

June 2026 Edition



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

PASTOR'S WELCOME

June 14th is flag day. I love national flags. I've always enjoyed geography and on a good day I can name over half of the national flags around the world. Back in April, while driving to Washington, D.C. with my nephews, one of them pulled up a quiz of the national flags of Europe. I managed to get 46 out of 47 correct. I'm still a little bitter about missing that one. Flags are fascinating because they tell stories. Colors, symbols, shapes, and patterns all communicate identity, history, values, and hopes.

That being said, my love for flags becomes a little conflicted when I consider the front of our sanctuary each Sunday.

Every week, we place the American flag near the cross. While I understand the tradition and respect the love many of us have for our country, I sometimes wonder what picture we are painting in worship.

I love our country. I respect and honor those who serve it. I believe we are blessed with systems, freedoms, and infrastructure that provide stability and protection for many people, even during times when leaders or policies may frustrate or disappoint us.

But the question remains: **what is central in our worship?**

The cross represents the Kingdom of God, a kingdom that stretches beyond borders, political parties, languages, races, and nations. Around the throne of Christ in Revelation are people "from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). The Church is global. The Gospel is not American. Jesus did not come to establish one earthly nation above others.

And yet, sometimes our sanctuaries unintentionally blur those lines.

When someone walks into worship, what should immediately capture their attention?

What symbol tells the clearest story about who we are and whose we are?

For me, the answer must always be the cross.

This does not mean patriotism is evil, nor does it mean Christians cannot love their country. But it does mean we must be careful that our national identity never overshadows our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ. Our highest allegiance belongs not to a flag, but to the risen Christ.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Jacob T. Jackson



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JUNE

2026

WORSHIP SERVICES

DIRTY WINDOWS

6/7

Psalm 119:9-18

#156 "I Love To Tell The Story"; #451 Be Thou My Vision

6/14

THE PRICE OF THE PITCH

Exodus 1:8-14, 22; 1 Kings 5:13-18; 12:4

"Build Your Kingdom Here"; #431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

A HELPING HAND (SYNANTILAMBANOMAI)

6/21

Romans 8:26; Luke 10:38-42

"Build Your Kingdom Here"; #79 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

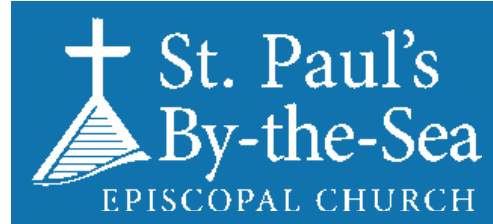
6/28

GUEST SPEAKER: KAREN SADVARI

Sermon title and Scripture are not yet decided.

"Build Your Kingdom Here"; #57 O For a Thousand Tougues to Sing

Shelter By-the-Sea



Since opening Shelter By-the-Sea indoors on March 31, 2026, so much has happened in a very short amount of time.

What began as an urgent response to people having nowhere safe or lawful to sleep has grown into Worcester County's only low-barrier shelter, a ministry rooted in dignity, compassion, radical hospitality, and trauma-informed care.

Since opening, we have welcomed hundreds of individuals through our doors and provided shelter nightly to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We have shared meals, listened to stories, sat with grief and trauma, celebrated small victories, and created a place where people are treated as human beings rather than problems to be removed.

Throughout this time, individuals have been referred to Shelter By-the-Sea by agencies and organizations including the Worcester County Homeless Outreach Team, the Worcester County Health Department, and the Ocean City Police Department when people had nowhere else to go or other placements were unavailable.

St. Paul's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church has now received a zoning citation demanding that Shelter By-the-Sea cease operations.

We want to be clear: we will not abandon the people entrusted to our care. This shelter is not separate from our church. It is a direct ministry of our faith and our belief that caring for vulnerable people is part of the Gospel itself.

Now more than ever, your support matters.

Your donations help us:

- continue operating Shelter By-the-Sea
- provide safe overnight shelter
- support trained overnight staff
- improve bathroom, shower, and laundry facilities
- purchase bunk beds and supplies
- provide meals, compassionate presence, and trauma-informed care
- continue responding to a growing humanitarian need within Ocean City

Most importantly, your support helps ensure that vulnerable people are not left outside with nowhere to go. This is a moment for our community to decide who we want to be. Together, we can continue creating a place of refuge, dignity, safety, and hope. Thank you for standing with us and helping us continue bringing our people inside.

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 June 10th and July 15th AT 2 PM BETHANY UMC

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

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, June 19th - 6:00 pm
Friday, July 31st - 6:00 pm
Friday, Aug. 14th - 6:00 pm



Bethany UMC
8648 Stephen Decatur Hwy
Berlin, MD 21811



(410) 641-2186



bethanyberlin.org

All ages welcome!



BETHANY UMC'S

2026 FLEA MARKETS



~~SAT. MAR 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

You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Bethany United Methodist Church
8648 Stephen Decatur Hwy
Berlin, MD 21811
August 5, 2026



Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend: Anyone age of 40+

Special Pricing for \$129

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Scan here:



Call 800-324-9458
and use promo
code: HABC001

Visit
LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC

Text the word
"circle" to
216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

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

JUNE

2026

TUES
@
1PM

DISCIPLE CLASS

No meetings this month.

PRAYER GROUP

June 10th
June 24th

The prayer group at Bethany is a relaxed group that meets on the second and last Wednesday of each month to share prayer concerns, give thanks, and seek guidance from God through collective prayer and reflection.

WED
@
10 AM

WED
@
11AM

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

June 3rd - The Circle Maker Week 2
June 10th - The Circle Maker Week 3
June 17th - The Circle Maker Week 4
June 24th - No Bible Study

WOMEN'S LIFT GROUP

June 3rd
June 10th
June 17th
June 24th

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

Report on 2026 Annual Conference

Pastor Jacob Jackson and I attended the 242nd session of the Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference meeting of the UMC in May in Ocean City. In my role as Lay Member, I represent our church at the three-day meeting and report back to you on its actions and programs. Our Conference is made up of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland and has 300 churches. Our Bishop is Latrelle Easterling, and she serves as the episcopal servant and leader of our conference as well as the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Approximately 500 laity and clergy attended the meeting.

We were introduced to a new mission statement for the United Methodist Church: our vision is to form disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections. This year, the focus was on Love Boldly. The UMC emphasizes a passionate love for God and inclusivity, embracing people of every age, nation, race, gender, and background, following the teachings of Jesus.

The Conference program included Bible study, worship, a service of remembrance for those clergy and clergy spouses who died during the past year, and the commissioning and ordination of one deaconess and one clergy elder. Twelve new clergy appointments were made to churches in the conference. Ten retiring clergy representing a combined 200 years of service in the UMC were recognized. More than \$10,000 in offerings were collected for Seeds of Security, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Congo Partnerships. Reports from various committees and programs were given, and eighteen resolutions were considered and voted on. Highlights regarding approved resolutions include the following.

- Members voted to increase the Conference's spending plan for 2027 to \$3.7 million, which is an increase of nearly 5% over 2026. Mission shares, formerly known as apportionments, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the churchwide budget to conferences and local churches, will fund 92% of the plan. The remaining will come from reserves, rent, and event income.
- The minimum salary for pastors was increased by 3% in 2027, so the minimum salary for a full elder or deacon will be \$54,085. For a provisional elder or deacon, it is \$49,948.

- There were no rate increases in the cost of health and dental insurance for next year. The cost to the local church annually is \$17,820. We do not currently provide our half-time pastor with this insurance.
- The formula for assessing the local churches' contribution to the pension plan for less than full-time pastors was changed to 8% of Plan Compensation.
- Eight United Methodist churches were closed primarily because of a decline in membership. The origins of most of these churches date back to the mid-1800s.
- A comprehensive report was given on a study that evaluated the potential sale of the Dover Resource Center. The Center houses Conference staff offices, and resources and information for clergy and laity. The study found that only 10% of conference members visit the Resource Center in person, with the remaining accessing conference resources both by phone and online, and that 80% of conference staff work effectively remotely. The study recommended that the Center be sold and that a District Hub Network be established by embedding conference and district staff together in three regional hubs, one in each of our three districts. The resolution was approved.

---Carole Schauer, Lay Member

Bethany United Methodist Church, May 21, 2026

CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE
2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 11 AM Bible Study 12 PM NOW 6:30 PM LIFT Group	4	5	6
7 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School	8	9	10 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 2 PM HUB Meeting 6:30 PM LIFT Group	11	12	13 4:30 PM Gospelanza
14 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School SUM Fruit Collection	15	16	17 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM LIFT Group Block Party Meeting, 12 p.m.	18	19 Juneteenth 6 PM Family Worship Night	20
21 Father's Day 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School	22	23	24 10 AM Prayer & Care Team 6:30 PM LIFT Group	25	26	27
28 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School	29	30				

BETHANY BIRTHDAYS

2 - Teagen Butler
3 - Nancy Tribuno
10 - Moira Biddle
12 - Kelly Wood

15 - Dana Rosamilia
16 - Chris Ferguson
20 - Dahlia Rosamilia
23 - Judy Williams

24 - Dawn Clark
29 - Barbara May
29 - Mary Martinez
30 - Jan McKinney

EXTENDED PRAYERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Charlotte | 32. Pat Parks |
| 2. Dee | 32. Liberty Porch |
| 3. Gloria | 32. Mason Prather |
| 4. Joanne | 33. Leneve Savag |
| 5. Judy & Jeffrey | 34. Ryan and Chrissie Spencer |
| 6. Wilma | 35. Carson Taylor |
| 7. Kevin and Linda Anderson | 36. Cathy Tenorio |
| 8. Russel Bagnall, Jr. | 37. Norma Timmons |
| 9. Callie Bitner | 38. Frank & Nancy Tribuno |
| 10. Melody Bennett | 39. Charles W. |
| 11. Patricia Brodsky | 40. Joyce Wagner |
| 12. Scott and Mary Collins | 41. Peggy Warfield & family |
| 13. Evan Craig | 42. Ken & Judy Williams |
| 14. Brantley Cropper | 43. Kelly Wood |
| 15. Francis Daigre | |
| 16. Jen Elliott | |
| 17. Shirley Findlay | |
| 18. Bette Finley | |
| 19. Richard Finley | |
| 20. Sharon Goetz | |
| 21. CJ Hebert | |
| 22. Joel & Nell Houston | |
| 23. Rebekah Jackson | |
| 24. Helen Maloney | |
| 25. PJ Maloney | |
| 26. Jenna Martin | |
| 27. Nathan Mitchell | |
| 28. Jacob Mongelli | |
| 29. Lily & Joe Nicoso | |
| 30. Suzanne Nimmo | |
| 31. Eli O'Hara | |

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