

OCTOBER UPDATES

Dear Bethany Family,

September brought with it more than just the turn of the seasons. Across our nation, political differences have escalated, and the voices of division seem louder than ever. It is easy to get caught in cycles of argument, suspicion, and targeting one another, forgetting that our shared humanity (and especially our shared faith) runs deeper than our disagreements.

Here at Bethany, we are also beginning to feel the change of seasons in our own congregational life. As our seasonal visitors slow down and many regular members begin to travel to their winter homes, our community naturally shifts. The pews may look a little different, and familiar faces may be absent for a time. But in all of this, one thing remains: the love of Christ that binds us together, no matter where we are.

John Wesley call to pursue perfect our love for one another is a reminder that love is not just an emotion but a discipline and a way of life. To live in perfect love means to resist the temptation to let differences define us, and instead to let Christ's love guide our thoughts, words, and actions. This is not always easy, but it is the work we are called to as disciples.

At Bethany, we proclaim that Christ's love grows here. That growth happens when we choose unity over division, compassion over judgment, and service over self-interest. In a world so quick to tear apart, may our church be a place that builds up. In a season of change, may we remain rooted in the steady and unshakable love of God.

With gratitude for each of you and with hope for the season ahead,
Rev. Jacob T. Jackson



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Welcome	1
Table of Contents	2
Worship Services	3
Mission Minute	4
Community Events	5-7
Small Groups	8-9
Special Spotlight	10-11
Calendar	12
Extended Concerns	13



Bethany United Methodist Church

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

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



WORSHIP SERVICES

LOOKING AT THE LAST SUPPER

Deuteronomy 16:1-8; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; 11:23-26

#448 Go Down, Moses; #2218 You Are Mine

10/5

10/12

RECAPITULATION

Luke 1:26-38; Genesis 3:1-6

#196 Come, Thou Long Expected Savior; #2218 You Are Mine

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

10/19

#402 Lord, I Want to Be A Christian; #585 This Little Light of Mine

10/26

TELL YOUR STORY

Exodus 2:11-25; 1 Timothy 1:12-16

ASB #292 This Is My Story; #2 Come Thou Almighty King

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling has served our local community for over 40 years by providing a variety of services and programs to our youth and young families.

Counseling

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services offers therapy to all age groups ranging from toddlers to senior citizens. Their team of professional and licensed therapists provides assessments and treatment services for individuals, groups, families, and couples in a variety of disciplines.

Worcester Navigation

Worcester Navigation connects Worcester County residents to resources based upon their particular needs. This includes, but is not limited to, financial assistance, financial literacy, educational support, job readiness training, mental health therapy, substance abuse service, wellness services, and medical treatment.

Berlin Youth Club

The Berlin Youth Club is a program designed to offer meaningful cultural, educational, and wellness experiences to children during out-of-school time. It has hosted a free summer camp for children in Berlin ages 6 – 12 for over 10 years.

Worcester Connects

Worcester Connects is a youth mentoring program designed to help students who need a positive role model in their lives. Students in Worcester County grades 1 – 12 can be matched with a volunteer mentor and participate in both individual and group mentor meetings. The focus is on each student's strengths to help them build self-esteem, be successful in school, and learn how to make positive connections with others.

SPECIAL SERVICES

OCTOBER

2025

10/5

WORLD COMMUNION

A day for Christians around the world to celebrate their unity in Christ through the sacrament of Holy Communion.

LAITY SUNDAY

Service recognizing the incredible members and volunteers who contribute their time, talents, and gifts to the church life at Bethany UMC. Following service, we will have a Baked Potato Bar to kick off a fundraiser for the Society of St. Andrews.

10/12

10/19

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

A service orchestrated and led by the children at Bethany UMC.

PASTOR'S POTLUCK

Potluck style meal following service to show appreciation to Rev. Jackson for his service and ministry.

10/26

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 OCTOBER 22nd AT 3 PM BETHANY UMC

Focus on service projects for
our community and shared worship
opportunities for our churches
Guest Organization: Local Police



ADVENT EVENTS

2025



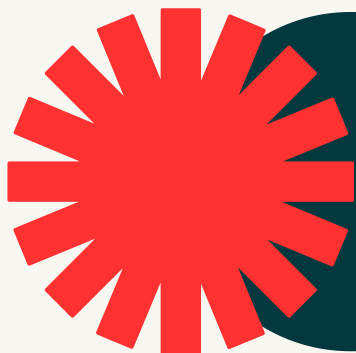
ANNUAL COOKIE WALK FUNDRAISER

Sat Dec 6 2025
8 am to 11 am



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sat Dec 13 2025
3 pm



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Wed Dec 24 2025
4 pm

BETHANY UMC
8648 STEPHEN DECATUR HWY
BERLIN, MD 21811



SMALL GROUPS

SEPTEMBER

2025

TUES
@
1PM

DISCIPLE CLASS

No meetings in October

PRAYER GROUP

October 1st
October 8th
October 15th
October 22nd
October 29th

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
@
11AM

WED
@
10 AM

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

October 1st - Simon Peter Week 4
October 8th - Simon Peter Week 5
October 15th - Simon Peter Week 6
October 22nd - No Bible Study
October 29th - Old Testament Violence: Warfare and Conquest

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

October 1st
October 8th
October 15th
October 22nd
October 29th

The women's bible study 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

**JUL 2
-
AUG 20**

THE SHAPE OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

8-week plan developed by The Bible Project. No book required.

SIMON PETER

**SEP 10
-
OCT 15**

6-week plan developed by Adam Hamilton. Book recommended.

**OCT 29
-
NOV 12**

OLD TESTAMENT VIOLENCE

3-week plan developed by Rev. Jackson. No book required

FAITHFUL

**NOV 26
-
DEC 17**

Advent Bible Study

4-week plan developed by Adam Hamilton. Book recommended.

SPECIAL SPOTLIGHT

In the Beginning: Understanding Creation

Rev. Jacob T. Jackson

Newsletter Assignment for Christian Theology Course at Duke Divinity School

What Does It Mean?

When we speak of creation, we mean everything that exists outside of God. This encompasses heavens and earth, people and animals, even the smallest particles and the vastest galaxies. All of it belongs to God, the Creator.

Christians confess *creatio ex nihilo*, latin for “creation out of nothing”. Before God spoke, there was no matter, energy, or time. Unlike us, who always create out of something, God created freely and lovingly without any starting point. Nothing compelled Him. Out of sheer will and goodness, He brought the universe into being.

This doctrine reminds us that creation itself is the ongoing testimony that God is sovereign, free, and loving. This is what Christians mean when we say “God created.”

Why Do Christians Adhere to It?

This belief is rooted in Scripture.

Genesis 1:1 proclaims, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Though the text describes God ordering chaos into form, it also affirms that all things, such as light, darkness, land, and sea, first existed only because God willed them.

Romans 4:17 speaks of God “who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.” Paul stresses that God creates without relying on prior material.

Isaiah 40:25-26 reminds us to “lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?” Even the stars themselves exist only because God called them forth.

From beginning to end, Scripture consistently shows God as the sole source of all that exists. This is why Christians cling to *creatio ex nihilo*: it is not speculation, but a conviction grounded in God’s Word.

Why Does It Matter for Us Today?

Believing that God created out of nothing shapes how we see ourselves and how we live.

First, it shows God’s intimacy with His creation. He did not create and walk away but continues to sustain and love what He has made. The same God who flung galaxies into space knows the hairs on your head. Recognizing this helps us understand our own creatureliness. We are not self-made, but dependent on God’s constant care.

Second, it shapes how we treat the world and one another. If all belongs to God, then every person is worthy of dignity, and every corner of creation is a gift to be stewarded with gratitude. To live as creatures is to live humbly, honoring the Creator in our relationships, work, and care for the earth.

Finally, it gives us hope in the face of evil. If God created all things and called them good, then evil cannot be part of His creation. Evil is not a substance but the absence or corruption of goodness. It works by decay, not by creation. The most evil act humanity ever committed, crucifying our Creator and Lord, did not overcome God’s goodness. Instead, it became the very means of our redemption. We cannot solve evil on our own, but we trust God’s promise: one day “all tears will be wiped away” (Revelation 21:4). From beginning to end, God’s purpose has remained the same. Though evil exists, we live in hope, trusting that the One who created out of nothing will bring forth a new creation where all will be made whole again.

OCTOBER**2025**

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Dynamite Prayer Study	2	3	4
5 10 AM Sunday Service w/Communion 10 AM Children's Sunday School	6	7	8 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 12 PM SPRC Meeting 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	9	10	11
12 10 AM Sunday Service Ministry Moment: Church Council 10 AM Children's Sunday School 11 AM Baked Potato Bar	13	14	15 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 12 PM NOW Meeting 6:30 PM Dynamite Prayer Study	16	17	18
19 10 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Sunday School	20	21	22 10 AM Prayer Group 3 PM Hub Meeting 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	23	24	25 10 AM Lower Shore Meeting Hosted @ Bethany UMC 1 PM Church Conference Hosted @ CC@OP
26 10 AM Sunday Service Mission Moment: GoWoYo 10 AM Children's Sunday School 11 AM Pastor's Potluck	27	28	29 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Dynamite Prayer Wrap-up Hosted @ Showell UMC	30	31	

BETHANY BIRTHDAYS

8 – Betty Hudson

10 – Lyn Burr

10 – Kandice Ringenary

14 – April Rosamilia

23 – Aaiden Black

24 – Randolph Hudson

24 – Kay Brittingham

26 – Brayden Clark

29 – Tony Wiles

31 – Rev. Jacob T. Jackson

EXTENDED PRAYERS

1. Angie
2. Barbara
3. Gloria
4. Joanne
5. Kim
6. Kristy
7. Walter
8. Wilma
9. Kevin Anderson
10. Linda Anderson
11. Russel Bagnall, Jr.
12. Callie Biter
13. Melody Bennett
14. Drew & Cassidy Bolyard
15. Tracy Burr
16. Anton Christiansen
17. Kelli Conroy
18. Pat Cooke
19. Evan Craig
20. Brantley Cropper
21. Francis Daigre
22. Megan Durham
23. Shirley Feldhaus
24. Bette Finley
25. Richard Finley
26. Sharon Goetz
27. CJ Herbert
28. Dennis Herlyn
31. Rebekah Jackson
32. Lisa Lord
33. Helen Maloney
34. PJ Maloney
35. Jenna Martin
36. Carole McClay
37. Linda Miner
38. Nathan Mitchell
39. Tom Mosely
40. Lily & Joe Nicoso
41. Suzanne Nimmo
42. Jeff Pan, Sr.
43. Pat Parks
44. Mason Prather
45. Michelle Reugebrink
46. April Rosamilia & family
47. Rick Rosensteel
48. Barbara & Tom Rictor
49. Barbara Riley
50. Carol Snair
51. Carson Taylor
52. John & Cathy Tenorio
53. Frank & Nancy Tribuno
54. Charles W.
55. Peggy Warfield & family
56. Ken & Judy Williams
57. Margie Wisniewski