



BETHANY IN BERLIN

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christ's Love Grows Here

Bethany UMC

Newsletter

July 2026 Edition



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

PASTOR'S WELCOME

Summer is a unique season in our community. Our local area welcomes tens of thousands of visitors from near and far. Campgrounds fill, vacation homes turn on their lights, and our roads, restaurants, and beaches become places where people from many different backgrounds cross paths.

As Christians, these encounters invite us to remember that the Church is not confined to a building. While we gather each week in worship, the Church is ultimately the people of God living out the love of Christ wherever we are. The Church exists not only within the walls of our sanctuary but can also bear fruit in our neighborhoods, stores, restaurants, workplaces, and even on the boardwalk and beach.

Jesus often met people outside of traditional religious settings. He encountered fishermen along the shore, tax collectors in their workplaces, travelers along the road, and strangers in towns and villages. Again and again, Christ demonstrated that God's love reaches people wherever they are.

In Matthew 25, Jesus offers an important and challenging reminder: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Hospitality is more than good manners. It is a spiritual practice. Every person we meet bears the image of God, and every encounter presents an opportunity to share Christ's love through kindness, patience, and generosity.

During this busy season, it can be easy to see visitors as an interruption to our routines. What if we viewed them as neighbors whom God has placed in our path? What if our smiles or acts of welcome became small but meaningful witnesses to the grace of Christ?

Whether you are greeting a visitor in worship, helping someone find their way, serving in the community, or simply offering a kind word to a stranger, you are participating in the ministry of the Church. You are carrying the presence of Christ beyond these walls. My prayer for Bethany this summer is that we would be known not only for the worship that happens on Sunday mornings but also for the love that is shared throughout the week. May we see Christ in the stranger, welcome others as Christ has welcomed us, and remember that wherever we go, we carry the Church with us.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Jacob T. Jackson



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WORSHIP SERVICES

GOOD INTENTIONS

7/5

Romans 7:15-25

#400 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing; #2130 The Summons

7/12

READY TO GROW

Isaiah 55:10-13; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

#156 I Love to Tell The Story; #467 Trust and Obey

ALREADY AND NOT YET

7/19

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

""In Christ Alone"; #377 It Is Well With My Soul

7/26

A PRAYER GOD LOVES TO ANSWER

1 Kings 3:5-12

""In Christ Alone"; #127 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

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 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, 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

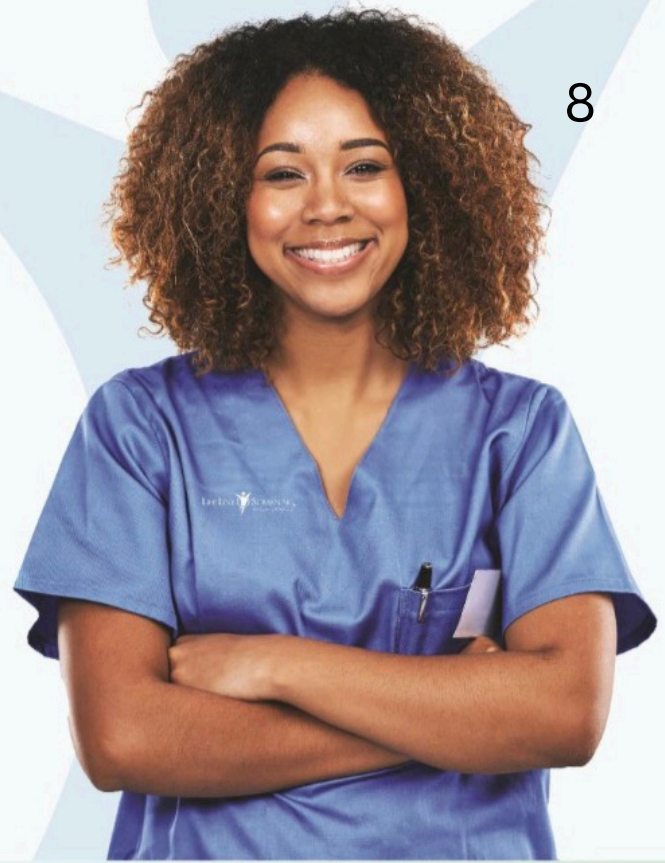
CHILDREN'S CRAFT
TABLE

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.



Save the Date

Sight&SoundMovie

A Great Awakening

August 18, 2026, Tuesday

5:30pm

Community Church at Ocean Pines
11227 RaceTrack Road
Berlin, MD 21811

Sanctuary

Can bring beverage but NO food

With the colonies on the brink of collapse, the Rev. George Whitefield, Methodist, unites an entire generation with his thundering sermons and proclamations of liberty. In a miraculous turn of events, Benjamin Franklin becomes one of Whitefield's closest friends and greatest promoters. With the nation's freedom hanging in the balance, the founders discover true liberty cannot only be written into law -- it must be awakened in the hearts of the people.

BETHANY UMC'S



WILD WEST BLOCK PARTY



SEPT. 12TH - 11 AM TO 2 PM

8648 STEPHEN DECATUR HWY

BERLIN, MD 21811

SAVE THE DATE

FREE FOOD
LIVE MUSIC
GAMES AND ACTIVITIES
SO MUCH MORE

WWW.BETHANYBERLIN.ORG



Can't be with us in person?

WORSHIP FROM HOME!

Every Sunday at 10 am

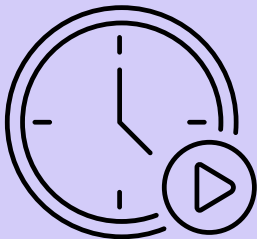
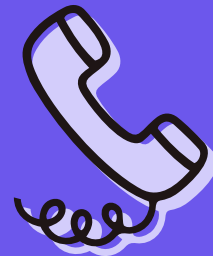


Watch Live

Watch Bethany's services live on Sunday:
Youtube: youtube.com/@bethanychurchinberlinmd4242
Facebook: facebook.com/BethanyUMCBerlin

Listen Live

Dial-in and listen to Bethany's services:
Dial-in Number: (605) 313-9642
Access Code: 1350592



Watch or Listen Later

Find our sermon and full service at a later time:
Youtube: youtube.com/@bethanychurchinberlinmd4242
Podcast: "Bethany in Berlin UMC" on your desired podcast provider

SMALL GROUPS

JULY

2026

TUES
@
1PM

DISCIPLE CLASS

No meetings this month.

PRAYER GROUP

July 8th
July 29th

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

July 8th - Who We Are? Children of God Week 1
July 15th - Who We Are? Children of God Week 2
July 22nd - Who We Are? Children of God Week 3
July 29th - Who We Are? Children of God Week 4

WOMEN'S LIFT GROUP

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

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

SPECIAL SPOTLIGHT

The sacraments occupy a central place in United Methodist worship and theology as they are tangible signs of God's grace at work in the lives of believers and the community of faith. Baptism and Holy Communion connect Christians to God's saving work, the life of the church, and the mission of God's kingdom. This paper will examine the role and significance of Holy Communion and Baptism within the United Methodist tradition, arguing that these sacraments serve as means of grace through which God forms Christian identity, nurtures discipleship, and equips the church for faithful ministry in the world.

Holy Communion serves as both a means of grace and a central expression of the church's identity. United Methodist theology teaches that God uses the sacrament as an ordinary channel through which prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace are conveyed to believers. As a pastor, I am called not merely to administer Communion as a ritual, but to invite people into a living encounter with the grace of God.

Communion reminds the church of God's saving work through Jesus Christ while also making that grace present in the lives of believers today. The sacrament is more than an act of remembrance; it is a re-presentation of God's saving acts that allows the church to experience Christ's presence in the present moment. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ is truly present at the Table and nourishes believers in their journey of salvation.

The communal nature of Communion is especially significant in my ministry. The sacrament unites believers with Christ and with one another, embodying the church as the body of Christ and modeling the reconciled community God desires for the world. Because the Table belongs to Christ, the United Methodist tradition practices an open table, welcoming all who respond in faith to Christ's invitation.

Communion is essential to ministry in the United Methodist tradition. Through Word and Table, God forms disciples, strengthens faith, extends grace, and points the church toward the heavenly banquet that is yet to come. The sacrament continually shapes both my pastoral leadership and the spiritual formation of the congregation.

Baptism serves as a foundational sacrament that proclaims God's grace, incorporates believers into the body of Christ, and forms Christian identity. United Methodist theology understands baptism as God's action rather than a human achievement. Through baptism, God claims us, incorporates us into the covenant community, and initiates us into the lifelong journey of discipleship.

As a pastor, I view baptism as both a personal and communal event. Baptism is an expression of faith and an act that unites believers with Christ and with the church. The sacrament reminds Christians that their identity is found in belonging to God and God's people. This understanding is important in a modern culture that emphasizes individualism. Through baptism, the church publicly affirms that each person is part of Christ's body and shares in the mission of God's kingdom.

Baptism points believers toward God's redemptive story and future hope. The sacrament connects creation, covenant, Christ, church, and the coming kingdom into a single narrative of salvation. Baptism reminds us that history is moving toward God's ultimate fulfillment and that Christians live between the promises already received and the kingdom not yet fully realized.

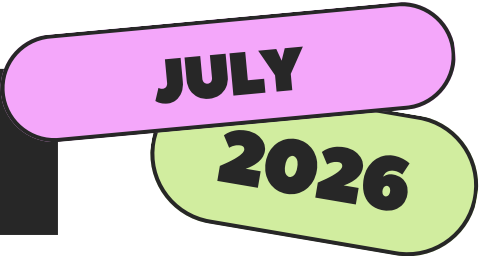
Finally, baptism calls the church into mission. Just as Christ commissions his followers to make disciples and baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the sacrament commissions believers to embody God's justice, righteousness, and grace in the world. Baptism is therefore not only an entrance into the church but also a calling to participate in God's ongoing work of redemption.

In United Methodist theology, Baptism and Holy Communion are biblically grounded sacraments instituted by Christ and recognized as means of grace through which God acts in the lives of believers. Baptism is ordinarily administered once as initiation into the covenant community and body of Christ, while Holy Communion is celebrated repeatedly for the nourishment and growth of disciples. Ordained elders are responsible for administering the sacraments, while licensed local pastors may do so within their appointed ministries. Together, these sacraments proclaim God's grace, form Christian identity, strengthen faith, and equip the church for ministry and mission.

Rev. Jacob T. Jackson

Importance of Sacraments to Our Tradition

Completed for Introduction to Christian Worship at Duke Divinity School



CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30 PM LIFT Group	2	3	4
5 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School	6	7	8 10 AM Prayer Group 11 AM Bible Study 2 PM HUB Meeting 6:30 PM LIFT Group	9	10	11
12 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School SUM Fruit Collection	13	14	15 11 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM LIFT Group	16	17	18
19 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School	20	21	22 11 AM Bible Study 12 PM NOW 6:30 PM LIFT Group	23	24	25
26 10 AM Sunday Service & Children's Sunday School	27 VBS 5:30 - 7:30	28 VBS 5:30 - 7:30	29 10 AM Prayer & Care Team 11 AM Bible Study VBS 5:30 - 7:30	30 VBS 5:30 - 7:30	31 VBS/Family Worship Night 5:30 - 7:30	

BETHANY BIRTHDAYS

2 – Brianna Clark
 7 – Nancy Owens
 14 – Cody Clark

14 – Kelley Galyen
 26 – Jack Carpenter
 29 – Nell Houston

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. Bob & Gloria Taylor |
| 8. Russel Bagnall, Jr. | 37. Cathy Tenorio |
| 9. Callie Bitner | 38. Norma Timmons |
| 10. Melody Bennett | 39. Frank & Nancy Tribuno |
| 11. Patricia Brodsky | 40. Charles W. |
| 12. Kevin Clemence | 41. Joyce Wagner |
| 13. Scott and Mary Collins | 42. Peggy Warfield & family |
| 14. Evan Craig | 43. Ken & Judy Williams |
| 15. Brantley Cropper | 44. Kelly Wood |

LOCAL, REGIONAL & GLOBAL

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 16. Francis Daigre | 1. Active duty military and veterans |
| 17. Dee Drescher | 2. Desire to find common ground and peace in our world |
| 18. Jen Elliott | 3. First Responders and Caregivers |
| 19. Shirley Findlay | 4. Friends & members of Bethany UMC |
| 20. Bette Finley | 5. God's direction for ways to help the homeless |
| 21. Richard Finley | 6. Human Trafficking |
| 22. Sharon Goetz | 7. Immigrant Crisis |
| 23. CJ Hebert | 8. Issues surrounding abortion |
| 24. Joel & Nell Houston | 9. People who don't know Christ |
| 25. Rebekah Jackson | 10. People struggling with violence, racism,
unemployment, injustice, mental health & drug issues |
| 26. Helen Maloney | 11. The United Methodist Church & all denominations,
Lower Shore District, Pen-Del Conference |
| 27. PJ Maloney | 12. Troubled relationships & marriages |
| 28. Jenna Martin | 13. Vulnerable youth in our community |
| 29. Fox Martinez | 14. World Conflicts |
| 30. Nathan Mitchell | 15. World Hunger, Water Availability |
| 31. Jacob Mongelli | |
| 32. Lily & Joe Nicoso | |
| 33. Suzanne Nimmo | |