

# THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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## Calendar Highlights

- **Feb 4** Soup: New England Clam Chowder
- **Feb 11** Soup: Tortellini
- **Feb 17** Ash Wednesday 11am-12:30pm Sanctuary
- **Feb 18** Soup: Chili
- **Feb 21** Q & A session with Leadership Team
- **Feb 25** Soup: Lentil
- **March 13** Tools for Ministry
- **April 2** Good Friday
- **April 3** Gloria Saturday
- **April 4** Easter Sunday

## **STAY UP TO DATE WITH CHURCH EVENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**FACEBOOK:** BUMCservice

**INSTAGRAM:** bumcares

**YOUTUBE:** Berwyn UMC

**WEBSITE:**

[www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org)



Due to COVID-19 we continue to hold worship services only online. Even though we cannot worship together in person we can worship together every Sunday at 10:30am on Facebook Live. If you can't attend via Facebook you can always find our services on YouTube and on our website [www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org). We hope you will join us and share with your friends and family as well!

## *Berwyn United Methodist Church*

Worship with us online every Sunday at 10:30 am via

[Facebook.com/BUMCservice](https://www.facebook.com/BUMCservice)

[www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org)

YouTube: Berwyn UMC



## **SHARE & LEARN ABOUT THE**

## **MISSION, VISION, & VALUES OF BERWYN UMC**

Our church is entering a critical time with a new structure which provides enhanced opportunities to engage in mission and develop the growth and work of our church. The Leadership Team is sponsoring the first of a series of periodic Q&A sessions on Sunday, February 21, 11:30 a.m., to give you the opportunity to contribute to the adoption and implementation of our Mission and Vision and the determination of Values that will take our church into the future. Learn about new ideas which will carry us forward, and add your thoughts and dreams for the future of Berwyn UMC.

To join, use the Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86845698248?pwd=d1p4NVpaKzNYSVBGckMvcGNxdk9idz09>

Meeting ID 868 4569 8248, Passcode 242250.

## NOTE FROM PASTOR RODNEY

Dear Berwyn Family,

February is a month characterized by themes of love. It is also the time of year when we celebrate African Americans' history and achievements and recognize their central role in U.S. history.



Last month, we celebrated the birth of perhaps the most impactful leader of The Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King. As we continue to face turbulent times in our nation, Dr. King's messages of equality, hope, and love remain relevant today. I believe that Dr. King is among the very few in our modern time who has genuinely carried out the Biblical ethic of love.

As Christians, we should take time to remember Dr. King, whose life dramatically exemplified Jesus' commandment to "love our neighbors as ourselves."

While Dr. King is known as a civil rights activist, he was first a minister, and his faith and love ethic fostered his dedication to social justice. He often quoted God's Word in his speeches, and his views were deeply rooted in Scripture. As we celebrate Black History Month, I think it would be meaningful to highlight some of Dr. King's well-known speeches and sermons and the Bible passages upon which he based them.

In 1957, Dr. King preached a sermon based on the familiar passage of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 5:43-44, Jesus says, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

At the time, Dr. King had come under criticism from fellow activists who disagreed with his patient and non-violent approach. Reflecting on Jesus' commands, Dr. King said, "It is significant that he does not say, 'Like your enemy.' There are a lot of people that I find it difficult to like. I don't like what they do to me, but Jesus says love them. And love is greater than like." Dr. King was reinforcing his commitment to living the kind of life Jesus would have him live, despite difficult circumstances and opposition.

Dr. King cited multiple passages of Scripture in his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. He quoted Isaiah 40:4-5 to express his dream for humanity, saying, "I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

In his final "I've Been to the Mountain Top" speech, Dr. King compared himself to Moses, who saw the land God had promised the Israelites but knew he would not enter it (Numbers 27:12 and Deuteronomy 34). Dr. King said, "He's allowed me to go up to the mountain, and I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!"

The few lines are incredibly significant as Dr. King was assassinated the very next day.

These examples are just a few that demonstrate the inseparable link between Dr. King's unwavering faith and his passion for justice and equality.

Faith was personal for Dr. King. He not only believed in the truth of God's Word, but he also did what Scripture tells all of us to do. He acted no matter the cost. Dr. King's life is a lesson for us as we remember what Galatians 3:28 tells us: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us renew our commitment to live and treat others as Christ would have us do. Let us not allow our differences to separate us. Instead, let us show appreciation and respect for everyone. May we unite in renewing our commitment to Jesus' commandment to "love our neighbor as ourselves."

I pray that you remain safe and healthy as we journey through 2021 as a community of faith working through love.

May God Bless You Richly,  
Pastor Rodney

## ASH WEDNESDAY

We will be observing Ash Wednesday in our sanctuary on February 17, 2021. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent and is an opportunity to confront our own mortality and confess our sins. It is an opportunity for repentance and confession. Come at your convenience between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for the imposition of ashes by Pastor Rodney. You are asked to wear a mask for this observance. Pastor Rodney will be wearing a mask and using surgical gloves as safety precautions.



## EASTERN PA CONFERENCE EVENTS

### Saturday, March 13, 2021 Tools for Ministry.

Go to this website for registration information and to see a brochure of workshops being offered. Registration cost is \$5.

<https://www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar/tools-for-ministry/>



### May 20-22 Annual Conference via ZOOM



## Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Rodney Brailsford

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: Amy Dodds

Sexton: Over Caicedo

Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

Organist/Director of Music: Amy McLoughlin

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

Recordings of Sunday Services are available—Contact Jon Stockler, 610-348-3385 or [JStockler@aol.com](mailto:JStockler@aol.com)

## Soupy Thursday

Feb. 4 - New England clam chowder

Feb. 11 - Tortellini

Feb. 18 - chili

Feb. 25 - Lentil

TAKE OUT ONLY from 5 pm to 6:00pm.  
MASKS REQUIRED  
Soup will be \$5.00/Qt (please bring your own container)  
Fresh Baked Bread \$3.00/loaf



United Methodist Women met for the first time in 2021 on January 19 via ZOOM. Jim Dwyer, husband of Amy Dwyer, donated \$500 to Berwyn UMW. The group discussed where and how the money should be used. The group voted on splitting the donation between two organizations: T & E Care (Tredyffrin & Easttown Care), a local organization and Children International, an international organization.

### T&E Care Mission & Goals

The mission of T&E Care is to maintain a network of people providing financial and other material assistance to persons in need in and around the Tredyffrin and Easttown township area.



T&E Care will provide assistance to local persons in need by:

- Identifying persons in need through contacts in the community;
- Communicating these needs, respecting always the privacy of the intended recipients, to the T&E Care network via email, this website, and other media; and
- Facilitating the delivery of such assistance through T&E Care directors, officers, and other volunteers.

### Children International Mission

We connect people around the world in the fight to end poverty. Working together, we invest in the lives of children and youth, build the healthy environments they need to thrive, and empower them to create lasting change in their own lives and communities.

## NOTE FROM OUR LAY LEADER AMY DODDS

We remain behind closed doors as we socially distance and strive to remain safe from COVID-19. Perhaps this is a perfect time to get to know Christ more? To read the Bible, to pray, to meditate on his word and seek direction for our lives? Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days and nights in the desert before beginning his public ministry. Surely 40 days seems short after the 10 months we have been physically apart from one another due to the pandemic.

This week, I was struck by the eloquent words of youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman during the Presidential Inauguration in her poem, "The Hill We Climb," which culminated with the words:

"The new dawn blooms as we free it

For there is always light,

if only we're brave enough to see it

If only we are brave enough to be it"

I imagine that light to be the Holy Spirit. Are we faithful and bold enough to see it? How can we embrace the light and allow ourselves to be it? I am brought back to the human need for food. My father was born on a farm in Centre County PA where they did not have running water until he was a sophomore in college. Food was not in surplus. His passion in life has been to make more food safely available to more people. His career as an internationally respected professor in Agricultural Engineering and BioSystems Engineering had this passion at its core. I find myself rediscovering my father's passion in the current time as so many in our neighborhood, region, and world are grappling with food insecurities. As Lent 2021 approaches, I am drawn to focus upon what missions and what actions may best address food insecurity in my corner of the world. Would you join me in considering what local mission you are brave enough to see? What leader of action you are brave enough to be? Might a food pantry or soup kitchen have a place at Berwyn UMC? Or a community garden where church members, nursery school children, and Boy Scouts could raise vegetables to be shared with neighbors in need? Or is your vision of mission and outreach far different from mine? I challenge you to BE THE LIGHT and use this Lenten time to reflect upon the Holy Spirit within you, and to share with the church community your vision for local community mission.

May God bless you and keep you,

Amy Dodds

## THANK YOU... *Steven Cherry*

We dare not take generosity, and sacrifice for that matter, for granted. Those of the church who have provided the gift of financial support deserve our deepest thanks. Those who are regular, committed supporters, help keep the lights on and the Zoom/YouTube productions flowing.

1. We are tying up loose financial ends for year 2020 and are pleased to report that we broke even. A flurry of end-of-year giving plus bequest proceeds that were received made the difference. SO. Thanks to all!!!

2. Here are some interesting factoids. About one third of all offerings and church giving happens electronically (bank draft, credit card gifts, text gifts). Do you pay personal bills online? This saves time, reduces paper use (and in turn shredding) and postage. Electronic giving is encouraged for church giving not only because it's convenient for the donor (set up once, an offering can recur weekly or monthly). The church likes it when there is a predictable flow of funds to support ongoing ministry and obligations. Here's the commercial: if you'd like to set up an on-line donation for Berwyn Church, send a note to Veronica Mosley at [Office@bumc.org](mailto:Office@bumc.org) and request the right form.

3. More factoids: about 78% of our income is from offerings. 19% is from rent (BUMC Nursey School, dwelling rental (2) and facility use).

4. The Finance Team approved a budget for 2021. With regard to offerings, we received 44 pledges totaling about \$210,000. We anticipate that, along with regular non pledged giving, offerings will total about \$254,000 for the year.

The expense budget approved is \$445,324 the qualifier being that 15% of this is not underwritten by expected revenue (offerings, rental and miscellaneous gifts. So, we'll be depending on extra and special gifts.

I'm reminded of the public broadcasting people who say, like the church, we don't charge admission or require a ticket. But if it's truly public, it has to be supported by the people. The way we say this is, we're a covenant community that takes our mission seriously enough to support it with funding. Sure, the Kingdom doesn't come based on some kind of calculus or spreadsheet. But time and again we find that the way to serve Jesus, typically involves some kind of financial backing.

So, we thank YOU!

## SOUTH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Berwyn UMC is part of the South District in the Eastern PA Conference of The United Methodist Church. Our South District Superintendent puts out an electronic newsletter *The South District NEWS* every month. It is designed to provide current information and communications to all appointed clergy, assigned laity who are serving as pastors, and the laity community of the District. To receive the newsletter, email District Resource Assistant, Deb Boyd, at [dboyd@epaumc.org](mailto:dboyd@epaumc.org), or call 610-666-9090 ext 1019.



### BUMC's TROOP 181 PERSEVERES DESPITE PANDEMIC *Mary Ostien*

Despite all the challenges from the pandemic, BUMC's own Troop 181 has been forging on, accomplishing four Eagle Scout service projects over the past year for the benefit of the community and local churches. Among them:

- A quarter-mile walking trail and foot bridge at the Frank Johnson Memorial Park, Berwyn
- A firepit at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Devon
- A nature trail at St. David's Episcopal Church, Devon
- Renovations at the Radnor Township Civic Association, Wayne

All this was done while wearing masks, observing social distancing, and taking other safety precautions. Prior to the pandemic, the troop met regularly on Tuesday nights in Schieck Hall.

"However, the pandemic has made that impractical," said Scoutmaster Sean Kim. "We've been doing either virtual meetings or outdoor activities only. The former for the benefit of families who want to be cautious and the latter who feel more comfortable with in-person meetings as long as we take precautions."

Those outdoor activities include hikes at state parks, geocaching at Wilson Farm Park, and archery at BUMC's own backyard, said Mary Ostien, the troop's recruiting coordinator. "In fact, we may have an archery event there 10 a.m. Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>."

However, the event is contingent on weather and the developing situation with Covid-19. If you need further information about the troop or the event, contact Mrs. Ostien at 484-241-1280. You can see more of our activities on [www.paoli181.org](http://www.paoli181.org)





## Our Mission Statement

God **CALLS** us to **Care, Accept, Love, Laugh and Serve**

## Worship Schedule

Sundays 10:30 AM

On-Line Worship on Facebook Live/  
Church Website/YouTube

Subscribe to our channel on YouTube: Berwyn UMC

Follow on Instagram: bumcares

Like us on Facebook: Berwyn UMC

[www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org)

Email: [officebumc@comcast.net](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net)

Fax: 610-644-7890

Church Office: 610-644-5555

PRESORTED STANDARD  
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SOUTHEASTERN PA

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