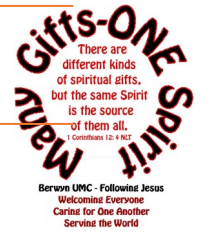




THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



April 2018 Newsletter

Inside this Issue:

- Holy Week Schedule
- Pastor's Letter
- Progressive Supper
- BUMNS
- UMW

Calendar Highlights

April 1—Easter 6:30am Sunrise Service, 10:30am combined service

April 15—2pm Wilson Goode—Politics, Spirituality and Social Justice

May 6—UMW presents Dona Sensenig—Mission in Our Backyard

May 20—Progressive Supper

June 1-3 UMW Spring Retreat



Join Us For Worship

8:30 am Worship

9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 am Traditional Worship with Choir

Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month

HOLY WEEK 2018 SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 25—Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:30am (no 8:30am service)

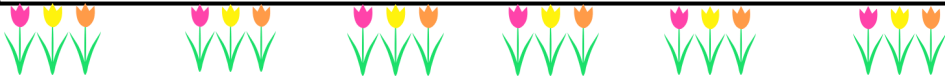
Guest Speaker Barbara Emery

Thursday, March 29—Holy Thursday Service of Darkness 7:30pm

Friday, March 30—Good Friday—church will be open all day for prayer and reflection

Saturday, March 31—Gloria Saturday—Easter Egg Hunt for children 10am

Sunday, April 1—Easter—Sunrise Service at 6:30am, combined Service at 10:30am (no 8:30am service)



LIGHTED CROSS UPDATE *Kristine Adams*

Starting with the May issue of The Lighted Cross we will be distributing the newsletter primarily electronically. If you are not a member of Berwyn UMC and would like to have the newsletter emailed to you please send your email address to office-bumc@comcast.net and request an email copy.

Starting with the May Lighted Cross you can see the newsletter by:

- Going to the church website www.berwynumc.org to view a copy.
- **Electronic copies will be sent via the church email list. Please make sure the church has your current email.**
- A few hard copies will be available in the narthex.
- Members who do not have an email address or are home bound a hard copy will continue to be mailed.



PROGRESSIVE SUPPER *Rick Stoker*

The Adult Fellowship has announced that our annual Progressive Supper will be held on Sun. May 20, 2018. The appetizer course will start at 5P, proceed to the dinner course and then finish with dessert. We will need to have a minimum of 3 homes willing to host a course. We will also need volunteers to help prepare food for each of the courses. If you would be willing to host or prepare part of the meal please contact Sally Robie.

Reservations will be taken on Sun. May 6 and May 13. We hope you will join us. This is really a good opportunity to get together in a different setting.

EMBRACING FORGIVENESS AND STAYING IN LOVE *Pastor Tim Duschene*

A colleague said in his sermon on the Sunday after 9-11, "The challenge of this life is not to stay alive the challenge of this life is to stay in love."

That idea brought something into focus for me.

Personally I don't like being afraid and I don't like being angry. They are very draining emotions and they do not lead to positive outcomes for me or others. And I have never known anyone to change, for the better, because I hated them.

It seems that at every moment of every day I am confronted with opportunities to love or to hate. I have given up watching most of the so-called news programs because I feel often I am being told what to fear and exhorted to hate.

And then there is this Jesus guy who says: "love your enemies." That is about the most un-American thing I have ever heard and if I was to listen to many Americans the most unchristian thing anyone could say. Hating has become part of our culture and our churches. Revenge has become a virtue, something our culture esteems.

One of the ways Christians justify the existence of hate in their lives is to say "love the sinner and hate the sin." Spiritually speaking that makes no sense at all. Once you are in a state of hate toward one thing it will leak out and contaminate the rest of our existence. The Jesus I follow wasn't a flip-flopper between states of love and hate.

I listen to Jesus telling me to love my enemies, and I hear Christ's words "the challenge is to stay in love."

By embracing forgiveness we engage in an act of sedition, to overthrow this culture of hate. Forgiveness however is not simply the end goal. Beyond being set free from the burden of self-inflicted resentment the purpose of forgiveness is to open the way to return to living in love.

How Do We Want To Wait Until Others Change?

Think of someone who really annoys you and who is not likely to change their offensive behavior. How does hating them help you, or them for that matter beyond fueling their offensive behavior?

The only thing we can do is decide on how we want to wait for them to change. This is where we meet the challenge to stay in love.

We can wait in hate.

Or we can forgive and wait with a twinkle in our eye and love in our hearts.

This is the kind of waiting that I see in Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama. They have faced and continue to face major oppression yet they have the ability to fiercely confront it while maintaining their joy.

Perhaps for most of us there is an intermediate state where we have forgiven and wait with emotional neutrality without the transcendent twinkle. Here we are no longer attached to specific outcomes of good or bad for the other and can turn our attention to other life-giving relationships.

And another, perhaps more enlightened place is a compassionate state where we can wish good for the other, without being attached to what that good might be. (From my experience when dealing with difficult relationships my idea of what is good for the other is always about what would really be good for me.) I think this is the attitude behind Jesus' words on the cross on behalf of those crucifying and mocking him, "God forgive them for they do not what they do".

Waiting with compassion is one way to meet the challenge of staying in love, compassion, its not just for saints anymore.



Janet Wham

Hopefully, spring is around the corner. March did roar like a lion! We have spent so much time indoors that the children are excited to visit the playground again. The children strengthen growing muscles when climbing, running and playing outside.

During the month on February, the children “saved” their pennies and donated them to Easttown Police Department. \$100 was raised. Police officer Brian will be visiting the school with his patrol car. He will also be sharing with us school safety tips.

The children are looking forward to hosting their Dads during the week of April 9th. This is a favorite day for the children. They love introducing friends and showing off their classrooms.

In May, the children’s mothers will visit for a “Muffins with Moms” morning. The 5 Day will perform a musical for their mother’s in the sanctuary. School will wrap up at the end of May. I encourage church members to visit the school. The smiles are well worth it!



LAY LEADER LETTER *Lee Paylor*

Our black and white cat, Magic, was chasing the laser pointer light down the hall and from one side of the living room to the other side, catching it at times before it made her dash to another spot. I was in charge of the light. “Lead, Kindly Light” and “Walk in the Light” came to mind.

“Lead, kindly Light, a-mid th’ encircling gloom, Lead thou me on!”
The Methodist Hymnal, 1964, 1966, page 272

“Walk in the light! so shalt thou know That fellowship of love
His spirit only can bestow, Who reigns in light above.”
The Methodist Hymnal, 1964, 1966, page 403

God’s light is shining on us and leading us. We follow – we don’t have to chase and the light (the battery) never goes out. We may lose sight of the light at times, but it is always there. Thanks to God for His never ceasing light and His love for each of us. May we show the light of God to all we meet each day.



Mark
Your
Calendar

Spring Retreat
Hosted by Debbie Nemetz
Little Egg Harbor, NJ
June 1-3

AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON RACE - IS SUNDAY THE MOST SEGREGATED DAY OF THE WEEK? *Paula Renneisen*

On Wednesday, February 28th, the ‘Love Renegades’ held their first discussion addressing racial divide within the church. Historic St. George’s Church in Philadelphia is known to be the home of many historic firsts in American Methodism. St. George’s appointed the first woman to be a class leader, first interdenominational Sunday school, and first Black Lay Preachers in Methodism in 1785. Subsequently, a large community of Blacks were drawn to the congregation. However, as racial tensions in society flared, a seating policy was enacted, segregating Blacks into a newly constructed upstairs gallery, without notification. When ushers attempted to forcibly move members, a number of Blacks walked out leading to the formation of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas and Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Was church leading society? Or was society leading the church? What happened to God creating us all in His image?

Group discussions were held to discuss people’s reactions to the meeting topic and the value of racial diversity in churches. We examined what prices have been paid from segregation and what we can do to fix it. A safe environment was provided to discuss difficult topics and what our responsibilities as Believers should be. The common denominator appeared to be that we are all Believers and when a connection between Believers is made, it is easier to see our similarities than to focus on differences. Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark, Pastor of New Life United Methodist Church in Drexel Hill, proposed a Pulpit Exchange and the Speakers Series event on April 15th with Guest Speaker Former Mayor Wilson Goode on Spirituality, Politics, and Social Justice was shared. Stay tuned for more upcoming events and connection opportunities.

BUMC 2018 Speakers Series

Let's Talk About...

Spirituality, Politics & Social Justice

Guest Speaker: Former Philadelphia Mayor Wilson Goode

Sunday, April 15, 2018 2pm

“Mission in Our Backyard”: UMW Spring Luncheon

Guest Speaker: Dona Sensenig, RN Spanish Health Ministry in Kennett Square

Sunday, May 6, 2018 12pm

Salad lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to church office by Thursday, May 3 at office-bumc@comcast.net or call 610-644-5555.



Berwyn United Methodist Church

140 Waterloo Avenue

Berwyn, PA 19312

More information: 610-644-555

www.berwynumc.org

Stay tuned for more information on upcoming events.

Dr. Goode has committed his life to improving the community and is currently the President and CEO of Amachi, Incorporated, a nationally acclaimed faith based program for mentoring children of incarcerated parents and he is dedicated to serving more than 600 homeless men and women.

Spanish Health Ministry provides translation and interpretation of medical information, counseling and support. Assist families in making appointments and coordinating medical services. They meet the spiritual needs of the entire family through Bible Studies and Vacation Bible School.

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Tim Duchesne

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: Lee Paylor

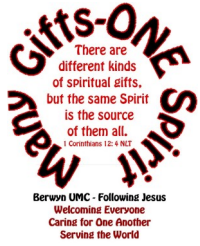
Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

Organist/Director of Music: Judith Lang

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

Sexton: Roger Toro

Recordings of Sunday Services are available—Contact Jon Stockler, 610-348-3385 or JStockler@aol.com



Our Mission Statement

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

Worship Schedule

- 8:30 AM Early Worship
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:30 AM Traditional Worship with Choir

Follow on Instagram: bumcares

Like us on Facebook: Berwyn UMC

www.berwynumc.org

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Fax: 610-644-7890

Church Office: 610-644-5555

Berwyn, PA 19312

140 Waterloo Avenue

Berwyn United Methodist Church

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