



December 2012

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

Advent and



Christmas Season

December 2—Advent begins and once again we will have special readings with the lighting of the Advent Candles.

December 2 3pm -Hanging of the Greens/dinner/sing-along.

December 16—Join us at the 10:30 a.m. service where the Chancel Choir will present

A Tapestry of Light, a Celtic Christmas Celebration by Joseph Martin. This work is scored for choir, soloists, and Celtic Consort, which consists of flute, violin, cello, and percussion. Joining us will be JoEllyn Berky Beck to sing the soprano solos. Please come and bring your family and friends to hear this delightful work.

December 16—Christmas Brunch

December 24—Christmas Eve –

5:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Program,
Communion and Glow Light

7:30 p.m. Christmas Carols, Communion and
Candlelight

11 p.m. Christmas Carol, Communion,
Candlelight

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Giving of the Bread and Cup



My faith experience has been eclectic and my family background presented me with faith options. So I am a Methodist by choice not merely by accident. One reason I choose to be a Methodist is our tradition of open communion so I am sensitive to barriers that United Methodist churches inadvertently or deliberately put up between people and the Lord's Table.

"The United Methodist Book of Worship" has this to say about the Giving of the Bread and Cup. "All who intend to lead a Christian life, together with their children, are invited to receive the bread and cup. We have no tradition of refusing any who present themselves desiring to receive . . . Every effort should be made to make each person, and especially children, welcome at the table."

Like the "Book of Worship" I am especially concerned about welcoming children to the Lord's Table. I've received extraordinary joy from being able to welcome my own children to the Lord's Table from the day they joined our family whether as a baby or as a five year old. It's been fun for us to pack bread and grape juice to take with us on hikes and bike rides so we could celebrate the Lord's Supper out on the trails on our vacations. The Bible affirms children as people who help us all enter further into God's Kingdom. Children help us keep wonder alive.

Methodists have a favorite passage of scripture that we use to promote opening baptism and the Lord's Supper to children. "People were bringing babies to Jesus so that he would bless them. When the disciples saw this, they scolded them. Then Jesus called them to him and said, 'Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it'" (Luke 18: 15 – 17 CEB).

Methodists see Baptism and the Lord's Supper as means of grace. They are points of contact with Jesus, ways Jesus is reaching out to continue touching us and blessing us today with God's mercy, power and grace. The only reason Methodists baptize children and infants is to let them and everyone know that they are welcome and valuable members of the family of God, the body of Christ. After what Jesus said and did in Luke 18, we don't feel authorized to turn children away from any means of grace, from any way God wants to touch them and bless them.

I say all this to explain why my radar went off when I saw that we were planning to offer communion at one Christmas Eve Service of Worship and not at other Christmas Eve Worship gatherings, especially since one of those is a Christmas Service of Worship especially for children that involves the children as leaders of worship. Then I realized that we are effectively keeping children away from the Lord's Table every month, because children are at Story Hour while many of us are sharing the Bread and the Cup.

So you will notice that all three of our Christmas Eve Worship gatherings will include the Lord's Supper this year. In addition to the Lord's Supper, the children will still help lead Worship at 5:30 pm through their Children's Christmas program. In addition to the Lord's Supper, we will tell the story of Christmas through Christmas Carols at 7:30 pm. The 11 pm Service of Worship will be Christmas Carol Communion. And we will work on opening the Lord's Table to Children every month and every time we break the bread and share the cup.

Pastor Gary

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Stewardship Campaign Update

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that we had a successful Stewardship Sunday on Nov. 4. We received 46 pledges, which represents 80 percent of the total pledges that we received in last year for the 2012 pledge campaign. The Stewardship study *Enough* by Adam Hamilton was wonderfully inspiring and reminds us all of the joy of giving generously. This level of participation is greatly appreciated – one for which the Finance Committee would like to say *thank you!* These pledges will go a long way in helping us fund our programs in 2013.

However, this does not end our Stewardship Campaign for 2013. We are hopeful we can still meet or exceed the number of pledges we received for 2012. If you have not yet made a pledge, there is still plenty of time to do so. You can complete a form and leave it in the church office, place a pledge card in the offertory plate on at a Sunday service, or send Betsy Newman a pledge via e-mail (jvnehn42@aol.com). Any of these approaches will work and would be much appreciated.

The important thing is to make a pledge so the Finance Committee will have your commitment for next year and can finish its financial planning. We have rich tradition of offering a diverse collection of wonderful programs, and we look forward to continuing that tradition in 2013.

Many thanks to everyone who has already made a pledge for 2012, and thanks in advance to those who will be making their pledge shortly.

Ellen Fritz



Earth-friendly penny bags and an Advent mission project.....BUMW is on the move!

Thanks to all who sewed reusable cloth bags for penny collection by our children each Sunday. Thanks also to Donna Pitz for the creative idea. We appreciate Pastor Gary introducing them in worship and giving our children a lesson in taking care of the earth by reducing use of plastic bags. The children and anyone in the congregation are welcome to take a bag home, fill it with coins and bring it back for the weekly collection.

On Saturday December 1, Debbie Nemetz will host an Advent brunch at her home @ 11 am. All women of the church are invited. You are welcome to bring a favorite holiday food that is part of your family tradition to share. Don't forget to bring copies of the recipe to share as well.

At the brunch we'll share in an Advent devotion and mission project called "Poor, Young and Pregnant: Mary's Advent." This involves making birthing kits to be distributed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to communities around the world, helping to create a safer world for women and their children.

Please contact Debbie or me for more information. Hope you will consider joining our creative supportive fellowship!

Carol Cherry

Support for Philadelphia Area United Methodist Groups

- **United Methodist Neighborhood Services** - we will be collecting hats, scarves, and mittens and hang them on our Mitten Tree by Sunday, December 3rd.
- Toys, games, and books for children, as well as gift cards for their mothers go to the **Methodist Home for Children**. Tricia Klem from their Development Department said that they are serving 400 more children than last year. A full list of toys and gifts is available in the Narthex.

For **Mount Zion United Methodist Church** we collect toys for children and toiletries for adults, especially men. We take these to Mt. Zion to be given out during their Christmas party for people in their neighborhood who live in shelters.

Children's December Activities

Children's Advent Fair:

On the morning of December 2nd we will be having our annual Advent Fair. We will meet in Schieck Hall for a light breakfast and then each family will be making an Advent Wreath. A booklet of devotions for the Advent season will be sent home to read as they share in the "lighting" of their Advent Wreath. It is sure to be a fun time!

Hanging of the Greens:

On the afternoon of December 2nd we will be having our "Hanging of the Greens". The Sunday School children will be helping to decorate the doors in the hallway. Everyone is invited to help decorate the church, followed by dinner, and carols. The time is from 3 until 6.

December Club Berwyn:

Club Berwyn will be Friday, December 14th from 6:45-9:30. We will have fun playing games, rehearsing for the play, and watching a movie...probably Muppets Christmas Carol...or an equally good holiday movie! Snacks and drinks will be provided! Any which way, we will be having FUN while our mom's and dad's finish "tying up some loose bows"!!

Sunday School in December:

Each Sunday in December we will be preparing for the Christmas Program so please try to have your kids attend Sunday School so they will be really comfortable with the play on Christmas Eve. (5:30 Service) It is a fun play with several speaking parts for which I'll need the big kids! Our dress rehearsal will be on Sunday December 23, time TBD.

Heifer Project:

The children are very close to their goal of the Gift Ark for Heifer International. Please consider donating to this worthwhile cause through the BUMC Gift Alternatives Program. We will be selling the "Hugs in a Mug" gift after each Sunday Service while supplies last.

Each child in Sunday School has been given an Ark Bank to collect change at home. They will be collected January 27th. They are excited about collecting the loose coins from the couch, or from visiting relatives. Let's keep moving towards our Gift Ark as we have just over \$500 left to raise.



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Our annual Christmas Brunch will be held on Sunday, Dec. 16th. It will be held in Schieck Hall immediately following the Chancel Choirs' special cantata at the 10:30am service.

The menu will feature both breakfast and lunch items. Here is a sampling: an egg casserole dish, sausage links, roast pork loin, baked chicken breasts, cheesy potatoes, a salad and assorted desserts.

Reservations for this meal will be taken on Sunday, Dec. 2nd and Dec. 9th. We ask you to please sign up and pay in advance. You can sign up with one of our reservation takers in the narthex after each of the services. The price for the meal is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-10 and free for children under 5.

Reservations may also be called in to the church office. Deadline for sign ups is Wed. Dec. 12th.

Please come hear the choirs' special music and then join with your church family for a very special time of fellowship and good food.

PEPPER CABBAGE

Several people have asked for the recipe for the cabbage salad that was served at the Harvest Dinner. Here it is:

1 head of cabbage (red or green) cut real fine

1 medium onion chopped fine

1/2 green pepper diced

1 cup celery chopped

2 cups sugar

1/2 teaspoon celery seed

1 teaspoon mustard seed 1 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup vinegar

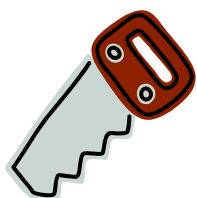
Place first 4 ingredients into a bowl. Combine the next 5 ingredients and mix with the cabbage mixture. Chill. Will keep for several days in the refrigerator.

MISSION WORK ABROAD

Several members from BUMC will be headed abroad in January to do mission work. Jan and Paul Polasky, Dick and Claudia Sharpless, Nancy Atchison, Carolyn Shaw, Dick Rood and Rick Stoker will be headed to Merida, Mexico with Discovery Services Project. Brian and Tom Walker will be headed to Guatemala with a group from Tennessee for Volunteers in Mission.

The Discovery Services group will be doing finishing work at a Seminary in Merida. The structure was built by DSP several years ago but was never finished. We will be pulling wire, plastering interior walls, building interior walls, tiling floors, painting, installing plumbing and bathroom fixtures. This building when originally built was meant to be a men's dormitory. Needs have changed and now we will be adding walls and making the building into married student apartments.

Brian and Tom will be continuing work on a school where Brian and Phil worked last year. This year they will be adding another classroom and latrines to the school.



SAVE THE DATE:

Tools for Ministry 2013, the annual training session for church leaders sponsored by the Central District, will be held on January 26, 2013, at Lansdale United Methodist Church, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes on many subjects will be offered, and there will be something for everyone. More details will be shared when they are available.

Contact: John Paylor for more information.



D.A.R.T. (Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team)

This fall we are continuing sponsoring parent sessions open to the public and our latest session will be held on November 27th at 7pm. The topic is **Keeping our children safe - Internet Safety**. An evening with Mary McCoy, Sr. Supervisory Special Agent from the PA Office of Attorney General. Information on the legal aspects of social networking: i.e. bullying and social media sites. What can parents do to keep their children safe?

D.A.R.T. also wants our congregation to be aware of **ARCH (Area Residents Caring and Helping, Inc.)** We are a coalition of parents, educators and community members committed to promoting the well being of youth in Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships. We serve as a resource to families as they help their children form a positive self-image, make healthy choices, and reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD). ARCH has monthly meetings. More info on their website: www.archcares.org

There is a new service available to help young people with various issues. The new center in Rosemont is called The New Leaf Club,
1225 Montrose Ave, Rosemont, PA 19010
Ph: 610-525-1711
info@newleafclub.org

The New Leaf Club is a non -profit education and entertainment youth center dedicated to assisting young people connect to their whole, healthy, and artistic self.

A center for today's youth to socialize in a healthy and energizing environment.
A space for dances and musical performances.
An exhibition hall for student art shows.
and so much more...

The New Leaf Club also offers programs that further awareness and promote healing from a number of issues that affect teens and adults. We offer healthy alternatives to pervasive problems such as chemical dependency, depression and eating disorders.

Are you "Standing in the Need of Prayer?"

It can be your mother, or your father, or your sister, or your brother, or a friend.

The prayer chain of Berwyn United Methodist Church is available to all. Intercessory prayer, that is a prayer offered for others, has been a part of the Christian church from the beginning. Christ, when he was dying on the cross, offered the most famous example of intercessory prayer, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Your prayers can be expressions of joy, thanksgiving, petition, or concern. They can be offered in the deep of night or during the chaos of the day. When directed to God, our heavenly father, we know he hears---a name, a sentence, or the outpourings of a broken heart. Just contact the pastor, the church office, or Ann West and your name will put on the prayer list. If you would like a note of encouragement for you or for whomever you put on the prayer chain, be sure to include a name and an address. Once a name is added to the prayer chain, the name will be included in the church worship bulletin so that the wider church family can include the name in their prayers.

Recently the prayer chain has added an additional way of making contact. A prayer request can be sent to: prayerrequest@berwynumc.org.

BUMNS—Berwyn United Methodist Nursery School

During the month of November the children of BUMNS focus on the gift of being thankful. Thankful for our families, food, faith, and the wonderful country we live in. Lessons during the month of November are centered on the Pilgrims and Native American Indians first Thanksgiving feast. The children create art projects depicting colorful turkeys, corn and fall leaves.

The 5 Day children toured a Lenape Reservation at the Tyler Arboretum. The children were introduced to the customs of the Lenape's and participated in Lenape activities.

The classes will be sharing a Thanksgiving feast. Each child is responsible for bringing in a food item to share. The individual classes will bake corn bread; make Jell-O and apple crisp together. The children have been busy creating Pilgrim hats and Native American Indian necklaces, vests and headbands to wear to their individual feasts.

As teachers, we are thankful for the wonderful children we have been blessed with in our classes. The children are thoughtful, courteous and kind to one another. We couldn't be prouder!

Thank you to our BUMNS families who have generously supported Berwyn United Methodist mission projects. Personal items, toys, clothing and food have all been donated to the church during the months of October and November.

A MESSAGE FROM MECCA (Membership and Congregational Care)

During hurricane Sandy, did you lose power, have a tree come down in your driveway, get water in your basement?? Do not feel alone - or powerless. There are many people in our congregation who are willing and able to help you clear your tree so you can get out again, bring over their shop vacuum and help dry out your basement. The church is a warm and welcoming center if you lose power (if the church has power). You can put your freezer items in the freezer and perishables in the refrigerator (as long as everything is labeled and dated). If you have no power, you can bring over your hair dryer and dry your hair, getting warmed up at the same time. We want you to remember that the church is there for you. Call, text, e-mail or drive over to let us know how BUMC can help. There are many resources within our congregation to lend a hand. That's what Berwyn United Methodists are all about.

LAY LEADER LETTER

Publication deadlines require that I write this before our recognition of Laity Sunday, dedication of the UMW World Thank Offering, and celebration of our favorite hymns on November 18, but when you read this, that day will be a memory. It represents a unique day of celebration.

Our church calendar provides for an annual recognition of the work of the laity, and lay men and women play a central and essential role in the United Methodist Church. In our church constitution and the Discipline, the rule book for our denomination, laity are called to be active advocates of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to carry out the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations. Laity are expected to take essential leadership in the work of our church.

The structure of the United Methodist Church places many responsibilities on laity, both in the local church and in the wider denomination. Our local churches function through the work of lay men and women in many capacities. Annual, Jurisdictional and General Conferences, the governing bodies of the church representing roughly state, regional and international areas, provide for equal representation of laity and clergy. Our United Methodist Church is governed by, as well as for, lay men and women, working with Clergy persons for the good of all and the coming of Christ's kingdom.

It is appropriate that we have chosen this year to recognize the contributions of the laity through a hymn sing. Joining in song is one of the best and most powerful ways for laity to participate directly in worship.

Music and singing, from inspiring oratorios to majestic hymns, from songs of faith to songs of commitment, from melodious spirituals to simple praise songs, have been a part of the Methodist movement since the beginning. John Wesley instructed his followers to learn hymns and songs and to sing lustily and with good courage, modestly, and, above all, spiritually. Charles Wesley, his brother, published over 6,000 hymns, many of which remain as favorites today. It is through music that we Methodists most abundantly express our faith.

It is also appropriate that we celebrate laity day with the dedication of the World Thank Offering of our United Methodist Women. Missions work is a focus of the United Methodist Church, and the UMW World Thank Offering supports missions work in all 50 states and in almost 100 different countries.

So there are many reasons to remember the celebrations we experienced on November 18. They represent the basis and spirit of our church.

† † † †

This will be my last Lay Leader's Letter. My three-year term as your Lay Leader is ending this month. It has been my honor and privilege to have served you these three years, and to communicate regularly with you through this column. I have tried to inspire, educate and motivate, and yes, amuse, you through these words. I now turn the reins of this job over to David Adams, who has been elected to succeed me as Lay Leader, and will continue to serve with Janet Campbell.

John Paylor

News items of interest to members of BUMC

The members of the **Staff Parish Relations Committee** invite the congregation to contribute to the 2012 Staff Recognition Holiday Fund provided for the dedicated employees of the Berwyn United Methodist Church. Please place your contribution in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Please mark the memo field of your check or the envelope as "Staff Recognition".

Thank you for demonstrating your appreciation to the BUMC staff.

The **Shared Bible Study** class is discussing the Kerygma study, KNOWING GOD.

"The Scriptures are full of questions God's people had about their Creator. Can we trust God to be loving, fair and just? How can we know the unknowable God?"

Join us in this challenging study. Everyone is welcome.

Alternative Gifts: What can you give the person who has everything, or at least who has 'enough'? How about supporting a small business start-up for a former street child in Kenya, groceries for local families in need, after-school programming for children in Philadelphia or a winter coat for a child in Oklahoma? These and many other gifts will be available through the BUMV Gift Alternatives Program this year. A donation box and gift cards will be available in the Narthex from Nov. 25 through Dec. 23.

From the office: The HIPAA Law prevents hospitals from calling the church./ If you are aware of anyone in the hospital, please contact the church office 610-644-5555 or Pastor Jacabella at 484-318-6389.

DECEMBER

Narthex Greeter

Dec 2 Judy Fisk

Dec 9 Maxine Jex

Dec 16 Jack Campbell

Dec 23 Sue Farina

Dec 30 TBA

Flower Delivery

Jane McDowell

Maxine Jex

Jack Campbell

Sue Farina

TBA

Thank You

We are extremely grateful for the support shown our family in the form of prayers, comments and cards in the recent passing of Howard "Howdy" Williams. Your expressions of kindness provided great comfort to the Williams family.

Thank you so much for being there.

Mabel, Wendi, Gene Carol, and Marsha

Sincere thanks to Pastor Gary and church members for prayers, visits, cards, notes, gifts, food, and calls, during my recovery from knee replacement. I am doing very well and really appreciate all the caring and thoughtfulness. Doris Krug

Dear Friends, Thank you for the many cards and notes that we received on our 54th wedding anniversary. You made our day special. We do not know what the future holds, but we know WHO holds the future. Fondly, Joan and David Myers

Dear BUMC Family,

Thank you so very much for your kind expressions of care and concern for me following my recent surgery. I certainly can feel the vibes of your thoughts and prayers as I move along the road to recovery. Your support has been a blessing for Bob and me. Gratefully, Marge Smink

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: Dec. 14

The Lighted Cross is published monthly (except in July and August) to spread the good news about the activities of Berwyn United Methodist Church. Chairs and members of committees are invited to submit articles to inform the congregation about events and the work of the church. Individuals are invited to submit cards of thanks and brief items of interest about congregation members. Submit items to kristineadamspc@verizon.net by the end of the day Friday, Dec. 14. The next issue is scheduled to be delivered by postal mail by Dec 1, and an electronic version will be available earlier on the church website.



Church Phone:
610-644-5555

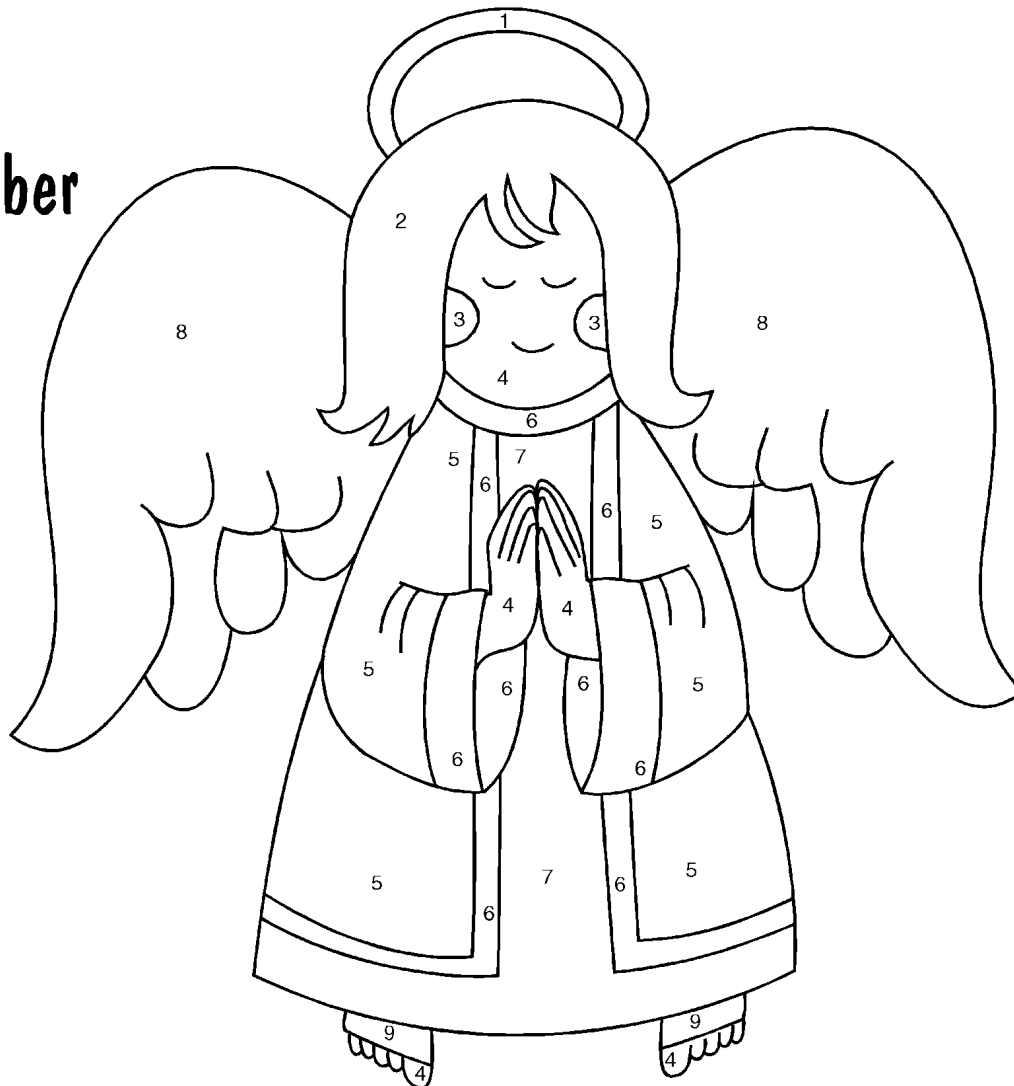
Office E-mail:
officebumc@comcast.net

Church Website:
berwynumc.org

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m-2 p.m.

Christmas Color-by-number

- 1=Gold
- 2=Black
- 3=Light Red
- 4=Skin color
- 5=Green
- 6=Dark Blue
- 7=Light Blue
- 8=Grey
- 9=Brown



Peace Word Jumble

Peace			have	leave	said	with	this	you	to	my	you	peace	so		that	give	in	to	me	you	you	
may	do	have	not	peace	give	In	to	the	you	world	as	you	the	face	world	persecution	gives	But				
Do	take	not	courage	let		your	have	hearts	conquered	be	the	troubled	world									

Starting with the first word, write it and every other word in the blanks below. Read the verse.

_____ , _____

_____ . _____

_____ . _____

_____ . _____

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled. John 14:27

Now start with the second word and write every other word in the blanks below. Read this verse.

_____ , _____

_____ . _____

_____ . _____

_____ ; _____

John 16:33

I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world! John 16:33

Our Mission Statement

God calls Berwyn UMC to be a community

Of Christian believers that:

Invites ~ Nurtures ~ Encourages Service

Sunday Morning Worship

8:30 AM	Early Worship
9:15 AM	Sunday School for all Ages
10:30 AM	Worship

Berwyn United Methodist Church
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Fax: 610-644-7890
Email: officebumc@comcast.net
Web: berwynumc.org

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