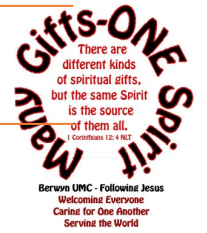




# THE LIGHTED CROSS

## BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



### December 2017 Newsletter

#### Inside this Issue:

- Worship Events
- Church Brunch
- UMW
- Mission
- Prison Ministry
- Results from Summit & Leadership Retreat

#### December Calendar

- Dec 2 UMW Advent Fellowship
- Dec 3 "Angels Among Us" Worship series begins; BUMNS kids sing 10:30am
- Dec 16 "Angels in the Outfield" Movie
- Dec 17 Christmas Brunch
- Dec 24 Advent & Christmas Eve



#### 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



### UPCOMING WORSHIP EVENTS

Please be sure to mark your calendars and spread the word about upcoming worship opportunities at Berwyn United Methodist Church.

- **Sunday, December 3, First Sunday of Advent.** New Worship Series "Angels Among Us" begins, Nursery School children will sing at 10:30 am service.
- **Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve.** There will only be one Morning Worship Service at 10:30am. Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Lessons & Carols at 7:30pm.
- **Sunday, December 31, 8:30am & 10:30am** Worship Services. We will conclude the "Angels Among Us" Worship Series.



#### **Be Ready! Matthew 25:1-13**

"And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came ..."  
(Matthew 25:10a, NRSV)

The gospel blues song, "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning," often springs to mind when I encounter this parable. Attributed by many scholars to Texas bluesman Blind Willie Johnson, his original recording paints a vibrant picture of this scripture! Indeed, we must be ready, for Jesus comes to us in surprising and unexpected ways.

In the months of November and December it is easy to get so wrapped up in preparations for Advent and Christmas that we can miss out on what God is doing in the world right now. Even though we are busy looking to the future, Jesus continues to work in the world through us in the present. The Spirit continues to guide us in our worship artistry and God's dreams for the world continue to be realized! Therefore, we must not neglect attending to the means of grace in our lives, lest we be too busy, or so sleepy, that we miss a holy visitation.

May we remain awake to welcome the bridegroom as we feed those who hunger, give water to those who thirst, clothe those who are naked, and visit those who are imprisoned.

#### Prayer

Jesus, we know that you are always amongst us and that your reign breaks out in the most surprising and sometimes scandalous ways. Help us be awake to your presence! Amen.

Rev. Dr. Timothy Duchesne

## MISSIONS: Christmas Donations *Jeff Barger*

The Missions Committee will be bringing back our "Alternative Gift Giving Program" during the Christmas Season. Keep in mind that the Alternative Gift is a wonderful "Alternative" to an actual present (i.e. Socks, a tie, or fruit basket). Donating money in someone's name to your favorite Mission is the perfect gift to the person who already has enough of everything. Why not make a donation to help individuals and families in need in our local area or help a child receive proper education in Kenya on behalf of your favorite Aunt or Uncle? The Alternative Gift just might be the most meaningful gift you might give this year. Look for Janelle or Kelly in the Narthex on Sundays in December to assist in your options.

We are presently accepting donations of toys for children, gift and gift cards for mothers and toiletries, new socks, and gloves for the homeless. They will be delivered to Methodist Home for Children, Mt. Zion Methodist Church, and United Methodist Neighborhood Services. Your generosity each year brings such joy and happiness to those who are so less fortunate than us.

The Mission Committee thanks everyone for their generous support the past year and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



## CHRISTMAS BRUNCH *Rick Stoker*

Our annual Christmas brunch will be held on Sun. Dec. 17, 2017 at the conclusion of the 10:30am worship service. It will be held in Schieck Hall.

The brunch will feature both breakfast and lunch items. Eggs, sausage, French toast or pancakes, meat, potatoes, vegetable, salad and assorted desserts. The cost of the meal will be \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 6-10 yrs. old and free for children 5 and under. Reservations are required for this meal. Reservations will be taken on Sun. Dec. 3 & 10<sup>th</sup> or you can call the church office no later than 12 noon on Wed. Dec. 13.

We look forward to serving you a good meal and having a time of good fellowship. We hope you can come and that you will invite a neighbor or friend. See you there.

## FAITHFUL STEWARDS *Liz Young*

This month, we honor a mother and son team as our Faithful Stewards. **Stephanie and Jeremy Borrelly** are active in many aspects of BUMC. Most importantly, they are instrumental in the happenings of the Fall Festival. Stephanie helps to solicit, organize, and present all the items for the festival. She also serves as an usher.

Jeremy picks up Fall Festival donations and drops them off at the church. He also maintains our Remembrance Garden. In 2018, Jeremy will serve on our Board of Trustees.

They will tell you there are many hands helping with the Fall Festival, but their hands are always busy helping too! The next time you see them, please tell them how much they are appreciated.



UMW Advent Fellowship  
Saturday, December 2, 2017  
9 am in the church library  
Bring a breakfast item to share.



Ideas? Questions? Comments?

See *Carol Cherry*

carolcherry19@gmail.com



## New Worship Series: Angels Among Us

Starting Sunday December 3rd  
Join us in Worship at  
for the  
8:30 am Early Morning  
Worship or the  
10:30 am Traditional  
Worship Service

The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point—their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring #morehope, #morepeace, #morejoy, and #morelove to the world.

## ANGELS IN THE OUT-FIELD *Rick Stoker, Adult Council*

The Advent sermon series is “Angels Among Us.” To go along with this theme the Adult council will be hosting a movie night on Sat. evening Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be watching the movie “Angels in the Outfield.” The movie will begin at 7PM, either in the library or narthex. The adult council will supply the popcorn and drink. We hope you will bring the kids, come and enjoy a good movie.



## SOUPY THURSDAY *Rick Stoker*

Soupy Thursday will begin on Thurs. Jan 4th, 2018. It will continue for the rest of January and February. The soup will be ready by 5pm for those of you who would like to take it home. The soup is \$5.00/qt, the fresh baked bread is \$3.00/loaf.

If you want to eat in, the soup is available from 6-7p in Schieck Hall. For those of you eating in there is a free will offering taken for the meal. We have soup, bread, beverages and dessert.

We are a little short on staff this year so if you could help out it would be appreciated. People are needed at 2p to prepare the soup and bake the bread or come at 5p to serve up the soup, set the dining room tables and keep the soup replenished in Schieck Hall. Of course, we always need help with the dishes and clean up at the end of the night. If you are available to help in any of these spots please give Rick Stoker a call.

### Looking ahead:

All Supper Club potluck dinner  
– Sat. Feb. 10, 2018 6PM

## PRISON MINISTRY PROJECT

*John Paylor*

A few years ago we worked with our sister churches in our Mission Connection to outfit a small meeting room in the Women's Facility of the Montgomery County Prison to make it into an inviting place for inmate mothers to visit with their children. The room was brightened with fresh paint, a small, colorful rug, toys and children's books, and attractive furniture designed to make children feel welcomed and comfortable.

We now have been given the opportunity to do the same thing in the Men's Facility, for inmate fathers to visit with their children. The churches participating in this project are Wayne, St. Matthews, Paoli, Valley Forge and Berwyn. Each church's share of the cost is \$225.00. If you would like to help with this project, please send your contribution to the church office, marked “Prison Project.” If you have questions or would like more information, please contact John Paylor, [jlpaylor@verizon.net](mailto:jlpaylor@verizon.net); [610-889-3286](tel:610-889-3286).



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

The classes shared a Thanksgiving feast. Each child was responsible for bringing in a food item to share. The individual classes will baked corn bread; made Jell-O and apple crisp together. The children created 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!

We are thankful for the unending support from Berwyn United Methodist Church.

## **RESULTS FROM SUMMIT & LEADERSHIP RETREAT** *David Adams*

Several weeks ago we held a church wide Imagine the Future Summit where members of Berwyn UMC discussed the things we love about our church and what we have learned from our church experiences. There was then a second meeting for Church Leadership to discuss the responses and set some strategic goals for our congregation.

The process we used is called Appreciative Inquiry. This model is based on the assumption that the questions we ask will focus our attention in a particular direction and evolve in the direction of the questions most persistently and passionately ask. Instead of assessing and evaluating based on questions such as "What are the problems?", "What's wrong?" or "What needs to be fixed?". The focus is on the positive by asking "What is working?" or "Who are We?"

Out of this discussion we asked "What is our purpose?" As a group we came up with this as our new purpose statement:

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

Our summit showed us that as a congregation we view our Core Values as: Caring, Mission/Service, Friendship, Love and Inclusiveness.

We set a few goals and outcomes for us to move towards:

- Better use of Facilities for Community and become central to the community (goal)
- Greater interaction between generations, connection and acceptance (goal)
- Include Youth in Worship/More young people (Outcome)
- Financial Stability (Outcome)

We brainstormed some specific ideas to help us achieve our goals. A few of the idea we have come up with so far include:

1. Opening Schiek Hall to youth after sports games, include bands for school. Become a gathering place for after-sport events of local high school by September 2018
2. Front Lawn Community Focused Events on 1st Sunday. We have already started this by having a Service of Celebration and Remembrance in November and this month we held a Christmas Carol Sing Along.
3. Intergenerational Events linking groups together involving cooking, HUB work (service hours), mentoring, nursery School, etc.
4. Plan around the specific demographics of our congregation.
5. Cooperative Ministries
  - Strengthen Relationships with other area churches for cooperative ministries.
6. Enhance Cyber/Social Media Connections

We encourage all members to help us achieve these goals and welcome all input to grow BUMC and heed God's call.

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

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.” John Wesley

The last few months we have helped many people in a variety of ways. Cleaning Buckets are still in demand. In November, children from Berwyn United Methodist Nursery School put together some buckets for us. It was a wonderful exercise for them to use their counting skills! Counting clothespins and unraveling trash bags seemed to be the favorite tasks of the day! We really appreciate BUMNS for helping us out.

- *Community Action Team*



**Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff**

Pastor: Tim Duchesne

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: David Adams

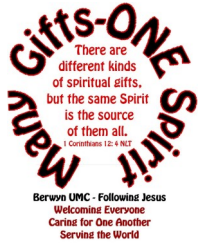
Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

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

Like us on Facebook: Berwyn UMC

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

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