

THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Inside this Issue:

- Pastor's Letter
- Lay Leader Letter
- Soupy Thursdays
- Finance
- Ministry Teams

Calendar Highlights

- December 20—
Lessons & Carols
online
- December 24—
Christmas Eve service
online



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

FACEBOOK:
BUMCservice

INSTAGRAM: bumcares

YOUTUBE: Berwyn UMC

WEBSITE:
www.berwynumc.org



HUB SERVICE CONTINUES *Gina DeFlavia*

Back in June Saint Miriam Church in Flourtown reached out to The HUB at Berwyn United Methodist Church for help with their Blessing Bag Program.

We were able to donate some supplies and “plarn” crocheted sleeping mats this summer. In November we were able to make another donation of more sleeping mats and non perishable food items.

Saint Miriam Parish is always looking for financial donations and have several links for giving. Please give some thought and prayer for assistance if you are able. They are so very grateful for anything our congregation can do to help. Go to this website to learn more about this worthwhile mission <https://mysaintmiriam.org/wp/bleasing-bags>.

Contact Gina DeFlavia at deflavia@hotmail.com if you have any questions or if you would like to coordinate a donation.



PASTOR LETTER

Dear Friends –



It is hard to believe that the season of Advent is already upon us! It has truly been a challenging and memorable year. As we reflect on this past year and look toward all that 2021 will certainly bring us – let us not forget the importance of this Advent season and all it signifies. This time of year is often filled with so many stresses and preparation that it can be difficult to stay centered and focused on the true purpose of this season – a celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When I inevitably find myself feeling pulled in many different directions throughout the Christmas season, I find comfort in reflecting on scripture:

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” - Matthew 24:42

“Be on guard! Be alert!” - Mark 13:33

“Be always on the watch, and pray” – Luke 21:36

As these passage from scripture reflect, Advent begins with a call to vigilance. There are numerous scripture passages that call us to this vigilance and anticipation of the Lord’s coming; these are only a few. Being vigilant means, also, that we are prepared. We are not caught off guard. Imagine if Christmas morning came and you woke up suddenly realizing that you forgot to prepare! Imagine if you had no gifts, no food purchased, and no plans were made. Of course, you would not allow that to happen, but we do sometimes allow it to happen spiritually. We often are not prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ within our hearts.

The first week of Advent also offers the focus of the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus will return, in all splendor and glory, to judge the living and the dead. So, even though Advent is a time for the preparation of the celebration of the first coming of Jesus in the flesh, it is also a time to acknowledge that His first coming is ultimately fulfilled in His final glorious coming.

As Advent begins, reflect upon how ready you are for Jesus’ coming. Are you preparing for it with the same persistence that you prepare for Christmas through shopping, cooking, and decorating? Are you looking forward to that day when He will return? Are you preparing for the spiritual celebration of His birth? Are you awake and attentive to the numerous ways that God is speaking to you daily?

Friends, may we use this Advent season as a time to prepare our hearts. Let us commit to prayer, spiritual exercises, reflection, and attentiveness to His gentle and glorious voice.

I pray that you and your loved ones have a joyous and healthy Advent season!

Pastor Rodney

Soupy Thursday

Jan. 7 - Chicken Noodle
Jan. 14 - Cream of Broccoli
Jan. 21 - Vegetable Beef
Jan. 28 - Corn Chowder

TAKE OUT ONLY from 5 pm to 6:30pm.
MASKS REQUIRED
Soup will be \$5.00/Qt (please bring your own container)
Fresh Baked Bread \$3.00/loaf



This has been an odd year for all of us. The losses in our church family have been heart breaking. In all of the pain and turmoil of the year we, together, are still a strong church. Your outreach to Jack and me has helped on many a day. Your phone calls emails and notes and even some goodies to eat have filled our hearts. I am still doing PT and it is moving along with your thoughts and prayers. Thank you dear friends and a blessed holiday season to all. Be safe and be careful.

Love, Janet



WELCOME TO 2021

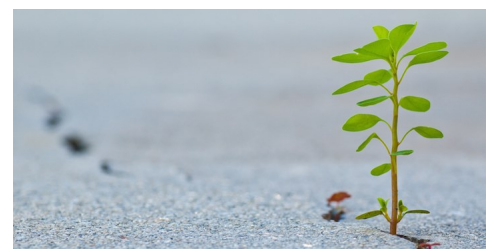
The gift of newness is a particular feature of how God pulls us forward. So, the dawning of new year '21 will be greeted with hope especially considering the multiple challenges of year 2020. It's not news that Berwyn Church likewise has been challenged financially.

We're fortunate to have both expertise and commitment in the people of the Finance Team, including treasurer John Paylor, counters Barb Stockler and Betsy Newman, along with Kristine Adams, Sally Bridwell, Rosalie Hart, Janelle Larsen, Lee Paylor, Carol Williams and Pastor Brailsford. Veronica Mosley serves as Finance Secretary. The group has worked tirelessly through the year and have several thoughts for the church community at year's end.

It's important for you to know that operationally, we've endured deficit spending in recent years, where we've not had sufficient income to support expenses. At the same time, this year we were fortunate to be approved for a federal CARES Act, Paycheck Protection Plan forgivable loan, largely due to the hours spent by John Paylor on the application process. This provided about \$95,000 that supported the payroll for both the church and the Nursery School. Therefore, we've been able to manage financially for the year. You'll understand that without such a cushion in 2021 we'll have to balance our finances with critical and necessary ministry and mission in different ways.

There is the need for every church family member to take part in the full life of the community for it to work. Sure, your financial participation is anticipated and needed, and reaching out to you for financial commitments is happening now but your engagement is needed in other ways too. The newly approved church structure will feature ways for any and all of you to participate in special efforts for which you may have deep passion. This is a major way that the congregation faces the new year with NEW IDEAS of being the church of Christ. Watch for announcements and invitations to get on board.

Happy New Year
Steven Cherry





Jane Harris

December 2020 is finally upon us! December can be dark and cold outside but the nursery school is always full of light and warmth especially at this time of year. The children have been telling us what they are thankful for, it is always interesting to hear what young children appreciate in their lives, family is very important to them. Unfortunately, we are not able to come together and have our traditional holiday show this year. We will miss the happy faces of the children as they perform for their families and the happy tears in the eyes of their parents but we are hoping we will be able to record the children singing holiday songs and share with our families on YouTube, we just won't be able to see the tears! We feel it is important to try and maintain these traditions in some form and this year has taught us that we are all good problem solvers and can find a way!

The Nursery School would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year.



Berwyn United Methodist Church is committed to serving its members and its community. If you or a loved one needs assistance with grocery shopping or anything else, please contact the church office and we will make sure you get the help you need. Also, please let us know of any prayer concerns and as always share your joys with us! We want to know how you are doing. Office email is officebumc@comcast.net and church phone number is 610-644-5555.

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Rodney Brailsford

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: Lee Paylor

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

LAY LEADER LETTER

With the packing/moving boxes, there's no room for our tall beautiful Christmas tree. We still have a small table for a table-top tree. The furniture where I placed my various creches are not here. But I can place one on the top of the bookcase. We can still hang the stockings on the bannister...though they will be mostly empty as we are not going into shops and finding the "perfect" gift.

Christmas will be different for all of us this year. Let us remember Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Teacher, our Shepherd.

"Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed; Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall. With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy."

The Methodist Hymnal, page 250

"For all the blessings of the year, For all the friends we hold so dear,

For peace on earth, both far and near, We thank thee, O Lord.

For life and health, those common things, Which every day and hour brings,

For home, where our affection clings, We thank thee, O Lord.

For love of thine, which never tires, Which all our better thought inspires,

And warms our lives with heavenly fires, We thank thee, O Lord."

The Methodist Hymnal, page 525

Merry Christ-mas !

Blessings and peace,

Lee Paylor

MINISTRY TEAMS

Recently Church Council voted to restructure how the church's committees are set up. These changes are to help us accomplish Berwyn UMC's mission which is we believe God has CALLS us to Care, Accept, Laugh, Love and Serve our community.

Starting in January members will be able to sign up for the ministry teams of their choice. By calling committees "ministry teams" the goal is to focus more on the work and less on meetings.

Listed below are some of the Ministry Teams that are critical to Worship & Communications. More details of all the Ministry Teams will be coming in 2021.

- **Altar Flowers** –purchase and install altar flowers for weekly services
- **Communion Elements** – prepare bread and juice for communion services
- **Friday Volunteers** –prepare sanctuary for worship services
- **Liturgists** –participate in worship services by reading scripture and assisting the pastor
- **8:30 Worship assistants** – make sure the sanctuary is open and ready for worship
- **Ushers** – greet attendees, collect offering, offer & collect prayer cards, assist Pastor if needed
- **Seasonal decorations** – prepare and decorate sanctuary for Advent, Christmas, Easter and other special services. Change out worship accessories for proper colors for the liturgical calendar.
- **Candles** – keep oil in altar candles, maintain candle lighters, make sure we have candles for the pew candle holders for Christmas, Easter and other special occasions and individual candles for All Saint's Day and for congregants for Christmas Eve service.
- **Supply pastors** – greet pastors who are substituting for our pastor and make sure they know what is expected, including help with microphones and lecterns and how our services usually flow.
- **Recognition of our graduates each year**
- **Lighted Cross newsletter** – assist in writing articles for the church newsletter
- **Photography** – take pictures of church services and events for newsletter, website and social media
- **Social Media** – assist in creating content for social media platforms – Facebook and Instagram
- **Website** – assist in creating content and design of church website



TRUNK OR TREAT 2020 was a rousing success! On October 17 we had a steady stream of families for 90 minutes. We were thanked by multiple families for hosting the event. For some of our young friends our Trunk or Treat was the only trick or treating they would do. Thank you to everyone who decorated their trunk and donated candy. Start thinking of themes for your car for 2021!!





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

Subscribe to our channel on YouTube: Berwyn UMC

Follow on Instagram: bumcares

Like us on Facebook: Berwyn UMC

www.berwynumc.org

Email: officebumc@comcast.net

Fax: 610-644-7890

Church Office: 610-644-5555

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 701
SOUTHEASTERN PA

Berwyn United Methodist Church
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Berwyn, PA 19312