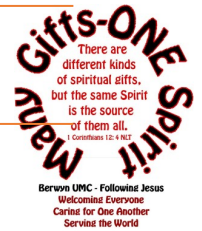




# THE LIGHTED CROSS

## BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



February 2016

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Look Ahead!

Feb 10—Ash Wednesday

Feb 13—Valentine Dinner hosted by Supper

Feb 20—"What do I say to people who are hurting?"

Feb 28-Enter with Praise/ Scout Sunday

March 13-Mission Pi Day Bake Sale

March 24-Holy Thursday

March 27—Easter Sunday

### PASTOR'S THOUGHTS *Gary Jacobella*

The journey begins on **Ash Wednesday February 10**. We will worship together at 7:30 pm and receive ashes as a sign of our mortality and need for Life that comes from God our Creator. The Journey continues through five **Sundays of Lent**. We will celebrate **Scout Sunday** on February 28. And then on into **Palm/Passion Sunday**. The climax is reached on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. We will come to the cross on **Holy Thursday, March 24** with a Worship Experience of Candlelight and Darkness that begins at 7:30 pm. The fire is relit and the light returns on **Easter Sunday, March 27** with a Sunrise and Baptism Renewal Service of Worship at 6:45 am. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 8:30 am and 10:30 am on Easter Sunday.

Jesus' death is central for those who put their faith and trust in him. Unfortunately, the meaning of Jesus' death has often been reduced to a cut and dried payment for sin understanding. This of course raises the question: to whom was this payment being made?

The New Testament's understanding of Jesus' crucifixion is higher, wider, broader and deeper. Jesus dying is God winning a victory over death. Death is overcome for our sakes. Jesus is exposing the foolishness of destructive powers that come against the one sent by God to be King over all. Jesus dies because powerful rulers wanted him dead and out of the way.

The death of Jesus is not about God taking revenge on anyone but rather God establishing Jesus as the place of mercy where people come to be loved by God. Jesus is not making a payment to God for our sin. Instead, in Jesus God fully enters human suffering. God becomes one of us so that all of us can know that God is with us especially in our experience of suffering and dying. Jesus is an example of how to suffer and overcome. He reigns from the cross. Through it all, God understands our humanity and frail human condition. We look to Jesus to know we are not alone. Death is not a time when God abandons us.

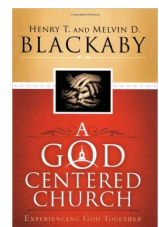
Jesus carries the cross up Calvary hill and is raised up on it to die to show us who God is. Our understanding of God is shaped by the cross. God is like Jesus. The death of Jesus is so radical that it accomplishes something many thought could never happen. God is transformed. The tie that binds humankind to Creator God is strengthened when God goes through dying in Jesus. Has God always been humanlike? Has humankind always been Godlike?

Vindication comes through Jesus' resurrection. The false accusations that condemn the innocent are unmasked. Oppressors have no ally in God. Death cannot hold onto Jesus and so we need not be bound by death. Those who die with Christ are raised with Christ. Jesus not only rises from death, he rises to become King of the world.

There's a lot here to consider and so it's important that we be together for the entire journey through Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Passion Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.



**SHARED BIBLE STUDY** This year the Shared Bible Study Class has selected a book by Henry T. and Melvin D. Blackaby entitled **A GOD CENTERED CHURCH**. Our Church concerns are a part of our weekly study and we expect the Blackaby book to challenge our thinking. "If you've almost given up hope that church can be a place where hearts are united, prayers are answered, and people are readily open to whatever God wants, this could be the book that changes everything." Please join us if you have a heart for Berwyn and are ready to "experience God together". We meet in the Library Sunday at 9:20. Questions? See Keith Fritz



## ALL SUPPER CLUB

### HOSTED EVENT:

Sat. Feb. 13



All the supper clubs will come together to host an event on Saturday, February 13 beginning at 6PM. This event is open to the whole congregation. With this event being just the day before Valentine's Day, why don't you bring your special someone out for an evening of food and fun? If you don't have a special someone come and the whole group will make you feel special.

The night will start off at 6P with appetizers and a potluck supper will commence at 630p. Games will begin at 7:30 and the event will conclude with dessert just before 9PM. One of the games to look forward to will be the Battle of the Sexes, boys against the girls!

Reservations are not necessary but would be appreciated. Please sign up in the narthex on Sun. Jan. 31 or Sun. Feb. 7. See you there.



### Mission Update *Jeff Barger*

The Valentine's Day Bake Sale is being replaced by the Pi Day Bake Sale to honor Donna Pitz. The sale will take place on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The tasty treats available will be pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, bread (Bernie's famous bread) and other treats. As usual everything will be made by the expert bakers of the congregation. Proceeds will go to creating a community garden in honor of Donna to be located on BUMC grounds.



## United Methodist Women

### Celebrate Epiphany

*Carol Cherry*

Our Epiphany brunch on Jan 9 was a great time of fellowship. Twenty-five women including friends from St. Matthew's UMW joined together to make 27 layette kits. These will be delivered to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, awaiting use by the United Methodist Committee on Relief to clothe newborns throughout the world. A big thanks to all who participated and also to all those who donated money and items for the kits. Please check out the UMW page on our church website to see photos from the event: <http://www.berwynumc.org/adults/umwphotos.shtml>



*Kristine Adams and Deb Hazen getting diapers ready for the layette kits. How can you not have fun handling baby items???*



### Children's Program *Cindy Shallcross*

On Sunday December 20th, the congregation enjoyed another wonderful Enter with Praise Sunday Service! The children of the church presented their play entitled This is the Stable written by Cynthia Cotton. The cast did a great job presenting the setting and everything and everyone who witnessed Jesus' birth that first Christmas night!

The first day of Lent will be here before we know it- February 7th! Mark your calendar for this fun event! More information about this event will be forthcoming!

On January 24, the Children's choir sang Halle-Halle-Halle-lujah! during the 10:30 church service! They belted out this uplifting song!

## Mission Opportunities with

### Discovery Service Projects *Rick Stoker*

Discovery Service Projects announces two new upcoming service projects.

April 2016 – for 2 weeks beginning on Sun. April 3 we will be repairing homes that were damaged this past October in the Florence, SC area after they had a week of record rainfall. The approximate cost is \$200/week and will include: lodging at a local UM church, insurance, t-shirt, breakfast and lunch, some evening meals and part of the repair expenses we expect to provide. You must provide your own transportation.

June and July 2016 – Once again DSP will team up with Rice and Beans ministry in Costa Rica to feed the needy and to provide necessary repairs to inadequate housing. Departure is on either June 26 or July 3. The cost per week is approx \$1400 which includes: air, lodging, ground transportation, most meals except travel days, insurance, t-shirt and construction fees.

For more info please see Rick Stoker or contact [www.discoveryserviceprojects.org](http://www.discoveryserviceprojects.org)



**February**

**Soups for Soupy Thursday**

- Feb. 4 - cauliflower cheese soup
- Feb 11 - Tortellini Soup
- Feb 18 - New England Clam Chowder
- Feb 25 - Chicken Corn Chowder

Take outs available each week beginning at 5pm for \$5/quart.  
Eat in is available from 6pm to 7pm, free will donation.

Download from Dreamstime.com

**SUGGESTED READS FROM CHURCH LIBRARY: HEALTH – ADULT COLLECTION**

*Love, Medicine & Miracles: Lessons Learned about Self-Healing from a Surgeon's Experience with Exceptional Patients* by Bernie S. Siegel, c1988 [615.5 Sie]

This remarkable book could be helpful to anyone facing life-threatening illness and to doctors and others ministering to them. The author contends that unconditional love is the most powerful stimulant of the immune system. The truth is – love heals. Miracles happen to exceptional patients every day – patients who have the courage to love and those who have the courage to work with their doctors to participate in and influence their own recovery.

*Peace, Love & Healing: Bodymind Communication & the Path to Self-Healing: an Exploration* by Bernie S. Siegel, c1990 [615.5 Sie]

A sequel to *Love, Medicine & Miracles*, this book show how to use the knowledge that love heals for self-healing. Meditation, visualization and relaxation are suggested as healing methods for our bodies. Modern medicine and self-healing can work together.

**SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN – CHILDREN'S COLLECTION**

*Martin Is Our Friend* by Eveline Hasler, c1981 [J FIC Has] Reading level: Primary

Martin is different from the other children in the neighborhood. He is handicapped. He cannot walk and think as fast as the other children, and they make fun of him. But Martin loves Aurora, the horse which he has learned to ride. One day he rescues Aurora and the other children learn to understand and respect Martin.



**FLOWER & NARTHEX GREETER VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY**

FEBRUARY	FLOWERS
7	Barb Mekenney
14	Jane McDowell
21	Jane McDowell
28	Eliza Chumpitaz

FEBRUARY	NARTHEX GREETERS
7	Judy Fisk
14	Jane McDowell
21	Jane McDowell
28	Romaine Rood

**Next deadline: February 10, 2016 for March 2016 issue**

Please submit items for The Lighted Cross to [kristineadamspc@verizon.net](mailto:kristineadamspc@verizon.net) by the end of the day February 10. The next issue is scheduled to be delivered by postal mail by March 1, and an electronic version will be available earlier on the church website.

**LAY LEADER LETTER** *David Adams*

*I came across this devotional on the blog [www.intheshadowofthebook.blogspot.com](http://www.intheshadowofthebook.blogspot.com) by Richard Earl. I wanted to share this with you for you to meditate on.*

We have difficult decisions to make every day. Usually the Lord has pointed the way rather clearly either through His Word or our circumstances, or the wise counsel of another. But we are still free to choose and must live with the consequences, good or bad.

The Lord never forces our hand. He draws us with cords of kindness, or nudges us along, and will even discipline and correct us at times. But it is always in the context of freedom. I know some folks who hear His voice concerning what they should wear, or eat for lunch. This has been true at times, but this is not where the Lord gets to me most. I find He speaks to me in broader terms, and is pleased when I give Him my singular attention, my thoughts, my emotions, and my purpose.

As you begin this fresh new year take advantage of the freedom we have been given. He has whispered the way, take time to discern His voice and locate the path. It won't always be crystal clear, but we walk by faith not by sight, so go forward with confidence that He is walking with you.



**ENTER WITH PRAISE**

Mark your calendars! Our next Enter with Praise will be Sunday, Feb 28. Rehearsal will be Saturday, Feb 27 at 3:30pm. Bring your instruments and share your musical gift. See Judith Lang for music and if you have any questions.



Like us on facebook!

Are you on facebook? When you log on, type in the search bar Berwyn UMC and Like our page! Stay up to date with what is happening and find out ways to follow our mission of Inviting, Nurturing and Encouraging Service.

# “What Do I Say To People Who Are Hurting?”

A day retreat and workshop about overcoming awkwardness so we can have healing conversations with each other.



Saturday, February 20, 2016 9 am to 3pm

Schieck Hall, Berwyn United Methodist Church



140 Waterloo Ave

This retreat will provide insight needed for difficult conversations with friends and family on topics such as illness, addiction, job loss, divorce and parenting challenges. It takes practice and patience to develop this skill and we will spend time role-playing to learn the concepts we discuss. Our presenter, Laurie Lewis, will provide scripture references for prayer and encouragement and ideas to help you be open and compassionate without depleting your own energy.

The workshop presenter is Laurie Lewis. Laurie is currently serving Doylestown UMC as a Minister of Visitation. She was a Critical Care Nurse (RN) for twenty years before a devastating car accident ended her career. That is when God called her into the Christ Servant Ministry program in the United Methodist Church to specialize in Pastoral Care. She regularly leads seminars and retreats.

The workshop and retreat is open to the community. All are welcome.

## Schedule of the Day

- Registration 8:30 am to 9 am
- Morning Session 9 am to 12 noon
- Lunch 12pm to 1pm (lunch will be provided)
- Afternoon Session 1 pm – 3 pm

Registration required. Please call Berwyn United Methodist Church at 610-644-5555 by Monday, February 15.



*Recordings of Sunday Services are available.*

*Contact Jon Stockler at 610-348-3385 or JStockler@aol.com*

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

Pastor: Gary Jacabella  
Leaders: Janet Campbell & David Adams  
Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley  
Organist/Director of Music: Judith Lang  
Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz  
Sexton: Roger Toro

Children's Coordinator: Cynthia ShallcrossLay  
Church Phone: 610-644-5555  
Office E-mail: officebumc@comcast.net  
Church Website: www.berwynumc.org  
facebook: www.facebook.com/Berwyn UMC

# EASTER LILY ORDERS & LANDSCAPE FUND

Orders are now being taken for lilies to beautify the church sanctuary for Easter morning services of resurrection.

Contributions may be made to the landscape fund



Please use the appropriate order form(s). Make checks payable to BUMC.

Indicate on your check whether it is for Easter Lilies or the Landscape Fund.

Send or bring your order to the church office. The deadline for ordering lilies is March 18.

## ORDER FORM FOR LILIES

I / We wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ lilies \$8.00 each. Check total \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory / Honor / Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

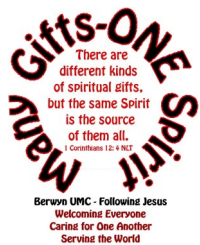


## LANDSCAPE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

I / I/We wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Landscape Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory / Honor / Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_



## 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 | Traditional Worship        |

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

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

Fax: 610-644-7890

Church Office: 610-644-5555

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