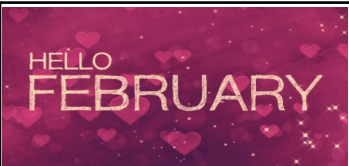




THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Inside this Issue:

- **Pastor's Letter**
- **Mission: Puerto Rico**
- **Lay Leader Letter**
- **Suggested Reading**
- **Potluck Supper**
- **Soupy Thursday**
- **Update on General Conference**

Calendar Highlights

February 12—March Lighted Cross deadline

February 15—Potluck Supper

Feb 26 7pm Ash Wednesday service

Feb 26 Pilgrimage to Jerusalem begins!

March 8 Pi Day Bake Sale

March 15 Feed the 5000 kick off

PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM *Stephanie Borelly*

It is almost that time again to go on our virtual pilgrimage during the Lenten Season. It is **5,782** miles from Berwyn, PA to Jerusalem, Israel. (As a crow flies) If we work together as a congregation, we can complete our journey by Easter.

Our trek will begin on **Ash Wednesday February 26th** as a congregation, we are going to walk to Jerusalem!

This is what I need YOU to do:

1. Lace up your sneakers or comfy walking shoes.
2. Grab your pedometer, iPhone/Android, Fitbit or tracking device and get out there and walk/run!
3. There are **NO** age restrictions – everyone is eligible to participate!!!
4. If you walk at lunch, with co-workers, I accept group counts!!!
5. We want to get everyone involved, so ask your family, friends and colleagues to walk with you.
6. If walking isn't your 'thing' – I can convert laps in the pool, gardening, anything that gets us outside and moving!!

Keep track of every mile you walk and send this information to me **WEEKLY** at Johnborelly@comcast.net or text me at **610.299.6254**. Please get your total to me each Saturday evening or Sunday.

Each week I send out a weekly tally. Once again, I ask that you find sponsors or be a sponsor for our walk. Last year the money collected went to the **United Methodist Services Bridge House**. I am open to donation sugges-



Join Us For Worship

8:30 am Worship

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Traditional Worship

Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Rodney Brailsford

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: Lee Paylor

Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

Organist/Director of Music: Amy McLoughlin

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

Sexton: Roger Toro

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

PASTOR'S LETTER Pastor Rodney Brailsford

It is fitting to speak of love during this time of year. Valentine's Day reminds us of a beautiful bouquet of red roses, decadent chocolates, a romantic dinner, and sweet words shared between loving couples. Our culture celebrates Valentine's Day as a time to remind our companions how we feel about them; how precious they are to us.

In Western society, we tend to associate love with feelings. While feelings are undoubtedly valid and essential, they do not encapsulate the totality of love's expression. Scripture calls us to love one another as Jesus has loved us (John 15:12). How did Jesus love us? He loved us by laying down his life for us – "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jesus not only calls us to feel love for others, but he also appeals to us to demonstrate love by action. The New Testament Greek word for this kind of love is *agape*. *Agape* involves faithfulness, commitment, and an act of the will. It is distinguished from the other types of love by its exalted moral nature and strong character. It is quite different from romantic or erotic love since these kinds of love are subject to change.

Christ calls us to *commit* to loving one another. Paul beautifully captures this truth in the book of Romans: "Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person, someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7-8). Friends, God loves us despite what we deserve, and Jesus has given us life! God is committed to loving us and transforming us into the highest versions of ourselves, taking the risk of being hurt by us to bring about the best for us. What a loving God we serve!

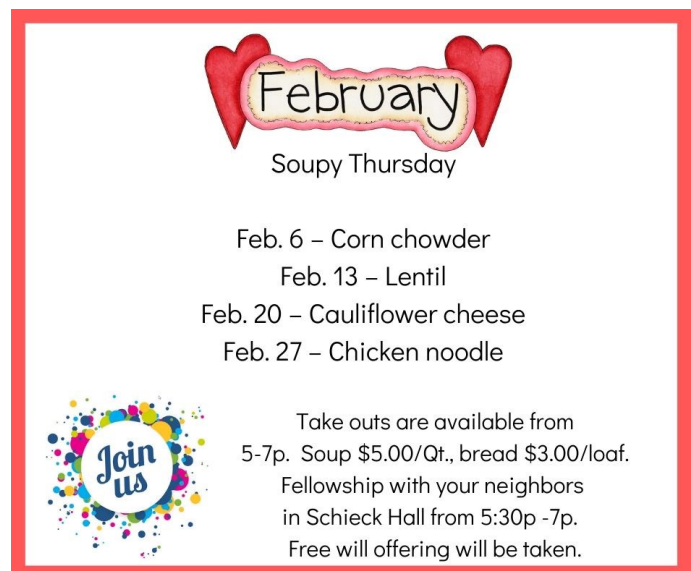
It is no secret that *agape* love does not come naturally to us. So, if we are to love as God loves, it can only come from its source, the Living God. This love that "has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" when we became God's children ([Romans 5:5](#)). Because of God's love toward us, we can love one another. May we spend time in the presence of God, through prayer, and be reminded of God's love for us.


Friends, I pray that we learn to transcend our feelings as the only measure of how we love. May we faithfully commit to loving one another – our friends, our families, our companions, our church family – so that our relationships and, ultimately, the world may be transformed. I pray that God's example of love for us will fill our hearts and transform us during this season. To God be the glory!





**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

There will be a joint Ash Wednesday Service
with Paoli UMC on Wed. Feb 26 at 7pm
at Berwyn UMC
140 Waterloo Avenue




Soup Thursday

Feb. 6 – Corn chowder
Feb. 13 – Lentil
Feb. 20 – Cauliflower cheese
Feb. 27 – Chicken noodle


Take outs are available from
5-7p. Soup \$5.00/Qt., bread \$3.00/loaf.
Fellowship with your neighbors
in Schieck Hall from 5:30p - 7p.
Free will offering will be taken.

PASTOR RODNEY & RICK STOKER COMPLETE MISSION TRIP TO PUERTO RICO *Rick Stoker*

From Sat. Jan. 11 – Fri. Jan. 17 Pastor Rodney and Rick participated in a mission trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was the 3rd week that Discovery Service Projects had worked in partnership with Praying Pelican Missions. The primary goal of the trip was to replace roofs damaged from Hurricane Maria 2 ½ years ago.

Over the 4 days there we replaced the roofs on 4 homes. We had to tear off the old sheet metal, assess the damage to the wood underneath, replace or reinforce rafters and firing strips if necessary and then cover with new sheet metal. The first 2 days went pretty smoothly as the wood was in good condition so we didn't have to replace any wood, just put on new sheet metal. On the third day we came across a house that was in very poor condition. We had to reinforce rafters, add many firing strips before we could put on the new sheet metal. On the 4th day the wood underneath was in good condition but then after we removed the blue tarp we found that every nail had been covered in tar. So we had to dig through the tar before we could remove the nails. Really hard work. After tar and nails were removed we got in a good groove and replaced all the sheet metal. This was also the largest house we worked on.

We stayed at the First Baptist Church in Rio Piedras which is a suburb of San Juan and is the oldest Baptist church in Puerto Rico, founded in 1899. We worshipped with them on Sunday and then in the afternoon we helped them with a drive thru donation of clothing, food and supplies for those affected by the earthquakes on the southside of the island.

Other tasks we did while there. On Monday afternoon we helped inventory all the donated supplies that were at the church. On Tuesday, part of our group helped at the homeless mission that the church sponsored. They painted all the walls in the office for the mission. Wednesday saw part of the group stay at the church and paint some of the Sunday school rooms and dormitory hallway. After the paint dried they helped decorate the Sunday school rooms for the Lent and Easter season. On Thursday, the group went to an elderly bedridden woman's house to help her. They took her a new (used) washer and dryer, new box springs and mattress. They also pressure washed part of the house for her. Part of the team in the previous week had done a thorough cleaning of her house and yard including cutting down a tree. Pastor Rodney and the group prayed over the woman for healing.

Great trip, still much work to do there. Approx. 20,000 homes still need new roofs.



GENERAL CONFERENCE UPDATE: PROTOCOL FOR RECONCILIATION & SEPARATION THROUGH GRACE

Kristine Adams

Friday, January 3rd a news story broke across the country that The United Methodist Church was going to separate. The headlines were jarring and concerning. As many of you know, I am an alternate delegate on the Eastern PA Conference for General Conference and Northeast Jurisdiction. I have been in multiple meetings and phone calls and I can assure you that nothing has happened. There are multiple proposals being brought forth at General Conference in May this year for the global delegates to deliberate and vote regarding the future of the denomination.

Here are some points about this headline making proposal:

- Its name is the **Protocol for Reconciliation and Separation through Grace**. Going forward, it will be referred to as Protocol.
- Bishop John Yambasu of the Sierra Leone Episcopal area formed a group in the summer of 2019 to share ideas about the future of the United Methodist Church. The group is made up of nine different caucuses including Central Conference Bishops, Wesleyan Covenant Association (Traditionalists), UMNNext (Centrists), and Reconciling Ministries Network (Progressives).
- For the past 47 years, The United Methodist Church has struggled unsuccessfully to achieve consensus and compliance with regard to matters of human sexuality. It acknowledges that even in the midst of faithful attempts to stay together, the group feels that we can no longer remain one denomination.
- If the proposal passes General Conference, then annual conferences and local churches will have the opportunity to vote to align with any new denomination if they so choose.
- It allows for the graceful exit of those who consider themselves to be Traditionalist and the blessing to form their own denomination.
- Pension plans for clergy and laity employed by the Church will stay intact.
- \$25 million will be paid over four years to the new Traditional Denomination
- \$2 million that will be paid over four years will be earmarked for any other denomination that chooses to form after General Conference.
- There is a moratorium on any complaints in regards to clergy who are self-avowed practicing homosexuals or the ability to perform same-sex weddings through the adjournment of the first church conference after the post-separation of The United Methodist Church.
- The authors of the Protocol have agreed that over the course of 8 years \$39 million will support communities historically marginalized by the sin of racism.

We will be doing presentations at Berwyn in the coming weeks and there will be multiple opportunities to learn updates and let your voice be heard in upcoming district and conference events. In the mean time, if you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Pastor Rodney or myself. I can be reached by email at kidl.adams@gmail.com.

Here are some resources to learn more about the proposals being presented at General Conference:

- Listening Session for General Conference Updates: Thursday, April 2 7pm Downingtown UMC; Saturday April 4 10am to noon Simpson House; Monday, April 20 7pm Epworth UMC in Bethlehem
- Post General Conference "Wrap Up" Sessions with Bishop Peggy Johnson on Saturday May 23 10am West Lawn UMC in Reading and Saturday, May 30 10am Aldersgate UMC Wilmington, Delaware
- Umnews.org – United Methodist News website – they are constantly posting news stories about the process going forward.
- If you would like to see a comparison of the five primary proposals expected to be brought to General Conference got to: <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/comparing-plans-headed-to-gc2020-revised-12-2019>

POTLUCK DINNER

Sat. Feb. 15, 2020 6PM President's Day Theme

Please join us for an all church Potluck dinner on Sat. Feb. 15. The event will be held in Schieck Hall beginning at 6PM. There is no charge and we hope all will attend.

We will be having a President's Day theme for the evening. Please feel free to dress up as your favorite President or first lady. After the meal we will be having a Presidential trivia contest. Each table will compete against the other tables and the winning table will get the bragging rights and maybe a prize too. So, study up on our presidents.

Reservations will be taken on Sun. Feb. 2 & 9. At that time you can let us know what you would like to bring. See you there and look forward to good food and fun.



Missions Update: Looking Ahead Jeff Barger

The annual Pi Day Bake Sale will take place on Sunday March 8th. Proceeds will be donated to the Chester County Food Bank. Come out and purchase a tempting array of delectable sweets baked by our own talented BUMC members.

The Feed the 5000 food drive kicks off on March 15th. We will accept bags of food up to Palm Sunday which will be delivered that week to United Methodists Neighborhood Services. Bags and list of food items will be available in the Narthex in March. And as always, no expired items please.



LAY LEADER'S LETTER Lee Paylor

Neighbors, several doors down, have installed new lights on either side of their front door. Attractive by day and fascinating at night when they are turned on. The stream of light makes you think you are walking up a path with shrubbery on each side.

Are you walking to the end where the light begins, or have you come down the path? Are we walking to or with God? Have we come down the path with Him – or did we journey alone?

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. You are the light of the world; be light in our darkness, O Christ."

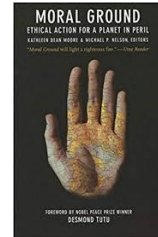
The Methodist Hymnal, page 205

"This little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine."

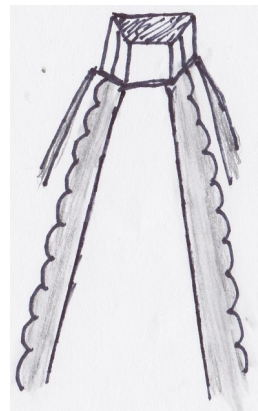
The Methodist Hymnal, page 585

SUGGESTED READING *Marjorie Smink Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril* edited by Kathleen Dean Moore and Michael P. Nelson, c2010. [179.1 Mor]

The testimonies of over eighty visionaries—theologians and religious leaders, scientists, elected officials, business leaders, naturalists, activists, and writers—have been brought together in this book to present a diverse and compelling call to honor our individual and collective moral responsibility to our planet. With global climate change and environmental decay, scientific knowledge alone does not tell us what we ought to do. The missing premise of the debate has been the need for ethical values, moral guidance, and principled reasons for doing the right thing for our planet, its animals, its plants, and its people. Contributors from throughout the world offer a rich variety of heritages and perspectives. Their contributions take many forms - letters, poems, economic analyses, proclamations, essays, and stories. In the end, their voices affirm why we must move beyond a scientific study and response to embrace an ongoing model of repair and sustainability. These writings demonstrate that scientific analysis and moral conviction can work successfully side-by-side. This is a book that can speak to anyone, regardless of his or her worldview, and that also includes a section devoted to "what next" thinking that helps the reader put the words and ideas into action in their personal lives.



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Our **M**ission **S**tatement

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

Worship **S**chedule

8:30 AM	Early Worship
9:15 AM	Sunday School
10:30 AM	Traditional Worship with Choir

Church Office: 610-644-5555
Fax: 610-644-7890
Email: officebumc@comcast.net
www.berwynumc.org
Like us on Facebook: Berwyn UMC
Follow on Instagram: bumcares

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