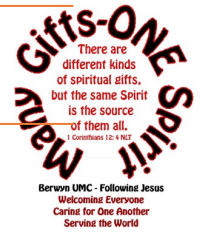




THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



January 2017

Mark Your Calendars:

- Jan 1—New Year's Day: Church Open for Prayer & Reflection 9am to noon
- Jan 2—Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Jan 5—Soupy Thursday begins
- Jan 8—Wesley Covenant Renewal Service
- Jan 14—Used Computer & Medical Supply Collection

Join Us For Worship

8:30am Early Worship

9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages

10:30am Worship Service with Choir

Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month

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

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS *Gary Jacobella*

Once while I was serving churches in and around Philadelphia, I came upon a billboard that said, "Jesus Hated Church, Too." The slogan also appeared in newspaper advertisements.

Strangely enough, the message was being circulated by a church, Tenth Presbyterian in Philadelphia. This church was trying to help people who don't like church to come to Jesus anyway because Jesus also had problems with the religious institution. Jesus struggled more with the "church people" of his day than he did with people who they thought were unfit for God. Ultimately, it was "church people," people who were part of the religious institution, who crucified Jesus.

Beginning January 8, 2017 our worship theme will be: "Why Jesus Hated Church." That theme doesn't sound right, does it? Jesus didn't hate did he? The idea raises lots of questions.

Jesus fought the religious institution of his day. He offended people in the religious institution. He called them, "Hypocrites," "The Offspring of Snakes," "Blind Fools," "Blind Guides," "White Washed Tombs," "Murderers of God's Prophets" - and that's just the start, from one chapter of the Gospels.

Did Jesus hate church? Do his criticisms apply to us - we who are in the religious institution today? What does Jesus want from the church?

Come explore these questions. Come with your own questions. Here are some of the scriptures and working titles I am considering as I prepare.

Luke 3: 1 - 14 "Get Ready for Jesus"

Mark 11: 15 - 19 "What Kind of Man was Jesus?"

Matthew 7: 21 - 27 "A House Built on Sand"

Matthew 6: 7 - 15 "The Show Must Not Go On"

Luke 5: 17 - 26 "You Can't Do That, You Can't Do That, and You Can't Do That"

Matthew 12: 22 - 32 "Threatened by God's Power"

Matthew 23: 1 - 15, 23 - 34 "What is a Hypocrite?"

Matthew 22: 1 - 14 "Party-Poopers and Party People"

Luke 15: 1 - 10 "Not Looking, Not Finding, Not Celebrating"

Mark 6: 1 - 6 "Jesus' Family Problems"



January 1, 2017 New Year's Day—The Sanctuary will be open from 9am to noon for people to stop by for Prayer, Reflection and Gratitude. There will be prayer stations set up similar to those that were set up on Good Friday. All are welcome.

GENEROSITY IN ACTION - Joy Fuerst

Just prior to Advent, the Sunday School kids completed a wonderful service project, giving to kids from Malawi to Montana! Shoeboxes were cheerfully filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items; the shoeboxes were sent to two organizations for distribution to children who may have otherwise not received a Christmas gift. Before packing the shoeboxes, the kids talked about the excitement at their houses on Christmas morning and thought about children who may have no presents. In addition to selecting items to pack in each shoebox, the kids made cards for the recipients and prayed for the child receiving the shoebox.

Altogether, 6 shoeboxes were sent through Operation Christmas Child (tracking indicates they were shipped to Malawi) and 8 shoeboxes were sent to Blackfeet Parish in Montana. Many thanks are due to those who helped make this effort a success: Sue Denisevicz, Deb Hazen, Lee Paylor, and the Sunday School families for the donations; United Methodist Women for sponsoring the shipping; and especially the kids for their enthusiasm and giving spirits.



SOUPY THURSDAY BEGINS JANUARY 5 *Rick Stoker*

On Thursday January 5th this year's tradition of Soupy Thursday begins. You can bring your own container and pick up soup to take home for supper or you can come to Schieck Hall and eat delicious soup with your church family.

Take outs are available starting at 5:15 pm through 7:15 pm. Soup is \$5.00 per quart, home baked bread is \$3.00 per loaf. If you decide to eat-in there is a free will offering to cover the cost of the soup. Besides the soup there is also bread, beverages and a dessert each evening. Soup is available from 6:15-7:15 pm in Schieck Hall.

We hope to see you all there. Soup will be available each Thursday in January and February. In the middle of February we will evaluate and see if there is enough demand to continue in March.

Soups coming up:

Jan. 5 – turkey noodle, Jan. 12 – cream of potato, Jan. 19 – lentil soup, Jan. 26 – vegetable beef, Feb. 2 – corn chowder, Feb. 9 - tortellini soup, Feb. 16 – New England clam chowder, Feb. 23 - chili



FAITHFUL STEWARD—MECCA Committee

This month we highlight Sue and Ed Denisevicz as our faithful stewards. It is most appropriate to honor them in January after the many beautiful decorations they provided for our sanctuary during the Christmas season. And it's not only during Christmas, but often for Fall, Easter and even Vacation Bible School. Sue designs all the beauty, and Ed provides the muscle.....hauling in rocks and all kinds of beautiful decor!! When they're not busy helping to create beauty, some of the other activities they participate in are acolytes, paper collection, and helping out in the kitchen. Sue also is a loyal member of our Chancel Choir.

Have you ever asked yourselves what our church would be without folks like Sue and Ed? Be sure to thank them when you run into them around BUMC!



WEATHER EMERGENCIES: If a worship service is cancelled because of severe weather or other emergency, an e-mail will be sent to our e-mail list if possible, and an automated message will be placed on the church phone, 610-644-5555. You may also call Pastor Gary's cell phone, 484-318-6389 or Bernie Jacabella's cell phone, 484-318-6424.



STILL HERE - *Janet Campbell*

I am not leaving.

I am not going anywhere.

I will still be here.

I am still the same person.

After quite a few years, I am only giving up a title.

The title of Lay Leader of the family of Berwyn United Methodist Church has been one I have been proud to hold. I do not need a title to be the person that I am. I care for and love all of you, I care for and love our church. I am happy to serve on the committees that I can represent. I am proud of the work that we do. I am not leaving, I am not going anywhere. I am still the same person. I am here to listen, I am here to care. We are lay partners together. Thank you for caring about me.



BUMNS Holiday Show was a huge success. The show, under the direction of Tori James, was presented on Tuesday, December 13th at 9:30. Judith Lang accompanied the children on the piano. Hearing the children sing, “Silent Night, Holy Night” reminded us of the true reason of Christ’s birth. The children will be on vacation until January 3rd.

BUMNS Families donated toys, coats and mittens to the children of the Methodist Midtown Parish. The children understand the true meaning of Christmas includes the gift of giving.

Registrations are being accepted for the 2016-2017 year.



WESLEY COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE—*John Paylor*

On Sunday, January 8, we will begin the New Year with a Covenant Renewal Service at our regular Sunday morning services. The Covenant Renewal Service was first celebrated in the Methodist tradition by John Wesley on August 11, 1755. Wesley found the service both rich and meaningful, and wrote in his journal on various occasions, “It was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing.” . . . “It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences.” . . . “I do not know that we ever had a greater blessing.”

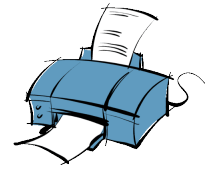
The current Methodist liturgy for this service has been modified from time to time, but now generally follows a service conducted by Wesley in 1780.

In the Covenant Renewal Service, worshippers make a serious commitment of themselves to God. Each worshipper is asked to give up his or her own will and devote himself or herself to the will of God and to become a servant of God and Christ. We are asked to commit to live our lives in ways that please Jesus, regardless of what we perceive to be our own will or our own talents or interests.

Please make a special effort to join us on January 8 to participate in this meaningful service that John Wesley himself found to provide a blessing to all.



Used Computer and Used Medical Equipment Collection



Saturday, January 14, 2017*

9am to 12pm

Berwyn United Methodist Church

140 Waterloo Ave, Berwyn

For further information

See—www.berwynumc.org

Write—hub.bumc@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook—The HUB at BUMC



*Snow date: January 21, 2017

HUB KIT MATERIALS NEEDED!

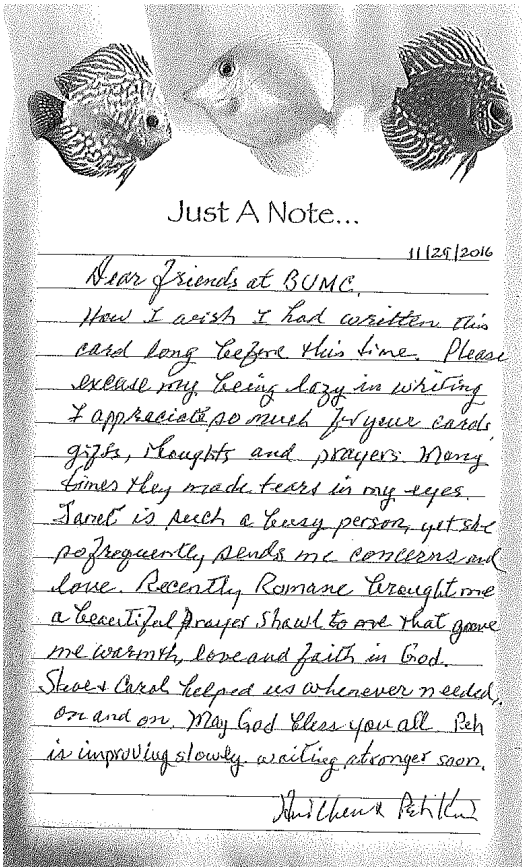
SCHOOL KITS

- Cloth Bags (14" x 16" Heavy-duty fabric)
- Handheld Pencil Sharpeners (1" min.)

HEALTH KITS

- Hand Towels (NO Kitchen or Microfiber)
 - Adult Wash Cloths
 - Sturdy Combs (NO Pocket Size)
- Fingernail Clippers (NO Toenail Clippers)
- 3 oz. or Larger Bath Soap (NO Ivory, Lisa, or Jergens)
 - Adult Toothbrushes (sealed in packaging)
 - BandAid Type Bandages 3/4" or 1"

Cash donations are welcome, if you prefer not to shop!



My Dear Berwyn Family,

Looking up and seeing all the faces from Berwyn on the day of my mother's funeral was a blessing to my soul. Every card and expression of sympathy made a time of sorrow a little easier. Berwyn is a church whose love over flows into the hearts of others. Thank you for your kindness, prayers and encouragement, but most of all for your Christ centered love. God's blessing to my BUMC family.

Love, Veronica



COOKWARE COLLECTION

We are continuing to collect Acme Grocery Store Redemption Stamps to redeem for Farberware Millennium Stainless Steel Cookware. Look at all the pieces we have collected so far! Thank your for your contributions. Our goal is to obtain a complete set of cookware and give the set filled with food for a Christmas dinner to a family needing a new start. You may place donated stamps in the basket in the narthex, fill the stamp book and donate the filled book, or select the cookware yourself and donate the cookware.



Berwyn United Methodist Church is on facebook! Updates on church services and activities will be on Berwyn UMC and for the latest news on our HUB activities, check us out on The HUB at BUMC.

Like our pages! We invite everyone to join our mission of Inviting, Nurturing and Encouraging Service.



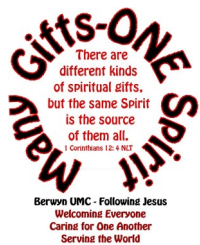
Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Recordings of Sunday Services are available.

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

Pastor: Gary Jacobella
Lay Leader: David Adams
Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley
Organist/Director of Music: Judith Lang
Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

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



Our Mission Statement

God calls Berwyn UMC to be a community

Of Christian believers that:

Invites ~ Nurtures ~ Encourages Service

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

Email: office@berwynumc.com

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Berwyn, PA 19312

140 Waterloo Avenue

Berwyn United Methodist Church

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