



THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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Calendar Highlights

- June 16—Pastor Tim’s Last Sunday & Farewell reception
- June 18—Faithwalk Summer Bible Study Begins
- July 7—Pastor Rodney’s first Sunday & Welcome reception
- July 14-18 Vacation Bible Camp
- September 8—Rally Day/ Neighborhood Fair
- Oct 12 Fall Fest

Join Us For Worship

- 8:30 am Worship
- 10:00 am Traditional Worship
- Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month

LAY LEADER LETTER, *Lee Paylor*

As I was leaving town, a landscape truck passed me. The bed of the truck was filed with beautiful, healthy green plants. It was easy to imagine the plants were naturally growing in the truck bed. We grow and bloom in God’s love and care, not always on our schedule. We need to be aware and open to God’s growing plans for us. As the summer continues, may be open to God’s plan for us to grow in our faith and bloom, sharing His love everywhere we go.

HYMN OF PROMISE

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;

In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

-#707 *The United Methodist Hymnal*



Please be sure to join us on **Sunday, June 16** for Pastor Tim’s last Sunday in the pulpit. Come to say goodbye and wish him well with his new congregation and stay for a farewell reception after the 10am Worship service.

Make a point to attend Worship **Sunday, July 7** to greet our new pastor Rodney Brailsford. This will be Rodney’s first Sunday in the pulpit for us. We will welcome Rodney with a reception after the 10am service. We look forward to seeing you!



What a wonderful journey in faith! Since Jean and I walked through the doors of Berwyn United Methodist in 1963 with our young children, we knew this was a very special group of caring Christians. I can not begin to thank each of you for your loving care during Jean’s illness and death. Your prayers, pastor’s visits, food, phone calls, cards, flowers, and beautiful prayer shawl are cherished. They continue to give me great comfort.

Thank you again and may God continue to bless each of you and the works of the Berwyn United Methodist Church.

In Christ, Ann M. West





VACATION BIBLE CAMP

SUNDAY, JULY 14– THURSDAY, JULY 18

One small step for kids...one giant leap for God's Kingdom!

Blast off with the first VBS to land on Mars! July 14-18 Berwyn UMC will be headed *To Mars and Beyond*. This exciting VBC program will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become Voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. They'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too.

During our voyage to Mars and Beyond the kids will learn to *Go Beyond with Faith*, *Go Beyond with Boldness*, *Go Beyond with Kindness*, *Go Beyond with Thankfulness* and to *Go Beyond with Hope*. Each day we will also remember our theme verse from Ephesians "Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us." (Ephesians 3:20, CEB)

Registration is open now. You can register using the attached form or go to the church website and download the form from www.berwynumc.org.

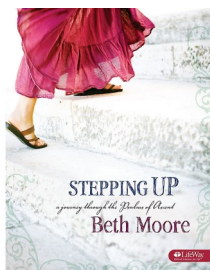
Register before July 1 and the cost is \$15 for one child. There are discounts for multiple children. If cost is an issue, please ask about VBC scholarships.



UMW Fall Retreat *Debbie Nemetz*

UMW and all ladies of the Church, we are starting to plan a Fall Retreat to Mystic Island, NJ.

Without the summer crowds and traffic, the shore is beautiful in the Fall. Tentative dates are 10/19-20 or 10/26-27. You can expect lots of laughs, food and fun. Stay for the weekend or come down for the day. More



The Faithwalk Bible Study will again offer a Beth Moore summer session at Berwyn UMC. "Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent" Tuesday's 7-8:30 pm June 18 to August 6. Just as a song or poem can express feelings of fear, doubt, hope or joy, the psalms model how we can voice our own petitions to God. Themes of unity, joy, gratitude, redemption, the power of blessings and more are explored in detail. Please register to reserve your book. www.faithwalkpa.com. All are welcome!

PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM *Stephanie Borelly*

We made it!!!!

Together we walked 5879 miles. Thank you to everyone who participated! This wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of the WHOLE group!!!

Our next step is to collect the money from our sponsors.

Please be sure to add – P2J (Pilgrimage to Jerusalem) in the memo section or on the envelope so we can keep track of our donations. So far we have collect \$550.00

Our contributions will assist the United Methodist Services Bridge House. It is a transitional Housing Program serving homeless individuals referred from shelters, whose goals are to move to permanent housing within 12 months. Our Mission Coalition (Berwyn, Paoli, Wayne, St. Matthews, Valley Forge) has agreed to support this project, with a goal to sponsor a room. Our ultimate goal is \$1300.

We made it - Now let's help others on their journey as well!



MISSION SHOUTOUT! *Jeff Barger*

To help children get a start in the new school year we will be collecting school supplies through the summer months. We will also be collecting toiletries for homeless men as many of them lack the means to purchase basic hygienic care products. Many hotels provide free bath toiletries that you could donate from your vacation, business trip, etc. The supplies will be delivered in September to Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

School supplies:

Folders
#2 lead pencils
Colored pencils
Crayons
Erasers
Rulers- 6" and 12"
Pencil cases
Index cards
Colored construction paper
Plastic handle, round tipped scissors
White glue

Men's Toiletries:

Razors
Shaving Cream
Soap & plastic soap holders
Toothpaste & brushes
Deodorant
Comb
Mouthwash
Shampoo

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Tim Duchesne

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

Loved One of Berwyn U.M.C.,

I recently saw the Academy Award winning movie *Gentleman's Agreement* starring Gregory Peck from 1947 which was based on a book by same name by Laura Z. Hopson. The movie addresses the issue of anti-Semitism in a post-World War II society here in the United States. I wish it could be said that anti-Semitism was a thing of the past. But the truth is anti-Semitism still does exist along with other prejudices based on racism, sexism, ableism, and heterosexism, as we have witnessed in the last few years, whether it is a shooting in a night club in Florida or the burning of a church in the south.

As we have seen more recently within our own denomination, hatred and prejudice does not end with race or religion but extends to anyone who is different, especially if they happen to be gay, lesbian, bi, transgender, or queer. The movie points out that most of us are good decent folks, that would never overtly engage in racist or prejudiced behavior, but we allow it to continue and even flourish when we do not stand up and say "enough is enough, this must stop!", even though we may be outrage or disgusted by behavior. It is much safer personally of course, to sit on the side lines to keep our mouths shut, even though we are upset, as others are discriminated against. To take a stand is to make ourselves a target.

Our district superintendent Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm recently has received death threats because of comments she made on the floor of General Conference in support of full inclusion of all persons regardless of their sexual identity. We can see the prejudice extending as the conversation moves beyond the Book of Discipline's concern about lesbian and gay relationships, marriage and ordination, to whether we even welcome persons who identify as Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, + other sexual identities. I applaud her willingness to stand up and be counted, because like biblical witness we have of Jesus, she is encouraging us to love our neighbor, regardless of their identity.

The reality is, the Holy Bible has been used to justify almost anything including some of the most horrific acts in human history. Hitler had very good theologians who proved this when it came to the Nazi's treatment of Jewish citizens within the purview of the German Empire. If you want to know more about this, I suggest you watch the video series "*Theologians Under Hilter*". The Holy Bible has been used to justify slavery, the subjugation of women, anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism. Most of us of course find these arguments using scripture to justify treating our fellow human beings as less than human, to be reprehensible. That is why it may come as a surprise to some of us, that it is these same kinds of arguments, that were once used to justify slavery, the subjugation of women, anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism that are now being used to exclude people of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+ community from full inclusion within the United Methodist Church.

I find it interesting that Jesus never excluded anyone who genuinely wanted a relationship with the one true God. In fact, Jesus healed a roman officer's beloved servant. (If you look more closely at Luke 7:1-10, the word Greek word the centurion uses for servant is "*pais*" which can be translated "son" or "boy", "servant", or the "master's male lover".) Regardless of how we interpret this passage whether Jesus is reaching out to an oppressor Roman master, a young man being held in bondage or two men in a mutual loving relationship, we see Jesus holding up this story of how we are to be faithful.

This being the case, we can see Jesus freely extending God's love, grace and healing to all those who had faith. It is my hope that as followers of Jesus we will likewise extend hospitality, love, care and acceptance to others freely just as Jesus did, no matter who they may be, or where they come from regardless of race, religion, economic status, gender, physical ability, cognitive ability or sexual identity.

It has been my great joy to serve you the people of Berwyn United Methodist Church these last two years. I wish everyone all the best as you continue to live into your core values of Caring, Accepting, Loving, Laughing and Serving the community of Berwyn. There has been some discussion about what you mean by Accepting. When you first started discussing this value two years ago, I heard many of you say you wanted to be welcoming to everyone. I share this value with you and think this is something the world needs more of. I think being accepted in the midst of caring, loving and laughing community is a true blessing.

If you have the opportunity, I highly recommend you either read the book or watch the movie *Gentleman's Agreement* sometime in the near future.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Timothy Duchesne



Our Mission Statement

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

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:30 AM Worship in Outdoor Chapel
- 10:00 AM Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

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

Berwyn United Methodist Church
140 Waterloo Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312

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