



THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



hey
june

Inside this Issue:

- Pastor's Letter
- Lay Leader Letter
- BUMNS
- 2020 Graduates
- Reading Recommendations

Calendar Highlights

June 2—Primary Day
Sept 15—Nursery School
1st Day
October 10— Fall Fest
October 17—Trunk or
Treat

**Reminder, that
Berwyn UMC has sus-
pended worship ser-
vices and in person
meetings during the
COVID-19 quaran-
tine.**

CHESTER COUNTY IS NOW IN YELLOW PHASE *Pastor Rodney Brailsford*

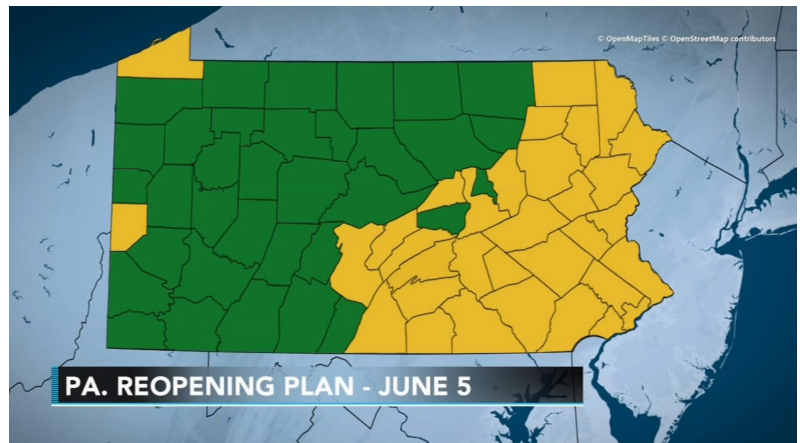
As you know, Pennsylvania transitioned to the yellow phase on June 5, 2020. After much discussion at our Church Council Meeting last month, we determined that the yellow phase would serve us as a time for preparation and planning our process to return to the building during the green phase. We want to ensure the safety of our members, many of whom have preexisting health conditions, by ensuring that the building is properly sanitized, stocked with hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes. We also want to properly rope off pews, ensure appropriate social distancing seating arrangements, and have Bible/Hymnals removed. We have quite a process to consider so we do not want to return hastily and take the risk of any of our members contracting the virus.

Of course, this will be an on-going conversation and, as the governor outlines his plan, we will make the safety of our members the highest priority to determine an exact date of return during the green phase.

As it stands, we will continue with online worship services through Facebook Live and Youtube. This pandemic has lasted longer than any of us ever imagined. So, it is more important than ever that we remember to send in our tithes/offerings by postal mail, online, or by text to give. Our text to give phone number is 844-967-2047. We thank you for your commitment to keeping the ministries of Berwyn UMC strong and vital for our members and our community.

I pray that God grant you peace and the strength to endure amid these challenging times.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



PASTOR'S LETTER Pastor Rodney Brailsford

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” – Colossians 3:15-17.

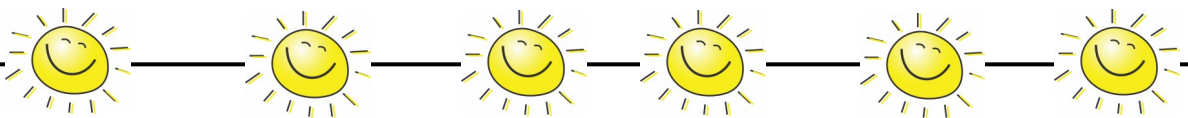
In this Scriptural passage, we are reminded three times to be thankful to God. But the gratitude described here is not just individual thankfulness. As members of the body of Christ, we are called upon to be thankful as a group. God has indeed provided for us as God's people. We have been blessed by one another, empowered by the talents we possess and united by the ways our abilities work together. The greatest blessing of all is that we have been given the gift of Christ as our teacher.

Sometimes we may fail to recognize that we are truly blessed by each other's gifts, especially when we give into a critical attitude. Or we may overlook how we are blessed by each other as we hurry on our way to something, we consider more meaningful. Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to “give thanks in all circumstances.” Giving thanks, always, will pull us into a continuous mindset of gratitude in all things, even gratitude for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Over the past three months, we have had the opportunity to worship and work together, through virtual means, as the body of Christ. We have been able to accomplish so much together despite the current pandemic. It is vital that we take the time to give thanks to God for the many blessings that we have shared so far. In your private time this week, I encourage you to write down one or more blessings that we have shared together over the past three months. When your heart is complete, say a prayer of thankfulness for all that God has done for us and through us. Thank God for the members of our congregation by name. Ask God to empower us to work in this community in a spirit of harmony. If we live by that standard, we will be transformed and equipped to heal creation to the glory of God.

May God Bless You Richly,

Pastor Rodney



LAY LEADER'S LETTER Lee Paylor

Recently we had a Zoom choir gathering. No singing but a good time to “see” each other and be in touch. All day a hymn kept coming to mind and I'll share it now.

“My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation. I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing ? Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing ?

What though my joys and comforts die ? The Lord my Savior Liveth. What though the darkness gather round ? Songs in the night he giveth. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing ! All things are mine since I am his ! How can I keep from singing ?

Worship and Rejoice, page 424

And as a closing, “God be with you till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you, with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.” Methodist Hymnal, page 673

Dear Pastor Rodney, Finance & SPRC Committee, and BUMC Family,

I could not let the opportunity pass without saying “Thank You”.

Life changed drastically for so many us in March 2020. The culprits of this change were the COVID 19 Virus and the shelter in place mandate.

I want to take the time to express my gratitude and appreciation to Berwyn United Methodist Church. You have continued to be faithful to your employees, in a time of uncertainty. I do not take your generosity for granted, because I realize I am abundantly blessed to be a part of the BUMC family.

I give thanks for Pastor Rodney’s leadership, for the finance and SPRC commitment to serve with pride & diligence, and for the devotion of the members of BUMC.

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.” Psalm 9:1

My prayer, as well as, my hope is that the Lord will continue to bless BUMC for your faithfulness, kindness and acts of love, which you have poured out to your employees during COVID 19 and this time of financial complexity.

Berwyn United Methodist Church, “you have been faithful!” I feel confident that God will continue to lead and guide you to be the church He is calling you to be. Please continue to **GROW** and **BLOOM** in Him. Grow in trusting the Lord! Grow in His word! Grow in spirituality! Grow in your discernment of God’s purpose and vision for BUMC! Always be ready to grow and bloom, right here, on Waterloo Avenue where God has planted you.

**They shall flourish as a garden; they shall bloom like the vine.
Their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon.” Hosea 14:7**

With my whole heart, my belief is that God has a plan, purpose, and vision for Berwyn United Methodist Church. Stay prayerful! Wait to see the goodness of the Lord!

In my humility and humbleness, I say Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Love,
Veronica

“If you can tune into your purpose and really align with it, setting goals so that your vision is an expression of that purpose, then life flows much more easily.” —Jack Canfield



Jane Harris

Welcome to summer! The nursery school has not been in school since mid-March but our wonderful teachers have kept our children and families connected with Zoom calls, and packages for the parents to pick up and do with their children. Not seeing those happy faces and listen to their excited voices each morning has been very hard. This is usually a very special time of year, recognizing how much each child has grown over the year, celebrating our ‘graduates’, enjoying final class picnics. However, we were able to safely celebrate our graduates with an ‘in car’ graduation in the parking lot. Each child was able to ‘cross the bridge to kindergarten’, amid cheering and honking of horns! We even made it onto 6ABC news!

We will be returning in September, school begins on September 15th. School may look a little different, we will spend the summer working through the latest guidelines and how we can implement them.

The nursery school would like to thank the church for its support through these challenging times and wishes you all a safe and peaceful summer.

CHURCH LIBRARY RECOMMENDATION(S) *Marjorie Smink, Church Librarian*

When our friend and pastor, Rev. Barbara Emery, served in our pulpit one Sunday last summer, she used the example of “Blind Bartimaeus” as the basis for her sermon. She mentioned that the inspiration for her sermon came from the reference to this story in a book, *Courage to See*, by Barbara Brown Taylor, a best-selling author, pastor and college professor. The author’s name was familiar to me for years before I had donated the book, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* [BIO Tay], by Taylor to our church library. This book came well recommended by the Church and Synagogue Library as its Rodda Award Winner for 2012 for it was considered a book that would contribute significantly to congregational libraries through promotion of spiritual growth. From simple practices such as walking, working, and interacting with others, Taylor reveals how she learned to encounter God beyond the walls of any church. She shows how to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see. We begin to discover altars in everything we do.

Barbara also mentioned and highly recommended a newer book by Taylor, *Holy Envy*, about the “richness of other faith traditions and a position of faith that makes room for all.” The grand chronicle of the Bible, Taylor contends, is an all-abiding love for the religious stranger, for our neighbors of other faiths. We should not fear learning more about their relationships with the divine, because their understanding will lead to greater understanding for ourselves, and will enrich our own relationship with God.

At this time of isolation with our public libraries closed, it is still possible to borrow books in electronic format. *Holy Envy* is available in the Chester County Library System as an e-book. It is also available at Amazon in Kindle, audiobook, hardback and paperback formats. A treasure trove of e-book reading material awaits you in your public library, and online librarians will assist you in the borrowing process. Reach out and borrow an e-book. You will be glad you did!



Berwyn UM's Adult Sunday School Class, BUM Talks, is continuing to meet every Sunday on Zoom during the pandemic. We will continue to focus on current topics as they impact our lives and our faith. Please feel free to join the class any time. Please send Claudia Genuardi an email to magnetstone0@gmail.com and she will send you a Zoom link.



Worship with us every Sunday at 10:30am at www.berwynumc.org or join us on our facebook page facebook.com/BUMCservice

Message & Scripture by Pastor Rodney
Music by Amy

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



Invite family and friends to like us on facebook
[BUMCservice](https://facebook.com/BUMCservice)

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

We are honored to have several graduates in our church family.
“This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on....”
Methodist Hymnal, page 383

A new beginning for our graduates and their families. May God’s rich love surround these graduates.



HANNAH DODDS will be graduated, Cum Laude, from Washington and Lee University on May 28th with a BS in Cognitive and Behavioral Science. She captained the varsity women’s soccer team, earned scholar athlete and President’s List accolades and is a member of Psy Chi honor society. Hannah will be completing an internship at Egg Strategy in Denver, Colorado, for the summer months.

CHARLOTTE DUFFIE-FRITZ graduated from Penn State as a History Major. Charlotte plans to stay in the Wilmington, NC area and is hoping to take advantage of the local movie industry. While her passion is special effects makeup, she is hoping for an entry level position that will allow her to learn more about the business of making movies.

SARAH ROBIE received a BA in Public Relations from the Bellisario College of Communications at Penn State, with a minor in Global and International Studies and a minor in Business. Sarah was a member of Gamma Phi Beta. In her senior year, she was a Communications intern for Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology.

LAURA STOCKLER is graduating from University of Pittsburgh with a BS in Psychology and two minors, one in English Literature and one in Neuroscience. She has also obtained a certification in Conceptual Foundations in Medicine and interned in the Lab of Neurocognitive Development for two years. While at Pitt, Laura took two semesters abroad, one in London and one in Copenhagen. After taking a gap year, Laura is going to grad school for Cognitive Sciences.

JACK WOLOV graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Finance and a minor in Business Law.

From the proud Grandparents:

Barbara Mekenney’s grandson **ERIC WILLAM MEKENNEY** is graduating from the University of Arizona School of Engineering with degrees in Optical Science and Engineering. He will be starting a summer internship with Northrup Grumman prior to his graduate program at U of A towards his Masters degree in Optical Science.

Peggi and Jack Robinson’s two grandsons **MATT LeCATES** is graduating from Phoenixville High School and will be attending the University of Delaware’s honors program majoring in Mechanical Engineering. **SAM ROBINSON** is graduating from Wake Forest University with a BS in Chemistry and a minor in Bio-Chemistry. He plans to attend medical school after one year in clinical research at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital.

Marge and Bob Smink’s granddaughter **NATALIE SMINK** will graduate from Denver School of Science and Technology/Montview High School. She will attend Yale University in the fall. Natalie is the daughter of Tiffany and Dan Smink.



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

Berwyn United Methodist Church
140 Waterloo Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312

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