

THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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- **September 6 Labor Day**
- **October 23 Trunk or Treat**
- **November 28 Advent begins**

TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR CHURCH EVENTS & THE GLOBAL CHURCH PLEASE FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK: BUMCservice

INSTAGRAM: bumcares

YOUTUBE: Berwyn UMC

WEBSITE:

www.berwynumc.org

WEBSITE:

www.epaumc.org (Eastern PA Conference of UMC)

WEBSITE: umnews.org
(United Methodist News)

WE'RE BACK!

Return to In-Person Worship

Sunday, June 6 at 9:30am Berwyn UMC held its first in-person worship service in 15 months. Over thirty congregation members came together with Pastor Rodney and Amy, our music director, to praise God together again. Pastor Rodney started off by giving thanks for being together again. Different members of the congregation also joined in with giving thanks for the blessings they have experienced during the pandemic. Pastor did not forget our fellow members who we have lost over the past fifteen months and kept those that are going through difficult times right now in prayer.

Our Berwyn UMC brothers and sisters whom we have lost:

John Robinson, Bob Fisk, John Nelson, Len Dickenson, Deke Larkin, Betty Linsenbach, and Earle Paylor.

We also remember these individuals who are undergoing health crises: Amy Dodds, currently cancer free!, Barbara Stockler, undergoing treatment for brain cancer and Ben Cutler who was in a serious traffic accident on his motorcycle and is dealing with complications from his injuries.

It was so wonderful being back in the Sanctuary with everyone again and singing along with Amy from our hymnal.

Please join us every Sunday at 9:30am for worship in the sanctuary. If you are not comfortable joining us in person, join worship online at 10:30am on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.



Dear Berwyn Family,

It is finally here! The month we have all been waiting for! After 15 seemingly never-ending months, this is the time when many of our current restrictions are being lifted and we can more freely engage with one another. This is the month when we are finally able to return to our sacred place of worship and again celebrate our faith in our traditional way.

I want to be sure we give a heartfelt “THANK YOU” to our Leadership Council for taking the time and care to keep up with our local data and prioritize the health and safety of our congregation and staff members. They worked to develop procedures and a schedule for our return to in person worship that ensures we prioritize our ongoing well-being as a congregation and allows us to worship together both in person and online.

It has certainly been a challenging year for all of us, but they took the lead on guiding us through these times and I am grateful for their support and dedication.

We have also been blessed this year by our audio-visual technician Rocco Richardson, who has helped us develop a virtual worship format, which will support our continued ministry as a congregation! Rocco’s talent and dedication have been invaluable to our congregation this year and all he has been able to add to our church’s media presence really reminds us how God can bring us unanticipated blessings in the most challenging of times!

As we have made some changes to our in-person Worship Services to prioritize health and safety, I wanted to remind everyone that the protocols we are following are not just for our own safety, but for those around us. We are guardians not only of our own health, but the health of those in the community to which we belong. We also are concerned about not only our own comfort level, but the comfort level of those who attend our worship services.

As Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 9, he is free from many of the normal restrictions that others follow in life, but he is willing to accommodate others around him to help them find the level of freedom they can experience in Christ.

As Christians, we are the ones called to be witnesses of Christ’s grace, mercy, and love to everyone. We are the ones who are called to care for the friendless, encourage the hopeless, and help the ones who are lost find their home. We belong not only to a most loving and powerful God, but also to the creation in which we have been placed.

We are not our own. Yes, we are given freedom to become the unique persons God created us to be, but we also are given the responsibility of loving our neighbor. We have the privilege to serve those around us and sometimes that means accommodating their needs above our own.

As we resume in-person worship services, let us come back in celebration and joy, but let us also come back ready to serve all those whom we meet. We have not only freedom in Christ but the privilege and the power to bring shalom to this world.

I hope to see those of you who are able and comfortable worshipping in person soon! For those of you who are not yet ready to return, know that we are still worshipping virtually. Whichever format you choose, we are still worshipping together as a church family every Sunday.

Blessings,

Pastor Rodney



WHAT ABOUT BERWYN UMC HAS AFFECTED ME? Steve Cherry, Finance Team

Like slowly emerging from a coma, we’re receiving with open arms moments that were all but out of reach for the last fifteen months. But with new consciousness, there’s this notion that things aren’t quite the same. Even though lots look the same, and we recognize the signs of summer, there are also some new realities that weren’t invited into our sphere: like residual mask-wearing, people discovering that they like staying home, vaccination, worry that we’re just not very safe. I’ve come to despise the phrase “getting back to normal.” It doesn’t leave space for adapting to the new which, by all measures, is a life task—a faith task really.

I and our team are deep in the weeds of finance. We’re all too aware of how a pause in the normal rhythm of the life we knew provides something of a beat down, especially for the congregation. So we of the Berwyn Church, like all of you, have to adapt.

There’s not much question anymore that churches have to adjust. We’re aware that depending on a commitment Sunday for members once per year won’t do the job. So, as we move into the summer, ask: “What about Berwyn Church has touched me? Our infrequent time together? Worship led by Rodney and Amy on live every Sunday? Mission efforts, like that maintained by Diedre and Mark Zimmerman? Special people of the fellowship who are examples of rich faith?” Then, consider a gift in response. We have several modes for giving, from electronic, to text giving, to a check in the mail. This is but one way of engaging with the community, but still an important one.

TROOP 181 UPDATE - Mary Ostien

We recently celebrated at Wilson Farm Park. Seven of our Scouts were honored at an Eagle Scout ceremony. Due to Covid we were fortunate enough to have a few of our scouts come back from college to receive their award. In addition, our troop is busy and active with a camp out June 5, and our annual camping in July at Camp Horseshoe. There they get to spend a whole week with scouts from all over the area earning badges, hiking, doing projects to improve the camp, and competitions!

We also have a crew that will be going to Philmont which is in New Mexico. They will be there for two weeks white water rafting, trail riding, camping and more. The Scouts have been practicing on the weekends carrying their gear on rigorous hikes and are excited for the upcoming trip.

We will start up again with meetings in the fall and welcome any new Scouts to join us. Please check out our website, www.paoli181.org, and contact us—Mary Ostien 484-241-1280 recruitment and Sean Kim, Scout Master.



Seven Scouts were awarded the ranking of Eagle Scout. Left to right: Luke Morris, Andrew Wang, Aiden Malone, Alex Caristan, James Oh and Robbie Snyders. The seventh scout was Oliver Feldman who passed away.



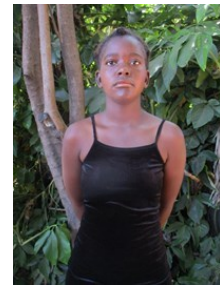
CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL UPDATE *by Jeff Barger*

Our sponsored child, Florence, will graduate from the Children International Program in January 2022 when she turns 19. Below are two photos of Florence, when we first started to sponsor her at the age of 9 and today at 18. Our sponsorship has provided access to critical medical and dental care, early childhood development programs, nutrition education and youth training to teach skills needed to ensure they can find a job and break the cycle of poverty.

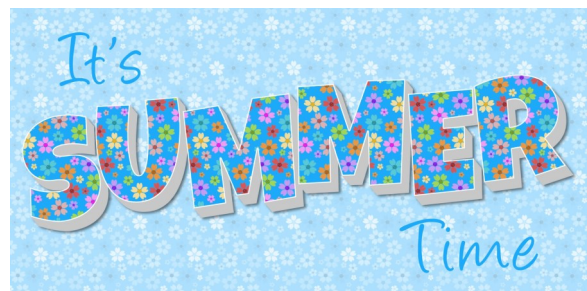
Thank you everyone for your continued support of Florence Lukeo. You can place your donations in the penny jar located in the rear of the Narthex or Veronica's office.



Florence, age 9



Florence, age 18





Jane Harris

Congratulations to the BUMNS class of 2021! We wish all our graduates good luck in kindergarten, we will miss you all!



2021 EPA UMC Laity Academy



A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION FOR LAITY ACADEMY IS NOW OPEN!

Laity Academy will be held virtually August 6-7. Go to this website to see the classes being offered. Laity Academy is open to ALL Laity.

<https://www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar/2021-laity-academy/2021-08-06/>

Congratulations to family of Berwyn UMC on their academic achievements:

High School

- **Isabel Adams**, daughter of Kristine & David Adams, graduated from Conestoga High School. She will be entering Millersville University in the fall as an Early Elementary Education major.
- **Kelly DeFlavia**, daughter of Michael and Gina DeFlavia, graduated from Conestoga High School. She will be attending Temple University in the fall as an International Business major.
- **Oscar Smink**, graduated from The Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland. He will be attending Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. Oscar is the son of Lorna Timmreck and David Smink and the grandson of Marjorie and Robert Smink.

College

Drew Atchison, grandson of Nancy Atchison, is graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts (Cinematic Arts).



Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Rodney Brailsford

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: Amy Dodds

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

UNITED METHODISTS STAND AGAINST RACISM by *Amy Dodds, Lay Leader*

The past year has reminded all of that the church is *not* a **building** — it's a **community of people who love Jesus and love each other**. What a challenge it has been to act and speak as Jesus commanded us to - to care for our congregation and those in our community – while also abiding by the United Methodists belief to “Do no harm” and keep ourselves and others healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am excited to worship again in person, to greet those I have missed seeing in person, and to continue serving alongside every one of you. The past year has also challenged us to ponder what it means as United Methodists to live out the baptismal vows “to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.” There is much work we can do to engage in an intentional manner to be an anti-racist church, not merely on paper, but in action: advocating and working toward dismantling unjust systems that cause or benefit from continued inequality, calling out policies that disadvantage certain ethnicities, and working for change in ways that promote equal justice.

The United Methodist Church has made this statement in our stand against racism:

We recognize racism as a sin.

We commit to challenging unjust systems of power and access.

We will work for equal and equitable opportunities in employment and promotion, education and training; in voting, access to public accommodations, and housing; to credit, loans, venture capital, and insurance; to positions of leadership and power in all elements of our life together; and to full participation in the Church and society.

Check out this link to explore many avenues we can explore as individuals and as a congregation:
<https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/advocating-for-justice/racial-justice/united-against-racism>

The following is offered by the church for all of us asking WHAT CAN I DO?

Pray

Ask God to show you the truth of our sin and how we might become agents of God's justice, mercy, love and re-creation. Cry out to God for guidance. Listen for the voice of Jesus in meditation, Bible study, worship and conversation to guide our ways.

Connect

Talk to people within and beyond the church who are doing anti-racism well. Ask questions. Listen and respect diverse voices. Learn how and where racism shows in your community and how others are harmed by its effects. Harness United Methodist and other resources that address institutional racism.

Show up

Be present to the pain of another. Attend a prayer vigil. Join a demonstration. Organize a church school class to read, discuss, and respond to institutional racism. Tell church leaders, community leaders and elected officials that you want to learn and help with dismantling racism in your community.

Act

Support cross-racial/cross-cultural ministries in your area. Preach and teach about the harm racism does and how it offends God. Harness the Holy Spirit anointing to rid your congregation and ministry settings of all vestiges of institutional racial bias. Challenge your bishop, mayor, governor, police chief, or other elected officials to encode anti-racism policies and practices. Join the ongoing work for racial justice in the church and world.





Our Mission Statement

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

Worship Schedule

Sundays	9:30AM	In Person Worship in Sanctuary
	10:30 AM	On-Line Worship on Facebook Live/ Church Website/YouTube

Subscribe to our channel on YouTube: Berwyn UMC

Follow on Instagram: bumcares

Like us on Facebook: Berwyn UMC

www.berwynumc.org

Email: officebumc@comcast.net

Fax: 610-644-7890

Church Office: 610-644-5555

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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SOUTHEASTERN PA

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