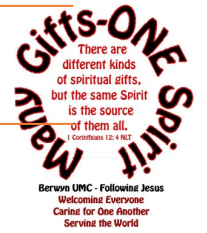




THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



March 2017

Mark Your Calendars:

- March 1 Ash Wednesday, joint service @ Paoli UMC 7:30
- March 4 Supper Club Potluck Dinner
- March 12 Healing Service; Pi Day Bake Sale
- March 19 Feed the 5000 collection begins

ESTATE ART AUCTION UPDATE

Gene & Carol Williams

We have received a few items for the upcoming Estate Art Auction scheduled April 29th. We need many more to make this event a success for the church. Please scour your attic, your basement, under the bed and in the back of the closet for those hidden treasures. Bring them in to the church office and contact either Veronica or us (Gene or Carol Williams) for a donation form. This form will trigger your tax deductible thank you letter once we have had your item appraised.

Mark your calendars for the April 29th date and be sure to attend. We look forward to seeing you. Our favorite auctioneer is "in place".



Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

Stephanie Borelly

I am asking **ALL** of Berwyn United Methodist Church to go on a virtual pilgrimage with me during the Lenten Season.

It is **5,782** miles from Berwyn, PA to Jerusalem, Israel. (As a crow flies)

I believe, if we work together as a congregation, we can complete the following journey by Easter.

Our trek will begin on **Wednesday, March 1st** - the first day of Lent.

As a Congregation, we are going to walk to Jerusalem!

This is what I need YOU to do:

1. Lace up your sneakers
2. Grab your pedometer, iPhone/Android, Fitbit or tracking device and get out there and walk!
3. There are **NO** age restrictions – everyone is eligible to participate!!!

Keep track of every mile you walk and **WEEKLY** send this information to me at Johnborelly@comcast.net

(I will log in everyone's miles and send out a weekly tally.)

To make this a 'fun' draiser, I am challenging everyone to find a Sponsor(s) and we can raise some money along the way!

There will be updates coming - so stay tuned!!!!



Join Us For Worship

8:30am Early Worship
 9:15 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Worship Service with Choir
 Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month

LENT EVENTS

Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017. We will again have a joint worship service with Paoli UMC. This year the service will be held at Paoli, 81 Devon Road in Paoli, at 7:30 p.m. Music will be supplied by the joint Berwyn and Paoli choirs.

Mark your calendars to be in church for either the 8:30 am or 10:30 am on Sunday, March 12 for our Lenten Healing Service.

Stay tuned for more information about special Holy Week events.



Recordings of Sunday Services are available.

Contact Jon Stockler at

610-348-3385 or

JStockler@aol.com

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Gary Jacabella
 Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross
 Lay Leader: David Adams
 Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley
 Organist/Director of Music: Judith Lang
 Nursery Assist: Eliza Chum-pitaz
 Sexton: Roger Toro

ALL SUPPER CLUB POT LUCK DINNER Rick Stoker

Saturday Mar. 4th beginning at 6PM in Schieck Hall is the date, time and place for our annual All Supper Club Pot luck dinner. But, this event is not only for supper club members, it is open to all members of our church family. We hope that many of you will join us for a fun night of food and fellowship. After the meal we will gather around tables to play some board games, dominoes or perhaps Pictionary. A few games will be supplied but you are welcome to bring along your favorite game. It is not necessary but we would appreciate it if you would sign up in advance – Sun. Feb. 19 or 26. Thanks and see you there.

SOUPY THURSDAY Rick Stoker

Soupy Thursday will come to an end on the first Thursday in March. We hope that you have enjoyed our soup and the fellowship if you ate at the church. See you next winter.



MISSION MUSINGS

Thank you so much to my church family for the love and Blessings extended to me while I have been recuperating at home. Never did I expect to begin the new year in the hospital and home bound! Your cards, calls, notes, visits, flowers and meals in addition to thoughts and Blessings were just what the doctor ordered!! I am coming back slowly but steadily....all thanks to you....With LOVE Janet

At our meeting on Feb 4, Molly Denisevicz shared pictures of her first-hand experience participating in the Women’s March in Washington DC on 1/21/17. It gave us the chance to see how varied were the marchers and the causes that led them to participate. Women, men and children of all ages and nationalities came together to express concerns in this very challenging political climate. Thank you, Molly!

In the midst of daily news that is often distressing the resources from United Methodist Women and the General Board of Church and Society can be helpful in framing issues of concern. We are all called to ‘Reclaim the Common Good’ by looking at how our Social Principles affirm God’s love of all persons relative to immigration, health care and a host of other justice issues. You can find a 2-page summary online at https://umc-gbcs.org/content/blog/Values_for_Common_Good.pdf



Bob and I would like to thank you for your thoughts, prayers and the many cards we received following the death of our grandson. Travis was a wonderful young man who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. This has been a difficult time for us, but with the grace of God, the outpouring of your sympathy, and our happy memories, we will get through this.

Two issues that have been very much on my mind are our treatment of refugees and our Native American sisters’ and brothers’ concern over the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). The UM Board of Church & Society has much to say about these social justice issues. I have posted information on the UMW bulletin board outside the sanctuary for your reference.

Our next gathering for Berwyn UMW is Saturday morning March 4, 9 am at Barb Mekenney’s home, 127 Bartholomew Road, Berwyn PA. Please join us as we support each other in prayer and discussion in such a time as this.



BOOK CLUB UPDATE

The May book group will be held on May 24 at Deb and Bob Hazen's house.



With much gratitude and love, Barbara and Bob Borst



Janet Wham

Learning to be givers shapes children’s values and provides the opportunity to develop kindness. Children who learn to be caring and kind feel good about themselves. BUMNS children participated in a “Kindness Catcher Project”. The project recognized children who do random acts of kindness. Each kind act was recorded on a heart and displayed on BUMNS hall bulletin board. Children learn from what they see. The goal of this project was to reinforce being kind. The children learned that no act of kindness is too small.

Teaching kindness begins with the youngest preschoolers. Practicing manners reminds children that a simple “thank you” can brighten someone’s day. Teaching children to recognize other people’s feelings introduces empathy. Teach children patience when they are frustrated. Patience goes hand in hand with kindness.

It is never too early to practice caring and kind behavior with children. Through these small gestures we can help make the world our children will inherit a little more kind.



A very late, but no less sincere “thank you” to all those who helped Don and me in so many ways when I was sick almost all last year.

More recently, “a warm thank you” for all the support you gave me and my family when Don died so suddenly—it was greatly appreciated.

Liz Kirkland



MISSION UPDATE *Jeff Barger*

We will be celebrating **Pi Day** on Sunday March 12th in memory of Donna Pitz. All the delicious treats such as pies, cakes, cookies, and brownies, are baked by the talented ladies of BUMC and will be available for purchase in the Narthex. Help is needed! Bakers, helpers, and buyers... Please contact Janet Campbell and VOLUNTEER! We need help day of and pie bakers, cake makers, cookie constructors and cup cakers!!! Please come help and bake and share a fun time!

The annual **Feed the 5000** food collection will begin on March 19th. The bags of food are delivered to United Methodist Neighborhood Services in Philadelphia where they are distributed to needy families in the area. Bags and a list of food items will be available in the Narthex in March. Please no expired items.

Thank you to everyone at BUMC for making these events a great success every year through your generous donations and support.



PHOTOS FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY OF SERVICE



Sewing school bags



Prepping notebooks for school bags



Loading up computer and medical supplies for Mission Central



Day of Service Volunteers—everyone worked really hard and we appreciate it

FAITHFUL STEWARDS

This month we spotlight not one, but two of BUMC's most faithful stewards-Carol and Gene Williams. When Carol was asked about some of Gene's contributions throughout the years, she provided the following biography. Following this, we highlight Carol's contributions.

Gene was baptized at the Berwyn Methodist Church on Main Street on February 9, 1948 and at the age of 16 he was confirmed into the Berwyn United Methodist Church at our current location.

As a youth, Gene often helped his father, Hap Williams, and the BUMMs with projects around the church, including running the bulldozer for the foundation of the former parsonage (now where the nursery school has its playground). He was a member of the church's Boy Scout Troop and he participated in both the Junior and Senior MYF, but was never in the choir. (Perhaps Miss Atkinson heard him sing once!)

In his late teens Gene served as President and member of the Alpha-Omega young adult group, meeting at our church under the direction of Stacey Myers. In the mid 1970's Gene and Carol co-chaired the Junior MYF along with Bill and Louise Staats (an interesting eye-opener into the complex life of young teens).

Once Marsha came along he got down to seriously upholding his responsibilities as a member of BUMC and served as President of (then called) Administrative Board following Don Hough at the time David Myers was pastor. Since then he has served and chaired the Board of Trustees, Staff-Parish Relations, and was recently vice-president of Church Council. He also went to Appalachia with the youth twice and would go again, but says, "he's getting too old."

Today he is the church treasurer and is currently training his very capable replacement, Karla Wagner, to take over the reign of the payables.

Gene's home church will always be Berwyn United Methodist.

By Gene's side for many years has been his wife, Carol Pusey Williams. Carol has also been a valuable asset and faithful steward throughout the years. She has been a choir member for many years and was the longtime chairperson of our MECCA committee. Carol served on Nominations and has been instrumental in various other endeavors at BUMC. Carol and Gene also began and chaired the BUMC Art Auction. Carol seems to have a big smile for all she meets.

Our church family is fortunate to count Carol and Gene Williams as Faithful Stewards! Be sure to thank them the next time you see them!



GRETNA GRITTY 2017

The Gretna Gritty is celebrating 5 years of muddy fun! This year, Gritty will be Saturday, May 13 at Gretna Glen Camp. The goal is to raise \$50,000 for Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center - God's Place Apart, Transforming Lives! NEW IN 2017 - 50% of the proceeds will be donated towards Gretna Glen's NEW BATHHOUSE! The other 50% will continue to be donated toward their Pathways to the Future Finance Initiative. With competitive, non competitive, and children's options there is something for everyone. Info is online at www.gretnaglen.org/gritty. Sign up today!



Pastor's Thoughts

In Fall of 2016, in the season before Advent, a group from the Berwyn UMC Congregation undertook a study of the Bible and Human Sexuality because it was a topic that our United Methodist Women were interested in.

We covered a lot of territory and here are some of the learnings I took away from the study.

The Bible is a good resource for discovering the sexual priorities of ancient cultures. Priority number one was procreation. Ancient Cultures put a lot of pressure on men to have heirs and on women to supply men with heirs. In some cultures men practiced sexual restraint because they thought they needed to save their virility for procreation.

In addition to procreation, sexual activity had a lot to do with power. Men used sexual activity to express dominance over women. Women responded by using their sexual powers to influence men. Sex was a way of competing. In many cultures, men owned most of the other people in the household, wives, servants and children. All these persons were vulnerable to abuse by the ruler of the household. Ancient rulers expanded their power and influence by expanding their harem. Political alliances were sealed through marriage.

Of course men sought pleasure through sexual activity. In some cultures men who had heirs and did not need to practice restraint were free to seek sexual experience inside and outside the household with men, boys or women.

Sexual expression also seems to have been surrounded by magical thinking. People thought that sex with a temple prostitute helped bless the land with fertility.

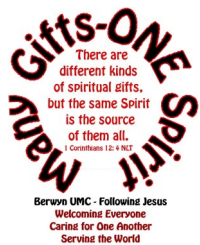
In contrast to the Ancient Cultures, Biblical teaching presents an entirely different set of priorities for human sexuality.

Biblical teaching makes union priority number one. God created humankind male and female in God's image. Sexual union between a woman and a man reflects God's image and establishes a co-equal partnership. This partnership becomes a symbol and a sign of the union between God and God's people and between Christ and his church. The biblical emphasis on union gives dignity to childless couples. Love between a man and a woman is valued in and of itself and not merely for what it can produce in the way of children as benefit to society.

Procreation is a priority in biblical teaching but it is not the top priority. God's loves to see humankind and the community of God's people prosper and grow but serving as a mother or father in the community is not limited to biological relationships. Jesus has many mothers, brothers and sisters.

According to biblical teaching, sex is an enriching experience apart from procreation. The Bible portrays both the woman and the man seeking sexual pleasure from their partner. Women and men both sing love songs. Wives and husband belong to each other. "I am my beloveds and my beloved is mine." Ultimately, sexual expression between wife and husband is an act of worship because it reflects God's love.

It easy to see how Biblical teaching provides a giant leap forward in understanding human sexuality. It not as easy to see how Biblical teaching fits in with ideas about human sexuality that are developing in our culture. The Biblical understanding is binary. God created humankind male and female. The union of male and female reflects God's image. Today there is a developing understanding of human sexuality that finds this binary view to be limiting or confining. There is an effort to take into consideration people whose gender identity or gender expression don't fit the binary categories of male and female and union between male and female. Our fall Bible Study on human sexuality opened a conversation but did not finish the conversation. We didn't really go very far into those areas where there are differences of opinion in the church but where we broached those subjects there seemed to be a willingness to admit a need to listen and ask questions for better understanding of different points of view.



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
Fax: 610-644-7890
Church Office: 610-644-5555

Berwyn United Methodist Church
140 Waterloo Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312

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