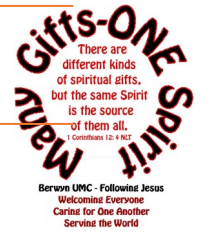




THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



March 2018 Newsletter

Inside this Issue:

- *Commission on Way Forward
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Calendar Highlights

- March 4—Feed the 5000 begins
- March 10—Tools for Ministry workshop
- March 11—Pi Day Bake Sale
- March 29—7:30pm Holy Thursday service
- March 30—Good Friday—Church open all day
- March 31—Gloria Saturday—10am Easter Egg Hunt
- April 1—Easter 6:30am Sunrise Service, 10:30am combined service
- April 15—2pm Wilson Goode



Join Us For Worship

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:30 am Traditional Worship with Choir
- Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month

SPIRITUALITY, POLITICS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

by Kristine Adams



During our Look to the Future Summit we held in the Fall one of the things discussed was to have monthly events that the community would be invited to. We did a few things on the front lawn like a Christmas Carol sing along with Scouts. April 15, 2018 at 2pm we will be hosting former Philadelphia Mayor Wilson Goode to speak to our congregation and the community. Dr. Goode is an ordained Baptist Minister with more than 63 years of service at the First Baptist Church of Paschall in southwest Philadelphia.

Dr. Goode has committed his life to improving the community and is currently the President and CEO of Amachi, Incorporated, a nationally acclaimed faith-based program for mentoring children of incarcerated parents and Chairman and CEO of Self, Incorporated - a non-profit corporation dedicated to serving more than 600 homeless men and women.

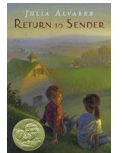
His topic for April 15 will be Spirituality, Politics and Social Justice. Everyone is invited to attend to learn about Dr. Goode's work, what we can do as a community and the effects of spirituality, politics and social justice on our nation. Please spread the word and join us in April.



MISSION MUSINGS *Carol Cherry*



Come join UMW for a discussion of the book 'Return to Sender.' We'll meet on Saturday March 10, 9 am in the church parlor.



The author Julia Alvarez writes "Sometimes it's only in the world of story that we understand the human side of political and loaded issues." Let's wrestle together around immigration issues in preparation for a guest presentation on May 6th by Spanish Health Ministry nurse Dona Sensenig.

HOLY WEEK 2018 SCHEDULE

- Thursday, March 29—Holy Thursday Service 7:30pm
- Friday, March 30—Good Friday—church will be open all day for prayer and reflection
- Saturday, March 31—Gloria Saturday—Easter Egg Hunt for children 10am
- Sunday, April 1—Easter—Sunrise Service at 6:30am, Combined Service at 10:30am (no 8:30am service)

LAY LEADER LETTER *Lee Paylor*

“Dark and cheerless is the morn, unaccompanied by Thee” was my first thought a few mornings ago, when I woke around 3 am. Why this thought? Why this idea? I have no idea. It was dark or maybe that rainy purple sky. I don’t remember. But not only is a morning dark without God’s presence, but the entire day! We need God’s son-shine all day, all the time!

We have God’s son-shine with us as we celebrate Prayer Shawl Ministry, HUB activities, MCOR work, Love Feasts, scouting, hospitality times, Sunday school classes...the list is endless. The Daily Lenten Devotions could not be better named, “Walking in Newness of Life” to go with our Walk to Jerusalem.

While we know Lent leads us to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, it also leads us to Easter. May this Lenten journey bring you God’s son-shine every day and every night – all the time!



MISSION EVENTS *Jeff Barger*

The Pi Day Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, March 11th. All kinds of goodies will be for sale which are baked by our own BUMC ladies. This year’s proceeds will be used to help fund the ASP Ministry this summer. So come out and help support our ASP team of volunteers.

The Easter Sunday collection this year will be used to help fund the ASP Ministry trip.

The Feed The 5000 food collection event will begin on Sunday, March 4th thru Palm Sunday. Bags and a list of food items will be available in the Narthex. Please try and adhere to the list and be mindful of expired items. Your donations will be distributed to many needy families by United Methodist Neighborhood Services. If you are unable to purchase the groceries yourself or need help in transportation please call me.

Mt. Zion Methodist Church thanks BUMC for our love and commitment year after year in helping them to meet the needs of others. The letter can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway.



MECCA -You like to say “Hello” *Lee Paylor*

Say “Hello” to folks you know, and folks you’ve yet to know by name, and folks who come the first or second (or more) times to worship with us ~~~~ be an “official greeter!” Come about 15 minutes before the 10:30 am service begins, and greet all who come. Visitors may need to know about child care, invite them to hospitality in the parlor, and give them the gifts we have for them. Please let Jane McDowell at senorajane2@aol.com or Lee Paylor at jlpaylor@verizon.net when you would like to be the “official Hello giver.”



FAITHFUL STEWARD—Liz Young

Do you enjoy the coffee and goodies provided between church services on Sunday morning??

If so, say a big “THANK YOU!” to Romaine Rood and Barbara McKenney. They have just completed a six year tenure chairing the Coffee Hour Committee. It takes lots of organizing, planning, and shopping to make sure we have hot and cold beverages and yummy snacks every Sunday morning. Romaine and Barbara are involved in many other aspects of BUMC, but after chairing this committee for 6 years, we salute them both!!



Many, many thanks to all the cookie bakers who made desserts for Gene's reception. They are: Eloise Levitt, Cindy Shallcross, Debbie Senior, Janet Wham, Carol Cherry, Kate Walker, Debbie Nemetz, Patty Littlewood, Laurel Adams (and two friends), Claudia Sharpless, Liz Young, Kristine Adams, Joy Fuerst, Jeannette Hess, Sue Denisevicz, Judith Lang, Veronica Mosley, and Barbara Borst...and these are just the names that I knew about!! It was wonderful and very much appreciated.

The Hospitality teams and Soupy Thursday guests have been enjoying the leftovers for several weeks.

Also, a special thank you to Laurel Adams, Barb Mekenney, Ed and Sue Denisevicz, and Nancy Atchison for their help setting up, preparing dessert trays, table flowers, and any odds and ends that cropped up on Friday and Saturday. We are surely overwhelmed by all the people in our congregation who care about us.

Thank you, thank you...small words, but with big feeling.

Carol and Marsha Williams



HUB NOTES Joy Fuerst

The HUB has been a flurry of activity! On Saturday, Jan. 27, Jeanne Earnshaw from Mission Central provided training for our Berwyn UMC HUB members. She presented information on the three UMCOR – United Methodist Committee on Relief - kits that are stocked and distributed domestically when disaster strikes: school kits, hygiene kits, and cleaning kits / buckets. The Berwyn UMC HUB is now focused on these three kit types for our current and future efforts. Look on the Church webpage under “Outreach, Mission Central HUB” for items we collect to assemble the various kits.

The computer and medical supply drive was on Saturday, Feb. 3 – a very cold, but bright and sunny day. A large number of volunteers from the church pitched in to transport the items from the donors' cars to the scout cabin. (Some volunteers also stayed warm inside and assembled kits based on what was learned during the previous Saturday's training.) The collected medical supplies and computers occupied more than one-fourth of the scout cabin. These items, in addition to layette and birthing supplies and UMCOR kits – 129 school kits, 85 hygiene kits, 87 cleaning buckets – were loaded onto a truck by many volunteers from the church for transport to Mission Central on Feb. 15. The truck was filled with items assembled since the last delivery in November --- what an amazing effort and blessing to those in need!

This would not have been possible without the many individuals and groups in the area who have donated supplies and kits and those of you who have donated supplies, assembled kits, inspected kits, organized, carried, and transported – THANK YOU! It has been an amazing effort by volunteers of all ages! The HUB will remain active throughout the year; look for updates in upcoming Lighted Cross articles, church bulletins, and email blasts. Volunteer opportunities include: collecting supplies, assembling kits, cutting fabric for school bags, sewing school bags, and more!

HUB supplies most needed

School kits: rounded-tip student scissors, single subject spiral notebooks or 100-150 sheet packages of loose leaf paper (no composition books, no 3 or 5 subject notebooks), pencil sharpeners (at least 1 inch long), rulers with both inches and centimeters

Hygiene kits: hand towels, combs (minimum 6 inches of teeth), fingernail clippers (no toenail clippers)

Contact Gina DeFlavia, Kathy Mullin, or Joy Fuerst with any questions or ideas.



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: Judith Lang

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

Sexton: Roger Toro

Recordings of Sunday Services are available—Contact Jon Stockler, 610-348-3385 or JStockler@aol.com

EASTER LILY ORDERS & LANDSCAPE FUND



Orders are now being taken for lilies to beautify the church sanctuary for Easter morning services of resurrection.

Contributions may be made to the landscape fund for beautification of the church grounds.

Please use the appropriate order form(s). ***Make checks payable to BUMC.***

Indicate on your check whether it is for Easter lilies or the Landscape Fund.

ORDER FORM FOR LILIES

I / We wish to purchase _____ lilies \$8.50 each. Check Total \$ _____

Name _____

In Memory/ Honor/ Celebration of _____

Please take your beautiful flower home after the Sunday Morning Easter Service

LANDSCAPE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

I / We wish to contribute \$ _____ to the Landscape Fund.

Name _____

In Memory / Honor / Celebration of _____

COMMISSION ON THE WAY FORWARD UPDATE *by Kristine Adams*

Over the past few years the global United Methodist Church has been in heated debate on whether members of the LGBTQ community can be ordained as ministers and can congregations hold same gender weddings. In May 2016 the Council of Bishops created "Commission for the Way Forward." The commission consists of thirty-two people who are diverse by ethnicity, gender, orientation, theological background, laity and clergy. The vision of the Commission is *"To design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of the UM witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible and balances an approach to different theological understanding of human sexuality with a desire for as much as unity as possible. This unity will not be grounded in our conceptions of human sexuality but in our affirmation of the Triune God who calls us to be a grace filled and holy people in the Wesleyan tradition"*

When the commission was created all Church legislation regarding homosexuality was suspended. Meaning, if a pastor came out as homosexual or a pastor performed a same sex wedding, they would not have to go through a church trial. It does not change the church's position that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The 2012 Discipline would stay in place while the commission works to come up with a proposal that the global church would vote on.

The Commission has been using several tactics to help frame their conversations and ultimately their proposal to the Global Church. Some of the tactics used include: each of their meetings is undergirded with an intentional and global prayer effort, study of the scriptures, listen to presentations by theologians, historians, financial leaders, receive input from other denominations, hearing from agencies, boards, churches, and having much conversation and sharing of hearts and perspectives.

With almost two years of meetings the Commission has come up with three possible outcomes for global United Methodist Church in no particular order:

Traditional Model: Affirm the current Book of Discipline language and place a high value on accountability.

The church policy book says the practice of homosexuality "is incompatible with Christian teaching" and lists officiating at a same-gender union or being a "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy member as chargeable offenses under church law.

Centrist Model: Remove the Book of Discipline's restrictive language and place a high value on contextualization.

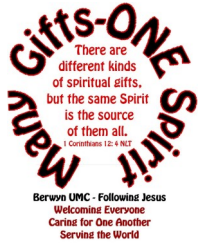
This model also specifically protects the rights of those whose conscience will not allow them to perform same-gender weddings or ordain LGBTQ people.

Unified Core Model: Create multiple branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice. This model would maintain shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops.

All three models come with a way for churches to exit the denomination. Each model also includes Biblical theology and mission. It is important to remember that the Bishops have *not* voted on any of the models, have not eliminated any model, have not ruled out other additional models that could come from further conversation, and there is no planning on schism and believe that unity is our best witness.

The Commission will be meeting again February 25-28 in Dallas to discuss the three models further. They could even come up with additional models too. This Spring, April 29-May 4, they will meet again in Chicago to finalize the model they are going to propose to Global Council. There is a deadline of July 8 for the proposal to be submitted to General Conference. The proposal will be voted on at a Special Session of General Conference February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. Items voted on at General Conference will be voted by 863 Delegates - ½ lay and ½ clergy. Eastern PA has 8 delegates and Pen Del has 4 delegates. The purpose of this special session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward. According to Article II of The Constitution (§14 of the Book of Discipline (2016)), this special session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the 2016 General Conference or their lawful successors, except when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election.

There will be an election of new delegates at the 2019 Annual Conference which would then attend and vote at the 2020 Global Conference. This topic was the subject of the February United Methodist Women meeting here at BUMC. As a group we decided to would be a good idea to have congregation wide discussions on this topic. Our goal would not be to choose sides but just discuss how we feel about whether or not the LGBTQ community should have full inclusion in the United Methodist denomination. Be on the look out for information about a congregation meeting. In the meantime, prayerfully consider your opinion on this issue and keep in your prayers the Commission and the Council of Bishops during this process. In the next issue of Lighted Cross I will have an update on these questions.



Our Mission Statement

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

Worship Schedule

- 8:30 AM Early Worship
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
- 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
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