



THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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Calendar Highlights

March 2 Tools for Ministry

March 6 Ash Wednesday; Pilgrimage to Jerusalem Begins

March 10 Pi Day Bake Sale

March 24 Feed the 5000 begins

March 31 UMCOR Sunday

Join Us For Worship

8:30 am Worship

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Traditional Worship

Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month

THIS JULY WE WELCOME REV. RODNEY BRAILSFORD TO BERWYN UMC Family!

Rev. Rodney Brailsford was born and raised in Philadelphia. Rodney sensed God's call on his life to ministry at nine years of age. He received his Master of Theological Studies degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2004 and his Master of Sacred Theology degree from The Lutheran Theological Seminary in 2013. Rodney's primary areas of interest are practical theology and social justice in light of the mission of the historical Jesus.

Prior to responding to God's call to pastoral ministry, Rodney worked for over ten years in social services. His experience in the field includes working as a therapist, foster care social worker and as a community resource developer.

Rodney loves traveling and immersing himself in other cultures. He has lived and worked in Thailand, Malaysia, Mexico and Peru. He taught Ethics at Prince of Songkla University in Thailand and taught English while living in Malaysia and Mexico. While living in Peru, he worked as a counselor in the San Juan de Lurigancho Prison in Lima.

After returning from living abroad, Rodney joined Messiah United Methodist Church and enrolled in the Licensed Local Pastor School in 2014. While at Messiah UMC, he taught the Next Generation Sunday School class and served as a core leadership member of the refugee co-sponsorship team.

Rodney was appointed as the pastor of Haws Avenue United Methodist Church in Norristown in July 2016. Rodney continues to serve as the Pastor of Haws Avenue UMC and resides in Norristown. Under his leadership, Haws Avenue UMC has changed its' mission and vision in response to the changing demographic of Norristown. The congregation has embraced a blended worship service and has adopted a team ministry leadership structure. Additionally, the church has expanded its mission and outreach programs, including starting a Prison Ministry and a Community Youth Group. The church is currently in the beginning stages of developing a Community Basketball League after receiving a youth programming grant through The Urban Church Initiative.

Rodney is a member of the American Academy of Religion and the Pennsylvania Prison Society. He serves as an official visitor for the Pennsylvania Prison Society, which advocates for the humane treatment of prisoners. The biblical mandate to remember those who are in prison is an integral part of his faith.

In addition to traveling, Rodney enjoys learning new languages, reading, watching documentaries, cooking, music, spending time with his family/friends and enjoying life. In recognition of all the ways God's love has blessed his life, Rodney feels called to extend that love to the world through service to Christ.



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL *David Adams*

I've been asked to make a statement about an idea that I've been exploring. The concept is to explore the potential of selling an undetermined amount of land at the rear of our property (not the church building) on the assumptions that:

1. A buyer can be identified
2. It relieves maintenance responsibilities of lawn, leaves, trees, repairs, etc.
3. A significant amount of money can be acquired in the process.

In order to plant seeds for the future, I believe we need to look at our gifts and resources in ways we have not thought of.

I have been personally motivated to investigate this due to uncertainty about finances, concerns about the future, and a search for our purpose in the community. Members of this congregation care for our facility and grounds at significant personal expense to their time and money. I also chose the word "purpose" for a reason. I would like us to consider: how do we want to volunteer? How do we want to offer ministry? How do we want to spend our talents? In 1 John 3:2 NRSV, we read: "Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is."

I believe that if we share not only our joys but also our concerns, Christ will be present; and love will be present. The inability to see the future may tempt us to look for another home. We may stay a family, we may not. But to succeed in our mission, our ministry must also be effective and we are spending too much time, effort, and energy managing land that we have not incorporated into any vision of the future.

My assumption is that we are relying too heavily on a few individuals to maintain the land and it is our responsibility to support these family members and relieve them. I want to be able to say that we have reduced distractions, planned for a day when those same people will not be able to continue this work, and right-sized what we have.

Psalms 104:14 NRSV

"You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth"

What I hear is that we are responsible to be good stewards of the things God provides for us. My prayerful suggestion is that the back portion of our property is not part of our plan for ministry, it does not connect us to our community, connect us to God, and lacks purpose in any master plan. If I am correct, then we should pursue a better purpose for land that we have been given but do not use in our ministry.

We have an opportunity to discuss selling a portion of land to the school district or other interested parties for use in their mission. No decisions or promises have been made at this point except to continue talking as long as it is still in our mutual interest.

My prayer is to be able to discern if this type of deal would lift physical and financial burdens from ourselves and give us the opportunity to renew the relevancy of our mission and service to our local and global communities.

I do not want to do this on my own or in isolation. My challenge today to each member of this congregation to be introspective about ways that a possible agreement to sell land impacts you, your family, our congregation, and our community. I encourage you to seek me out with questions and constructive insights.

My utmost priority of this initiative is to stay true to us and our ministry. The revenue from a sale is not the end goal. It is a stepping stone that removes a hurdle and gives us the space we need to find new ways to serve God and Christ in our community.

HUB NOTES *Joy Fuerst*

The HUB held our winter computer and medical supply collection on Saturday, Jan. 26. Many community and congregation members took advantage of the opportunity and donated lots of items. We had a great crew of volunteers to collect the donations and keep the morning's activities running smoothly. A HUGE thank you to: Laurel, Elwood, Kristine, Pastor Tim, Nancy, and Barb!! Some of the medical supplies will be donated to [Project Cure](#); the remainder of medical supplies, computers, and [UMCOR kits](#) will be transported to [Mission Central](#).

Since our last delivery to Mission Central in August, our HUB has received or assembled and inspected 92 cleaning buckets, 78 hygiene kits, and 54 school kits. These relief kits are distributed domestically by UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) when needs arise. Your generous support of the HUB – by your prayers, time, and donations – help us further Mission Central's goal of connecting God's resources with human need.

Be on the lookout for details related to our recognition of UMCOR Sunday on March 31!

HUB supplies most needed

School kits: rounded-tip student scissors, pencils, 24-count boxes of crayons, packages of 100-150 sheet loose leaf paper

Hygiene kits: hand towels, bars of soap (individually packaged, full size bars), nail clippers, toothbrushes

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



PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM *Stephanie Borelly*

We have found a mission project that needs our help!!!

United Methodist Services Bridge House is a transitional Housing Program serving homeless individuals referred from shelters, whose goals are to move to permanent housing within 12 months. The facilities were built in 1966 and are in critical need of renovations.

The Bishop has issued a request to raise \$110,000 to completely renovate and refurbish the rooms in the facility. A contribution of \$3500 will renovate a single room, and \$6500 a double room, and a room can be named in honor of the donor for a contribution sufficient to renovate a room. Our Sister Churches (Berwyn, Paoli, Wayne, St. Matthews, Valley Forge) have agreed to support this project, with a goal to sponsor a room. If we sponsor a double room, Berwyn's share will be \$1300.

Last year we raised \$1005.72 for Heifer International. We can do it again – and maybe increase the total!!!

So I need **EVERYONE** who is able to embark on this journey with me during the Lenten Season. For those of you who don't know it is **5,782** miles from Berwyn, PA to Jerusalem, Israel. (As a crow flies)

Our trek will begin on **Wednesday March 6th** - the first day of Lent

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/run!
3. There are **NO** age restrictions – everyone is eligible to participate!!!
4. If you walk at lunch, with co-workers, I accept group counts!!!
5. We want to get everyone involved, so we will be asking the Boy Scout, Girl Scouts and the Pre-School to join us on our journey as well.
6. If walking isn't your 'thing' – I can convert laps in the pool, gardening, anything that gets us outside and moving!! (Hopefully the weather will be better than last year!)

Keep track of every mile you walk and send this information to me **WEEKLY** at Johnborelly@comcast.net or text me at **610.299.6254**

Saturday evening or Sunday works best (I will log in everyone's miles and send out a weekly tally.)

Find sponsors or be a sponsor for our walk!



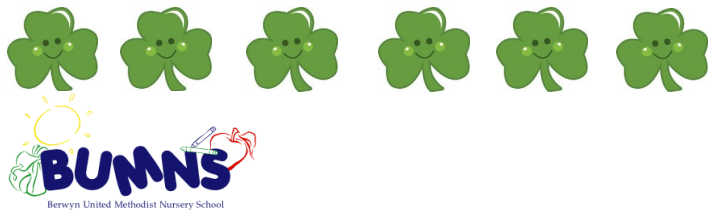
WORSHIP UPDATES *John Paylor*

Pastor Tim will be away on March 3 so Steve Cherry will deliver the message and serve communion.

Once again we will have a joint Ash Wednesday service with Paoli UMC. Ash Wednesday is March 6 and the service is at 7:30 p.m. at Paoli UMC. Our choir will participate in a joint choir for the service.

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

- **Palm Sunday, April 14**, regular services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. celebrated with palms.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 18** The Chancel Choir will present a cantata, "Lenten Sketches," at 7:30 p.m.
- **Good Friday, April 19**, a prayer station will be provided and church will be open for prayer from sunrise to sunset.
- **Easter Sunday, April 21**, Sunrise service with firepit at 6:30 a.m. to be held in the outdoor chapel. Regular Easter services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.



"If you never did you should. These things are fun and fun is good!" Dr. Seuss

On March 1, BUMNS children will celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Dr. Seuss holds a special place in the hearts of many because he wrote with the joy, concern and passion a child carries. We will honor Dr. Seuss by reading favorite books he wrote. Children love the rhyming, plots and art in his books. For many of us, our first introduction to literature was through the wonderful world of Dr. Seuss.

March winds are gently blowing as we say goodbye to February. February events included, Ground Hog Day, Pajama Day and the 5 Day celebrated their 100th day of school.

On Wednesday, March 13th, the teachers will have an in-service day to prepare for conferences. Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, March 14th and Friday, March 15th. Parent-teacher conferences provide a means for communication between parents and teachers. Each child's social/emotional, physical, and intellectual and language development has been evaluated by their teacher. The conference is designed to give the parents an insight into their child's pre-school progress.



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

LAY LEADER'S LETTER *Lee Paylor*

I have a wall hanging in my studio, and the last of the 3 lines is

"I Believe in God even when He is silent"

Are we listening to God each day – all the day? Are we aware of His presence ?

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty presence and His grace."
Methodist Hymnal 328

Sometimes God speaks loudly, sometimes in the "still, small voice of calm," sometimes through people, nature, words in hymns and the scriptures.

As we journey though Lent, may we be ever mindful of God – His presence, His silence and not so silence, and what He is calling us to do and to be.

"Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do."

Methodist Hymnal 420

COME SING WITH US! Amy McLoughlin

Come and sing with the choir for these two special services this spring. Ash Wednesday service will be held at Paoli UMC this year and our choirs will be offering music together. On Maundy Thursday, the choir will be offering a cantata titled, "Lenten Sketches" with instrumentalists. **Choir is on Thursday evenings at 7pm in the choir room. At 7:45 each week we will practice specifically for these events.** All voices parts are needed and welcome. Reading music is not a requirement. Instead of giving up something this Lenten season, choose to give something back to God and this church by singing praise with our choir.



MISSION UPDATE Jeff Barger

The BUMC annual **Pi Day Bake Sale** in memory of Donna Pitz will be held on Sunday March 10th. Donations from the sale will go to **SHARE Food Program** a Philadelphia non-profit organization that works to build healthier, stronger communities through volunteerism and access to wholesome foods. Donna was actively involved in SHARE'S Board of Director for nearly 10 years. She made a real difference in helping SHARE to reduce hunger, and bring healthy, affordable food to local families. For many years she drove to Lancaster Farmer Auction each week, and selected vegetables for SHARE's low cost produce packages. We honor Donna for her long standing partnership in helping SHARE to reduce food poverty.

The Feed The 5000 annual food collection will begin on March 24th. Bags and a list of food items will be available in the Narthex. Please no expired items. The bags will be delivered Easter week to Methodist Neighborhood Services in Philadelphia to be distributed to needy families in the area.

Thank you everyone for participating in our mission outreach programs to help reduce hunger.



THANK YOU!

Much thanks again as always from Janet Campbell. Well, here we are again saying thank you for your prayers (I felt every one) and thoughts (I heard every one). A fall and a broken leg, surgery and Bryn Mawr rehab. Visits from you, calls, flowers, cards and snacks and goodies. Making progress at home and will be moving better soon. Thank you to each of you for all you bless me with. See you soon.



UPDATE ON UMW Survey

In response to the 78 surveys sent to women of the church, 17 have been returned. Of these, 12 women have interest in programs on a variety of topics, with an emphasis on doing things to help others. Meeting 4-6 times a year, in a variety of locations (homes, church, other places) on Saturdays at 10 am are other trends. I'll be in contact with those who offered to host or co-lead a meeting. Thanks to all who returned surveys!



LOVE RENEGADE UPDATE Paula Renneisen

It was a pleasure having friends from New Life UMC join us at our service on Sunday, January 20th.

We look forward to our next visitation which will bring Berwyn to New Life on **Sunday, March 24th**.

Future "formal" scheduled visits will be on June 30th and September 15th, but feel free to join their 11 AM Sunday Service whenever the Spirit moves you!!

The group was blessed with receiving a Grant for continuing their work and will be attending the Anti-Racism Workshop sponsored by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference April 5 – 7th at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern, PA. If anyone is interested in attending, please let me know.

Upcoming Opportunities include:

- Undoing Racism Workshop Wed, March 27th – Fri, March 29th (registration fee \$20)
- Urban Commission of EPA March 29-30
- Community Summit – Wednesday, April 24th
- Prayer Rally with the New Life Evangelism Team – Sat, September 28th
- Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner – Sun, November 10th





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
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Berwyn United Methodist Church
140 Waterloo Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312

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