

THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God CALLS Berwyn UMC to



2019



November 3

All Saints Day & Harvest Dinner

November 20

Book Club

November 24

Missions Toy & Gift Collection Begins

December 1

Advent Begins

December 7

UMW visit homebound

December 22

Choir program *Lessons & Carols* & Christmas Brunch

December 24

Christmas Eve Service

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

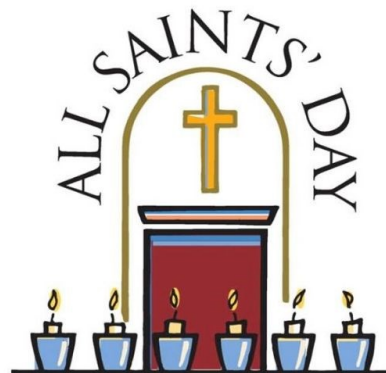
Thank you all for the incredible generosity of our church family. With your support, Berwyn UMC has been able to do incredible things for our congregation and our community this year. Here are a few of the ministries and events that we have been able to accomplish with your support: seasonal events like Fall Festival, Trunk or Treat, the Easter Egg Hunt and the neighborhood picnic, serving not just our church family but the community. Your gifts have also supported the ministries that embody our mission including Worship, MECCA, Communications and all the many things we do as a congregation.

Stewardship is a churchy word, not used often in everyday language. In the church, stewardship has come to be synonymous with fundraising and pledge campaigns. In reality, stewardship means “taking care of” or “managing.” What we are called to take care of, to manage, is the ministry and mission God has given us as a community and as individuals. That certainly encompasses more than fundraising and pledge campaigns!

As we consider carrying our church’s mission into the next year, we reflect on our goals for this upcoming year. This year, we hope to continue bringing people before Christ through our outreach and activities, as well as grow in our own Christian faith and understanding of what God would have us do as a church. With the success of last year’s pledges, we have realized the potential for growth in our ministry. As you receive your pledge request this year, please help us to continue on this successful path by continuing to invest in the church’s mission. If we do, our ministries of worship, education and service can continue to have a profound impact on the lives of our members and neighbors in the community and around the world.



We will observe All Saint's Day on November 3. This is the day we will recognize and honor all those church members, friends and relatives who have transferred to the Church Triumphant during the past 12 months.



Join Us For Worship

8:30 am Worship

10:30 am Traditional Worship

Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month

PASTOR'S LETTER

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ —Hebrews 13:5

Are you content with what you have - with your calling in life, your marital status, your income bracket, your home?

Most of us must admit there are times and seasons when we really struggle to accept how God has ordered our lives. A little shift or tweak here, we think, and we would be content. So, we strive at the tweaking, but in the process, we find that new things to adjust keep appearing. So, we pour our energy into changing what we can because we believe that this will result in happiness.

However, contentment will not be found in changing the things we do not like about our lives. This is precisely what the author of Hebrews is telling us. In his words we find out why contentment is possible, even when we lack our heart's desires. We can be content with our lives because God has promised that he is always with us. Our problem really is not that we need something we do not have; our problem is that we do not think that God is enough for us.

Many of us cannot comprehend how God could fill our voids and satisfy us entirely. We are open to the idea; however, we simply do not see how it is possible. Often, we are mistaken about how God satisfies us. He does not come to us on our terms; taking on the role of a substitute for the things or the relationships that we lack. He comes in place of those things and he gives us something even better. The reason that the words of Hebrews 13:5 do not resonate with us is that we are entangled by our desire for the material things of this life. If we would just look away from these temporal distractions, we would see that God delights to fill up our empty places with joy, peace, guidance, love, security, and communion with him through the presence and power of his Holy Spirit. Once we experience that, we will find it to be better, richer, and fuller than any earthly relationship or material blessing.

We can find this for ourselves by guarding against focusing too much on what this world offers. We can (and should) enjoy the material things God gives us, but only if we hold them loosely. It is the love of this world's blessings, the focus on getting them, that is the problem, not the blessings themselves.

We do not need anything more than what we have right now, today, to be content. The choice is ours.

May God Bless You Richly,

Pastor Rodney

**STAY
CONNECTED**

There is a lot going on within the United Methodist Church in Pennsylvania, the United States and around the world. Stay up to date by getting the latest news from:

- www.epaumc.org and subscribe to the newsletter NewSpirit Digest under the News & Event tab.
- www.umnews.org - To get the latest UM news from around the US and around the world.
- Berwyn UMC Social Media—Facebook by liking BUMCservice and Instagram by following bumcares.
- Weekly E-newsletter—if you are not already subscribed, please give your email address to the church office and ask to be added to the e-mailing list.
- Be sure to read your Lighted Cross every month too!

LAY LEADER LETTER *Lee Paylor*

Passing the corner house (fortunately their storm door has a low kick-plate), on sunny days there is a cat or two curled up enjoying the warm sunshine. This always brings me a smile. Driving by a fence with small pumpkins atop each fence post always brings me a smile. At night, to see the full moon shining through the trees this brings me a smile. And with each smile, comes or should come, a thank you prayer. Around your home look and see what brings you a smile. As you do your daily activities, what brings you a smile?

We have much to be thankful for – even on days when things are heart-breaking and we don't feel well. Let's remember to thank God with sentence prayers all through the day and when awake at night.

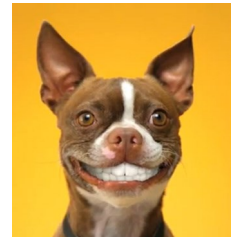
Apostle Paul said “ to pray without ceasing.”

“Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire... Prayer is the simplest form of speech...”

The Methodist Hymnal, page 492

“Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray...”

The Methodist Hymnal, page 404

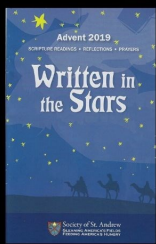





MISSIONS UPDATE *Jeff Barger*

As the holiday season draws near we will start taking donations of toys and gifts for the various organizations we support. They can be dropped off beginning November 24th as some organizations like their donations by the second week of December. The Alternative Gift event will start in December. And as always we will be collecting donations of toiletries, warm socks and gloves for the homeless. Thank you everyone for your generosity.



Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. We will again have a daily Advent devotional, "Written in the Stars," furnished to us without cost by the Society of St. Andrew. We will collect donations to the Society to further its work of gleaning farmer's fields to feed the hungry in America.

Once again Berwyn UMC will be a collection site for One Warm Coat drive in memory of our own Amy Dwyer. Clean, gently worn coats of all types and sizes will be collected until November 24th. Collected items will be donated to Cradles to Crayons and St. Johns Hospice. Tax receipts are available on the side of the collection box.

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Rodney Brailsford 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

WAYS TO PRAY FOR OUR PASTOR

Hear are more ways we can support Pastor Rodney and his ministry here at Berwyn UMC.

8. Decision-making

Being a leader includes making difficult decisions. Sometimes that means making a call when the “right answer” is elusive. Other times it is about making an unpopular choice. Pray for God to guide Pastor Rodney’s decisions.

9. Ministry with the poor

Pastors are called upon to help those who do not have enough food, rent money, or the ability to pay a utility bill. They also lead their congregations to do the same. Pray that Pastor Rodney and Berwyn UMC has the wisdom and resources necessary to help those in need, and that he might represent Jesus well to those who feel forgotten.



10. Communication

We’ve all sent a note, email or text that is misunderstood by the recipient. Ministers reach out to so many people, miscommunication is nearly impossible to avoid. Ask God to make our pastor’s communication clear and for grace when he is misunderstood.

11. Conflict

Conflicts sometimes arise when people miscommunicate and disagree. Some conflicts are serious, while others are petty. Pray for Pastor Rodney’s strength, wisdom, patience and discernment as he navigate the conflicts that arise.

12. Vision

United Methodist pastors help set the vision for their congregations. Pray that our pastor may clearly see where God is leading Berwyn UMC and for opportunities for ministries to grow in those areas.

13. Finances

Money worries can be a big distraction. Pray for financial peace for our pastor, both with the congregation’s budget and his family finances.

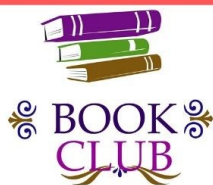
14. Health

A pastor’s physical health is important. Pray for Pastor Rodney to take time to care for his body through rest, exercise, and eating well.

15. Encouragement

Pray for Pastor Rodney and all of our staff here at Berwyn United Methodist Church to be encouraged today. Pray that they might know in their hearts the differences they make in the lives of individuals, our congregation, and in our community.

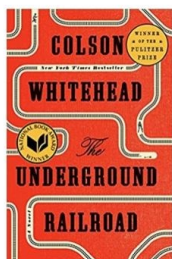
We can be an answer to prayer when we all encourage our pastor. Write a note, text or email to let him know what a difference he makes in your life. He will surely appreciate it.



Wednesday, November 20

The host and discussion leader is Margi Mackenzie. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Margi at 610-908-3766.

The book for November’s discussion is *The Underground Railroad*: A Novel by Colson Whitehead



UPCOMING DISTRICT & CONFERENCE EVENTS

November 16 9:30am to 4pm *Emotional Intelligence & Diversity Training* at Bethel UMC Spring City. Cost \$10. Register at www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar.

March 7, 2020 **Tools for Ministry** at Eastern University, St. David’s, PA.

“A Time for Listening and Discernment” Four General Conference Listening Sessions

- March 25, 2020 Church of the Good Shepherd UMC, Lebanon
- April 2, 2020 Downingtown UMC, Downingtown
- April 4, 2020 Simpson House, Philadelphia
- April 20, 2020 Epworth UMC, Bethlehem



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
10:30 AM	Traditional Worship with Choir

Berwyn United Methodist Church
140 Waterloo Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312
Church Office: 610-644-5555
Fax: 610-644-7890
Email: officebumc@comcast.net
www.berwynumc.org
Like us on Facebook: Berwyn UMC
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