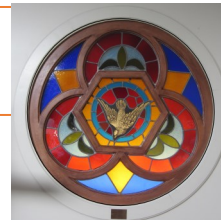


THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Inside this Issue:

- Pastor's Letter
- Lay Leader Letter
- BUMNS update
- Conference Info
- Trunk or Treat
- Pastor Appreciation

Calendar Highlights

- Oct 3 Jazz on Waterloo
- Oct 11—Pastor Appreciation Day
- Oct 13 & 14 Annual Conference
- Oct 14 Pastor Rodney's Ordination
- October 17—Trunk or Treat
- Nov 3—Election Day
- Nov 7 Charge Conference
- Nov 29—Advent Begins

**STAY UP TO DATE
WITH CHURCH EVENTS
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

FACEBOOK:
BUMCservice

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WEBSITE:
www.berwynumc.org

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTS

Jazz on Waterloo

An Outdoor Concert Featuring
Robert Prester & Adriana Samargia



Saturday, October 3rd • 4:00 PM
140 Waterloo Ave Berwyn, PA 19312

Join us for an evening of Great American Songbook favorites, jazz standards, Brazilian Bossa nova and reharmonized pop hits delivered in the unique and entertaining signature style of pianist Robert Prester and vocalist Adriana Samargia. There is no charge for admission.

All Attendees must wear face masks and follow social distancing guidelines



PASTOR LETTER *Pastor Rodney Brailsford*

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the Fall season is already upon us! Despite the numerous challenges 2020 has brought, this year seems to be flying by quickly.

Such is the reality of time – it continues to move forward whether we like it or not. One moment we are anticipating the excitement of the summer season and then, the next thing we know, there are pumpkins displayed at the grocery store and a chill in the air reminds us that the summer season has come to a close.

I am grateful that we live in a part of the country where this time of year brings cooler temperatures and the beauty of leaves changing color. The hot summer days are replaced by the brisk autumnal days and chilly nights. While part of us may long for the former days of summer, there is something in us that cannot help but lean into the changing season. We unpack our sweaters and hoodies, look forward to cooking our favorite soup and chili recipes and enjoy the start of the long-awaited football season. As we experience this change in seasons, we reflect on the past and look toward all that is to come.

While summer and fall are seasons in one sense of the word, seasons are not always determined by the tilt of the earth's axis. Seasons in life are also often the result of events and experiences in our lives.

The Bible has much to say about changing seasons. As Ecclesiastes reminds us, "There is a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). No matter the current season of our life, that season will eventually pass and a new one will begin. Throughout life, we will undoubtedly experience seasons of great happiness and seasons of pain and suffering. There will be seasons of certainty and seasons of despair.

Job, for whom a season of joy and prosperity was followed by a dark and difficult season, said, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised" (Job 1:21). In Philippians, Paul experienced a multitude of challenging situations and through them learned "the secret to being content in any and every situation" (Philippians 4:12b).

While there is no shortage of instability and change in the Bible, Scripture is clear that there is one constant - God's love. Psalm 136 includes the refrain, "God's love endures forever." Hebrews 13:8 tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!" Seasons may come and go, but God will always be there.

Changes in season, such as the recent one from summer to fall, are opportunities to evaluate the seasons of our lives. We can reflect on seasons of doubt and uncertainty, seasons of excitement and joy, seasons of aimlessness, and seasons of hope. Reflecting on the past may help us as we move through the current season of our lives.

Seasons may change, but God is forever. As Christians, we have responsibilities as we move through the seasons of our lives. We must give praise to God during every season, no matter how joyful or difficult. We should give gratitude for seasons of happiness and health and pray for strength in seasons of despair. We should ask for wisdom in seasons of understanding and for humility during seasons of prosperity.

May this fall season be a blessed one for each of you! No matter the current season of your life, I pray that you know the comfort of God's love.

May God Bless You Richly,
Pastor Rodney

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Here is a calendar of prayers and scripture for every day in October.

Take a moment, say the prayer and give thanks for Pastor Rodney and all the men and women who serve God so faithfully. Below the calendar is a poem asking us to reflect on what a pastor goes through on a daily basis.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 God, thank you for pastors who answer your call to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Eph. 3:8	2 God, may pastors and their families receive love, honor, and encouragement of their people. 1 Tim. 5:17	3 God, we pray for the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of pastors. 1 Sam. 25:6
4 God, bless pastor's families. Be their refuge and fortress. Preserve their time together. Meet their needs. Ps. 91:1-2	5 God, may pastors set an example in speech, in life, in love, and in faith. 1 Tim 4:12	6 God, raise up prayer teams who will pray diligently for pastors and their families. 1 Tim. 2:1-2	7 God, give pastors insight to fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel whenever they speak. Eph. 6:19	8 God, equip pastors with all the resources required to fulfill the plans you have for them. Jer. 29:11	9 God, give pastors wisdom in their leadership and the courage to speak uncompromising truth. Prov. 4:20-27	10 God, bless pastors with valuable study time. Guide them into a deeper relationship with you. Eccl. 1:13
11 God, enable pastors to trust you with all their hearts and lean not on their own understanding. Prov. 3:5	12 God, guard pastors' hearts and minds with your peace, which surpasses all understanding. Phil. 4:7	13 God, fix pastors' thoughts on whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and excellent. Phil. 4:8	14 God, guide pastors in the paths of righteousness. May goodness and mercy follow them always. Ps. 23:3-6	15 God, help pastors be instruments of healing in churches, neighborhoods, cities, nations and the world. 1 Cor. 12:20-27	16 God, keep pastors humble, thankful, and ever aware that all good things come from you. Ps. 25:9	17 God, reveal new ways pastors can open the floodgates of justice and bring hope to a hurting world. Job 5:16
18 God, fill pastors with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Gal. 5:22-23	19 God, keep pastors faithful in every way, especially when tired and hard-pressed. We pray for their rest and renewal. Isa. 40:31	20 God, bless pastors with a spirit of perseverance when facing trials and tribulations. Jas. 1:12	21 God, enable pastors to preach and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Tim. 4:2	22 God, may people learn through pastors' example that Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve. Matt. 20:28	23 God, draw pastors near to the throne of grace so that they may receive mercy in a time of need. Heb. 4:16	24 God, equip pastors to endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and carry out their ministry. 2 Tim. 4:5
25 God, empower pastors to fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith, and receive the crown of righteousness. 2 Tim 4:7-8	26 God, help pastors to put on the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. Eph. 6:14-17	27 God, may pastors and laity alike seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Matt. 7:33	28 God, remind pastors that they can do all things through Christ who strengthens them. Phil 4:13	29 God, empower pastors to worship and lead in worship in spirit and in truth. John. 4:24	30 God, enable pastors to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's might. Eph. 6:10	31 God, create pure hearts in pastors and renew steadfast spirits within them. Psalm 51:10

*Have you ever walked in our Pastor's shoes,
And gone where his feet have trod?
Have you ever thought of what he means to us,
And on your knees, given thanks to God?*

*Have you ever told him thank you,
For being there, when times are tough,
For comforting words and fervent prayers
When trials come and the storms of life are rough?*

*He answers our calls in the middle of the night
And tells us not to worry, for he will be there.
He gives up his comfort of quiet rest
And comes with prayers of comfort to share.*

*Have you ever thought to say "Thank you, Pastor"
For preaching God's word to help us understand,
For all the times he has asked for things
That will lend us a helping hand?*

*When you pray, put him at the top of the list
And ask the Lord to surround him with loving care,
To give him strength and walk with him,
To help him with the burdens he must bear.*

*Have you ever walked in our Pastor's shoes,
And gone where his feet have trod?
Have you ever thought of what he means to us,
And on your knees, given thanks to God?*

-Judy Crowe

WE GIVE THANKS AND APPRECIATE THE PASTORS THAT CALL BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HOME



BARBARA EMERY

Pictured here in her role of Nana to 18 month old Jaxon, Barbara has been immersed in being Paoli Hospital's Chaplain in the pandemic. "The months of March to May were unbelievably hard." Barbara's typical routine of ministering 80% of time to patients/20% to staff has completely reversed due to safety restrictions in her seeing COVID patients. For weeks she wrote an inspirational "thought for the day," distributing 250 copies as she rounded to staff; this normalized anxiety and opened the way for healing conversations. Through all this time Barbara has continued an intense 4-year process to become a certified educator for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), a role that allowed Rodney Brailsford to be her student ("He was great!") She covets our prayers as she meets with the certification committee during election week, and urges our prayers for the election as well. Gratitude is the key to Barbara's self-care: though the work is full of trauma, she's been grateful to go each day and make a contribution; to be able to get out in nature; to see the community care for the hospital staff through food and emergency funds; and for the discovery of "bifocal goggles" that allow her to read while having eyes protected.



REV. RODNEY BRAILSFORD

Rev. Rodney Brailsford has been with us at Berwyn UMC for just over a year now. This month Rodney will officially become an ordained pastor. His past experience of working in the social services gives Pastor Rodney a unique empathy and compassion that not everyone has. His natural curiosity and love of learning has taken him around the world. 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. 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.



BRON YOCUM

Gordy and I are enjoying life at Hershey's Mill, even in the pandemic. Although I'm officially retired, I still provide pulpit supply for pastors on vacation or experiencing illness. And I am working at a Palmer Seminary of Eastern University where I am Director of Methodist Student Advising and Ethos as well as adjunct faculty teaching in the areas of worship and UM polity. This year I'll be teaching in the conference licensing school. Here at the Mill, I'm in the Singers and the Players. So keeping busy and enjoying long walks with Wesley, our toy poodle. And looking forward to serving as one of Pastor Rodney's ordination sponsors.



STEVE CHERRY

The form of ministry I maintained for 29 years is all about serving older adults. So, when this year's unwelcomed pandemic struck, one of the most vulnerable cohorts of Americans was found in our building. The first weeks were the worst of the nightmare where our nursing center had a significant number of COVID cases, of which about a third died. By the beginning of May, cases had subsided and there have been none since. But perhaps most painful was serving and working with community members under lockdown. It was correctly determined that elders living in nursing, assisted living and residential settings, are safest with no contact with the general public. The mandated quarantine continues so the task quickly became supporting individuals who could not see their family members in person, AND staff persons who had to manage their own fear of the virus, work under complex circumstances with protective equipment and be 'family' to the residents.

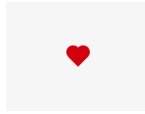
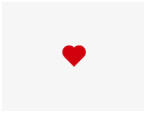
I'm actually retired now – effective Labor Day. It had been planned for late June, but with the pandemic still clinging, we postponed the date. But all worked out for the best. Turns out that a servant model of leadership is very much in sync with the servant characteristic of Jesus' call. This continues to be a theme for me.





John and I wanted to thank everyone for their cards and prayers. It has meant a lot too both of us, to have so much love and support at this time.

Blessings,
John and Carol



Our family has treasured our gifts of love and friendship in this very difficult and painful time of Len's passing. Thank you so much for your caring and compassion expressed in cards, notes, and calls during this painful time.

With deepest thanks,
May Dickenson and family



EASTERN PA CONFERENCE UPDATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Annual Conference Oct 13 & 14 virtually
- Pastor Rodney's Ordination October 14 2pm. A link to watch the service virtually will be emailed out.
- Charge Conference November 7. A link for Charge Conference will also be emailed to everyone who would like to attend.



BUMTalks SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

Claudia Genuardi

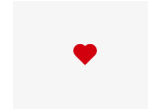
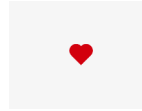
BUMTalks has started back up again every Sunday at 9:30am via ZOOM. We will go with the ZOOM program until further notice. Janelle Larson has been sending out our links, so watch for an email from her. If you are not on the email list for the class, get in touch with me and I will put you on the list, so you will get the ZOOM link.

A lot is happening in the world, so there is plenty to talk about. If you have issues you would like to talk about, just shoot me an email and we will chew them over. If you have found inspiration somewhere and would like to share, please do. If you have found something that helps you connect with your faith, please share.



Elaine Parvin wanted to share her new address with the congregation –

Elaine Parvin
433 S. Kinzer Avenue
462 VSA
New Holland, PA 17557



←goodbye→

Dear BUMC,

It is with sadness that Don and I withdraw our membership. We are in sharp disagreement with the church's stance on LGBTQ rights and the ability for gay persons to be ministers. While we know many agree with us, we hope those who disagree will examine their hearts and explore what we believe Jesus would do.

We have many happy memories of our 40+ years at BUMC, and we will miss you.

Liz Young



Berwyn United Methodist Church is committed to serving its members and its community. If you or a loved one needs assistance with grocery shopping or anything else, please contact the church office and we will make sure you get the help you need. Also, please let us know of any prayer concerns and as always share your joys with us! We want to know how you are doing. Office email is office-bumc@comcast.net and church phone number is 610-644-5555.

LAY LEADER LETTER *Lee Paylor*

In going through a box of children's books, I found a favorite of mine, "The Happy Book." The 26 small pages tell about many things that bring us simple joys and happy smiles, like fireflies, happy tastes, "And anyone about my size," valentines, tulips, "Christmas lights...my bed at night...These make me glad to be Nobody else but me!"

May we be mindful each day of things that make us happy and bring us smiles, and in our hearts and lives, say "Thank you God."

"I thank you, Lord, for each new day, for meadows white with dew,
for the sun's warm hand upon the earth...for fruit and flower...
with grateful heart I thank you, Lord, for all those simple things.

I thank you, Lord, for hand and heart to offer up your praise.
I thank you, Lord, for tongue to speak of all your loving ways.
For health and strength, for work and play, for loved ones far and near,
with grateful heart I thank you, Lord, for all that I hold dear."

Worship and Rejoice, page 720

"The Happy Book" by Patricia Martin Zens, a Whitman book, 1965.

Blessings and peace,
Lee Paylor



Jane Harris

We are back! We have weathered the storms of August and the water damage the nursery school experienced. We are grateful for the hard work of the trustees, particularly Carol Williams, without whom we would not have been able to open on time. It is time for the hallways to be filled with children's laughter and, I'm sure, a few tears. We are all masked up and ready to go! Children are very adaptable and seem to regard wearing masks as second nature. It helps that masks come in super hero and unicorn prints. I can report that the first day went well, children and parents were so happy to be back. We are taking temperatures, asking about COVID symptoms, cleaning and washing our hands. We are so thankful to be able to be back in school! Happy Fall to you all!



SOUTH DISTRICT SUPPORTS CONGO PARTNERSHIP

Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership: Our District Superintendent has felt God calling the churches of the South District to support three nutrition programs developed and supported by the Congo Partnership: Mpsa Nutrition Center, Miriam's Table, and the Agriculture Program. Together these programs feed over 700 children and elderly daily, and provide training to grow more nutritious food to help residents become self-sufficient and avoid malnutrition. These programs are especially important today as the coronavirus has exacerbated the challenges of malnutrition and hunger in the Democratic Republic of Congo. If you would like to help, please send your contribution to the church office and mark it "Congo Partnership."



Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Rodney Brailsford

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: Lee Paylor

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



Our **M**ission **S**tatement

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

Worship **S**chedule

Thursdays 6:00 PM Outdoor Worship Service
Sundays 10:30 AM On-Line Worship on Facebook Live/Church Website

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

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