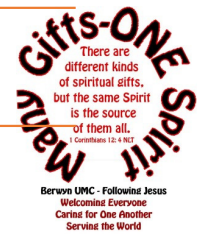


THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



February 2015

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Pastor's Thoughts—

Gary Jacobella

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Blessed Lent and Holy Week, Happy Easter! That's how quickly the Holy Days seem to go for those of us planning worship between November and April.

This is the February Lighted Cross and Ash Wednesday begins Lent on February 18 but not all our plans for Lent are in place in time for the Lighted Cross due date.

We are planning to have an Ash Wednesday Service of Worship in our Berwyn UMC Sanctuary the evening of February 18. The time will be announced. We hope to invite other congregations in our United Methodist Mission ConneXion. Our Ash Wednesday Service of Worship will include blessing and receiving of Ashes along with celebration of the Lord's Supper.

The Worship Series for Lent will be a journey with Jesus through the passion portions of the gospel for Liturgical Year B, the Gospel of Mark. The readings that are assigned to Passion Sunday will be spread throughout Lent.

Mark 14:26-52 - The Time of Trouble; Mark 14:53-71 - Who is Jesus?; Mark 15:1-15 - Jesus Before Pilate; Mark 15:16-21 - The Warrior; Mark 15:22-39 - Jesus Winning Defeat; Mark 16:1-8 - The Story that Never Ends

Our Choir will begin rehearsing for "Tenebrae – a Service of Darkness" on Sunday February 22 at 12:30 pm. As usual, you are invited to join the choir to swell the number of voices for this special event. This year our Tenebrae Service of Worship will be the evening of Holy Thursday April 2. The time will be announced.

In the past, Tenebrae on Holy Thursday has been my favorite Service of Worship for the year. I find the effect of re-living Jesus suffering and death while gradually draining the Sanctuary of all light very moving. I've always been one to sit in silence in the darkness for a long time so that it's not unusual for me to be one of the last to leave. It's hard to tear myself away after the sound of the closing of the tomb rings through the emptiness. I have found that Tenebrae helps me enter into the profound sense of loss that the first disciples must have felt once they realized that Jesus was dead. It certainly must have been one of the deepest times of loss and hopelessness that any group of people have ever experienced.

Part of the reason that Holy Thursday Tenebrae has been so moving is the waiting for Easter Morning. Early Easter before sunrise some of us would gather on the front lawn of the church building to light the new Easter Fire. We would then process with the Christ Candle newly lit from the Easter Fire to the front of the sanctuary for a time of Baptismal Renewal followed by a celebration breakfast.

For me, it's important to be there for the entire journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Morning with the people of God – be there to confess our human weakness and to face our mortality together on Ash Wednesday, be there for every step of the journey to the cross through Lent, be one of those who stay with Jesus at the cross and look for him at the open tomb. I feel that this is something Jesus has asked us to do. "Can't you stay with me through the time of testing?"

Lent, Holy Week and Easter really are a pilgrimage, a sacred journey. This pilgrimage goes beyond a one-time worship experience like a Christmas or an Easter. It moves, traveling through a entire season that we give to the Lord and the Lord gives us the opportunity to be transformed because a journey is always life changing, full of surprises. It's the nature of a journey never to let you be completely sure where your steps will lead. It takes one outside the safe walls of what is expected. It's a gift we can give each other simply by showing up to encourage each other along the way.

Save the Date!

Feb 8 Missions Bake Sale

Feb 14 Valentine's Day Dinner

Feb 18 Ash Wed.

Feb 22 Lenten Faire/
Pancake Breakfast

Feb 22 Health Kit Building Service

March 8 Feed the 5000 begins

April 10 & 11 Adult Council Dinner Theater Fundraiser

LAY LEADER LETTER -

David Adams

I recently heard an article on NPR that discussed the state of education in the U.S. The essence of the interview was that kids are getting their college education from multiple sources instead of a single institution. Many students are obtaining credits from community colleges and online courses before finishing at a university to complete the degree. This method allowed the student to attend classes that better suited their interests and needs. It also helped manage the cost of a degree. However, this had an impact to the existing university system as it is reducing their income making it more difficult to operate and develop new programs.

I listened to the following article about religion in the U.S. Contrary to what you might expect, an annual poll found that the belief in a higher power polled near an all-time high. So, how can so many congregations and denominations be struggling financially? The same annual study has found that people are searching to get their spiritual needs met in much the same way as college students. A person might get their Bible studies in one setting, worship in another, and mission work/service in a third...and so on.

Congregations who are thriving have found a way to stay relevant to the ways people are seeking God. As we meet in worship, small groups, or committees, please consider the following:

How do you actively contribute to our community outside of BUMC?

How have I learned to view my gifts and passions as part of God's calling?

Have we found someone we can mentor? How can our hobbies, interests, and activities be used to help build new relationships?

How can we invite others to participate in and celebrate in your mission or group activity?



Happy New Year!

The children returned to

BUMNS with smiles and stories of vacation fun. This month we welcome Cindy Shallcross' January 2 Day Class. Our newest students were brave on their first day. With reassuring hugs, tears often dissipate when new toys are discovered or art projects introduced. Transitioning from home to school can be a difficult time, but most adjust quickly to the routine of school.

A recurring theme during January was snow! There were wonderful books to read, and various mediums used to represent snow, snow people, and snowflakes! Painting snow people is a favorite art project.

Lessons will be taught about Martin Luther King Jr. This gives us the opportunity to explore concepts such as kindness, peace, and acceptance of all people.

The 5 Day classes resumed chapel time with Pastor Gary on January 15th.



Soupy Thursday continues in February



Soups are: Feb. 5 – New England Clam chowder, Feb. 12 – Chili, Feb. 19 – Cream of Mushroom, Feb. 26 – French Onion. Take outs are available starting at 5pm. Soup \$5.00/QT. Bread \$3.00/loaf. Eat in is available beginning at 6p. Come join us and have a hot bowl of soup during this cold winter.



Lenten Fair/Pancake Breakfast

The annual Lenten Fair/Pancake breakfast will be held on Sun. Feb. 22. Breakfast will be served from 9am-10:15am. The breakfast will feature: pancakes, sausage, eggs, fruit and oatmeal. A free will offering will be taken.



In Memory of Amy Dwyer

Coat Drive a Success!

Happy New Year! We have completed our 4th "In Memory of Amy" Coat Drive and, once again, it was a terrific turn out. We collected 58% more coats this year than last thanks to a few more people setting up collection sites this year. I think we are officially a warm coat chain now. Thanks Holly, Jim, Barb, Jake, Matt, Joy, Betty, Sunrise Assisted Living, Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police, Haverford Township Community Center, Berwyn United Methodist Church, Keller Williams Real Estate, Montgomery Square United Methodist Church. My apologies if I forgot anyone.

We managed to collect many, many new coats this year for children as well as the adults. This group supplied over 60 new coats to Cradles to Crayons and a local day care center that helps needy children. Amy's sister-in-law Barb started a new collection site with Jake's school and they hit it out of the park with over 500 coats. Amy's cousin Matt had another great idea this year. His friends organized a Thanksgiving dinner the week before the holiday and asked everyone to bring a coat with them to the dinner. They called it "Friendsgiving Dinner". Friendsgiving collected over 60 coats, 22 scarves, 13 pair of gloves, 11 sweaters, 8 hats, 4 pants, 2 ear muffs and 1 Dolce and Gabbana bikini... Love it.

The total to date for the entire Coat Drive is: 1,857 coats (last year 1,177), 173 gloves, 93 hats, 122 scarves, 13 sheets, 27 blankets, 30 pillow cases, 27 boots, 15 snow pants, 11 sweaters, 30 miscellaneous items and 1 bikini. Yes, this is a winter coat drive but some people insist on donating items besides outerwear...we don't encourage it but if it happens we find a home for it. Everyone in our family would like to thank everyone involved. We wish you all a Happy, Healthy New Year. Thanks again...Kathy Brill and family.



SAVE THE DATE!

Adult Council is planning a dinner theater fundraiser with the Barn Playhouse of Jeffersonville on April 10 and 11 at BUMC. Please save the dates! We will need lots of help!

Save the Date!





UMW: Topics to Engage Us in 2015 *Carol Cherry*

I love books and this winter I am finding some great ones – all I need is more time to read them! Here I share them as food for thought and hope you will let me know if these topics are of interest. The topics will be showing up in future meetings of UMW as they speak to what’s important to our mission ~ spiritual growth, social action and growing as whole persons in Jesus Christ.

Shopping by Michelle Gonzalez: Part of the Christian Explorations of Daily Living Series, the premise is that how much we shop, the way we shop, and what we shop for has a direct impact on our faith lives.

Another Bead, Another Prayer by Kristen E. Vincent and Max O. Vincent: Protestants are using prayer beads as a tool to increase focus in prayer. This book gives instructions for making prayer beads and provides devotions to guide use of them.

Eat with Joy. Redeeming God’s Gift of Food by Rachel Marie Stone: Our relationship with food is often complicated. The author shows how God intends for us to relate to him and each other through food.

Christ Walk. A 40-Day Spiritual Fitness Program by Anna Fitch Courie: Here is a comprehensive approach to walking, fitness, spirituality, and prayer walking.

Please join us for our **first meeting of 2015 on Sunday, February 1 following 10:30 worship in the library.** We will have our Pledge to Mission service and look forward to a new year of growth and service.

Mission team in Costa Rica

Rick Stoker

As you read this Dick Rood and Rick Stoker will be working in Palmares, Costa Rica. They are there with a team from Discovery Service Projects. This year they will be helping to build classrooms for the new UMC that we worked at last year. They will also help in the delivery of food to the needy. BUMC – you should be proud, donations from this congregation will allow us to help out approximately 170 families with food for a week.



Shared Bible Study

Elaine Parvin

This winter the Shared Bible Study Class has been reading a different kind of Bible book. Most books of the Bible are history, law, teaching, praise or letters. Revelation is a challenging book of visions, filled with mysterious symbols and images. Join us for discoveries, questions, and hope. We meet in the Library promptly at 9:20 on Sunday mornings. Bring your coffee and grab a seat! Questions? See John Paylor, Mike Benton, or Elaine Parvin

“Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice.” Psalm 63:7



Dear Gary, Bernie and friends at Berwyn Church,

We send greetings and wishes for a very Happy New Year from our new home in Davidson, North Carolina. Thank you for your prayers and well wishes as we begin our new life in the south. We leave behind a church community that is so warm and welcoming. You will all be greatly missed.

Please stop and see us if you plan to travel this way.

Love, Frank and Sue Farina

Mission Update—Jeff Barger

Upcoming events:

The annual bake sale will be held on February 8th. Come prepared to purchase the many mouth watering, delicious treats baked by the talented ladies of BUMC. Give one to your special honey, let the kids have a sugar rush, what the heck, give one to your dog! All proceeds will go to Mt Zion Methodist Church community outreach programs. The church runs after-school programs for neighborhood children and supplies fresh groceries, that they purchase from Philabundance, to more than a hundred people once a week.

The Feed the 5000 campaign is coming up in March. Easter is early this year so we will begin collecting food bags March 8th thru March 29th, Palm Sunday. The food will be delivered to United Methodist Neighborhood Services to be distributed to needy families. More information will be in the March Lighted Cross.



Music Department Notes

Judith Lang

Holy Week Cantata rehearsals will be on Sundays from 12:30-2:30 beginning on Sunday, February 22nd.

Dress rehearsal will be on Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday). We will be singing Hal Hopson's TENEBRAE with additional anthems. The format for the service will be the same as last year, but will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:30.

Please consider singing with us for the very beautiful and moving service. Please speak to Judith if you have any questions.



Children's News—Cindy Shallcross

Some exciting events will be happening in the coming months, so mark your calendars and plan to attend!!

- February 14- (5:45-10ish) Saturday Valentine Fun Club Berwyn while parents are enjoying Valentine's Day Dinner in Schieck Hall (let the office know), or at a favorite restaurant!
- February 22-Lenten Fair with hot breakfast and Crafts
- April 4th- Gloria Saturday Easter Egg Hunt-Invite friends, family and neighbors! There are plenty of eggs to find for everyone! (rain or shine)

Narthex & Flower Delivery

February 2015

Flowers

- 1-Barb Mekenney
- 8-Jane McDowell
- 15-Jane McDowell
- 22-Eliza Chumpitaz

Narthex

- 1-Judy Fisk
- 8-Jane McDowell
- 15-Jane McDowell
- 22-



Interfaith Hospitality Network—Gail Campbell

A chance to do volunteer service that BUMC supports. IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network) hosting Monday 1/26 at St Thomas Church in Villanova. Needed are:

- 1). Meal 1-2 people to cook Dinner and Desert
- 2). 2 people to eat and help cleanup after meal (5:30-7:00p)
- 3). Babysit after meal (7:00-8:30p) parents go to a parent education
- 4). Spend night 2 people needed (8:30-6a)

Refer to Scott (scobell@verizon.net) or Gail (gfc74@verizon.net) for questions and sign up.

WE ARE COOKING UP A STORM??

Carol Williams, MECCA

Once again the BUMC congregation has collectively turned in 2,310 ACME Saver Stamps and “purchased” 21 Cuisinart® Stainless Steel Cookware pieces. We now have everything from a 1 quart saucepan to a 6 quart stockpot and from a 7” skillet to a 12” skillet.

As you know, we gave 16 place settings of Rachel Ray™ dishes to the PA Home of the Sparrow that supports and counsels women and their families in the area. The Sparrow finds and places the families in homes or apartments of their own once they are ready and able to support themselves. In the fall they had several families transitioning from shelters in the area to independent living and we were able to help by providing table service dishes from which the families could eat. We still have about 16 place settings in our inventory.

NOW WE HAVE COOKWARE. The Sparrow would love to be the recipients of some of the cookware and we have plenty to go around. We have contacted the Trinity Food Bank, T/E Cares and Habitat for Humanity. If you know of other organizations that reach out to families in need, please let us know so that we can contact them to offer dishes and/or cookware.

Thank you once again for your wonderful support. I’m proud of Berwyn’s generous heart and outreach of caring to the community in need.



Conference & District News

Judy Fisk

We have all read about the Central District workshops. There is a table in the Narthex with information and the Church office will be able to help you find a certain workshop or meeting area. I hope that many of our members will participate in these informative meetings.

New information has just been received that the Delegates for the 2016 General Church conference will be elected at this years EPC in May. The reason for this change is that the General Church Conference will meet before our 2016 Eastern PA Conference. General Conference will be in Oregon. The nomination forms will soon be available. There is a procedure to be followed. Ten lay persons must nominate a Lay Delegate for the person to be a nominee and the clergy will do the same for Clergy delegates. Also a nominee will have to submit information about themselves. There will still be nominations from the floor. Three years ago I was your Lay Delegate and was able to take part in the process. I understand the process this year will not be by paper ballots. More on this subject as it becomes available.

2016 will be a busy year as the EPA will be hosting the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in Lancaster July 10-15. The Central District will be the host one of the days of this conference.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Staff Holiday Gift! It was a very nice surprise to receive a very generous gift from all of you! I very much enjoy working with the children of our church. As 2015 is beginning, I look forward to another fun, fellowship filled year of learning and living in the way of God. I also want to thank all of you for your continued support of the Children's Program! It lifts all of us up and is a true blessing!

Sincerely, Cindy Shallcross



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 Jacobella

Children's Coordinator: Cynthia Shallcross

Lay Leaders: Janet Campbell & David Adams

Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

Organist/Director of Music: Judith Lang

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

Valentine's Day Dinner

Presented by

BUMC All Supper Club

Saturday, February 14, 2015

6:00 PM

Happy Valentines Day!

RSVP by Wednesday, February 11th



\$10.00 Per Person

All are invited to attend!

Payment must be made
with Reservations

For more information:
610-644-5555

6—6:30 PM SOCIAL TIME & APPETIZERS

6:30—6:45 HONORING LOVE

6:45 DINNER SERVED

MENU

PRIME RIB OR SALMON

(specify when making reservations)

TWICE BAKED POTATO

VEGETABLE

DESSERT

LOCATION

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

140 WATERLOO AVENUE

BERWYN, PA 19312

Church Phone:

610-644-5555

Office E-mail:

officebumc@comcast.net

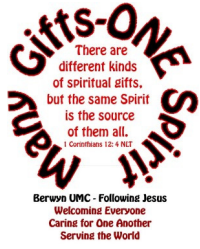
Church Website:

berwynumc.org

Next deadline: February 11, 2015

Our mission is to spread the good news about the activities of Berwyn United Methodist Church. Chairs and members of committees are invited to submit articles to inform the congregation about events and the work of the church. Individuals are invited to submit cards of thanks and brief items of interest about congregation members. Submit items to

kristineadamspc@verizon.net by the end of the day **Feb 11**. The next issue is scheduled to be delivered by postal mail by March 1, and an electronic version will be available earlier on the church website.



Our Mission Statement

God calls Berwyn UMC to be a community

Of Christian believers that:

Invites ~ Nurtures ~ Encourages Service

Sunday Morning Worship

8:30 AM	Early Worship
9:15 AM	Sunday School for all Ages
10:30 AM	Traditional Worship

Like us on Facebook: BerwynUMC

www.berwynumc.org

Email: officebumc@comcast.net

Fax: 610-644-7890

Church Office: 610-644-5555

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