

THE LIGHTED CROSS



October 2022 Issue:

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BUMC FOOD PANTRY OPEN

Tuesdays 9am to noon
Thursdays 2pm-6pm
Food donations can be left in the bin outside or in the narthex.

October Calendar

Oct 2 Communion
Oct 4 Widow Support Group
Oct 8 Fall Fest
Oct 16 Town Hall after worship
Oct 19 Town Hall via ZOOM
Oct 22 Trunk or Treat
Oct 23 Town Hall 3pm @ Church
Oct 30 Pancake Breakfast

FALL FEST RETURNS! *Stephanie Borelly* **Mark your calendar – October 8th from 9AM – 2PM** **RAIN or SHINE**

As we get closer to the date, there will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex. That way EVERYONE can sign up for times to volunteer – set-up, pricing, selling, clean-up.

In the meantime, we are still collecting and storing treasures in the Scout cabin. Here is what we are looking for: Knick knacks, Wooden furniture, Kitchen odds & ends, Pots, Pans, Lamps, Puzzles, Games, Pictures/frames, Vases, etc.



Unfortunately, we are NO LONGER accepting any upholstered furniture.

If you are interested in working please let Stephanie Borelly know by email borellysteph6@gmail.com There are a lot of opportunities to volunteer. We need EVERYONE's help to make this a success!!

TRUNK OR TREAT 2022

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

3PM TO 5PM

DECORATED TRUNKS NEEDED!

Please let Kristine Adams know if you want to participate. Email kidl.adams@gmail.com to save your space.

Spread the word. Tell all the ghouls and boos you know to bring their goodie bags to collect some treats. There will be non food treats available for those with food allergies. Kids of all ages and abilities are welcome to participate. This is a FREE event for the community.



STEWARDSHIP AND YOU by Steven Cherry Chair, Finance Team

Berwyn UM Church started using its new Audio-Visual System on Sunday, September 25th. While we will grow into using the system more fully, we have already seen improvements in sound quality. The feedback we heard was mostly positive with some stating they were not so sure they would like it but were pleased with how it turned out. The improvement helps to bring the church into the new age of Christian engagement and experience and opens many new avenues for inclusive and interactive worship. The story of how this project was funded is a testament to God's blessing. There are about seven sources from which funding made the project possible. Church donors involved stepped up significantly to manage the \$36,000 price tag. We join together in thankfulness to everyone who made this possible and hope that you will join us on Sundays to experience, first-hand, the new look and sound of in-person worship at Berwyn Church.

When we embark on fundraising for this type of project, we are approaching one type of giver. You may find yourself in one or more of the three types of givers who support the mission of the church.

- First, there are those who support the church, usually through providing a yearly estimate of giving. Giving in this way helps the church budget, plan for staffing expenses, and plan ongoing ministries. Without people who submit and honor their yearly giving estimates, we are unable to adequately prepare a ministry action plan that is both daring and audacious but also financially sustainable. As we move closer to November, please consider if you will submit a yearly giving estimate, or pledge and for what amount.
- Second, there are those who give to support specific ministries or projects they feel passionate about. These gifts are sometimes called second-mile gifts because they are above and beyond their yearly giving. These estimates, help us to launch new ministries initiatives, projects, or capital expenses that arise throughout the year. This type of gift is what enabled the Audio-Visual upgrades without putting stress on this year's budget.
- Third, there are those who support the church through legacy giving. We are grateful that people remember Berwyn United Methodist Church in their estate planning. This type of gift is either to the general endowment that has restrictions on how much can be used each year or through another designated gifts. The primary purpose of this type of giving is to leave a legacy in the form of supporting the work of the church long after the giver has joined the church triumphant.

One gift that may stand out in your memory was a gift to pay the principal of the mortgage from the building project. This gift has kept a significant expense from impacting ministries and the budget that funds them over the last few years. Unfortunately, this legacy gift ran out at the end of August, which transitions those expenses back to the yearly operating budget.

The work of the church, its yearly planning, and its ongoing future are only made possible because its members and participants support it through their gifts of time, talent, prayer, and treasure. Without any one of these things, we cannot move into the future that God has in store for us. We appreciate those who support the church through those means enabling the mission and ministry of the church to continue.

This year, like years past, we operate at a financial deficit, trying to maintain the ministries of the church with fewer and fewer resources. Unfortunately, this year's deficit may reach as high as \$70k. The deficit has been covered by reserve and by special gifts, but that is not a sustainable way of running and growing a thriving church. We would ask you to think openly about your gifts, talents, and passions and invest yourself as fully as you are able to our mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our community to make a lasting impact on the world for the glory of God. How would you like to be involved, answering that passion, in giving and/or in serving? What are your ideas!? What new things should we be doing? In all this, your stewardship can take shape. Please look for the announcement of three town hall-style meetings scheduled in the third week of October. This is where you will have a chance to ask questions about the current state of the church and where we will have an opportunity to share the plans for the future. There are two in-person meetings and one online for those who are unable to attend in person.

"¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them." ~ Ephesians 2:10

Have you ever considered yourself a masterpiece? When you look in the mirror, have you ever told yourself that God made you for a purpose? Have you ever considered that when God made you, you would go through life circumstances that would develop skills and a mindset that God could use?

These are bold statements, especially if you have experienced anything negative in your life. The last thing I want to do is suggest that God causes bad things to happen to us. As we pray for Florida and Cuba right now, the last thing that any Christian should do is say that the hurricane is God's retribution for _____ (fill in the blank here with whatever sinful behavior that makes you angriest). However, Romans 8:28 says that "all things work together for good for those who love God." It is not that God only causes good things or that God is causing bad things to happen to build you up. Still, it does mean that through Christ, those things we would have rather not happened can be redeemed and transformed, and good can come from it. We see this clearly demonstrated through Jesus' death on the cross. One of the most excruciating means of putting someone to death, which I wish Jesus did not endure, was transformed into good, so the world could be brought to life.

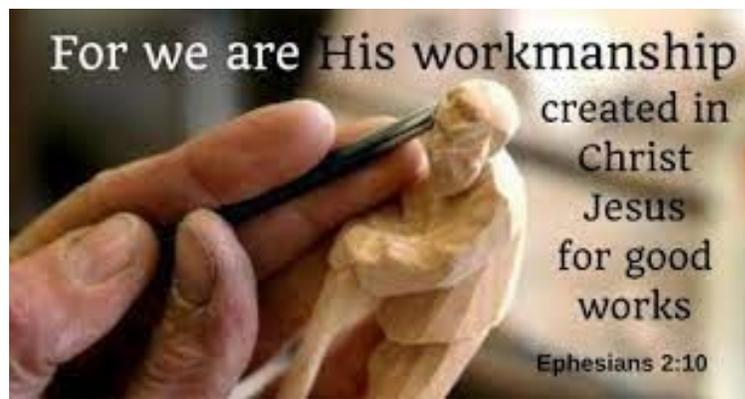
In this, I find hope, not because it means that my actions against another are not important since God will transform them for something good. But, when I look back at all the things that have happened to me over my life, things that I did and others have done, I can take heart and hope that they can be redeemed and used by God for his purposes. In some ways, I see those times as already redeemed because I have been able to speak words of kindness and hope to people going through their difficult times from a place not only of distant empathy but of personal experiences of survival.

If you look at your own experiences, you too may find those places. Despite all the world tried to throw at you, God worked within them and you to bring about good. None of those experiences diminish the fact that you are God's masterpiece, knit together for your good and for the good of others. We act not because we earn God's love through our actions, but because of God's love, we can act.

As we move forward in ministry together, we must find a way to recapture what it means to be God's masterpiece for the purpose of good works, just like Abram and his descendants being a blessing to bless others. The hope for the future of Berwyn United Methodist Church rests on God's calling upon us to love and serve our community and to share the good news of Jesus Christ. That calling then lands on every one of us to answer the call with all that we are and with all that God has gifted us to live into the future that God has planned for us.

My prayer is that we will all answer that call.

Pastor Kevin



Our Mission

Worshipping God
Serving Jesus
Loving Others

Our Vision Statement

We are a diverse community of socially conscious believers affirming our faith in Jesus Christ through action.

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Kevin Rutledge

Lay Leader: Amy Dodds

Sexton: Over Caicedo

Admin. Assistant: Veronica Masley

Organist/Director of Music: John Lewis

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

A NOTE FROM YOUR LAY LEADER *by Amy Dodds*

Fall has long been my favorite season. Fall is a time of great change in nature - the less structured days of summer have passed, and we look forward to a new season. I love the varied color of the fall leaves, blue skies, and the cooler autumn air. There is a sense of excitement for the change ahead and perhaps the opportunity for new growth. Fall is also a time for new obligations: the beginning of school for the kids, a renewed commitment to church attendance and Sunday school, sports schedules, the coming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and so much more.

As much as we love doing all of it, these new commitments can leave us feeling stressed out and tired, and maybe even overwhelmed. Perhaps we can find inspiration from Paul in his message to Galatians as he reminds us we are challenged to do good and not feel weary:

And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Galatians 6:9

At times it may feel the good work we are he does not want us the seeds we sow to the future. GOD is the beauty of the fall leaves, He also wants to create beauty in our lives. GOD knows we are only human, and when we become discouraged, He wants to encourage us to continue in our work, and not grow weary in doing good. When we do, He promises we will reap the reward of a life well-lived. During this time of great change in nature, I offer to you a reminder to take the time to rest but forge forward in our work together, to not grow weary, and to revel in the beauty GOD has put in your life today.



as if no one sees or appreciates or doing, but GOD sees the effort and to give up! We are reminded that day will determine what we reap in on our side ... just as GOD creates the beauty of the fall leaves, He also wants to create beauty in our lives. GOD knows we are only human, and when we become discouraged, He wants to encourage us to continue in our work, and not grow weary in doing good. When we do, He promises we will reap the reward of a life well-lived. During this time of great change in nature, I offer to you a reminder to take the time to rest but forge forward in our work together, to not grow weary, and to revel in the beauty GOD has put in your life today.



Over the last few months, I have met a few people in their homes. One of the topics that have repeatedly come up is how the church is doing. I have heard the same basic idea from each person that I spoke with on the matter. They essentially said that "If you ask 10 people in the church how the church was doing, you will get 11 different answers." My desire over the next year is to fix this issue. I want you all to be well informed about not only the current state of the church but also the plans we have to move us into the future that God has in store for us.

We will begin this endeavor to increase transparency by having regular town hall-style meetings where you will have an opportunity to ask questions, and we will give an honest assessment of things but also talk about what the plans, goals, and dreams for the church are. The first set of town hall meetings are scheduled for the following dates and times:

- October 16th in person after church
- October 19th at 7:00 pm on Zoom at the following link <https://bit.ly/3DXIffv>
- October 23rd at 3:00 pm in person at the church

I hope to see as many of you as possible at one of these three meetings.

Pastor Kevin



The reason that Berwyn United Methodist Church can do the work that we do and become the church that God has planned for us in our future is through the efforts of its committed members in ensuring

that its ministry can continue. This month, we want to acknowledge and thank two people whose faithful service has been empowering to the church. If you feel like you would like to take the next step in your discipleship pathway by engaging in service to the church, even if you don't know where, please contact Pastor Kevin and he will help you discover where your gifts and the church's needs align.

Debbie Nemetz

Consummate banker, Debbie served as a lead counter for the Berwyn UMC Counters Team for many years. She ran the numbers for the last time late in September. So it is time to render thanks to her for her leadership and diligent work. The Team consists of about five persons who every other week, meet to process gifts received from Sunday offerings and other donations, preparing all for the corresponding bank deposit. Because Debbie worked for many years for PNC Bank, her expertise in banking operations allowed her to both lead and teach. The Counters Team currently also consists of Judy Edinger, Betsy Newman, Claudia Sharpless, and Carol Williams, all working under the watchful eye of Veronica Mosley serving as Finance Secretary.

John Paylor, esq; Treasurer

Since 2018, John has served as Treasurer for Berwyn UM Church. As he has said, 'I always had an interest in finance,' so he asked to serve on the Finance Committee at a time when there was a need for support of the financial work of the congregation. At that time, we began to use a company called Church Shield to manage bookkeeping and accounts payable. John was able and willing to become the main contact with the bookkeeping service to support Barbara Stockler who has also been a skilled member of the Finance Team and was our main bank contact. (The church banks with Customers Bank, Phoenixville.) The rest is 'treasurer history.'

One of John's accomplishments was establishing a new, comprehensive, and unified chart of accounts, so that we have as clear as possible a picture of operating, restricted and pass-through accounts. This is second only to his massive effort to successfully manage our application for the CARES ACT loan, which was ultimately forgiven. This allowed the Church and Nursery School to realize about \$90,000 in funding that helped us navigate the tough days of the pandemic. John's tireless work with the bank and required paperwork allowed the process to smoothly unfold for us.

John will be stepping down as Treasurer and from the Leadership Team shortly and in preparation new arrangements are being made. But in the meantime, deep thanks are due to John for his faithful, detailed, meticulous, and prayerful service on behalf of the finance ministry of the congregation.

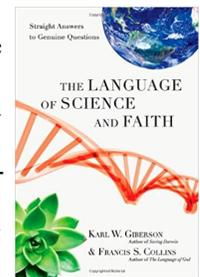
BUMC LIBRARY BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Marjorie Smink

Each book for the next several months comes from the library of Rev. Dr. William T. Cherry, father of BUMC member, Rev. Steve Cherry. Bill Cherry passed away in 2020.

The Language of Science and Faith by Karl W. Giberson and Francis S. Collins, c2011 [231.7 Gib]

As Christians, do we have to choose between affirming that everything exists because of God or accepting the explanation of nature by science which does not include God in the picture? Giberson and Collins claim that we do not have to choose one or the other for science does not discount the Bible and faith does not reject science. Their dialogue plains how God cares for and interacts with his creation while science offers a able way to understand the world God made. The authors clear up the erroneous conclusions of Christians and atheists about science and evolution by sharing results of research in physics, geology, tronomy and genetics. This book will come a classic for those who read it with an open mind and are willing to wrestle with questions about the relationship of modern science with Christian faith.



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**La-La-La
Choir is back! All
Interested Singers are
invited to join us**

**CHOIR
REHEARSALS
THURSDAYS
AT 7PM**

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION?
CONTACT JOHN LEWIS AT
JOHNLEWISTENOR@GMAIL.COM

To keep up with local, national and global church news follow:

Berwyn UMC Newsletter: The Lighted Cross

Facebook: BUMCservice

Instagram: bumcares

YouTube: Berwyn UMC

Church Website:

www.berwynumc.org

Eastern PA Conference

website: www.epaumc.org

UM News website:

www.umnews.org

***To share church events and member news in The Lighted Cross, please submit them via our website www.berwynumc.org/media-resources.**

***To include items in the church bulletin, email the church office at [office-bumc@comcast.net](mailto:bumc@comcast.net).**

***To include items in the weekly e-newsletter, email John Paylor at jlpaylor@verizon.net**



The nursery school is full of happy smiles and children's laughter once again. We had a few tears from our youngest friends to begin with but they soon dried up. It always amazes us how quickly the children adapt to their new environments.

The hallways will soon be full of Halloween decorations and the children are already discussing their Halloween costumes! We will be having our annual Halloween parade at the end of October. Thank you to the church for the invitation to the BUMC Trunk and Treat on October 22nd.

We are excited that our youngest friends have artificial surface to play on now, it can be used in all weathers now. Please take a look at all the happy faces in the 'First day at BUMNS' photos on the notice board inside the entrance to the nursery school.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Richard Sharpless

19 Kristine Adams

Contact church office to update birthday information

TROOP 181 UPDATE by *Debbie Bellew*

Scouts BSA Troop 181 spent an enjoyable summer filled with camping, advancement activities, and plans for service over the course of the school year. Since reconvening in August, the Troop has already held a welcoming event at BUMC for prospective future Scouts (check out our display at the Easttown Library lobby!) and a weekend campout kayaking and canoeing in New Jersey. Meetings are weekly at BUMC with camping trips monthly, including a get-to-know-us event in the church backyard October 8-9. Boys older than 11 are encouraged to join us for a sample meeting any first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Please reach out with any questions to joinpaoli181@gmail.com or scoutmaster.181.paoli@gmail.com.

We appreciate BUMC's partnership in hosting Troop 181 for many years.



Display at Easttown Library



Pictured: Scouts and their families gathered at Schieck Hall on September 20 for a Court of Honor to celebrate the boys' many accomplishments.



Our Mission

Worshipping God

Serving Jesus

Loving Others

Our Vision Statement

We are a diverse community of socially conscious believers
affirming our faith in Jesus Christ through action.

Worship Schedule

Sundays	10:00AM	In Person Worship in Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	On-Line Worship on Facebook Live/ Church Website/YouTube

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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