

THE LIGHTED CROSS



February 2023 Issue:

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You are invited to join us for an Ash Wednesday service in partnership with Paoli United Methodist Church on Wednesday, February 22nd at Berwyn United Methodist Church. This service will mark the beginning of the season of Lent and is a time for us to reflect on our faith and renew our commitment to God. The service will begin at 7:00 PM and will feature a meaningful message, hymns, and the imposition of ashes. This will be a special time of worship and reflection, and we hope you will join us in this special celebration of faith. Please feel free to invite friends and family to this service. We look forward to seeing you there!

February Calendar

- 1 Lunch & Learn with Pastor Kevin, 12:30pm
- 7 Widows' Support Group, noon
- 8 Lunch & Learn, 12:30pm
- 15 Lunch & Learn, 12:30pm
- 22 Ash Wednesday

Food Pantry Open Every Tuesday 9am to noon & Thursday 2pm to 6pm

FEBRUARY PANTRY NEEDS

- Personal Hygiene
- Pasta
- Sauce



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE *Kristine Adams*



Berwyn UMC's food pantry is open and running strong. The Pantry is open Tuesdays and Thursdays for members of our community to come and "shop" from our pantry room. All the items in the Pantry are donated from others in our area. Individuals can select their own food based on their individual needs. To preserve dignity and privacy only two people are allowed to shop at a time with a volunteer in the room to help if needed. We are encouraging people to use reusable bags each week.

The Pantry is open Tuesdays from 9am to noon and Thursday from 2pm to 6p. We ask that each person fill out a slip of paper to let us know how many people are in their household so we can get an idea of how many people we are helping. Berwyn is also helping Chester County Food Bank the third Monday of every month by distributing a food box to the residents of Trinity House. Currently, we help about 45-48 people a month at Trinity House and about 20 people a week at our Pantry.

We are very lucky and appreciative that our Food Panty was the recipient of T/E Middle School's Food Drive last Fall. Food items can be placed in the large bin in the narthex of Church. Each month there is a list of specific items the pantry is looking for. Be sure to check out The Lighted Cross and our Facebook and Instagram each month for the current needs.

For February, the pantry is collecting: Personal Hygiene, Pasta, and Sauce.

TIME FOR A SEASON OF REFLECTION, PRAYER & FASTING

Pastor Kevin Rutledge



As we enter the time of Lent, we enter into a time of reflection and spiritual discipline practiced by Christians worldwide. It is the 40-day season leading up to Easter and is often marked with fasting, prayer, and self-reflection. It allows us to deepen our spiritual lives and grow our relationship with God.

The season of lent originated in the early church as a time of preparation for Easter. Members were received and baptized on Easter, and those who were kicked out of the church because they refused to live by the church's teaching were readmitted. During Lent, they fasted and prayed. They also studied and prepared for the commitment they were about to make.

Now all Christians are invited to participate in the spiritual disciplines that mark the life seeking to grow more in love with Christ. These disciplines include fasting, prayer, and self-examination. John Wesley taught that these Means of Grace were available to all people at all times and were a way through which God works in our lives to shape us to be more like Christ.

The spiritual discipline most associated with Lent is fasting. Fasting, or giving up something, we enjoy or greater value, is a way to remind ourselves that God should be our primary focus. Our ability or inability to give up that thing shows where in importance that thing is. It can also help us focus on God's ability and desire to provide for our needs. If we cling to something so tightly that we can't give it up, maybe we need to do just that to help us understand our dependence on God.

Prayer is another Means of Grace focused on during Lent. In prayer, we deepen our communication with God and seek his Guidance and wisdom in our lives. Prayer is an essential part of the Christian life. We are encouraged to pray regularly and to make it a priority in our daily routines. When tied with fasting, when we feel the need or desire for what we have given up, we can instead enter a time of prayer, again emphasizing instead our need for God rather than our other desires.

In all this, we have entered a time of self-reflection, looking at the things we value and how we spend our time. Are they in line with God's desire for us and our desire to grow into the person God has created us to be? Are we using all the ways God has made available to us to experience His love and grow more like his Son, Jesus Christ?

This year, we will be starting our Lenten practices with a joint service with Paoli United Methodist Church on **Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, February 22nd, at 7:00pm at Berwyn UMC**. This service will feature an invitation to the Lenten disciplines, an imposition of ashes to remember our own mortality, and communion to remind ourselves that we enter this season to focus first on Christ, and we enter this season as a part of a community gathered around His banquet table. Pastor Alice and I hope to see you at this service.

Lent is a critical time for those who follow Christ to deepen their spiritual lives, grow in their relationship with God, and be more like Christ in their living through practicing spiritual disciplines such as fasting, prayer, and self-reflection.

How will you make this time Holy this year?

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 bumc@comcast.net.**

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

CHOIR IS RELAUNCHING *John Lewis*

Adult Choir is relaunching with a new rehearsal day and time. A number of factors influenced this decision and I hope it will only make things easier on every and help to attract new membership.

Choir will now be held on **MONDAY evenings at 6pm**. A number of factors influenced this decision and I hope it will only make things easier on all of us, and maybe even help to attract new membership!

If you are interested in joining us, please join us Monday evenings at 6pm in the Sanctuary. All levels of singing experience are welcome.



SCOUT TROOP 181 UPDATE *Debbie Bellew*

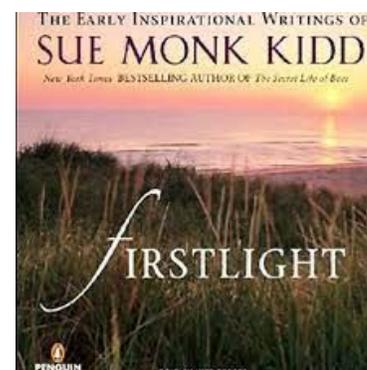
Scouts BSA Troop 181 enjoyed a bowling night and a family ski trip in January, and the boys earned the Radio merit badge with guidance from local ham radio enthusiasts. The coming weeks bring a First Aid Meet competition as well the next Court of Honor at which the Scouts will be recognized for their achievements. Many thanks to Berwyn United Methodist for hosting our troop meetings. To the family of any interested boy age 5th grade and up - please reach out to joinpaoli181@gmail.com and visit us the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm in Schieck Hall.

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.

Firstlight: The Early Inspirational Writings of Sue Monk Kidd by Sue Monk Kidd, c2006 [242 Kid]

Sue Monk Kidd, a well-respected author of novels and spiritual memoirs, was asked by Guideposts to collect her early inspirational writings into one volume. The stories and essays in this book are the result of that request. They are gathered around thirteen spiritual motifs (Awareness, Compassion, Solitude...) and include reflections on the author's many roles as mother, daughter, wife, nurse, author. These recollections include her childhood, her marriage, her year in Africa, and many other memories of ordinary moments which compile her spiritual journey. ***Firstlight*** became a bridge for the author to return to her early writings – a gift of reunion.



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 Mosley

Organist/Director of
Music: John Lewis

Nursery Assist: Eliza
Chumpitaz



BUMNS FEBRUARY UPDATE *Jane Harris*

Winter is marching along and we, at the nursery school, are hoping the groundhog doesn't see his shadow! We look forward to February as it is a month full of hearts and love. Our rooms and hallways will be filled with red and pink heart projects. We encourage the children to think about being a good friend and to be kind to each other. Our 5-day children are encouraged to do kind deeds in February and beyond. They read, 'Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler', and we ask their families and teachers to 'catch' them doing something kind and to give them a 'kindness heart' to add to and fill the notice board downstairs with their kind deeds. Stay safe and warm!

WHEELCHAIR OFFER

Rick and Kathy Mullin have a reclining wheelchair available to loan for short or long term use. There is no cost to borrow the chair. The chair is brand new and never used.



"We would personally like to thank all of our church family for their comfort, cards, phone calls, flowers and thoughts and prayers for the loss of my mother in November. It is amazing and heartwarming that Rick and I have such caring friends. We are truly blessed. God is good to provide us a second family." -*Kathy Mullin & Family*

COMMUNION TEAM HELP NEEDED *Steph Borelly*

The Communion Committee is in dire need of more volunteers. Currently, Stephanie Borelly and Judy Fisk are the only two volunteers. If either of them becomes unavailable, there would be no one else to set up Holy Communion. We offer Communion the first Sunday of the month so it is not a long term commitment.

If you are interested, please contact the church office or Steph Borelly.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Janet Campbell

3 Carson Ploppert

9 Mark Cutler

18 Rosalie Hart

27 Mike Benton

Contact church office to update

Birthday information

BUMC Fall Festival *Stephanie Borelly*

While you are 'Winter/Spring Cleaning' – please remember the Fall Festival! We accept Flea Market goods, Collectibles and book donations. Everything can be placed in the Scout Cabin – there is A LOT of room!!! Any questions:
Cell: 610.299.6254
Email: borellysteph6@gmail.com





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

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Fax: 610-644-7890

Email: officebumc@comcast.net

www.berwynumc.org

Like us on Facebook: [Berwyn UMC](https://www.facebook.com/BerwynUMC)

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Subscribe to our channel on YouTube: [Berwyn UMC](https://www.youtube.com/BerwynUMC)

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