

THE LIGHTED CROSS



November 2022 Issue:

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November Calendar

- 1 Widow Support Group, noon
- 6 Holy Communion
- 8 Election Day
- 20 South District Charge Conference
- 24 Thanksgiving
- 27—last day of Coat Drive

OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK TO THOSE IN NEED

It is time for our annual Methodist Services Toy Drive and One Warm Coat Collection. Your generosity and donations are a blessing to so many!

METHODIST SERVICES' HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE: It's time to start thinking about donating toys and gifts to Methodist Services. Because of your generosity each year, your gifts and donations will bring smiles and happiness to mothers, children and others during the holiday season. We will collect your donations up to **December 11th**. All donations can be dropped off in the narthex.

Young Children: Infants & Toddlers

Board Books, Toddler Toys, Mr. Potato Head Peg Puzzles, Push & Ride-on Toys, Bibs, Diapers & Wipes

Pre-School: Ages 3-5 Years

Age-Appropriate Books, Mr/Ms Potato Head, Age-Appropriate Toys, Safe Blocks, Art Supplies (Paints, Finger Paints, Markers) Playdough, Fun Foam, Kinetic Sand, Craft Supplies (Ribbon, Yarn, Fabric, etc) Trucks, Cars, Active Toys, Dolls (African American, Latino, Other) Wooden Puzzles, Dress Up Clothing & Accessories, Learning Games

Elementary School: Ages 6-10 Years

Action Figures, Legos, & 30 - 50 Piece Puzzles, Age-Appropriate Books, Sports Equipment & Team Apparel, Art Supplies & Craft Supplies Trucks, Train Sets, Dolls (African American, Latino, etc.) Car Racing Sets

Middle School: Ages 11-14 Years

Age-Appropriate Books, Bi-Lingual Books & Games. Art Supplies & Craft Supplies, Science Kits & Robotic Sets, Beauty & Grooming Items, Sports Equipment & Team Apparel, Jewelry, Video Games & Gaming Systems

High School: Ages 15-18 Years

Age-Appropriate Books, Gift Cards, Art Supplies & Craft Supplies, Sports Equipment, Beauty & Grooming Items, Jewelry, Video Games & Gaming Systems

Young Adult: Ages 18 -24 Years

Pillows & Twin Comforters, Twin Bed Sheets & Mattress Protectors, Towel Sets & Washcloths, Shower Curtains & Liners, Dish Cloths, Board Games & Journals, Small Room Trash Cans, Dish Sets & Pots/Pans

Adults in Our Programs

Books, Jewelry, Beauty & Grooming Items, Personal Care Baskets, Hats & Scarves
Watches

The families treasure Gift Cards of any value from Target, Kohl's, Walmart, Best Buy & Old Navy. Please mark the amount of the gift card on the envelope



One Warm Coat®
COAT DRIVE IN MEMORY OF AMY DWYER

October 5 was the 11th anniversary of our dear friend Amy Dwyer’s passing, so again this year we will join the effort to collect winter coats in her honor. Over 2,000 coats have been collected every year. Coats and other cold weather items are shared with many people in need, such as the homeless and victims of abuse.

You may leave items in the box in the narthex or in the weather-proof collection box located outside the main church entrance. Used and new coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for all ages are welcome. **The drive will run through November 27.**



Thanks for helping Amy’s giving spirit live on!

On October 9, Nancy Atchison of the Pray Shawl Team presented Pastor Kevin and his wife Rebecca with prayer shawls. Both shawls had been prayed over by members of the Prayer Shawl Team. May these shawls bring comfort, peace and support to the Rutledges.



THE FALL FESTIVAL WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!

October 8th started out as a crisp Fall morning leading to a bright beautiful sunny day. Schieck Hall was once again transformed into a Market Place, housing Collectibles, books, puzzles, jewelry and baked goods. We changed things up a bit this year and had the Flea Market out in the Scout cabin - which made everyone move about the church grounds, many not knowing that the cabin even existed.

Our total profit this year is \$2,140.00

A great big ‘THANK YOU’ too all of the helping hands:

- The Judith’s – Fisk and Millsaps
- Kathy and Rick Mullins
- The Carol’s – Nelson and Williams
- Marsha Williams
- Cindy Shallcross
- Laurel Adams
- The Claudia’s – Genuardi and Sharpless
- Pat White
- Nancy Atchison
- Veronica
- Pastor Rutledge

Boy Scout Troop 181 was terrific, helping us move boxes of books and tables. Thank you, one and all, for another great day of fellowship and “FUN”draising!

Thank you,
 Steph Borelly



LETTER FROM PASTOR RUTLEDGE

This month we held the first of what I hope to be many Town Hall style meetings. At them, we shared a snapshot of the church's finances, talked about the potential sale of some of our property, and how I approach church ministry. One of the meetings used ZOOM, and we have a recording to share. You can find it at <https://berwynumc.org/townhalls>. I heard two things from the meetings that I will make a priority to work on moving forward.

The first piece of feedback I heard is that there is a lack of communication about what is going on at the church, the decisions made, and what it means for the broader ministry of the church, and a growing frustration among those who have volunteered to serve. The town halls are our first step toward greater transparency. My goal is to be as transparent as possible in all that we do and all decisions made so that you feel that you can trust what we are doing and our future.

The second piece of feedback I am making a priority is that there are people who want to serve but need to figure out how. They are either on teams that do not meet, teams that do not have leaders, or teams that do not meet regularly, or they are unable to make an ongoing team commitment but are available to be called on for various tasks that need completing. I take this feedback seriously because I have a core belief about the Church that God has gifted everyone so that God can work through them to further His kingdom-building work. To put it more succinctly, if you are still breathing, then God can still use you. However, if the way we are doing church is getting in the way of God unleashing the people to use their gifts, then we need to do church better.

We discussed these two items at our last Leadership Team meeting, and I want to share the conversation results with you. Moving forward, we are making the following changes in how we work to address these concerns.

1. The leadership Team is asking Charge Conference to approve combining the work of SPRT, Finance, and Trustees into the work of the Leadership Team. This change brings us closer to the model of leadership suggested by the simplified leadership program partially implemented this year. Finance and Trustees were intentionally kept separate, but in a review of our work over the last year, we still have a significant overlap of people between these meetings that have caused a duplication of work and reporting. The goal is not to consolidate decision-making but to increase the efficiency of regular work, so there is time for creative work.
2. We understand how important it is for the leadership team not to get disconnected from the congregation. However, I am concerned that there is no separate nominating team naming people for considering the leadership team and helping me identify and plan leadership development. I am looking for 4-6 people who not only know the people in the congregation but are good at identifying the skills, talents, gifts, and spiritual health of others. The Nominations team's primary task is to find leaders who are growing in their faith and who bring their gifts and talents to help shape the church's future direction.
3. To address the second concern, I want to create three ministry teams whose primary purpose is to create, plan, evaluate, and guide ministries in nurture, outreach, and witness. I am looking for a small group of people who have a passion for one of these three areas who want to guide the ministry teams that exist in the work they do and provide a place for them to ask for help and to dream of new ways of growing our ministry in each of the three areas.
4. Finally, I want to create a property management team. The purpose of this team is to evaluate the needs of the building and property, prioritize those needs, and manage a list of tasks and maintenance items that team leaders can submit so that people who are not on a team can find places to help as they have time. More recently, this work has fallen exclusively on the board of trustees and often on the chair of trustees, but historically, that has not been the role of the trustees.

I do not believe the church can fix all of its problems through structural and policy changes. However, we can make incremental improvements in how we function so that we can enable creative ministry-transforming conversations to happen. When we equip and unleash everyone who has volunteered to serve in some way, we will see dramatic changes in our ministry's effectiveness.

(continued on next page)

Our Mission
Worshipping God
Serving Jesus
Loving Others

Our Vision
Statement
We are a diverse
community of social-
ly conscious believ-
ers 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

(Letter from Pastor continued)

While I am still learning about everyone and their gifts, I do not yet have a list of people in mind who would be perfect in each of these areas. Therefore, in addition to reaching out to the members of existing teams, I am relying on you to either help me identify people or let me know if you want to serve in any of the areas above.

Finally, please remember that our Leadership Team meetings, unless dealing with Staff issues, are open meetings, and anyone can attend. The usual schedule for those meetings is the 4th Thursday of the month. Any changes to that schedule are posted in the worship bulletin and on our website.

A TIME OF RECOVERY, CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

By John Paylor, on behalf of the Finance Team

The whole world was thrown into turmoil in 2020 with the outbreak of the Covid virus. Fear and paralysis gripped entire populations as people cowered before this unknown threat. Governments and institutions imposed lockdowns in efforts to protect their citizens from infection, and life began a slowdown as individuals were unwilling to venture out to shop, work, or attend any public event where contact with others might lead to exposure to the virus.

Our church was not immune to these events. Our Sunday worship services were suspended and we ceased to meet in person for events or fellowship. But our congregation exhibited a spirit of resilience. We instituted an on-line worship experience and utilized Zoom capabilities or parking lot gatherings for various meetings, Bible study and other events. But these services generated additional expenses, and our regular contributions declined.

Only in recent months have we begun to see a recovery from these times. We are worshipping and meeting together again, although our worship attendance is lower. Our financial giving and other income remain below pre-pandemic levels.

We may long to return to the former times, but we know deep inside that this is not possible. We face a world that has changed; a challenge of new and different times. Life, and our church, will not be the same going forward.

Honestly recognizing this reality presents new opportunities. As we look and move into a new and different future we can grasp these opportunities to create a better Berwyn United Methodist Church well suited to grapple with, overcome and build on new and different challenges.

All this requires that we see and respond to visions of life that can become realities. To do this we must remain committed to support our church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. Regular financial gifts are an important part of this commitment. Financial resources undergird and make possible our continued presence, witness and service.

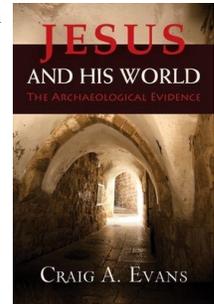


BUMC LIBRARY BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS *Marjorie Smink*

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.

Jesus and His World by Craig A. Evans, c2012 [225.9 Eva]

Craig Evans is an internationally distinguished authority on the historical Jesus. With this book he brings to light archeological discoveries about Jesus' world to the layman in easy-to-read manner. He enables the reader to understand and consider the latest theories about who Jesus was and for what he lived and died. What was the village of Nazareth really like in the time of Jesus? What do we know through archeology about the ruling priests who condemned Jesus to die? This book is a useful starting point for evaluating often ignored sources and their impact on our comprehension of the historical Jesus.



TRUNK OR TREAT WAS A HIT AGAIN THIS YEAR! *Kristine Adams*

Once again, Berwyn UMC put on a fantastic family community event. We had a steady stream of families the whole two hours. Pastor Kevin set up a QR code for parents to fill out a form to win a door prize—how many pumpkin candies in the jar? We received about 80 responses—lots of adults and kiddos came to play with us.

This cannot happen without the Trunks:

- David & Isabel Adams
- Amy Dodds
- Brett & Cindy Shallcross
- Mark DeStefano
- Rebecca & Pastor Kevin Rutledge
- Claudia Sharpless
- Krapf Transportation Company
- Aliyah Bonsu & her Impact Project “Project Bee Blessed”

I am once again thrilled with the turnout of the community and the unconditional support of this congregation. We are touching many lives with this event. We will continue to strive to be inclusive of all children regardless of age or ability. Save the date for next year: Saturday, October 22, 2023.



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 jpgaylor@verizon.net**



Sunday, Nov 6, 2022 10am



The Nursery School enjoyed their Halloween Parades and now it is time to look forward to November and Thanksgiving! Our classrooms will soon be decorated with turkeys and pumpkin pies and descriptions of what the children are thankful for. Even the youngest children can relate to things and people they are grateful for. We encourage the children to share their gratitude and their family Thanksgiving traditions with their classmates. They will join together for a Thanksgiving Feast where they will share food that the parent's provide. We at BUMNS, have a lot to be thankful for, we are especially thankful for the support the church continually gives us. We wish everyone a good Thanksgiving.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11 Joy Fuerst

19 Jeff Barger

Contact church office to update birthday information

TROOP 181 UPDATE by Debbie Bellew

Scouts BSA Troop 181 held its annual recruiting campout at BUMC on October 8-9. The weather was chilly but clear and Scouts and guests enjoyed archery, a barbecue, and tent camping on the grass. All had a great time and appreciated BUMC's wonderful grounds and gracious church hosts. The Scouts were also glad to practice "A Scout is Helpful" earlier that week by assisting with setup for the church's Fall Fest sale.

At the weekly meetings this month the Scouts are checking over their camping supplies, practicing first aid, and preparing for a visit to Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation.

If you have boys ages 11-17 who are interested in Scouts, please visit us in Schieck Hall the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm or email joinpaoli181@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

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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Berwyn, PA 19312

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