

# THE LIGHTED CROSS



## January 2023 Issue:

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## January Birthdays

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## January Calendar

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

## JANUARY PANTRY NEEDS

No items are needed at this  
time.



## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE *Claudia Genuardi*

The Food Pantry has taken a big jump forward since we began. I want to offer my gratitude to all of the volunteers that are making it work so well. Many hours each week are going into this project which is serving our community. Thank you to Carol Nelson, Veronica Mosely, Nancy Atchison, Patty Littlewood, Carol Williams, Jeff Barger, Marge Smink, Jeff Barger, Peggy Robinson, Susan and Vic Burriss and Pastor Kevin Rutledge. You have all lent a hand.

On December 20th, T/E Middle School teachers arrived at BUMC to deliver some 1500 food items for our Food Pantry. The food was collected during a school-wide food drive that benefited two local food pantries, including ours. Many thanks to the students, teachers, staff, parents and others who contributed their time and resources to provide this gift in support of our mission to serve our community.

## COMMUNION COMMITTEE 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.

## 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](mailto:borellysteph6@gmail.com)



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**A**s we begin a new year, it's a natural time for reflection and resolution-making. However, our faith is one area of life often overlooked when it comes to goal-setting. On January 1st, we had a Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service, an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to God and renew our promises to live following His will, as well as encouraging us to take steps in growing in faith and holiness. So, this year, let's resolve to grow in our faith to deepen our understanding and relationship with God. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, challenges us to continue growing in faith throughout our lives, to be "perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

One way to do this is by committing to regular Bible study and prayer. Setting aside time each day to read scripture and communicate with God can profoundly impact our spiritual growth. James 1:22 says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." Consider finding a study group or accountability partner to keep you on track and share your journey. To help you kick start this resolution, we invite you to join our lunchtime small group on *Wednesdays, starting February 1st*. We will be reading and discussing the weekly narrative lectionary passages to study scripture in a deeper and more comprehensive way.

Another way to grow in faith is by finding ways to put it into action. Look for opportunities to serve in your church, serve on a team, visit the elderly or homebound, or get involved in other church activities that align with your gifting and talents. One team that we are forming right now is a property maintenance team. This team will help us prioritize and budget for the year's maintenance tasks, help coordinate service and repairs of both the church facility and parsonage and report to the leadership team any areas of concern you may have. As we serve others, we are fulfilling God's commandment to love our neighbors; Matthew 25:40 says, "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" We also experience the joy and fulfillment of living out our faith.

Additionally, we can grow in faith by being intentional about our relationships with other believers and by being intentional about fellowship in the community of faith. Hebrews 10:25 says, "not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." As we support and encourage one another, we will strengthen our faith. Keep an eye out for various worship opportunities on Sunday mornings and outside of the Sunday worship hour meant to help us experience the presence of God in new ways.

We hope to see you at our small group on Wednesdays starting February 1st! Please reach out to Pastor Kevin for more information. And also for information about property maintenance volunteer needs. Let's journey together in this new year, growing deeper in our understanding of God's word and closer in our relationship with Him, constantly becoming more perfect in holiness and love of God.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Kevin Rutledge



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](http://www.berwynumc.org)

**Eastern PA Conference website:**  
[www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org)

**UM News website:**  
[www.umnews.org](http://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](http://www.berwynumc.org/media-resources).**

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

**\*To include items in the weekly e-newsletter, email John Paylor at [jlpaylor@verizon.net](mailto:jlpaylor@verizon.net)**

## MESSAGE FROM THE LAY LEADER *Amy Dodds*

Berwyn UMC became our church home soon after Larry and I were married and moved to Devon. We were both graduate students and although we didn't consider ourselves poor, attracted the care and welcome of Ann West and others in the congregation as they stopped by our apartment with not only a welcoming loaf of delicious banana bread, but a bag of groceries. The pastor at that time convinced us that we would be better served living in the Hurd House on the church property than in our apartment—and the rent was reasonable as long as we agreed to turn out the church lights and look after the property. BUMC quickly became our home away from the church homes we had known in Indiana, Virginia, New York and New Hampshire. We continue to find our church home in Berwyn despite moves to Havertown and then Bryn Mawr. First Hannah and then Wilson were baptized and confirmed in the church, attending Sunday School and singing in the choir when they were small. In addition to the wonderful people, ASP, The Peoples Emergency Shelter, Methodist Home, and other mission projects kept our minds and hearts busy and full. I am excited to support the much-needed church food pantry and hope that 2023 will see the church addressing food scarcity both in our immediate community and beyond.

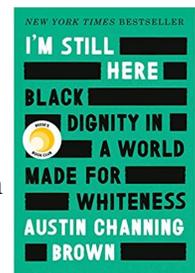
We hold tight to the friendships we have fostered through BUMC. The people of BUMC gift my family with love and care and have helped to raise our children in faith when grandparents and extended family are many miles away. We continue to be closely connected with those we love and whom we worship beside. I am excited to see how our church home will continue and expand to share our Christian message through mission and service to the community in 2023.

## 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.

***I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness***  
by Austin Channing Brown, c2018 [305.896 Bro]

Austin Channing Brown is a speaker, writer and media producer giving inspired leadership on racial justice in our country. Her book provides an intimate view of her life - growing up Black, Christian, and female in White America. She shows how White America's claim to embrace "diversity" often falls short of its mission. It is an eye-opening look at how white middle-class Evangelicalism has taken part in an era of rising racial hostility, and it invites the reader to confront apathy and identify God's ongoing work in the world. Austin Brown still has hope for racial equality in American, but it is a shadow of hope.



**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



## BUMNS JANUARY UPDATE *Jane Harris*

The Nursery School wishes you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year! We will be welcoming the students back to school on January 3rd, including some new students to our 2 Day program. January is usually a calm month after all the festivities at the end of the year. This is a time of the year when the staff see real growth in the students. Please take notice of our bulletin board in the hallway upstairs. The photographs represent activities happening in our school.

### 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.

Thank you from the Mullins: "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."



#### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

8 Jan Polasky

16 John Edinger

Contact church office to  
update birthday  
information



### THANK YOU *Jeff Barger*

Thank you everyone for donating toys and gifts to Methodist Services. Also a special thanks to Judy Edinger for delivering them.



## 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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140 Waterloo Avenue  
Berwyn, PA 19312

Church Office: 610-644-5555

Fax: 610-644-7890

Email: [officebumc@comcast.net](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net)

[www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org)

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