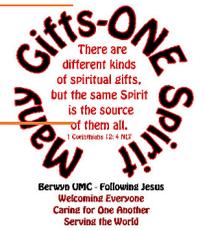




THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



January 2018 Newsletter

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Calendar Highlights

Jan 4—Soupy Thursday begins

Jan 17—Book Club

Jan 27 - HUB training 1pm

Feb 3— 9am UMW

Feb 14—Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins

March 29—Holy Thursday

March 30—Good Friday

March 31—Gloria Saturday

April 1—Easter



Join Us For Worship

8:30 am Worship

9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 am Traditional Worship with Choir

Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month

We Are God's Chosen People Not God's Protected People

Rev. Dr. Timothy Duchesne

The harshness of the Gospel, in Luke 9:51-62, and the random violence of our times reminded me of a comment author and retreat leader Jim Finley once made:

"We are God's chosen people not God's protected people."

I don't know about you but there are many days I would rather be protected than chosen. But clearly that is not the case and the challenge of why bad things happen to good people confronts many in our day and in the days of all of humanity.

It is clear we are pilgrims, not settlers on this earth, and the harsh reality of death awaits us all. For some it comes too soon. For others it is preceded with lots of suffering.

To make sense of the randomness of violence and death many resort to simplistic expressions of cause and blame that are often repugnant to anyone with a shred of common sense and compassion.

While the reality of eternal life offers protection in the ultimate sense, it is in the future, and in the meantime there is suffering with which we have to respond. Trusting in the idea that we are protected when clearly we are not is unhelpful. Rather than relying on a false certainty of protection I find the ambiguity of being chosen to be more comforting.

But for what have we been chosen. It is very easy to let the idea of being chosen to blossom into arrogance rather than humility. I think Micah gets it right. We have been chosen to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

As a Christian I would say I have been chosen to be as liberal in sharing God's love, mercy, and forgiveness as Jesus was and is.

With gratitude for the joys of this life and God's love and presence in the hard times.

A prayer:

Almighty God, you have made us your chosen people, not your protected people. You have given us a lodging in this world but not an abiding city. Help us in this



Good New Year... As I began the year 2017, in the hospital and receiving your blessings and prayers to return to health; I have now ended the year. Feeling much better and hopefully we will figure this out. Thank you to one and all for daily hospital visits from Pastor Tim, and Dick, Judith and Debbie (who brought me a prayer square from Pat as I had forgotten mine) a wonderful stew from Debbie, flowers from the altar, a lovely arrangement from our BUMNS and so many cards and calls. Thank you all ...I am overwhelmed, WE are overwhelmed. This beautiful time of the year is full of the hustle and bustle of preparation...as I sit and mend and do not hustle nor bustle (nor bake nor wrap) I am truly able to reflect on the REASON FOR THE SEA-



SOUPY THURSDAY RESUMES ON JAN. 4

Just as the cold weather is arriving so is soup. Soupy Thursday will begin on Jan. 4 and run for the month of January and February. You can purchase the soup to take home or you can eat it in Schieck Hall.

Soup is \$5.00/qt if you are taking it out. Fresh baked bread is also available at \$3.00/loaf. Take outs are available from 5 pm-7 pm. Just come to the kitchen with your container and we will fill it and you are off for home with a hot meal.

Soup is available to eat in beginning at 6 pm and is available until 7 pm. We take a free will offering. Besides soup there is bread, beverage and a dessert. Come on in, warm your innards with the soup and enjoy fellowship with others.



Dear Church Family and Friends, We are so blessed to be members of Berwyn United Methodist Church - a wonderful congregation of caring, thoughtful people who share the love of Christ. We thank you all so very much for your outpouring of love to our family during Gene's illness and death. Your care and concern touches our hearts and gives us much comfort. We know Gene is now in the loving hands of our God and we are at peace with that. It is hard, but your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you, thank you all so



There will be a HUB training on Saturday, January 27 1pm. Anyone interested in learning more is welcome to attend. Any ques-

FAITHFUL STEWARDS *Liz Young*

This month, we honor a mother and son team as our Faithful Stewards. **Stephanie and Jeremy Borelly** are active in many aspects of BUMC. Most importantly, they are instrumental in the happenings of the Fall Festival. Stephanie helps to solicit, organize, and present all the items for the festival. She also serves as an usher.

Jeremy picks up Fall Festival donations and drops them off at the church. He also maintains our Remembrance Garden. In 2018, Jeremy will serve on our Board of Trustees.

They will tell you there are many hands helping with the Fall Festival, but their hands are always busy helping too! The



Janet Wham

Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season was a time of relaxation and family fun. The children returned to BUMNS with smiles and stories of vacation fun. It does not seem possible we are celebrating the year 2018!

A recurring theme during January will be snow! There are 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 which gives us the opportunity to explore concepts such as kindness, peace, and acceptance of all people.

The 5 Day classes will meet with Pas-



MISSION MUSINGS *Carol Cherry*

Thanks to all who contributed coats to the “In Memory of Amy” coat drive. Now in its 8th year, the total has surpassed last

years’ with 2,119 coats – with more expected! Each year more organizations volunteer to be a drop off point and lots of new volunteers picked up and delivered the items. The Department of Children Youth and Family received 50 coats from the collection. They were distributed to victims of child abuse/sexual abuse. So coats go not only to those in financial need but also to victims of abuse. What an awesome legacy for our friend Amy Dwyer!

Looking ahead to 2018... please mark your calendars for Saturday Feb. 3, 9 am, for fellowship at the church hosted by Kristine Adams; more details to follow. Also in the new year we will be reading the book *Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez. This is an award-winning, moving, and timely story about the families of undocumented workers. It has been highly recommended by Dona Sensenig, RN who runs the Spanish Health Ministry in Kennett Square. You may recall that we were planning to host Dona’s visit to BUMC in 2017 but had to reschedule. So stay tuned for the date of Dona’s visit in spring 2018. Several copies of the book are available. Let me know if you would like to borrow one. Reading the book will give a great introduction to issues facing migrant workers nearby in southern Chester County.



ANGELS AMONG US *Janet Campbell*

The ANGELS were placed by the clever hands of Jack and Dick Rood and Dick Sharpless. After reading an article in THE INTERPRETER about another HOST of ANGELS, I knew we needed to be blessed by them as well. The plans were drawn and the needed items gathered and Jack, Dick and Dick went to work. The ANGELS represent the love and caring we have for one another and we hope they will gift others with their presence. Thank you for your response to the 15 ANGELS that have adorned our front lawn.. We will publish a list of the ANGEL

PRISON MINISTRY PROJECT

John Paylor

Berwyn is working with the churches in our Mission ConneXion – Wayne, St. Matthews, Paoli and Valley Forge – to outfit a room in the Men’s Facility at Montgomery County Prison to make it into a bright and inviting space for the men prisoners to meet with their young children. We will take a small meeting room and brighten it with fresh paint, a colorful rug, toys, children’s books, and attractive furniture appropriate for children and designed to make them feel welcome and comfortable. This is similar to the project completed a few years ago for the Women’s Facility. Our share of the cost of this project is \$225.00. If you would like to help with this project, please mark your contribution “Prison Project” and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Contact: John Pay-



Missions Committee is looking for more members. Interested? Contact Jeff Barger or Pastor Tim.

We also need more Counters for Tuesday mornings. Interested? Contact Debbie Nemetz, Dick Sharpless or Janet Campbell.

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Tim Duchesne

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: Lee Paylor

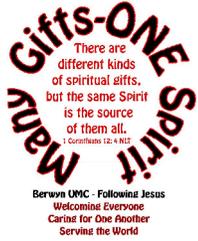
Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

Organist/Director of Music: Judith Lang

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

Sexton: Roger Toro

Recordings of Sunday Services are available—Contact Jon Stockler, 610-348-3385 or JStockler@aol.com



Our Mission Statement

God **CALLS** us to Care, Accept, Love, Laugh and Serve

Worship Schedule

8:30 AM	Early Worship
9:15 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 AM	Traditional Worship with Choir

Church Office: 610-644-5555
Fax: 610-644-7890
Email: officebumc@comcast.net
www.berwynumc.org
Like us on Facebook: Berwyn UMC
Follow on Instagram: bumcares

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