



## PASTOR'S LETTER

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Phil. 1:3-6).*

Friends, we have made it through another year! As I reflect upon our time together thus far, I am so thankful for the relationships that we are establishing and nurturing. It is a joy to serve as your pastor and I thank God for our church community. I thank God that, in your hearts, you desire the highest good and God's greatest glory. I am thankful for our faithfulness in proclaiming the Word of God to our surrounding community. As we come to know Jesus in a personal way, we are set free to live the abundant life that Christ desires for all of us. May we continue to pray for our church and our community. The birth of Jesus Christ brings the hope that God's love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control can be lived out in this world through us. Our acceptance of Jesus is the key to our spiritual growth. Our spiritual growth is the key to effectively transforming our church, community, and world for the glory of God.

May we be encouraged to know that God has sustained Berwyn United Methodist Church and will continue to perfect this good work in us and through us. The end of one year and the beginning of another is usually a time to reflect upon what has been and to look forward to what is possible. Looking back can be either a negative or a positive experience. However, what is important is that we learn from our past and continue on our journey, holding to God's promise to never leave us nor forsake us. In many places in Scripture, God calls us to look forward and to dream. The prophet Joel, inspired by God, spoke as follows: "Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

It is important to dream, to try to imagine how we can help, in some small way, to make the world better. The immortalized words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "I have a dream," express a clear vision of where he wanted to take his people: calling them from bondage to freedom. It was like an Exodus event. Not all of us are called in this way to be leaders. However, we are called to contribute to the work of God's Kingdom, to make a difference in our own and others' lives.

I am confident that God will continue to use Berwyn United Methodist Church to transform the world in new and incredible ways this coming year. I am encouraged by the promise of Scripture, which says, "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6). I look forward to our growth and success together during this new year.

I wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year! "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope!"

-Pastor Rodney



Jane Harris

The Nursery School wishes you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year. We will be welcoming the students back to school on January 2nd, including some new students to our 2 Day program. January is usually a calm month after all the holidays but the children will welcome visitors to the school such as the Yello Dyno program which teaches the children about 'stranger danger'. The 5 Day children will also be attending chapel time with Pastor Rodney. Please take notice our bulletin board in the hallway upstairs. The photographs represent activities happening in our school. The photographs will change periodically.

The Barnes and Noble fundraiser mentioned before, has been cancelled.



### LAY LEADER'S LETTER

A commercial I've seen television recently shows parents giving their son a really nice toy...then uncle #1 ( or a neighbor) comes in giving the "super" version to the boy... and then uncle #2 comes in with the "ultra" version. Lastly, the grandmother comes in with the "mega" what-ever it is.

Do we expect this from God -- bigger and better ? Are we thankful for all our gifts from God ?

As we enter the new year, may we strive to walk closer to God and be open and listen to His words and His calling.

"Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me..."

The Methodist Hymnal, page 393

"I need Thee every hour...stay thou near-by;...in joy or pain, come quickly and abide...or life is vain."

The Methodist Hymnal, page 397

"What gift can we bring...What words can convey it, the joy of this day ? ...Give thanks for the now,...for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring...we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love."

The Methodist Hymnal, page 87

Blessings,

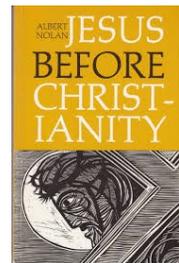
Lee Paylor

### SUGGESTED READING

Marjorie Smink

### Jesus Before Christianity

by Albert Nolan, c 2018.



The author introduces us to Jesus, the man, before he became involved in doctrine, dogma and ritual. This was a man deeply involved with the real problems of his time – which are the real problems of our time too. Nolan's interest is in the man before he became the object of the Christian faith. This book is highly recommended by Pastor Rodney.



### POTLUCK DINNER Rick Stoker

There will be an all church potluck dinner on **Sat. Feb. 15, 2020** in Schieck Hall beginning at 6PM. After the meal we will be having a program or games or something dealing with President's Day. It would be a good time to dress up as your favorite President or First lady. Put the date on your calendar now. More info will be available in February's Lighted Cross.



## Our **M**ission **S**tatement

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

## **W**orship **S**chedule

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

Church Office: 610-644-5555  
Fax: 610-644-7890  
Email: [officebumc@comcast.net](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net)  
[www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org)  
Like us on Facebook: Berwyn UMC  
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