

THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



January

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- Note from Lay Leader
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Calendar Highlights

- **Jan 4** BUMNS returns to in-person school
- **Jan 7** Soupy Thursday returns! Chicken Noodle
- **Jan 12** "Discovering our Theologies of Conflict" Conference Conversation
- **Jan 14** Soupy Thursday Cream of Broccoli
- **Jan 21** Soupy Thursday Vegetable Beef
- **Jan 28** Soupy Thursday Corn Chowder
- **Feb 17** Ash Wednesday
- **March 13** Tools for Ministry

STAY UP TO DATE WITH CHURCH EVENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK: BUMCservice

INSTAGRAM: bumcares

YOUTUBE: Berwyn UMC

WEBSITE:

www.berwynumc.org

Soupy Thursday

Jan. 7 - Chicken Noodle

Jan. 14 - Cream of Broccoli

Jan. 21 - Vegetable Beef

Jan. 28 - Corn Chowder

TAKE OUT ONLY from 5 pm to 6:30pm.

MASKS REQUIRED

Soup will be \$5.00/Qt (please bring your own container)

Fresh Baked Bread \$3.00/loaf

Berwyn United Methodist Church

Worship with us online
every Sunday at 10:30 am via

[Facebook.com/BUMCservice](https://www.facebook.com/BUMCservice)

www.berwynumc.org

YouTube: Berwyn UMC



NOTE FROM PASTOR RODNEY

Happy New Year, Berwyn Family! While it seems impossible that it is already a new year, it is indeed now 2021! I am sure, for many of you, this past year brought both beautiful memories and difficult moments. If your year was at all like mine, it often felt like you were on a roller coaster you did not sign up for – full of unanticipated changes and more ups and downs than you could have ever anticipated!

Whether you just had the best year of your life, or are thrilled to see 2020 end, there is one truth that remains amid it all. You are not alone! Not ever! Scripture illustrates the many prayers of men and women who sought God as they yearned for new and fresh beginnings. Prayer is the ultimate form of connection to the God who created you and longs for you to experience His blessings and great and precious promises into the future.

Our God is with us – then, now, and always. He is Emmanuel, God with us. And though things and people around us change and shift, we know that God never changes. May these New Year prayers fill your heart and mind with unwavering hope as you journey into 2021.

As we look forward to embarking on a new year together, I am excited to share with you the beginning of our new Leadership Team structure at Berwyn UMC in 2021. This change in the church's administrative structure will provide a new way of doing ministry inside and outside the walls of our church. After much prayer and time spent getting to know this congregation and its already passionate and engaging spirit, I am confident that God is moving us toward this change - equipping us to fulfill our calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Over the coming year, our Leadership Team will be working toward implementing an essential component of this structure – Team Ministries. The core purpose of Team Ministries is to allow the passions to serve -- already present in our church family -- to rise up and lead us into the future. As we work towards fully implementing this, the most important ingredient to its success will be your own participation and patience. It is not a fast process but, prayerfully, through the work we will do to fully establish it this year, we will ensure Berwyn UMC's ability to thrive into the future.

We will work to keep you all informed of our monthly progress with implementation and welcome any questions or concerns. Following our first Leadership Team meeting in January, I will schedule a congregational meeting and Q&A session for February. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

It is with great hopefulness and anticipation of all Christ is doing in our church that I look toward 2021 as a community of faith!

“Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, “The Lord is more portion; therefore I will wait for him.” – Lamentations 3:22-24

Blessings,
Pastor Rodney

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Rodney Brailsford

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: Amy Dodds

Sexton: Over Caicedo

Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

Organist/Director of Music: Amy McLoughlin

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

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

Berwyn United Methodist Church continues to support its members and the communi-

ty. If you or a loved one needs assistance with grocery shopping or anything else, please contact the church office and we will make sure you get the help you need.

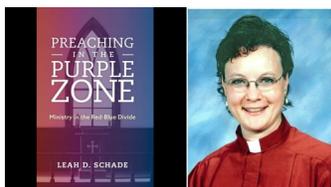
Please let us know of any prayer concerns and as always share your joys with us! Email prayer requests and joys to prayerrequest@berwynumc.org

We would love to know how you are doing or if you need someone to pray with you. We can be reached via email at officebumc@comcast.net and by phone at 610-644-5555.



EASTERN PA CONFERNECE EVENTS

The Eastern PA Conference will welcome the Rev. Leah Schade, author of *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide*, for an interactive conversation on Zoom, on **Tuesday, Jan. 12, from 7 to 8:30 PM**. In the U.S. and in the United Methodist Church, we continue to seek new ways to be in relationship with one another, especially across lines of difference. As we prepare to inaugurate a new president Jan. 20, we seek ways to bridge divides in our churches and communities. Join Dr. Schade as she discusses “Discovering Our ‘Theologies of Conflict’” This free event is open to all churches. Register online.



<https://www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar/discovering-our-theologies-of-conflict/>



Saturday, March 13, 2021
Tools for Ministry. Look for registration information and workshops being offered.

Dear Members and Friends of BUMC,

I want to thank all of you for your tremendous response to this 10th “One Warm Coat” drive in memory of Amy Dwyer. Amy passed away a little more than 9 years ago and I realize that many of you did not know her. Let me just say that Amy was always involved.

This year presented several new challenges but you still produced and this year you donated 108 coats, 34 hats, 12 sweaters, 2 blankets, 35 scarves, 4 pair of warm socks and 61 pair of gloves. Many of the items were new!

The items collected at BUMC were donated to local organizations that serve the homeless and the less fortunate.

All of the children’s items were donated to “Cradle to Crayons” in Philadelphia for distribution within their program. One half of the men’s items were donated to the Broad Street Mission in South Philadelphia and one-half of the men’s and all of the women’s items were donated to St. Ignatius Church in North Philadelphia for their neighborhood outreach program. I participated in St. Ignatius’ program on December 22 and the recipients of the donations were most appreciative. The St. Ignatius staff noted the quality of the BUMC donations and asked that we consider them for our donations next year.



Thank you again,

Jim Dwyer



SOUTH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Berwyn UMC is part of the South District in the Eastern PA Conference of The United Methodist Church. Our South District Superintendent puts out an electronic newsletter *The South District NEWS* every month. It is designed to provide current information and communications to all appointed clergy, assigned laity who are serving as pastors, and the laity community of the District. To receive the newsletter, email District Resource Assistant, Deb Boyd, at dboyd@epaumc.org, or call 610-666-9090 ext 1019.

NOTE FROM OUR NEW LAY LEADER AMY DODDS

Happy New Year Friends!

Are you among those who are happy to see 2020 behind us and welcome a new year? Or are you fearful of the threat of COVID-19 and the social isolation it continues to bring? I have to admit my optimism for 2021 is guarded when it comes to assuming we will soon be “back to normal.” So, instead of looking for what we cannot do and be during these strange times, I find hope and peace in what we CAN do, and what God has allowed us to do. I am grateful for the slower pace at which life seems to be moving. Yes, I miss travel and visiting far away family, yet I find I have more time to listen to others whether from a safe social distance, over the phone, or through Zoom. I am more centered in the present and am not rushing to run errands, attend meetings in person, or keep appointments as many seemingly important things are no longer necessary in my “new normal.”

Gathering with others virtually is not a full substitute for the social interaction we crave – the nearness of others, hugs, kisses, seeing our loved ones in person, or simply participating in life among others in our day to day journeys. Through all this our church remains changed but yet the same. As we gather in our own homes for worship through the virtual services at Berwyn United Methodist Church, we are blessed to be able to engage in all of the important parts of our weekly worship service. We continue to hear beautiful music as Amy leads us in singing hymns. We continue to pray. We continue to study scripture. We continue to receive uplifting sermons. We meet in Bible study and Sunday School. We even have spectacular views of the church sanctuary and grounds to appreciate thanks to our videographer. And Soupy Thursdays are now underway!

I do not know what 2021 will bring, yet I am confident that God has a plan for each of us. I am honored to begin the year as your lay leader and am excited to see how our church embraces the challenges of 2021 to meet our vision. Communication is important. Please know I am ready to listen - over the phone, email, Zoom, FaceTime – or from a good six feet away with masks!

“And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other...” —Hebrews 10:24-25

With God’s blessings, be well!

Amy Dodds

Dodds_A@msn.com / 610-308-4703

ONGOING... Steven Cherry

I like nothing better than finishing a task, putting it in a file folder, placing in the right place in a file cabinet and closing the drawer [or the more time-appropriate version of this is spell checking the document, sending, providing a filename and getting in into the right e-directory]. Pledging can be a little like this. Make your prayerful promise, sending in the pledge form and getting on with the next thing like a new year without the worries of the old one.

Here’s the thing. It’s becoming more and more evident that conversation about church stewardship – how our collective resources can be employed and engaged in the work of Jesus – has to be ongoing. We’ve lost a good bit of ground in our conversational practice. So, 2021 will be a year to re-up our connections. It will be also a year to consider revising our thoughts about how to be the church in Berwyn. This will be ongoing too.

In tandem with the new Leadership Council’s intent to reconnect, the Finance Committee will help all to think about how to participate, engage and support. Your input will be solicited.

A quick (estimated) financial summary of year 2020: church giving/income from all sources amounted to \$317,750. Operating Expenses were about \$378,080 ending the year with a (\$60,330) deficit. This does not include proceeds available from federal Cares Act forgivable loan received.

Any questions about finance can be addressed directly to me [stchery10@gmail.com] or Treasurer, John Paylor [jlpaylor@verizon.net]



Our Mission Statement

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

Worship Schedule

Sundays 10:30 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

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 701
SOUTHEASTERN PA

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