

THE LIGHTED CROSS



September 2022 Issue:

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September Calendar

Sept 1 Food Pantry open 2pm–6pm
Sept 4 Holy Communion, 10am
Sept 5 Labor Day
Sept 6—Widows Support Group
11:30am Berwyn Pizza; Food Pantry open 9am to noon
Sept 8 Food Pantry Open 2pm to 6pm
Sept 13 Food Pantry Open 9am to noon
Sept 15 Food Pantry Open 2pm to 6pm
Sept 20 Food Pantry Open 9am to noon
Sept 22 first day of Fall; Food Pantry Open 2pm to 6pm
Sept 27 Food Pantry Open 9am to noon
Sept 29 Food Pantry Open 2pm to 6pm

Greetings, Berwyn UMC,

Grace and peace to you in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I thought it would be helpful to share a little about my family.

My wife Rebecca and I married for 17 years on July 23rd. We met during our undergraduate years at Elizabethtown College. A few years after we were married, I began my path to full-time ministry by attending Vanderbilt Divinity School. At Vanderbilt, I grew in my call to pastoral leadership, and the call of God's on the church to be instruments of justice and peace in the world. We had our first child, Joshua, in 2011 and our second child, Eliana, in 2013.

During my ministry, I have served churches in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. One of the biggest challenges at each of these churches was that the people were so busy faithfully running the church that they did not have the time or energy left *to be* the church. They were worn out physically and spiritually. Those churches did a lot of work to simplify ministries, increase focus, and create space where people had time to breathe, pray, and build community together.

Most recently, I have served as a consultant and developer for churches across the United States. My work there was to help churches develop processes for their church to ensure that people did not fall through the cracks. During that time, I found that the critical defining characteristics for all of these churches were not size, theology, or being progressive or conservative, but instead having a clear definition of what it meant to be a disciple in their church. With that definition, they focused on moving people deeper into discipleship and how to know when that is and is not happening. Only in doing that can we be sure that the ministries we are offering and participating in are doing what we intend and borne out of our sense of God's calling for the church.

I come to Berwyn with humility, knowing that God has placed us together for a season, that before our meeting, God has worked through many in plowing the soil, planting seeds, and participating in the harvest. I am eager to join you in that Holy work and guide the church into the future God has in store.

Blessings,
Pastor Kevin

Dear Berwyn UMC,

I humbly embark on this first-ever article shared with you in the newsletter. Any pastoral transition can be difficult as we navigate building relationships around trust and a mutual love for the church and Jesus Christ. I understand the loss that is felt when a pastor leaves. Amid the anxiety of pastoral transition, thank you for the welcome you have shown my wife, Rebecca, and our two children, Joshua and Eliana.

I come to Berwyn to lead and serve with you during a challenging time for the congregation, the denomination as a whole, and all Christianity in North America. The comforting news is that all of the challenges we face, from declining attendance, declining giving, and a lack of laborers for the harvest, are not unique to our church. We may find comfort in that, but it is far from good news. It means that there is no easy solution to turn things around. There is no program we can buy from Cokesbury that is guaranteed to 10x our attendance and balance the budget in three easy steps.

It does mean that we have to do hard and spirit lead work to discern how we as a church can best reach and serve our community. We must prayerfully consider who we are called to reach this next season and what the church ministries will look like to share the good news of Jesus Christ with that group of people.

It may sound odd to talk about sharing the gospel with only one group; after all, shouldn't the church reach out to everyone? The good news of Jesus Christ and the salvation he brings is for all people. However, Berwyn church is uniquely called and uniquely gifted to reach a unique group of people. No single church can reach all people. If the world needed only a single church, there would only need for more than one denomination or even more than one church in each town.

Here is another way to look at it. My daughter fell in love with archery when we went to Gretna Glen as a family a few years ago. If she entered the archery range and there were no targets, she would have nothing to shoot for and no direction to drive her. However, with a target, she had something for which to aim. She might hit the bullseye, hit around the bullseye, or even miss it entirely, but she knew if she was making progress.

The same is true for the church. When we figure out how God has uniquely called and equipped us and use that to determine who God calls us to reach, we have something to aim for and measure ourselves against. We may miss the bullseye and minister to people who are not a part of what we were aiming for, and we will praise God when that happens.

The road ahead for Berwyn will need to be paved with prayer, conviction, courage, persistence, and a desire to see God's kingdom flourish by everyone who loves this church. So many challenges are facing the church today, many from without, some from within. But through the power of the Holy Spirit, none of these challenges are insurmountable.

I look forward to serving alongside you as we move into the promising future that God has in store.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Kevin

A SHORT TERM STUDY OF HOW WE LOVE MATTERS:

A Call to Practice Relentless Racial Reconciliation *Pastor Kevin Rutledge*

“How We Love Matters” is a book written by Rev. Albert Tate, pastor of Fellowship Church in Los Angeles. This book is as much of a recounting of his own experience on the receiving end of racism in and outside of the church as it is an invitation to gather at the table to dream and build a better way. It is a challenging book, especially for those who gone most of their life believing that racism and injustice is not an issue or is not the concern of the church.



In his first chapter, Rev Tate writes, “To my white siblings who’ve found this book in your hands, I just want to encourage you. I want to encourage you to not fall into the statistical problem of leaving the table when things get tough. Instead, I want to invite you to lean in when it gets uncomfortable, to find comfort in the blood of the lamb and the love of your siblings. This is my call for hope and healing. For a family table that’s gathered to hear and learn from Christ. For us as a family to practice sibling love so that we may honor one another, honor Our Father, and so that we may make positive, lasting change for the generations to come.”

Pastor Kevin is organizing a 9 session study to work through each chapter of this book together. He is looking for people who make the commitment to remain at the table and not leave when it gets uncomfortable. Pastor is leaning toward Wednesday nights due to his schedule, and would like to find a restaurant, pub, etc where we might meet around a literal table.

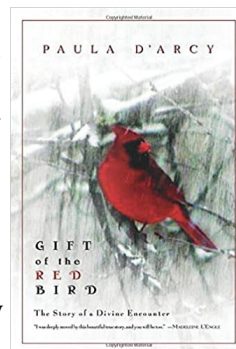
While he does not have all of the details worked out, if you are interested in doing this work together, please let him know and we can make further plans with those, inside and outside of the church, who are committed.

BUMC LIBRARY BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Margaret Smink

Each book for the next nine months comes from the library of Rev. Dr. William T. Cherry, father of BUMC member, Rev. Steve Cherry. Bill Cherry passed away in 2020.

Gift of the Red Bird: A Spiritual Encounter with a Guide for Reflection by Paula D’Arcy, c1996 [209.2 Dar] D’Arcy shares her own profound story of loss and spiritual renewal. It is a testimony of hope, of the need to relearn certain fundamental truths, and of God’s love and patience in guiding lost souls. For anyone whose spiritual beliefs have been challenged or lost by the death of a loved one, this story is most inspirational.



WHAT’S IN A CHURCH BUILDING? *Steve Cherry, Finance Team*

In 1958, the congregation of Berwyn Methodist moved from Main Avenue (from where Footlighters now operates) to Waterloo Avenue and built a wonderful kick-off structure. In 1967 the sanctuary was built and then in 2003, Schieck Hall, a new kitchen and welcoming vestibule were completed.

It’s said that the building is not the congregation and not even the church really. But a building embodies other things: memories, symbolics, beauty, a sign to the immediate community, reminders to in-person worshippers, shelter from rain, snow, heat and cold. Buildings need to be cared for so are part of our stewardship.

A very generous donor provided a trust to pay the principle portion of our debt service (for the 2001 expansion project) of which about \$500k is still owed. That fund runs out this month, which means that we are paying principle amounts from our operating budget for the first time in about 5 years.

Therefore, this is a great time to make a gift to the church for mortgage obligations. Venmo works. Text to give (844-967-2047) works. So does our Website:

- > www.berwynumc.org/give
- > GIVE
- > MORTGAGE SERVICE – Donate
- > SELECT – amount, frequency and start date
- > BASKET – provide Credit or Debit card information

You can also create an account [SIGN UP] for this page, to make future gifts easier. Automatic recurring gifts help us meet ongoing obligations.

In particular, the sanctuary is uniquely effective space for spiritual renewal, including three stained glass windows that are instructive in their beauty and symbolism. Participation by you with your presence and prayers, as well as your gifts, are things for which we are deeply grateful. Thanks for all you mean to the congregation. We’ll do all we can to maintain space, along with time for spiritual growth for you. All our best. Faithfully provided.

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 jlpaylor@verizon.net**



The **Food Pantry** is gradually becoming busier. Since we opened on May 12, we have distributed 58 bags of groceries. Pastor Rodney Brailsford spearheaded several pop-up events at Trinity House and some people have come to the church for food.

We have made a connection with Dr. Oscar Torres (T/E School District) through TE Cares, who is anxious to work with us in getting food to needy families in the school district. Once the school year begins in the fall we anticipate we will be able to make more distributions.

We are also in the process of connecting with the Chester County Food Bank, to see if they can support our food inventory with food contributions.

September Food Donation Requests:

canned soups, canned vegetables like peas, string beans, beets, lima beans and mixed vegetables. No canned corn please.



Fall is almost upon us so that means BUMNS will soon be returning! At the Nursery School we are looking forward to September when, once again, the hallways will be filled with children's laughter and maybe just a few tears to begin with. We are looking forward to welcoming new friends as well as old friends. School will begin for the children on September 13th but our staff will be busy before then making their classrooms look bright and inviting. We do still have a few openings, if you know anyone looking for a nursery school, please ask them to contact us at director@bumns.org.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Jack Campbell

8 Jeremy Borelly

12 Luis Montaner

18 Fred Levitt

24 Lee Paylor

26 Isabel Adams

27 Jennifer Cutler

WIDOW'S SUPPORT GROUP

Carol Williams

The Widow's Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 11:30 AM. Since starting the Group, we've transitioned from the church library to local restaurants (support your local businesses)! Usually, we are a group of six to eight women ranging in age and time of widowhood. We all know we can ask the tough widow questions and get opinions and answers from experienced widows as well as ask, "Who is a good plumber, dentist, podiatrist, etc.? Where is a good bakery? Have you seen those new apartments squeezed into a closet space?"



We enjoy each other's company well as sharing a meal together, since one of the main complaints is eating alone. I mean, who wants to cook a big meal for one?? In fact, we have so many conversations going at once that sometimes it's hard to fit "words of comfort" in among the chatter. But we have a nice relaxing time and nourishing meal together.

If any widow would like to join us and needs transportation, please call Carol Williams at 610-656-9662 and we can arrange someone to provide a ride.

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Kevin Rutledge

Lay Leader: Amy Dadds

Sexton: Over Caicedo

Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

Organist/Director of Music: John Lewis

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

Berwyn United Methodist Church
140 Waterloo Ave
Berwyn, PA 19312
610-644-5555
Officebumc@comcast.net

FALL FEST RETURNS! *Stephanie Borelly*

Mark your calendar – October 8th from 9AM – 2PM RAIN or SHINE

As we get closer to the date, there will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

That way EVERYONE can sign up for times to volunteer – set-up, pricing, selling, clean-up.

In the meantime, we are still collecting and storing treasures in the Scout cabin.

Here is what we are looking for:

Knick knacks, Wooden furniture, Kitchen odds & ends, Pots, Pans, Lamps, Puzzles, Games, Pictures/frames, Vases, etc.

Unfortunately, we are NO LONGER accepting any upholstered furniture.

If you are interested in working please let Stephanie Borelly know by email borelysteph6@gmail.com There are a lot of opportunities to volunteer. We need EVERYONE's help to make this a success!!



TRUNK OR TREAT 2022

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

3PM TO 5PM

DECORATED TRUNKS NEEDED!

Please let Kristine Adams know if you want to participate. Email kidl.adams@gmail.com to save your space.

Spread the word. Tell all the ghouls and boos you know to bring their goodie bags to collect some treats. There will be non food treats available for those with food allergies. Kids of all ages and abilities are welcome to participate. This is a FREE event for the community.





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

Berwyn United Methodist Church
140 Waterloo Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312

Church Office: 610-644-5555

Fax: 610-644-7890

Email: officebumc@comcast.net

www.berwynumc.org

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