

THE LIGHTED CROSS



May 2023 Issue:

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May Calendar

7 Holy Communion Offered;
South District Conference
14 Mother's Day
18-20 EPA Annual Conference
21 Honoring Veronica
May 29 Memorial Day



**Food Pantry Open
Tuesdays 9am to noon**



**HONORING A FAITHFUL SERVANT:
VERONICA MOSLEY**

Veronica Mosley is completing 20 years of service as administrative assistant at Berwyn UMC. We will be collecting a love offering and recognizing her service on Sunday, May 21. Be sure to plan to join us as we show our appreciation for her many years of dedication to the work of our church.

Berwyn United Methodist Church 140 Waterloo Ave
610-644-5555 www.berwynumc.org



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE EVENTS

- May 7 South District Conference at Elam United Methodist Church in Glen Mills, PA. All laity are invited to attend.
- May 18-20 Eastern PA Annual Conference, Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA.
- August 4-5 Laity Academy, Eastern University, St. David's PA. All laity are invited to register for workshops.

Go to EPAUMC.org to stay up to date on Eastern PA Conference news and

PASTOR'S LETTER *by Pastor Kevin Rutledge*

With gratitude and sadness, we announce that our talented music director, John Lewis, will be leaving our church to pursue a new opportunity at Newtown United Methodist. John has served our church for the past year and a half, and during this time, he has enriched our worship and strengthened our community in countless ways.

Even during my short time here as your pastor, John's gifts have blessed my own time of worship here at Berwyn, and I am sure he has done the same for you through skillfully directing our choir, playing the organ beautifully, and using his talented voice to sing modern worship music during our special music time. He has also brought in other musicians to share their gifts and bless our worship, making our services even more special and memorable. John's passion for music and dedication to our church have been evident in all he does. In addition, he has been an excellent leader and mentor to our choir members, encouraging them to reach their full potential and inspiring them to share their love of music with our congregation.

As we say goodbye, we want to use this time as an opportunity for reflection and renewed evaluation of our worship and music ministries. We want to evaluate our current practices and explore new possibilities for our worship. We are excited to see where this journey takes us and look forward to sharing our progress with you in the coming months. In the meantime, we are talking with organists that have played for us in the past to guide our worship music and ensure potential fits of their gifts and our future plans.

During the summer months, many of us travel, and our schedules are more flexible, which gives us the perfect opportunity to explore new possibilities for our worship. We will experiment with different music styles, locations, and worship styles to see what resonates with our community.

Some of the ideas we are exploring include holding dog-friendly worship services in our outdoor worship space, having a dinner church where we gather around a meal and share our faith, hosting a hands-on sensory worship experience called "messy church" and incorporating contemplative worship practices into our services.

As we embark on this journey of experimentation and discovery, we ask for your prayers, attendance, support, and feedback. Of course, not everything we try will work, and not everything that works will work right away, but as we prayerfully step out in faith following the Holy Spirit, we know that we will experience God working in our midst in new ways.

There are two direct actions that you can take as we embark on this summer of experimentation. First, as we offer new worship styles, invite your friends, family, and neighbors. This could help to grow the community and help new people experience the presence of God. Second, there will be various new opportunities to serve during worship, including setting up and tearing down, greeting people in new ways, and providing refreshments. Watch for emails and our website for upcoming worship and serving opportunities.

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18: 19-20 NIV

To the community of Berwyn United Methodist Church

I want to thank you for all of the support you've given me over these past two years at Berwyn UMC. It has been my greatest joy to lead you in music for the greater glory of God. Hearing your voices, in both song and conversation, has enabled me to provide you with a beautiful landscape on which to make music and praise our Savior.

I have always held dear your support of me and always knowing that God has great plans for me, and this next chapter, I pray, will be one of those great stepping stones. While the leaving brings sadness, the future is adorned with hope and excitement.

What I have experienced with each and everyone of you has been more than just that of ministry, but also friendship. I cherish the conversations and laughter I've shared with all of you. The door remains open. Let us continue to share our joys and petitions with one another through phone calls, text messages, letters, and social media. I do not intend to become a stranger.

Once again, I write this statement of farewell with bittersweetness. Please pray for me as I take this next leap of faith in my professional career, just as I will continue to pray for the advancement and deepened spirituality of the Berwyn UMC community.

In Christ
John Lewis

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28



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 bumc@comcast.net.**

***To include items in the weekly e-newsletter, email John Paylor at jpaylor@verizon.net**



Jane Harris, Director

It seems it was only yesterday that we welcomed our children into school, the year has flown by! It is a bittersweet time of year as we will be saying goodbye to some families who have been with us for many years. We look forward to celebrating our 5 Day children as they graduate preschool and prepare to leave us and continue their journey to kindergarten. We also welcome spring as a time of renewal as we encourage the children to observe the changes around them, including the caterpillars we have in our classrooms as they turn into butterflies.

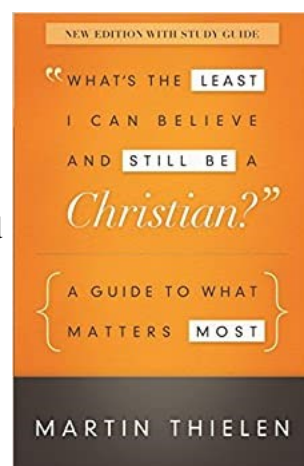
This year has again posed many challenges but we have worked through them with the support of our families and we are hopeful for the next school year. If you know anyone who is looking for a nurturing happy place to send their child, please pass on my email to them, director@bumns.org or check out our website, BUMNS.org, we would love to welcome them to our school. We would like to wish everyone a safe and good summer and look forward to returning in September.

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.

What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most by Martin Thielen, c2011 [232.8 Thi]

Martin Thielen was senior pastor at Lebanon First United Methodist Church in Lebanon, Tennessee. He is also a national worship and preaching consultant, seminary teacher and author. This book is his best effort to answer the title question. Part I lists ten things that Christians don't need to believe (Everything in the Bible Should Be Taken Literally, Good Christians Don't Doubt...). Part II lists ten things that Christians do need to believe (Jesus and his life, teachings, death, and resurrection). Thielen emphasizes that the benefit of needed beliefs is that they give hopeful answers to life's deepest questions. This book speaks to moderate Christianity that is easy to understand, not the judgmental, strident, narrow-minded version of Christianity that is labeled the religious right.



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

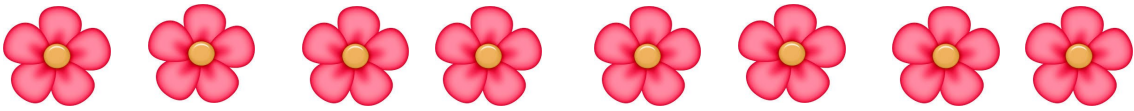
Organist/Director of
Music: John Lewis

Nursery Assist: Eliza
Chumpitaz

CYEC UPDATE by *Janelle Larson & Kristine Adams*
In last month's The Lighted Cross, Janelle gave us an update on the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre. They were looking to start a Food Pantry to benefit those who need their services. Our Easter Sunday offering collection was earmarked for this food pantry. Well, we surpassed the goal of \$750. **\$766 was collected!**



CYEC sends their thanks and gratitude for this wonderful gift. This will make a real difference in their community. Janelle will be traveling to Kenya in May with students and she will provide an update and photos when she returns.



UPDATE FROM BSA TROOP 181 by *Debbie Bellew*

BSA Troop 181 met weekly in Schieck Hall to work on the American Business merit badge and rank advancement for our younger Scouts, and to prepare for their recent tent camping trip. Two more camping trips are planned for the school year before the big summer camp week over Fourth of July. In addition to learning new skills, the troop enjoys the chance to be of service -- as one example, the entire troop gathered in April to plant flowers on the BUMC grounds. Several older Scouts are currently preparing larger Eagle projects to give back to the community. If you know of boys ages 11-18 who are interested in joining the troop, please email joinpaoli181@gmail.com. Thank you, Berwyn United Methodist Church!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Contact church office to
update Birthday information

- 9 Henry Fuerst
- 24 Ryan Anderson
- 24 Steve Cherry
- 28 May Dickenson
- 30 Jim Spofford

MAY PANTRY NEEDS

Drop items off in the bin
in the narthex.

- Cereal
- Granola Bars
- Flour (2 lbs)



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

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

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