

# BEN SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHERE TO REACH US:

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

STREET ADDRESS:

1965 Church Hill Road  
Lehighon, PA 18235

Church Phone: 570-386-3870

Social Hall Phone: 570-386-4990

E-mail: [bensalemucc@verizon.net](mailto:bensalemucc@verizon.net)

Fax: 570-386-3870 [call, speak to secretary, then call back]

Pastor Michael McGowan: Home – 610-759-9126

Office e-mail: [pstrbens@verizon.net](mailto:pstrbens@verizon.net)

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Chris

Website: [www.bensalemucc.com](http://www.bensalemucc.com)

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BEN SALEM UCC  
PO 128  
ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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**BEN SALEM VOICE**  
*April - 2016*  
**Ben Salem United Church of Christ**  
**PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. (Acts 4:32 NRSV)*

As I read these words from the Book of Acts they produce for me a vision of the perfect and loving church. Acts 4:32 is the passage pastors consider if they have been asked to describe their wish for the church. Every pastor likes to think this verse represents what the church in its most perfect form could be - a group of people who are of one heart and soul, joined in common by the head of the church – Jesus Christ. We give of ourselves and of our blessings and talents so that God's love is experienced fully in the community of believers. What a wonderful picture this verse from Holy Scripture frames in my mind and I hope in your mind also.

Unfortunately, the reason this verse is such an edifying text is because even before it was written – this idea had been incredibly difficult to attain. That is because we humans do not exist in a vacuum. We are constantly influenced by our surroundings, everything from where we live, to who our friends are, who raised us, and even what church we grew up in. (Of course the list is much broader than what I listed but you get the picture.) We are always being influenced in one way or another and for us to become of one heart and soul would be an immense undertaking that challenges every step of the way. And yet, our Living God asks us to do just that – to live and work on how we can come together in our heart and soul through faith in Christ Jesus.

Considering this verse then, it certainly would seem if someone wanted to accomplish what this verse suggests - that person would have to learn to compromise. Compromise is essential because the initial impression this passage expresses to the people who are the church is how they have to think alike. And to think alike would mean we have to move away from many of our other personal influences. This of course is not something that comes easy to any of us. So maybe as we contemplate what all this means, we need to consider the words that complete this verse. This verse concludes by revealing how all things are held in common.

And the most important thing we hold in common is not anything that is material. Sure the church needs material things to function and as the passage states, when we supply these things they become the property of the community. But the most important thing we hold in common is the fact that we all have needs. We all have needs that go way above our material wants and desires. We have spiritual and emotional needs that can only be fulfilled in community. The church is meant to be that community. Now the pastor can help with some of these needs, such as questions about the Spirit and religion, and the pastor can help with certain personal issues you are willing to share or with feelings of grief – but the ability of the community to recognize the needs of one another is what makes a good church great.

When the community shares with compassion and puts the needs of others first as Jesus taught through His own ministry, the church is being more than a social gathering or club. When the members are asking themselves – what is the need of my fellow Christian and how can I help them with that need, the church is being led by its true head and the greatness of what the Apostles intended the church to be is truly experienced!

As a community of faithful followers of Jesus Christ may we always strive to find a way to ask about the need of the other, even those people who come to us in anger. May we allow the Spirit of Christ in our soul to lead us to ask what the need of the other is as we open our hearts to finding a way to compromise. May Christ's way guide us in all we do as we continue to build this church into God's great community.



to you.  
Pastor Mike

## April Worship Services

**April 3, 10, 24 – Services at 8 AM and 10:30 AM**  
**April 17 – Music Sunday - Service at 10:30AM Only**



**Communion**  
**May 1**  
**8 AM and 10:30 AM**

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**Thursdays at 10AM**

“The Best of James W. Moore.  
Thoughts on Faith and Grace  
from a Master Storyteller”

### Worship Schedule for May – June, 2016

May 1	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship / Communion
8	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship / Mother’s Day
15	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship / Communion – Pentecost / Confirmation
22	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship
29	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship
June 5	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship / Communion
12	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship
19	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship/Father’s Day
26	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship

### HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Services at 8AM & 10:30AM

**Sunday, April 10**  
**2:00 PM in the Sanctuary**



**Concert**  
with the  
**“The Hawks”**  
and  
**“Lost and Found”**

Free Will Offering will be accepted.  
Proceeds to go to Ben Salem  
United Church of Christ  
[Phase II Loan]

## Hofstra University Chamber Choir

will be singing at Ebenezer UCC, 7293 Decatur Street,  
New Tripoli, PA 18066.

Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 7:30 PM

This concert will showcase the gifts of some  
incredibly talented college students.

The concert is free and open  
to all and donations will be received to support  
the Ebenezer UCC music program.

Don't miss it!

[www.ebuccnewtripoli.org](http://www.ebuccnewtripoli.org)

610-298-8000

## **Business**

How to Contribute to Our Operating Budget: to pay Ben Salem's bills]

- + Use your weekly envelope [in your envelope packet]
- + Designate "Current Expenses": [Benevolence is only for Missions – OCWM]
- + Place in offering plate or send to the Church:  
Ben Salem UCC, PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211

## **2016 Church Board Members:**

Officers: Sharon Elder, President

Barry Fink, Vice President

Robert Pope, Church Board Secretary

Elders: Sharon Elder, Walter Keeck, Terry Lusch, Dayle Smith

Deacons: Terry Blair, Barry Fink, Doris Lusch, Kevin Lusch,  
Kenneth Oswald, Robert Pope, Barry Reed, David Rex, Jr.

Pastor: Rev. Michael McGowan

Church Secretary: Dollie Behr

Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

Financial Secretary's Address: Susan Messina, 66 River Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252

**Upcoming Church Board Meetings:** April 18, 2016 at 7 PM  
May 16, 2016 at 7 PM

### **Ben Salem History Books**

are still available / \$60

Contact the Church Office [570-386-3870]

## **Cemetery Association Officers:**

Next Meeting: April 7 at 7 PM

President: Bernice Steigerwalt Vice President: Evan Beblavy

Caretaker: David Fritz Secretary: Walter Keeck

Treasurer: Doris Lusch Trustee: Richard Bealer

**Cemetery Lot Prices:** \$300 [with perpetual care]

## **Scheduling Events at Ben Salem Church:**

To prevent scheduling problems...prior to calling meetings or events,  
please check with the Church Secretary at 570-386-3870 to make  
sure that the date you have planned is available.

**Hospitalization ?** If you or someone you know is going to be  
in the hospital for surgery, please let the church office know a day or  
two before the surgery. This way the Pastor will make every effort to  
be there to visit and pray with the patient before the surgery.

## **Note from Church Office & Financial Secretary:**

Remember, it is important to keep  
us informed of any address  
changes. Please give changes of  
address to either Dollie Behr or  
Sue Messina.

### **Have you moved recently?**

Members can help by updating the  
church office with their new  
address prior to moving. It is also  
helpful to provide the church office  
with your home phone numbers,  
cell phone numbers and e-mail  
addresses if you wish. By doing  
this we can keep in touch with you  
and also provide you with  
important information regarding  
the church. Thank you in advance.

*Have you remembered the  
church in your will?*

## **Upcoming Committee Meetings**

Stewardship & Finance: April 4 at 6:30 PM

Called to Care: April 12 at 10AM

Property Committee: April 21 at 7 PM

Newsletter Assembly: April 27 at 6 PM

**[please submit information 1 week prior]**

Mission Committee: online meetings at [cti2@ptd.net](mailto:cti2@ptd.net)



## **Recycle... Save your soda cans...**

Aluminum cans will be taken to Zaprazny's.

Remember aluminum cans and clean  
aluminum only. There is a fenced in area to the rear of  
the old social hall for aluminum cans. Please do not  
place any of the following items in this area: garbage,  
wood, plastic, or other metals.

### **Altar Flower Sponsors:**

**[Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]**

A sign up sheet is located in the narthex. The cost of flower sponsorship is \$20.00. If you would like to sponsor flowers, please call Cindy Smith at 570-386-4248. \*\*\*Payment should be sent directly to: Cindy Smith, 707 Hoffman Rd., Lehighton, PA 18235.

**Note: All bulletin and flower sponsorship should be paid in advance.**

**Bulletin Sponsorship:** [Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]

Please call Sue Messina at 570-386-2880 with your sponsorship information or e-mail her at [suemess@ptd.net](mailto:suemess@ptd.net). The cost of Bulletin Sponsorship is \$7 per week. \*\*\* Payment should be sent directly to: Susan Messina, 66 River Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252.

*Please do not call the church office with sponsorships!*

### **Pastor's Office Hours:**

**Monday – work from home**

**Tuesday – 10 AM to 2 PM**

**[visits in the afternoon]**

**Wednesday – 9 AM to 1 PM**

**[visits in the afternoon]**

**Thursday – 10 AM to 5 PM**

**Friday & Saturday**

**[by appointment]**



### **A Message to Our Members**

The year 2015 brought a completed construction of a beautiful new addition to our church. Our Fellowship Hall and additional rooms have given us a new commitment and obligation.

Our first and foremost commitment is to our God and to do His work. The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 28, verse 19 instructs us to spread the Good News that we are “God’s children” and He loves us all. Go spread the Good News that through our Lord Jesus we can have eternal life. We are to tell this message to the whole world!

Our obligation is similar. God’s house (our church) is Holy Ground. It is our privilege and duty to keep it functioning in His way, guided by His Word.

This requires each of us to give of our TIME, our TALENT, and our TREASURE.

- Can you help us with this obligation?
- Can you give of your time to help the Fund Raisers with their projects?
- Can you give of your talents to serve on a church committee, work as a greeter or lector, or help the Altar Guild?
- Can you help set up a Community Center in our Fellowship Hall?
- Can you give of your treasure to help pay for this new addition?

We need ALL of our members to work together and pray together to spread God’s love. Won’t you prayerfully consider being a member of this team?

**Thrivent Choice®: Strengthening communities. Changing lives.**

Thrivent Choice, the member-advised charitable grant program from Thrivent Financial, continues to be a welcome funding source for congregations and nonprofit organizations nationwide. If you are an eligible Thrivent member, you likely are aware of this easy, convenient way to help make a difference for organizations you care about. The Thrivent Choice program offers a way for eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable grant funds each year. Eligible benefit members are designated Choice Dollars® that they can direct, thereby recommending charitable grant funding for their choice among thousands of enrolled congregations and nonprofit organizations, including **Ben Salem United Church of Christ**. If you are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, or are uncertain about your eligibility, visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice® program. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) for complete Terms and Conditions.

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**WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING BEN SALEM CHURCH  
SAVE PAPER, MONEY AND TIME?  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL?**

If so, please fill out the following form and place it in the box located in the narthex or mail it to Ben Salem UCC, PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211.

**Ben Salem Church – Facebook Page**

Members and non-members can search for and “Like” our page. The page will be kept up to date with devotions, events, concerts, fundraisers, youth group events, etc. Please take the time to view this page.

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



Family Promise will be held on April 17-23, 2016. There are currently three families in the program. Volunteers are needed to prepare and/or serve dinner, provide fellowship, and sleep overnight. Baked goods and donations are always appreciated!!

The following shifts are still available:

- Sunday, April 17: Dinner, Fellowship (5:30 – 7PM) & Overnight
- Monday, April 18: Fellowship (7-9PM)
- Wednesday, April 20: Dinner & Fellowship (5:30 – 7PM)
- Saturday, April 23: Dinner & Fellowship (5:30 – 7PM) & Overnight

**If you are able to help or need more information:**  
Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842 or [khayman@ptd.net](mailto:khayman@ptd.net)



# Spring Bazaar Thank You!

Thank You to everyone who donated or volunteered in any way with the Spring Bazaar on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. We had another fantastic turnout! It was so exciting to have our first big event in our new Fellowship Hall! It looked beautiful and we had plenty of space to move around or sit and fellowship. There was



# Ham & Dandelion Dinner

**Ben Salem U.C.C.  
Fellowship Hall  
1965 Church Hill Road  
Lehighton (near Andreas)**

**Saturday, April 16  
3:00 - 7:00 P.M.**



**Adults \$10.00  
Ages 5 - 12 \$5.00, Under 5 Free  
Dessert and beverage included.**



**For more info call 484-225-0368 or 570-386-3870  
For directions visit [www.bensalemucc.com](http://www.bensalemucc.com)**



HOAGIE SALE - BEN SALEM U.C.C.  
ORDERS DUE APRIL 10  
PICK-UP APRIL 21 (10:30 AM – NOON)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

PLAIN – HAM, SALAMI, CHEESE, LETTUCE & TOMATOES (no onions or peppers)

PLAIN \_\_\_\_\_ WITH HOT PEPPERS (no onions) \_\_\_\_\_

WITH ONIONS \_\_\_\_\_ WITH ONIONS & HOT PEPPERS \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL # ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 EACH TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Place order form in box in narthex or call Sue Messina at 570-386-2880.

**Health & Wellness Committee**



FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS: Watch for more information in bulletins. The Health and Wellness Committee will organize the upcoming Blood Drives. The Committee has a bulletin board located between the church offices. There is important information about heart health on the board at this time.



**BLOOD DRIVE IN HONOR OF**  
**ERIN COOMBE (local family)**  
**at Ben Salem UCC Fellowship Hall**  
**Sunday, April 24 from 9 AM to 1 PM**

**For an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).**

On the day of your donation, you can complete your pre-reading and answer your donation questions online at [www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass). This will save you up to 15 minutes.

**Reminder from Cemetery Association:**

**Guidelines for placing flowers and floral arrangements on the Ben Salem Cemetery**

Due to the problems with wind carrying pieces of artificial flower arrangements into the neighboring farm fields - which become a hazard to machinery, crops and animals - and because they can also present a danger to our own mowing equipment - the following guidelines have been established by the Cemetery Association:

1. All types of real or potted plants are acceptable. Please remove colored foil from potted plant containers before placement. Any type of trees are not acceptable in the cemetery.
2. We ask that no artificial flowers and arrangements be placed on our cemeteries from May 1 through October 31.
3. Prior to placement of Christmas arrangements, make certain that artificial pieces are securely fastened to the arrangement.
- \*\*\*\***All Christmas arrangements should be removed from gravesites by March 1<sup>st</sup> weather permitting.**
4. Appropriate signs for the guidelines will be placed at the cemeteries.
5. As a courtesy to persons living away from the area, floral arrangements may be placed at gravesites by contacting the Cemetery Association.
6. After April 30, the Cemetery Association will remove artificial arrangements.
7. Solar powered decorative sticks are acceptable by gravestones.

**Names of 2016 Graduates Needed:** If you know of someone who is graduating this year, please call or e-mail the information to the church office. This includes high-school and college graduates. Graduate Recognition will be held on June 12 at both services. Names should be submitted by May 18 to be included in the June newsletter. Please include majors and degrees if you wish.



**Richard and Cynthia Smith Scholarship Fund:**

Applications for the Smith Scholarship Fund can be obtained by calling the Church Office at 570-386-3870. The forms can be sent in the mail or e-mailed to those who wish to apply. This fund was established to assist high school graduates who are furthering their education. The applicant must be a member in good standing of Ben Salem UCC. The applicant must have graduated from high school and be enrolled as a full time, undergraduate student in an accredited college or technical school to further his/her education. A person may only be a recipient of this scholarship one time but if you have applied in a prior year and not been a recipient of the scholarship, you may apply again. Preference will be given to those who have a financial need, who are loyal to the church, its worship and life, and who have performed community service. Applications should be submitted to the Church Office by June 30, 2016.

**Gwilym T. Williams Scholarship**

If you are a college or graduate student who is preparing for a career either as a/an Ordained Minister, Certified Teacher or Educator, Doctor of Medicine then you may qualify for a scholarship grant from the Gwilym T. Williams Scholarship Fund.

For more information, please visit the PNEC website at [www.pnec.org](http://www.pnec.org) to obtain an application form. If you would like to call the conference office the phone number is 610-826-3113.



**Blanket Makers / Quilters :** The Blanket Makers and Quilters meet on Thursday mornings starting at 9 AM at the Social Hall. Anyone is welcome to come and join them. The quilt for this year is a 60 X 60 size, multi-colored patchwork Quilt. Tickets will be available through the year at church dinners & functions. See Dollie Frantz or Linda Stoss to purchase tickets. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Money raised through ticket sales & sales of knotted blankets goes directly to the General Fund to help with the mortgage.

**Ben Salem Quilt Class 2016**

**(Organizational Meeting and Quilts will be shown with featured guest quilter)**

First class is Monday, April 11 at 6:30p.m. at Ben Salem U.C.C. in the meeting classroom (next to the Hand Bell room).



Please bring crayons or colored pencils and pen/paper, if you wish to take notes. Featured Projects for future classes: Irish Chain Quilt; Sampler blocks---Square Dance, Rail Fence, Nine Patch, Friendship Star, Shoo Fly, Snowball, Ohio Star, Ohio Friendship Star, and Log Cabin

Featured Small Projects for future classes: Rail Fence place mat, Tic Tac Toe, Checker Board, Square Dance hot pad, table runner, candle mat, mug rugs, bed runner, or pillow. Possible Future Class Dates at 6:30p.m.: April 18, April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16, May 23, June 13, June 20 I am anxious and excited to meet this new group of quilters. Barbara Snowberger 570-386-2112

## Special Prayers



**Prayer Chain:** The Prayer Chain is a way for anyone to request prayer for a specific need.... [or thanksgiving or joy]. To have our Prayer Chain pray for you: Contact Betty Nothstein at 570-386-5644. Please call Betty if you would like to be called with others' prayer requests as part of the Prayer Chain.

**Meals Ministry:** Do you know someone who is shut-in or recovering from a hospitalization, serious injury or illness, or mourning the loss of a loved one that could benefit from a hot or a frozen meal? Ben Salem has a Meals Ministry Team that can help ease the daily burdens of families or individuals within our church and community by providing ready-to-eat meals. If you would like to volunteer with this ministry or know of someone in need, please contact Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842 or the Church Office.

**Called to Care:** Trained volunteers from our church are available to assist the Pastor in visiting shut-in or hospitalized church members who are no longer able to attend regular worship services or participate in church functions. If you would like a "Called to Care" volunteer to visit you, please contact the Pastor at the Church Office (570) 386-3870. We are looking for more volunteers for this Committee! If you are interested in sharing God's love with shut-in members of our congregation, please contact Pastor McGowan. The next Called to Care meeting will be held on April 12 at 10 AM.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** The Prayer Shawl Committee is in need of helpers to make prayer shawls. If you can knit or crochet and would like to help, please contact coordinators Betty Nothstein at 570-386-5644 or Barbara Snowberger at 570-386-2112 for more information. If a prayer shawl is needed, please contact Betty or Barbara.



Support Our Troops - All military personnel

Jessica A. Bealer: FC2# Bealer, Jessica, A USS Paul Hamilton [DDG-60] CS/CF, FPO AP 96667-1278  
→ Jessica is now back on base in the USA

\*Please notify us if you know of anyone who is serving at this time or if any names are missed or if status changes.

**Our sympathy is extended to:**

The Family of Joseph DeSousa [father of Denise Gerber] who passed away on February 28.

The Family of Marian Geiger. Marian Geiger passed away on Dec. 22, 2015.

A memorial service was held at Ben Salem Church on March 19.

The Family of Robert Evola [brother of Rev. Maria Spada] who passed away on March 22.

The Family of Lester Wentz, Sr. who passed away on March 23.





~ April 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8 AM Making Shoo-fly Pies
<b>3</b> <b>Holy Humor Sunday</b> 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	<b>4</b> Steward- ship & Finance 6:30 PM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	<b>7</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Association	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 2 PM Concert: "The Hawks & Lost and Found" Pierogie & Hoagie Orders Due	<b>11</b> Quilting Class 6:30 PM	<b>12</b> 10 AM Called to Care	<b>13</b> 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	<b>14</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Ham & Dandelion Dinner 3 - 7 PM
<b>17</b> <b>Music Sunday</b> <b>NO 8 AM Worship</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Handbells	<b>18</b> Quilting Class 6:30 PM  7 PM Church Board Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	<b>21</b> 7 AM Hoagie Sale 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 - Noon Hoagie Order plck up 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Committee	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8 AM Worship 9AM - 1PM Red Cross Blood Drive 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6-7 PM Youth Group Meeting	<b>25</b> 8 AM Pierogie Making  Quilting Class 6:30 PM	<b>26</b> 8 AM Pierogie Making	<b>27</b> 8 AM Pierogie Making Noon - Game Day 6 PM Newsletter Assembly 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	<b>28</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells	<b>29</b> Pick up Pierogie Orders 4-6 PM	<b>30</b>

Hosting Family Promise