

BEN SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHERE TO REACH US:

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

STREET ADDRESS:

1965 Church Hill Road
Lehighton, PA 18235

Church Phone: 570-386-3870

Social Hall Phone: 570-386-4990

E-mail: bensalemucc@ptd.net

Website: www.bensalemucc.com

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

Pastor Michael McGowan: Home – 610-759-9126

Office e-mail: pstrbens@ptd.net

One
In
Christ

BEN SALEM UCC
PO 128
ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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June



BEN SALEM VOICE
June - 2018



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you and may the blessings of Jesus Christ be upon you. I know it is hard to believe with the rainy weather we have been having but summer is just around the corner. The first day of summer, June 21, will be here before we know it, the boys of summer will be looking toward their All-Star game and hopefully the 'Phillies' and 'Mets' will be battling for first place as the season reaches the half way point.

Living in 'Phillies' country and rooting for the 'Mets' has always been an easy way to get someone who is a total stranger to talk with me. If I bring up that I root for the Mets, there is a good chance that a conversation will take place. Baseball can be the equalizer that allows total strangers of diverse backgrounds to speak to one another.

And why not, our American pastime is now played and enjoyed in Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Panama and Columbia. Those who live in Japan, Korea, China, Australia and even those in the hockey crazed nation of Canada like to play the game or at least root for their favorite team.

Gary Graf who wrote a book on the parallels he finds between Baseball and the Bible deduces that baseball, perhaps more than any other game, brings together people of different religions, races and nationalities, and forges them into thriving communities where all shout together toward a common goal. He continues, and I quote "Leave it to the game to hold out the possibility, the potential God sees for all of humanity."

When we are able to spend time in the presence of more and more people, people different from ourselves, people from different areas of the world that perhaps speak broken English at best, people who are simply attempting to acclimate to our societal norms; our faith in the greatness of what God sees for all of humanity becomes a possibility. The ideals that this nation is built on and the ideal that God has for the world are two in the same. While we may never reach total nirvana in light of these ideals we are asked to strive forth as a means to glorify God.

So this summer, maybe those of you who have the privilege to be out with others and those who will be traveling this summer to places far and near can be a true sign of the amazing love Christ has for all of us. Maybe as those who God has forged to be thriving faithful believers, as we spend our time around others who may be different from ourselves, can effectively toil towards God's potential for all humanity.

Our world seems to be moving away from God's ideal and it is up to the faithful believers in Jesus Christ to find ways to work toward this common goal of God, Baseball and America. Baseball did not always follow this ideal but in time because of brave and fearless people, who stood with those who had been condemned and chastised, accepted their need to change and now the game is a microcosm of the grand ideal of God.

We are the ones who have been enlightened through God's Holy Spirit and who must continue to shout together with our brothers and sisters so our world does not fall into the kind of place where only the evil one is happy and content. If America has any hope of ever reaching its own ideal that coincides with that of God's it will be because of those who follow the way of Jesus. The Savior who ministered to Gentiles and found great faith outside of the tradition in which He had been raised has taught us all about the possibility we have to reach our potential in the eyes of God. May Christ's love always shine upon you and may you continue to be its reflection into the world. Please know I thank God for each and every one of you and all you do to reflect Christ into the world.

Pastor Mike

Worship Services:

Worship Schedule for June 2018

June 3: 8 AM & 10:30 AM Services (Graduate Recognition Sunday)
June 10: 8 AM & 10:30 AM Services
June 17: 8 AM & 10:30 AM Services (Father's Day)
June 24: 9:15 AM Service (begin Summer Schedule)



Communion Service:

Communion at 8 AM and 10:30 AM
July 1, 9:15 AM

Hand Bell Choir
July 15, 29, Aug. 19
9:15 AM Service



COFFEE HOUR
Volunteers needed!



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Will resume in
September....Thursday
mornings at 10AM

Please consider joining
this small group as we begin
a new study.

Ben Salem Vacation Bible School

June 25-29 6:30 to 9 PM

Theme: Hero Central

more info included in this newsletter

Contacts:

570-778-0356 Kelly

570-386-2015 - Dawne

Worship Schedule / July 2018

July 1 – 9:15 AM Worship / Communion
July 8 – 9:15 AM Worship
July 15 – 9:15 AM Worship
July 22 – 9:15 AM Worship
July 29 – 9:15 AM Worship

Active Shooter Program –
June 4
6:30 to 8 PM in Sanctuary
more information included in this
newsletter

Children's Sunday School



We are looking for members who would like to join the fun and become Sunday School teachers beginning in the fall term. If interested contact Cliff Snowberger at 570-386-2112.



Church 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, P.O. Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

2018 Church Board Members:

Elders: Brian Beidleman, VP, Barry Fink, President,
Kenneth Oswald, Cliff Snowberger
Deacons: Terry Blair, Shirley Kline, Doris Lusch, Robin Lutz, Secretary,
Kevin Lusch, Barry Reed, Carly Smith, Ron Steigerwalt
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 Meeting: June 18 at 7PM

Ben Salem History Books – Very limited # available
\$60 – Contact the Church Office 570-386-3870

Meetings:

Parish Assembly: no meeting scheduled
Property Committee: June 21, 7 PM
Finance Committee: June 27, 6 PM

Cemetery Association Officers

Next Meeting: Sept. 6 at 7 PM
President: Bernice Steigerwalt
Caretaker: David Fritz
Treasurer: Doris Lusch
(please submit information 1 week prior)
Called to Care Committee: August 14, 10AM
Cemetery Association: Sept. 6, 7PM
Worship Committee: August 13, 6:30 PM
Christian Education: no meeting scheduled
Mission Committee: Online meetings at cti2@ptd.net

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.

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. 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!



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 for your help.

Have you remembered the church in your will?



Recycle...Save your soda cans...

Aluminum cans will be taken to Zaprazny's.

Remember aluminum cans and clean aluminum only and should be placed in bags.. 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.

Do not place aluminum cans in garbage shed.

Email addresses
for Church & Pastor McGowan

bensalemucc@ptd.net – Church Office
pstrbens@ptd.net – Pastor McGowan



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]

Financial Report April 2018



[Philippians 4:13](#) - *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

Phase II Mortgage

Thank you for your continued support in fulfilling our commitment!!!

Do you like the convenience of scheduling bills through Internet Banking?

Not having to worry about writing those checks each month is nice. Well if your bank offers free internet banking why not schedule your giving to the church on a bi-monthly or monthly basis. The bank could send the check every other week or every month and you wouldn't have to worry about having cash on a Sunday. If this sounds good then simply schedule your offering like you do your other bills and have it sent to: Ben Salem UCC, P.O. Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211-0128 If there is a place for a note about the payment you can even fill in how much you would like to go to the church and how much should go to OCWM. It's that simple – really! Our treasurer receives the check and your account is credited the same as if you utilized an envelope. And if you are uncomfortable not having an envelope to put in the plate – don't forget there are other envelopes to utilize in the box you receive at the start of each year. If this sounds good to you – please consider signing up with your bank. Thank You.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee



Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinners, fellowship with the families (play games or read with the children), and stay overnight. Donations of food, snacks, and baked goods are needed. Please consider helping out!

Contact: Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842

khayman@ptd.net

Our next hosting week will be June 10 - 16

Graduates - 2018

Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 3

Lehigh Area High School – Graduation June 15

Julia Frey – (top 10%) - West Virginia / Morgantown Campus
Honors College and School of Engineering

Kira Kuehner – Lehigh Carbon Community College – Cultural Anthropology
Cody Scherer – Kutztown University – Business Administration/Finance

Northern Lehigh High School – Graduation June 8

Jillian Olewine – Misericordia University – Occupational Therapy

Old Forge High School - June 11

Ian Hook – Kutztown University – Biology

Soudertown Area High School

Joseph Wynn II – Montgomery County Community College

Tamaqua Area High School – June 5

Jacob Palmer – University of Northern Colorado – Environmental Sustainability Studies

Taylor Troxell – LCCC Nursing Program

Gabriella Geronimo – LCCC General Education

Maizy Troxell – NHS – Widener University, Chester, PA – Bio Medical Engineering

Penn State University, University Park – May 2018

Amy N. Smith – Bachelor's Degree in Human Development/Family Studies



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, 2018.

Upcoming Fundraisers:



Strawberry Social

Sunday, June 10

Noon to 6 PM

Food – Music – Basket Raffle

Car Show from Noon to 4 PM

Contacts: 570-386-2015 (Dawne)

570-778-0356 (Kelly)



Items Needed.....

Please drop off items in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, June 3rd

3 boxes Dietz & Watson Deli Beef Franks
4 jars Cheese Whiz
24 dozen Hamburger Rolls
20 lbs. Potatoes
8 loaves bread
2 boxes Non-Stick Reynolds Aluminum Foil
1 pkgs. Napkins

Soda/Water:
4 cases Coke, 4 cases Diet Coke
2 cases Sprite
1 case Diet 7-Up
2 cases Diet Pepsi
5 cases Water

Ragnar Relay - Looking for volunteers!!!



We are looking for volunteers who would like to help with the Ragnar Relay this year. The event takes place on Saturday, June 16. We will be serving food this year. We hope to have two shifts (need 4 per shift) this does not include the help needed in the kitchen. We will announce times at a later date. If

interested, please see Linda Hafner to volunteer for working a shift. Please see Linda Gower to volunteer to help in kitchen. If you would like to donate items needed please see list below:

Large container Regular Coffee / Large container Decaf Coffee
Tea Bags / Individual Hot Chocolate/ Minute Maid Individual Juice in Plastic Containers

Old Church Pew - Pastor Jeff and Barbara Kistler would like to find a home for an 11 foot pew from the old Ben Salem building. They would like to sell the pew to someone associated with Ben Salem. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Ben Salem Building Fund. The buyer will have to pick it up. Call Barbara or Pastor Jeff at (610-767-7606) or email bkistler630@gmail.com

ACTIVE SHOOTER PROGRAM - JUNE 4 6:30 to 8 PM in the Sanctuary

Jason Lorah representing the West Penn Township Police Department will be providing a detailed Powerpoint Presentation covering the safety and Active Shooter concerns within the church, including both the office and worship settings. Jason will be discussing all aspects of safety, and will be providing realistic scenarios, for various settings and situations involving Active Shooters. The topics to be presented will be provided from the Federal Homeland Security website. There will be a question and answer period at the end of the program.

CLOTHING BIN UPDATE

A red clothing bin is in place by the old Social Hall. Please feel free to donate clothing or shoes that you no longer need. The church can earn up to 10 cents/lb.

As a safety issue, it is the purpose of the Risk Management the Safety committee

include: Ron Steigerwalt, Rodger Diehl, Barry Reed, Tom Kupres, Pastor Mike – Ex Officio.

Beginners Country Line Dancing

No experience necessary!

If you are interested in this activity, please contact Dot Eberts at 570-386-2149 for more information. Classes will meet Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30AM. Free will offering.



GAME DAY

**Wednesday, June 27 - Noon
Fellowship Hall
Bring a snack to share!**



LOOKING FOR A PICTURE....The Church Leaders are looking for an old picture of our Church as a "Log Cabin". If you can help us, please contact Sharon Elder or the Church Office.



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. A new quilt (white floral embroidered 84 x 98 in.) has been made for the Quilt Raffle. Tickets will be available throughout the year at church dinners & functions. See Dollie Frantz, Betty Nothstein or Linda Stoss to purchase tickets. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Money raised through ticket sales & sales of knotted blankets and other items goes directly to Phase II Fund.

NOTE: An ongoing project of this group is to make hand-knotted blankets for the needy.

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. 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 for complete Terms and Conditions.

Thank You Notes:

To the Crochet and Knitting Ladies of the church: Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. We will certainly use it and say the prayer often. Thank you again. Bob and Helen Hayman

Dear Ben Salem Church Spring Bazaar Committee: On behalf of the Leighton American Legion Post 314, I would like to thank you for your church's donation to our organization. In times such as these when we find it difficult to receive monetary help from the community, it is refreshing to know that organizations such as yours find ways to contribute to our worthy cause. These monies shall be used to fund a variety of our youth programs for the coming year. Thank you once again, Sincerely, Floyd C. Brown, Commander

Dear Ben Salem UCC,

School year 2017-2018 has just ended and summer vacation starts here in the Philippines! Summer has always been my favorite season. I can relax and unwind from the stressful days in school and bond with family. In the past we went to visit my grandparents and we spent the Holy Week and Easter there. We went to the beach to swim with family and friends. How did you spend your Holy Week and Easter? About school, I have completed grade 11 and look forward to a more challenging level this coming school year as a grade 12 student. I have a 84.37% average and am doing the best I can to gain good grades. This coming May, 2018 we will be having a summer work camp. This is going to be fun and educational at the same time. I am always thankful to all of you for the support in my studies and prayers all the way. God bless all of you and take care always. Hope to hear from you too. Love Rhea Alemaida



Special Prayers

**Our Members and Friends with Special Needs:
In Institutions:**



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.

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

Jeremy Zellers, Norfolk, VA – on Submarine Newport News

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



Our Sympathy is extended to:

The Family of Vera Frantz. Vera passed away on April 28, 2018.

The Family of Kirk Graver. Kirk passed away on May 14, 2018.

Ben Salem UCC's Vacation Bible School 2018

June 25th - 29th; 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Pre-register at: www.bensalemucc.com

Bible Stories

Crafts

Games

Music

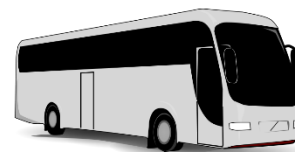
And lots of fun!



There will be a picnic for the children and their families on Friday, June 29th, featuring an outdoor movie (weather permitting), games, Rita's Ice, food, inflatable slides and bouncers....

Do good! Seek peace and go after it! – Psalms 34:14b

Ben Salem is going to Washington D.C.!
Saturday, September 8, 2018



Schedule

- 6:00 am - Depart Ben Salem
- 10:30 am - Visit to The Museum of the Bible
- 12:00 pm - Lunch on your own
- 12-4 pm – visit attractions of your choice
- 4:00 pm – Load busses to visit west end of national mall (Lincoln Memorial, Reflecting Pool, Korean War Memorial, World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial)
- 5:00 pm – Leave DC and head towards home
- 6:30 pm – Dinner at Mountain Gate Restaurant
- 10:00 – 10:30 pm – Expected Return to Ben Salem



All adults are \$70.00 per person (includes transportation, ticket to Bible Museum, Dinner at Mountain Gate Restaurant, all taxes, tips, and fees)

Checks payable to Ben Salem Youth Group

****All Youth Group Members are paid for by the group!**

Deadline to sign-up **SUNDAY AUGUST 19th**, sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

“The Museum of the Bible is a museum in Washington D.C. which documents the narrative, history and impact of the Bible. The museum opened on November 17, 2017. With 1,150 items from the museum's permanent collection and 2,000 items on loan from other institutions and collections, the museum claims to have amassed one of the largest assemblies of biblical artifacts and texts in the world through collaborations with private donors, institutions, and other museums.”



June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Graduate Recognition Sunday 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	4	5	6 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	7 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Assn.	8	9

10 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12 Noon – 6PM Strawberry Social Car Show Noon to 4 PM	11	12	13 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	14 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells	15	16 Host - Ragnar Relay 4 am to Noon
<h2 style="margin: 0;">----- FAMILY PROMISE -----</h2>						
17 Father's Day 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	18 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	19	20 9:30 AM Line Dancing	21 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Mtg.	22	23
24 9:15 Worship Service	25	26	27 9:30 AM Line Dancing 12 Noon Game Day 6 PM Newsletter	28 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 5 PM Feed a Neighbor/Zion UCC, Leighton 6:30PM Hand Bells	29	30
<h2 style="margin: 0;">-----Vacation Bible School 6:30 – 9 PM -----</h2>						