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@verizon.net

E-mail: <u>bensalemucc@verizon.net</u> Website Fax: 570-386-3870 [call, speak to secretary, then call

Pastor Michael McGowan: Home - 610-759-9126

Office e-mail: pstrbens@verizon.net

BEN SALEM UCC PO 128 ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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BEN SALEM VOICE

February 2017

Ben Salem United Church of Christ PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing...

Zephaniah 3:17 NRSV

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

These are words we should always hold dear in our hearts. As I write this letter a historic event in our nation's history is taking place. That is because I am writing this as President–elect Trump is being sworn in as this nation's 45th president. As our nation moves forward there are many question floating around in most people's heads. None more significant than – what kind of president will this man who has no prior political experience be?

As we begin our journey with President Donald Trump as our leader there are many people in this great country who are riding a high wave of optimism as they consider our new president and his resolute promises. They have put their faith in this man who has repeatedly reminded us that he is a political outsider and will therefore make changes to how government works – or - maybe stated more honestly - doesn't work. And I have no doubt he will attempt to make changes.

Unfortunately, as is the case with any human leader throughout history, these changes will be wonderful for some and likely not as great for others. And while I hope he gets even half of what he promised done for the public when it comes to his prosperity promises – I also know that if we put too much faith in our human leaders we will always come away disappointed. With that being said I am confident this will also be the case with this president just as it has been with any of our past presidents. This is why I want us to take the scripture at the start of this letter into our hearts. I want us to remember that as our optimism wains in our human leaders - as it will always do - that the Lord – your God and my God – is always with us.

The Lord is a warrior who gives victory unlike any other warrior or leader. Being that I am a Pittsburg Steeler fan and my team has a chance to play in the Super Bowl once again this year and knowing they have accomplished winning six Super Bowls throughout the years, I have learned that the joy that comes from them "winning it all" is only short lived. I am optimistic about their chances to be victorious in two more games but whether they win or lose I know, without a doubt, where my allegiance stands: with the warrior who gives true 'victory' as only our God in Jesus Christ can. Our true victory comes from knowing that the Lord rejoices in *us* and that through our openness to the love of God we are continually being renewed into our true image – that of the One Creator God.

Sure there are high points in our life here on earth – and many times they are brought about by others who we look up to, heck, without them life would be a dismal and bleak existence. But the one true and extended high all of us of faith have in life comes from knowing that we are cared for and loved by the Lord. Without faith in that knowledge the flow between the climactic and anticlimactic events of life would become like a rollercoaster we have ridden too long. Living in faith and knowing the Lord rejoices in us should give us a high that never has to end. As we move ahead with a new president as our leader may you all continue to experience the high of knowing you are loved and that the Lord exults with singing over you!

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Mike

Worship Services for February

February 5 8AM and 10:30AM Worship/Communion

February 12 8AM and 10:30AM Worship

February 19 8AM and 10:30AM Worship

February 26 8AM and 10:30AM Worship





Communion:

Sunday, February 5th 8AM & 10:30AM

Worship Schedule for March & April 2017

March 5: 8AM and 10:30AM (Lent I/Communion)

12: 8AM and 10:30AM (Lent II)

19: 8AM and 10:30AM (Lent III)

26: 8AM and 10:30AM (Lent IV)

April 2: 8AM and 10:30AM (Lent V)

9: 8AM and 10:30AM (Palm Sunday)

16: 8AM and 10:30AM (Easter Sunday)

23: 8AM and 10:30AM (Holy Humor Sunday)

30: 8AM and 10:30AM

Call to Annual Congregational Meeting March 5, 2017, Noon in the fellowship hall

The meal will be a covered dish dinner.

Come for a meal, fellowship and to hear reports from 2016

and discuss the future of Ben Salem UCC Please attend this important meeting!

M A_J Constitution and By-Laws will be available on the counter in the narthex beginning in January. If you would like to see what has been changed, please pick up a copy, read it and return it to the counter for others to view. These changes will be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Mornings 10AM – 12 Noon Fellowship Hall Board Room

Please consider joining our group as we study.... "Be Basic" (Genesis 1-11) by Warren Wiersbe.



Hand Bell Choir Sunday, February 12 10:30AM Service

on

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 <u>only</u> for Missions – OCWM]

Place in offering plate or send to the Church:
Ben Salem UCC, P.O. Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

2017 Church Board Members:

<u>Elders:</u> Sharon Elder, Barry Fink, Walter Keeck, Terry Lusch
<u>Deacons</u>: Terry Blair, Shirley Kline, Doris Lusch, Kenneth Oswald,

Robert Pope, Barry Reed, Carly Smith, Ron Steigerwalt

<u>Pastor</u>: Rev. Michael McGowan <u>Church Secretary</u>: Dollie Behr <u>Treasurer</u>: Dawne Beidleman

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

18252

Upcoming Church Board Meeting: February 20th at 7 PM

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

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Cemetery Association

Next Meeting: February 2, 2017 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.

<u>Hospitalization?</u> 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.

<u>Bulletin Sponsorship</u>: [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.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Property Committee: February 16 at 7PM
Church Board: February 20, 2017 at 7PM
Called to Care: April 11, 2017 at 10AM
Fundraisers: March 14, 2017 at 6:30 PM
Newsletter Assembly: February 22, 2017 at 6PM
(please submit information 1 week prior)
Mission Committee: online meetings at cti2@ptd.net

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.

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]



Ben Salem UCC Financial Report Financial Report December 2016



General Fund

We Need Your Help to Fulfill This Commitment!!

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS 2017

<u>January 29 at 6PM</u> – Youth Group Meeting (Fellowship Hall).

Bring Ideas!

February 10 – Newsboys Concert in Reading at 7PM.
Youth cost is \$10; Adult cost is \$22. RSVP and payments due by January 29th. 10 ticket minimum.

<u>March 31</u> – Coloring Easter Eggs (Old Social Hall) & Older Youth Group Egg Hunt in the Dark

April 1 at 11AM - Egg Hunt in Conjunction with Spring Bazaar

May 5 & 6 – Rummage Sale – Items can be dropped off any time (starting now) in the old, wooden Social Hall. When you are cleaning out your garage or attic this spring, think of donating the items to support Ben Salem's Youth Group as we are collecting household items to sell at our rummage sale this spring. We will accept almost anything with the exception of encyclopedias, anything with coolant inside, and large console TVs. All items can be dropped off in the old wooden Social Hall starting February 5th on Sundays between 9 am and 11:30am or if they need to be picked up, please contact Kevin Lusch.

<u>August ??</u> – Terry Lusch would like to host a Drug Addiction Prevention Program in conjunction with other churches and local police. Parents will be encouraged to attend with their child.

Family Game Night for Everyone! To be sponsored by Youth Group. Date to be determined.

End of April/Beginning of May 2018 - Possible Bus Trip to see Bible Museum in Washington, D.C.

Fundraisers

Profit from November & December Fundraisers

November Hoagie Sale - \$816.47 Cookie Sale - \$402.00 Christmas Candy Sale - \$2,984.09

HOMEMADE STICKY BUNS

Price \$6.00 for pack of 6 buns Deadline for orders - February 5 Pick-up - Saturday, Feb. 18, 1:00 - 2:00 P.M. at the fellowship hall.

packs @ \$6.00 = \$	
NAMEPlace order form in box in narthex or call	PHONE NO

Upcoming Fundraisers: Hoagie Sale on March 16, 2017
Candy Making on March 20, 21, 27, 28
Spring Bazaar on April 1, 2017 from 9 AM to 3 PM (Volunteers needed!)
Hoagie Sale on April 20, 2017
Ham & Dandelion Dinner on April 22, 2017





BEN SALEM UCC

1965 Church Hill Road, Lehighton Saturday, April 1, 2017 9AM – 3PM

<u>NEW THIS YEAR</u>... <u>Open Friday, March 31st from 5-7:30PM</u>!!!



- Raffle
- Basket Raffle (100+ Items!)
- Food, Bake Sale & Homemade Easter Candy
- Quilt Raffle & Knotted Blankets
- Wooden Handcrafted Items

Egg Hunt at 11AM: Old Social Hall at 1749 Church Hill Road

10% of the profits will be divided between East Penn Twp. Vol. Fire Company and Mahoning Valley Volunteer Fire Company No. 1

In case of inclement weather, please check our website at <u>www.bensalemucc.com</u> Contacts: Judy: 570-401-1518 Karen: 570-241-7842

HOAGIE SALE - BEN SALEM U.C.C. ORDERS DUE MARCH 5 PICK-UP MARCH 16 (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.

HOMEMADE EASTER CANDY SALE

Ben Salem U.C.C.

Orders must be received by Sunday, March 12 Pick-up on Wednesday, March 29 – 5:00 to 6:15 P.M. Candy is packaged in half-pound containers.

Cost: \$5.00 per half pound - Please specify # of half-pound containers.

Kind	Milk	Dark
Peanut Butter		
Peanut Butter Rolled in Peanuts		
Butter Creams		
Peanut Rolled Cream		
Coconut Cream		
Coconut Molasses		
Molded Choc. Mini Pieces		
Non-pariels		
Peanut Clusters		

Fudge - \$5.00 per half pound	# of ½ lbs.
Chocolate	
Peanut Butter	

Assortment (Peanut Butter, Peanut Rolled Cream, Cocouut Cream)	Milk	Dark
Sold in pound boxes only - \$10.00 for 1 pound box		

Chocolate Covered Pretzels	Milk	Dark
Mini Pretzels – \$4.00 for a half-pound bag		
Rods decorated for Easter - \$2.00 for a package of 4 rods		

	Easter Lollipop	\$1.00 eac	h	
Name			Phone	#
Total \$ amt. o	ordered	Sold by		

Make checks payable to "Ben Salem U.C.C."

Orders may also be placed by calling Sue Messina at 570-386-2880

Thank You Note/s:

On behalf of the Gerald Mertz Family,

Please accept this heartfelt thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. Thank you to the congregation as a whole for prayers on our behalf at this difficult time in our lives. It is very much appreciated. God bless all of you. Mary Lou Mertz and Family

Ben Salem Food Bank:

Thinking of you during this wonderful time of year! Thank you for all you do to help others not only at Christmas but throughout the year. Tom Zimmerman

Ben Salem UCC Blanket Makers, Thank you so much for the laprobes and walker bags. Our residents will greatly appreciate your generous donation! We will use them for Christmas gifts and bingo prizes.

Jenna Turner, Orwigsburg Center

We want to thank the church members who donated their time and baking skills for mom's funeral. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and sympathy cards. A special thank you to Pastor McGowan for his many visits and prayers when mom needed them most. God bless you from the Lillie Hagenbuch family.

Thank you for all your time and energy to help our family. – Tavchek Family
Thank you for all you guys have done for myself and family!! – McDonald Family
Thank you for all your help, my family and I appreciate everything you have done.

– Marissa and Kids You're the best!



Promise Update

Provided by Natalie Bojko, Executive Director of Family Promise Carbon County.

We have made great strides in providing services to homeless families in our community. This would not be possible without the amazing support of the wonderful volunteers and community we have. This includes (but not limited to) our host churches, our support churches, our civic organizations, our board and committee members, our case manager, van drivers, and office angels. I want to thank all of you for everything!

Some of the things we accomplished:

- Our Point in Time Count, we were able to have 2 for the first time ever in Carbon County! We also
 increased the number of homeless people we located significantly. The first year it was completed
 there was 1 unsheltered. In 2016 we found 10 unsheltered in our winter count and even more in
 our summer count.
- House donation! The House in Lansford was donated. The rental side is up and running. Our amazing board -- Denise Miller getting bids and organizing the volunteers for the work, Tina Dowd Grant Writing, and Sky Fogal writing the business plan. We are hoping to have the women's shelter running by fall of 2017.
- Our new van! Our families are safely traveling from church to church! This was a huge accomplishment!
- Receiving funding from Emergency Solutions Grant! We look forward to having an additional way to support the services we provide to our community. This also brings along with it some upgrades in the technology we use to track clients. It will increase the continuity of care we can provide to people!
- A grant to purchase parenting materials, pay a parenting facilitator. Also a grant to pay for additional therapy for our families. Homelessness brings a lot of emotions and we look forward to helping people sort through that!
- Most importantly is all of the people we are able to help! This includes people in need of shelter, furniture, clothing, support, and resources! It has been an amazing year and I can't wait to have exact numbers to report out.

In addition, a great big thank you to everyone who helped during our Christmas hosting week and for all of the donations made that week. Ben Salem UCC provided gifts for an entire family, plus provided coats, hats, gloves, and a few small gifts for each child that was in the program during our hosting week. Simply Amazing!!! Thank you for your generosity!!!

Our next hosting week will be March 19-25, 2017.

Donations and volunteers are needed.

If you are able to help or need more information:

Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842 or khayman@ptd.net

Luncheon for Widows/Widowers Wednesday, February 15 11:30 AM

GAME DAY INFORMATION

Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Fellowship Hall
12 Noon

Bring a snack to share!

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.



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.

ľ	Name/s	\mathbf{S}

-mail	l:	

<u>Used Clothing Bins</u> are located below the old dining hall. Items that can be placed inside are as follows: wearable clothing [men's women's children's], household items made of fabric, shoes [must be in separate bags], handbags & belts, fashion accessories, stuffed animals, small hard toys, bicycles. We cannot accept: books, furniture, cookware, baby gear, outdoor toys. If you have questions, please call the church office. Money raised through this project goes to the General Fund of Ben Salem.



Coffee Hour has resumed!

We need volunteers to help! If you enjoy coffee hour and wish to see if continue, please volunteer.



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 1st prize quilt for 2017 will be a 76 inch x 92 inch Sampler and the 2nd place prize will be a hand-knotted quilt. (both made by the Ben Salem quilters & blanket makers group. Tickets will be available through the year at church dinners & functions. See Dollie Frantz, Bety Nothstein 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 Phase II Fund.

Community Event

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 826 Mahoning Drive, Lehighton Spring Bazaar – Friday, April 6, 5-8 PM and Saturday, April 7, 9 AM to 2 PM

Rummage Tables, Basket Raffle, Bake Sale, Soup & Filling, Raffles, Crafts, Homemade Easter Candy, Kitchen Open Free Egg Hunt at 11 AM (Children to age 13)Prizes - 10% of profits benefit Trinity PantryBring an item for the food pantry and get a chance to win \$25 Giant Gift Card

Special Prayers

Our Members and Friends with Special Needs: In Institutions:



***When you place a name on the prayer list, please remember to update the church office when the person is doing better and can be removed from the list. Thank you!

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.

<u>Called to Care</u>: 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 11 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

Jeremy Zellers, Norfolk, VA – on Submarine Newport News

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

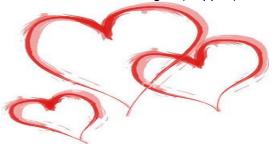


Our Sympathy is extended:

to the Family of Mildred Miller who passed away on Nov. 26. to the Family of Rosalind Hopkins who passed away on December 6. to the Family of Lillie Hagenbuch who passed away on December 12. to the Family of Phyllis Kobal who passed away on December 17. to the Family of Joyce Silfies who passed away on January 3, 2017.

<u>Congratulations to:</u> Jeremy & Emily (Smith) Gerber on the birth of their son Henrik Levon Gerber. Henrik was born on January 17, 2017

Baptism: Allen John-William Hine, son of John and Megan (Hoppes) Hine, baptized on January 15, 2017



February 2017							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Association	3	4	
5 Communion 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Deadline – sticky Bun orders	6	7	8 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	9 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	10	11	
12 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Hand Bells	13	14	15 11:30 AM Wldow/Widowers Luncheon 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Comm.	17	18 8 AM Sticky Bun Sale Pick up orders from 1-2 PM	

	February 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
19 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	20 7 PM Church Board Meeting		Noon – Game Day 6 PM Newsletter Assembly 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	23 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	24	25 Fellowship Hall Reserved	
26 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	27	28					