

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

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@verizon.net

**One
In
Christ**

BEN SALEM UCC
PO 128
ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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BEN SALEM VOICE
June 2017
Ben Salem United Church of Christ
PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Summer is just around the corner and I am looking forward to spending time with the grandkids during those approaching days. The youngest grandchild (as of now), has taken a liking to Thomas the Train. Ashton doesn't bother with much on TV unless he is sitting on my lap and trying to fall asleep. But when Thomas comes on he will stop what he is doing and sit on the floor to watch his favorite locomotive. I must say I like that he is interested in Thomas because now I have an excuse to go and ride on trains just for the heck of it if I take him along. I am hoping that during the summer I will be able to take him into Phillipsburg N.J. to ride on the train pulled by its very own Thomas the Tank engine. I think he will like this little excursion – I know Pop-Pop is looking forward to it.

As parents and grandparents, Diane and I have always wanted to participate in things the kids like as I am sure you all do/did too. Now I know having a similar interest with Ashton is special since many times we are not going to be thrilled with what the little ones like to do. Many times they want to do the same thing over and over until you can't take any more and you have to say enough. But at other times as we spend time with them we get to experience their curiosity and desire to learn as they share their unique insightfulness. This is what makes sharing our time with the little ones so rewarding, being able to help them shape who they can be in the world.

Nursery rhymes can be one way to help a child develop a strong curiosity for learning. I know many of you who are old enough to have grown grandkids probably remember teaching them some nursery rhymes when they were young. While to them they may have been something they learn to recite, for you they were an instrument or tool to help explain a certain lesson of life that can show the difference between good and evil, right and wrong or any number of the other contraries of life. Nursery rhymes, like a good poem, can help a child to learn to decipher the meaning of different words therefore interpreting the overall meaning of the rhyme.

I have found a rhyme that won't take much deciphering for those who live in hope because of the grace of God. It is a rhyme that is appropriate for all, whether you are young in body or young at heart. Kids and adults alike will enjoy this little rhyme based on one of the most famous nursery rhymes of all time – Humpty Dumpty. We all are familiar with this noteworthy nursery rhyme. Poor Humpty experienced a problem that was unsolvable when none of the king's men could put poor Humpty back together again. But in the rhyme I am going to share with you we find that in Christ no problem is insurmountable. Through the grace of God we can face the world without fear.

***Jesus Christ came to our wall
Jesus Christ died for our fall
So that regardless of death and in spite of sin,
Through grace, He might put us back together again.***

Swindoll, Charles R. Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations and Quotes.
Thomas Nelson, Inc. P.O.Box 14100 Nashville, Tenn. 1998

Peace and blessings to you,

Pastor Mike

Worship Services for the Summer 2017

June	4:	8AM and 10:30AM (Pentecost/Communion)
	11:	8AM and 10:30AM (Trinity Sunday/Graduate Recognition)
	18:	8AM and 10:30AM (Father's Day)
	25:	8AM and 10:30AM
July	2	9:15 AM (Communion)
	9	9:15 AM (Outdoor Worship/Blessing of Pets)
	16	9:15 AM
	23	9:15 AM
	30	9:15 AM
August	6	9:15 AM (Communion)
	13	9:15 AM
	20	9:15 AM (Blessing of Backpacks)
	27	8 AM and 10:30 AM



SUMMER COMMUNIONS:

June 4, July 6, Aug. 2
8 AM & 10:30 AM



Handbells play July 23



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Mornings
10AM – 12 Noon

Fellowship Hall Board Room

*Please consider joining our group
as we return to study....
in September*



Choir Practice Summer Schedule

Senior Choir will practice every Wednesday at 7pm.
(except June 21 when Bible School is occurring)

Junior Choir will practice Wednesday, June 7 at 6:30pm.

Cherub Choir will practice at 6:30 on June 7 and 14 at 6:30 pm.

All choirs will resume regular practice starting on August 30



Graduate Recognition Sunday: June 11, 2017

Our 2017 Graduates.....

Katelynn Groner – Graduating from Tamaqua Area High School on June 1, 2017. She will be attending LCCC – Nursing Program.



Jessica Smith – Graduated from Alvernia University on May 13, 2017. She received a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy and was a member of Occupational Therapy Honor Society.

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

2017 Church Board Members:

Elders: Sharon Elder, Barry Fink, Walter Keeck, Terry Lusch
Deacons: Terry Blair, Shirley Kline, Doris Lusch, Kenneth Oswald, Robert Pope, 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 Meetings:

June 19, July 17, Aug. 21 at 7PM

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

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Cemetery Association: Sept. 7, 7PM

Cemetery Association Officers:

President: Bernice Steigerwalt, Vice President: June 28, 17 at 7 PM
Caretaker: David Fritz Newsletter Secretary: Walter Keeck, 2017 at 6 PM
Treasurer: Doris Lusch (please submit information one week prior)
Called to Care: July 11, 2017 at 10AM

Cemetery Lot Prices: \$300 with perpetual care
Mission Committee: online meetings at cti2@ptd.net

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,



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.

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 April 2017



*Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things
through Christ who strengthens me.*

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 this New Year.
Thank You. The Stewardship and Finance Committee.

ATTENTION BEN SALEM - YOUTH & FRIENDS!!! **FUN NIGHT - Friday, June 9th 7 – 9:30PM**



Manhunt, Scavenger Hunt, Silly String Tag,
Water Balloon Toss, Rice Bowl Race.....LOTS OF FUN!!



Snacks will be served. Please bring a towel and an extra set of clothing (if you wish). ☺ Bring a friend!

Organized by the Confirmation Class
Drop off and meet at Ben Salem (front doors)



Ben Salem Strawberry Social

Sunday, June 11 Noon to 6 PM

Music by Ben Salem Bell Choir, Daybreak and Lost and Found
Car Show: 1 to 3 PM to benefit Ben Salem Vacation Bible School
(Contact Dawne at 570-386-2015 or Kelly at 570-386-3072 (FMI – Car Show))

Basket Raffle

Food Items: Hot Dogs, Burgers, Ham & Chicken BBQ's,
Walking Tacos, Potato & Pasta Salad, Nachos w/cheese,
Baked Chicken Tenders
Strawberries, Shortcake, Ice Cream

Help needed: Two shifts

Volunteers to make shortcake – sign up in narthex!
See Sharon Elder to volunteer



Baked Goods needed!!!

“Filled” Longaberger Basket Bingo

Sunday, August 13, 1 PM Tickets - \$20.00

held at Mahoning Valley Ambulance Assoc., 902 Mill Road, Leighton

Doors open at 11:30 AM

Advanced ticket holders are eligible for a special drawing

This event will include a Basket Auction & Bake Sale!

Contact Diane Hartung 570-386-5786 or Dot Eberts at 570-386-2149 to purchase tickets, donate baskets or items to fill the baskets or for additional information.

Benefits Ben Salem United Church of Christ

Hear ye, Hear ye!

All loyal youth of God's Kingdom
Are hereby notified by royal proclamation of
Ben Salem's 2017 Vacation Bible School to be
held June 19th – 23rd, 6:30 – 9:00 pm



And lots of fun!

In celebration, a royal banquet shall be held for the
children and their families on Friday, June 23rd.
As honored guests, you are invited to join us for food,
games, inflatables, and an outdoor movie...

We humbly request the pleasure of your company.

Pre-register at:
www.bensalemucc.com



Thank you to everyone who helped with Family Promise last week. We were able to help 3 families (5 adults and 4 children).

This program requires the help of many volunteers to pull off a hosting week. We are currently looking for more help. By giving up only 2 hours of your time, you are able to help so many people. Our next hosting week is August 27 – September 2. I really hope you will consider helping by cooking or serving a meal, sitting with the families, or donating baked goods or money for food. It really is a rewarding program that you will get so much more out of than you give.

If you are able to help or need more information:
Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842 or khayman@ptd.net

GAME DAY INFORMATION
Wednesday, June 28
Fellowship Hall
12 Noon
Bring a snack to share!




COFFEE HOUR
will resume in September.
Volunteers needed!



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 9:30-11:30 AM. Free will offering. (Will continue through the Summer)

Beginners Knitting/Crocheting Group: *(will return to meeting in Fall)*
Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7 PM.

Anyone interested in learning to crochet is also welcome to attend. Please contact Barbara Snowberger for more information.



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, 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 goes directly to Phase II Fund.

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

CLOTHING BIN UPDATE

A smaller red clothing bin has replaced the two bins we previously had by the old Social Hall. Please feel free to donate clothing or shoes that you no longer need.

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.



Safety Committee: If someone in the congregation is aware of a safety issue it should be reported to one of the safety committee members listed below or someone on the Church Board. The purpose of the committee is twofold. Ben Salem will get a discount on the insurance bill and the same time enhance the Risk Management of the Ben Salem properties. Members of the Safety committee are: Ron Steigerwalt, Rodger Diehl, Barry Reed, Tom Kupres, Pastor Mike – Ex Officio

Youth Group Activities.....



Sunday, June 25 – Reading Phils Faith Night:

Game starts at 5:05 PM in Reading vs. Trenton

Tickets are \$9 each (Youth Group members are FREE!) and the first 2,000 kids under 14 years old will receive a Maikel Franco Photo Baseball. We do need 25 people to participate for the group rate. Please see one of the Youth Group Leaders if you are interested. If you need a ride, plan to leave around 3 PM.

Saturday, July 22 –Picnic at the Church at 5 PM:

Youth Group will provide hot dogs and drinks. Please bring a covered dish. Outside games and a movie will be shown at dark.

A big "Thank You" to everyone that donated or bought items or helped with the recent Rummage Sale. We were able to raise \$1,382.00 that will benefit the youth groups and Vacation Bible School.

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. The next Called to Care meeting will be held on July 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.

Welcome New Members:

Larry and Mary Fritz were received as members of Ben Salem Church on May 14, 2017. They come to us through Letter of Transfer from Zion Stone Church, New Ringgold.

Elizabeth Morse will be received as a member of Ben Salem Church on June 4, 2017. She comes to us through Letter of Transfer from Hope of Christ Presbyterian Church, Summit Hill.

Baptisms:

Hudson Smith Godard received the Sacrament of Baptism on April 9, 2017. Hudson is the son of Brian and Megan (Smith) Godard.

Regan Kate Yenser received the Sacrament of Baptism on May 21, 2017. Regan is the daughter of Jon and Nicole (Smith) Yenser.



Wedding:

Robert & Natasha (Kozak) Campomizzi were married at Ben Salem UCC on Saturday, June 3, 2017.



Dear Ben Salem UCC, Thank you so much for your very generous donation of \$325 to the Warriors of Faith Sports Ministry. Your monetary donation helps our organization with the cost of maintaining the baseball fields and allows us to purchase additional baseball equipment and supplies for our players. Thank you, again, for your generosity and we hope you will consider any additional request for donations Warriors of Faith may make in the future. Sincerely, Cassandra Brobst, Treasurer

On May 13th the Andreas Post Office had their yearly Food Drive, and our Food Bank here at Ben Salem Church was the lucky recipient of the items received. Our shelves were practically empty. A special thank you goes out to the two postal carriers: Jennifer Gaxdula and Jeff Butz and a “young helper”, Jamie. They endured a very rainy day – got soaking wet and still had a smile on their faces when they made their final delivery to us. Thank you to those who donated and delivered!

Ben Salem Members, Thank you for the prayer shawl, it helped me during my recovery from surgery. The colors were cheery and it gave warmth on the cold days. Special thanks to Betty Nothstein and the ladies that make the shawls. Thanks again and God bless. Peggy Frace

What's Happening?

Royal Rummage Sale with Special White Elephants

Friday, June 2nd and Saturday, June 3rd (9 AM to 2 PM)

All Saints Episcopal Church, North 2nd & Coal St., Lehigh, PA

Special Rummage Items, Extra Special White Elephants, All Saints' Cafe

“Still Kickin” no-impact, light exercise classes

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – beginning Monday, June 5, 10:30 AM

This class features chair exercises mixed with standing moves to help stretch, strengthen, and tone muscles while using resistance rings, wands, and small balls.

Fee: \$2 per class

Praise and Paint Sunday – June 11, Noon to 2 PM

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A painting course and some light fare: The course will be offered by J. Davenport Studio and the cost will be \$25 per person to cover necessary supplies. You will have your choice of 2 images to paint and will be able to take your creation home with you at the end of the class.

Call 570-386-9960 to register by June 1.

St. Peter's Union Church – Old Fashioned Picnic

184 St. Peters Road, Tamaqua (Mantzville) PA

Friday, June 23 – 4 to 8 PM and Saturday, June 24 – Noon to 7 PM

Basket Raffle, Food and Refreshments, Saturday: Cake Walk, Bingo, Dime Toss, Chicken Drop Vendors ... Plenty of fun for the entire family.

Saturday Music by Lost & Found (11:30 AM to 2 PM), Good News Traveling Band (3-7 PM)



June 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	2 4-6 pm Pierogie Order pick up 5 PM Rehearsal	3 Food Bank Distribution 10:30 am Wedding at Noon
Family Promise Week						
4 Communion / Pentecost 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Last Day for Children's Sunday School Classes 10:30 AM Worship	5 	6	7 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	8 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	9 7-9:30 PM Fun Night Hosted by Confirmation Class	10
11 Trinity Sunday 8 AM Worship Breakfast for SS children at old social hall 10:30 AM Worship Noon – 6 PM Strawberry Social 1-3 PM Car Show!	12	13	14 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub Choir3 7 PM Senior Choir	15 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters Hand Bells play at the Village in Palmerton 7 PM Property Comm.	16	17
18 Father's Day 8 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship	19 7 PM Church Board Meeting		21 9:30 AM Line Dancing	22 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters	23	24
Vacation Bible School 6:30 to 9 each night						
25 8 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship	26	27	28 9:30 AM Line Dancing Noon – Game Day 6 PM Newsletter Assembly 7 PM Senior Choir	29 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters	30	