

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@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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May



2017
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BEN SALEM VOICE

May 2018

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in His works.

(Ps. 104:30-31NRSV)

One old adage we often hear this time of the year is ‘April showers bring May flowers.’ If we think about..... that sounds like what the above verse from Psalm 104 is saying. When we see the abundant colors of the many different spring flowers, whether it is the yellow dandelions, multi colored tulips, or any of the other varieties of daffodils or crocuses we see in early spring, we may feel as if God is renewing the face of the ground. It seems as if God is bringing new life to the face of the earth by allowing it to explode forth with color and brilliance.

As we read and consider the verses from Psalm 104 above, a psalm traditionally used on Pentecost Sunday, in these poetic verses about the goodness of God, it is revealed how God provides for this creation. The thing about these verses that make us think – when we think of Pentecost we don’t typically think about creation or God’s providence but more about how the gift of the Holy Spirit came upon the early church. During Pentecost we are reminded how those early members of the church received the power of the risen Christ through the Holy Spirit and how we continue to be empowered through the Spirit.

This apparent anomaly isn’t quite the disparity that one may think. By using this Psalm on Pentecost Sunday we can see that God’s gift of life – our physical life – coincides with the gift of our spiritual life. We have been and continue to be provided for by the love of God. We are sustained by the elements of this earth. Just as we hear in Genesis 1, we were created along with the other creatures of the earth.

Yet, through the gift of the Holy Spirit our life as creatures has been consummated and we are now free to live for the true existence for which we are created. In the image of God and with the gift of God’s Spirit, we are the creation of God twice over!! And in that we have the power to beautify the ground in a way unlike the flowers of the God’s creation. We who have received the Spirit of God are empowered to bring the beauty of God’s love into the world, which of course is more than simply something to look at and enjoy but a life changing and world changing calling that only those who love God are empowered to do.

So like the flowers of the spring, let us explode with brilliance that all can see, let us share God’s love in the world so the world may become even more beautiful. We are the true body of Christ who the Lord sent out filled with the Holy Spirit to bring beauty to the face of the earth. *May the glory of the Lord endure forever; May the Lord rejoice in His works.*

Pastor Mike

Worship Services:

Worship Schedule for May 2018

May 6 – Worship Services at 8 and 10:30 AM

May 13 – Mother's Day / Worship Services at 8 and 10:30 AM

May 20 – Pentecost / Communion / Worship Services at 8 and 10:30 AM

May 27 – Trinity Sunday / Memorial Day Service on Cemetery at 10 AM
Worship Services at 8 and 10:30 AM



Communion Service:

May 20th

Communion at 8 AM and 10:30 AM

Hand Bell Choir

May 27, 10:30 AM



Confirmation Sunday, May 20th

Those being confirmed:

Nicholas Cole Behr
Catherine Nicole Circosta
Zachary Roland Groner
Callie Jade Hayman
Kyra Lynne Lusch

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Mornings

10AM – 12 Noon

Fellowship Hall Board Room

*Please join our group as we
continue studying*

*"Be Authentic"
(Genesis 25-50)*

by Warren Wiersbe



COFFEE HOUR

Volunteers needed!



Worship Schedule June 2018

June 3: 8 AM & 10:30 AM Services

June 10: 8 AM & 10:30 AM Services
(Graduate Recognition Sunday)

June 17: 8 AM & 10:30 AM Services
(Father's Day)

June 24: 8 AM & 10:30 AM Services

Ben Salem Vacation Bible School

June 25-29 6:30 to 9 PM

Theme: Hero Central

Contacts:

570-778-0356 Kelly

570-386-2015 - Dawne

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,
Robert Pope, Sec., 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: May 21 at 7PM

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

Meetings:

7 PM

Fundraisers Meeting: no meeting scheduled

Called to Care Committee: May 8, 10AM

Worship Committee: May 17, 7 PM

Newsletter Assembly: May 30, 6 PM

Worship Committee: no meeting scheduled

Christian Education: no meetings scheduled

Trustees: Dennis Frantz

Cemetery Association Officers:

President: Bernice Steigerwalt

Vice President: Evan Beblary

Caretaker: David Fritz

Treasurer: Doris Lusch

Secretary: Walter Kneek

Trustees: Dennis Frantz

Cemetery Lot Prices: \$300 with perpetual care 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., Lehigh, 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 March 2018



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

Thank you for your continue 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

*Thank you to everyone who helped with our hosting week in March
Our next hosting week will be June 10 - 16*

Feed a Neighbor

Help is needed to bake and serve a meal to those in need on
Thursday, May 24th from 5-8PM at Zion UCC, Lehighton.

Contact Bernice Steigerwalt or the Church Office.



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.



Names of 2018 Graduates Needed: If you know someone who is graduating this year, please call or email the Church Office. This includes high school and college graduates. Please include graduation date, majors and degree/s.
Ben Salem Graduate Recognition Sunday will be held on June 10.

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.

Penn Northeast Conference 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
to obtain an application form. If you would like to call the conference office the phone number is 610-826-3113.



PNEC YOUTH RETREAT



Several of the Confirmation students will be attending the PNEC Youth

Retreat from May 4-6 at Spruce Lake

Retreat Center, Canadensis. This year's theme is **"Messy Faith"**.

Upcoming Fundraisers:

HOAGIE SALE - BEN SALEM U.C.C.

ORDERS DUE May 13 PICK-UP May 24 (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 SHOO FLY PIES (May 19)

Price \$8.00 for 9 inch pie Deadline for orders – May 6

Pick-up - Saturday, May 19 from Noon - 1:00 P.M. at the Fellowship Hall.

_____ pies @ \$8.00 = \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE NO. _____

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



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)



Reminder from Cemetery Association:

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

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 1st 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 30th, the Cemetery Association will remove artificial arrangements.
7. Solar powered decorative sticks are acceptable at gravestones.

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 recommended that committee members listed on the website be given a discount on the purchase of the Risk Management software by 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, May 23 - Noon
Fellowship Hall
Bring a snack to share!



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.

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.

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.



Jacob Adam Long received the Sacrament of Baptism on April 15. Jacob is the son of Jordon & Katie (Hunsicker) Long.

Theo Ephraim Kistler received the Sacrament of Baptism on April 29. Theo is the son of Jeffrey and Karen (Hope) Kistler.



May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	3 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Assn.	4 PNEC Youth Retreat	5 PNEC Youth Retreat
6 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Shoo Fly Pie orders due	7	8 10 AM Called to Care	9 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	10 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells	11	12
13 Mother's Day 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Hoagie Orders Due	14	15	16 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	17 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Comm.	18	19 Shoo-fly Pie Sale Social Hall Reserved
20 Pentecost/ Confirmation Communion 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Lehighton Band Banquet	21 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	22	23 9:30 AM Line Dancing 12 Noon Game Day 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	24 7 AM Hoagie Sale 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 10:30 - Noon Hoagie Order Pickup (5 PM Feed a Neighbor Zion UCC, Lehighton) 6:30PM Hand Bells	25	26
27 Trinity Sunday 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10 AM UVO Service 10:30 AM Worship/ Hand Bells	28 Memorial Day	29	30 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6 PM Newsletter 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	31 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells		

