BEN SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHERE TO REACH US: MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

One

STREET ADDRESS:

1965 Church Hill Road Lehighton, PA 18235

Church Phone: 570-386-3870 Social Hall Phone: 570-386-4990

E-mail: <u>bensalemucc@verizon.net</u> Website: <u>www.bensalemucc.com</u>

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

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 May - 2016

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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

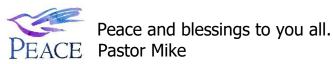
As we move into the month of May we will be reminded by the coming of Pentecost Sunday that the Easter season has come to a conclusion. For me I find it sad that the season of Easter does come to an end in the church. Because Easter is the one season above all other seasons of the church year that is so much more than the retelling of a historical event. Easter is a season that gives us a hope that is only found in Christianity. During the Easter season we are reminded of the hope not only for the life we live now but for the new life that is to come. Easter season therefore is the Happy Season as one of the recent confirmands so persistently refers to it!

The Easter season is a happy season!! If you think about it - Easter is even a happier season then Christmas. It doesn't have the same sentiment attached to it that the Christmas season has but it is a season of happiness because of what I touched on above. Knowing this helps us realize that Easter is a season that shouldn't end just because we humans need to structure our lives with dates and times. It is said that Christians are an Easter people. We are people who live with hope in the story of Easter. Therefore, we keep this hope because we live with the Easter story in our hearts.

During one of the meetings my wife Diane attended as a member of the organization Families Fighting Flu she met a gentleman who was the father of a young girl who also suddenly and unexpectedly died from influenza. This man was telling Diane about his personal mission of supporting the research that would attempt to find a common gene or molecular marker in the children who die so suddenly and unexpectedly from the flu. During their conversation Diane's belief in the Easter story came to the forefront as the two spoke about their own child who had died. In this exchange this kind and considerate man shared his belief with Diane about death. His belief was that when we die, we die, that its, it is final! He had no hope, no possibility, nothing. His was a belief that this is it! This life is all there is.

It is unfortunate that the Easter story is so hard to accept for some people. But for those who do believe, for all of us who are faithful to the Messiah Jesus this story is the climax of our faith tradition. It is a story that promises this life is not the end of the road. We have hope because of Jesus' resurrection. We have the hope this life is not all there is and is only one portion of our journey.

So as we move towards the summer months of this year may this hope continue to give us the strength to face whatever this year has in store for us. May we live life as people who want to live life thoroughly and completely. May we find reassurance in knowing that we are an Easter people!



May Worship Services Services at 8 AM and 10:30 AM May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



Communion
May 1 & May 15
8 AM and 10:30 AM

Worship Schedule for June, July, August 2016

- June 5 8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship / Communion
 - 12 8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship
 - 19 8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship / Father's Day
 - 26 8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship
- July 3 9:15 AM Worship / Communion
 - 10 9:15 AM Worship (Outdoor Service)
 - 17 9:15 AM Worship (Raindate Outdoor Service)
 - 24 9:15 AM Worship
 - 31 9:15 AM Worship
- August 7 9:15 AM Worship / Communion
 - 14 9:15 AM Worship
 - 21 9:15 AM Worship
 - 28 9:15 AM Worship

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



JULY & AUGUST ONE SERVICE ONLY
AT 9:15AM



Memorial Day Service May 29 at 10AM Ben Salem UCC - Cemetery

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays at 10AM

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





On Sunday, May 15
the following young people
will be received
as members
of Ben Salem
United Church of Christ
through the Rite of
Confirmation:

Nathan Limieux Andress Brandon Robert Lusch Morgan Elizabeth Lusch Franklin Irvin Sowers II

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, PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211

2016 Church Board Members:

Officers: Sharon Elder, President

Barry Fink, Vice President

Robert Pope, Church Board Secretary

<u>Elders:</u> Sharon Elder, Walter Keeck, Terry Lusch, Dayle Smith Deacons: Terry Blair, Barry Fink, Doris Lusch, Kevin Lusch,

Kenneth Oswald, Robert Pope, Barry Reed, David Rex, Jr.

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

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

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

Ben Salem History Books are still available / \$60

Contact the Church Office [570-386-3870]

Cemetery Association Officers:

Next Meeting: May 5 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.

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!



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



Upcoming Committee Meetings

Stewardship & Finance: May 2 at 6:30 PM
Property Committee: May 19 at 7 PM
Newsletter Assembly: May 25 at 6 PM
Called to Care: July 12 at 10AM
[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. 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 the 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]



Phase II Mortgage Loan

Mar

Year to Date

Blanket Makers Donation

\$ 3,007.54 200.00

200.00

Total 2016 Contributions

\$ 3 207 54

\$10.948.92

Obligation

Interest and Principal Payment

\$7.023.42

\$21,239,70

Additional Contributions needed to meet obligation \$(3.815.88) \$(10.290)

Commitment:

Mortgage Loan

First Principal Payment-March 2016

\$1,041,771.33

52.771.33

Mortgage Balance March 31, 2016

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- * Need \$4,340.72 per Month to meet Annual Principal Payment of \$52,088
 - * Need Approximately \$2750. per Month for Interest Payments
 - * Next Annual Principal Payment of \$52,088 needed by October 2017

We need YOUR help to fulfill this commitment!!

MISSION MINDERS, MAY 2016

During the 1st quarter of this year, our mission efforts continued on a very local basis.

Ben Salem stepped up to the plate and donated several shopping bags full of toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels, tissues, toilet tissues, and other needed items for the **Bare Necessities Pantry**. At their last distribution, 47 families that totaled 137 people received donations from Bare Necessities to help them with their household budgets. In addition, \$275 was donated toward this project to help with the running of the St. Peter's Center, which administers the program. When I delivered the shopping bags to St. Peter's, their minister, Pastor Ogden, thanked us for our generous donation, and told me that because **St. Peter's Center** is conveniently located near the Weissport area where many of those served reside, the center is now utilized 6 evenings a week for different support groups.

Our **Food Bank** also distributed food to several families in need for the Easter season. Please remember to donate items for the food bank in the box located in the narthex. The next food distribution will be in late May. See LaVaun Shanton or Sandy Bealer if you know of families who can benefit from Ben Salem's Food Bank.

Please consider volunteering for **Family Promise** when it is our week to host. Every extra person helps. The next host week will be July 10-16. See Karen Hayman if you have questions.

On Thursday, May 26th, Ben Salem will host the **Feed a Neighbor Meal** at Zion's UCC in Lehighton. Up to 100 people are served each time we serve. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve the meal. We will also need desserts for that evening. A sign-up sheet will be put on the credenza in the narthex in early May for those who wish to serve that evening or donate dessert items. See Bernice Steigerwalt if you have questions.

For this year's second quarter, our local mission effort is the **Domestic Violence Service Center**, which serves Luzerne and Carbon counties. This Domestic Violence Service helps those suffering through these situations with 24 hour hotlines that give information for support groups, counseling sessions, legal help, transportation, children's support programs, community education, and, if necessary, a safe place for victims and their children to have shelter. Many of us often believe that Domestic Violence is not a problem in this area, but our work with Family Promise and now with St. Peter's Center shows that many people in the area are in dire need of help and social services that will lead them to a better life. Brochures describing the work of the Domestic Violence Service Center will be in the narthex for you to take. If you wish to donate to the Domestic Violence Service Center, mark your mission envelope "DOMESTIC".

As always, we thank you for all you do and for all you contribute.

FEED A NEIGHBOR

Ben Salem UCC will be sponsoring Feed-a-Neighbor at Zion UCC in Lehighton

Thursday, May 26th

Help and donations are needed!

Contact: Bernice Steigerwalt





Thank you to everyone who donated, baked, provided a meal, and/or volunteered your time with Family Promise last month. It was a great week, helping four local families (6 adults, 4 children, and 1 infant).

We sometimes don't realize how the Holy Spirit works and how we can make a difference in the lives of other people. During our week, we had one volunteer who took the time to sit and talk with Dominic, a 13 year old boy in 8th grade. This child is not doing very well in school and is just putting his time in until he is able to get a job in a "factory"....following in his grandfather's footsteps. As the week went on, Dominic talked more and more about getting accepted into the Carbon Career and Technical Institute (Vo-Tech) program next year and working towards opening up his own car mechanic garage someday. His parents were very encouraging to him and very thankful that someone took the time to offer him hope and dreams. Job Well Done!!

We did have one family move into their own house during our hosting week. Please keep all of these families in your prayers, and please consider helping out during our next hosting week: July 10-16, 2016.

If you are able to help or need more information:

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

<u>Thrivent Choice®: Strengthening communities. Changing lives.</u>

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.



GAME DAY INFORMATION

May 25 at 12 Noon Fellowship Hall

Bring a snack to share!



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WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING BEN SALEM CHURCH SAVE PAPER, MONEY AND TIME?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL?

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

e-mail: _____

Our next Fundraiser Meeting will be held on May 10 at 6:30 PM.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Fundraisers .

These projects are only successful with your continued support, whether it be by donating your time, needed supplies, or money to purchase the supplies, by getting orders from your friends & neighbors, or by attending our fundraising events. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Elder or Sue Messina. Everyone is welcome to attend.

HOAGIE SALE - BEN SALEM U.C.C.
PICK-UP May 19 (10:30 AM – NOON)
NAMEComingHUB#!
PLAIN – HAM, SALAMI, CHEESE, LETTUCE & TOMATOES (no onions or peppers)
PLAIN Strown perfections WITH ONIONS & HOT PEPPERS
TOTAL # ORDERED @ \$5.00 E
& Car Show
June 12th Noon to 6:00 PM

Upcoming Fundraisers: (Help is always appreciated!)

Giant Gift Cards Beef Stick Sale Pierogie Making: May 2,3 [Pick up orders: April 29, May 5] Hoagie Sale: May 19, 7 AM
[order deadline: May 8]
Strawberry Social/Car Show: June 12
Noon to 6 PM

<u>Used Clothing Bins</u> have been placed 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. Another \$300 was raised through donations of clothing and other items. This money goes to the General Fund of Ben Salem.

Ben Salem UCC presents...

Vacation Bible School 2016 June 20-24, 6:30 – 9:00 pm



Pre-register at:

<u>www.bensalemucc.com</u> 570-778-0356(text or call) 570-386-2015 (call)

There will be a Celebration on Friday, June 24th, featuring games, Rita's Ice, food, snacks, and inflatables for the ENTIRE family to enjoy....

Featuring...











Helping you learn about Noah all week long!

Reminder from Cemetery Association:

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

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

- 1. All types of real or potted plants are acceptable. Please remove colored foil from potted plant containers before placement. Any type of trees are <u>not</u> 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 30, the Cemetery Association will remove artificial arrangements.
- 7. Solar powered decorative sticks are acceptable by gravestones.



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

Two Scholarship Opportunities:

Richard and Cynthia Smith Scholarship Fund:



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

Gwilym T. Williams Scholarship

If you are a college or graduate student who is preparing for a career either as a/an Ordained Minister, Certified Teacher or Educator, Doctor of Medicine then you may qualify for a scholarship grant from the Gwilym T. Williams Scholarship Fund. For more information, please visit the PNEC website at www.pnec.org to obtain an application form. If you would like to call the conference office the phone number is 610-826-3113.



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

Special Prayers

Our Members and Friends with Special Needs: In Institutions:

Norman Ellis, The Summit Nursing Home, 211 N.12th, Lehighton, PA 18235
David M. Frantz, The Summit Nursing Home, 211 N. 12th St., Room 201, Lehighton, PA 18235
Vera Frantz, Pleasant Trees Senior Center, 65 E. Lizard Creek Road, Lehighton, PA 18235
Lillie Hagenbuch, The Summit Nursing Home, 211 N. 12th, Room 207 Lehighton, PA 18235
Joanne Haney, Manor Care, Allentown, PA
Ethel Kershner, The Summit Nursing Home, 211 N. 12th St., Room 103, Lehighton, PA 18235
Phyllis Kobal, Cedar Brook, 350 S. Cedar Brook Road, Rm. 609D6, Allentown, PA 18104
Jane Kriner, Victorian Manor, 3 Lentz Avenue, Lehighton, PA 18235

Gloria Ott, Weatherwood, 1000 Evergreen Ave., Weatherly, PA 18255 [Area 3, Room 15]

Karl Steigerwalt Mahoning Valley Nursing Home Lehighton PA 18235

Pearl Steigerwalt, The Summit Nursing Home, 211 N.12th St., Room 101, Lehighton, PA 1823.

Keep in Your Pravers



Israel Daniel Ray Hassler Norb Huber Darlene Nothsteir Riley Shimko Linda Stoss

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 July 12 at 10 AM.

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

Support Our Troops - All military personnel

Jessica A. Bealer: FC2# Bealer, Jessica, A USS Paul Hamilton [DDG-60] CS/CF, FPO AP 96667-1278

→ Jessica is now back on base in the USA

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

Our sympathy is extended to:

The Family of Betty Hunsicker, mother of Kevin and Cindy Hunsicker. She passed away on March 30. The Family of Beatrice "Betty" Ahner, mother of Evalynn & Dennis Kuehner. She passed away on April 4. The Family of Martha King, mother of Billy and Melanie [Frantz] King. She passed away on April 6.

Congratulations!

To <u>Ben and Robyn (Nothstein) Huffnagle</u> on the birth of their son, Alexander Wayne.

Alexander was born on March 28.

To <u>Daniel and Nadean (McGowan) Geiger</u> on the birth of their son, Ashton Martin.

Ashton was born on March 29





			~ May 2	2016 ~		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6 PM Youth Group Meeting	2 8 AM Pierogie Making 6:30 PM Stewardship & Finance 6:30 PM Quilt Class	3 8 AM Pierogie Making	4 6:30 Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	5 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 4-6 PM Pierogie order pick up 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Association	6	7
8 Mother's Day 3 AM Worship Mother's Day Breakfast Sponsored by Youth Group 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Hoagie orders due	9 6:30 PM Quilt Class	10	11 6:30 Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	12 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	13	14
8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Communion/Pentecost/ Confirmation Fellowship Hall Reserved	16 6:30 PM Quilt Class 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	17	18 6:30 Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	7 AM Hoagie Sale 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 10:30-Noon Hoagie order pick up 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Committee	20	21 Food Bank
22 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School Youth Send Off Breakfast 10:30 AM Worship Handbells	23 6:30 PM Quilt Class	24	25 Game Day at Noon 6 PM Newsletter 6:30 Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	26 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study Feed a Neighbor at Zion UCC, Lehighton 6:30 PM Hand Bells	27	28
8 AM Worship 10AM Memorial Service on Cemetery 10:30 AM Worship	30	31		•	•	•