

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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BEN SALEM VOICE

October- 2018

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*The silent beauty of the stars, the cold blue magic of the sea,
the glistening dewdrops on a lawn,
Become the voice of God to me.
The murmuring waves upon the beach,
the stately silhouetted tree, the captive loveliness of dawn,
Become the voice of God to me.*

from The Voice
Johnstone G. Patrick



I sat with a couple recently as we spoke about their upcoming wedding. During our conversation the groom apparently felt it was important to let me know how he was a believer in God even though he was not a church attender. During our conversation he shared how the two of them are quite active in their middle age and they both enjoy biking on trails, hiking and camping together. With that said you can probably imagine how this man described his faith to me.

As the verses above state, God can be found in many of the delightful riches of this wonderful creation. There is no doubt how true this statement is, God truly surrounds us in this beautiful world. There are times when any of us can simply sit and enjoy our surroundings and certainly find we are in the presence of God. We can enjoy how God speaks to us as we watch the birds and listen to their songs or how being surrounded by nature gives us the feeling that we are in the presence of God. I like how during these times one can hear their thoughts and find that they have the opportunity to experience God's own voice in their very being. This is true for all of us, there is no special talent needed to find and hear God in our own encounters with nature.

So why do you think so many people think like this man? As our conversation continued he told me how his fiancé and him always take a walk or ride on a Sunday and how he considers that their "church?" Now I know as told to us in Matthew's gospel (18:20) Jesus says He is there when 'two or three are gathered in His name.' So does this mean we can skip church and just walk into the woods with a friend? As so many people think, isn't this enough if God is around us in all of this marvelous creation?

Well not if we take the phrase – in my name – seriously. Because in this phrase as Jesus is telling us two or three come together in his name means there must be a common witness, a common understanding that what is happening is happening in His name! Walking through the woods and calling that praising God because you feel closer to God in nature is not bringing glory to His name. Sorry, that is why we have ritual in the church, it is why we gather together to sing praise, to confess how we are all sinners and to pray common prayers. It brings everyone into a common focus on the One who offers us hope and salvation from the ways of the world and sets our hearts on the One who has placed a little bit of themselves in each of us!

As a church sign I recently drove by inferred – we come together not because we are a club for saints but because we all need help to be less of a sinner. Jesus does that for us as we join together in praise and worship of Him. We come together in our differences and we find our commonality in the One we praise and give thanks too. Thanks for the forgiveness we so graciously receive. A church only dies when it forgets what makes it a church. So as we move into our holiday season let us continue to come together in the name of Christ and ask as one for His forgiveness and saving grace. See you in church and blessings to you in the name of Christ.



Pastor Mike

October Worship Schedule



October 7, 14, 21, 28
Services at 8:00 and 10:30 AM



Communion Service:
Communion at 8:00 and 10:30 AM
October 7

Hand Bell Choir
October 21
10:30 AM



ADULT BIBLE STUDY
has resumed
Thursday mornings at 10AM

Please consider joining
this small group as we begin
a new study on 1 Corinthians...
"Be Wise" by Warren W. Wiersbe



Worship Schedule

for November 2018: (8 AM & 10:30 AM)

November 4 – All Saint's Day/Communion
November 11 – Veteran's Day
November 18 – OCC Shoebox Dedication
November 25 – Strengthen the Church
Thank Offering



Music Sunday
October 21
10:30 AM

Theme: "Our Ben Salem
Stained Glass Windows"
and their symbols in regards to the
history of the Church

Please come out on Sunday, October 21 for a
special musical presentation. Each of our
musical groups will present music based
on the windows. Our hymns for the service will
also be based on the stained
glass window symbols.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Campaign

October 7th - November 18th

We will be collecting filled shoeboxes again this year in support of Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Boxes and idea suggestions are available in the Narthex.



- No toothpaste or candy due to customs regulations!
- Recommended donation: **\$9.00/box** (No cash!)
- Make one check **payable to Ben Salem UCC** and place your donation in box in Narthex. Be sure to mark it "Shoeboxes".
- Or donate online at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org> where you can print a label and track your box on it's journey.
- Boxes are available in the Narthex or you may use plastic shoebox

Deadline for boxes to be filled and returned is Sunday, November 18.

"Every shoebox gift is an excellent resource for evangelism and discipleship, which leads to the multiplication of new believers and churches around the world."

Church Business

How to Contribute to Our Operating Budget: to pay Ben Salem's bills]

Use your weekly envelope [in your envelope packet]

Designate "Current Expenses":

[Benevolence is only for Missions – OCWM]

Place in offering plate or send to the Church:

Ben Salem UCC, P.O. Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

2018 Church Board Members:

Elders: Brian Beidleman, VP, Barry Fink, President,
Kenneth Oswald, Cliff Snowberger

Deacons: Terry Blair, Shirley Kline, Doris Lusch, Robin Lutz, Secretary,
Kevin Lusch, Barry Reed, Carly Smith, Ron Steigerwalt

Pastor: Rev. Michael McGowan

Church Secretary: Dollie Behr

Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

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

Upcoming Church Board Meetings:

October 15th at 7PM

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

Cemetery Association Officers:

Next Meeting: October 4 at 7 PM

President: Bernice Steigerwalt Vice President: Evan Beblavy

Caretaker: David Fritz Secretary: Walter Keeck

Treasurer: Doris Lusch Trustee: Dennis Frantz

Cemetery Lot Prices: \$300 [with perpetual care]

Scheduling Events at Ben Salem Church:

To prevent scheduling problems...prior to calling meetings or events, please check with the Church Secretary at 570-386-3870 to make sure that the date you have planned is available.

Hospitalization ? If you or someone you know is going to be in the hospital for surgery, please let the church office know a day or two before the surgery. This way the Pastor will make every effort to be there to visit and pray with the patient before the surgery.

Altar Flower Sponsors: [Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]

A sign up sheet is located in the narthex. The cost of flower sponsorship is \$20.00. If you would like to sponsor flowers, please call Cindy Smith at 570-386-4248. ***Payment should be sent directly to: Cindy Smith, 707 Hoffman Rd., Lehighton, PA 18235.

Note: All bulletin and flower sponsorship should be paid in advance.

Bulletin Sponsorship: [Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]

Please call Sue Messina at 570-386-2880 with your sponsorship information or e-mail her at suemess@ptd.net. The cost of Bulletin Sponsorship is \$7 per week. *** Payment should be sent directly to: Susan Messina, 66 River Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252.

Please do not call the church office with sponsorships!



Note from Church Office & Financial Secretary:

Remember, it is important to keep us informed of any address changes. Please give changes of address to either Secretary or Financial Secretary.

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:

Cemetery Association: Oct. 4, 7PM

Stewardship & Finance: no meeting scheduled

Property Committee: October 18, 7 PM

Newsletter Assembly: October 24, 6 PM

(please submit information 4 week prior)

Church Office: M

Finance: M

Call: M

Worship Committee: no meeting scheduled

Mission Committee: online meetings at cti2@ptd.net

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 bin in an area to the rear of the old social hall for aluminum. 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 – August 2018



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

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

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,

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

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.

~Fundraising at Ben Salem Church~

Giant Gift Cards: Anyone who shops at Giant can help with no extra cost to you. All you have to do is buy Giant Cash Cards from us and then use them the same as cash when you purchase your groceries or gas. For every \$100 you spend at Giant using these cards instead of cash, the church gets \$5. If interested, call Sue Messina at 570-386-2880.



Pierogie Making on October 5 and 6th

Pierogie-making Party – YOU ARE INVITED!

The filling will be made on FRIDAY morning October 5th starting at 8am. SATURDAY October 6th at 8AM come help make the pierogies. Those who help will have first opportunity to buy a maximum of 5 dozen. Extras will be offered for sale between church services SUNDAY on a first come basis. Each dozen is \$6 towards the New Building FUND. There will be no preorders.



HOMEMADE STICKY BUNS

Price \$6.00 for pack of 6 buns

Deadline for orders – September 30

Pick-up - Saturday, October 13, 1:00 - 2:00 P.M. at the Fellowship Hall

_____ packs @ \$6.00 = \$_____

*Help is needed with fundraisers
and always appreciated!*

NAME _____ PHONE NO. _____

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

Items needed to make Sticky Buns: (sign up sheet in the narthex)

Please bring donations to the church by October 7.

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|---|
| 2 gal. milk | 10 lbs. all purpose potatoes | 12 lbs. sugar |
| 6 doz. eggs | 50 lbs. light brown sugar | 3 cans spray (Pam) |
| 28 lbs. butter | 5 bottles Karo | 3 - 25lb bags all purpose flour from Sam's Club |



Community Events: (October, November)

St. John's Fall Bazaar

(826 Mahoning Dr. West, Lehighton)

Friday, Oct. 5 from 5 to 8 PM Saturday, Oct. 6
from 9 AM to 2 PM

Bake Sale, Homemade Filling & Soup,
Rummage Sale, Fall Decorations,
Candy, Crafts, Raffle & Basket Raffle
10% benefits CROP Hunger Walk

Fall Craft & Vendor Show

(St. John's UCC, 891 Columbia Ave., Palmerton)

Saturday, November 10, 2018
10 AM to 2 PM

Vendors and Crafters wanted:
Call or text: 610-442-2966

Fall Bazaar at Emmanuel UCC

(509 Hamilton St., Bowmanstown, PA)

Saturday, October 6 from 9 AM to 2 PM

Food, Prize Auction, Homemade Soup Sale, Baked Goods, Handcrafted Wooden items, Raffle

MISSION MINDERS, OCTOBER 2018.

The last quarter mission project for 2018, is the **Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease**. This foundation, started by actor, Michael J. Fox after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's, has been at the forefront of funding research projects to aid in the development of medicines and treatments that will bring a cure to end this disease.

With its goal of finding a cure for Parkinson's Disease, the foundation takes part in countless case studies that help in different ways including: **Translating genetic findings** into real treatments; with **Researching methods to develop vaccines** that will cure Parkinson's; **Developing newer, more effective drugs** to replace the current standard drug of dopamine, including inhaled drugs that produce the needed effect more quickly than oral drugs, and **Working with the FDA and major drug companies** to effectively speed up the approval process for newer treatments

Because research funding plays a major role in where monies donated are allocated, to date, **over \$800 million has been spent on cutting-edge research projects, \$100 million in 2017 alone**. For each dollar donated to the Fox Foundation, 88 cents go to research. Charity Navigator gives the Fox Foundation a four-star rating.

All of us know someone, even some members of our congregation, who suffer with Parkinson's Disease. Please help us help them by donating to the Michael J. Fox Foundation from October 1 through the end of the year. Mark your mission envelopes with **FOX** if you wish to donate. Thank you for your generosity.



Next Hosting Week: November 25 – December 1
If you are able to help or need more information:
Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842 or khayman@ptd.net



Neighbors in Need Sunday- October 7

Neighbors in Need offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 7. This offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service

projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors of the UCC. One-third of the offering supports UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S. Please give generously!

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 to someone on the Church Board. The purpose of the committee is two-fold. 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 include: Ron Steigerwalt, Rodger Diehl, Barry Reed, Tom Kupres, Pastor Mike – Ex Officio.



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.

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, Oct. 24
12 Noon

Fellowship Hall
Bring a snack to share!

Please let the church office know if you plan to attend Game Day!

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



Blanket Makers / Quilters: **(next meeting September 6 at 9 AM)**

Anyone is welcome to come and join this group.. 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.



Kevin & Meghan Lusch,

Thank you so much for organizing the Youth Group Bus Trip to Washington, D.C. earlier this month. The Museum of the Bible was so interesting. I learned a lot and really enjoyed the walk-through section that taught about the Stories of the Bible. The virtual reality part was cool too. It was nice that we got to spend time and take pictures at the monuments. The buffet meal on the way home was really good. It was a very memorable day. Thank you! -- Callie Hayman

Special Prayers

Our Members and Friends with Special Needs: In Institutions:



Keep in Your Prayers:

***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. Next Meeting: November 13, 10AM

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



Support Our Troops - All military personnel

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

→ Jessica is now back on base in the USA

Jeremy Zellers, Norfolk, VA – on Submarine Newport News

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



Our Sympathy is extended to:

The Family of Nancy Berger who passed away on September 3.

Congratulations to:

Sarah Nothstein and Ryan Thompson on their marriage
on September 22 at Ben Salem Church



2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 PM Christian Education Mtg.	2 6:30 PM Fundraisers Mtg.	3 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	4 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Assn.	5 8 AM Prepare Pierogie filling	6 8 AM Pierogie Making Party
7 World Communion 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	8	9	10 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	11 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells	12	13 8 AM Making Sticky Buns
14 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	15 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	16	17 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	18 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Comm.	19	20
21 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship "Music Sunday" Hand Bells	22	23	24 9:30 AM Line Dancing 12 Noon Game Day 6 PM Newsletter 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	25 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells	26	27
28 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Fellowship Hall Reserved	29	30	31 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir			