

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@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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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



BEN SALEM
VOICE
December 2018
January 2019

As I begin this letter I want to open by saying blessings and Merry Christmas one and all. The Christmas season is upon us once again with all of its pageantry and festivity. This season seems to conjure up thoughts for so many that through the ages much has been written about the stirring sensation it brings forth. There is no doubt that even if someone is not a religious person, this season can have an exultantly gleeful effect on ones emotions.

That is because the season of Christmas stirs all kinds of memories. It has become for many a season of sentiment and reminiscence. This little piece written by a woman who was considered 'Americas top food editor,' Clementine Paddleford, I feel shares this sentiment. It is titled: **CHRISTMAS CHEER RECIPE**

"Take a bushel of tinsel, sprinkle well throughout the house. Add two dozen stars and one graceful Christmas tree. Take a generous spray of mistletoe, an armload of holly, and a full measure of snow laid on curved hills along the window sills. Toss in a Christmas carol, and season well with good will and friendly laughter. Light the candles, "one for adoration, two for celebration." Let the first burn brightly, and may those you love be near. The yield: One Happy Christmas."

For many of us who have grown to love the greater Northeast area of America, we dream of a Christmas like this filled with family and friends. And if you are one of those people I hope you are blessed with cheerful and joyous festivities as your house is filled with those you love this Christmas. For others though it is truly just a dream to have a Christmas such as those depicted on many a Christmas card. Sometimes it is because no matter how hard they try to create this ideal, it just doesn't seem to materialize. For others it may be they don't have the time or the money or the ability to create such a festive atmosphere. And for still others it may be they aren't in the celebratory mood because of recent events in their life, such as loss of loved ones, or health concerns, or maybe because family is not close by or because they have become estranged from family. So for all those who are troubled in body, mind or soul and for those who just can't seem to experience that idyllic Christmas experience – please know there is still hope!

That is because as we yearn for the sentiment of Christmas the only true path to this sentiment is found in the hope of the Christ Child. The great Scots-American preacher Dr. Peter Marshall captures this for all in his prayer about Christmas. May it be a blessing to your mind and your heart:

"We thank Thee, O God, for the return of the wondrous spell of this Christmas season that brings its own sweet joy into our jaded and troubled hearts. Forbid it Lord, that we should celebrate without understanding what we celebrate, or, like our counterparts so long ago, fail to see the star or to hear the songs of glorious promise. As our hearts yield to the spirit of Christmas, may we discover that it is the Holy Spirit who comes – not a sentiment, but a power – to remind us of the only way by which there may be peace on earth and good will among men. May we not spend Christmas, but keep it, that we may be kept in its hope, through Him who emptied Himself in coming to us that we might be filled with peace and joy in returning to God."

I feel this prayer captures the message I am trying to share with all of you this Christmas season. And that is my hope, that all of you can find the wondrous spell of Christmas as you turn to the One who truly is the reason for the season. May you be blessed in the love, joy, peace and hope found in Jesus Christ. And may your faith in Him bring you Christmas each and every day. Peace and blessings to you all. Merry Christmas and may you be blessed by the Christmas spirit all throughout the New Year.



Pastor Mike

December 2018 / January 2019 Worship Schedule

December 2: 10:30 AM (no 8 AM) Unity Service/
Communion/Congregational Meeting

December 9: 8 AM and 10:30 AM Services

December 16: 8 AM and 10:30 AM (Children's Christmas Program)
"Sleepover at the Stable"

3 PM – "Lights of Remembrance Service"

December 23: 8 AM and 10:30 AM (Christmas Cantata)
"Appalachian Winter"

December 24: Christmas Eve Services 8 AM and 7:30 PM
(Communion/Candlelight)
7 PM Christmas Eve Prelude

December 30: 8 AM and 10:30 AM Services

January 6, 13, 20, 27 – Services at 8 AM and 10:30 AM



Communion Service:

December 2, 10:30 AM - Pew

December 24, 2 PM - Altar & 7:30 PM - Pew

January 6, 2019

Communion at 8:00 AM - Altar
and 10:30 AM - Pew



Hand Bell Choir

December 2 - 10:30 AM

December 24 – Christmas Eve
7 PM prelude, 7:30 PM service



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

Lights of Remembrance Service

December 16, 3 PM in the Chapel



Call to Congregational Meeting – December 2, 10:30 AM

(no 8 AM Service on December 2)

Purpose: to vote on the proposed 2019 budget;
to elect Church Board Officers; Cemetery Trustees
and to appoint Church Auditor

It is very important that everyone attends this meeting on December 2.



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: Dawne Beidleman

Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

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

Upcoming Church Board Meetings

Dec. 17 and Jan. 21 at 7PM

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Cemetery Association Officers:

Next Meeting: December 6 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 \$10 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: Dec. 6, Jan. 3 - 7PM

Fundraisers Meeting: December 10, 6:30 PM

Called to Care Committee: February 12, 10AM

Property Committee: Dec. 20, Jan. 17 - 7 PM

(please submit information 1 week prior)

Christian Education: no meeting scheduled

Worship Committee: no meeting scheduled

Mission Committee: online meetings at cti2@ptd.net



Recycle...Save your soda cans...

Aluminum cans will be taken to Zaprazny's.

Remember aluminum cans and clean aluminum only and should be placed in bags.. There is a fenced in area to the rear of the old social hall for aluminum cans. Please do not place any of the following items in this area: garbage, wood, plastic, or other metals.

Do not place aluminum cans in garbage shed.

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]

budget continued on next page

Financial Report – October 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, 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.

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

~Fundraising at Ben Salem Church~
Next Meeting – December 10, 6:30 PM
SPRING BAZAAR planning



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.

Help is needed with fundraisers and always appreciated!

Homemade Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale



Saturday, December 15th
9AM – Noon
(or until sold out)

Quilt Raffle Tickets Available
(drawing the day of the cookie sale)

Help is needed ...
please bake your
favorite holiday
cookies and bring
them out between 8
and 9 AM on
December 15

Homemade Shoo-Fly Pies

Price \$8.00 for 9 inch pie

Deadline for orders –January 20, 2019

Pick up – Saturday, February 2, 2019 (1-2 PM)

_____ pies @ \$8.00 = \$ _____

Name _____

Phone # _____

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



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MISSION MINDERS

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 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: January 27 through February 2
If you are able to help or need more information:
Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842 or khayman@ptd.net



Christmas Gifts: Ben Salem UCC will be purchasing gifts for two families this year. Please watch for the Angel Tree to appear in the Narthex. Tags will be color coded. Please select a tag (or two!) and return your unwrapped gift by December 16th. If you are unable to shop but would like to participate, donations can be given to Karen Hayman. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need this holiday season!

Letter from our Sponsored Child:

Dear Uncles and Aunties, My name is Eruchappan. I am 13 years old. I am studying 8th standard. I have one brother and sister who stay with my father. My mother died when I was small. I study in Kings School. Now I have Pooja holidays and football. My friend's name is Blessen. He is my classmate. He is a days scholar. My favorite subject is science and English Tamil. It is difficult to study for me in 8th standard. We have the subjects of Tamil, English, Math, Science and Social Studies. We also study scriptures, computer science and general knowledge. Thank you for sponsoring me. I will pray for your church daily. Thank you, Your sponsored child, Eruchappan (October 19, 2018)

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.



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:

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 until the Cookie Sale on Dec. 15 when the winner will be drawn.

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.

Community Events:



Join Cub Scout Pack 756 – Sunday evenings at 6 PM

at the Andreas Sporting Club...come and sign up!

Ages Kindergarten through 6th grade...combines fun with educational activities and lifelong values. Cub Scouting is designed to support and encourage family and community involvement. For more info, contact Cub

Master, Hans Krause 610-476-2341 or email

at hans.krause@allanmyers.com

Facebook @ West Penn Cub Pack 756

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. Next Meeting: February 12, 2019, 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.

Congratulations to

**Matthew and Katie (Nothstein) Hartranft on the birth of their daughter
Olivia Ellen Hartranft. Olivia was born on November 12, 2018.**



***Our Sympathy* is extended to the Family of Bethany (Handwerk) Petrich**

" Because Bethany loved the music at Ben Salem, the Handwerk family invites you to join them as they celebrate Bethany's life with music and memories on Dec 8 at 11:00 am."



***Sympathy* is also extended to Walter & Nancy Keeck
on the death of Walter's brother Michael P. Keeck.**

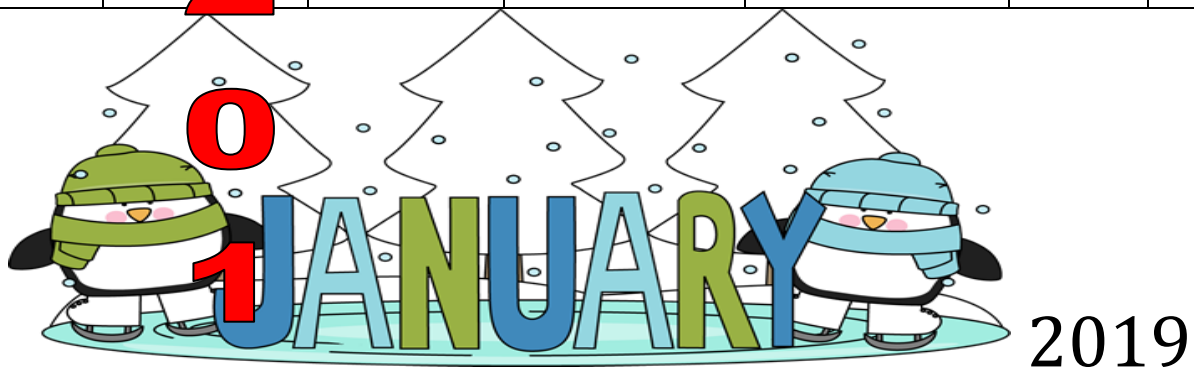
Please keep the Handwerk and Keeck Family in your prayers.



December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Hand Bells <u>Decorate Church</u> Fellowship Hall Reserved
2 Advent I Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship (One Service) Congregational Mtg. Hand Bells	3 Candy Making - 8 AM	4 Candy Making - 8 AM	5 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir 7:30 PM Cantata Prac.	6 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Assn.	7	8 11 AM Celebration of Life Service Fellowship Hall in Use

9 Advent II 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	10 Candy Making - 8 AM 6:30 PM Fundraisers Mtg.	11 Candy Making - 8 AM	12 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir 7:30 PM Cantata Prac.	13 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 7 PM Handbells at "The Palmerton"	14	15 9 AM to Noon Cookie & Candy Sale
16 Advent III 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Children's Program 3 PM Lights of Remembrance	17 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	18	19 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir 7:30 PM Cantata Prac.	20 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Comm.	21	22
23 Advent IV 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Christmas Cantata Scholarship Presentation	24 Christmas Eve Communion 2 PM Christmas Eve/Praise Group 7 PM Prelude 7:30PM Christmas Eve Service/Candlelight	25 	26	27	28	29
30 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	31  2					



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	9	1 New Year's Day	2 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	3 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells 7 PM Cemetery Assn.	4	5 Fellowship Hall Reserved
6 Communion 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	7	8	9 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	10 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells	11	12

13 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	14	15	16 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	17 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells 7 PM Property Comm.	18	19
20 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Shoo-Fly Pie orders are due	21 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	22	23 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	24 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells	25	26
27 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	Family Promise - Bethany EC Church hosting at Ben Salem					
Family Promise - Ben Salem hosting						