

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

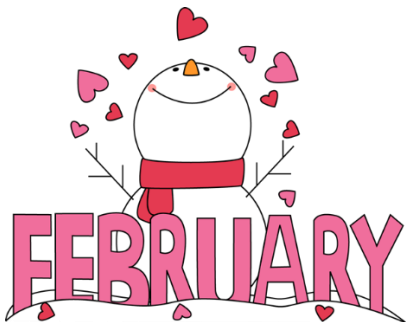
Office e-mail: pstrbens@ptd.net

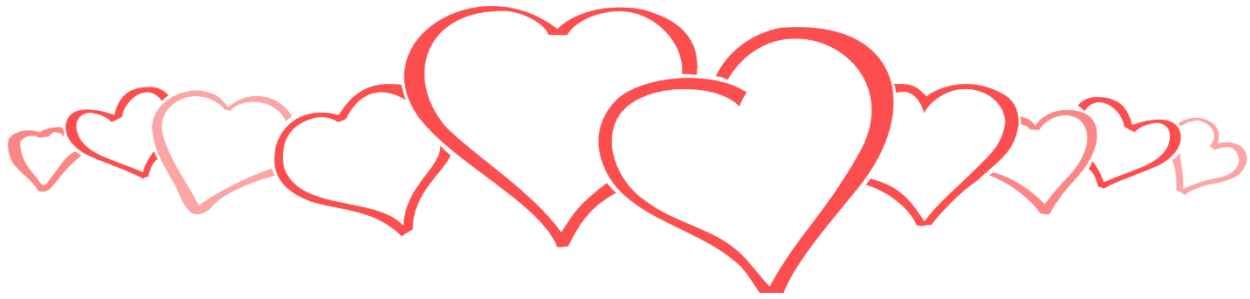
**One
In
Christ**

BEN SALEM UCC
PO 128
ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Prep Shoo-Fly Pie	2 Shoo-fly Pie sale Pick up 1:00 – 2:00 PM
3 Communion 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	4	5 Confirmation Class 6-8	6 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	7 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells 7 PM Cemetery Assn.	8	9
10 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	11	12 Call to Care- 10AM Confirmation Class 6-8	13 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	14 Valentine's Day 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells	15	16 Hall Reserved- Youth Group Parent's Night Out 4-8PM
17 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Sticky Bun Orders Due	18 President's Day 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	19 Confirmation Class 6-8 Fundraiser Meeting 6:30PM	20 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	21 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells 7 PM Property Comm.	22	23
24 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	25	26 Confirmation Class 6-8	27 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	28 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells		

BEN SALEM VOICE - February 2019

Ah February, a month we love to hate. I guess in its defense we could say it is kind of the 'hump month.' Like hump day we can think of February as the month that gets us closer to the month when we will 'March' into spring. Each year winter begins just before the celebration of Christmas which means it begins without much of a thought as we are distracted by the advent of Christmas. January is the first full month of winter and we do our best to grin and bear it as our souls are still filled with the Christmas spirit. But February is the month when many start turning their thoughts to warmer days. Our spirits begin to run low as the dreary days seem to drag on and on. I think many people would just as well skip the month of February (I apologize if you have a birthday or anniversary during this month) and get on with March so we could move into the invigorating season of spring.

Somewhere along the way though it was decided that maybe we could make February a month that could have a focus on love. Although some nay-sayers might say Valentine's Day was created by the flower shops and the Greeting Card industry to promote their businesses, others may remind them that the day was actually meant to honor two Christians both with the surname Valentine who had been martyred during the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire. Without getting into a whole debate about how the focus on love during the month of February began, let's just agree that love is certainly a worthwhile focus during this time of the year. Especially this year!

That is because our church year doesn't begin our Lenten season until the month of March. So as we have now moved nearly a month away from the Christmas season, the feeling of love that was so prevalent during the Christmas holiday could be waning to the point that we may need a reminder of God's love for us. With Easter being the next big celebration of God's love but not coming until April, maybe this month can be the conduit that carries our spiritual need for God's energizing love into the next season.

So let's not make February a month to hate but a month that gives us the time to find love that brings us life. This month be recharged by love as you read the words of **1John 4: 7, 12, 16, 21 – BELOVED, LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER: FOR LOVE IS OF GOD; AND EVERYONE THAT LOVES IS BORN OF GOD, AND KNOWS GOD. IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD DWELLS IN US, AND HIS LOVE IS PERFECTED IN US. GOD IS LOVE; AND HE THAT DWELLS IN LOVE DWELLS IN GOD, AND GOD IN HIM. AND THIS COMMANDMENT WE HAVE FROM HIM, THOSE WHO LOVE GOD MUST LOVE THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALSO.**

We are a beloved people, those who have chosen the path that brings us into the realm of the One who is love. May the love and the blessings of God reenergize each of you this month, as you continue down that path. And as you take time to be with God during these cold days may you take some time to consider this poem by L. M. Montgomery titled **Love's Miracle**. Contemplate God's love, and see if it is revealed in and through the words of this poem;

*Upon the marsh mud, dank and foul,
A golden sunbeam softly fell,
And from the noisome depths arose
A lily miracle.
Upon a dark bemired life
A gleam of human love was flung,
And lo, from the ungenial soil
A noble life upsprung.*

May the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ always fall softly upon you.

Pastor Mike



February 3 8AM & 10AM Worship/ Communion

10 8 AM & 10:30 AM Worship

17 8 AM & 10:30 AM Worship

24 8 AM & 10:30 AM Worship

March 3 8AM & 10:30 AM Worship/ Communion

6 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday/ Communion

10 8 AM & 10:30 AM Worship

Communion Services:

February 3

8AM & 10:30 AM

March 3

8AM & 10:30 AM

Ash Wednesday, March 6

7:30 PM



Congregational Meeting – March 3

Noon

in the Fellowship Hall

Come for a meal, fellowship, and to hear reports from 2018. We will also discuss the future of Ben Salem UCC. Please bring a covered dish and plan to attend this important meeting! A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

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

A signup 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., Leighton, PA 18235.

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.

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

Please do not call the church office with sponsorships!



Cherub & Junior Choir

Wednesday at 6:30 PM

Sr. Choir

Wednesday at 7:00 PM

**Please join our group
On**

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.*



Upcoming Committee Meetings:

Cemetery Association: February 7- 7PM

Fundraisers Meeting: February 19, 6:30 PM

Called to Care Committee: February 12, 10AM

Property Committee: February 21 - 7 PM

Mission Committee: online meetings at cti2@ptd.net

(Please submit information 1 week prior)

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.

~Fundraising at Ben Salem Church~

Help is needed with fundraisers and always appreciated!



HOMEMADE STICKY BUNS

Price \$6.00 for pack of 6 buns

Deadline for orders – February 17

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

_____ packs @ \$6.00 = \$_____

NAME _____ PHONE NO. _____

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

Spring Bazaar

BEN SALEM UCC

1965 Church Hill Road, Lehighton

Saturday, April 6, 2019

9AM – 3PM

ALSO OPEN...

Friday, April 5th from 5-7:30PM!!!

- Raffle
- Basket Raffle (100+ Items!)
- Food, Bake Sale & Homemade Easter Candy
- Quilt Raffle & Knotted Blankets
- Wooden Handcrafted Items

Egg Hunt at 11AM: Old Social Hall at 1749 Church Hill Road

10% of the profits will be divided between St. Peter's Community Resource Center and Dylan & Gavin's Rainbow Ministry.

In case of inclement weather, please check our website at www.bensalemucc.com

Questions, please contact Karen: 570-241-7842



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.



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 garb

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.

Youth Group Events:



February:

"Parents night Out" Saturday **February 16th from 4pm-8pm**. We have arranged to have responsible adults to help with the kids that night so all the parents can enjoy a night out. The kids will be treated to dinner at the church, games, crafts, and a movie.

March:



Benefits the Youth Group and Vacation Bible School

Rummage sale on March 22nd and 23rd. We need every kid, young and old to help setup on **Sunday afternoon March 17th** and clean up on **Saturday the 23rd**. Please plan to help. This is are one main fundraiser that supports both the youth group and Bible School.

April:

Happy Easter!



Easter Egg dying will be Friday night April 5th.
More events and activities to come!

May:

PAINT 'N' PRAISE PARTY

Register Now! Space is limited!

When: Saturday, May 4

Time: 2pm

Where: Ben Salem UCC Social Hall
1965 Church Hill Rd
Lehighton, PA 18235

Cost: \$35 (proceeds to benefit
Vacation Bible School)



Call or email the church office to reserve your spot!

Phone: (570)386-3870

Email: bensalemucc@ptd.net

Join us for an afternoon of painting!

All materials, snacks and beverages will be supplied.

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.

MISSION MINDERS



Ben Salem's Family Promise Program continues to look for new volunteers! Help is needed to prepare meals (can be dropped off or picked up), serve meals and eat with the families, watch movies/play games with the children, and stay overnight in a private room. Each shift is only a few short hours. Here are the Hosting Dates for 2019:

April 21st – April 27th

July 7th – July 13th

October 6th – October 12th

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

Mission Project for February, March and April:



Back Pack Buddies Program

The Back Pack Buddies Program provides food for children in our area when they are not in school. Every week a child is given a bag of food supplied by the Second Harvest Food Bank. Please donate to this mission and **Help Feed a Child** in our area.

(Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC)

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

2019 Church Board Members:

Elders: Sharon Elder
Brian Beidleman
Doris Lusch
Cliff Snowberger

Deacons: Dawn Benner, Amy Frantz, Shirley Frantz, Robin Lutz, Secretary,
Barry Reed, David Rex Jr., LaVaun Shanton, Nancy Smith

Pastor: Rev. Michael McGowan

Church Secretary/ Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

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

Upcoming Church Board Meeting
February 18 at 7PM

Cemetery Association Officers:

Next Meeting: February 7 at 7 PM

Caretaker: David Fritz Secretary: Walter Keeck

Treasurer: Doris Lusch

Trustee: Dennis Frantz, Lowell Gower, Dayle Smith

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

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]

Email addresses
for Church & Pastor McGowan

bensalemucc@ptd.net – Church Office

pstrbens@ptd.net – Pastor McGowan

*Have you remembered the
church in your will?*



**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.

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/Thrivent choice. 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/Thrivent choice for complete Terms and Condition

Church Business

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

Use your Weekly envelope & Designate "Current Expenses":

[Benevolence is sent to PNEC – OCWM]

Place in offering plate or send to the Church:

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



Report – December 2018

Financial

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

General Fund - January to December 2018

Thank you for your continued support in fulfilling our committee

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



Special Prayers

Our Members and Friends with Special Needs:

***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!

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.

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.

Our Sympathy is extended to:

- **The Family of Bethany (Handwerk) Petrich**
- **The Family of Rev. James Knappenberger**



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.

Thank you notes:



Dear Church Board and Members of Ben Salem UCC,

It has been 33 years since I began my journey as Ben Salem Church Secretary and what a journey it has been...working with 7 pastors (4 of them interim) as our church has gone through many phases (three pastoral searches, two building projects, etc.) There have been many times to celebrate and remember, also times of sadness and healing. I truly loved working at the church and will miss much of what

I did as church secretary. Now it is time to sit back, relax, reflect and take personal time in my retirement to spend with my family.

I would like to thank those who sent me cards with best wishes. A special thank you to those who shopped for a most thoughtful and appropriate gift – an engraved remembrance box and a cross necklace – I love them both and will cherish them.

*Peace, good health and happiness and
may God continue to bless Ben Salem Church and you all!*

Love,
Dollie Behr

Pastor Mike and Ben Salem Family,

Thank you for all the cards, thoughts and prayers. Bethany certainly was blessed with so many friends. Her memory will always live on within these walls. The service was so beautiful. (But she had to play with the slides!)

Thank you,
Handwerk Family