

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

September 2019

Blessings to you and peace in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

I am thankful for all of you who read this letter and are members of Ben Salem UCC. You are the ones who make Ben Salem exist so together we can bring glory to the name of God. As the members of Ben Salem I would like you to consider two things as you read this letter. The first is; do you think Ben Salem is a better church for having two worship services and the second is more personal in that I wonder if you ever consider the Sabbath and its meaning.

So first off let me just say that on the first Sunday in October the church leaders and me will be taking a survey with a short questioner about how many church services Ben Salem should hold on Sunday. I would like all of you to prayerfully consider this question so that as you respond on October 6th you are not giving only your personal opinion but also considering how God is leading us to serve the people in our community. Pray and ask God to guide you as you approach the questions being presented about our worship practices.

The next subject is that of Christian Sabbath. Most of us probably know the meaning of Sabbath on a very elementary level. We know it means we are to take time off; and *cessation* is the meaning of the Hebrew word for Sabbath. But there is a deeper spiritual truth behind Sabbath observance. The Christian Sabbath is a means by which our very living imitates God's, as work is followed by rest. Sabbath rest is a time for the people of God to consider and enjoy that which God has accomplished.

Now I know many people who utilize their time on a Sunday to enjoy God's creation in one way or another, especially during the summer months. If you work six days a week you most certainly want time to yourself for family and friends, or hobbies like fishing, boating, kids sports, or maybe free time to just kick back to enjoy the day! And while that is one important aspect of Sabbath – taking time away from work to enjoy God's creation – it is without a doubt not the only aspect of Sabbath. Because to be true to the Sabbath we also have to involve the *consideration* piece. As we spend time enjoying that which God has accomplished are we taking time to consider what our enjoyment means?

While having a time to be away from work and spending it with family is important not only for our own wellbeing but for our societies wellbeing also, the consideration piece is what leads us into the deeper spiritual aspect of Sabbath. God created and commanded Sabbath for humanities benefit, but also included that there should be convocation, which simply means a ceremonial gathering. We gather during Sabbath because we want to consider what God has accomplished, how it affects our own lives and just possibly - give thanks to God.

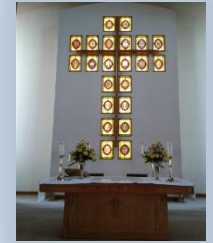
I wonder as you practice Sabbath how often you consider God's involvement in your time. When you are sitting at your kids sporting events, are you considering God; as you gather with family and friends for a backyard BBQ are you thanking God; as you spend an afternoon out shopping or visiting one of the many small towns with boutique shops for your strolling pleasure is there convocation with God in mind? These are just some questions to consider as you schedule your Sabbath time. While I hope you are finding time to practice Sabbath I also hope that you think about the whole aspect of what Sabbath was truly meant to be, and who knows, maybe I'll see you at church so we can consider God's accomplishments together.

Peace and Blessings to you all,
Pastor Mike.

Worship with Us

July /August 2019

Attendance Offering



- September 1 - 8:00 AM & 10:30AM Worship Services / Communion
- September 8 - 8:00 AM & 10:30AM Worship
9:15 AM Sunday School
- September 15 - 8:00 AM & 10:30AM Worship
9:15 AM Sunday School
- September 22 - 8:00 AM & 10:30AM Worship
9:15 AM Sunday School
- September 29- 8:00 AM & 10:30AM Worship
9:15 AM Sunday School
- October 6 - 8:00 AM & 10:30AM Worship Services/ Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School

Kick Off Sunday
September 8, 2019
9:15



A Survey about our Worship time will be distributed at both the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Services.

Sunday, October 6

Bulletin Sponsorship - \$10.00 Please call Sue Messina with your sponsorship information or e-mail her at suemess@ptd.net.

* Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC should be sent directly to: Susan Messina.

Altar Flower Sponsors - \$20.00

A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex or call Cindy Smith.

* Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC should be sent directly to: Cindy Smith.

Please Contact the Church Office at 570-386-3870 for contact addresses and telephone numbers.

Dedication of Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle with Brass Stand
was given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of

Rev. Paul Cope
&
Jane Kriner



New Members:

Herman and Sylvia Snyder were received into membership by letter of transfer on August 11, 2019.



Members of Ben Salem,
Thank you for all your prayers. They meant so much to me. Prayers are what is getting me through this process and. I would also like to thank the ladies who made a lap quilt. Thank you and God Bless each one of you.

Sincerely Kay Hamm

Food Bank,
LaVaun and Bernice, your kindness is overwhelming. We put your kind food donation to good use. LOL. Thank you all!

I continue to fight and just had my cancer scan Monday. Waiting for results.
Sherry Walz



Blake Thomas Burg
Sacrament of Baptism - August 4, 2019.
Blake is the son of
Brent & Brooke (Andreas) Burg.



Prayer List

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 US

Jeremy Zellers, Norfolk, VA – on Submarine Newport News

Missionary Jeff Mensendiek [Japan] and
the Sendai Student Center

Samantha Zipp, Mission in Philippines

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 the Church office at 570-386-3870

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 Brenda Rex or Barbara Snowberger for more information. If a prayer shawl is needed, please contact Brenda Rex or Barbara Snowberger.

Get

Involved



Wednesday

9:30 – 11:30 AM Line Dancing
No Experience necessary
Contact Dot Eberts
Free Will Offering

6:30 PM Cherub Choir &
Junior Choir Practice



7:00 PM Senior Choir Practice



Thursday



9:00 AM Blanket Makers/Quilters

10:00 AM Bible Study



6:30PM Handbell Practice



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. Or email at hans.krause@allanyers.com
Facebook @ West Penn Cub Pack.

Apply: Part Time Early Service Music Director

Applicants may submit a resume to the Personnel Committee of Ben Salem or to the church office.

Phase II Mortgage:



Thank You

Thank you to the volunteers of Ben Salem for their committed service to the maintenance of this building. Their time and efforts have greatly reduced the financial obligation needed for repairs. God Bless

- * **Thrivent Choice®:** Thrivent member can request Ben Salem UCC to receive funds from Choice Dollars.



- * **New Clothing bins:** New clothing bins are 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 .07 cents/lb.

Thank you for donating to the clothing bins. The church received a check for \$ 137.75



- * **Recycle...Save your soda cans...**
Please place Aluminum cans in bags... There is a fenced in area to the rear of the old social hall for the aluminum cans.
Do Not place aluminum cans in garbage shed.

Mission Minder

FALL 2019

Ben Salem's Fall Mission Project is **PEACEFUL KNIGHTS**, which will run through the end of November. This Christian, non-profit organization is located in Lehighton, and provides temporary, safe shelter and access to local organizations that provide assistance to homeless men who need transitional housing or a place to stay temporarily overnight.

The 3-6 month program aims to move men from temporary to permanent living quarters; assist with providing food, clothing, and personal items to those in need; advocate financial stability through peer counseling, and teach skills for proper job search training. Men who participate in this program must actively search for employment 30 hours per week and volunteer an additional 10 hours per week while they are associated with Peaceful Knights. There is a zero tolerance policy for drugs/alcohol, and a 3-strike policy if participants do not follow the rules of the program.

Please help us with this important mission effort through your donations. Mark your mission envelopes **PEACE** to donate.



Cycle Out Homelessness:

September 28th at 10AM (D&L Trail)
Adults & Virtual Participants: \$35; Kids \$15 (Bike Race for Kids at 9AM)

T-Shirts, Lunch in Park, Bake Sale & Basket Raffle
Register or Donate:

Familypromisecarboncounty.org/Cycle-out-homelessness

Family Promise Hosting: October 6-12th

Contact Karen Hayman to help or donate.

Feed A Neighbor:

Brother and Sisters in Faith,

Once again, our community has been blessed by wonderful folks from your church who served the free community meal at Zion on June 27th.

Your chili, served up with a large side dish of compassion, not only provided physical nourishment, but a spiritual blessing as well to those who enjoyed the fruits of your labor. Your enthusiasm for what you do in the service to others, is pleasingly contagious.

Thanks again and God Bless each of you.

Kenneth Leffler
Mission Outreach Committee

Fundraisers:

September 10 – 6:30PM Fundraiser Meeting



Sticky Bun Sale

Price \$6.00 for pack of 6 buns

Deadline for orders – October 6

Pick-up - Saturday, October 19, 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.

HELP IS NEEDED FOR FUNDRAISERS AND ALWAYS APPRECIATED!



Pierogie-Making Party

YOU ARE INVITED!



September 13th & 14th

The filling will be made on FRIDAY morning Sept. 13th starting at 8:30AM.

SATURDAY, Sept. 14th at 8:30AM come help make the pierogies.

Those who help will have first opportunity to buy a maximum of 5 dozen. Each dozen is \$6 towards the New Building Fund. Extras will be offered for sale at \$7.00 between church services SUNDAY on a first come basis.

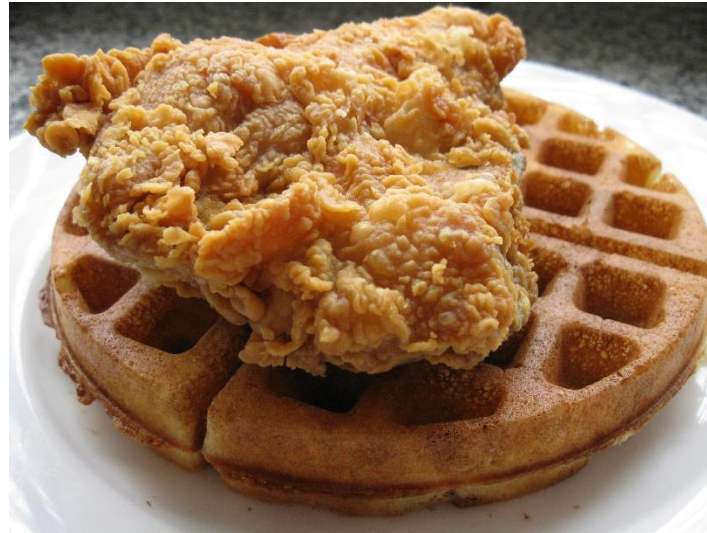
Everyone is invited to join the Pierogie making party, not just members of Ben Salem. There will be no preorders.

Giant Cash Cards are available
See Sue Messina to purchased cards.

Ben Salem United Church of Christ

1965 Church Hill Road, Lehigh, PA

Chicken & Waffle Dinner



October 5

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Meal includes chicken, waffles, mashed potatoes, 2 vegetables, beverage and dessert

Purchase Tickets in Advance or at the Door. Contact the church office at 570-386-3870 or visit bensalemucc.com



Ben Salem United Church of Christ

1965 Church Hill Road, Lehigh, PA

Fall Festival and Basket Raffle

October 12, 10 AM to 3 PM

Come for lunch...refreshments available, BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers,
soup...

Quilt Raffle



Apple Pie &
Ice Cream

Face Painting

Craft & Photo Tables



For more information:
Call Linda Stoss or the church office at
570-386-3870 or visit bensalemucc.com



Fall Decorations

Pumpkins, Mums





September 2019



| ◀ Aug 2019 | | | | | | | Oct 2019 ▶ |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
| 1 8:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship Communion | 2 Labor Day | 3 | 4 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Jr. Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir | 5 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Cemetery Meeting | 6 | 7 Wedding | |
| 8 Grandparents Day 8:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School Kick-off | 9 | 10 6:30 PM Fundraiser Meeting | 11 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Jr. Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir | 12 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells | 13 Pierogie Making Party 8:30 am | 14 Pierogie Making Party 8:30 am | |
| 15 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship | 16 7:00 PM Church Board Meeting | 17 | 18 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Jr. Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir | 19 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Property Meeting | 20 | 21 | |
| 22 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship | 23 | 24 | 25 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Jr. Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir | 26 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells | 27 | 28 | |
| 29 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship | 30 | | | | | | |

Psalm 78:1 My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.



October 2019



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|---|-----------|---|
| | | 1 | 2 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Jr. Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir | 3 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells 7:00- Cemetery Meeting | 4 | 5 Chicken & Waffle Dinner 3:00- 6:00 |
| 6 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Communion Sticky Bun orders due | 7 Ben Salem | 8 Hosting | 9 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Jr. Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir | 10 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells | 11 | 12 Fall Festival 10AM – 3PM |
| 13 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship | 14 | 15 | 16 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Jr. Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir | 17 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells | 18 | 19 Sticky Bun Pickup 1:00 – 2:00 PM |
| 20 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship | 21 7:00 PM Church Board Meeting | 22 | 23 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Jr. Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir | 24 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells | 25 | 26 |
| 27 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship | 28 | 29 | 30 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Jr. Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir | 31 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Handbells | | |

Luke 17: 5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.



Pastor:

Rev. Michael McGowan
Church Phone: 570-386-3870
Home Phone: 610-759-9126

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday – work from home
Tuesday – 10 AM to 2 PM
[Visits in the afternoon]
Wednesday – 9AM to 1PM
[Visits in the afternoon]
Thursday – 10 AM – 5 PM
Friday & Saturday – [by appointment]

Financial Secretary: Susan Messina

Church Secretary:

Dawne Beidleman
Church Phone: 570-386-3870

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

2019 Church Board Members:

Elders: Sharon Elder
Brian Beidleman
Doris Lusch
Cliff Snowberger

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

Cemetery Association:

Caretaker: David Fritz
Secretary: Walter Keeck
Treasurer: Doris Lusch
Trustee: Dennis Frantz
Lowell Gower
Dayle Smith

Email addresses:

for Church & Pastor McGowan

bensalemucc@ptd.net – Church Office

pstrbens@ptd.net – Pastor McGowan