

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lehighton, PA
Permit #4



emb
017

BEN SALEM VOICE
November 2017
Ben Salem United Church of Christ
PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here is a letter from the archives I thought was worth repeating. Enjoy, and Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God." Psalm 50:23 NRSV

Peter Dring once said that it's easy to be thankful for the good things. But a rich and fulfilling life comes to those who also can be thankful for the setbacks of life. He said if we find a way to be thankful for our troubles and dislikes they just might become our blessings.

This particular thought reminded me there is a popular song on Christian radio titled Blessings. Again, in the same manner, the lyrics of the song remind us how the happy times in live are not the only time we receive blessings from God. The lyrics are reminiscent of the fact that God is in everything we experience in life. Laura Story, the woman who wrote and recorded the song says it like this:



*'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
And what if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near
What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching's of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
And what if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise' 1*

If we are thankful for the opportunity each new challenge in our life will certainly bring, we will - with God's help - become strengthened in our life. And we are not only strengthened but also giving assurance as the verse from Psalm 50 so clearly states: we are moving in the right way towards salvation. All this means is we can be relieved how even in our imperfections we are given opportunities for improvement; such as when we don't know something, we can be thankful for the opportunity to learn; or, when we make a mistake we can be thankful for the valuable lesson it teaches us.

Being thankful during pleasant times is easy. But God also asks us to be thankful in the difficult times of life, in times when we may not see clearly. We all have times of misfortune and hardship but we also have been giving the gift of God's blessings in disguise, helping us to see the difficult times as an opportunity of enlightenment. God provides for us continuously and is with us always. Knowing this certainly can help us be thankful even when things seem out of sorts.

As the cold months approach and the hustle and bustle of the holidays grow near, let us remember what we are thankful for. And even though we are tired and weary, let us celebrate the season with grateful hearts giving thanks to our Lord. May your month of November be filled with love and thanksgiving.

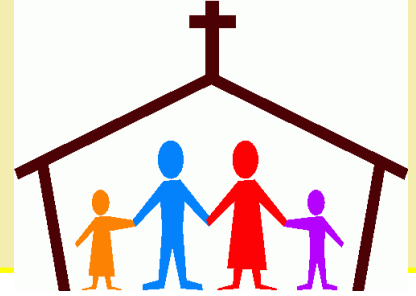
1Story, Laura - Blessings: <http://www.lyricshall.com/lyrics/Laura+Story/Blessings/> 26 October 2014

*Peace and blessings to you,
Pastor Mike*



Worship Services:

November	5	8 AM & 10:30 AM (Communion)
	12	8 AM & 10:30 AM
	19	8 AM & 10:30 AM (Hand Bell Choir)
	26	8 AM & 10:30 AM
December	3	10:30 Service only (Congregational Mtg. Sunday)
	10	8 AM & 10:30 AM (Hand Bell Choir)
	17	8 AM & 10:30 AM
	24	9:15 AM, 2 PM, 7:30 PM Services
	31	8 AM & 10:30 AM



Choir Practices



Cherub Choir: Wednesdays at 6:30PM
 Junior Choir: Wednesdays at 6:30PM
 Senior Choir: Wednesdays at 7:00PM
 Hand Bell Choir: Thursdays at 6:30PM



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Mornings
 10AM – 12 Noon
 Fellowship Hall Board Room

Please join our group as we continue studying "Be Obedient" (Genesis 12-25) by Warren Wiersbe

COFFEE HOUR

has resumed....Volunteers needed!

Call to a
 Congregational Meeting
 December 3, 2017 10:30 AM

(There will be no 8AM Service this Day)

Purpose: To vote on the proposed 2018 Budget
 To elect Church Board Officers
 To appoint Church Auditor

It is very important that everyone attends the meeting on December 3rd!

Sunday School

for ALL ages
 at 9:15AM.



Children and adults
 and adult discussion.
 Please join us!

Communion

Thanksgiving Meal
 Sunday, November 19th



Thank You, LORD!

Everyone is invited to enjoy a Thanksgiving Meal following the 10:30AM worship service in the Fellowship Hall. This meal is being sponsored by the Confirmation Class.

Sunday, November 19th
 Operation Christmas Child
 Shoebox Dedication



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

2017 Church Board Members:

Elders: Sharon Elder, Barry Fink, Walter Keeck, Terry Lusch
Deacons: Terry Blair, Shirley Kline, Doris Lusch, Kenneth Oswald,
Robert Pope, 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:

Nov. 20th at 7PM

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

Meetings

Cemetery Association: Nov. 2, 7 PM
Worship Committee: *No meeting date set*
Care to Care: *No meeting date set*
Next Meeting: Nov. 2, 2017, 7 PM
Membership & Growth: Nov. 13, 6:30 PM
President: Bernice Steigerwalt Vice President: Ivan Beblavy
Fundraisers Meeting: Nov. 14, 6:30 PM
Caretaker: David Fritz Secretary: Walter Keeck
Treasurer: Doris Lusch Property Committee: Nov. 16, 7 PM
Trustee: Richard Bealer
Newsletter Assembly: Nov. 29, 6 PM

Cemetery Lot Prices (\$300 with information a week prior)

Mission Committee: online meetings at cti2@ptd.net

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 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 the church. Thank you in advance for your help.

Have you remembered the church in your will?

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.



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.

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.

Note new email address for Church & Pastor McGowan

bensalemucc@ptd.net – Church Office
pstrbens@ptd.net – Pastor McGowan



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!

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 September 2017



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

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

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



Upcoming Hosting Week: November 12-18, 2017

Please consider volunteering! We need people to make dinners, serve dinners, provide fellowship (talk, watch movies, play games), and stay overnight. There is something that everyone can do. Give of yourself this holiday season!

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



Party for a Cause (to benefit Family Promise Carbon County) is scheduled for Saturday November 11th at the Aquaschicola Fire Company in Palmerton, 6pm – 10pm. 80's theme. Tickets are \$30. Purchase tickets online at

familypromisecarboncounty.org under the news tab. We also need donated desserts (lcthomas@ptd.net) and an event sponsor (fpccfundraising@gmail.com). Hope to see you there.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Campaign

The youth group will be collecting filled shoeboxes again this year. Boxes and idea suggestions are available in the Narthex. Updates for 2017....

- 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 this year.

Deadline for boxes to be filled and returned is Sunday, November 19.

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



Youth Group Meeting

The Youth Group (all ages) will be meeting on Sunday, November 5th at 6PM - Fellowship Hall



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 someone on the Church Board. The purpose of the committee is twofold. 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 are: Ron Steigerwalt, Rodger Diehl, Barry Reed, Tom Kupres, Pastor Mike

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 INFORMATION

Wednesday, November 29th

- Fellowship Hall

12 Noon



Beginners Knitting/Crocheting Group:

Come for fellowship and fun as we knit and crochet together.

The group will be meeting in the Church Parlor
on Wednesdays at 6:15 PM.

If you cannot attend, please inform Barbara Snowberger. 570-386-2112



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 1st prize quilt for 2017 will be a 76 inch x 92 inch Sampler (squares made by members of the church) and the 2nd place prize will be a hand-knotted quilt.

(Both made by the Ben Salem quilters & blanket makers group.)

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 goes directly to Phase II Fund.

NOTE: An ongoing project of this group is to make hand-knotted blankets for the needy.

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.

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.

**Hygiene
Kits
Needed**

The Confirmation Class will be collecting items to assemble Hygiene Kits to send to areas devastated by the hurricanes. Donations of the following new items are appreciated and can be placed in the bin in the Narthex.

1 Hand Towel – 15"x28" up to 16"x32" (no larger) – no fingertip, bath, dish, or microfiber

1 Washcloth

1 Wide Tooth Comb

1 Fingernail/Toenail Clipper

1 Bar of Soap (original packaging)

10 Standard Band Aids

1 Toothbrush (original packaging)

HOAGIE SALE - BEN SALEM U.C.C.

ORDERS DUE: November 5 PICK-UP November 16 (10:30 AM – N

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

PLAIN – HAM, SALAMI, CHEESE, LETTUCE & TOMATOES (no onions or peppers)

PLAIN _____

WITH HOT PEPPERS (no onions) _____

WITH ONIONS _____

WITH ONIONS & HOT PEPPERS _____



TOTAL # ORDERED _____ @ \$5.00 EACH TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

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

**Donations needed
for Candy Making**

Please bring them to the church

by November 22

Candy making will take place on

Nov. 28,29, Dec. 4 & 5

Help is always needed!

35 lb Powder Sugar

20 lb Butter

**20 - 8 oz pkg. of Philadelphia
Cream Cheese**

7 - 16 oz jars karo light

7- 40oz jars Jiff Creamy

Peanut Butter

9 lb dry roasted lightly salted peanuts

5 rolls wax paper

12 lb raisins

HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS CANDY SALE

Ben Salem U.C.C.

Orders must be received by Sunday, November 19

Pick-up on Saturday, December 9 (9:00 A.M. - Noon)

Candy is packaged in half-pound containers.

Cost: \$5.00 per half pound - Please specify # of half-pound containers.

Kind	Milk	Dark
Peanut Butter		
Peanut Butter Rolled in Peanuts		
Butter Creams		
Peanut Rolled Creams		
Peanut Clusters		
Raisin Clusters		
Coconut Creams		
Molded Choc. Mini Pieces		
Non-Pariels		

Fudge - \$5.00 per half pound	# of ½ lbs.
Chocolate	
Peanut Butter	

Assortment (Peanut Butter, Peanut Rolled Creams & Coconut Creams)	Milk	Dark
Sold in pound boxes only - \$10.00 for 1 pound box		

Chocolate Covered Pretzels	Milk	Dark
Mini Pretzels - \$4.00 for a half-pound bag		
Rods decorated for Christmas - \$2.00 for a package of 4 rods		

Christmas Lollipop	Cost \$1.00	
--------------------	-------------	--

Name _____ Phone # _____

Total \$ amt. ordered _____ Sold by _____

Make checks payable to "Ben Salem U.C.C."

Orders may also be placed by calling Sue Messina at 570-386-2880.

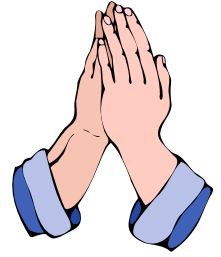


CLOTHING BIN UPDATE

A smaller red clothing bin has replaced the two bins we previously had 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.

Special Prayers

Our Members and Friends with Special Needs: In Institutions:



Keep in Your Prayers:

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.

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: Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian Noecker.

Lauren DeBenedict and Sebastian Noecker were married on October 28, 2017.



Congratulations to Dillan and Jessica Zellers on the birth of their son, William James. William was born on September 12, 2017. The Zellers also have a daughter, Phoebe Grace.

Matthew Joshua Wank received the **Sacrament of Baptism** October 15, 2017. Matthew is the son of Joshua and Jena (Wass) Wank.



Our Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Cynthia A. Smith. Cynthia passed away on October 5, 2017.



Also, to the family of Eleanor Frable who passed away on October 13.



November 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15 Knit/Crochet 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	2 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Association	3 Prep/Kitchen Shoo Fly Pie Sale	4 8 AM Shoo Fly Pie
5 8AM Worship/Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School / Confirmation 10:30 AM Worship 6 PM Youth Group Mtg. Deadline for Hoagie Orders	6	7	8 6:15 Knit/Crochet 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	9 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	10 (Tentative) Youth Group Sleepover in Fellowship Hall Movie & Pizza	11 (Tentative) Youth Group Breakfast After Sleepover
12 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School /Confirmation 10:30 AM Worship	13	14 6:30 PM Fundraisers Meeting	15 6:15 Knit/Crochet 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	16 7 AM Hoagie Sale 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	17	18 10:30 AM Food Bank
Family Promise Week						
19 OCC Shoebox Dedication 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School /Confirmation 10:30 AM Worship /Hand Bell Choir Thanksgiving Meal by Confirmation Class After Service	20 7 PM Church Board Meeting	21	22 6:15 Knit/Crochet 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	23 	24	25 Hall Reserved D. Troxell
26 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School /Confirmation 10:30 AM Worship	27 Prep/kitchen Christmas Candy	28 8 AM Christmas Candy	29 8 AM Christmas Candy Noon – Game Day 6 PM Newsletter Assembly 6:15 Knit/Crochet 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	30 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Feed a Neighbor at Zion UCC 6:30 PM Hand Bells		

