

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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BEN SALEM VOICE
November-2018



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To all of my sister and brothers in Christ, November is the month of Thanksgiving. In our country we have set the 4th Thursday of this month to be a day of thanks. And while the whole world does not celebrate Thanksgiving with us on this day, much of the world does set aside a day for the harvest. These harvest festivals held around the world are typically rooted in the theme of thanks during their celebrations. So one could say that much of the world does set aside a day to give thanks

Now our Thanksgiving holiday, while it has become more of a secular holiday, has its roots in religious traditions. And why not, if one thinks about it, if we are celebrating and giving thanks for the harvest and the bounty of the earth, then who would it be we are giving thanks too?

I guess that question is why I found this little piece written by Thomas Wentworth Higginson so intriguing. Mr. Higginson, an abolitionist who ministered in the Unitarian Tradition wrote these words:



*"An easy thing, O Power Divine,
To thank Thee for these gifts of Thine:
For summer's sunshine, winter's snow,
For hearts that kindle, thoughts that glow;
But when shall I attain to this –
To thank Thee for the things I miss?"*

With these words Rev. Higginson has reminded us all how giving thanks for things like - family love, the necessities of life such as food and water, for the ability to reason, for the seasons of the year – while certainly important and necessary – are not the only things we should be celebrating thankfully.

If we do believe in a creator God then we also must consider those things we may find challenging or disconcerting. So while I am thankful and give praise to God for all the people of this church who give of their time and talents, who give generously to our mission and budget, and those who come to church faithfully; I am also reminded that I am to be thankful to God for those who disagree with me, those who critique me, and even those who dislike me. God presents me with these folks because by our coming together I am to continually grow and learn and strive to be better. And for that I am thankful!

In this day of division and disagreement both politically and religiously, maybe we are missing the point. We know and have certainly heard in church the last month how God's dominion is different from the world, how God does things differently than we might think. So maybe in this divisiveness we are to find some ways to be thankful to God in all of the things that we think on the surface are divisive. Maybe in our societal divisiveness we can find God working to show us how to be better, how to grow, how to learn and how to continually improve as disciples of Jesus Christ. And in doing so, maybe we can attain to this - thanking God for the things we miss this Thanksgiving.

*"Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man!"
Psalm 107:8*



Pastor Mike

Worship Schedule

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

November 4 – All Saint's Day/Communion/ Dedication

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 18 – OCC Shoebox Dedication





Communion Service:

November 4

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



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

Hand Bell Choir
November 18
10:30 AM



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Campaign

Dedication Sunday - 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."

December 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)

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

December 24: Christmas Eve Services 2 PM and 7:30 PM (Communion/Candlelight)

7 PM Christmas Eve Prelude

December 30: 8 AM and 10:30 AM Services



**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

Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

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

Upcoming Church Board Meetings

November 19 at 7PM

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Cemetery Association Officers:

Next Meeting: November 1 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., Lehigh, 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: November 1 7PM
Membership & Growth: November 5, 6:30 PM
Fundraisers Meeting: November 6, 6:30 PM
Called to Care Committee: Nov. 13, 10AM
Property Committee: November 15, 7 PM
Stewardship & Finance: Nov. 27, 6:30 PM
Dec./Jan. Newsletter Assembly: November 28, 6 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]

2019 budget continued on next page

Financial Report – September 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.

Candy Making Donation List

Please have all donations at the church kitchen by November 25
Preparing for candy making on December 1, 8 AM
Making candy December 3, 4, 10, 11 at 8 AM

*Help is needed
with fundraisers
and always
appreciated!*

1 lb. powdered sugar
5 lb. raisins

3 lb. dry roasted lightly salted peanuts
4 – 14 oz. bags coconut



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 8:45 am on
December 15

HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS CANDY SALE

Ben Salem U.C.C.

Orders must be received by Sunday, November 25
 Pick-up on Saturday, December 15 (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	
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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.



Saturday, November 10, 6:30 PM
Volleyball Game....Adults and teens are
 welcome to come out and participate!
 There will also be a movie to watch and games
 for younger children to play.

Membership & Growth Committee Meeting

has been rescheduled for Monday, November 5 at 6:30 PM.
 If you are a member of this committee please make note of this change.

Strengthen the Church Offering - November 25

Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to the Strengthen the Church Offering. The offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Please be generous!

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 to 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

Ben Salem will host the **Feed a Neighbor meal** at Zion's UCC in Lehighton on **Thursday, November 29th beginning at 5 p.m.** Up to 100 deserving people enjoy a hot meal prepared for them at this event. **Volunteers are needed to setup, serve, and clean up.** We are usually done by 6:45 p.m. Please call **Bernice Steigerwalt at 386-5418** if you can help. Thank you.

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.



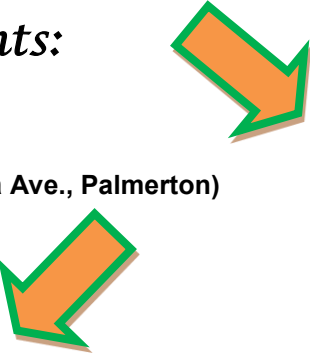
Blanket Makers / Quilters:

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. 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: (November)

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



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

MEMORIAL TREE TRIBUTE: Many who have lost a loved one experience mixed emotions about the forthcoming holidays. Join us on Wednesday November 28 at 6:00 PM at E. Franklin Griffiths Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., 655 East Broad Street Tamaqua, PA for a Memorial Tree Tribute - a time to remember and honor family members. Luminaries will light our garden - you can pick one up to personalize for your beloved family members or we will make one for you. Please drop off an ornament of your choice by Monday, November 26 to adorn our outdoor garden tree. Come and enjoy fellowship, some holiday entertainment and light refreshments. Open to all; you need not be affiliated with our funeral home to join us. You can reach us at 570-668-2550, 9: AM to 4 PM Monday - Friday to sign up.

Special Prayers

**Our Members and Friends with Special Needs:
In Institutions:**



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.



Congratulations to: John and Becky (Nothstein) Cannon on their marriage on October 20, 2018.



November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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				1 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Assn.	2	3 Fellowship Hall Reserved
4 All Saints Day/ Communion Dedication Sunday 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	5 6:30 PM Membership & Growth	6 6-8 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Fundraisers	7 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir 7:30 PM Cantata Practice	8 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells	9 Preparing for Shoofly Pie baking	10 8 AM Making Shoofly Pies 6:30 PM Volleyball Game in Fellowship Hall
11 Veterans Day 8 AM Worship 9 AM Acolyte Training 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	12	13 10 AM Called to Care Mtg. 6-8 PM Confirmation Class	14 9:30 AM Line Dancing 11 AM Safety Meeting 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir 7:30 PM Cantata Practice	15 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Comm.	16	17
18 OCC Shoebox Dedication 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Hand Bells	19 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	20 6-8 PM Confirmation Class	21 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir 7:30 PM Cantata Practice	22 Thanksgiving 	23	24
25 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Candy orders due	26	27 6-8 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Stewardship & Finance Mtg.	28 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6 PM Newsletter 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir 7:30 PM Cantata Practice	29 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 5 PM Feed a Neighbor Zion UCC, Leighton 6:30PM Hand Bells	30	
----- FAMILY PROMISE -----						