# **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

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@verizon.net

E-mail: bensalemucc@verizon.net

**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



# BEN SALEM VOICE June - 2016 Ben Salem United Church of Christ PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

Ahhh, the month of June and the first days of summer, a time when our thoughts can easily be captivated by the splendor surrounding us. The song birds seem to be performing a continuous concert in which our ears delight. The flowers are blooming and displaying their multitude of colors as we revel in their beauty. If we are able and can get to the outdoors, the sun warms our skin as its radiates deep into our bodies. Summer certainly is a special season, one which leaves us with so much to appreciate. And yet, even in all of this glorious wonder and magnificent beauty we may still find ourselves experiencing times when we feel disillusioned or discouraged or maybe even distressed.

For many, including myself, the summer months are gratifying. I delight in the adventure that summer can signify. But that does not mean during the summer I am above these feelings we all deal with from time to time. Even during the summer months we all need to connect with the One who heals our spirit and brings peace to our soul. And the best way to do this is of course through prayer! That is why this month I would like to share a prayer with you I hope you will consider praying throughout the summer. Share it with friends and family so all who pray its words feel the presence of our loving God as they start their day.

The prayer is simply titled – Morning Prayers and it was written by the German Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer lived during the great war and was a staunch opponent of Nazism and Adolph Hitler. I do not know if he wrote this prayer while imprisoned by the Nazis but I certainly have to assume it is something that he prayed often as he was facing death during the time of his imprisonment in the concentration camps of Nazi Germany. I do believe it is a prayer we all can pray during both trying and happy times.

In me there is darkness, But with You there is light;
I am lonely, But You do not leave me;
I am feeble in heart, But with You there is help;
I am restless, But with You there is peace;
In me there is bitterness, But with You there is patience;
I do not understand Your ways, But You know the way for me.

You were poor and in distress,
A captive and forsaken as I am.
You know all man's troubles;
You abide with me when all men fail me;
You remember and seek me;
It is Your will that I should know You and turn to You.
Lord, I hear Your call and follow. Help me!



It is my desire that in praying these words you will find a connection with the One who raises you up in glory and out of the doldrums of a bland existence. As you pray this prayer may God come into your heart and fill your life with an abundance of blessings. And may your summer be filled with peace brought forth through your faith in Christ Jesus. See you in church!

Peace, Pastor Mike

Lord Jesus Christ,



# SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



JULY & AUGUST ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 9:15AM

# Worship Schedule for July, August & September 2016

July	3	9:15 AM Worship / Communion
•	10	9:15 AM Worship (Outdoor Service)
	17	9:15 AM Worship (Raindate – Outdoor Service)
	24	9:15 AM Worship
	31	9:15 AM Worship
Augus	st 7	9:15 AM Worship / Communion
	14	9:15 AM Worship
	21	9:15 AM Worship
	28	9:15 AM Worship

September 4 8AM and 10:30AM Worship/Communion

11 8AM and 10:30AM Worship

18 8AM and 10:30AM Worship (219<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

25 8AM and 10:30AM Worship

#### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Thursdays at 10AM
Watch for new information
coming for Fall!

# Graduate Recognition

Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 8AM & 10:30AM Services





Sunday, June 19th

### **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, PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211

#### **2016 Church Board Members:**

Officers: Sharon Elder, President

Barry Fink, Vice President

Robert Pope, Church Board Secretary

Elders: Sharon Elder, Walter Keeck, Terry Lusch, Dayle Smith Deacons: Terry Blair, Barry Fink, Doris Lusch, Kevin Lusch,

Kenneth Oswald, Robert Pope, Barry Reed, David Rex, Jr.

<u>Pastor</u>: Rev. Michael McGowan <u>Church Secretary</u>: Dollie Behr Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

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

#### Upcoming Church Board Meeting: June 13, 2016 at 7 PM

Ben Salem History Books are still available / \$60

Contact the Church Office [570-386-3870]

#### **Cemetery Association Officers:**

Next Meeting: September 1 at 7 PM

President: Bernice Steigerwalt Vice President: Evan Beblavy Caretaker: David Fritz Secretary: Walter Keeck Trustee: Richard Bealer

**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.

<u>Hospitalization</u>? 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 <a href="mailto:suemess@ptd.net">suemess@ptd.net</a>. 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!



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

Have you remembered the church in your will?

#### **Upcoming Committee Meetings**

Stewardship & Finance: June 6 at 6:30PM
Church Board: June 13 at 7 PM
Fundraiser: June 7 at 6:30 PM
Property Committee: June 16 at 7PM
Newsletter Assembly: June 29 at 6PM
Worship Committee: September 12, 6:30 PM
[please submit information 1 week prior]

Called to Care: July 12 at 10AM
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. 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 the garbage shed.

#### **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]

# Ben Salem UCC Financial Report April 2016





Phase II Mortgage Loan



\*

\*

# We Need Your Help to Fulfill This Commitment!!!

# Why Should I Serve?

Do you ever wonder why we should give up our free time to serve others? Is it really necessary to serve God?

<u>1 Peter 4:9-11</u>: Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

In the New Testament, Peter tells us that we should each use our own unique gift or ability to serve others. Believe it or not, each of us has a unique God-given talent....some people have musical talents, speaking talents, organizational talents, talents for cooking or baking, and the list goes on. And serving others simply means "doing good to other people".

We have received our gifts from God for two reasons – to serve others and to bring praise to God. These talents were given to us not for our own benefit, but for the benefit of the people around you. Serving others is not about "looking good" or "getting attention" – but to give God the glory. When we use our gifts to serve others, and do it with the strength that God provides, we are honoring God. We are speaking and serving directly on behalf of God to others.

This little act of selflessness may cause other people to examine our relationship with Jesus Christ. This gives us the opportunity to share the Good News with others when they are seeking what we have in our intimate relationship with Christ.





One of the greatest opportunities we have as Christians is to make a difference in the lives of others. Each of us should be looking for ways to help other people every single day. Family Promise is a great way for you to serve others and show honor to God. By helping those in need, we are making a difference in their lives. These families have a safe place to stay, are able to get help finding jobs and affordable housing, participate in parenting classes, receive financial and nutritional counseling,

and network with many people who are willing to give them a second chance.

Please consider helping out during our next hosting week, and make a difference in someone else's life. Commit now to helping others during the week of July 10-16, 2016.

If you are able to help or need more information:

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

#### <u>Thank You – Family Promise:</u>

Thank you for a place to sleep and warm food – Laura
Thank you for everything – Crystal and Jaziyah
Thank you for hosting us – Mary Jo, John, Dom, Lexi and Layla

<u>Food Bank Thank You:</u> Special thanks to Jenn Gaxdula, driver from Lehighton who volunteered her time in picking up food bank items from local route. Also, thank you to Dot Eberts who even though she no longer works for the Post Office, did contact them to make sure Ben Salem would receive the food items donated for our Food Bank. Lastly, thanks to everyone who donates items for our Food Bank, without your help we could not help those who receive food bank items.

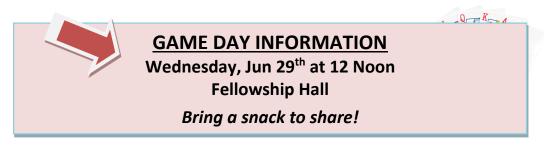
#### **MISSION MINDERS, June 2016**

Our **Food Bank** continues to distribute food to several families in need. Please remember to donate items for the food bank in the box located in the narthex. Contact LaVaun Shanton or Sandy Bealer if you know of families who can benefit from Ben Salem's Food Bank.

Please consider volunteering for **Family Promise** when it is our week to host. Every extra person helps. The next host week will be July 10-16. See Karen Hayman if you have questions.

For this year's second quarter, our local mission effort is the **Domestic Violence Service Center**, which serves Luzerne and Carbon counties. This Domestic Violence Service helps those suffering through these situations with 24 hour hotlines that give information for support groups, counseling sessions, legal help, transportation, children's support programs, community education, and, if necessary, a safe place for victims and their children to have shelter. Many of us often believe that Domestic Violence is not a problem in this area, but our work with Family Promise and now with St. Peter's Center shows that many people in the area are in dire need of help and social services that will lead them to a better life. Brochures describing the work of the Domestic Violence Service Center will be in the narthex for you to take. If you wish to donate to the Domestic Violence Service Center, mark your mission envelope "DOMESTIC".

As always, we thank you for all you do and for all you contribute.



#### 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.

pape	WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING BEN SALEM CHURCH
ه د حل	SAVE PAPER, MONEY AND TIME?
l l'g	WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL?
18	If so, please fill out the following form and place it in the box located in the narthex or mail it
GOMO 9	to Ben Salem UCC, PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211.
Thiome's	e-mail:
7 (41110) 5_	O

#### Thank You Note:

Dear Pastor Mike and Ben Salem Family, A special thanks to all of you for your cards, prayers, and other acts of kindness that helped to provide comfort during a difficult time. We would like to thank Pastor Mike for his visits with Dave at The Summit and for services rendered upon Dave's passing. Also, a great big thank you goes out to Sandy Bealer and her kitchen crew and to those who provided desserts, all resulting in the preparation and serving of the

delicious meal at the fellowship luncheon. We are truly blessed with a wonderful, caring church family! Thanks again for being the special people that you are. God bless! Elaine Frantz and Family

Darlene Hilbert would like to thank you for your prayers. In her time of trouble she did better than expected. A great big thank you to all and special thanks for the prayer shawl. Dorothy Fritz (LaRue Fritz's niece)

Dear Friends at Ben Salem UCC, Dan and I would like to say "Thank you" from the bottom of our hearts for all your care, concern, prayers and especially the beautiful prayer shawl given to Dan. Special "Thank you" to Betty Nothstein for your visit. Your thoughtfulness has been encouragement for Dan's recovery from his stroke and it means a lot to both of us and our family. In Christian Love, Dan and Bonnie Myers

#### Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 12

#### <u>Lehighton Area High School – May 27</u> Jenna Beck

**Zachary Christoff** – Plans to attend Rutgers University/Honors College Will major in either Finance or Business Analytics/Information Technology

Connor Frey – Plans to attend Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA Major /Civil and Environmental Engineering

#### Palmerton Area High School - May 25

Jagr Andress – Plans to attend Wilkes University Major / Mechanical Engineering

Trisha Sterling – Plans to attend Lehigh Carbon Community College

#### Carbon Career and Technical Institute - May 26

Nicholas Cramer – Precision Machine

Plans to attend Pennsylvania College of Technology - Major / Diesel Technology

#### Alvernia University - May 14

Alaina Reese – Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing

#### Wilkes University - May 21

Michael Warkala – Bachelor of Science in Biology/Emphasis Genetics/Minor Chemistry
- Summa Cum Laude

#### **Temple University - December 18, 2015**

**Jager Ziegenfuss** - Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering and is employed by NavSea working at the Naval Warfare Center in Philadelphia. He will be starting June 13th.

#### Triangle Tech - June 9, 2016

Lukas Ziegenfuss - Associates degree in welding and certification in AWS, API, ASME

#### Lehigh Carbon Community College

Jessica Fritz – Degree: TV / Film

# Two Scholarship Opportunities:

## **Richard and Cynthia Smith Scholarship Fund:**

Applications for the Smith Scholarship Fund can be obtained by calling the Church Office at 570-386-3870. The forms can be sent in the mail or e-mailed to those who wish to apply. This fund was established to assist high school graduates who are furthering their education. The applicant must be a member in good standing of Ben Salem UCC. The applicant must have graduated from high school and be enrolled as a full time, undergraduate student in an accredited college or technical school to further his/her education. A person may only be a recipient of this scholarship one time but if you have applied in a prior year and not been a recipient of the scholarship, you may apply again. Preference will be given to those who have a financial need, who are loyal to the church, its worship and life, and who have performed community service. Applications should be submitted to the Church Office by June 30, 2016.

If you are a college or graduate student who is preparing for a career either as a/an Ordained Minister, Certified Teacher or Educator, Doctor of Medicine then you may qualify for a scholarship grant from the Gwilym T. Williams Scholarship Fund. For more information, please visit the PNEC website at <a href="https://www.pnec.org">www.pnec.org</a> to obtain an application form. If you would like to call the conference office the phone number is 610-826-3113.

# **Strawberry Social**



Ben Salem U.C.C. 1965 Church Hill Road Lehighton (near Andreas) Sunday, June 12 Noon to 6:00 P.M.



Music by: Ben Salem Bell Choir Daybreak Lost & Found



Car Show to benefit Ben Salem VBS



For directions visit www.bensalemucc.com
For more information call (570)386-2530 or (570)386-3870

Items still needed for the Strawberry Social [If you can help please contact the church office 570-386-3870]

12 dozen hamburger buns 48 cans Pepsi 120 cans Coke

48 cans 7Up 24 cans Diet Coke 48 cans Diet 7Up 4 cases bottled water

Monetary donations to defray the cost of the Social. Items for the Basket Raffle

#### Bake Sale

We will also have a bake sale in conjunction with the Strawberry Social.

There will be shoo-fly pies and other goodies to purchase...

Homebaked items will be greatly appreciated!

#### Thank you to everyone who supports our Fundraisers!



**Ongoing Fundraisers:** Giant Gift Cards & Beef Stick Sale

Used Clothing Bins have been placed below the old dining hall. Items that can be placed inside are as follows: wearable clothing [men's women's children's], household items made of fabric, shoes [must be in separate bags], handbags & belts, fashion accessories, stuffed animals, small hard toys, bicycles. We cannot accept: books, furniture, cookware, baby gear, outdoor toys. If you have questions, please call the church office. Another \$300 was raised through donations of clothing and other items. This money goes to the General Fund of Ben Salem.

Next Fundraiser Meeting will be held on June 7th at 6:30 PM.

# Ben Salem UCC presents...

Vacation Bible School 2016 June 20-24, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

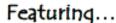


Pre-register at:

www.bensalemucc.com

570-778-0356(text or call) 570-386-2015 (call)

There will be a Celebration on Friday, June 24th, featuring games, Rita's Ice, food, snacks, and inflatables for the ENTIRE family to enjoy....















Helping you learn about Noah all week long!

VBS Help Needed!

Your help is needed (can be 1 day or all 5).... \*Teachers \*Classroom Helpers \*Outside/Activities Helpers

Please sign the sheet on the credenza or contact Kelly at 570-778-0356(text or call) or Dawne at 570-386-2015 (call)



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 quilt for this year is a 60 X 60 size, multi-colored patchwork Quilt. Tickets will be available through the year at church dinners & functions. See Dollie Frantz 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 the General Fund to help with the mortgage.

#### **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.

<u>Called to Care</u>: 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. The next Called to Care meeting will be held on July 12 at 10 AM.

**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

\*Please notify us if you know of anyone who is serving at this time or if any names are missed or if status changes.

Our sympathy is extended to:

The Family of Peter Daniels who passed away on April 26. The Family of David M. Frantz who passed away on May 4. The Family of Norman Troxell who passed away on May 14. The Family of Karl Steigerwalt, Jr. who passed away on May 17.



Congratulations! to Billy and Melanie (Frantz) King on the birth, April 26 of their daughter Emery Mae King, born April 26, 2016



~ June 2016 ~								
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
			<b>1</b> 6:30 Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	2 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	3	4		
5 Communion 8 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship	6 6:30 PM Stewardship & Finance	<b>7</b> 6:30 PM Fundraisers	8 6:30 Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	9 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	10	11 Making shoo-fly pies		
Graduate Recognition 8 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship Handbells Noon-6 PM Strawberry Social and Car Show	13 6:30 PM Quilt Class 7 PM Church Board Meeting	14	15 6:30 Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	16 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Property Committee	17	18 Food Bank		
19 Father's Day 8 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship			tion B	23 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters		25		
<b>26</b> 8 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship	<b>27</b> 6:30 PM Quilt Class	30 - 28	29 Noon- Game Day 6 PM Newsletter 7 PM Senior Choir	30 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters	ight			