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: <u>bensalemucc@ptd.net</u> Website: <u>www.bensalemucc.com</u> Fax: 570-386-3870 [call, speak to secretary, then call back] Pastor Michael McGowan: Home – 610-759-9126 Office e-mail: <u>pstrbens@ptd.net</u>

BEN SALEM UCC PO 128 ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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BEN SALEM VOICE September-2018



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Hello all – blessings to you! As I begin this newsletter after being away from writing these sermonettes for a while, I must be honest and tell you how tired I am of the national news in the almost two months since I wrote the last one. What I read in the morning and what I hear on the radio, I must say, has my head ready to explode! I am tired of the constant barrage of disputes and arguments, the relentless quarreling and the non-stop wrangling to try and prove whose opinion is right. It seems as if everyone's ethical principles are under a microscope and its becoming harder all the time to determine whose reporting is reliable. And maybe that is the point; maybe what those who hold power actually want is for the population to get so fed up that we become apathetic and unconcerned. While I hope that never happens no matter how demanding and tiring it may become to keep abreast of our current political and social situation, one thing I hope for all of us is that we can all find some peace and hope in the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At our last rummage sale I found a little treasure in the book section titled – "Words of Life." If this came from someone in our congregation I thank you for your donation. This book is a compilation of inspirational quotations with a religious context. A short passage I found in the chapter <u>Prayer</u> is from an unknown author. It is titled "Three Things" and I think it might help all of us with the constant barrage of negativity we face each day from our media.

Three Things

"I know three things must always be to keep a nation strong and free: One is a hearthstone bright and dear, with busy happy loved ones near; One is a ready heart and hand, to love and serve and keep the land; One is a worn and beaten way, to where the people go to pray." "So long as these are kept alive, Nation and people will survive; God keep them always, everywhere – the home, the heart, the place for prayer."

Now while I imagine that the author, whoever it may be, was talking about our individual homes, families and churches – I would offer that this can also be heard as a prayer for the importance of the community of faithful people of Jesus Christ. I say this because as a community we too can offer a warm hearth to those who are lost or abandoned, those who live on the fringes of society and who have been forgotten by their families. We can show them how they too can be surrounded by busy happy loved ones and how we are people with ready hearts and hands who serve and love and keep the land. And we can surely show them our worn and beaten way to where we go to pray. We are a community that together can keep our Nation great as long as we follow this simple formula.

We don't need politicians and talking heads to tell us how to make our Nation great, we already know that this whole creation was made to be great. All we need to do is follow the formula of this simple prayer that point to the principles taught by the one leader who makes all His followers great – Jesus the Christ. So this September as we leave the weeks of summer behind let us join together in the name of Jesus to be the hope our nation and world need. Let us gather together at the hearth of God and join in the formula that will keep God's great hope alive.



Pastor Míke

September Worship Schedule

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Services at 8:00 and 10:30 AM

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Communion Service: Communion at 8:00 and 10:30 AM September 2, October 7

Hand Bell Choir September 23, 10:30 AM

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Will resume on September 6th. 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

Worship Schedule for October 2018:

October 7: 8AM & 10:30AM (Communion)

- 14: 8AM & 10:30AM
- 21: 8 AM & (10:30AM Music Sunday)
- 28: 8AM & 10:30AM

Sunday School Rally Day – September 9 at 9:15 AM Scavenger Hunt "Finding God's Hidden Treasure" Snacks and Free Time Sunday School Classes will begin on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 9:15 AM

Our Confirmation Class this year will be an eight month program. In order to do this Pastor McGowan will need more than the hour allotted for Sunday School between services. This new class will be held on Tuesday night from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. We will be using a textbook that has been utilized here at Ben Salem previously but that has since been revised and updated, titled – My Confirmation, A Guide for Confirmation Instruction. A
"get to know you and informational meeting" will be held with parents and youth on September 4th at 6:00pm. The class will begin on September 11, 2018. Please make the church office aware if you would like your

child/grandchild to attend and they were born in 2005 or before



World Food Day/ Harvest Home

Sunday, September 30 Bring non-perishable items to church on Sept. 30 or to the Fall Festival on Sept. 29 * See note on Festival ad in this newsletter Scholarship Recip Blessing of chosen for 2 Schola Backpacks Scholan Congratul Julia ..., September 9 at both services and Jillian Olewine



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:

Brian Beidleman, VP, Barry Fink, President, Elders: Kenneth Oswald, Cliff Snowberger Terry Blair, Shirley Kline, Doris Lusch, Robin Lutz, Secretary, Deacons: Kevin Lusch, Barry Reed, Carly Smith, Ron Steigerwalt Rev. Michael McGowan Pastor: Church Secretary: Dollie Behr Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman Financial Secretary's Address: Susan Messina, 66 River Road, Tamagua, PA 18252

Upcoming Church Board Meetings: September 17th , October 15th at 7PM

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

Cemetery Association Officers:

Next Meeting: Sept. 6 at 7 PM Caretaker: David Fritz Treasurer: Doris Lusch

President: Bernice Steigerwalt Vice President: Evan Beblavy Secretary: Walter Keeck 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-



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.





Recycle...Save your soda cans...

Aluminum cans will be taken to Zaprazny's. Remember aluminum cans and clean inum only and should be placed in bags.. There is a

I in area to the rear of the old social hall for aluminum 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]

Financial Repo July - 2018



<u>Phílippians 4:13</u> - "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, 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.

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

week or every month and you wouldn't have to worry about having cash on a Sunday. If this sou schedule your offering like you do your other bills and have it sent to: Ben Salem UCC, P.O. B 0128 If there is a place for a note about the payment you can even fill in how much you would have 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

Ben Salem Washington D.C. Trip! Saturday, September 8, 2018

Schedule

6:00 am - Depart Ben Salem

10:30 am - Visit to The Museum of the Bible

12:00 pm - Lunch on your own

12-4 pm – visit attractions of your choice

4:00 pm - Load busses to visit west end of national mall (Lincoln Memorial, Reflecting Pool, Korean War Memorial,

World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial)

5:00 pm – Leave DC and head towards home

6:30 pm – Dinner at Mountain Gate Restaurant

10:00 – 10:30 pm – Expected Return to Ben Salem

~Fundraising~

<u>Gíant Gíft Cards:</u> 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.

HOAGIE SALE - BEN SALEM U.C.C.

ORDERS DUE SEPTEMBER 9 PICK-UP SEPTEMBER 20 (10:3) AM – NOON)
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 570-3	86-2880.
	STILL.

Pierogie Making on October 5 and 6th Pierogie-making Party – YOU ARE INVITED!







The filling will be made on FRIDAY morning October 5th starting at 8am. SATURDAY October 6th at 8AM come help make the pierogies. Those who help will have first opportunity to buy a maximum of 5 dozen. Extras will be offered for sale between church services SUNDAY on a first come basis. Each dozen is \$6 towards the New Building FUND. There will be no preorders.



HOMEMADE STICKY BUNS

Help is needed with fundraisers and always appreciated!

Price \$6.00 for pack of 6 buns Deadline for orders – September 30

Pick-up - Saturday, October 13, 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.



For more information: Call 570-386-3870 or visit bensalemucc.com

Fall Festival donations needed:

The following items are needed for the Fall Festival:6 (1/2 gallon) vanilla ice cream7 dozen hamburger rolls3 lbs. sliced White American cheese12 packs of soda6 dozen hot dog rolls2 - 12 pk Diet Coke



There have been some changes again in Family Promise! On June 1st, we welcomed Jonathan Blackwell-Rodgers as the new Director of Family Promise Carbon County. On July 16th, we welcomed Tammy Coyle as the new Case Manager. Please keep Jonathan and Tammy in your prayers as they direct this program and extend our services to the many homeless families in Carbon County.

<u>Ben Salem UCC will be hosting Family Promise on September 9-15, 2018</u>. We will be helping four families (10 people) by providing meals, fellowship, and a safe place to sleep. Over this last year, we have lost a few faithful volunteers due to increased work schedules or moving out of the area. This program is in need of additional volunteers...people who are caring, people who want to help others, people who want to follow Jesus! Please consider volunteering so that we can continue helping those in need. We will make sure you receive proper instruction and that you feel comfortable in your role.

Upcoming Events:

September 15: 9-5 at Zion UCC, Lehighton – Carbon County MH/DS Office will be offering a free Mental Health First Aid and Training to all Family Promise Volunteers, Pastors, Board Members & Staff.

September 22: Cycle Out Homelessness – Bike Trail Ride presented by All One Charities. Register: <u>https://www.facebook.com/events/2195488127133531/</u>

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



Neighbors in Need Sunday- October 7

Neighbors in Need offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 7. This offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service

projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors of the UCC. One-third of the offering supports UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S. Please give generously!

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 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 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.



Wednesday, September 26 12 Noon Fellowship Hall Bring a snack to share!

GAME DAY

Please let the church office know if you plan to attend Game Day!

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: (next meeting September 6 at 9 AM)

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 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 and other items goes directly to Phase II Fund.

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



Our Members and Friends with Special Needs: <u>In Institutions:</u>

Keep in Your Prayers:

***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!

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.



Our Sympathy is extended to:

The Family of Gordon Thomas Snyder who passed away on July 5, 2018 The Family of Catherine D. Reese Platia who passed away on July 14, 2018

Welcome New Members:

Thomas Hosler was received as a member of Ben Salem UCC on July 1, 2018. Harry and Susan Rhoads-Procina were received as members of Ben Salem UCC on July 29, 2018.

Weddings

Susan Zielinski and Scott Ostrin were married on August 11, 2018 Alaina Reese and Zachary Geppert were married at Ben Salem UCC on August 18, 2018 Kevin Graver and Nicole Firestone were married on August 19, 2018



Dear Prayer Shawl Makers, The shawl was beautiful! Your thoughtfulness means so very much. Thank you for thinking of me! It truly is a blessing to have you in my life! Love, Cheryl Frantz Marucci

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, There just are no sufficient words in the English, or for that matter any other language, to express to you our humble and sincere appreciation for the wonderful meal that you served last Thursday to God's children in our community. One is able to easily tell that your labor in this ministry is indeed a heartfelt act of love and compassion. You are indeed the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Thanks again and God bless each of you.

Kenneth J. Leffler, Member of Mission Outreach Committee, Zion UCC, Lehighton

Thank you "Receivers of Prayer Shawls" for the lovely flowers. I wish in some way I could share them with so many that put forth their talents, prayers and generous contributions of yarn and donations. Without them this would not be possible. I think we all receive as much as those receiving. May God's blessings be with all of us. Ben Salem is truly a family ..."A Family of God" God bless, Betty Nothstein

Dear Prayer Shawl Friends and Members of Ben Salem UCC, Thank you for the beautiful shawls that were given to us created by your team. We wrapped ourselves many times in them during our convalescence and felt the love and prayers. It was so comforting to us. Also thank you for your cards, prayers and well wishes extended to us during our convalescence. Dick and Becky Bisbing

Community Events: (October, November)

St. John's Fall Bazaar

(826 Mahoning Dr. West, Lehighton) Friday, Oct. 5 from 5 to 8 PM Saturday, Oct. 6 from 9 AM to 2 PM Bake Sale, Homemade Filling & Soup, Rummage Sale, Fall Decorations, Candy, Crafts, Raffle & Basket Raffle 10% benefits CROP Hunger Walk

Fall Bazaar at Emmanuel UCC

(509 Hamilton St., Bowmanstown, PA) Saturday, October 6 from 9 AM to 2 PM Food, Prize Auction, Homemade Soup Sale, Baked Goods, Handcrafted Wooden items, Raffle

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



Tuesdav Wednesday Mondav Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday 1 Fellowship Hall reserved 2 5 7 3 Labor 4 6 8 Communion Day 6-8 PM 9:30 AM Line Dancing 9AM Blanket Makers 6 AM to 10 PM 6:30 PM Cherub & Rev. Den Schappell Washington DC Confirmation & **Junior Choirs** Trip 8 AM Worship Quilters Class 7 PM Senior Choir 10:30 AM Worship 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Assn. 9 11 12 15 10 13 14 8 AM Worship 6-8 PM 9:30 AM Line Dancing 9AM Blanket Makers 9:15 AM Sunday 6:30 PM Cherub & Confirmation & School Rally Day Junior Choirs Quilters Class 10:30 AM Worship 7 PM Senior Choir 10AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Blessing of Backpacks 6:30PM Hand Bells Stewardship & Deadline Hoagie Finance Mtg. orders LY PROM F 17 18 19 22 16 20 21 9:30 AM Line Dancing 8 AM Worship 8 AM Hoagie Sale Wedding Wedding in 7 PM 6-8 PM 6:30 PM Cherub & 9AM Blanket Makers Rehearsal 9:15 AM Sunday Sanctuary / Church Confirmation Junior Choirs Fellowshp Hall & Quilters School begins Board Mtg. Class 7 PM Senior Choir 10:30 AM Worship 10AM Bible Study Social Hall reserved Reserved 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Comm. 25 29 23 24 26 27 28 8 AM Worship 9:30 AM Line Dancing 9AM Blanket Makers 6-8 PM **Fall Festival** 9:15 AM Sunday 12 Noon Game Dav Confirmation & & Basket 6 PM Newsletter School Class Quilters Raffle 6:30 PM Cherub & 10:30 AM Worship 10AM Bible Study 10 AM to 3 PM **Junior Choirs** Hand Bells 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Senior Choir 30 World Food Day/Harvest Home 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship

September 2018