

BEN SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHERE TO REACH US:

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

STREET ADDRESS:

1965 Church Hill Road
Lehighon, 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

April 2018

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

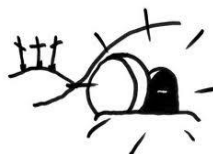
As I write this letter we are in the midst of hopefully the only spring snowstorm this year. While it looks beautiful outside with the snow silhouetting the trees as it blankets the ground, it does feel as if nature is playing a joke on us here in the Northeast. I mean I have driven through a snow and sleet storm in June already but that was because I was driving over some of the highest mountains in the United States. In the Sierra Nevada Mountains it is not unusual for the highways and roads to have to be closed for a time in the month of May or June because of snow and ice. But here in the Northeast we expect warmer weather in March and April and certainly so in May and June. What we don't expect is a foot of snow towards the end of March. It seems as if nature had other ideas.

While this weather may seem uncalled-for I can only imagine how when Jesus went to the cross the people must have felt after His inconceivably miraculous resurrection. Those who thought they had defeated Him had to have felt as if a joke was being played on them. But the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is No Joke!

Others say that the resurrection was God playing a joke on the devil and while this is an enjoyable way for us to talk about something we cannot fully comprehend or understand, God certainly wouldn't play games with something as important as revealing His ultimate world changing authority.

The reason I say this is because I want us to remember how fortunate we are to be loved by God to the extent that God was willing to show us this love by allowing His self in Jesus the Christ to be killed on a cross; only to rise up in the face of death with supreme power and sovereignty. So as it may seem appropriate for Easter Sunday to have fallen on the first day of April, a day much of the Western World has set aside as a day of tricks, pranks, and hoaxes, we can be assured that there was no trickery or hoax inferred on that fateful day. The day was and is a day meant to be a statement to God's creation of the ultimate love and mercy for all people created in the image of God.

We are a loved people and through our celebration and remembrance of the most miraculous event in the history of the world let us remember God's magnificent love and grace shown to all who come to believe in the resurrected Christ. It takes a strong and faithful person to stand up and say you believe in Jesus resurrection and we are those strong and faithful people. May our strength and faith lead us all of our days as we stand with Christ knowing that where others see hurt and brokenness we see Christ who heals and mends His faithful followers.



Pastor Mike

Worship Services:

Worship Schedule for April 2018

April 1 - 8 AM and 10:30 AM Services with Communion
April 8 - 8 AM and 10:30 AM Services (Holy Humor Sunday)
April 15, 22, 29 - 8 AM and 10:30 AM Services



**Easter
Services
April 1, 2018
8 AM and
10:30 AM**



Communion Service:

**Easter – April 1
Communion at 8 AM and 10:30 AM**

**with
Communion**



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**Thursday Mornings
10AM – 12 Noon
Fellowship Hall Board Room**

*Please join our group as we
continue studying
“Be Authentic”
(Genesis 25-50)
by Warren Wiersbe*

Hand Bell Choir
April 15, 10:30 AM
May 27, 10:30 AM



Worship Schedule May 2018

May 6 – 8 AM & 10:30 AM Services with Communion
May 13 – 8 AM & 10:30 AM Services (Mother's Day)
May 20 – 8 AM Service / Pentecost
10:30 AM Service / Pentecost / Confirmation / Communion
May 27 – 8 AM and 10:30 AM Services / Trinity Sunday
10 AM Memorial Day Service on Cemetery



COFFEE HOUR
Volunteers needed!



Choirs are back to
Wednesday evening for practices:
Cherub & Junior Choir – 6:30 PM
Senior Choir – 7:00 PM

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, Pres.,
Kenneth Oswald, Cliff Snowberger

Deacons: Terry Blair, Shirley Kline, Doris Lusch, Robin Lutz,
Robert Pope, Sec., 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 Meeting: April 16 at 7PM

Ben Salem History Books – Very limited # available

\$60 – Contact the Church Office 570-386-3870

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

Cemetery Association Officers: Cemetery Association: April 5, 7 PM
Parish Assembly Meeting: no meeting scheduled

Next Meetings: April 5 at 7 PM Property Committee: April 19, 7 PM

President: Bernice Steigerwalt Vice President: Fran Poblay

Caretaker: David Fritz Secretary: Walter Keeck

Treasurer: Doris Lusch Trustees: Dennis Frantz

Cemetery Lot Prices: \$300 for plots with pipe openings 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.

Email addresses

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., Leighton, 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 February 2018



[Philippians 4:13](#) - *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens 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



Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinners, fellowship with the families (play games or read with the children), and stay overnight. Donations of food, snacks, and baked goods are needed. Please consider helping out!

Contact: Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842

khayman@ptd.net

*Thank you to everyone who helped with our hosting week in March
Our next hosting week will be June 10 - 16 !*

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.



Names of 2018 Graduates Needed: If you know someone who is graduating this year, please call or email the Church Office. This includes high school and college graduates. Please include graduation date, majors and degree/s.
Ben Salem Graduate Recognition Sunday will be held on June 10.

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, 2018.

Penn Northeast Conference
Gwilym T. Williams Scholarship

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 www.pnec.org to obtain an application form. If you would like to call the conference office the phone number is 610-826-3113.

Upcoming Fundraisers:

HOAGIE SALE - BEN SALEM U.C.C.
ORDERS DUE April 15 PICK-UP April 26 (10:30 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 _____

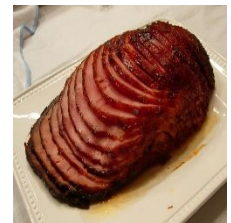
TOTAL # ORDERED _____ @ \$5.00 EACH TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

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



Ham & Dandelion Dinner:
April 21st serving from 3 to 7 PM

Adults - \$10 Children age 5-12 - \$5
Under 5 – free



(making dressing on April 16)

Items Needed for
Ham & Dandelion Dinner – April 21

4 gal. applesauce
15 doz. hard boiled eggs
2 large containers dish detergent
4 large cans decaf coffee
5 gal. milk
8 loaves (rye or wheat) bread
4 loaves white bread
6 bushels dandelion
(cleaned & cut to one inch pieces)



Items needed for Dressing:

- 2 lb. sugar
- 3 boxes of pepper
- 5 lb. flour
- 8 doz. eggs
- 5 cans of evaporated milk
- 24 lb. bacon
- 8 lb. onions
- 3 gal. apple cider vinegar
- ***(need at Fellowship Hall kitchen by April 15)
- Dressing will be made on April 16

Desserts needed: sugar free or regular...please mark all desserts. All desserts are appreciated: jello, pudding, pies, cakes, fresh fruit salads

Volunteers are needed to set up and to serve & work the kitchen:

Friday April 20 at 6 PM, Saturday, April 21 from 11 AM to 7 PM

Contact LaVaun Shanton at 484-225-0368 for more information

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.

For a safety issue, it committee members listed. The purpose of the a discount on the the Risk Management the Safety committee

include: Ron Steigerwalt, Rodger Diehl, Barry Reed, Tom Kupres, Pastor Mike – Ex Officio.

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

**Wednesday, April 25 - Noon
Fellowship Hall
Bring a snack to share!**



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. 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.

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.

Special Prayers

Our Members and Friends with Special Needs: In Institutions:



***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.

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

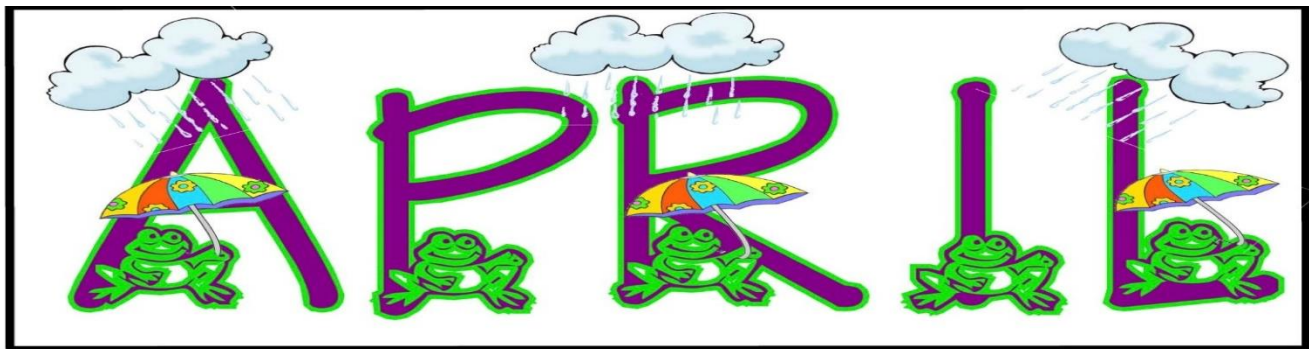
Jessica A. Bealer: FC2# Bealer, Jessica, A USS Paul Hamilton
[DDG-60] CS/CF, FPO AP 96667-1278

→ Jessica is now back on base in the USA

Jeremy Zellers, Norfolk, VA – on Submarine Newport News

*Please confirm if you know of someone who is serving at this time or if names are missed or status changes

Our sympathies are extended to:
The family of Clair M. Andreas who
passed away on March 4, 2018



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunday Communion 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	2	3	4 8 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	5 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Assn.	6	7
8 Holy Humor Sunday 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	9	10	11 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	12 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells	13 Fundraising Project MS	14
15 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship/ Hand Bells/ Baptism Hoagie Orders Due	16 Making Dandelion Dressing 7 PM Church Board Meeting	17	18 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	19 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Meeting	20 Set up tables, etc. for dinner	21 3-7 PM Ham & Dandelion Dinner

Preparations for Ham & Dandelion Dinner

22 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	23	24	25 9:30 AM Line Dancing 12 Noon Game Day 6 PM Newsletter 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	26 7 AM Hoagie Sale 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 10:30 - Noon Hoagie Order Pickup	27	28 Social Hall Rental
29 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship/ Baptism	30 6:30 PM Worship Committee					

Community Events: at Emmanuel UCC, Bowmanstown (Call 610-852-2707 FMI)
Basket Social Saturday, April 28 from 8 AM to 2 PM (ticket sales only)
Sunday, April 29 from Noon to 4 PM