

# 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@verizon.net](mailto:bensalemucc@verizon.net)

Fax: 570-386-3870 [call, speak to secretary, then call back]

Pastor Michael McGowan: Home – 610-759-9126

Office e-mail: [pstrbens@verizon.net](mailto:pstrbens@verizon.net)

One  
in  
Chris

Website: [www.bensalemucc.com](http://www.bensalemucc.com)



BEN SALEM UCC  
PO 128  
ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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## BEN SALEM VOICE

March - 2016

Ben Salem United Church of Christ  
PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Good day to all who are reading this letter. As you read this we are moving through the season of Lent, a season of reflection, penance and devotion. And during this season I would like us to consider what it means to have faith in the God of mercy and grace. So I would like to share a story with you that I told during our Ash Wednesday service. It is a moving story and one that I hope will nudge you to reflect on your relationship with God.

Awhile back I read a story about a woman who attended church faithfully. So when Ash Wednesday rolled around, she was there to receive her mark of ashes on her forehead to symbolize her commitment to living a life of love in the way of Jesus Christ. She received her ashes and wore them humbly throughout the day. As evening fell and she prepared herself for a nights rest she reverently removed the ashes from her head and as she wrung out the washcloth – watched intently as the blackness of the ash swirled down the drain. Not giving it another thought – she said her prayers and turned in for a night of rest.

A few weeks later after going to see her doctor she found out that her life was going to end. The doctor had revealed to her that she had a rare form of cancer that had metastasized throughout her whole body. She was told she had three weeks to live. Now this woman was 89 years old so rather than trying to fill her final weeks with a lifetime of activity she asked her doctors if there was a hospice house that could accommodate her. As the hospice staff cared for her compassionately she asked that her family share her final days with her; this way her family could focus on their relationship with her and not have to worry about her care.

As her children and their family came to spend time with her during her final weeks she found it comforting knowing she was not going to die alone. Her family came in shifts so she would never have to be alone. The one thing she told each of them in her final days was how surprised she was when the doctor told her the cancer was terminal. She had felt fine, or as good as a spry 89 year old could feel. But as she considered this further she remembered how the ash swirling down the drain had grabbed her attention that night not long ago and she said – you know, I guess we are all terminal – from the day we are born – and just as the ash went down the drain that night – so too is our life on earth.

As this woman spent her final days with her loved ones she assured them she did not fear death. She shared with them all how her one true hope and comfort was found in the God who came to earth to relieve us of our guilt from sin and offer us the gift of eternal life. As she shared her epiphany with them she assured them what her faith led her to believe. And that is the glorious story of Easter – how Christ humbly died at the hands of all humanity only to be resurrected by the power of God. Her faith was firmly in the power of God to not only defeat death but in the promise to one day resurrect all those who die in humble faith in Christ. We are an Easter people who have the same trust in God's power and love. Hope to see you all this Easter Sunday.

*Faith IS NOT KNOWING  
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,  
BUT KNOWING  
who holds the future.*



to you.  
Pastor Mike

## March Worship Services

**March 6, 13, 20, 27 – Services at 8 AM and 10:30 AM**

**March 16 – Lenten Service at 7:30 PM**

**March 24 – Maundy Thursday - Meal at 6PM, with  
Communion & Tenebrae Service Following**

### Communion



**Maundy Thursday, March 24**

**7:30 PM**

**Easter Sunday, March 27**

**8 AM & 10:30 AM**

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**Thursdays at 10AM**

“The Best of James W. Moore.  
Thoughts on Faith and Grace  
from a Master Storyteller”

**New  
Book**

### *Lenten Services*

[Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM]

Theme: “Open My Life, Lord”

#### March 2

Host Church – St. John’s Lutheran, Mahoning Valley  
Preacher: Rev. Michael McGowan

#### March 9

Host Church – Zion’s Stone Church, Snyders  
Preacher: Rev. Allison deForest

#### March 16

Host Church – Ben Salem UCC  
Preacher: Rev. Cheryl Moore

We host the Lenten Service on March 16.  
Donations of baked goods, fruit/vegetables,  
snack items and drinks are needed.

Please contact the church office or Amy Lusch to help.

### Daybreak Director Needed!

Please contact Pastor McGowan if you are interested in this position. The group is also looking for a **pianist, instrumentalists and singers**. If you are musically inclined and enjoy praising the Lord through music please speak to one of the band members today. Have questions? Please consider sharing the gifts God has given you! If you have a talent to offer, please see any of the members of Daybreak.



### Worship Schedule for April – June, 2016

April	3	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship – Holy Humor Sunday
	10	8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Worship
	17	10:30 AM Worship – Music Sunday
	24	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship
May	1	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship / Communion
	8	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship / Mother’s Day
	15	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship / Communion – Pentecost / Confirmation
	22	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship
	29	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship
June	5	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship / Communion
	12	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship
	19	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship/Father’s Day
	26	8:00 and 10:30 AM Worship

### **Call to Annual Congregational Dinner & Meeting**

Sunday, March 6 following the  
10:30 AM Service

**Meal in the fellowship Hall  
Please bring a covered dish  
meat and drinks provided**

Meeting follows – receive a  
2015 annual report  
financial and committee reports  
**please mark your calendars  
and plan to attend!**

# 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.

**Pastor:** Rev. Michael McGowan

**Church Secretary:** Dollie Behr

**Treasurer:** Dawne Beidleman

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

**Upcoming Church Board Meetings: March 21, 2016 at 7 PM**

**Ben Salem History Books  
are still available / \$60**

**Contact the Church Office [570-386-3870]**

## Cemetery Association Officers:

Next Meeting: March 3 at 7 PM

President: Bernice Steigerwalt      Vice President: Evan Beblavy  
Caretaker: David Fritz              Secretary: Walter Keeck  
Treasurer: Doris Lusch              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.

## 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 [suemes@ptd.net](mailto:suemes@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!*



## 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.

*Have you remembered the church in your will?*

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

Stewardship & Finance: March 7 at 6:30 PM

Property Committee: March 17, at 7 PM

Newsletter Assembly: March 30 at 6 PM

**[please submit information 1 week prior]**

Called to Care: April 12, 10 AM

Mission Committee: online meetings at [cti2@ptd.net](mailto:cti2@ptd.net)

**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.

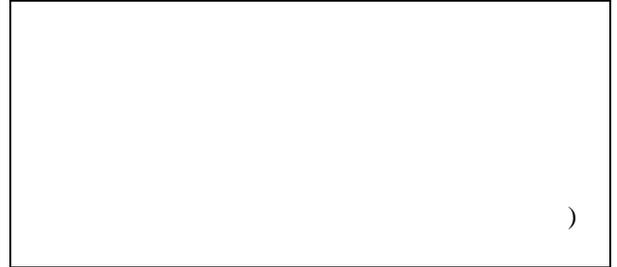
## Recycle...Save your soda cans...

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.**

**In case of Inclement Weather:** If there is no message on the church answering machine, please check our website at [bensalemucc.com](http://bensalemucc.com) or call either Board President Sharon Elder 570-386-2530 or Church Secretary, Dollie Behr at 570-386-4981 to find out if there are cancellations.



**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](http://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](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) for complete Terms and Conditions.

**Ben Salem Church – Facebook Page**

Members and non-members can search for and “Like” our page. The page will be kept up to date with devotions, events, concerts, fundraisers, youth group events, etc. Please take the time to view this page.

Coming Up on  
Sunday, April 10  
2:00 PM in the Sanctuary

*Concert*  
with the  
*“The Hawks”*  
and  
*“Lost and Found”*

Free Will Offering will be accepted.  
Proceeds to go to Ben Salem United Church of Christ  
[Phase II Loan]



A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at Ben Salem Church on Sunday, April 24 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Additional information will be in next month’s newsletter.



**Youth Group - Coloring Easter Eggs: March 4 AND Easter Egg Hunt: March 12**

On March 4, starting at 7 PM – the Youth Group and interested adults will be coloring eggs for the Egg Hunt to be held in conjunction with the Spring Bazaar. If you would like to help the youth group with this project, please come out that night and remember to wear old clothing. The following items are needed: hard-boiled eggs, egg dying kits, and prizes. Your help with this project will be greatly appreciated! The Egg Hunt will be held at 11 AM on March 12 at the [old] Social Hall. Please bring your eggs to the church no



later than March 3, and prizes no later than March 6. You may contact Kevin Lusch for more information regarding the egg hunt.

**Cherub Choir Egg Hunt** The Cherub Choir Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 26 at 10 AM. As is of colored hard boiled eggs and prizes will be appreciated. Contact Cindy Nothstein for information.



### The Safe...a story by Pedro Pablo Sacristán

<http://freestoriesforkids.com/children/stories-and-tales/safe>

Once upon a time, a greedy, rich man hired a great mathematician. The rich man wanted the mathematician to find the best way for him to make the greatest profit in everything he did. The rich man was building a huge safe, and his greatest dream was to fill it with gold and jewels.

The mathematician was shut away for months in his study, before finally believing he had found the solution. But he soon found there were some errors in his calculations, and he started all over again.

One night he appeared at the rich man's house, with a big smile on his face: "I found it!" he said, "My calculations are perfect." The rich man was going on a long journey the next day, and didn't have time to listen. He promised the mathematician he would pay him double his wages if he would take charge of the business while he was away, and put the new formulas into practice. Excited by his new discovery, the mathematician was delighted to accept.

When the rich man returned, months later, he found that all of his possessions had gone. Furious, he went to ask for an explanation from the mathematician. The mathematician calmly told him what he had done. He had given

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in couldn't believe it, but the mathematician explained it further. Each many could gain the maximum benefit, but what I could do was always limited. I can do by himself. Then I understood the key was that many people could help us to do that helping others was the best way to get more and more people to benefit us." The greedy man stormed off, desperate at having lost everything to the hare-brained mathematician. As he was walking away disconsolately, several neighbors ran over, worried about the mathematician shared out the rich man's fortune. They felt so grateful to him that they gave them their houses, and anything such a special man might need. The neighbors even



Over the next few days, he saw the full results of what the mathematician had calculated. Wherever he went he was received with great honor, and everyone was willing to help him in whatever way they could. He realized that his not having anything had given him much, much more.

In this way, he managed to quickly set up flourishing businesses, but this time he followed the brilliant mathematician's advice. No longer did he keep his riches in a safe, or anything like it. Instead, he shared out his fortune among a hundred friends, whose hearts he had converted into the perfect, most grateful and fruitful of safes.



Although this is a very cute children's story, there is a moral to be learned... you will never be able to out-give God! Everything we give to others will, sooner or later, be returned to us, sometimes in a form we do not expect. If you need more of something, give it away and you'll get more back!

Our Family Promise program is looking for additional "cheerful givers". If you are able to give away a few hours of your time, prepare a meal to be dropped off, or donate a baked good, your help would be greatly appreciated. Our next hosting week is April 17-23, 2016.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV):** "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

**If you are able to help or need more information:**  
Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842 or [khayman@ptd.net](mailto:khayman@ptd.net)



*One Great  
Hour of  
Sharing*

*Thank you to everyone who has supported our Fundraisers .*

These projects are only successful with your continued support, whether it be by donating your time, needed supplies, or money to purchase the supplies, by getting orders from your friends & neighbors, or by attending our fundraising events. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Elder or Sue Messina. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Upcoming Fundraisers:**

Giant Gift Cards

Beef Stick Sale

Candy Making: March 1, 7, 8 at 8 AM

Spring Bazaar: March 12, 2016

Hoagie Sale: March 17 at 7AM

[Order Deadline: March 6]

Shoo-Fly Pie Sale: April 2 at 8 AM

[Order Deadline: March 27]

Pierogie Making: April 25, 26, 27 and May 2, 3

[Order Deadline: April 10]

[Pick up orders – April 29, May 5]

Hoagie Sale: April 21 at 7 AM [order deadline: April 10]

Hoagie Sale: May 19 at 7 AM [order deadline: May 8]



# Spring Bazaar

**BEN SALEM UCC**

***Saturday, March 12, 2016***

**9:30 am – 3 pm**

**Raffle (*Large Items*)**

**Basket Raffle (*100+ Items*)**

**Food & Bake Sale**

**Homemade Easter Candy**

**Quilt Raffle & Knotted Blankets**

**Wooden Handcrafted Items**

**....And Much More!**

***Egg Hunt at 11 AM***



**5% of profits will be donated to Shepherd House (*a supplemental food distribution program for qualifying low-income individuals in Carbon County*)**

**5% of profits will be donated to Paul's Place (*a home in Brodheadsville to help homeless veterans get back on their feet and once again lead productive lives*)**

If you would like to make a donation or help at the event,  
please call Judy: 570-386-5554 or Karen: 570-241-7842  
In the event of bad weather, please call for more information!

### **GAME DAY INFORMATION**

**Game Day has been cancelled  
for the month of March!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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.

### **<<<Pierogie Sale>>>**

Homemade Pierogies...Potato and Cheese filled pierogies will be fresh frozen by the dozen in  
freezer bags. Cost - \$6.00 per dozen

Deadline to order is April 10. Please fill in the order blank below and place in the  
box located in the narthex. Thank you!

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose [check one] pick-up date for your order \_\_\_\_\_ April 29  
\_\_\_\_\_ May 5

Quantity of pierogies ordered [by the dozen] \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$6.00 each

Pierogies will be made on April 25, 26, 27 and May 2, 3. Monday is the day we make the pierogie filling.  
Potato peelers are needed. Tuesday and Wednesday are the days we will make the pierogies. Help is needed  
to roll the dough and make the pierogies. Work begins at 8 A.M. Your help is appreciated.

**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.

### **HOMEMADE SHOO FLY PIES**

Price \$8.00 for 9 inch pie

Deadline for orders – March 27

Pick-up - Saturday, April 2, noon - 1:00 P.M. at the Fellowship Hall.

\_\_\_\_\_ pies @ \$8.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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

paper,  
time,  
money

**WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING BEN SALEM CHURCH  
SAVE PAPER, MONEY AND TIME?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL?**

If so, please fill out the following form and place it in the box located in the narthex or mail it  
to Ben Salem UCC, PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211.



**Photographs...** Barry Fink has set up an email address for members to send photographs of church activities: The email address is [bensalemphotos@gmail.com](mailto:bensalemphotos@gmail.com) **Photos should be sent as attachments** to the email please note in the e-mail what activity is being represented. Emails must be under 25 Meg in size. **Please note:** The photographs may be used in presentations prior to or during worship services.

**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]

**Quilt Class Survey---Please Print**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Day and Time

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: Day of the week I am available. M Tu F Circle time 6:30p.m. or 7:00p.m.

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice Day of the week I am available. \_\_\_\_\_ Time I am available \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply.

	Yes	No
I want to know how to <b>hand quilt</b> .		
I want to make <b>a quilt block</b> .		
I want to make <b>different quilt blocks</b> . (Sampler Quilt)		
I want to make <b>small quilted projects</b> .		
I want to make <b>a quilt for a bed</b> .		
List what you want to learn.		

**Health & Wellness Committee**



**FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS:** Watch for more information in bulletins. The Health and Wellness Committee will organize the upcoming Blood Drives. The Committee has a bulletin board located between the church offices. There is important information about vaccinations on the board at this time.

**Names of 2016 Graduates Needed:** If you know of someone who is graduating this year, please call or e-mail the information to the church office. This includes high-school and college graduates. Graduate Recognition will be held on June 12 at both services. Names should be submitted by May 18 to be included in the June newsletter. Please include majors and degrees if you wish.



**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.

**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](http://www.pnec.org)  
to obtain an application form. If you would like to call the conference office the phone number is 610-826-3113.

**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. The next Called to Care meeting will be held on April 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 Dr. Lewis Williams. Lew passed away on February 8 and his funeral was held at Ben Salem Church on February 11.

The Family of Kimberly Mowery-Schnell-Briz. Kim passed away on February 18. Services were held on February 22.

Thank You Notes

- Received from Church World Service [UCC] – for our gift of \$203.00
- Received from Lancaster Theological Seminary – for our gift of \$11.00
- Received from Bethany Children’s Home – for our gift of \$138.00
- Received from PNEC for our gift towards OCWM / Bethany Children’s Home

Dear Pastor and Members of Ben Salem UCC,

On behalf of St. Paul’s UCC and the Church Council, I want to express my deep appreciation and thank you for y our Memorial Gift in memory of Rev. Paul W. Cope. Rev. Cope’s family will be notified of your kind remembrance of their loved one. Your gift will be used for the good of St. Paul’s UCC’s Mission and Ministry. Once again, thank you. Yours in Christ, Dietmar Plajer, Pastor  
[\*\*I will treasure Rev. Cope in my heart and thank God for his faithful ministry. Many blessings!]

Your kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Thanks to Pastor Mike for his hospital visit and home visit and for the women who made the prayer shawl. Thanks again to all the women and men who helped with the meal. [Elaine Diehl, Dolores Troxell, Judy Troxell, LaVaun Shanton, Murray & Kay Andreas, Barry Reed, and Sandy & Richard Bealer] Thanks to all! Diane Hartung

Dear Ben Salem Church Members,

Thank you so much for the beautiful hand crocheted prayer shawl you gave me. I have wrapped myself in it daily since I had surgery. I am doing fine and on my way to recovery. Thank you for blessing me with it and all your prayers. Kathy Merluzzi

Valor is very grateful for your generous gift. We would like you to know that your thoughtfulness is making a difference in the lives of so many. Sincerely, The Valor Clinic Foundation [Blankets donated to this group]

Dear Ben Salem UCC Blanket Makers, Thank you so much for all of the blankets you donated for our veterans and homeless. God bless you all, Sally Wargo – Gold Star Mother

Family Promise Note: Thank you for everything!! Amber, Eddie, Emy, Christian & Pedro; Thank you for everything you did for me and my family. Linda, Mason & Isabella; Everything you do for FPCC families means more than words can say! Thank you for hosting! Natalie ☺

Mission Committee of Ben Salem UCC: We would like to send our deepest gratitude for the generous donation to the MARTIN Flu Foundation. As you might be aware, we are a grass roots non-profit organization that advocated for all to receive their influenza vaccine every year. Your donation will help in that endeavor. Thank you again. Blessings to you, Diane M. McGowan, MARTIN’S Mom



**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.

Easter Flower Project

*sponsored by the Ben Salem Youth Group*

Deadline to order – March 14 Payment must be included with the order.

Please make checks payable to: Ben Salem Youth Group

Fill out the form below or call Amy Lusch at 570-386-5816 to order.

Lilies: \$7.50      Daffodils: \$6.50      Hyacinths: \$6.50      Tulips: \$6.50



Type of Flower: \_\_\_\_\_ sponsored in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Flower: \_\_\_\_\_ sponsored to the Glory of God

by \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Flower: \_\_\_\_\_ sponsored in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_



~ March 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 8 AM Candy Making 6:30 PM Senior Choir	<b>2</b> 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7:30 PM Lenten Service at St. John's Mahoning Valley	<b>3</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Association	<b>4</b> 7 PM Youth Group Coloring Easter Eggs	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Lent IV 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship & Ann. Congregational Mtg. Hoagie orders due	<b>7</b> 8 AM Candy Making 6:30 PM Stewardship & Finance Mtg.	<b>8</b> 8 AM Candy Making 6:30 PM Senior Choir	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7:30 PM Lenten Service at Zion's Stone, Snyners	<b>10</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 AM – 3 PM Spring Bazaar 11AM Egg Hunt 
<b>13</b> Lent V 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Snow Date - Bazaar	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Senior Choir	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7:30 PM Lenten Service at Ben Salem UCC Handbells	<b>17</b> 7 AM Hoagie Sale 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 – Noon Hoagie order pick up 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Committee	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Palm Sunday 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Handbells	<b>21</b> 7 PM Church Board Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	<b>24</b> 6PM Maundy Thursday Meal - Communion/Tenebrae Service Following	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Easter Prayer Vigil 10 AM Cherub Egg Hunt
<b>27</b> Easter Communion 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Shoo-fly Pie orders due	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6 PM Newsletter Assembly 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	<b>31</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells		

Setting up Spring Bazaar

