

BEN SALEM UCC  
PO 128  
ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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## 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)

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

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

Rev. James Knappenberger, Interim [610]767-6000 [if no answer, leave message]

Hugh Vrablic, Student Pastor

**One in Christ**



## **The Ben Salem Voice**

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

***February - 2010***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the name of the One who makes all things new, even Christ our Savior!

Way back in 2002, Pam and I invited another pastor and his wife to join us for an overnight stay at our remote and very rustic cabin on the northern most fringe of Pennsylvania, only a stone's throw from the great state of New York. As luck would have it, we discovered upon arrival late that night that the previous day had been blessed with over 16 inches of new, powdery snow; what a winter wonderland we awoke to the following morning with the fresh snow sitting silently on every bough and branch, and making the landscape glisten as though there had been some cosmic dumping of billions of jewels across the land! The scene was idyllic and the views from the frosted windows of the back porch were breath-taking. It didn't take long for the adventurous males of the group to decide that an early-morning snow hike was just what the doctor ordered to calm our souls, but a trek of about 100 feet made it clear that walking any distance in knee-deep snow was going to tax our circulatory systems far beyond our comfort levels.

In discussing our dilemma with a neighbor, who is a full-time resident of that beautiful place, he offered a simple solution to the problem – snowshoes! Neither of us had ever used them but we eagerly listened to his brief 10 minute cram-course of instruction, buckled our boots into the bindings, and off we trudged into the snowy wilderness. We quickly learned a great deal about snowshoes: snowshoes enable one to pass over some very difficult terrain and conditions; snowshoes empower one to go places one is otherwise not able to go; running or jogging does not work with snowshoes, only a very deliberate walk will work; it takes time to master their use; it takes considerable effort to strap them on and take them off; but the scenery at the top of the mountain makes all the effort worthwhile.

Long after that day I realized how much snowshoeing is a paradigm for my experience of faith. Faith is often difficult to acquire and most often is more difficult to practice; however, with some patience and due diligence, faith equips us with the ability to navigate the difficult and dangerous terrain of life; faith enables us to traverse safely many of the barriers which life places before us; and in the end, faith is the one thing which empowers us to get to places in our lives inaccessible by any other means.

As the new year of trials and challenges, joys and jublations unfolds ahead of us, I pray God equip you with the spiritual snowshoes you need to walk faithfully through it to the places God is calling you. Strap them on now and begin making tracks in accordance with His Word and His Will for you. The destination of your adventure will fill you with peace and joy and awe! God grant you, each one, strength for the journey and, as always...

Blessings along the way,

Pastor Jim



## Worship Schedule for February / March 2011

February 6, 13, 20, 27    March 13, 20, 27

[Two services at 8:15 and 10:30 AM]

March 6 – 10:30 A.M. only

### Communion Service

February 6  
8:15 and 10:30 AM



### Joyful Noise Offering: February 13



### Ash Wednesday Service

March 9  
7:30 P.M.



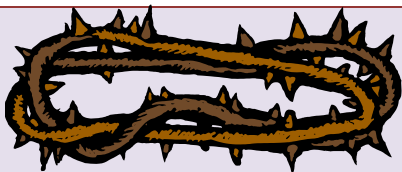
Communion

### Looking ahead to March:

**The Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on March 6. There will be one service on that Sunday at 10:30 A.M. A spaghetti dinner will be served by our youth at the Social Hall immediately following the worship service. The Congregational Meeting will follow the dinner.

As in the past, committee reports will be printed in the report. If you are the chair of a committee or group, please submit written reports to the Church Office by February 15.

Financial reports will be audited on Feb. 8. After reports are audited they should be turned in to the Church office to be included in the annual report.



### Community Lenten Services

Starting on March 16 we will be participating in the Community Lenten Services. Please watch upcoming bulletins and the March Newsletter for details on the schedule and information regarding the services.

The Hand Bells will participate in the 10:30 AM Services on February 13 & March 13.



**Coffee Hour:** Volunteers are needed to serve coffee.

If you would like to help for a week or two, please contact Sharon Elder at 570-386-2530.

# **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

## **2010 Church Board Members:**

Officers: Sharon Elder, President  
Ken Scherer, Vice President  
LaVaun Shanton, Secretary

Elders: Brian Beidleman, Sharon Elder, Ken Scherer, LaVaun Shanton

Deacons: Barry Fink, Amy Frantz, Denise Gerber, Walter Keeck,  
Terry Lusch, Judy Pope, Bernice Steigerwalt, Ron Steigerwalt,

Interim Pastor: Rev. James L. Knappenberger

Church Secretary: Dollie Behr

Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

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

**Next Church Board Meetings:** February 21, 7 PM

**Ben Salem History Books**  
are still available / \$60  
Contact the Church Office  
[570-386-3870]

**Cemetery Association Officers:** Next meeting February 3, 7 PM

[Meetings held on first Thursday of each month at 7 P.M.]

President: Dennis Frantz      Secretary: Walter Keeck      Trustee: Richard Bealer  
Vice-President: Christopher Galloway      Treasurer: Doris Lusch      Caretaker: David Fritz

## **Scheduling Events at Ben Salem Church:**

To prevent scheduling problems...prior to calling meetings or events, please check with the Church Secretary at 386-3870 to make sure that the date you have planned is available.

### **Sponsors Needed for 2011**

**Altar Flower Sponsors:** [Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]

A sign up sheet is located in the narthex. Cost of flower sponsorship is \$20.00. If you would like to sponsor flowers call Cindy Smith at 570-386-4248. \*\*\*Payment should be sent directly to: Cindy Smith, 707 Hoffman Rd., Leighton, PA 18235.

**Bulletin Sponsorship:** [Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]      Please call Sue Messina at 570-386-2880 with your sponsorship information or e-mail Sue at [suemess@ptd.net](mailto:suemess@ptd.net). 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!***

## **Call to Annual Congregational Meeting**

**March 6, 2011**

after the 10:30 A.M.

Worship Service

Review 2010 Financial  
Reports and Committee

Reports

...Discuss future

**[There will be no 8:15 A.M.  
Service that day]**

### **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.

## Phase II – Building Program



Anyone who is interested in serving on the Phase II Study Committee should contact Rodger Diehl 570-386-5413. After the committee has completed their findings, the final design and costs will be brought to the congregation for discussions and a vote.

**Note:** The Church Board has been approached by several members wishing to donate to the Phase II Project. The Board has decided to accommodate these individuals with the stipulation that the money donated will stay in the Building Account until such time as a building program is approved by the congregation.



### **Upcoming Committee Meetings**

Christian Education – February 2, 6:30 P.M.  
Property Committee – February 17 and March 17, 7 PM  
Missions Committee – February 7, 2011 at 10 AM  
Fundraisers – March 14, 2011 at 7 PM  
Called to Care – February 7, 2011 at 1 PM  
Membership & Growth – February 7 and March 7 at 7 PM  
Cemetery Association – February 3 and March 3 at 7 PM



**Farm Family Appreciation Celebration: Saturday, March 19**  
**at the Hamburg Field House [reservations due: March 3]**  
**Everyone is invited, farm families & farm family supporters.**  
**There are information sheets available**  
**on the counter in the narthex of the church.**

### **Game Night Social [at Ben Salem Social Hall]**

**For all ages....**

**March 19 from 5 P.M. to 8 P.M.**

**Come out and join us for a night of fun! Card**

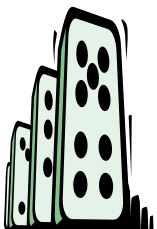
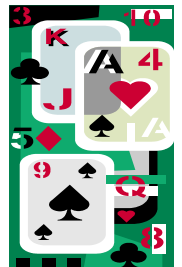
**Games: Pinochle and Haus**

**Parchesi, dominoes, video games**

**for the kids...and more!**

**Food will be served...**

**please bring a dessert.**



## New Building Fund

**Next Fundraisers Meeting: March 14 at 7 PM**

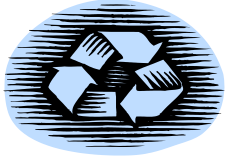
### How to contribute to the New Building Fund:

To contribute money to the New Building Fund:

\*\*\*Make check payable to Ben Salem UCC but designate "New Building Fund"

\*\*\*Use a separate envelope -included monthly in your 2010-2011 envelope packet or available in the Church narthex.

If you use your weekly envelope it causes much extra paperwork. If you have any questions pertaining to the New Building Fund...please contact Dolores Kuehner at 386-4877.



### Recycle...save your soda cans...

Larry Nothstein and Herlin Haberman continue to take aluminum cans to Zaprazny's. To help with this project...bring your **aluminum soda cans** [crushed or uncrushed] to the Old Social Hall and drop them off at the lower basement entrance. Benefits the New Building Fund.

**Please do not throw any other garbage items in with the aluminum soda cans.**

## Longaberger Basket Bingo February 12 at Mahoning Valley Ambulance Building



The Ben Salem Fundraisers will be holding their 9<sup>th</sup> annual Longaberger Basket Bingo on Saturday, February 12, 2010 at the Mahoning Valley Ambulance Building. Doors will open at 12 pm with the bingo beginning at 1 pm. Tickets are \$20.00 each and the first 75 tickets sold will be eligible to win an extra basket. As in years past, all proceeds from this event will benefit Ben Salem's New Building Fund.

We are in need of monetary donations to off-set the cost of baskets and door prizes. We also are in need of donations for the Chinese auction that is held during the bingo. Chinese auction prizes should be valued at a minimum of \$15.00. All donors are recognized in the bingo program that day.

If you are interested in donating in any way to this event or would like to purchase tickets, please see Emily (Smith) Gerber or Cathy or Dayle Smith in person, or call 570-386-4344.

Note: all checks should be made payable to Ben Salem UCC. As always, thank you for your support!



Next meeting: Monday, February 7 at 10 AM in the parlor

## Hunger Relief (Feb) - CWS Water for All

More than a billion people worldwide lack clean water, and more than 2.1 million people most of them children die each year from waterborne disease. Water cannot be taken for granted.

Some experts predict that by the middle of this century people in over 60 countries could face water shortages. At the heart of the threat to future water supplies is the destruction of ecosystems. For example, over half the countries in Africa are "water-stressed." Lack of access to water affects the life of vulnerable populations, making the simple task of collecting water a tremendous burden.

CWS supports communities in obtaining and managing their own potable water supplies and watershed sources. We regard water as a responsibility of public service, not as a resource for the few who can afford to pay. This means preventing policies that narrow the range of available options such as trade rules that encourage inappropriate privatization and commercialization of services and promoting the ability of local communities to develop their own solutions.

What better way to start the new year by helping a brother and sister in need!!! Please support our hunger relief project for February!!



The Leighton Furniture Bank is in need of beds, dressers and sofas. They also could use volunteers to help pick up donations. Contact: Shirley Radler 610-377-4278

Prayer Shawl Ministry: The Prayer Shawl Committee is in need of helpers to make the prayer shawls. If you can knit or crochet and would like to help, please contact Betty Nothstein at 570-386-5644 for more information.

## Donations Needed:

The Mission Committee will once again cook and serve at the Feed a Neighbor Dinner at Zion UCC in Leighton. The event takes place on February 24. If you would like to make a monetary donation toward the cost of the meat, please see Lonnie Christoff or place your donation in your Mission envelope and designate it "Feed a Neighbor". Also needed are donations of desserts. Please call [610-462-0883] or e-mail Lonnie if you are willing to help with this project. [lonniec@ptd.net](mailto:lonniec@ptd.net)

## Food Bank Requests for February [return to the church by February 20]

4 – 26 oz jars spaghetti sauce  
1 - 16 oz jar spaghetti sauce  
10 – boxes of hamburger helper  
10- cans of chili  
10 - cans soup  
12 - cans tuna fish  
8 - cans manwich

9 - boxes white rice  
4 - cans fruit  
10 – boxes macaroni & cheese  
4 – containers of cake icing  
8 – rolls of paper towel  
6 – 4 pk. toilet tissue



## **Blanket Makers/Quilters**

The Blanket Makers and Quilters meet on Thursday mornings. Contacts for the group are Dollie Frantz [386-4034] and Betty Nothstein [386-5644]. Helpers are always welcome! Come out and join them.

The 1953 State Quilt was won by Marvin Smith. The 2<sup>nd</sup> prize crocheted doily was won by Carl Johnson.

Thank You Note:

On December 20, the women donated \$600 from their sales to the New Building Fund. Earlier in the year the women donated \$500 to the New Building Fund bringing the total donated in 2010 to \$1100.

Thanks ladies for all of your hard work.



**Thursday Morning Bible Study:** *The Bible Study Group is meeting on Thursday mornings at 10 o'clock in the church parlor. The group is studying*

Ben Salem Church has a new...  
***playground!!!***

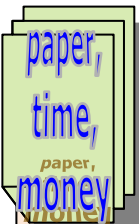
To donate money toward the project:  
call Kelly White @ 386-3072  
or Dawne Beidleman@ 386-2015



**Playground Fund: Subway Hoagie Coupon Sale**



The Playground Committee is selling Subway Hoagie Coupons from Beltzville Subway. Cost \$5 each. See or call Dawne Beidleman [570-386-2015] or Kelly White [570-386-3072] to purchase coupons. There is no expiration date on the coupons.



**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.



Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

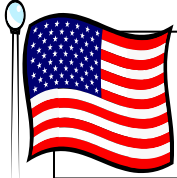
e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Special Prayers

**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. If you would like to be called with others' prayer requests as part of the Prayer Chain, also call Betty.

**Called to Care:** Trained volunteers from our church are available to assist the Pastor in visiting people. 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...Please call the Church Office or speak to the Pastor if interested.

**The next "Called to Care" meeting will be held on February 7, 2011 at 1 P.M.**



### Support Our Troops - All military personnel

Brettany Smith – Ramstein Air Force Base - Germany

\*\*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 Tristan Wentz

the family of Neal W. Fritz, Sr

the family of Winifred Poncavage. Winifred passed away  
on January 7.

the family of Lamar C. Reigel.

Our sympathy is also extended to Eric and Jessica Loch.

Jessica's father passed away last week. He was 51 years old.

*Please keep all of the above families in your prayers.*

### Births



**Congratulations** to Jason and Jamie [Troxell] Lorah on the birth of their daughter Mackenzie Reese Lorah. Mackenzie was born on November 24, 2010.

**Congratulations** to Matthew and Katie [Nothstein] Hartranft on the birth of their daughter Faith Louise Hartranft. Faith was born on December 11, 2010.

**Congratulations** to David and Kristin [Quayle] Sobrinski on the birth of their daughter, Kali Lynn Sobrinski. Kali is the 8<sup>th</sup> grandchild of Rev. Don and Anita Quayle.

### Baptism

Angelina Marie Andreas, daughter of Steven Travis Miller and Nicole Elise Andreas born, June 29, 2009 was baptized on Sunday, December 19, 2010 at Ben Salem Church. Angelina is the great-granddaughter of Irene Steigerwalt.

## Thank You Notes:

We want to thank everyone for their prayers and their thoughtfulness - especially Betty Nothstein and the committee for the lovely prayer shawl. The Lord blessed us with a beautiful, healthy baby girl a little early. God bless you all. Jamie, Jason and Mackenzie Lorah

Happy Holidays to all of you: I want to thank all of you for the help you have given us. It is well appreciated and also thank you for the prayers. God bless, Dawn & Inge

To Our Church Family,  
the Youth Group and Andreas Post Office and friends of the Church,  
On behalf of the Food Bank Committee, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has either donated food or money to our cause. Through your generosity we have been able to give assistance to quite a few families who are in need. We hope and pray that your Christmas season is blessed as you have blessed our committee. Thank you again for all your help. Yours in Christ, The Food Bank Committee

Your kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. Harriet Groff, Gladwin & the Groff Family

To Our Dear Ben Salem Family,

2010 has been a year of blessing for Stephanie and me. Our time in Kenya has been challenging but wonderful. God continues to show His faithfulness in so many ways as we work with local community members to serve those in need. Now, we have been doubly blessed by Stephanie's pregnancy with twins. We were able to make it home for about 2 weeks in December, and were again blessed by the unbelievable generosity shown by all of you. We've already used some of the gift you gave to buy car seats, and other baby essentials. Alongside your financial help, your prayers have been tangibly felt as we face various difficulties and confront the systemic brokenness we see here. We are now back in Kenya, preparing for another year of blessing.

Some prayer requests we have for 2011 include:

Health and safety as Steph gives birth

A change in attitude of church leaders, from looking to benefit themselves through the development projects to looking to benefit others

The approval of a new project to bring a sustainable water source to our community



That we would run the race God has set before us with perseverance

Thank you so much for partnering with us to share God's love to the Maasai people. May God bless you all this new year.

If you'd like to know more of what we're doing, please visit our blog at [www.kistlerconnection.blogspot.com](http://www.kistlerconnection.blogspot.com).

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,  
Matt and Stephanie Kistler

## February 2011

| Sunday                                                                                                                          | Monday                                                                                                            | Tuesday                                               | Wednesday                                                                          | Thursday                                                                                                                                | Friday | Saturday                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                |                                                                                                                   | 1<br>Search<br>Committee                              | 2<br>6:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting.<br>6:30 PM Cherub Choir<br>7:30 PM Senior Choir | 3<br>9 AM Blanket<br>Makers/Quilters<br>10 AM Bible Study<br>7 PM Hand Bell Choir<br>7 PM Cemetery Association                          | 4      | 5                                                                                                          |
| 6<br>Communion at both services<br>8:15 AM Worship<br>9:15 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Worship                                 | 7<br>10 AM Mission Comm.<br>1 PM Called to Care<br>7 PM Membership &<br>Growth                                    | 8<br>Auditing<br>taking<br>place<br>in the<br>evening | 9<br>6:30 PM Cherub Choir<br>7:30 PM Senior Choir                                  | 10<br>9 AM Blanket<br>Makers/Quilters<br>10 AM Bible Study<br>7 PM Hand Bell Choir                                                      | 11     | 12<br>Longaberger Bingo<br>at Mahoning Valley<br>Ambulance<br>Doors open at Noon<br>Bingo starts at 1 P.M. |
| 13 Joyful Noise Offering<br>8:15 AM Worship<br>9:15 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Worship/Baptism<br>Hand Bells<br>Hall Reserved | 14<br>Happy Valentine's Day!<br> | 15<br>Search<br>Committee                             | 16<br>6:30 PM Cherub Choir<br>7:30 PM Senior Choir                                 | 17<br>9 AM Blanket<br>Makers/Quilters<br>10 AM Bible Study<br>7 PM Hand Bell Choir<br>7 PM Property Committee                           | 18     | 19                                                                                                         |
| 20<br>8:15 AM Worship<br>9:15 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Worship                                                              | 21<br>7 PM Church Board<br>Meeting                                                                                | 22<br>Search<br>Committee                             | 23<br>6 PM Newsletter<br>Assembly<br>6:30 PM Cherub Choir<br>7:30 PM Senior Choir  | 24<br>9 AM Blanket<br>Makers/Quilters<br>10 AM Bible Study<br>5:30 PM Feed a Neighbor at<br>Zion UCC, Lehighton<br>7 PM Hand Bell Choir | 25     | 26<br>10:30 AM<br>Food Bank                                                                                |
| 27<br>8:15 AM Worship<br>9:15 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Worship                                                              | 28                                                                                                                |                                                       |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                         |        |                                                                                                            |