

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  
Lehighon, PA 18235

**One in Christ**

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)

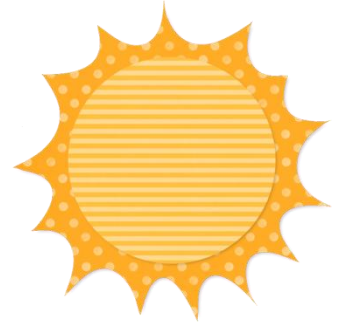
Fax: 570-386-3870 [call, speak to secretary, then call back]

Pastor Michael McGowan: Home – 610-759-9126

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



**The Ben Salem Voice**  
*Ben Salem United Church of Christ*  
*PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211*  
**July-August 2011**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Can you believe that July is here already? We have officially passed the halfway point of the year. With the rollercoaster ride the weather has been taking us on, there are times it doesn't even feel like summer. And yet, according to our calendar we are officially in the season of summer, the time of year when many people go somewhere other than home to take a vacation. Others spend time with their families taking day trips to see the sights around our state or neighboring states. Regardless of how you spend your summer, it is always a busy time of the year. There are picnics to attend, festivals and fairs held almost every week, carnivals and even the occasional circus that are vying for our attention. It's a time when the kids and grandkids are busy with their activities that seem to take place seven days a week.

With all of this going on in our lives it is easy to forget how much we need God. We can get so taken up by the activities and demands of the summer months that we can lose sight of our own spiritual needs. This very thing is something that pastors need to be conscience of on a regular basis throughout their ministry, but it is also something that every community of faithful followers of Jesus Christ should be aware of too. Our spirituality needs to be nurtured and filled on a regular basis. Not unlike our need for food and drink, our spirit needs fuel. It needs nourishment and sustenance just like our body.

As we prepare for the summer months ahead, it is my hope that we do not neglect our need for spiritual nourishment and allow time during these hectic months to attend church so that our spirit can be filled with God's goodness and grace. During the next two months we will be looking at some of the most well known parables of Christ from the Book of Matthew. Parables that give us hope and teach us about the differences between our domain here on earth and the dominion of Christ we as people of faith have been promised. The music that is being prepared will vary from week to week as those who have been blessed with the gift of music or song share their talent with the congregation. Ben Salem has an abundance of gifted and talented music ministers who can also aid in nourishing your soul and fulfilling your spiritual needs and are anxious to share their gifts with everyone.

I hope as the long days of summer roll along, you will consider your own spiritual needs and continue to join us for worship. It is a wonderful way to recharge and become energized for the activities of the summer. And if you are away from home during the summer, I hope you will spend some time with Christ by visiting a church in the area you are vacationing or by reading scripture from your bible or from a book/web site of daily devotions. Take a few minutes a day to write some thoughts down, write a letter/postcard to God and always talk with God with daily prayer. It is my hope you have fun filled days this summer but also find the time to continue to nourish your spirit. Don't let the ride on the rollercoaster at the amusement park or when you are trying to light the stubborn grill be the only time you speak to God this summer.

May the grace of Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Pastor Mike

## **Sunday Worship Schedule for July-August 2011**

[8:15 and 10:30 AM Services]

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7, 14, 21, 28

**Children's Sunday School  
resumes on August 28**

### **Communion Services:**

**July 3 and August 7  
at both services**



### **Special Music for the Summer**

at the 10:30 AM Service:

July 10 – Mixed Quartet

July 17 – Men's Chorus

July 24 – Hand Bell Choir

July 31 – LaRue's Group

August 7 – Women's Chorus

August 14 – Men's Chorus

August 21 – Women's Chorus

August 28 – Hand Bell Choir



Note: Sr. Choir rehearsal resumes on Aug. 31  
Hand Bell Choir practices on July 21 and Aug. 25

### **Mark Your Calendars:**

**Sunday, September 25**

**3:00 P.M.**

**Ben Salem U.C.C.**



### **Installation Service**

**for**

**Reverend Michael J. McGowan**



### **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.

### **Daybreak Director**

If anyone is interested in the position of Director for "Daybreak"  
at the 8:15 AM Worship Service please call the Church  
Office at 570-386-3870 to apply.



### **Events in Our Community:**

**Chiz Rider [trumpet] in Concert – July 17, 6:30 PM at Christ Evangelical Free Church**  
[free-will offering] FMI: 386-4547

**Ice Cream Social – July 30 from 4 to 7 PM at St. John Evan. Lutheran Church, Mahoning Valley**  
Asst. Ice Cream Desserts, Good food and family fun!...Free entertainment. FMI: 386-5981

# **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

## **2011 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,

Pastor: Rev. Michael McGowan

Church Secretary: Dollie Behr

Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

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

**Next Church Board Meetings:** July 18 and August 15, 7 PM

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

**Cemetery Association Officers:** Next meeting September 1, 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

**Please Note:** Ben Salem Cemetery Association's policy states that no artificial flowers and arrangements be placed on our cemeteries from May 1 through October 31. We thank everyone for abiding with the Ben Salem UCC Cemetery Association policies.

## **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.

**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., Lehighton, PA 18235.

**Bulletin Sponsorship:** [Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]

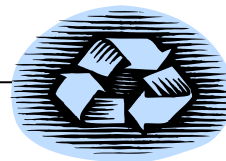
Please call Sue Messina at 570-386-2880 with your sponsorship information or e-mail Sue at [suemess@ptd.net](mailto:suemess@ptd.net). Cost of Bulletin Sponsorship is \$7 per week. \*\*\* Payment should be sent directly to: Susan Messina, 66 River Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252.

### **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 remembered the church in your will?*

*Please do not call the church office with sponsorships!*



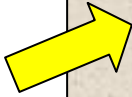
**Recycle...save your soda cans...**

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 Building Fund.

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

**Upcoming Committee Meetings**

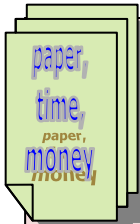
- Property Committee – July 21 and Aug. 18, 7 PM
- Missions Committee – July 11, 1:30 PM
- Called to Care – August 1, 1 PM
- Worship Committee – August 1, 7 PM
- Christian Education – August 3, 6 PM
- Cemetery Association – September 1, 7 PM
- Fundraisers – September 6, 7 PM
- Membership & Growth – September 12, 7 PM



**Phase II – Building Program**



The Board has decided that any money donated will stay in the Building Account until such time as a building program is approved by the congregation. To contribute to Phase II, please use the gold envelopes included in your offering packets and make checks payable to Ben Salem UCC. **As of the end of May, the total in the Phase II Building Account is \$ 15,209.76.**



**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: \_\_\_\_\_



**On Sunday, June 26, Ben Salem Church welcomed the following new members:**

**Stacey Bierman**

**John and Adele Kunkle**

**Keith Hines**

**Jeffrey Wertman**

**Russell and Ruth Kresge**

**Ryan and Gloria Zellner**

Next meeting: Monday, July 11 at 1:30 PM in the parlor

### Want something fun to do?

**Sponsor an item in the mission committee's Alternative Holiday Fair!!!  
You are able to choose how and in what way you want to help.....**

\$10 Two Rabbits	\$25 Share of Seeds and Tools	\$40 Share of 5 School Kits
\$10 Oral Rehydration Therapy	\$30 Two month supply of grain	\$25 Share of an Emergency Food Package
\$10 Soccer Ball	\$30 Emerg. Clean-up Bucket	\$50 Share of Draft Animal
\$10 Hygiene Kit	\$25 Share of 10 Blankets	\$50 Share of Shelter Kit
\$15 Two Jerry Cans	\$25 Share of 5 Mosquito Nets	\$65 Share of Pair of Goats
\$25 Beehive	\$35 200 Tree Seedlings	\$70 Share of Pair of Pigs
\$25 Fifty Chicks	\$35 Wheelbarrow	

Simply visit the display in the narthex and take the slip of paper that corresponds with the item you choose. Submit payment with the slip of paper with item listed in your mission envelope and place in offering plate.

**This project will run through July!!**



**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**

### Family Promise of Carbon County

Family Promise expects to start this Fall and Ben Salem has become a host church. We will be housing homeless families for 4 weeks out of the year. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Please contact Lonnie Christoff if you are interested in helping with this much needed ministry.

#### **Needed: Children's Toys/ Games and Craft Supplies:**

Ben Salem has officially signed on to be a host church for "Family Promise". About four weeks a year, our social hall will provide food, shelter and fellowship for homeless families with children. Ben Salem's Youth Group is asking for monetary donations, or donations of new or gently used children's and preteens: toys, games, puzzles, books and craft supplies. We ask that the items being donated are thoroughly cleaned and new batteries supplied. All of the items will stay at our social hall for each time we host Family Promise. Maybe you (or someone you know) go yard sale shopping, or your children have outgrown their toys. Please consider donating them to Family Promise for our church.

Items we are looking for are: Barbie dolls with clothing, Mr. Potato head, Matchbox/Hotwheels cars & trucks, doll babies with clothing, Duplo legos, regular legos, wooden building blocks, dinosaurs, farm animals, trains(Thomas), Geo Tracks with trains, Lincoln Logs, Fisher Price Little People, big Doodle Pros, action figures, play food, childrens and preteens board games, childrens and preteens card games, jigsaw puzzles for various ages, books for children and preteen, baby and toddler toys- NO big items, please.

craft supplies: colored construction paper, new washable markers, new crayons, new washable water color paints, paint with water books, stickers, etc.

Please place items in the box in the coatroom. Any questions, please ask Amy Lusch (570)-386-5816



**Ben Salem Mission Committee is having a**

**Fundraiser Night at Rita's on Route 443 [Leighton].**

**The fundraising will take place between the hours of 5 to 8 PM on July 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Mission Committee will receive 10 percent of all sales. Money earned will go to Child Sponsorship [funds will be used to help Thuptan Sitar].**

Allentown Rescue Mission invites you to visit the  
Kutztown Folk Festival. Present this coupon at the Festival gate for:

**\$3 OFF ADMISSION**

**JULY 2 – JULY 10**

9AM – 6PM ♥ KUTZTOWN, PA

\$3 discount good for Adult & Senior admission only.  
Limit 1 discount admission per coupon.

\$1.00 of the proceeds of each coupon  
will benefit Allentown Rescue Mission



**Kutztown  
Folk  
Festival**  
www.kutztownfestival.com



### **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. If you know of someone who is in need of a knotted blanket, please let the group know.

The new quilt is a multi-colored log cabin design.

Raffle Tickets will be available at fundraisers throughout the year.

**Help needed:** If you have new or used blankets or sheets, the group could use them...drop them off at the upper entrance to the social hall on Thursday morning between 9 and Noon or call Dollie or Betty.

**Wednesday, July 3, 12:30 – 2 PM**  
**Persian Donut Sale**  
**Pick Up Orders at Social Hall**

**Family Promise Fundraiser**

**September 11 - Blood Drive**

**at the Ben Salem  
Church Social Hall  
from 8 AM to 1 PM**

**To register: Contact Lonnie at  
610-462-0883**





## Young Adult Group planning a pot-luck picnic on July 16!

I think that we had a great 1st meeting for the new young adult group and want to thank everyone who attended. The next event will be a picnic at the church at Saturday July 16th starting at 4pm. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks will be provided. We only ask that you bring a covered dish for all to enjoy. There will be volleyball, croquet, and horseshoes. The kids can play in the nursery room, play ground, or join in a scavenger hunt and water balloons. Our new pastor Mike is planning to join in for the fun. Bring your lawn chairs, a friend or neighbor, and please come out and enjoy an evening of food, fun, and fellowship.

**Looking forward.....** Planning a September event without children or possible babysitting available -- looking at a guest speaker. We have some ideas, but any new ideas would be great. Thank you, Kevin Lusch

Please contact Kevin if you plan on attending: 570-386-8222

## Thank You Notes:

Dear Ben Salem Prayer Shawl Committee: Harry and I were very delighted when we received our Prayer Shawls. We thank you very much for them and for having our names on the prayer chain. I am finally home from the hospital but have a long rehab ahead of me. Thanks again. Love, Louise and Harry Houser

Thank you for your prayers and the beautiful prayer shawl. We can always pick up the prayer shawl and read the prayer and know that someone else is praying for us. Thanks again for your prayers and your prayer shawls. Jane and Jim Price

Dear Friends, Beverly and I deeply appreciated the presence of the Pastor and some of the members of Ben Salem at the service of celebration held at St. John's, Tamaqua to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my ordination. Thanks also for the congratulatory card and the gift certificates which were enclosed. We shall enjoy a number of good meals courtesy of Ben Salem with no cooking and no clean up to follow. Our very best wishes to Ben Salem Church as you begin a new chapter in your life with a fine new Pastor beginning his ministry among you. We were pleased to attend his Service of Ordination and know that he will serve you well as your Minister of Word and Sacrament. Best wishes and God's richest blessing upon you. Gratefully, David and Beverly Knoebel

Dear Pastor McGowan, I would like to thank you and everyone in your parish who prayed for me and sent get well wishes to me after my car accident in February. Every thought and prayer were greatly appreciated. I especially loved the prayer shawl and will treasure it always. I am feeling much better and wish you all well. Thank you all again. Sincerely, Barbara Richards [Nadine Blair's mom]

Thank you so very much for the beautiful prayer shawl! I have already used it in the air conditioned doctor's office. I love it and so appreciate your kindness and loving thoughts. Love, Doris Sherman

Thank you to everyone who thought of me during my recent hospitalization. Your concern, through your prayers, cards, and phone calls was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Pastor McGowan for his visits and to the Prayer Shawl Committee for the beautiful prayer shawl. John Kunkle



**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.**

## **Report from the Fundraisers:**

The profit from the May hoagie sale was \$1,150.68.

The profit from the Strawberry Social was \$3,284.56.

**Thank you** to everyone who helped with the projects listed above.

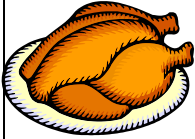
## **Coming Up!**

**Chicken Bar-B-Q** at the Social Hall on September 10 from 3-6 PM.

Take-out or Eat-in... Tickets - \$8.50

Advanced tickets preferred.

For tickets call LaVaun at 610-377-3618 or Rodger at 570-386-5413.



**Homemade Pierogie Sale** – September/October

Pierogies will be made Sept. 26, 27, 28 and Oct. 3, 4, 5

Orders can be picked up on Sept. 30 from 4-6 PM  
or Oct. 6 from 4-6 PM.

Deadline to order pierogies is Sept. 18

**Roast Beef Dinner** on October 22 from 3 to 7 PM

# Confirmation Class



From the Pastor:

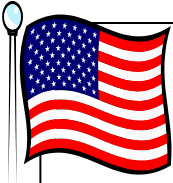
Confirmation class will begin on Kick Off Sunday which is scheduled for August 28, 2011. During this first meeting we will gather together and become acquainted with one another. In the meantime I invite anyone else who knows of anyone who is going to be 13 by the end of September 2011 to please join us if you are interested in affirming your faith. All who are of the above mentioned age and would like to affirm and/or renew their faith are welcome. If you are interested and have not yet signed up please contact the church office by July 31, 2011 either by phone 570 386 3870 or by e mail at [bensalemucc@verizon.net](mailto:bensalemucc@verizon.net). This is so we can order enough books and supplies for everyone. Those who are signed up will be receiving a letter in early August inviting the confirmand, parent/s or guardian/s and myself to gather for an informal planning / informational meeting sometime before Kick Off Sunday. Blessings to you all and I am looking forward to a great year.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study:** will resume meeting during the month of September on Thursday morning beginning at 10 AM in the Church Parlor.



**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.

**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 is scheduled for August 1 at 1 PM.**



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 Paul Stoss Jr.***

***Paul passed away on June 3, 2011.***

## July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion at both services 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School [no children's Sunday School] 10:30 AM Worship/Baptism Social Hall Reserved	4 	5 6:30 Pm Pastor and Elders Meeting	6 Persian Donut Sale pick up orders between 12:30 & 2 PM at Social Hall	7	8 5 PM Wedding Rehearsal at Church	9 2 PM Wedding at Church
10 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School [no children's Sunday School] 10:30 AM Worship / Hymnal Dedication <b>Carbon Cty Prison Service</b>	11 1:30 PM Mission Committee Meeting	12	13	14	15	16 4 PM - ? Young Adult Picnic at the Church [lower level]
17 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School [no children's Sunday School] 10:30 AM Worship	18 7 PM Church Board Meeting St. Peter's VBS	19 St. Peter's VBS	20 St. Peter's VBS	21 7 PM Property Comm. 7 PM Hand Bell Practice St. Peter's VBS	22 St. Peter's VBS	23
24 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School [no children's Sunday School] 10:30 AM Worship/ Hand Bells	25	26	27	28	29	30 Social Hall Reserved
31 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School [no children's Sunday School] 10:30 AM Worship						

# August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1 PM Called to Care  7 PM Worship Committee	2	3  6 PM Christian Education Committee	4	5	6
7 Communion at both services 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School [no children's Sunday School] 10:30 AM Worship	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Pastor on Vacation</i>						
14 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School [no children's Sunday School] 10:30 AM Worship Pastor McGowan on Vacation	15 7 PM Church Board Meeting	16	17	18 7 PM Property Committee	19	20
21 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School [no children's Sunday School] 10:30 AM Worship 4-7 PM Spaghetti Dinner for Bekki Zeigler Mission Trip	22	23	24 6 PM Newsletter Assembly	25 7 PM Hand Bell Practice	26	27
28 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School Children's Sunday School resumes 10:30 AM Worship / Hand Bells	29	30	31 7:30 PM Senior Choir Practice			