

BEN SALEM UCC
PO 128
ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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BEN SALEM UCC

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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

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@verizon.net



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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Blessings to you and May Christ's love continue to grow and blossom in your hearts;

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my family to the congregation and especially to those who could not attend the worship service of March 27, 2011. On that day a vote was held and it was determined that I be called as the next pastor of Ben Salem UCC church.

My name is Pastor Michael McGowan and I am married to a wonderful woman whose name is Diane. We reside in Bushkill Township, Pa. about three miles north of Nazareth Pa. We have one daughter, Nadean who resides in Catasauqua Pa. She works for Lowes Home Improvement in Hamburg Pa. as a kitchen designer. Our son Martin tragically passed away in 2005 from complications of influenza. While this traumatic event was a dark and trying time for our family, through our faith in Christ it also provided an opportunity for Diane and me to grow and become more committed to one another. We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in December of 2010.

As Diane and I begin this new chapter of our lives, we both look forward to forming new relationships within this congregation and community. We all have gifts for ministry to share with one another and I know both Diane and I look forward to experiencing what gifts you all have to offer while also sharing our gifts with you. As a couple we are excited to hear and learn about the area where many of you have been born and raised. We both grew up near Easton, so we do not know a lot about the history of this area but found the book that was loaned to us on the history of the church interesting and informative. I myself love to hear about the history and connectedness of families to an area.

I am excited and looking forward to being the spiritual leader and pastor to this longstanding congregation and pray that with the guidance of God, I am able to guide this church in both traditional and novel ways to meaningful worship and loving and compassionate fellowship while reaching into the community with ministries that fill the needs of today. As your pastor I will do my best to be available and present to all in the congregation through visits, meetings, fellowship, and worship, although, this must be done in a manner that also leaves time for my own care and family.

God has brought us together for reasons none of us can know at this time. While the unknown can be uncomfortable, it can also bring about a sense of excitement and exhilaration. I do not think it is a coincidence that we are beginning our new history together during the season of Eastertide. This season is a time of exhilaration and joy as we celebrate our trust and faith that Jesus is the true and living God confirmed through his resurrection. As we get to know one another during this season of Easter and beyond, may each of us also joyfully reaffirm our faith in Christ and recognize the risen Jesus where he is found; in our stories, in our sharing, in our rituals, and always, in our midst. As we all grow in our lives together let us faithfully bear witness to the reality of the living Christ presence in the world.

Peace to all,
Pastor Mike.

Sunday Worship Schedule for May 2011

[8:15 and 10:30 AM Services]

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Joyful Noise

There will be no Joyful Noise offering until further notice.

Mother's Day

May 8

Flowers will be presented to all mothers by the Sunday School



Next Communion Service: **June 5 at both services**



The Cherub Choir will sing on May 8, 10:30 AM

The Hand Bell Choir will participate in the 10:30 AM Service on May 15 and the 8:15 AM Service on May 29.



The Smith Scholarship

is now open to those graduates who plan on furthering their education. Please contact the church office if you would like to apply. Forms can be e-mailed to you. Deadline to apply is June 30.



Graduate Recognition – June 5

“Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning. ~Orrin Hatch

Graduates, please join your loving sisters and brothers in Christ on June 5th so we may recognize your accomplishment and celebrate your achievement as you commence into the next exciting chapter of life.

Please submit names of all graduates to the Church Office so they can be included in the June newsletter and the bulletin on June 5.

Pastor McGowan's Ordination – June 12, 3:00 PM

To the congregation of Ben Salem Church,

After three years of seminary, numerous internships, Clinical Pastoral Education training, and fulfilling all PNEC requirements it is time for Pastor McGowan to be ordained. This ceremony is traditionally held at the church that had affirmed the call of the candidate and approves the candidate to prepare for ordained ministry. Pastor McGowan's ordination will be held at St. John's UCC of Farmersville. The information is as follows:

Directions to St. John's UCC of Farmersville:

Get on 248 in Bowmanstown

Travel 16 miles to Bath.

Go straight at stop sign.

Cross Rt.512 at light

This is now Newburg road.

Continue straight until you come to Newburg (4miles)

Cross Rt.191 at light

Continue on Newburg road until you come to a 4 way stop. (2miles)

Turn right onto Country Club road at stop sign.

Continue straight at traffic light on Country Club road.

Next stop sign, bear right onto Church Rd.

Go 1 mile, St John's Farmersville is on the left. Notre Dame High School is on the right.

Parking lot is before the church building. If lot is full park in the high school lot.

If you plan to attend Pastor McGowan's Ordination Service, please call the Church Office at 570-386-3870 so we can let St. John's UCC know how many are coming from Ben Salem Church.



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

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.

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: Michael McGowan

Church Secretary: Dollie Behr

Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

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



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.

Next Church Board Meetings: May 16, 7 PM

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

*Have you remembered the
church in your will?*

Cemetery Association Officers: Next meeting May 5, 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., Lehighon, 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. 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!



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

- Called to Care – Meeting for May 2 has been cancelled
- Membership & Growth –May 2, 7 PM
- Cemetery Association –May 5, 7 PM
- Worship Committee – May 9, 7 PM
- Fundraisers –May 10, 7 PM
- Property Committee –May 19 , 7 PM
- Missions Committee –May 16, 10 AM



Blood Drive – May 1

8 AM to 1 PM

at the Church Social Hall

for more information or to

register – Contact 610-462-0883

or visit the Ben Salem website at bensalemucc.com

Food Bank

Items needed: [tentative distribution in June]

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Canned Vegetables | Spaghetti & Sauce | Toilet Tissue |
| Canned Soups | Pasta/Noodles | Napkins |
| Canned Fruit | Macaroni & Cheese Mix | Tissues |
| Cake Mixes & Icing | Hamburger & Tuna Helpers | Paper Towels |
| Tuna Fish | Cereal | |
| Manwich Sauce | Oatmeal | |
| Baked Beans | | |

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 March, the total in the Phase II Building Account is \$1,943.76.

HOAGIE SALE [help needed]

ORDERS DUE – May 15 PICK-UP May 26 [11:00 AM to 1:00 PM]

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 _____ @ \$4.00 EACH TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Due to the increase in the cost of ingredients, we have had to increase the price of our hoagies to \$4.00

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

Next meeting: Monday, May 16 at 10 AM in the parlor



Month of May

United Service Organization

Operation Phone Home

Send a Prepaid Phone Card to a GI overseas....

Established in 2003, USO Operation Phone Home delivers prepaid international phone cards to deployed troops free of charge. The phone cards are distributed through USO centers overseas and most often delivered directly to military units abroad.

The phone cards are ways deployed troops can stay connected with their family. One hundred percent of the money raised for the USO Operation Phone Home program goes to the purchase of phone cards.

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 for the months of May, June and July!!



The Lehigh 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

Please join us and support Family Promise at the following fundraising events:

Variety/Talent Show-Come join the fun as a participant or spectator. Event will be held at the Mauch Chunk Museum and Cultural Center, 41 West Broadway on Saturday, May 7th at 6:30 P.M. Contact John Drury at 570-325-4436 to sign up and for additional information.

Ride From The Heart-Roar along 29 miles of beautiful Carbon County on your bike with other folks who want to see Family Promise become a reality. The event will be held on Saturday, May 14th starting at 11:00 A.M. at Blocker Enterprises-Parryville and ends at the Lehigh Boys and Girls Band Hall, Sixth & Cypress Streets, Lehigh. Music will be provided by Boomerang. Refreshments provided. Cost is \$ 10.00 which includes a chance to win a Harley or \$ 5,000.00 in cash. The ride will be held rain or shine.

For more information on Family Promise of Carbon County, please contact Larissa Kimmel at 610-577-5060 or by e-mail at mlkimmel@ptd.net.

Church & Community Events:

May 1 – Basket Social at Emmanuel UCC, Bowmanstown [from Noon to 4 PM]

May 1 – 23rd Annual Rabies Clinic at Route 443 & Country Club Road, Lehighton [Noon to 2 PM]

Basket Raffle at Dinkey Memorial Lutheran Church, Ashfield

May 6 – 5 to 7 PM May 7 - 9 AM to 1:30 PM Pre-order corn chowder or filling by calling 610-377-4740

May 7 - Spring Bazaar at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowmanstown [10 AM to 2 PM]

Proceeds benefit Family Promise

June 4 – Concert for Chris Santizo at Mahoning Valley Ambulance [2PM to 7 PM]

Contact Dr. Lisa Bleicher at 570-325-3508 for tickets.

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.

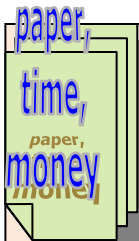
The new quilt is a multi-colored log cabin design. Raffle Tickets will be available at fundraisers throughout the year.

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.

Women's Clothing: The Blanket Makers & Quilters have women's clothing in sizes 12 -14 . Please contact Lonnie Christoff at 610-462-0883 or Dollie Frantz at 570-386-4034.



Thursday Morning Bible Study: The Bible Study Group meets on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock in the church parlor.



**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: _____



Ben Salem Vacation Bible School – 2011
“Big Apple Adventure”
Monday, June 27 – Friday, July 1
6:30 to 9 PM at the Church



Ben Salem UCC Plant Sale - Pickup 5/18

To benefit Ben Salem VBS 2011 (Plants supplied by Hickory Grove Greenhouses, Catasauqua)



Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Potted Plants

Qty

_____ 4 1/2 " Martha Washington Geranium \$6.00 _____ 4" Caladium \$5.00 _____ 4 1/2 " Gerbera Daisy \$6.00

_____ 4 1/2 " Miniature Rose \$7.00 _____ 4" Dwarf Dahlia \$5.00 _____ 4 1/2 " Rieger Begonia \$5.00

_____ 4 1/2 " Cyclamen \$6.00 _____ 4" Vinca Vine \$4.00 _____ 4" Ivy Geranium \$5.00

_____ 4" Rosebud Impatiens \$5.00 _____ 4" Fuschia \$5.00 _____ 4" Sweet Bell Pepper \$3.00

_____ 4" Tomato (Choose 1 per pot ordered: Big Boy Better Boy Early Girl Grape) \$3.00

Flats: Order in Full Flat (48 plants) \$15.00 or Half Flat (24 plants) \$8.00

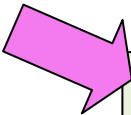
(Please do not order less than 1/2 flat of any flower.)

_____ Ageratum	_____ Begonia	_____ Celosia	_____ Coleus	_____ Dianthus
_____ Dusty Miller	_____ Impatiens	_____ Marigold, Large Flower	_____ Petunia	
_____ Phlox	_____ Snapdragon	_____ Verbena	_____ Vinca	

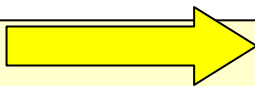
Grand Total: \$ _____	Orders w/ Payments Due: Mothers Day, Sunday, May 8th
Make check payable to: Ben Salem UCC	Flower Pick Up: Wednesday, May 18, 6:00 - 7:30pm at the Social Hall

Please place orders in the box in the narthex or mail order to: Ben Salem UCC VBS Flowers PO Box 128 Andreas, PA 18211

Thank you for supporting Ben Salem's Youth and Vacation Bible School!



<p>Ben Salem Church has a new playground...to donate money toward this project call Kelly White @ 386-3072 or Dawne Beidleman@ 386-2015</p>
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Young Adult Group

We are looking for all young adults to attend, whether you are a recent grad, beginning to start a family, or have children already this will be for you. As this new venture begins, the structure along with meeting times and place will be determined by members that attend. Ideas that have been discussed already include: faith discussions, campfires, volleyball, baseball, bowling, swimming, pot luck dinners, information speakers, fellowship, etc. We all live busy lives and don't need anymore stress, so we are hoping to make this group a fun time for all to enjoy. So if you looking to meet others going through life as you are, please come and join.

Contact Kevin Lusch at 570-386-8222 if you are interested.

Fun!
Fun!
Fun!

The Youth Group will be going to Ozzie's Fun Park on route 61 on Saturday, May 7 from 12 to 4. All those going should meet at Ozzie's at 11:45 for ticket distribution. If anyone would like to join us, they are welcome and the cost of a ticket is \$15.00 for 4 hours. There are height restrictions that apply to some activities such as go-carts and laser tag. If going you may want to check Ozzie's web page for specific requirements. Contact Kevin Lusch at 386-8222 for more information.



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.

Thank You Notes:

Ben Salem UCC Family, Thank you for your love offering for the Mansfield Campus Crusade for Christ Worship Team. The money was used in helping us outreach the campus by putting on a CRU concert. We had a huge turnout. Thank you again and God bless you all. In love, Dillan Zellers

Dear Friends at Ben Salem, Thank you all for the beautiful prayer shawl. I will think of your warm kindness every time I use it. May God bless the hands that make them, since they are a special gift that will be treasured always. I also want to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and help given to me during my illness. It is very much appreciated. Paul Stoss

Thank you so very much for the beautiful shawl. It is really wonderful. Thanks Jean and Chester Snyder

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. 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, 2011.

Strawberry Social

Join us on June 12

[serving from Noon to 6 P.M.]

Donations Kitchen Items needed for Strawberry Social:

- 4 bottles of dish detergent
- 8 rolls of paper towel
- 3 packages napkins [500 count]
- 4 rolls of aluminum foil
- 4 rolls of plastic wrap
- 300 small paper cake plates
- 6 cases of bottled water

Special Prayers

The Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Disaster in Japan

Missionary Jeff Mensendiek [Japan] and the Sendai Student Center where he works
Matt and Stephanie Kistler working with Mennonite Central Committee in Kenya

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 "Called to Care" Meeting scheduled for May 2 has been cancelled.**

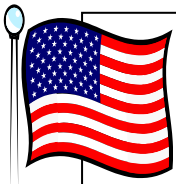
Our Sympathy is extended to the Miller Family on the loss of Donna Miller.

Donna passed away on April 4. Donna was the wife of Dale Miller.

Our Sympathy is extended to the Troxell Family on the loss of Cynthia "Cindy" Troxell.

Cindy passed away on April 12. Cindy was the wife of Dale Troxell.

Please keep both families in your prayers.



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.

Ben Salem United Church of Christ

proudly presents

The Cramer Brothers Band

Sunday, May 15, 2011 - 2:30 P.M.

Country Gospel Concert

Tickets: \$10.00

**For tickets or information contact
Dayle at [570] 386-4344**



May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 AM – 1 PM Blood Drive/Soc. Hall 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	2 7 PM Membership & Growth	3	4 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 7:30 PM Senior Choir	5 9 AM Blanket Makers/Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Hand Bell Choir 7 PM Cemetery Assn.	6 5-6:30 PM Mother's Day Flower Order Pick up at Soc. Hall	7 Youth Group going to Ozzie's Fun Center
8 Mother's Day Flowers for all Mothers 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship / Cherub Choir	9 7 PM Worship Committee	10 7 PM Fund- Raisers Mtg.	11 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 7:30 PM Senior Choir	12 9 AM Blanket Makers/Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Hand Bell Choir	13	14
15 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship/Hand Bells Hoagie orders due 2:30 PM Cramer Brothers Gospel Concert	16 10 AM Mission Committee Mtg. 7 PM Church Board Meeting	17	18 6-7:30 PM Flower Pick up at Social Hall 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 7:30 PM Senior Choir	19 9 AM Blanket Makers/Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Hand Bell Choir 7 PM Property Comm.	20 6 PM Rehearsal	21 1 PM - Wedding
22 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	23	24	25 6 PM Newsletter Assembly 6:30 PM Cherub Choir 7:30 PM Senior Choir	26 7 AM Hoagie Sale 9 AM Blanket Makers/Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 11 AM to 1 PM Pick up Hoagie orders 7 PM Hand Bell Choir	27	28
29 8:15 AM Worship /Hand Bell Choir 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	30	31				