



# The Methodist

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church News

July 2018

## *A greeting from our new Associate Pastor, Doug Mackey*

Greetings to our new family at Burnt Hills UMC! May God bless the journey we are about to take together as we work toward living into God's Kingdom!

I recognize that with a pastoral transition, some of you are likely to be a bit apprehensive about your new pastor, so I hope to use this opportunity to tell you a little about me, my journey and what will guide me in the coming months. I am sure there are many questions. I look forward to answering your questions and to working with and getting to know you in the days and months to come. I hope to have face-to-face introductions and discussions with many of you soon.

Sherri and I are empty-nesters, with three grown children, although we do have our spoiled rescue dog, Maggie, at home. Our youngest child, Alexandra (Alex), her husband, Justin, and their daughter, Hazel, reside in Schenectady – so our move to Burnt Hills brings us much nearer to some family! Alyssa, her husband, Adam, and their son, Kyan, live in Sumter, SC. Our eldest, Michael (Mike) and his wife, Devon, live in Hamilton, NJ.

My career as a pastor only started formally in 2013, after spending 30 years as a professional archaeologist. Leading up to this, I was a youth leader at Newtonville UMC in Latham and, as a student pastor, I served at First UMC in Schenectady. I completed my seminary studies at Drew University Theological School in May, 2013. In June of that same year, I was made a Provisional Elder in the United Methodist Church within the Upper New York Annual Conference. I was ordained as an Elder in Full Connection on May 30, 2015.

During my first two years in ministry, I served the eight United Methodist Churches in the city of Syracuse as they began a new journey and time of working more closely together. During that time, we began to break down barriers that kept each congregation isolated, and envisioned a new way of doing ministry in the city. In 2015, after those long-standing walls had been breached, Bishop Webb appointed a new team of pastors to lead the city churches in building a new reality, and I was appointed to serve a combined American Baptist and United Methodist congregation at Tully United Community Church in Tully, New York.

I have also been involved with the UMC Volunteer in Mission program, spending time working both on major disaster recoveries in other parts of the country, and in more local projects where properties were damaged by localized flooding, fires and long-term neglect. During those experiences, I felt the strength of my call to full-time ministry, and I saw the Spirit working in many people. As satisfying as accomplishing the goal of a particular project may be, the real blessing in each of these endeavors has been the ability to see the Spirit at action in the hands of those who are helping, and reflected in the faces of those who are being helped—the caregivers and clients with whom they work. I have had involvement with the church where Sherri has been a member, which is a United Methodist New Faith Community known as The ROAD (Relational, Open, Affirming and Diverse). They seek to reach out to individuals whose life experiences have led them away from

churches and organized religion, but who still want something more in their spiritual lives. In addition to providing a place for these folks to find a connection, The ROAD was also in ministry to many in need in the city of Syracuse and has for years been serving bag lunches, along with prayer, fellowship and communion each Friday to people on the streets of Syracuse. In 2016, the County Legislator asked me to serve on the newly reconstituted Onondaga County Human Rights Commission, and I have continued in that role through June of this year.

During my time serving in Central New York, I became involved with the CNY-AIDS/HIV Care Network, serving as a faith-based voice in their work and providing a spiritual connection for both. As an Elder in Full Connection, I have served on several Conference groups, including the Bishops' Human Sexuality Task Force, the Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM), the Northeast Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Committee and the Conference Social Holiness Team. Additionally, last year I was certified as an instructor for and began leading Safe Sanctuary Training. This spring, I was asked to serve as a District Advocate for the "Imagine No Racism" initiative that the Conference has just begun.

As a United Methodist, there is no creed which defines who we all are or what we believe, and that allows a wide diversity of understandings regarding all things divine. I look forward to hearing your understandings, and to sharing mine with you. There are a few scriptural passages that define my understanding of Christ's message, and I hope that you will see these reflected in how I live my life:

Matthew 25 – The story of the Sheep and the Goats – *"What you have done for the least of these, you have done for me."*

Romans 12 – (the entire passage, but these verses highlight key concepts) **"...We are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other...."** <sup>9</sup>*Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good.* <sup>10</sup>*Love each other like the members of your family....* <sup>20</sup>*Instead, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head.* <sup>21</sup>*Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good."*

Micah 6:8 – *"What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"*

I look forward to hearing what inspires you as we journey with each other and with God.  
Shalom, Pastor Doug

## The Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-12:30pm



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<https://www.facebook.com/BurntHillsUMC>

### Staff

Rev. Holly Nye: *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Douglas Mackey: *Associate Pastor*

Cindy Peterson: *Communication Coordinator*

Kimberly Spath: *Treasurer*

Peter Prany: *Financial Secretary*

Vicky Handy: *Organist, Music Director*

Mindy Kinney: *Maintenance*

Linda Laferriere and Jen Robbins:

*Sunday School Superintendents*

Cheryl Brady and Stacy Herbage:

*Preschool Staff*

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## Community Lunch



The next Soup and Sandwich Community Luncheon will be on Thursday, **July 19**, from 12-1:30pm, in the Fireside Room and the Courtyard. This month features turkey, egg salad, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, 4-bean salad and a veggie platter. The luncheons are open to all, so please spread the word. Come, enjoy the fellowship and good food! Sign-up lists will be posted on the bulletin board outside Knight Hall for requested donated items and for team members. We welcome new team members at any time. Join us even if you can only participate occasionally. Please mark any donations “community lunch” and bring them in by July 17.

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## Thursday Women’s Study



### Thursday mornings

Starting on July 5, we begin a 4-week study on Adam Hamilton’s book, *Why*. Books will be available in the church office on June 24. In August, there will be a 3-week book overview on *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*, by Phyllis Tickle. The presenter will be Chris Howard and she will be presenting the information in a summary format. People can buy the book to read on their own before the dates, or just attend and hear the presentation and participate in the discussion. **Please note that the original dates have been rescheduled.** The first meeting date will now be Aug 2, followed by Aug. 9 and Aug. 16. All women are invited to join at any time. If interested, please contact Renee Mesh at 518-491-4197 or [reneemesh@gmail.com](mailto:reneemesh@gmail.com)

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## Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will not meet in July or August. However, we will resume our monthly lunches in September. Lynn and Carol wish you a fun and relaxing summer.



## Caregiver Support Group



*It’s not uncommon for caregivers of any age to feel stressed and burned out by the demands of caregiving. Talking to others who are going through the same experiences helps relieve some of this stress.*

Our next Caregiver Support Group meeting will be Saturday, July 7, at 10:30am in the Fireside Room. Along with an informal sharing time, the July meeting will focus on “Caregivers Partnering with Health Care Professionals”. (The June meeting was canceled.) The Caregiver Support Group will not meet in August due to the LAF Pre-Sale on the meeting date. The caregivers who attend this support group are in all stages of caregiving, from just taking care of a loved one in their own apartment or house to those dealing with hospice in nursing homes. You do not need to be a church member to attend. Lynn Christie is the facilitator and can be reached at 518-399-8838 or [hlchristie@aol.com](mailto:hlchristie@aol.com) for any questions.

## Preschool News



End-of-year picnic



Playground Changes

As many of you know, our former Director, Mary Jo Farrell, has retired from 15 years of leading our Preschool. She did a wonderful job, and we wish her joy as she has more time to spend with her family!

Our new Director is Mrs. Debbie Whitehead. Debbie has been a member of our church since 1988. She has been working with children for many years as a Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent and Youth Leader. She also served as Registrar and Assistant Teacher in the preschool for 9 years before retiring in 2017. We welcome Debbie back to our Preschool and look forward to her again taking part in this important outreach ministry.

We are undergoing a transformation of our outdoor space this summer. The trustees of the church are collaborating with the preschool families to install new playground equipment. The equipment has just arrived, so be sure to go around back and check out the progress!

Looking ahead, we will be having a get-acquainted picnic at the church for new and returning students and their families near the end of August. Classes will begin on Thursday, September 13 for the 3's, and Friday the 14th for the 4's.

Our 3-year old class is currently full for this fall. We have only one or two openings in the 4-year old class. For more information or to get on our waiting list, please call our Registrar, Stacy Herbage, at (619) 981-6015 or leave us a message at the church office at 399-5144. You can also visit our website [www.bhpreschool.com](http://www.bhpreschool.com)



### **Needed: Vacation Bible School Volunteers!**

VBS will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, August 6-10, from 8:45am-12:30pm each day. We are in need of many adult and teen volunteers to run classes and stations. Please contact Heather Mazurowski at [heathermazurowski@gmail.com](mailto:heathermazurowski@gmail.com) or 518-248-8514 for more information.

## Summer Funday School



This year, we will be continuing Sunday School into the summer with Summer Funday School. All kids ages 3+ are welcome to join at any time. Older kids will be asked to assist younger children. SFS began on June 10, outside the Fireside Room, in a tent. Please dress your child(ren) appropriately for outdoor activities. We are still looking for teacher volunteers; the lesson plans are easy to follow. If you are interested, please contact Stephanie Tope at 518-466-6566 or [sbusch83@gmail.com](mailto:sbusch83@gmail.com), or Jill Zygo at 518-859-3734 or [jillynhan@yahoo.com](mailto:jillynhan@yahoo.com).

**Financial Workshop For Families** – For many families, finances can be a source of stress. Sometimes it is hard to be a good parent, or a good husband or wife, when you are living with the burden of financial stress. Making decisions and having a plan that you can work on together can help you build a better relationship and develop peace of mind.

Chris Nyhan has generously created and will be teaching a 5-part program that is geared towards parents and couples from their mid-20's to early 50's, but all are welcome! Couples are highly encouraged to attend together, and individuals are welcome too. The class will gather on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the church in Knight Hall, beginning the last week in September. (Dates: 9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, and 10/25)

Topics include: “Bring Balance to Your Budget, parts 1 and 2”, “What about Later? Broadening Your Knowledge of Investing”, “Ready or Not! Preparing for the Unexpected”, and “I Don't Need an Estate Plan. I Don't Even Have an Estate!”

Registration will be required, as space will be limited to 20 families/individuals. To register, send your name, email and phone number to Cindy Peterson at [burnthillsumc@gmail.com](mailto:burnthillsumc@gmail.com). Childcare will be offered.

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**Living in an Uncertain World** – Mary Alice Nyhan will lead a study this fall on Mark Batterson's book, *In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day: How to Survive and Thrive when Opportunity Roars*. It's a fun book and an easy read, with something to learn on every page that encourages us with hope, courage and clarity to see that our greatest opportunities are often disguised as our biggest problems. This class will gather on Sundays at 9am, from 9/16 through 10/28. To register, send your name, email and phone number to Cindy Peterson at [burnthillsumc@gmail.com](mailto:burnthillsumc@gmail.com), so that a book can be ordered for you ahead of time. You can also order on your own.

**Spiritual Gifts** – In early November, Renee Mesh will offer an opportunity for you to take a Spiritual Gifts assessment, learn what your spiritual gifts are, and learn why it can be helpful to see how God gifts us to accomplish amazing things in God's name. *“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”* — Teresa of Ávila.

Watch for more details in an upcoming newsletter.

**Save the Date!**

Pete Van Keuren will be offering a musical, worshipful evening on Sunday, September 23, in the sanctuary. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event.

**A BHUMC Women's Retreat** will be held May 18 and 19 in 2019, a Friday evening through Saturday event, at the Dominican Retreat Center in Niskayuna. Put it on your calendar to come and join us for a time of fun and fellowship for a time of fun and fellowship.

Because of the recent appointment of our new minister, we have had to ask our long-term tenant to vacate the parsonage. She is in need of a new place to live and is looking for a private small house or studio for short or longer term. Preferably sunny, unfurnished, no carpets; garage and garden space appreciated. Will clean, organize, paint, garden in exchange for rent, if desired. She has been an excellent tenant, keeping our property in excellent condition. If you think you can help, please contact Maryann Snell at [mtsnell@att.net](mailto:mtsnell@att.net) or call Greg Adams at 518-399-5875.

*Dear friends, Words hardly seem adequate to express my gratitude for the wonderful celebration in honor of my retirement, the extravagantly generous gifts, and for the overwhelming expressions of kindness and love. Thank you so much! It has been a privilege and a great joy to serve as your Associate Pastor for the past six years, and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity. You will always hold a special place in my heart, and you will continue to be in my prayers. Shalom, Gail*

**Church Council** met on June 11, and one topic that generated mixed emotions was the retirement of Pastor Gail Falsetti and the arrival of a new Associate Pastor, Doug Mackey, on July 1. Pastor Doug has made a commitment to work with Pastor Holly to lead worship and the sacraments and to emphasize ministry with young families and youth, and to lead us in hands-on mission service. This will cause a shift in some of the shared ministry and tasks. As a church, we appreciate the gifts shared by Pastor Gail. We also appreciate the gifts of Pastor Holly, together with her graceful resilience and flexibility as duties and schedules shift.

A direct result of the change in pastors is the need to restructure our 2018 budget. Pastor Doug will be living in the Kingsley Road parsonage. The parsonage, therefore, will no longer be occupied by a tenant. This change alone will cause budget amendments to recognize a loss of rental income (which was previously used for pastoral housing allowance, property tax and home maintenance), changes in maintenance of the parsonage and some adjustments in the cost of benefits for the associate pastor position. These changes are currently being worked through by Staff-Parish-Relations Committee and Trustees. The Council is hopeful that a proposed amended budget for 2018 will be available for the July 9 Council meeting and all of the church is encouraged to come to the meeting to gather information and vote on the amendments. In addition, the July 9 Church Council meeting will receive information from the Stewardship Committee regarding plans for the Fall Stewardship program. Stewardship has many important facets and is also a component of planning for the 2019 budget. You are invited to be part of the discussion and decisions at Church Council. Please mark your calendars for **Monday, July 9, at 7:00pm** so that you may attend the meeting!

During this recent June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, we considered the spirituality of being part of these changes, recognizing that God is calling us to put aside anxiety and embrace the opportunities He offers. We are all part of this one body, and our heart is Christ Jesus. Be filled with joy! Paula Miller, Chairman

**PLEDGES TO DATE:** A report on pledges received-to-date was provided by the Financial Secretary to the Church Council on June 11. The total received as of the beginning of June was \$117,877. Pledges received for the same time-frame in 2017 was \$120,076. Thank you for your support to-date and please continue your generosity through the summer weeks, even if you are not able to attend worship.

Everyone should be aware that there is a binder in the church office that contains information about members' emergency contacts, should we need to notify the appropriate people in the event that you have an emergency. If you haven't already provided us with your emergency contacts, or if the information needs to be updated, please stop in the office during office hours.



# July 2018



For the most up-to-date calendar, check our webpage at [www.nybhumc.com](http://www.nybhumc.com).  
 Want to add something to the master calendar? Please fill out a Calendar Request form located in the main office or email [burnthillsumc@gmail.com](mailto:burnthillsumc@gmail.com) for a copy.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>2</b> Begin accepting LAF Donations	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Independence Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>5</b> 9am Women's Book Study: "Why"	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:30am Caregiver's Support Group
<b>Summer Worship Hours</b> There will be one service only, at 9:30am, through LAF Sunday, September 9.						
<b>8</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>9</b> 7pm Church Council Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:30am Fixits	<b>12</b> 9am Women's Book Study: "Why"	<b>13</b> 5pm Wedding Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 2pm Hoskinson Wedding
<b>15</b> 9:30am Worship  11am Grow Team	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 1:30 BHBL Women's Book Club  7pm SPRC Mtg	<b>18</b> 8:30am Fixits  10am Prep Community Lunch	<b>19</b> 9am Women's Book Study: "Why"  12pm Community Lunch	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:30am Fixits	<b>26</b> 9am Women's Book Study: "Why"	<b>27</b> <b>9am-12pm LAF Pre- Sale</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Aug 1 8:30am Fixits	Aug 2 9am Women's Book Study: "Great Emergence"	Aug 3	Aug 4 <b>9am-12pm LAF Pre-Sale</b>

# Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

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## Important 2018 Dates



Monday, July 2	Begin accepting donations from the public, weekdays from 9am-12pm, and Sundays, 9-11am.
Friday, July 27	Pre-sale from 9am-12pm
Saturday, August 4	Pre-sale from 9am-12pm
Friday, August 10	Pre-sale from 9am-12pm
Saturday, August 18	Pre-sale from 9am-12pm
Friday, September 7	LAF runs from 10am-8pm
Saturday, September 8	LAF runs from 9am-3pm

The Lord's Acre Fair Committee is preparing for this year's annual event. They are hoping to continue their commitment for a successful fair. The booth chair people will be looking for volunteers to fill the needs of their booths. If you haven't participated before, we encourage (plead) with you to contact us and let us help you find a role in this year's fair.

LAF Committee:

Greg and Nancy Adams	Jerry and Cheryl Brady
Pete and Mary Jo Farrell	Libby Horn
Bert and Sally Longbotham	Kathy Pirigyi

**SORTING AND PRICING** begins July 3rd! Help will be needed upstairs in clothing, or downstairs in White Elephant, every Tuesday and Thursday morning throughout July and August. "Work" begins at 9am. No experience needed. We do have lots of fun!