The Methodist
Burnt Hills UMC News
May, 2026

New Members Classes—BHUMC 101

Sundays May 3, 10 & 17 at 9-9:45am

Are you curious about what it might look like to take a next step in your faith here? We'll take a look at the four pillars that shape our life as a faith community—**Welcome, Grow, Send, and Tend**—and how each of us is invited into **loving God, loving neighbor, and serving the world.**

Whether you're brand new, have been visiting for awhile, or have been a member for years and want a refresher, this class is for you.

Those who wish to join the church will be received during worship on **May 31**, but the class is simply an open door to **learn, connect, and discern your next step.** Please contact Pastor Ian for more information.

Contact Us

Office Phone: 518-399-5144
Email: burnthillsumc@gmail.com
Web: www.nybhumc.com
Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm

Worship hours
9:00 am and 10:30 am

Lead Pastor
Rev. Amy Gregory
revgregorybhumc@gmail.com

Associate Pastor
Pastor Ian Urriola-Schonewolf
iurriola@burnthillsumc.org

Music Directors
Peter Van Keuren
Jill Zygo

Sound and Video
Charles Hartmann

Sunday School Superintendent
Jodi Facteau-St. Gelais

Church Office Manager
Renee Mesh

Custodian
Nick Adami

Treasurer
treasurer@burnthillsumc.org

Financial Secretary
Sue Zoller
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Preschool Staff
Stephanie Tope - Teacher
Angie Barclay - Assistant Teacher
Karen Lathrop - Director

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@burnthillsumcvideos480

In Celebration of Pastor Ian

On Sunday, May 17th, after enjoying special music during worship, we will gather to celebrate our time with Pastor Ian. It saddens us to have to say goodbye to this **wonderfully talented and gifted preacher**. He has truly been a blessing for our church. Of course there will be special food to share, and cake to satisfy our sweet teeth. **Please join us as we celebrate** all the amazing musical gifts Ian has brought and shared, along with our other musicians, signers, and musical guests on this wonderful Music Sunday!

Well wishes can be given to Ian either by cards or spoken words. There is a special box in Knight Hall on Sundays through May 17th for your cards and gifts. During the week, it will be in the church office. Any questions, please contact Nancy Down (nancdown@gmail.com) or any Staff Parish Relations Committee members.

Music Offering

Sunday, May 17th is Music Sunday at BHUMC at 10:00 am! We will celebrate with our choirs leading us in worship—our Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, and Voices of Hope—along with special guest violinist, Tucker Callander. There will be an abundance of beautiful music to inspire and uplift our spirits.

It is our tradition on Music Sunday to receive a special offering in support of our music ministry. Thank you for your generosity and thank you to all of our talented musicians who share their gifts to nurture and enrich our worship.

You may contribute to the Music Sunday offering throughout the month of May by **giving online through the Vanco platform or by using a "Music Sunday" offering envelope.**

Learn more about our special guest musician:

> **Tucker James** (Callander) began playing violin at age 5 and never stopped. He pursued and studied classical violin all the way through college, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Violin Performance from Syracuse University. Tucker is currently based in the Saratoga area of upstate New York. He is a sought after violinist and fiddler. Tucker James prides himself on being versatile and giving his heart to whatever he is called upon to do, whether it's a jazz concert, a classical violin wedding ceremony or a barn burner at the Irish pub!

CROP Hunger Walk 2026

CROP Walk May 3, 2026: Want to spread joy, enjoy the outdoors and get exercise while you help change the world? **Come walk at the CROP Hunger Walk to raise funds to fight hunger in our community and around the world.** We will start and end in Schenectady at Kateri Tekakwitha School, 1801 Union St on **Sunday, May 3 with a check in at 1:00 pm and opening ceremony and step off at 2:00 pm. We can ride share.** You can register or donate online (**sycamorecollab.org/cropwalk**) or with Paula Miller or Kathy Pirigyi. Walkers receive T-Shirts!

Weekly Studies & Activities for Adults at BHUMC: Open to Everyone!

No matter your schedule or interests, there's a place for you to grow in faith and community this fall. Join one of our adult study groups to learn, share, and connect with others.

Early Birds – ***Mondays at 9:30 am*** *in the Fireside Room.* We are reading "Hagitude—Reimagining The Second Half of Life" by Sharon Blackie. Books are available in the church office. No Early Birds on May 25th.

Meditation – ***Tuesdays from 10 am-11:30 am*** *in the Sparkle Room upstairs,* facilitated by Marilyn Stoner. Each session is stand alone; come when you can! Call/text Marilyn 502-456-1502 for more information.

Explorers – ***Wednesdays at 9:30 am*** *in the Fireside Room.* No pre-reading required – just come ready to learn and ask questions. Contact Ian if you are interested!

Queer Holy Club offers a gentle, ongoing, openly affirming, and fully inclusive space for LGBTQIA+ people and their supporters seeking a safe place to reconnect with faith and community. We meet **Wednesdays at 7 pm** (except the last Wednesday of the Month) at Burnt Hills Pizza Works. Contact: Pastor Ian

Seekers: Sisters in Christ – ***Thursdays at 9:15 am*** *in Knight Hall.* Studying "Separation of Church and Hate—A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-fleecing Frauds"" by John Fugelsang. Books available in the office.

Monthly Activities: Please Join Us!

Men's Breakfast: May 2

The next Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, May 2 at 8 am in Knight Hall**. Spread the word, and bring a friend. We hope to see you there!

Caregiver Support Group: May 2

Are you the caregiver for a family member or friend? Do you know someone who is having difficulties with caregiving? It helps to talk to others going through the same experiences. This group is open to both church members and non-church members.

The Caregiver Support Group will meet **Saturday, May 2 at 10:30 am** in the Fireside Room. We welcome caregivers in all stages of caregiving from taking care of a loved one in their own housing to dealing with hospice in nursing homes. *Contact Diane Skibinski at* ***dskibins@gmail.com*** ***or 518-423-2887.***

United Women in Faith: May Gatherings

United Women in Faith

faith action sisterhood

TUESDAY CONNECTION CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, May 12 at 9:30 am in Fireside**. Bring a personal memento you would like to share. This will be followed by a short board meeting at 11:45 am Feel free to join in if you are interested.

SPECIAL K Circle will end our year with an outdoor picnic on Monday June 1 at church. No Meeting in May due to memorial Day holiday.

UMW Circles are small groups that gather monthly for fellowship and a variety of programs and projects. All meetings are open and welcoming. For more information, contact Holly Rogers at 399-8629.

Lunch Bunch: May 22

Lunch Bunch will be meeting at **The Ripe Tomato** (2721 US-9, Ballston Spa) on **Friday, May 22nd at 12:00 pm.** You must make a reservation with Carol Borthwick (518-399-5405) or Lynn Christie (518-399-8838) to attend.

"Paint and Snack" Relay for Life Team Event

Join us for a fun Paint and Snack event in Knight Hall on Thursday, May 28, from 5-7pm put on by SG Relay for Life Team, and 100% of the funds raised will go to the **American Cancer Society.**

Looking for an experience for a Mother's Day Gift? This could be perfect! Just $45/per person. **To register and save your spot, contact Diane Skibinski: dskibins@gmail.com** (Venmo available as payment option)

Adrienne Hall, owner/operator of Adrienne's Artistic Experiences, will lead the class to create a painting in the style of Monet's Water Lilies. All materials included, as well as hearty snacks/treats.

Project details: Impressionism in the style of Claude Monet using chalk and white paint.

Youth Group Update

Beginning on May 3rd, we'll meet from 11:30am-1:30pm through June 14th. All youth 5th grade and above are invited to join us for lunch, conversation, and some exciting activities. Adult volunteers are invited to join in the fun. Please reach out to Angie Barclay at (484) 597-2635 or Stephanie Tope at 518-466-6566.

PRIDE 2026: Join Us!

We're excited to celebrate PRIDE this year and invite you to be part of it! We'll be hosting tables/booths at several events throughout the season and joining the Albany parade!

How to Sign Up: bulletin board by Knight Hall (QR Code or Paper)

👇 **Upcoming Events**

- **Schenectady** – Tabling | June 6 | 2 PM
- **BIPOC PRIDE** – Tabling | June 13 | 12 - 5 PM
- **Capital Region Albany** – Tabling & Parade (float/walking group) | June 14 | 11:30 AM - 5 PM
- **Saratoga PRIDE** – Tabling | June 28 | 2-5 PM
- **Scotia-Glenville PRIDE** – Tabling (Date TBA)

Capital Region Parade Day Info: If you plan to join the parade, we recommend attending worship at the park— as the service is it at 10 AM and the parade is starting earlier than ever at 11:30 AM. You can do this: with our other Methodist churches, through PRIDE's ecumenical service, or via livestream.

Bracelet Making Now!: Supplies available in Knight Hall—feel free to take what you need. Need a refresher? Ask Orion or Shelby.

💬 **Why Participate?**

- Live into our welcoming and reconciling commitments
- Support equity, diversity, and inclusive communities
- Engage in meaningful LGBTQ+ conversations
- Learn and grow together
- Have fun and build community

We hope to see you there! Please reach out with any questions.

New IRS Charitable Contributions Rule:

Beginning with tax year 2026, you may deduct up to $1,000 ($2,000 if filing jointly) of your contributions to qualified organizations even if you do not itemize. So keep records of your contributions: a bank record or written communication from the organization. For more information and details, visit irs.gov/taxtopics/tc506.

Soup Kitchen: May 17/18 (and June 14/15 also)

Friday, May 15 or before: Sign up to bring ingredients using sign up sheets on the bulletin board outside of Knight Hall or talk to Libby**.** (If you plan to bring ingredients on Saturday or Sunday, **please put a notation on the signup sheet to avoid ingredient duplication.**)

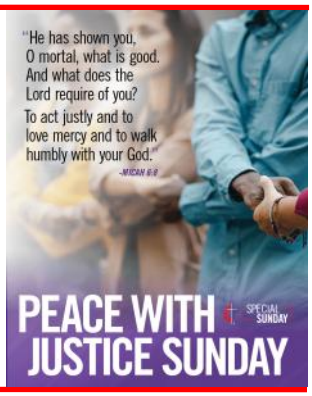
Sunday, May 17: Make soup after worship service.

Monday, May 18 at 10 am: Leave the church to serve and/or visit with us at Salvation Army in Schenectady. We are always looking for new people. Help us prep or serve by signing up on the bulletin board. Lots of fun and feels good to help others. For further information, please contact Libby Horn at 518-698-4043.

Registration Open for Skye Farm Camp Summer Camp!

In the summer months Skye Farm hosts a resident Christian summer camp where all youth from ages 6 to 18 are invited to spend a week or more at one of their exciting summer camp programs. **Scan the QR code to view the program offerings and to register. Our church offers camperships to pay for summer camp. Contact Pastor Amy or Jodi Facteau-St.Gelais.**

Peace with Justice Sunday—Special Offering, May 31



On Sunday, May 31 we celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday, a special day when United Methodists around the world unite in prayer, reflection, and giving. This offering supports peacebuilding programs that address the root causes of conflict.

We encourage you to consider how your gift can help bring about the world God envisions: one of peace, justice, and reconciliation, through efforts to reduce violence, advocate for human rights, and peacebuilding programs that address root causes of conflict. Please give online through Vanco or use the special envelop during worship.

Memorial Committee Scholarships

College or Trade School around the corner? **We urge high school seniors to apply for Memorial Committee scholarships now.** Applications are available in the church office. Stop in, call the church office at (518) 399-5144 ,or go to the Church website nybhumc.com and click on more to download the cover letter and application. **The deadline for submission is**

Pollinator Garden Updates

Our pollinator garden is growing, and we'd love your help to keep it thriving all summer long!

- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Sign up to help with weeding and watering on the Sign-Up Board located outside Knight Hall. Even a little time makes a big difference!
- **Plant Donations:** We're currently seeking donations of plants and shrubs to add to the garden. If you have something to share, we'd be grateful for your contribution.
- **Garden Additions Wanted:** We're also looking for a bird bath or another pollinator-friendly water feature to support our buzzing and fluttering visitors.

Thank you for helping us create a vibrant, welcoming space for pollinators and our community!

Deadline for June Methodist articles is May 15. Please send articles to Renee at burnthillsumc@gmail.com.

May at a Glance

May 2: Men's Breakfast / May 2: Caregiver Support Group
May 3: Change to One Service Only / May 3: CROP Walk
May 10: Mother's Day
May 3, 10, & 17: New Members Classes
May 17: Music Sunday / Pastor Ian Celebration
May 17/18: Soup Kitchen prep/serve
May 18: Ad Council Meeting
May 25: Memorial Day - Office Closed
May 28: Relay for Life - Paint & Snack Event
May 28-30: Annual Conference
May 31: New Members Sunday / Last day of Sunday School / Peace with Justice Sunday

Check out our real-time online church calendar for updates: www.nybhumc.com/calendar.html

Lord's Acre Fair - Save the Dates: Drop off beginning on Monday 8/24 and ending Wednesday 9/2. Church tent set up and table move out on 8/22 and 8/23. Sale 9/11 and 9/12.

ENCORE! Musical Theater Camp Update

We are in full swing and getting excited! Our 3-week summer camp is officially full with 40 students—with a waitlist!

We are currently **looking for a few nurses or individuals in the medical field** to be on site from 3:00–5:00 PM during camp. If we have four volunteers, each person could rotate and cover just one or two days per week.

We're also **looking for 1–2 middle or high school volunteers** to help create a fun, welcoming, and creative experience for our students.

⇒ **Camp Details: Burnt Hills United Methodist Church, July 6–24, 2026 (Monday–Friday), 2:30–5:30 PM (2:45 PM snack, 5:15 PM dismissal), 40 students (two groups of 20)**

We're hoping for assistants to commit to all 3 weeks. A few conflicts are okay—just note when signing up.

⇒ **• Volunteer Training: June 29, 2026 (5:30–7:30 PM)** **Questions? Email Jillzygo@gmail.com**

April Preschool Notes

The month of April went by quickly, starting with Easter parties and Spring Break. Since our return, both classes had their pictures taken by Ms. Laura from LTG Photography. The 3-year-old class spent the remainder of the month learning about spring changes and insects, while the 4/5-year-old class enjoyed a unit on space. Both classes also learned about Earth Day and the importance of caring for our planet.

As we head into our final month of preschool, the 3-year-olds have several exciting visitors scheduled, including Gil's Garage with a tow truck, Grampy Al with his backhoe, and a NYS Police Officer with a K9 partner. Additionally, BHBL is sending a school bus to teach both classes about bus safety. We will conclude the year with class parties and a graduation ceremony for our 4/5-year-olds.

➔ **We still have openings in both classes for the 2026/27 school year and appreciate your help in spreading the word. For more information, please contact Stephanie Tope at 518-466-6566 or bhumpreschool@gmail.com.**

May 2026

For the most up-to-date calendar, check our webpage at **www.nybhumc.com**. Want to add something to the master calendar? Email burnthillsumc@gmail.com or call 518-399-5144.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 **11:45am-12:30pm** Preschool Board Meeting/Fireside	**2** **8-9am** Men's Breakfast/KH **10:30-11:30am** Caregiver's Support Group/Fireside
3 ***CROP Walk*** **9-9:45am** BHUMC 101- New Members Class **9:30-9:55am** Youth Choir **10:00-11:00am** Worship **11:00-11:30am** Voices of Hope Choir **11:30am-1:30pm** Youth Group **2-6pm** Birthday Party/Knight Hall	**4** **9:30-10:30am** Earlybirds/Fireside **4:30-5pm** Private Piano Lesson/KH **6-7pm** Troop #3892/ Knight Hall **6-7pm** Troop #3801/ Upstairs Classroom **6:30-8:30pm** Troop #2169/Sparkle Room	**5** ***Cinco de Mayo*** **9-10am** Qigong Classes/Assembly Room **10-11:30am** Meditation/ Sparkle Room **6:30-8:30pm** SPRC/ Fireside Room **7-8:30pm** Troop #3056/Knight Hall	**6** **8:30-10:30am** Fix-its **9:30-10:30am** Explorers/Fireside **6-7pm** Troop #3857/ Upstairs Classroom **6-7pm** Troop #3934/ Upstairs Classroom **6:30-8:30pm** Finance Team mtg/Fireside **7-8pm** AA/Fireside **7-8pm** Queer Holy Club/Pizza Works	**7** **9-10am** Qigong Classes/Assembly Rm **9:15-10:45am** Seekers/Knight Hall **10:30-11:30am** BH-BL Women's Club Board Meeting/FR **4:30-7pm** Saratoga Voices/Knight Hall **6:30-7:30pm** Troop #3020/Upstairs **7-8pm** Choir Rehearsal/Loft	**8**	**9** **3-5pm** Birthday Party/Knight Hall
10 ***Mother's Day*** **9-9:45am** BHUMC 101- New Members Class **9:30-9:55am** Youth Choir **10:00-11:00am** Worship **11:00-11:30am** Voices of Hope Choir **11:30am-1:30pm** Youth Group	**11** **9:30-10:30am** Earlybirds/Fireside **4:30-5pm** Private Piano Lesson/KH **5:30-7:30pm** Troop #3916/Upstairs Classroom **6-7pm** Troop #3847/ Knight Hall **6-7pm** Troop #3801/ Upstairs Classroom **6:30-8:30pm** - Troop #2169/Sparkle Room	**12** **9-10am** Qigong Classes/Assembly Room **9:30-11am** Tuesday Connection Circle/ Fireside **10-11:30am** Meditation/Sparkle **10:45-11:30am** UMW Board Meeting/ Fireside **6-7pm** Troop #3872/ Knight Hall **7-8:30pm** Troop #3056/Knight Hall	**13** **8:30-10:30am** Fix-its **9:30-10:30am** Explorers/Fireside **5:30-8:30pm** Saratoga Voices - Auditions/Knight Hall **6-7pm** Troop #3910/ Upstairs **6-7pm** Troop #3934/ Upstairs Classroom **6:30-8pm** Troop #2424/Sparkle Room **7-8pm** AA/Fireside **7-8pm** Queer Holy Club/Pizza Works	**14** **9-10am** Qigong Classes/Assembly Rm **9:15-10:45am** Seekers/Knight Hall **7-8pm** Choir Rehearsal/Loft	**15** ***Newsletter deadline***	**16**
17 ***Music Sunday & Celebrate Ian*** **9-9:45am** BHUMC 101- New Members Class **10:00-11:00am** Voices of Hope & Youth Choir **10:00-11:00am** Worship **11:00-11:30am** Voices of Hope Choir **11:30am-12:30pm** Soup Kitchen prep **11:30am-1:30pm** Youth Group	**18** **9:30-10:30am** Earlybirds/Fireside **10:00am-1pm** Serve lunch at Salvation Army **4:30-5pm** Private Piano Lesson/KH **6-7pm** Troop #3801/ Upstairs Classroom **6:30-8:30pm** Troop #2169/Sparkle Room **7-8:30pm** Church Council/Fireside	**19** **9-10am** Qigong Classes/Assembly Room **10-11:30am** Meditation/Sparkle **1-3pm** BH-BL Women's Club Book Club/Fireside Room **7-8:30pm** Troop #3056/Knight Hall **7-8pm** Trustee Meeting/Fireside	**20** **8:30-10:30am** Fix-its **9:30-10:30 am** Explorers/Fireside **4:30-8:30pm** Saratoga Voices - Auditions/Knight Hall **6-7pm** Troop #3934/ Upstairs **6:30-8pm** Troop #3857/Upstairs **7-8pm** AA/Fireside **7-8pm** Queer Holy Club/Pizza Works	**21** **9-10am** Qigong Classes/Assembly Room **9:15-10:45am** Seekers/Knight Hall **6:30-7:30pm** Troop #3020/Knight Hall **7-8pm** Choir Rehearsal/Loft	**22** **12-2pm** Lunch Bunch/ The Ripe Tomato **2-5:30pm** Saratoga Voices - Vocal Scholarship Auditions/Sanctuary	**23**
24 ***Pentecost*** **9-9:45am** BHUMC 101- New Members Class makeup **10:00-11:00am** Worship **11:30am-1:30pm** Youth Group ———————— **31** ***Peace with Justice Sunday*** **9-9:45am** BHUMC 101- New Members Class makeup **10:00-11:00am** Worship **11:30am-1:30pm** Youth Group	**25** ***Memorial Day*** **Office Closed** **No Preschool** **No Earlybirds** **4:30-5pm** Private Piano Lesson/KH **5:30-7:30pm** Troop #3916/Upstairs **6-7pm** Troop #3801/ Upstairs Classroom **6:30-8:30pm** - Troop #2169/Sparkle Room	**26** **10-11:30am** Meditation/Sparkle **5:30-6:30pm** Troop #3872/Knight Hall **7-8:30pm** Troop #3056/Knight Hall	**27** **8:30-10:30am** Fix-its **9:30-10:30 am** Explorers/Fireside **6-7pm** Troop #3910/ Upstairs **6-7:30pm** Troop #3847/Upstairs **7-8pm** AA/Fireside **7-8pm** Social Justice Action Group/KH	**28** ***UNYAC Conference*** **9:15-10:45am** Seekers/Knight Hall **10:30-11:30am** Preschool Party/ Knight Hall **6:0-7:30pm** Troop #3847/Upstairs classroom **5-7pm** Relay for Life Event/Knight Hall **7-8pm** Choir Rehearsal/Loft	**29** ***UNYAC Conference*** **10:30-11:30am** Preschool Graduation/Knight Hall	**30** ***UNYAC Conference*** **8am-6pm** Sweet Adeline's Conference/ KH, Sanctuary, Fireside, Classrooms, Kitchen

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

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SAVE THE DATE
for sun, sea, and scripture!

VBS 2026 - Aug 10-13th
Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

All are welcome!
follow '*BH-BL Summer VBS*' on Facebook
for updates