

The Methodist

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church News

August 2020

Greetings! I miss all of your beautiful faces. Even though it is summer, when attendance is typically sparse, the absence of meetings, onsite worship, and LAF sorting is painful – and is a reminder of the suffering that is unfolding throughout our nation and world.

Forgive me for repeating an old joke about churches: it seems congregations are known for our devotion to 7 sacred words: “we’ve never done it that way before!” (Like most jokes, it’s amusing because it’s not without a kernel of truth).

But ... 2020 has turned out to be a year when we simply *can’t* do things in the ways we have done them “before.” We know what the challenges of this year have been – but what are the opportunities? How are you following Jesus, outside the walls of the church? How are we being church, while unable to attend church? Do you have stories to share of Christian discipleship in “ways we’ve never done before”? Please share them!

During this time when we have not been assembling in the building, there have been some interesting things happening. There has been learning and connection and outreach – growth happening in the face of obstacles, like those flowers-through-the-pavement we mentioned at Easter...

Individuals and groups have committed to ministries of card-sending, phone-calling, prayer support - expressing God’s love to others.

Summer lunch for children has expanded, and taken new forms, keeping a crew of volunteers busy supporting the community.

A small group meets on Zoom on Friday mornings, discussing video segments viewed at home. The group began by watching Adam Hamilton’s *The Walk*, which was the Lenten study interrupted by the lockdown. The group has also learned about the book of Acts, and is now exploring some “big questions” of faith through the *Living the Questions* series.

The *Explorers* group has continued to learn, gathering online to explore faith in historical context.

Pub Explorations has gathered, at times online and occasionally outdoors, to support one another’s faith journeys.

Seekers studied two of Paul’s letters, then read together Sara Miles’ book, *Take This Bread*. The women are continuing to meet online through the summer, turning their attention to timely and critical questions of faithful responses to racism.

And a new group began meeting in June, specifically to discuss Christian response to a growing awareness of systemic racism and its lethal effects on God’s children.

As mentioned by Paula on page 3, a small team has taken up the challenge of clarifying how our church can offer a path of fruitful discipleship for all.

Musicians -staff and volunteers - have been finding new ways to share their gifts with the congregation.

Trustees and Fixits have been transforming the kitchen and sanctuary restroom.

And a “reopening” team of church leaders meets regularly, to discern the safest ways that we can gather. A message from that team appears on page 2. Further word will be forthcoming in August, as we enact procedures for screening and social distancing. Remember that the guiding value is safety and “doing no harm” – caring for one another and loving our neighbor by gathering responsibly.

The congregation is alive and well! Thank you for continuing to support your church. How can we support *you* as you follow Jesus in living in these challenging days? —Pastor Holly

Re-Open BHUMC Update

Our Route 50 church building isn't open ... yet.

Watch, sing, pray with us online until it is safe for us to gather together.

God is our rock and that doesn't change, but services will look & sound different when our church doors re-open.

You will need to let us know that you're coming. More details soon. We're blessed by you!

You will see people directing you to sign in, checking health info, and guiding you to a specific place to sit.

You won't see hymnals, bulletins, prayer cards, and other familiar parts of worship. No munchies after worship. Limited bathroom use.

You will hear the friendly voices of people in our church family spoken through our masks.

Check our web page, newsletter, & Facebook page for details & updates.

You are missed.
You are loved.



July 17, 2020

The Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

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Staff

Rev. Holly Nye: *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Doug Mackey: *Associate Pastor*

Cindy Peterson: *Communication Coordinator*

Kimberly Spath: *Treasurer*

Peter Prany: *Financial Secretary*

Peter Van Keuren & Jill Zygo: *Music Directors*

Charles Hartmann: *Sound and Video*

Joe Tangrady: *Maintenance*

Jodi Facticeau-St. Gelais & Jen Robbins:

Sunday School Superintendents

Stacy Herbage & Stephanie Tope:

Preschool Staff

An Update on the Albany District

Upper New York Conference has a new Regional Superintendency Plan that began July 1. The Conference continues to be divided into 12 Districts, now grouped into three Regions. This arrangement will allow leadership and collaboration opportunities between Districts within each Region. Region 1 consists of the Albany, Adirondack, Northern Flow and Mohawk Districts.

Our new Albany District Superintendent is Rev. Deborah (Debbie) Earthrowl, with an office located in the Newtonville UMC, 568 Loudon Road, Latham, NY 12110. The new Minister of Administration is Carrie Boyer. The Albany District Lay Leader remains Ellen Mall-John. The District email remains albandistrict@unyumc.org and phone number is 518-608-1246. The Albany District regularly emails prayers, scripture, events, programming and guidelines. Anyone is welcome to subscribe.

News from Church Council

The Council has been discussing the means by which we offer a path to discipleship. We officially accepted a statement to represent and define the life of discipleship at BHUMC.

Discipleship is a shared way of living where followers of Christ welcome others who are curious into the community of faith: to grow spiritually together and to go into the world to reflect God's love through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

A small team has been reviewing the administration, activities, studies, worship, prayer, education and outreach of our church to determine how these opportunities create a path of growth for each person, with the goal of becoming more fully a Disciple of Christ. Each person who comes to this church becomes part of this church family and chooses to become engaged in the life of it. They then should soon clearly be able to identify that there is a path available here that will match their interests and spiritual gifts, while directing them towards the single goal of being a Disciple of Christ.

We believe that all of the elements are already here for success, and a process of discernment will enable us to identify the path. Would you help support this work by praying for clarity and fruitfulness? Everyone is being invited to pray once a day, either at 8:16 AM or 8:16 PM, for this intention of identifying the stepping stones of our path. Please also pray for each other, as we discover and move forward at BHUMC towards being Disciples of Christ.

We have received a request from a home health care aide who is part of our congregation. She is in need of **hospital gowns** for the people she provides assistance to. She asks if anyone has one or more hospital gowns in their possession but has no current need, that the gowns be dropped off at the church for her to pick up. You may also contact Paula Miller, who will make arrangements to pick up and deliver the gowns: (518-399-7422)

There will not be a Community Lunch in August. We have hopes of resuming in September if groups of that size are allowed to meet at that time. Stay tuned.

Ten Commandments of Human Relations

1. Speak to people

There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.

2. Smile at people

It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.

3. Call people by name

The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his or her own name.

4. Be friendly and helpful

If you would have friends, be friendly.

5. Be cordial

Speak and act as if everything you do were a genuine pleasure.

6. Be genuinely interested in people

You can like everybody if you try.

7. Be generous with praise

... and cautious with criticism.

8. Be considerate with the feelings of others

... it will be appreciated.

9. Be thoughtful to the opinion of others

There are three sides to controversy: yours, the other person's, and the right one.

10. Be alert to give service

What counts most in life is what we do for others.

Author unknown. We regret that we are unable to give credit to the source.

**Sunday Worship and sermons
will continue to be online for the
foreseeable future.**



**Worship goes "live" on Sundays
at 10:30 AM
on our website at:**

nybhumc.com/sermons.html

**Current Church Office Hours
are now 10 AM—2 PM,
Monday though Friday.**

