

Contact Us
Office Phone: 518-399-5144
Fax: 518-399-0384
E-Mail:
burnthillsumc@gmail.com
Web: www.nybhmc.com
Office hours: Monday-Friday
8:45 am-12:45 pm

Worship hours
9:00am and
10:30am (with livestream)

Lead Pastor
Rev. Amy Gregory
revgregorybhmc@gmail.com

Associate Pastor
Pastor Brendan Fox
pastorbrendanbhmc@gmail.com

Music Directors
Peter Van Keuren
Jill Zygo

Sound and Video
Charles Hartmann

Sunday School Superintendent
Jodi Facteau-St. Gelais

Communications Coordinator
Robyn Axon

Custodian
Nick Adami

Treasurer
Dee Lowman
treasurer@burnthillsumc.org

Financial Secretary
Sue Zoller
financialsecretary@burnthillsumc.org

Preschool Staff
Stephanie Tope - Teacher
Angie Barclay - Assistant
Teacher
Karen Lathrop - Director



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The Methodist

Burnt Hills UMC News

December, 2023

The Gift of Being Present
Advent/Christmas 2023



Advent Potluck

Friday, December 1st

6pm Potluck: bring some food to share or just bring yourself - there is always enough!

"Make a Magi" Craft: create wise kings & queens to decorate our sanctuary window sills for the holidays

7:15pm Trim the Sanctuary Christmas Tree: sing some carols as we decorate the tree for Advent and Christmas time

8pm Light the Memorial Tree: we go outside to sing and light the tree on route 50 near our sign to remember our loved ones



Burnt Hills United Methodist Church
816 Rt. 50, Burnt Hills, NY 12027
burnthillsumc.org



Deadline for articles for the January Methodist is December 15. Please submit your articles to Robyn @ burnthillsumc@gmail.com

Christmas Eve

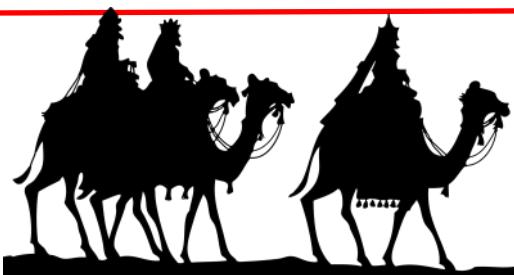
at BURNT HILLS UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

9:30am: 4th Sunday of Advent

3:30pm: Short & Sweet (30 min./Low Sensory)

7:00pm: Christmas Pageant

9:00pm: Candlelight Service



Help us Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent

As in years past we are asking the congregation to help us decorate the sanctuary for Advent. This year our theme is the Magi. Please consider bringing in your Magi from home to place on the sanctuary window sills. Advent begins **Sunday, December 3rd**. The Advent Celebration is scheduled for **Friday, December 1st**, **this should be a great time to bring in your Wise Men.**

Please do not share your breakable family heirlooms, we cannot guarantee their safety.



Save the Date

**Caroling at Glendale
December 20 at 6:00 pm.
All singers invited!**



Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is set up and full of "ornaments". On the back of each "ornament" is a gift request. Please buy the item, wrap it and ATTACH THE ORNAMENT (the ornament information is the only way we know who gets the gift). The best way to attach the ornament is to securely tape the sting to the package (this allows the information to be read). Bring the gifts to church and place under the Giving Tree by **December 17, 2023**. We need the gifts back by this date so we can sort them for distribution prior to Christmas. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mark Witkofsky (669-2978). Thank you for your generosity.



News From The Outreach Committee

SERRV/Mayan Hands Fair Trade Sale

It is time for our annual Fair Trade Sale which so many of us have supported for more than 30 years. The sale will take place in Knight Hall **after both Sunday services on Dec. 3.** We will have Christmas



ornaments, woven goods, baskets, placemats, tablecloths, fair trade coffee and assorted chocolates and much more. Come shop where your dollars make a real difference in people's lives. **Our church keeps none of the money. Every cent goes to these organizations that help those in need.** Thank you for thinking of people all over the globe, who are less fortunate.
The Outreach Committee



Heifer International

For more than 75 years, Heifer International has worked with people around the globe to end hunger and poverty, and care for the earth. This organization provides animals, seeds and trees to farm families and then mentors the families to build a business based on livestock and/or growing plants. The family later gives a gift of livestock or plants and shares knowledge with another farm family. **This chain of help continues within the community.** Family income is increased, improving food security and ensuring the well being of the community. **Your gifts save lives.** Information about donating to Heifer will be in Knight Hall after church services in December. Please stop by the table to see the animal gift cards and brochures. You may make a donation at the table, send the donation to the church office or make your donation electronically by using: nybhumc.com/online-giving.html. There is a drop down box for Heifer at that web site. Thank you so much!

Christmas Offering- 2023

Our Christmas Offering helps neighbors near and far. Our church keeps none of your gifts received from this offering. We will again support **Schenectady Community Ministries**. This is a partnership of many faith groups that work together in ministries of social service and social justice. They serve thousands of people in need each year. We will also support **RISSE**, a family based center in Albany that helps refugees and recent immigrants. They provide classes in English and help to find jobs and housing. A donation will be made to Chacocente Scholars. This will help support students who formerly lived in the Managua City Dump in Nicaragua. They are now attending secondary schools and hoping to attend colleges. We are again giving money to the Guardian House, a shelter for homeless women veterans. Our church has agreed to help provide an outdoor area with picnic tables and playground. Captain/CHS, an agency active in Clifton Park and Burnt Hills will receive money to help support their many community programs for families, teens and senior citizens. We also plan to help our **local food pantries** of SCM in Schenectady, Life Works in Ballston Spa and Rensselaer UMC. You may place your offering in the collection plate or drop it off at the church office. If you would like to make your offering electronically, please visit the church website at : nybhumc.com/online-giving.html. There is a dropdown box for the Christmas Offering.

Thank you for your generous gifts for people in need. May you all stay healthy and safe. Merry Christmas from the Outreach Committee.

Code Blue Shelter of Saratoga

During the winter months, Saratoga opens a shelter on very cold nights at 120 South Broadway. They are in need of volunteers to serve dinner from **5:30-7:00 pm**. The church is collecting gloves and mittens for residents of the shelter. There is a box in the narthex and a box under the mailboxes.

For those interested in **donating directly** to the shelter, they are in need of the following items: Granola bars/protein bars, individually packaged snacks, powdered drink mixes, condiments; peanut butter, jelly, coffee, powdered coffee creamer, sugar and Stewart's gift cards. Donations of goods will be accepted at 120 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs (center building). They can be brought in any day from 5:00-9:00 pm.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.sheltersofsaratoga.org or contact Shelters of Saratoga directly at 518-581-1097 or info@sheltersofsaratoga.org, or scan the QR code.



Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Dinner

Thank you to everyone who helped make the first annual "Charlie Brown Open table" thanksgiving meal a roaring success! We had close to 40 young people enjoying a thanksgiving meal while playing games and making connections, truly it was a wonderful night!

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will be on **December 2 at 8:00 am in Knight Hall**. Men of all ages are invited. Come and meet other people of the church and share good food and fellowship. Hope to see you there!



Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will be meeting at **The Charlton Tavern at 12:00 pm on Friday, December 1st**. Contact Carol Borthwick (399-5405) or Lynn Christie (399-8838) if you would like to attend. We are suggesting that you drive over to the Town of Ballston Town Hall afterwards to view the Christmas trees at The Christmas Tree Festival put on by the Burnt Hills – Ballston Lake Women's Club.



United Methodist Women

UMW Circles are groups who meet monthly during the school year for fellowship and a variety of projects or programs. All gatherings are open and welcoming. Please feel free to join in whenever your schedule allows. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Rogers at 518-399-8629.

TUESDAY CONNECTION CIRCLE Tuesday, December 12 at 9:30 in Fireside. Please join in for the annual Christmas Cookie exchange. There are no complicated rules, just leave with the same number of cookies that you bring. Pastor Amy will be our special guest.

SPECIAL K There will not be a meeting this month.

Studies for Adults: Please join us!

- **Early Birds** with Pastor Amy, meets **Mondays at 9:30 am** in the Fireside room.
 - **Explorer's Bible Study** with Pastor Brendan, meets **Wednesdays 9:30 am** in the Fireside Room. The group views a 30 minute video about the bible and then talks about it. No homework, no additional reading. Just come, learn and share.
 - **Seekers: Sisters in Christ**, ongoing study meets **Thursdays at 9:15 am** in Knight Hall.
-

BHUMC Council Meetings

Once a month, we hold a Church Council meeting to share updates and review church business. We meet in person on the **third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in Knight Hall**, with an option to join live online via Zoom—a hybrid meeting. All church members are invited to attend and participate. Contact April Hicks, Council Chair, at BHUMC_Council@gmail.com for the Zoom link for any given month, or to be added to the standing invitation email distribution list. There will be no December meeting. **The next meeting is Monday, January 15 at 7:00 pm.**

Save the Date!

Save the Date for the BHUMC Women's Retreat on **April 19-20, 2024** at Christ the King Center in Greenwich, New York. Stay tuned for more information, and visit ctkcenter.org or scan the QR code to see the beautiful facility where the retreat will be taking place.



Soup Kitchen



Please sign up and bring all ingredients by **Friday, December 15**. (If you make a different plan, please put a notation on the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside Knight Hall. It saves us duplicating ingredients.) We will be making the soup after 2nd service on **December 17**. We will leave the church the following day at **10 AM** to serve at Salvation Army in Schenectady. Looking for new people to prep and serve. Lots of fun and feels good to help others. Further info: Libby Horn, 518-698-4043 or Terry Prany's, 518-256-8476.

Caregiver Support Group



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

The next Caregiver Support Group meeting will be **Saturday, December 2, at 10:30 am** in the Fireside Room. 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. Diane Skibinski is the facilitator and can be reached at dsbibins@gmail.com or 518-423-2887 for any questions.

Altar Flowers



BHUMC has a tradition of having members donate flowers to decorate our altar as a remembrance or a celebration. Examples of this are loved one's birthdays, wedding anniversaries or "just because". **We have returned the physical signup sheet to the hallway outside Knight Hall. If you prefer, you can still call Robyn Axon, our office manager at (518) 399-5144, to add you to the list.** A member of the altar committee will call you close to your selected date as a reminder and to help with any necessary coordination. **You may bring in your own flowers, or use**

Country Florist at (518) 399-2650. Country Florist has a key to the church and will insure they are delivered for the Sunday service. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your special days with your church family.

Grow Team



Youth Group fun and some gifts of service too! It was wonderful for our middle and high school youth to gather for some fellowship and pumpkin fun!

October was ushered out with a FANTASTIC attendance at Trunk or Treat. Over 180 persons attended! Where did all the extra candy come from? It was amazing !



On Nov. 11, Concerned for the Hungry youth tried a different weekend slot and who was there but more BHUMC folks! See photos! Our youth volunteers were Alyssa, Ashley, Kendall Milsapp, Matthew Rounds and Jessie we were so glad to connect with you on this outing! Small but mighty with hearts of gratitude sums up November in Sunday School, Youth Group, and in the

community too! Some sickness prevented our other helpers from getting to this event, but tis the season.....and prayers for healing and thanks for rest and good medical care when needed too!



Special thanks to Jodi Facticeau-St.Gelais for getting our cookie batch prepped for the decorating elves! We should have a great variety ready for the visitation team to share on their visits to spread holiday cheer!

We look forward to seeing everyone on **Dec. 1 for Potluck and Making Magi, Crismon tree decorating, and Silent Night singing** at the memorial tree lighting at the end of the evening. We will also be making some traditional and modern "Magi" following the star for the birth of Jesus.

Practice for the pageants are happening **Dec. 3, 10 and 17 at 12:00.**

We will be caroling at Glendale on **December 20 at 6:00pm!** We hope that families can join us!

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

816 Route 50

Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Non Profit

Organization

U. S. Postage

PAID

BHUMC Preschool

Preschool has a lot to be thankful for this year and we spent the month of November talking about the many blessing we all have. We were treated to a visit from a couple local veterans as well as our nurse Glenda Hughes. We also made decorations for the Christmas tree we are displaying at the Festival of Trees.

The month of December is packed with holiday preparation. We will be making parent gifts and Christmas cards, and preparing for our Nativity program. Our friends Kavya and Andy H will be celebrating birthdays in December. Join us in wishing them a very Happy Birthday!

Registration for church members and alumni for fall 2024 classes is now open!

BHUM Preschool 2024/25
OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, January 27th 2024
10 am - Noon



Contact Stephanie Tope
518-466-6566 or
Bhumpreschool@gmail.com



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

Volunteer Drivers are urgently needed for:

**Cheryl's Lodge Outreach Center - shuttling students
in support of academic success**

**Karyl's Kupboard Food Pantry - delivering food to
those without transportation**

**Care Links Senior Services - transporting seniors
within our community to medical appointments &
shopping**

**Getting Ahead - transporting clients to & from our
Clifton Park location in support of developing self-
sufficiency skills**

**Flexible hours based on your availability! Training and
support provided.**

For more information, call 518-399-4624

APPLY ONLINE!

**Visit our website at
WWW.CAPTAINCARES.ORG/VOLUNTEER**

Confirmation Class



Looking forward to Confirmation Class With Erik Mortensen - our confirmation class co-lead (with Pastor Brendan)! Erik is dad to Gavin and Ella (MS & HS). When asked about the upcoming class, he said that he is looking forward to joining the kids on their own paths of spiritual journey! When asked about what is important to him - he said " Love, faith, family, the outdoors, (and certainly hunting)!" He says that he is always on the hunt for spiritual growth and faith too. Erik says the rumors are true that there will probably be bonsai sightings during the class!



December, 2023

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 the office at 518-399-5144.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch at The Charlton Tavern 6:00 pm Advent potluck & memorial tree lighting	2 8:00am Men's breakfast 10:30am Caregiver's Support meeting 3:00pm Shirley Hirt Memorial/Reception in Knight Hall
3 9:00am Worship 9:45am Youth Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am VOH 12:00pm Pageant rehearsal 3:00pm Scouts/KH 3:30pm Scouts	4 9:30pm Earlybirds 6:45pm Scouts	5 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Scouts/KH	6 8:30 am Fix-its 9:30 am Explorers 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Pub Theology/Pizza Works	7 9:15am Seekers 10:30am BH-BL Women's Club 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9 11:00am Birthday Party/KH
10 9:00am Worship 10:00am VOH 10:00am Youth Choir 10:30am Worship 12:00 pm Pageant rehearsal 3:30pm Scouts	11 9:30am Earlybirds 5:30pm Scouts/KH 6:30pm Scouts 6:45pm Scouts 6:45pm Scouts	12 9:30am Tuesday Connections 7:00pm Scouts/KH	13 8:30am Fix-its 9:30am Explorers 5:30pm Scouts/KH 6:00pm Scouts 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm AA 7:00pm PT/Pizza	14 9:15am Seekers 6:00pm Scouts 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	15 5:30pm Scouts/KH	16 12:00pm Scouts/KH
17 9:00am Worship 9:45am Youth Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am VOH 11:30am Prepare meal for SK 12:00pm Pageant rehearsal 3:00pm Scouts/KH 3:30pm Scouts	18 9:30am Earlybirds 10:00am Serve lunch at SK 6:30pm Scouts 6:45pm Scouts	19 1:00pm BH-BL Book Club 7:00pm Scouts/KH	20 8:30am Fix-its 9:30am Explorers 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Pub Theology/Pizza Works	21 9:15am Seekers 6:00pm Scouts 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 9:30am Worship 3:30pm Worship 7:00pm Christmas Eve Pageant 9:00 pm Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 7:00pm Scouts/KH	27 8:30am Fix-its 6:00pm Scouts 7:00pm AA	28 9:15am Seekers 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 9:30am Worship						