

# The Methodist

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church News

February 2022

Greetings and wishes that you keep warm in the days ahead! Hopefully you have noticed that the days are getting longer (even if they have been colder recently) and the sun is shining just a bit brighter. As we enter February, and wait to hear from the groundhog just how much more winter is ahead, we can know deep down that spring is coming. Much like our faith through Christ, even in the darkest and coldest of times, we know that something is coming, that the light and warmth of new life is inevitable and that the Good News is for everyone.

In January we experienced a small setback in the Covid situation as Omicron led to us returning to a single in-person worship service, to a hold on Sunday School for a few weeks, and to some meetings going back to Zoom format. But somehow, all of that seems less disruptive than in the past, as we have already learned that this congregation continues to be the church, even when faced with challenges. I look forward with great excitement and expectation to what the future holds for us.

Among the ministries that have continued through these days of challenges, one has even grown and is seeking to become more active: the Social Justice Action Group. After a long start-up period, heavily affected by Covid, this small core group is seeking to grow in its efforts to provide educational and action opportunities, increase understanding of their efforts, and encourage others to join them as they grow. To that end, they have a number of opportunities scheduled in February. All are invited to participate.

The group is seeking to coordinate volunteer opportunities with RISSE (Refuge and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus) by now. Communication continues and hopefully new volunteer opportunities to support RISSE can be shared soon.

On the education front, the group will be:

Hosting Pastor Holly as a speaker on Wednesday, February 2, at 7pm, as she discusses “The History of Social Justice within the United Methodist Church.” The event will be in the Sanctuary, and the plan is to make it available as a livestream as well so that you can watch from home. Contact the church for details and the livestream address;

Hosting Paul Fisk of the Climate Reality Project on Wednesday, February 9, at he looks at the issue of Climate Change and presents fact-based information. Contact with Paul was made through the Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC), an established faith-based organization seeking to thoughtfully consider our impact on God’s world and how to respond. This event is also planned for the Sanctuary with a livestream opportunity; and

Connecting via Zoom to the off-site event, “Climate Peril: A Weatherman’s Perspective,” presented by CRICC on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. The presenter, Hugh Johnson, is a retired National Weather Service Meteorologist. The presentation will physically be at the Albany Unitarian Universalist Society, but we will connect via Zoom and have a group participation here at BHUMC.

I am excited by so much that is happening at BHUMC! I encourage each of you to consider how you can become involved as we seek to follow Christ and share the Good News.

*Paster Dave*

## United Methodist Women



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

**Tuesday Connection Circle** will meet on Tuesday, February 8 at 9:30 AM in Knight Hall. We will try once again to make Valentines for nursing home residents.

**Special K Circle** will meet on Monday, February 28 at 2 PM in Knight Hall. Join us for a rousing game of Pictionary.

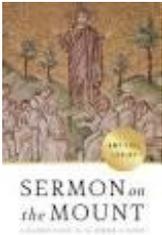


**According to AARP, one in five Americans are Caregivers. Are you one of these Caregivers? It helps to talk to others who are going through the Caregiving experience.**

The next Caregiver Support Group meeting will be Saturday, February 5, at 10:30 AM. We will meet in Knight Hall while wearing masks. The new air conditioning unit in Knight Hall that cleans the air of micro-organisms, pollen, viruses, and mold spores will be activated for the meeting.

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. Lynn Christie is the facilitator and can be reached at 399-8838 or hlchristie@aol.com for any questions.

There will be a **special charge conference** as part of our regular Council meeting on February 15, to consider removal of individuals from official membership. These are people that we have not been able to contact for several years and this is part of the official process laid out by the UMC for such cases.



### Lent Study

The pastors would like to offer a Zoom-based Bible Study during Lent, using Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Sermon on the Mount – A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office. Sessions will be Wednesday evenings, early March to mid-April.

## The Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

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**BurntHillsUMC**

### Staff

Rev. Holly Nye: *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Doug Mackey: *Associate Pastor*

Cindy Peterson: *Communications Coordinator*

Kimberly Spath: *Treasurer*

Paula Miller: *Financial Secretary*

Peter Van Keuren & Jill Zygo: *Music Directors*

Charles Hartmann: *Sound and Video*

Joe Tangrady: *Maintenance*

Jodi Facticeau-St. Gelais:

*Sunday School Superintendent*

Stacy Herbage & Stephanie Tope:

*Preschool Staff*

## Gifts for Others

In mid December, we created and delivered Christmas food boxes for two Union College foreign students who could not travel to see their families over the college break. There is no college food service during the holidays, so our gifts of easy-to-prepare meals, snacks, treats and grocery gift cards were very much appreciated. One student was from China and the other was from Vietnam.

We have also delivered bikes, helmets, locks and bike pumps to refugees living in Albany who were being helped by RISSE. Three bikes were given to a family from Africa. They only spoke Swahili, but a neighbor spoke English well and was able to translate. The dad will use his bike to get to work and a teenage girl will use her bike for transportation to try to find a job. The youngest child was just having fun riding his bike on the sidewalk in front of their apartment. Three bikes and equipment were given to Afghan refugees. The first man had worked with special forces in Afghanistan and his English was excellent. His wife will use the bike to ride to English classes at RISSE. Two other Afghan men received bikes and equipment. One man will use his bike to get to a local job. The other man, who lives in the same apartment, spoke excellent English and helpfully translated for his housemate. This man is 93!!, and had a great time riding up and down the street. Despite the language barrier for some, all could express how great it was to receive a bike.

Additionally, two bikes were given to the Rensselaer United Methodist Church food pantry along with lots of food. They give away free food and two people were also very happy to receive bikes.

We also took several large boxes of baby items, including diapers, lotion, formula, sippy cups, etc., to Young Parents United in Schenectady. This is a support group for teen moms and their families.

Thank you to all who donated their gently used bikes, baby items and food to share. Your gifts made a difference in many lives. —The Outreach Commission



## Generosity

Thank you to our church families for being so willing to help others. Our Fair Trade Sale of **Mayan Hands** weavings raised \$770.80 for these very poor women artisans in Guatemala. Your purchases give money and hope for a better life. Children go to school, families are nourished, and women are safer because of their higher status within the family.

**Concerned For The Hungry** received \$810 from our Thanksgiving offering, enabling the creation of food boxes for needy families, and help for hungry people all year.

You gave our offering request for **Tornado Relief** \$935. This will be combined with \$325 being held for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), bringing the total to \$1260.

Your response to the Christmas Offering was wonderful. The total of \$3668.50 will be shared with **Schenectady Community Ministries**, **Conference Ministries Shares**, **Chococente** (the community we help support in Managua, Nicaragua), **RISSE** (the center for refugees in Albany), **Skye Farm Camp** in Warrensburg and **local food pantries**.

Thank you for giving money to improve life for people beyond our church community. What a blessing! —The Outreach Commission

## Giving Tree Summary

This year we were able to provide Christmas to 16 families with a total of 34 children, 15 adults and 115 presents. This is an estimated giving of approximately \$4000 when the food gift cards are accounted for. Thanks to all who gave gifts. A special thanks to the LAF for providing funds used to purchase the food gift cards. —Mark Witkofsky

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## Church Photo Directory

We have begun collecting photos of our church family to include in our church directory.

**If you have a digital photo available**, please send it as an attachment in an email to [shirlandavevan@yahoo.com](mailto:shirlandavevan@yahoo.com). Please use “Church Directory” as the subject line and include the names of the people included in the photo (e.g., Doe, John & Jane).

**If you don't have a digital photo to share but have a photo that can be scanned**, you can leave that photo at the church office, which will be scanned later and then available for you to pick up.

**If you don't have a digital photo to share or one that can be scanned**, we will have church members who can take a photo at the church. Please contact Cindy at the church office to set up a time. We hope also to be able to provide a process to take photos of shut-ins.

**The deadline is February 28.** Please submit one photo per family. A committee will review photos for quality and appropriateness for inclusion in the directory. By providing a photo for the directory, you agree that it will be used for church purposes only, and that it will not be shared with anyone else. Likewise, we ask that you not share the church contact information in your directory with third parties. Thank you. —Dave Van Schaick

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## Safe Sanctuaries Zoom Training

The standard Safe Sanctuaries training will be held Saturday, February 26, from 9 AM to 12:30 PM. This will be held via **Zoom**.

**Registration will close on Saturday, February 19, at noon.**

If you are not registered by that time, you will not be able to attend this event. At this time there are no other trainings scheduled, so we recommend getting registered as soon as possible.

The training will follow the revised ZOOM curriculum developed by the Upper New York Annual Conference Safe Sanctuaries Team, educating those involved in ministries who work with children and vulnerable adults on risks and prevention strategies related to abuse.

The training will be facilitated by Arlene Schmidt and Pastor Christine Mitchell, UNY Conference Safe Sanctuaries Co-Chairs.

Please register at <https://uny-ss-basic-feb26.eventbrite.com>

The participant curriculum packet is available on the Eventbrite event page via download. We recommend printing or asking your church office to print this packet for you prior to signing into the training. Please remember that all persons being trained **MUST** be on their own personal device (i.e. computer, laptop, tablet, phone, etc.)

# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 6:30pm SPRC 6:30 Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 8:30am Fixits 9:30am Explorers 4:45pm Scouts 6pm Scouts 7pm Social Justice	<b>3</b> 9:15am Seekers 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Chancel Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:30am Caregiver Support Group
<b>6</b> 10am Cherub Choir Rehearsal  10:30am Worship/Sunday School	<b>7</b> 9:30am Morning Disciples  5:45 Scouts	<b>8</b> 9:30am Tuesday Connection Circle 6pm Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 8:30am Fixits 9:30am Explorers 7pm Social Justice	<b>10</b> 9:15am Seekers 10am BHBL Women's Club 6:30 Scouts 6pm Scouts 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 11am Scouts  4pm Scout Sleepover
<b>13</b> 10:30am Worship/Sunday School  11:30 Bake Sale 4pm Scouts	<b>14</b> 9:30am Morning Disciples  12:30 BHBL Women's Club  7pm Scouts	<b>15</b> 1pm BHBL Women's Book Club  7pm Trustees  7pm Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 8:30am Fixits 9:30am Explorers 6pm Scouts 7pm Scouts	<b>17</b> 9:15am Seekers  6:30pm Scouts  7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10:30am Worship/Sunday School  3:30pm Scouts	<b>21</b> 9:30am Morning Disciples  2pm Special K  6pm Scouts 7 Social Justice	<b>22</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>23</b> 8:30am Fixits  9:30am Explorers	<b>24</b> 9:15am Seekers  7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10:30am Worship/Sunday School  4pm Scouts	<b>28</b> 9:30am Morning Disciples  2pm Special K  6pm Scouts 7 Social Justice					

The Seekers Bible Study and Book Group will be holding the **1st Annual Trunks and Kisses Valentine's Day Fundraiser** for the Sunday School and Cherub Choir. **Sunday, February 13**, after the church service.

This year we will be honoring the memory of Jane Smith, who had a special love for children.

**ITEMS FOR SALE:** \$4: Decorated bags, EACH with a DOZEN assorted Homemade Cookies and a few Chocolate Kisses. \$20: Hand-crafted Valentine Table Top Glass Vases with silk flowers (see picture above). \$20: Mary Kay *Satin Lips* gift bags. And single long stem Roses.

## Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

816 Route 50  
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

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Do you make purchases from Amazon? Many people do! You may want to consider doing purchases from Amazon Smile, which donates a small percentage of each purchase to a charity of your choice. The Burnt Hills United Methodist Church is listed as an eligible charity. In 2021, the church received \$59.88 in contributions from people buying through Amazon Smile!!

### Preschool News

Preschool started off the new year by welcoming some new friends! We are getting back into the swing of things as we are learning about polar animals and hibernation.

We have collected our current students' registration forms for the fall and have limited spots available for the 4's. Please help spread the word that we are now taking registration for both 3 and 4-year old classes.



**Burnt Hills United  
Methodist Preschool**

**2022**

**3 and 4 Year Olds  
FALL REGISTRATION**

Contact us at:  
[bhumpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:bhumpreschool@gmail.com)  
[bhpreschool.com](http://bhpreschool.com)  
Facebook page