

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
revgregorybhunc@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 Facticeau-St. Gelais

Church Office Manager

Renee Mesh

Custodian

Nick Adami

Treasurer

treasurer@burnthillsumc.org

Financial Secretary

Sue Zoller
financialsecretary@burnthillsumc.org

Preschool Staff

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



Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/
BurnthillsUMC



Follow us on Instagram
Burnthillsumc518



Youtube livestream:
@burnthillsumcvideos480

The Methodist

Burnt Hills UMC News

January, 2026

Dear BHUMC Friends,

On **Epiphany Sunday**, January 4th we received **Star Words to guide us for the new year**. We have **plenty of Star Words to share**. If you didn't receive one or would like one for family or friends, please pick one up in church on Sunday or reach out to Renee in the church office. We want all of the Star Words to go to a good home :)

Star Words are not only a lovely way to start the new year but can travel with you throughout the year. How will your word speak to you? How can it bring you **closer to God's presence**? Your Star Word might turn out to be something entirely different than your first reaction. **Put it in a place that you see it often and ponder its meaning.**

May God bless us as we contemplate that gift of light that we have been given both individually and collectively as the body of Christ in BHUMC.

May God give us strength and compassion to sit in and witness the darkness that we see all around us. May we trust that new life is germinating in that rich soil. May our lives be a glimmer of light and new life in the new year.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Amy



A Look Back at December

Christmas Pageant 2025



Caroling at Glendale Home

I wanted to share this cute photo of the youth singing at the Festival of Trees! It was so fun to see all the youth out and about in the community! - Jill Zygo



Giving Tree Summary

This year we were able to provide Christmas to 10 families with a total of 23 children, 14 adults and 90 presents. This is an estimated giving of \$4200 when food gift cards are accounted for. Thanks to EVERYONE. A special thanks to the LAF for providing funds used to purchase the food gift cards. Every year I am amazed at the generosity of our congregation, and this year was no different. —Mark Witkofsky



A STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY SERIES *Counterculture* By the Numbers

2026

\$271,704

Committed so far for 2026



82

HOUSEHOLDS

Have submitted 2026 CounterCultural Commitments

53
STEP-UPS

Households increasing or committing for the first time



THAT'S A
65%
STEP-UP RATE!

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

AND THERE IS STILL WORK TO DO

The Finance Team and Church Council are projecting a significant shortfall in the 2026 Ministry Plan. If you have not yet submitted an estimate of giving for 2026, now is the time to do so. You can do so online by scanning the QR code, or you can pick up a physical card in the church office. Thank you for helping to shape a generous, countercultural ministry this year!



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. During Advent we are reading "Hagitude—Reimagining The Second Half of Life" by Sharon Blackie. Books are available in the church office.

Meditation – Tuesdays from 10am-11:30am 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. We start back up this month. Contact Ian if you're interested in attending!

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 "The Dream Giver" by Bruce Wilkinson beginning in January.

Monthly Activities: Please Join Us!

Men's Breakfast - January 10

The next Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday January 10 at 8 am** in Knight Hall. We are moving the breakfast to the second Saturday in this month because of New Year's Day. So spread the word, and bring a friend. We hope to see you there!



United Women in Faith: January Gatherings



TUESDAY CONNECTION CIRCLE will meet **Tuesday, January 13 at 9:30 AM** in the Fireside Room. We will be making Valentine tray favors for Glendale Home.

SPECIAL K Circle will meet on **Monday, January 26 at 2 pm** in Fireside Room to enjoy popcorn and a movie.

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: January 23

The January luncheon date for Lunch Bunch will be **Friday, January 23rd**. The group will meet at **The Glenville Queen (210 Saratoga Road, Glenville) at 12:00 pm**. Contact Carol Borthwick (399-5405) or Lynn Christie (399-8838) if you would like to attend.



Caregiver Support Group: January 3



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, January 3 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 ds kibins@gmail.com or 518-423-2887.

Food Pantry

Food Pantry Hours are 9am - 12 noon Monday to Friday, Sunday mornings, and by appointment. Ring the door bell to get in any weekday. Currently the pantry could really benefit from: **boxes of cereal, individual servings of apple sauce, peanut butter, jelly.** No glass jars. Thank you!

Souper Bowl Sunday

Our church will be collecting cans of soup for the **SICM food pantry in Schenectady** for Souper Bowl Sunday. **Let's try to collect over 200 cans of soup!**

We will start on Sunday, January 11 and continue through the Souper Bowl on Sunday, February 8. The soup will be collected and stored in the sanctuary so we can visualize progress. Thank you for your generosity!



Human Relations Day

Celebrate Love in Action on **Human Relations Day, January 18.** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed of a world filled with love, justice, and unity. On Human Relations Day, we can bring that dream to life by supporting ministries that strengthen neighborhoods and transform lives.

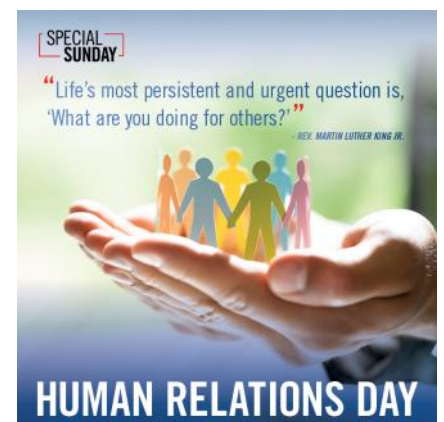
This is one of six churchwide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. This day:

- invites congregations to strengthen communities, especially those facing poverty, injustice, or lack of opportunity. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of the "beloved community."
- calls us to build relationships rooted in dignity, equity, and love, and to remember that every person deserves a chance to thrive
- reminds us that living out our faith means building stronger, caring relationships, especially with those who have been pushed to the margins of society
- supports the Church's work in creating communities where everyone can flourish.

When we give, we support church-based programs that work in local neighborhoods to build justice, offer hope, and walk alongside those who need a second chance. Programs include: Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs helping young people rebuild their lives through mentoring, leadership training, and positive, faith-based community experiences; Community Developers Program (CDP) that strive to maintain, and strengthen racial-ethnic minority congregations through local United Methodist churches and engage based on community needs; and The United Methodist Voluntary Services (UMVS) that serves as a resource to congregations and volunteer working to challenge unjust political, social, and economic systems.

For over 50 years, United Methodists have observed this special Sunday to honor the message Jesus lived out: that every one of God's children matters. One of the beautiful things about The United Methodist Church is that, together, we can accomplish far more than we could on our own. Our collective gifts help build "the beloved community."

During the month of January, please give using the "Human Relations Day" offering envelope found in the pews or online through Vanco.



Soup Kitchen: January 11 (prep) and January 12 (serve)

Friday, January 9 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, January 11: Make soup after second service.

Monday, January 12 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.

⇒ **Join us in one or more of these ways to gather and serve our neighbors a warm, nutritious meal!**



BHUMC Directory: Photo Due Date Extension— JANUARY 31, 2026

Your smiles and updated contact info are needed for our BHUMC Community Directory. We encourage folks who participate in our ministries AND folks who join us on the livestream to submit photos for this print directory. Include your fur babies in the photos, too!

Here are 3 ways to share your photos:

- (1) **Send or bring in a photo to the church office.** We will scan the photo for you — please let us know if we need to return the photo to you,
- ➡ (2) **Email your photo to BHUMCdirectory@gmail.com,** or
- (3) Use a digital device to access this **QR code** (you must have Gmail for this option).



*** Tips: No commercial or school photos please. Focus on faces. Use good lighting! ***

January Preschool Notes

Our preschoolers had a fantastic December! We were able to play in the snow, make many gifts for our families, and be elves in Santa's workshop. Both of our classes had the opportunity to present the Nativity story to their families and friends, sing Christmas carols, enjoy cookies & cocoa together, and receive a special visit from Santa.

We are excited for a New Year and lots of winter fun with our friends!

Our open house is coming up on January 24th. Church members and BHUM Preschool alumni have the opportunity to register early. If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more information about our preschool program please reach out to Stephanie Tope at 518-466-6566 or bhumpreschool@gmail.com.



Deadline for articles for the February Methodist is January 15th.
Please submit your articles to Renee at burnthillsumc@gmail.com

January at Glance ~ Check the online church calendar for updates and changes

January 3: Caregiver's Support Group
January 10: Men's Breakfast
January 11: Soup Prep for Salvation Army
January 12: Serve Lunch at Salvation Army
January 19: Ad Council 2026 Budget Vote
January 23/24: Gathering Retreat - 1st offering
January 25: Family Fun Night—Free Pasta Party
January 31: Photos due for Directory



Prayer Chain

Would you like to be on the prayer chain? Email coordinator Cat Jenkins, prayer.bhumc@gmail.com or contact the church office at 518-399-5144 or burnthillsumc@gmail.com

The Golden Journey of Discovering Beauty, Meaning and Hope In these Broken Times

Two retreats led by Marilyn Stoner and Rhody Streeter

This 2-day retreat, with two different sets of dates to choose from (one offered in January and one offered in February), offers a time to be together in a small group setting, to share gratefulness and brokenness, grief, hurt, and even anger in a healthy way...and stories of courage, wonder and joy! We will dive into storytelling, music, art, and movement, gentle and easy for everyone, even those of you who think you aren't good at any of that!



This 12-person retreat, for all genders over 18, will be offered twice in Knight Hall. If interested, **please choose one:**

Friday evening January 23, 6-9pm, dinner provided at 6:00 AND
Saturday January 24, 10:00am-4:00pm snacks and lunch provided

OR

Friday evening February 27 6-9pm dinner provided at 6:00 AND
Saturday February 28, 10:00-4:00pm snacks and lunch provided

Sign up on the bulletin board, or go to Signup Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DAEA822A0FDC70-61479256-januaryfebruary> or use the QR code). Any questions or concerns, please text Marilyn at (502) 456-1502. Dietary needs will be accommodated.



Note: this will be a “whole cloth” event, when you sign up be sure that you can attend the whole time for both days, as it is disruptive to others if people are coming late or leaving early, barring emergencies.

Leonard Cohen song: Anthem
Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything

January 2025

For the most up-to-date calendar, check our webpage at www.nybhmc.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 No Preschool Office Closed	2 No Preschool	3 10:30-11:30am Caregiver's Support Group/ Fireside
4 9-10am Worship 10:30-11:30am Worship 6-8pm Saratoga Voices Auditions/ Assembly Room Upstairs	5 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 6:30-7:30pm Finance Committee/ Fireside 6-8pm Saratoga Voices Auditions/ Assembly Room Upstairs	6 10-11:30am Meditation/ Sparkle Room 5:30-6:30pm Troop #3872/ Knight Hall 6:30-7:30pm SPRC Fireside room 7-8:30pm Troop #3056/Knight Hall	7 8:30-10:30am Fix-its 9:30-10:30 am Explorers/Fireside 6-7pm Troop #3910 & #3934/Upstairs 7-8pm AA/Fireside 7-8pm Queer Holy Club/Pizza Works	8 9:15-10:45am Seekers/Knight Hall 10:30-11:30am BH-BL Women's Club Board Meeting/Fireside 6:30-7:30pm Troop #3020/Knight Hall 7-8pm Choir Rehearsal/Loft	9	10 8-9am Men's Breakfast/Knight Hall
11 9-10am Worship 10:30-11:30am Worship 11:30am-12:30pm Prepare soup for Salvation Army/ Kitchen 1-4pm Troop #2619/ Knight Hall	12 9:30-10:30am Earlybirds/Fireside 10am-1pm Serve lunch at Salvation Army 12-3pm BH-BL Women's Club Luncheon/KH 4:30-5pm Private Piano Lesson/KH 5:45-7:30pm Troop #3847/Knight Hall 6-7pm Troop #3801/ Upstairs Classroom 6:30-8:30pm Troop #2169/Sparkle Room	13 9:30-11am Tuesday Connection Circle/ Knight Hall 10-11:30am Meditation/ Sparkle Room 7-8:30pm Troop #3056/Knight Hall	14 8:30-10:30am Fix-its 9:30-10:30 am Explorers/Fireside 6-7pm Troop #3857/ Upstairs 7-8pm AA/Fireside 7-8pm Queer Holy Club/Pizza Works	15 9:15-10:45am Seekers/Knight Hall 6:30-8pm Choir Rehearsal/Loft 6:30-7:30pm Finance Committee/Fireside	16	17
18 9-10am Worship 10:30-11:30am Worship	19 No Preschool 9:30-10:30am Earlybirds/Fireside 4:30-5pm Private Piano Lesson/KH 6-7pm Troop #3801/ Upstairs Classroom 6:30-8:30pm - Troop #2169/Sparkle Room 7-9pm Church Council/Fireside	20 10-11:30am Meditation/ Sparkle 1-3pm BH-BL Women's Club Book Club/Fireside Room 6-7pm Troop #3917/Upstairs 7-8:30pm Troop #3056/KH 7-8pm Trustee Meeting/Fireside	21 8:30-10:30am Fix-its 9:30-10:30 am Explorers/Fireside 6-7pm Troop #3910/ Upstairs 6-7pm Troop #3934/ Upstairs 7-8pm AA/Fireside 7-8pm Queer Holy Club/Pizza Works	22 9:15-10:45am Seekers/Knight Hall 10:45-11:45am Memorial Committee Meeting/Tentative/ Fireside Room 6:30-7:30pm Troop #3020/KH 7-8pm Choir Rehearsal/Loft	23 No Preschool 7-8pm Lunch Bunch/Glenville Queen 5-10pm Retreat (6- 9pm)/Knight Hall & Kitchen	24 9am-5pm Retreat (10am-4pm)/ Knight Hall & Kitchen
25 9-10am Worship 9:45-10:25am Youth Choir 10:30-11:30am Worship 11:30am-12:15pm Voices of Hope Choir 5-7pm Family Fun Night Pasta Party/ Knight Hall	26 9:30-10:30am Earlybirds/Fireside 2-3pm Special K/ Knight Hall 4:30-5pm Private Piano Lesson/KH 6-7pm Troop #3801/ Upstairs Classroom 6:30-8:30pm Troop #2169/Sparkle Room	27 10-11:30am Meditation/ Sparkle 5:30-6:30pm Troop #3872/ Knight Hall 7-8:30pm Troop #3056/Knight Hall	28 8:30-10:30am Fix-its 9:30-10:30 am Explorers/Fireside 6-7pm Troop #3857/ Upstairs 6:30-8pm Troop #2424/Upstairs/ Sparkle Room 7-8pm AA/Fireside 7-8pm Social Justice Action Group/KH	29 9:15-10:45am Seekers/Knight Hall 7-8pm Choir Rehearsal/Loft	30	31

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

816 Route 50

Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Non Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage

PAID

Burnt Hills, NY 12027
Permit NO. 1



January Family Fun Night

Let's beat the winter blues together!

Come join us for a **Free Pasta Party on Sunday, January 25 from 5-7pm in Knight Hall.**

Our chefs are the Weis family. Everyone is invited! **We hope to see you there!**