

# The Methodist

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church News

July 2022



Happy July! Thank you so much for the warm welcome to Burnt Hills UMC. Bill and I have been touched by your care from a beautiful, well-cared for parsonage to move into, gift cards for meals in local restaurants, all of the introductions and smiles and the fireflies that greeted us on the lawn the Saturday night before our first Sunday morning worship service. Personally, I have been very grateful for all of the care and help offered to me by Pastor Holly and Pastor Doug. I couldn't have asked for better colleagues to follow. I know how much they loved being in ministry with you and I can see your affection for them as well. It is my honor and joy to join you in ministry. (And we can't wait to welcome Pastor Brendan Fox in September!)

Some summer prayers for us as we live into our season of transition; I hope summer gives us all moments of rest and relaxation to enjoy God's beautiful creation and to see the blessings that surround us. (Oh how lovely New York state is in the summer!) And, in our challenges that don't take a vacation I hope we can feel God's presence with us. And, may we all not only see but participate in those opportunities that we are given to be God's love and light in this world. Our hurting world needs us!

I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you soon--over the summer or in the fall. Please feel free to reach out to me by phone: 518-399-5144 press "1" (or email: [revgregorybhumc@gmail.com](mailto:revgregorybhumc@gmail.com)).

What a blessing it is for us to be with you!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Amy

In **September**, **Pastor Brendan Fox** will join the staff as Associate Pastor. He is excited to become part of the life of this vibrant congregation.

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### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW Circles are small groups that meet for a variety of programs and projects. Our monthly meetings will start up again in September. They are always open and welcoming. For more information, call Holly Rogers at 399-8629.

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### Music

*Feel like singing in the choir without the commitment? Summer choir begins on June 19 and continues through summer. Simply show up in the choir loft at 8:45 on Sunday morning to briefly practice one or two simple pieces and sing at worship that morning. Don't be bashful - give it a try! Hope you do!*



Pete Van Keuren

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### BHUMC Administrative Council

BHUMC Administrative Council will take a break for the summer and then meet again in September. Anyone interested in minutes from past meetings can obtain a copy by contacting the church office. Questions for Council can be sent to [BHUMC.council@gmail.com](mailto:BHUMC.council@gmail.com).

April Hicks, Council Chair

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## Thank you

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation for all the prayers, well wishes, and cards that were sent to my husband, Bill. As you know, he has been battling several health issues and continues to do so. The love and support that we have received has meant so much to us. We ask for your continued prayers for Bill's health and for our family as we navigate these difficult times.

God Bless & Thanks again,  
Joyce Poli

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## The Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

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Web: [www.nybhmc.com](http://www.nybhmc.com)



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<https://www.facebook.com/BurntHillsUMC>

### Staff

Rev. Amy Gregory, *Lead Pastor*  
Robyn Axon: *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 Facteau-St. Gelais:  
*Sunday School Superintendent*  
Stacy Herbage & Stephanie Tope:  
*Preschool Staff*

## 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.*



To avoid the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, our next Caregiver Support Group meeting will be Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting outside under the tent in the courtyard at 10:00 am. Bring a lawn chair. I will have extra lawn chairs if you

don't have one.

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.

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### Soup Kitchen July 17

The July Soup Kitchen at the Schenectady Salvation Army will be serving Minestrone soup, fruit, juice, egg salad sandwiches and a variety of homemade cookies. Please sign up for donations on the bulletin board outside Knight Hall. We are asking for the donations to be in the kitchen marked "SK" by Friday July 15th. (That gives us time to purchase missing items)

We will be making the soup and egg salad after church on July 17th. The serving crew will meet in the kitchen at 10AM on Monday the 18th to go to Schenectady to serve. Please help in whatever way you can. Questions? Call Libby Horn at 518-698-4043.

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### Memorials

On Sunday, June 19, the Memorial Committee awarded four graduating high school seniors with \$1500.00 scholarships. The recipients were:

Emily Darling (University of Buffalo)

Ally Frame (Towson University)

Abigail Miller (SUNY Oneonta)

Madeline Morrison (Hartwick College)

These scholarships were made possible by Mary Wolfe who set up a scholarship in memory of her husband, Dr. John Wolfe, who considered post-secondary education essential for a successful life career. This scholarship fund was added on to by other families designating their memorials go to this scholarship fund.

Lynn Christie

Memorial Committee Chairperson

First BHUMC/LAF yard sale a great success!

On Friday, June 17th , the LAF steering committee sponsored a yard sale to empty the trustee garage of the many donations received since the 2021 LAF. MANY people helped with tent set up, haul out, selling, purchasing and clean up. Thank you to all who helped. We made \$2500 and the community got some GREAT deals! 25% of the proceeds will be given to Ukraine relief, the balance to several community organizations. Ready to add LAF to your calendar? It is happening this year!

September 9 and 10. After church on August 21st we will set up tents that have sides and will again empty the garage. Always need lots of help on that day! We start taking donations the next day: Monday August 22 nd . You may spread the word! We hope many of our congregation will help with sorting in the weeks leading up to the fair. Thursday September 8th is also a haul out day for Linens and Boutique and a few more tents and booths! Please put all these dates on your calendar and respond positively when booth chairs ask for help. It will be awesome!



Greeting folks!

As we (SJAG) write this to share with you, we are exhausted. Yet, we have never been more pleased or thankful to be so. There were several impactful moments from the J.J. Warren and PRIDE events this June, and we would like to share some of those with you.

J.J.'s keynote address, and the panel discussion were in enlightening. They sparked group discussions and made us examine ourselves. They struck upon us how important community and interconnectedness is. How important learning, growing, and loving one another is. The event left us with new ideas and hopes for ways to work closer together both within our Burnt Hills community and our broader Methodist community.

The sermon and service were wonderful as well. It brought tears to our eyes to see the church coming together in a large circle around the sanctuary, being connected in that way, dedicated to loving each other, and drawing the circle wide.

Beyond those moments however, we felt compelled to share with you all some of our experiences at the PRIDE festival booth we held. There we both positive and negative experiences – both of which exhibit how important the work we are doing is.

We had a young woman, who said it was her first time at PRIDE, who was so happy to see a church group that accepts all people.

We had a 14-year-old come up to us, lured over by the promise of free stickers, and say “I didn’t know there were any Methodists who accepted queer people. I came out as queer a year ago and we had to leave our church”.

We had a mother who said she grew up in both Methodist and Pentecostal churches and had to leave both when she came out as gay. She never lost her faith, but she’s struggled to find a place she would feel safe taking her kids too.

We had a grandmother come up to us with her grandchild, and while they were distracted looked me in the eye and said, “Thank you”. She looked at her grandchild and said to me “I see you. I see what you’re doing. It’s important and thank you”. She wanted to donate, and when I said that we weren’t accepting them, she refused to take that as an answer, pointed from herself to me, and left money on the table.

We had someone who grew up in Burnt Hills say that they were shocked to see a group from Burnt Hills at PRIDE. That they grew up in our community and had no support – but they were so extremely pleased to see our group there.

We had someone discuss how they came from a Methodist church, and their church is 50/50 split and dying because of this issue.

We had a dad, and a little girl walk by, wearing a Burnt Hills T-shirt, and the dad pointed at us and said “See, that group thinks it’s okay.”

There were some who saw our sign and would not come over at all. There were others who questioned us, who told us their stories, or who simply were glad to see us. We apologized to those who needed it, offered what we had and explained why we were there. Some thanked us, some took our flyers, and some simply stood with us in an odd moment of silence in an otherwise loud and boisterous space.

These stories serve as a reminder. It reminds us that there is much work to be done still. That there has been harm caused, and which we must work to correct through love. It reminds us that while we may rest, we must not become complacent. At the same time, it fuels us, to continue to move forward as a group. That we should not waste this momentum and passion. Seeing these glimpses of the work we strive for fulfilled, makes it worth continuing to do social justice work. For a better world, a better community, and a better self.

Thank you, for your help, your gifts, your support, and your kindness. We cannot wait to be a part of whatever comes next, and we invite those of you that feel so moved to join us. We meet the last Wednesday of every month at the church. Please feel free to reach out to us at [bhumcsocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:bhumcsocialjustice@gmail.com), on social media at [bhumcsjag](https://www.facebook.com/bhumcsjag), or at our website [bhumcsjag.com](http://bhumcsjag.com). We hope to see you soon!

The Social Justice Action Group

## What is a Reconciling Church?

During the keynote address at our church on June 11<sup>th</sup> by JJ Warren, public theologian, activist and author, he referred to the Reconciling churches. As a follow up, the BHUNC Next Steps team wanted to share information about the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). The Next Steps team is the group who helped guide the congregation through the adoption of our BHUMC Welcome Statement.

RMN is committed to advocacy for many groups who continue to experience oppression within the Church and the world. Ministries identifying as Reconciling through the RMN process have adopted this foundational Reconciling statement:

“We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.”

A Reconciling Church is a congregation that has voted to affiliate with RMN. The Next Steps team is learning about RMN to discern whether this is a good recommendation for the members of the BHUMC as we continue to live fully into our Welcome Statement. A church that identifies as Reconciling does not leave the United Methodist Church, but rather is making a statement that it disagrees with the current UMC stance on full inclusion. You can learn about Reconciling ministries at [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org).

April Hicks



# July 2022



For the most up-to-date calendar, check our webpage at [www.nybhmc.com](http://www.nybhmc.com).

Want to add something to the master calendar? Please fill out a Calendar Request form located in the main office or email [burnthillsumc@gmail.com](mailto:burnthillsumc@gmail.com) for a copy.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Punch on the Patio	<b>4</b> Independence Day Office is closed	<b>5</b> 6:30pm SPRC 7pm Boy Scouts #56	<b>6</b> 8:30am Fixits	<b>7</b> 9am Seekers	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:30am Dottie Hoyt Memorial Luncheon to follow service in Knight Hall
<b>10</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Punch on the Patio	<b>11</b> 7pm Church Council	<b>12</b> 7pm Boy Scouts #56	<b>13</b> 8:30am Fixits	<b>14</b> 9am Seekers	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Punch on the Patio	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1pm BHBL Book Club 7pm Boy Scouts #56 7pm Trustee Mtg- in person	<b>20</b> 8:30am Fixits	<b>21</b> 9am Seekers	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Punch on the Patio	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7pm Boy Scouts #56	<b>27</b> 8:30am Fixits 7pm Social Justice Group	<b>28</b> 9am Seekers	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Punch on the Patio						

## Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

816 Route 50

Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Non Profit

Organization

U. S. Postage

PAID

Although our preschool classes are finished for the summer, our teachers are hard at work preparing for the fall. We have very limited availability left for our fall classes. Please help spread the word. We can be reached at [bhumpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:bhumpreschool@gmail.com), our website and at our FB page. We hope you are having a wonderful summer!

Thank you,  
Stacy Herbage  
Lead Teacher  
Burnt Hills Methodist Preschool  
[bhpreschool.com](http://bhpreschool.com)



BHUM PRESCHOOL wishes you the  
best summer ever!



### Many, many thanks...

Friends,  
How do I even begin?  
Thank you for the lovely luncheon retirement party, and your many kind words. I am overwhelmed by the beautiful gifts- the handcrafted quilt, the walking stick from the kids, hand painted artwork of a favorite scene, the Happy Trails banner, camping "swag," and many other kind gifts and gestures that have been extended to me in these days.

Most of all, thank you for these 10 years of connection and shared ministry. There have been some challenges (especially the challenge of being church during a pandemic!), and you have risen to those challenges with love and faithfulness. I am so grateful to have shared in ministry with every one on BHUMC staff, and with each of you in this congregation. I know you will continue to grow as you love God, love neighbor, and serve the world.

Pastor Amy - and Pastor Brendan, in a couple of months- are blessed to be beginning their relationships with all of you: a remarkable, generous, caring congregation. Wonderful days are ahead of you!  
Holding you all in prayer,

Holly