



The Methodist

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church News

June 2022

Summer is here and we are all looking forward to days of fun and warm weather, but as I sit here considering what to say for our June newsletter, my mind and my soul are more concerned with what has happened in multiple places in recent weeks, where persons filled with hate have taken the lives of so many others, at a grocery in Buffalo, at a church in California, and now at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, just to name a few places. It may be easy to dismiss such violence as the actions of troubled individuals, perhaps with mental health concerns – there is no doubt of that, but it is important to not let such actions be seen as applying to all who have mental health concerns. It is just as important to try and understand what other factors may have allowed that hatred to grow, to seem justified, and to ultimately lead to the impulse to harm others, as well as to consider how that harm was facilitated, the actual mechanisms of injury and what can be done to address each of these contributing factors.

As Christians, we focus on love and the Grace of God; we gather each week to pray, to raise up the names of those in need, to give thanks to God for the wonderful world we inhabit and for all those who fill our lives with joy. We also take time to ask for forgiveness for our sins, but how often do we really reflect on what those sins are, at how deeply our actions may separate us from God (but thankfully not God from us) and how they may affect others in ways that we do not even consider. How often do we stop and consider our own Spiritual health and consider and enact in our daily life a response to the question presented in Micah 6:6-8: “What does God require of us?” Anyone familiar with this passage knows that the answer is: “To seek Justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God”.

Unfortunately, we Christians do not always live into those concepts which Micah laid out for us, even if we think we do. Too often we get caught up in thinking we love everyone, but we do not live into that belief. When we hear voices telling us to fear those who are not like us, and we let those words harden our hearts, are we following as God wishes? When we hear voices saying certain people are sinners and, therefore, need to be excluded, are we loving as Christ shows us to do? When statements are made and backed up with scriptural passages, which justify exclusion and even violence, are we lifting up justice and mercy? When we cling to “thoughts and prayers” as a response to violence, and yet refuse to act in ways that seek to eliminate the potential for harm, are we refusing to be God’s hand and feet in the world?

At this time of national grief, as we seek answers to “Why” and “How” such violence can happen in our midst, we need to consider many causes. Certainly mental health is an important consideration, but so is Spiritual Health, of the individual perpetrator and of the nation as a whole. Let us take time over summer to consider our own spiritual health and how we can grow closer to God. Let us not live in fear, but know in our hearts that God is always with us, and that what God asks of us is to reflect God’s Grace and Love to the world, not just with our words, but in how we act as well.

In Christ’s Peace



** This article is, unfortunately, based on one that I wrote in June 2016 following the nightclub shooting in Orlando where 49 individuals lost their lives. It has been updated, yet sadly, the underlying issues remain the same 6 years later. I pray that this time, we are moved to act rather than just “beat our breasts” in sadness.

Please welcome Pastor Amy! Amy's first Sunday in worship will be July 3 (remember, Summer Sunday worship time is 9:30 AM.

In **September, Pastor Brendan Fox** will also join the staff as Associate Pastor. Both pastors are excited to become part of the life of this vibrant congregation.

Other SPR news: We thank David Nti, who has been serving in an interim capacity to transition our office functions and office technology. David's help has been invaluable – AND, after June 17, he will be off to California to fulfill his Army Reserve duties. Meanwhile, SPR will be introducing a new office staff person, expected to begin June 20. Watch for news!

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

Our stash of **prayer blankets** has dwindled down to a few and new ones are being ordered. They will be available in navy, royal blue, dark green, purple, maroon, and gray. We will also have small baby blankets available in pink, blue, yellow and white. Cost will remain at \$10 for the full size blankets and the baby blankets will be \$8.50.



There is a box in the church office full of **old VHS** tapes of church services, programs and archives from the **80's and 90's**. If you have any interest, please stop by and take a look and take home any that you'd like to have.

The Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

Office Phone: (518) 399-5144
Fax: (518) 399-0384
E-Mail: burnthillsumc@gmail.com
Web: www.nybhumc.com



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Staff

Rev. Holly Nye: *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Doug Mackey: *Associate Pastor*
TBA—*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

JULY 1: Rev. Amy Gregory, Lead Pastor

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 caregivers who attend this support group are in all stages of caregiving, from taking care of a loved one in their own apartment or house to those dealing with hospice in nursing homes.

The Caregiver Support Group usually meets the first Sunday of the month. Please contact Lynn Christie, facilitator, for more information and upcoming dates: hlchristie@aol.com or 399-8838.

Soup Kitchen June 13

On May 16th, we had our first soup kitchen in over 2 years! We prepared WAY too much vegetable soup on Sunday, then served 70 people at Salvation Army on Monday. Great crews and MANY donations of food items—thank you!

Although we have picked 3rd Monday of each month ongoing, in June the prep day will be after church on June 12th with serving on the 13th due to Doug's farewell party on Father's Day. So, we will only need to thaw out the soup, but we will still need donations for making egg salad (please hard boil eggs you donate) and cookies, etc. Please find the signup sheet outside Knight Hall and join us to prep and/or serve. Never done it before? Sign up and join the fun!

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.

TUESDAY CONNECTION CIRCLE will meet at Focastle on Tuesday, June 14 at 11:30 to have lunch and reveal our Secret Pals.

Yard Sale: June 17

Your Lord's Acre Fair steering committee is trying something new this year. Instead of traditional presales, we are going to have a yard sale on **Friday, June 17th** to empty the trustee garage. A tent will be set up on the lawn near Route 50 so the event can be held rain or shine. We are not looking for LAF donations yet (that will start August 22nd) but are hoping you will plan to help set up, sell and spread the word! Stay tuned for details in church bulletins and emails.

With Gratitude...

A **thank you** for all the many expressions of Sympathy from my "Church Family" at the passing of my daughter recently.

I am truly blessed!

Sincerely,

Metta VanValkenburg

Memorial Service for Terry Miltner:

The BHUMC community has been dear to the heart of Terry and Karen Miltner and family. At long last, the family is able to have a service for Terry.

The calling hours will be at Glenville Funeral Home from **9:30– 11:00 on Monday, June 27th.**

The Service will be at **11:00 at the funeral home**, followed by the trip to the National Cemetery.

Karen and family thank you in advance for being a part of this special day.



June 11-12:

J.J. Warren, public theologian, advocate, speaker and author of *Reclaiming Church*, is coming to Burnt Hills United Methodist Church for events on June 11 and 12. Details below, or visit our website at nybhunc.com

Thank
you

Dick and Ann Chatterton want to thank their church friends for all the support and encouragement offered during their recent moves. Unfortunately, two attempted relocations did not work out, but now Dick and Ann are living at 4 Oak Brook Commons in Clifton Park, NY 12065. They report that they are looking forward to joining folks in worship soon at BHUMC.

RECLAIMING CHURCH

Don't miss this!

In June, BHUMC will be hosting J.J. Warren, theologian, author and activist, for two events. J. J. is the author of *Reclaiming Church*, *A Call to Action for Religious Rejects* and a recent graduate of Boston University School of Theology.

On **Saturday, June 11**, at 10:00 a.m., J.J. will kick off a Reconciling Revival with a keynote address, followed by a panel discussion and book-signing. When you think about the future of the UMC, what do you hope for? What vision excites you? Come and listen as our guests grapple with the challenges ahead. (This event will be inside. Please bring a mask.) The event will also be simulcast on our YouTube page at: <https://youtu.be/eeHNZPnMIY0> .

On **Sunday, June 12**, at 9:00 a.m. J.J. will lead our congregation in worship. Following the service, our BHUMC Social Justice Action Group will be coordinating a delegation to attend in the Capital Pride Parade and Festival in Albany.

June 2022



For the most up-to-date calendar, check our webpage at 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 for a copy.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month 8:30am Fixits 9:30am Explorers 6pm GS #2502 6pm GS #3857	2 9am Seekers 6pm GS #2424 6pm GS #2083 7pm Chancel Choir	3 10am Strawberry Hauling	4 10:30am Caregiver's Support group
5 9am Worship 9:45am Cherub Choir 10:30am Worship/Sunday School/Baptism 4pm GS #2468	6 9:30am Morning Disciples 5:45 Girl Scouts	7 6pm SPRC 7pm Boy Scouts	8 8:30am Fixits 9:30am Explorers	9 9am Seekers- 10:30am BHBL Women's Club Board Mtg 7pm Choir Rehearsal	10 11am Celebration of Life for Dorothy Conklin	11 10am JJ Warren Event
12 JJ Warren Event 9am Worship 11:30 Soup Kitchen prep 3:30 Scouts	13 9:30am Morning Disciples 10am Soup Kitchen 7pm Church Council	14 Flag Day 11:30 Tuesdays Connections 6pm Daisies #3856 7pm Boy Scouts	15 8:30am Fixits 6pm Scouts	16 9am Seekers 7pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 Father's Day Juneteenth 9am Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Party for Pastor Doug 4pm GS #2658	20 7pm GS Bridging Ceremony	21 1pm BHBL Book Club 7pm BS #56 7pm Trustee Mtg- in person	22 8:30am Fixits	23 9am Seekers	24	25
26 9:30am Worship 4pm BS Troop #46	27 9:30 am Morning Disciples	28 5:30am Primary Election 7pm BS #56	29 8:30am Fixits	30 9am Seekers		