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Office hours: Monday-Friday
8:45 am-12:45 pm

Worship hours
Sunday at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Lead Pastor
Rev. Amy Gregory
revgregorybhumc@gmail.com

Associate Pastor
Pastor Brendan Fox
pastorbrendanbhumc@gmail.com

Music Directors
Peter Van Keuren
Jill Zygo

Sound and Video
Charles Hartmann

Sunday School Superintendent
Jodi Facticeau-St. Gelais

Communications Coordinator
Robyn Axon

Custodian
Nick Adami

Treasurer
Kimberly Spath

Financial Secretary
Sue Zoller

Preschool Staff
Stephanie Tope - Teacher
Angie Barclay - Assistant
Teacher
Deb Whitehead - Director



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A Spiritual Journey

by Wendell Berry from The Collected Poems of
Wendell Berry, 1957-1982

*And the world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles,
no matter how long,
but only by a spiritual journey,
a journey of one inch,
very arduous and humbling and joyful,
by which we arrive at the ground at our feet,
and learn to be at home.*

Have you ever noticed that we use the word **journey** a lot in church but almost never in daily life? We go on a trip or adventure, we travel somewhere but almost never go on a journey. That's for ancient explorers, fairy tales and epic stories. A journey implies a quest, an ordeal, a difficult search for a goal of great importance. If given a choice I'd much rather just go to the grocery store than journey to the grocery store—that sounds too arduous for milk and bread!

But **seeing the life of the Spirit as a journey** is a part of our and many other spiritual traditions. A **pilgrimage is a special journey** to a sacred place, be it the Hajj journey that our Muslim friends make or a trip to the Holy Land to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and our spiritual ancestors. **Right here in Burnt Hills, we journey** to Bethlehem and the manger during Advent. We journey with Jesus to Jerusalem during Lent and especially during his final days during Holy Week to the empty tomb and Resurrection. After Easter we go on the journey as the Spirit goes out into all parts of the world.

This Lent we are going to spend some time **looking at our spiritual journey as an image—in a sandbox**. Yes, you did read that correctly! In the sanctuary we have a square box of sand on a table that is ready to receive our contemplations in sand this season. You are **invited to bring something small to add to the box as we depict our Lenten journey** in the sand. Perhaps it is something from nature that you've picked up on a walk or hike. Perhaps it is something you've made. Maybe it is an object that has significance for you in your faith. We will have available pieces of terra cotta clay that air harden in a few days if you'd like to make something for the box.

Do you have questions about this creative tool for contemplation?

But, what is it exactly that we are making—what should it look like when we are finished?

- There are no directions for assembly! We don't know that yet. It will unfold with us as we undertake our journey together through Lent.

How will all of our individual journeys come together to depict our journey as a church? What if mine doesn't seem to go with the others?

- This Lent, as our overarching **theme we are exploring kinship in a world of relationships**. So, what better time to bring all of our parts and journeys, and put them together to contemplate the connections and relationships. We are the body of Christ, after all. And all the parts can't be the same—that would be a strange body indeed!

Will I be able to get back the things I bring in?

- After Easter, you can take home with you the objects you bring in. Just remember the church is open so don't bring in something that would break your heart to lose!

So this Lent, let's **spend some time thinking about our Lenten journey**. Bring something once—or every week or not at all.

Touch the sand, play with it or take a curious peek at what is being created. All ages are welcome to participate.

There **will be some objects to choose from available every week**. See if something there moves you to add it to our box. It's all ok! Let's take the time to play, be creative and to contemplate important points on our path **using our Lenten sandbox as a tool for contemplation**.

Pastor Brendan and I are excited to be on this Lenten journey with you and curious to see what the Spirit might reveal to us in the sand.

May this season draw us all closer to God and God's beloved Child Jesus. And, may we all grow closer to who it is that God calls us to be as unique, beautiful individuals and as the beloved community at BHUMC.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Amy

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Nuñez's Installation

Join us to celebrate the assignment of Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Nuñez as the new episcopal leader for Upper New York. Bishop Héctor's service of installation and celebration is **Saturday, March 11, 2023 beginning at 2 p.m. at Liverpool First United Methodist Church**, located at 604 Oswego St. in Liverpool, NY.

This service of installation and celebration is intended for the whole Conference. You may participate in one of two ways:

- In-person at the Liverpool First United Methodist Church. A limited number of seats are available. Please RSVP for in-person participation no later than March 4 by registering with The Upper New York Conference. A reception will follow this service onsite.
- Watch the livestream from anywhere in the Conference. For livestream participation, no RSVP is necessary. You can view the livestream below.



Studies for Adults: Please join us!

- **Early Birds** with Pastor Amy, Mondays at 9:30 am in the Fireside room. We will be reading *Luke* by Adam Hamilton.
- **Explorer's Bible Study** with Pastor Brendan, Wednesdays at 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. We will begin reading *A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent* by Walter Bruggemann.



United Methodist Women

UMW Circles are small groups that gather monthly for fellowship and a variety of programs and projects. All meetings are open and welcoming. If you have questions or would like more information, please call Holly Rogers at 399-8629

TUESDAY CONNECTION CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, March 14 at 9:30 AM** in Knight Hall. We will be making Easter cards for shut-ins and enjoying some church history with Metta.

SPECIAL K CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, March 27 at 2 PM** in Knight Hall. Since our January meeting was cancelled due to bad weather, we will again try making fleece stroller blankets for Young Parents United. Bring a pair of fabric shears if you have them.

Music



We may not all be singers, but **each of us has a song to sing!** And if you feel like sharing your vocal gifts in the Chancel Choir, **weekly rehearsals** are at **7:00 pm in the choir loft**. It's a fun and meaningful way to worship God, and you'd be helping others in worship. **Join us in the loft;** it's the best seat in the house! *Pete Van Keuren*

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on **Friday, March 24th at Fo'Castle Farms at 12:00 pm**. Contact Carol Borthwick (399-5405) or Lynn Christie (399-8838) if you would like to attend.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 4 at 8am 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.

Pub Theology

Pub Theology meets **every Wednesday (except for the last Wednesday)** at **Pizza Works** on Saratoga Rd. Hope to see you there!





Get Ready, Get Set, It's almost here!!

It's **Open Mike Night** at the Burnt Hills United Methodist Church!

The performers are signing up!

So far we have singers, musicians, poets, and a trumpeter!

If you are a performer, please sign up on the sheet outside the door to Knight Hall. Please plan to come out to watch and enjoy the show on **Saturday evening March 11th from 6:30-8:30PM**. We are planning to have coffee and some desserts for purchase. **There is no cover, but a free will offering for UMCOR** will be taken. It's going to be a fun evening and you will be impressed with the performances!! You will even have a chance to sing along! Invite a friend AND COME ON DOWN!



Caregiver Support Group

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, March 4th at 10:30 am**. We will meet 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. Lynn Christie is the facilitator and can be reached at 399-8838 or hlchristie@aol.com for any questions.



Soup Kitchen

This month's Soup Kitchen is **March 20th**. We need items brought to the church's kitchen by **Friday, March 17th**. If you have a different plan, please write it on the sign-up sheet such as "will bring Sunday". Please also **put your initials on your donations** so we know who to contact for missing items. We will make vegetable soup and egg salad after second service on

Sunday, March 19th. Sign up on the bulletin board outside Knight Hall to donate food items and/or sign up to prepare food on Sunday or serve in Schenectady on Monday. We have a different crew for these tasks each month. Hope you can join us!

Libby Horn, 518-698-4043; Terry Prany 518-256-8476.



College Scholarships

College around the corner? We urge high school seniors to apply for **Memorial Committee scholarships** now. Applications are available in the church office. You may also call the church office at (518) 399-5144 and ask for an application to be mailed to you. **The deadline for submissions is May 15.**

Caregivers Needed

Just 2- 4 hours a week of your time and talents will assist us in providing 24-hour care and comfort to the terminally ill at Mary's Haven, a program of Catholic Charities. Initial and ongoing training is provided. Our volunteers love what they do. Come and see why. **Please consider adding Mary's Haven to your Volunteer Schedule in 2023!** For more information please contact: Robin at Mary's Haven (518) 584-9397.

Women's Retreat

SAVE THE DATE: BHUMC Women's Retreat, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, **September 22-23**, at **Christ the King Retreat Center, Greenwich, NY.** (ctkcenter.org) More information to follow.

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". In the past we had a physical sign-up sheet in the hallway outside Knight Hall. With fewer people in the building, we will be changing how this works. Instead of a physical list in the hallway, **Robyn Axon, our communication coordinator, will be maintaining this list.** Please call her at (518) 399-5144 to reserve your weeks. 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. Now that we are back in the sanctuary fulltime, it would be **great to celebrate your special days in this way.**

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 **second Monday of the month at 7pm 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.

Grow Team Highlights Looking Forward

Confirmation class forming now to start later in Spring start date TBD.....look for details to come! Adult volunteers needed to help with our activities. Families and adult volunteers please reach out to Cathy Bryson (cell ph: 518-428-9691) with your interest. **Class would happen before 10:30 service each week.**

April 2nd is Palm Sunday celebration with music and EGG HUNT to follow the 10:30 service. Look for a donation basket to put small items that will fit into eggs. Our older youth will prepare the eggs in weeks prior and hide them too! Thank you! We will gather after service in Knight Hall to make bags to gather the eggs in and proceed from there with younger kids going first. “Bring a friend to Egg Hunt” letter will be created and shared because we are inviting our friends and neighbors to share in this celebration!

May 14th Our Senior High School is preparing Mother’s Day service, as is tradition! Many thanks to them for sharing their gifts and leading us on this special day.

May 21st is music Sunday plans are in the works! What a gift our musicians, choirs, and directors are! A special thank you to LAF who has graciously answered our request to help us update our grab ‘n go/ children’s bags to include sensory friendly items!

And Special Thanks to our pastors for helping us live into our discipleship plan with intentional focus on spiritual practice themes embedded in our worship. If you have an idea for a one time event, class, gathering, please bring it to our attention and/or pastors as we journey together and grow/live as disciples.



Burnt Hills United Methodist Preschool

Preschool had a lot of fun preparing and celebrating Valentine’s Day We also enjoyed our time away for Winter Break and our Field Trip to the Children’s Museum in Saratoga.

We will begin our space unit with the 4’s class and Nursey Rhymes with the 3 year olds. We will also be celebrating St. Patrick’s Day.

We are filling up our roster for the fall. If you or anyone you know is looking to enroll, please contact Mrs. Tope, ASAP at 518-399-5144 or bhumcpreschool@gmail.com.

Social Justice Action Team Updates

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who was able to donate to the Shelters of **Saratoga** and for Mike and Pat Thomas for lifting up this area of need with our committee. Here is our what our collection looks like – PLUS 2 more very warm sleeping bags that Pastor Brendan took up just before the last big freeze event..... honestly, looking through the items brought tears because of the amazing care and thoughtfulness in each gift from socks, batteries, nourishing and easy to prep foods, books, towels, oral hygiene products, cleaning products, and the list goes on.....



in



In March, look for our reading corner in Knight Hall.....we are lifting up **READING IS FUN program**, which is brought to us by Libby Horn. Libby shares that she is a literacy volunteer and this program is amazing. You are paired with a child and get to spend 1:1 time with them every two weeks, reading! The greatest area of need for the program is volunteers to read with the children. Over the course of the month of March, we will be having ways to nominate some of your favorite books, and then we will vote on our favorites towards the end of the month.

For the month of April, we would like to focus on Planet Love – Young and older planet lovers.....can you help us out? We are going to try for an Earth Day “fair” in Knight Hall after church (or outside if weather permits). Can you make a poster? Or a small display of planet healthy options you use? Or about an organization you work with? Or a recycling table? What do you do to be a friend to our environment within your home, Burnt Hills, or regards to the larger community of the earth we share? We are in the process of scheduling an after church event/fair on this topic, possibly Sunday, April 23rd. Please let us know if you are interested



Let's Connect!

Email: bhumcsocialjustice@gmail.com

Or cell Cathy Bryson cell 518-428-9691 or Scott Bryson cell 518-888-6633

Lord's Acre Fair

The Lord's Acre Fair Committee met on February 19th to discuss contributing money that was earned at this year's fair. The following requests were honored and to date the **LAF has supported \$9000 in requests.**

- **\$1000 Pastor Emergency Fund** to supply money to members having financial emergencies
- **\$1000 UMCOR** for earthquake relief in Turkey
- **\$1000 UMCOR** for humanitarian aid to people in Ukraine
- **\$800 BHUMC Altar Fund**
- **\$500 Pastor's Angel Fund**- Distributing \$25 grocery gift cards to people in need.
- **\$500 to the Giving Tree** for Christmas Gifts to families in our area.
- **\$500 Joan Nicole Prince Hospice House**
- **\$500 Young Parents United**
- **\$500 Guardian House Shelter** for homeless women veterans
- **\$500 Captain**
- **\$500 to Friends of Zion Hills International School in Africa**
- **\$500 to Friends In Action International- Missionary project** to bring water to a village community in Vanuatu in the South Pacific.
- **\$500 to Effler Family missionaries** in Senegal, West Africa
- **\$500 to the new Veteran's Park** in Glenville.
- **\$500 to Council Meadows** for a construction project.
- **\$300 to Raindrops Closet** for Homeless Families to provide roasted chickens for Thanksgiving baskets
- **\$100 Coffee Hour supplies**
- **\$100 Union College Ecumenical Program** to provide meals to international students who can't travel home during holidays.
- **Two donations to Jeannie Smith Teetz's family missionaries.**

If you have a specific project that you would like our church to support, please submit your request to the Lord's Acre Fair Committee. You can give it to Robyn in the church office or email it to adamsgreg01@gmail.com.

Home Health Equipment

Thank you to all who have donated home health care equipment to the church. We welcome those donations because there are constant requests for this equipment as our members become caregivers to loved ones. **At present, we have the following equipment that is available to any of you that need it:**

A power reclining chair

A Polar Cube, which is a device that can circulate ice water to an extremity that needs swelling reduction

Toileting Chairs

Walkers

Crutches

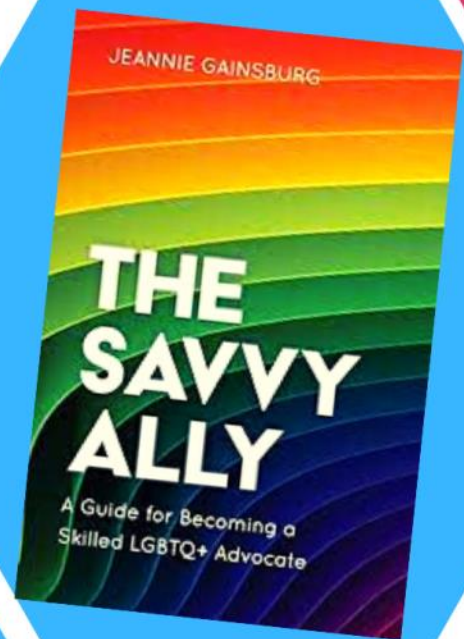
If you are in need of any of the listed items, please contact Robyn in the church office or email Greg Adams at adamsgreg01@gmail.com

BURNT HILLS UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS

THE SAVVY ALLY: A
GUIDE FOR BECOMING A
SKILLED LGBTQ+
ADVOCATE

BY JEANNIE GAINSBURG

A BOOK STUDY
FACILITATED BY
LISA PUCKEY



- March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5 from 7:00-8:30pm
- Offered both in-person, virtually or do a little of both
- Limited copies available for purchase through BHUMC or purchase your own prior to 3/1

Come learn and discuss the following topics in a safe and welcoming space so you can be a Savvy Ally!



Understanding
Gender and
Sexuality



Pronouns and
Common
Language



Proper
Etiquette and
Common Faux
Pas



Changing and
Becoming A
Savvy Ally

Register by 2/23
limited to the first
100 people

🌐 burnthillsumc@gmail.com

📞 (518) 399-5144

🏠 816 NY-50, Burnt Hills, NY 12027

🌈 This is a non-
denominational
event

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Burnt Hills
United Methodist Church

816 Route 50, Burnt Hills, NY 12027
Knight Hall

Friday, March 31, 2023
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please schedule an appointment at redcrossblood.org and
use sponsor code BURNTHILLSUMC.
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS



Come give in March and get a \$10 Visa Prepaid Card by email. PLUS, get a chance to win a \$3,000 Visa Prepaid Card to help with gas or grocery expenses! You could be one of five lucky winners. Lend an arm; we'll lend a hand. Terms apply: rcblood.org/help.





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.

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays

- * 9:00 am Worship
- * 9:45 am Youth Choir
- * 10:30 am Worship
- * 11:30 am Voices of Hope
- * 4:00 pm Girl Scout Troop # 2658 **(second and fourth Sunday)**

Mondays

- * 9:30 am Earlybirds
- * 12:00 pm BH-BL club luncheon **(second Monday only)**
- * 2:00 pm Special K **(last Monday only)**
- * 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop # 2169
- * 6:30pm Cub Scout Troop # 3020
- * 7:00 pm Church Council **(second Monday only)**

Tuesdays

- * 9:30 am Tuesday Connections **(second Tuesday only)**
- * 1:00 pm BH-BL Book club **(third Tuesday only)**
- * 7:00 pm Trustee meeting **(third Tuesday only)**
- * 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop #3056

Wednesdays

- * 8:30 am Fixits
- * 9:30 am Explorers
- * 1:00 pm Preschool meeting **(second Wednesday only)**
- * 5:30 pm Girl Scout Troop # 3824
- * 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Troop #3857 **(second and fourth Wednesdays)**
- * 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop #2502 **(second and fourth Wednesdays)**
- * 7:00 pm Savvy Ally Book Study/Knight Hall
- * 7:00 pm AA meeting/Fireside Room
- * 7:00 pm Pub Theology –Pizza Works **(first, second, third Wednesday)**

- * 7:00 pm Social Justice Action Group **(last Wednesday only)**

Thursdays

- * 9:15 am Seekers
- * 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Troop # 3856 **(Third Thursday only)**
- * 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Saturdays

- * 8:00 am Men's Breakfast **(first Saturday only)**
- * 10:30 am Caregiver's Meeting **(first Saturday only)**

Other Events and Meetings

Wednesday, March 1

- * 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #2424

Tuesday, March 7

- * 7:00 pm Finance Meeting/Knight Hall, Zoom

Thursday, March 9

- * 10:30 am BH-BL Womens Club/FR

Saturday, March 11

- * 6:30 pm Open Mike Night

Tuesday, March 14

- * 7:00 pm Narcan Training/Knight Hall

Sunday, March 19

- * 11:30 am Prepare meal for Salvation Army

Monday, March 20

- * 10:00 am Serve meal at Salvation Army

Friday, March 24

- * 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch at Fo'Castle Farms

Friday, March 31

- * 12:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive

Note: Children's choir, scouts, Earlybirds and Explorers follow the BH-BL school schedule.

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

816 Route 50

Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Non Profit

Organization

U. S. Postage

PAID

Did You Know??

- Do you have **bottles and cans** leftover from a holiday party you want to donate but aren't sure where to bring them? You can donate them to **Creating Change Redemption Center** at 309 Saratoga Rd. (Rt.50) and ask them to **credit your refund to Burnt Hills United Methodist Preschool**.
- Do you want to memorialize a loved one but aren't sure how? You can dedicate an **engraved brick** to be placed in the **walkway to the garden**. Four lines is \$125.00 and three lines is \$115.00. Forms are available in the office.
- Are you looking for an enlightening book to read? You can **borrow a book from the library** in the Fireside room. Simply write your name and date on the clipboard provided.
- Do you have unopened beauty or toiletry items you don't plan on using? You can donate them to the **Beauty Basket in the Fireside room**. They collect all types of toiletries for area women's shelters.
- Are you missing something? Check out the **lost and found basket** located next to the mailboxes.