



The Methodist

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church News

November, 2022

In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dear Friends In Christ,

Have you noticed that the “secular” world talks a lot about **gratitude in the month of November**? How nice that a word that we talk about an awful lot in church our culture also focuses on in November.

In November at BHUMC we are going to shine **the gratitude focus on our church community. What a blessing that we have our church to support and accompany us on our faith journey.** It goes without saying that these last few years have been tough in so many ways. We have experienced deep loss and grief for loved ones and a way of life that has changed. This month let’s hold that sadness in our hearts as we look to the future with joy—we are still here! We still have an opportunity to make an impact and change lives. Let’s restart and relook at our lives and our church with the eyes of gratitude. **It’s time to build!** Think of all of the hard things we were able to learn and shift and do in the depths of pandemic. Imagine what we can do now in this “next normal” time.

During worship in November we will hear stories from fellow BHUMC friends about **why giving to the church is important** to them. If you want to share your story, contact Pete Farrell, Finance Chair.

On **November 13 we will talk about taking our “welcoming” up a notch to “inviting.”** When you invite a friend to church what are you inviting them to? What is valuable and exciting about our church life together? I look forward to hearing those important stories.

On **November 20, Thanksgiving Sunday we will dedicate our pledges to God.** Look in the mail in the beginning of November for your **stewardship letter and pledge card.** Please consider pledging this year, especially if you haven’t in the past. Just like at home, when you have a sense of resources coming in, it is so much easier to make your financial plans. We need all of our resources working together to make BHUMC strong. The more we pull together and share our gifts, the more we can reach out with God’s love to our neighbors near and far.

Then on November 27, we shift to the celebration of the four Sundays of Advent when we anticipate with gratitude the coming of Christ’s light into the world.

Looking forward to seeing you in church!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Amy

Studies for Adults: Please join us!

- **Early Birds** with Pastor Amy, Mondays at 9:30am in the Fireside room. We are reading *Virus as a Summons to Faith* by Walter Brueggemann.
- **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 am in Knight Hall. We are currently reading *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr.

United Methodist Women

The Election Day Bake sale is back!! Stop in on Tuesday, November 8 from 6 AM – 8 PM in Fireside. Beautiful handmade crafts will also be available. All donations are very much appreciated! Please bring your goodies to the church kitchen, clearly marked for UMW, on Monday Nov.7.

TUESDAY CONNECTION CIRCLE will be manning the ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE in Fireside on Tuesday, November 8 from 6 AM –8 PM.

SPECIAL K CIRCLE will meet on Monday, November 28 at 2 PM in Knight Hall. Sue Janes will guide us in making some beautiful Christmas gift tags.

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, call Holly Rogers at 399-8629.

The Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

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Staff

Rev. Amy Gregory, *Lead Pastor*
Pastor Brendan Fox, *Associate Pastor*
Robyn Axon: *Communications Coordinator*
Nick Adami: *Custodian*
Kimberly Spath: *Treasurer*
Paula Miller: *Financial Secretary*
Peter Van Keuren & Jill Zygo: *Music Directors*
Charles Hartmann: *Sound and Video*
Jodi Facticeau-St. Gelais:
Sunday School Superintendent
Stacy Herbage & Stephanie Tope:
Preschool Staff



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

Results of Our Congregational Vote

Notice from October 24, 2022

Hello BHUMC Friends,

The results of our congregational vote are in: **we are now a Reconciling Congregation**. 89% of our members who voted cast an affirmative vote to become a Reconciling Congregation.

More information from the "Next Steps" team is to come, but we wanted to share the good news of this vote.

Please join us on **Sunday, October 30th, at the end of the 10:30am service** in the front of the sanctuary. We will take a **congregational picture** in celebration of our vote. (And, if you are in costume for "Trunk or Treat", that is welcome!)

May God continue to guide us as we reach out in Christ's love to all.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Amy and Pastor Brendan

Thanks for all the Effort

Recently, a number of parishioners have commented about how nice the church property and gardens have looked this year. This is truly a team effort and we wanted to publicly thank those responsible for their efforts.

For the past few years Maryann Snell has planted and cared for the flowers in front of Knight Hall. They looked great all season.

Paula Miller has cared for our Rose Garden for many years and it always looks nice.

Mark Billings and Bill Borthwick have been mowing the lawn all season with an emphasis on the weed whacking which has made the place look better than ever.

Linda Noonan spent time this summer painting the sign posts and posts along the driveway.

The Fix-its continue to work on the gardens, mulching, trimming and weeding. Thanks go to Dale Delano, Dan Walz, Dan Richardson, Mike Thomas, Jerry Brady, Don Hennel, Bill Borthwick and Bert Longbotham.

We also appreciated the tree trimming efforts of Chris Hyde, Terry Bikowicz and Greg Adams.

*Thank
You*

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 next Caregiver Support Group meeting will be Saturday, November 5th at 10:30 am in the fireside room. Also, mark your calendars for next month's meeting December 3rd . Along with an informal sharing time, the November meeting will focus on being prepared for a visit to urgent care or emergency room for your loved 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.

Lynn Christie, Facilitator

Soup Kitchen



This month's **Soup Kitchen is November 21st. We need items** brought to the church's kitchen by Friday, November 18, so we have time to shop for missing items. We will make **vegetable soup and egg salad after church on Sunday, November 20.** 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. Hope you can join us!

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

Do you Shop at Amazon?

If you do, consider registering at smile.amazon.com and name **The Burnt Hill's United Methodist Church as your designated charity.** AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. If you have questions, contact Greg Adams at 518-399-5875 or adamsgreg01@gmail.com.

There are many people that have named BHUMC as their designated charity and the church has received over \$200. from Amazon!



Bring the Christmas Story to life. We are seeking children, youth, and adults to be shepherds and kings, Joseph and Mary, Gabriel, innkeepers, angels and townspeople.

Those interested should attend a brief meeting on **Sunday, November 6, at noon** in the sanctuary. Rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons, noon to 2:00, on December 4, 11, and 18.

Please join us for the fun, and to create a special celebratory worship for 7:00 Christmas Eve. To sign up, contact Jill Zygo (518 859-3734, jillynhan@yahoo.com) or Mary Alice Nyhan (manyhan122@gmail.com).

Hello folks from the Social Justice Action Group!

As you know, we held an event on October 26th on What Is Social Justice? How Do We Respond To Social Injustices? Why Should We Respond As United Methodists? This event is available for viewing after the fact!

We ask that we all reflect on these questions as we move forward. Try to come up with some examples of how social justice and your faith intertwine in your life!

We will be hosting events this November - keep a look out for the dates! Likely mid-to early November. Additional information to come soon.

Some gentle reminders about our group:

- We've created a google form for those interested in direct updates from the group. We will still send larger updates to the whole church, but want to provide a more direct line of communication for those that are interested. The form is found at this link: <https://forms.gle/et8qo6nztsxNcYeL9> If you have trouble accessing the form please reach out with the best way to contact you (email, text, by phone call) by email at bhumcsocialjustice@gmail.com, phone at (413) 648-8140, or in-person.
- We have a website at: bhumcsjag.com It includes resources on various topics we care about, as well as information on our group, and a calendar of upcoming events. The last Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in Knight Hall is our monthly meeting, if interested in attending.

If you have any ideas, please reach out! We would love to collaborate, and work together as we continue to move forward seeking justice. Happy November!

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast meets the **first Saturday of every month** through June. Come join us for good food, good fellowship and meet other men of the Church and the community.

Pub Theology

Pub Theology would like to welcome you back with open arms! We are once again meeting **every Wednesday night (except for the last Wednesday of the month) at 7 pm at Maxon's American Grill** on Saratoga Rd. We hope to see you there!

Thanksgiving Offering

Happy Thanksgiving to all! We are thankful for so many blessings. Our Thanksgiving offering will be taken on **November 20th**. All money will be given to **Concerned For The Hungry**, an organization that gives away many Thanksgiving baskets in Schenectady, but is also active all year in helping to alleviate hunger in nearby communities. We are also asking for donations of non-perishable food. Most food will be given to food pantries we support (**Life Works in Ballston Spa, SICM in Schenectady and Rensselaer UMC**) but a small amount is kept here for the pastors to give away at their discretion. Thank you for remembering those who are hungry! We appreciate your kindness.

The Outreach Commission

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 office manager, 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**.

Music



For Adults:

*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

For Children and Youth:

Hello singers ages 3-18! This years **Choir rehearsals have begun!** Please contact Jill Zygo if you have any questions. Jillnyhan@yahoo.com. **All are welcome!**

- **Youth Choir** (previously called Bell Choir) Grades 1-5th
9:45am-10:25am on Sunday mornings
Meet upstairs in Assembly Hall.
- **Voices of Hope Choir**
Grades 6-12
11:30am- 12:00pm on Sunday after church
Meet upstairs in Assembly Hall
- **Cherub Choir**
Pre-school and Kindergarten
Will meet during Sunday School for about 10minutes.

Together—What A Great Place To Be!



This past weekend, I was so excited to see the hustle and bustle of activity, worship, fellowship and special activities like the **Youth group Lock-in**. There was **Bailee's baptism** and our **new members joined!** There were even cupcakes to **celebrate our pastors!** To me, it felt like things are finally somewhat back to how I remember them pre-pandemic. I know that for all of us, these past 2+ years have been a considerable challenge. I feel like barriers have been removed and some of us have renewed energy, while others of us are still feeling the effects of burn-out or catching our breath. In that vein, when Jill Zygo asked if our families might want to connect thru music at a concert coming up, it was easy to say Yes!, Yes, and..... how else can we lift one another up and make space for re-connecting, healing, and moving forward together?

As we connect and re-connect this Fall, are there some studies you would like to see happen this year? Special topics you would like to know more about? Would you be willing to lead an activity of fellowship, fun, or study? Is there a small group you would like to participate in? What is your heart wishing for? Song? Connections? Community Work? How can we lift each other up on our discipleship pathways?

Grow team met recently and is happy to share that some of our favorite activities are back on the calendar this year!

Looking forward:

Dec 2 Crismon Potluck and carol sing! **Memorial Tree lighting**. Potluck.

Wed Dec 7th (tentatively) **Caroling at Glendale**

Joy to the World SPAC concert December 18th 4:00pm for Sunday School Families, Youth and Teens. We have reserved 20 tickets at Little SPAC Theater for Joy to the World Concert.

In January/February, we are all invited to read together **Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times** by Katherine May together.

We are looking for support in planning and offering more adult studies, small group offerings, and fellowship activities. If you have an idea or energy to help, please reach out!

Next Meetings: **Nov 13 and Jan 8th** in Knight Hall after fellowship time! Everyone is welcome!

Submitted by Cathy Bryson for Grow Team

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

816 Route 50

Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Non Profit

Organization

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Work Day in November

The Trustees are sponsoring a **Fall Work Day on Saturday, November 19th**. Our annual get-together at this time of the year is helpful to **rake up the many leaves** that our trees provide and work on doing some **fall cleaning inside the church**. Cleaning windows, dusting and cleaning the stairwells are some of the typical indoor activities. Mark your calendar and bring your favorite clean-up tools for the occasion. Coffee and doughnuts will be available.

Name Tags

A reminder that **Name Tags** are still a help to all of us especially our new Pastors and visitors.

My name is ...



HAPPY FALL EVERYONE!



We are so excited to have had the Burnt Hills Fire Department come and visit us last week! We finished October with fire safety and enjoyed our Halloween. Thank you to everyone that helped our Halloween trick-or-treat a successful one. We had our families come into our classroom for our open house to see all our hard work so far.

This month our preschool friends have been learning about giving thanks and giving to others. We donated food and cleaning products to the local Veterans and Community Housing Coalition

We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

BHUMC's Military Veterans - 2022

With Veterans Day upon us (Nov. 11th), I feel that our congregation should be aware of those among us who are military veterans. Below is the list:

Richard Allen

Harry Christie

William Coffey

Robert Comins

Dale Delano

Caleb Farrell

Lewis Geene

David Gaudons

Donna Hitchcock

Glenda Hughes

William Hughes

Donald Isaacson

Helen Maiellaro

Michael Nyhan

William Poli

Charles Puckette

Erik Smith

Kenneth Streifert

Dewey Bosley

Roger Clark

Henry Coghill

Michael Couse

Richard Dyanick

Kenneth Fichtel

Stephen Geene

Carl Hirt

Raymond Hitchcock

Wallace Hughes

David Hyde

Frederick Ludewig

Terry Miltner

Michael Ormsby

Peter Pranyis

Frank Rose

Montcalm Streever

Robert Youmans

These individuals (and their families) sacrificed to various extents for our safety and freedoms, and they certainly are owed our acknowledgement and appreciation. **If you know of other BHUMC members who should be on this veterans list, please tell Dale Delano at 518-399-7073 or dcdmzd@aol.com about them.**



November, 2022



For the most up-to-date calendar, check our webpage at www.nybhumc.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 9:00am Pick up pies for BH-BL Women's Club 1:00pm BH-BL Women's Club 6:30pm SPRC / Knight Hall 7:00pm B.S. Troop	2 8:30am Fixits 9:30am Explorers 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm G.S. Daisy 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Pub Theology -Maxon's	3 9:00am Seekers 7:00pm Choir rehearsal	4	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Caregiver's Meeting
6 Daylight Saving Time 9:00am Worship 9:45am Youth Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am Voices of Hope 4:00pm Girl Scouts	7 9:30am Earlybirds 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts	8 5:30am Election Day 6:00am Bake sale/ Fireside room 6:30pm SPRC 7:00pm B.S. Troop #56	9 8:30am Fixits 9:30am Explorers 1:00pm Preschool meeting 7:00pm Pub Theology -Maxon's	10 9:00am Seekers 10:30am BH-BL Women's Club Board Meeting 7:00pm Choir rehearsal	11 Veterans Day 10:30am BH-BL Women's Club Board Meeting	12
13 9:00am Worship 9:45am Youth Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am Voices of Hope	14 9:30am Earlybirds 12:00 BH-BL Club 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Church Council in person	15 9:30am Tuesday Connection Circle 1:00pm BH-BL Book Club 7:00pm Trustees Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts #56	16 8:30am Fixits 9:30am Explorers 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm G.S. Daisy 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Pub Theology -Maxon's	17 9:00am Seekers 7:00pm Choir rehearsal	18	19
20 9:00am Worship 9:45am Youth Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am Voices of Hope 11:30am —Prepare meal for S.A. 4:00pm Girl Scouts	21 9:30am Earlybirds 10:00am Serve lunch at S.A. 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Next Steps	22 7:00pm Boy Scouts #56	23 8:30am Fixits 9:30am Explorers 7:00pm Pub Theology-Maxon's	24 Thanksgiving Day—Office closed	25 Office closed	26
27 9:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	28 9:30am Earlybirds 2:00pm Special K/ Knight Hall 6:30pm Girl Scouts	29 7:00pm Boy Scouts #56	30 8:30am Fixits 9:30am Explorers 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm G.S. Daisy 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Pub Theology -Maxon's 7:00pm Social Justice Action Group	1 9:00am Seekers 7:00pm Choir rehearsal	2	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Caregiver's Meeting