

The Methodist

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church News

October 2020

Dear friends,

I am so grateful for the ways you continue to worship God, reach out to one another, and serve others during these extraordinary times. Thank you for BEING the church.

We cannot predict how the winter will look, but this congregation's leaders continue to walk forward in faith, and in care for the health of all. Balancing safety with our common life, the ReOpening Team has proposed:

- That **online worship be a primary worship** option for the foreseeable future;
- That the 9:30 AM outdoor worship service be offered till Oct. 11 as weather permits; and,
- That, **beginning October 18, 9:30 AM worship be offered indoors, in the sanctuary, by reservation**, with 50 or fewer in attendance.

Knowing that many should not, or do not wish to, gather in person, we are committed to continuing a quality online worship experience.

For those who choose to worship on-site, the procedures will be very similar to the outdoor experience:

1. Please make a reservation by Thursday noon, with preliminary response to the standard "COVID questions" covering health and travel;
2. Please do not come if you are feeling unwell, or have been with others who are sick or who have tested positive for COVID;
3. Please wear a mask at all times, and remain in your seat. Rest rooms are available as needed/for emergencies.
4. Humming, or joyful "inward singing in your heart," will substitute for congregational singing.

Your church leadership is committed to providing as safe a space as possible, including:

Having the sanctuary well cleaned before you arrive;

Providing hand sanitizer and spray disinfectant in the building;

Assigning seats appropriately distanced;

Using music that is pre-recorded or performed at a safe distance;

Fulfilling our responsibility to follow the NYS reopening plan;

Monitoring COVID case levels in our region, and suspending onsite worship as needed to protect public health.

Please reach out to Pastor Doug or me, with any questions, concerns, needs. We miss you, and give thanks for you. *-Pastor Holly*

Church Council News

Did you know the Book of Discipline says that the Church Council is the executive agency of the charge conference? That is to say that in between the charge conference meetings the Church Council is the *group of leaders* that guides and furthers the ministry of our congregation at BHUMC. The work of the Church Council is to envision, plan, implement and evaluate our congregation's ministry and mission.

The members of Council hold the "big picture" view of this church.

The members of Council evaluate what the church promotes as our plan to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The members of Council oversee and coordinate this shared mission/vision/plan amongst the several groups represented on the Council, including discipleship, outreach, pastor-parish relations, trustees, finance, Sunday school, visitation teams, Bible studies, etc. That is to say, all groups of persons in this church that Grow, Invite, Send and Tend as they:

Proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather into the body of Christ;

Lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism and profession of faith;

Nurture through worship, sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and other means of grace;

Send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants.

In truth, whether you are among the group of leaders assembled as Church Council or not, you are invited, encouraged and supported to be part of the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Your input in the work of the Church Council is welcomed, because the work of Council is the work of the church, which finally is the work of this church family. We are all part of the body of Christ in this church family.

Ephesians 4:4-7 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; there is one God and Father of all humankind, who is Lord of all, works through all, and is in all.*

Church Council thanks you for joining and embracing this foolish life emptied of power and given in service, in the likeness of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Hygiene Kits

The Outreach Commission would like to send hygiene kits to Conference to be given to areas experiencing natural disasters. If you would like to provide items, there will be a box below the mailboxes for you to drop them off. Also, cash contributions can be left with Cindy in the office, or mailed.

Items needed: Hand towels (15 x 25 to 17 x 27) Bath-size bars of soap Nail clippers
 Combs Band-aids- regular size strips Adult toothbrushes Wash cloths

\$2.00 for Conference to purchase toothpaste and pay for distribution. Thank you for your help.

Community Solar Program for BHUMC

Dear Members,

Many of you may have heard of the new community solar projects going on around the state. The town of Ballston has recently distributed information on the town's partnership with a solar company.

The trustees at BHUMC have been examining community solar and have decided to partner with the company Nexamp. This decision supports the importance of conserving and protecting our shared environment. It also, with no obligation, gives the church an opportunity for a savings of approximately 10% on our current electric bills.

Nexamp's solar farms are part of New York's community solar program, which allows electric utility customers to subscribe to a share of a local solar farm and go solar without rooftop panels. Subscribers receive credits on their utility bill for the energy produced by their solar farm share.

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church has partnered with Nexamp to offer the ability for member congregations to easily participate in a local Solar Farm and support solar energy generation, while saving up to 10% on yearly electricity costs. To support the local interfaith community, Nexamp will be making \$50 donations directly to the Church for each congregant that elects to participate.

Nexamp's community solar program has no upfront cost, no credit check, no long-term commitment, and is compatible with your existing electrical utility and energy supplier. Unfortunately, this program is not available for people already having personal solar panels that tie into the grid. To learn more visit www.nexamp.com

To subscribe, please visit the link <https://solar.nexamp.com/bhumc> and complete the steps provided. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Greg Adams, trustee, at 518-399-5875 or Chris Mills from Nexamp at 339-933-3784.

—Greg Adams, Trustee Secretary



Preschool

Last month, Preschool had a successful start to the virtual school year. The teachers hosted a family pick-up of art materials and lesson plans for the first two months of school. Mrs. Herbage and Mrs. Tope have put together various videos of themselves and created a google classroom full of fun. Each week, the students meet with the teachers in zoom chats to stay as connected as possible, before we are able to return to in-class lessons.

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.

Caregiver Support Group will begin meeting again Saturday, October 3, at 10:30 AM, following Covid-19 reopening procedures. We will gather in our large meeting room (Knight Hall) where we can distance ourselves 6 feet apart while wearing our masks. You will still enter the back door but are asked to use your elbow to activate the handicapped buttons on both sets of doors. Please use the hand sanitizer when you enter. The sign-in list will be in the large meeting room which is all the way down the hall on the right, so you do not need to sign in on the sheet at the entrance door. Some of you may not feel comfortable attending, even with these precautions. I will understand if you choose not to attend. In the meantime, if you have any caregiver issues or questions, I am available by phone (399-8838) or email (hlchristie@aol.com). —Lynn Christie

United Methodist Women

We currently have two active UMW Circles. These are small groups who meet monthly for a variety of activities. All gatherings are open and welcoming. Please feel free to drop in and join us.

Tuesday Connection Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 13 at 9:30 AM in Knight Hall.

Special K Circle will meet on Monday, October 26 at 7 PM in Knight Hall.

Outreach News

Kathy Pirigy informed the Outreach Committee that Concerned for the Hungry, Inc. WILL be having their annual Thanksgiving Basket giveaway this November. Outreach will have more information about this in the November Newsletter.

The Community Lunch team continues to miss seeing you all for socialization at our monthly luncheons. The social distancing and food service restrictions have made us decide to postpone again for this month, but work towards a luncheon in November for Thanksgiving. As we get closer to November 19, we will let you know what we hope this meal will look like, how to make reservations, what restrictions there are on number of attendees, etc. In the meantime, please let the church office know of food or other needs; we are happy to help.

The Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Women's Club would like to invite you to **Boscov's** "Friends Helping Friends" 2 Big Days! October 14 and 15, from 9 AM till 9 PM. Get 20% off the lowest prices on almost everything you purchase in-store and online. Mention BHBL Women's Club at checkout to support our Scholarship Fund. Or select us when ordering online.

Christmas Pageant News!

Calling all Visual Artists, Singers, Storytellers!

Want to be a part of the Virtual Christmas Pageant?

Youth: Want to record yourself doing a reading?

Youth: Want to record yourself singing a Christmas song?

All: Want to draw, paint, create Christmas story art for us to use in a Christmas video?

Please let Jill Zygo know if you would like to narrate, sing, or create art by **October 15.**

We will reach out to send further information after hearing from you.

Contact Jill Zygo - Jillnyhan@yahoo.com