



# The Methodist

Burnt Hills UMC News September 2024

### Contact Us

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Office hours: Monday-Friday

8:30 am-12:30 pm

### Worship hours starting Sept. 15

9:00am and

10:30am (with livestream)

### Lead Pastor

Rev. Amy Gregory

revgregorybhumc@gmail.com

### Associate Pastor

Pastor Ian Urriola

iurriola@burnthillsumc.org

### 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

Dee Lowman

treasurer@burnthillsumc.org

### Financial Secretary

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### Preschool Staff

Stephanie Tope - Teacher

Angie Barclay - Assistant

Teacher

Karen Lathrop - Director



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## “Next Faithful Steps”

by Pastor Ian Carlos Urriola

In the short time that I’ve been assigned as your Associate Pastor here at Burnt Hills UMC, one of the things that is absolutely palpable is this congregation’s heart for ensuring that all of our neighbors have a place to belong in our community of faith. It’s abundantly clear to me that we take to heart the truth of the Gospel that absolutely no one stands outside of the love of God. That, in a day and age when so many expressions of Christianity have sought to exclude and keep others out because of how they look or think or act or love, we live out a way that is inclusive. We welcome people of any age, culture, race, nationality, ability, marital status, economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity, as full participants in the life of our congregation. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be part of Jesus’ movement of love and justice for all of God’s children. All are welcome to worship, grow and serve with us.

I’m proud to be assigned to a United Methodist congregation that is a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network. For over 40 years, RMN has been doing, at the denominational level, the hard work level that we’re doing as a congregation to create a United Methodist denomination that more fully reflects the Church that Jesus Christ is calling us to be. A Church where our LGBTQIA+ siblings can be fully included in the life and leadership of our fellowship without hiding critical parts of who they are. A Church where all really means all.

After monumental and historic gains at our denomination’s most recent General Conference gathering pertaining to the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals, many are asking “what’s next?” In order to help congregations have those faithful conversations, **RMN has developed a four-week resource called “The Next Faithful Steps”**. Over the month of October, just in time for the anniversary of our own congregation’s vote to become a Reconciling Church, I’ll be facilitating this timely conversation. Over these four weeks, we’ll refresh ourselves on what happened at General Conference, we’ll discuss implications surrounding worldwide regionalization, we’ll review the revised global social principles, and we’ll be in dialogue about the repeal of harmful languages and policies. These conversations are open to any who want to dream together about what this next chapter of our lives as a Reconciling Congregation can look like. We’ll gather at the church in **Knight Hall on Wednesdays, October 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

The work that God has set before us continues, friends. I’m excited to uncover together what’s next.

**Deadline for articles for the October Methodist is September 15. Please submit your articles to Robyn @ burnthillsumc@gmail.com**

**District Day: Informed to Transform**  
**Saturday, Sept. 28,**  
**Saratoga Springs UMC**

We are happy to announce that we will be hosting another District Day on **Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Saratoga Springs UMC, 175 Fifth Ave., Saratoga Springs.** Once again we will offer up to 20 workshops on a variety of topics, facilitated by pastors, laity and community leaders. The day will open with **registration from 8:15 AM to 8:45 AM,** followed by worship, and then three rounds of workshops, each lasting 75 minutes. Lunch is included. There is **no charge for this event, but you must register.**

We are offering 20 workshops this year with many new offerings and some old favorites!! For a complete list, please see the bulletin board, or contact Robyn in the office.

**Deadline to register is Sept. 17,** but please register as early as possible, as it helps immensely with our planning. Registration forms will be posted on the bulletin board. Please send your registration via email attachment ([carrieboyer@unyumc.org](mailto:carrieboyer@unyumc.org)), snail mail (Albany District Offices, PO Box 511, Newtonville, NY 12128), or call Carrie at (518) 608-1246.

The day will conclude around **3:00 PM** with closing worship. If you haven't experienced a District Day, we hope you will consider attending this year! It's a wonderful time to share fellowship and to learn and grow in mind and Spirit!

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**Storm Relief Fund**

Our church will be collecting a special offering for the **Upper New York Storm Relief Fund.** The aftermath from recent storms across our state has brought unprecedented flooding and tornado damage to a number of our communities. Bishop Hector Burgos Núñez has called on all United Methodists of Upper New York to commit to bringing recovery to the communities and neighbors that have been impacted by this storm, including Rome, Canastota, Lowville, Eden, Buffalo, and Steuben County. The generosity of our church will assist our neighbors as they seek to rebuild with 100% of these donations going directly to aiding these efforts. To make a donation, please **write a check to BHUMC with “Storm Relief Fund”** in the memo during worship. Alternatively, you can give online through our **website at nybhumc.com**—make the offering to the fund labeled “STORM RELIEF FUND”. We will be collecting this special offering until after the Lord’s Acre Fair.

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**Save the Date**

Native American Dinner—October 13

Winter Sports Sale—October 19

Trunk or Treat—Oct. 27

## Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School 2024 was a SUCCESS! Over 40 participants/campers came to Camp Firelight, nearly 15 volunteers were Camp Counselors, and we had a fabulous time learning about how God is with us always, through the tough times too! Lumen, the firefly, was a friendly addition to our Opening and Closing Assemblies each day and the campers participated in crafts, snack, music, science, and recreation throughout their time at BHUMC. Our Camp Callout helped us keep focused and remember what we're all about at Camp Firelight. It's Psalm 56:3, which says, "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." Every time we say this verse, we are reminded how God is with us and how we can trust God, no matter what we face, as we answer God's call to share the good news. We ended the week with our Closing Assembly where we shared about the week, danced and sang the theme song and chant, and campers performed their class songs. It was a fun-filled, blessed week!

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## Meditation Group



Got stress? Here's a chance to learn about guided imagery, a form of meditation, an elegant and easy way to heal the emotions, body and spirit and to bring more peace and joy into your life. The best way to learn is to experience it, among a group of friends right here at Burnt Hills UMC!

The research done in the last 40 years has shown awesome benefits of all forms of meditation. There are many great recordings on line, but guided meditation is so much more powerful to be able to do it in a group of kindred spirits, and in person.

Marilyn Stoner has been offering guided imagery to individuals and groups for about 30 years. We will start on **September 17 from 10-11:30 am** and for the **first and third Tuesdays of each month after that until December 17.**

Each session will stand alone, and of course the more you practice, the more powerful you become, so if you like it then come join us twice a month! If you can only come once, or once in a while, that's fine too.

Feel confident of taking risks, access your creative thinking, new ways of looking at the world and acting in your own and others best interests. There are many other benefits, including preparing for surgery, for performances of any kind, and other stressful events in your life. If you wish, we can dive into the question of how you can use guided imagery to help a child, teen or adult in your family.

We will hold the group in the Fireside Room and you can sign up on the bulletin board or scan the QR code to sign up at Sign Up Genius. If you have any questions, please text **Marilyn at 502-456-1502.**



## Studies for Adults: Please join us!

- **Early Birds** with Pastor Amy, meets **Mondays at 9:30 am** in the Fireside room. We will be starting class on **September 16** with **The Gospel of John by Amy-Jill Levine**. Books are available in the office. Suggested \$12.00 donation, as you are able.
  - **Explorer's Bible Study** meets **Wednesdays 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. We will be starting class on **September 18**.
  - **Seekers: Sisters in Christ**, ongoing study meets **Thursdays at 9:15 am** in Knight Hall.
  - **"Next Faithful Steps"**: Wednesdays, **October 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 6:00-7:00 pm** in Knight Hall.
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## BHUMC Council Meetings

Church Council meets once a month on the **third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm 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. **The next meeting is Monday, September 23 at 7:00 pm**. Please note the special meeting date for September.

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## Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will return on **Saturday, October 4 at 8:00 am 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!



## Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will not meet in September. We will meet again in October. Look for more information in October's newsletter.

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## 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**. Choir begins **September 12**. 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*



# Begins Sept 15

## Two Worship Services

### 9am & 10:30am

#### Join Our Choirs!

We invite your children to be part of our vibrant choir programs!

##### **Voices of Hope Choir**

For students in **grades 6-12**, the Voices of Hope Choir is an enthusiastic group that enjoys singing a variety of Christian music, from contemporary songs by Lauren Daigle to classic hymns like "Amazing Grace."

Rehearsals are held after church from **11:30 AM to 12:15 PM**. If your child is interested in joining, please reach out to **Jill Zygo at [jillnyhan@yahoo.com](mailto:jillnyhan@yahoo.com)**. All are welcome!

##### **Youth Choir**

Our Youth Choir is perfect for beginner singers in **grades 1-6**, offering a joyful environment filled with friendship, connection, and fun activities like musical chairs and rhythm games. Sixth graders have the option to choose between the Youth Choir or the Voices of Hope Choir. Rehearsals take place most Sundays from **9:45 AM to 10:25 AM**, and the choir performs in church 4-5 times throughout the school year. The first rehearsal is in late September, with the final one in early May.

Both choirs are completely free, with no costs to you. For a schedule or more details, please contact **Jill Zygo at [jillnyhan@yahoo.com](mailto:jillnyhan@yahoo.com)**.

We hope to see your child singing with us soon!

Please scan the QR code to register!



Youth Choir - 1-6th grade



Voices of Hope - 6-12th grade



**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!**

**Burnt Hills UMC  
Sunday School will  
begin on Sunday,  
September 15, 2024!**

**\*\*TO REGISTER YOUR  
STUDENT, PLEASE  
COMPLETE  
THIS BRIEF  
GOOGLE FORM\*\***

We can't wait to see you! BHUMC Sunday School will begin on **Sunday, September 15, 2024**. Please REGISTER your student(s) by clicking on the QR code below!



### **Family Fun Night**

**September 22 at 4:00pm**

Join us for BHUMC Family Night. Bring family, friends, neighbors, relatives, or yourself! Come with a dish to share, and stay for board games, card games, crafts, and fellowship!



### **Thank you from Bill Phillips**

I'm still overwhelmed by all of the BHUMC love and support sent my way while doing my show at Penguin Rep Theater earlier this summer. I'm especially grateful for the folks who were able to make the trip to see the play, some of whom braved a steamy bus to do so! It was so much fun sharing some laughs together and means more than you know! As Aldo would say, "Grazie, grazie, grazie!"



## Soup Kitchen



This month, we will be serving at the soup kitchen on **September 16**. Please sign up and bring all ingredients by **Friday, September 13**. (If you make a different plan, please put a notation on the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside Knight Hall. It saves us duplicating ingredients.) We will be making the soup after 2nd service on **September 15**. We will leave the church the Monday,

**September 16 at 10 AM** to serve at Salvation Army in Schenectady. We are

always looking for new people to prep and serve. Lots of fun and feels good to help others.

Further info: Libby Horn, 518-698-4043 or Terry Prany's, 518-256-8476.

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## 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, October 4, at 10:30 am** in the Fireside Room. **There will not be a meeting in September due to the Lord's Acre Fair**. 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. Diane Skibinski is the facilitator and can be reached at [dskibins@gmail.com](mailto:dskibins@gmail.com) or **518-423-2887** for any questions.

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## United Methodist Women



UMW Circles are small groups that gather monthly for a devotion, tasty snacks and a variety of programs and projects. Please join in whenever your schedule allows. All meetings are open and welcoming. For more information, contact Holly Rogers at 399-8629.

**TUESDAY CONNECTION CIRCLE** will meet on **Tuesday, September 10 at 9:30 AM** in Fireside. We will make plans for the year ahead and have fun with our annual White Elephant gift exchange. Nothing over \$1!

**SPECIAL K CIRCLE** will meet on **Monday, September 23 at 2 PM** in Fireside. Come meet Pastor Ian! We will also have a book swap.

**JANET GRAUDONS** was honored by UMW on **Sunday, August 25** with a prayer blanket and altar flowers. She faithfully served as UMW Treasurer for nearly 40 years and played an instrumental part in all our other activities.



## Transformative Table Talk

Join us on **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm** to eat good food, connect with one another and talk about Theology (and whatever else is on our minds). We will meet at **Pizza Works every Wednesday except the last Wednesday of the month**, 720 Saratoga Rd., Burnt Hills. For updates please text 518-414-0967. No need to RSVP.

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## Food Pantry

The food pantry is very low on supplies. If you are able to donate, the community would appreciate your support. We currently have a lot of beans, corn and carrots. **Cans with pop tops work the best** as some of the visitors might not have can openers. The pantry could really benefit from:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Rice
- Soup
- Condiments
- Pasta
- Marinara or alfredo sauce
- Canned tuna, salmon, chicken
- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Juice
- Canned pasta meals such as ravioli or spaghetti
- Ready to make meals
- Ready to make macaroni and cheese
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap

**Thank you for your generosity!**



# Back to School September, 2024

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? Email [burnthillsumc@gmail.com](mailto:burnthillsumc@gmail.com) or call the office at 518-399-5144.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Office Closed Labor Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:30 am Fix-its 5:30 pm Preschool Picnic 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Table Talk/ Pizza Works	<b>5</b> 9:15am Seekers	<b>6</b> 10:00am Lord's Acre Fair 12:00pm Reptiles 4:30pm Pony rides 4:30pm BBQ	<b>7</b> 9:00am Lord's Acre Fair 1:00pm Bag Sale
<b>8</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30 am LAF cleanup	<b>9</b> 12:00 pm BH-BL Women's Group Luncheon	<b>10</b> 9:30am Tuesday Connections	<b>11</b> 8:30 am Fix-its 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Table Talk/ Pizza Works	<b>12</b> 9:15am Seekers 9:30 am Preschool begins 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Worship 10:30am Worship 11:30am Prepare meal for soup kitchen	<b>16</b> 9:30am Earlybirds 10:00am Serve lunch at soup kitchen	<b>17</b> 10:00am Meditation/FS 1:00pm BH-BL Book club 7:00pm Finance meeting	<b>18</b> 8:30am Fix-its 9:30am Explorers 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Table Talk/ Pizza Works	<b>19</b> 9:15am Seekers 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm SPRC Fireside Room	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00am Worship 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Family Game Night/KH	<b>23</b> 9:30am Earlybirds 2:00pm Special K 7:00pm Church Council meeting/ KH	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:30am Fix-its 9:30am Explorers 7:00pm AA 7:00pm SJAG/KH	<b>26</b> 9:15am Seekers 10:30am Altar Committee mtg 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	<b>30</b> 9:30am Earlybirds					

**Burnt Hills United Methodist Church**

816 Route 50

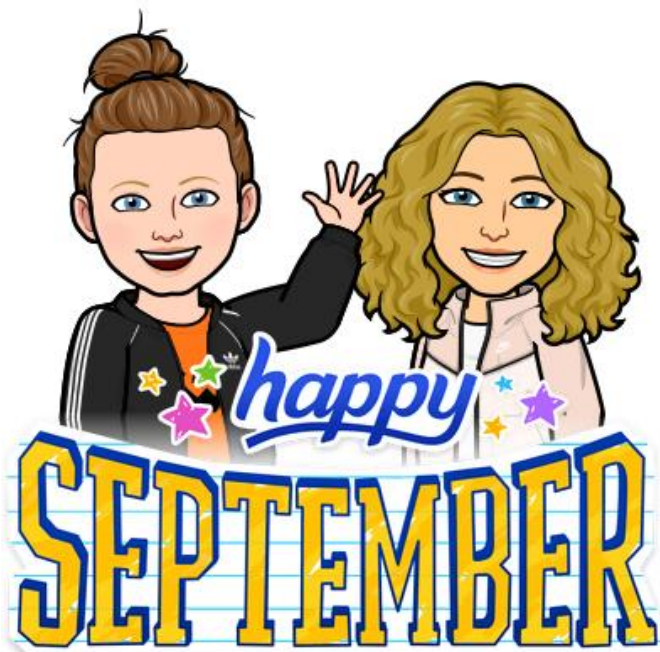
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

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Organization

U. S. Postage

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### **Preschool News**

We are looking forward to reclaiming and transforming our classroom to welcome our Littles to school. We are holding our Welcome Picnic on **September 4th** so our new and returning students and their families can play games, share a meal and interact with one another. We have lots of fun planned for preschool this year!

Our 3 year old class is full, but **we still have room in the 4/5 year old class.** Please help us by spreading the word. For more information please contact **Stephanie Tope at 518-466-6566** or **[bhumpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:bhumpreschool@gmail.com)**.