Contact Us Office Phone: 518-399-5144 Fax: 518-399-0384 E-Mail: burnthillsumc@gmail.com Web: www.nybhumc.com Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:45 am-12:45 pm

Worship hours 9:00am and 10:30am (with livestream)

Lead Pastor Rev. Amy Gregory revgregorybhumc@gmail.com

> Music Directors Peter Van Keuren Jill Zygo

Sound and Video Charles Hartmann

Sunday School Superintendent Jodi Facteau-St. Gelais

Communications Coordinator Robyn Axon

> <u>Custodian</u> Nick Adami

<u>Treasurer</u> Dee Lowman treasurer@burnthillsumc.org

Financial Secretary Sue Zoller financialsecretary@burnthillsumc.org

<u>Preschool Staff</u> Stephanie Tope - Teacher Angie Barclay - Assistant Teacher Karen Lathrop - Director

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The Methodist

Burnt Hills UMC News

April 2024

Assignment Announcement from the Upper New York Area of the United Methodist Church

This is the **announcement** shared by Stephanie Tope, **Staff Parish Relations** Committee Co-Chair on Sunday, **March 17th.**

It is my joy to share with you today that Ian Urriola has been assigned as the new associate of our congregation. Mr. Urriola will begin his new responsibilities on July 1, 2024. As a United Methodist congregation, we are a part of an itinerant appointment system. Our congregation's staff parish relations committee has met with the district superintendent to identify our congregation's needs and the skills needed in an associate for our context. We have also met with Ian to get to know him and to ask questions.

Ian Carlos Urriola (he/him/his) currently serves as lay Chaplain and the Director of Spiritual Development and Outreach at Shenandoah University, a United Methodist-related institution of higher education in Winchester, Virginia. At Shenandoah University, his ministry consisted of strengthening the connections between SU's Office of Spiritual Life with other University departments and other faith and community partners; providing pastoral care to students, faculty, and staff; and serving in worship leadership alongside the University Chaplain with a committed group of student worship leaders. A lifelong United Methodist, he considers Asbury First UMC in Rochester, where he grew up, to be his "spiritual home". A bit of a "Methodist nerd", he has held numerous leadership roles at the Local Church, Annual Conference, Jurisdictional, and General Church levels of our denomination's polity and structure. He is currently serving on the General Conference delegation for the United Methodists of Upper New York, and he has been an active presence at our Annual Conference sessions every year since he was a youth equalization member. Ian has a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in Music from American University, both in Washington, DC.

-continued on next page-

Deadline for articles for the May Methodist is April 15. Please submit your articles to Robyn @ burnthillsumc@gmail.com

-Continued-

In his spare time, you can find him singing show tunes in the halls, building coalitions to enact more just policies, watching through The West Wing or Bob's Burgers for the seventeen-thousandth time, and keeping up to date on all things Marvel Cinematic Universe. Our new associate will work with us and the conference so that we continue to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Bishop Burgos-Núñez, our district superintendent, and the Upper New York Conference leaders will work with us to continue growing as a congregation. I know you will join our bishop, our DS, our Senior Pastor, our new associate, and me in helping to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Please pray for Ian and our congregation in this exciting time of transition. You may send notes of encouragement and welcome to him at I.urriolo@yahoo.com.

March 10 SPRC Announcement Made at Worship Services

Good morning. I am Stephanie Tope, co chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee along with my co-chair Beth McLaughlin.

We want to give you an update on Pastor Brendan who has been out on medical leave. He shared with us this week that he will not be returning to work. We continue to hold Pastor Brendan in our prayers and are grateful for the gifts and ministry that he shared during his time with us. If you would like to share a note or message for Pastor Brendan, we will be collecting them through Sunday, March 24th. There will be a basket in Coffee Hour or you may leave them in the church office. Again, we will send them collectively to him as a church to wish him well.

I would like to read a note that Pastor Brendan shared with us:

To the BHUMC community,

It was truly an honor to serve as your associate pastor for as long as I did. You are an exceptional group of people who have embodied the very peace and love that Jesus modeled for us. For that, and for so much more, I will be forever grateful.

Peace and Love,

Pastor Brendan

There have been questions about our pastoral staffing moving forward. Thank you for your support and understanding as Pastor Amy and SPRC try to balance the workload and needs of the church during this time of transition. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help. The Bishop and his cabinet are at work discerning an associate pastor to work with us in the new appointive year which begins on July 1st. Our Associate Pastor position has been posted with the conference as an open position. We will share news with you as it becomes available to us.

Let us continue to pray for our church and all of its leaders as we move forward in faith.





Save the date for 2024 District Days

In the new year, **Bishop Héctor A.** Burgos Núñez will be visiting local churches in all 12 districts from February to April. District Days are a

way for the bishop to meet with laity and clergy across Upper New York. Clergy meetings are scheduled for each visit from 1 to 3 PM and another meeting will be held for laity (and clergy who couldn't attend earlier gathering) from **7 to 8:30 PM.** All United Methodists of Upper New York are invited and encouraged to attend a gathering closest to you.

Bishop Hector will visit Shenendehowa UMC in the Albany District on Tuesday, April 9. The church is located at 971 Route 146 in Clifton Park.

Social Justice Action Group

Hello Folks!

There are many things coming in the next few months, and we are extremely excited to share them with you!

This Month - April

Pollinator Garden Post - April 8, after Second Service Earth Day Mini Fair & Seed Swap Post - April 21, after Second Service Language, Gender & Patriarchy Discussion - April 24 at 7 pm in Knight Hall

PRIDE Festivals & Parade

Mark your calendars, we are going back to PRIDE! Schenectady Festival - June 1st from 2 - 7pm Albany Parade & Festival - June 9th at 11:30 am Saratoga Festival - June 23rd from 2 - 5 pm

Would you like to join us? Walk in the parade? Have any questions? Please let us know so we can reserve enough room by **emailing <u>bhumcsocialjustice@gmail.com</u>**, speaking to Orion Marchese or Shelby Bryson, or calling/texting 518-414-0967.

In Closing

As always, all are welcome who believe it is our responsibility to go forth in action, seeking justice.

- The Social Justice Action Group

Lord's Acre Fair Update

The Lord's Acre Fair Committee met on Sunday, March 10th. Fortunately, everyone on the committee has agreed to continue in their leadership role for 2024. The fair is set to be held on **September 6th and 7th** with no major changes.

We are in the process of contacting last year's booth chair people and are hoping that there will be a continuation in leadership for the booths. At this point, we know that we are in **need of a chairperson for the Tools and Tech Booth.** If you can help with that need, please let one of the LAF chair people know.

We still have funds remaining from last year that can be used for outreach. If you know of a need (person, project, agency) that our church should consider helping, please write it up and submit it to Robyn, in the office, and she will get it to the LAF Committee.

Greg and Nancy Adams Jerry and Cheryl Brady Pete and Mary Jo Farrell Ross Golden April Hicks Libby Horn Bert and Sally Longbotham Kathy Pirigyi

Help Wanted

Council Meadows, a small senior community off Kingsley Rd, is in **need of a part time maintenance person**. This would be a great job for someone who is retired, still wants to work, and has handy person skills. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact **Karen Lathrop at 518-878-4685 or email <u>karen@karenlathrop.com</u>**.





Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner



The Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner on **March 9th was a blessed success**. Our last Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner was 4 years ago just as Covid was shutting down our country. Planning this dinner was difficult knowing food prices were going to be higher than ever before. We took the chance. **We sold 172 dinners, eat in and take out, and realized \$1407.**

Thanks to all who had a part in the preparations and those who worked in the kitchen and dining room that evening. It was a tremendous effort by a lot of people. **Special thanks go to Chefs Mike Ormsby and Terry Bikowicz , Kathy Pirigyi, Paula Miller, Lynn Christie, Lynn Barber, and Shirley and Dave VanSchaick.** The love and fellowship we share with our community is rewarding and continues to grow with each and every dinner.

Linda Noonan

Christmas Offering

We have final totals for the Christmas Offering. Thanks to our generous congregation, we are able to support many outreach needs.

The final total for the Christmas Offering was \$6524.

We will disperse the money received in the offering as follows: RISSE \$1000. Chocacente \$800 Schenectady Community Ministries \$1000 Guardian House Playground \$1200 Captain/Community Human Services \$800

Food Pantries: Schenectady Community Ministies \$575 Lifeworks \$575 Rensselaer UMC \$574

Thank you so much for thinking of others. You are a very kind congregation. The Outreach Commission

GROW TEAM

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, April 21st at 4:00 pm, Potluck and Family Fun (everyone is invited! - all ages!)

As I write this, I have just returned from March's Family Night and what fun it was! We had an open mic, great singing, jokes, story telling, and poetry too! Next month's theme will be posted soon....invite your friends and put it on your calendar now!

*** **Sunday, May 5th is CROP Walk in Schenectady**. There is a bulletin board in Knight Hall where walkers can find forms and people who want to donate can connect with walkers from our church. The Schenectady walk is dedicated to Rev. Phil Grigsby and donations raised are focused on everyone having enough food, shared locally and internationally thru Church World Service.

Easter Thank You's!

Special thank you's to everyone making Palm Sunday special with exceptional music and an egg hunt too! Shout out to Jill Zygo, Jodi St. Facteau, Middle & High School youth, and everyone who donated candy and eggs!

Confirmation Class is rounding the half way mark and still going strong! Thank you Erik and Kris Mortensen and Carolyn Houston for your leadership. The youth have found a project to help a neighbor in need with clean up. They also are planning a special bonsai activity - bonsai trees take care, dedication and commitment and serve as a living reminder of our faith.

Spring fever is almost upon us and some church "elves" are planning some fairy villages to be "discovered" in and around the church. Stay posted!

Pledged Giving 2024 Update from the Stewardship Team

If you have not yet communicated an estimate of giving for 2024, we need to hear from you! Pledged giving is the main source of funding needed to support our programs, employ our staff, and pay our operating expenses.

Our budget for 2024 was carefully considered and set at \$324,000. We have heard from 94 households with estimates of giving totaling \$252,000 to date.

While we have heard from many of you, we know there are others, both near and far, who are active in our church community in different ways. Some can be with us in person, others online, and still others through prayer and their connections to family and friends attending our services and programs. For those who have not yet provided an estimate of giving for 2024, please give prayerful consideration of a pledge for 2024.

You can find estimate of giving cards in the narthex (the area where you enter to church for worship) or in the church office. Cards can be placed in the collection plate during worship at the Offertory or returned to the office. You can also call the church office at 518-399-5144 and ask that one be sent to you in the mail.

We also have an online option to communicate your 2024 estimate of giving. The form requests the same information as you would see on the card. You can access the form by scanning this QR code or by going to this web address:



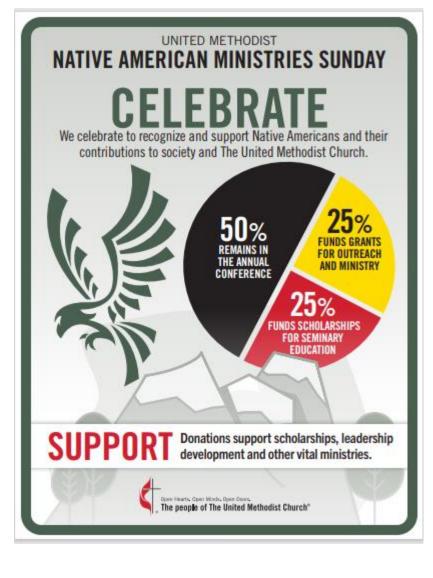
https://forms.gle/hyBhn9N6GBn4nJzA6

Quarterly statements will go out in early April to those for whom we have received pledged giving in 2024. If you do not receive a statement by the end of the month, or if you have any questions about your pledged giving, please contact the BHUMC Financial Secretary, Susan Zoller at <u>financialsecretary@burnthillsumc.org</u>.

BHUMC is a great place to love God, love neighbor, and serve the world.

We need your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Thank you for all the ways you participate in the life of this church.

April Hicks Stewardship Team and Church Council Chair <u>bhumc.council@gmail.com</u>



April 14 is Native American Ministries Sunday

This Special Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world.

An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities. The offering allows The United Methodist Church to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans.

We will collect for this special offering in April. You may give online through Vanco too. Be sure to mark your offering "NAMS".

Crop Walk

Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) will once again sponsor the **Phil Grigbsy Memorial CROP HUNGER WALK** on **Sunday, May 5th** and it will be hosted at the **Rotterdam Community Center, 705 Curry Road, Schenectady.** There will be an enthusiastic gathering and **registration that begins at noon and the WALK step off that begins at 1:00 PM.** Be on the watch for a bulletin board in our Church that will provide more information. It has been a long tradition that we have walkers participating in this event and fundraiser.

The Phil Grigsby Memorial CROP HUNGER WALK is more than a gathering of people. It is part of a large, local and worldwide movement that continues to fight against the challenges of disease, disaster,

displacement and other challenges that leave people hungry. Please consider joining in the walkers of all ages to raise awareness and the funds to provide meals in our area and around the world.

Paula Miller (pbmiller0@gmail.com)



Altar Flowers



BHUMC has a tradition of having members donate flowers to decorate our altar as a remembrance or a celebration. We have returned the physical signup sheet to the hallway outside Knight Hall. If you prefer, you can still call Robyn Axon, our office manager at (518) 399-5144, to add you to the list. 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. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your special days with your church family.

Food Pantries

Please consider donating food to be given to food pantries and our own food shelves. We will stock our shelves, then give any extra to **Schenectady Community Ministries, Life Works** in Ballston Spa and the **Rennselaer UMC**. The following list has many suggestions about items needed. Thank you!

Proteins:

Canned Tuna, Salmon and/or Chicken Canned or Dried Beans Peanut Butter

Vegetables and Fruit (canned):

Green Beans, peas, mixed vegetables, carrots Peaches, Pineapples, Pears, etc. Tomatoes Canned 100% Juice

Other:

Condiments Canned Pasta Sauce Jelly Can Openers

Hygiene Supply Drive:

Pads + Tampons Shampoo + Conditioner Toothpaste + Toothbrushes Razors + Shaving Cream Deodorant Bathroom Tissue + Paper Towels Bar Soap + Body Wash Laundry + Dish Soap

Starches:

Rice/Pasta (Brown/Whole Wheat) Cereals (Whole Grain) Oatmeal Pancake Mix

Meals:

Soups (Lentil, Minestrone, Chicken & Rice) Canned Pasta Meals (Ravioli, Spaghetti) Chili

Infant Needs:

Diapers (all sizes) Formula (Gentlease or other Baby Wipes

Memorial Committee 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 or go to the Church website: nybhumc.com and click on "more" to download the cover letter and application. **The deadline for submission is May 12.**

Lynn Christie



Registration Open for Skye Farm Camp Summer Camp!

In the summer months we host a resident Christian summer camp where all youth from ages 6 to 18 are invited to spend a week or more at one of our exciting summer camp programs.

Scan the QR code to view the program offerings and to register. Our church offers camperships to pay for summer camp. Contact Pastor Amy or Jodi Eacteau-St.Gelais.



Camp Sunday at BHUMC is April 14th with Robyn Vernon. Join us!

Studies for Adults: Please join us!

- Early Birds with Pastor Amy, meets Mondays at 9:30 am in the Fireside room. No class April 8 and 15.
- **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.
- Seekers: Sisters in Christ, ongoing study meets Thursdays at 9:15 am in Knight Hall.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, April 6 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 meet at Maxon's Restaurant (507 Rt 50) on Friday, April 26th at 12:00 pm.

Contact Carol Borthwick (399-5405) or Lynn Christie (399-8838) if you would like to attend.

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**, **April 15 at 7:00 pm**.

Soup Kitchen



This month, we will be serving at the soup kitchen on April 15. Please sign up and bring all ingredients by **Friday, April 12.** (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 **April 14.** We will leave the church the Monday, **April 15 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 Pranys, 518-256-8476.



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, April 6, at 10:30

am 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. Diane Skibinski is the facilitator and can be reached at <u>dskibins@gmail.com</u> or 518-423-2887 for any questions.



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. Please join in whenever your schedule allows. For more information call Holly Rogers at 518-399-8629.

TUESDAY CONNECTION CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, April 9 at 9:30 AM** in Fireside. Details will be posted on the UMW bulletin board across from the church office.

SPECIAL K CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, April 22 at 2 PM** in Fireside. We will be completing some chores around the building.



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**, 720 Saratoga Rd., Burnt Hills. For updates please text 518-414-0967. No need to RSVP.



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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed No Earlybirds	2 7:00pm Scouts/KH	3 8:30 am Fix-its No Explorers 6:30 pm Saratoga Voices/Sanctuary and Knight Hall 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Table Talk/	4 9:15am Seekers 10:30 am BH-BL Women's Club 5:00 pm Playgroup 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal	5	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast/KH 10:30am Caregiver's Support meeting
7 9:00am Worship 10:30am Worship 3:00 pm Scouts/KH 3:30pm Scouts	8 No Earlybirds 12:00 pm BH-BL Women's Group Luncheon 5:30 pm Scouts/KH 6:30 pm Scouts 6:45pm Scouts	9 9:30am Tuesday Connections 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00pm Scouts/KH	10 8:30 am Fix-its 9:30 am Explorers 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Scouts/KH 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Table Talk/ Pizza Works	11 9:15am Seekers 5:00pm Playgroup 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 Camp Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:30am Worship 11:30am Prepare meal for soup kitchen 12:00pm Confirmation Class 3:30pm Scouts	 15 9:30am Earlybirds 10:00am Serve lunch at soup kitchen 6:45pm Scouts 7:00pm Church Council meeting/ KH 	16 1:00pm BH-BL Book club 7:00pm Scouts/KH 7:00pm Trustee meeting/Fireside	17 8:30am Fix-its 9:30am Explorers 5:30pm Scouts/ KH 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Table Talk/ Pizza Works	18 9:15am Seekers 5:00pm Playgroup 6:00pm Scouts 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 BHUMC Wome	20 en's Retreat
21 9:00am Worship 9:45am Youth Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am Voices of Hope 12:00pm Confirmation Class 3:00pm Scouts 3:30pm Scouts 4:00pm Family Game Night/KH	22 9:30am Earlybirds 2:00pm Special K 5:30pm Scouts/KH 6:30pm Scouts 6:45pm Scouts	23 6:30pm SPRC/ Fireside 7:00pm Scouts/KH	24 8:30am Fix-its 9:30am Explorers 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00pm AA 7:00pm SJAG/KH	25 9:15am Seekers 5:00pm Playgroup 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 12:00pm Lunch Bunch at Maxons	27
28 9:00am Worship 10:00am Youth Choir 10:30pm Worship 11:30am Voices of Hope 12:00pm Confirmation Class 3:30pm Scouts	29 9:30am Earlybirds 6:45pm Scouts	30 7:00pm Scouts/KH				

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church	Non Profit
816 Route 50	Organization
	U.S. Postage
Burnt Hills, NY 12027	PAID

BHUMC Preschool

We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and are enjoying spring break. Preschool is excited for warm weather and playing outside on the playground equipment. We have 2 birthdays coming up in April. Please join us in wishing Isaiah and Natalie a Happy Birthday!



Our 3 year old class will be learning about different types of families, health and our planet. Nurse Glenda will be dropping in to discuss ways we can stay healthy.

Our 4 year old class will be busy preparing for graduation as well as learning about dinosaurs. We will hatch dinosaur eggs, make volcanos and dig fossils out of our sandbox. We will then move into our weather unit. County Waste will be visiting both classes for Earth Day to teach us how we can take care of our planet by picking up trash and recycling.



During the coffee hour after the March 3 service we had the pleasure of honoring **Nancy Down** who recently stepped down from her post as **chair of the Staff Pastor/Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) after a very busy 6 year term.** We were truly blessed to have her at the helm of this committee during some very challenging years for our church that included several staff changes as well as COVID! She served this position with compassion, positivity and grace, always treating staff concerns with respect and confidentiality. She paid attention to every required task of the committee and addressed them by delegating well, encouraging her team every step of the way. Through all these years of service she maintained her faith as well as her love for God and for the congregation. She has left a strong foundation for us to build on and is more than deserving of a break from a job well done. Thank you Nancy!

Respectfully, The SPR Committee and Holly Nye

During our March 10th services, a presentation was made to express gratitude to Lynn Christie for her leadership in starting and running a Caregivers Support Group at our church for the past 8 years. Many people have attended the group during what can be a very challenging time in a person's life. It's hard to be prepared to be a caregiver for a loved one, because you don't know what you need to prepare for.



Through the group meetings, and Lynn's caring leadership, attendees have learned so much and received welcomed support from everyone in the group. It has served as an outreach ministry, and we have Lynn to thank for this. Lynn recently stepped back from leading the group, but is still very involved and helps out whenever she is needed. Thank you to Lynn for her selfless service to others; it is greatly appreciated.

The group continues to meet the first Saturday of the month at 10:30am in the Fireside Room.



Thank you, Don!

We have a talented woodworker in our midst! **Thank you to Don Hennel for making special objects for our worship.** Don made a beautiful Advent candle holder for our Advent wreath in December. And, the large cross that was prominent in our Palm Sunday and Holy Week services was also lovingly crafted by Don. Pastor Amy discovered how willing Don was to help out when she first asked him to make the square sandbox that we've used in several ways in worship, most recently for All Saints Sunday to hold our memorial candles. Thank you Don for sharing your kind heart and woodworking gifts with us for the Glory of God!

