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THE DOVE

B E R W I C K C O N G R E G A T I O N A L C H U R C H

BERWICK'S FINEST HOUR

PASTORS:

Rev. Kay Miller-Todd &
Rev. Richard Miller-Todd

(Schedule varies)

Rev. Theron (Tom) Conrey

(Schedule varies)

Sunday Services
(Currently on Facebook in
group "Berwick Congrega-
tional Church.)

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"Whoever lends to the poor lends to the Lord and he will repay him for his deed." John 6:35.

"Let us therefor brace ourselves to our duties and so bear ourselves that men will say 'this was their finest hour.'" Churchill, June 1940.

Throughout the year of 2020, all of humanity has been engaged in a war, this time with a deadly virus. We and our neighbors, like all those around the world, have been sorely afflicted by this attack, including loss of lives, sickness, permanent loss of health, financial insecurity, fear, family stress and hunger. These have been the casualties, the detritus of the Covid War, and the worst for many of us may be yet to come even as we deploy a defense offering real hope for ending the worst of the assault.

Through this time the Berwick Church may accurately be seen as having been a fortress of refuge, standing as a source of hope for many via the food programs, the continued opportunities to worship together, and a resilient clinging to our mutual loving identity as a Christian Congregation. Though the church building stands empty, the pews and basement have been filled with food, school supplies, and clothing, serving the Lord as well as though they were packed to the walls with congregants.

We are discovering that our most important assignment as a church is not to meet, but to serve. While our Pastors have found ways to bring the Good News to us every week, and we have used modern human technologies to share a loving intimate presence, together while at a distance, Berwick will be best remembered for rescuing the poor and feeding the hungry during this time. It is for these acts that John 6:35 promises Berwick Church hope and the blessed reward of the continuing privilege to serve on into the future.

We are at the darkest point on this walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death. After this we will fear no evil. What ever may be the next service that the Lord may offer us the privilege to provide Him, whatever the tests, Berwick Church may be remembered for this as it's finest hour, and we may be sure that the Lord has made us ready.

- William Nelson Pearce, January 1, 2021



NEW YEAR BLESSINGS TO ALL OF YOU FOR A GREAT 2021!

THANK YOU!!

- To our Pastors for keeping us going even through the Pandemic. Pastor Tom and our organist come to the church every couple of weeks to film a service (or two or three) to be available through our Facebook page under Berwick Congregational Church. (Thanks to Karen Pearce for manning the camera.) Rev. Kay and Rev. Rich Miller-Todd have done services via Zoom and are now out of the state until April 1.
- Thank you to Judy Sprague for diligently taking care of the church as Chair of the Building Committee and providing beautiful poinsettias and wreaths. Thanks to all who have stepped up to take care of the church building and grounds while we are closed down due to the Pandemic. Thanks to Donn Henderson for fixing the broken door to the Little Free Pantry.
- Thank you to Patty Smith and her team of worker bees who take care of the Food Co -Op each week. Over 1,000 people are helped with food each month!! They have done an amazing job. (Please also see article on page 1.)
- Thank you to our faithful congregation and friends of the church who continue to support the church financially as our expenses continue even though we are closed for services. (An envelope is enclosed with this issue of the Dove if you would like to make a contribution to the church—please indicate on your check if it is for regular expenses, Food Co-Op, or Missions—thank you!!)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- All those impacted by Covid 19 in some way.
- Our shut-ins
- Our church so that hopefully we can safely reopen when the vaccines “kick in” and the numbers of new Covid cases decline.
- The Sprague family as they mourn the loss of Amy’s sister.
- Charles Neagle
- Gerald Banning
- Donn Henderson’s brother, Bob
- Mike Pearce
- Mary Feters
- Zinna Pearson
- Pastor Kay’s brother
- Nina Moore
- Judy Sprague as she deals with the aftermath of an electrical fire at her home.
- Patty Smith as she mourns the loss of her friend, Butch.





O U R S Y M P A T H Y T O :

Due to Covid 19, the annual Widows and Widowers Brunch has been cancelled. (But Shirley is working on a little surprise!!)

- **The family of Alice “Jean” Jennett.** Jean was the sister of Louise Silver and passed away Dec. 7 at age 100. She is survived by her sons, Nick and John Jennett.
- **The family of Rev. James Van Roekel,** who died October 21, 2020 at age 90. Rev. Van Roekel served many churches in Illinois, Michigan, California, Wisconsin, Florida and Iowa (including Berwick Congregational as an interim minister many years ago). His wife, Erma Jean, predeceased him.
- **The family of Butch Bierman.**
- **The family of Amy Sprague’s sister,** who passed away very recently.

ZOOM FELLOWSHIP

We enjoyed Zoom fellowship in December and would like to try that again! Karen will set up a Zoom call for 10:00 AM on Sunday, January 10th so we can all visit together for an hour! Call in info will be set up and emailed.

(The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, January

ANNUAL MISSION GIVING PLAN-2021

- JANUARY:** Symphony John—Philippines
Food Co-Op: Canned goods; peanut butter
- FEBRUARY:** Compassion Fund
Food Co-Op: Birthday Bags
- MARCH:** Morgan Scott Project—Tennessee
Food Co-Op: Hygiene products
- APRIL:** Happy Life Children’s Home-Jonathan
Food Co-Op: Canned goods; peanut butter
- MAY:** ECHO
Food Co-Op: Cereals; boxed meals
- JUNE:** DMARC
Food Co-Op: Birthday bag supplies
- JULY:** Compassion Fund (Berwick)
Food Co-Op: School Supplies
- AUGUST:** Bread of Life Ministries-Plant City, FL
Food Co-Op: Cereals; boxed meals
- SEPTEMBER:** Morgan Scott Project—Tennessee
Food Co-Op: Hygiene products
- OCTOBER:** Happy Life Children’s Home-Jonathan
Food Co-Op: Canned goods; peanut butter
- NOVEMBER:** Panamerican Institute (Gift Basket)
Food Co-Op: Cereals/boxed meals
- DECEMBER:** Mission Aviation Fellowship (Applebys)
Food Co-Op: Hygiene products



A message of huge thanks to Tom Polito, the church’s neighbor, who continues to plow the snow from our drive.

Seems the heavy winds blew off the little food pantry door & Donn Henderson to its rescue.

December 3 my home sustained an electrical fire. The Delaware Fire men & women did an awesome job while I watched. Sad but this personal disaster by far takes a back seat to the pain & anguish the Covid-19 disease has caused within our community & country.

- Judy Sprague

WE MIGHT AS WELL LAUGH!

- That moment when you're worried about the elderly and realize that you are the elderly.
- Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to prevent Covid 19 but to stop eating.
- Everyone's complaining they gotta homeschool their kids. Meanwhile I skipped my kids ahead and they graduate tomorrow. Problem solved.
- I miss the days when we were terrified of Romaine Lettuce.
- We are thinking of planting a garden in case the food shortage gets worse. Anyone have any Snickers or Cheetos Seeds?
- Corona virus has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house looking for food. We're told "no" if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides and walks.
- It is not boring at all to stay in the house. But how come one bag of rice has 7,456 pieces and the other bag 7,398?
- 2019: Stay away from negative people.
2020: Stay away from positive people!



Berwick Congregational Church

To contact Berwick Church:

Church Phone: 515-262-0949
 Revs. Kay & Rich 515-669-2202
 Pastor Tom: 515-480-3396 (currently "on duty")
 Church Secretary: 515-262-9047 (Karen)

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

NOTE: Birthdays will not appear on our web-site.



Pastor Tom
 and
 Our organist,
 Jerry, making
 Facebook
 video
 of weekly
 church
 service.

