

OCTOBER 2021

THE BEACON

The official newsletter of Brightwood Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)



The Dutch have the concept of Hygge (pronounced hooga). Although sometimes simplified to mean cozy, it embodies contentment, feeling satisfied. Think warm sweaters, candle light, and hot drinks. One of the things common to fall traditions that give us those feelings is light in increasing darkness and warmth in increasing cool weather. If a place has that light, warmth and friendship, it makes us feel welcome and at home.

At Brightwood, our mission is to be a **welcoming** community of Christians seeking to grow in faith and service. Maybe we can learn something about being welcoming by thinking about Hygge. How can we be light, warmth, and welcome? Many "church welcome" articles focus on welcoming visitors, but I'm not sure that's where we start. *If we don't make people feel welcome who have been at church their whole lives, we can't hope to welcome visitors.* How do we do that in person *and* when we are still separated? Here are a few ideas:

Light: Jesus calls us the light of the world. But sometimes, we don't cast our glow far enough. We can get in the habit of talking to the same people each week because those are the people we may be most comfortable around. But we aren't supposed to keep our light under a bushel, always shining on an inner circle. Try to be intentional about casting your light farther. Make sure to converse briefly with everyone who is at worship on Sunday. We're small enough to do that. Take some time to call or write a note to someone who you might not normally be close to.

Warmth: Treat other people as you want to be treated. To that end, take some time to reflect on what makes **you** feel included and warmly welcomed. Think about what has made you feel like an outsider before, out in the cold. What do you need to do to turn up the fire of your heart?

Welcome: Listen to one another. In meetings and conversations, especially about those things that might be a bit tense. Instead of jumping to judgements, conclusions, or fixes, welcome the other person's story into your heart. Ask questions. Get to the "WHY" of a person's feelings and opinions. *Making people feel heard helps people feel welcome.*

Please, take this very seriously. And don't wait for others to welcome first, we must all participate. Besides being a core part of our mission and identity, making people feel welcome, whether near or far, will mean our survival as a congregation. *No one wants to be where they don't feel welcome.*

Blessings until we meet again. Pastor Jana

A Note on Worship In early August, Allegheny County passed the threshold of COVID-19 cases that triggers the CDC's recommendation to wear masks indoors when in public, whether vaccinated or not. Since then, cases have continued to rise. Pastor Jana continues to mask unless in the pulpit, and encourages you to follow the CDC's guidelines, but our policy has not changed. Masks are voluntary for those who are already vaccinated, and mandatory for those who are not.

COVID-19 Vaccine Help Let's hurry and get vaccinated! ALL PENNSYLVANIANS 12 and OVER ARE NOW ELIGIBLE! To find out where to go for a vaccine, call 1-877-724-3258 or visit www.pa.gov/guides/get-vaccinated. Vaccines are typically at no cost to you.

Special Music We are resuming special music! Contact Jana to sign-up.

Lunch Bunch We'll get together for lunch at 11:30 am on October 28th at First Watch in Bridgeville (160 Millers Run Rd, Ste. 400, Bridgeville, PA 15017). Their menu includes breakfast and lunch, so there's something for everyone! Let Pastor Jana know by October 26th if you are able to join us. All are welcome.

Board Meeting Our next board meeting will be Tuesday, October 12th, at 7 pm. Board members, please plan to attend.

Online Giving We are thrilled to now offer online giving! We understand that not everyone in our congregation would take advantage of such a service. It will enable those visiting our website or joining us for online worship to share in the church's ministry. The service costs the church nothing except a percentage of those gifts when used. You can download the Givelify App or visit our website to check it out: www.brightwoodchurch.org

Please Note: We will not be hiring a new secretary. **During this time, the office is closed.** Pastor Jana is working from home. She is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is always available for a chat. Please don't hesitate to call her cell (412-302-8920) with questions, concerns, or just to talk. She will be going into the office occasionally to check the mail and tidy. Please continue to mail your gifts to Linda Beattie for safety's sake.

Don't Forget! We are still streaming our worship on our Facebook page and Youtube. If you happen to be away for a week, take a little while to worship with us online. It may not be on the same day or in the same place, but *God is always worthy of our worship.*

Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House We continue to collect pull tabs from aluminum cans for Ronald McDonald House Pittsburgh, a "home away from home" for the families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment at area hospitals. Please bring them with you to church and leave them in the jar in the narthex, or drop them in the mailbox anytime.

Pennies for "Peanut Butter" Every person can make a difference. We are collecting spare change in a jar in the narthex that will be donated to South Hills Interfaith Movement on November 1st of next year. SHIM serves 2,500 individuals monthly through three food pantries in Bethel Park, Whitehall, and Baldwin. During the pandemic SHIM saw a 41% rise in need, with over 5,000 new individuals attending for the first time. SHIM has 500% purchasing power at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, meaning financial contributions to the program have five times more impact. Let's see how many people we can feed when we work together!

In Our Prayers

Please Pray for the following children of God:

*For Sue Orrick, recovering from hand surgery

*For Lee Hughes, awaiting surgery for a growth on her leg

*Barb Morgan's Aunt Shirley, with lung cancer

*Anne Delval, undergoing chemo and radiation for breast cancer

*Sue Orrick's cousin, Sandra Reidel, with a malignant tumor in her chest. She has begun chemotherapy and is very ill.

*Barb Morgan's sister-in-law, Elaine, with stage 4 lung cancer

*Rev. Nikki Mazza-Friedly's mother, Diane Mazza, who has cancer.

*Rev. Nikki Mazza Friedly, with health concerns

*Tom Kerns, Margery Sebolt's brother and Jeffery Kerns, her nephew, with COVID-19.

*For the families of the 4,810,340 worldwide who have died from COVID-19, including the 719,496 Americans

October Birthdays

3-Dom Mansuetto

15-Shealyn Steadman

16-Margery Sebolt

Christy Basso

22-Judy Murphy

23- Ron McAnulty

27-Logan Bable

October Anniversaries

10- Christina and Frank
Francica

22-The Rev. Johnna and
Nick Mansuetto

24-Roger and Deb
McCuean

26-Val and Alan Asbury

Nominating Committee Please pray for the nominating committee as they do their work this month. If you have interest in holding an office, being an elder or deacon, please contact Pastor Jana or Pastor Pam.

Disciples Women will gather on line for a book club on the first Monday of every month from 7-8 pm beginning November 1st via zoom. They will study The Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out, and Lonely by Lysa TerKeurst. The study will be led by Jennifer Allen. Please let pastor Jana know if you are interested so she can make sure you have the log-in/ call-in information. We are asked to read Chapter 1 for the first meeting.

A Note on Upcoming Dates

At our last board meeting, we confirmed that we will be hosting our live nativity this year and will not change the number of days but have fewer hours. We will also have one special hour that will be children only. Contact Jan McCuean for more information or to volunteer to help.

We are still gauging interest for a Thanksgiving Dinner, as well as a volunteer coordinator. Please let us know if you have interest in chairing a Thanksgiving dinner.

The same questions arise about our Christmas party. Are we ready to be back together that way? Is it something we want to do this year? Is anyone interested in helping?

Fellowship (spending time together) has been a part of the life of faith since the Disciples went to dinner parties with Jesus. Let's pray about the best ways for us to be together again.



Contact Us
Pastor Jana's Cell

412-302-8920

Email

jquisenberry@hotmail.com

Facebook

facebook.com/BrightwoodChurch

YouTube

Pastor Jana Q at Brightwood

Twitter

twitter.com/PastorJQ

Instagram

[instagram.com/
brightwoodchristian](https://instagram.com/brightwoodchristian)

Website www.brightwoodchurch.org

Staff

Minister: Rev. Jana Quisenberry

Music Director: Mickey Campbell

Organist: Lisa Powell

October on a Maine River

by Kenneth Slade Alling

The blood of maples on the autumn sky,
And dead leaves drifting, drifting to the sea:
Now, to the year Time makes his old reply,
Nothing on earth shall live immortally.

The burst of glory on a dying face,
Of one who sees beyond, some haven far,
Lit with the spring-light of another place
And silver winds blown from another star.

Now beauty burns in gold on every hill
And changes not her warm imperial way:
There is no sadness here, whate'er men say—
Beauty departing is yet beauty still.



Brightwood Christian Church
5044 W Library Ave.
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Brightwood Christian: A welcoming community of Christians seeking to grow in faith and service.