

Kolume 7. Issue 17 December 17, 2020 DECEMBER 17, 2020 A PUBLICATION FEATURING: local events, news, happenings and more

Mastmas

December 17, 2020

CONTENTS

THE BEYOND

WEEKEND HAPPENINGS & 2-3 the Upper Mount Bethel Community Park on Saturday, **UPCOMING EVENTS COMMUNITY NEWS** DINING 13 HAPPENINGS **CLASSIFIEDS/BUSINESS CARDS** 15 LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK

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Email your news and events to thebeltandbeyond@gmail.com

4-6.14 thru Event UMBT Community Park, 1535 Potomac Street. Mt Bethel, PA. Craft vendors, Live Christmas Music, Santa, 11 & 12 Tree Lighting at 5:00pm. Masks required and all CDC guidelines will be followed.

WEEKEND HAPPENINGS UMBT Christmas in the Park Drive - Thru Event

Due to the Governor's new restrictions Christmas in

December 19th 3:00pm to 5:00pm will now be a Drive-

See ad page 3

UMBT Collection Day for Restaurant Servers and Bartenders

On Saturday, December 19th, from 10:00am -

16 12:00pm, Upper Mt Bethel Township will host a Collection Day to benefit restaurant servers and bartenders who work at restaurants and bars located in Upper Mount Bethel Township. See page 4 for details

NATIONAL DAYS **DECEMBER NATIONAL DAYS**

DECEMBER 17 - NATIONAL RE-GIFTING DAY DECEMBER 18 - NATIONAL UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER DAY DECEMBER 19 - NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY DECEMBER 20 - NATIONAL SANGRIA DAY DECEMBER 21 - WINTER SOLSTICE DECEMBER 24 - NATIONAL EGGNOG DAY DECEMBER 26 - NATIONAL CANDY CANE DAY DECEMBER 27 - NATIONAL FRUIT CAKE DAY DECEMBER 28 - NATIONAL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DAY DECEMBER 29 - NATIONAL HERO DAY DECEMBER 30 - NATIONAL BACON DAY DECEMBER 31 - NATIONAL CHAMPAGNE DAY DECEMBER HOLIDAYS **DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 26 - KWANZAA BEGINS DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE**



WEEKEND HAPPENINGS & UPCOMING EVENTS

A.W.S.O.M. Annual Home for the Holidays Foster Program Give a shelter animal a home for the Holidays! Foster one of AWSOM's shelter animals so they can spend the holidays in a happy home. Pick up will be **December 21st thru 23rd, 2020** and drop off **January 2nd thru January 4th, 2021.** You can find the home for the holidays foster application on their website AwsomAnimals.org or call or stop by the shelter located at 3129 Godfrey Ridge Drive, Stroudsburg, PA. or call 570-421-3647.

BAHS Virtual Winter Concerts

The BAHS Virtual Winter Concerts will premiere on **Tuesday, December 22nd at 7:30pm**. We'll see you in our "Virtual Theater" at www.bangor.k12.pa.us/Page/1067

First UMC Bangor Free Lunch

The First United Methodist Church, 55 North Third Street, Bangor will be hosting a free lunch on **Sunday**, **December 27th, 12:30pm to 1:30pm**. The lunch will be a meatloaf meal.

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center First Day Hikes - Friday, January 1, 2021 at 10:00am to 11:30am or 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Get out and get hiking on the first day of 2021! Join us for one of two moderate 2-mile hikes at Jacobsburg. We will explore the forests and creek-side trails. The hikes will leave at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The meeting location will be emailed to participants with the registration confirmation. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes, bring a snack and a water bottle. All participants over the age of two are required to wear a face mask in order to participate. All participants are required to maintain a safe physical distance from staff and other visitors at all times during the program. *Registration is required.*

You can view and register for community programs online at http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/. If you need an accommodation to participate in a program please contact the park office at 610-746-2801 or jacobsburgsp@pa.gov. With at least three days notice, interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of hearing are available for educational programs.

BMCL News

The Blue Mt. Community Library will hold a Half-Price Book Nook Sale on **Saturday, January 2nd from 9:00am to 1:00pm**. Anyone wishing to come into the Library must call for a scheduled appointment. 30-minute time slots will be assigned with a maximum of 3 people per time slot. The Book Nook is located on the second floor of the Library at 216 S. Robinson Ave., Pen Argyl, PA. The phone number is 610-863-3029. Masks are required and gloves will be provided by the Library. You do not need to be a member of the BMCL to purchase books or Gift Certificates. For information, visit our website at www.bmcl.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bmclpenargyl.



THANK YOU TO OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Marine Corps League

Northampton County Detachment 298 Meeting Jan. 9, 2021 at 11 am, 1621 Lehigh St./Easton. All active duty and honorably discharged Marines welcome! Robert Hockenbury USN (FMF) Ret. dochockenbury@yahoo.com John Mitzak USMC jvmitzak@gmail.com www.norcomcl. org Facebook: Marine Corps League Northampton County Detachment 298.

COMMUNITY NEWS

UMBT Shows Support to Restaurant Servers and Bartenders in Upper Mt Bethel with Collection Day Upper Mt Bethel Township is showing it's support for the servers and bartenders who work at restaurants and bars located in Upper Mount Bethel Township. On Saturday, December 19th, from 10:00am to 12:00pm, the North Bangor Fire Company and Mt Bethel Fire Company will support Santa, his elf and Township supervisors who will be collecting donations for Upper Mt Bethel restaurants and the servers and bartenders they employ. The donations will be given to the servers and bartenders who work at these restaurants located in Upper Mt Bethel Township.

If you would like to make a donation and are not able to come out on December 19th, you can drop off a donation at the Upper Mount Bethel Township Building 387 Ye Olde Highway, Mt Bethel, PA. 18343 or feel free to mail a donation to this address.

UMBT 2nd Annual Christmas House Decorating Contest

Join UMBT for the 2nd annual Upper Mount Bethel Christmas House Decorating contest. Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners. For more information go to UMBT Township website www.umbt.org click on Parks and Recreation and under Announcements find the information for the Christmas House Decorating contest. This event is for Upper Mount Bethel Residents. Winners to be announced on **December 19th at 4:00pm.** Sponsored by UMBT Park and Recreation Board.

BMCL News

BMCL Virtual Christmas Tree Fundraiser

Honor or memorialize a family member or pet by purchasing an ornament for our virtual Christmas tree. Your virtual ornament will be posted on our facebook page.

Ornaments are \$5.00 each. There is no limit to the number of ornaments you request. Cash and checks will be accepted.

The library is located at 216 S. Robinson Avenue in Pen Argyl, PA. 610-863-3029. www.bmcl.org

BMCL Friday Hours

The Blue Mountain Community Library will be open on Fridays beginning in December. Craft packets for our Story Time are available. The Library will be closed **Dec. 24th, 25th and 26th all shifts and pm shift on Dec. 31st.** We will be closed on **Jan.1st** and will open **Saturday, Jan 2nd am shift** for Book Nook Sale only. Call 610-863-3029 for information or to make an appointment to use the library.

Bangor Borough Walk Works Program

Did you know that there are three walking trails through Bangor? Now that the weather is cooling off, it's the perfect time to get out and enjoy a fun, free outdoor activity. Trail Guides are also available at the Bangor Borough office, located at 197 Pennsylvania Ave., Bangor, PA. http://bangorborough.org/walkworks-program/

Richmond UMC Bell Christmas Concert

The Richmond United Methodist Church will offer a free concert using our steeple-based Carillon to provide Christmas music, both sacred and secular. The concert will be held on Sunday, December 20th, 3:00pm. Because our Church Bell Carillon is located in our Sanctuary steeple, we invite you to park in the parking lot, remain in your car, and enjoy the music. Hot chocolate, coffee and light snacks will be available in a sociallydistanced way, as well as a listing of all of the music to be played and a brief history of some of the songs. In this time of COVID-19, when trying to hold any kind of indoor concert has challenges, this concert can be enjoyed without ever entering a building, and can be heard in the comfort of your own vehicle. Richmond UMC is located at 8538 South Delaware Drive, Bangor, PA 18013. For more information, please call (610) 588-7317 or email RichmondUMC@epix.net.

Slate Belt Heritage Center Closure Announced The Slate Belt Heritage Center has announced that they

will be closing immediately, due to the increased State Covid restrictions. They will remain closed until **January 4, 2021** although that date may change, depending on future state directives. Anyone wishing to purchase one of the Heritage Center's books or other historic items may do so by calling the Slate Belt Heritage Center at 610-599-4993 and leave a message.

Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm Announces Farm School

In September Quiet Valley introduced a class for students in online or hybrid learning situations due to COVID restrictions. These classes, held in Quiet Valley's Engel Education Center, will be continuing for the next semester on **Mondays and Tuesdays beginning January 11th**.

Students in grades 3-8 participating in online or hybrid learning can spend their day at Quiet Valley working on their teacher-assigned classwork with the assistance of trained educators. Students will also have the opportunity to help out on the farm, try historical crafts and cooking, and learn about history through the Quiet Valley homestead.

There are a limited number of spots available and socialdistancing measures are in place. All money raised is used to support the mission of our non-profit historic farm museum and its educational programs. For more information visit HYPERLINK "http://www.quietvalley.org" www.quietvalley.org or call 570-992-6161.



Facebook

December 17, 2020





EBUMC Reverse Advent Calendar

A Reverse Advent Calendar will be observed at the East Bangor United Methodist Community Church. Advent is just around the corner and this year we'd like to suggest you consider a reverse advent calendar project. Instead of a typical advent calendar that you would open up and get something from, we're inviting you to consider putting an item in a bag for each day of Advent to go to the Portland-Upper Mt Bethel Food Pantry and local shelters. Consider the following: Canned goods, boxed macaroni and cheese, other non-perishable food items, toiletries, socks, etc. Dates of the project are **December 1st – 24th**. Donations can then be brought to the church and placed by the kitchen door for distribution. The church is located at 136 W. Central Ave. (Rt.191), East Bangor. Any questions, call 610-588-4453.

SLATE BELT

bangorborough.org

hbbapa.org.

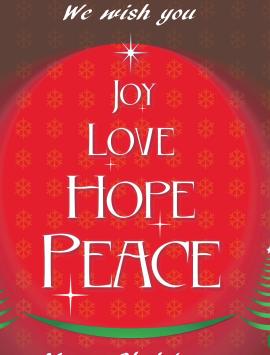
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December 17, 2020



The Source of Joy

By Kathleen McFall

Holidays usually help us mark the passage of time and renewal. provide a pause for reflection.

Christmas is a time celebrated by singing classic carols, decorating Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, and enjoying twinkling lights that shine inside our home or outside our door.

Our comforting traditions help give us a sense of belonging and a way to express what is important to us. They connect us to our history and help us commemorate generations of family.

We gather together to share the joy and excitement of this magical season, discovering greater peace and joy.

For Christians, it is a time of spiritual meditation on one of the most significant foundations of our Christian faith.

We celebrate God's perfect love for the world through His greatest gift - the birth of the Christ child: Jesus. His Son was born into the world to atone for our sins so that we would not be separated from God.

Often Christmas observance is evident in a packed church, beautiful music, lit candles and joyous singing.

This year, however, is a very challenging year, filled with manageable when we don't become defeated by some of our most difficult and uncertain circumstances.

The world continues to contend with the suraina COVID-19 pandemic, coping with fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation - whether at home, in a hospital, or under quarantine.

So many people are struggling and facing tragic loss this holiday season. This collective moment is unlike anything most of us have ever experienced.

How is it possible to find peace and joy when millions of people are suffering with immeasurable pain and sorrow?

As Christians, we believe our answers are found in the Bible. We see evidence of God's compassion and understanding in both the Old and New Testament.

Joy is an attitude God's people had chosen not because of their situation, but because of their hope in God's promise of the future. Joy is a feeling, an emotion. It comes from our heart and mind.

It is not determined by current struggles. It is born with the anticipation of reaching a future destination. We look forward to what awaits us at the end of this pandemic. bringing us joy and hope in God's faithfulness.

Christmas can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christ's birth brought great joy to the world. We need the hope of Christ more than ever. The Bible reveals stories where Jesus intervened and redeemed situations that were bleak and hopeless.

Christmas can bring a sense of peace. For many of us, these challenging times have become an impetus for

We seek wisdom and guidance and look for signs of hope. Instead of focusing on what we can't do in this season, let's be open to change and embrace opportunities to try new ways of spreading joy and comfort.

The Scriptures repeatedly assure us not to be afraid because God does not desire our suffering. He is our source of joy, working in ways beyond what we can see or comprehend. When we put our faith in God, He can give us unshakeable joy.

John Piper, a renowned pastor and author of more than 50 books, describes joy as "a good feeling in the soul produced by the Holy Spirit as He causes us to see the beauty of Jesus in the Word and in His works."

Finding joy in these demanding and challenging times can be difficult. We can become overwhelmed by sadness and heartbreak. We can feel stuck or lost in chaos and confusion.

However, we can try to make these times more worrying about the future and all of its unknowns.

Christmas can be a season of great joy. The pandemic can't take away the true meaning of Christmas:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His onlybegotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life. "John 3:16. God's indescribable, unspeakable gift is filled with His peace and healing. It enables us to enjoy the experience of connection, gratitude, hope, and love. His gift brought salvation to all of us.

. Jesus Is the Reason for the Season! Have a blessed, joyful Christmas.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

(Jeremíah 29:11)





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Open Dec. 31 Regular Hours New Year's Eve; CLOSED New Year's Day



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Make Small Holiday Celebrations Special with a Fresh Menu

(Family Features) Holiday festivities with immediate family members or just a few friends rather than larger gatherings may feel different than normal, but you can make the most of the situation with these tips to add intimacy and special meaning to celebratory moments:

- * Use special dishes, glassware and linens to convey the tone of the celebration. Go ahead and use your best dishes or enhance your everyday plates with the use of cloth napkins or a festive tablecloth. Bring out the fancy glasses to savor every sip.
- * Arrange visually appealing, individual mini-snack platters for each person. Combine grapes with a special cheese, crackers, olives and nuts for an easy way to curb appetites before the main course.
- * Set a festive table with a simple but creative centerpiece. For instance, you can combine candles, flowers and draped bunches of colorful grapes. Place votive candles on mirrors for added shimmer and sparkle. Tie a gold or silver wire ribbon bow around the napkins at each place setting. Handwritten place cards with guests' names can add a surprising and special touch.
- * Stay healthy to enjoy the holidays. Choose healthy foods like fruits and vegetables that help support the immune system. Maintain your exercise schedule as much as possible and ensure you are getting enough sleep.
- * Opt for homemade over processed foods for signature dishes then reinforce with prepared items to fill out the menu, if needed. Let your guests bring part of the meal or something to contribute to the festivities.

Adding a sweet touch to the menu can help keep guests coming back for more. For example, fresh California grapes are available into January and are perfect for the holiday season. Enjoy them as a fresh, healthy snack or side dish, or as an ingredient to add taste and visual appeal to recipes to make the season feel special.

Visit grapesfromcalifornia.com/recipe to find more holiday-worthy dishes from appetizers and entrees to sides, snacks and desserts.

Create the Perfect Appetizer Plate

Delight your guests with individual appetizer plates this season by considering color, texture and presentation. Remember, this is the prelude to the meal, so small portions are perfectly fine. Consider this starter list:

- * Cheese
- * Nuts
- * Fresh grapes
- * Olives
- * Hummus
- * Marinated artichoke hearts
- * Salami slices
- * Spinach or other dips
- * Dolmades (stuffed grape leaves)
- * Roasted red peppers
- * Crackers
- * Pita triangles
- * Thin breadsticks
- * Pretzels

* Jam or honey Source: California Table Grape Commission





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Thank you for your continued patronage and support during this difficult year. We wish you all good health and good cheer!

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Clare Osmun and Carolyn Smith.



Clare Osmun, June Hess, and Carolyn Smith

Bangor Women's Club Thanks Slate Belt Community submitted by Marilyn Mehas

The Bangor Women's Club obtained thirty wreaths from Ginder Greenhouse & Garden Center, in Bangor and beautifully decorated them in three workshops at the home of Club President Heidi Bates. Nine club members participated in the project. Members completed the festive wreaths and enjoyed the time spent together. The wreaths were sold at the Bangor Public Library in the parking lot during Small Business weekend. The Friends of the

Library, Co-sponsors of the project, manned the sale table. The club would like to extend their thanks to the Slate Belt community for supporting the wreath sale and the donations given to the Library Fund. The proceeds (over \$400) from the project will benefit the Bangor Public Library.



June Hess, Heidi Bates with a completed wreath, and Clare Osmun.

Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce Annual Santa's Elves Committee Christmas Event

This year's Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce Santa's Elves Christmas event was held on December 12, at the Blue Valley Farm Show building. There was no party this year; due to Covid-19 restrictions a drive-thru event was held. The pandemic did not stop the SBCC Santa's Elves from providing Christmas cheer to children in need in the Slate Belt. Each child received a bag filled with toys, goodies and a lunch to go. Santa and Mrs Claus and a special elf stopped by to greet the children as they came by car to pick up their gift bags. For more than 30 years the SBCC Santa's Elves committee has held an annual Christmas party to help provide a joyous Christmas for children.



Mrs Claus,Patti Guarry, Elf, Brandi Keppel, and Santa Claus, Craig Greenwood.





Members of the Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce Santa's Elves and



Frosty, Tomasz Perlinski and Elf, Brandi Keppel.



Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center Community Programs Winter 2020-2021 Snowshoes and Hiking Poles Available - Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 2:30pm. Jacobsburg Visitor Center, 400 Belfast Road, Nazareth. Borrow snowshoe equipment to use on Jacobsburg's trails this winter! Snowshoes are available for folks of any age or shoe size. including small children. Snowshoes will not be made available during times of insufficient snow cover, at least six inches of snow is required. To borrow equipment, you must provide a driver's license or other form of state issued identification. For more information call 610-746-2801 or email jacobsburgsp@pa.gov. You can check our website for current winter conditions and snow depth: https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/WinterReport/ Pages/default.aspx

You can view and register for community programs online at http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/. If you need an accommodation to participate in a program please contact the park office at 610-746-2801 or jacobsburgsp@pa.gov. With at least three days notice, interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of hearing are available for educational programs.

Covid Christmas by Robert L. Martin

Blue Christmas among the Covid With friends alone away amid, Bearing sadness behind the mask, Bring them back next year we ask, To be happy again and worry free, In good health and full of glee.

We look ahead to the next Christmas, To sharing friendship from all of us With friends in isolation so far away To share the joy of the holiday. Merry Christmas to all in isolation, Make our homes your future destination.

Shop Local this Holiday Season

Storytime at BMCL

Storytime is back at the Blue Mountain Community Library! The BMCL will offer a Preschool Storytime and Craft activity on FACEBOOK every Thursday. Stories will have seasonal themes and crafts. We will provide the supplies, which can be picked up at the Library at 216 S. Robinson Ave., Pen Argyl. All children are welcome to participate; no membership is necessary.

Call 610-863-3029 for your craft packet. For more information, visit us at www.bmcl.org.

New in the Bangor Public Library Adult Fiction - Trouble Brewing by Suzanne Baltsar; Bring me Home for Christmas by Robyn Carr; Harvest Moon by Robyn Carr; Hidden Summit: Virgin River 17 by Robyn



Carr; Sword Song by Bernard Cornwell; The Lords of the North by Bernard Cornwell; A Death in the Small Hours by Charles B. Finch; An Old Betrayal: A Charles Lenox Mystery by Charles B. Finch; Home by Nightfall by Charles B. Finch; The Inheritance by Charles B. Finch; The Laws of Murder by Charles B. Finch; Tell Me Lies: A Novel by Carola Lovering; Rhythm of War by Brandon Sanderson.

Large Print Fiction - The Searcher by Tana French. Adult Non-Fiction - The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi: My Journey Into the Heart of Scriptural Faith and the Land Where it Began by Kathie Lee Gifford; The Man from the Train: The Solving of a Century-Old Serial Killer Mystery by Bill James; Something Beautiful Happened: A Story of Survival and Courage in the Face of Evil by Yvette Manessis Corporon; Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and my Journey from Homeless to Harvard by Liz Murray; A Promised Land by Barack Obama; Miss Ex-Yugoslavia: A Memoir by Sofija Stefanovic.

Easy Non-Fiction - Superheroes are Everywhere by Kamala Harris.

Junior Non-Fiction - Zoe is On the Air by Clare Hutton; Ally's Mad Mystery by Jessica Brody; Junie B. First Grader: Dumb Bunny by Barbara Park; Sunday Sundaes by Coco Simon. Young Adult Fiction - Cinderella is Dead by Kalynn Bayron; How the King of Elfhame Learned to Hate Stories by Holly Black; Class Act by Jerry Craft; Amulet: Prince of the Elves by Kazu Kibuishi.

The Bangor Public Library is located at 39 South Main Street, Bangor, PA. The phone number is 610-588-4136.

Recently Engaged or Married?

Send us your Engagement or Wedding Announcement along with a photo and we will share your special news in an upcoming issue. Send info and photo Email:thebeltandbeyond@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 33 Bangor, PA 18013



Safe is good. Safer is not putting off your doctor appointments or screenings.

Stay safer. If you have an appointment, keep it. If you need an appointment, make it. The earlier you address potential problems, the better your chances for a successful outcome. **To schedule an appointment, call 888-402-LVHN or visit LVHN.org.**



Your health deserves a partner.