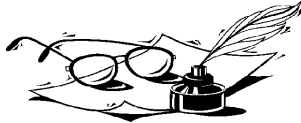




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



*From Pastor Paul's Desk.....*

# A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

**Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor**

Email: [pmcreynolds@susumc.org](mailto:pmcreynolds@susumc.org); Home Phone: (814) 308-9099

Church Phone: 237-4404; Email: [albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com](mailto:albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.albrightbethuneumc.org](http://www.albrightbethuneumc.org)

Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 30, Number 4; April 2023

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Healer of the Soul, and our Everlasting Redeemer. I am so excited about what the Lord has in store for us at Albright-Bethune. We have an amazing opportunity to be a bridge in the community by mending their souls with the word. Engaging their hearts in stewardship and prayer. All of this is done by a Beloved Community engaging in planting the seeds of Jesus Christ, our Hope. Building Bridges of connections throughout the community (Matthew 25:34-36, Luke 4:18-19).

Family, I pray all is well with you and your families. Easter has arrived and now we are in celebration mode of Jesus conquering death. I want to share 3 keys as we move from Easter and toward Pentecost. We must have Joy! We must be Fearless! We must see with new Vision! Joy resides deep within us, a gladness that cannot be stripped or stolen from us, even in the midst of sorrow. The Passion and Resurrection of our savior Jesus teach us that suffering is transformed through faith in the Risen Christ. With a faith that grounds us, we are able to stay connected to an everlasting sense of joy even in the midst of the pain, and grief we experience. I am reassured because I have a savior who understands my struggles and is the lifter of my bowed down head.

Furthermore, The Resurrection teaches us that God can overcome anything, even death. When the Risen Lord Jesus appears to Mary at the tomb and later to his disciples, his first words are, "Do not be afraid!" These words speak comfort to our aching hearts, helping us cope with the fear from the loss of a loved one, a serious illness, or experiencing the hate of racism. Our faith allows us to trust that God can overcome our most serious problems.

Finally, Easter means that we are to live with a sense of newness (Rebirth) just as the return of spring lifts our hearts and spirits. Spring is the season of flowers, rebirth, and BBQs. This time of year makes us feel like the whole world is new. The Resurrection of Jesus makes "all things new." The spirit of Easter is a spirit of rebirth that enables each of us to show up in daily life with a positive attitude, to renew relationships that have been taken for granted, and to express appreciation and affection to those closest to us. It means to see the world through new eyes - God's eyes.

**Closing Prayer:** Draw us forth, God of all creation. Draw us forward and away from limited certainty into the immense world of your love. Give us the capacity to even for a moment taste the richness of the feast you give us. Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions, with doubts. Help us to experience the resurrection anew with open wonder and an increasing ability to see you in the people of Easter. Amen. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

- **HOLY WEEK** – Various activities will be held April 2-9. Our Palm Sunday service will be held on April 2 at 11 a.m.. On April 6, we will have our Maundy Thursday Service in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. with Emmanuel Lutheran Our Good Friday service will be held in the sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. and then virtually at 7 p.m. on Facebook Live and YouTube. On Saturday, we will have our Easter egg hunt at the Bowen home. Our Easter worship service will be held on April 9 at 11 a.m. See Pastor Paul if you have questions about Holy Week.
- **EASTER EGG HUNT** – On April 8 at 11 am, our church will hold its Easter egg hunt at the Bowen home. See Blannie or Cathy if you need directions to 2459 Chatham Court in the Saybrook Subdivision. Children, teens, and children at heart are welcome. **Carla Roser-Jones, Jo Ferrell**, and several assistants will organize the event.
- **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL & BOOK STUDY** - Each morning during the Lenten season, we will have a Lent devotional featuring Pastor Paul and Jennifer Saunders. You can join the devotionals on our church's Facebook page. If you miss a devotional, you can later watch them on our Facebook page. Also, every Monday during Lent from 6:30-7:30 pm, we will have our Lent Bible Study via Zoom. You do not need a book to participate. Join us as we go through the book *The Seven Last Words* by Susan Robb.
- **CONDOLENCES** – Two of our church families lost relatives last month. Ireen Jones' brother died after an extended illness. Also, the Dyreson family lost JoDee's mother who worshipped with us while her health permitted when she was in State College. Please extend your condolences to both families on their losses. They will appreciate your words and thoughts during this difficult time for them.
- **PASTORAL LEADERSHIP** – Effective July 1, **Pastor McReynolds** will be reappointed to continue providing pastoral leadership for our congregation. Also, Pastor Paul will have an expanded role within our State College UMC district. He will begin providing pastoral leadership for Fairbrook UMC in Pennsylvania Furnace. See Jackie Peagler, the chair of our Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, if you have any questions about the appointment.
- **AWARD** – Our Albright-Bethune church is one of two recipients selected to receive the Harry Hosier Award this year! This award is presented by the Commission on Building the Beloved Community. The award is presented to the individual or congregation that best emulates the characteristics of Harry Hosier, an early Black Methodist preacher. Pastor McReynolds will be invited to the Awards Luncheon that will celebrate all award winners during the Susquehanna Annual Conference to be held May 18-20 in Williamsport.
- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate a special day this month: April 1 - **Marcus Bowen's** Birthday; April 4 - **Courtlyn Roser-Jones'** Birthday; April 13 – **Rev. Paul Amara's** Birthday; April 14 – **Deborah Atwater Asbury's** Birthday; April 17 - **Donald & Josephine Ferrell's** Wedding Anniversary; April 18 – **Cartecia Weaver's** Birthday; April 25 – **Tobin Wilson's** Birthday; and April 26 - **Blannie Bowen's** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates (call/text 814-777-6550 or email [blanniebowen@gmail.com](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com) ) so we can honor you on your special day.
- **FINALS STUDY SPACE JAM** – Our congregation will provide study space for Penn State students Monday-Friday during exam week (May 1-5 from 12 noon to 12 a.m.). Each day we will provide Wi-Fi, snacks, drinks, and a dinner from 7-8 p.m. Volunteers are needed to staff the study space. Contact **Virginia Content** at [vgc5042@psu.edu](mailto:vgc5042@psu.edu) if you want to volunteer, have questions, or want more information.

- **NOTHING BUT NETS** – Since 2006, the UMC has been fighting malaria as a founding partner of a group called *Nothing But Nets*. The UMC, the United Nations Foundation, and various partners have built this grassroots movement to end malaria and over 13 million bed nets have been sent to families in Africa. Just \$10 buys a bed net, distributes it to a family, and provides education on how to use it. The partners have raised over \$70 million. You can learn more about Nothing But Nets at [About Us – Nothing But Nets](#). Also, you can see **JoDee Dyreson** about how you can contribute to this project during college basketball's March Madness.
- **HUMOR MONTH** - April is National Humor Month. Enrich the life of someone by doing an activity or something humorous. Send a humorous thinking about you card or watch a funny movie or program. Do an act of kindness for a friend or family member. Humor is frequently shown to reduce stress and enrich the lives of individuals.
- **WOMEN'S MINISTRY MEETING & DINNER** – On March 24 and March 31, our congregation held Women's Ministry meetings from 6-8:30 p.m. This 2-part series was led by Pastor Dr. Jessica Davis and Pastor Donna Snyder. Thanks to everyone who gathered in the church social hall to participate in these opportunities for food, fun, fellowship, and a chance to grow! Special thanks to **Ariel McReynolds** for organizing and leading these fellowship opportunities.
- **SERVICE WITH MENNONITE CHURCH** – Since 2000, Albright-Bethune and the University Mennonite Church have held joint worship services usually during Black History Month. This year our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual service was held on March 12 when our congregation worshipped with the Mennonite Church in its building on Norma Street. Mennonite Pastor Kate Heinzl and Worship Coordinator Ben Wideman led the worship experience. Also, after the worship service, the two congregations shared a potluck lunch. Thanks to everyone who brought food.
- **SPRING GRADUATES** - If you are graduating from high school or college in May or June, we want to celebrate your accomplishment. Please contact **Blannie Bowen** at (814) 777-6550 or by email at [blanniebowen@gmail.com](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com) with your information. Remember your congregation if you are moving away. Be sure to worship with us when you return for a visit.
- **MOTHER'S DAY** – Greece gave birth to Mother's Day, but the mother of Mother's Day in the US was Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis, the wife of a West Virginia Methodist pastor. Her daughter, Anna, led a campaign to have Mother's Day become a national holiday. Anna heard her mother express hope that a memorial would be established for mothers, living and dead. After her father's death in 1902, Anna, her mother, and sister moved to Philadelphia. After Ann's death in 1905, Anna began a drive to fulfill her mother's wish. On May 10, 1908, a program was held at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton and in Philadelphia, launching a memorial day for mothers. The church later observed Mother's Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each year making Andrews the mother church of Mother's Day. The church, no longer an active Methodist congregation, was incorporated as an international shrine in 1962. Mother's Day will be celebrated in 2023 on May 14 (From UM News Service).
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE** - Our Susquehanna UMC Annual Conference will be held May 18-20 in Williamsport. The business of our Conference will be conducted and many speakers will offer messages. Clergy, lay leaders, and lay members will attend. Please contact **Pastor McReynolds** or **Jackie Peagler** if you have questions about Annual Conference which will be streamed if you want to watch. You can learn more about the Conference at <https://www.susumc.org/annual-conference/>.

- **A**SCENSION DAY - Did you know that, as promised, Jesus appeared to His disciples 40 days after his crucifixion? Christians traditionally celebrate His ascension into heaven on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of Easter (May 18 in 2023). This event is followed by the Day of Pentecost (May 28) to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in whose power this happens.
- **A**LBRIGHT-BETHUNE COOKS - Our congregation is creating a virtual **Albright-Bethune Cooks**. We are asking our members and worshippers to share one of their favorite dishes via video. Pastor Paul will do the filming, editing, and posting. We are planning for our episodes to be 5-10 minutes. **Jo Ferrell** created our first episode about her famous sticky buns. Our second episode features **Blannie Bowen** baking his southern pecan pies. You can view these two videos at <https://www.youtube.com/@w.e.albright-bethunestatecolle>. If you wish to share one of your dishes, please contact Pastor Paul or Blannie to discuss your idea.
- **F**INANCE CORNER - Our March offerings and collections totaled \$3,323.00. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.

Also, free tax return preparation is again being offered this year. The Penn State VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) will again be offering free tax preparation and e-filing for income eligible individuals/households. If your income is \$58,000 or less, and you do not have any special circumstances, the volunteers will complete and e-file your tax return at no cost. To schedule an appointment, please visit [www.PSUVITA.org](http://www.PSUVITA.org). The site is located at 325 Boucke Building (across from the HUB) on the PSU campus. Hours of operation are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Submitted by Cathy Bowen

- **Y**OUR ITEMS - Send, email to [blanniebowen@gmail.com](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com) or give your items to **Blannie** by the **20th** of the month. Send your birthday, awards, church presentations, writings, etc.

<b>Calendar</b>	
April 1-30	National Humor Month
April 6	Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 p.m.
April 7	Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m.; & via Facebook Live & YouTube at 7 p.m.
April 8	Easter Egg Hunt, Bowen Home. 11 a.m.
April 9	Easter Sunday
April 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
April 23	Native American Ministries Sunday
April 28	Penn State Classes End
May 1-5	Finals Study Days Jam (12 p.m.-12 a.m.)
May 4	National Day of Prayer
May 5-7	Penn State Commencement Exercises
May 9	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
May 14	Mother's Day
May 18	Ascension Day
May 18-20	Susquehanna UMC Annual Conference, Williamsport
May 28	Day of Pentecost