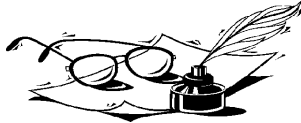




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 27, Number 8, August 2020

From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

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 everyone. This past month has been a journey for each of us and me. Since my anticipated arrival, my heart has been elevated by the generosity of Albright-Bethune. From Mr. & Mrs. Ferrell making sure that I had a proper bed to sleep on to Mrs. Bowen making me some Mac 'n Cheese. I have felt the love of this community and am so thankful. As it relates to my belongings, they have not arrived yet, however, as of today they are en route to me and I am looking forward to their arrival early next week. There may be a delay as the storm is heading toward the area where the truck is located. So, keep me in your prayers.

We are starting our new Sermon Series entitled *Canoeing The Mountains*. For the next five weeks, we are going to be engaging this book as we look toward the future of our Church!! *Canoeing the Mountains* walks us through the journey of Lewis and Clark and their exploration of Louisiana. It explores the pitfalls and new ideas that needed to be created to explore uncharted territory. Along with the conversations that I am so excited to have with each of you, this book is to be used alongside the community conversations as we explore this new territory together. During the week, we will have interactive conversations about the book on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as well as our Zoom call on Wednesday nights. Mrs. Michelle Torregano will be assisting in the extra teaching lessons as well. I am excited about this journey that we are on together. All in all, we are to plant the seeds of Jesus Christ our hope for the transformation of our community and the world.

In closing, we have lost two giants of the Civil Rights Movement -- John Lewis and CT Vivian. John Lewis took on the brunt force of the attacks of racial supremacy and used that momentum to propel him into a position to make a difference in this country. He stated, "But we must accept one central truth and responsibility as participants in a democracy: Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society." We must continue to carry the freedom that he held high and ran with for our community and many others. C.T. Vivian was one of Dr. King's most trusted field

Generals. I would liken him to Benaiah in the Bible who was David's captain of his personal bodyguard. Benaiah slew a lion on a snowy day in a pit. C.T. Vivian was such a commander that he helped slay many lions of oppression. He stated, "People do not choose rebellion, it is forced upon them. A revolution is always an act of self- defense." I am and we are indebted to their service and the lives they lived and the sacrifices they made for our people. Blessings family,
Pastor Paul Ryan McReynolds

- **J**OINT WORSHIP SERVICE - Last month Pastor McReynolds started conducting one online worship service at 10:30 for both worshippers at Albright-Bethune and Park Forest. Rather than repeat a worship service and sermon without any interaction with worshippers, both congregations decided to hold a single service that alternates between the two church buildings. This approach to worship will continue until it's safe to hold services in the two church buildings.
- **C**HURCH ZOOM MEETINGS – Do you miss seeing and hearing other Albright-Bethune members and worshippers? Well, last month our congregation held weekly meetings on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. using Zoom. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, the meetings will continue during August. This is an excellent opportunity to see and hear each other, socialize, and stay aware of church activities. An email is sent each week with the process for connecting. You can also participate by audio if video is not possible. Please see Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler if you have questions about the meetings.
- **O**FFICE HOURS - Pastor McReynolds has office hours at Albright-Bethune on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-2. You can visit with him during these hours. Also, you can reach him by email at pmcreynolds@susumc.org or call the church office at (814) 237-4404 during his office hours. At other times, you can reach Pastor McReynolds on his home phone at (814) 308-9099.
- **B**IRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: August 2 – **Tajlo Lesane's** Birthday; August 5 – **Niki Dickerson vonLockette & Paris vonLockette's** Wedding Anniversary; August 5 – **Abby Jones'** Birthday; August 14 – **Lisa Warren's** Birthday; August 16 - **Christopher Roser Jones'** Birthday; August 16 – **Andrew & Victoria Jackson's** Wedding Anniversary; August 21 - **Donald Ferrell, Jr.'** Birthday; August 21 – **JoDee & Mark Dyreson's** Wedding Anniversary; August 22 – **Deborah Atwater & Bill Asbury's** Wedding Anniversary; August 24 – **Alexa Saunders'** Birthday; August 27 - **Josephine Ferrell's** Birthday; and August 27 - **McClane Dyreson's** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates (call/text 814-777-6550 or email blanniebowen@gmail.com).
- **M**EETINGS WITH PASTOR MCREYNOLDS - During his first 100 days as our pastor, Rev. McReynolds wants to meet in person (via phone/zoom) with every member/family of Albright-Bethune. The purpose of this meeting is to get to know you and gain your perspectives, and individual and congregational needs. Several emails have been sent with the specifics about scheduling a meeting. If you have not already replied, please check your email inbox and reply. If you have deleted these emails, please send an email to our church and request to have the sign-up process sent to you again. Our church email address is albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com. Also, if you do not use email, please call our church at (814) 237-4404 and leave a message that you want to schedule a meeting. Be sure to leave your phone number so our church staff assistant (Jason Adams) or Pastor McReynolds can contact you. Pastor McReynolds wants to conduct all meetings by October 8.

- **G**RADUATE - If you are graduating from high school or college this month, we want to honor you and celebrate your accomplishment. Please contact **Blannie Bowen** at 237-5131 or by email at blanniebowen@gmail.com with your information. Remember your congregation if you are moving away from the area. Be sure to worship with us when you return for a visit. If you are staying in the area, please continue to worship regularly with us.
- **E**ACH ONE, **B**RING ONE! - Many individuals will soon move to the area when classes start at Penn State and in the schools. Some individuals will seek a church home to have a fulfilling religious experience. Take the time to share your worship experiences and then invite them to our online worship and Zoom meetings. Next, nurture and keep them involved in our church. Don't underestimate the impact that you can have if each one of us brings only one new person into our congregation. If each Albright-Bethune member and worshipper brings only one new person into our church family, we can begin a serious growth mode. See Pastor McReynolds for ideas that you can share with an un-churched person.
- **C**ONGRESSMAN **J**OHN **L**EWIS - Houses of worship around the country rang their bells for 80 seconds on July 30 at 11 a.m. during funeral services for Congressman John Lewis. The bell ringing honored the 80 years of the civil rights leader's life. Congregations without church bells honored him in other ways, including moments of silence and changing church signs. The Revs. John Lewis and Cordy Tindell "C.T." Vivian were models of authentic religion who proved that people of faith can change a nation, said the Rev. James Lawson, a United Methodist pastor who worked side-by-side with both men in the early days of the civil rights movement. Lewis and Vivian both died on July 17. Lawson said the news stories that have followed - while mentioning the two men were clergy - leave out that important religious component and the true impact of both men's lives (From UM News).
- **V**IRUS **S**PIKES **A**GAIN **C**LOSE **C**HURCHES - Thousands of United Methodist churches - including entire conferences - have dealt with the challenge of being unable to meet in person since the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the U.S. and other parts of the world before Easter. But in recent weeks, some churches that had implemented safety protocols and carefully reopened have had to close their doors again due to rising case numbers of the coronavirus locally. United Methodist churches in the U.S. that have closed a second time for in-person worship are concentrated in the South and Southwest, where COVID-19 numbers seemed under control, then rose dramatically after shelter-in-place orders lifted and mask-wearing and other safety measures were relaxed. Beyond the U.S., some United Methodist churches have again had to stop worshipping in person. That's the case in Zimbabwe, where worship resumed in most churches on June 14 after a national lockdown and a ban on religious gatherings began at the end of March. Zimbabwe Area Bishop Eben K. Nhwatiwa issued a statement on July 27 urging churches to observe a new government ban on gatherings, announced July 21 due to rising COVID-19 numbers (From UM News).
- **A**NNUAL **C**ONFERENCE - Our 2020 Susquehanna Annual Conference has been changed again. It was originally scheduled to be held in May at the Hershey Lodge. Because of the pandemic, it was then scheduled to be held October 3 in Williamsport. Bishop Jeremiah Park announced recently that it will still be held on October 3 but will now be only online.
- **O**NLINE **G**IVING - Our congregation's worship service is now conducted virtually and we are also collecting tithes and offerings online. You can register to give online at www.albrightbethuneumc.org. Click on "online giving" at the top right of the page! Set up your profile (email and password), and indicate your desired amount and frequency of giving. That's it! Thanks to **Cathy Bowen**, our church's treasurer, for creating this option.

- **F**INANCE CORNER - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our July collections totaled \$4,804. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.

- **C**OST SAVING HABITS - Nearly everyone has tips or ways of doing things at home to save money. What works for one person or household may not work for you. However, there are some areas that nearly everyone can save when you think of the collective impact of our habits over years. Below are a few suggestions that might save money you can redirect towards your personal savings account, donation budget, or other long- term goals like retirement savings or a special trip.

- Waste less food. Only buy what you will consume before it spoils.
- Simplify your cleaning supplies. Most areas in a home can be cleaned with products like dishwashing detergent, white vinegar, and baking soda **IF** you clean on a regular basis.
- Use inexpensive bath cloths in your public bathroom instead of paper towels. Store rolled bath clothes in a basket for users. They can be washed with a regular load of clothes as they are lightly soiled and be reused repeatedly.
- Buy a set of microfiber cloths (one color) that are designated for wiping up spills you would normally use paper towels for. The cloths can be washed and used repeatedly.

Send your money saving tips to cbowen2015@gmail.com by August 17, 2020. The tips will be compiled and shared with all (Prepared by Cathy Bowen).

- **Y**OUR ITEMS – Send, email to blanniebowlen@gmail.com or give your items to **Blannie** by the **20th** of the month. Send your birthday, awards, church presentations, writings, etc.

Calendar

August 4	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets
August 15	Penn State Summer Commencement (Virtual)
August 24	Penn State Classes Begin
September 1	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
September 7	Labor Day
October 4	World Communion Sunday
October 6	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 18	Laity Sunday
November 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 3	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 8	Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
November 26	Thanksgiving Day
November 29	United Methodist Student Sunday
Nov. 29-Dec. 24	The Season of Advent
December 1	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
December 11	Penn State Classes End
December 19	Penn State Fall Commencement
December 25	Celebrate the Birth of Jesus
January 1	New Year's Day – Welcome 2021