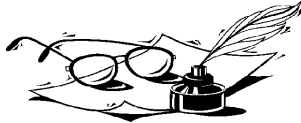




+Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



# 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 28, Number 8, August 2021

*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 each of you!! Summer is right at its peak. So many have traveled, some have gone on camping excursions. As we traverse this new normal together, there is a lot to be excited about. There are many things we should be praying about as well for our country. Both near to us and far from us. Family, we continue in this season with a 60 day prayer of Jabez challenge. We are praying for three areas: our Families, our Church, and our Community. (1 Chronicles 4:8-10) The goal of the prayer is to recenter our hearts to focus on the things we care about in lives. Just like Jabez, there is a yearning in each to live and leave a legacy behind. Not one shaped by materialism that one has acquired, but formed through the love, respect, and responsibility of being a called disciple of Jesus Christ.

Family, I ask that you please fill out the Readiness 360 Profile. It will take a few moments. The purpose of this survey is to collect information from our church members to gather insight for how we see our church and our community. We can then make the necessary steps forward with Building Bridges of Hope in State College and beyond. I am looking forward to us climbing to new heights and helping foster transformation in the lives of our community. For us being bridge builders in turning Downtown State College into the Beloved Community. Keep striving and climbing because the Lord is with you. Share with friends and family to come out and worship with us for In-person Worship & Facebook Live every Sunday.

O God Our Creator. You've known us before we were conceived in our mother's wombs. Guide us throughout this time of transition. Empower Albright-Bethune to use our unique gifts to create the beloved community, to share openly and honestly our thoughts, and to encourage with humility, patience, and joy. Instill the vision of the life you intended for us to lead. Guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission. As we continue Lord, we speak the same prayer as Jabez, "Oh Lord, Bless us indeed, and enlarge our territory. Keep your hand upon us, so that evil cannot harm us". Lord, we trust you and depend on you. We say this in your Holy Name. Amen. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

- **M**EMORIAL SERVICE FOR MR. STEVENSON - Albright-Bethune will conduct a memorial service for Mr. Albert E. Stevenson on August 7 beginning at 11 a.m. Mr. Stevenson was one of our most faithful servants who died on June 23 in Clarion at age 97, just a month shy of his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was the chair of our trustee board for many years in addition to fulfilling various other roles in our congregation. Please contact Michelle Torregano, the chair of our worship committee, if you have questions about the service. Albert and his beloved wife (Azalea) moved to State College after Hurricane Katrina destroyed their home of almost 60 years and most of their possessions. Even with this major hardship, they remained positive and upbeat as very active members of Albright-Bethune and the State College community.
- **S**PIKES GAME – On Friday, August 6, at 6:35 pm, our church will attend a State College Spikes baseball game. **Wally Richardson** is again leading this effort and has reserved a block of tickets for our church. If you missed the July 30 deadline to a reserve ticket, you can still purchase tickets for the game at [State College Spikes Tickets & Promotions | Spikes \(milb.com\)](#). If you have questions, contact Wally by email at [wallyrich@outlook.com](mailto:wallyrich@outlook.com) or by phone at (814) 404-2833. This promises to be pleasant, safe, and enjoyable outing for our members and worshippers. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.
- **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.'s** 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](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com) ) so we can honor you on your special dates.
- **M**OVE-IN DAY - Penn State's students will start moving back to their residence halls, apartments, and other residences on August 20-21. This year our church is again planning to help welcome the students. In prior years, our worshippers have distributed water, helped individuals unload their vehicles in our parking lot, distributed literature about our church, and offered other types of support. Plans for this year are being developed and volunteers are needed. Please see **Pastor McReynolds** or **Jackie Peagler** if you want to volunteer or have questions.
- **V**ACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – From July 19-22, our congregation participated in a joint Vacation Bible School (VBS) with Park Forest Village UMC. The VBS program was held on the decorated lawn of Park Forest from 5:30-8:10 pm. The program included Bible adventures, songs, art, science, games, and food. Children 4 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade participated. The children from Albright-Bethune who participated included **Donnie Ferrell, Lauren Ferrell, Campbell Jones, and Walter Jones**. Adults assisting from Albright-Bethune included **Pastor Paul McReynolds, Jo Ferrell, and Carla Roser-Jones**. Special thanks to Park Forest's VBS leader and organizer Rose Park. Also, thanks to Carla for coordinating our congregation's participation in this year's VBS.
- **M**ARRIAGE - Congratulations to **Shaun Donohue** and **Caroline Rublein**, two of our worshippers, who were married in May. They traveled to Hawaii in July and Shaun was introduced to Caroline's maternal grandparents, aunts, and uncles who live in Hawaii. Best wishes for a long, and successful marriage.

- **BSA CAMPING EXPERIENCES** - This summer several Albright-Bethune members and worshippers participated in three challenging camping experiences. Please take the time to ask them about their experiences and to offer congratulations.

First, Wilderness Camp was held immediately after the end of school term. BSA Troops 328 and 380 camped along a remote portion of the west branch of the Susquehanna River for a week, having backpacked in and out along ridges and valleys of the Allegheny Mountains. They cooked all of their own meals over open fires, completed several strenuous hikes, performed some conservation work on the pristine Yost Creek, and earned several merit badges including Wilderness Survival and Orienteering. Scoutmaster **JoDee Dyreson** accompanied several of our young worshippers including **Zan D.**, **Katie D.**, and **Taylor B.** Eagle Scouts **Braden Dyreson** and **McClane Dyreson** backpacked in for the last night to help with the strenuous hike out on the last day.

Second, Custaloga Town Scout Camp near Erie hosted a week-long resident camp June 27-July 3 in which Scouts camped in traditional canvas tents, rock climbed and rappelled from an extremely high tower, and earned boating, art, archery, and shooting merit badges amongst several others. **Braden** and **Zan** earned Climb On adult supervision-climbing certification; **Zan** completed the challenging BSA Mile Swim; **Zan** and **Katie** trained as BSA Lifeguards; **Taylor**, **Zan**, and **Katie** earned the Swimming and Lifesaving merit badges, and **Katie** won the camp-wide Best Shooter Award for her small-bore rifle shooting. All of the Scouts and leaders thoroughly enjoyed their week at camp.

Third, from July 9-22 as part of BSA Troops 328 and 380, **Taylor**, **Braden**, **Zan**, and **Katie** backpacked in the backcountry Maroon Bells of the Colorado Rockies for eight days, hiking 50+ miles and reaching four 12,000+-foot mountain passes. They visited Pike's Peak, Garden of the Gods, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. These Scouts also zip-lined over several Rocky Mountain canyons and white-water rafted on the Arkansas River through the Royal Gorge.

- **EQUIPPING VITAL CONGREGATIONS (EVC)** - Effective July 1, Pastor McReynolds became the fulltime pastor of Albright-Bethune. This change means that our church is no longer yoked with Park Forest UMC. Through the Equipping Vital Congregations (EVC) program, our Susquehanna Conference and State College District are providing resources and support that should enable our congregation to experience a growth mode. On March 30, District Superintendent Brenda Leigey held a special charge conference where our congregation voted to support this new arrangement. See Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler, our Administrative Council Chair, if you have questions about the EVC program. The key objectives of the EVC program include the following:

- Help the church move toward greater vitality in its outreach, mission and ministry in the community.
- Intentional focus on reaching new, younger and more diverse people to grow the Beloved Community.
- Pastor and laity working together.
- Two-year commitment between the church and EVC.
- Accountability through monthly coaching contacts, quarterly stakeholder meetings and monthly updates to the EVC Office.
- Funding from EVC will continue, for two years, as long as progress toward agreed upon goals is being made.
- Funding from EVC may be extended if progress is made AND funds are available.

- **EACH ONE, BRING 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 bring one of these individuals into our church. Next, nurture and keep that person involved. Don't underestimate the impact that you can have by bringing one new person into our congregation. See Pastor McReynolds for ideas that you can share with an un-churched person.
- **FINANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our July collections totaled **\$3,924.32**. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances. Here is an item that might be of interest.

### AmazonSmile

Albright-Bethune is a recognized charity with the AmazonSmile Foundation. If you make purchases using Amazon, you can also benefit Albright-Bethune by designating it as your charity of choice through Amazon Smile. All you need to do is use the AmazonSmile link when making a purchase. (The products and prices are the same. All AmazonSmile does is give you a voice in how Amazon distributes its charitable donations). Each time a customer makes a purchase using AmazonSmile, a portion of eligible items purchased will generate a 0.5% donation for the charity selected. Here is the designated link for Albright-Bethune: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1711251>. I suggest you bookmark the church's link on your computer or device. You can also Google AmazonSmile and select Albright-Bethune from the list of charities.

- **YOUR 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.

### Calendar

August 6	State College Spikes Game, 6:30 p.m.
August 7	Albert Stevenson's Memorial Service, 11 a.m.
August 10	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets
August 14	Penn State Summer Commencement
August 20-21	Penn State Move-in Weekend
August 23	Penn State Classes Begin
September 6	Labor Day
September 14	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 3	World Communion Sunday
October 12	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 17	Laity Sunday
November 7	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 9	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 14	Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
November 21-27	Penn State Thanksgiving Holiday Break
November 25	Thanksgiving Day
November 28	United Methodist Student Sunday
Nov 28-Dec 24	The Season of Advent
December 10	Penn State Classes End