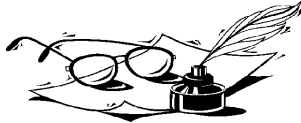




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From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 29, Number 8, August 2022

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!! As we are approaching the end of summertime fun, a new school year begins. Let us our church family be in your prayers. We are looking for participation in our new online cooking show entitled **Albright-Bethune Cooks**. This is the brainchild of our very own Mr. Blannie. Our first pilot will be Momma Jo Ferrell's Sticky Buns. So please reach out to Mr. Blannie to put your name on the list for an episode. Once you let us know that you are interested, we will send you the instructions and answer any questions that you have. Also, let us be in continued prayer for the Peagler family as well as for Ms. Cheraine Stanford and her family. Let us be in prayer for Mother Ireen Jones and let's keep Momma Jo Ferrell in our prayers. At this time, we are looking for helpers for planning this year's Weaving Wisdom events throughout the school semester. Also, this upcoming August 23 at 6:30 pm our leadership and laity are asked to attend our midpoint check-in for Equipping Vital Congregations. Zoom will be available to those who don't feel comfortable coming in person. I hope to see you there.

Dear Lord, speak clearly. Open our mind and our ears to hear Your voice. Open our heart to commune with You more deeply. Lord, we desire to feel Your loving warm embrace. Open the doors that need to be opened and close the doors that need to be closed. Please set our feet upon the straight and narrow road that leads to everlasting life. Amen. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

• **EQUIPPING VITAL CONGREGATIONS MEETING** - Please plan to attend an important meeting at our church on **Tuesday, August 23, at 6:30 p.m.** about the life of our congregation. Albright-Bethune has come to the midpoint in the 2-year partnership with the UMC's Equipping Vital Congregations (EVC) initiative. This meeting will be an opportunity to check in and discuss the work that our congregation and its leadership have been doing. All leaders, laity, members, and worshippers are asked to attend. This meeting will also be available on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. Brenda Leigey, our State College District Superintendent, and several EVC representatives will also participate in this important meeting. See Pastor Paul or Jackie Peagler if you have questions about EVC or this meeting.

- **SPIKES GAME** – Our church will attend a State College Spikes baseball game on August 10 at 6:30 p.m. **Wally Richardson** is again leading this effort and will secure tickets that are \$11. Please contact Wally by email at wallyrich@outlook.com to reserve and pay for your tickets. Then on the day of the game, plan to meet Wally at the front gate outside of Medlar Field at Lubrano Park at 6:15 to collect your tickets. This promises to be pleasant, safe, and enjoyable outing for our members and worshippers.
- **MOVE-IN SATURDAY** - On August 20, many Penn State students will move into their apartments and dorms and we want to welcome them and their families. They will be allowed to use our parking lot to unload their vehicles. We will also give them water and information about our church. See Pastor McReynolds if you would like to assist with Move-in Saturday.
- **DEATH** - Mrs. Azalea Stevenson, a long-term member and worshipper, died on July 11 in Clarion. On July 7, she celebrated her 98th birthday. Azalea and her beloved husband (Albert) moved to State College after Hurricane Katrina destroyed their home of almost 60 years and most of their possessions in 2005. Even with this disappointment, they remained positive and upbeat. They became very active members of the State College community for as long as their health allowed. Mrs. Stevenson was a gifted singer who occasionally delivered excellent solos during our worship service. They recently moved to Clarion to be in a facility closer to their son, Rod. Details will be provided when a memorial service is scheduled.
- **ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE COOKS** - Discussions during our congregation's Wednesday night Zoom meeting have led to a new initiative for our church. We will expand our Men Who Cook concept and create a virtual **Albright-Bethune Cooks**. The concept is patterned after what Dylan Dreyer uses on the **Today Show** to teach her son (Cal) how to cook. Pastor Paul has agreed to do the filming, editing, and posting -- and teach others how to do it. We are planning for our episodes to be 5-10 minutes. Jo Ferrell has agreed to create our first episode on her famous sticky buns. Our current thinking is to limit the episodes to our members, worshippers, and perhaps their relatives or close friends. We have lots of excellent cooks in our congregation. If you wish to share one of your dishes, please contact Pastor Paul or Blannie Bowen. One of our regrets is that we did not start this initiative sooner so we could have videos of Albert Stevenson cooking his famous red beans and rice and Karnard Jenkins baking his excellent sweet potato pies. You can watch some of the Cooking With Cal episodes at: https://www.google.com/search?q=today+show+cooking+with+cal&rlz=1CDGOYI_enUS882_US884&oq=today+show+cooking+with+cal&aqs=chrome.0.0i512l6.17286j1j7&hl=en-US&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8.
- **NEW POSITION** – One of Albright-Bethune's long-term worshippers and a faculty member at Penn State is leaving for a new position at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. **AnneMarie Mingo** will be an Associate Professor of ethics, culture, and moral leadership and acting director of the Metro-Urban Institute. She taught at Penn State since 2014 and was an assistant professor of African American studies and women's, gender, and sexuality studies, and an affiliate faculty member in the Rock Ethics Institute. AnneMarie was very active in various campus and community organizations and activities while in State College. Best wishes with your new position and thanks for your contributions to our congregation.
- **POWERLIFTER** - Congratulations to **Douglas Bowen** who was named the best male lifter during the **2022 USA Powerlifting Pennsylvania State Championships** held July 30-31 in Bethlehem. Douglas was able to lift 611 pounds in the squat, 412 in the bench press, and 682 pounds in the deadlift for a total of 1,705 pounds during the competition in Bethlehem.

- **O**UTDOOR WORSHIP & COOKOUT - Thanks to everyone who participated in our outdoor worship service and cookout on July 31 at Tudek Park. The weather cooperated and everyone who attended had a pleasant and safe experience. Over 25 individuals participated in the experience. Special thanks to **Michelle Torregano** who provided the leadership for organizing the cookout and securing most of the food and supplies. Also, thanks to **Carla Roser-Jones** who assisted with the planning, logistics, and arrangements. Everyone who provided dishes, beverages, and supplies and helped with the arrangements, set-up, and clean-up are also commended for helping with the cookout and service.
- **B**IRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: 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) so we can honor you on your special dates.
- **D**ISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT KILLED - Many are still feeling shock and grief after the Rev. Autura Eason-Williams, a United Methodist district superintendent, was shot and killed in an apparent carjacking. Memphis, TN, police responded to gunfire the afternoon of July 18 and found Eason-Williams shot outside her home. She was pronounced deceased at the hospital. The police have since charged [a 15-year-old boy with murder in the fatal shooting and a 16-year-old boy with theft](#). Eason-Williams, 52, was a beloved leader in the legacy Memphis Conference and [what is now the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference](#). She also was the wife of Darrell Eason-Williams and mother of four children (**By Heather Hahn,**| UM News).
- **V**ACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Thanks to everyone who participated in Vacation Bible School at Park Forest Village UMC from July 18-21. Park Forest again invited our congregation to participate its Bible School. This year's theme was Discovery on Adventure Island.
- **C**HURCHES SUE TO LEAVE UMC - More than 100 churches have filed a lawsuit against the Florida UMC Conference seeking to leave The UMC with property without a hefty exit payment. Since the 18th century, The UMC and its predecessors have maintained a trust clause which states that all church property is held in trust for the entire denomination. Annual conferences, regional bodies containing multiple congregations and other ministries, typically are the enforcers of the trust clause. The [lawsuit](#) - filed by 106 churches in Bradford County Court - asks the court to rule the trust clause "invalid on its face" or enable the congregations to revoke the trust so the churches can withdraw with their buildings. The underlying dispute is about same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy (**By Heather Hahn,**| UM News).
- **G**RANT TO UPGRADE BATHROOMS – A United Methodist Foundation grant proposal that **Cathy Bowen** wrote has been funded for \$25,000 to support the remodeling of our basement social hall men's and women's restrooms. We will update them and make them accessible to individuals with physical limitations. A committee is seeking estimates from contractors and will appreciate suggestions. Before the work begins, plans will be shared with the congregation. The grant proposal included a matching amount (i.e., cost sharing) of funds from past and present members and attendees. Letters asking for contributions toward the project will be coming soon. See **Carla Roser-Jones** if you have any questions.

- **EACH ONE, BRING ONE!** - Many individuals will 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 experiences and then bring one of these individuals to church with you. Next, nurture and keep that person involved. Don't underestimate the impact that you can have if you bring 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 \$4,331.50. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.

Amazon Smile: As a reminder, if you make purchases using Amazon, consider using the [Albright-Bethune link \(https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1711251\)](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1711251). Our purchases generated \$11.17 for the May Report. Thanks to all who have the link bookmarked and use it routinely.

Bathroom Renovation: A special line for contributing to the bathroom renovation has been added to the online giving page on the [Albright-Bethune website](#) for those who would like to contribute electronically. We are waiting for estimates from one more contractor before moving ahead. Ideally, this work will be completed by late fall/early 2023.

- **YOUR ITEMS** - Send, email to 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 9	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets
August 10	Church Attends State College Spikes Game, 6:30 p.m.
August 13	Penn State Summer Commencement
August 20	Move-In Day at Penn State
August 22	Penn State Classes Begin
August 23	Equipping Vital Congregation Update Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
September 5	Labor Day
September 13	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 2	World Communion Sunday
October 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 16	Laity Sunday
November 6	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 8	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 13	Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
November 20-26	Penn State Thanksgiving Holiday Break
November 24	Thanksgiving Day
November 27	United Methodist Student Sunday
Nov 27-Dec 24	The Season of Advent
December 9	Penn State Classes End