



Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 30, Number 8; August 2023

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Healer of the Soul, and our Everlasting Redeemer. I am filled with excitement about the divine plans that the Lord has in store for us at Albright-Bethune. We have been blessed with a remarkable opportunity to be a bridge in our community, mending souls through the power of the Word and engaging hearts in stewardship and prayer. Together, as a Beloved Community, we can sow the seeds of Jesus Christ, our eternal Hope.

As I reflect on my time as the Pastor of Albright-Bethune Church, I am deeply moved by the love and care that permeate in this community. There is a genuine desire among our disciples to help and support one another, extending our helping hands to those in need. From delightful picnics to engaging Penn State Game days, our church is committed to making a positive impact in the lives of our community's members.

Our Beloved Community will attend a State College Spikes baseball game on August 22 at 6:35 p.m. Our home team, the Spikes, will be playing the Williamsport Crosscutters. It will be \$1 Hotdog Night at Medlar Field. Wally Richardson is again leading this effort and will secure tickets that are \$11. We are hoping that you will bring your friends and family to this fellowship event. Our Fairbrook UMC family will be included in our end of summer extravaganza. 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 a pleasant, safe, and enjoyable outing for our members and worshippers.

Starting on September 25 and concluding on October 16, I will be leading a bible study on the book of Colossians every Monday. This study will serve as the foundation for an upcoming sermon series that we will be embarking on. During the month of November, our series will focus on introspection, encouraging each of us to assess our lives and explore if there is a better way forward.

I pray that each and every one of you experiences a season filled with blessings and joy. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to fellowship with both those who come to Albright-Bethune and Fairbrook and those I encounter in our community. May God's abundant blessings be upon you and guide you throughout this season. Be Blessed. **Pastor Paul**

- **MOVE-IN SATURDAY** - On August 19, many PSU students will move into their apartments and residence halls 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 provide water and information about our church. See Pastor McReynolds if you would like to assist with Move-in Saturday.
- **PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT** - Albright-Bethune UMC and Fairbrook UMC have a part-time shared Office Staff Assistant position available immediately. Please contact bideibler@comcast.net or jypeagler@gmail.com for further information and/or to apply. If you know individuals who might be interested in the position, please encourage them to apply. See Jackie Peagler if you have any questions about the position that will support both congregations and Pastor Paul.
- **SPIKES GAME** – Albright-Bethune Family Day is right around the corner. Our Beloved Community will attend a State College Spikes baseball game on **August 22 at 6:35 p.m.** The Spikes will play the Williamsport Crosscutters and it will also be \$1 Hot Dog Night at Medlar Field. **Wally Richardson** is again leading this effort and will secure tickets that are \$11. We are hoping that you will bring your friends and family to this fellowship event. Our Fairbrook UMC family will be included in our end of summer extravaganza. **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.
- **AWARD** – Last month, the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity honored **Earl Merritt**, one of our worshippers who is also the director of the Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity in Penn State's College of the Liberal Arts. Earl was presented the 121st Elder Watson Diggs Award that is the second highest honor bestowed by his fraternity to honor a member's meritorious achievements. Kappa Alpha Psi is the nation's second oldest historically Black Greek letter fraternity. Earl has been at Penn State since 1977 and has guided his College's Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (and its predecessors) since 1989. Please take the time to congratulate Earl on this major award.
- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate a special day this month: 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.
- **RACIAL ETHNIC SUMMIT** - The 2023 Racial Ethnic Summit will be held from noon on September 22 through lunch on September 24 at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Somerset County. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball are co-hosting this event with the UMC's Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. In addition to clergy, the bishops have invited the SPRC chair, Administrative Board/Church Council chair, and Lay Leader from each racial-ethnic congregation or church served by a racial-ethnic pastor. **Pastor McReynolds, Jackie Peagler** as the chair of our Administrative Council and our Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, and **Blannie Bowen** as Lay Leader will attend to represent our congregation. See Pastor Paul if you have questions about the Summit. This is an important time in the life of our church to make connections, build relationships, and gain practical insights to create or improve congregational vitality.

- **P**ASTORAL CHANGE - Starting July 1, Pastor McReynolds became the pastor for both Albright-Bethune and Fairbrook UMC in Pennsylvania Furnace. To enable him to travel between the two churches to lead both Sunday worship services, the service for Fairbrook will now start at 9:15 and the service for Albright-Bethune will continue to start at 11. Hopefully, this arrangement will proceed as planned and not require other time changes.
- **V**ACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Thanks to everyone who participated in Vacation Bible School at Park Forest Village UMC from July 17-20. Park Forest again invited our congregation to participate its Bible School. This year’s theme was Discovery on Adventure Island. See Carla Roser-Jones if you have any questions about this year’s VBS.
- **E**AGLE SCOUT PROJECT - Katie Dyreson has designed an Eagle Scout project to donate clothing to Ukraine. Katie is seeking monetary support to help package and transport clothing for those in need in Ukraine. You can donate with checks, online, and cash. Please indicate that your donation is for the *Ukraine Eagle Project*. Your support will be much appreciated.
- **F**OOD WASTE - The food industry around the world is facing the problem that more food is produced or served than is actually consumed. UMC related Africa University in Zimbabwe has developed a solution to this problem through the creation of a digital platform that allows students to place daily meal orders for breakfast, lunch, or dinner by choosing from the set menu for the day. These orders are then stored in a database that the Bonaventure Ndorimana Dining Hall uses to guide how much food is cooked per service, assess what meals are best sellers, and in the long term, informs the purchasing that the dining hall makes using consumer buying and consumption trends over time. What makes this innovation even more impressive is that it was built mainly by Africa University students and graduate trainees who conducted lengthy research of the problem, identified bottle necks in food service delivery on the campus, and developed a home-grown solution that produces data so decisions can be made that bring efficiencies in purchasing, waste reduction, and service delivery (Adapted from a *Story by Juliet Sithole*, African University News - <https://aunews.africau.edu/?p=2822>).
- **P**LANNING FOR FINANCIAL LIFE EVENTS PROGRAM - Congratulations to **Cathy Bowen** who has received a small grant (\$600) to fund a program entitled "*Planning for Probable Financial Life Events*" from the United Methodist Foundation. The plan is to deliver a program this fall over a series of meetings. The goal of the project is to provide a safe environment for women to learn about and be encouraged to take steps to help them manage financial matters if they face one of the following events: (1) managing the financial aspects of life alone, (2) assisting an aging parent, or (3) managing financial matters of a deceased family member. Cathy will provide more details and specifics about the program after they are confirmed.
- **U**MC DISAFFILIATIONS - The UM News indicates that 6,182 church disaffiliations in the US have been approved by UMC annual conferences. This total includes 148 churches in our Susquehanna Conference that have left the UMC. Since the church law took effect, about 20% of U.S. churches have received the required approvals to disaffiliate. But that policy - the Book of Discipline’s Paragraph 2553 - only applies in the U.S. and is set to expire at the end of the year. The 6,182 total comes from a UM News review of annual conference reports, publicly available journals, and reports of special annual conference sessions held in 2022 and this year. The General Council on Finance and Administration, the UMC’s finance agency, is collecting the official data on disaffiliations and church closures. But the finance agency’s count of disaffiliations lags behind UM News’ data because it must wait for annual conferences to submit official reports (From UM News - <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/disaffiliations-approved-by-annual-conferences>).

- **SUMMER GRADUATES** - If you are graduating from high school or college this summer, we want to celebrate your accomplishment. Please contact **Blannie Bowen** at (814) 777-6550 or by email at 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.
- **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 to church with you. Next, nurture and keep that person 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.
- **FINANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our collections for July totaled \$4,439.05. See **Wally Richardson** if you have questions about our church's finances.
- **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 8	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
August 12	Penn State Summer Commencement
August 19	Move-in Day at Penn State
August 21	Penn State Classes Begin
Sept. 4	Labor Day
Sept. 12	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 1	World Communion Sunday
October 10	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 15	Laity Sunday
Nov. 5	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov. 12	Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
Nov. 14	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
Nov. 19-25	Penn State Thanksgiving Holiday Break
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 26	United Methodist Student Sunday
Dec. 3-24	The Season of Advent
Dec. 8	Penn State Classes End
Dec. 12	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
Dec. 16	Penn State Fall Commencement