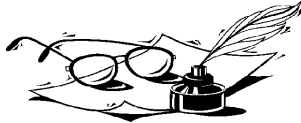




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 29, Number 2, February 2022

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).).

Hello Family. I pray all is well with you and your family. I am excited to see each of you as we return to the In-Person Worship Experience. As we engage with Black History Month, we have several exciting activities to participate in and fellowship. Mr. Charles Dumas will be a special guest to share with us about God's Trombones and James Weldon Johnson during our Black history moment on February 6. Then on February 25, there will be a production of God's Trombones that will donate proceeds to the PA Innocence Project. More information is presented below. On February 10 at 1:30 pm, we will go to the Bellefonte Art Museum to tour the Black History Exhibits. We will leave from Albright-Bethune at 1 pm in carpool/caravan. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. [Carla Roser-Jones](mailto:Carla.Roser-Jones@carla.roserrjones@gmail.com) (carla.roserrjones@gmail.com) or Pastor McReynolds. We will continue to celebrate Black History Month with a virtual Movie Festival. On February 15 at 6 p.m., the first movie we will watch is *Just Mercy* starring Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Fox. On February 22 at 6 p.m., we will watch *The Ernest Green Story* about the Little Rock 9. After each movie, we will have a discussion. I hope to see you there. Also, on the 2nd & 4th Friday at 7 p.m., we will have our prayer service. I pray to see you there as we will be praying for Families, Church, and Community. We will engage in different ways of Prayer as we go forth this month.

Dear God. We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. Lord, we pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Let the gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you. We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy; that you would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in your hands. We pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways. Amen. Sincerely, [Paul McReynolds](mailto:Paul.McReynolds@albrightbethuneumc.org)

- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: February 7 – **AnneMarie Mingo's** Birthday; February 11 – **Wally Richardson's** Birthday; February 16 – **Courtney Shilling's** Birthday; February 17 - **Aamen Shilling's** Birthday; February 22 – **Matthew McQuilla's** Birthday; February 23 - **D'Andre Wilson's** Birthday; February 24 – **Charles Amara's** Birthday; February 24 – **Terri Schleiden's** Birthday; and February 25 – **Kate Eburn 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.

- **MOVIE NIGHTS** – Please join Pastor McReynolds as he hosts two virtual Black History Month Movie Nights. The first movie night will be held on Tuesday, February 15, at 6 p.m. to watch **Just Mercy** starring Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Fox. On Tuesday, February 22, at 6 p.m., the second movie night will be to watch **The Ernest Green Story** about the Little Rock 9. After each movie, there will be a discussion of the content. See Pastor McReynolds if you have questions about the two movie nights.

- **SERVICES WITH MENNONITE CHURCH** – Since 2000, Albright-Bethune and the University Mennonite Church have held joint worship services during Black History Month. This year our 22nd annual service will be held on February 27 when the Mennonite Church will join our Albright-Bethune service. Also, on March 20 Albright-Bethune is being asked to participate in the Mennonite service. See Pastor McReynolds if you have questions about the services.

- **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** - If you watch the Super Bowl on February 13, think about sharing your snacks. In 1993, a single prayer led a senior high school youth group in Columbia, SC, to create a simple, yet powerful idea to fight hunger and poverty in their city. The Souper Bowl of Caring calls youth to action. And individuals, civic organizations, and schools are making a difference through this movement. Various religious groups, including the UMC, promote the concept of souper bowls to share food with the hungry. On this day, give to the Food Bank, share with individuals who are less fortunate, or make a special gift.

- **PRAYER SERVICE** – Our church is holding a prayer service on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at 7 p.m. You can participate in the service either in the sanctuary or virtually via `Zoom. You can join the service by Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82042213923>. Please contact Pastor McReynolds if you have any questions or want more information.

- **GOD'S TROMBONES** - A production of James Weldon Johnson's God's Trombones with Essence 2 Ltd will be presented on February 25 at 7 pm at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Port Matilda. No admission is required but donations will be accepted. The donations will benefit the PA Innocence Project. Masks are required.

- **GRANTS TO LOCAL AGENCIES** - Albright-Bethune received \$3,500 in unsolicited grant funds from the Multi-Ethnic Center of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC. According to our former Susquehanna Conference Bishop Jeremiah Park, the purpose of this Center is to help Conferences in the Jurisdiction deal with racism and to assist racial, ethnic, and multicultural congregations to be in ministry especially during the COVID pandemic. The Center is funded in part by shares of ministry to the Jurisdiction. Our Administrative Council decided to use the funds to give \$500 grants to each of seven local agencies and organizations to assist with their programming. The grants were made to (1) Interfaith Missions, (2) the Youth Services Bureau, (3) Centre Volunteers in Medicine, (4) the State College Food Bank, (5) Strawberry Fields, (6) Centre Safe, and (7) Out of the Cold.

- **P**ROGRAM GRADUATE - Congratulations to **Keisha Johnson** who recently completed the Advanced Management Program at the University of Pennsylvania. After seven months, Keisha completed her final presentation and class session. The program included various types of assessment and mentoring. Keisha is one of our long-term Albright-Bethune worshippers who now works at Penn. She is the Director of the Pre-Freshman Program and a Pre-Major Advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences. If you wish to congratulate Keisha, you can reach her by email at keishajo@upenn.edu or by phone at (215) 746-1111.
- **A**MAZON SMILE \$\$ - For the 4th quarter of 2021, our church received a charitable donation of \$31.38 from the AmazonSmile program because of qualifying purchases that our members, worshippers, and supporters made. Also, for the 2021 calendar year, our church received a total of \$62.41 from the AmazonSmile program. Thanks to you and other customers for shopping at smile.amazon.com or using the Amazon app with AmazonSmile ON, everyday purchases that make an impact. Please ask your family and friends to also use AmazonSmile and designate Albright-Bethune as their charity.
- **M**ENNONITE STUDY OF POLICE ABOLITION - University Mennonite Church is hosting a 9-week study on the call for police abolition following a curriculum developed by the Mennonite Church USA. If you're interested in beginning or continuing to reflect on your commitment to nonviolence, what it means to engage the forces of state, and how to work to end policing and police brutality, this curriculum is for you. You can participate by Zoom on Wednesday evenings from until March 2 to learn and explore possibilities that move from the appearance of safety to truly safe and whole communities. You can view the curriculum at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/abolition-curriculum-intro/>. Also, you can register for the study at <https://forms.gle/QEPhVXfJ6YWGt9Nq6>. If you have questions about the study, contact Joel Weidner at joelpsu82@outlook.com.
- **W**EAVING WISDOM PROJECT - Albright-Bethune has agreed to partner with Grace Hampton on a community-based project that seeks to expand interactions across the generations. Dr. Hampton is a retired Penn State administrator and professor who is one of only 15 individuals who have been selected to receive the [Gen2Gen Innovation Fellowship](#) for innovators who are bridging generational divides. Each year, the Encore Foundation selects practical visionaries who have new ideas for putting generational connection and collaboration front and center in ways that benefit all ages. Dr. Hampton is the Co-founder of the Weaving Wisdom: Fabrics and The Stories They Tell project which seeks to enrich relationships between generations and cultures through traditional fabric arts. She will use her \$10,000 fellowship to support "Weaving Wisdom" which is a community-focused project designed to use the communicative power of the arts to increase communication between older adults and younger individuals. The project uses Kente and Adinkra cloths, American quilts, and basketry to show how cultural values, social norms, heritage, and the history of nations, communities, and families can be transmitted between generations. The specifics of Albright-Bethune's involvement will be communicated when they are finalized. See Pastor Paul if you have questions about this partnership.
- **U**MC SCHOLARSHIPS & LOANS - United Methodist high school seniors and those enrolled in college who are also active in their church and/or in the conference may apply for a Fall 2022 scholarship offered through the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Students must apply online between **December 15–March 24** at <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships/scholarships>. Student loans are also available at low interest rates (with a credit worthy co-signer). Funds for these scholarships come from offerings taken on United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday. Please share this information with students who qualify for this support.

- **OLD NEWSLETTERS** – Are you interested in having printed copies of some of the back issues of our *A-B Newsletter*? A few issues that date back to 2012 are available before they will be recycled. Please contact Blannie Bowen (blanniebowen@gmail.com or 814-777-6550) if you want to review the issues to see what's available
- **AAUW SCHOLARSHIPS** - The AAUW State College Undergraduate Scholarships for Centre County Women application process is now open. AAUW will select four recipients for scholarships that range from \$3,000-\$7,000 depending on the financial need and circumstances of the recipients. Female adult learners enrolled for the 2022-23 academic year are encouraged to apply. Scholarship information and criteria for eligibility can be found at <https://aauwstatecollege.org/scholarships>. **The application deadline is March 1.**
- **FINANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our January collections totaled \$4,081. See Cathy Bowen 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

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| February 8 | Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m. |
| February 10 | Tour Black History Exhibits, Bellefonte Art Museum, 1:30 p.m. |
| February 13 | Souper Bowl of Caring |
| February 15 | Movie Night #1 – Just Mercy , 6 p.m. |
| February 22 | Movie Night #2 – The Ernest Green Story , 6 p.m. |
| February 25 | God's Trombones Production, Good Shepherd Church, 7 p.m. |
| February 27 | Mennonite Church Joins Albright-Bethune Worship, 11 a.m. |
| March 2 | Ash Wednesday |
| March 4 | World Day of Prayer |
| March 6-12 | Penn State Spring Break |
| March 8 | Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m. |
| March 13 | Daylight Savings Time Begins |
| March 20 | Joint Worship at University Mennonite Church |
| March 27 | UMCOR Sunday (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday) |
| April 12 | Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m. |
| April 15 | Good Friday |
| April 17 | Easter Sunday |
| April 29 | Penn State Classes End |
| May 1 | Native American Ministries Sunday |
| May 5 | National Day of Prayer |
| May 6-8 | Penn State Commencement Exercises |
| May 10 | Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m. |
| June 12 | Peace With Justice Sunday |