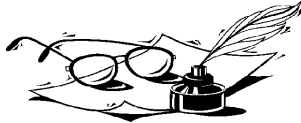




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



*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 30, Number 2, February 2023

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 have entered the new season of a New Year, keep our church family in your prayers.

We have some exciting endeavors happening during Black History Month. On February 6, we are going to continue our conversations around pathways to discipleship with Pastor Kevin Witt. This conversation will start at 6 p.m. Your input in our family gathering needs your voice and your insights as we plan our pathway forward. Then on February 10 from 6-8:30 p.m., we will hold our first women's dinner fellowship. For more information, contact Ariel McReynolds ([arielmcreynolds99@gmail.com](mailto:arielmcreynolds99@gmail.com)). Also, our Black history movie nights are back this year on the second and fourth Thursday at 7 p.m. The **BlacKkKlansman** and **Selma** movies will be shown in person. Finally, Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday, February 22. More information will be provided soon. Watch in your inbox for Constant Contact emails.

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness. Send your Holy Spirit upon us. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. Amen. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

• **WOMEN'S DINNER** - On February 10, we will have a Women's Fellowship Dinner in our Albright-Bethune fellowship hall from 6-8:30 p.m. This will be a fun gathering where the women of the community can fellowship, connect, and enjoy a meal. Those who attend will enjoy an assortment of Mexican dishes. If you are able to participate, please contact **Ariel McReynolds** at (213) 605-2657 so they can get a headcount. Feel free to invite and bring your friends and colleagues.

- **P**ATHWAY TO DISCIPLESHIP SESSION – Our next Pathway to Discipleship session with Rev. Kevin Witt will be held on February 6 from 6-8 p.m. Please check your calendar and plan to attend. The goal of this session is to achieve agreement on a small number of areas that our congregation will target as part of our mission. See Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler if you have questions about this session.
- **A**WARD - Congratulations to **Dr. Chris Roser-Jones** who was recently named the recipient of the Jane M. Strickler, MD, Award, at Mount Nittany Health. Known for his exceptional commitment to his patients, colleagues, and staff, Dr. Jones earned this prestigious award by honoring the standards of innovation, excellence, and service set by Dr. Strickler. The award was established in 2001 to honor providers who improve the quality of healthcare and level of health of residents of central Pennsylvania. Chris is a cardiologist at Mount Nittany Health and one of our lifelong worshippers. We are indeed proud of your many accomplishments.
- **N**EW BOOK - Congratulations to **Mark Dyreson** and his two co-authors (David Wiggins and Kevin Witherspoon) who recently published a new book entitled *Black Mercuries: African American Athletes, Race, and the Modern Olympic Games*. The book focuses on both the celebrated as well as the lesser known giants of Olympic history. The authors expand the knowledge base about some of the obstacles that the athletes were forced to overcome, and how a victory was occasionally bittersweet given the events of the times. Mark and his co-authors held various sessions and discussions in State College and at Penn State the last week of January. They did a session with our Albright-Bethune Thursday women's luncheon. Also, our Bethune Society was one of the sponsors of a public conversation with the authors that was hosted by the Penn State All-Sports Museum and the PSU Center for the Study of Sports in Society. Congratulations Mark. We are proud of this major accomplishment.
- **S**OUPEL BOWL SUNDAY - If you watch the Super Bowl on February 12, 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.
- **S**HARES OF MINISTRY - Each congregation that is part of the United Methodist Church must pay an annual assessment that is called a shares of ministry. This assessment is used to support all churches that are affiliated with our UMC denomination. The assessment is largely based on the size of the congregation. Thanks to your generous support, in 2022 our congregation paid 100% of its assessment which was \$20,511. Our assessment included \$8,735 for Property and Casualty Insurance and Shares of Ministry for Benevolence (\$2,879), Connectional Ministries (\$4,284), and Clergy Support (\$4,613). See Cathy Bowen, our church's treasurer, if you have any questions about our shares of ministry.
- **M**LK BANQUET - The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., banquet was held January 15 at the Bryce Jordan Center. Our church again purchased two tables and 20 of our members and worshippers participated in the banquet. Thanks to **Michelle Torregano** for arranging the tickets to be purchased. Two individuals from our church participated on the program. **Evan Buckner** performed several solo selections on his violin and **Pastor McReynolds** blessed the food. The banquet is conducted by Penn State's Forum on Black Affairs (FOBA) faculty and staff organization.

- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate a special day 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 Ebun 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 day.

- **TYRE NICHOLS' DEATH** - Centenary UMC's regular Sunday worship service was anything but routine recently. The Memphis, church — where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. met with striking sanitation workers just days before being assassinated - now gathered to mourn Tyre Nichols, another man whose brutal death has shaken the national conscience. The Rev. Deborah Smith, the church's senior pastor who had marched with King in Memphis, opened the worship service by quoting King's famous [Letter from a Birmingham Jail](#): "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." That idea is a key part of how Centenary lives out its Christian faith, Smith said. The Centenary congregants are among the United Methodists joining in grief and calls for change in the days since the city of Memphis [released body camera footage](#) showing police kicking, pepper-spraying, and punching Nichols after a January 7 traffic stop. The 29-year-old Black man died of his injuries three days later. Nichols was laid to rest on February 1 (From article by Heather Hahn, UM News).

- **FOOD BANK DONATION** - Thanks to your generosity, our church recently donated 26 pounds of peanut butter to the State College Food Bank. Our donation will help the Food Bank continue to meet the dietary and health needs of its clients. We, as a church, have a campaign to provide a regular supply of peanut butter to the Food Bank. To contribute to this ministry, please notate "PEANUT BUTTER" on an offering envelope, your check, or your electronic offering so it can be counted towards the effort!

- **EVC MEETING** - On January 23, several of our members and worshippers participated in an important congregational meeting with Rev. Kim Shockley, our Equipping Vital Congregations (EVC) advisor. During this meeting, Rev. Shockley helped us generate a comprehensive list of programs and activities that our church does in fulfilling its mission across five areas: worship, discipleship, service, generosity, and hospitality. She then asked the group to develop qualitative statements that will enable our church to determine when we are successful in each of the five areas. As a follow-up to this session, on February 6 during our Pathways to Discipleship session with Rev. Kevin Witt, we will achieve agreement on a limited number of areas that our congregation will target as part of our mission. See Pastor Paul or Jackie Peagler if you have any questions about the EVC program and our church's involvement.

- **ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE COOKS** - Our congregation is expanding its Men Who Cook concept by creating 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 will 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 created our first episode about her famous sticky buns and it's posted on Facebook. You can view it at:

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=597816918698281&external\\_log\\_id=a4708ae5-2174-4d78-bfd9-d97dd7fc4697&q=albright-bethune%20united%20methodist%20church](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=597816918698281&external_log_id=a4708ae5-2174-4d78-bfd9-d97dd7fc4697&q=albright-bethune%20united%20methodist%20church).

Our second episode will feature Blannie Bowen baking his southern pecan pies. If you wish to share one of your dishes, please contact Pastor Paul to discuss your idea.

- **UMC SCHOLARSHIPS & LOANS** - United Methodist Church 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 2023 scholarship offered through the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Students must apply online between **December 15–March 30** at <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships/scholarships>. Student loans are also available at low interest rates. Funds for these scholarships come from offerings taken on United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday.
- **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 2023-24 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** - Our January offerings and collections totaled **\$5,876.00**. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.

Also, free tax return preparation is again being offered this year. The Penn State VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) will again be offering free tax preparation and e-filing for income eligible individuals/households. If your income is \$58,000 or less, and you do not have any special circumstances, the volunteers will complete and e-file your tax return at no cost. To schedule an appointment, please visit [www.PSUVITA.org](http://www.PSUVITA.org). The site is located at 325 Boucke Building (across from the HUB) on the PSU campus. Hours of operation are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Opening day will be February 1. Submitted by Cathy Bowen

- **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.

<b>Calendar</b>	
February 6	Pathways to Discipleship Session, 6-8 p.m.
February 10	Women's Dinner at Albright-Bethune, 6-8:30 p.m.
February 14	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
February 22	Ash Wednesday
March 3	World Day of Prayer
March 5-11	Penn State Spring Break
March 12	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 14	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
March 19	UMCOR Sunday (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday)
April 7	Good Friday
April 9	Easter Sunday
April 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
April 28	Penn State Classes End
May 5-7	Penn State Commencement Exercises
May 9	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.