



gCorner of Beaver & Burrowes



A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 28, Number 1, January 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 you and yours. I know that this was one of the most interesting Christmas celebrations and New Year's. From Facetime calls to open-up presents to phone calls and empty chairs and tables. The year 2020 was a year of mixed emotions and searching for the elusive toilet paper roll. We have overcome many challenges from being shut in our homes and being away from those that we cherish. We have lost loved ones as well as welcomed new life. We were witnesses to acts of terror and calamity.

We found ourselves unable to breathe as we watched our son, brother and friend, George Floyd, die with a knee to his neck. Our attention was captivated by the images that we saw on our televisions, telephones, and tablets. We were witness to the world standing up and stating Black lives do matter. As if the world was watching with baited breath, an election brought about anxiety and conflict. We have experienced much over the past year and in the midst of that, remember, you and I are survivors. As we have entered into 2021 we have entered a new season with new possibilities. The Bible tells us in Psalms 91:1-5 "Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day." We are not finished yet on our journey; there are still trails left untraveled. Trust the Lord as we have been and I believe that we will find comfort and rest in our savior, Jesus Christ

Prayer for 2021. O God, your days are without beginning and without end. We dedicate this coming year to you. Give us such prosperity as you know is good for us, and make us abound in doing whatever is pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen - **Pastor Paul Ryan McReynolds**

• **C**ONDOLENCES - All in the congregation extend their condolences to Ireen Jones and her family on the December 23 death of her husband, Huey, who died at age 83. Huey was a member of Albright-Bethune and attended our worship service and other activities until his health began to decline. He was born in Lettsworth, LA, in 1937. Huey and Ireen were married in 1973. After he graduated from the Southern University Lab School in Baton Rouge, LA, in 1955, Huey served in the United States Navy and played basketball while serving in the Navy. He then attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, and earned a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling in 1968. Huey worked as a counselor for the Division of Undergraduate Studies at Penn State for 25 years before he retired in 1998. The family has requested that memorial contributions be sent to Albright-Bethune. You can read his obituary at [Obituary of Huey Pierce Jones | Koch Funeral Home : State College, ...](#)

Also, on January 6, Wally Richardson's mother (Mrs. Irene Richardson) died in South Carolina. Her service will be held on January 16 at 11 am in Darlington, SC. Please extend condolences to Wally and his family. His mother worshipped with us when she visited Wally here in State College. You can read her obituary at <http://www.jobsmortuary.net/obituary/irene-richardson>.

• **M**LK CELEBRATION – On January 15 from 5-6:30, the Forum on Black Affairs will hold its annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration. You can join this ZOOM celebration at this site: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/91657945812?pwd=RnlWNkM5ODZEWINGSjVvY1hqMGFsZz09>. The celebration will focus on **Project 1972**, a panel discussion by faculty and staff who were Penn State employees in 1972 and students who were freshmen in 1968 when Dr. King was assassinated. There will also be performances by Jeffrey Lampkin and the Francis Marion University YGB Choir. The Fannie Lou Hamer-W.E.B. DuBois Service Scholarship recipient will also be named. If you have questions about the celebration, contact FOBA President Andre Culbreath (alc34@psu.edu) or Stephanie Preston, Immediate Past President (sdp163@psu.edu).

• **S**OUPEL BOWL SUNDAY - If you watch the Super Bowl on February 7, 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**ERVICE WITH MENNONITE CHURCH – Since 2000, Albright-Bethune and the University Mennonite Church have held a joint worship service and luncheon during Black History Month. This year our 21st annual service will be held in March. Pastor McReynolds said that two virtual services are being planned. One will originate from Albright-Bethune and the other from the Mennonite Church. More details on the services will be provided after they are confirmed.

• **B**IRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: January 1 - **Ireen Jones'** Birthday; January 8 – **Lela vonLockette's** Birthday; January 9 – **Azalea & Albert Stevenson's** Wedding Anniversary; January 9 – **Makuka Mulenga's** Birthday; January 12 – **Lake Avalon Black's** Birthday; January 23 – **Walter Jones'** Birthday; January 26 – **Allej'eandria Holliday's** Birthday; January 29 - **Ocean Williams'** Birthday; January 30 - **Mark Dyreson's** Birthday; and January 30- **Pastor Paul McReynolds'** 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.

- **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY** – The UMC will celebrate Human Relations Day on January 17, and how will you help celebrate this important day? Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang;
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas; and
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work.

Over and over Jesus served and embraced people like these. And that’s what we want to model as the people of the UMC. To continue the ministry of Jesus, the UMC established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday and asks churches to help all of God’s children realize their potential. Please make a special offering on this day (From UMC Giving.Org).

- **FOOTBALL LETTER LIVE GUEST** - On December 10, **Wally Richardson** was a guest on *The Football Letter Live* virtual show that the Penn State Alumni Association conducts. Each week, the show details how the Alumni Association supports Intercollegiate Athletics and its student-athletes. During the show, the hosts interview lettermen who share how Penn State has impacted them and set them up for a lifetime of success. Wally has two degrees from Penn State (in 1996 and 2003) and is the director of the Penn State Letterman’s Club.

- **UMC SCHOLARSHIPS & LOANS** - UMC high school seniors and college students who are active in their church and/or in the conference may apply for a Fall 2021 scholarship offered through the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Students must apply online before March 24 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 on UMC Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday.

- **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** - Our Albright-Bethune Christmas Eve service was held virtually on December 24. Thanks to everyone who participated in and assisted with this service. Also, we had our regular worship service on December 27 to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

- **COVID-19 TOP STORY** - A pandemic of biblical proportions was the UMC’s top story of 2020. Voters selected the church’s response to the coronavirus as the top story over the role of LGBTQ people in the church, which topped the voting in both 2018 and 2019 and has brought the denomination to the brink of schism. The LGBTQ issue fell to third place, behind the church’s response to the deaths of Black Americans at the hands of police and the ensuing protests (From UM News Article by Jim Patterson).

- **PECAN PIES** – Thanks to everyone who bought the genuine Southern pecan pies in November for this annual fund raiser. The B. Evans Kitchen (aka Blannie Bowen) baked 48 pies. The pies and contributions generated \$1,160 for our church.

- **CHANGE WANTED** - Black United Methodists warn in a new book of essays that it’s critical the denomination deal with racial issues with a sense of urgency. “I think there’s been a great deal of debate around human sexuality but no conversation, for the most part, around the part that race has played in the problems the denomination is facing,” said the Rev. Rudy Rasmus, senior pastor at St. John’s Downtown Church in Houston and editor of [the book I’m Black. I’m Christian. I’m Methodist.](#) “I really think that now is the time where the conversation has to occur as to whether or not Blacks do have a future in the denomination. If America needs to face its dark past in race, I think it’s also time for the church” (From UM News Article by Jim Patterson).

- **A**SSAULT ON US CAPITOL - Throughout the evening of January 6 and into the early morning, Rev. Alisa Lasater Wailoo was texting with members of her Capitol Hill UMC who were under siege at the U.S. Capitol. Capitol Hill UMC is about five blocks away. Many members also live in the neighborhood and know someone who works at the building, the pastor said. She said both Republications and Democrats are members of her church. United Methodists both near and far were disturbed by the actions of a mob that forced its way into the U.S. Capitol as Congress was starting to fulfill its constitutional role by certifying the election of the next president. "I am appalled by the reckless behavior of some political leaders since the election and by the lack of respect shown today for our institutions, our traditions and our law enforcement," said former President George W. Bush, a United Methodist, [in a statement](#). Eventually, lawmakers returned to confirm the election of Joe Biden shortly before 4 am (From UM News Article by Linda Bloom, Vicki Brown, Joey Butler and Sam Hodges).
- **R**ELIGION DATABASE - Do you want to learn more about churches and denominations in State College, Pennsylvania, the US, and around the world? If yes, explore a website for the Association of Religion Data Archives at <http://www.thearda.com/>. This database was created by Roger Finke, a professor of Sociology and Religious Studies at Penn State, and colleagues.
- **F**INANCE CORNER - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our December collections totaled \$4,563. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.
- **Y**OUR 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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| January 1 | New Year's Day – Welcome 2021 |
| January 5 | Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m. |
| January 15 | FOBA's Martin Luther King, Jr., Zoom Celebration, 5-6:30 p.m. |
| January 17 | Human Relations Day Sunday |
| January 19 | Penn State Classes Begin |
| February 2 | Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m. |
| February 17 | Ash Wednesday |
| March 2 | Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m. |
| March 5 | World Day of Prayer |
| March 14 | Daylight Savings Time Begins; UMCOR Sunday (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday) |
| April 2 | Good Friday |
| April 4 | Easter Sunday |
| April 6 | Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m. |
| April 18 | Native American Ministries Sunday |
| April 30 | Penn State Classes End |
| May 4 | Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m. |
| May 6 | National Day of Prayer |
| May 7-9 | Penn State Commencement Exercises |
| May 30 | Peace With Justice Sunday |