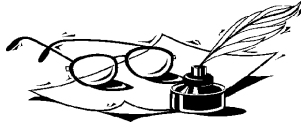




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



# A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 29, Number 1, January 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 yours this holiday season. Christmas has just happened, and we are entering a new season and year. We have a couple of things rearing their ugly head in the realm of COVID19. 2021 was a year of being inside and coming back out to now feeling like being put back into the box again. 2022 is a year of new opportunities, new hope, and a time for us to seek a better way. For the first 5 weeks, we will be looking at a Better Way preaching series. I want to leave us with a prayer for the new year.

Dear God. Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've done in our lives this past year, the good along with the difficult things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. We pray that your Spirit leads us each step of the way this New Year. Lord, we implore that you will guide the decisions and in turn, our hearts to deeply desire you above everything. Lord, open doors that need to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut. Lord, release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

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](#)

- **MLK CELEBRATION** – On January 15, the Forum on Black Affairs will again hold its annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration via Zoom. Specifics about the time and connection will be available as the date gets closer. 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](mailto:alc34@psu.edu)) or Stephanie Preston, Immediate Past President ([sdp163@psu.edu](mailto:sdp163@psu.edu)).
- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: January 1 - **Ireen Jones'** Birthday; January 23 – **Walter Jones'** 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](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com) ) so we can honor you on your special dates.
- **MENNONITE 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 January 5 – 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](mailto:joelpsu82@outlook.com).
- **WEAVING 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.
- **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](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com) or 814-777-6550) if you want to review the issues to see what's available
- **FOOD DRIVE** - In December, our church partnered with the Penn State Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) on a food drive for local residents. The students collected lots of food that was distributed from our church on December 11. All of the food that was not given away will be donated to the Food Bank. Thanks for everyone who donated food and assisted with the food drive.

- **C**HRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - Our Albright-Bethune Christmas Eve service was held at 6 p.m. on December 24. The service included a beautiful and joyful tradition of a candlelight Christmas Eve of lessons and carols about the wondrous good news of great joy in word and song. The service was held both in-person or on Facebook Live.

- **T**ORNADOES - United Methodists in Kentucky, Tennessee, and neighboring states are still coming to terms with the devastation of a string of tornadoes December 10-11, while also mobilizing to provide food, emergency shelter, and other relief. The storm system that struck included one tornado that caused destruction across 240 miles and [is blamed for nearly 90 deaths](#). Two of those killed were Marsha Hall and Carole Grisham, sisters and members of Dawson Springs UMC in Kentucky. They were found among the rubble several houses from the one they shared in Dawson Springs. Twisters sheared roofs and shattered windows at some UM churches, parsonages, and congregation members' homes (From UM News).

- **B**OY SCOUT SETTLEMENT - Negotiators for the UMC [have reached a settlement](#) to pay \$30 million as part of the Boy Scouts of America's bankruptcy reorganization plan. Local UMCs have long been leading sponsors of Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops, and the \$30 million is to be paid over three years into a trust fund for survivors of Scouting-related sexual abuse. All U.S. annual conferences are being asked to make a commitment to raise the necessary funds. The settlement comes after months of negotiations, and the bankruptcy plan still must be approved by a federal bankruptcy court (By Sam Hodges, UM News).

- **H**UMAN RELATIONS DAY – The UMC will celebrate Human Relations Day on January 16, 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).

- **S**OUPER 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.

- **G**ENERAL CONFERENCE - Organizers are pressing forward with plans to hold a pivotal UMC General Conference this year. At the same time, they acknowledge that the pandemic may again thwart those plans. The Commission on the General Conference aims to decide in the first three months of 2022 whether the UMC's top legislative assembly can meet as scheduled [August 29-September 6 in Minneapolis](#). In the meantime, the international elected body met online November 18 to continue preparations. Commission members also unanimously approved a list of values that will guide their decision to go forward or delay once again. The main obstacles to General Conference are travel visas [and COVID vaccines](#). The assembly was to be held in 2020 but has been postponed twice (By Heather Hahn, UM News).

- **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 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.
- **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 December collections totaled \$4,339.58. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.
- **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.

### Calendar

January 1	Welcome 2022
January 10	Penn State Classes Begin
January 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday; FOBA Celebration
January 16	Human Relations Sunday
February 8	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
February 13	Souper Bowl of Caring
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 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