



Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor

Email: pmcreynolds@susumc.org; Home Phone: (814) 308-9099

Church Phone: 237-4404; Email: albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com

Church Website: www.albrightbethuneumc.org

Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 30, Number 7; July 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!! Happy 4th of July, family!! May this be a time of family, food, and fellowship. I pray that everyone is having a wonderful summer thus far. I continue to pray for safety for each of you during this season. I know that this is a time of travels and relaxation. Be safe and enjoy your fun in the sun. Starting this Sunday, we begin our season of transition as I become the new pastor of Fairbrook UMC. I am excited for this new journey with you all and the new congregation. We have some amazing opportunities to share in ministry and build-up God's Kingdom. We have an opportunity to share in an event with Fairbrook that is listed below (the 50's Freeze). I ask that you be in prayer for Albright-Bethune and for Fairbrook as we work together in building up the Christ Kingdom. I ask that you pray for my wife and me as we embrace a new community. Thank you for being an amazing Church family. I love you all very much!!

Awesome God, as we leave this place, we put our trust in you because we know you will never shame us. We hope continually in you and praise you more and more. May we tell of your righteousness as we leave this place and even when we come back. Be our guide in everything that we do and lead us to the rock that is higher than us. Help us to abide in your word and let it guide us in all that we do. We shall continue to look up to you because we know that you are our shepherd, and we shall not lack anything. In Jesus' name, we believe and pray. Amen.

Pastor Paul McReynolds

• **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.

- **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.
- **50's FREEZE** - Join Fairbrook UMC on Saturday, July 8, from 6-8 p.m. (rain or shine) for a RETRO ice cream event -- the 50's Freeze! The parking lot at 4200 West Whitehall Road in Pennsylvania Furnace will be transformed into a 1950's ice cream drive-in, complete with car-side service. The menu will feature banana splits, root beer floats, ice cream sundaes, and more! Let our poodle skirts, pony-tails, cuffed jeans, and slicked back hair take you back in time. Bring the family for an evening of fun! Cash is accepted. The proceeds will benefit Fairbrook's local and global missions.
- **V**ACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Park Forest Village UMC is again inviting our congregation to participate its annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) that will be held July 17-20 from 6-8:10 p.m. Participants are being sought who are ages 3 thru 5th grade. VBS will offer a station approach where the children move in groups between a Bible story center, a theme center, creative games, snacks, and an art center. You can register at www.pfvumc.org/vbs and also get more information by calling 814-238-2657 or by emailing the Children's Director at rosepark@verizon.net. See Carla Roser-Jones if you have any questions or want more information about our involvement with VBS.
- **E**AGLE SCOUT PROJECT - Katie Dyreson has designed an Eagle Scout project to donate clothing to Ukraine. Katie is now 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 of her project will be much appreciated.
- **C**ONDOLENCES - All in our congregation extend their condolences to Dr. Michelle Torregano and her family on the June 6 death of her son (Joseph Charles Torregano, Jr.). Ms. Lydia Stewart who is also one of our faithful worshippers was his grandmother. A visitation and mass were held June 13 at St. Gabriel The Archangel Catholic Church in New Orleans. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Joe lived in State College and graduated in 2012 from South Hills Business School with an associate's degree in business administration and marketing. In 2019, he graduated from California University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies. Joe's family appreciates all of your kind words, deeds, and actions during this very difficult time.
- **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>).

- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate a special day this month: July 4 – **Paul Amara, Jr.’s**, Birthday; July 26 – **Kadie Amara’s** Birthday; July 30 – **India Warren’s** Birthday; and July 31 – **Jacob Amara’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 day.
- **GRADUATE** - Congratulations to **Aamen Shilling** who has graduated from State College High School. We are indeed proud of you and this significant accomplishment. Aamen said that he now plans to continue his studies at South Hills School of Business and Technology here in State College.
- **PLANNING 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. More details and specifics about the program will be provided after they are confirmed. Please see Cathy if you have questions about this program.
- **SPIKES GAME** – Our church plans to again attend a State College Spikes baseball game. **Wally Richardson** has agreed to again lead this effort and will reserve tickets. Wally will provide more details about the date and ticket price once they have been confirmed. This again promises to be pleasant, safe, and enjoyable outing for our members and worshippers.
- **MOVE-IN SATURDAY** - On August 19, many Penn State 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 give them water and information about our church. See Pastor McReynolds if you would like to assist with Move-in Saturday.
- **AIR FORCE ACADEMY SEMINAR** - Congratulations to **Katie Dyreson** who was one of 320 students who participated in the US Air Force Academy Summer Seminar program in Colorado Springs last month. The highly competitive Seminar focused on a “whole-person concept” that includes demonstrated leadership experience or potential in extracurricular and community activities, athletics, and academics. Katie was able to live like an Air Force Academy cadet for four days, including experiencing cadet living and eating quarters, grueling physical challenges, and academic facilities and labs.
- **WORSHIP IN THE PARK** – On Father’s Day, our church gathered at Tudek Park for fellowship, worship, and then food and more fellowship. We had an excellent worship service and there was lots of superb food. Thanks to everyone who prepared and brought food, assisted with the set-up and clean-up, and cooked the food.
- **STUDY ABROAD IN MEXICO** - This summer **Zan Dyreson** was part of Penn State's Study Abroad in Puebla, Mexico. Zan lived with a host family to enrich her Spanish skills while experiencing the cultural treasures of Mexico. Part of the program involved weekly regional excursions to study the arts, culture, and history of central Mexico, including to sites such as Monte Albán, Cholula, Veracruz, Mexico City, Chichén Itzá, and Mitla. Zan said that fortunately her experience was not interrupted by the volcano that was erupting in the area.

- **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.
- **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.
- **FINANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our collections for June totaled \$4,502. 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

July 4	Independence Day
July 8	50's Freeze Ice Cream Fundraiser, Fairbrook UMC, 6-8 p.m.
July 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
July 17-20	Vacation Bible School, Park Forest UMC, 6-8:10 p.m.
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