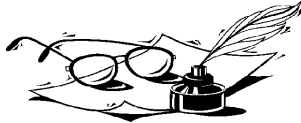




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



# A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

**Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor**

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 28, Number 6, June 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 each of you!! As we are approaching summertime fun and much-awaited vacation trips out of town. I want to say thank you to each one of you for allowing me to be your Pastor. I am excited for this next chapter we are embarking on together with the Equipping Vital Congregation (EVC) initiative. I am looking forward to us climbing to new heights and helping foster transformation in the lives of our community. For us being bridge builders in turning Downtown State College into the Beloved Community. Father's Day is quickly approaching us. I want to say to all the fathers out there that you are loved and important to us. We have something special planned for the fathers this year. I am looking forward to the Father's Day sermon "*I'm Still Standing.*" I want to send a special shout-out to all of our young people who are graduating and have already graduated. Keep striving and climbing because the Lord is with you. Share with friends and family to come out and worship with us on Facebook Live every Sunday. Also, be on the lookout for our in-person worship come July.

O God Our Creator. You've known us before we were conceived in our mothers' wombs. Guide us throughout this time of transition. Empower Albright-Bethune to use its unique gifts to create the beloved community, and to encourage with humility, patience, and joy. Instill the vision of the life you intended for us to lead. Guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. Lord, we thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed this beloved community. Lord, thank you for the experiences that have brought us together. Lord, we thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you, and supporting one another.

We say this in your Holy Name. Amen. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

- **G**RADUATE - **Zan Dyreson**, one of our members and a long term worshipper, will graduate from Juniata Valley High School on June 5. But Zan is not just graduating -- she is the valedictorian of her senior class. Congratulations. We are very proud of your many accomplishments. Zan will continue her studies at Penn State where she has been accepted into the Schreyer Honors College.
- **P**ASTOR'S APPOINTMENT - Effective July 1, Pastor McReynolds will become the fulltime pastor of Albright-Bethune. Our church will no longer be yoked with Park Forest UMC as part of a 2-point charge. Our Susquehanna Conference and State College District are providing resources and support that should enable our congregation to experience a growth mode. On March 30, District Superintendent Brenda Leigey held a special charge conference where our congregation voted to support this new arrangement. See Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler, our Administrative Council Chair, if you have questions.
- **B**IRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: June 4 – **Aliyah Saunders'** Birthday; June 4 - **Cheraine Stanford's** Birthday; June 5 - **Lydia D. Stewart's** Birthday; June 12 – **Ariele Baggett's** Birthday; June 18 - **Cathy & Blannie Bowen's** Wedding Anniversary; June 28 – **Pierce Vincent Devier-Poindexter's** Birthday; and June 30 – **Jackie & Maurice Peagler's** Wedding Anniversary. 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.
- **I**NTERNSHIP - Congratulations to **McClane Dyreson** who has been selected to complete an internship this summer in Research and Portfolio Management at Emerald Asset Management in State College. McClane is a senior at Penn State where he is majoring in Economics with minors in Spanish and History. He is a very active and long term member of Albright-Bethune.
- **A**NNUAL CONFERENCE - The Susquehanna Conference 2021 Annual Conference will be held virtually June 18-19. Bishop Jeremiah Park said that they will worship and conduct only essential business out of an abundance of caution for what is best for clergy and lay members.
- **S**UMMER GRADUATES - If you are graduating from high school or college this summer, we want to honor you and celebrate your accomplishment. Please contact **Blannie Bowen** at 237-5131 or by email at [blanniebowen@gmail.com](mailto: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. If you are staying in the area, continue to worship regularly with us.
- **S**COOT PROJECT – This spring our church's Administrative Council approved a project to help **Zan Dyreson** qualify for the rank of Eagle Scout. Zan has created a heritage garden outside of our church on the corner of Beaver and Burrowes. If you have not seen the garden, please take the time to do so. It includes primarily perennials and some annuals that make the space more colorful and interesting. She has also renovated and incorporated our church sign into the garden. A bench will be added later than can be used to sit for relaxation or meditation. Thanks to everyone who made donations for Zan's project.
- **W**ESLEY'S BIRTHDAY - As John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, grew older, on his birthday he often commented how he was still in good health because God had blessed him. His birthday reflections give us a glimpse into how he viewed his life, health, and ministry. United Methodists around the globe celebrate Wesley's birthday on June 28.

- **FATHER'S DAY** – We will celebrate Father's Day on June 20. In 1909, Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, WA, proposed the idea of the "*Father's Day*" to honor her father, William Smart. Mr. Smart, a Civil War veteran, raised his six children by himself on a farm after his wife died in childbirth with their 6<sup>th</sup> child. The idea came when she heard a sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honor one's mother. It gave her the idea to petition for a day to honor fathers and, in particular, her own father. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off. On June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day, but it was not until 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson signed a proclamation declaring the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of June as Father's Day. This day has become a time to not only honor your father, but all men who act as father figures. Stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, and adult male friends are all honored on Father's Day. (Source - From article prepared by Patreese Ingram for *Around the State in 4-H Newsletter*, Penn State, June 2002).
- **GENIUS AWARD** - Marcinia Johnson, a sophomore at UMC affiliated Bennett College in Greensboro, NC, and a member of St. Mark's UMC in Charlotte, has been selected as a [2021 OZY Genius Award Winner](#) for her "Anti-gentrification low-income homes for seniors" initiative. Marcinia is one of 10 recipients of the prestigious award. Previous winners include National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman. [Inspired by the friends of the late Harper Lee](#), who pooled their money to provide Lee with the gift of a year free from work to write what would become the esteemed novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the OZY Genius Awards provide visionary college students the means to turn their vision into reality. Each winner receives \$10,000 and a mentor to launch their project and begin changing the world. Johnson also serves as a [Lina H. McCord intern for the Black College Fund](#) and received the prestigious [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#) (From Western North Carolina UMC Conference News).
- **SUMMER CAMPS** - The Susquehanna UMC Conference offers several summer camps for children and youth. You can review the sites and get more details at [www.susumcamps.org](http://www.susumcamps.org).
- **FINANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our May collections totaled **\$15,166.75**. This total includes the \$300 that was contributed for Zan Dyreson's Eagle Scout project. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances. Here are two items that might be of interest.

### **Tax News Related to Charitable Giving**

Good news for married charitable givers who do not itemize deductions on federal tax returns. For the 2021 tax year, married couples can deduct \$600 for charitable giving when using the standard deduction. This is an increase of \$300 as the maximum for 2020 was \$300 regardless of filing status (single, married filing jointly, or head of household).

### **AmazonSmile**

Albright-Bethune is a recognized charity with the AmazonSmile Foundation. If you make purchases using Amazon, you can also benefit Albright-Bethune by designating it as your charity of choice through Amazon Smile. All you need to do is use the AmazonSmile link when making a purchase. (The products and prices are the same. All AmazonSmile does is give you a voice in how Amazon distributes its charitable donations). Each time a customer makes a purchase using AmazonSmile, a portion of eligible items purchased will generate a 0.5% donation for the charity selected. Here is the designated link for Albright-Bethune: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1711251>. I suggest you bookmark the church's link on your computer or device. You can also Google AmazonSmile and select Albright-Bethune from the list of charities.

- **SUMMER OPTIONS** - Try the following to make your summer more enjoyable. Go outdoors to experience God's creation. Have a class outside, take a hike or picnic, or pick-up litter in a park or along a roadside. Try a family weekend of camping at nearby sites such as Shaver's Creek or Black Moshannon. Also, volunteer to take some children to recreational areas. These are excellent opportunities to teach our children about the creation stories.
- **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** - Eleven general agencies of The United Methodist Church are pledging to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 across ministries, facilities, operations, and investments. [The initiative was announced on Earth Day](#). Net-zero emissions means the amount of human-produced greenhouse gas emissions does not exceed the amount taken out of the atmosphere, according to the [World Resources Institute](#). Greenhouse gas removal is achieved by tactics such as restoring forests or [direct air capture and storage](#). The agencies committed to the goal are the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, Board of Global Ministries, Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Commission on Archives and History, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Communications, Council on Finance and Administration, Discipleship Ministries, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, and Wespeth Benefits and Investments (From UM News, Jim Patterson).
- **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

June 15	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
June 18-19	UMC Susquehanna Annual Conference
June 20	Father's Day
July 4	Independence Day (Observed on July 5)
July 6	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
August 3	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets
August 14	Penn State Summer Commencement
August 23	Penn State Classes Begin
September 6	Labor Day
September 7	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 3	World Communion Sunday
October 5	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 17	Laity Sunday
November 2	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 7	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 14	Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
November 21-27	Penn State Thanksgiving Holiday Break
November 25	Thanksgiving Day
November 28	United Methodist Student Sunday
Nov 28-Dec 24	The Season of Advent
December 7	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
December 10	Penn State Classes End

