



Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 30, Number 6; June 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!! We are at the beginning of "summertime fun with friends and family." Father's Day is around the corner and on the third Sunday we will be doing Worship in Tudek Park. Plus, we are entering a season of transition as I also become the new Pastor of Fairbrook UMC. I am excited for this new journey with you all and the new congregation. I ask that you be in prayer for Albright-Bethune and 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!!

Dear Lord, speak clearly. Open our minds and our ears to hear Your voice. Open our hearts to commune with You more deeply. Lord, we desire to feel Your loving warm embrace. Open the doors that need to be opened and close the doors that need to be closed. Please set our feet upon the straight and narrow road that leads to everlasting life. Amen. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

• **WORSHIP IN THE PARK** – On Father's Day (June 18) from 10-1 pm., we will gather at Tudek Park for fellowship beginning at 10 am, hold worship at our usual time of 11 am, and then have food and fellowship. Stay tuned for a sign-up list for the Potluck style BBQ lunch! Please inform your family and friends and ask them to join us. Tudek Park is located at 400 Herman Drive near the Weis Market on Martin Street.

• **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate a special day 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; and June 30 – **Jackie & Maurice Peagler's** Wedding Anniversary. Give Blannie your special dates (call/text 814-777-6550 or email blanniebowen@gmail.com) so we can honor you on your special day.

- **A**WARD WINNER - Last month, the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania announced the winners of the 59th Golden Quill Awards. These awards honor professional and student excellence in print, broadcast, photography, videography, and digital journalism in Western Pennsylvania and nearby counties in Ohio and West Virginia. Fernanda López and **Braden Dyreson** of Penn State's *The Daily Collegian* newspaper were honored as the winner of the Student Excellence in Journalistic Craft Achievement – Editorial Cartoon category for their work entitled "*Long Bar Line*". Congratulations Braden.
- **I**NVITED SPEAKER - Congratulations to **Michelle Torregano** who was the invited speaker for *In This Together 2023*, the 3rd Annual Virtual Poetry Reading in Honor of George Floyd that was live streamed May 25 on YouTube. The program also featured Poets Abiódún Abdul, Maureen P. Medina, Robert Punton, and Dee Allen. A panel discussion followed the readings. The reading was co-hosted by Poets Against Racism & Hate USA and Poets Against Racism UK. For more information, visit www.poetsagainstracism-usa.org.
- **A**IR FORCE ACADEMY SEMINAR - Congratulations to **Katie Dyreson** who is one of 320 students selected to participate in this June's US Air Force Academy Summer Seminar program in Colorado Springs. The highly competitive Seminar is based on a "whole-person concept" that includes demonstrated leadership experience or potential in extracurricular and community activities, athletics, and academics. The program allows participants 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. The program allows potential cadets to experience a taste of what admission to the Academy would be like.
- **S**TUDY ABROAD IN MEXICO - This summer **Zan Dyreson** is part of Penn State's Study Abroad in Puebla, Mexico. Dispelling cultural stereotypes through immersion in the daily life of Mexico is the thrust of this summer program. Zan is living with a host family to enrich her Spanish skills while experiencing the cultural treasures of Mexico. Part of the program involves 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 earned several awards and grants to support her study, including the Academic Excellence Scholar Award, a Schreyer International Study Abroad Award, the Latin American Study Abroad Award, and the John M. Taylor History Enrichment Award.
- **A**SHLEY BOLDS UPDATE - Six days after she graduated from Penn State in May, **Ashley Bolds**, one of our worshippers left to study abroad in New Zealand and Australia. Ashley expects to return June 5. This summer, she will work as a live-in counselor with the freshmen group of incoming Millennium Scholars at Penn State. In September, Ashley will start a position with the National Institutes of Health. She later plans to attend medical school. Congratulations on your many accomplishments. Best wishes with your future endeavors.
- **S**TUDY ABROAD IN DENMARK – Congratulations to **Braden Dyreson** who will be studying in Copenhagen, Denmark, this summer. He will participate in the "Summer in Scandinavia" program through the Danish Institute for Study Abroad. While in the program, he will take courses on "The Good Life" and "Children in a Multicultural Context" through visiting the south of France and London. He earned several Penn State scholarships to support his study, including a Student Engagement Network Scholarship, a Schreyer Honors College Enrichment Scholarship, a Liberal Arts Undergraduate Enrichment Scholarship, and a Radcliffe International Scholarship.

- **F**INALS STUDY SPACE JAM – Our congregation provided study space for Penn State students on May 1-5 during exam week. The students were provided Wi-Fi, snacks, drinks, and dinner. Special thanks to **Virginia Content** who worked with Pastor Paul to organize and conduct the activity. The following individuals also volunteered to assist with Study Jam: **Melissa Erikson, Carla Roser-Jones, JoDee Dyreson, Mark Dyreson, and Zan Dyreson**. Your collective efforts are much appreciated to support our students.
- **D**INNER FOR GRADUATES - On May 6, our church held a dinner to celebrate our worshippers who are members of Penn State's graduating class of 2023. The family and friends of **Daniel Spearman** and **Ashley Boldts** attended along with several members of our congregation. Daniel was our church's musician and he graduated with his Master's of Music. Ashley received her B.S. degree in **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** and plans to work with the National Institutes of Health and later attend medical school. Thanks to Carla Roser-Jones for organizing the dinner. Also, thanks to the following individuals who assisted with the dinner: **Cathy** and **Blannie Bowen**; **JoDee, Mark, Zan, Katie, Braden, and McClane Dyreson**; **Josephine** and **Donald Ferrell**; **Ireen Jones**; **Abby Jones** and **Christopher Jones**; and **Ariel McReynolds** and **Pastor Paul**.
- **A**WARD – Our Albright-Bethune church was one of two recipients that received the Harry Hosier Award this year! This award is presented by the Commission on Building the Beloved Community. The award is presented to the individual or congregation that best emulates the characteristics of Harry Hosier, an early Black Methodist preacher. Pastor McReynolds was invited to the Awards Luncheon that celebrated all award winners during the Susquehanna Annual Conference that was held May 18-20 in Williamsport.
- **F**ATHER'S DAY – We will celebrate Father's Day on June 18. 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 6th 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 3rd 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).
- **S**UMMER 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.
- **A**NNUAL CONFERENCE - Our Susquehanna UMC Annual Conference was held May 18-20 in Williamsport. The business of our Conference was conducted and many speakers offered messages. Clergy, lay leaders, and lay members attended. Contact **Pastor McReynolds** or **Jackie Peagler** if you have questions about Annual Conference. You can learn more about the Conference that has been archived at <https://www.susumc.org/annual-conference/>.

- **C**ONDOLENCES - All in our congregation extend their condolences to Wally Richardson who recently lost an uncle.
- **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.
- **S**UMMER 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.
- **F**INANCE CORNER - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our collections for April totaled \$5,202 and for May the total was \$5,064. 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

June 13	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
June 18	Father's Day Worship & Fellowship at Tudek Park, 10-1 p.m.
June 19	Juneteenth Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
August 8	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
August 12	Penn State Summer Commencement
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