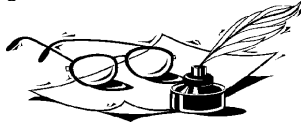




gCorner of Beaver & Burrowes



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 your families. As we are moving ever closer to Easter and the spring around the corner, I want us to remain in the season of prayer. [Psalm 130:5-6](#) - I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word, I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning. This text offers a glimpse into this season in which we are living through. There is this heightened sense of the world in which we are living right now. This writer is speaking to the community about a God who helps and forgives. The writer illustrates to us that we can trust in this savior. The speaker in the text has earnestly laid bare their heart and soul to their God. The psalmist has this confidence because of the description at the end of verse six. The psalmist describes a watchman waiting till the morning. This is a mode of expectation of an arrival of being ready for the new dawn.

During this time with so much hovering around us from the Capitol riots, state disasters, political unrest, and newly inspired jim crow laws. This is a time for us a community of saints to be like this psalmist and be prayer and trust that the Lord is listening to you and us in this season. So let us be prayerful during the continuation of this Lenten season. As the vaccinations are rolling out and some states fully opening, let us remain in prayer. Let's us be in prayer for a return to a new normal so that we get back to the things. Let us be in prayer for the many families that have been affected by police brutality and racial injustice. This is our time of deep reflection of what we have overcome and have endured. What gives me great hope and joy is that during this time the Lord has kept us and is keeping us.

Closing Prayer - O gracious Master, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, so we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing everything to please You. For You, O Christ, our God, are the enlightenment of our mind, bodies and souls; and to You we render glory, together with Your eternal Father, and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever. - **Pastor Paul Ryan McReynolds**



A-B NEWSLETTER



• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 28, Number 3, March 2021

- **SERVICES 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 this month. Pastor McReynolds said that two virtual services are being planned for March 14 and 21. One service will originate from the Mennonite Church. Rev. McReynolds and Pastor Kate Heinzl of University Mennonite will deliver messages for the two services.
- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: March 7 – **Tonya & Michael Black's** Wedding Anniversary; March 7 - **Joseph C. Torregano, Jr.'s** Birthday; March 9 - **Braden Dyreson's** Birthday; March 9 – **Tara & Krystaufeux Williams'** Wedding Anniversary; March 10 – **Olivia Nembhard's** Birthday; and March 13 – **Michael Black'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 dates.
- **GRADUATION EXERCISES** - Congratulations to Pastor Paul McReynolds who participated in Gammon Theological Seminary's 61st Commencement Exercises celebrating the Class of 2020 that was held on February 27. Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, GA, is the United Methodist constituent member of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). Pastor McReynolds completed his Master of Divinity degree in Theology at Gammon. His graduation exercise was delayed last year because of the pandemic. Please extend congratulations to Pastor Paul.
- **IN-PERSON WORSHIP** - Bishop Jeremiah Park has issued advice, guidelines, and recommendations for churches to resume in-person worship and other activities. He has recommended that each church form a team of lay and clergy that will learn about the virus and safety practices in order to develop a plan for the church. Our Albright-Bethune Administrative Council will function as the team for our church. The Conference says that vaccination, mask wearing, and social distancing are critical to churches holding in-person activities. Given the age of our congregation and because so many members and worshippers have underlying health conditions, getting a vaccine is critical for our church to resume in-person worship and activities. If you have not already received the vaccine, please do so when you become eligible and it is available. Our church plans to survey our members and worshippers to determine how many have been vaccinated or plan to get a vaccine so we can decide when to resume in-person worship. Please see Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler, our Administrative Council Chair, if you have questions about resuming in-person activities.
- **LENTEN STUDY** - Albright-Bethune is participating in a Lenten study using UMC Bishop Sharma Lewis' best-selling *Journey to Transformation: 2021 Lenten Study Paperback*. You can purchase the book from Amazon for \$16.95. The book is structured to correspond to each day during Lent with a devotional for individual or group study. Bishop Lewis is from the Virginia UMC Conference and she invites readers to observe Lent by introspection, repentance, forgiveness, renewal, prayer, fasting, and Biblical Study. *A Journey to Transformation* is divided into four sections: Lenten Devotional, Prayer, Reflection, and My Action. See Pastor McReynolds if you have questions or want more details about the Lenten study.
- **CONDOLENCES** - Last month the Bowen family experienced the death of Betty Lee Bowen Boney who was Blannie's last aunt. She died in North Carolina at age 91 after a long and fulfilling life. She was very active in her church community and with their family farm until her health started to decline over the last few years.

- **NOTHING BUT NETS** – Since 2006, the UMC has been fighting malaria as a founding partner of a group called *Nothing But Nets*. The UMC, the United Nations Foundation, and various partners have built this grassroots movement to end malaria and over 13 million bed nets have been sent to families in Africa. Just \$10 buys a bed net, distributes it to a family, and provides education on how to use it. The partners have raised over \$70 million. You can learn more about Nothing But Nets at [About Us – Nothing But Nets](#). Also, you can see **JoDee Dyreson** about how you can contribute to this project during college basketball's March Madness.
- **SPRING GRADUATES** - If you are graduating from high school or college in May or June, we want to honor you and celebrate your accomplishment. Please contact **Blannie Bowen** at 237-5131 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. If you are staying in the area, continue to worship regularly with us.
- **GENERAL CONFERENCE POSTPONED AGAIN** - Meeting on February 20, the Commission on the UMC General Conference decided to further postpone the 2020 General Conference until August 29 – September 6, 2022 in Minneapolis, MN, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the safety of mass gatherings and travel. It is the Commission's responsibility to select the site and set the dates of General Conference. Further, the *Book of Discipline* requires the Commission on the General Conference to "take necessary measures to assure full participation of all General Conference delegates." The Commission concluded that mandate was not achievable by means of either an in-person meeting in 2021 or a virtual meeting. In making the decision, the Commission determined that it was not feasible to safely hold an in-person meeting involving all delegates as currently scheduled for August 29 - September 7, 2021 due to a number of barriers, especially the pandemic.
- **SABBATICALS FOR PASTORS** - Bishop Jeremiah Park and the Cabinet of our Central Pennsylvania Conference recently thanked all pastors for their dedication, persistence, and bravery during the pandemic. Most of these pastors still face challenges, hardships, and stresses that impact their ability to function on the desired level. Consequently, Bishop Park is recommending that each pastor take a sabbatical and some time away from their obligations. He is recommending that a guest preacher deliver the sermon for them one Sunday each month for the next 4-5 months. This approach will enable the pastors to recharge and recover from the stresses that they have faced during the pandemic. Many of these pastors have had to conduct funerals, memorial services, and virtual comfort sessions for their members and worshippers.
- **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.
- **HISTORIC CHURCH** - The Cleveland Restoration Society announced recently that Cory United Methodist Church will be the site of an Ohio historical marker describing its significance in the civil rights movement. The church, housed in a former synagogue, hosted speeches by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X (From UM News).

- **F INANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our February collections totaled \$4,113.00. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances. Here are two items that might be of interest.

AmazonSmile

Albright-Bethune is now a recognized charity with 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 through Amazon. (The products and prices are exactly the same. All AmazonSmile does is give you a voice in how Amazon distributes its charitable donations). Each time an Amazon customer makes a purchase using AmazonSmile, a portion of eligible items purchased will generate a 0.5% donation for the charity selected. Below is the designated link for Albright-Bethune. I suggest you bookmark the church's link on your computer or device. You can also just google AmazonSmile and select Albright-Bethune from the list of charities.

Smile Link for Albright-Bethune Church: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1711251>

For each quarter when at least \$5 in donations is generated, AmazonSmile will report to us the amount of donations generated for Albright-Bethune and that information will be reported in this newsletter. **Our collective impact can make a difference.** For example, suppose 15 people collectively spent \$5,000 on AmazonSmile purchase, that would generate \$25 in a donation to the church.

Penn State VITA-Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

If you need help completing your 2020 tax return and your total income is \$56,000 or less, you can get the return completed and filed electronically for free at Penn State VITA. Because of the pandemic, the site is totally drop-off/pick-up. In short, you will leave your tax documents and return at a later date to pick up your file copy and grant permission to file it electronically. You can schedule your appointment at www.psuvida.org or call (814) 863-4147. The site is located at 325 Boucke Building on the Penn State Campus. **Submitted by Cathy Bowen**

- **Y OUR ITEMS** - Send, email to blanniebowlen@gmail.com or give your items to **Blannie** by the **20th** of the month. Send your birthday, awards, church presentations, writings, etc.

Calendar	
March 14	Joint Service With University Mennonite Church; Daylight Savings Time Begins; UMCOR Sunday (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday)
March 21	Joint Service With University Mennonite Church
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