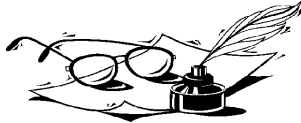




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 30, Number 3, March 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 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.

So let us be prayerful during the continuation of this Lenten season. During this Lenten season, every morning we have a Lent morning devotional with Pastor Paul and Mrs. Jennifer Saunders. Every Monday during Lent from 6:30-7:30 pm, we will have our Lent Bible Study Via Zoom. Come and join us as we go through the book *The Seven Last Words* by Susan Robb. Also, we have just finished our Pathway To Discipleship work. Please take a look at some of the ideas that we are moving forward with. Be on the lookout for our Women's ministry updates and another gathering that will be happening this month.

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. Amen. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

- **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL & BOOK STUDY** - Each morning during the Lenten season, we will have a Lent morning devotional featuring Pastor Paul and Jennifer Saunders. You can join the devotionals each morning on our church's Facebook page. If you miss a devotional, you can later watch them on our Facebook page. Also, every Monday during Lent from 6:30-7:30 pm, we will have our Lent Bible Study Via Zoom. You do not need a book to participate in the study. The book will be given out to those in attendance. Join us as we go through the book *The Seven Last Words* by Susan Robb. See Pastor Paul if you have questions about either the devotionals or the book study.
- **PATHWAY TO DISCIPLESHIP** – Our last Pathway to Discipleship session with Rev. Kevin Witt was held on February 6. Then on February 21 Pastor Paul led a follow-up Zoom session so our members and worshippers could identify some programs and activities that our church might conduct around the themes of Loving God, Growing Together, Creating New Disciples and Relationships, and Changing the World. We identified 3-4 programs and activities for each of these four areas consistent with the mission of our church. See Pastor McReynolds if you have questions about this session or the programs and activities.
- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate a special day this month: March 7 – **Tonya & Michael Black's** Wedding Anniversary; March 9 - **Braden Dyreson's** Birthday; and March 9 – **Tara & Krystaufeux Williams'** 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.
- **EASTER EGG HUNT** – On Saturday, April 8, at 11 am, our church will hold its annual Easter egg hunt outdoors at the Bowen home. See Blannie or Cathy if you need directions to 2459 Chatham Court in the Saybrook Subdivision. Children, teens, and children at heart are welcome. **Carla Roser-Jones, Jo Ferrell**, and several assistants will organize the event that will be lots of fun for all ages.
- **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.
- **RECITAL** - On February 26, **Daniel Spearman**, our minister of music, had his recital as part of the requirements for his Master of Music degree at Penn State. Congratulations, Daniel. We are proud of your many accomplishments both here at Albright-Bethune and Penn State.
- **EARTHQUAKES** - Over 50,000 were killed by the earthquakes that struck Turkey and Syria last month. And the humanitarian response struggled to meet the need among the devastation and winter weather. Fortunately, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and its longstanding humanitarian partner, International Blue Crescent (IBC), has multiple offices and project sites in Turkey. In IBC offices, people filled the halls as they sought shelter, warmth, and a hot meal. With the devastating damage to roads, transport, and infrastructure, IBC has received hundreds of families in its Kilis Community Center for shelter, warm items, and hot meals. Kilis is serving as a major hub for coordination and relief efforts, including for cross-border response into Syria. Please support relief and recovery efforts for this disaster by donating to [Advance # 982450 here](#) (From article by Susan Clark, UM News).

- **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.
- **SOUPER BOWL DAY OF CARING** - On February 12, our church participated in the Souper Bowl Day of Caring to help others in need. Thanks to your generosity, our church donated 27 pounds of soup to the State College Food Bank. Several of our worshippers brought cans of soup that were donated. Also, thanks to several of our worshippers, we had a delicious variety of soups in our fellowship hall after our worship service on Super Bowl Sunday.
- **ASH WEDNESDAY** - On February 22, Albright-Bethune and Emmanuel Lutheran Church held a joint Ash Wednesday service. Pastor Paul McReynolds and Pastor Logan Wilmoth of Emmanuel led the service. Jennifer Saunders served as the liturgist and Jason Adams provided the music for the service.
- **WOMEN'S DINNER** - On February 10, a Women's Fellowship Dinner was held in our fellowship hall from 6-8:30 p.m. This was a fun gathering where the women of the community were able to fellowship, connect, and enjoy a meal. Those who attended enjoyed an assortment of Mexican dishes. Special thanks to **Ariel McReynolds** for organizing and leading the dinner. Other fellowship opportunities for our women are being planned.
- **AWARD** - Congratulations to **Dr. Chris Roser-Jones** who was recently named the recipient of the Jane M. Strickler, MD, Award, at Mount Nittany Health. Known for his exceptional commitment to his patients, colleagues, and staff, Dr. Jones earned this prestigious award by honoring the standards of innovation, excellence, and service set by Dr. Strickler. The award was established in 2001 to honor providers who improve the quality of healthcare and level of health of residents of central Pennsylvania. Chris is a cardiologist at Mount Nittany Health and one of our lifelong worshippers. We are indeed proud of your many accomplishments.
- **SHARES OF MINISTRY** - Each congregation that is part of the United Methodist Church must pay an annual assessment that is called a shares of ministry. This assessment is used to support all churches that are affiliated with our UMC denomination. The assessment is largely based on the size of the congregation. Thanks to your generous support, in 2022 our congregation paid 100% of its assessment which was \$20,511. Our assessment included \$8,735 for Property and Casualty Insurance and Shares of Ministry for Benevolence (\$2,879), Connectional Ministries (\$4,284), and Clergy Support (\$4,613). See Cathy Bowen, our church's treasurer, if you have any questions about our shares of ministry.
- **DISAFFILIATING CHURCHES** – A new report indicates that churches which are disaffiliating from The UMC are overwhelmingly in the South and Southwest and compared to remaining United Methodist churches are more likely to have a male pastor and a majority white membership. Those are among the findings of a new [Lewis Center for Church Leadership report](#) that looks at characteristics of departing and staying churches, based on 2019 statistics. Longstanding divisions in the UMC over LGBTQ inclusion led the [2019 General Conference](#) to approve a temporary measure for local churches in the U.S. to gain release from the denomination's [trust clause](#) and leave with their property. Departing churches must meet certain financial requirements and have at least a two-thirds vote of members in favor of disaffiliation, as well as a majority approval vote from its annual conference (From UM News Article by Sam Hodges).

- **ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE COOKS** - Our congregation is expanding its Men Who Cook concept by creating a virtual **Albright-Bethune Cooks**. The concept is patterned after what Dylan Dreyer uses on the **Today Show** to teach her son (Cal) how to cook. Pastor Paul will do the filming, editing, and posting -- and teach others how to do it. We are planning for our episodes to be 5-10 minutes. Jo Ferrell created our first episode about her famous sticky buns and it's posted on Facebook. You can view it at:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=597816918698281&external_log_id=a4708ae5-2174-4d78-bfd9-d97dd7fc4697&q=albright-bethune%20united%20methodist%20church.

Our second episode features Blannie Bowen baking his southern pecan pies. If you wish to share one of your dishes, please contact Pastor Paul to discuss your idea.

- **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 2023 scholarship offered through the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Students must apply online between **December 15–March 30** 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 taken on United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday.

- **FINANCE CORNER** - Our February offerings and collections totaled **\$14,381**. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.

Also, free tax return preparation is again being offered this year. The Penn State VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) will again be offering free tax preparation and e-filing for income eligible individuals/households. If your income is \$58,000 or less, and you do not have any special circumstances, the volunteers will complete and e-file your tax return at no cost. To schedule an appointment, please visit www.PSUVITA.org. The site is located at 325 Boucke Building (across from the HUB) on the PSU campus. Hours of operation are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Submitted by Cathy Bowen

- **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	
March 5-11	Penn State Spring Break
March 12	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 14	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
March 19	UMCOR Sunday (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday)
April 7	Good Friday
April 8	Easter Egg Hunt, Bowen Home
April 9	Easter Sunday
April 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
April 28	Penn State Classes End
May 5-7	Penn State Commencement Exercises
May 9	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.