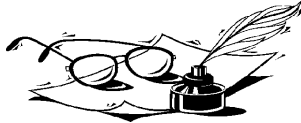




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 27, Number 5, May 2020

From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In this time of social distancing, what are the challenges that we are facing in our communities and in our personal lives? Who really would have thought that this would be happening especially in a nation such as the United States? Have we learned something new in this time of uncertainties? Who would have envisioned the entire globe going on quarantine? What is next for humanity and for the regular routines and lifestyles that we are so used to and comfortable with?

All of these questions have come to all of us as a global village in the midst of the global pandemic. We all are in this together!

Some of the very important things that we love doing might be activities such as going shopping, going to our jobs that sustain us, interacting with our colleagues at work, performing our rituals, and maybe just hanging out with family and friends.

In the midst of all of what is going on, we have been restricted and slowed down. One thing that I highly believe in is that there is always a reason why things happen the way they happen. Good always comes out of bad. I will pause on that thought and allow you as a reader to read between the lines and reflect on your individual situations.

During this quarantine, lots of things are happening. Personally, I can attest to some changes that I'm sure are happening in our world today. We have found some time to slow down, rivers are cleaning up, vegetation is growing, the air we breathe is becoming cleaner because of less pollution, theft and murder rates have dropped, healing is happening, families are spending more time together and most important, more people are turning to Christ through virtual worship. We never know but there is the possibility that most of the viewers of the virtual worship services may find themselves at the doors of our churches when things get back to normal.

Things are NEVER going to be the same anymore!

The gospel writer reminds us about the promise of Jesus Christ and the responsibility that we have as disciple-makers. John reiterates Jesus' message that, "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." John 14:12.

While the pandemic has upended our routines, activities such as injustice, hunger, abuse and loneliness are still going on and many people feel abandoned and not cared for. As children of God on the journey, where do we see ourselves as hearers of these words of Jesus Christ in John's

gospel? What are our actions in bringing change in someone's situation during these trying times? Are we doing enough even in our virtual connections to touch lives? We are and always need to be the instruments of change for the Lord. We are created in the image of God and are blessed.

We may not see ourselves as transformational champions, but we never know what untapped potentials we have. Never say never! Take a step forward. Put your hands on the wheels and influence change in your community. Do we see ourselves as believers in Christ and can we do the works that Christ has been doing? Christ tells us that we can do better things because he is going to the Father.

We see that lots of people are putting their lives on the line. People such as doctors, nurses, ER responders, the police, firefighters, the grocery store workers and the list goes on, are all out there to offer their services to us. Do you pray for these people enough? Do you cheer them enough?

Even in these tough times, Jesus will never abandon us. We have to always believe in him. We need to adhere to his teachings. We must follow him so he can make us fishers of humans.

I implore you to stay focused and jump on board and be an instrument of change in any capacity that you find yourself. There is an African adage that says that, "It takes a village to raise a child!" Be a member of that village to raise children for Christ.

Be committed! Hold Fast! Think wisely! Stay in Love with Christ!

- **W**ORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE - Worship at Albright-Bethune is still being held on Sunday mornings at 11. You can join the service from our Facebook site at: https://www.facebook.com/pg/albrightbethuneumc/videos/?ref=page_internal. From the video link on this page, you can join the live streaming and also watch videos from prior services.

- **B**IRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: May 4 - **Donald Ferrell's** Birthday; May 4 – **Alan Payne's** Birthday; May 5 - **Douglas Bowen's** Birthday; May 6 – **Naomi Nembhard's** Birthday; May 13 - **Sara Roser-Jones' Birthday**; May 20 – **Alan & Margie Payne's** Wedding Anniversary; May 28 – **Pastor Paul & Kadie Amara's** Wedding Anniversary; and May 28 - **Alexandra Dyreson's** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates (call 237-5131 or email blanniebowen@gmail.com).

- **C**OVID-19 & EMERGENCY PLANS - COVID-19 or the coronavirus changed our daily routines and probably caused many to pay more attention to personal finances and other emergency preparations for the home beyond buying toilet paper and hand sanitizer. There is nothing like a catastrophic event that jolts many of us to take actions we keep putting off for one reason or another. If you have not started your household emergency plan, it is time to act. Consider the questions below to get started. FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.fema.gov) has more details. **Assume that you cannot leave your home at all and that no deliveries will be made!**

1. Do you have enough food to survive for three days (minimum) to two weeks (ideal) without going to the grocery store?
2. What first aid supplies do you have on hand to handle mishaps (burns, cuts, pain, etc.)?
3. If your electrical power was off for three days, how would you manage? Do you have a way to cook or heat food or will you have to survive on peanut butter sandwiches?
4. Do you have enough potable water to survive for three days (minimum) to two weeks (ideal) if the water supply was shut off or worse contaminated?

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We cannot predict every emergency. However, any emergency can be weathered a little easier if some prior planning for the unexpected has taken place. - **Submitted by Cathy Bowen**

- **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.
- **HOMECOMING 2020** – Our June 13-14 Homecoming has been cancelled. Travel restrictions, social distancing, and safety concerns are too numerous to ask former members and worshippers to return to State College. Our goal is to have a homecoming again in 2021.
- **NEW DEAN - Harriet Nembhard**, a former worshipper, was recently named the dean of the University of Iowa's College of Engineering effective June 29. Since 2016, Harriet has been the head of the School of Mechanical, Industrial, and Manufacturing Engineering at Oregon State University. David Nembhard (Harriet's husband) is also a professor of engineering at Oregon State. For many years until the family left for Oregon in 2016, Harriet, David, and their daughters (Olivia, Naomi, and Charlotte) were very active in our congregation. If you want to congratulate Harriet, her email address is harriet.nembhard@oregonstate.edu.
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE** – Our 2020 Annual Conference will now be held on October 3 in Williamsport. Bishop Jeremiah Park said they delayed this decision because of a contract with the Hershey Lodge that had penalties for a premature cancellation. But when the State extended its prohibition of large gatherings, the Lodge and the Conference agreed that our May dates would not work. See Pastor Amara or Jackie Peagler if you have any questions.
- **STAFF ASSISTANT VACANCY** - Kat Boynton, our church's staff assistant, provides excellent service to our church but she must leave the part-time position. For information about the position or to apply, please contact Jackie Peagler, the chair of our Administrative Council. You can reach Jackie by email at jypeagler@gmail.com or by phone at [814-237-8225](tel:814-237-8225).
- **GENERAL CONFERENCE** - General Conference organizers have postponed the UMC's top legislative assembly to 2021. New dates and a location will be announced. The Minneapolis Convention Center was scheduled to host the 2020 General Conference on May 5-15. General Conference organizers and the bishops acknowledge this legislative assembly comes at a particularly sensitive time for the church. United Methodists have submitted [multiple proposals](#) to resolve the denomination's longtime debate over homosexuality by splitting the denomination (From UM News Service).
- **MOTHER'S DAY** – Greece gave birth to Mother's Day, but the mother of Mother's Day in the US was Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis, the wife of a West Virginia Methodist pastor. Her daughter, Anna, led a campaign to have Mother's Day become a national holiday. Anna heard her mother express hope that a memorial would be established for mothers, living and dead. After her father's death in 1902, Anna, her mother, and sister moved to Philadelphia. After Ann's death in 1905, Anna began a drive to fulfill her mother's wish. On May 10, 1908, a program was held at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton and in Philadelphia, launching a memorial day for mothers. The church later observed Mother's Day on the 2nd Sunday each year making Andrews the mother church of Mother's Day. The church, no longer an active Methodist congregation, was incorporated as an international shrine in 1962. This year Mother's Day will be celebrated on May 10 (From UM News Service).
- **ASCENSION DAY** - Did you know that, as promised, Jesus appeared to His disciples 40 days after his crucifixion? Christians traditionally celebrate His ascension into heaven on the 40th day of Easter (May 21 in 2020). This event is followed by the Day of Pentecost to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in whose power this happens.

- **P**ENTECOST – Pentecost is derived from the Greek word “pentekost” meaning 50th. It is commemorative of the descent of the Holy Ghost on the apostles. It is held 50 days after Easter and 10 days after Christ's ascension. In 2020, Pentecost will be celebrated on May 31. The Jews also celebrated 50 days after Passover in a feast called Pentecost.
- **F**ATHER’S DAY – We will celebrate Father’s Day on June 21. 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).
- **F**INANCE CORNER - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our April collections totaled **\$5,056**. 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

May 5	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
May 9	Penn State Commencement (Virtual – Livestreamed)
May 10	Mother’s Day
May 21	Ascension Day
May 31	Day of Pentecost
June 2	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
June 7	Peace With Justice Sunday
June 21	Father’s Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 7	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets
August 4	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets
August 15	Penn State Summer Commencement
August 24	Penn State Classes Begin
September 1	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
September 7	Labor Day
October 4	World Communion Sunday
October 6	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 18	Laity Sunday