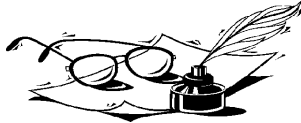




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 28, Number 5, May 2021

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)

I pray all is well with each of you. We are entering a time of flowers blooming, hugging our mothers, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. We are entering a time of new beginnings and new growth. This has been a moment of reflection around the loss that we have watched and witnessed over the past year due to CoronaVirus. Now we are seeing vaccine distribution and declines in infection numbers and we are moving towards a new normal.

We are approaching Mother's Day, a time in which we celebrate and love on our Mother's. The ones who loved us and hugged us when we scraped our knees. This is going to be a first for many this year as there will be some Moms missing. Know that in the midst of our losses the Lord is not just our comfort, but our courage and hope. We are also in the season of Pentecost. This is a time of waiting and anticipation of what is to come. The Holy Spirit is coming to bring a fresh wind of power and discernment and activation of the beloved community. I am excited for us to comeback together soon in-person worship. Blessings upon each and everyone of you. - **Pastor Paul Ryan McReynolds**

• **CAPSTONE PRESENTATION** - Congratulations to **Matthew McQuilla**, one of our worshippers who made his presentation on April 23 during the School of International Affairs Capstone Research Symposium. The title of his presentation was **Algorithmic Law: The Making of a Ratings System**. He will graduate with his Master of International Affairs degree on May 7.

• **BIRTHDAYS & 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 28 - **Pastor Paul & Kadie Amara's** Wedding Anniversary; and May 28 - **Alexandra Dyreson'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.

- **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT** – **Zan Dyreson** has proposed and our church's Administrative Council has approved a project to qualify her for the rank of Eagle Scout. Zan will create a heritage garden outside of our church on the corner of Beaver and Burrowes. She also plans to renovate and incorporate the church sign into the garden. Please consider making a donation to help cover her costs. You can give by clicking the **Online Giving** button on the Albright-Bethune homepage or make a check payable to Albright-Bethune UMC, note that it's for Zan's project, and mail it to P.O. Box 153, State College, PA 16801.
- **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.
- **PRESENTATION** - On April 19, Mark Dyreson made a presentation for Juniata College faculty, staff, and students entitled – ***Pioneering “Black Mercuries” : The First African American Olympians and Their Progenies, 1896-1936***. Mark's presentation focused on some of the pioneers of the Olympics as well as the cultural, racial, and political conditions of the times. See Mark if you have questions about these topics and his presentation.
- **SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE** - On March 30, District Superintendent Brenda Leigey held a special church charge conference to discuss the future of our church including in person worship and developing a stronger online presence. Rev. Gary Shockley, the Director of Equipping Vital Congregations for our UMC Susquehanna Conference, was also on the Zoom conference. Several of our leaders, members, and worshippers participated. The specifics about plans for moving forward will be released when they are finalized.
- **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. Mother's Day will be celebrated in 2021 on May 9 (From UM News Service).
- **HOMELESS MINISTRY IN KENYA** - United Methodists in Kenya are helping homeless women and children overcome the challenges exacerbated by COVID-19. The initial goal of the Homeless Compassion Ministry, a program of the Nairobi District, was to identify a few children who were homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless due to the worsening living conditions of parents and guardians residing in slums. The Rev. Patrick Wandera, senior pastor at Kayole St. John United Methodist Church, said the ministry assists neglected, needy, orphaned, vulnerable, deprived, and destitute children and youth ages 3 to 15. Most are from the Kayole-Soweto slums in Nairobi. Wandera is grateful for the Rev. Ronald McCant, a retired United Methodist elder from Florida, who currently provides monthly food and education support for seven homeless children. Due to the pandemic, however, the number of homeless children served has increased to 30, threatening the program's sustainability (From UM News by Gad Maiga).

- **M**ENTAL HEALTH MONTH - May is Mental Health Month. If you are looking for information to review or share with a friend, family members, the congregation, and others, please go to this [website](#) which has various types of resources. Also, May 16 is Mental Health Awareness Sunday. Please consider making an offering to support mental health events in our Conference. The special offering number 4050. Let's work together to create caring communities whose doors are open to everyone (From the Susquehanna UMC Conference *QuikLink*, April 30, 2021).
- **G**REENHOUSE 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).
- **V**ACCINATIONS & IN-PERSON WORSHIP - 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 a vaccine, please do so when you become eligible, and one is available. Our church is tracking how many have been vaccinated or plan to get a vaccine to decide when to resume in-person activities. If you have already been fully vaccinated or are scheduled to get a vaccine, please send Blannie Bowen an email (blanniebowen@gmail.com) or a text/call (814-777-6550).
- **A**NNUAL CONFERENCE - Bishop Jeremiah Park announced recently that the Susquehanna Conference 2021 Annual Conference has been rescheduled for June 18-19 and will be held virtually. Bishop 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.
- **A**SCENSION 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 13 in 2021). This event is followed by the Day of Pentecost to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in whose power this happens.
- **F**ATHER'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 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).

- **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 2021, Pentecost will be celebrated on May 23. The Jews also celebrated 50 days after Passover in a feast called Pentecost.
- **F**INANCE CORNER - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our April collections totaled \$5,101. This total includes the \$353 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.

AmazonSmile

Albright-Bethune is 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 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 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.

- **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	
May 1-31	Mental Health Month
May 4	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
May 6	National Day of Prayer
May 7-9	Penn State Commencement Exercises
May 9	Mother’s Day
May 13	Day of Ascension
May 16	Mental Health Awareness Sunday
May 23	Day of Pentecost
May 30	Peace With Justice Sunday
May 31	Memorial Day
June 1	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
June 20	Father’s Day
July 4	Independence Day (Observed on July 5)
July 6	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.