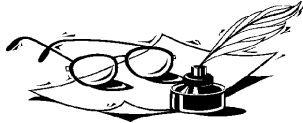




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



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).

Hello Family. I pray all is well with you and your family. We are in an amazing time of the year where we celebrate graduates and offer thanks to our Mommas. This is a season of celebration and I am excited to share that with you this year. From our very own Daniel Spearman, our minister of music, who will be graduating on May 7th! Congratulations to Ashley Bold in completing her matriculation through Penn State. We are excited for all that God is doing in their lives and what God will do in the future.

On Saturday, May 6, at 5:30 p.m. we will be celebrating our graduates. Please come out and let's show our students and their families love and joy during this amazing time. We hope to see you there! Also, on May 14 we celebrate our mothers who loved us and cared for us. I'm hoping to see you there on Sunday for an amazing worship experience. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

- **F**INALS STUDY SPACE JAM – Our congregation will provide study space for Penn State students on Monday-Friday during exam week (May 1-5 from 12 noon to 12 a.m.). Each day we will provide Wi-Fi, snacks, drinks, and a dinner from 7-8 p.m. Volunteers are needed to staff the study space. Contact **Virginia Content** at vgc5042@psu.edu if you want to volunteer, have questions, or want more information.

- **D**INNER FOR GRADUATES - On Saturday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m., our church will have a dinner to celebrate members of the class of 2023 who are graduating. The dinner will be held in our church's social hall downstairs. Please plan to attend to congratulate our graduates for their many excellent accomplishments. Contact Carla Roser-Jones at (814) 880-9302 or by email at Carla.roserjones@gmail.com.

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 30, Number 5; May 2023

- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate a special day this month: May 4 - **Donald Ferrell's** Birthday; May 5 - **Douglas Bowen'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 day.
- **AWARD** – Our Albright-Bethune church is one of two recipients selected to receive 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 will be invited to the Awards Luncheon that will celebrate all award winners during the Susquehanna Annual Conference to be held May 18-20 in Williamsport.
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE** - Our Susquehanna UMC Annual Conference will be held May 18-20 in Williamsport. The business of our Conference will be conducted and many speakers will offer messages. Clergy, lay leaders, and lay members will attend. Please contact **Pastor McReynolds** or **Jackie Peagler** if you have questions about Annual Conference which will be streamed if you want to watch. You can learn more about the Conference at <https://www.susumc.org/annual-conference/>.
- **MENTAL 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, go to this [website](#) which has various types of resources. Also, May 15-21 is Mental Health Awareness Week. 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).
- **BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL** - The 56th General Meeting of the 'Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) was held April 12-15 in Pittsburgh. The theme for the meeting was *Self-Realization: Knowing Our Purpose to Fuel Our Passion to Work Our Plan*. Pastor Paul McReynolds participated in the meeting and our former Pastor (Rev. Paul Amara) also participated. See Pastor McReynolds if you have any questions about this meeting. Black Methodists for Church Renewal is the organized black caucus of the UMC. It is one of the UMC's five US-based ethnic caucuses. BMCR represents and is dedicated to more than 2,400 Black United Methodist congregations and approximately 500,000 African American members across the denomination.
- **EASTER EGG HUNT** – On April 8, our church again held its Easter egg hunt at the Bowen home. The weather cooperated and almost 60 children, teens, and adults participated. Special thanks to **Carla Roser-Jones** who provided most of the leadership in organizing and conducting this event. Also, thanks to **Jo** and **Don Ferrell** who filled the eggs that Carla provided. Thanks to **Courtlyn Roser-Jones** who supplied our scavenger hunt, the blow up peep, and the trail markers. She also organized the process that was used for the children to search for the eggs and the scavenger hunt. Thanks to **Cathy Bowen** who created the handouts, promotional activities , egg hiding, and set up/take down.
- **ADVISORY BOARDS** - Congratulations to **Blannie Bowen** who has been invited by the dean to serve on the Advisory Board for the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at NC A&T, his alma mater. Blannie will serve a 3-year term. Last month, he completed his term on the Chancellor's Board of Visitors at NC A&T.

- **WOMEN'S MINISTRY MEETING & DINNER** – On March 24 and March 31, our congregation held Women's Ministry meetings from 6-8:30 p.m. This 2-part series was led by Pastor Dr. Jessica Davis and Pastor Donna Snyder. Thanks to everyone who gathered in the church social hall to participate in these opportunities for food, fun, fellowship, and a chance to grow! Special thanks to **Ariel McReynolds** for organizing and leading these fellowship opportunities.
- **SPRING GRADUATES** - If you are graduating from high school or college in May or June, 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.
- **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 2023 on May 14 (From UM News Service).
- **CLIMATE CHANGE** - Addressing climate change is a priority in Zimbabwe, and The UMC is among those looking for solutions. Tendai Rebecca Gurupira, who coordinates the United Methodist ministry with women, children and youth, recently accepted a \$3,000 grant from the ecumenical All Africa Conference of Churches to fund a joint tree-planting program alongside the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. Gurupira said that they bought 850 fruit tree saplings, 425 trees for each (denomination) to kickstart a tree-planting program. The beneficiaries of the program were children ages 4 to 16 years who were drawn from preschool and primary and high school classes. In addition, each teacher and congregant received a tree to plant at home. The Rev. Happiness Chipere, a United Methodist tree producer, supplied the saplings (Extracted from UM News Article by B Kudzai Chingwe).
- **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 18 in 2023). This event is followed by the Day of Pentecost (May 28) to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in whose power this happens.
- **SURVEY OF BLACK CLERGY** - More than 650 Black clergy and laity from every jurisdiction in The UMC listed their top three concerns facing the future of the denomination: discrimination and racism, inequities in appointments and salaries, and lack of young adults in church leadership. They responded to a recent survey by the Gammon Research Institute, part of Gammon Theological Seminary, the UMC's only historically Black theological institution approved by the University Senate. The purpose of this new Gammon initiative, explained the Rev. Candace M. Lewis, is to amplify the voices of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) clergy leaders, sharing concerns, needs, opportunities, and stories of hope and resilience. For two years, Lewis has served as the first woman elected as president-dean of Gammon Theological Seminary. The institute strives to resource the past, present and future Black community by creating access to information and resources for equitable rectification (Extracted from UM News Article by Barbara Dunlap-Berg).

- **ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE COOKS** - Our congregation is creating a virtual **Albright-Bethune Cooks**. We are asking our members and worshippers to share their favorite dishes via video. Pastor Paul will do the filming, editing, and posting. We are planning for our episodes to be 5-10 minutes. **Jo Ferrell** created our first episode about her famous sticky buns. Our second episode features **Blannie Bowen** baking his southern pecan pies. **Carla Roser-Jones** is featured in the third episode demonstrating how to cook Nanna Jones' pork chops. You can view these three videos at <https://www.youtube.com/@w.e.albright-bethunestatecolle>. If you wish to share one of your dishes, please contact Pastor Paul or Blannie to discuss your idea.
- **WESLEY'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.
- **PENTECOST** – 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 2023, Pentecost will be celebrated on May 28. The Jews also celebrated 50 days after Passover in a feast called Pentecost.
- **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

May 1-5	Finals Study Days Jam (12 p.m.-12 a.m.)
May 4	National Day of Prayer
May 5-7	Penn State Commencement Exercises
May 6	Dinner to Celebrate Graduates, Church Social Hall, 5:30 p.m.
May 9	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
May 14	Mother's Day
May 18	Ascension Day
May 18-20	Susquehanna UMC Annual Conference, Williamsport
May 28	Day of Pentecost
June 13	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
June 18	Father's Day
June 19	Juneteenth Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.