



/Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

At the dawn of the New Year, it is always a good thing to give thanks to the Almighty God, for his divine guidance and watch over us during the past year. This is, with due regards to the many pleasant, or unpleasant things that we may have encountered or experienced along the way.

The fact that we are alive and keep going suggests that there is hope. This is no mere hope. This hope is a firm assurance, based on promises that God himself has decreed for all who will put their trust in him.

The message God gave me at the dawn of this year for the church comes from the Book of Isaiah (chap 1: vv 18 & 19). "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: -- If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." We serve a God of reason who is timeless. A God who transcends time and generations, and is therefore not restricted by time, limited to space, or any generation. A God who sent his Only Son for all. "He is before all things, and by him all things consist." (Colossians 1:17) "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8).

Ministry is about service. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, O what a glory he will send on our way. When we do his good will, he will abide with us still. Let us trust and obey because there's no other better way than the Lord's way.

As we enter this New Year of 2020, for many of us, a New Year would signal a change to many a situation or circumstance that we grapple with. The fact is the plain truth that we have been at this juncture before, and from previous experiences, we would readily agree that a New Year does not hold the answer to any of our problems, and consequently we would conclude, that Jesus is the only answer to our problems, and the problems of the world.

There is one fact that we need to hold onto as we journey through this New Year. That fact is that God works only by his Word and through his Holy Spirit in order to accomplish what he wills. God works to bring about a desired change in my life and in your life. God wants us to come together and reason together in our transformation process.

To reason here in scripture would indicate an authoritative command or guiding principle to look at facts presented (as in the word of God) and be led by the Holy Spirit (the spoken or revealed word) in order to arrive at a decision in the light of this firm and factual evidence that demands a verdict.

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev., Dr. Paul C. Amara, Pastor

Email: pamara@susumc.org; Cell Phone: (585) 797-4466

Church Phone: 237-4404; Email: albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com

Church Website: www.albrightbethuneumc.org

Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 27, Number 1, January 2020

"But the comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you". (John 14:26)

The storms this year may be a crisis in the family, a fractured relationship, the loss of a job, a lack of financial security, ill health, the loss of a love one and the list continues ---- I quote the words of Paul the apostle, "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus". (Philippians 4:19) Peter the apostle also gives us a timely reminder when he says: "Cast all your care upon him, for he careth for you". (1 Peter 5:7)

May God grant you the riches of his fullness this Year and beyond. May the Year 2020 be full of blessings. May you discover and enjoy God's peace even in the midst of the storms. The storms will come and pass, God did not promise to stop the storms. What God promised is that he will never leave us or forsake us.

The Amara family sends our heartfelt wishes for the year as we all do ministry together. Happy New Year from our family to yours! **Pastor Paul**

- **MLK BANQUET** - The 45th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., banquet will be held on January 15 at the Bryce Jordan Center beginning at 6 p.m. Our church will again purchase two tables. Please see **Michelle Torregano** if you want to purchase one or both of the last two tickets that she still has available. The banquet is conducted by the Forum on Black Affairs (FOBA) faculty and staff organization.
- **GRADUATE** - Congratulations to **India Warren** who graduated from Penn State on December 21 with her BA degree in journalism. India sends her thanks to all for your gifts, words of encouragement, and other acts of support during this special time in her life.
- **RACIAL JUSTICE ALLIES** – On January 22 at 7 pm, the Racial Justice Allies group will meet at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church which is located at 208 West Foster Avenue. The group will discuss the recently released movie entitled **Just Mercy** which is the story of Bryan Stevenson and the work of the Equal Justice Initiative, founded by Stevenson. The movie is already playing in several cities and should be released nationally on January 10. It should be available at the UEC 12 theatres near the Nittany Mall. Please watch the movie and then plan to attend the discussion on January 22. If you have not done so, you should also read the book by the same name.
- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: January 1 - **Ireen Jones'** Birthday; January 8 – **Lela vonLockette's** Birthday; January 9 – **Azalea & Albert Stevenson's** Wedding Anniversary; January 9 – **Makuka Mulenga's** Birthday; January 12 – **Lake Avalon Black's** Birthday; January 23 – **Walter Jones'** Birthday; January 26 – **Allej'eandria Holliday's** Birthday; January 29 - **Ocean Williams'** Birthday; and January 30 - **Mark Dyreson's** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates so we can honor you (call 237-5131 or email blanniebowen@gmail.com).
- **CHRISTMAS EVE** - Our Albright-Bethune Christmas Eve service was held on December 24 at 6 p.m. Everyone who attended was treated to excellent hymns and readings during a traditional service about the birth of Jesus Christ. Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the service.
- **CONDOLENCES** – Last month the Bowen family experienced the death of Blannie's last uncle. Please offer condolences to the Bowen family on their loss.

• **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY** – The UMC will celebrate Human Relations Day on January 19 and how will you help celebrate this important day? Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang;
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas; and
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work.

Over and over Jesus served and embraced people like these. And that’s what we want to model as the people of the UMC. To continue the ministry of Jesus, the UMC established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday and asks churches to help all of God’s children realize their potential. Please make a special offering on this day (From UMC Giving.Org).

• **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** - If you watch football’s Super Bowl on February 2, think about sharing your snacks. In 1993, a single prayer led a senior high youth group in Columbia, SC, to create a simple, yet powerful idea to fight hunger and poverty in their city. The Souper Bowl of Caring calls youth to action. And individuals, civic organizations, and schools are making a difference through this movement. Various religious groups, including the UMC, promote the concept of souper bowls to share food with the hungry. On this day, give to the Food Bank, share with individuals who are less fortunate, or make a special gift.

• **PEANUT BUTTER EXPRESS** – During November, our congregation along with Penn State students and the Emmanuel Lutheran Church collected jars of peanut butter for the Annual Terrell Jones Memorial Peanut Butter Drive. This year we collected 102 pounds of peanut butter for the Food Bank. Thanks to everyone who donated peanut butter and helped to make the drive a success.

• **SERVICE WITH MENNONITE CHURCH** – On February 16, our church will again worship with and share a meal with the University Mennonite Church during our 20th annual joint service. This year the service will be held at the Mennonite Church on Norma Street near the Ramada Inn. Pastor Paul Amara will preach. This annual service was started in 2000 and is held during Black History Month to promote cross-cultural understanding of two religious traditions. Please plan to attend this worship service and lunch that will feature excellent foods.

• **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** - Thanks to **Pastor Paul, Carla Roser-Jones, Cheraine Stanford**, and **Michelle Torregano** for decorating the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. Their efforts enabled us to have a beautiful sanctuary during the holiday season.

• **STUDY DAYS** – Last month our congregation provided study space and snacks for Penn State students during three nights of exam week. This activity was successful because of the efforts of many individuals including **Jason Adams, Kadie Amara, Pastor Paul Amara, Blannie Bowen, Kenyan Cattel, JoDee Dyreson, Mark Dyreson Andrew Jackson, Ireen Jones, AnneMarie Mingo, Jackie Peagler, Carla Roser-Jones, Wally Richardson, Cheraine Stanford, India Warren, and Lisa Warren**. Special thanks are extended to Lisa for the time, resources, and creative energy that she devoted in planning and conducting the activity.

• **MEN WHO COOK** – This spring, we will again have a special day for the men and boys of Albright-Bethune. After our Men’s Day worship service, we will have an annual luncheon entitled *Men Who Cook*. **Blannie Bowen, Mark Dyreson, and Wally Richardson** are again co-chairing the planning committee. Please contact them if you will prepare a dish. More details will be provided after the date is selected.

- **FOOD BANK DONATIONS** - For the month of January, we are asking individuals to donate jelly, ketchup, and mayonnaise to the State College Food Bank. Please place your donations in our Peanut Butter Express Wagon. Your generosity and support are much appreciated.
- **LITURGIST & TEACHERS NEEDED** - Please consider playing a more active role in our congregation. Volunteers are sought to be Sunday School teachers and our liturgist during worship. Contact **Carla Roser-Jones** if you are interested in these opportunities. You can reach Carla at (814) 880-9302 if you do not catch her at our worship service.
- **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 2020 scholarship offered through the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Students must apply online between January 3 - March 5 at <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships/scholarships>. Student loans are also available at low interest rates (with a credit worthy co-signer). Funds for these scholarships come from offerings taken on United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday. Please share this information with students who qualify for this support.
- **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

January 1	Welcome 2020
January 7	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
January 13	Penn State Classes Begin
January 15	MLK Birthday and Banquet at the Jordan Center
January 19	Human Relations Sunday
January 22	Racial Justice Allies Meet, St Andrew's Episcopal Church, 7 pm
February 4	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
February 16	Joint Service With University Mennonite Church, Norma Street
February 26	Ash Wednesday
March 3	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
March 7	World Day of Prayer
March 8-14	Penn State Spring Break
March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 22	UMCOR Sunday (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday)
April 7	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
April 10	Good Friday
April 12	Easter Sunday
May 1	Penn State Classes End
May 5	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
May 8-10	Penn State Commencement Exercises
June 2	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
June 7	Peace With Justice Sunday