



Corner of Beaver & Burrows

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 25, Number 3, March 2018



From the Desk of Pastor Pamela Ford

THE WAY UP IS DOWN! In a community like ours, there are many people trying to figure out what they want to be and what they want to do with their lives. As far as I know, the process never ends! Lent puts the spotlight on who we are and who God calls us to become.

Do we ever stand with Simon Peter, warming our hands around a cozy fire, forgetting that we ever knew Jesus?

Will we stand with the women who braved the shamefulness of their friend's execution in broad daylight on the main thoroughfare that people would travel on their way to market?

Are we open to selling out, sacrificing our values? What's our price?

For followers of Jesus, the way "up" in life is always "down," the way of self-emptying rather than self-seeking:

- The stronger bending toward the weaker.
- The popular friending the bullied.
- Tossing the assist to the teammate, rather than charging into the paint ourselves.
- Seeking the growth and healing of others.
- Life, Jesus-style, has everything to do with letting ourselves be inconvenienced by the needs of others!

Please join the worshiping community at Albright-Bethune as we journey together toward the cross so that we can experience the joy of Easter. Here are some opportunities:

- March 11: Rev. Dr. AnneMarie Mingo will bring the morning message.
- March 18: On Men's Day, we will welcome Gregory Drane, Director of the Marching Blue Band, who will speak about "My Journey."
- March 25: Palm Sunday worship with Pastor Ford; Peace Walk from 3-5 pm, beginning at University Baptist and Brethren.
- March 29: Maundy Thursday, Worship with Holy Communion, 6 pm
- March 30: Interfaith Good Friday Worship at Albright-Bethune, 6 pm
- April 1: Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Worship with Holy Baptism, 11 am

Lent calls us to walk the radical way of self-emptying way of Jesus Christ, who, *being found in human form, humbled himself, and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Philippians 2:8-11). Walking with you - Pastor Pam

- **BIRTH** --Congratulations to Courtney Shilling-Daughenbaugh and Stan Daughenbaugh on the February 20 birth of their son, **Isaiah Wesley Amare**. Also welcoming Isaiah are his big brother Aamen and grandfather Albert Shilling.
- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: March 7 – **Tonya & Michael Black's** Wedding Anniversary; March 7 - **Joseph C. Torregano, Jr.'s** Birthday; March 9 - **Braden Dyreson's** Birthday; March 9 – **Tara & Krystaufeux Williams'** Wedding Anniversary; March 10 – **Olivia Nembhard's** Birthday; and March 13 – **Michael Black's** Birthday. Give Blannie Bowen your special dates so we can honor you (call 237-5131 or email blanniebowen@gmail.com).
- **MEN'S DAY & MEN WHO COOK** – On March 18, we will again have a special day for the men and boys of Albright-Bethune. Our Men's Day worship service will feature Greg Drane, the Director of the Penn State Blue Band who will focus on his journey in life. Greg completed his bachelor's degree at Bethune-Cookman University (BCU), which is a UMC affiliated institution. Also, Mary McLeod Bethune, the namesake of our church, is one of the founders of BCU. After worship, we will then have an annual luncheon entitled *Men Who Cook*. Our men will share their best dishes that will please even the pickiest eaters. **Blannie Bowen, Mark Dyreson, and Wally Richardson** are chairing the planning committee. Please contact them if you will be preparing a dish.
- **EASTER EGG HUNT** - On Saturday, March 31, beginning at 11 am, our congregation will hold its annual Easter egg hunt. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate so we can have a warm and sunny day to search for eggs at the Bowen home. See Blannie or Cathy if you need directions to their home which is located at 2459 Chatham Court in the Saybrook Subdivision. All children, teens, and children at heart are welcome. **Carla Roser-Jones** and others will organize the event that will be lots of fun consistent with Easter's purpose.
- **BIBLE STUDY** - On February 25, we initiated a new approach to Bible Study. Thanks to everyone who participated. On the last Sunday of each month after our worship service and fellowship, we will have what is being called a Last Sunday Linger Bible Study. The next Bible Study will be held on March 25. Please put this date on your calendar. Michelle Torregano will lead this Bible Study.
- **STAFF ASSISTANT POSITION** – Our Albright-Bethune church has a part-time staff assistant position available immediately. For more information about the position or to apply, please contact **Jackie Peagler** by email at jypeagler@gmail.com or call her at 814-237-8225.
- **SERVANT MINISTRY** - A few adults are needed to greet people outside of our church entrances on March 18 for Men Who Cook Sunday and Easter on April 1. Guests are likely on those days, and it is not always easy to know which doors to use. Please contact Pastor Ford if you will help from 10:40 to 11:00 am on these days.

- **L**AITY SUNDAY SURVEY SUMMARY - The Administrative Council would like to express extreme gratitude to all who dedicated time to completing an informal Laity Sunday survey conducted during October 2017. Your honest and candid responses are valuable as they have enabled Albright-Bethune UMC to begin making changes that will enrich the value of our worship experiences.

The survey was voluntary and administered in both an electronic and paper formats. Thirty-two surveys were completed. Fifty-three percent (53%) of respondents attend services every week and those attending 2-3 times per month totaled 25%.

Most respondents agreed that Albright-Bethune UMC is a welcoming church, meets their spiritual needs, and the order of service was appropriate. Children's time/Young and young at heart worship, the length of worship, social/fellowship hour following the services, and the monthly newsletters were ranked as very good by a majority of respondents. The congregational hymn selection and weekly bulletin received the status of good, with comments that these aspects could benefit from improvement.

More than 90% of respondents agreed that there are enjoyable aspects of worshipping at Albright-Bethune UMC. Comments support that these include special occasion celebrations, hospitality following the services, and the warm and welcoming sense of community/camaraderie among congregants.

Ideas submitted to improve the worship service and the functioning of the church to help Albright-Bethune UMC better meet individual spiritual needs included change in pastoral leadership (previous), improvement of the music ministry, and increasing outreach to the surrounding community.

Again, your participation is appreciated! Blessings of Peace, Jacqueline Peagler, Administrative Council Chair

- **U**MC SCHOLARSHIPS & LOANS - UMC high school seniors and those enrolled in college who are active in their church and/or in the conference may apply for a Fall 2018 scholarship offered through the UM General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Students must apply online before March 7 at <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships/scholarships>. Student loans are also available at interest rates as low as 3.75% (with a credit worthy co-signer). Funds for these scholarships come from offerings taken on UMC Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday.

- **M**ISSION TRIP - Pastor Ford will be traveling on a mission trip to Guatemala from March 7-13. With 7 others, she will be staying and working at the Prince of Peace Home for Girls near Guatemala City. There are approximately 50 girls, ages 3-21, living at the Home. A few of the children are orphans; many simply have families who cannot care for them adequately. Most have been physically or sexually abused and come from drug-infested backgrounds. The team will spend time painting the exterior of one of the girls' "casas." After school hours, the team will play games, do crafts, and hang out with the girls. They will worship at the Home on Sunday.

- **F**OOD BANK - The State College Food Bank is being asked to provide more food for our community. To help meet this demand, Albright-Bethune will partner with the Emmanuel Lutheran Church to do monthly food drives. Each month our worshippers will be asked to donate specific food items. The focus for each month will be announced and listed in our weekly worship bulletin. Donations can be placed in our Peanut Butter Express Wagon.

- **G****OOD** **F****RIDAY** **S****E**RVICE - On March 30, our church will again have an Interfaith Good Friday service at 6 p.m. Albright-Bethune will host several churches from the community. Please plan to attend and bring a friend or colleague.
- **B****A****P**TISM - The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated on Easter Sunday. This is for infants and children whose parents desire Baptism for them and for adults who have not been baptized previously. Contact Pastor Ford if you desire baptism for yourself or a child.
- **I****NCOME** **T****A****X** **A****S**SISTANCE - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is available by appointment until April 12. No assistance will be provided March 3-10 during the Penn State spring break. Assistance is provided to families whose gross income is \$54,000 or less for the 2017 tax year. Sessions are held at Penn State in Room 10 Ferguson Building which is in the basement. To self-schedule an appointment, go to www.psuvita.org/. Also, you can call 814-863-4147 to schedule an appointment. If there is no answer, leave a call-back name and number. See **Cathy Bowen** if you have questions about VITA.
- **A****C****ALL** **T****O** **S****E**RVE - Do you have a hidden talent or an interest in serving God through our congregation? Would you be willing to share your gift in music or serve as our liturgist? Do you enjoy baking or organizing? Would you be willing to spend time with our youth in Sunday School, either regularly or as a substitute? Do you enjoy communicating through social media? Are you handy with tools? Are you interested in serving as a lay speaker or lay minister for the UMC? There are many exciting opportunities for anyone and everyone to serve! Please contact Rev. Ford or Blannie Bowen with your ideas and interests.
- **Y****OUR** **I****TEM**S – 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 2	World Day of Prayer
March 4-10	Penn State Spring Break
March 11	UMCOR Sunday (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday)
March 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 18	Men Who Cook & Men's Day
March 20	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
March 29	Maundy Thursday, Worship with Holy Communion, 6 pm
March 30	Interfaith Good Friday Service, 6 p.m.
March 31	Church Easter Egg Hunt at the Bowen Home, 11 a.m.
April 1	Easter Sunday
April 10	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
April 15	Native American Ministries Sunday
April 27	Penn State Classes End
May 4-6	Penn State Commencement Exercises
May 8	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
May 27	Peace With Justice Sunday