



Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



# A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 26, Number 5, May 2019

## From the Desk of Pastor Pamela Ford

Dear Friends,

I was appointed to Albright-Bethune as “Interim” pastor to serve for 18 months. We are almost at the end of this time which I have loved deeply. Between now and June 30, I’ll be sharing some of what I’ve learned via the weekly emails and in worship services and will give a report to the Administrative Council in May. I will meet with Pastor Paul Amara on May 9.

There were specific goals for the interim pastorate. Here are some of them:

- Hire a regular staff assistant in the AB office
- Update the website
- Take steps forward in music ministry
- Sort out the church membership roster
- Prepare administratively for a longer-term pastor in 2019
- Take care of normal pastoral duties, including preaching and worship

One of the “add-ons” that I discovered was the need to represent AB in the community with relevant groups and at some events, which included the Community Diversity Group, the Art Alliance, several events on the MLK, Jr. Plaza and the MLK annual banquet. A seed that has sprouted in unexpected ways was the book study led by Cheraine Stanford. This group is taking on a life of its own with the goal of challenging white congregations to “get woke” to the injustice of white privilege. In retirement, I will continue work with this group or racial justice allies. I will also be part of an effort to bring an active branch of the NAACP to State College.

Bishop Jeremiah Park and District Superintendent Lori Steffensen have used this time to seek a gifted long-term Pastor for Albright-Bethune. Dr. Paul Amara will begin ministry here on July 1. It is my prayer that his will be a long and fruitful time in your midst.

I did not quite anticipate the turn of events within the United Methodist Church in recent months. It has been a time of grief for me, as I have always been part of a church that has been open and welcoming. What we have now, as a denomination, is not that, and most expect a split in the church within a year. The story is still being written, so I encourage all of us to hold tight as future directions are worked out. I have hope that we can yet be part of a church that honors the sacredness of every human life! What can you do? Speak up! Let others know that your congregation is a welcoming congregation! We will honor the lives of all persons including those

of the LGBTQ+ community! All will be treated with dignity and respect by the Pastor and members of Albright-Bethune!

Albright-Bethune will continue to worship and serve from the corner of Beaver Avenue and S. Burrowes Street. We have no need to travel to a faraway mission field! Here we are!

Please join me in praying for our congregation, our denomination, and for Pastor Paul and Kadie Amara as they prepare to come to State College! **Walking with you - Pastor Pam**

- **GENERAL CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP** - Information on the legislation passed by the UMC General Conference in February will be provided on Sunday, May 5, from 3-5 pm via live stream. The legislation will go into effect on January 1, 2020. The result of this new church law strengthens the church's prohibition of both the ordination of LGBTQ+ persons and the marriage of these persons in the church. Severe punitive measures have been added for pastors who do not comply. Additionally, LGBTQ+ persons may not be consecrated as bishops. You may view the live stream at the Mt Nittany UMC at 1500 E. Branch Road. Also, you can view the presentation on your computer or mobile device but you must register in advance. Go to [www.susumc.org/understanding-general-conference-2019](http://www.susumc.org/understanding-general-conference-2019) to register!
- **FISH FRY** – All are invited to the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Larry Young, Terrell Jones, and Ed Thompson Scholarships Fish Fry & Fundraiser at Sunset Park on May 10 at 5 pm. This event will raise funds for the Young Scholarship, the Jones Memorial Scholarship, and the Thompson Memorial Scholarship to support outstanding underrepresented students. Contact Marcus Whitehurst at [maw163@psu.edu](mailto:maw163@psu.edu) or 865-5906 if you have questions.
- **GOSPEL CONCERT** - The annual Gospel Sing benefit concert is being held on Sunday, May 5, at 7 pm at Pine Hall Lutheran Church in State College. The event will feature the choirs of Pine Hall Lutheran Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and Gatesburg Lutheran Church; as well as the Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jammers and the Penns Valley Men's Chorus. There will be a free-will offering with a match donation up to \$1,000 to benefit Interfaith Human Services (IHS). See **Carla Roser-Jones**, our IHS representative, if you have questions. Refreshments will be provided.
- **BOOK STUDY GROUP** - The book study that **Cheraine Stanford** led has given birth to a group of persons who are committing to be Racial Justice Allies. A key focus will be to challenge white congregants of area churches to acknowledge white privilege and the injustice which resides in the systems from which white persons benefit. The group will meet on Wednesday, May 22, at 7pm at the State College Presbyterian Church. Participants are encouraged to bring relevant books to share as well as to reflect on actions taken and/or perspectives changed by recent events including the book study and appearances by Bryan Stevenson and Austin Channing Brown.
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE** - The 2019 session of the Susquehanna Annual Conference will meet May 30-June 1 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. Conference members attending from Albright-Bethune are Jacqueline Peagler and Rev. Ford. If you have questions, contact them or visit <https://www.susumc.org/annual-conference/>.
- **COOKING PROGRAM FOR KIDS** - COMING SOON! A program for kids who like to cook will be offered at Albright-Bethune during the summer. Are you interested in helping? Do you have kids (must have completed second grade) who want to learn to cook? See **Ayana Cattell** for more details on this opportunity

- **N**EW PASTOR – The Rev. Dr. Paul C. Amara will be our new pastor effective July 1. A native of Sierra Leone, Dr. Amara and his wife, Kadiatu, will move to State College from his pastorate in Plains, PA, in the Scranton-Wilkes Barre District. More details about Rev. Amara are posted on a bulletin board near the entrance to our sanctuary. To make possible the appointment of a fulltime ordained elder, Albright-Bethune will be yoked with the Park Forest UMC. The two congregations will share Dr. Amara as Pastor.
- **F**OOD BANK - The State College Food Bank is being asked to provide more food for our community. During May, we are collecting cans and jars of pizza sauce. Please add your contributions to our Peanut Butter Express wagon.
- **S**UMMER CAMPS - The Susquehanna Conference of the UMC offers a wide range of summer camps for children and youth at a variety of sites. You can review the sites and get more details at [www.susumcamps.org](http://www.susumcamps.org).
- **R**ETIREMENT - Rev. Lori Steffensen will retire as State College District Superintendent on June 30 after completing eight years of service. All are invited to attend a reception to honor Rev. Steffensen and her spouse (Ted Gabriel) at Faith UMC located at 512 Hughes Street in Bellefonte on Sunday, June 9, from 2-4 pm.
- **W**OMEN'S DAY – Thanks to everyone who helped make our Annual Women's Day program a success on April 28. **Dr. Barbara Farmer** gave an inspirational message that was enjoyed by all. Plaques were presented to Dr. Farmer for being the morning speaker and to two of our faithful servants (**Marsha Modeste** and **Cheraine Stanford**). Also, flowers were presented to **Rev. Ford**, **Cathy Bowen**, **JoDee Dyreson**, **Jo Ferrell**, and **Carla Roser-Jones** and gift cards to **Ayana Cattell** and **Zan and Katie Dyreson**. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare and serve a delicious lunch after the service. Special thanks to **Michelle Torregano**, our Worship Committee chair, for coordinating Women's Day.
- **S**TUDENT DINNER – On April 27, our church had an end of the semester soul food dinner for about 15 PSU students. Thanks to **Lisa Warren** who coordinated the dinner and to others who assisted and donated food.
- **O**NLINE GIVING - Albright-Bethune recently created an online giving option and some have already registered to use it. This option will enable our church to have a more stable and predictable income. It will also free you from check-writing. You can register to give online at [www.albrightbethuneumc.org](http://www.albrightbethuneumc.org). Click on "online giving" at the top right of the page! Set up your profile (email and password), and indicate your desired amount and frequency of giving. That's it! Thanks to **Cathy Bowen**, our church's treasurer, for working to create this option.
- **H**OMECOMING 2019 – On June 22-23, Albright-Bethune will have a weekend program for our former members and worshippers. We plan to have a picnic on Saturday at 4 pm that will be followed by worship on Sunday and then a farewell lunch. See **Blannie Bowen** if you would like to help plan and conduct this event or need more information. Also, share this information and invite individuals that you know.
- **D**ONATIONS - To make better use of donor dollars for its programs, Interfaith Human Services requests donations of these items: Forever stamps, Sheetz gas cards, Lysol or Clorox wipes, and paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, and kitchen sponges. These items should be left on the table by our church's office.

- **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 20 – **Alan & Margie Payne's** Wedding Anniversary; and May 28 - **Alexandra Dyreson's** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates so we can honor you (call 237-5131 or email [blanniebowen@gmail.com](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com)).
- **MARRIAGE** - Congratulations to Lisa Rhue Warren whose son (Taj) was married recently.
- **EASTER EGG HUNT** - Our congregation held its annual Easter egg hunt on April 20. Almost 20 children and teens had lots of fun searching for eggs and enjoying snacks. Thanks to **Carla Roser-Jones, Albert and Azalea Stevenson, Courtlyn and Sara Roser-Jones, Michelle Torregano, Lydia Stewart,** and everyone who helped organize the event.
- **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2019 on May 12 (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 40<sup>th</sup> day of Easter (May 30 in 2019). This event is followed by the Day of Pentecost to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in whose power this happens.

### Calendar

May 3-5	Penn State Commencement Exercises
May 5	Native American Ministries Sunday
May 10	Young, Jones, & Thompson Fish Fry, 5 pm, Sunset Park
May 12	Mother's Day
May 14	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 pm
May 27	Memorial Day
May 30	Day of Ascension
May 30-June 1	Susquehanna Annual UMC Conference, Hershey Lodge
June 9	Day of Pentecost
June 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 pm
June 16	Father's Day; Peace With Justice Sunday
June 22-23	Homecoming 2019 for Former Members & Worshippers
July 4	Independence Day