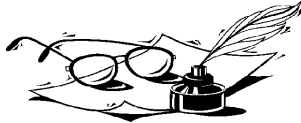




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A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 28, Number 11, November 2021

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 yours. As we enter the month of November and are now experiencing the fall, I am excited about the opportunities to do ministry in the life of the church and the community. You're invited to enhance your Advent season by participating in a small group study using Adam Hamilton's book, "*Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph.*" From beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Like Joseph, we encounter challenging circumstances in life that we could never anticipate. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand. The four-week study will be led by Pastor McReynolds beginning on November 30 (a Tuesday) and then for 3 Mondays (December 6, 13, & 20). You can download the book for free at christianbook.com. Each lesson will be on both on Zoom and in person at Albright-Bethune at 7pm. The link for the book is <https://www.christianbook.com/apps/account/ebooks> and the Username is Albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com. The Password is ABUMC1234.

Volunteers! Albright-Bethune has an opportunity to bring in extra dollars via sharing our parking lot during home football game days. This is a great opportunity for us to be building bridges of hope in our community. We are not just sharing our parking lot. We are greeting our neighbors and welcoming them to our home. We have 2 games left on Saturday, November 13, and November 20. We open up the lot from 7am-1am. We have two shifts from 7-9 a.m. and 10-12 p.m. Please contact Pastor and Jason Adams if you would like to assist. Also, I am excited to announce that Youth Sunday School will begin this upcoming Sunday. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Carla Roser-Jones for more information (carla.roserjones@gmail.com). Blessings upon each of you!! Sincerely,
[Paul McReynolds](mailto:PaulMcReynolds)

- **EAGLE SCOUT** Celebration – The national organization of Scouting, BSA (formerly Boy Scouts of America), has approved **Alexandra (Zan) Dyreson** to receive the rank of Eagle Scout. BSA Troop 328 of Boalsburg invites you to her Court of Honor that is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 14, at Albright-Bethune for the presentation of her Eagle Scout Badge. Zan's Eagle Scout Service Project was the creation of a Civil Rights Heritage Garden in the front of our church. Her project included the repainting and repair of the old, dilapidated church sign, planting foliage with a Pan-African color scheme, and engraving garden stones with symbols from the struggle for African-American civil rights. The new garden outdoor space now reflects the warm and diverse nature of the congregation and considerably brightens a busy and highly visible corner of downtown. Although subject to fall seasonal changes, the Garden will be on display at the Court of Honor for those who would like to see some of the results of her Eagle project. Zan recently graduated valedictorian with a 4.08 GPA from Juniata Valley High School and attends the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State. She was the drum major for her high school marching band and played trombone in its concert band and qualified for both the Pennsylvania Music Educators' Association District and Regional Bands and Choruses and the Tournament of Bands All-Star Marching Band and now plays for Penn State's Pep Band. As a Scout, Zan earned 30 merit badges and the Hometown USA Award, the National Outdoor Achievement Award for Camping, and the World Conservation Award.
- **PECAN PIES** - Albright-Bethune is again selling a limited number of genuine Southern pecan pies that you can enjoy with your Thanksgiving dinner or eat for a special dessert. The price is \$25, but please also consider making a contribution to our church. Contact Blannie Bowen **by November 15** if you want to order a pie or have questions. The pies will be baked by B. Evans Kitchen (aka Blannie) and will be available for pick-up or delivery starting Sunday, November 21, until Saturday, November 27. You can reach Blannie at (814) 777-6550 or at blanniebowen@gmail.com.
- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: November 2 – **Jennifer Saunders'** Birthday; November 4 – **Andrew Jackson's** Birthday; November 4 – **Keisha Johnson's** Birthday; November 11 – **Victoria Jackson's** Birthday; November 14 - **Jadon Isaiah Wilson's** Birthday; and November 16 - **Michelle Torregano'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.
- **FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER** - The United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania (Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference) and The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation (Susquehanna Annual Conference) have agreed to merge. **Cathy Bowen** has agreed to serve on the board of the newly formed foundation, effective October 1. An orientation meeting for this board was held September 29. The foundation's role will be to complement and reinforce the stewardship ministries of the UM churches, agencies, and programs primarily in Pennsylvania. See Cathy if you have questions about this board.
- **IMPACT OF PANDEMIC** - Hartford (CT) Seminary has been awarded a five-year, \$5.3 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to fund research into how congregations are changing, innovating, and establishing new ministry practices because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Hartford Institute for Religion Research will assist the Faith Communities Today project as it tracks the pandemic's effects on churches. United Methodist Communications, a member of Faith Communities Today, will be inviting United Methodist leaders and members to participate in the study (From the UM News Service - [Read press release](#)).

- **CENTRE COUNTY ENCYCLOPEDIA** - The Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture is an online resource sponsored by the Centre County Historical Society. The mission of the encyclopedia is to share reliable and current information about significant events, people, places, and things in Centre County's rich history. To do that, the group collaborates with local contributors, uses the latest technology, and adds new resources. **Mark Dyreson** and **Blannie Bowen**, two of our worshippers, recently wrote articles for the encyclopedia. One of Mark's articles featured Norwood H. "Barney" Ewell who thrilled track spectators from State College to London's Wembley Stadium where he won three medals at the 1948 Olympics. Ewell won numerous titles in the sprints and long jump while representing Penn State. Blannie wrote an article about Ralph Dorn Hetzel, who was Penn State's president from 1926 to 1947. The encyclopedia is evolving and new entries and materials will be added regularly to make it a valuable resource about Centre County. You can review the encyclopedia at [Explore Centre County's History & Culture - Centre County Historical Society \(centrehistory.org\)](http://www.centrehistory.org)
- **THANKSGIVING** – On November 25, we will celebrate Thanksgiving with COVID-19 in our midst. Please use this time to live the purpose behind the day by helping a few friends, family members, students, and some worshippers. Several of our worshippers are from other states and countries and cannot return home for Thanksgiving. So, please follow CDC guidelines and recommendations and include them in your big meal. One possibility is to deliver or have your guests pick-up the meal. Also, invite your guests to take some of the leftovers so they do not clog your freezer until Thanksgiving 2022.
- **CHURCH CONFERENCE** - The Albright-Bethune Annual Church Conference will be held this month. The district superintendent will conduct the conference with the leaders of our congregation. See Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler if you have any questions about the conference or the business affairs of the church.
- **LAITY SUNDAY** - Our congregation celebrated Laity Sunday on October 17. Several members and worshippers helped to conduct our worship service. **Braden Dyreson** was the speaker and he delivered an excellent, inspirational message. Thanks to everyone who helped conduct the service. Laity Sunday is an invitation for the whole church to remember that all of the baptized, lay, and clergy together are the people of God. Our English word "laity" comes from the Greek word "laos" meaning, "people."
- **STRESS REDUCERS** - With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approaching, now is a good time to reflect on an issue of A Christian Perspective newsletter that offered 7 ways to reduce stress and make your life more enjoyable. **(1)** Allow time everyday for privacy, quiet, and introspection. **(2)** When you face an unpleasant task, do it early in the day. **(3)** Delegate responsibility to capable individuals. **(4)** Take a lunch break to get away from your problems. **(5)** Count to 1,000 (not 10) before doing or saying something to make matters worse. **(6)** Have a forgiving view of events and people because we live in an imperfect world. **(7)** Have an optimistic outlook because most people do the best they can.
- **FALL OPTIONS** - Try the following to make your transition from summer to fall more enjoyable. Go outdoors to experience God's creation and watch the leaves begin to change colors. Have a class outside, take a hike, go on a picnic, or pick-up litter in a park or along a roadside. Try a weekend of camping at nearby sites such as Shaver's Creek or Black Moshannon. Also, volunteer to take children to recreational areas. These are excellent opportunities to teach children about the creation stories in Genesis or other Biblical texts.

- **P**ASTOR COMPENSATION DISPARITY - Compensation for women clergy in the UMC continues to trail that of their male peers, according to a new study, despite progress in many annual conferences. In the US, United Methodist women pastors made 8.2% less than their male counterparts in 2020, and there are far more male clergy than female in the denomination. Men make up 68.1% and women 31.9% of all United Methodist clergy. The second of three batches of information from the study ("[2020 Geographic Trends of Gender Disparities in Composition and Compensation for UMC Clergy](#)") was released October 27. The research was conducted by [Magaela C. Bethune](#), assistant professor of African American Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. "Despite the trend of women constituting over half of The United Methodist Church membership, women are significantly underrepresented among active, full-time United Methodist Church clergy and are paid significantly less than UMC clergymen," Bethune said in the report. (From Article by Jim Patterson, UM News)
- **A**DVENT - How much do you know about Advent which celebrates Christ's birth 2,021 years ago? Advent is derived from the Latin word *Adventus* which means coming. It begins on Sunday, November 28, and ends at sunset on Christmas Eve. Advent always includes four Sundays. The 1st Sunday marks the start of the Christian year and the final victory. The 2nd and 3rd Sundays represent John the Baptist while the 4th represents events preceding Jesus' birth. Traditional colors include purple which means royalty and is linked to penitence and Mary, Jesus' mother. Blue represents hope and white and gold represent joy and festivity. Christmas Eve is not part of Advent, but is the beginning of Christmas.
- **C**HRISTMAS GIVING – You should now start thinking about making Christ a bigger part of your Christmas celebration. The *Christian Financial Concepts* newsletter recommends that we do some soul searching. This newsletter suggests that you decide the amount you plan to spend on gifts and then contribute 10% to Christ-like causes. For example, use the 10% to support food banks, orphans, and missions that spread the gospel in other nations.
- **F**INANCE CORNER - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our October collections totaled **\$5,184.50**. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.

Calendar	
November 7	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 9	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 14	Zan Dyreson's Eagle Scout Celebration, 2 p.m. Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
November 21-27	Penn State Thanksgiving Holiday Break
November 25	Thanksgiving Day
November 28	United Methodist Student Sunday
Nov 28-Dec 24	The Season of Advent
December 10	Penn State Classes End
December 14	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
December 18	Penn State Commencement
December 25	Christmas Day – Celebrate the Birth of Jesus
January 1	Welcome 2022
January 10	Penn State Classes Begin
January 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.