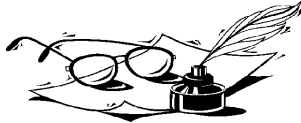




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 27, Number 10, October 2020

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)

Family, I pray all is well with each of you and your families during this time that we are experiencing. As we come upon the month of October, it seems that time flies when you're having fun. The past three months have moved rather quickly and so many things have transpired during that time. From the loss of legendary civil rights leaders to the world watching the Presidential debates. As we come upon our time for the upcoming election, as a proud member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, one of our national programs is "A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People". This program must speak out to you. If you haven't registered to vote; please do so. Here is a weblink where you can register to vote. <https://www.votespa.com/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Register-to-Vote.aspx>. Your voice and your vote matter, no matter what people may say; it matters; so please vote.

I am so excited for the month of October. We are going to start a new sermon series Called, Wesley's House: Grace (Back to Basics). We are going to explore over the next 3 Sundays about Prevenient, Justifying, and Sanctifying Grace from a Wesleyan perspective so that practical tools can be lifted and applied to our everyday lives. So please be on the lookout for this.

As it relates to the months of October and November, I want to give an update about our joint service. Because November will have 5 Sundays, this means that communion would be held at PFV during both October and November. My goal is to make sure that we are sharing and uniting our Sunday Worship Experiences. For the next two months, we will have back-to-back Sundays to ensure that communion is held every other month at each location. For October, the 1st Sunday service will be at AB and 2nd Sunday Worship will be at PFV. During November, PFV will have Worship two Sundays back to back (1st and 2nd Sundays). This approach means that communion will be experienced evenly amongst the congregations and I wanted to make sure that we are on the same page. Each of you is blessed and remember that God loves, cares, and is keeping you and yours in his safety during this season. Blessings family, **Pastor Paul Ryan McReynolds**

- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: October 2 – **Juliet Jones**' Birthday; October 18 – **Campbell Jones**' Birthday; October 18 - **JoDee Dyreson's** Birthday; October 20 – **David Nembhard's** Birthday; and October 28 - **Darrin Ferrell's** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates (call/text 814-777-6550 or email blanniebowen@gmail.com) so we can honor you.
- **AMARA INSTALLATION SERVICE** - On **Sunday, October 4**, at 4 pm, the second of four services celebrating the appointment of four new district superintendents will be offered online. Streamed from Faith UMC in Montoursville, this service celebrates the appointment of the **Rev. Dr. Paul C. Amara** as the new Williamsport District Superintendent. Due to Covid-19 protocols, only 25 persons will be allowed for the in-person service, but everyone is welcome to join the online service at <https://www.faithum.net/watch> or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/faithmontoursville>.
- **LAITY SUNDAY** - Our congregation will celebrate Laity Sunday on October 18. Members and worshippers will help conduct our virtual worship 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." Please plan to join this special service and invite a friend, relative, or colleague.
- **MEETINGS WITH PASTOR McREYNOLDS** - During his first 100 days, Rev. McReynolds wants to meet in person (via phone/Zoom) with every member, worshipper, and family. This meeting is to get to know you and gain your perspectives. Several emails have been sent about scheduling a meeting. If you have not already replied, please check your inbox . If you have deleted these emails, please send an email to our church and request to sign-up. Our church email address is albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com. Also, if you do not use email, please call our church at (814) 237-4404 and leave a message that you want to schedule a meeting. Leave your number so our church staff assistant (Jason Adams) or Pastor McReynolds can contact you. Pastor McReynolds wants to conduct all meetings **by October 8**.
- **COVID VACCINE TESTING** - Photos of two Black men graced the sanctuary of First Grace UMC in New Orleans as the Rev. Shawn Moses Anglim spoke during "a little children's moment" in recent Sunday services. The two church members pictured, Dillard University President Walter Kimbrough and pediatrician Dr. Ted Atkinson, were lifted up as role models for the children because they are participating in a COVID-19 vaccine study at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans. Mistrust of the medical community has resulted in a shortage of African Americans willing to be research subjects. This could undermine the effectiveness of any vaccine developed to fight the coronavirus. "Everybody in the world is suddenly connected," Anglim said in an interview with United Methodist News. "We all need this vaccination, and we need our medical community to develop it." Kimbrough and Atkinson inspired Anglim, who is white, to also volunteer to test the vaccine. In a joint open letter to the communities of Dillard and Xavier University of Louisiana, Kimbrough and Xavier President C. Reynold Verret appealed to students, faculty, and staff to consider participating in the study. Dillard and Xavier are historically Black universities. Dillard is one of 11 historically Black schools [supported by The Black College Fund](#) of the UMC (From UM News).
- **OFFICE HOURS** - Pastor McReynolds has office hours at Albright-Bethune on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11-2. You can also reach him by email at pmcreynolds@susumc.org or call the church office at (814) 237-4404 during office hours. At other times, you can reach Pastor McReynolds on his home phone at (814) 308-9099.

- **C**HURCH ZOOM MEETINGS – Do you miss seeing and hearing other Albright-Bethune members and worshippers? Well, our congregation holds weekly meetings on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. using Zoom. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, the meetings will continue. This is an excellent opportunity to see and hear each other, socialize, and stay aware of church activities. An email is sent each week with the process for connecting. You can also participate by audio. Please see Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler if you have questions.
- **A**NNUAL CONFERENCE – Our 2020 Susquehanna Annual Conference will be held online on October 3 . See Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler if you have questions about this year’s conference program and activities.
- **R**ELIGION & RACISM - Jesus calls his followers to love their neighbor. So why have Christians found ways to refuse their neighbors not just love but basic dignity? “We know better,” said the Rev. Mai-Anh Le Tran of UMC Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. “Why don’t we act or live differently? It strikes me as that we are still befuddled by our human fallibility.” For an hour, she and two other theologians wrestled with why racism remains prevalent in the U.S., where Christianity is the dominant faith. They spoke as part of The UMC’s fourth online panel [held to discuss eradicating racial injustice](#). The [Sept. 16 panel discussion](#) came a day after Barna released new research showing an increasing percentage of practicing Christians who say they are “unmotivated” or “not at all motivated” to address racial injustice. Barna found that percentage [grew from 17% in 2019 to 30% this year](#), even after the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor and the shooting of Jacob Blake drew international attention, and news spread that COVID-19 is disproportionately killing ethnic minorities, including children. The same survey found that nearly one in five practicing Christians say that race is “not at all” a problem in the U.S. Erin Hawkins, the panel’s moderator, pointed to research by PRRI (Public Religion Research Institute) that focused on white Christians in the U.S. “White Christians are consistently more likely than whites who are religiously unaffiliated to deny the existence of structural racism,” [wrote Robert P. Jones, PRRI’s founder, for NBC News](#). Such data did not surprise the theologians on the panel (From UM News).
- **N**OVEMBER 3 ELECTION - Senator Bob Casey says that voting is a pillar of our democracy and our civic duty as citizens. He wants to make sure you have the resources you need to vote, vote early, and vote safely. Senator Casey says that no matter who you plan to vote for, you can help PA elections run smoothly and make sure your voice is heard by making a plan now for how you're going to vote. He emphasizes that voting by mail is a safe, secure, and legal way to practice your constitutional right to vote. Any qualified voter may apply for a mail-in ballot. Tuesday, October 27, is the deadline to [request your mail-in or absentee ballot](#). Also, to ensure your ballot is counted, don't wait to send your ballot in, as ballots must be postmarked by 8 PM on Tuesday, November 3, and received by your county election office by 5 PM on Friday, November 6. He said that if you are concerned about USPS delays in delivering mail-in or absentee ballots, you can drop off your ballot at your [county election office](#). Senator Casey said to be sure to double-check all deadlines at [VOTESPA.com](#) or call 1-877-VOTESPA to ensure that you have the most up-to-date information. You must also carefully follow the directions on your mail-in ballot, or your vote [will not be counted](#). This includes marking your ballot in blue or black pen, sealing your ballot in the inner **secrecy envelope** that says "official ballot" and then placing it in the outer **return envelope**, sealing it, and **signing it**. Senator Casey requests that you contact his office at <https://www.casey.senate.gov/contact> if you have any questions about voting or the election.

- **P**ECAN 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 still only \$20, but please also consider making a contribution to our church. The pies will be baked by B. Evans Kitchen (aka Blannie) and will be available starting Sunday, November 22, until Friday, November 27. Contact Blannie Bowen if you want to order a pie or have questions. You can reach Blannie at (814) 777-6550 or at blanniebowen@gmail.com .
- **F**ALL 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. These are excellent opportunities to teach children about the creation stories in Genesis or other Biblical texts.
- **F**INANCE CORNER - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our September collections totaled **\$3,833**. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.

In April, this section covered tips for emergency plans. I am revisiting this topic as it seems a missing component of that article was emergency cash or access to money. Many of us have gotten so comfortable using plastic money (credit and debit cards) and other forms of electronic means (e.g., Cash App and Venmo) to spend money that we rarely have any real cash in our pockets. This is a reminder that when all else fails, cash is the lowest common denominator that may make your life a little easier if electronic money systems are down in our region or the entire country. The bottom line: You might want to put a little cash in your pockets or a home safe just in case our electronic systems are not working for a few hours or days. Submitted by Cathy Bowen

- **Y**OUR 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	
October 4	World Communion Sunday
October 6	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 18	Laity Sunday
November 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 3	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 8	Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
November 26	Thanksgiving Day
November 29	United Methodist Student Sunday
Nov. 29-Dec. 24	The Season of Advent
December 1	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
December 11	Penn State Classes End
December 19	Penn State Fall Commencement
December 25	Celebrate the Birth of Jesus
January 1	New Year's Day – Welcome 2021