



Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 29, Number 10, October 2022

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!! We are approaching the end "summertime fun" and a new school year begins. Let us keep our church family in your prayers. We are looking for participation in our new online cooking show entitled *Albright-Bethune Cooks*. The very first episode will be released this weekend and we are excited for you to join us in this wonderful cooking experience. Share your favorite recipes that share love and bring people together. If you want to participate, please let us know you are interested in shooting an episode with your favorite dish. We will send instructions and answer any questions that you have. Also, let us be in continued prayer for the Peagler family as well as for Ms. Cheraine Stanford and her family. Let us be in prayer for Mother Ireen Jones, and let's keep Momma Jo Ferrell in our prayers as well as Mr. Andrew Jackson. Also, we are looking for helpers for planning this year's *Weaving Wisdom* events throughout the school semester. In addition, we are also looking for volunteers for our praise parking lot ministry during Penn State's home football games. This year we are again allowing fans to pay a fee and use our parking spaces when they come for the games. We have a game this weekend and four more this football season if you want to help. Please contact Pastor Paul.

Dear Lord, we are so thankful for all that you are doing and have done thus far. Lord, please open our minds and our ears to hear Your voice. Lord, please open our hearts to be in fellowship with You. Lord, please allow us to feel Your loving warm embrace in this season of coldness. Open the doors that need to be opened and close the doors that need to be closed. Lord, please be with the people of Ukraine and those around the world in war torn countries. Be with this nation and its leaders during this difficult time. Lord, please guide our footsteps on the road that leads to everlasting life. Amen. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

- **WEDDING RECEPTION** – Please save **October 15 at 5 p.m.** for a wedding reception for Pastor Paul and Ariel McReynolds. The reception will be held in our Albright-Bethune fellowship hall. Michelle Torregano is hosting the reception and you can contact her at (504) 710-5836 if you have any questions or need more information. Please use this link for the EVITE and RSVP your intent to participate: <http://evite.me/vPa4zkS7hv>.
- **ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE COOKS** - Discussions during our congregation's Wednesday night Zoom meeting have led to a new initiative for our church. We will expand our Men Who Cook concept and create a virtual **Albright-Bethune Cooks**. The concept is patterned after what Dylan Dreyer uses on the **Today Show** to teach her son (Cal) how to cook. Pastor Paul has agreed to do the filming, editing, and posting -- and teach others how to do it. We are planning for our episodes to be 5-10 minutes. Jo Ferrell has already created our first episode about her famous sticky buns. Our current thinking is to limit the episodes to our members, worshippers, and perhaps their relatives or close friends. We have lots of excellent cooks in our congregation. If you wish to share one of your dishes, please contact Pastor Paul or Blannie Bowen to discuss your idea.
- **TARGETED FOOD BANK DONATION: PEANUT BUTTER** - To concentrate our donations to the State College Food Bank, we are requesting that throughout the year we focus on donating peanut butter. During the months of July-March, peanut butter will be purchased and donated to the State College Food Bank on behalf of Albright-Bethune. Please help by contributing an additional donation (\$10 or whatever you can give) to the cause each month. Designate your donation for peanut butter/Food Bank on your paper check, electronic donation, or on the cash envelope you place in the collection plate. Peanut butter will be purchased and donated to the Food Bank on behalf of Albright-Bethune. By donating this way, the collective impact of our donations can be recorded in a more concise manner by the Food Bank and reported back to the congregation. This will also be helpful in completing yearly reports required by our Susquehanna UMC Conference and make the donations less work on individual members. During February and March, the peanut butter donations will be collected under our Peanut Butter Express Program and will be handled by our students.
- **BETHUNE SOCIETY** – A group of students is attempting to create an organization at Penn State to work collaboratively with our congregation. Tentatively titled the Bethune Society, this organization will work closely with our church to plan, organize, and deliver various types of programs, projects, and activities. Zan Dyreson, a sophomore at Penn State and an Albright-Bethune member, is leading the effort to create the organization. The required minimum number of potential members has been identified and a draft constitution prepared. The required paperwork has been submitted for approval. If approved, the Society will begin functioning this semester. See Zan if you have any questions.
- **LAITY SUNDAY** - Our congregation will celebrate Laity Sunday on October 16. On this day, members of the congregation will play increased roles in our 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." Laity Sunday celebrates the ministry of *all* Christians to love God and neighbor.
- **FOOTBALL PARKING** - During Penn State home football games this fall, our church is again making its parking spaces available to individuals attending the games. Volunteers are needed to help with this activity that will generate funds to support our congregation's programs and activities. If you are interested and available to assist, please contact Pastor Paul.

- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate a special day this month: October 2 – **Juliet Jones**' Birthday; October 18 – **Campbell Jones**' Birthday; October 18 - **JoDee Dyreson**'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 on your special day.
- **RESIGNATION** - Jason Adams has decided to remain in State College and will not move to Bloomsburg as previously announced. Earlier he resigned from his two positions as our Director of Music and Administrative Assistant. Jason has been our Director of Music for about five years and Administrative Assistant for just under two years. He rescinded his resignation as our Administrative Assistant and will remain in this position. We are in the process of identifying a new person to serve as our Director of Music.
- **PARKING SPACES FOR RENT** - Our church allows individuals who work at Penn State and downtown to rent our parking spaces during the week. We now have a few spaces that are not rented. If you know individuals who might be interested in renting a space, please have them call our church office and leave a message at (814) 237-4404 or send an email to albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com. The price to rent a space is \$60 per month. Cathy Bowen manages the parking spaces and you can contact her at cbowen2015@gmail.com or at (814) 574-8346 if you have questions or need more information.
- **CHURCH CONFERENCE** - The Annual Albright-Bethune Church Conference will be held on November 13 at 2:30 pm at Mount Nittany UMC. Brenda Leigey, our district superintendent, will conduct the conference jointly with the leaders of our congregation and the leaders of Mouny Nittany UMC and St Pauls UMC. See Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler if you have questions about the conference or the business affairs of the church. All members and worshippers are encouraged to participate in this important meeting where our leaders for next year will be formally appointed and other important business is conducted.
- **SUMMIT & RETREAT POSTPONED** - The Racial Ethnic Summit and Retreat that was scheduled to be held October 28-30 in Cincinnati will be rescheduled in 2023. This gathering is to enable UMC congregation leaders to make connections, build relationships, and gain practical insights to create or improve congregational vitality. In addition to clergy, others invited to participate include the SPRC chair, Administrative Board/Church Council chair, and Lay Leader from each racial-ethnic congregation or church served by a racial-ethnic pastor. Pastor Paul, Jackie Peagler, and Blannie Bowen will represent Albright-Bethune.
- **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.
- **THANKSGIVING** – On November 24, we will celebrate Thanksgiving with COVID-19 still 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 2023.

- **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.

- **FINANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our September Offerings totaled \$4,210. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances.

Amazon Smile: As a reminder, if you make purchases using Amazon, consider using the [Albright-Bethune link \(https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1711251\)](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1711251). Our purchases generated \$11.17 for the May Report. Thanks to all who have the link bookmarked and use it routinely.

Bathroom Renovation: A special line for contributing to the bathroom renovation has been added to the online giving page on the [Albright-Bethune website](#) for those who would like to contribute electronically. We are waiting for estimates from one more contractor before moving ahead. Ideally, this work will be completed by late fall/early 2023.

- **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	
October 2	World Communion Sunday
October 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 15	Wedding Reception for the McReynolds, Fellowship Hall, 5 p.m.
October 16	Laity Sunday
November 6	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 8	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 13	Annual Charge Conference, Mt Nittany UMC, 2:30 pm. Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
November 20-26	Penn State Thanksgiving Holiday Break
November 24	Thanksgiving Day
November 27	United Methodist Student Sunday
Nov 27-Dec 24	The Season of Advent
December 9	Penn State Classes End
December 13	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
December 17	Penn State Commencement
December 25	Christmas Day – Celebrate the Birth of Jesus
January 1	Welcome 2023