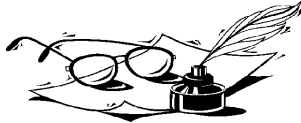




+Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 28, Number 9, September 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)

Family, I pray all is well with each of you! We are back and with full effect. This is a season of new beginnings to amazing opportunities to shine. First I want to say thank you to all of you who filled out the Readiness 360 Profile. The information that we have gathered from all of you is going to be processed and shared with you all soon. We are taking our necessary steps towards vitality and I'm excited to see what the Lord will do through each of us. We have had so many things happening in the world around. From the US pulling out of Afghanistan to the Taliban taking over. Hurricane Ida has caused havoc on the Gulf Coast and elsewhere. We have seen the families and lives lost in Haiti. Let's us pray for those families and communities affected by these tragedies during this time. Below are some opportunities to donate. **Pastor Paul**

UMCOR Donate to Support HURRICANE IDA Relief

<https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670/>

UMCOR Donate To Support AFGHANS in Need

<https://umcmmission.org/august-2021/umcor-supports-afghans-in-need/?fbclid=IwAR0JHz6XjVwMD-BEh5IOXqj88AilS5ABNoME0YrX7SGAGRXdWs3SmEEqGqI>

UMCOR Donate For HAITI Disaster Relief

<https://umcmmission.org/umcor/donation-for-haiti-disaster-relief-honors-former-pastor-who-died-in-2010-earthquake/>

• **W**ORSHIP SERVICE - Our Sunday worship service begins at 11 a.m. and is available both in-person in our sanctuary and on Facebook Live. Masking and social distancing are expected by all who attend our in-person worship consistent with CDC recommendations.

• **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate special days this month: September 5 – **Harriet & David Nembhard's** Wedding Anniversary; September 15 - **Cathy Bowen's** Birthday; and September 23 – **Charlotte Nembhard'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.

• **MULCH** - The grounds around our church have a fresh and more inviting look now that mulch has been added just as the fall semester starts. If you have not visited our church recently, drive or walk by to see what a new, fresh coat of mulch can do. Thanks to the Dyreson family for helping to spread the mulch.

• **MOVE-IN DAY** – Many Penn State students moved back to their residence halls, apartments, and other residences on August 20-21. This year our church again helped welcome the students. Thanks to everyone who assisted and for those donated water and other items. In prior years, our worshippers have distributed water, helped individuals unload their vehicles in our parking lot, distributed literature about our church, and offered other types of support.

• **VISIT BY NEW BISHOPS** - On September 1, **Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi** and **Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball** began Episcopal oversight of the Susquehanna Conference. Both Bishops are excited to begin this new assignment as they replace Bishop Jeremiah Park who has retired. For the Bishops to begin to become acquainted with our Conference and its seven districts, there will be clergy/laity gatherings in each district. All clergy and laity are invited to attend one of the district gatherings. At least one of the bishops will be in person at each gathering. The gathering for our State College District will be held on October 16 from 2-4:30 pm at Mount Nittany UMC. The agenda has been planned by our Bishops and will include:

- Gathering worship and Renewal of Baptism
- Sharing of who each Bishop is (Their call stories, leadership styles, and hopes and dreams for the continuing the UMC)
- Facilitated conversation and sharing of the hopes and dreams of the gathered community
- The most critical things our new Bishops need to know about the district
- Q & A

These gatherings will not be live-streamed. However, there will be videos of the gatherings on the website after all have concluded. Because of the increase in the COVID variant, all participants will be expected to wear masks and social distance as much as possible. Registration is essential to make sure there is adequate space. To register for the gatherings please go to: <https://susumc.org/bishops-district-gatherings/>

• **ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT** – Our 2021 Susquehanna Annual Conference was held virtually on June 18-19. The theme for this year's Conference was *A Vision of the Beloved Community*. The full report from the Conference is now online. The conference featured various speakers, presentations, and worship activities. Bishop Jeremiah Park was honored as he retires. Also, several items of business and resolutions were discussed and voted upon. Also, various statistics were presented to compare 2019 and 2020 to show the impact that COVID-19 has had on the Conference. Membership stands at 133,312, down 3% from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 34,646, down 29%. Church school attendance stands at 12,353, down 27%. Professions or reaffirmations of faith for 2020 were down 62%. You can read the report of the 2021 Annual Conference at [2021 Susquehanna Annual Conference | United Methodist News Service \(umnews.org\)](https://umnews.org/2021-susquehanna-annual-conference). Please contact Pastor McReynolds if you have questions about Annual Conference.

Holy Club (HC): Hour of Power
Lesson Plan for Monday Night Live

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Pastor McReynolds is leading an experience at Albright-Bethune on Monday nights from 6-7 p.m. that will give students the opportunity to slow down for a moment and process their experiences thus far in the week. The group will be using the Holy Club Questions and given the opportunity to teach and lead this activity. Pastor McReynolds will do an 8-minute bible study or homily for our fellow community members. This experience will give us an opportunity to build a consistent prayer and bible study time while also engaging our peers and community with the Word of God.

OBJECTIVES

Jude 1:1b *“To those who are called, wrapped in the love of God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.”*

- Word - The Word is central in what we do and how we will guide ourselves through the Journey of Life.
- Response - In our debrief, we will engage each other by our response to the word in song, stories, and life learned lessons.
- Attitude - When we engage each other, it will be done with respect, love, and kindness.
- Prayer - Prayer is essential to who we are. It is our place of intimacy with God, the Father, our Savior, and the Holy Ghost. This is our foundation in all that we do.

John Wesley’s 21 Questions that we will use for this experience can be found at:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/586d5ea920099e929f4f959d/t/58e677d3414fb51e91034f08/1491498963468/Wesley%27s+21+Questions.pdf>

- **EACH ONE, BRING ONE!** - Many individuals recently moved to the area when classes started at Penn State and in the schools. Also, several others have moved to the area to start new positions or be closer to their family and friends. Some of these individuals will seek a church home to have a fulfilling religious experience. Take the time to share your worship experiences and then bring one of these individuals into our church community. Next, nurture and keep that person involved in our worship and other activities. Don’t underestimate the impact that you can have by bringing just one new person into our congregation. See Pastor McReynolds for ideas that you can share with an un-churched person.
- **GENERAL CONFERENCE** - Whether the UMC’s 2022 General Conference can go forward in Minneapolis next year from August 29-September 6 remains a question mark. With the more contagious delta variant of COVID surging around the globe, some governments are reinstating lockdowns, and many travel restrictions to the U.S. remain in place. The coming General Conference has 862 voting delegates and 56% come from the U.S. Almost 32% will come from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe, and the remainder from concordat churches that have close ties to the UMC. Vaccination efforts also face a plenty of obstacles. However, organizers of the UMC’s top lawmaking assembly continue to move forward with plans. The General Council on Finance and Administration board heard an update at its August 20 online meeting about the assembly (From an article by Heather Hahn of UM News).

- **F INANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our August collections totaled **\$4,977**. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances. Here is an item that might be of interest.

AmazonSmile

With the gift giving season and Christmas approaching, it is a time to remind you that intentional spending of dollars you have earned can impact Albright-Bethune. Whether you make one purchase or multiple purchases during the year, if you use the [Albright-Bethune United Methodist Church AmazonSmile link](#), you can provide a benefit for our church. All you need to do is use the AmazonSmile link when making a purchase through Amazon. (The products and prices are the same. All AmazonSmile does is give you a voice in how Amazon distributes its charitable donations). Each time an Amazon customer makes a purchase using AmazonSmile, a portion of eligible items purchased will generate a 0.5% donation for the charity selected. Please bookmark the Albright-Bethune AmazonSmile link and use it whenever you make a purchase from Amazon. You can also just Google AmazonSmile and select Albright-Bethune from the list of charities. For each quarter when at least \$5 in donations is generated, AmazonSmile will report to us the amount of donations generated for Albright-Bethune and that information will be reported in this newsletter. **Our collective impact can make a difference.** For example, suppose 15 people collectively spent \$5,000 on AmazonSmile purchase, that would generate \$25 in a donation to the church.

- **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	
September 6	Labor Day
September 14	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 3	World Communion Sunday
October 10	Disability Awareness Sunday
October 12	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 17	Laity Sunday
November 7	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 9	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 14	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

• ***Birthday, Anniversary, & Special Dates*** •

Please share your birthday, anniversary, and other big dates. Complete this form and give it to an usher. If you prefer, send it to Blannie Bowen at blanniebowen@gmail.com or call 237-5131.

Name _____ **Birthday** _____

Wedding Anniversary _____ **Other Dates** _____