



Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



*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).

School is back in session! As we begin a new season with new opportunities and new experiences, I am looking forward to the new opportunities we have to engage our students on and around campus. I am excited and appreciative for the work that young Zan and Braden have put into creating the Bethune Society and getting that program off the ground. I am looking forward to more Weaving Wisdom sessions this semester with Dr. Grace Hampton. I want to also say thank you to each and every one of the leadership and laity at Albright-Bethune for all of your service and dedication to the ministry and life of this church. I am grateful to all who participated in the EVC mid-year check in with Cathy Kind and the team.

My dear friend and mentor Pastor Greg Milinovich will be our emergency contact while I am out of town from September 6-23. I will be getting married and going on my honeymoon up the coast of California. Ariel and I would love to have you all join us virtually for our Wedding Celebration. The link will be on the church's Facebook and email link. I can't wait for you all to meet Ariel, my bride. I ask that you all pray for us during this new journey of marriage.

During my absence, Pastor Milinovich, Dr. Michelle Torregano, and PhD Candidate Edwin Dartey will speak. Please lift them up in prayer as they prepare and preach a Word to the beloved community. Finally, be on the lookout for the pilot episode Albright-Bethune Cooks with Auntie Jo Ferrell coming soon. It will be posted on email, Facebook, and YouTube. Blessings upon each and everyone of you. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

• **P**ULPIT EXCHANGE – On September 4, Pastor Paul and Rev. Greg Milinovich, the Senior Pastor of St. Pauls UMC, will have a pulpit exchange. On this day, Pastor Paul will deliver a sermon for St. Pauls and Rev. Milinovich will be our guest minister.

# A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

**Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor**

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 29, Number 9, September 2022

- **WEDDING & PASTORAL COVERAGE** - Pastor Paul will be away from September 6-23 for his September 9 wedding in California and then for honeymoon travels. While Pastor Paul is away, Rev. Greg Milinovich, Senior Pastor of St. Pauls UMC, will be available to our congregation as the need arises. You can contact Rev. Milinovich at (814) 237-2163 Ext. 126 or by email at [gmlinovich@susumc.org](mailto:gmlinovich@susumc.org). On September 11, Michelle Torregano will lead our worship service and deliver the sermon. The next Sunday on September 18, Edwin Dartey will lead our worship service and deliver the sermon.
- **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.
- **MEMORIAL SERVICE** - On August 27, a memorial service was held for Azalea and Albert Stevenson in New Orleans, their hometown. Azalea died on July 7 soon after she celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. Albert died last year at age 97, just a month shy of his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. They were active members of our church until their health began to decline. Cathy Bowen traveled to New Orleans to participate in the service which was streamed live and is now available on Mount Zion UMC's Facebook Live site. Cathy offered remarks on behalf of our congregation and shared personal reflections.
- **SUMMIT & RETREAT** - A Racial Ethnic Summit and Retreat will be held October 28-30 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. The primary purpose of 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. Our Susquehanna Bishops Sandra L. Steiner Ball and Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi are co-hosting the event with the UMC's Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century initiative. Pastor Paul, Jackie Peagler, and Blannie Bowen will attend the summit and retreat to represent Albright-Bethune. See them if you have any questions about the meeting.
- **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 agreed to create our first episode on 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. One of our regrets is that we did not start this initiative sooner so we could have videos of Albert Stevenson cooking his famous red beans and rice and Karnard Jenkins baking his excellent sweet potato pies. You can watch some of the Cooking With Cal episodes at: [https://www.google.com/search?q=today+show+cooking+with+cal&rlz=1CDGOYI\\_enUS882\\_US884&oq=today+show+cooking+with+cal&aqs=chrome.0.0i512l6.17286j1j7&hl=en-US&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=today+show+cooking+with+cal&rlz=1CDGOYI_enUS882_US884&oq=today+show+cooking+with+cal&aqs=chrome.0.0i512l6.17286j1j7&hl=en-US&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8).

- **R**ESIGNATION - Jason Adams is moving to Bloomsburg and has resigned from his two positions as 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 will continue to be involved with our congregation as we transition both roles to new leadership. All in the congregation extend their thanks to Jason for his dedication and performance in the two roles. Best wishes as you move to the next phase of your life.
- **E**QUIPPING VITAL CONGREGATIONS MEETING - Thanks to everyone who participated in the August 23 Equipping Vital Congregations (EVC) meeting about the life of our congregation. Albright-Bethune has come to the midpoint in the 2-year partnership with the UMC's EVC initiative. This meeting was to check in and discuss the work that our congregation and its leadership have been doing. Pastor Paul and several of our worshippers shared their perspectives about the key accomplishments of our congregation. Three representatives of the EVC initiative; Brenda Leigey, our State College District Superintendent; and Rev. David Carter (Pastor Paul's mentor) also participated in the meeting. See Pastor Paul or Jackie Peagler if you have questions about EVC or this meeting.
- **S**PIKES GAME – Thanks to everyone who attended the State College Spikes baseball game on August 10. **Wally Richardson** again organized this activity and secured the tickets. This was a pleasant, safe, and enjoyable outing for our members and worshippers.
- **M**OVE-IN SATURDAY - On August 20, many Penn State students moved into their apartments and dorms and several of our members and worshippers welcomed them and their families. The students were allowed to use our parking lot to unload their vehicles. We also gave them water and snacks. See Pastor McReynolds if you have questions about Move-in Saturday.
- **B**IRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES - Congratulations to this individual who celebrates a special day this month: September 15 - **Cathy Bowen's** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates (call/text 814-777-6550 or email [blanniebowen@gmail.com](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com)) so we can honor you.
- **G**RANT TO UPGRADE BATHROOMS – A United Methodist Foundation grant proposal that **Cathy Bowen** wrote has been funded for \$25,000 to support the remodeling of our basement social hall men's and women's restrooms. We will update them and make them accessible to individuals with physical limitations. A committee is seeking estimates from contractors and will appreciate suggestions. Before the work begins, plans will be shared with the congregation. The grant proposal included a matching amount (i.e., cost sharing) of funds from past and present members and attendees. Letters asking for contributions toward the project will be coming soon. See **Carla Roser-Jones** if you have any questions.
- **P**ASTOR SALARIES – Two researchers say that UMC pastors should have their salaries set by annual conferences on a scale based on job performance and experience, which would reduce the salary disparity between Black and white clergy. Currently, local church leaders set pastor salaries based in part on the wealth of their church. The 12-year study, titled [“Reproducing Inequality in a Formally Antiracist Organization: The Case of Racialized Career Pathways in the United Methodist Church.”](#) showed that the current system results in Black ministers being paid substantially less in North and South Carolina. The authors of the study are David Eagle, assistant research professor of global health at Duke University, and Collin Mueller, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Maryland. Eagle and Mueller also recommend that apportionments be used to spread the wealth among churches so that salaries are less connected to size, keeping in mind that current trends will lead to more small churches in need of leadership as time goes by (By Jim Patterson, UM News).

- **EACH ONE, BRING ONE!** - Many individuals moved to the area when classes started at Penn State and in the schools. Some individuals will now seek a church home to have a fulfilling religious experience. Take the time to share your experiences and then bring one of these individuals to church with you. Next, nurture and keep that person involved. Don't underestimate the impact that you can have if you bring one new person into our congregation. See Pastor McReynolds for ideas that you can share with an un-churched person.
- **SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE** - The Poušť United Methodist church camp in the Czech Republic would normally have hosted children at camp this summer, but instead, it is serving as a home away from home for Ukrainian mothers and their children. Since early March, the camp has hosted about 19 guests who fled their homes after Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24. It is one of five United Methodist properties in the Czech Republic serving as a shelter for Ukrainian refugees. The Rev. Jana Křížova, coordinator of refugee ministries for the Czech and Slovak Republics Conference, said the refugee ministry happened naturally: "It's in the Methodist DNA. You see need and do something about it" (By Joey Butler, UM News).
- **FINANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our August collections totaled \$10,490.50. 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](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com) or give your items to **Blannie** by the **20th** of the month. Send your birthday, awards, church presentations, writings, etc.

<b>Calendar</b>	
September 5	Labor Day
September 13	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 2	World Communion Sunday
October 11	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 16	Laity Sunday
November 6	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 8	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 13	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