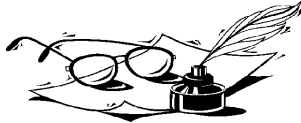




Corner of Beaver & Burrowes



*From Pastor Paul's Desk.....*

# A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

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

Email: [pcreynolds@susumc.org](mailto:pcreynolds@susumc.org); Home Phone: (814) 308-9099

Church Phone: 237-4404; Email: [albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com](mailto:albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.albrightbethuneumc.org](http://www.albrightbethuneumc.org)

Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 30, Number 9; September 2023

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Healer of the Soul, and our Everlasting Redeemer. I am filled with excitement about the divine plans that the Lord has in store for us at Albright-Bethune. We have been blessed with a remarkable opportunity to be a bridge in our community, mending souls through the power of the Word and engaging hearts in stewardship and prayer. Together, as a Beloved Community, we can sow the seeds of Jesus Christ, our eternal Hope.

Happy Labor Day!! I pray all is well with you and yours. Penn State football game days are approaching soon. We are in need of volunteers to help serve our Praise Parking Lot for the football season. Also, be on the lookout for our financial planning seminars that are coming up. Please contact Cathy Bowen for more information ([cbowen2015@gmail.com](mailto:cbowen2015@gmail.com)).

Mark your calendar for a pot-luck church picnic on September 17 beginning at noon at Pavilion #3 at Whipple Dam State Park. We will have a combined worship service at 9:15 am at Fairbrook UMC. Plan on bringing a main dish and side or dessert along with table settings.

Starting on September 25 and concluding on October 16, I will be leading a bible study on the book of Colossians every Monday. This study will serve as the foundation for an upcoming sermon series that we will be embarking on. During the month of November, our series will focus on introspection, encouraging each of us to assess our lives and explore if there is a better way forward.

Dear God, we come to you today, praying for the community of our church. We know that you have called us to be a light in the world, and we ask that you would bless and strengthen our community as we seek to fulfill that calling. Help us to be a source of love, hope, and encouragement to all those who come to our church.

May we be a place of refuge and healing for those who are hurting, and a community of support and accountability for those who are seeking to grow in their faith. Please help us to be mindful of the needs of our community, and to be proactive in meeting those needs. May we be good stewards of the resources that you have given us and use them in a way that furthers your kingdom and blesses those around us. Amen. Be blessed. **Pastor Paul**

- **J**OINT WORSHIP SERVICE & PICNIC - On September 17, our Albright-Bethune church will worship with Fairbrook UMC in its building during its 9:15 service and then join them at noon for a picnic at Whipple Dam. Please bring a main dish and side or dessert along with table settings. Note that we will not have our regular 11 a.m. worship service that Sunday.
- **P**LANNING FOR FINANCIAL LIFE EVENTS PROGRAM - Congratulations to **Cathy Bowen** who has received a grant (\$600) to fund a program entitled "*Planning for Probable Financial Life Events*" from the United Methodist Foundation. The plan is to deliver a program this fall over a series of three sessions that will be held at our church. All dates are on Thursday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. You can register at <https://forms.gle/JsbewNNy9KSLVHRt9>. Session #1 will be held on September 21 and is titled *Estate Planning Essentials: Get Your Ducks in A Row Before It's Too Late*. Session #2 will be held on October 12 and is titled *Financial Missteps to Avoid or Be Aware Of*. Session #3 will be held October 26 and is titled *Aging and Caregiving Resources in Centre County. Know About Them Before You Need Them*.
- **R**ACIAL ETHNIC SUMMIT - The 2023 Racial Ethnic Summit will be held from noon on September 22 through lunch on September 24 at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Somerset County. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball are co-hosting this event with the UMC's Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. In addition to clergy, the bishops have invited 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 McReynolds, Jackie Peagler** as the chair of our Administrative Council and our Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, and **Blannie Bowen** as Lay Leader will attend to represent our congregation. See Pastor Paul if you have questions about the Summit. This is an important time in the life of our church to make connections, build relationships, and gain practical insights to create or improve congregational vitality.
- **T**-SHIRTS – The Bethune Society, our church's Penn State student affiliate group, is planning to design and sell a t-shirt to help publicize our church. Details and specific information about the shirt will be shared after they are finalized. Thanks to **Zan Dyreson** for leading this effort. Please contact her if you have any questions. You can reach Zan at [dyresonzoop@gmail.com](mailto:dyresonzoop@gmail.com).
- **M**AUI WILDFIRES - The massive losses from last month's wildfires in Maui, Hawaii, include the beloved and historic Lahaina United Methodist Church sanctuary, as well as the homes of some congregation members. Pastor John Crewe said he has been able to determine that no members were killed or injured, but many are displaced, as are he and his family. The wildfires killed over 100 and the search continues for others who are still missing. Over 2,200 structures were destroyed or damaged. The California-Pacific UMC conference has set up the [Lahaina Relief Fund](#) to take financial donations for the long recovery ahead. Donations also can be made to the United Methodist Committee on Relief's [U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery Advance](#) (From UM News article by Sam Hodges).
- **A**NNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT - Reports for annual conferences held across the United Methodist Church are now available online. Our Susquehanna Annual Conference was held May 18-20 in Williamsport. You can review the report from our conference at <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/2023-susquehanna-annual-conference>. Pastor Paul and Jackie Peagler attended for our church and you can contact them if you have any questions about what business was conducted, the presenters, and information that was shared.

- **MULCH** - If you have not done so recently, take a few minutes to walk around the grounds of our church and observe the 5-yards of mulch that now beautify the area. Thanks to the **Dyresons (Braden, JoDee, Mark, and Zan)** and **Blannie Bowen** for spreading the mulch. Their efforts are much appreciated.
- **SPIKES GAME** – Thanks to everyone who attended the State College Spikes baseball game on August 22. **Wally Richardson** again organized this activity and secured the tickets. This was a pleasant and enjoyable outing for our members and worshippers and several worshippers from Fairbrook UMC. Pastor Paul McReynolds also sang the National Anthem before the game.
- **MOVE-IN SATURDAY** - On August 19, 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 information about our church. See **Zan Dyreson** if you have questions about Move-in Saturday.
- **BIRTHDAYS & 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.
- **FOOD WASTE** - The food industry around the world is facing the problem that more food is produced or served than is actually consumed. UMC related Africa University in Zimbabwe has developed a solution to this problem through the creation of a digital platform that allows students to place daily meal orders for breakfast, lunch, or dinner by choosing from the set menu for the day. These orders are then stored in a database that the Bonaventure Ndorimana Dining Hall uses to guide how much food is cooked per service, assess what meals are best sellers, and in the long term, informs the purchasing that the dining hall makes using consumer buying and consumption trends over time. What makes this innovation even more impressive is that it was built mainly by Africa University students and graduate trainees who conducted lengthy research of the problem, identified bottle necks in food service delivery on the campus, and developed a home-grown solution that produces data so decisions can be made that bring efficiencies in purchasing, waste reduction, and service delivery (Adapted from a *Story by Juliet Sithole*, African University News - <https://aunews.africau.edu/?p=2822> ).
- **EACH ONE, BRING ONE!** - Many individuals recently 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 worship experiences and then bring one of these individuals to church with you. Next, nurture and keep that person involved in our church. Don't underestimate the impact that you can have if each one of us brings one new person into our congregation. If each Albright-Bethune member and worshipper brings only one new person into our church family, we can begin a serious growth mode. See Pastor McReynolds for ideas that you can share with an un-churched person.
- **FINANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our collections for August totaled \$4,053. See **Wally Richardson** if you have questions about our church's finances.
- **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.

---

• **• 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](mailto:blanniebowen@gmail.com) or call (814) 777-6550.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_ Other Dates \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Calendar

Sept. 4	Labor Day
Sept. 12	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
Sept. 17	Joint Worship Service at 9:15 & Picnic with Fairbrook UMC at noon
Sept. 21	Financial Life Events Session #1, 7-8:30 p.m.
October 1	World Communion Sunday
October 10	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
October 12	Financial Life Events Session #2, 7-8:30 p.m.
October 15	Laity Sunday
October 26	Financial Life Events Session #3, 7-8:30 p.m.
Nov. 5	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov. 12	Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
Nov. 14	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
Nov. 19-25	Penn State Thanksgiving Holiday Break
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 26	United Methodist Student Sunday
Dec. 3-24	The Season of Advent
Dec. 8	Penn State Classes End
Dec. 12	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
Dec. 16	Penn State Fall Commencement