



BEAVER BLESSINGS

March 2022



"Welcoming all with God's love, serving all in God's name"



Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church · 42 South 3rd Street · Lewisburg · PA · 17837
www.beavermethodist.org · (570)524-0809

Sunday morning worship services - 10:30 am
New Beginnings Adult Sunday School Class - 9:00 am

From the Pastor's Desk - Matthew 5:48 – *"Therefore, be perfect, as God in Heaven is perfect."*

As a candidate for ordination, I had to answer the following questions: **Are you going on to perfection? Do you expect to be made perfect in this life? Are you earnestly striving after it?** These are the same questions that John Wesley asked of those who wanted to become preachers in the early Methodist Church. Wesley believed that this doctrine of perfection was a special gift from God to the Methodists and that it was the sole reason for which the Methodists were raised up by God.

Wesley was an Anglican priest, as was his father. His mother, Susannah, was a woman of great faith. Wesley did not intend to begin a new church but wanted to bring renewal to the Church of England. While studying at Oxford, he gathered other students together and they formed what were called 'holiness' clubs, whose meetings were run in a very specific way. His younger brother, Charles, the prolific hymn writer, was part of this movement. They were unflatteringly labeled 'Methodists' by some of the other students, a name which stuck.

Wesley believed that once we respond positively to God's call, the process of sanctification, being made holy, begins. This often takes a lifetime. Wesley believed that sanctification would bring us to a state of perfection – and it's important to know what he meant by that. Perfection as Wesley defined it, is not about being perfect in knowledge or never making mistakes, not being free from illness or other infirmities. It was not about knowing everything. A perfected person is one who has been completely sanctified by God in body, soul and spirit. Sin is expelled by love – a total love for God and for one's neighbor's, a love devoid of self-interest, reflecting the pure love that God has for us.

Wesley also moved outside the walls of the church building and into the lives of people. He did not use the language of social justice, but today that's how we would describe much of his ministry. He went into coal fields to preach to the minors, fought against slavery, visited those in prison and declared that the whole world was his parish. A more contemporary way of speaking about perfection and holiness is to speak in terms of wholeness and liberation from all that binds us. When we are set free in this way, we can then be in right relationship with God and with each other and indeed, with all of creation. I end with one of my favorite John Wesley quotes:

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.” Pastor Sue

We Did It!!

In 2013, Beaver Memorial undertook a capital campaign to support major renovations to the church facilities. That project contained several significant parts to: 1, make major changes in the sanctuary; complete painting, remove old carpeting to expose the original flooring, and lay down new carpeting in the aisles and front and rear; rebuild the chancel; create the Prayground from the old chapel area, install air conditioning; 2, make major renovations and expand the kitchen at the northeast corner of the building; 3, upgrade Fellowship Hall including painting, new carpeting and air conditioning; 4, several upgrades in the parsonage. There was a significant cost overrun on the project and the 2013 campaign was unable cover all the expenses.

In 2018, we started the This Little Light of Mine campaign with a goal of \$270,000 to pay off the debt remaining on the 2013 loan. This campaign has just reached its successful conclusion after a three and a half year span of fundraising. From May of 2018 to February of 2022, we raised nearly \$300,000. Any further contributions will be placed in the Building Maintenance Fund to cover expenses we are now having for repairs and maintenance.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this campaign!! Your faithful giving and commitment has made all the difference.

In this first edition of the 2022 newsletter we are starting an introduction to Who's Who at BMUMC.

The Rev. Sue Jamison was born in Indiana, PA, and has been active in the church as long as she can remember. She graduated from Indiana Senior High School in 1976, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington D.C. She was ordained an Elder in 1987, and has served at many levels of church leadership.

In addition to parish ministry, she has worked as a counselor, a parent educator, a behavioral specialist and most recently, the Director of the Annual Fund and Community Relations for the company that owns RiverWoods. On Jan 1 of this year, she was officially appointed at the full time pastor here at Beaver.

Rev. Jamison has two children. Her daughter, Rachel Slaybaugh, has a PhD in Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics and lives in San Francisco, CA. She is currently a Principal at DCVC, for their Climate Fund investing. Her son, Jared Slaybaugh, has a BS in Mechanical Engineering, and lives in San Jose, CA. He currently works as an assistant construction manager for Habitat for Humanity based in the East Bay/Silicon Valley.

Leadership Team: Members: *Chair:* Martha Root, Nancy Shinn, Patty Johnston, David Diebler-Gorman, Larry Shinn, Ralph Hibbs, Travis Curry

The Leadership Board currently consists of seven members. We meet once a month. Our ultimate purpose is to provide guidance in keeping our church in line with our mission statement: "Welcoming all with God's love, serving all in God's name." We are responsible for overseeing the financial and personnel issues and the physical facilities. In this, we are supported by the Finance Committee, the Personnel Advisory Group (PAG) and the Trustee committee. Other groups also regularly report to the Board, such as the Youth program, the Mission Committee and the Worship Committee. We also get reports on our Outreach programs which are open to the public, Busy Beaver Day Care and Kinderfolk Preschool. We work in tandem with the pastor to continue Beaver Memorial's work both within our community and in the wider world. We must also fulfill the requirements of the larger UMC as conveyed by our District Superintendent and the conference. The minutes from each Leadership Team meeting are available in the church office.

Martha Root: As chair, I try, along with the rest of the Board, to move us forward with sound decisions and appropriate actions in keeping with our mission statement.

Nancy Shinn: As liaison to Busy Beaver and Kinderfolk, I report to the Leadership Team the activities and functioning of these two groups—mission/outreach programs for Beaver Memorial. Of interest to the church is how effective these programs are in serving the needs of our community. One indication of their effectiveness is that both Busy Beaver and Kinderfolk have a waiting list of those who would like to enroll in their Day Care and Preschool programs. As liaison I support the directors and the staff whenever asked. For example, during this past year I worked with the Busy Beaver director Charlene Reigle to develop additional space to increase care for infants in our community. Busy Beaver has moved to a Star 2 ranking and has succeeded in being awarded two different CARES grants and a new ARPA grant that will enable Charlene to reward her staff with bonuses plus apply funds for the renovation of space in the Parker Building—e.g., a new roof to replace a leaking one, new steel emergency exit doors, new wood flooring in one of the classrooms, and additional improvements. I am proud of the positive impact these programs are making in our community.”

Patty Johnston: As Secretary of the Leadership Board, I take and report the minutes of all of our meetings (as all secretaries do). After sending them to the members and making all suggested changes, we approve them and they become part of our church history. Hopefully, when it is necessary to see what actions the Board has taken, they will be available for us and for those who succeed us. I also take part in specific needs which arise, as all our members have done. For example, recently, I served on a committee to develop several employee policies. I see the Board as the group responsible for not only the day to day operations of the church but for assuring our vision of our mission and our service to God, to our congregation and to our wider community.

David Diebler-Gorman: as the liaison between the Board and the United Youth Group—I communicate regularly with Mindy Moore about its achievements, needs and how the Board can best support the United Youth Group.

BMUMC Staff includes:

Position	Individual	Position	Individual
Administrative Assistant	Mindy Moore (temporary)	Treasurer	Shirley Brough
Custodian	Tahir Hall	Youth Group Director	Mindy Moore
Choir Director	Brooke Persing	Pianist	Reagan Withey
Busy Beaver Day Care Director	Charlene Reigle	Kinderfolk Preschool Director	Julia Umstead
Video Team	Nick Persing, Todd Fogle, Nate Morgan		



MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH

Beacon Shop Ministry.

Christy Brouse is the new leader for this ministry and she is very enthusiastic. **Last month there were approximately 20 families who took advantage of this outreach to our community.** Donations of the following items for the distribution on the first Friday of each month would be greatly appreciated: **shaving cream; adult single pack toothbrushes; deodorant (men’s and women’s).** Items can be placed in the basket outside the Beacon Shop door located in the church office entryway. Monetary donations are always appreciated and can be sent to the church office or made with your regular Sunday offering, noting “Beacon” on your donation. Please direct any questions to Christy Brouse at: 570-238-5707 or k_brouse@hotmail.com.

United Youth Group

Hello Church Family! United Youth Group is doing well. We are continuing with our Year At The Movie’s. For February we watched Narnia. We will be chatting about this move and relate the different themes and topics back to the Bible. If you are looking for a babysitter, dog walker, pet sitter or needed lawn work or your driveway shoveled, please let us know. We have a list of youth that offer these services. Thank you for your continued love and support.

Mindy Moore United Youth Group unitedyouthlbg@gmail.com

BMUMC UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date for Beaver Forward! On Sunday, March 20, following worship and lasting through the afternoon, we will have the opportunity to spend time in guided conversation about the purpose and future of Beaver’s ministry. This will be led by Kim Shockley, Coordinator of Pathways for Spiritual Leadership. Lunch will be provided. ***If you plan to come, please call or email the office by noon on Mar. 15 so that we can be sure to have enough food. Also indicate if you have any special dietary restrictions or food allergies.***

Women’s Retreat! April 1-3 at Wesley Forest Church Camp Mark your calendars for an Ecumenical Retreat shared by Beaver, St. Paul’s and 1st Baptist churches. We will focus on rest, companionship, and spending time on hobbies we love. Bring your paints, knitting needles, sewing

projects, scrapbooking or any other creative things you enjoy. If you are not crafty, bring a book, hiking boots, or even your favorite napping pillow. You can stay for the entire weekend or just come for a day. Registration information is coming soon.

We Have Convenient Methods of Giving!

Mail to Beaver Memorial at 42 S. 3rd St. Lewisburg, 17837
drop into our Drop Box outside the office door or
go to our website: www.beavermethodist.org and click on "Giving".

Thank you!

- Submit content for the newsletter to lornawcurry@yahoo.com by the 18th of the month prior to the newsletter.