



BEAVER BLESSINGS

April 2024



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

"Welcoming all with God's love, serving all in God's name as we all grow in faith together"

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 Pastor Sue's Desk:

We are in a season of change. As we become a two point charge on July 1, we know that many changes will occur, some taking effect immediately, and others as part of an envisioned 2-3 year process toward a full merger. The Leadership Teams (LT) of Beaver and St. Paul's initially met together with our former Conference Superintendent (CS) and then twice with our current CS. We came up with a proposal and a plan that was presented to our Bishops and Appointive Cabinet, and they approved it. The LTs took on this proactive work as we agreed that we could do more ministry in our community and wider region by working together.

Then we received the news that Rev. Daniel Wilt, current pastor of St. Paul's, will become our CS beginning on July 1. We next learned that Rev. Ethan Shearer will be appointed full time to St. Paul's on July 1, and that I will remain at Beaver, but will move from full time to ¾ time. It remains to be decided how all of the clergy financial support will be distributed between the two churches, which is also impacted by Rev Shearer choosing the Beaver parsonage for his family to live in.

Another major change will happen in late May/early June when Kinderfolk moves across the street to First Baptist Church. Kinderfolk has been housed at Beaver for over 40 years. There are two primary reasons for this move. First was the rising need for more day care in the region and second was that First Baptist was praying for a way to serve the community after the Food Bank they had housed for many years moved to another location. Once Kinderfolk is moved, Busy Beaver will expand into that space and be able to enroll additional children. The proximity of the two programs will allow those children who are enrolled in both to continue attending both.

Additionally, it is possible that major denominational changes will happen due to the UMC General Conference meeting after a 4 year postponement due to COVID. You may already be familiar with the launch of The Global Methodist Church (GMC) in May of 2022. A significant number of UM churches officially disaffiliated from the UMC and either joined the GMC or became independent. Then in July, the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference will be held with the possibility of new conference boundaries being determined, and definitely the election of Bishops if any current Bishops are retiring. We have already experienced the redrawing of the supervisory areas in the Susquehanna Conference due to retirements and disaffiliations.

I am both excited and nervous about all of this. Change is hard and can be challenging. Change also brings the opportunity to create new ways of being in mission and ministry. In a piece titled *Reservoirs of Resilience in Uncertain Times*, Bishop Janice Riggle Huie wrote this (adapted):

“In a season when nothing seems normal, when disruption and disappointment surround us like an endless desert, it is time to drink deeply from the reservoir of hope and to take public steps to embody that hope in action. Without hope, we find ourselves mired in the present or even the past and cease to lean toward the future. For people of faith to thrive in such a time, and continue to build the world that God imagines, I believe we will need to drink deeply from reservoirs of the Spirit, particularly the dimensions of hope, purpose and courage. On all levels of life in the U.S., norms that have long undergirded our personal behavior, our ministry and our culture are shifting. The conditions that give rise to these descriptions have been developing for some time. The deaths of Mr. George Floyd, Ms. Breonna Taylor, and others too numerous to name have made the need to address systemic and institutional racism in our church and our culture unescapable. The wealth gap between America’s richest and poorest families more than doubled between 1989-2016. The richest families are the only group to have gained wealth since the Great Recession. Unaddressed climate change is causing irreparable harm. The church is not immune to these shifts. Indeed, the polarization in the culture has replicated itself in the UMC, and our beloved church is now reconciling itself to the once unthinkable notion that individual persons and some congregations and a handful of annual conferences have separated from the UMC. Life will not return to the way things were. What inner or outer resources made it possible for other leaders, both clergy and lay, to grieve their losses, care for those hurting in the church and community, and then begin to imagine and build a new future? **In such disordered times, we need substantial reservoirs of resilience so that, in drinking deeply from those waters, this season might be not only a time of loss, but also a time of spiritual deepening and new life.** Even as we groan and grieve, people of faith intuitively sense that we also inhabit a pregnant season, ripe with amazing possibilities and new birth. These are the congregations that are clear about their purpose, deeply engaged with their neighbors and courageously embrace the rebuilding of their communities. God continues to call people of faith to imagine and create a “new normal,” that dares to live out love of God and neighbor, justice, mercy, kindness and generosity in these wildly disruptive times.”

I hope that the above inspires you to envision new ways we can be in ministry as our Beaver and St. Paul’s faith families join together in ways that are a witness to the love of God through Jesus the Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, as we work to bring healing and hope to this broken world.

APRIL FEATURES

➤ **Ten Fun Facts About Easter and United Methodism**

April 15, 2023 Beckie Writes

With Easter Sunday quickly approaching, I thought it would be fun to share some interesting facts about this special holiday and its connection to the United Methodist Church. Here are five fun facts you may not know:

Easter is a “holiday” which comes from the words “Holy Day.” The word “Easter” comes from the Old English word “ēastre,” which means “spring” or “dawn.” We rejoice on Easter because the darkness always gives way to the glorious light of dawn and, thanks to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, death is not the end.

One of the most well-known Easter symbols is the Easter egg. Plastic Easter eggs often contain candy, but empty Easter eggs remind us of the empty tomb.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday. During this time, there are special worship services and events to commemorate Jesus' journey to the cross. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are known as The Easter Triduum.

In some United Methodist churches, the altar is draped in black on Good Friday as a sign of mourning for Jesus' death.

One of the most popular hymns of Easter, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Charles was a prolific hymn writer and the brother of John Wesley. The work of the Wesley brothers helped to spark a revival that eventually became the United Methodist Church.

Throughout the history of Christianity, Easter used to be a more popular Holy Day than Christmas. The celebration of Christmas fell out of popularity in the Western world after it was almost entirely wiped out by the Puritans, who believed that it was celebrated with too much raucous partying.

In the Gospel According to John, Mary Magdalene is the first person to witness the resurrection of Jesus and to share that Good News with the disciples. As such, a woman was one of the very first evangelists. In the United Methodist Church, we ordain women clergy. In 2011, 25 percent of United Methodist Clergy in the United States were women

In the United Methodist Church, Easter and Christmas are the two most important Holy Days of the year. On Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope of eternal life.

Christmas is always on December 25th, but the date for Easter changes based on the lunar calendar. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. This means that Easter can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25 each year.

Easter isn't just one Sunday, it's an entire season! There are 7 Sundays of Easter, starting with Easter Sunday (also known as Resurrection Sunday) and ending with Pentecost Sunday. The period of time between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday is referred to as Eastertide or the Great Fifty Days.

Easter is a time of joy and celebration for Christians around the world, including United Methodists, as we gather together to worship, share in fellowship, and remember the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We hope these fun facts have given you a deeper appreciation for the significance of Easter and its connection to the United Methodist Church. I encourage you to celebrate this wonderful Holy Day in Christian community by attending a worship service near you. Or, if you find yourself in Central Pennsylvania, we would love to welcome you at one of the two churches I serve! Happy Easter!

About the Author: Rev. Rebecca L. Holland (M.Div.) is a visually impaired, Filipino clergywoman ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church. She is the pastor of two congregations in Central Pennsylvania. Her work focuses on the intersection between faith and disability theology. She is the author of *Through My Good Eye: A Memoir in Verse*, *The United Methodist Church and Disability*, and *Hope for the Broken: Using Writing to Find God's Grace*. She is currently working on project that focuses on interpreting Disability Theology from a Wesleyan perspective.

➤ Beaver Memorial UMC Townhall - April 7

As we continue the process of becoming a two point charge with St. Paul's UMC, we will have a meeting on Sunday, April 7th immediately after church to hear from the Leadership Team and Pastor Sue about some of the changes that will happen. Questions you may have will be welcomed. If we don't have the answer to a specific question at that time, we will do our best to find the answer and share it with you.

➤ Introducing Pastor Ethan Shearer and family

Pastor Ethan Shearer has been serving as a United Methodist pastor since 2017. He graduated from Elizabethtown College in 2013 where he majored in Sociology and Religious studies. After finishing his degree he pursued a call to ministry and attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC to earn a Masters of Divinity and a Masters of Theological Studies. In 2017 he graduated and was appointed to Curwensville United Methodist Church. He served as their full time pastor until 2020, when he was accepted into a PhD program in Religious Studies at the University of Virginia.

Ethan and his family moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, so he could study as a full time student. He was called to serve part time in the Virginia Annual Conference at a two point charge not far outside of Charlottesville in the towns of Gordonsville and Barboursville in 2021. In addition to ministry, Ethan is currently an adjunct professor at James Madison University teaching Religious Studies. Ethan is excited to return to the Susquehanna Conference and serve as a full time pastor while he completes his dissertation.

Ethan and his wife Beth met at Elizabethtown College doing theatre. They married in 2014 and lived in DC while Ethan earned his master degrees. Shortly before moving to Curwensville they welcomed their daughter Edrea in the summer of 2017. Edrea is currently a first grader and loves gymnastics. Edrea excitedly became a big sister to her brother Elliot in 2022. Elliot is an energetic climber who loves music. In 2021 Beth's youngest sister Emily came to live with them. She enjoys working and spending time with her niece and nephew.

Outside of theology, pastoring, and teaching, Ethan loves to spend time with his family, eat fine cheeseburgers, and talk to anyone who will listen about the wonders of professional wrestling.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Jenn Blanchard, AM class lead teacher at Kinderfolk, grew up in the Boston area and graduated from the University of Massachusetts-Boston with a degree in English Literature. I first came to Lewisburg in 2003 with my husband David, who is a Chemistry Professor at Bucknell, and immediately fell in love with the area. Over the years, I've met so many great people as I have become involved in the local community through volunteer work with the Public Library for Union County, the Lewisburg Arts Council, and Cub Scout Pack 3509.

Both of our children, Henry (16) and Holly (12), are Kinderfolk alum. My husband and I really appreciated how well the program prepared our kids for school that when the opportunity arose to become a part of the Kinderfolk family, I jumped at the chance.



Hello! My name is Krista Hall and I work at Busy Beaver. I graduated from Shikellamy High School in 1998 and ever since have been working in a child care setting. This year makes my 25th year working with children, and I wouldn't want it any other way. Over the years I have worked with ages ranging from 6 weeks through school aged children. My heart has definitely been with infants and toddlers, which is where I have spent most of my years. I am currently working in the infant room. When I am not working with children, I love spending my time with my husband and 18-year-old daughter. Spring and summer are my favorite times of year. I love being outside in the sun. I cannot wait to watch your children grow!

BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Watering Hole At The Lewisburg Arts Festival - April 27

We are sponsoring this in partnership with St. Paul's UMC this year. A link to provide donations of beverages and loaning of coolers will be sent out in the near future. We will also need volunteers to help set up and tear down. Please let Nick Persing know if you can help. You can also link for the Watering Hole signup <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoC4AA4AB22A6FCCF8-48349558-2024>

Beacon Free Shop

A big Thank You to all the donors who contributed to the online Raise the Region Campaign on March 13th and 14th. We were able to raise \$915.00, which with matching funds, should be close to our goal of \$1000.00. Again, we really appreciate everyone who donated. Also, thanks again to Deena Eberhart for her help with social media outreach! We will be sure to let folks know what our final total is when we get the information from Raise the Region in a month or so.

Our March distribution was held on March 16th. We distributed personal hygiene and household items to 87 households which represent 206 persons. We had 18 new households, that's 20% of the total number of households served. We can't say thank you enough to all our volunteers and donors, this ministry would not be possible without each and every one of you.

The next Beacon Shop distribution will be on April 20, 2024 from 10 to 12.

Happy Spring!!

New to You Shop

Our next New to You Shop will be on May 18. That makes set-up Friday the 17th. Please look for sign-up sheets at the front of the sanctuary starting at the end of April. Donations can be brought the Sunday before, the 12th, after worship or on Friday during set-up. We start that day at 2:00 pm and have often finished within an hour, so donations should be brought as close to 2:00 as possible. Our large paper bags with handles have not worked well, so if you have any from department store purchases, we would love to have them. Also, please try to keep clothing donations seasonal as our storage room is being challenged for available space.

Questions? Call Patty Johnston, 570-713-4659 or email hoodj1973@ptd.net.

Thanks to our many volunteers! See you in May!

United Youth Group The month of April is all about the mission trip to DC.

On Sunday, April 7th we will meet at First Baptist Church from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. We will finalize any trip plans, collect all outstanding paperwork, and do the first part of the Bible study about missions.

On April 10th, at 4:00 pm, we will meet at St. Paul's and head to DC for the mission trip. We will return on Monday the 15th, by 1:30 pm. Please keep the group in your prayers. The group consists of 4 leaders and 9 youth. Daniel, Stewart, Mindy, Charlene, Lindsay, Orissa, Ellis, Gabe, Eli, Taylor, Addie, Kaitlyn, and Emma.

Then on Sunday, April 28th we will have a mission debrief meeting to share pictures and memories. That will take place at First Baptist church from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Youth are to bring their dinner/snacks.

- Charlene Rineer 717-880-2872

Busy Beaver

The month of April has sprung upon us and we are looking forward to the warmer weather! We are expecting our hoagie and pizza delivery on April 4th! We will reach out to everyone who ordered when we have a delivery time.

This month we will be welcoming a few new staff to Busy Beaver! At the end of March, we welcomed Miss Alexis Paige, Mrs. Mary Wayman, and Miss Destini Bickel. Our final team member will be joining us all the way from Colorado! Her name is Mrs. Jillian Kerr. Jillian is coming to us from a daycare/preschool through a church in Colorado where she was in charge of enrollment and billing. She had the opportunity to help out with lunches and recess duty and loved working directly with children. She and her husband are moving here early April and she will be joining us April 15th.

We want to thank everyone who supported our fundraiser in the month of March! These funds will be put to good use as we add additional classroom space in the upcoming months.

- Charlene Reigle Director, Busy Beaver

Kinderfolk

For the month of April, Kinderfolk will be exploring the letters S, N, W, C, and K. Sunflowers, seahorses, skunks, narwhals, nests and night skies are just a few letter S projects we will be creating during S and N week. Watermelons, whales, and water lilies will be a few topics during W week. Creepy carrots, collage, cakes, koalas, kites and blue kangaroos are just a few fun art projects we will be making during C and K week. Picture day for Kinderfolk will be on Wednesday, April 10th with Amber G Photography. Amber has been a longtime friend of the Kinderfolk program, and she does amazing things with our kiddo's smiles.

We will also be having a fundraiser on Wednesday, April 10th with OIP of Lewisburg. Kinderfolk will receive 10% of their daily profits whether you dine out, take out, or get delivery! It's a great excuse to not cook dinner that evening!

In late May, Kinderfolk will begin the transition to our new location to the First Baptist Church. Volunteers will be gladly appreciated to assist in the move. Dates of the official move will be released next month.

We are filling up both our AM and PM classes for the 2024/2025 school year. There are a few spots still available in both classes, and we are very pleased with the interest we have received thus far for next year's enrollment. We have current Kinderfolk families, past Kinderfolk families, and new families from our wonderful community seeking preschool adventures for their children!

- Julia Umstead Director, Kinderfolk Preschool

Altar Flowers

If you enjoy the beautiful flowers displayed on the altar each Sunday, please consider signing up to sponsor altar flowers. You can use the signup sheet on the cabinet in the narthex entry way or contact the church office for available dates. The cost is \$45 for two vases.

DIG Furniture Bank

DIG, one of Beaver's supported community missions, restores dignity and promotes stability by redirecting used furniture and household items to local families in need at no cost. DIG helps people get back on their feet after homelessness, incarceration, domestic violence and other significant life changes. DIG is located at 14 Elm Street, Milton. Their phone number is 570.658-9880. Their web address is WWW.DIGFB.ORG and email address is INFO@DIGFB.ORG.

Union County Giving Closet

This ministry being housed at First Presbyterian Church, provides new and gently used clothing for children aged newborn through Grade 12, whose families are enrolled in the Eastern Union County Food Bank Program. They are looking for monetary contributions and donations of clothing/shoes/reusable bags/gift cards to local stores and also need volunteers. You can email them at ucgivingcloset@gmail.com or call 570-524-4419.

Eat Share Program

The mission of this program is to extend kindness through food sharing. The focus is on neighbors providing warm meals to members of the community who cannot do that for various reasons. No proof of need is required to request or receive a meal. You can sign up to volunteer to cook and/or deliver meals. You can also donate to help provide ingredient/food purchases. Contact them at eatsharelove@yahoo.com or call 570-971-8831.

Join Our Tech Team!

If you would be willing to learn how to use the cameras on Sunday mornings, please let one of the tech team (Nick Persing, Todd Fogle, Deena Eberhart or Tim Taylor) know. They will train you and promise it is not difficult. Help us keep connected with those who are not able to join us in person on Sunday mornings.

Musicians/Vocalists Wanted!

If you would be willing to provide special music on occasion for Sunday worship, please let Brooke Persing know. We want to have a nice variety: vocal, instrumental, and combinations of those – we know there is talent among us. *Vocal Choir rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 7:00PM in the Choir Room on the lower level.*

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!

EVENTS

AT BEAVER MEMORIAL UMC			
Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
New Beginnings Adult Sunday School	Sunday	9:00 AM	Hall of All Peoples
NA Meeting	Monday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
NA Meeting	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
Leadership Team Meetings	3 rd Tuesday of the month	6:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
AA Meeting	Saturday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Beacon Shop	3 rd Saturday of the month	10:00 AM	Beaver Memorial UMC
IN THE COMMUNITY			
Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
Pub Theology	3 rd Thursday of the month	6:00 PM	Bull Run Tap House

BMUMC Staff includes:

Position	Individual	Position	Individual
Church Administrator	Tiffany Heimbach	Treasurer	Shirley Brough
Custodian	Jim Gulden	Youth Group Director	Charlene Rineer
Choir Director	Brooke Persing	Pianist	Ryan Hill
Busy Beaver Day Care Director	Charlene Reigle	Kinderfolk Preschool Director	Julia Umstead
Video Team	Nick Persing, Todd Fogle, Deena Eberhart, Timothy Taylor		
Leadership Team	Martha Root - croot@bucknell.edu Rev. Sue Jamison - sjamison@susumc.org Ralph Hibbs - rhibbs@windstream.net Patty Johnston - hoodj1973@ptd.net David Deibler-Gorman - dgorman@windstream.net Gabrielle Taylor – taylorfamily@ptd.net Heidi Gilmore – heidicgilmore@gmail.com Kathy McKibben – klmckibben@gmail.com Krystie Byrum – professorpr.maven@gmail.com Chuck Root – croot@bucknell.edu Nick Persing – persing191983@gmail.com Travis Curry – travise Curry@yahoo.com		

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