



# BEAVER BLESSINGS

August 2023



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 3<sup>rd</sup> Street · Lewisburg · PA · 17837

[www.beavermethodist.org](http://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:**

A question was raised by a pastor who was moving to a new appointment. The pastor wanted the congregation to think about their mission in a specific way by asking a basic question. So I am posing this question to all of you: If Beaver Memorial did not exist, why would you start it in the first place? After the past 5-6 years of challenge, it is time to ask anew: Why is this congregation here?

Most people do not join a church because of what it does. People join a church because of the relationships formed and the 'why' of what their ministries are about. Spiritually, there are four basic ministries of any congregation: Worship, Faith Development, Building a Beloved Community, and Putting Faith Into Action. These ministries emerge from the two core needs a faith community serves: To provide a sense of transcendent purpose, and to be a space of safety and deep connection.

In March of 2022, a group of Beaver folks met with Kim Shockley for a time of guided conversation about the purpose and future of Beaver's ministry. One of the results was updating Beaver's Mission Statement to read: Welcoming all with God's love, serving all in God's name as we all grow in faith together. We set some goals which were listed in the April 2022 issue of Beaver Blessings. We have fulfilled the following goals:

- ✓ Reintroducing greeters for Sunday morning worship
- ✓ Rebuilding a few key committees (Finance, Trustee/Building)
- ✓ Improving our website/media presence
- ✓ Expanding our outreach into the community through the Beacon Free Shop

We have partially fulfilled these goals:

- Increased connection with Busy Beaver & Kinderfolk programs
- Identification of new ministries from congregational interest

We have not yet fulfilled these goals:

- Checking in with families who have been absent for many months
- Reintroducing small groups
- Having a Talent Show/Fellowship Meal
- Reintroducing the prayer chain

On Nov. 21, 2022, the Leadership Teams of St. Paul's and Beaver met together under the guidance of Rev. Gary Weaver, Conference Superintendent. We shared questions, fears, and hopes about working together toward a possible merger. We have had one joint fellowship gathering and hope to plan a few more. We have discussed working together on a mission project of some type. With the change in supervisory areas in the Susquehanna Conference that began July 1, Pastor Sue and Pastor Daniel will be sharing with their new supervisor, Rev. Dr. Paul Amara, about this conversation and what the next steps might be. So back to the original question worded a little bit differently: If Beaver Memorial as a congregation ceases to exist in its present form, what could we become? It will take ALL OF US working together to fulfill our mission.

## **AUGUST FEATURES – Back to School Time**

### **➤ What was the first school started by Methodists?**

Education is a core value of The United Methodist Church that dates back to the earliest days of the Methodist movement in 18th century England.

Founder John Wesley believed education was the key to a fuller, richer life. “Knowledge, for him, was not so much a purely intellectual attribute but rather a channel of self-understanding, which is crucial for salvation,” writes Richard Heitzenrater in a summary of Wesley’s educational principles.

Wesley believed everyone should have access to education regardless of gender or class. In 1748 he enlarged a school he had opened for the children of coal miners near Bristol and named it the Kingswood School. His goal for the school was to give young people a high quality education so they could aspire to Cambridge or Oxford and to the professions. He championed education as a way to assure that leaders would act ethically and responsibly.

As the Methodist movement took hold and spread in the United States, Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke demonstrated the same attitude in founding Cokesbury College, the first of many colleges started by the denomination. Russell Richey writes: “The General Conferences of 1820 and 1824 charged annual conferences with the establishment of schools, literary institutions, and colleges. By the Civil War, Methodism had established or was affiliated with some 200 such institutions.”

John Wesley’s vision of making higher education accessible to all has inspired the founding of many educational institutions by the church. Nineteenth century church leaders established colleges that granted degrees to women and African Americans. Beginning in the 1860s and continuing today, the church initiated robust programs of scholarships and loans to provide financial support to students. The denomination’s commitment to education accessibility was reaffirmed in the 1970s with the creation of the Black College Fund and the HANA Scholars program, and again in the 1990s with the establishment of Africa University.

Today The United Methodist Church supports a network of 117 outstanding United Methodist-related schools, colleges, and universities in the United States, including 13 schools of theology, and relates to more than 700 institutions in the Methodist tradition globally. [Learn more.](#)

Adapted from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

## ➤ 5 Back-to-School Tips for Students by Lagnajita Mukhopadhyay

So here we are: after spending a few months relaxing and basking in the summer sun, the months have rushed by and left us in the dust. It is back-to-school season.

Now, we are faced with the prospect of change again, unfamiliar and intimidating. It threatens to push away the idea of going back to school altogether, for fear of failure, or worse, of dissatisfaction. But we must remind ourselves that what is coming is just another season, another opportunity for growth, another chance to do our best.

Here are some ways to prepare for back-to-school without unneeded stress, and with a positive mindset and open heart.

What are some back-to-school tips?

*Use a planner* - If you are admittedly like me and you open up your planner for the first week of classes and then promptly forget about it, it may be better to find some other organizational method that works for you, such as the Sticky Notes on your laptop or the calendar app on your phone. Planner or no planner, the key is to be able to see what is coming so you are adequately prepared. Leave no room for unsavory surprises!

*Create and adjust to a routine* - Routine. The word itself brings a groan to many lips. But routine does not necessarily have to be boring. Find a way to start acclimating to a school routine. Start setting alarms a little earlier each day. Start going to bed sooner. Set consistent mealtimes so your body can get used to its biological clock. By doing this, you will find that you have more time to enjoy your day, as you will be well-rested and energized.

*Spring...or autumn cleaning* - There is no better way to feel productive than to clean (unless mindless cleaning starts to become an excuse for not doing other things). Be intentional with yourself: what do you really need to keep? The old pair of jeans that finally ripped beyond repair? The dried out markers from three years ago? Sort out what must stay and donate or give away the rest to minimize waste. Clean your study space, your kitchen, and anything that gets overlooked during the busy school year. Back to school sales are created for the purpose of enticing you to purchase things you don't need so plan before you shop for more things.

*Cut yourself some slack* - Going into the school year, it can be easy to serve too much pressure on your own plate. But it is important to not let any one particular thing affect everything else. Whether it is one bad grade or one difficult project, nothing is the end of the world. Have faith and give yourself some room to breathe by meditating, taking a walk, or talking to loved ones.

*Last, but not least, find balance* - The most important thing to remember is you are only human, and humans cannot do everything all at once. Remember to balance homework with other activities and work with play. Going back to school should not have to mean that your life is on hold!

Lagnajita Mukhopadhyay served as a summer 2019 intern with the communications strategy team at United Methodist Communications, Nashville, Tennessee, USA. A senior at Belmont University, she expects to graduate in December 2019 with a degree in English and Art History.

➤ **Volunteers in Mission Immigration Immersion Journey** Tucson, Arizona September 16-22, 2023

Partnering with Arizona Justice for our Neighbors (AZJFON), join the Susquehanna Conference VIM team for an Immigration Immersion Journey. We will hear from Arizona Justice for our Neighbors (JFON grew out of the United Methodist Committee on Relief's commitment to refugees and immigrants), Pima County Medical Examiner, and The Inn of Southern Arizona (United Methodist run program for asylum seekers). We will tour Nogales, Sonora, Mexico led by Border Community Alliance and take a trip into the desert with Humane Borders or the Tucson Samaritans. We will learn about the immigration crisis with the intention of conveying that knowledge to our churches, ministries, and circles so as to support the relief efforts. Must be 18 years old or older and have a valid US Passport. 9 spots are available. Approximately \$400 plus airfare and meals. If interested, contact Susquehanna Conference VIM Coordinator, Michelle Schwartzman at [vim@susumc.org](mailto:vim@susumc.org).

### **BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

#### **Beacon Free Shop**

Beacon Free Shop was held Saturday, July 15. Thirty-nine households, consisting of 85 persons, were served. As always, the volunteer team did an outstanding job making Beacon clients feel welcomed into our church while providing them with much needed personal hygiene items.

The August Beacon Shop will be held on the third Saturday of the month, August 19, 2023 from 10am-12noon. Thank you to church members for their continued support.

#### **New to You Free Shop**

In conjunction with Beaver Memorial's Beacon Free Shop, we will be offering gently used adult clothing, linens and kitchen items free of charge to those in need. We will start these events, to be held quarterly, beginning in August on the same third Saturdays the Beacon Shop is open and at the same time, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We need your help! We will be setting up in Beaver's Fellowship Hall on Fri. Aug. 18 from 2:00 to 5:00, and donations can be dropped off at the back alley door to the Fellowship Hall during this time. They can also be dropped off at the Parker entrance on Sun. Aug. 13 after worship. We will need to return any remaining items to the storage room on Sat. Aug. 19 after the Beacon Shop ends at noon. Please consider offering some of your time for this effort. Excluded are knives (other than place setting knives), underwear (bras are okay), shoes, children's clothing. Please mark any sheets or bedding items with their size (twin, full, queen, king). To volunteer or for further information, please contact Patty Johnston 570-523-3132 or [hoodj1973@ptd.net](mailto:hoodj1973@ptd.net).

#### **Busy Beaver**

July has been a very busy month here at Busy Beaver! Our new classroom opened on July 5th and is already full! We have 4 full time children and one enrolled part time. We also did a summer fundraiser this month through R&K Subs! Thank you to all who ordered! Delivery will be Monday August 7th!

We also have 7 Preschoolers graduating in the month of August and heading off to Kindergarten. Our Preschool graduation will take place on Friday August 4th at 2pm. We are planning an end of summer carnival for the children which will also take place sometime in August.

**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 Mindy for available dates. The cost is \$40 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](http://WWW.DIGFB.ORG) and email address is [INFO@DIGFB.ORG](mailto: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](mailto:ucgivingcloset@gmail.com) or call 570-524-4419.

**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 Pastor Sue or Brooke Persing know. We want to have a nice variety: vocal, instrumental, and combinations of those – we know there is talent among us. *We are also looking for additional choir members! Choir rehearsal are held on Thursdays at 7:00PM in the Choir Room on the lower level.*

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**We Have Convenient Methods of Giving!**

Mail to Beaver Memorial at 42 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Lewisburg, 17837  
drop into our Drop Box outside the office door or  
go to our website: [www.beavermethodist.org](http://www.beavermethodist.org) and click on "Giving".  
Thank you!

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**EVENTS****The Power of White Allies**

This webinar is sponsored by The Beloved Community Commission and will be held Tuesday, August 8th; 6:30-7:30pm. What does it mean to be a white ally? How can your Christian faith and love be expressed as a white ally when situations arise in your community, the nation, or the world that need to be addressed? Join in the learning and dialogue around how to be collaborative and supportive with people of color in the variety of settings where you are present or could be present. The presenter is Pastor Debra Mason who serves as the Diversity Development and Inclusion Coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the UMC. In this role, she provides support to ethnic clergy and cross-cultural appointments; consults on racism, diversity and inclusion concerns; leads training; and facilitates train-the-trainer programs for implicit bias awareness. To register, find the link on the Susquehanna Conference UMC website.

**Let's Talk About Grief sponsored by EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

"One of the ways that we can all get better at responding to grief is understanding that grief is a natural part of life, that grief is normal, and that it's ok to talk about it."

~Julie Kaplow, PhD, ABPP, licensed clinical psychologist and author

Thursday, August 24, 2023

10-12 pm or 5-7 pm

The Public Library for Union County

255 Reitz Blvd., Lewisburg

FREE - Registration required. Please call 570-522-2157.

Join Andrea Runkle, MSW, Social Worker/Bereavement Coordinator, Hospice of Evangelical, for an open discussion about grief, the grieving process, and how to cope through our loss and support those who are grieving through understanding and compassion.

Together the group will:

- Define grief
- Discuss what is considered "normal" as we grieve
- Explore ways to cope

Find ways to support others through their grief process

Anyone age 18 or older who has experienced the loss of a loved one or is supporting someone through their grief is invited to attend.

**Monthly Book Study Opportunity**

Rev. Daniel Wilt is offering a monthly book study, open to anyone to attend. The first meeting will be on Wed. June 7. Each month a new book (see list below) will be discussed. Subsequent meetings will be on the first Wed. of each month. The meetings will begin at 7 pm and end around 8:30 pm, with snacks and coffee provided. The meeting place will be determined based on the number of people who sign up. Also, you can purchase your own books from your preferred bookseller. Some are older and can probably be found used, or you can get an e-book if you prefer that! If you can't order them

yourself or can't afford the books, let us know and we will take care of that for you! If you are interested in joining, contact Pastor Daniel: [dwilt@susumc.org](mailto:dwilt@susumc.org) or 570-524-5011.

- Aug. 2 - Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Sept. 6 - Trouble I've Seen by Drew Hart
- Oct. 4 - Learning to Walk In the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor
- Nov. 1 - To be Determined
- Dec. 6 - To Be Determined (Christmas Themed)

AT BEAVER MEMORIAL UMC			
Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
New Beginnings Adult Sunday School	Sunday	9:00 AM	Parsonage
NA Meeting	Monday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
NA Meeting	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
Leadership Team Meetings	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month	6:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
AA Meeting	Saturday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Beacon Shop	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month	10:00 AM	Beaver Memorial UMC
IN THE COMMUNITY			
Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
Pub Theology	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month	6:00 PM	Bull Run Tap House
Monthly Book Study	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month beginning June 7	7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	TBA

**BMUMC Staff includes:**

Position	Individual	Position	Individual
Administrative Assistant	Mindy Moore	Treasurer	Shirley Brough
Custodian	Greyson Leshar	Youth Group Director	Mindy Moore
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 - <a href="mailto:croot@bucknell.edu">croot@bucknell.edu</a> Rev. Sue Jamison - <a href="mailto:sjamison@susumc.org">sjamison@susumc.org</a> Ralph Hibbs - <a href="mailto:rhibbs@windstream.net">rhibbs@windstream.net</a> Patty Johnston - <a href="mailto:hoodj1973@ptd.net">hoodj1973@ptd.net</a> David Deibler-Gorman - <a href="mailto:dgorman@windstream.net">dgorman@windstream.net</a> Gabrielle Taylor – <a href="mailto:taylorfamily@ptd.net">taylorfamily@ptd.net</a> Heidi Gilmore – <a href="mailto:heidigilmore@gmail.com">heidigilmore@gmail.com</a> Kathy McKibben – <a href="mailto:klmckibben@gmail.com">klmckibben@gmail.com</a> Krystie Byrum – <a href="mailto:professorprmaven@gmail.com">professorprmaven@gmail.com</a> Chuck Root – <a href="mailto:croot@bucknell.edu">croot@bucknell.edu</a> Nick Persing – <a href="mailto:persing191983@gmail.com">persing191983@gmail.com</a> Travis Curry – <a href="mailto:traviscurry@yahoo.com">traviscurry@yahoo.com</a>		

➤ Submit content for the newsletter to [tlcinhisservice@yahoo.com](mailto:tlcinhisservice@yahoo.com) by the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the newsletter.