



BEAVER BLESSINGS

February 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:

Over the years I have collected a number of affirmations that have inspired me. I found them in various places – books, magazines, online. Most have no author attributed to them. I have seen slightly different variations of most of them. They are not specifically Christian, but they align with what I believe Jesus taught. A few I have printed and framed and hung in various rooms of my house – bedroom, bathroom, office, living room, and even on my refrigerator. Here are three that I hope you enjoy and that they may speak to you in some way.

Namaste

*I honor the place in you in which the entire universe dwells.
 I honor the place in you which is love, truth, light and peace.
 When you are in that place in you, and I am in that place in me,
 We are one.*

Peace

*May today there be peace within.
 May you trust your highest power that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
 May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
 May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
 May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
 Let this presence settle into your bones,
 and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
 It is there for each and every one of you.*

Love

*I am in touch with the source of all life, and I am open to receive all energy from the source.
 My purpose is to know and be love.
 My intent is to know the fullness of life, the joy of life, and the love that I am.
 I deeply desire to know, to be, to understand, to experience, to express the love that I am,
 and the absolute good that I bring forth.
 I ask that the light of the source surround me, enfold me, and embrace me.
 I ask that the love energy flow through me now.*

*From this day forward I am better able to be the love that I am,
and to know that I have no limitations.
For I am this energy. I am love.
And because I am love, I live each moment of this day in heartfelt gratitude
and deep abiding appreciation for all that is.*

FEBRUARY FEATURES

➤ Reflections on Transfiguration

As the Christian cycle moves from the winter light of Epiphany toward the spring light of Lent days grow longer and nights shorter. In this gradual movement the signs of light are varied in their beauty and clarity. Some light glimmers like the new fake candles that are a little off color. Some twilight is shrouded in wind and rain on a wet hike in early spring. Or some signs are the fleeting warmth in the heart.

In this time of transition, the Feast Day of the Transfiguration comes at the end of Epiphany before Ash Wednesday. Transfiguration is the complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful state. It is a day that tells the story of Christ appearing in full, frightening, and light filled revelation of Jesus as the Son of Man to the disciples. The disciples are filled with fear and are told to wait, much like the Israelites who waited for Moses as he went up into the fiery, foggy top of Mount Sinai to receive the tablets of law and commandments. It is a surprise and unimaginable. Transfiguration is God's revelation of who Jesus really is. Jesus' whole being is transformed showing the glory of the eternal status of the divine Son.

In this season of transition for many people there is a sense of fear and a posture of waiting on cloudy and foggy mountains. In the Gospel reading in the midst of the waiting and the anxiety there is One who comes in the most dazzling and unexpected ways offering healing and redemption.

A Prayer of St. Augustine:

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give
Your angels and saints charge over those who sleep.
Tend Your sick ones, O Lord Christ.
Rest Your weary ones.
Bless Your dying ones.
Soothe Your suffering ones.
Pity Your afflicted ones.
Shield Your joyous ones, and all for Your love's sake. Amen.

On the road to death and resurrection, it is Christ's suffering that is redeeming. Christ's suffering is with and for the vulnerable, the lost, the forgotten, the grieving, the sick, the afflicted, the dying, the little ones. As the season of darkness moves toward the light it must be a season of healing of the soul and the welfare of the people.

The words to "tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised" indicates that people are not ready for the Transfiguration story because the disciples are not ready to tell it. We must ponder our own readiness to tell the wonder of the Gospel message of suffering and redemption found in the midst of fear and anxiety.

The General Board of Church and Society

➤ **Turning: An Ash Wednesday reflection**

“Remember you are dust and to dust you will return” are not easy words to utter.

In the liturgy on Ash Wednesday, we touch our congregants’ foreheads, draw an ashen cross, and remind each, “to dust you will return.” It’s one of the most moving gestures of ministry.

The Christian community prepares for Easter by entering this holy season of Lent with these words and this mark. We begin Lent remembering our need for repentance (turning) and our reliance on the forgiveness of God proclaimed by Jesus Christ. We do so in the hope that Lent may be a time of renewal, growth and transformation.

The words of the Ash Wednesday service:

I invite you in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, self-denial, and giving to those in need, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Self-examination

Lent is a time of self-examination, a time of having our hearts converted and opened for more spacious love. We ponder our habits, fears, anxieties and actions (and inaction). We reflect on all that distance us from the community of faith, from our families, from our loves, from those yearning for connection, from those lost and wandering. Self-examination does not mean to be harsh and self-critical, but it is a willingness to understand our woundedness. Self-examination leads us into the way of making room to love more fully, more deeply and more honestly. Self-examination helps us repent and turn toward love.

I recently encountered a woman who witnessed the killing and brutal mutilation of her father in a conflict not of her doing. She and her siblings left their home not able to bear the pain of returning.

Years later, after lamenting the horrors of the violence and a long season of mourning she wanted to return to her home. She said, “I finally returned to my home because I have forgiven those that killed my father.”

Opening our hearts so that we can love more spaciously takes time, self-examination, prayer and turning around.

Sacred practices

Lent is also a time for us to engage in spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, self-denial, and giving to those in need. These practices turn our focus from ourselves toward others. These disciplines occur in the life of the community and are transformative for moving from the tragedy to hope. They lead to understanding, healing and forgiveness, all of which prepares us for Easter.

Easter is our celebration of God’s generosity. Generosity is what saved and continues to save the world. God’s generosity is the gift of Jesus Christ. It is God’s giving to us what we need. Implicit in the invitation of Ash Wednesday is gratitude and justice for all in need.

How will you and your church be generous in this Lenten season? How will you extend yourselves to those in spiritual, social, economic need? With whom will you walk? With whom will you pray?

The word of God

Lastly, meditating on the word of God helps us contemplate the meaning of God's generous love, in its many expressions. Through worship, prayer, meditation in our communities, in listening to our neighbors, in working for justice, in standing with those persons who are migrating from one place to another, being companions with those living in the hard conditions of poverty moves us into the joy of resurrection.

The General Board of Church and Society

➤ **Introducing "ON THIS DAY"**, an article series celebrating the United Methodist Building's 100th year anniversary.

Each month in 2024, Church and Society will highlight notable days offering glimpses into the momentous 100-year history of the United Methodist Building and the people called Methodists often walking along side ecumenical partners living their faith through social witness.

General Board of Church and Society January 10, 2024

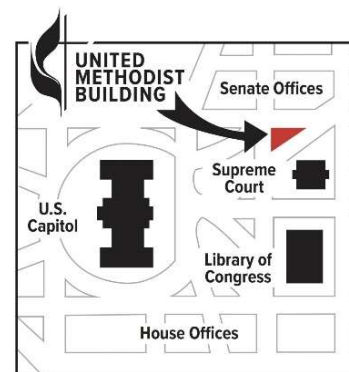
ON THIS DAY... January 10, 1924

On Capitol Hill, The United Methodist Building's life began 100 years ago. It opened on this day in January 1924. The groundbreaking of what was then called the Methodist Building began in 1923.

The remarkable construction of this building and 100 years of faith-based witness demonstrates what engagement of Methodist people can accomplish. The promotion of justice and the pursuit of peace marks this historic building and the mission of the United Methodist Church.

Today, the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill is a center of activity for United Methodists to gather often with faith partners to host meetings, organize conferences, offer seminars, plan rallies and advocate for policy and legislative justice. The actions, responses and advocacy of this vital social justice ministry continue to move at a rapid pace on Capitol Hill and at the United Nations. Issues of peacebuilding, immigration, migration, civil and human rights, health care for all, climate, racial/ethnic justice have permeated the work with many successes over the years, offering inspiration for the challenges ahead. Learn more at www.umcjustice.org

To purchase the 2024 United Methodist Building historical book written by Dr. Jessica M. Smith, *For Justice and Enduring Peace: One Hundred Years of Social Witness*, visit Cokesbury Publishing.



► Taylor Family Gift to Beaver Memorial

Last winter, pieces of stone from the front of the church fell onto the sidewalk. An emergency repair costing ~\$41,000 was completed immediately, but the long-term repair was postponed while we sought funding to help with the cost, estimated in 2023 to cost approximately \$200,000. The church has been investigating funding sources to help pay for the repairs, including two applications to the Stabler Foundation of Harrisburg for a grant, which were unsuccessful. The Taylor family has graciously agreed to make a large donation to assist in the long-term repair of the steeple. The repair work will be done by Nick DePasquale, who did the emergency repair and also did the full stone repair and sealing about 35 years ago.

Here is the family's statement regarding their gift:

In 1981, I was a 17 year old only child studying biology at Bucknell. One evening in May, I received the news that my father had died. He had been having heart issues for some time, but it was unfortunately before many of the current procedures for dealing with these issues became commonplace. I distinctly remember my mother signing a special release for an experimental balloon surgery to try and save his life.

My father left some securities in a trust that I would not receive until my mother passed away. The dividends were to provide for her during her remaining years.

Last summer, she was reunited with my father, a day she had anxiously waited on for over 40 years. Suddenly, I found myself with an unexpected inheritance.

I just celebrated my 60th birthday. Timothy and I have been blessed with six amazing children, who are either currently in school, or are financially independent. We discussed it as a family, and are happy that the Lord has provided us this opportunity to donate funds to help satisfy a major building safety need of our Beaver UMC community. We heard His call, and answered. God Bless Beaver Memorial UMC and Kinderfolk and Busy Beaver and all the awesome people who are involved in continuing our wonderful congregation and church family!

Submitted by Gabrielle Taylor

► Soup and Scripture 2024

Soup & Scripture will be held each Wednesday during Lent. Hosted by Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church at noon, the various churches in the Lewisburg Council of Churches will be providing lunch. Beaver Memorial's date for that is March 6. The theme this year is the "I Am" statements of Jesus, and each week a clergy person will provide a meditation/discussion opportunity.

The tentative schedule is:

- Feb. 14 Rev. Daniel Wilt: I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life
- Feb. 21 Rev. Justin Lingenfelter: I Am the Good Shepherd
- Feb. 28 Rev. Ryan Kraus: I Am the Resurrection & the Life
- Mar. 6 Rev. Sue Jamison: I Am the Light of the World
- Mar. 13 Rev. Marian Anderson: I Am the Bread of Life
- Mar. 20 Rev. Alice Rauch: I Am the Vine

► Reminder That All Leadership Team Meetings Are Open

The LT meets on the third Tuesday each month at 6:30. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. If there is a need to discuss personnel issues, visitors will be asked to leave for that portion of the

meeting. Minutes are also available upon request. And all financial reports are available upon request. Please contact the church office if you would like a copy of either of these.

➤ **Alanna Jacob competed in a half marathon at Disney World**



Ever since Alanna was little she has dreamed of running a marathon. So we agreed she could run a half marathon this year. The Disney World Marathon weekend was January 4-7, 2024; which worked out perfectly. Each year Disney has the 5k on Thursday, the 10k on Friday, the half marathon on Saturday, and the full marathon on Sunday. For an extra challenge you can run all 4 races and they give you an extra special medal for completing “The Dopey Challenge”. We arrived in Orlando on Friday, January 5th so that Alanna could pick up her bib and information. We had a wonderful pasta dinner and went to bed early as the race would start at 5 am the next day! Unfortunately there were storms in the area that morning, so Disney decided to start the half marathon at 4:45 am and shortened the course to 7.1 miles. So after Alanna finished the 7.1 mile half marathon route she ran alongside many other racers for another 6 miles in the Epcot parking lot to complete her 13.1 miles!! Alanna said it was such an amazing, positive experience and that she can’t wait to run another marathon someday! I think the Dopey Challenge is in her future!!

Submitted by Eustacia Muir

BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Beacon Free Shop

Despite single digit temperatures and recent snowfall, Beacon Free Shop served 53 households, with 147 individuals. We welcomed three households who were non-English speaking. Beaver is so fortunate to have two Spanish interpreters, Nonie Martin and Nancy Nickles, available to help. Thanks to all volunteers who came out in the cold weather to serve our neighbors in need.

We had a curious South Third St. neighbor stop by as she has seen the Beacon signs during her walks. We gave her a tour and explained our mission. She summed up her observation as “this is what we were meant to do.” Amen.

Remember to use any unspent Over the Counter (OTC) benefits for Beacon personal hygiene items. Or, make a monetary donation by including Beacon Free Shop on your check memo line.

OTC Consideration

"A new year means new healthcare benefits to most of us. Many insurance companies offer Over The Counter (OTC) benefits, which allow members to spend a monthly amount on OTC products at specific stores. If you have this benefit, but do not take advantage of the entire amount each month, please consider purchasing items for Beacon Free Shop with remaining OTC dollars.

The following items are typically covered by OTC benefits, and are distributed by the Beacon Shop:

- Adult Toothbrushes (packaged individually)
- Kids Toothbrushes (packaged individually)
- Adult Toothpaste (~5 oz.) Kids Toothpaste (~2.2 oz.)
- Poligrip (.75 oz)
- Efferdent (20-24 pack)

As always, thank you for supporting the Beacon Free Shop at Beaver."

For additional information contact Christy Brouse at 570-238-5707 or beacon@beavermethodist.org.

New to You Shop

Our next day for the New To You Free Shop is Saturday, February 17, from 10:00 to noon. That means we need help to set up on Friday the 16th at 2:00, some folks to help during our event on Saturday morning and many hands to help put items away after noon on Saturday. Sign-ups for volunteering will be in the front of the sanctuary, or you can email Patty at hoodj1973@ptd.net to choose a time. We have had Beacon Shop clients asking when our next session is, so New To You is gaining a real following. Thanks to you all for your help in our previous 2 events, and again, thanks in advance for your continuing help. You may also drop off donations the Sunday before (the 11th) after worship or Friday the 16th during set-up hours.

United Youth Group

On January 7, we discussed resolutions/intentions and the youth made spiritual goals for the year. Some discussion occurred about being specific and making goals measurable. We also played a fun card game and another one to get the kids moving. Four middle schoolers and two high schoolers attended.

The youth had a great time at their Lock-in on January 12th into the 13th. Nine students attended, two of them did not sleep over. We ate pizza, played some games, (including nerf gun battles) and had a lot of great conversations. During the month of February we will meet at Christ's Lutheran Church. We will be continuing our topics for self-care and spiritual inspiration. On February 4th we will talk about proper nutrition, and we will make a healthy snack. We will not meet on the 11th since some of us will be watching the Super Bowl. On February 18th the topic is rest. We will have a focused time of rest. On February 25th we will do a simple painting. The meetings will be from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. These gatherings are for all 6th through 12th graders.

- Charlene Rineer 717-880-2872

Busy Beaver

Busy Beaver is going into 2024 with some exciting things happening ahead! Currently, Busy Beaver's classrooms are completely maxed out! We have a waitlist for each classroom with the infants being our largest!

After closing out our Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser, Busy Beaver profited \$1048.00, which has been our largest fundraiser yet. In March we will do our Spring fundraiser through Marianna's which seems to be a big hit as well. We are waiting on the order forms to come. Orders and payment will be due March 26th and delivery will be April 4th.

In January we hosted our first Team Bonding Night for the staff. Due to illness, we had 9 out of 13 staff in attendance. We ordered hoagies and pizza from OIP and did Canvas paintings through Andrea Seebold, an English teacher from Midd West School District. Our next Team Building Night will be in March.

- Charlene Reigle Director, Busy Beaver

Kinderfolk

January was quite the chilly month! Between our winter activities and the actual winter weather, we're hoping our busy February will keep our minds off winter and we'll be hopeful for an early

spring! Our letters of the week this month will be the letter G, H V M and T. We'll create and entertain with shadow projects celebrating Groundhog's Day during 'G' week. 'H' week brings about hugs, hearts, hippos and horses. During 'H' week, we will also take some time to celebrate the Chinese New Year. This year is the year of the wood dragon. The letter 'V' week will be celebrating Valentine's Day and we'll also hold a festive Mardi Gras celebration! Kinderfolk is also guaranteed for a grand volcano explosion that week as well. Moons, mice, mail and mermaids will be in the making during 'M' week. Our 'T' week will be jam packed with turtles, trains, tacos, and tulips. Along with our entertaining art projects during our letters of the week, we will begin tracing letters and words that start with the letters. We will also discuss letter recognition during circle time as well as small group activities.

Special Announcement

In late 2023, a number of meetings were held with leaders of First Baptist to discuss the possibility of Kinderfolk Preschool moving to their church. In mid-January First Baptist voted to receive the program. During the January Leadership Team meeting, they voted to support the move of Kinderfolk Preschool program to First Baptist Church effective Summer 2024. Additional information will be shared in the coming months.

- Julia Umstead Director, Kinderfolk Preschool

VIM Wesley Forest Spring Workday 2024

Saturday, March 9 – 9am-4pm Rain Date - Saturday, March 23

Cost: FREE -bring your own lunch (coffee, tea and snacks will be provided)

All equipment will be supplied.

Adults and 6th grade and up with a parent/guardian or youth leader are invited.

VIM is forming a team to head to Wesley Forest, one of our Conference Camp and Retreat Centers. Wesley Forest has 11 summer cabins, three of which were painted last year. We hope to gather a group of about 24 in order to paint the remaining 8 cabin exteriors in one day. We will need volunteers that are comfortable going up on ladders but will also need those who can paint the lower half and porches.

If you have any questions please contact Michelle Schwartzman, Conference Volunteer in Mission Coordinator at vim@susumc.org Wesley Forest Camp 58 Wesley Forest Ln, Weikert, PA 17885

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.

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	Parsonage
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	Allison Morgan	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 – professorprmaven@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.