



BEAVER BLESSINGS

FEBRUARY 2026



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 Service - 11:00 am

From Pastor Sue's Desk:

I do not know who the author of this essay is as I have had it among my Bits & Pieces document file on my computer for many years. But given all that is happening these past months, I hope that you will resonate with what it says.

Fear of Transformation

Sometimes I feel that my life is a series of trapeze swings. I'm either hanging on to a trapeze bar swinging along, or for a few moments in my life, I'm hurtling across space in between trapeze bars. Most of the time I am hanging on for dear life to my trapeze-bar-of-the-moment. It carries me along at a certain steady rate of swing and I have the feeling that I'm in control of my life. I know most of the right questions and even some of the right answers. But occasionally as I'm merrily (or not so merrily) swinging along, I look out ahead of me into the distance, and what do I see? I see another trapeze bar swinging toward me. It's empty, and I know in that place in me that knows, that this new trapeze bar has my name on it. It is my next step, my growth, my aliveness coming to get me. Deep in my heart I know that in order for me to grow, I must release my grip on this present, well-known bar and move to the new one.

Each time this happens to me, I hope and I pray that I won't have to grab the new one. But I know that I must totally release my grasp on my old bar, and for some moments in time I must hurtle across space before I can grab onto the new bar. Each time I am filled with terror. It doesn't matter that in all my previous hurtles across the void of unknowing I have always safely made it. Each time I am afraid I will miss it and then I will be crushed on unseen rocks in the bottomless chasm between the bars. But I do it anyway. Perhaps this is the essence of what the mystics call a faith experience. No guarantees, no net, no insurance policy, but you do it anyway because somehow, to keep hanging on to that old bar is no longer on the list of alternatives. And so, for an eternity that can last a microsecond or a thousand lifetimes, I soar across the dark void of "the past is gone, the future is not yet here." It's called transition. I have come to believe that it is the only place that real change occurs. I mean REAL change, not the pseudo-change that only lasts until the next time my old buttons get pushed.

I have noticed that in our culture this transition zone is looked upon as a "no-thing," a no place between places. Sure, the old trapeze bar was real, and the new one coming towards me, well I hope that it's real too. But the void in between? That's just a scary, confusing, disorienting 'nowhere' that must be gotten through as fast and as unconsciously as possible. I have a sneaking suspicion that the transition zone is the only real thing and the bars are illusions that we dream up to avoid the void, where the real change, the real growth occurs for us. Whether or not my hunch is true, it remains that the transition zones in our lives are incredibly rich places. They should be honored, even savored. Yes, with all the pain and fear and feelings of being out of control that can accompany transitions, they are still the most alive, most growth filled, passionate, expansive moments in our lives.

And so, transformation of fear may have nothing to do with making fear go away, but rather with giving ourselves permission to 'hang out' in the transition between trapeze bars. Transforming our need to grab that new bar, any bar, is to allow ourselves to dwell in the only place where change really happens. It can be terrifying. It can also be enlightening, in the true sense of the word. Hurling through the void, we just may learn how to fly.

Reflections from Pastor Ethan:

Hello Friends,

I wanted to give you all an update on how my doctorate is going. Long story short: Slow. That being said, I am happy to say that in January I have reached my second to last milestone. I met with my advisor and other professors to go over the final parts of my dissertation proposal so that I can begin (and finally finish) writing the whole body of the dissertation. This year my plan is to finish most of it! Throughout the year I will give you all updates regarding how it's going as well as any theological insights I may (or may not!) glean from my writing and research.

This has been one of the longest and most difficult tasks of my life, but God is still very good. I have learned so much and have been amazed and humbled by the kind of friends and colleagues I made along the way. All of us at one time or another will find ourselves tasked with something that we feel is insurmountable. Moments like these can lead us to doubt ourselves and even God's will and purpose for our lives. You know me friends; I think doubt is a normal and often important part of the life of faith. If you are going through periods of doubt right now I want to encourage you. You are among friends. God in God's wisdom has made creatures like us for one another. We are supposed to be together! When we are together doubt never feels so bad and all tasks can be accomplished.

Let's do the work of God in Jesus Christ together. Amen

February Features



The Snow Moon

Sunday February 1, 2026



February's Full Moon name is a fairly straightforward one: it's known as the **Snow Moon** due to the typically heavy snowfall that occurs in February. On average, February is the United States' snowiest month, according to data from the National Weather Service.



Downtown Lewisburg will shimmer with winter excitement when the 22nd Annual Heart of Lewisburg Ice Festival returns February 6–8, 2026. This beloved community tradition invites residents and visitors alike to enjoy a full weekend of ice sculptures, family friendly activities, food and drink specials, and unique shopping experiences throughout the downtown. The festival officially kicks off early Friday morning as the Bucknell Men’s Crew Team installs ice sculptures along Market Street, transforming the downtown into a sparkling winter showcase. One of the weekend’s signature events, the 4th Annual Ice Festival Sip & Shop, takes place Friday evening from 5:00–8:00 PM. Presented by the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership and sponsored by the Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau, Sip & Shop offers participants the chance to explore multiple downtown locations while sampling wines, beers, spirits, and snacks, with nonalcoholic options also available. Each participant will receive a four-section wine tote—perfect for taking bottles home.

Saturday begins with the Frosty 5K, hosted by the Lewisburg Sunset Rotary Club, starting and finishing at the Campus Theatre. Registration opens at 8:00 AM, with the race beginning at 9:30 AM. Ice carving begins at 10:00 AM in Hufnagle Park, where professional ice carvers will transform massive blocks of ice into stunning sculptures. Large carvings are sponsored by WellSpan Health, Geisinger, UPMC, Service 1st, and Weis Markets. From 10:00 AM–2:00 PM, the Lewisburg Children’s Museum will host children’s activities in the park, offering hands-on winter fun for families. Participants can warm up before the Polar Bear Plunge at the Pre-Plunge Party from 11:00 AM–2:00 PM at Brasserie Louis, with tickets available at: tickettailor.com/events/lewisburgneighborhoods and from Noon–2:00 PM at Stillwater Spa & Events (100 Market Street) with Rusty Rail Brewing. At 2:00 PM, the whimsical Handmade Parade sets off from the corner of Market and Front Streets, traveling to the St. George Street Landing. Led by featured artist Rachel Martine and the Lewisburg Arts Council, the parade invites participants to wear handmade costumes and bring their own handmade instruments.

BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

New Beginnings Adult Sunday School Class

On Feb. 8 the class begins discussing the book On Living Well by Eugene Peterson, with the discussion led by Rev. Duane Gebhard. This book collects some of Eugene's best never-before-published short writings to help you walk in the way of Jesus with a little more courage, passion, and hope—by offering new ways to practice generosity, community, prayer, simplicity, worship, inner peace, and so much more. This book is a rich feast for the soul, ideal as a daily spiritual touchpoint or simply to nourish a heart hungry for pastoral wisdom. It is your invitation to enter into the meaningful simplicity of life with Jesus in a world of immense beauty, real difficulty, and endless wonder. Duane will also have a study guide for those who want one. Books will be available during the class. If you would like a hard copy, the cost is \$20. You can also get it through Kindle if you have that app. We meet in the Parker 2nd floor classroom. Please join us!

Beacon Free Shop

January 2026 – Ninety-two households (240 individuals) were served during the January 17, 2026, Beacon Free Shop. Eight households were new to Beacon. Our dedicated 18 volunteers handed out 831 items, or an average of nine per household.

Business partners, First Quality Products (toilet paper), AGAPE (adult diapers), and Shape of Justice (feminine hygiene) each have limited or ceased inventory donations. This loss has increased Beacon costs an additional \$1,000 per month. We made the decision to limit each household to only one package of adult diapers each month.

Coordinators, Christy Brouse and Nancy Nickles, will be enjoying some downtime over the next two months. They have been stocking Beacon inventory with three months of supplies by filling their Subarus (see pictures) in order to have enough items on hand until April!

The next Beacon Shop will be held Saturday, February 21, 2026 from 10am to noon.



New To You

The Next New to You is Feb. 21., with set-up the day before, Frid. the 20th, at 2:00. There is a sign up in the sanctuary. Please remember that all items should be gently used. Stained, torn or other damaged items cannot be accepted. As always, we especially need linens. Kitchen items are in fairly short supply as well. Donations can be brought during Friday set-up or the Sunday before the event. If those times are not convenient for you, please call Patty Johnston to set up an alternate time. 570-713-4659. Thanks for your continuing support!

Busy Beaver

As we slide right into the month of February, we will be having our first fundraiser of the year! We will be sending out Gertrude Hawk flyers in the first week of February. Delivery will be the week of March 23rd, just in time for Easter!

Our annual Valentine's Day party is on Friday February 13th! We share lots of yummy treats and exchange Valentines. The children will design their own boxes or bags to collect Valentines to take home with them.

Monday February 16, 2026, Busy Beaver will be closed for our teacher in service Day. We will all gather here for ASQ training and spend the rest of the day cleaning and organizing the classrooms. We will supply lunch for the staff.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

Charlene Reigle, director Busy Beaver Daycare Center (570)522-0458

United Youth Group

On Sunday, February 8 from 2 pm to 4 pm the youth will gather for a Pre-Superbowl party at St. Paul's UMC. This gathering is for all 6th through 12th graders. We will play football themed games and eat a ton of snacks. For Mini Mission Monday on Feb. 16th, we will be making fleece tie blankets for Project Linus. This will be held at Christ's Lutheran in room 204-206 at 6:30 pm.

RENEW Retreat at Camp Mount Luther – February 20-21

The Upper Susquehanna Synod YOUTH Team and Camp Mount Luther are joining together to lead this retreat. The theme is Join the Faithful Feast. Come Gather and Reflect on the Word as we take a closer look at food and faith. Experience the Creator, play winter games, and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. Register at campmountluther.org/renew. The time is Friday, from 6:30 pm to Saturday at 4:00 pm.

Thanks, Charlene Rineer



**Susquehanna Conference UMC Peace with Justice & Advocacy
Team and United Women in Faith Event ~ Juvenile Justice
Reform Training & Advocacy Conference**
(additional co-sponsors include SUSUMC Commission on The Beloved
Community, SUSUMC Commission on The Status & Role of Women, and
SUSUMC Conference Board of Global Ministries)

Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church, PA --- For people of color (especially young women who are black or indigenous) an epidemic of harsh punishment in our schools, schools who function as a pipeline to prison, and unjust treatment in our juvenile court system is all too common. "While for some folks the conversation about the school-to-prison pipeline and school pushout (disproportionate suspensions & expulsions for students of color) might seem like a new issue, the reality is that it is a continuation of a long-lasting, unfinished struggle for racial justice and educational equity," said Emily Jones, United Women in Faith Executive for Racial Justice.

This conference will explore this prevailing issue while helping participants learn advocacy & grassroots skills that will help them in working for justice on this issue and other justice issues.

Presenters:

Rev. Kendal L. McBroom, UMC Director of Civil & Human Rights, General Board of Church & Society

Emily Jones, UMC United Women in Faith Racial Justice Executive

Amy Moritz, PA Attorney General's Office Educational Division

Joyce Davis, Susquehanna Conference UMC Lay Leader & Leader of UMC PA Advocacy

Rev. Ryan Gephart, Susquehanna Conference UMC Peace with Justice Coordinator

Others will be added in the near future

WHEN: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 from 9:30am - 4pm ET

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 from 10am -4:30pm ET

WHERE: Paxton United Methodist Church

3550 N Progress Ave, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Questions: Contact Pastor Ryan Gephart, rgephart@susumc.org

Register for the event at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/susquehanna-conference-umc-justice-advocacy-event-juvenile-justice-tickets-1979886138738?aff=oddtcreator>



Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



January 26, 2026

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

In recent days, events in Minnesota and beyond have caused deep grief, concern, and alarm across our connection. The use of lethal force in public spaces, the detention of naturalized citizens, members of our indigenous communities, children, documented and undocumented immigrants, and the treatment of other vulnerable persons have weighed heavily on the hearts of many in our church. These actions have unsettled communities, strained trust, and intensified fear among those already living at the margins.

Scripture reminds us that “when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer with them (I Corinthians 12:26). As a Connectional church, we are reminded that we are one body that cares for and needs each other. The whole body is suffering, right now, today! The violence being perpetrated on our streets, the loss of safety, and the inhumane treatment of God’s children, are hurting us all. We cannot stay silent in the face of the evils of our day.

The United Methodist Church deplores the use of violence, fear, separation, and intimidation as a means of creating social order. Such means do not build beloved community. We reaffirm our longstanding commitment to the sacred worth of every person and to the way of peace taught and embodied by Jesus. We stand against the separation of children from their families. We detest the inhumane, evil actions that are perpetuated by governmental authorities.

Our Social Principles are clear: “We reject governmental use of threats, extortion, unlawful detentions, extrajudicial killings, and other forms of coercion to silence political opponents and those objecting to unlawful or immoral government policies and practices.” They further affirm that the church has both the right and the responsibility to educate and equip its members to be advocates for justice in the wider world (§163D).

This is a moment that calls for prayerful courage to speak against actions that are bringing harm to our neighbors. This is our time to have an effectual faith that stands with those who are suffering. This is our faithful response to our baptismal vow that summons us into what is required of us “to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8). We must continue to work for justice to help heal the brokenness in our communities and in the world.

We ask you to pray for peace and for justice. And we ask that we work together with our communities so that we can create a world where the sword is turned into plowshares, and the lion lays down with the lamb. May we be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, who empowered by the Holy Spirit, do our part to bring comfort, just practices, and healing for all God’s suffering people.

In Christ’s peace, Bishop Tracy S. Malone

President, Council of Bishops The United Methodist Church



February 11th ~ Taylor Persing
 February 20th ~ Hood Johnston

Greeters

February 1st - Kerry Shirk (Church) Kathy McKibben (Parker)
 February 8th - Jan Bender (Church) Cheryl Cope (Parker)
 February 15th - Hood & Patty Johnston (Parker) Nonie Martin (Church)
 February 22nd - Heidi Gilmore (Parker) Deena Eberhart (Church)

Counters

February 1st - Chuck Root, Ruth Shrawder, Hood Johnston
 February 8th - Christy Brouse, Heidi Gilmore, Doug Winner
 February 15th - Kerry Shirk, Gregory Krouse, David Deibler-Gorman
 February 22nd - Kathy McKibben, Brooke Persing, Cheryl Cope

Readers

February 1st - Jennifer Therkilsen-Gebhard
 February 8th - Duane Gebhard
 February 15th - Deena Eberhart
 February 22nd - David Deibler-Gorman

We Have Convenient Methods of Giving!

Mail checks to Beaver Memorial at 42 S. 3rd St. Lewisburg, 17837
 Drop gifts into our Drop Box outside the office door
 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 September 21 st	9:30 AM	Parker Building 2 nd floor
Children/Youth Sunday School	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul’s UMC
NA Meeting	Monday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Leadership Team Meetings	3 rd Tuesday of the month	6:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Choir Room
NA Meeting	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
Saturday Night Live AA	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
Dinner by the River	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays of the month	5:30 PM	1 st Presbyterian Lewisburg

BMUMC Staff:

Position	Individual	Position	Individual
Office Administrator	Tiffany Heimbach	Treasurer	Shirley Brough
Custodian	Jim Gulden	Beacon Shop Coordinator	Christy Brouse
Choir Director	Brooke Persing	Accompanist	Emily Gao
Busy Beaver Day Care Director	Charlene Reigle	United Youth Group Director	Charlene Rineer
Video Team	Nick Persing, Todd Fogle, Deena Eberhart		
Leadership Team	Martha Root – croot@bucknell.edu Ralph Hibbs – rhibbs@windstream.net Patty Johnston – hoodj1973@ptd.net David Deibler-Gorman – dgorman@windstream.net Heidi Gilmore – heidicgilmore@gmail.com Kathy McKibben – klmckibben@gmail.com Chuck Root – croot@bucknell.edu Nick Persing – persing191983@gmail.com Travis Curry – travise Curry@yahoo.com Hannah Diehl – hannahdiehl0707@gmail.com Craig Rodabaugh – rodabaugh.hutchinson@icloud.com Pastor Ethan Shearer – eshearer@susumc.org Rev. Sue Jamison – sjamison@susumc.org		

Submit content for the newsletter to office@beavermethodist.org by the 18th of each month.