



BEAVER BLESSINGS

JANUARY 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:

There have been a lot of changes in The United Methodist Church's doctrine and rules in the past couple of years. We are a global denomination, and the impact on each country, region and conference has been felt in various ways depending on the geographic location. It also filters down to Annual Conferences and each local church. This article shares some of what has been most impactful and will continue to be felt in the coming years.

United Methodist voters on four continents have ratified a major restructuring that aims to give the denomination's different geographical regions equal decision-making authority. The Council of Bishops recently announced the ratification of the restructuring, known as Worldwide Regionalization, as well as three other amendments to the denomination's constitution. Council of Bishops President Tracy S. Malone stated: "The ratification and certification of these constitutional amendments mark a defining moment in the continuing renewal and unity of The United Methodist Church. These amendments reflect the church's rich diversity and deep commitment to live more fully into our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and strengthens our world-wide connection to serve faithfully and inclusively in every context."

To be ratified, a constitutional amendment must first receive at least a two-thirds majority vote at General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking assembly, which happened in 2024. Each amendment must then receive the approval of at least two-thirds of the total vote by lay and clergy members at annual conferences worldwide. The denomination has more than 130 annual conferences in Africa, Europe, the Philippines and the United States. Annual Conference voters supported regionalization by a vote of 34,148 to 3,124 — a 91.6% majority.

What regionalization does

Under the regionalization restructuring, the U.S. and the Central Conferences (those outside of the U.S. consisting of eight church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines) each become regional conferences with the same authority to adapt the Book of Discipline, the denomination's policy book, for increased missional effectiveness. Judi Kenaston, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer for the Connectional Table, said: "This has been called the most significant structural change in the church

since the merger of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968 to form The United Methodist Church. Regionalization is the opportunity to de-center the church so that it isn't a U.S. dominated church. It acknowledges that United Methodism in every region is a unique expression of the church." Previously, only Central Conferences had that authority under the denomination's constitution to adapt the Discipline as their missional needs and different legal contexts required. But with no such structure in the U.S., General Conference was very U.S. focused. The constitutional amendments provide a framework for how the different regions of The United Methodist Church can work together moving forward.

Each Regional Conference now has the authority to:

- Publish its own hymnal, book of worship and regional Book of Discipline.
- Set standards of character and other qualifications for lay membership.
- Set requirements for ordination and licensed ministry of pastors.
- Develop practices around marriage ceremonies, funerals and other rites in line with the understanding of Scripture and the laws in each country.
- Make changes to chargeable offenses under church law.
- Work with Annual Conferences to ensure that policies and practices align with the laws in each country.
- Appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the Regional Conference's adaptations of the Book of Discipline.

Regionalization addresses The UMC's intense debate around LGBTQ inclusion by letting each regional conference decide how to handle that issue. The biggest change will be creating a U.S. Regional Conference. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters (the one denominational body with a majority of members from outside the U.S.) built on the work of both the Connectional Table and Christmas Covenant to submit the legislation that makes up Worldwide Regionalization. General Conference still will act as the denomination's top lawmaking body with full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional and not subject to adaptation. General Conference also can determine what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% vote. The Council of Bishops and the Judicial Council, which acts as the denomination's supreme court, also will continue to connect the entire global UMC.

General Conference 2028

The next General Conference will be held in Minneapolis from May 8-18, 2028. It will be the first one in the denomination's history where a majority of the delegates will be from outside the U.S. The Commission set the total number of delegates at 708, reflecting significant global growth especially in Africa, and also budget realities. They have determined that 46% of the delegates will be from the U.S. and 54% will be from outside the U.S. The number of delegates from each region will be: 284 from Africa; 56 from the Philippines; 32 from Europe; 326 from the U.S.; and 10 from concordat churches, which are The Methodist Church of Great Britain; The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas; The Methodist Church of Mexico and The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico. The delegate distribution reflects broader membership shifts in the denomination. United Methodist

membership in the U.S. has declined in recent years because of church disaffiliations, while membership has grown significantly in the Philippines and even more on the continent of Africa.

Leaders are also exploring options to ensure full participation for delegates facing U.S. visa challenges. General Conference typically meets every four years and brings together lay and clergy delegates from these four continents whose decisions set the denomination's direction for years to come. The planning commission members recognize the increasing challenges and long waits faced by people seeking visas to travel to the U.S., and is exploring the possibility of hosting a site outside the U.S. so elected delegates who cannot get visas still can participate in the body's decision-making.

This may be more information than you expected or even want, but I hope that is helpful in some way. I had the privilege of working with Judy Kenaston (quoted in this article) in 2014-15 when I served on a Northeast Jurisdictional task force to present a proposal to the 2016 General Conference about this restructuring. Coincidentally, I had met her husband, Joe, back in 1976 when we were both high school student observers at the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference. I showed her a photo I had that he was in and she loved it! We continue to be Facebook friends 😊



Happy
New Year

May your year be filled with blessings, joy, health, success, and new adventures, filled with love, peace, and purpose as you embrace fresh starts, overcome challenges with strength, and create unforgettable memories, shining with hope and positivity!!!

The Wolf Moon



The January 2026 Full Moon, known as the Wolf Moon, peaks on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at 5:03 AM EST (10:03 UTC) and is also the first supermoon of the year, appearing larger and brighter than usual. You can see it as a full moon the night before

BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Beacon Free Shop

December 2025 – Ninety-three households (231 individuals) were served at the December 20, 2025, Beacon Free Shop. Only five of these households were new to the program. Our 22 trusty volunteers handed out 822 personal hygiene items.

Special thanks to Pastor Sue and Manna for providing and knitted scarves and hats for our clients. The front pews and alter railing were filled with scarves and hats – with only a few left after we closed the Beacon shop at noon.

Next Beacon Free Shop will be held January 17, 2026, from 10am – 12noon. Please contact Christy Brouse at 570-238-5707 if you would like to volunteer or have questions about donating.



Busy Beaver

It is so hard to believe that we are welcoming 2026! We were blessed with another successful year here at Busy Beaver. Going into a new year, we are excited to welcome some new families and extend care to new additions to our current families! Busy Beaver has a lot of exciting things planned for the year ahead!

We currently have 77 children enrolled and our new tuition rates go into effect on January 1st. We are fully staffed going into the new year so that is something we cannot be more thankful for! We are excited to share more about the upcoming year as the months progress.

We hope you all had a Happy and Healthy Holiday season!
Charlene Reigle, director Busy Beaver Daycare Center (570)522-0458

United Youth Group

Sunday, January 11th 6:30pm-8:00pm Road Trip Bible Study at Beaver Memorial
Friday- Saturday January 16 & 17 6:00pm-10:00am Lock -In at Christ
Sunday, January 25 6:30pm-8:00pm Road Trip Bible Study at 1st Baptist
Sunday February 8th 2:00pm-4:00pm Superbowl Party at St. Paul's

Change The World Can Donation

As of Tuesday December 9th \$2,518.08, has been received in 2025 via the change the world cans. In March the outreach team will allocate money from the mission fund to the designated agencies. The warmth and generosity of our congregation in coming for God's people is something to celebrate.

Family Success Center

The Justice Family Success Center is a welcoming, family centered community hub. Serving our neighbors in Snyder and Union counties. We offer supportive services, interactive workshops engaging activities, and community groups to assist individuals and families connect, grow and thrive!

Our Services and Programs:

Free Computer & Internet access
Faxing, copying & printing services
Educational Workshops/Skill-Building Sessions
Fun and Enriching Activities for All Ages
One-on-One Tutoring Support
Access to Community Resources and Referrals
Volunteer Opportunities to Give Back and Grow

Meet the Team:

Jesselyn – Director
Janssen – Supervisor
Leiana – FSS

Contact Information phone 570-917-3845 email lbechdel@justiceworksyouthcare.com
Hours Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm
713 Bridge Street Selinsgrove, PA 17870

SHARED HOUSING & RESOURCES EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Now Available through the Northumberland County Area Agency on Aging

Do You Have an Extra Room? Or Are You Looking for an Affordable Place to Live?

The PA SHARE program connects compatible homeowners and home seekers for a mutually beneficial living arrangement. This program helps older adults remain in their homes and provides affordable housing options for others in the community.

Program Benefits:

For Homeowners (Hosts):

- Extra Income from rent contribution
- Assistance with Chores (e.g., grocery shopping, yard work)
- A reliable, vetted companion

For Home Seekers (Guests):

- Affordable Housing options
- A safe, supportive living environment

Safety and Support:

- National Criminal Background Checks! (for all participants)
- Housing Counselor support throughout the entire matching process

Get More Information Today!

Call your Shared Housing Counselor: Todd W. Kiger 570-495-2395

Tickets for the 22nd Annual Polar Bear Plunge and the Pre-Plunge Party

are now available via TicketTailor! TicketTailor offers reduced fees for nonprofits, allowing us to pass those savings on to you!

Not plunging? Order a limited-edition Plunge knit beanie—great for plungers and spectators alike!



Event Sponsors: Polar Bear: Geisinger
Walrus: Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau, Bucknell Community Engagement Fund

Seal: UPMC

Otter: Villager Realty, Inc.

Puffin: Vargo Outdoors

Event Partners: 7 Mountains Media, Brasserie Louis, Bucknell University, Jessie Lee Bilger, Dunkin' Donuts, Lewisburg Arts Council



January 9th ~ Barbara Leuber
 January 13th ~ Melissa Morgan
 January 19th ~ Nick Persing
 January 28th ~ Jan Field
 January 30th ~ Robert Jacob

Greeters

January 4 - Nonie Martin, Cheryl Cope
 January 11 - Jan Bender, Deena Eberhart
 January 18 - Heidi Gilmore, Jan Field
 January 25 - Greg Krouse, Christy Brouse

Counters

January 4 - Kerry Shirk, Ruth Shrawder, David Deibler-Gorman
 January 11 - Kathy McKibben, Hood Johnston, Cheryl Cope
 January 18 - Christy Brouse, Nancy Nickles, Greg Krouse
 January 25 - Chuck Root, Heidi Gilmore, Brett Emigh

Readers

January 4 – David Deibler-Gorman
 January 11 – Jennifer Therkilsen-Gebhard
 January 18 – Kathy McKibben
 January 25 – Duane Gebhard

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 – hannahdiehlo707@gmail.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.