BEAVER BLESSINGS

July 2026

"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
Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 8:00 Am-1:00 PM

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 11:00 am

What's Pastor Ethan Reading?

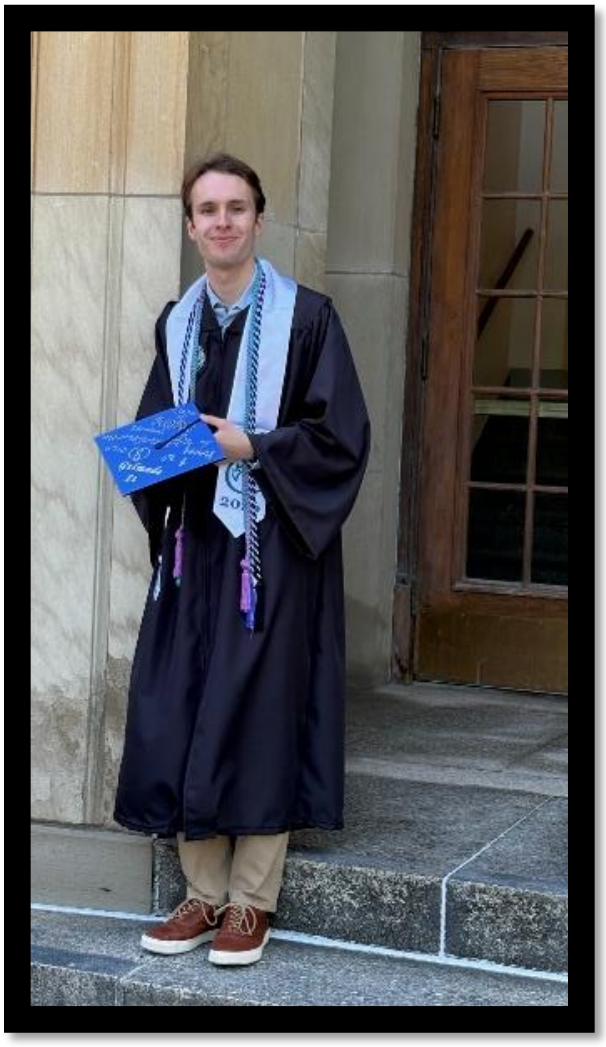
Hello friends,
It's exciting to be one month into the season of summer. My hope and prayer is that you are finding time to rest, play, and travel this summer. Remember, being a person made in God's Image means that we are creatures not robots. We are supposed to rest and have fun and see new places. This is a good thing!

This month as I continue to write my dissertation I am reading an interesting book by a German theologian named Albrect Ritschl. The book is called *Theology and Metaphysics* and he wrote it in 1881. Ritschl is a curious theologian because he writes at a time when Christian thought was going through a major re orientation. Ritschl is one of the first Christian thinkers in the west to put The Kingdom of God at the center of all Christian reflection and practice. Ritschl thought that the most important thing that God does in Jesus Christ is establish God's reign in the world. God's reign is a good and moral thing that involves the transformation of all human beings and nations into relationships of love. Through this transformation, he argues, God's Kingdom does indeed arrive on Earth. Ritschl has had an important impact on much of progressive Christianity even if many people don't remember his name. I think Ritschl is pretty darn cool.

In *Theology and Metaphysics* Ritschl talks about all of the fancy, philosophical ways Christian thinkers try to explain what God is doing, how God behaves, and how God relates to you, and I, and the entire world. In his book Ritschl says most of those fancy ways are wrong! Instead, Ritschl thinks that it is Jesus and the way the New Testament depicts him that should be the Christian's entire source of understanding for talking about God. He says that when we do this not only do we have a more accurate and more loving picture of God, but we also have a way for anyone to engage in theology. Ritschl tackles plenty of other things in this book as well, but I think that his insistence that theology should begin with Jesus so that it can be something for all of us is a great point.

Friends, all of us are theologians. All of us think about and talk about God and who we think God is. As we do theology together may we always turn to Jesus Christ for our picture of God.
Amen.

Ryan Gilmore



Ryan graduated from
Case Western Reserve University in
Cleveland, Ohio on May 17, 2026,
with a double major in
Mathematics and Music
and minors in Economics and Physics.
While at CWRU,
Ryan was active in the orchestra, Glee Club,
Briefcase barbershop quartet, and
Case in Point a cappella group.
He also served as a peer tutor and
Physics Supplemental Instructor.
In June, Ryan starts a 10-month
Masters of Arts in Teaching program in
secondary math at the University of Pittsburgh.
Ryan appreciates all the love and support he
has received over the last 18 years from his
Beaver Memorial church family.

CONGRATULATIONS RYAN!!

Congratulations to Taylor & Nicolette Persing!

We would like to congratulate
Taylor & Nicolette Persing
On their confirmation
on June 14th 2026

Buck Moon
July 29, 2026

Historically, this full moon marks the time of year
when male white-tailed deer (bucks)
push out their new antlers,
which emerge covered in velvety fur.
July's full moon is also frequently called the
Thunder Moon, Hay Moon, or Berry Moon.

BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Bible Study with Pastor Ethan

Wednesday's at 1pm at St. Paul's
Thursday's at 6pm at Beaver

Pub Theology

Thursday July 16th 6:00 PM Bull Run Inn!

Beacon Free Shop

June 2026 - Beacon Free Shop served 71 households, 172 individuals, on June 20, 2026. This is the lowest number served since June 2024! Our twenty awesome volunteers distributed 634 items. This past month Beacon volunteers have been on the speaking circuit to spread awareness and received several generous donations as a result. Presentations were made to the SHRMA (local Human Resources professionals), and Women's Outreach Works groups. Additional inventory donations were received from Susquehanna Valley Ethical Society. Mission U will be collecting items for us during their July meeting.
Next Beacon Shop will be held Saturday, July 18, 2026, from 10am to noon.

Thank you for your donations to the Beacon Free Shop. Please use the following list as a guideline when purchasing items for donation. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Donation Items Needed:

Item	Preferred Size
Laundry Detergent	31 oz
Dish Soap	15 oz
Toilet Paper	2 ply; Any size package
Deodorant	1.8 oz; Men & Women
Soap	Bars, not Body Wash
Shampoo	18 oz; Men & Women
Disposable Razors	
Shaving Cream	5 oz; Men & Women
Toothpaste	5 oz; Adult & Child
Toothbrush	Individually packaged; Adult & Child
Denture Adhesive	0.3 oz
Denture Cleanser	20 tablets pack
Tampons	Regular & Super; any size box
Sanitary Pads	Regular & Super; any size box
Panty Liners	Any size box

Donations can be dropped in the basket outside the Beacon Free Shop near Beaver Church Office.

VOLUNTEER! Contact Christy Brouse at 570-238-5707 or the Beaver Office at 570-524-0809 to volunteer the third Saturday of each month from 9:30am-12noon.

Busy Beaver

Hello July! Busy Beaver has been having an exciting summer so far! Our school age friends have been doing weekly field trips and having lots of fun with their camp teachers! In the month of July they will be visiting Campus Theater, having a picnic at the park, heading to Reptile Land, TD Cats, and Lewisburg Lanes!

Busy Beaver is also preparing for fall as we have open enrollments in our 2-year-old and Preschool/PreK classrooms! Anyone needing childcare can reach out to Charlene at director.bbdcc@beavermethodist.org

Central Oak Heights

As partners with COH, our congregation is invited to participate in two book studies. Both will be led by local chaplain Kate Schaeffer.

On Wednesdays in July, we will discuss Henri Nouwen's "Can You Drink the Cup?" Join us at 3:00 pm on July 8, 15, 22 and 29. We will meet in the rocking chairs on the porch of the Shaffer Building. Parking is adjacent to the building.

Participants should obtain and bring their own books. Advance registration is not required. Please let Becky Perez know if you have any questions. You can contact her at: rm86089@gmail.com.

Greeters

July 5th Travis & Lorna Curry (Church) Nonie Martin (Parker)
July 12th Ruth Shrawder (Church) David Deibler-Gorman (Parker)
July 19th Hood & Patty Johnston (Church) Jan Bender (Parker)
July 26th Gregory Krouse (Church) Chuck & Martha Root (Parker)

Counters

July 5th Christy Brouse, Kerry Shirk, Nancy Nickles
July 12th Chuck Root, Greg Krouse, Ruth Shrawder
July 19th Kathy McKibben, Hood Johnston, Heidi Gilmore
July 26th Kerry Shirk, David Deibler-Gorman, Brooke Persing

Readers

July 5th Ruth Shrawder
July 12th Christy Emigh
July 19th Heidi Gilmore
July 26th David Deibler-Gorman

July 3rd ~ Christy Brouse

July 6th ~ Ashleigh Espinosa

July 10th ~ Heidi Gilmore

July 24th ~ Jerry Myers

July 27th ~ Patty Johnston

July 9th ~ Craig & Kathy McKibben (49 years)

If you have a Birthday or Anniversary that you would like us to share, please let Tiffany know at 570-524-0809 / office@beavermethodist.org

MUSIC IN THE PARK

The rain location is the Bull Run Taphouse back room for most concerts.

July 1st
Penn Central Wind Band
(rain location is The Weis Center)

July 8th
Allan Combs II and his trio AC-2

July 15th
Rebecca Jade Band

July 22nd
Gerry Cavalier and his Molly's Boys Jug Band

July 29th
Cadillac Cats

Report to Beaver Memorial UMC Congregation On Annual Conference 2026

Good morning,

Church family. Most of you know my name-David Deibler-Gorman. I represented Beaver as a layperson at this year's Annual Conference in Williamsport from June 4-6. This was my second time doing this. This year the theme of Annual Conference was: Rise Up! Love Boldly. Transform the World. This morning I want to highlight 3 parts of the Annual Conference that stand out to me—the joy I experienced praising Christ while worshipping with fellow attendees, two of the required adaptive shifts that the Susquehanna Conference Strategic Plan includes and finally some points from our Bishop's message on Friday am. Worshipping and singing with 700+ other people was such a wonderful experience. The two lead singers from the Praise Band were exceptional. I truly felt the presence of God and a connection with lay people, clergy and the cabinet during worship. Historically, I felt uncomfortable around folks that raise their hands in church. I wondered if people would fall down and speak in tongues. I was suspicious of them. Last year and especially this year, I felt not only comfortable but joy as I sang along and was a part of this process. God is good! Whatever your worshipping God requires of you, as long as it does not hurt me or others, is ok by me today. At the Annual Conference, the Strategic Mission Path forward was presented. This Path or Plan was presented in light in of current realities: there are fewer, smaller churches that are configured differently within our Conference. Two of them stood out to me. The third of 5 shifts mentioned in the Strategic Missional Path forward is moving from Building-centered Identity to Community-Embedded Mission. I have concerns about the financial and emotional burdens of maintaining this beautiful old church building that Beaver has. This shift requires the Conference to help us reimagine how our building serves ministry rather than define it. This shift encourages us to focus more directly on engaging our community. Two examples of this shift are the Watering Hole (utilizing the new banner created this year) and prior church involvement in community social justice events, sometimes with our Pastor speaking at them. The fifth shift required, according to the Strategic Plan, is to move from Reluctant Change to Courageous Experimentation. We need to innovate and to learn. Church leaders must feel empowered to experiment with new approaches to ministry while learning from both successes and failures. Adaptive change is the birth of what could be. Missional courage. I think developing the Beacon Shop took missional courage. I also believe that, under the direction of God, Christy and Nancy, Beacon Shop is learning from its successes and challenges. One possible experiment that I thought of recently is to advertise our Adult Sunday School on social media, making it clear that attendees are not required but are welcome to attend our church service after the class is over. How else can we experiment and love boldly in our ministry? How can we help to "breathe new life" in our church and in our community? The third thing I want to share with you today comes from Bishop Hector's message from Friday June 5th. Bishop Hector spoke about how Hope is not denial. He said it does require us to be honest about where we are as a church, and he shared four reasons why the church as a whole is smaller with fewer congregations. Loss of spiritual vitality (we need to develop a healthy sense of urgency), paralyzing nostalgia (vs. gratitude for our past and looking forward to how best to minister into our future; does our nostalgia at Beaver sometimes hold us back?), insularism (not protect what is left but be open and curious and turn outward). Bishop Hector reminded us that ignoring the world's pain is not discipleship), and the need for more missional humility-surrender to the truth that the mission of the church belongs to God, not to us. We are stewards, not owners. As our Bishop said, may we continue to expect God to show up and do only what God can do. May we do our part too. Respectfully Submitted, David Deibler-Gorman. 6/11/26.

We Have Convenient Methods of Giving!

Mail checks to Beaver Memorial at 42 S. 3rd St. Lewisburg, PA 17837
Drop gifts into our Drop Box outside the office door
Go to our website: www.beavermethodist.org and click on "Giving" Thank you!
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EVENTS

AT BEAVER MEMORIAL UMC			
Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
New Beginnings Adult Sunday School	Sunday	9:45 AM	Parker Building 2nd floor
Children/Youth Sunday School	Sunday	10:15 AM	St. Paul's UMC
NA Meeting	Monday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Leadership Team Meetings	3rd Tuesday of the month	6:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
NA Meeting	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
Choir Rehearsal	September 2	7:00 PM	Choir Room
Saturday Night Live AA	Saturday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Beacon Shop	3rd Saturday of the month	10:00 AM	Beaver Memorial UMC
IN THE COMMUNITY			
Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
Dinner by the River	1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month	5:30 PM	1st Presbyterian Lewisburg

BMUMC Staff:

Position	Individual	Position	Individual
Office Administrator	Tiffany Heimbach	Treasurer	Shirley Brough
Custodians	Jim & Penny Gulden	Beacon Shop Coordinator	Christy Brouse
Choir Director	Brooke Persing	Accompanist	
Busy Beaver Day Care Director	Charlene Reigle	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 Hannah Diehl – hannahdiehl0707@gmail.com Craig Rodabaugh – rodabaugh.hutchinson@icloud.com Pastor Ethan Shearer – eshearer@susumc.org		

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