



BEAVER BLESSINGS

June 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 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:

I am continuing the theme of last month's newsletter article as well as part of my sermon from May. 21. A major focus is that as Christians, we need to be engaged in the wider world with a message that is welcoming rather than one that excludes others. I suggested that we add to the UMC tagline "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" the phrase: Open Hands. I recently read an article by theologian Morwood which is quoted below. On his website, it states that Michael's focus is in helping adult Christians examine what they believe and why they believe it. I read in it a critique of the "Jesus and Me" culture, which I also touched on in that sermon. I hope that it sparks some thoughts and perhaps even some conversation with others.

"Between Two Stories" by Michael Morwood

We are presently experiencing what may well be the biggest shift ever in theological thought in the history of Christianity. It is the shift from a story that locked itself into the notion of disconnection from God to a story that embraces the reality of the Divine permeating the universe.

This 'new story' takes seriously, that like energy and consciousness, God is everywhere. There can be no "outside of" or "disconnection" from God. That would be like trying to declare that someone could be disconnected from energy. Impossible! So this 'new story' and its insights challenge us to stop telling a story about disconnection from God and instead, take seriously that we live in a universe saturated with the Divine Presence. God is the Source, the Sustainer of all that is. There can be no "outside of" the Reality that holds us and everything is existence.

The 'new story' invites us to contemplate the Divine Presence coming to expression throughout the development of the universe and this planet, through patterns of co-operation at all levels of matter and life. It invites us to see humanity as a life form giving this Mystery a way to manifest itself. What a privileged life form we are! Yet we do not see this clearly enough, or do not "own" it, or do not believe it, and we certainly, as a species, do not give sufficient expression to it.

Immersed in this 'new story' we look back at Jesus with new insight. Yes, he is for us the human expression of the Divine. But now we look a bit differently and we begin to see what was always there,

but what was clouded over for two thousand years by Christianity's fixation about access to heaven where an elsewhere God lived. Now we see and appreciate that Jesus was not at all concerned about getting people to heaven. No, quite clearly, his focus was on this life, on this world, on making the "reign of God" evident here and now - through us! Jesus had a dream of what humanity could and should look like if people saw the Divine in themselves and acted accordingly.

In this story, all humans are challenged to see our common origins (from stardust to earth!), to recognize and proclaim our common participation in the Mystery we call God, and our common human responsibility to make the "reign of God" evident in our religious, social, economic, educational, legal and political systems.

JUNE FEATURES

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATE:

Lynette Taylor graduated Summa Cum Laude from Houghton University with a major in Vocal Performance and a minor in Musical Composition. She will be attending grad school at Shenandoah Musical Conservatory in Winchester VA, where she will work towards a two year Masters in CCM (Contemporary Commercial Music) Vocal Pedagogy.

➤ June is Pride Month

As a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network, Beaver Memorial affirms the following: “We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.”

The Reconciling Ministries Network:

- celebrates that LGBTQ+ persons are a good expression of God’s diverse creation and exists to advocate for the affirmation of all of God’s children in the Church and the world.
- is committed to intersectional justice across and beyond the United Methodist connection, working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church.
- envisions a transformed Church that ensures justice, equity, and dignity for all of God’s children in their diverse intersecting identities.



The Snyder, Union, Northumberland (SUN) Pride Fest will be held in Lewisburg on Sat. June 17. Beaver is considering setting up our Watering Hole for this if we have enough folks who can help out. Please be on the lookout for more information about this opportunity to have a presence at this event.

➤ **Why do we have Social Principles? Where did they come from?**

The Methodist Social Creed, predecessor to the Social Principles, originated over a century ago to express concern over the exploitation of millions of workers in factories, mines, mills, tenements and company towns during a time of rapid industrialization and growing prosperity in the United States. Developed in 1908, the Social Creed was the first document of its kind written by a church. Five Methodist Episcopal clergymen believed the denomination required an organization to lead it into social ministry. The five included Frank Mason North, mission and evangelism executive, Ohio Wesleyan University president Herbert Welch (who later became bishop and founder of the Methodist relief agency that became UMCOR), publishing house editor Elbert Robb Zaring, social service executive Worth Tippy, and Chicago pastor Harry F. Ward.

Ward, while serving as pastor in the stockyards district, conducted funerals for packinghouse workers killed in frequent factory accidents. He strongly supported the workers' drive to form a union to improve their conditions. When Ward penned the Social Creed he was writing with these families in the forefront of his mind.

The list of 11 social reforms the church should champion included an end to child labor and the sweatshop system, rights of workers, a living wage and safer workplace conditions. In 1908, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church adopted a statement addressing these social concerns.

Other Methodist-related denominations later developed similar statements. At the 1968 union of the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist churches, the social statements of both denominations were included in the first United Methodist Discipline. These statements thus became the basis for a continually expanded and revised document of social commitments.

Over time, it expanded from its original focus on economic concerns to include sections on family life, alcohol and other drug abuse, crime and rehabilitation, gambling, mental health, civil liberties and peace with justice.

In 1972, the statements were completely rewritten and called the Social Principles, using the former Evangelical United Brethren terminology to title them.

Six areas of concern form the major sections of the Social Principles: (1) the natural world, (2) the nurturing community, (3) the social community, (4) the economic community, (5) the political community, and (6) the world community. The Social Creed, reserved for the final section, continues as a resource for use in worship alongside a "Companion Litany" adopted by the 2008 General Conference.

The Social Principles articulate our "ethical aspirations for the common good in our public policies and personal commitments" through which we "love God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength and love and desire for our neighbors what we desire for ourselves." (Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:30-31)

The Social Principles urge us to make a difference and to live differently in the world, but also to build a different kind of world than the one we have now.

As part of ongoing efforts to function as a fully worldwide denomination, the Social Principles have been in a process of revision with worldwide input since 2013 with the goal of making them more succinct, theologically founded and globally relevant. This first full revision in over 50 years will be presented to the next General Conference, scheduled to meet in 2024.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

➤ **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.

➤ **Rummage Give-away**

After discussing the intensity of work involved in our traditional rummage sales, the Leadership Team decided we should take a different path to providing the same sort of service. We plan to experiment with a quarterly "rummage give-away" that will occur on Saturdays when the Beacon Shop is open and during the same hours. We will limit the inventory to kitchen items (dishes, utensils, pots and pans, etc.), adult clothing (seasonal), and linens (bedding, tablecloths, blankets, etc.).

I am happy to co-chair this project, but I would like a second person to share responsibility with me. We will also need a committee to set up on the day before (Friday) and take items back to the storage room in the basement after the hours on Saturday afternoon. We plan to have only 4-6 tables of items each time, so if there is more in the storage room, it will remain until the following event. There will be no charge for items offered, but we will limit each person to 3-5 items, whatever the committee feels is appropriate. We will advertise this ministry with flyers at the Beacon Shop, but people not needing the Beacon Shop services will be welcome as well.

I am hoping to hold the first event in August, but our committee needs to get together soon. Many decisions need to be made as this is a new endeavor. Please let me know if you are willing to help out.

Thank you! Patty Johnston 570-523-3132, 570-713-4659, hoodj1973@ptd.net

BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**Beacon Free Shop**

Beacon Shop was held Saturday, May 20 from 10am to 12noon. Fifty-one households, consisting of 115 individuals, were served. By opening our doors to community members with financial needs, Beaver touches lives we wouldn't otherwise know about. . . such as the mother who couldn't afford a prescription, or the homeless woman who wanted a place to wash her hair, or the man looking for a lawn mower.

As always, thank you to the volunteers who give their time on a Saturday morning to help with distribution. Also, thanks to congregants who give monetary and item donations. We are so blessed.

June Beacon Shop date will be moved up one week to June 10 due to a Pride event that will close Third Street. We will resume to the third Saturday of the month in July.

United Youth Group

United Youth Group Trivia Night was a success. In total we raised \$1,999.00! Thank you so much for your support. We have raised over \$10,000.00 for our Mission Trip!

Our 2022-2023 year has been fun and we are looking forward to our fun summer plans. If you have a youth that is entering 6th grade, they are invited to start joining us in June. If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out.

Busy Beaver

Busy Beaver is so happy to have the warmer days that we have had! The little ones have been getting lots of playground time and our older kids have really been enjoying walks and park time! We are starting to plan our Dad's and Donuts event which will take place Monday June 19, 2023 at 10am in the fellowship hall.

The kids have really enjoyed all the summer decorations we have been adding to the hallways! We have an ocean and beach theme all over the BB hallways! If you get some time, stop by to check it out! Some other fun things we have going on throughout the summer are ice cream truck days, carnival days, trips to the Children's museum, and Preschool graduation!

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.

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 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.*

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

Church clean-up day – Sunday 11 June 2023

On Sunday afternoon 11 June following a meal after church you are invited to join the United Youth Group to help clean around the church and parsonage. The church will provide the main course items (lunch meat and different cheeses) for the meal. Church members are requested to sign-up to bring bread, lettuce, tomato, chips pickles etc. Please let the church office know your contributions. So please dress appropriately and bring your work gloves and tools to help beautify our church properties.

Vacation Bible School

St. Paul’s UMC has invited us to join with them again this year to participate in VBS. The dates are June 25 through June29. If anyone is interested in helping with leadership, please let Pastor Sue know. Classes will be held for ages 4 through those in 5th grade. More information is coming soon.

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 or 570-524-5011.

- June 7 - In the Name of Jesus by Henri Nouwen
- July 5 - Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison Warren
- 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 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
Monthly Book Study	1 st 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 - 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 – traviseccurry@yahoo.com		

- Submit content for the newsletter to tlcinhisservice@yahoo.com by the 18th of the month prior to the newsletter.