



BEAVER BLESSINGS

June 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 – 9:15 am

From Pastor Sue's Desk:

Now that the UMC General Conference is over, there are some important things that have changed. Some of the changes made national news, and some did not. For more information or greater detail, you can go to: www.umc.org. There are also video sessions that were recorded and are available for viewing at: <https://susumc.org/gc>. I am sharing what I think are some of the most critical decisions.

Removal of restrictive language related to LGBTQ people: The General Conference voted by overwhelming majorities to remove from the United Methodist Book of Discipline discriminatory language and bans related to ministry by, with and for "self-avowed practicing" gay and lesbian people. This will allow for the ordination of LGBTQ folks, for our clergy to perform LGBTQ weddings and our churches to host the weddings. It is also important to understand that no pastor or church will be forced to do this.

Adoption of worldwide regionalization: Delegates approved legislation that would restructure the denomination to be more contextual in different regions served by the church. This will be official when at least 2/3 of the annual conferences vote to ratify the legislation. The current central conferences and the U.S. would become regional conferences, with the same authority to pass legislation for greater missional impact.

Changes in numbers of bishops, increased diversity in leadership: Two bishops will be added for Africa, for a total of 15, and the number of U.S. bishops was lowered from 39 to 32. Bishop Tracy S. Malone, resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference, became the first Black female president of the Council of Bishops. Bishop David Wilson and Bishop Carlo Rapanut, both former members of Global Ministries Board of Directors, marked historic firsts as Native American and Filipino American bishops to preside over General Conference.

Disaffiliation Policy Ended, Re-affiliation Measure Approved: Delegates removed Paragraph 2553 from the Book of Discipline, ending the disaffiliation policy that was added by the special 2019 General Conference. They also required annual conferences affected by disaffiliation to develop grace-filled policies for reaffiliation of churches that want to rejoin the denomination.

A few more tidbits:

The “Religious Freedom: Grounded in Love” resolution was approved to become part of the United Methodist Book of Resolutions and calls for an end to violence and persecution of others because of their religious beliefs or affiliations. The passing of this legislation invites the global church into the hard work of dialogue, listening and sharing with different faith communities, and also to acts of reconciliation across boundaries that divide our own Christian communities.

The Social Principles were first adopted in 1972, four years after the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches merged to form the UMC. Since then, some amendments and additions have been made to them, but this is the first time a full revision has been presented at General Conference. There are four main sections: Community of All Creation; Social Community; Economic Community; and Political Community. Over 4,000 United Methodists from around the world read, reviewed and commented on the first Social Principles draft. The UMC Board of Church & Society presented the final draft, which was adopted. The Wesleyan Quadrilateral of Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience was central to this revision.

Finally, the Council of Bishops has written a letter to clarify the UMC’s position with regard to the Global Methodist Church. This denomination was established in 2022, which sparked the disaffiliation of many UMC churches and pastors. The letter states in part: “We must clarify that the Global Methodist Church has no official relationship with The United Methodist Church and has not been endorsed by any of its official bodies. There has been no request for such a relationship and, as such, there is no communication taking place to negotiate a common understanding of our two bodies. The mission of the church to make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ is enhanced when various bodies of Christ collaborate in a mutual ministry of grace and respect. Likewise, the mission of the church is harmed by the denigration of one body at the expense of another. To that end, we call upon the members of the Global Methodist Church to formally recognize The United Methodist Church as an authentic and valid denomination and to cease all efforts to coerce members of The United Methodist Church to join their fellowship. Likewise, we commit ourselves to the same standard of respect and grace.”

I know that this is a lot of information and I hope that it helpful. As we learn more about how any of this specifically affects the Susquehanna Annual Conference, and Beaver Memorial/St. Paul’s, we can have conversation and hopefully answer any questions that arise. As people of faith, let us all be in prayer as we move into the future with love, joy and hope in our hearts.

JUNE FEATURES**➤ Updates from the Leadership Team**

The May 21, 2024 Leadership Team meeting was held jointly with St. Paul’s in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Daniel Wilt, as he transitions into his new role as Conference Superintendent, presented items of business pertaining to both Lewisburg churches. These will apply as we become a two-point charge on July 1, 2024.

The first concerned the shared responsibility for the two pastors’ salaries. Based on an analysis of each church’s membership, attendance and budget, it was determined that each church should contribute 50% toward the combined total salaries. In sharing these costs, Beaver will see a reduction which would amount to \$17,733 for the entire year, but will be half that for the remaining

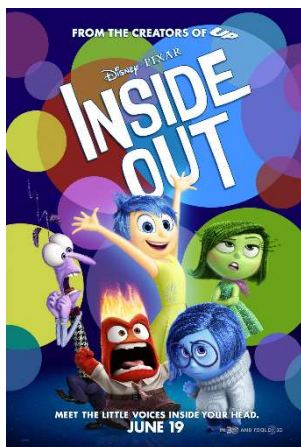
six months of 2024. This is because Pastor Sue will be serving three-fourths time, for a savings of \$9,805 in salary, and the church is no longer required to pay for health insurance of \$18,360. As a pastor in a full time appointment, the church was required to pay for full insurance, even though she is covered by Kevin's health insurance.

The next item concerned the schedule for Sunday morning services. **Beginning June 16, St. Paul's service will move to 9:00 from 9:30 and Beaver's will move to 11:00 from 10:30.** This leaves the hour between 10 and 11 for Sunday School for children at St. Paul's, and adults at Beaver, as well as transition time for the pastors, including time for them to engage with people after the 9:00 service at St. Paul's and before the 11:00 service at Beaver. On any given Sunday, people should feel free to attend whichever service best suits their plans for the rest of the day.

The third item on the agenda was the establishment of a joint SPRT (Staff Parish Relations Team) to deal solely with any issues concerning the pastors, but not the rest of the staff, which is the responsibility of each individual church. This committee is still in the process of being formed.

➤ VBS at St. Paul's UMC

This summer's VBS will be Sunday July 21 - Thursday July 25 at St. Paul's. The festivities will run 6 - 8pm each night and volunteers should plan to arrive by 5:45pm. We would love to have volunteer help, and kids join us from Beaver Memorial. Everything is still in the early planning stages, but I wanted to reach out with some basic information and to collect contact information for anyone interested in helping.



Our theme this year is based on the movie Inside Out. (Inside Out 2 is coming out this June I believe.) We will be dealing with emotions of Joy, Sadness, Fear, Disgust, and Anger and related Bible stories. This is a program that we are creating, so graphics and many other details are still in development! For now, here is a link to the trailer of the Inside Out movie on YouTube for those that aren't familiar. You can also stream it if you have Disney Plus or purchase (for less than \$5) on several other streaming platforms.

At this point, I'm collecting volunteer interest. If anyone are interested in helping, they can contact me through email/text. We can always find ways to use people's talents, and all are encouraged to share those with me too! We will need leaders and helpers for nursery (ages 3 and 4), games, crafts, and storytime, helpers for leading crews of kids around (no prep!), and snack preparation and distribution, among many other things. We can even make use of those that might prefer doing behind-the-scenes work rather than full interaction with the kids.

Much more to come! This is just a note for you to save the date and to collect information from those that may be interested in helping in some way.

Jess N. (email: jltnewlin@gmail.com, cell: 570-238-0992)

➤ Volunteers needed for Dinner by the River

Dinner by the River is a hot meal, free and open to everyone and offered on the First Thursday of the month. Travis and Lorna Curry are establishing a team to participate in Dinner by the River operated out of First Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg. There are many opportunities to participate in this ministry including preparation of food, serving of food, delivery of food to shut-ins, clean up after the

meal, providing music during the meal, visiting and praying with our friends and neighbors being served. We anticipate starting to participate starting in the fall. Please contact Travis and Lorna (tlcinhisservice@yahoo.com) if you are interesting in being involved. Please feel free to invite family, friends and neighbors to come and serve alongside you.

► UMCOR receives top rating from CharityWatch

ATLANTA – CharityWatch, the only independent charity watchdog in the United States, released a report this spring on the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), awarding its highest A+ rating for the United Methodist humanitarian and relief agency.

Evaluating on a number of key factors, the report states that UMCOR spends 97% of its cash budget on programming for humanitarian relief, response and recovery work. In addition, it spends \$1 to generate \$100 in donations. Analysis of UMCOR's operations included the work of the Sager Brown Depot and the Immigration Law and Justice Network (ILJN, formerly NJFON), which are wholly owned subsidiaries of UMCOR.

Key factors included the transparency audit practices and the accessibility of financial data, governance policies, governance of the board of directors and privacy policies related to the organization's donors.

According to CharityWatch: "Groups included on the CharityWatch top-rated list generally spend 75% or more of their budgets on programs, spend \$25 or less to raise \$100 in public support, do not hold excessive assets in reserve, have met CharityWatch's governance benchmarks, and receive 'open-book' status for disclosure of basic financial information and documents to CharityWatch."

About UMCOR and the General Board of Global Ministries

Founded in 1940, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the global humanitarian relief agency of The United Methodist Church. A part of Global Ministries, UMCOR works in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States and its territories. The agency's mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering. Working in the areas of disaster response and recovery, sustainable development and migration, UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. Learn more about UMCOR by visiting www.umcor.org or by following www.facebook.com/umcor and www.twitter.com/umc_umcor.

Media Contact: Susan Clark for Global Ministries/UMCOR media@umcmision.org

► Next Book for New Life Adult Sunday School Class

The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to Stay Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive in the Chaos of the Modern World" by John David Comer

"Who am I becoming?" That was the question nagging pastor and author John Mark Comer. Outwardly, he appeared successful. But inwardly, things weren't pretty. So he turned to a trusted mentor for guidance and heard these words:

"Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life."

It wasn't the response he expected, but it was—and continues to be—the answer he needs. Too often we treat the symptoms of toxicity in our modern world instead of trying to pinpoint the cause. A growing number of voices are pointing at hurry, or busyness, as a root of much evil.

The perfect read to help you slow down during Lent or any other time of year, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* is a fascinating roadmap to staying emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Hello my name is Nicole Smith. I am a AM class teacher, at Kinderfolk! I started my teaching career in New Jersey public schools, where I taught third grade for one year and second grade for seven. When my husband's job took us to Mississippi, I taught first grade, and then became their School Librarian. I also worked there as a Director for Sylvan Learning Center, overseeing the Beginning Reading Program. After having my first and only child, I chose to stay home with her. Soon after her first birthday, we were relocated to Texas, and then again to Lewisburg, PA, where my daughter attended Kinderfolk and had a wonderful experience. When she entered Kindergarten, I accepted a position at Kinderfolk and loved it, until once again, after two years, we were relocated to New Jersey. I was broken-hearted about leaving! Three years later, my husband retired, and we returned to Lewisburg, because it is "home" to my

daughter. No more moving! I feel very fortunate to have a second chance to work for such an outstanding preschool, and I'm so looking forward to meeting your preschoolers!



Hello! My name is Marlena Reitz. I graduated from Northumberland Christian Academy and from there continued my education at McCann School of Business where I received my Associate's Degree in Business Administration and Hospitality Management. I joined the Busy Beaver team in January of 2019, and I am currently teaching in the Crawler Classroom. My son Christopher and my daughter Mara are also Busy Beavers! I have 10 years' experience working with children. My favorite part of a typical day in the classroom is getting endless hugs and love from the kids, doing art projects, and watching the children grow and progress!

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children!

BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Beacon Free Shop

Beacon Free Shop was held Saturday, May 18, 2024 and provided personal hygiene products to 89 households. 216 individuals make up these households. 10% of the households served were new, never receiving products from Beacon before. Four new volunteers joined the Beacon force to ensure the distributions ran smoothly.

This was the first month we distributed inventory from our new upstairs storeroom. Our 'inventory control' volunteers clocked many steps by bringing items downstairs.

Beacon's greatest need is always monetary donations. However, if you prefer to provide products – please consider donating 31 oz laundry detergent. It is the most requested item we offer, and the most expensive.

Next Beacon Free Shop will be held Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 10am – 12noon.

New to You Shop

Our fourth New to You event was held on May 18th. We had 74 individuals/families come through who represented 173 household members. Because we no longer limit the number of items someone may take, we seemed to give away many more items. During clean-up, we purged some of the items which we knew had not been taken for several times and took them to Community Aid. This time we were able to set up in an hour and a half, and clean up took only an hour. We are so blessed with volunteers! Thank you all who donated or worked! It's proving to be a wonderful collaboration with First Baptist because we have folks from both churches working together!

The next New to You event will take place on August 17th with set up on the 16th. Donations can be made on the 16th during set-up or the Sunday before after worship. If neither of those times work for you, please call and we'll find a time convenient to both of us.

Questions? Call Patty Johnston, 570-713-4659 or 570-523-3132 or email hoodj1973@ptd.net.

United Youth Group

United Youth Group has had a very topsy turvy year. We had to say goodbye to Mindy in October and goodbye to Pastor Daniel in May. The group stayed pretty steady with nine active youth that brought friends every now and then. Hopefully they grew in their faith, learned some life skills, and were inspired along the way. Among the many sessions about self care and spiritual inspiration they also played many games and watched many movies. The highlight for the year of course was the Mission Trip to DC. May they take all they learned and experienced this year to continue walking in their faith. Plans for the summer are to take a hiatus and start the group again in the Fall - meeting on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month.

- Charlene Rineer 717-880-2872

Busy Beaver

The summer months are finally upon us at Busy Beaver and all the children are so excited! We have lots of fun things planned such as picnics at the park, visits to the children's museum, and our end of summer carnival. Currently 3 of our summer hires are home from college and working throughout the next few months to help with staff vacations. We welcomed Ms. Livi, Ms. Sarah, and Ms. Lynsey back in the month of May!

We celebrated our teachers last month with Teacher Appreciation Week! We enjoyed lunch, breakfast, and little gifts from parents as well as gifts purchased for staff from Busy Beaver. We are getting very excited about our upcoming expansion. Many new items have been purchased and put together to get ready for the big move! We still have items on our wishlist that we have not received, but we are hopeful that they may still come through.

We are also planning our Preschool graduation ceremony for our graduates on Friday August 2nd. Light refreshments will follow! This year we have 8 graduates!

- Charlene Reigle Director, Busy Beaver

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. We are requesting one vase per week at the cost of \$45.

DIG Furniture Bank

DIG, one of Beaver's supported community missions, restores dignity and promotes stability by redirecting used furniture and household items to local families in need at no cost. DIG helps people get back on their feet after homelessness, incarceration, domestic violence and other significant life changes. DIG is located at 14 Elm Street, Milton. Their phone number is 570.658-9880. Their web address is WWW.DIGFB.ORG and email address is INFO@DIGFB.ORG.

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.

Eat Share Program

The mission of this program is to extend kindness through food sharing. The focus is on neighbors providing warm meals to members of the community who cannot do that for various reasons. No proof of need is required to request or receive a meal. You can sign up to volunteer to cook and/or deliver meals. You can also donate to help provide ingredient/food purchases. Contact them at eatsharelove@yahoo.com or call 570-971-8831.

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 September through May, usually 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	9:15 AM	Hall of All Peoples
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	Tiffany Heimbach	Treasurer	Shirley Brough
Custodian	Jim Gulden	Youth Group Director	Charlene Rineer
Choir Director	Brooke Persing	Pianist	tbd
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 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.