



BEAVER BLESSINGS

MAY 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

Office Hours are Monday - Friday 9:00 Am-Noon

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 11:00 am



From Pastor Sue's Desk:

My message this month is my next to last one, and it is both silly and serious. I begin with a silly saying I learned as a child which always makes me giggle when I think of it: "Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where all them birdies is?" Well, it is definitely spring and the grass (and dandelions and lots of other stuff) has riz. With the wild temperature swings we had in March and April, I wonder what May will bring?



On Apr. 12, my children's message focused on peace. Christy Emigh took this photo and requested it be in the next issue of Beaver Blessings. Sitting beside me is a colorful bear with a Peace Sign on it that I bought some years ago, and a mug that says "Peace on Earth Begins at Home" that I received back in the late 80's when I was on the Board of Directors of the newly formed Tioga County Women's Coalition. At that time their office was housed in First UMC in Mansfield, PA. It is now known as HAVEN (Helping Abuse and Violence End Now) of Tioga County. This was not easy work, but it was critically important. All board members had to go through the same 60 hours of training as staff members and had to do a stint of 24 hours answering the hotline. That experience helped me get a job

when I moved to State College in 1990 and was not ready to have a full-time parish as my children were 2 and 6 years old. I was hired part time at the Centre County Women's Resource Center, now Centre Safe. I primarily worked with adult women who had been sexually abused as children and facilitated a rape survivors support group for Penn State students. One of the fun things I did during my time there was to help create a puppet show for preschoolers on staying safe, based on a children's book titled Squeakers by Stephen Cosgrove and Robin James. When I moved to this region in 1994, I got connected to Susquehanna Valley Women in Transition, now Transitions of PA, and have done some volunteer work with them, mostly helping with fundraising events.

You may have noticed that all 3 of the agencies cited have had a name change. When they were each founded in the 1970's, the focus was on helping women who were victims of domestic violence

and sexual assault. Gradually there was a recognition that victims of such violence were not only women, are thus the names were changed to be more inclusive. They and similar agencies all over the U.S. continue to provide much needed services. This experience also helped to prepare me to deal with a case of clergy sexual misconduct in 1992, and a second case in 1994, both of which lead to the creation of our Annual Conference policy and protocol on dealing with such situations. We now have an entire team of folks who deal with these situations, and I have been on that team since its creation in 1995.

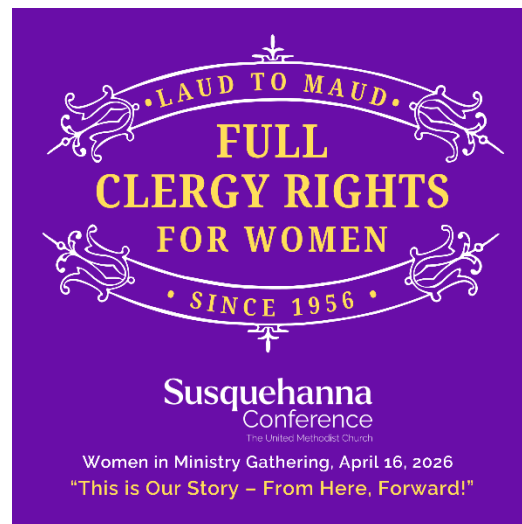
And now I end with another giggle saying from my childhood: “If you sprinkle when you tinkle, please be neat and wipe the seat!” This is very good advice!!!

Laud for Maud – Celebrating Full Clergy Rights for Women

This year the UMC is celebrating the 70th anniversary of full clergy rights for women. According to the records in the Conference office, Pastor Sue was the 30th woman to be ordained Elder in this Conference. Who was the first you might ask? This article will tell you and you may be surprised!

Maud Keister Jensen (1904-1998) was the first woman to receive full clergy rights and conference membership in the Methodist Church. Jensen began teaching Sunday school in a Methodist Church at age 12 and became interested in missionary work while attending Bucknell University. **She was recommended for ordination by Beaver Memorial in 1925.** The Methodist Church sent her to Korea after her graduation in 1926. Jensen received a license to preach in 1929 and was ordained a deacon in the Central Pennsylvania Conference in 1948. She became an ordained elder in 1952 and taught in the Methodist Theological Seminary in Korea. Prior to 1956, women were allowed to preach in the United States and to be ordained, but without full conference membership they could not vote in their annual conferences and were not guaranteed appointments. After the General Conference decision, the order in which the first women were accepted into full connection depended on when their conferences met. The board of missions sent Jensen a wire in Korea to notify her that she had been the first, to which she responded, “I am deeply grateful for the privilege, but the honor was completely unexpected and due entirely to the early meeting of my Annual Conference. I feel that Georgia Harkness and other active women ministers deserve first recognition after their long struggle and able contributions to the church.” Jensen spent 40 years as a missionary in Korea before returning to the United States and earning a PhD from Drew Theological School at the age of 74.

Pastor Sue shared this information with the Leadership Team, and everyone was surprised to learn that Beaver Memorial was the recommending church for Rev. Jensen! Pastor Sue learned about this on Apr. 16 at a gathering of the Susquehanna Conference Women in Ministry. Pastor Sue also had no knowledge of this historic precedent setting recommendation. What an honor it is to be part of a church that was and continues to be so supportive of women in ministry!



What's Pastor Ethan Reading?

Hello Friends,

This month I am reading an interesting book called *Theosemiotic: Religion, Reading, and the Gift of Meaning* by a theologian teaching at Lehigh University named Micheal Raposa.

One of the things I am interested in is *meaning*:

How do we form meaning?

Where does meaning come from?

What makes God's creation particularly meaningful?

Raposa's book is a careful examination of this by considering our search for God as a quest for a kind of depth of meaning in all of our lives as creatures. Raposa invites us to think of our whole world as full of signs and symbols that we come to "read" like a book.

Think of what a "mountain" means.

When we see a mountain we see the thing that we call a mountain but we also think of mountains as symbols for things too. Mountains can "mean" an obstacle to overcome or a sign of mystery or maybe even a place where people encounter God (think of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments or the story of Jesus' Transfiguration). In fact even we as people are "living signs" that we read to ourselves and others read as well. That means that our quest for God and for ultimate meaning always hinges on an act of interpretation. You and I are constantly interpreting the signs that we encounter. We can interpret things poorly or well; we can see things as symbolizing God or not.

God's creation is meaningful to us precisely because it is drenched in these signs and symbols. That is Raposa's argument!

I have loved reading this book! I find it challenging and deeply thoughtful. It's helped me think about how ordinary life is a place where God can be found in ways I never thought of before.

If you're interested I would love to chat with you about it!

May you see God in all the wonderful signs that God has created. Amen.





Baylee Espinosa



Baylee Espinosa

Is graduating from
Lewisburg Area High School
on May 27, 2026.

She was a member of the
Cross Country and Track & Field teams
where she was a
multi-State champion and
PIAA AA State record holder
in the 3200. She loves her family, as well
as her Church family at Beaver Memorial.
She is planning to continue her academic
and athletic career at Penn State
University.

CONGRATULATIONS BAYLEE!!



Hannah Diehl



Hannah Diehl

Is graduating from Danville Area High School. She is attending Lycoming College to pursue Special Ed, Early Ed, and Sociology. Hannah has been involved in many activities, including Speech and Debate, Marching Band, Concert Band, Glamor Gals, The Pat Ackerman Reading Program, her internship in middle school special education, and of course her job as a Library Assistant and Children's Activities Coordinator at the Thomas Beaver Free Library in Danville. Some of her favorite experiences throughout high school have been working with and teaching children. These experiences have greatly influenced her future path and she can't wait to start her next chapter! She has been attending Beaver Memorial UMC. for two years now. Her favorite part about church is the beautiful community and church family.

Congratulation Hannah!!

Flower Moon May 1st



FLOWER MOON — MAY 1, 2026
The Flower Moon peaks at 1:23 PM on May 1, meaning the best visual show is the evening of May 1 into May 2, when it rises dramatically at twilight looking completely full.

Because the full Moon cycle is 29.5 days and this one lands on May 1st, a second full Moon is mathematically guaranteed by May 31 — and that triggers the Blue Moon.

Blue Moon May 31st



BLUE MICROMOON — MAY 31, 2026
May 31 full Moon is both a monthly Blue Moon (the second full Moon in a single calendar month) and 2026's smallest Micro Moon, occurring near lunar apogee and appearing approximately 5.5% smaller and 10.5% dimmer
Then an average full Moon Peak time is
4:45 AM EDT on May 31
best viewed the evening of
May 30 into May 31. It shines in Scorpius, near the bright red star Antares.



Dear Friends from Beaver Memorial UMC:
We are deeply grateful for your support of Camp and Retreat Ministries. Your generous gift of \$800 on 4/7/26 to our general ministry plays a major part in providing places and experiences where all are inspired to live of love and meaning. We thank God for you, your partnership, and your caring investment in making a difference in the world! This gift is fully tax deductible.

With Appreciation:
Kevin Witt
Director of Camp Retreat Ministries
Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church
Our Centers: Camp Penn, Wesley Forest, Beloved Community Camps

BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Bible Study with Pastor Ethan

**Wednesday May 6th Bible Study at
St. Paul's is Cancelled**

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



Beacon Free Shop

April 2026 – Beacon Free Shop served 85 households, 204 individuals on April 18, 2026. Our twenty volunteers distributed 804 personal hygiene items efficiently and with respect to Beacon clients. In observance of Volunteer Appreciation Month, volunteers were treated with punch and donuts – and a special gift to take home. This program could not operate without these folks. They are all appreciated.

Three volunteers were from the United Youth Group. We always welcome our younger volunteers – especially when it comes to going up and down the stairs!

Next Beacon Shop will be held Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 10am to noon.

New To You Free Shop

The next New to You Free Shop will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 10:00-noon. Donations may be brought at any time and placed in our storage room on the basement level off the hall to the choir room. They may also be brought on Friday the 15th during set-up. Please come as close to 2:00 on Friday as possible because we leave when set-up is complete. You may drop items at the alley entrance to Fellowship Hall that day. Please limit donations to adult clothing (seasonal please, no shoes or underwear), linens and kitchen items (no knives other than those for place settings). Please bring only gently used items, no stains or tears. A sign-up sheet to volunteer during set-up, during the event and for clean-up is available on the table at the front of the sanctuary. Thanks to all who have donated and volunteered! We have had many thanks from our clients who really appreciate the opportunity to get needed items at no cost.

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

Busy Beaver

Busy Beaver has some really fun things planned for the month of May! Friday May 8th is our Annual Mother's Day Tea. We celebrate all the Moms with some personalized crafts from the children and light refreshments. We will also be taking a walking field trip to the Lewisburg Children's Museum on Tuesday May 19th at 9am. This field trip will be for ages 2 through PreK. If the weather permits, we will have a picnic at the park following our visit. Busy Beaver will be closed on Monday May 27th for Memorial Day. We are very excited to start summer camp on Monday June 1st! A schedule of June field trips has been sent to our enrollers.

United Youth Group

The United Youth Group has had a wonderful year. In May the group will meet a few more times. On May 1-2 they will have one last overnight. This will take place at Camp Mount Luther. It starts at 6:00 pm, on Friday evening, and runs until 4:00 pm, on Saturday afternoon. Any youth wanting to attend needs to let Charlene know they are coming so we have enough supplies.



Mission Opportunity

May 9th Road Clean Up 10 am to 1 pm

We will meet at Christ's Lutheran in the youth room to grab our supplies. Then we carpool to Churches Road to park at UIC. From there we divide into groups to pick up the trash.

After we are done we will have lunch together.

Sunday, May 17th we will celebrate the end of the school year with a potluck luncheon.

It will be a time to get together and relax as the school year winds down. Youth are to bring a salad, a vegetable dish, or a dessert to share. Leaders will provide the main dishes and beverages. It will be held at Christ's Lutheran at 12:30 pm



Northern Wilds District - Mission Central Item Collection

Each district in the Susquehanna Conference is asked to bring specific items for Kits that are distributed by Mission Central. Our district items are **bars of soap** and **nail clippers** (new only please). Please put all donations in the bin at the front of the sanctuary. We will collect them through May 31st.

Learn About SUN-ICS and Share a Meal

On Sunday, May 17, immediately following worship we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a shared meal and a presentation about Immigration. The focus will be on what is being done in our local area, Snyder, Union & Northumberland Counties, to help immigrant families in need. The mission statement for this group is: "We believe that all people have human and legal rights. In response to the dangers that ICE poses to immigrants and our communities, we support our immigrant neighbors through assistance, advocacy, and public education."

There is a sign up sheet on the table at the front of the sanctuary for this. Please join us!



May 17th ~ Jan Bender

May 23rd ~ Nick & Brooke Persing



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

Greeters

May 3rd Kathy McKibben (Church) Jan Field (Parker)
 May 10th Christy Brouse (Church) Hood & Patty Johnston (Parker)
 May 17th Christy Brouse (Parker) Kerry Shirk (Church)
 May 24th Cheryl Cope (Parker) Nonie Martin (Church)
 May 31st Jan Bender (Church) Deena Eberhart (Parker)

Counters

May 3rd Kathy McKibben, David Deibler-Gorman, Ruth Shrawder
 May 10th Chuck Root, Hood Johnston, Brooke Persing
 May 17th Kerry Shirk, Greg Krouse, Kathy McKibben
 May 24th Kerry Shirk, Heidi Gilmore, Travis Curry
 May 31st Christy Brouse, Nancy Nickles, Kerry Shirk

Readers

May 3rd Kathy McKibben
 May 10th Christy Emigh
 May 17th Lorna Curry
 May 24th Cynthia Hutchenson
 May 31st Chuck Root

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!

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	10:15 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
NA Meeting	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Choir Room
Choir Rehearsal	Thursday	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
Custodians	Jim & Penny 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 Hannah Diehl – hannahdiehlo707@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.