



BEAVER BLESSINGS

November 2023



"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:

This quote by Alice Walker on Radical Love is timely, given what is happening in the world:

“People defend violence as a tool for change. But I know from my own life what suffering it causes. Besides, it isn't radical enough. Love is more radical, and loving takes a lot more courage. Unless we prove ourselves in the trivialities of daily life, we shall not be able to muster courage in the critical hour of history.”

Violence is usually driven by fear, and often uses the language of hate. In the past four weeks, I have been touched in more ways than I thought possible by this. It began with the report that a mass shooting happened in my hometown of Indiana, PA, at 12:30 AM on Sunday, Oct. 8, at the Chevy Chase Community Center. A private party was happening in the Center and a confrontation occurred, which led to the shooting. One person was killed and 8 injured. All were between the ages of 18 and 23. There is still no known motive for this as of when I wrote this piece, although a suspect is in custody. The Center is located near the high school I attended, and their mission statement says: “Our mission is to cultivate, nurture, and sustain a peaceful and inclusive culture that brings community together with positivity, diversity, inclusion, education, nutrition, and love.”

This act of violence occurred just hours after the news of Hamas' surprise attack on Israel the morning of Oct. 7, as the Jewish festival of Sukkot was ending. This festival comes on the heels of two other major Jewish holidays, Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), and focuses on thanksgiving for the harvest of food as well as the recognition of the years of wilderness wandering under Moses' leadership. In retaliation, Israel declared war on Hamas. It is not yet known how many innocent civilians died, nor how many were taken hostage. As the violence escalates, each side is blaming the other for the extensive carnage.

I read news of both of these events as Kevin and I were with a group on a three day continuing education event titled ‘Journey of Pain and Hope’. We were in the Scranton area, learning about the history of African American and Indigenous people's suffering and exploitation. On our final day, we traveled to Port Jervis, NY, where a public lynching had happened. As I heard the story of 1892 lynching of Robert Lewis by a white mob, and the torture he endured being dragged through town

prior to his death, I wept. Some of my tears were also for those in my hometown and some for both the Israelis and Palestinians caught in the crossfire of violence. We participated in communion at the site of this heinous act, and it was a holy moment.

I was supposed to be spending the next 10 days in New Orleans with Kevin, visiting his daughter and enjoying the Blues Music Festival. Unfortunately that trip had to be cancelled due to changes in her work schedule. So we were home for a couple of days, and then went to the Chesapeake Bay area for a 4 day mini vacation. While there, we discovered a museum dedicated to Harriet Tubman. I remember writing a paper in elementary school on her leadership in the Underground Railroad. While going through this museum and learning about her life as a child and the violent attacks that she experienced as a slave girl, it felt like we were still on the journey of pain and hope. Sometimes the pain was overwhelming and the hope seemed very far away. Then the hope came in learning about the grit and determination that gave her the strength to escape and of her returning again and again to lead others to freedom at the risk of being caught and killed. She believed that God was leading her to do this dangerous and important work, and is often referred to as Black Moses. It was a moving experience.

And then I read about the bomb threat on Oct. 13 against Congregation Beth El, the Synagogue in Sunbury.

I can only imagine how frightening that was for everyone who had to evacuate the area until they could determine no bomb was there. Our Treasurer, Shirley Brough, just happened to be in a nearby building when this happened so she had firsthand experience of needing to evacuate. I have known Rabbi Nina Mandel since she first came to Sunbury over twenty years ago, and I have known some members of that congregation for almost as long. The congregation is involved in many outreach ministries, and the Beacon Shop often receives product donations from them.

I share all of this because these are very challenging times in which to work for justice for all and to practice the radical love mentioned in the opening quote. Through the life and teaching of Jesus, with the presence and power of God's Holy Spirit, and being part of this community of faith, we can continue to find ways to be in ministry with one another, to the communities in which we live and work, and to the wider world. Even amidst the pain, there is hope.

NOVEMBER FEATURES

➤ Do United Methodists believe in saints?

Paul begins his letter to the church at Ephesus by calling these early believers in Christ "saints." He writes, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

United Methodists recognize Matthew, Paul, Mark, John, Luke and other early followers of Jesus as saints, and countless numbers of United Methodist churches are named after these saints.

Nov. 1 is All Saints Day, a sometimes-overlooked holy day in United Methodist congregations. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from Nov. 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." On the same day in 1788, he writes, "I always find this a comfortable day." The following year he calls it "a day that I peculiarly love." This may sound odd. United Methodists don't believe in saints. Right? Well, yes ... and no.

Wesley cautioned against holding saints in too high regard. The Articles of Religion include a statement against "invocation of saints" (Article XIV—Of Purgatory, The Book of Discipline 2012, Para. 104). However, he also advised against disregarding the saints altogether.

United Methodists call people "saints" because they exemplified the Christian life. In this sense, every Christian can be considered a saint. We also recognize and celebrate All Saints' Day and "all the saints, who from their labors rest." All Saints' Day is a time to remember Christians of every time and place, honoring those who lived faithfully and shared their faith. On All Saints' Day, many churches read the names of their members who died in the past year.

We also remember all those – famous or obscure – who are part of the "communion of saints" we speak of in The Apostles' Creed. As we tell the stories of the saints "to glory gone," we remember how God has provided for us. The stories of the saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be. We also think of those with whom we worship, of fellow United Methodists who inspire us and other Christians who encourage us. Additionally, we remember and pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who faithfully follow Jesus in places where being labeled a Christian puts them in harm's way.

Adapted from "All Saints Day: A holy day John Wesley loved" by the Rev. Joe Iovino, published at www.umc.org.

➤ 11 Facts About Native People in Society and the Church by Bishop David Wilson

We are a diverse people: There are over 570 federally recognized tribes, nations, villages, clans and more across the United States, along with 61 state-recognized tribes. Each nation has its own language, culture, values, and history; there is no single culture or language among Indigenous peoples. The diversity among Indigenous peoples in this country is amazing and beautiful. No one person or group may "speak for" all Indigenous persons.

We are not a mascot: Indigenous persons are not "honored" when our cultural image, symbols, and faces are stereotyped and used as sports mascots (or any other mascots) by non-Native people. In fact, such mascots are degrading and false representations of who Native people are. Numerous studies - including a 2005 study by the American Psychological Associations - suggest Native mascots and behavior associated with fans or teams with such mascots harm Native people, particularly children and youth. These studies demonstrate that in colleges and schools with Native mascots, Native children and youth are more likely to live with lower self-esteem, increased rates of depression and substance abuse, and an increased likelihood of encountering anti-Native racism and discrimination.

There are many names for Indigenous peoples in the United States and around the world: There is no specific term that is suitable for all. Many tribal peoples prefer to be called by the tribe or tribes they represent. The United Methodist Church has used "Native Americans" for many years. Other acceptable terms include American Indians, First Nations, Indigenous, First Americans.

Not all U.S. Native/Indigenous persons live on reservations: Across the United States there are 326 reservations; yet, less than 30 percent of all American Indians and Alaska Natives live on them. More than 70 percent live in urban areas, with approximately 8 percent living in small towns and rural areas outside reservations.

Our regalia and dances have sacred and spiritual meaning: Our ritualistic dances should not be mimicked for comedy, nor should our ceremonial clothing (e.g. feathered headdresses) be worn as

costumes for Halloween or sampled as fashion. The regalia is sacred, and much prayer, time, and work go into creating each piece worn in tribal dances. Often, they are passed down from generation to generation. Please be aware that wearing indigenous regalia as costumes is cultural appropriation. Such actions contribute to the oppression Indigenous people face daily.

Native Americans serve in the U.S. military at the highest rate of any ethnic group: American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the U.S. Armed Forces at five times the national average. Native veterans have served with distinction in every major conflict for over 200 years. Native persons have the highest per-capita involvement of any population to serve in the U.S. military. Indigenous code-talkers from 33 tribes were recognized by Congress in 2013. Many of them are from United Methodist churches.

Native Americans as United Methodist leaders date back to the early 19th century: The first Native American District Superintendent in the denomination was the Rev. Samuel Checote, a Muscogee, who was appointed in 1868 after he was relocated to Indian Territory in the 1820s. In 1992, the Rev. Dr. Lois Neal, a Cherokee, became the first Native American woman appointed District Superintendent. Rev. Dr. Neal and the Rev. Everline “Tweedy” Sombrero, a Navajo, were the first two Native American women to earn a master’s degree in theology in 1988. The Rev. Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett, a Seneca, was the first Native American to be named General Secretary of a church-wide agency of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Fassett was elected and served in that position with the General Board of Church and Society from 1988 to 2000. In 2022, Rev. David Wilson, a member of the Choctaw Nation, was the first Native American elected as bishop.

Indigenous persons have made significant contributions to the world’s culture: The constitution of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy was used as a model for the Articles of Confederation, later incorporated into the U.S. Constitution. Corn was cultivated by Indigenous peoples over 10,000 years ago, who in turn taught the first European immigrants how to grow the crop. The earliest Indigenous doctors identified plants that provided anesthetics and ointment for healing of the skin. Make time to further research the contributions of Indigenous persons on modern culture and society.

Indigenous persons play a vital and important role in the life of The United Methodist Church: Even so, they represent the smallest racial ethnic group in the denomination, at 0.47 percent. According to the latest study of the United Methodist Native American Comprehensive Plan and Path One (a church-planting initiative of Discipleship Ministries), there are 157 Native American United Methodist congregations in the United States. The largest concentration of Native churches is in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, which comprises parishes in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas.

Tipis are not the typical housing for modern U.S. Indigenous people: Today, tipis are used mostly in Native American ceremonies and cultural gatherings, and the majority of tribal people have never lived in tipis. Traditional housing for U.S. Natives has ranged from longhouses in the Northeast and hogans in the Southwest, to igloos in Alaska. Today, most Indigenous persons live in contemporary homes, condos, apartments, tribal homes in urban areas, towns, rural areas, reservations and more. The new First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City features a soaring glass and steel half dome as its entrance hall modeled after a traditional Wichita grass lodge.

Indigenous persons are the only racial-ethnic group that must constantly “prove” who we are: To gain U.S. federal-government recognition and protection, Native Americans must document their racial identity. This federal recognition began with the Dawes Commission in 1887, which required every Native American person in the country to register. Tribal peoples from federally recognized

tribes must register with their tribes to show their lineage to these tribes. Each tribe issues tribal cards and the government issues a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood card to individuals. The cards are often used by tribal nations to prove eligibility for government services. From the General Commission on Race and Religion

Native American Heritage Month gives United Methodists an opportunity to reach out to indigenous groups in the community and to learn about—and from—their Native American sisters and brothers.

From the www.umc.org.

➤ **Donation from Beaver to Lewisburg High School**

Beaver donated thirty wooden children's chairs to the Lewisburg High School for an upcoming art project. Art teacher, Christy Emigh, will be coordinating a project that will allow students to creatively transform the chairs into a work of art. She will keep Beaver posted on the progress of this transformation. This donation is just one more step to clearing out storage areas at Beaver. Watch the church bulletin for more available items you may need for your home.



BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

United Youth Group

The United Youth Group had an active October with journals, games, the Walk for Hunger, Yoga, and a night to celebrate Mindy! For November we will be meeting at First Baptist from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on the first three Sundays of the month. We will not meet on Nov. 26. On the 5th we will do a praying in color activity. On the 12th we will have another games' night. Then on the 19th we will have a giving thanks event. On the 5th and 12th the youth should bring their dinner and beverage. On the 19th it will be a potluck where they should bring their favorite food to share. If the youth are interested in the Mission trip to Washington DC in April and they have not paid their deposit yet the deadline has been extended to November 19th. The registration fee is \$50.00, and if you write out a check it should be made out to Beaver United Methodist Church.

Charlene Rineer 717-880-2872 unitedyouthlbg@gmail.com

Beacon Free Shop

Beacon Free Shop was held Saturday, October 21, and provided personal hygiene products to 81 households. 208 individuals make up the 81 households – which is a new record for the number served. Over one-quarter (27%) of these households were new to Beacon, with many returnees as well. As Beacon numbers continue to increase, we must be aware of our financial status. This month, over \$1,300 was spent on inventory to distribute to clients. This does not include the value of donated products such as our toilet paper, feminine hygiene and adult diapers. Beacon cost per household served averages \$17 each. If our numbers continue to increase, we have funds available for five more months to sustain this mission.

A gift to Beacon of \$100 each month would sponsor six households. Please consider this need when you are planning charitable donations. Thank you in advance for your support.
For additional information contact Christy Brouse at 570-238-5707 or beacon@beavermethodist.org.

New to You Free Shop

The next distribution day will be Saturday, November 18. That means set-up is the day before, Friday the 17th. We'll start at 2:00 and see how long it takes. We had so many helping hands in August that we were finished in just over an hour. However, there are many, many items in our storage room and more might come in before that date. Craig McKibben has been kind enough to put wheels on the clothing racks which will help tremendously. Clean up starts at noon on Saturday to return items to storage, and again we will need helpers for that. We also need several people to help during the distribution hours. (10:00-noon on Saturday, same as the Beacon Shop) Please sign up on the sheet at the front of the sanctuary so I'll know if we have enough help! Thanks in advance! Patty Johnston.

Busy Beaver

Busy Beaver has a fun month planned ahead! This year will be the first year since the COVID pandemic that we plan to have our family Thanksgiving dinner. This year it will take place on Thursday November 16th at 5:30pm. We are also closed for Thanksgiving break on Thursday November 23rd and Friday November 25th.

Currently we have 47 children enrolled and will be enrolling 2 more infants in November and December. We have 39 children enrolled full time and 9 children enrolled part time.

Charlene Reigle Director, Busy Beaver

Kinderfolk

During the month of November, Kinderfolkers will be celebrating the time of thankfulness. Kinderfolk will be participating in the annual donation of Turkey and Trimming Baskets through the Office of Civic Engagement at Bucknell. The children will decorate boxes and families will fill them with a list of non-perishable food items. Our donations will be distributed through the Office of Engagement to families in need in Union County.

We will also celebrate Thanksgiving all month long with crafts and learning activities that pertain to the late fall season, the pilgrims and the Native Americans, as well as turkeys...turkeys...and more turkeys!!!

Julia Umstead Director, Kinderfolk Preschool

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 sign up sheet on the cabinet in the narthex entry way or contact the church office for available dates. The cost is \$40 for two vases.

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. *We are also looking for additional vocal and bell choir members! Beaver Bells rehearsal is held on Thursdays at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. Vocal Choir rehearsals 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

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

BMUMC Staff includes:

Position	Individual	Position	Individual
Church Administrator	Teresa Rothermel	Treasurer	Shirley Brough
Custodian	Jim Gulden	Youth Group Director	Charlene Rineer
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 – professorpr.maven@gmail.com Chuck Root – croot@bucknell.edu Nick Persing – persing191983@gmail.com Travis Curry – traviscurry@yahoo.com		

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