



BEAVER BLESSINGS

November 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 Service - 11:00 am
New Beginnings Adult Sunday School Class – 9:30 am

From Pastor Sue's Desk:

A person walking across a bridge came upon someone standing right on the edge, about to plunge to their death. The person shouted "Stop! Are you a Christian?" "Yes, as a matter of fact I am." "Well so am I. Are you Catholic or Protestant?" "I'm Protestant," "Well so am I. What denomination?" "I'm Baptist." "Wow! I am too. Are you Southern Baptist or American Baptist?" "I'm Southern Baptist," "Me too! Are you original Southern Baptist or Southern Baptist reformed?" "Southern Baptist reformed." "I can't believe it, so am I." But tell me are you Reformed Southern Baptist of the Reformation of 1879, or reformed Southern Baptist of the Reformation of 1915?" "Reformed Southern Baptist of the reformation of 1915." The person replied, "Jump you heretic!"

Too often we condemn or exclude those who have a different belief system or faith practices than we do. In the U.S. alone there are 200 different Christian denominations. Globally there are 80 denominations belonging to the World Methodist Council which trace their roots to John Wesley. The United Methodist Church is the largest of these, even with the recent loss of churches due to disaffiliation. But the divisions among persons of faith are not a good witness to a loving God. In Mark 9: 40 Jesus said: "Whoever is not against us, is for us," or as The Message puts it: "Whoever is not an enemy is an ally." But we continue to struggle with the question of how wide can we open the door? Some Christians say that anyone who does not confess Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord is not part of God's realm. Others say that one must confess a certain creed that uses the Trinitarian formula of Father, Son and Holy Spirit to be part of the IN group. Some expand the circle to include our Jewish siblings because Judaism is our parent faith, and certain interpretations of the book of Revelation say they must be included. Some include the big three monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam as within God's select circle.

Yet at times when we try to work together, we end up working apart. We rip and tear at others because they aren't serving God in the particular way we want them to, or aren't doing the things we think need to be done. And sometimes when we work apart, whether this happens by accident or by design, we are really working together. Faith communities of all types are doing the work of God. They may

each do it differently, but they do it because they seek to follow God. No matter how different we may seem to be to one another, if we are doing things to help others in the name of God, we are working together.

The same is true in the act of healing, which Jesus so often does. In an age when scientific medicine was still very primitive, healing the sick had spiritual as well as physical significance. Prayer and anointing with oil were understood as given by God. Confession and forgiveness of sin also helped to bring about healing. Today in Western approaches to medicine we seem to be recapturing this understanding of the connections of mind/body/spirit. It had disappeared for a couple of hundred years, but now is re-emerging in powerful ways. There are studies being done which prove that people who attend worship and are active in a faith community often live longer and healthier lives than who don't, no matter which faith community it is. When people dwell in feelings of resentment, deep regret, guilt or other emotional woundedness, physical healing comes more slowly. When emotional and spiritual dimensions are taken into consideration in patient treatment, healing happens more quickly. Wellness involves balancing the spiritual, emotional and physical aspects of our lives. Through spiritual healing God works in us to bring about reconciliation between God and humanity, between individuals, and with our world. True healing comes when mental, emotional and spiritual balance is restored, and perhaps physical healing will also happen.

All of us need a community of healing and peace where we can rest secure in the knowledge that we are safe and can gather strength. Our church family is to be a place of refuge where we are fed and prepared to serve God by serving others. But it is also a place where others can come to receive nurture and healing; a place where children are welcomed; a place where those whose lives have been shattered can feel there is hope and can receive the healing power of God; a place where strangers who seek to do good will be affirmed; a place where we learn that God is not only with us but with all of creation. The church is more than a building, it is more than a denomination, it is more than one particular way of doing things. This community of faith that we enter into should not limit our vision of where God is and how God is working. Every time we or anyone we observe draws a circle around us saying that we are the IN group, we should imagine that Jesus is standing outside of the circle, reaching out to all those who are excluded, inviting them to be a part of God's family. I pray that this faith family is such a place for each of you.

NOVEMBER FEATURES

➤ **All Saints Day: A holy day John Wesley loved** by Joe Iovino, United Methodist Communications. This story was published on Oct. 28, 2015.

November 1 is All Saints Day, a sometimes-overlooked holy day in United Methodist congregations. It is not nearly as well known as the day before, All Hallows' (Saints') Eve, better known as Halloween, but is far more important in the life of the church.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 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 that he sent to the Methodists in America in 1784, include a statement against "invocation of saints" (Article XIV—Of Purgatory, Book of Discipline ¶104). Wesley did not see biblical evidence for the practice and discouraged Methodists from participating. However, he also advised against disregarding saints altogether.

In an All Saints Day journal entry dated Monday, November 1, 1756, Wesley writes, "How superstitious are they who scruple giving God solemn thanks for the lives and deaths of his saints!" If your 18th century English is as rusty as mine, it might help to know that the word scruple means not doing something because you think it's wrong.

Those to glory gone

All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate our history, what United Methodists call the tradition of the church. From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on.

Charles Wesley, John's brother, picks up on this theme in his hymn that appears in our United Methodist Hymnal as "Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above," #709. In the first verse, he offers a wonderful image of the Church through the ages:

Let saints on earth unite to sing, with those to glory gone,
for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven, are one.

On All Saints Day we can remember all those who are part of the "communion of saints" we confess whenever we recite The Apostles' Creed. We share stories of those "to glory gone." Retelling these stories grounds us in our history. These memories teach us how God has provided for us through the generosity and sacrifice of those who have come before us. The stories of the saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be. Charles Wesley wrote more than 6,000 hymns for the early Methodists. United Methodists still sing many of his hymns today.

Saints on earth

Charles Wesley's hymn tells us those "to glory gone" are joined by the "saints on earth." We think of the inspirational people with whom we worship on Sunday, and those across the world we will never meet. We celebrate fellow United Methodists who inspire us, and those of other denominations whose lives encourage us. We give thanks for those with whom we agree, as well as those whose views we do not share. 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.

One song

On All Saints Day, we recognize that we are part of a giant choir singing the same song. It is the song Jesus taught his disciples; a tune that has resonated for more than 2,000 years; a melody sung in glory and on the earth. Our great privilege is to add our voices to this chorus.

The last verse of "Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above" encourages us to sing faithfully while on earth, so we might join the heavenly chorus one day.

Our spirits too shall quickly join, like theirs with glory crowned,
and shout to see our Captain's sign, to hear His trumpet sound.

O that we now might grasp our Guide! O that the word were given!
Come, Lord of Hosts, the waves divide, and land us all in heaven.

On All Saints Day, let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for the lives of his saints.

➤ Cluster Charge Conference Update

This year's cluster charge conference will be held November 11th at 6 PM Christ UMC, 145 Disciple Dr., Selinsgrove. The charge conference is a time where pastors and leaders from the United Methodist churches of our cluster get together to worship, share in ministry, and conduct administrative business of the church. The cluster charge conference is open to all members of the Lewisburg Charge (Beaver Memorial UMC and St. Paul's UMC) but is not mandatory! If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Sue or Pastor Ethan.

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

Beacon Free Shop was held Saturday, October 19, 2024 and provided personal hygiene products to 99 households. 248 individuals make up these households. This month tied with August 2024 for the highest number of households served! Beacon clients tend to return each month, with 88 of the 99 households were "repeat customers". As always, thanks to the 15 volunteers who worked diligently to distribute over 900 items to our clients this month. Also, thank you to those who provided monetary and inventory donations. Interested in volunteering? Contact the Church Office, or Christy Brouse at 570-238-5707.

New to You Toy Giveaway

We had our first toy give-away in October. It was a huge success! We gave away almost everything on display, leaving only 2 small boxes to take to Goodwill. Parents and grandparents were delighted to be able to find gifts for Christmas. One lady said she found at least a little something for all of her 15 grandchildren! We hope to be able to do this again next year if we get enough donations as it was so well received. Thanks to all who donated and volunteered. We couldn't do any of this without you! We return to our regular New to You offerings next month on November 16. Sign-up sheets will be in the sanctuary starting November 3.

Busy Beaver

It's so hard to believe the month of November is already upon us! October was a pretty busy month here at Busy Beaver. We had our Keystone Stars Designation, our state inspection, and also celebrated spooky season by painting pumpkins and enjoying our Halloween parade and party. We also had a successful apple dumpling and whoopie pie fundraiser. Thank you to all who sold them!

Late October we kicked off our Gertrude Hawk Christmas Candy fundraiser. There are order forms in the church office as well as the sanctuary. Orders and payment are due on Monday November 4th. Delivery will be the week of December 2nd, just in time for the holidays!

In the month of November, we will also have our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner! Last year we had over 100 people in attendance. We are hoping for another successful dinner!

Charlene Reigle, Director, Busy Beaver Daycare Center

United Youth Group

October was a fun month for the United Youth Group. We participated in the walk Against Food Insecurity, we made blankets for Project Linus, we participated in a mystery event, and we did a remix lesson. In November we will have just as much fun. On Sunday, the 3rd, we will meet at First Baptist at 5:30 pm for another Remix lesson. On Monday, the 11th, we will meet at Christ's Lutheran in the Lower Church Hall at 6:00 pm to wrap and pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Saturday the 16th we will help at the Beacon Shop at Beaver. On November 17th we are invited to a ping pong tournament event at Sharon Lutheran in Selinsgrove. It starts at 3:00 pm and runs until 5:00 pm. We will carpool from St. Paul's UM, leaving at 2:30 pm and returning around 5:30 pm. Then we will end the month with a movie night on the 24th. We will meet at First Baptist at 5:30 pm The movie for the evening is Cheaper by the Dozen. All 6th through 12th graders are invited to join us.

For additional information please contact Charlene Rineer 717-880-2872

Thanksgiving Dinner for Bucknell Students

On Tues, Nov. 26, Beaver is joining with St. Paul's in providing a meal for those students who remain on campus during Thanksgiving break. Volunteers are needed to help set up, chat with students and to help clean up. Donations of food will also be welcome. More information will be provided soon!

Flowers for the Vases

If you enjoy the beautiful flowers displayed in the vases each Sunday, please consider signing up to sponsor flowers. You can use the signup sheet on the table at the front of the sanctuary or contact the church office for available dates. We are requesting one vase per week at the cost of \$45.

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, or Deena Eberhart) 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 Wednesdays 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

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	9:30 AM	Hall of All Peoples
Children/Youth Sunday School	Sunday	10:00 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
Choir Practice	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Choir Room
NA Meeting	Wednesday	7:30 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
Dinner by the River	1 st Thursday of the month	5:30 PM	1 st Presbyterian Lewisburg

BMUMC Staff:

Position	Individual	Position	Individual
Church Administrator	Tiffany Heimbach	Treasurer	Shirley Brough
Custodian	Jim Gulden		
Choir Director	Brooke Persing	Accompanist	Sabastian Stewart
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 Rev. Sue Jamison - sjamison@susumc.org Rev. Ethan Shearer – eshearer@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 – travisecurry@yahoo.com		

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