



# BEAVER BLESSINGS

October 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Street · Lewisburg · PA · 17837

[www.beavermethodist.org](http://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:**

A church signboard has this message on it: "Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads." We might chuckle at this, but it holds some truth. How often do we pray the words: 'Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us', without really thinking about what they mean? This is, of course, part of The Lord's Prayer that most of us learned when we were very young and have prayed it more times than we can count. Some of you have heard me comment that too often we are asked to 'recite' this prayer rather than pray it. Saying those words can be a comforting ritual. But as theologian Matthew Fox commented, "When scriptural passages become overly familiar, matters of rote, memorized prayers instead of living words, religion is paralyzed and loses its capacity for transformation."

In his book, Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus, Neil Douglas-Klotz shares an interpretation of the Aramaic translation of the phrase: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. "Loose the cords of mistakes binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt. Forgive the hidden past, the secret shames, as we consistently forgive what others hide. Lighten our load of secret debts as we relieve others of their need to repay. Erase the inner marks our failures make, just as we scrub our hearts of other's faults. Absorb our frustrated hopes and dreams as we embrace those of others with emptiness. Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to others. Compost our inner, stolen fruit as we forgive others the spoils of their trespassing. Loose the cords of mistakes binding us, as we release the strands we hold of other's guilt. The trespassing we release is not only against one another, but also against the earth and all creatures. The roots of the word 'forgive' may also be translated as 'return to its original state', 'reciprocally absorb', reestablish slender ties to', and 'embrace with emptiness.' The prayer reaffirms that our original state is clear and unburdened, one where our slender ties to creation are based on mutual releasing, with every breath we breathe. Releasing must be done regularly and consistently if our knotted relationships are to become whole and stable again."

I like the image that the phrase 'knotted relationships' conveys. In my experience, relationships are often tangled and messy. Some relationships are brief, some last a lifetime, and all have an impact upon us. Almost every relationship gives us an opportunity to forgive at some point. Sometimes we can do this easily. Other times it is almost impossible. As we continue to learn how to forgive we release the fear, anger and other painful feelings so that they no longer entangle us. It may take a

moment or it may take a lifetime. As long as we keep on working at it, we are fulfilling the prayer Jesus taught us.

## **OCTOBER FEATURES**

### **➤ World Communion Sunday: A Celebration of Unity and Service**

On the first Sunday in October, United Methodist congregations joined many Christian churches across the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday.

World Communion Sunday began as World-Wide Communion Sunday at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination.

Rev. Kerr appropriately chose the sacrament of Holy Communion to symbolize this unity.

“The term Holy Communion invites us to focus...on the holiness of our communion with God and one another,” states This Holy Mystery, The United Methodist Church’s official statement on the sacrament.

In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, which included all of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church, adopted World-Wide Communion Sunday. The global celebration occurs on the first Sunday in October.

In connection with the celebration of World-Wide Communion Sunday, the Methodist Church collected a special offering for the Fellowship of Suffering and Service. The Methodist Commission on Overseas Relief, the forerunner of today’s United Methodist Committee on Relief received half of the offering. The other half was divided between two agencies that ministered to military members: the Methodist Commission on Chaplains and the Methodist Commission on Camp Activity.

Today, The United Methodist Church celebrates World Communion Sunday with congregations all over the globe. Followers of Jesus Christ in large churches and small, on farms and in cities, in ornate buildings and under tents, gather to receive the bread and cup of Holy Communion.

- Some will receive cubes of bread. Some will tear from a common loaf. Some will receive a wafer.
- Some will drink from a common chalice. Some will dip a piece of bread into the cup. Some will have individual glasses.
- Some will use wine; some juice. Some will offer both.

Pastors will lead a variety of liturgies, in many languages. Clergy will dress traditionally, formally, and casually.

Despite the differences in our denominations and traditions, we celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

In The United Methodist Church, World Communion Sunday continues to be a special giving Sunday. The monies raised today help provide scholarships for racial and ethnic minority students in the US, and students worldwide.

Give generously to The United Methodist Church's World Communion offering. Your gifts will assist those whom God has gifted to learn and to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

Joe Iovino, UMC.org, United Methodist Communications, Nashville, TN.

## ➤ **What Is the UMC'S View of Halloween?**

The word "Halloween" (or "Hallowe'en") means "the evening of Hallows."

"Hallows" is an older English way of saying "saints" — so, the Evening of Saints.

But why "the evening?" Many ancient cultures in the Mediterranean world and the Middle East, including Jewish cultures, understood the day as beginning with sunset rather than sunrise. This is why Genesis one says, "And it was evening, and it was morning, day one." (Genesis 1:5). Because the day began with sunset, the first worship service of a given day would be the evening service.

Put it all together and Halloween refers to the first service of worship for All Saints Day. That day falls on November 1 in the Western Christianity. That's why All Saints Eve (Halloween) is observed on the evening of Oct. 31.

So where or how did this observance get connected to jack-o-lanterns, ghosts, things that go bump in the night, and trick or treating? That connection comes from popular festivals already happening in many cultures worldwide to celebrate the midpoints between a solstice and an equinox, sometimes referred to as "cross-quarter days." Some cultures understood these as transition times where the lines between realms may become the thinnest.

The Celtic festival of Samhain fell at the cross-quarter day between autumn and winter, between warmth and cold, between harvest and dormancy for the earth, and so, metaphorically, between life and death.

Christian missionaries and bishops, particularly in England and parts of Western Europe, had concerns that some of these practices and beliefs ran counter to the Christian understanding of the resurrection of the dead. The church, beginning in the eighth century, added prayers to Christian masses remembering the dead and anticipating their resurrection. These were some of the first prayers connected to celebrations later known as All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2).

All Saints included prayers for those the church had specifically designated as saints because of their particularly holy lives pointing dramatically to Christ at work in them. All Souls included prayers for all within the church who had died within the past year.

United Methodists and most Protestants have no "official saints." Thus, we usually combine All Saints and All Souls into a single observance. This celebration in the church accents our understanding of holiness in this life and our hope for resurrection in the age to come.

Cultural Halloween celebrations in the communities in which many of us live have continued to evolve alongside the church celebrations. Many local churches offer safe alternatives to traditional

door-to-door trick-or-treating. Others focus more on giving than receiving. Collecting for UNICEF or giving Fair Trade chocolate are ideas for using the occasion to "treat" or give to others.

These activities need not be seen as either defining or limiting the Christian observance of All Saints. Our role in the church is to proclaim our own witness to what makes for holiness (becoming one of the "hallows") in this life, and our hope for the resurrection of the dead and the fullness of life in the new creation in the age to come.

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

## ➤ Squeaks Return Home

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, our sweet marmalade indoor cat Squeaks noticed an open door and started an adventure none of us anticipated. Squeaks is microchipped and collared, but as all cat owners know, collars can be lost. Somehow, Squeaks ended up, 8 months later, on a farm in Milton, about 8 miles away from our house. We don't think he journeyed that far on his own, somehow, someone found him and decided to relocate him. But we didn't know that, and so for the last 8 months, pretty much everyone who lives in downtown Lewisburg and all the volunteers at the Scratching Post Cat Café have been keeping an eye out for Squeaks.

The second night Squeaks was missing, our son who lives in Pittsburgh came home to help look for him. He carried around an open can of stinky tuna well into the wee hours, and although he did not find Squeaks, a sweet little kitten climbed all over him to get the tuna, so he brought her home. We had her spayed and he named her Suki and she has been a part of our family since January.

Time went on, we put out 150 more flyers, put traps in more places, and more people joined the search. Every time I walked downtown someone would ask me if we had found Squeaks yet, and the answer was always sadly, no. But it was a community effort to help find our cat! Everyone wanted him to come home.

Fast forward 8 months! A cat rescue group did a TNR (Trap Neuter Release) at a barn at a farm in Milton 8 miles away from our home. Squeaks got swept up, the next thing he knew he was in Camp Hill PA with seven other trapped cats at the Nobody's Cats Foundation. The vet started surgery and found that Squeaks was not just already neutered but he was chipped, and his chip was registered!

Squeaks became a celebrity overnight! He is the Poster Cat and SpokesCat for Microchipping your pet! Were Squeaks not chipped we never would have found him! He was featured in the news with Nikki Krize on WNEP and we hope that his story encouraged many other families to have their pets microchipped.

Squeaks is home after over 8 months. We are all still overwhelmed, and so very happy and grateful. We wish he could tell us something of his adventures. For now we will just enjoy his purring in bed with us every night and be grateful for all the wonderful cat rescue friends who helped bring him home. God Bless you all!

Submitted by Gabrielle Taylor

**BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE****United Youth Group**

The UYG started off in September with a dinner, a game night and a movie night. Our theme for the year is Self-Care and Spiritual Inspiration. In October we will be meeting at St. Paul's United Methodist for journaling, the walk to feed the hungry, another games night and movie night, and then some YOGA. Every Sunday, except on the 8th, we will meet at 5:30 pm til 8:30 pm. On the Sunday of the walk, October 8th, we will meet at 1:45 pm. All 6th through 12th graders are invited to join us!

**Beacon Free Shop**

Beacon Free Shop was held Saturday, September 16. Fifty-two households, consisting of 117 persons, were served. We greeted passersby from Pittsburgh who were strolling down Third Street who stopped by when they saw the Beacon signs. They wanted to know more about this ministry – and very generously gave Beacon a \$20 donation!

Beacon is doing more than distributing personal hygiene items to our community members. A few months ago, a young mother asked to be added to Beaver's prayer list because of an upcoming surgery. She has been in our prayers since that day. During this month's shop, she reported her surgery was successful and she will be moving to North Carolina to be with family. She composed a beautiful card for Beacon and Beaver before we said "goodbye for now". She wrote –

"You helped me!  
When you didn't know me.  
You helped me,  
When I had no one!  
You prayed for me.  
I'll never forget that  
And I'll give back to the next."

For additional information contact Christy Brouse at 570-238-5707 or [beacon@beavermethodist.org](mailto:beacon@beavermethodist.org).

**New to You Free Shop**

Our first offering in August was a big success! Though we had not advertised to anyone other than our Beacon Shop clients, we had households of 72 people who visited. Almost everyone left with several items. We set a limit of 5 clothing items and 5 other items for each individual. 132 clothing items were distributed as well as 101 kitchen and linen items. Linens were especially popular.

Many donations have come in, too! As people hear about our new ministry, we continue to receive many items. Our next give-away will be November 18. The help from volunteers here at Beaver and from our partners at First Baptist has been wonderful! We have had so many people participating that both set-up and clean-up have been accomplished far more quickly than anticipated. Thank you to all who helped and donated. It is because of you that we can serve another need in our community!

Feel free to contact Patty Johnston with any questions. 570-523-3132 or [hoodj1973@ptd.net](mailto:hoodj1973@ptd.net).

**Busy Beaver**

Busy Beaver has an exciting month ahead! We are happy to have Blue Line Photography back to do the fall photos for the classrooms. We will also be having our 3rd annual mobile pumpkin patch and celebrating Halloween with a parade and classroom parties.

October is also inspection month for Busy Beaver! We are hoping for another successful inspection this year as well as our annual Stars Renewal! Looking ahead, we plan to introduce our Thanksgiving meal back this year. It will be held on a Thursday evening and we encourage our families to attend.

Charlene Reigle Director, Busy Beaver

**Kinderfolk**

It's October! Summer blooms are fading away, and spooky, silly things are heading our way. Kinderfolk will be having a frightfully fun and busy month! Our themed projects include pumpkins and gourds, ghosts and goblins, and witches with cats and bats. In early October, our morning class will be visited by the William Cameron Fire Engine Company and the PM class will be taking a field trip to their facility for Fire Safety Week. October 18th, we will have our annual all school field trip to Ard's Farm for a chilly hayride, tasty apple cider, and pumpkin picking. Finally, on Halloween (October 31st), Kinderfolk will have their school Halloween Party in the fellowship hall. Fun costumes, spooky games, and tasty treats will be enjoyed by all.

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 signup sheet on the cabinet in the narthex entry way or contact Mindy 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](http://WWW.DIGFB.ORG) and email address is [INFO@DIGFB.ORG](mailto: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](mailto: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 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.

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**We Have Convenient Methods of Giving!**

Mail to Beaver Memorial at 42 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Lewisburg, 17837  
drop into our Drop Box outside the office door or  
go to our website: [www.beavermethodist.org](http://www.beavermethodist.org) and click on “Giving”.  
Thank you!

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**EVENTS**

**Worshiping Together With St. Paul UMC**

On October 1 St. Paul will host the joint worship at their regular time of 9:30am with Beaver providing the worship experience, followed by a potluck meal. This is one more step in our journey to get to know one another as we strive to work together in ministry.

**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](mailto:dwilt@susumc.org) or 570-524-5011.

- 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 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month	6:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
AA Meeting	Saturday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Beacon Shop	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month	10:00 AM	Beaver Memorial UMC
IN THE COMMUNITY			
Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
Pub Theology	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month	6:00 PM	Bull Run Tap House
Monthly Book Study	1 <sup>st</sup> 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	TBD	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 - <a href="mailto:croot@bucknell.edu">croot@bucknell.edu</a> Rev. Sue Jamison - <a href="mailto:sjamison@susumc.org">sjamison@susumc.org</a> Ralph Hibbs - <a href="mailto:rhibbs@windstream.net">rhibbs@windstream.net</a> Patty Johnston - <a href="mailto:hoodj1973@ptd.net">hoodj1973@ptd.net</a> David Deibler-Gorman - <a href="mailto:dgorman@windstream.net">dgorman@windstream.net</a> Gabrielle Taylor – <a href="mailto:taylorfamily@ptd.net">taylorfamily@ptd.net</a> Heidi Gilmore – <a href="mailto:heidicgilmore@gmail.com">heidicgilmore@gmail.com</a> Kathy McKibben – <a href="mailto:klmckibben@gmail.com">klmckibben@gmail.com</a> Krystie Byrum – <a href="mailto:professorpr.maven@gmail.com">professorpr.maven@gmail.com</a> Chuck Root – <a href="mailto:croot@bucknell.edu">croot@bucknell.edu</a> Nick Persing – <a href="mailto:persing191983@gmail.com">persing191983@gmail.com</a> Travis Curry – <a href="mailto:travise Curry@yahoo.com">travise Curry@yahoo.com</a>		

➤ Submit content for the newsletter to [tlcinhisservice@yahoo.com](mailto:tlcinhisservice@yahoo.com) by the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the newsletter.