



BEAVER BLESSINGS

September 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:

A storm in mid-July caused a large branch of the tree in the parsonage backyard to fall on top of the garage. After having the tree evaluated by an arborist, we learned that it needed to be removed for safety reasons. The tree was cut down on Aug. 15. I miss that tree, partly because I parked underneath it and the shade keeps my car from roasting in the summer, but mostly because it was a part of God's beautiful creation. I am often sad when a piece of nature needs to be eliminated for any reason. But it was the right thing to do.

We know that a large part of the purpose of a church is to be a center for healing and wholeness, a place of sanctuary and refuge for those who make their way there, and a place where faith in God is shared. A church is also a community of people who engage with each other in ways that are supportive, inviting, encouraging, and at times, challenging. Beaver Memorial UMC has chosen to be welcoming to all who seek to live in peace and harmony, to work to make the world a better place, including the community where we are located. And yet we are also a church that houses two programs geared for children, Busy Beaver & Kinderfolk, which necessitates keeping our doors locked most of the time, which does not feel very welcoming. Sometimes we need to make such difficult decisions in order to keep people safe, even when it is painful to do so. But given all of the violent attacks that have occurred in recent years, some in schools and places of worship, keeping our doors locked is the right thing to do.

As Christians, we affirm that Jesus uniquely embodied the Spirit of God and was a healer with great power. He found the broken places in the lives of those he encountered, whether physical, spiritual, or psychological, and offered them a way to become whole. He specifically reached out to those outcast from or shunned by society, choosing to eat with many who were ostracized, and receiving great criticism for associating with them. When Beaver voted to become a Reconciling Congregation 25 years ago to support fully including of LBGQTI+ persons, some members who disagreed with that decision left the church. Beaver continues to advocate for full inclusion despite any criticism by other who disagree, and it is the right thing to do.

We continue to believe that Jesus brings healing to us today. We continue to expand the mission of our church into the wider community, most recently with our New to You initiative. We continue to be

in discussion about how to partner with St. Paul's UMC so that we can all be more effective in ministry. We continue to discuss the possibility of expanding our programs serving families through Busy Beaver and Kinderfolk. The changes may be challenging in some ways, but we trust that God's hand is in the midst of it all.

God has blessed the many ministries that have taken place here in the past, and we trust that God will continue to bless our efforts as we move into an uncertain future. May there be many moments of joy and celebration, quiet conversation and healing touches. May there be space for those who come seeking healing, rest, and renewal. We continue to seek the wisdom and guidance of every person in this faith family, for as the saying goes, God is not finished with us yet!

SEPTEMBER FEATURES

➤ NATIONAL HISPANIC AWARENESS MONTH

"Cantemos al Señor" September 15-October 15

The dates of September 15 to October 15 coincide with the times when Mexico and the Hispanic countries of Central and South America and the Caribbean gained their independence from Spain. They also reflect "El Dia de la Raza," the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Western Hemisphere.

One in five US citizens identifies as "Hispanic" and, together, they number over sixty million people with highly complex identities. Hispanic Awareness Month celebrates their contributions to society and the economy, while exploring the history of Hispanic people. Countless books, museums, artistic displays, films and theater performances bring the vibrant rhythms and colors of Hispanic culture to the public. Their strong arms provide food and housing for their neighbors; the military honors their bravery in battle; and their intellectual gifts enrich university life in many areas of our country.

The United Methodist Church has historically supported Hispanics with Spanish language churches and clergy, publications, and exceptional programs led by UMCOR. Some years ago, one of our church members was selected to participate in a three-week overseas UMCOR program to study the Church in Central America and to deliver reports to church groups throughout the Conference.

Our United Methodist Hymnal includes several hymns with words honoring Hispanic Heritage. During the September 17 church service, voices from the choir and the congregation will join in singing one of the most widely sung bilingual hymns in The United Methodist Hymnal, Carlos Rosas' "Cantemos al Señor" ("Let's sing unto the Lord") found on page 149. The hymn captures the spirit of Psalm 19:1 -- "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork" -- and also demonstrates the strong relationship of Latino cultures with nature.

Thanks to Leona (Nonie) Martin for providing this information.

➤ Hispanic Heritage Month – ¡A Celebrar! You Can Make It Meaningful

Migrants and immigrants from Central and South America and their descendants make up the largest minority in the United States. This minority group has not only been able to maintain and thrive with its customs and cultures, but it also has been a powerful and influential force in this country. It does not matter where in this country you go, you will find people, restaurants, signs, or decorations that remind you that Latinos are found in every nook and cranny.

Who established Hispanic Heritage Month and what is the significance of it starting on September 15 and not at the beginning of the month?

It began as a celebration that lasted one week, set in place by President Lyndon B. Johnson back in 1968. It was expanded to a month long celebration in 1988 with President Ronald Reagan. September 15 happens to be the day that Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua all celebrate their independence from Spain. Additionally, between September 15 and October 15, Mexico, Chile, and Brazil celebrate their independence as well. The idea was that Hispanic Heritage Month would be a period of time of great significance to many of the immigrated Latinos who live in the U.S. and to their descendants.

The presence of Hispanic/Latino communities in the United States did not start with migration. Rather, it started when the U.S. took over a large piece of land that originally belonged to Mexico. Here is a fragment from “The Brown Church”, a book written by Robert Chao Romero, narrating a little bit of the issue:

“Less than two centuries after the protestations of Sor Juana, the border would cross the Brown Church. Fueled by the false theology of Manifest Destiny, Anglo Americans would conquer and colonize the Southwest and seize half of Mexican territories as part of the unjust US-Mexico War of 1846-1848. In response to the spiritual and military conquest of the Southwest, the Brown Church of the United States was born.” – Robert Chao Romero, “Brown Church: Five Centuries of Latina/o Justice, Theology, and Identity” (Intervarsity Press, 2020), 98.

I highly recommend “Brown Church” for those interested in the history of the Hispanic population in the United States and their religious and political influence here. This book and many other historical sources make one thing clear: Latino presence and influence in the U.S. did not initiate with people crossing a border; it all started when the border crossed them.

How can we honor these communities and their heritage? We should honor them not only at an institutional level, but also with the practice we value the most—our FAITH.

Liberation theology is an important framework among Latino communities. Many myths surround the teachings of this theology, so some have misunderstood it. Liberation theology was born as a response to socioeconomic crisis and political repression in Latin America. It was a reminder that military might and financial wealth are not necessarily proof of God’s providence. Liberation theology was a movement with the message that God has always been on the side of the poor, the oppressed, and the forgotten.

Cezar Chavez, one of the most influential Latinos in the history of the United States, wrote this prayer, Prayer of the Farm Workers’ Struggle:

“Show me the suffering of the most miserable, so I will know my people’s plight. Free me to pray for others, for you are present in every person. Help me take responsibility for my own life, so that I can be free at last. Grant me courage to serve others, for in service there is true life. Give me honesty and patience, so that the Spirit will be alive among us. Let the Spirit flourish and grow, so that we will never tire of the struggle. Let us remember those who have died for justice, for they have given us life. Help us love even those who hate us, so we can change the world. Amen.”

In our worship, we can celebrate the lives of different people groups who are important and loved by God. As a Hispanic and immigrant pastor, I have been delighted to bring some of my Latin American traditions into the worship experience of different multicultural churches and to churches that are mostly Anglo (white). I share songs to sing in Spanish and stories of the great Hispanic individuals of faith. One of my favorites is sharing the Lord's Prayer in Spanish. Many times, those practices are deeply appreciated, and, at other times, they are rejected. There exists a fear among some communities in the U.S. that the more the voice of the Latino population is shared, the more this country loses its identity or that it will be taken over by Latinos. I believe the U.S. will continue to be a place that is composed of a multitude of different people, groups, and identities and that eclectic way of being is only going to continue to diversify. The many voices, cultures, tongues, and backgrounds are what give beauty to this country.

As people of faith, we aspire to bring or to see heaven on earth (Revelations 7), and I see part of that in the celebration of the diversity that exists in God's creation and Christ's body. The more colors our congregations have, the more voices and languages can be heard. Revelations 7 can take place right here, right now, where we worship. Hispanic Heritage Month, like other months in which minorities are celebrated, gives us the chance to desegregate our worship services—to open up the floor to voices, teachers, and leaders who can share with us spiritual practices and wisdom that we may not know otherwise. This gives us the opportunity to experience something even greater: a demonstration of how we are all united by God and, in our uniqueness, we each hold value.

I am Argentinian. Our independence does not fall during those dates in which the heritage month is celebrated in the U.S. Like other Latin American countries, Argentina has its own customs, slang, accents, foods, and so on. We drink mate, love tango, and have many practices that make our country different, but from the moment I moved to the United States, I became part of a larger community of Latinos, and I am proud to celebrate our shared Hispanic heritage.

Federico Apecena is originally from Argentina, where he developed his career as a Lawyer. He received his Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity. He and his wife were missionaries of Global Ministries in Uruguay and currently live in Newnan, Georgia, where Federico has planted a church.

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

We are grateful for the dedicated service that Mindy Moore has given to the United Youth Group. We are sad that she is moving on, but we know great things are in the family's future. We wish her the best of everything as she moves. God's blessings on her as she finds her place to do ministry there.

Taking on the leadership of the United Youth Group will be Charlene Rineer from Christ Lutheran. For the past two years she has been a part of the group as Christ's youth were invited to be a part of the group as well. Charlene has a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Lay Ministry. She worked in Kansas for ten years as the Christian Education/Youth director at Emmanuel Lutheran in Hutchinson. She is currently in her twelfth year at Christ as their coordinator of Faith Formation. She is passionate about helping the youth strengthen their faith. She loves to see the youth in action, and you will see her at many of their sporting and music events.

In September the United Youth Group will meet at Christ Lutheran. On the 10th we will have a youth/parent dinner meeting starting at 5:30 pm in the lower church hall. We will discuss the plans

for the year; especially the plan for the mission trip in April of 2024. On the 17th and the 24th we will meet in the youth room at Christ's from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. One night will be a game night and one night will be a movie night. We hope all 6th through 12th graders can join us.

Beacon Free Shop

Big things were happening at the Beacon Free Shop this month. First Quality Products donated a one year's supply (3,000 rolls) of toilet paper to our ministry! With the help of many church members, the donation was picked up in Lock Haven and then moved into the church parsonage via a "TP Brigade". Many thanks to all persons who made this possible.

During our August 19 distribution, a record number of households were served - with 63! One hundred sixty-four persons reside within these households. Our shelves are bare after this very busy morning, but will be restocked with the help of church and community members for next month. Thanks to all. For additional information contact Christy Brouse at 570-238-5707 or beacon@beavermethodist.org.



New to You Free Shop

We launched our new ministry on August 19 in conjunction with the Beacon Shop Saturday. We had a wonderful response even though we had advertised it only to our Beacon Shop clients. We served over 72 people (counting family members in each household) and gave out 132 clothing items and 101 kitchen and linen items. Several people thanked us for providing this opportunity and were enthusiastic about returning for our next quarterly session in November.

First Baptist is partnering with us for New to You. Sue Tonzetich is our liaison there, and she has brought many volunteers with her. We had anticipated that the Friday afternoon set-up would take from 2:00-5:00. Instead, with all the volunteers who came both from Beaver and 1st Baptist, we were finished by 3:15. We had the same experience for clean up after we closed on Saturday. We hope to enlist participation from our other neighboring churches also.

Donations poured in as well. We thought 3 clothing racks would be sufficient, but we needed 5. Likewise with the number of tables for linens and kitchen items. Thanks to Craig McKibben for adding wheels to the racks, enabling us to leave the remaining clothes hanging and eliminating the work of putting them out again next time. We will be collecting donations again on November 12 after worship and the following Friday, the 17th, during set-up at 2:00. Linens were especially popular items, so please check your cupboards for those!

I want to thank all who helped. It really was a fun and rewarding event. Come out in November and see for yourself! Ruth Shrawder and I are the contacts for Beaver. Feel free to contact Patty Johnston with any questions. 570-523-3132 or hoodj1973@ptd.net.

Busy Beaver

Busy Beaver has an exciting month ahead as we welcome new children and families to the center! We have our annual Lewisburg Children's Museum Field Trip planned for Tuesday September 12th at 9am. We will also be promoting our Giving Tree in September! The Giving Tree allows us to reach out to parents and others to allow an opportunity to donate items that we use every day such as tissues,

hand soap, bleach, disposable gloves, baby wipes, and more. We said goodbye to our final summer hires at the end of August! They were a tremendous help this summer and we plan to welcome them back next year! Ms. Lorna and Ms. Angela have also been subbing throughout the center when staff are out sick or on vacation. The children absolutely love them!

Charlene Reigle Director, Busy Beaver

Kinderfolk

Kinderfolk begins its school year on September 5th with a "Meet the Teacher" for the children and their families. Our first day of school is September 6th for both the AM class and the PM class. We're very excited to begin our school year with some brand new faces and returning friends. We are also excited to be welcoming a new AM teacher, Ms. Nicole Smith. Nicole had taught at Kinderfolk years ago, and we are so lucky she wanted to rejoin our teaching team.

This upcoming month of September will be filled with learning how to play well with others, adapting to new routines and learning new skills. These new adventures will apply to both the students and teachers! Our fun filled activities for the month of September will include friendships, seasonal changes, exploring the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, and woodland creatures. We're all ready to trade in our flip flops for fancy new school shoes! It's going to be a great year.

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 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 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.

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

Worshipping Together With St. Paul UMC

On September 10, Beaver will host a joint worship service in our sanctuary with St. Paul providing the worship experience. Afterward there will be a potluck meal in Fellowship Hall. This will be reciprocated on October 1 when 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 or 570-524-5011.

- Sept. 6 - Trouble I've Seen by Drew Hart
- Oct. 4 - Learning to Walk In the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor
- Nov. 1 - To be Determined
- Dec. 6 - To Be Determined (Christmas Themed)

Hospice of Evangelical Volunteer Training

Hospice Volunteers Wanted! For Hospice of Evangelical Volunteer Training*

Thursday, September 14, 2023 - 8:30 am-4 pm and Friday, September 15, 2023 - 9 am-noon

*Must attend both days of training.

Hospice of Evangelical 235 Hospital Drive, Lewisburg

Fee: FREE

Are you searching for a volunteer experience that is gratifying and emotionally meaningful? Hospice of Evangelical has the opportunity you're seeking and all the training you need! No healthcare experience needed-just a caring heart and time to fill lives with hope and joy.

The Hospice of Evangelical Team has specially trained, caring volunteers working alongside staff to:

- Visit and engage with patients/families with active listening and companionship
- Run errands for patients and their families
- Share music, art, or other talents
- Visit patients with certified pet therapy animals.
- Assist in administrative Hospice office duties
- And much more!

Volunteers visit area nursing and assisted living facilities, in-home patients, or work at the Hospice office. Interested individuals must attend training prior to becoming a volunteer.

For more information or to request an application, call the Volunteer Liaison at 570-522-2955.

COVID-19 vaccination required to volunteer.

EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL www.evanhospital.com

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
Monthly Book Study	1 st 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	Whitney Mathers	Youth Group Director	Mindy Moore
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 – heidiegilmore@gmail.com Kathy McKibben – klmckibben@gmail.com Krystie Byrum – professorprmaven@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.