



BEAVER BLESSINGS

July 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 Services – 11:00 am
New Beginnings Adult Sunday School Class – 10:00 am

From Pastor Sue's Desk:

One of my favorite hymns is A Place at the Table by Shirley Erena Murray (words) & Lori True (music). It is in the small green supplemental hymnal that we use called Worship and Song. The version there, published in 1998, was updated to be more inclusive at some point, although I don't know the exact date. I found these updated lyrics online:

Chorus:

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace.
 Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

1. For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
 a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.
2. For all who share life, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,
 with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for all who share life, a system that's fair.
3. For those we neglect, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for those we neglect, the right to belong.
4. For all who have breath, a place at the table, a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
 a rainbow of race and gender and color, for all who have breath, the chalice of grace.
5. For you and for me, a place at the table, though wounded and sore, with need to forgive,
 in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for you and for me, a new way to live.

The traditional UM hymnal that we still use was published in 1989. Prior to merger, The Methodist Hymnal was published in 1966, and the Evangelical United Brethren Church published an official hymnal in 1957. They were both recognized as official hymnals at the time of merger in 1968. Then supplemental hymnals became the trend with The Faith We Sing published in 2000, followed by Worship and Song in 2011. Recently, a survey was sent to a number of folks, including me, asking about what we want in a new United Methodist hymnal. I could not find any further information about if/when it might be published. I know that I filled out the survey, asking for more inclusivity in

all of the hymns and liturgy. You may notice that I choose hymns based on their connection to the theme of the sermon. But some hymns I will never, ever, choose, due to the theology or the exclusivity of the lyrics. I particularly do not like hymns that focus on the blood of Jesus saving us. It was not his blood, but his love, that I believe needs to be the focus. When I am in a gathering that sings hymns with 'blood' language, I always change it to 'love,' as I sing.

I am hopeful that a new UM Hymnal will be published in the near future that would be more inclusive. Until then, I will be selective in the hymns I choose. If you have a favorite that you would like us to sing in worship, please let me know. We get attached to certain hymns for a variety of reasons, and some have long standing traditions of being sung on certain Sundays. I want to honor that as we continue to worship as a faith family.

JULY FEATURES

➤ We welcome Pastor Ethan & Beth Shearer...

Their children Edrea and Elliot, and Beth's sister, Emily Duncan. They moved into the Beaver parsonage on June 26 and were given a welcoming gift basket from Beaver folks. We look forward to getting to know them as we engage in ministry together.

➤ Congratulations to Timothy M Taylor



Timothy M Taylor graduated in May from Meadowbrook Christian School in Milton, where he had attended for the last seven years. He will be enrolling at the University of Pittsburgh in the fall to study Computer Information Systems. His eldest brother Will is a Pitt grad in Computer Engineering, and his two eldest siblings are married and own homes in Pittsburgh so he will have a couple places to visit for home cooked meals! Tim has been helping with the AV team at our church for the last couple years.

➤ Our media team needs you

As Timothy M Taylor is heading off to college the media crew definitely needs additional help to continue bringing our service to the world outside our church walls. No experience is required, the crew will teach you everything you need to know.

➤ Joint Worship with St. Paul's on July 14

We're at Central Oak Heights for our joint worship service with St. Paul's on July 14th. There will be a picnic following the service. We will provide hoagies for all and are asking folks from St. Paul's to bring desserts and those of us from Beaver to bring side dishes (appetizers, chips, salads, deviled eggs, etc.). We have lots of beverages left from the Watering Hole and will bring those as well. There will be a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary so we can get an idea of attendance and thus how many hoagies to order. You can also let us know what you are planning to bring so that we don't get 10 baked bean dishes! Deadline to sign up is Thursday, July 11. If you have any questions, please call or email Patty Johnston, [570-523-3132](tel:570-523-3132) or [580-713-4659](tel:580-713-4659) or hoodj1973@ptd.net.

➤ Nature connects us to God by Laura Buchanan

Jack Layfield served as a chaplain on the Appalachian Trail for six months in 2019. His experiences can help all of us learn how to connect to God in nature. Time spent outdoors can strengthen our faith and reveal a deeper meaning in our daily life. God equipped us with five senses to help us discover and better appreciate the natural world – it's up to us to step outside, engage and explore.

Few could say they've experienced this more than Jack Layfield. In 2019, at age 67, Layfield served as a chaplain on the Appalachian Trail, hiking 2,192 miles through 14 states in 6 months. Layfield's unique perspective opens the way for all of us to understand how nature can be a balm for our soul and an invitation to reflect.

"In everyday living in our world, all five of our senses are bombarded. We just have so much coming to us 24/7," says Layfield. Being intentional about spending time in nature, and paying attention while we are there, can help us find peace.

Look: "At a young age I knew that God had created [nature], from the very little things that we see to the great, majestic things," shares Layfield. "That was one of the things that was so good about the [Appalachian Trail]. There were the tiniest of wildflowers, the tiniest of little creatures. But then also there were the mountains with beautiful vistas when you reached the top."

Put it into practice: Go outside or gaze out of your window. What's the smallest thing you see? The biggest? Take a moment to marvel at God's creativity and your own place in creation. *Read Scripture: Psalm 96:11-12*

Hear: When people ask Layfield why he hiked the trail, he answers, "I love being out in nature, I love enjoying God's creation. But the other reason is, after a while, I was able to experience the quietness of the trail, where I'm not bombarded by sounds. I felt like I could hear God speaking to me."

Put it into practice: Layfield begins each day by sitting on his back porch, listening to the birds and soaking in the quiet stillness of the morning. Try this for yourself one day this week. Bring along your cup of coffee and a Bible. *Read Scripture: John 10:27-30*

Taste: "On the trail, I had ramen noodles almost every night," mentions Layfield. "And people say to me, 'How did you eat that day after day?' I can't really say it tasted bad. I always looked forward to it. I think being outdoors, in nature, it enhances the taste somehow. That's not a scientific thing, but for me, I think it has."

Put it into practice: Pack a simple snack or meal and find a picnic spot. Eat slowly, with intention, and savor each bite. Give thanks for your surroundings, the food and anyone who might be with you. *Read Scripture: Psalm 23*

Smell: "The things that we smell, we really don't notice them unless it's something really outstanding, like an apple pie baking in the oven." Layfield says. "On the trail, after hikers had been hiking for 2, 3 or 4 months, there was a phenomenon that we'd be hiking and a day hiker would be coming the other way, and as they were at least 20 feet away, we could smell that hiker. It was a pleasant, usually soapy smell."

Put it into practice: Sit outside for several minutes and close your eyes. Take a few deep breaths. What do you smell? Try to identify more than one scent. Remember that from this earth, God created you.

Read Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Touch: “I have a little garden and I like digging in the dirt... I don’t know why people that garden do. Maybe there’s something about it that brings us all back into touch with what we once were,” suggests Layfield. “Maybe it all goes back to the Garden of Eden. I guess all of this maybe does.”

Put it into practice: Plant a seed. Hold the dirt. Get muddy. Care for your new plant over time and touch the leaves once they sprout. Think about the growth cycle and how you might emulate it in your spiritual life. *Read Scripture: Genesis 1:9-12*

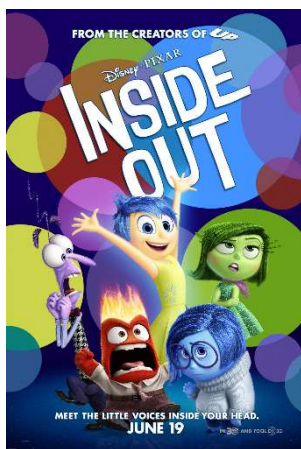
Take the Creator’s peace to others: Layfield remembers many acts of kindness along the trail. A woman offered him a ride in spite of his smelly, dirty appearance. Someone left thermoses of hot coffee and donuts for people to find as they hiked through the snow. A stranger took Layfield and a fellow hiker out to dinner. He says, “There were people like that all along the way. It’s just amazing.”

Put it into practice: As creations of God, we are called to care for the earth and for each other. After you’ve found peace in nature, it’s time to share it. How will you do this? Host a picnic in your neighborhood or teach a young person the benefits of unplugging from technology, perhaps. Consider the endless possibilities and choose one that will bring the light of Christ to those around you.

Laura Buchanan works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Contact her by email. This story was published on July 25, 2022.

➤ VBS at St. Paul’s UMC

This summer's VBS will be Sunday July 21 - Thursday July 25 at St. Paul's. The festivities will run 6 - 8pm each night and volunteers should plan to arrive by 5:45pm. Volunteers are needed to help with games, crafts, story time, leading crew of kids around, snack preparation and distribution among other things. Help is also needed in the nursery (ages 3 and 4).



Our theme this year is based on the movie Inside Out. (Inside Out 2 is coming out this June I believe.) We will be dealing with emotions of Joy, Sadness, Fear, Disgust, and Anger and related Bible stories. This is a program that we are creating, so graphics and many other details are still in development! For now, here is a link to the trailer of the Inside Out movie on YouTube for those that aren't familiar. You can also stream it if you have Disney Plus or purchase (for less than \$5) on several other streaming platforms.

At this point, I'm collecting volunteer interest. If anyone are interested in helping, they can contact me through email/text. We can always find ways to use people's talents, and all are encouraged to share those with me too! We will need leaders and helpers for nursery (ages 3 and 4), games, crafts, and storytime, helpers for leading crews of kids around (no prep!), and snack preparation and distribution, among many other things. We can even make use of those that might prefer doing behind-the-scenes work rather than full interaction with the kids.

Much more to come! This is just a note for you to save the date and to collect information from those that may be interested in helping in some way.

Jess N. (email: jltnewlin@gmail.com, cell: 570-238-0992) of St Paul's at 570.524.5011.

► **Volunteers needed for Dinner by the River**

Dinner by the River is a hot meal, free and open to everyone and offered on the First Thursday of the month. Travis and Lorna Curry are establishing a team to participate in Dinner by the River operated out of First Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg. There are many opportunities to participate in this ministry including preparation of food, serving of food, delivery of food to shut-ins, clean up after the meal, providing music during the meal, visiting and praying with our friends and neighbors being served. We anticipate starting to participate starting in the fall. Please contact Travis and Lorna (tlcinhisservice@yahoo.com) if you are interested in being involved. Please feel free to invite family, friends and neighbors to come and serve alongside you.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Christina Carr is Kinderfolk's substitute teacher and classroom Fairy Godmother. She has two daughters: Kaelyn, who is starting her sophomore year at Moravian College; and Ella, who is in 7th grade this year. Ella is a Kinderfolk alum, having been a member of both the AM and PM classes. When she isn't called in on official substitute teacher duties, Christina sometimes surprises the class with an unannounced visit, often bearing treats and always ready to read and play with the Kinderfolkers...she truly is our fairy godmother!



Hello! My name is Breanna Thomas and I am a teacher at Busy Beaver. I graduated from Mifflinburg Area School District in 2017 and went to Sun Area Technical Institute and received a certificate in nursing. I began working at Busy Beaver back in 2018 and left to pursue a career in nursing. I am currently the assistant teacher in the older toddler classroom. I have worked with children for about 2 years babysitting as well as my time here. Before coming back to Busy Beaver I worked as a nursing assistant at Evangelical Community Hospital. I have a son named Carter who will be attending Busy Beaver too! My favorite part of a typical day in the classroom is watching the children grow and become their own person! It brings me so much joy! Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children!

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

Beacon volunteer Taylor Persing is stocking bars of soap.

Beacon Free Shop was held Saturday, June 15, 2024, providing personal hygiene products to 70 households, with 171 household members. Numbers were slightly lower than previous months, however one out of every five households were new to the Beacon Shop! Our 15 volunteers made sure the distributions ran smoothly and efficiently.

Beacon's greatest need is always monetary donations. However, if you prefer to provide products – please consider donating 31 oz laundry detergent. It is the most requested item we offer, and the most expensive.

Next Beacon Free Shop will be held Saturday, July 20, 2024 from 10am – 12noon. Interested in volunteering? Contact the Church Office, or Christy Brouse at 570-238-5707.

Busy Beaver

Busy Beaver is starting off the month of July by shooting off fireworks! Not the 4th of July kind, but the invisible ones you see when you complete phase 1 of the Busy Beaver expansion! On Tuesday June 25th our new inspector came and inspected the upstairs classrooms that we have set up for the new Preschool/PreK area. We learned that it will hold 29 children, not just 28! She also LOVED the set up and officially passed the room to open effective Wednesday June 26th!

Gary Dreese will be coming to strip and wax the old Preschool room on the 1st floor and then we will begin the move of the 2 year olds to their bigger classroom space! This will increase the 2 year old capacity from the 14 we currently serve to a total of [16-18](#) in that room! After that room is complete, we will finalize the back smaller room into our "Infant B" room which will hold 4 additional babies!

We thank everyone again for all their support during this transition!

- Charlene Reigle Director, Busy Beaver

Kinderfolk

Kinderfolk's enrollment is at near max capacity. We only have two spots available in both the AM and PM class for the 2024/2025 school year.

Kinderfolk's last day of classes was Wednesday May 22nd. We had our all-school picnic in St Mary's Park on Thursday May 23rd.

Kinderfolk had a successful move on Tuesday, May 28th thanks to Scott Kerstetter, his associates, their workers and the Lindor Family. Our move would not have gone as smoothly had we not had the transportation, equipment, and help (Thierry and Alyson Lindor) provided by the Lindor family. Our staff and their families who assisted in packing and moving our belongings were also greatly appreciated.

Our new space is set up and is in the stage of cleaning/decoration for completion. Our phone line is to be ported on June 17th. This will be helpful considering our line was disconnected during the week of June 10th due to the electrical work that occurred in the Parker building.

Many families contributed to our new classroom from our wish list which was a tremendous help financially. Our wish list (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3KE8Y5oSTSOHC?ref=wl_share) is still active on our website with items we'd like to have for the next school year. We had a few significant donations given to Kinderfolk in monetary form as well as equipment that eased the financial situation for the program. Without these few specific donations, our transition would not have been as successful. We are truly grateful for those individuals that made such gracious contributions to our program.

Please contact Julia at info@kinderfolkpreschool.com if you would like to help the program in any way. - 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 the church office for available dates. We are requesting one vase per week at the cost of \$45.

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. Vocal Choir rehearsals are held September through May, usually 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	10:00 AM	Hall of All Peoples
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	Tiffany Heimbach	Treasurer	Shirley Brough
Custodian	Jim Gulden	Youth Group Director	Charlene Rineer
Choir Director	Brooke Persing	Pianist	tbd
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 Chuck Root – croot@bucknell.edu Nick Persing – persing191983@gmail.com Travis Curry – travise Curry@yahoo.com		