



BEAVER BLESSINGS

May 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 - 10:30 am
New Beginnings Adult Sunday School Class – 9:00 am

From Pastor Sue's Desk:

There is a building in Washington, DC, that is directly across from the U.S. Capitol and adjacent to the U.S. Supreme Court that is owned by The United Methodist Church. It is the only non-government building on Capitol Hill. It has been a center of advocacy for faith-based social action and a UMC symbol of peace and social justice since its establishment. We are celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. It is a great place to visit and to learn about all kinds of issues that matter to us as people of faith. I had my first visit there when I was a sophomore in college. I worked part time at the campus ministry of Indiana University of PA, located in my hometown. That year we did a mission trip to DC, and I had the opportunity to go to this building when we had a free afternoon. I did not know much about it at that time, other than it housed some of our denominational offices. I wanted to meet James K. Matthews, UMC Bishop of the Washington DC area, as he was the head of the UMC delegation of the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ, which I had been invited to join the previous year (and wrote about in the March issue of Beaver Blessings). I went to his office, and was greeted by an intern, whose name I cannot remember. When this man learned my name, he said, "I know you! You were the President of the Youth Council of Western PA. That is my home conference!" I was so shocked that I did not know what to say. He then led me to Bishop Matthews' office and introduced me. The Bishop greeted me warmly, and offered to take me on a tour of DC. We went to the office garage when his car was parked, and spent the next two hours touring the city. It was such an unexpected and wonderful experience.

My next encounter with this building was when I was a junior in college and had an internship in Washington, DC (which I mentioned briefly in the July 2023 newsletter, which I am sure you all remember!). I had applied through my university to a program called The Washington Center for Learning Alternatives, which set up internships with a variety of organizations. I listed three places I was interested in working: The National Organization for Women, the UMC General Board of Church & Society, and The Children's Defense Fund. I was accepted by the UMC Board and my direct supervisor, Rev. Jack Corbett's office was in the UM building. At his direction, I actually worked for a connected organization, The Interfaith Coalition on Energy, which was a partner organization at that time. I did meet with him at the UM building every other week to discuss how things were going. (And in a weird connection, my son Jared, had an internship in the summer of his Junior year in college, gotten through the same program as I had 32 years before! He got to work at the Pentagon.)

I have been back to this building a number of times since then, most recently in March of 2023, when I attended the Beloved Community Seminar, sponsored by the UMC General Board of Church & Society, who has offices there. Due to its location, there have been many offers to buy this property at huge sums, but the UMC will not sell it. The sign board out front always has a message that relates to current events. The UM staff uses its proximity to work to persuade those in power to do justice, acts of kindness, and to help heal the world. One of the reasons I remain United Methodist is because of the work we do as a denomination on issues that are critically important and I believe it helps me live a more faithful life of discipleship.

MAY FEATURES

➤ **Special Announcement Regarding General Conference Decisions**

Here are excerpts of an update from Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball & Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi on important decisions at the General Conference.

After years of intensive and prayerful debate, the General Conference delegates from all over the world voted to remove language that prohibited United Methodist clergy from performing weddings for same-gender couples. This change allows churches and clergy to operate according to their conscience, without consequence.

The delegates of the General Conference also voted to remove prohibitions that prevented a Board of Ordained Ministry from recommending a gay or lesbian person for ordination. Gay persons may enter the process to become candidates for ministry, and if approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry, can now be licensed, commissioned, and ordained.

These recent decisions at the General Conference, reinforce the primacy of God's love in our lives and the world, and add complexity to our life together as United Methodists.

As United Methodists in the Susquehanna Conference, we remain committed to upholding our Wesleyan values of love, grace, and inclusivity. While we may not all agree on every issue, we are called to continue embodying the love of Christ in our interactions with one another. We invite you to strive to maintain a spirit of unity. Our unity is in Christ and therefore, it is more important than ever to engage in respectful dialogue, compassionate listening, and prayerful practice with one another.

Let us be people who share the transforming power of Christ with the world.

The full update can be found on the Susquehanna Conference website www.susumc.org.

➤ **Beaver Memorial Outreach and Missions Givings**

Thanks to your continued faithful giving to our outreach and missions activities the Mission Committee met and designated 10 agencies as the recipients of this year's mission distribution. Six hundred dollars was sent to each agency.

1. **Alliance Fund of Union County**, administered by the Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way. The Alliance Fund provides emergency funding for families in immediate need of food, shelter, and/or gas money so they can get to work.

2. **Beacon Free Shop.** The Beacon Free Shop provides free laundry, cleaning and hygiene products to 80 to 90 families who come to Beaver on the third Saturday of each month. Four times a year, free adult clothing and kitchen equipment is also offered in the New to You program.
3. **Dig Furniture Bank.** The Dig Furniture Bank, located on Front Street in Milton, distributes furniture and household necessities to needy families. It accepts donations of used furniture, except for beds, that is still in good shape.
4. **Donald Heiter Community Center.** The Donald Heiter Community Center in Lewisburg provides after school and summer programs for children, and other community programs for adults as well.
5. **Haven Ministry.** Haven Ministry in Sunbury provides shelter, food and guidance for homeless people including families. They are currently undergoing an expansion project because the need is so great.
6. **Jubilee House,** Center for Development in Central America. Jubilee House supports community services for Nueva Vida, a settlement which has provided shelter, health care, dental care, jobs, job training and other services for several thousand people who were left homeless by a hurricane in Nicaragua. Groups from Bucknell have gone there 2 or 3 times a year for over 20 years to help.
7. **Meals on Wheels.** Meals on Wheels provides hot meals daily except for weekends to the homes of people who need them at modest cost supported only by local funding and delivered by volunteers.
8. **Mission Central.** Mission Central in Mechanicsburg provides needed items of many kinds, especially to areas both in the US and internationally suffering from disasters, such as floods. School supply kits are also provided.
9. **Susquehanna Valley CASA.** CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a program which appoints volunteers to be advocates for children who need an adult to be their support in dealing with the courts.
10. **Wesley Forest Camp.** Wesley Forest Camp provides outdoor experiences for children, youth and adults through its programs in Weikert.

➤ **Next Book for New Life Adult Sunday School Class**

The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to Stay Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive in the Chaos of the Modern World” by John David Comer

“Who am I becoming?”

That was the question nagging pastor and author John Mark Comer. Outwardly, he appeared successful. But inwardly, things weren't pretty. So he turned to a trusted mentor for guidance and heard these words:

“Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life.”

It wasn't the response he expected, but it was—and continues to be—the answer he needs. Too often we treat the symptoms of toxicity in our modern world instead of trying to pinpoint the cause. A growing number of voices are pointing at hurry, or busyness, as a root of much evil.

The perfect read to help you slow down during Lent or any other time of year, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* is a fascinating roadmap to staying emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



My name is Kristin Kraus, I am a member of the Kinderfolk Teaching team! My family and I moved to Lewisburg in 2017 and we were fortunate to discover Kinderfolk on day one...two of my three children will be Kinderfolk Alumni!

I was raised in Denver, Colorado and am a 2002 graduate of Loyola College in Maryland with an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. I began my teaching career in the Baltimore County school system in 2002 and while teaching second grade there I received my Master's Degree in Special Education (also from Loyola) before moving to Pennsylvania in 2006. From 2006-2013 I was an Elementary Special Education teacher in the Central Bucks School District just outside of Philadelphia. I have been a

stay at home mom for my three children (Stewart:11, Sebastian:8, Poppy:4) for the past 8 years and can't wait to get back in the classroom!



Hello! My name is Ashley Austin! I am the Assistant Director/Head Pre-K Teacher at Busy Beaver. I graduated from Cedar Crest High School. From there I went to Ashworth College where I obtained my associate degree in early childhood education. I am the head teacher in the Preschool room, and I also assist Charlene in the office. I have more than 10 years of experience working with children. Before coming to Busy Beaver I was the Head Infant Teacher at another daycare center. I have children of my own, Callie and Dawson. Being a mother myself I know the feelings you go through dropping your kids off at daycare. I want you to know that I will treat your kids as my own and make sure they are safe and happy while they are here at Daycare. My favorite part of a typical day at Busy Beaver is watching the kids grow and learn and being able to be part of the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children!

BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Beacon Free Shop

April's Beacon Free Shop brought 93 households, with 242 members, to Beaver to receive personal hygiene items. Volunteers worked hard to make sure the distributions ran smoothly. In addition, several of the volunteers moved the Beacon inventory from the parsonage kitchen to the upstairs youth room. Special thanks for Rob and Colby Jacobs, Alex Gilmore and Rhys Klingler!



On Tuesday, April 30, volunteers picked up one-half of the toilet paper donated by First Quality Tissue, Lock Haven. An estimated six-month supply (3500 rolls) was received. Special thanks to U-Haul truck driver Travis Curry and his co-pilot Doug Winner! Christy Brouse and Nancy Nickles rode in the 'pace car' to assure the trip was safe and successful. Upon arrival back at the church, fifteen volunteers formed a 'bucket brigade' to unload the truck, stacking the toilet paper in the new upstairs Beacon storeroom. Without our wonderful volunteers this would have been a tedious task. However, the truck was emptied in 20 minutes!! A dinner celebration of pizza and salad was enjoyed afterward.

Next Beacon Free Shop will be held Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 10am – 12noon.

New to You Shop

The next New to You Shop is this month on Saturday the 18th. That means we'll be setting up on the 17th, starting at 2:00. Donations can be brought to the alley door that day during set-up or the Sunday before, the 12th, after worship. There are sign-up sheets on the table at the front of the sanctuary. We have been blessed with volunteers, so please continue the good work! We have lots to put out! Questions? Call Patty Johnston, 570-523-3132 or email hoodj1973@ptd.net. Thanks to all of you for the generous donation of your time and goods!

More good news! The Leadership Team has just approved an addition to our New to You effort. This will be a once-a-year gently used toy give-away (which we have not yet named). It will happen in October, again in conjunction with a Beacon Shop Day. It is not a New to You Day - that is in November. October will be a good time in advance of Christmas. Only gently used toys, children's books and games will be offered. (Children's clothing is available at the Presbyterian Church.) Please check your basement and cupboards to see what you might donate! More information to come...

Questions? Call Patty Johnston, 570-713-4659 or email hoodj1973@ptd.net.

Thanks to our many volunteers! See you in May!

United Youth Group

United Youth Group – The United Youth Group had a wonderful trip to DC in May. They helped at the Steinbruck Center, Luther Place Memorial, DC Central Kitchen, and Bread for the City. They also got a chance to tour DC a little.



In May the group will meet two more times before their summer break. Both meetings will take place at Beaver Memorial United Methodist church from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. On May 5th they will have one last movie night. Movie options will be given to the graduating senior, and he will get to choose. Then on May 19th they will celebrate the end of the school year with dinner. It will be a time to get together and relax as the school year winds down. Youth are to bring a salad, a vegetable dish, or a dessert to share. Leaders will provide the meat dish and beverages.

- Charlene Rineer 717-880-2872

Busy Beaver

Busy Beaver has really been enjoying the milder temperatures and all the extra outdoor time! The month of May is all about our teachers as we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week! During the week of May 6th-10th, staff will receive small gifts to show our appreciation for all the amazing work they put in with the children day in and day out!

We are beginning to look at our summer enrollment as we prepare to take on new classroom spaces. We are still in need of many items and quite a few people have asked if we had a wishlist of items still needed. Below is a link for anyone interested in helping out!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1F5WMQXGG5YAJ?ref_=wl_share

- Charlene Reigle Director, Busy Beaver

Kinderfolk

May has come and we are finishing up our school year this month! We have three more letters to explore, and we saved some good ones for last.

During the week of the letter 'K', our children will explore koalas, kangaroos, kittens, and of course the ever popular kite! The letter 'R' brings about rockets, roses, and oh so many beautiful rainbows. Finally, the letter 'F' finishes our month with fireworks, frogs, a few foxes, and a summertime favorite, the firefly.

Kinderfolk's last day of class for the 2023/2024 school year will be on Wednesday, May 22nd. We will have our annual grill out for all Kinderfolk families on Thursday, May 23rd. It's always a sad time saying goodbye to our families and children, so a party seems quite fitting to celebrate an amazing year with amazing people! We wish all those leaving our program for Kindergarten the best of luck and happiness in their next journey. We'd also like to say, "See ya real soon!" to those returning in the fall.

Kinderfolk will be relocating to the First Baptist Church at the end of May and early June. We will be physically moving the program the week of May 27th. Teachers will be packing and organizing early in the week and we welcome any individuals who are willing volunteer time to help in the moving of our belongings.

We also have an Amazon wish list on our website for supplies needed for the relocation.. It can also be found on our website at [kinderfolkpreschool.com](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3KE8Y5oSTSOHC?ref_=wl_share)

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3KE8Y5oSTSOHC?ref_=wl_share

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. The cost is \$45 for one vase.

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 usually held on Thursdays at 7:00PM in the Choir Room on the lower level. We meet from September through May.

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	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	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 – professorprmaven@gmail.com Chuck Root – croot@bucknell.edu Nick Persing – persing191983@gmail.com Travis Curry – travise Curry@yahoo.com		

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