



PUMC

Updates....

Pennsboro United Methodist Church
FEBRUARY, 2025

Greetings from Pastor Anna

When reflecting on the influential figures in Methodism, John and Charles Wesley often shine brightly. Yet, in honoring Black History Month, we must also celebrate the remarkable early leaders of the Black Methodist movement and the broader Christian movements in the Americas. Among these trailblazers are Martin Luther King Jr., Richard Allen, Charles Octavius Boothe, Ralph Abernathy, and Dr. Prathia Hall.

Richard Allen, born into slavery in 1760, rose to prominence as a Methodist preacher and founded the African Methodist Church (AME), fiercely advocating for racial equality. During my time at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, I was inspired by the writings of Jarena Lee (1783-185?), the first African American woman preacher in the U.S. and a pioneering female evangelist in the male-dominated African Methodist Church.

For those eager to delve deeper into the contributions of Black individuals to Christianity and what has evolved into The United Methodist Church, I recommend visiting UMC.ORG. Jarena Lee's "The Life and Religious Experience of Jarena Lee. A Colored Lady" may be just 24 pages long, yet it is rich with her call to servanthood, offering us all the profound lesson of responding to the Lord's call.

[https://web.english.upenn.edu/~cavitch/pdf library/Lee_Life_and_Religious_Experience.pdf](https://web.english.upenn.edu/~cavitch/pdf_library/Lee_Life_and_Religious_Experience.pdf)

Blessings,
Pastor Anna



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March

- 2 Ashley Efaw
- 5 Don McCullough
- 6 Sandy Lamp
- 12 Eliza Amos
- 13 Anna Efaw
- 16 Connie Doll
- 27 Christine Merrill
- 29 Caron Barnard
- 29 Kathy McCullough

Leadership Board

Under the simplified accountable leadership structure, the Leadership Board serves simultaneously as Church Council, Board of Trustees, Pastor-Parrish Relations Committee and Finance Committee, with one chair, vice-chair and secretary.

At its first meeting on January 19, 2025, the newly formed Leadership Board elected Rick Beck as Vice Chair and Joseph Burdette as Secretary. To satisfy requirements of the United Methodist Book of Discipline, the Board also officially elected the Chair of the Leadership Board, Debbie Richards, to serve as "Trustees Chair," since those positions are now one in the same.

The Leadership Board has decided to discontinue the requirement for secondary approval of purchases or reimbursement requests over \$200. If an expense was already approved as part of the 2025 budget, there will be no need for secondary approval. Purchase or reimbursement requests that exceed the approved budget, however, will need to be submitted to the Board for approval.

For auditing requirements, treasurers must continue to receive completed Expense Voucher forms (for all reimbursement requests) and Purchase Requisition forms (for any non-recurring, invoiced expenses). Blank forms are now available in labeled mailboxes in the church office.

The next meeting of the Leadership Board is scheduled for March 16. Suggested agenda items may be submitted to the Board chair one week prior to the meeting.

Peace and grace,
Debbie Richards

Church Finances

(Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.)

The 2025 budget anticipates expenditures totaling [REDACTED] for the year, averaging [REDACTED] per month. Expenses paid for the month of January were [REDACTED]. Income deposited to checking accounts for the month totaled [REDACTED]. As of January 31, 2025, the church general treasury had a total of [REDACTED] available in checking accounts and [REDACTED] held in investment accounts. That total reflects performance gains of [REDACTED] for the month. In addition, the sum of [REDACTED] was available for the upkeep of the "EUB Cemetery" as of January 31.



God's Word warns us to stay away from people who gossip and to guard our words when we speak about others. Sharing harmful information about someone, even if it is true, is considered gossip and is a sin according to the Bible.

- *A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends. Proverbs 16:28*
- *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29*
- *A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret. Proverbs 11:13*
- *With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors, but through knowledge the righteous escape. Proverbs 11:9*
- *Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool. Proverbs 10:18*
- *Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Psalm 34:13*
- *The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts. Proverbs 18:8*

Conferral for the sake of building up fellow brothers and sisters in Christ; however, is not considered gossip. To confer is to consult for the purpose of seeking wisdom and guidance from the appropriate person(s) for a legitimate reason. The following excerpt from the book, **Members of One Another: How to Build a Biblical Ethos into Your Church**, by Dennis McCallum, provides some example contrasts between conferral and gossip:

Conferral	Gossip
Motivated by the desire to help the person and the body of Christ	Lack of concern or even the desire to hurt the person and exalt self
Confers only with responsible people who can help	Talks to whomever they please without regard for its effect on them
Confers only about live issues	Talks about past, dead, purely personal issues
Done in addition to talking to the person if needed	Done instead of talking to the person if needed
Carefully explains the context of the problem to the conferee	Neglects or distorts the context of the problem
Promotes more trust, openness, and less gossip in the body of Christ	Promotes fear of openness and more gossip in the body of Christ
Discourages sharing when it's irrelevant to or interferes with loving others	Pressures other people to tell for the pleasure of being "in the know"
Respects the limits of "need-to-know" information	Feels entitled to know everything