

# From the Pastor's Desk

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*



## *Hebrews 13:8*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The first Sunday in September, I was not with you in worship because I was invited by the Annual Conference to be part of a Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope in the State College District. Over a period of three days, we heard stories of past and present pain in this community and reflected on the faithfulness of God.

Of particular importance to me was the ability to return to the first church I ever served, Albright-Bethune United Methodist Church. Before even accepting the invitation to join this pilgrimage, I wanted to make sure that I could join the group in this holy place of worship, since we often do not return for Sunday worship as pastors.

What a blessing! The sanctuary was filled with voice raised in praising God and giving testimony. We broke bread together at a luncheon. I heard about the ongoing mission and ministry this mighty church has - to reach out and serve students, especially graduate students, fully knowing that they will just be in the area, and as such this church, for a short period of time.

Albright-Bethune UMC has a clear vision and everything that they do flows out from who they are and how God has called them to serve their community. Juniata UMC is also a church with a particular call for this particular place. Sometimes it is so easy to become distracted from this call. May we be people who continually have our hearts and hands aligned in the work of the Kingdom, serving our ever-faithful God!

- Pastor Michelle