

In mid-February, Asbury's Administrative Council discussed how our congregation might respond to the hatefulness aimed at Muslims that is inconsistent with our Christian faith and with our nation's founding principles of religious freedom and pluralism. The Council requested the Mission and Outreach Committee to develop specific actions which our congregation might take to counter such hatefulness.

Furthermore, in mid-March the United Methodist Church's General Commission on Religion and Race requested every church to: (1) welcome the immigrant and refugee--many of which are Muslims--in your midst; (2) seek opportunities to quell the fear and hate speech aimed at immigrant and refugee communities by rejecting all attempts to polarize, stereotype, and discriminate against them.

Asbury is responding to both of those requests in a variety of ways.

- ◆ Both the Spiritual Journey adult Sunday School Class and the Journey Youth Group have done a short study of Islam, the faith of Muslims. The Faith and Issues Sunday School Class began such a study today.
- ◆ To learn more about Islam and to meet and talk with Muslims, 30 persons from our congregation have visited one of the two mosques in our vicinity.
- ◆ A women's circle invited a group of Muslim women to a meeting of the circle.
- ◆ The Mission and Outreach Committee and members of the Islamic Mosque located near Lewis Center have completed most of the planning for an interfaith experience between their members and ours. The event will center on their observance of Ramadan, which has some similarities with our observance of Lent. On one Sunday evening (probably on May 28) a meal will be shared in the mosque, and on a subsequent Sunday evening (probably June 11) another meal will be shared at Asbury. On both occasions, an invitation will be made for questions or comments that anyone has about either Islam or Christianity.
- ◆ The Mission and Outreach Committee is proposing that a large sign be placed on the grounds of Asbury that reads: **We Welcome the Immigrant and Refugee in our Midst.** The location of that sign will be determined in consultation with the Trustees.

By engaging in activities such as these, we demonstrate our respect and solidarity for our Muslim neighbors, and we obey Christ's commandment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

On behalf of the Mission and Outreach Committee, Lew Fikes

Asbury United Methodist Church

May 14, 2017 Last Week's Attendance: 183



GRADUTION OPEN HOUSE

The Wilden family invites you to a graduation open house at the church on Saturday, May 20, from 4:00 to 6:00pm. We appreciate the ways you have helped nurture Elizabeth in the faith.



Walnut Hills Chamber Choir in Concert May 21, 4:00PM

The Asbury Arts Series will conclude its season with a presentation by the Walnut Hills Chamber Choir, directed by Anthony Nims next Sunday afternoon. The 20-voice ensemble has been recognized for its virtuosity and musical perception since its formation four years ago.

The concert will feature selections from all style periods, including J.S. Bach's Cantata, *Aus der Teifen rufe ich, Herr, zu dir* and Hugo Distler's motet, *Fuhrwahr, er trug unsere Krankheit*. Lighter works sung acapella including folk music and original compositions will round out the program.

The program will be admission free; an offering will be taken to help defray costs.

Weekly Activities—May 14-20

Today

11:50A Teen Choir Rehearsal.....McCoy
7:00p EYG.....McCoy

Monday

7:00p Boy Scouts.....Basement

Tuesday

1:00p Alzheimer Support.....Library
6:00p SPR Interviews.....Sanctuary & Great Room

Wednesday

9:00a UMW Rebekah Circle.....McCoy
4:30p Teen Choir picnic.....Mingo Park
6:00p Bell Choir.....Great Room
7:00p Adult Choir.....Great Room

Thursday

9:00a Learning to Pray.....Library

Friday

8:00a Prayer Group.....Library

Saturday

4:00-6:00p Graduation Party for Elizabeth Wilden

Asbury Prayer Concerns

We welcome your participation in our prayer ministry.

Prayer Request cards are located in the pews and may be placed in the offering plate or the prayer box in the Great Room. We invite you to join the Prayer Group meeting every Friday at 8am in the Asbury Library. For additions, updates or changes to our prayer lists, please call the church office at (740)363-3611. If you would like to be part of Asbury's telephone prayer chain, please contact Julia Foster at (740) 363-3562.

IN OUR CONGREGATION

Judy Smith	Molly Michael
Lois Benton	Wayne Kauble
Jamie Applebach	Winnie Wright
Bill Kanode	Bob Backus

Carolyn Diersing & family at the death of her grandson, Shaun Hull

FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER

Elsa Schneider, grandmother of Keri Blanchard

Kay Holfinger, Leslie Beyer-Hermesen's aunt

Carrie Brulotte Hall, daughter of Carol and Dick Brulotte

Jonamarie Laurila, cousin of Angie Haase

Georgia Blum, Steve Herminghausen's wife

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Eric Proper, son of Larry & Sue Proper

Lance Putnam, son of Brenda Lindeboom

Jesse & Valarie Long, Melody Long's son and daughter-in-law

Tim Diersing & Gabe Sheets, son & grandson of Carolyn Diersing

"Blanket Sunday" will be observed at Asbury today. The purchase of blankets aids efforts by **Church World Service** and United Methodist Women to help those displaced by war, hunger, disease, and natural disasters as they struggle to survive in some of the worst conditions possible. Last year, thousands of blankets were distributed in the U.S. alone.

BIRTHDAYS—MAY 14-20

5/14: Cassie Spiegel

5/15: Robert Maxwell Jr.

5/17: Sue Koloff; Michael Everett

5/18: Lynn Cook; Ryan & Weston Lingo

5/20: Bob Kanitz



Bob and I want to thank each and every-one of our "family" for sharing our special day with us last week and for all the wonderful thoughts and prayers as he went through yet another shoulder surgery. I was able to bring him home Wednesday evening and other than being very tired, he's doing well. Thanks again for everything.

Carol Rohde/Bob Backus

Messenger Deadline: May 21

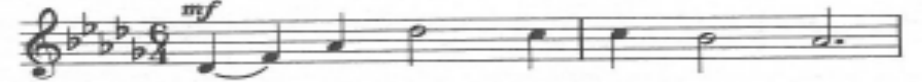
Please submit articles by the above date to allow adequate time for publication! Thank You!

The Greatest of These

CONGREGATION PART

CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH

JANE MARSHALL



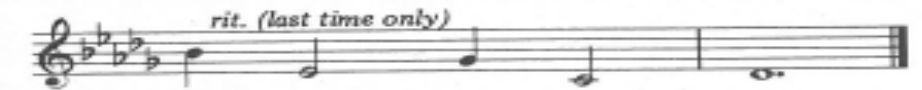
ALL: 1. Love is kind, and suf - fers long;
 CHOIR: { 2. Pro - phe - cy will fade a - way,
 3. Faith will van - ish in - to sight;
 ALL: 4. Faith and hope and love we see,



love is meek and thinks no wrong;
 { melt - ing in the light of day;
 { hope be emp - tied in de - light;
 join - ing hand in hand, a - gree;



love than death it - self more strong;
 { love will ev - er with us stay;
 { love in heaven will shine more bright;
 but the great - est of the three,



there - fore give us love.
 { there - fore give us love.
 { there - fore give us love.
 and the best, is love.

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How Asbury Is Responding to Hatefulness

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, the level of hateful words and actions toward various groups in our country has increased dramatically over the last three years. The state of Ohio now has 35 chapters of hate groups, ranking it 8th among all states. The city of Columbus has an anti-Muslim chapter, a Ku Klux Klan chapter, a Neo-Nazi chapter, and an anti-LGBT chapter. The national anti-Muslim group, Act For America, has grown into one of the largest hate groups in America, claiming 280,000 members and more than 1,000 chapters. (over)