

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

55 West Lincoln Avenue

Delaware, Ohio 43015

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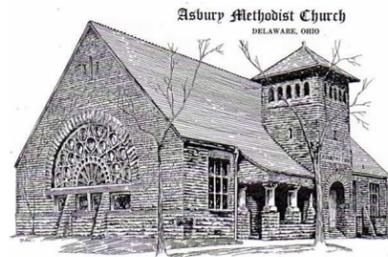
Pastor: Reverend Philip Wilden

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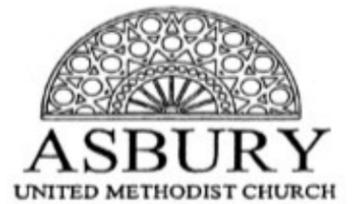
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The Messenger

August 2018



Items from My Notebook by Pastor Phil

My preaching professor, Ernie Campbell, required his students to keep a small notebook in which to record observations, quotations, and occasional humorous remarks. The purpose was not only to provide material for sermons but to encourage us to be perceptive. Here are some of my recent items.

“You can be young only once but immature indefinitely.” Neil Plantinga

“Future historians will marvel at how sophisticated people willfully made themselves so simple-minded.” David Brooks

“The difference in value between water and diamonds depends to a great extent upon how thirsty one is.” Thomas C. Bailey

Ann Hodgman describing “Mister Rogers”: “He liked us just the way we are, but he also gave us a way to be better.”

“God does not require that each individual shall have capacity for everything.” Richard Rothe *(As a pastor, I appreciate the variety of gifts within the congregation as well as the fact that different churches have different strengths. We don't all have to be the same.)*

“untroubled by facts” - an apt phrase for many people

“My therapist taught me to interrupt my anxious thinking with thoughts like ‘What if things work out?’ and ‘What if all my hard work pays off?’” Sinclair P. Caesar III

Grant Wacker quoting Martin Marty after Billy Graham’s death: “Martin Marty, church historian and longtime columnist for *The Christian Century*, said in 1988, on the occasion of Graham’s 70th birthday, that though in the past, he had grumbled about Graham’s approach, he judged that ‘left and right, liberal or conservative, mean less than mean and non-mean, and Graham— to our great fortune— has been ‘non-mean.’”

“Prayer is being with God on purpose.” Valerie Stultz

“Jesus doesn’t want you to do things for him. He wants to do things through you.” Eugene Peterson

The Christian Century asked writers to tell about books that offer solace, encouragement, and hope. Mark Noll responded: “Hope for me has been buoyed in recent months by three books that are very different from each other, except for their studied avoidance of the immediate, the sensational, the transitory, or the attention-lusting polemical.” *(I could relate to that because I have been trying to avoid those things, too.)*

News from Family Promise

Thank you to everyone who supported our Italian Dinner in April. This year was a great success, and we are looking forward to next year’s fundraiser –which will be our 10th Annual Dinner. We have a new laundry space in the Promise House, funding made possible through the Columbus State Community College *Pay it Forward Program* and the Delaware County Foundation’s **Robert Weiler Family Fund**. During the second quarter of 2018 (April – June) we served 13 new families, that included 19 adults and 22 children. For the year, we have served 27 families totaling 84 people. We had **NINE** families complete our program and move into permanent housing this quarter. This brings our total families moving into permanent housing to **15!!** From January 1, 2018-June 30, 2018, we have provided a total of **2,981** individual nights of stay.

Thank you so much to those that volunteer to serve at the Promise House. Your time, energy, meals, and supplies donated help us stretch every dollar. Last year we were able to turn every **\$1** donated into **\$2.18** of shelter and resources for the homeless families that we serve.

-Benjamin Powers

The Delaware County Diaper Bank now has a brochure!

There are some on the table in the foyer as you come in to church.

Please take one if you wish.

Vicki and I have now included a third person to help us with our diaper efforts. Her name is Jeanne Casanova and she will be helping to provide diapers and diapering supplies to our friends throughout the county.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Vicki Lefevre and Di Huston

An Open Invitation

By Lay Leader Leslie Beyer-Hermsen, Lay Leader

One of my prized possessions is a small blank book (4 ½" x 5 ½") that I have had since the Spring of 1984 in which I have collected quotes from novels, poems, greeting cards, dreams, and everyday people as well as pictures, letters, newspaper and magazine clippings. I hesitated to use the word "prized possession" as I wrote this article as I try not to succumb to the material world, though I am unsuccessful at this more times than I like to count. In my attempts to value the non-material things in life over the material, like many people, I often play a scenario in my head. I think about the possibility of losing every material thing (not people or animals) that I own through a house fire. The scenario is only theoretical—no vision of the horrific event, just the outcome of losing everything and finding myself being at peace—not devastated by the loss. As I play the scenario out in my head, I allow myself to choose *one* material thing that I would save from the burning house. Each time the answer is that blank book from 1984. Some cherished quotes that have made it into my blank book, which isn't so blank anymore, include: "Though we travel the world to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not"—Ralph Waldo Emerson, "It is only with the heart that one sees rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye" —from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*, "Don't change so that others will like you. Be yourself and the right people will love you" —Patty Cunningham, and most recently something that my husband and I saw displayed on a church sign a couple of weeks ago while we were out bicycling:

"You know that thing about Welcoming the Stranger? I meant it. —Jesus"

So simple and poignant, especially given the circumstances of the current events of our time, of *All* times. Yet I find I have to caution myself not to be too smug in my appreciation of the sentiment expressed in front of that church. In so doing, I find myself reflecting on a Charge Conference that I attended a few years back while I was serving as Chair of Asbury's Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Reverend Karen M. Oehl, the then Mid-Ohio District United Methodist Church Superintendent, started the conference off with the story of the Good Samaritan. I remember sitting there respectfully listening to the telling and anticipating a moral at the end about acceptance and caring for others different from ourselves, be it religious, ethnic, socio-economic status, LBGQTQ, etc. Though I hate to admit it, I found myself sitting there feeling aligned with the Good Samaritan, having spent a large part of my life living and working with diverse groups of individuals. Anyone else ever find her or himself feeling similar when hearing this familiar parable? But Karen adeptly added a different twist. She, too, felt the part of the Good Samaritan, until she realized and admitted that she had not felt "Neighborly" toward the groups of people at soccer and baseball games that she saw on her way to church on Sundays. Her reframing of the story through this lens was a powerful revelation to me. I began to understand that the story wasn't about being Neighborly to "fill-in the group," but rather any number of everyday circumstances that didn't fit with my way of thinking.

A few days ago, my husband and I saw *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*—the recently released Mr. Rogers movie. The movie contained wonderful examples of genuine relationships full of understanding, kindness, empathy, and love such as Mr. Rogers' interaction with a child in a wheelchair. Mr. Rogers confirmed that there were blue times, but that he didn't feel blue at that moment and the child chimed in "Me neither." Then the two of them, full of smiles, joined in song together. As I watched the different scenes in the movie, I realized that when Mr. Rogers tendered the phrase "Won't you be my Neighbor?" in following the teachings of Jesus, he was offering an Open Invitation. He did not *wait* to respond to a person in need or to right an injustice—he ALWAYS, without cause, "Welcomed the Stranger" and modeled being a Neighbor. In another scene, Mr. Rogers dipped his feet in a kid's wading pool along with an African American acquaintance. Sure the episode aired to address the civil unrest in response to African Americans swimming in public pools, but the episode itself did not explicitly call out this social injustice. Instead, the scene was simply showing two individuals sharing a space to cool down on a hot day. How often do we "Welcome Strangers" or choose to be a "Neighbor" only when an event calls something to our attention? May we make the time in our busy lives to more often follow the example of offering the Open Invitation.

waito
read

Benefit Concert



August 26, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Asbury UMC

55 W. Lincoln Ave
Delaware, OH 43015

Suggested Donation: \$10 person or \$30 per family



Asbury Music Staff Summer Study

Our organist, Luke Tegtmeier, is attending the Organ Historical Society convention July 29- August 3, 2018 in Rochester, NY. The conference focuses on playing and hearing many organs from different time periods and cultures. Jim Weaver (CEO, The Organ Historical Society) states: "the OHS functions in parallel with other groups that are interested in the organ and in its music, but it specifically serves an interest in pipe organs, their builders, those who maintain them and the organists as well." (*The American Organist, July, 2018*) The Organ Historical Society sponsors fellowships that are offered to first time attendees through an application process. 28 Biggs Fellows were selected for the 2018 National Convention. We are pleased to announce that Luke is attending as a Biggs Fellow. Congratulations Luke!

Our Director of Music and Choirs, Jan Swanson, will attend Michael Burkhardt's Hearts, Hands and Voices summer camp August 12-16, 2019. Jan will serve as a "Shepherd" for young children and will study the methodology and techniques used with the curriculum authored and designed by Michael Burkhardt. "Hearts, Hands and Voices offers a unique opportunity for young people of all Christian faith and music backgrounds to come together in a safe and welcoming environment to grow spiritually and musically. The centerpiece of the program is a summer camp that immerses campers in grades 2-7 in an intentional experiential process for four days. Children are given the opportunity to immerse themselves in worship and the arts with their peers and an exceptional faculty of international and national renown. All of the instructors are trained musicians/music educators." (*from the Hearts, Hands and Voices website, c. 2018*) You may recall that Michael Burkhardt was our guest conductor, composer and organist at our Arts Series Concert, Love Unknown, March 4, 2018. Jan looks forward to sharing her experiences with the congregation and choirs this fall.



Jo Stone, long-time member of Asbury, will be celebrating her 100th birthday on August 30. While Jo now lives in North Canton, she continues to be in touch with her Asbury family. We would like to honor her with a card shower for her birthday. Please send her a card to this address:

Jo Stone

201 Holl Rd, NE Apt. 218A

North Canton, OH 44720

Vacation Bible School – Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord! By Susan Speer-Powers

We certainly made lots of joyful noises during VBS week, all wrapped around Psalm 100 and our Watoto Read Mission Project. From theme-based story-books, African-inspired rhythm instruments made in crafts, lots of singing (one song in Zulu!) to the always-popular outdoor games, everyone had a great time! We even enjoyed snacks with musical themes and some African snacks! On Friday evening, families joined the children for a pizza party followed by a program in the sanctuary. The children sang songs they learned during the week and also shared a bit of what they learned about Watoto Read. As a special treat, Michael Bailly entertained us with a demonstration of a number of his own African percussion instruments. Of special note: Each day we added "adobe" blocks to build a wall representing our offering money that will go to Watoto Read to build a classroom in Chad. The VBS offerings to this mission project totaled \$1,194.35... a truly awesome way to make a joyful noise to our Lord!

It always takes many people to put on a successful Vacation Bible School, and this year was no exception. New this year, a number of our upcoming 5th and 6th graders served as "shepherds" who helped the adult leaders of each group. Many, many thanks to our young shepherds, those who donated food, prepared snacks, and cleaned up afterward, the adults who led groups and activities and told stories and took pictures... to everyone who made VBS possible!

Sunday School Spotlight

Summer Sunday School Classes

Children's Class: The combined class for children in PreK-Grade 5 meets in the lower level of the Education Wing. Volunteers from the congregation serve as teachers for this group for one or two weeks throughout the summer. In August, the Children's Class will learn about **People Jesus Met**, including the following:

August 5: **The Man in the Synagogue** (based on Matthew 12:9-14) – Peter Baylis and Terri Litchfield

August 12: **Mary and Martha** (based on Luke 10:38-42) – Peter Baylis and Terri Litchfield

August 19: **The Woman at the Well** (based on John 4:1-42) – Sue Chaney and Natalie Ritchie

Intergenerational Spiritual Journey Class: Adults and youth in grades 6+ are enjoying a study of John Wesley this summer. Jim Dietz and David Woods lead the class in the study of Adam Hamilton's **Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It**. The class meets in the McCoy Room.

The **Faith and Issues** class meets in the Parlor. The class continues to read and discuss **Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World** by Henri Nouwen.

Sunday School Offering

The Sunday school classes continue to support Asbury's campaign for Watoto Read. To date, the classes have contributed \$199.13.

All-Church Breakfast Potluck – August 26, 9:30 AM

To celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of Asbury's fall activities, the Christian Education Committee and Asbury's Music Ministries invite everyone to a breakfast potluck at 9:30 on August 26 in the McCoy Room. Coffee and juice will be provided; please bring a dish to share.

At approximately 10:00, anyone interested in singing with the Adult Choir on August 26 is invited to come to a short rehearsal in the Sanctuary. Teens in grades 9-12 and college students are welcome! If you've ever thought about joining one of our church choirs, this is an opportunity to give it a try! Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Susan Speer-Powers, Director of Christian Education, or Jan Swanson, Director of Music and Choirs. We look forward to our gathering on August 26!

Asbury Youth Mission Trip 2018

From June 24 -29, members of the Asbury youth and leaders made their way to Cleveland to serve in various capacities at the Nehemiah Mission, a ministry begun in 2003 by the district superintendent and the district associate of missions for the North Coast District of the United Methodist Church. The mission encompasses a number of different areas for mission teams to work from housing, food and clothing, and assistance in education and employment.

The Asbury team consisted of Marcus and Elise Haase, Bryce and Chloe Dawson, Aubrey Davis, and Alex Villanueva-Henkle with Jim Dietz and Brad Ross as the adult leaders. The group spent time at several locations, sometimes together as one or split into two teams to maximize their time for the projects they were chosen to do. These included Laura's Home, a facility that supports women and children in need of housing and care during difficult times in their lives; assisting with Bread on Bridge Street, a community meal served in the evenings from out of a concession trailer; working in the homes of two families who were receiving help through the mission for home repair and maintenance; and finally, working with Jonathan Gray and his organization, Trials for Hope, which distributes food, medical supplies and other items to those living on the fringes of society – the homeless, mentally challenged, and very poor.

Time was spent at the beginning of each day in devotions, prayer and spiritual thinking. A real sense of what living the life Jesus calls us to do as Christians was brought into focus as the team worked at their various locations and interacted with the many people who had so many immediate needs. The team was especially grateful to God that Brad was not seriously injured in a fall from a ladder on that Friday. While he did need some treatment at the hospital, it could have been much worse and the team came home blessed and thankful for all of their experiences.

Youth Annual Conference 2018

Youth annual conference was held at Lakeside on June 8-10. Asbury had five youth and two adult leaders attend. In attendance were Marcus Haase, Elise Haase, Chloe Dawson, Aubrey Davis, Stephen Haase as well as Rebecca Wilden and Jim Dietz. The theme for the weekend was "We Are One" based upon Ephesians 4:3-6. During the weekend, illusionist Zach Mirzadeh and the musical group Bonray performed. Rev. Jasmine Smothers, senior pastor of Atlanta First UMC was the keynote speaker. You can find a video recap at www.eocumc.com/yac/

A resolution entitled "A Call to Discuss Improved School Safety" was adopted and forwarded to the East Ohio Conference. (This resolution was later adopted by the East Ohio Conference). During breakouts and mission opportunities, some youth learned about having a difficult conversation/difficult discussions while others attended a session about creating sleeping mats for the homeless out of plastic grocery bags. Several of our youth participated in the afternoon festival and the "minute-to-win it" competition. There were meaningful worship opportunities as well as the candle walk on Saturday evening.

You are encouraged to contact any of the youth and engage them in any questions or discussion regarding the weekend. We remain grateful to Asbury for its support of our youth. We appreciate the nurturing environment in which you encourage their spiritual development.

"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But the good Samaritan reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?" -Martin Luther King Jr.

Asbury United Methodist Church Music Ministry ~ 2018-2019

Our 2018-2019 season begins on Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

(*Alleluia Choir will begin Wednesday, September 26, 2018). We encourage and cordially invite you to participate in the musical opportunities offered below. Additional details to follow in the coming weeks. Please feel free to contact us should you have questions or want to learn more about how your family can be involved musically!

Jan Swanson, Director of Music and Choirs

jdswan80@aol.com

Alleluia Choir ~ Grades K-2

Wednesdays ~ 4:15 - 5:00 pm* (begins Sept. 26)

Peter Baylis, Director

(majorbaylis@hotmail.com)

Frances O'Flaherty, Accompanist

Junior Choir ~ Grades 3-8

Wednesdays ~ 4:15 - 5:00 pm

*(May end at 5:15 during Christmas, Easter and Musical seasons)

Jan Swanson, Director

Marly Hittepole, Accompanist

Teen Choir ~ Grades 8-12

Wednesdays ~ time TBA

Jan Swanson, Director

Luke Tegtmeier, Accompanist

Chancel Choir ~ High School ~ Adult

Wednesdays ~ 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Sundays ~ 9:30 – 10:25 am

Jan Swanson, Director

Luke Tegtmeier, Organist, Accompanist

Bell Choir ~ High School ~ Adult

Wednesdays ~ 6:00 – 6:50 pm

Carol Brulotte, Director

(brulottecj@columbus.rr.com)