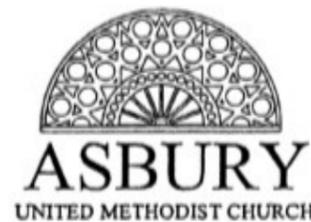


ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
55 West Lincoln Avenue
Delaware, Ohio 43015

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Pastor: Reverend Philip Wilden
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Mon.—Fri.
Phone: (740) 363-3611/Fax: (740) 368-8405
Website: www.asburyohio.org
E-mail: church@asburyohio.org

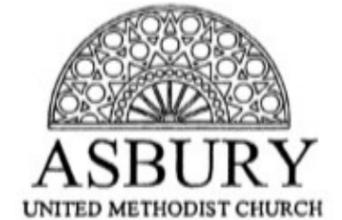


The United Methodist Women will be having the Chocolate Fare on Saturday, February 11 from 10 AM-2 PM. There will be wonderful chocolate desserts for sale with the proceeds going to mission work benefitting women, children, and youth around the world. Free coffee and hot chocolate will be offered in the café where you can enjoy a chocolate treat with your family and friends. Many volunteers are needed to bring desserts and help at the event. You can sign-up to help at the table in the Great Room Jan. 22, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5.



The Messenger

January/February 2017



Lectionary Readings for Sunday Worship

January 15

Isaiah 49:1-7, I Cor. 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

January 22

Isaiah 9:1-4, I Cor. 1:10-18, Matt. 4:12-23

January 29

Micah 6:1-8, I Cor. 1:18-31, Matt. 5:1-1

February 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a, I Cor. 2:1-12, Matt. 5:13-20
The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

February 12

Deut. 30:15-20, I Cor. 3:1-9, Matt. 5:21-37

February 19

Lev. 19:1-2, 9-18, I Cor. 3:10-11, 16-23, Matt. 5:38-48

February 26

Transfiguration Sunday

Exod. 24:12-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matt. 17:1-9

Good Habits

by Pastor Phil

Several years ago when I was serving the Windsor and Orwell congregations, I asked members of the confirmation class to interview older church members. I gave them some questions to ask, and one of them was, "Why do you go to church?"

One of the members, Willard Loomis, gave this reply: "I think it's one of my better habits."

At the time, I was looking for a more theological answer, but as I have pondered the question since, I have concluded that "habit" is a perfectly good reason to go to church. In fact, all the good and healthy things we do in life—practices such as exercise, eating right, getting enough sleep, knowing when to get busy and work and knowing when to stop and rest—all those things we do by habit. Good habits keep us on the right path and sustain us when we are facing struggles.

Worship attendance is a good habit. So is taking the time to speak with someone we don't know after worship. So is being disciplined and generous in our financial giving. If I only gave to the church when I "felt" generous, I might never get around to it. Pressing needs would always dominate, and the church would get whatever was left over. Tithing (giving ten percent of our income) is a lifelong habit for many of us. It's also a worthy goal for those who are moving in that direction.

January is the month in which we make—and often break—New Year's resolutions. But to the extent that our resolutions become habits, we are more likely to adopt them as part of our ongoing lifestyle, rather than a passing impulse.

Besides the healthy habits which I have noted above, I would also like to commend the practice of reading scripture. John Wesley, the father of Methodism, spoke of this as a "means of grace." It is one of the ordinary ways that God speaks to us, which one of my professors described as "the written word becoming a Living Word."

(cont'd on page 2)

Cont'd - Good Habits

I also realize that people often have good intentions but may try to do too much. If you have not been a Bible reader up to this point and set out to read the entire Bible from cover to cover, you may be setting an unrealistic goal. But there are much less ambitious ways in which spending time with scripture can make a difference in your life. Even busy people can find a few minutes each day for this.

In January I am planning to lead a one-session workshop on how the Bible can become a "means of grace" in our lives. More information will be forthcoming.

I hope that with some encouragement and some resources, reading scripture might become one of your better habits. And even if it already is, you are welcome to attend. As the old hymn says, "I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest."

Martin Luther King Service

You are invited to the 32nd annual worship service at 3pm on Sunday, January 15th at the Methodist Theological Seminary Chapel. The featured speaker will be the Reverend Gregory Kendrick Jr., Pastor at Columbus' United Methodist Church for All People.

Martin Luther King Breakfast

This year's MLK breakfast will be held on January 16, in the Benes Room of the Hamilton-Williams Center on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan. The featured speaker is the Rev. Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, founder of Woman Preach Inc. and associate professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible at MTSO. The event begins at 7:45AM with a buffet, followed by the program at 8:30AM. Asbury has reserved a table for eight and the tickets will be available in the church office for \$10. (The church is subsidizing half the cost).

"Celebrate the Psalms" with the Asbury choirs!

On Sunday, February 26, at 3 PM, Asbury's Adult, Junior, and Bell Choirs, Sally Casto, organist, and Jan Swanson, pianist, will join forces to present a gala concert of music inspired by Psalm texts. The program will include works for organ, performances by each of the choirs separately, and a variety of presentations of choirs singing and playing together. Musical styles move from Gregorian Chant from the Middle ages through concert works and liturgical anthems from the Nineteenth Century to the present day. Choral movements from larger works by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Bernstein, and Rutter will intermingle with anthems composed primarily for use in church services.

From poignant and tender interpretations of Psalm 23 to uplifting and highly energized settings of Psalm 150, the program promises to be a truly exciting, yet worshipful event. Do put the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

The concert, entitled "A Celebration of the Psalms," is presented as part of the Asbury Arts Series. Programs on the series are presented without admission charge, though an offering to help cover expenses will be received at the intermission.

-Bob Nims

February First Thursday Noontime Recital features Sally Casto

What kind of music does a church organist choose for a Groundhog Day recital?

I'm not sure I've ever had to compete with Punxsutawney Phil for audience attention, but I can assure you that there will be selections which should cause any groundhog.....and/or music lover to sit up and take notice! So please plan to stop by the church at 12:15pm on February 2 when repertoire by Stanley, LaMontaine, and Mendelssohn will waken your wintertime hibernation. As always, tables will be set and beverages provided for those who wish to enjoy lunch during the recital.

-Sally Casto

Spotlight on Christian Education

Children and Youth Sunday School Classes: Jesus, God's Son

Children learn stories about Jesus' life this month.

- Jan. 1 Intergenerational class in the McCoy Room
- Jan. 8 Talk With the Teachers
- Jan. 15 Come to the River
- Jan. 22 Change the Water
- Jan. 29 Born Anew

Youth will dive deeper into these themes and stories in January.

- Jan. 1 Intergenerational class in the McCoy Room
- Jan. 8 God's Grace (The Baptism of Jesus)
- Jan. 15 Being Called (Jesus Calls the Twelve)
- Jan. 22 Forgiveness (The Healing of the Paralyzed Man)
- Jan. 29 How to Treat Others (Jesus Shows Us How to Treat Others)

Human Sexuality Retreat – February 3-4, 2017

The Christian Education Committee will sponsor the second Human Sexuality Retreat for our 5th and 6th graders on Friday evening, February 3, and Saturday, February 4. We will welcome Bob Myers, Youth and Education Director at Chagrin Falls United Methodist Church, to facilitate the retreat again this year. Bob will be at Asbury to meet with parents of 5th and 6th grade participants on Thursday, Feb. 2 to provide an overview of the program. Parents will receive a letter with additional information and registration forms. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Speer-Powers.

UMW Year-End Contribution Report

During 2016 Asbury UMW forwarded a total of \$4,659.00 for general mission giving, in support of national and international programs. In addition we made the following donations:

Within Asbury: MAP and Journey	\$500
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$300
Local and Conference:	
Domestic Violence Shelter	\$300
Andrews House	\$200
Flat Rock Home	\$300
International:	
Mulungwishi Women's School	\$300
Montana de Luz Orphanage	\$300

UMW Circles for January

Hannah and Rebekah Circles will not meet in January

Lydia Circle

Thursday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.

Program by Corie Thompson

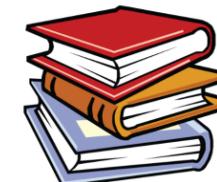
Location: tbd

Book Sale

Saturday, April 1, 9:00-3:00

Please place donations in the box in the foyer. Please no textbooks, magazines, moldy or disintegrating items.--Julia Foster, Book Sale Coordinator (740-363-3562 or email: juliafoster10@gmail.com).

There will be several days where folks are needed to help sort through books as they come in. The first of these will be Feb. 18, 10AM to Noon.



UMW Book Report by Mona Ray

Animal Beauty by Kristin Roskifte is a book from the Nurturing the Community category. It all starts when the elephant gets ahold of a fashion magazine. Suddenly, his wrinkles were not fashionable. All the other zoo animals got involved by reading the magazine and finding out what was wrong with their appearance. Trying to be someone different to fit the trend turns out to be a mistake! Being one's self is how we should be. The zoo visitors convince the animals of that fact. It is a beautifully illustrated book as well as a great lesson in valuing who we are within and not so much as how we look on the outside.

Project Hope Orphanage

(Espwa)

Donations for the rebuilding of houses at the Project Hope Orphanage in Haiti totaled \$2500.00+. A few weeks' ago a donation of \$500 from the Missions & Outreach Committee, a \$3500.00 donation from an anonymous Asbury couple, and some additional donations were made; thus, more than \$7000.00 has been given by our church family to help in the rebuilding efforts at the orphanage. Espwa means hope; Asbury's generous giving will bring hope to the staff and children who have experienced so much loss.

