

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

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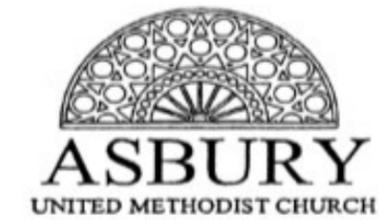
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JULY MESSENGER

2017

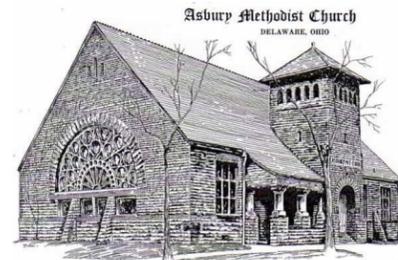
Pastor: Reverend Philip Wilden

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Looking for ways to support the Ecumenical Youth Group?

Interested in volunteering to help with the IRONMAN event this July?

How about doing both at the same time!

Sue Hetzel has volunteered to “captain” the bike check-in on Saturday July 29, as a way to raise funds for EYG. IRONMAN gives grants to non-profits with a volunteering component (EYG work camp). Sue needs to “populate” two work shifts with 20 people in each shift on Saturday July 29. Everyone that participates in the IRONMAN has to drop off their bike on Saturday July 29. What our group would be doing is helping the participants put their bikes in the right place, pointed in the right direction. There are 2 work shifts available; 9:30a to 2:00p, and 2:00p to 5:00p. And, BONUS!, you get a free t-shirt (sizes ran small last year). Anyone can volunteer, but kids 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult. You have to register to volunteer (for liability reasons). There are two ways to get to the registration links;

1. Go to the EYG Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EcumenicalYouthGroupDelawareOhio/> and click on the photo of the bicyclist and it will show you the two links, or;
2. Email Sue at radhertz@columbus.rr.com and ask for the links to be emailed back to you.

[trust me, you don't want to have to type in these links yourself]

Thanks - hope to see you on July 29th!

Summer Sermon Series

by Pastor Phil

During the months of July and August, I am planning to preach a series on Abraham and Sarah. The sermons will follow the theme: “Having the Last Laugh: Faith in God’s Promise.”

As a resource, I am reading Walter Brueggemann’s commentary on Genesis. Here is a quotation from Brueggemann to give us food for thought as we begin:

“It is an assumption of the modern world that there will be no genuine newness, no really independent gift yet to be given.

“Such ideologies press persons either (a) to *inordinate pride* which imagines the world has been completely entrusted to us and that we may construct our own future out of the present, or (b) to *deep despair* which believes the present world of inequity and oppression is forever and that there is no power in heaven or on earth that can make real change.

“Against such judgments, the narrative of Abraham and Sarah proposes an alternative reality which rescues from both pride and despair. The narrative affirms that the world has not been entrusted to humanity. In inscrutable graciousness, God has retained the amazing gift of life.”

I encourage you to read Genesis 12-24 in order to prepare. The best listeners are those who have already thought about the material.

Loneliness: A Curable Condition

By Lay Leader Vicki Lefevre

According to a recent online article written by journalist Sarah Hosseini, ninety-year-old Wanda has lived in the same house in her California neighborhood for 50 years but knows none of her neighbors, prompting Wanda to write the following heart-wrenching request to Marleen Brooks, a neighbor she had never met: "Would you consider becoming my friend? I am 90 years old and live alone. All my friends have passed away. I am so lonesome and scared. Please, I pray for someone."

"Please, I pray for someone."

Poignant words, indeed.

In contrast to Wanda's neighborhood, I recall the neighborhood of my childhood. I grew up in Delaware and, for many years, lived on South Sandusky Street in half of a "double" where the Burger King now is. In those days, the bypass around Delaware had not yet been constructed, so all Route 23 traffic flowed by our home, night and day, trucks and all. Sandusky was a busy street with lots of sights, sounds, and energy, and my grandmother often sat on the front porch we shared with her good friend Nelly Berry who, with her own family, lived in the other half of the double. To our south lived the matriarch and patriarch of a large Catholic family, the Dinovos.

These neighbors became important characters in my childhood. Nelly's son Butch gave me my first ever sports injury when we were playing baseball in the backyard, and he hit a powerful line drive straight to my eye. I was proud of that "shiner." The Dinovo family introduced me to the concepts of immigration, English as a foreign language, and large Italian families. As Anne Lamott says, "Home is where world peace begins," and this home of my childhood, populated by family and neighbors, felt secure, rich, and safe—definitely not lonely.

I especially recall how content my grandmother seemed on the front porch with Nelly. Today we might say that they "binge sat" on that porch, discussing who knows what. When I think of those times, I picture my grandmother laughing, looking radiant, reminding me of the wisdom of that saying that "joy is the best make-up."

Now, however, it seems that families have retreated to leisure time spent more privately on decks in their back yards. How often do you see neighbors sitting on their front porches even when they have swings and comfy chairs awaiting them? The front porch furniture too often seems like staging merely to give the home "curb appeal." We don't need research or statistics to inform us that the "back deck culture" undoubtedly increases the likelihood of neighbors who barely know each other, and of people—young and old—who feel isolated and lonely both inside their homes and out back on their decks (no matter how many Facebook friends they may have).

But the good news is that loneliness is a curable condition. Just ask Wanda whose story has a happy ending: Marlene visited Wanda the very same day she received the note, and they have formed a friendship with regular visits. Marleen became the "someone" Wanda had prayed for.

Pope Francis said recently in a TED talk, "Quite a few years of life have strengthened my conviction that each and everyone's existence is tied to that of others; life is not time merely passing by. Life is about interactions. Indeed, it is our interactions with one another that make real impact." I bet Pope Francis would advocate for time spent on front porches rather than backyard decks.

So, if you are lonely, be like Wanda who 1) prayed and 2) acted in reaching out for human connection.

If you suspect that someone you know is lonely, be like Marlene and reach out to this person immediately. Make a pot of soup or some cupcakes. Stop over. Chat. Listen. The truth is that we need each other. We are better together. And you just might be the "someone" the lonely person prays for to make a difference.

A Very Special Birthday!

On July 27, Charlotte Gallant will celebrate her 100th birthday! There will be a reception at 1:30pm that day in the Centrum Activity Room at Willow Brook Christian Village, 100 Willow Brook Way S. Asbury friends are welcome to attend.

At the Preservation Parks concert at 7:00pm that night, at Gallant Woods, Charlotte will also be honored.

Charlotte's address is 100 Willow Brook Way South, Room #118; phone is 740-368-4518.



PIN Garden Helpers Needed

Can you help maintain the garden at the church and deliver the produce to People In Need (PIN) this summer? We need volunteers to sign-up for weeks in July, August, and September. For more information, see Ruth Ward in the Great Room after worship.

-PIN Garden Committee

From the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Van Ayers will be retiring from his position as custodian at the end of August. We will be pursuing a replacement for this part-time position. Please watch for additional updates including a job posting.

Last month's 'Messenger' contained a paragraph from Stephanie Rowe, Development Coordinator at Turning Point, a domestic violence shelter in Marion County. Turning Point is expanding and in the planning stages of opening an additional location that is to be in Delaware.

Unity House is another new organization here in Delaware which aims at giving newly released inmates who had been convicted as a result of their addiction to drugs, a fresh start in the community without having to return to the environment that fueled their addiction in the first place. Unity House is located on Washington Street in the house formerly owned by First Presbyterian Church.

As a result of this congregation's generosity at Easter, Asbury was able to make a donation of \$1000.00 to each organization. The funds going to Turning Point will go toward covering some of their start-up costs, while the funds designated for Unity House will go toward furnishing the dining room.

There are two more special offerings remaining this year: Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Finance Committee will designate the direction of those funds with great care and consideration.

The Finance Committee, the Asbury leadership and the community as a whole are grateful to have and be part of such a generous congregation.

Blessings,

Michael Everett

Finance Committee Chair

Sunday School Spotlight by Susan Speer-Powers

Sunday School Offering

We conclude the **Imagine No Malaria** mission project in June. This is a special global health project of The United Methodist Church. By the end of June, **we raised more than \$800, which will purchase 80 insecticide-treated mosquito nets** that will be distributed in Sub-Saharan Africa. Thanks be to God as we are able to share in this important ministry with those who need our help!

Summer Sunday School

The **Children's Class** (PreK-Grade 5) meets in the lower level of the Education Wing. Sarah Brook is the assistant every Sunday, and others in the congregation are volunteering to serve as teachers for one or two weeks throughout the summer. In July, the Children's Class will learn about several **Speakers for God**.

July 2: Elijah and the Ravens

July 9: Elijah and the Prophets

July 16: Jonah and the Fish

July 23: Elisha and the Widow's Jars

July 30: Elisha and the Servant Girl

The **Youth Class** (Grades 6-12) meets in the Balcony classroom. Jon Powers facilitates the class, and volunteers from the congregation serve as co-teachers each week. The summer curriculum is **Three Simple Questions for Youth** by Bishop Rueben P. Job. Through a variety of activities, lively discussions, DVD and online sources, the class will explore:

- Who is God?
- Who Am I?
- Who Are We Together?



Adult Sunday School Classes

The **Faith & Issues** class meets in the Parlor. The class concludes a study of Islam on July 2, and on July 9 will begin Anne Lamott's book, *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy*.

The **Spiritual Journey** class meets in the McCoy Room. The class is beginning a new study based on *Christianity, Cults & Religions* by Paul Carden. Through book and video, the author describes the history and tenets of several religions in detail and offers tips on how to relate to people with strongly diverse religious beliefs.

Please feel free to visit any of our Sunday school classes this summer!

New Sunday School Groupings

Starting in September, the grade level groupings for Sunday school classes and the MAP and Journey youth groups will be as follows:

- Nursery Class: Birth – Age 3
- PreK Class: Age 3 and PreK
- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5
- Tweens Class and MAP: Grades 6-8
- Teens Class and Journey: Grades 9-12

These changes bring our grade level groupings in alignment with those of the Delaware City Schools, and in some cases, may be more developmentally appropriate.

UMW Book Report by Mona Ray

The Smell of Old Lady Perfume is a public library book written by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez. (JUV Fiction MAR) The story tells of a family whose parents are from Mexico and live in California. The main character is a young girl who knows Spanish better than English. She is living her 11th year in the sixth grade and going through the troubles of not having a friend. The 'clique' at school doesn't include her. Her best friend is her father. After her father's stroke, her mother works in a nursing home. Her father dies during the Easter break. The title of the book alludes to the fact that all the women in the family smell the same. This book expresses a lot of the issues that immigrant children face even though they are born in the US and are citizens. The category is Nurturing for Community. It is listed as a children's book, but it is more youth./young adult.



UMCOR Health Kits

The United Methodist Women will be collecting items for UMCOR Health Kits during July and August and hope that many of you will help by donating items for the kits. There will be a sample kit on the table in the entry and a container for your donations. Monetary donations are helpful because we must include \$1 for toothpaste and \$1 for shipping. The money may be given to Linda Sheets or Demi Badger.

Health Kit Items

- 1 Hand towel
 - *15 x25 inches to 17 x 27 inches
 - *Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Toothbrush
 - *Adult size only
 - *Do not remove from original packaging. Must be packaged individually.
- 6 Adhesive bandages
 - *3/4 inch to 1 inch size
 - *Common household Band-aides
- 1 Bath-size soap
 - *3 oz. and larger sizes only
 - *No Ivory or Jergens due to moisture content
 - *Do not remove from original packaging
- 1 Comb
 - *Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches
 - *No pocket combs or picks
- 1 Metal nail file or nail clippers
 - *No emery boards



Report on the 48th East Ohio Annual Conference

June 12-15, 2017

to Asbury United Methodist Church

by Susan Speer-Powers, Lay Delegate

First, let me thank you for allowing me to serve as Asbury's lay delegate for the past three years to the East Ohio Annual Conference at Lakeside. It has been a moving experience in many ways, and I look forward to passing on this opportunity to serve the church to someone else next year. An underlying theme throughout the conference was the oneness of the United Methodist Church, despite differences of opinions. I found this to be encouraging and hopeful. A video with highlights from the week will be playing in the Great Room during coffee hour today.

Our new bishop, Bishop Tracy Malone, presided over the conference. I found Bishop Malone to be energetic and competent, friendly and humble and hope-full, and enthusiastic about serving with us in the East Ohio Conference. Bishop Malone's husband and two daughters – one a college sophomore and the other a high school sophomore – participated in the opening service. I commend the Bishop's Episcopal Address (her official speech to the conference) to you. It is available on the conference website, www.eocumc.com.

The speech was inspiring, and the Bishop laid out goals for our conference and for the United Methodist Church as a whole. The Bishop acknowledged that these are unsettled times for the church and for society. She reminded us of the words of Saint Teresa who said that WE are now the hands and the feet and the eyes of God on Earth. Through us, God can do more than we can even think of or imagine!

The Bishop challenges each local church to engage in **four areas of focus**:

- Creating new and renewed congregations
- Engaging in ministry with the poor
- Developing principled Christian leaders, and
- Improving global health

In each of these areas, the Bishop asks us to engage in at least one new, bold, and courageous mission or ministry, beyond the church walls, in order to build relationships with our community. We are to become "difference-makers" in each of these areas!

Some of you may have heard about the **Commission on a Way Forward**. The commission was established by the Council of Bishops at the General Conference last summer. It consists of 32 members, lay and clergy, representing Methodists from around the world. Their charge is to review, and consider revisions of, every paragraph in the Book of Discipline that concerns human sexuality and to explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. The Council of Bishops has called a special session of General Conference to be held February 23-26, 2019, at which time the delegates will receive and act on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward.

East Ohio Conference is developing a process for reflecting on and engaging in meaningful conversations to help us discern a way in which we can live together as United Methodists without presuming that we will resolve our differences. We at Asbury will have opportunities to participate in these conversations starting this fall at locations around the conference. Details will follow.

And now, a few comments from the **business sessions** of the conference. First, it was very hot in Hoover Auditorium (just fans... no air conditioning)! The sessions were long, the seats were not terribly comfortable, the resolutions were numerous, and they were debated and amended and questioned and referred... but it was all good... our methodical Method-ism in action!

All resolutions can be read in their entirety on the East Ohio website. In brief, delegates approved 7 of 9 resolutions, including

- to encourage the conference to effectively recruit and retain young clergy of color
- to welcome the immigrant in our midst
- to promote the human rights of Palestinians
- to encourage Christian behavior toward GLBTQ people
- to hold a Day of Repentance for the incivility sweeping our nation (authored by our own Rev. Bill McCartney)
- to maintain health care for the most vulnerable, and
- to encourage churches to be advocates for those touched by addiction (put forward by the Youth Annual Conference)

One resolution addressed the criminalization of communities of color; it was referred back to the committees who put forth the resolution to revise the wording. And a resolution about maintaining *The Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016* was ruled out of order.

The final business I will report to you is the Setting of Appointments. Of note to us at Asbury:

- Marilyn Coney, a former Asbury intern, was appointed to Tiffin Faith.
- Karen Oehl, our former District Superintendent and daughter of Bill and Judy McCartney, was appointed to Mt. Vernon Gay Street.
- Our own **James Lance** was appointed to serve part time at Martel United Methodist Church in Marion as a licensed local/student pastor. James will also be attending MTSO in the fall to begin his Master of Divinity Degree. Congratulations, James!

Missing from the list once again, thankfully, was the name **Philip Wilden**, which means that Phil and Tammy will be with us for another year! Thanks be to God!

