

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

55 West Lincoln Avenue

Delaware, Ohio 43015

Return Service Requested



Pastor: Reverend Philip Wilden

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Mon.—Fri.

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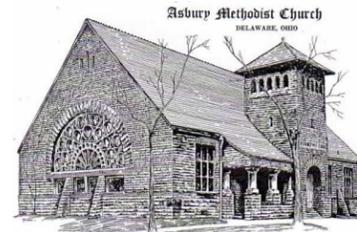
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THE MESSENGER

JULY 2018



Worship Notes

During July and August, I will be preaching on passages from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. This epistle (New Testament word for "letter") expresses Paul's concern for the church in the midst of a strained and at times painful relationship.

There are 13 chapters, so if you read one per day, you will complete it in two weeks. That's your summer reading assignment!

On July 15 and 22, I will be on vacation. We will be visiting with an older clergy colleague in Bay View, Michigan with whom we served in Orwell. We will also be attending Tammy's high school reunion. Megan Buehler and Bill McCartney will be preaching on those Sundays.

Endings and Beginnings

by Pastor Phil

The following is an excerpt from my sermon on June 10, 2018.

Whenever there is an ending, there is also a beginning. People who believe in the resurrection know that. "In our end is our beginning," we sing.

This applies to all life's transitions, such as sending a child off to kindergarten or to college, graduation, retirement. Yes, they are endings. But they are also beginnings. The future belongs to God.

I've been your pastor long enough that I think I can say this, and you will give me a hearing. Sometimes at Asbury, we have been a little too attached to the past.

Over the past 50 years, we have had some super-sized personalities. They were the kind of people who left their mark in ways that will always be remembered and appreciated. At the same time, however, they have unintentionally cast a shadow over other people.

One of my core values is that all members of the body ought to be given the opportunity to offer their gifts. And all should be able *to be who they are*, without being compared to others.

I've often felt compassion for Tom Snyder, the pastor who followed Dave Lyons in 1988. In some people's eyes, Tom could never measure up, even though he is a bright, caring, and sensitive pastor. He became a four-year interim.

I am concerned that the same thing could happen as we transition from the music ministry of Sally Casto and Bob Nims to the music ministry of Jan Swanson and Luke Tegtmeier. Sally and Bob are much loved, and we have all benefited from their work. But the new staff have gifts, too, and they should be allowed to shine.

It's unfair to tell someone, "You have big shoes to fill." No one is here to fill someone else's shoes. I didn't come here to fill my predecessor's shoes. I came here to be Philip Wilden. In fact, when I was leaving my previous church, a friend said to me-- and I think this was inspired speech-- "You be *you*, and that's good enough."

Let Luke be Luke. Let Jan be Jan. Give them your respect. Give them the freedom to bring new ideas. Trust that God is among us, that the Holy Spirit is still creating.

Earlier in the service, our liturgist read from Lamentations. The book of Lamentations is an extended reflection in a time of uncertainty and fear after the fall of Jerusalem. There is mourning and grief over what was and is no more. But there is also the expression of hope that God is still at work, and that the best is yet to come.

The writer uses a phrase which we find over and over in the Psalms: "the steadfast love of the Lord." And then the point is made that when we experience endings, God can be counted on to provide a new beginning, for "God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness."

Therefore, says the writer, "I will hope in the Lord." And so can we.

Bye, Bye, #5's!

Beginning July 1, Asbury will no longer recycle #5 plastics, but don't stop sorting and saving them. Why? Because Asbury has received permission to place our #5 plastics in the St. Mary's recycling dumpster that sits in the back corner of their parking lot. They ask that we place ONLY our #5's there because of the expense of the dumpster.

Over the years Asbury has kept hundreds of cottage cheese, yogurt, and butter containers plus an assortment of other items out of the landfill. So, let's keep helping and stewarding our Good Earth by recycling #5's but by placing them directly in the St. Mary dumpster rather than bringing them to church.

Thanks to all who have and to all who will participate in keeping #5 recycling alive.

Martha Fikes

Interested in Supporting EYG in Their Mission?

Interested in Volunteering with the Ironman?

YOU CAN DO BOTH!

It only takes a couple of hours on Saturday July 28!

Sue Hetzel is once again leading two groups of volunteers where the Ironman participants drop-off their bicycles the day before the event. There are two work shifts available on **Saturday, July 28th** from 9:30am-1:30pm and/or from 1:30pm - 5:30pm. It is a relatively easy job, with no lifting and no equipment required - you can sign-up for one or both shifts. Lunch will be provided for those working at noon. Last year, we were able to raise \$700 for EYG, to support their programming and their work camp trip, with just a couple of hours of commitment from a relatively small group of people (20 per shift) - let's do it again! All ages are welcome (although 10 and under need to be with a parent/guardian) - and you get a free Ironman volunteer shirt for your efforts too! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sue Hetzel at 740-815-5979 or via email at radhetz@columbus.rr.com using "Ironman" in the subject line. I hope to hear from you soon!

-Sue

**Let the Little Children Come to Me
By Lay Leader Leslie Beyer-Hermesen**

“Summertime, and the livin' is easy...”

Even though it has been years since I have been in school or even college, there's always something about the onset of summer that brings a sense of relaxation—though my work routine, for the most part, is the same during the summer months as during the rest of the year. Summer conjures up images of energetic, happy children enjoying a variety of carefree fun activities such as swimming, fishing, chicken barbecues, ice cream.

When my sister from California was in town a couple of weeks ago, she and our other sister and I headed up to Versailles, Ohio, where our grandmother had lived. During our time there, we fondly reminisced about childhood summers spent with her. One particular memory included going to a church homecoming service that was held in the early evening. Communion was a part of the service and as was customary practice for many churches back in those days, only adults partook in Communion. My youngest sister, observing that Grandma was “getting something to eat,” exclaimed “Why does Grandma get a cheeseburger and I don't?!” From that point forward, Grandma always made sure she fed us before taking us places. That was her take-away from the experience.

My take-away over the years has been the concept of Access. When the disciples tried to prevent the children from approaching Jesus, the well-known and well-loved response was “Let the little children come to me...” Our church and many others now include children in the Sacrament of Communion. Though Jesus was referencing children and their role, most recently I have come to understand this Bible verse as an Access directive.

Perhaps my interpretation of this Bible verse is an occupational hazard—being an Assistant Dean on a regional campus of a land grant university, one of the key components of my work is providing Open Access to a university education. So naturally my mindset in the nonsecular realm is also Open Access. The “livin'” *isn't* easy for a lot of people. The Church is perfectly situated to break down barriers and to ease the way. Asbury does a lot in the way of making the Church accessible: taping services and making them available online, providing handicap access, taking church service and Communion to shut-ins, supporting outreach efforts such as Family Promise and Watoto Read, PIN garden, hearing assistance devices, large print hymnals, gluten free elements, Reconciling Ministries, etc.

One of the Adult Sunday School classes has been reading the book *If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus* by Philip Gulley. It seems to me that this book provides some guiding principles to consider as we continue our work toward being an Open Access Church, a journey that is ALWAYS a work in progress. I offer those principles here.

1. Jesus Would Be a Model for Living Rather Than an Object of Worship
 2. Affirming Our Potential Would Be More Important Than Condemning Our Brokenness
 3. Reconciliation Would Be Valued over Judgement
 4. Gracious Behavior Would Be More Important Than Right Belief
 5. Inviting Questions Would Be Valued More Than Supplying Answers
 6. Encouraging Personal Exploration Would Be More Important Than Communal Uniformity
 7. Meeting Needs Would Be More Important Than Maintaining Institutions
 8. Peace Would Be More Important Than Power
 9. It Would Care More About Love and Less About Sex
- This Life Would Be More Important Than the Afterlife*

Amen.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful celebration on the occasion of my retirement on June 3. I have loved every year of the 43 which we have spent together. I am overwhelmed by the generosity of your love offering, and Mike and I will remember you often as we make use of your gift in our travels this fall. The cards you have sent and the memory book pages you created brought back so many memories we have shared.

Special thanks are due to the Junior Choir singers and their skilled helpers who created the lovely quilt of musical memories. The Asbury Adult Choir outdid themselves with gifts and song writing as well. The Staff-Parish committee's carefully planned luncheon was the perfect end to a beautiful morning.

Thanks to my staff colleagues for their kindness and support over the years. Finally, I offer a special salute to my wonderful husband who has been the best helper anyone could imagine—from set up to tear down of so many concert events, to preparation of the chamber for the new organ, to listening to so many, many hours of practice, and last, but not least, for being a champion page turner.

I know you will be blessed by the music shared by Luke Tegtmeier, our new organist. I am confident that you will welcome him with your hospitality and care in the months ahead.

With gratitude and love,

Sally Casto

We wish to thank the Asbury United Methodist Women for the Special Mission Recognition presented to us on June 10th. We are grateful for the vital work that the United Methodist Women at Asbury contribute to our church and in the world. Thank you for your gift in our honor that supports ministries with women, children and youth. We will wear the pins with joyful hearts!

Gratefully,

Pastor Phil and Tammy Wilden

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

Summer Mission and Outreach opportunities you might want to participate in:

1. Asbury PIN Garden that provides produce for People In Need.

Contact: Ruth Ward at reward726@yahoo.com or cell# 419-651-8012

2. Andrews House Volunteer. Contact 740-369-4520 or info@andrewshouse.org

Website: www.andrewshouse.org.

3. Family Promise. Contact Kathleen Miller at 5milers1980@gmail.com

Website: www.familypromise-delawareohio.org.

4. Common Ground Free Store. Contact 740-369-3733

For more information:

www.commongroundfreestore.org.

5. Habitat For Humanity. Contact 740-363-9950

Website: www.habitatdelawareeco.org.

6. People In Need. Contact 740-363-6284

Website: www.delawarepeopleinneed.org

Each of these opportunities to volunteer are very worthwhile and provide you with ways to support efforts within your community.

If you need further information about any of these you may contact me at 409-670-3428 or japplebach@columbus.rr.com I hope you choose to be a volunteer in our community.

Thank You,

John Applebach

Mission and Outreach Chair



... we go to school, they go to school

Our Goal

The Asbury Campaign for Watoto Read will raise \$10,000 during Summer 2018 to build and furnish an adobe classroom and latrine for 60 children in a refugee camp in Chad.

Campaign Update

Asbury's campaign is off to a great start with more than \$3,500 already donated to Watoto Read! These funds have come from individual donations, a gift honoring our Sunday school teachers, Sunday school offerings, and sales of Asbury Garden Tour tickets and Fair Trade chocolate and coffee.

Organic Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate Products

Please visit the Watoto Read table to purchase one or more of these products to support Watoto Read:

- Box of 12 K-Cups of Coffee: \$12.00
- 12 oz. Bag of Ground Coffee: \$12.00
- 2.8 oz. Dark Chocolate Bars: \$4.00
- 10 oz. Bittersweet Chocolate Chips: \$4.00

Asbury Garden Tour – Sunday, July 8

Several members of Asbury will open their gardens as a fundraiser for Watoto Read. Asbury family and friends will be able to visit the gardens of Lew & Martha Fikes, Jake & Katie Gibson, Dave & Ashley Hejmanowski, Richard and Rosalie Hutter, Rock & Melissa Jones, Randy & Terri Litchfield, and Danny & Margie Vogt, and enjoy cookies and cold drinks on Dave & Kathleen Miller's patio. **Tickets are \$10 per person or \$30 per family.** Please support Watoto Read and enjoy some of our Asbury families' gardens! Tickets are available after church services. Please contact Kathleen Miller for tickets and more information.

**Save the Date – Sunday, August 26
Benefit Concert for Watoto Read featuring
Jasey Schnaars!**

Asbury Garden Tour

Sunday, July 8

1:30-6:00p

Lew and Martha Fikes (3085 Hills Miller Rd)-This is a tree, shrub, and perennial garden which uses many native plants. The wooded area comes alive with many spring ephemerals and other plants that have also been a surprise. Their garden is becoming more naturalized.

Jake and Katie Gibson (104 W. Winter St.)-Our children's garden is full of fun, and whimsical, daily well loved, hearty plants. The plants are healthy and strong because the children have watered them. Magic happens when you walk into the garden!!

Dave and Ashley Hejmanowski (339 N. Sandusky)-Designed by a master gardener, this garden features native and heirloom plants from early spring into late fall; something is always blooming.

Richard and Rosalie Hutter (3633 Royal Dornoch Circle)-This small 2-tiered perennial garden is anchored by two Alberta Dwarf Spruce and a Dwarf Red Maple. Overlooking a golf course, there is something in bloom each season. The east side of the house has hosta and hydrangea and the west side has lacecap hydrangea and perennials.

Rock and Melissa Jones (135 Oak Hill Ave.)-The landscape of this home reflects its casual contemporary style. Shade tolerant plants are in the court yard to fit the conditions created by the mature Magnolia trees. Some new plants were added to fill out other existing mature landscape beds. Many beds were recently enhanced to provide additional color.

Randy and Terri Litchfield (707 Bunty Station Rd)-This wonderful garden on 1.3 acres is focused on landscape beds as well as raised bed vegetable gardening. Inspired by Doug Tallamy's "Bringing Nature Home", they have hundreds of Ohio and regionally native perennials, shrubs, and trees which benefit butterflies and pollinators.

Dan and Margie Vogt (348 N. Liberty St.)-The front shaded walk features a variety of hosta, coral bells, and even a small fairy garden tucked among the lily of the valley. Perennials, two water features and Margie's pottery from her medical mission trips to Central America are highlighted. The backyard is designed with family in mind with wide open picnic and play areas to the fire pit for roasting marshmallows and hot dogs.

EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 2018

Bishop Tracy Malone called the annual conference to order on Monday & reminded us of the mission of the UMC which is to make "disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". She charged us to be "bold & courageous" in reaching new, younger & more diverse people. The Bishop stated the mission is the "why" of our church as we work to find a way forward to strengthen & maintain the unity of our church.

The quadrennial theme of the conference, from John 15:13-17, states we are "called, committed & connected to bear fruit that lasts". This fruit, the disciples of Jesus Christ, are God's agents of transformation in the world. We need to be bold & courageous to make disciples. The preachers & speakers were dynamic & inspiring as they offered their experiences of radical holy hospitality to refugees, the hungry, the LGBTQ community & the community of grandparents who are raising their grandchildren; and their experiences of risk taking to offer group therapy to young adults with mental illnesses & addressing the increasing opioid & drug use problem; as well as experiences with worship services held in the marketplace or a fitness facility.

The 2018 conference saw the retirement of 39 clergy, the second largest class in EOUMC history; the ordination of 10 individuals as Elder; 1 Deacon; and 8 as Provisional Members. Other statistics I found interesting include 1863 new EO members in 2017 by profession of faith. Also interesting, but not positive, is that only 18% of Americans are in church on Sunday and the total time those individuals want to spend "at church" is 78 minutes which includes the drive time to & from the worship service.

The business sessions of the conference included acceptance of the 2019 budget, review of clergy equitable compensation & benefits, reports from various conference committees & the fixing of clergy appointments & assignments. (Which I can happily add did NOT include Pastors Phil or Tammy Wilden).

Eleven resolutions were presented & voted upon this year. The passing ones included a call to identify & promote realistic options to stop gun violence; a call to examine policies & practices which permit racial disparity in housing, education, employment, medical care & protection from crime; a statement that the EOUMC opposes any state or federal legislation that restricts the right to address injustice through boycott, divestment or sanctions; and to encourage EO members to read, study & discuss the Social Principles as presented in the Discipline. Also a charge to the Board of Church & Society with how to respond to the issues of mass incarceration through education of EO members & interaction with lawmakers. Finally, as originated at the youth conference, to discuss improved school safety.

Resolutions not passing included addressing federal legislation on the detention of children by Israel & the rights of children living under Israeli occupation. Also a resolution regarding the investment of funds in companies that provide equipment or services involved in Israeli/Palestinian conflicts. Finally, a resolution which considers how the UMC should respond to a United Nations Convention regarding the incarceration of children both in the US and throughout the world.

Thank you for allowing me to represent Asbury at the 2018 annual conference.

-Marti Wickham

Sunday School Spotlight by Susan Speer-Powers



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 will serve as teachers for this group for one or two weeks throughout the summer. In July, the Children's Class will learn some of **Stories Jesus Told**. Through these Bible stories, Jesus teaches us how God wants us to live. The topics and teachers each week are as follows:

July 1: The Two Houses (based on Matthew 7:24-27)
– Lauren Vermilion and Sharon Hayes

July 8: The Two Debtors (based on Luke 7:36-50)
– Jim Bartha and Anne Miller

July 15: The Mustard Seed and the Yeast (based on Luke 13:18-21) – Janet and Rod Alsop

July 22: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (based on Luke 18:9-14) – Elizabeth Wilden and Sharon Hayes

July 29: The Ten Talents (based on Luke 19:11-26)
– Kathleen and Dave Miller

Intergenerational Class: An Intergenerational Spiritual Journey Class for **Youth Grades 6+ and Adults** are studying **John Wesley** this summer. The class uses a variety of materials and media and will be based on Adam Hamilton's *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It*. The class will be led by Jim Dietz and David Woods and meets in the McCoy Room.

Adult Class: The **Faith and Issues** class meets in the Parlor. In June, the class is reading and discussing *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World* by Henri Nouwen.

Sunday School Offering

The Sunday school classes are supporting Asbury's campaign for Watoto Read. To date, the classes have contributed \$106.98.

Vacation Bible School – Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!

Monday – Friday, July 9-13

6:30 – 8:00 PM (Monday – Friday)

Friday: Family Dinner and Special Program

Mission Project: Watoto Read

Ages: PreK (age 3+) through Grade 5

Note: Youth are encouraged to participate as

“VBS Shepherds!”

Registration forms are on the table in the foyer, and you can also register online on Asbury's website: <http://asburyohio.org/>.

Monday - Thursday Schedule:

- **Gathering Time** at 6:30 in the Sanctuary – Welcome and Bible Story
- **Activity Time** – Crafts, Games, Music, and More...
- **Snack Time** in the McCoy Room
- **Closing** at 7:45 in the Sanctuary – Mission Moment and Singing

New this year: On Friday evening, VBS participants and their families are invited to come for a family dinner followed by a special program.

Many helping hands are needed for a successful VBS – activity leaders, small group leaders, snack-makers and cleaner-uppers, and older children/youth to serve as small group helpers! We will also request food donations for snacks and a few items for the family dinner. Please watch for more information about exactly what we need. And please give prayerful consideration about volunteering to help with this year's VBS. If you wish to volunteer or have questions, please contact Jody Everett, Susan Speer-Powers, or Lisa Woods.



Ever wonder when the Asbury church goes on vacation? Has it ever not been here for you?

I've been coming to Asbury for eleven years and Asbury has always been here for me on Sundays—the doors unlocked, the lights on, water in the restrooms, swept floors and empty waste baskets. The snow and ice have been moved aside, the lawn is mowed, the bushes and flowers are in great shape. How does this happen? Doesn't it ever take a break?

It appears the church never takes a vacation. The staff are here all year working on bulletins, newsletters, planning the worship service, planning the music, preparing a sermon, planning the communion. The list goes on and on—paid staff as well as the many volunteers who make Sundays happen and bills are being paid during the week for all the church's activities throughout the year.

When you go on vacation, please remember the pledge you made to the church last November. Even if you are on vacation, the church is not. We are still here “leaving the light on” for your return. Our expenses happen twelve months of the year, even if you are not in the pew that Sunday.

Online giving is an option during your vacation or at anytime it is convenient for you. You can set Asbury up as a payee at your own financial institution (call me at 740-417-1866, I can give you the routing information) or another option is Asbury's website has a link for online giving:

<http://www.asburyohio.org>

Just set up a profile, choose where within the ministry you want your funds to go (general offering is the default), how much you want to donate and at what frequency. When you return from vacation, you can turn off the online giving if your envelopes are more convenient for you. I, for one, like to have something to put into the plate on Sunday. Will it be a sad day when the baskets are returned to the altar empty? What, just what would the counters count on Monday? Why, we would check online to see what you have given to the church!!! “We will rejoice and be glad in it” Psalm 118:24

Please consider online giving if you'll be away. Thanks for your attention.

-Jerrie Metz, Financial Secretary

A few notes from your Administrative Assistant:

If you have moved, changed your phone/email, or want to confirm your birthdate in our records, please let me know, either with a phone call, email, or note. I'll remember it better that way; sometimes I'm given information on a Sunday morning and I don't always remember it (Ah-the “senior” mind!)

Additionally, if you want to request a check from one of the Trust accounts, we now have a lovely lilac-colored form to be used for that request. I found that sometimes there was confusion regarding what accounts checks were to be drawn from by using the green form for both regular check requests and trust requests. The new form clearly says “Asbury UMC Trust Check Request”.

We have a new copier in the office—if you need some help using it, I'll be happy to show you its basic functions and features.

-Dawn McCleery