

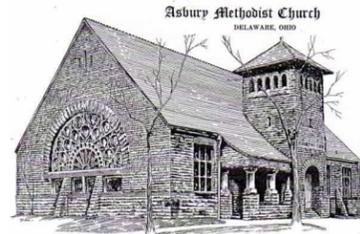
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
55 West Lincoln Avenue
Delaware, Ohio 43015

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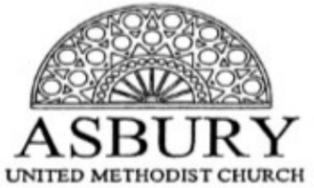
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Delaware, Ohio
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Pastor: Reverend Philip Wilden
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Mon.—Fri.
Phone: (740) 363-3611
Website: www.asburyohio.org
E-mail: church@asburyohio.org



The Messenger

July 2019



July Birthdays

- July 1: Andrew Chidester
- July 2: Mary Holm; Mona Ray
- July 5: Jerrie Metz; Bob Nims
- July 7: Vida Markward
- July 11: Tyler Blankenship; Fran Leclair;
Grace Lang; Casey Clark
- July 12: Alex Zahniser
- July 13: Richard Hutter; Jerrel Blankenship;
Lukas Everett
- July 15: Jacob Byerly; Jan Swanson
- July 18: Tom Brook, Daniel Casto, Tom Major
- July 19: Gwen Lemmon (Limited Activity List);
Andrew Vermilion
- July 20: Sue Chaney
- July 21: Lauren Vermilion; Thayne Gray
- July 24: Karl Hetzel; Jon Powers
- July 26: Ruth Ward
- July 27: Charlotte Gallant; Jay Hamilton
- July 30: Lois Benton; Andrea Colvin
- July 31: Yvonne Potts (Limited Activity List)



While Pastor Phil continues to spend time away from Asbury in order to renew and refresh his body, mind, and soul, the following individuals will lead our Sunday morning services until his return.

July 7—Jim Bartha
(Communion celebrant: Rev. Blake Michael)

July 14—Jim Dietz

July 21—Vicki Lefevre

July 28—Rev. Bill McCartney

August 4—Randy Litchfield
(Communion celebrant: Rev. Jon Powers)

Reverends Jon Powers, Blake Michael, and Bill McCartney will be available for pastoral care if needed during Pastor Phil's absence.

Willow Brook Services at 2 PM, First Sunday

On the first Sunday of every month, Asbury provides a spiritual respite to residents of Willow Brook Christian Village who are unable to attend regular church services. A team from Asbury presents a short program along with music to bring God's blessings to those attending. You do not need to be a minister to present the program; resources are available either in the church library or through others who have participated in this service. Anyone interested in helping with this ministry either as a pianist or the presenter may contact the church office and your name will be passed on to the organizer of the schedule. Below is the schedule and the Asbury teams for the rest of this year.

July 7: Jim Bartha/Jan Swanson

August 4: Jim Dietz/Carol Brulotte

September 1: Philip Wilden/Jan Swanson

October 6: Michael/Sally Casto

November 3: Rock Jones/David Hejmanowski

December 1: Jim Dietz/Nancy Reed

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 again volunteered to "captain" the bike check-in on Saturday July 27, as a way to raise funds for EYG. IRONMAN gives grants to non-profits with a volunteering component (EYG work camp). I need to "populate" two work shifts with 20 people in each shift on Saturday July 27. Everyone that participates in the IRONMAN has to drop off their bike on Saturday July 27. 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 1:30p, and 1:00p to 5:00p (you can sign up for both). And, BONUS!, you get a free t-shirt. Anyone can volunteer, but you have to register to volunteer. Either let me know at Church, or send me an email at radhetz@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 27th!



-Sue Hetzel

Church Family News

Several baptisms were performed in the past several weeks. First, Nicholas and Genevieve Bailly, son and daughter of Lara and Michael Bailly, were baptized May 26. Second, Chelsea Blankenship, daughter of Stacy Chaney-Blankenship and Jerrel Blankenship, was baptized on June 9. Last, Aiden Longstreth, son of Rachel and Michael Longstreth and nephew of Sharon Hayes, was baptized on June 23. May God bless these children and their families in their journey with God.

**Climate Justice Part 1
Reprisal of 23 June 2019 Sermon by
Lay Leader Leslie Beyer-Hermsen**

I had the good fortune back at the end of May to attend the conference “On Food and Faith: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change” held at MTSO. One of the guest speakers was Dr. Rattan Lal, a Distinguished Professor of Soil Science at The Ohio State University. His talk was titled “The Soil Will Save Our Soul.” He made the case of the importance of soil quality to world peace. He stated:

“Depleting soil organic matter and declining soil fertility, degrading soils and denuding landscapes, recurring droughts and intensifying heat waves, secondary salinization and increasing elemental imbalance, reducing water renewability and exacerbating scarcity, contaminating water and polluting air, low crop yields and perpetual hunger, poor nutrition and increasing malnourishment, marginal living and desperateness are as real a threat to global peace and security as are ICBMs and nuclear weapon proliferation because the fire that burns in the pit of an empty stomach is so intense and ferocious that it can only be extinguished by the divine powers of a loaf of bread made from grains grown on a healthy soil.”

Though I have been aware of the devastation of strip mining and hopefulness of farmers moving toward low till or no till methods, I have to admit that I have taken the very ground that we walk on—that our church is built on—for granted.

We have been entrusted with caring for the earth and all living things—not a small task. And sometimes we have done things well and moved things forward in very positive ways. At times, though, we have allowed busy lives and conveniences to distance us from the outside world that is part of who we are. There is no judgment in this, only a calling for an awareness—a calling to slow down to take notice of things and of how what we do has an impact on things entrusted to our care.

In the book, *Love God, Heal Earth* (by Sally G. Bingham), The Reverend Fred Small, the senior minister at First Unitarian Church in Littleton, Massachusetts, provides us with some concrete examples of threats to the environment and threats to principles of justice and compassion:

“Automobile fuel economy is an environmental issue. But when our dependence on cheap gasoline drives a tanker aground, and the spreading slick deprives an Inuit family of seal meat, that’s an issue of justice and compassion.”

“Recycling is an environmental issue. But when a Chicago woman who’s never smoked cigarettes gets lung cancer from breathing fumes from an incinerator burning recyclable trash, that’s an issue of justice and compassion.”

“Deforestation is an environmental issue. But when tree root systems no longer hold soil in place and a mudslide sweeps away a village, that’s an issue of justice and compassion.”

“Energy conservation is an environmental issue. But when our tax dollars subsidize prison construction instead of green job training that could keep at-risk teens out of prison, that’s an issue of justice and compassion.”

The living creatures and things who share this world with us remind us, if we slow down enough to look and listen, of our interconnectedness to and the impact that our lifestyles have on others. John Chryssavgis, an Eastern Orthodox Scholar in his book *Light Through Darkness* states it well:

“We are called to relearn the sense of communion or connectedness, that we are connected not only to one another, but also to the earth that binds us. And we will be judged, I believe, by the tenderness and delicacy with which we respond to nature—often a reflection of the way in which we treat human beings.”

And the way that we treat human beings is yet another form of climate justice. In my August 2019 Messenger article I will provide a reprisal of this second kind of climate justice that I addressed in my 23 June 2019 sermon.



Three Summer Multi-Generational Programs

Explore the Wonder of God’s Creation!

Wednesday evenings, July 10, 23, and August 7 6:00 – 8:15 PM



All ages are invited to participate in a series of three evenings at Asbury this summer where we will **Explore** the wonder of God’s creation. These programs replace our traditional week-long children’s VBS and are designed to bring together all ages as we share a meal and together engage in hands-on activities and worship. The topics will extend our exploration of environmental awareness and climate justice:

July 10 – Water

July 23 – All the Birds of the Air

August 7 – Trees of Field and Forest

These programs are for all ages... our youngest children, elementary children, youth, and adults. Nursery care will be provided. Please join us for one, two, or all three evenings of fellowship and fun. Come when you can!

If you would like to help with meals, leading an activity, or Taize worship, please contact one of the steering committee members: Terri Litchfield, Lynn Cook, or Susan Speer-Powers.

News from Asbury’s Project ESPWA Connection

A number of Asbury members have met with and supported Patrick Carrier over the past several years. Patrick came to the United States from the Project ESPWA (HOPE) Orphanage in Haiti. Two OWU grads, including Asbury member Kelsey Ullom and Rachel Vinciguerra, worked at ESPWA after they graduated, and an Asbury mission team lead by Jim Dietz, was at ESPWA several years ago.

After graduating from high school at Project ESPWA, Patrick enrolled at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington, with the help of several United Methodist churches and individual church members (including Asbury). Over the past two years, Patrick has visited Asbury several times.

Asbury just received the following news about Patrick from Rachel Vinciguerra: Patrick received his Associates Degree from Clark College in Vancouver, Washington, this spring, and he has been accepted as a transfer student to complete his Bachelor’s Degree at Ohio Wesleyan University. Patrick said he is excited to attend church at Asbury. Patrick received a generous scholarship from OWU, but it will not cover all expenses. Asbury members can continue to support Patrick’s education through the Patrick Carrier Scholarship Fund at Old South United Methodist Church in Reading, Massachusetts. To donate, write a check to “Old South UMC” with “Patrick Carrier Scholarship Fund in the memo line and send to:

Old South UMC
Attn: Trustee Treasure
6 Salem Street
Reading, MA 01867

Patrick’s journey from Haiti to Delaware is an example of how Asbury and the United Methodist connection combine mission and education to help the world... one person at a time! We look forward to having Patrick with us at Asbury when he arrives in Delaware this fall.

Sunday School Spotlight by Susan Speer-Powers

Children's Classes

Stacy Chaney-Blankenship is teaching the PreK-Grade 5 Sunday school class this summer in the K-2 classroom. All are welcome, even if you can't come every week. Just come when you can! Bible stories and activities in July revolve around Families of the Old Testament. Thank you, Stacy, for volunteering to teach this class!

July 7: Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6)

July 14: Sarah and Isaac (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7)

July 21: Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 24:1-67)

July 28: Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:19-28)



Youth Classes

Our regular Tweens (Grades 6-8) and Teens (Grades 9-12) classes will resume on September 1. Youth are invited to join the adult class for an intergenerational experience during the summer.

Adult Classes

This summer, we offer a special invitation to Asbury youth and to adults who do not normally attend Sunday school to come and participate in intergenerational discussions.

The **Faith and Issues Class** has decided to take a break for the summer. Class members are encouraged to join the Spiritual Journey Class in July and August.

The **Spiritual Journey Class** welcomes all Asbury youth and adults at 9:30 AM in the McCoy Room. The class is studying the Book of Acts this summer.

Second Sunday Class – July 14

What in the world is happening in our church? The February 2019 Special General Conference passed changes that made it more difficult for LGBTQ people to be full members of the United Methodist Church. Some people may leave the church, the UMC may split.

This class will meet on the second Sunday of each month (July 14 this month) in the McCoy Room to provide a safe place for open discussion and questions. Adults and youth are welcome to participate.

Sunday School Mission Project

Heifer International Garden Baskets: For April, May, and June, our Sunday school offerings support a Heifer project that provides garden supplies and training for families in need. Each donation of \$170 provides seedlings, rabbits, chickens, a hive of bees, and training in animal care, fertilization, and growing techniques. As of June 16, our offerings total \$359.65.

East Ohio Annual Conference, June 10 - 13, 2019

Report by Marti Wickham, Lay Member to Annual Conference

When I attended the 2018 East Ohio annual conference last year, I found it to be an uplifting event, and I came home energized and positive. This year, with the 2019 special General Conference last February strengthening differences of opinion regarding the inclusion of LGBTQ+ in the UMC, I was anxious about what may transpire and how it would effect the selection of delegates to the 2020 General Conference.

On Monday, when Bishop Tracy Malone gave her Episcopal Address, she stated “being committed to Christ commits us to one another. We are bound together in life, death, and the resurrection of Christ.” The Bishop boldly reminded us that we are united in Christ and as such we are more than our doctrine, more than our narrative, more than our differences, more than legislation, and even more than our creeds. We are all bound together as children of God. The 2019 annual continued the quadrennium theme from John 15:9-15 to “bear fruit that lasts: called, committed, and connected.” This year’s focus was on commitment, specifically the joy of making a commitment to take up residence in God’s love and extend that love to others.

Throughout the week, other preachers emphasized our being bound together. The Rev. Andy Call preached that we are better together, and the church should lead in bringing people together. Rev. Karen Graham stated we are all branches on God’s vine, and as such we need each other to be motivated and encouraged to bear fruit. Finally, Rev. Dogba Bass asked “what does love have to do with it?”, reminding us we are to love one another as God first loved us.

Resolutions acted upon this year include the following which DID pass:

1. A Resolution to Rebuild and Reclaim the Christian Community Church. This resolution calls for East Ohio churches to build relationships and community through personal and public activities. To renew our baptismal and confirmation vows to witness and live our faith as People of God.
2. Culture of Call Sunday. Worshipping communities should celebrate a “culture of call” to lift stories of callings into various ministries, and each congregation should encourage its members to prayerfully consider how God is calling them.
3. Educate and Inform the Conference about the Need for Reform of Post Release Sexual Offender Laws. This resolution encourages the Board of Church and Society to investigate how churches can best respond to the need for the reform of post release sexual offender laws.

Resolutions which did NOT pass:

1. Maintain Unity through Structural Realignment of the UMC. This resolution calls for the East Ohio delegates to the 2020 General Conference to work in favor of a realignment of the UMC through Wesleyan Methodism to allow both traditional and progressive understanding of LGBTQ+ clergy and same gender weddings to co-exist within the church.
2. A Healthy Way Forward. The EO Conference acknowledges the need for a healthy way forward that is characterized by dialogue, mutual respect and understanding, and multiple viable ways to resist evil, injustice and oppression; to reject the Traditional Plan as inconsistent with the Gospel, and work to eliminate any discriminatory language, restrictions and penalties in the Discipline regarding LGBTQ+ persons.

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Throughout the week, Rev. Dr. Douglas Powe addressed the conference with vision segments of learning about making and maturing disciples of Christ who can transform the world for God. Dr. Powe encouraged us to find creative entry points outside of worship where people can find God. Additionally, he identified things today's church may need to let go of: the typical worship experience in the sanctuary, not talking about certain subjects, making youth wait for "their turn" to be leaders, or thinking "we tried it once and it didn't work". Today's churches need to attract new, younger and more diverse people to survive.

This year was the 50th EO Conference and had 1418 attendees including 691 clergy and 727 laity members. During the business session, increases in conference health care costs, pension costs and clergy minimum cash salaries for 2020 were announced. Additionally, the Clergy Sustentation Aid Fund saw an increase in requests from 1 or 2 per year to 7 in 2018. Thus, as many churches are having difficulty finding funds for ministry, the Council on Finance and Administration announced a 5% decrease in apportioned ministry fund expenses so that local churches have more available for their respective mission fields.

Other statistics are the EO Conference paid 100% of the General Church apportionment for the 14th consecutive year; 2/3 of EO churches paid 100% of their apportionment. EO membership decreased 4.09% to 133,219 in 2018; average worship attendance is down 6.04% from 2018; professions of faith decreased 3.98% and baptisms decreased 7.15% since 2018. There were 5 EO churches closed in 2018, and another 5 are earmarked to close in 2019. Along with these numbers, it was noted that the number of small and support groups increased 3.12% and the number of persons serving in mission or community ministries increased by 4.05%.

We voted for delegates to the 2020 General Conference with both the Ohio Forward campaign and the Traditional campaign having their favored candidates. It took 17 rounds of voting to elect the EO delegates to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Results of those elections include 6 of 6 clergy and 1 of 6 lay persons for General Conference supporting the progressive/centrist platform. For Jurisdictional Conference, the results are 6 of 6 clergy and 4 of 12 lay persons as progressive/centrist.

We had services for Commissioning and Ordination with 10 clergy commissioned and 7 ordained. The Celebration of Retirement for 35 clergy, and a service of Commemoration for 49 persons including the Revs. Valerie Stultz and Ned Bixler. The Bishop set appointments for the following year, and thankfully, Pastors Phil and Tammey Wilden were NOT included in the new appointments.

\$24,958.00 was given as offering at conference. This money will be split 1/3 each to Urban Mission in Steubenville, the General fund at Africa University, and the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

It was a busy week at conference this year! Thank you for allowing me to represent Asbury.

Garden Helpers Needed

Can you help maintain the gardens at the church this summer? We need volunteers to help keep the various flower and PIN gardens free from weeds. Additionally, the produce from the PIN garden needs to be picked and taken to their location on Johnson Dr. You may sign up for a week for the PIN garden; production in the PIN garden is ongoing through July, August, and September. Depending on the weather and growth of the vegetables, the delivery of produce to PIN is normally twice within your week. You do not have to water any of the gardens; there is a sprinkler system. The flower beds can be weeded by anyone at any time. Garden waste bags are provided. Questions? See Dawn McCleery in the church office or you can talk with Peter Baylis, Ruth Ward, or Brad Ross.

Dear Asbury Congregation,

Thank you for your generosity in donating money towards my Eagle Scout project. I've purchased the materials and will start construction soon.

Thank you for your continued support.

Bryce Dawson

Asbury Summer Choir Experience

Sunday, July 28, 2019

Rehearsal: 9:30 am, Sanctuary

Sing in Worship at 10:45 am

Singing is good for the soul! You are cordially invited to sing in our second annual Summer Choir!

Bring yourself, your friends and join others in preparing the anthem for Sunday worship. Teens entering grades 9-12 are welcome. Please come to the sanctuary at 9:25 am to receive your music for the day. Rehearsal will begin at 9:30. All voice parts are welcome!

Jan Swanson

Director of Music and Choirs

jdswan80@aol.com

Asbury Music Staff Summer Enrichment

Our organist, **Luke Tegtmeier** will attend The Great Lakes Region Conference of the American Guild of Organists in Grand Rapids MI from June 30 – July 3. Participants will enjoy a treasure trove of instruments in the city and will travel to nearby Holland to hear the new Casavant organ in the concert hall at Hope College.

Our Director of Music and Choirs, **Jan Swanson** will attend and serve as faculty at Michael Burkhardt's (organist, composer, educator) Hearts, Hands and Voices summer Worship and Arts Camp August 12-15, 2019. Jan is in the second year of a three-year apprenticeship with 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. All of the instructors are trained musicians/music educators." (from the Hearts, Hands and Voices website, c. 2019)