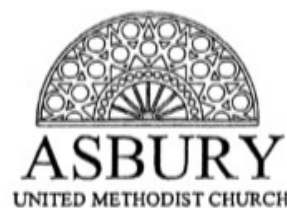


ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
55 West Lincoln Avenue  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Return Service Requested

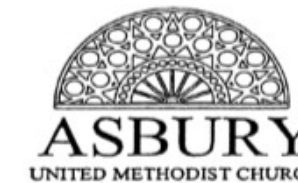
Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Delaware, Ohio  
Permit No. 43



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](http://www.asburyohio.org)  
E-mail: [church@asburyohio.org](mailto:church@asburyohio.org)

# The Messenger

## March 2017



### Lenten Worship Schedule

- March 1 Ash Wednesday**  
7:30pm Worship service led by Robert Blanchard
- March 5 First Sunday in Lent**  
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11  
Sacrament of communion will be celebrated.
- March 12 Second Sunday in Lent**  
Genesis 12:1-4, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17
- March 19 Third Sunday in Lent**  
Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42
- March 26 Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
1 Samuel 16:1-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

### Chocolate Fare Update

The Chocolate Fare held on February 11, 2017 was a great success. The United Methodist Women made \$2,087 toward our pledge to mission. This event would not be possible without the help and support of many people. Thank you to the congregation and the MAP and Journey youth for making this Chocolate Fare a terrific event.

### Time for Easter Flowers

We would once again like to have Spring flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. You can order Easter lilies, spring bulbs like tulips and hyacinths or other blooming plants, with prices ranging from \$10.00—\$15.00 each. If you would like to purchase flowers, an order form is included and will also appear in the bulletin beginning March 5th. Please have all orders in by March 24th.

The children will help decorate the sanctuary by carrying in the flowers at the Easter Vigil on April 15th, so that we will have the full beauty of our "garden" on Easter morning.



### The Ordinary

By Pastor Phil

*"We are so easily unimpressed by the ordinary, longing for the feeling of excitement that comes with a new task to take up, new people to engage, new challenges to face." -Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove*

The above quotation is from the book *The Wisdom of Stability: Rooting Faith in a Mobile Culture*. The author reminds us of the powerful undertow that pulls us away from the ordinary routines and causes us to hunger for something more exciting. As a result, we often discount or dismiss the routine.

Nevertheless, as my preaching professor, Ernie Campbell, once put it, "The ordinary over the years has proved more useful to God than the spectacular."

As the church enters the season of Lent, I encourage you to take a new look at some of the old spiritual disciplines which have stood the test of time. These disciplines include, but are not limited to, Sunday morning worship with the gathered community, small group worship settings with "in home communion", setting aside a few moments each day for "Forty Days of Prayer for Five People", committing oneself to a time of fasting or "giving up" of something in order to be more focused on God, or participating in a Sunday school class or Lenten book study.

Obviously, I am not "making up" anything new but simply repeating what Christians of all times and places have found useful.

(continued on next page)

Cont'd—The Ordinary

I also remind you, and invite you to join, our Friday Morning Prayer Group, which meets every week at 8:00am for about 20 minutes. They lift before the Lord the names of many in our congregation and community who have faced, and are facing, particular challenges.

Besides the names included in our weekly bulletin, they pray for many, many more, including cancer survivors, persons with ongoing needs, and persons who may not want their name printed in the bulletin but nevertheless are grateful that a few souls are remembering them in prayer.

If you would like to join them on Friday, occasionally or on a regular basis, you are more than welcome. Wherever two or three are gathered, God is present and listening.

### Asbury In-Home Communion Services

It has been a tradition at Asbury for many years to offer additional opportunities for the congregation to participate in communion during Lent in an intimate and informal setting in members' homes. We are blessed to have many clergy members in our congregation who are willing to serve as celebrants for these services. After communion, you may enjoy a time of refreshments and fellowship. Children are welcome at all the services. If you wish to attend, please sign-up so that our hosts may plan accordingly. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the foyer.

#### Thursday, March 9, 7:00PM

Location: Home of Vicky Cremer  
536 Brickstone Dr.  
Celebrant: Rev. Jon Powers

#### Wednesday, March 29, 7:00PM

Location: Home of Rock & Melissa Jones  
135 Oak Hill Ave.  
Celebrant: Rev. Rock Jones

#### Tuesday, March 14, 3:00PM

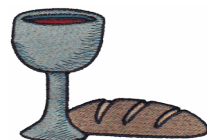
Location: Willow Brook  
100 Delaware Crossing W.  
Room to be determined  
Celebrant: Rev. Bill McCartney

#### Thursday, April 6, 6:30PM

Location: Home of Jen & Rene Villanueva-Henkle  
274 N. Sandusky St.  
Celebrant: Rev. Michael Casto  
\*This is a child-focused service.

#### Wednesday, March 22, 7:00PM

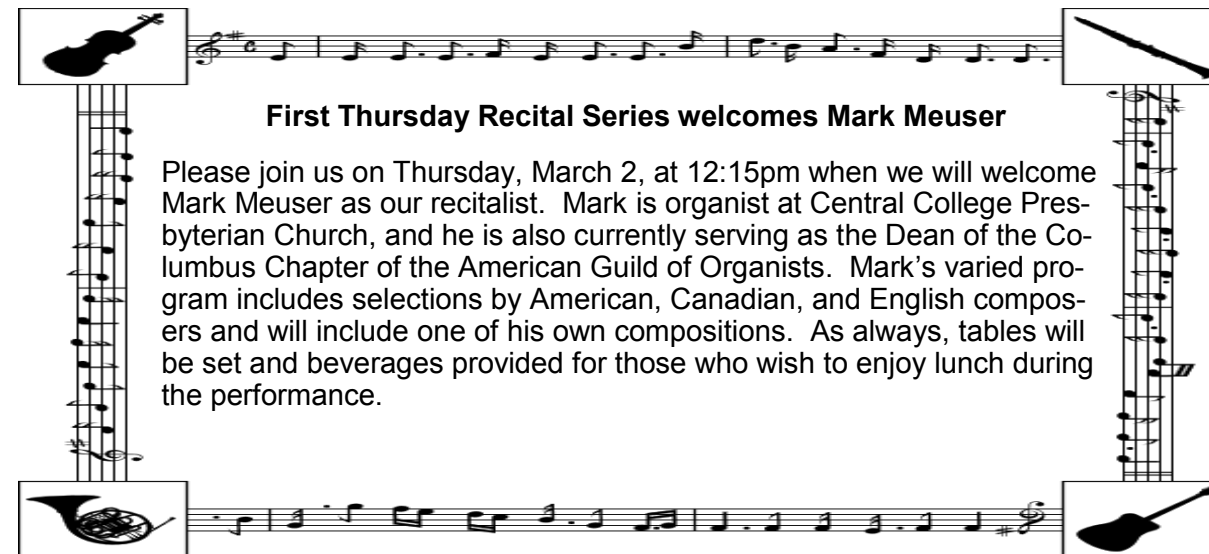
Location: Home of Valerie & Buck Stultz  
680 Covered Bridge  
Celebrant: Rev. Valerie Stultz



### Worship Committee seeks input for possible Worship service for Alzheimer's patients

At its February meeting, the Worship Committee discussed a suggestion that Asbury might offer a worship service for Alzheimer's patients, held concurrently with our regular service, so that caregivers could attend the regular service while their loved ones took part in a service designed for their needs. This would serve two purposes: to provide worship designed specifically to serve Alzheimer's patients and to provide a break for caregivers who could participate freely in the regular service.

Committee members would like to know : 1) if there are families who might appreciate such a service and 2) of persons who might wish to provide or assist with the service. If this ministry is to be offered, it would likely be on a monthly basis. Please share your comments with Peter Baylis at 614-749-4712 or by email at majorbaylis@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping us consider this request.



### First Thursday Recital Series welcomes Mark Meuser

Please join us on Thursday, March 2, at 12:15pm when we will welcome Mark Meuser as our recitalist. Mark is organist at Central College Presbyterian Church, and he is also currently serving as the Dean of the Columbus Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Mark's varied program includes selections by American, Canadian, and English composers and will include one of his own compositions. As always, tables will be set and beverages provided for those who wish to enjoy lunch during the performance.

### The Asbury Arts Series welcomes The Scioto Valley Brass and Percussion Company on April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Our next Asbury Arts Series concert will welcome the return of The Scioto Valley Brass and Percussion Company on Sunday afternoon, April 2, at 4:00 pm. This outstanding ensemble last performed for us in November, 2005. The 36 member group features players on alto and baritone horn, soprano cornet, cornet, euphonium, flugelhorn, trombone, tuba, and percussion.

We encourage you to come and bring your friends and neighbors for this spirited afternoon concert. There is no admission charge; a free will offering will be received.



### Thank You!

Please extend a **very sincere thank you to all at Asbury Church** who sent cards, notes, candy and flowers over the holidays, as well as to those who took time to visit Laura Bump. Each card was read out loud by Laura to me, and she and I discussed who sent the card. Giving her a bit of time, she always came up with the answer and associated the sender to church, golf, or OWU.

I am hoping that cards continue to be sent to Laura as it does give her great pleasure. My many thanks also to all for the caring and generosity.

Best regards,

Donna Stusek

(friend of Laura Bump)

## UMW General Meeting

The first General Meeting of 2017 will be Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor. The program topic is "A Time to Hope," and relates to issues of current race relations being studied by UMW as part of its 2017 theme, "A Call to Community," and by the Faith and Issues class using the book "The New Jim Crow." All are invited. Hannah Circle is hostess.

## UMW Book Sale

The 2017 book sale will be Saturday, April 1, 9:00-3:00 upstairs in the Education building. Donations of books and AV materials will be accepted up to the time of the sale. They may be placed in or near the box in the foyer. Please no textbooks, magazines, moldy or disintegrating items.

The donations sorted on Feb. 18 included a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction, with a good number of cookbooks and a Civil War collection. Volunteers are needed for sorting on March 4 and 18, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon, and also for setup on March 30 and 31 and the day of the sale. Sign up after church on March 26.

—Julia Foster, Book Sale Coordinator 740-363-3562 or  
juliafoster10@gmail.com

## UMW Circle Meetings

Hannah Circle: Wednesday, March 15, @ 1:30 p.m.  
Program: "Maternal and Child Health," Call to Prayer & Self Denial by Demi Badger.  
Hostess: Linda Sheets, 156 Calumet Court.

Lydia Circle: Thursday, March 9, @ 7:00 p.m.  
Program: Call to Prayer & Self Denial.  
Hostess: Tammey Wilden, 160 Curly Smart Circle.

Rebekah Circle: Wednesday, March 15, @ 9:30 a.m.  
Program: "Maternal and Child Health," Call to Prayer & Self Denial by Sandy Miller.  
Hostess: Carol Brulotte, 292 W. Fountain Avenue.

**Not a UMW member but interested in attending a meeting? We welcome visitors and new members. Please contact the hostess so she can plan accordingly.**

## UMW Book Report by Mona Ray

*The Reason : How I Discovered a Life Worth Living* by Lacey Sturm is one of the best books I have read in a long time. Lacey was a very troubled teen. She came home from school, thinking her grandmother would not be there. She planned on killing herself. Her grandmother was home; she kept tabs on Lacey throughout the day and made her go to church that day. Her encounter with the pastor changed her life. Please read this book. There are so many quotes I marked to write here but I don't have room. One of the chapters talks of words. God spoke and creation happened. Words to a child happen. "You're ugly." This is how bullying works. Following are some sentences about bravery: "It is brave to find ways to lay down your life to serve the people around you." "It is brave to forgive and to choose to love those who hurt you, even though they don't deserve it." "It is brave to trust that the God who gave you life in the first place has a good plan in mind even when everything around you looks like hell." "It is brave to live." Lacey was a member of the Christian hard-rock group, Flyleaf. After a brief solo career, the grammy-winning artist has formed a new band, Lacey. This is a spiritual growth book of 2017.

## **Feeding the Good Wolf**

By Lay Leader Vickie Lefevre

According to an iconic parable, an old Cherokee Chief is teaching his grandson about life. He says to the boy, "A fight is going on inside me. It is a terrible struggle between two wolves. One is evil—he is hatred, anger, greed, arrogance, bigotry and all else that is dark. The other wolf is good—he is love, kindness, generosity, compassion, faith, and all else that is light. This same struggle is going on inside you, my dear grandson, and inside every other human being." After several moments of silence, the boy asks, "Which wolf will win?" His grandfather calmly replies, "The one you feed."

Famous teen-aged diarist Anne Frank grappled with the wolves of evil and good. If you know even a little about her story, you understand that she had every reason to lose optimism, to hate, and to succumb to the "evil wolf" inside her. In 1942, for her 13th birthday, Anne's father Otto bought her a diary. Within a month, the Franks, a Jewish family of four, went into hiding in Amsterdam where they remained for two years until the Nazis discovered them and deported all four to German concentration camps. (Interestingly, Otto had attempted to gain refugee status in the United States in 1938 and 1941 but was denied both times.) During her years in hiding, Anne faithfully wrote in her diary, chronicling both normal adolescent transitions like awareness of her budding sexual feelings (the book has been banned in some schools because of these passages) and surreal adolescent experiences, such as hiding from the Nazis and living in terror that her family would be found.

Her diary clearly conveys that, while Anne wrestled with both wolves inside her, her good wolf prevailed. An entry from July 15, 1944 reads, "It is a wonder that I haven't abandoned all of my ideals. They seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, despite everything, that people are truly good at heart." Otto would say later, after the war ended and he had read Anne's diary, that he had no idea that his teenage daughter possessed such depth and complexity in her thinking.

Less than one year after the July 15, 1944, entry, Anne died from typhus in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Losing his entire family, only Otto Frank survived, and it was he who orchestrated the publication of his daughter's diary, most likely never anticipating that it would be translated into 67 different languages, sell over 30 million copies, or that in 1999 his daughter would be declared by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century.

The Cherokee Chief asserts that every human being grapples with both the evil and good wolf. Especially in today's political climate, no matter how good our intentions, it often seems impossible to "feed the good wolf." As citizens in this democracy, we know how important it is to stay informed and educated on the issues, but the news we then internalize virtually guarantees a feast for the "bad wolf" with its overwhelming negativity: conflicting "truths" to discern, distressing personal accounts of injustice and hardship, and repeated violations of the most basic principles of relationship "we learned in kindergarten." We are often shocked by our own country—this is not the America we know, not the America that welcomes "your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," not a civil and compassionate "home of the brave." We desire information but without the spiritual burdens it brings with it. In effect, we do not want to feed that evil wolf by depositing poison into our brains.

Because most "people truly are good at heart," they care about their country, their fellow citizens, and the policies that affect public life in America and abroad. Good people believe in justice, respect, and mercy. Our country needs good people. Therefore, all of us who aspire to "become the change we want to see" must continue to seek and study reliable news sources, and use our voices, phones, and pens to be heard by our elected officials. We have a sacred responsibility both as citizens of this great country and as followers of Jesus to contribute our voices to solutions, to activism grounded in love and integrity. Neither blissful ignorance nor silence contributes to change.

In the 40-day period of Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, to giving up certain luxuries, or to adding in daily spiritual disciplines such as prayer, specific spiritual readings, or random acts of kindness. Whenever we intentionally emulate the life of Christ, we feed the good wolf and contribute to the goodness Anne Frank believed in—one person at a time. Amen.

**Spotlight on Christian Education** by Susan Speer-Powers

**Children and Youth Sunday School Classes**

In March, the children's classes learn about ways that **Jesus Shows Love...**

Mar. 5 ...to Ten Lepers

Mar. 12 ...to Zacchaeus

Mar. 19 ...at the Last Supper

Mar. 26 ...in the Garden

Youth dive deeper into the season of Lent as they explore these themes and stories:

Mar. 5 Praising Jesus (The Entry Into Jerusalem)

Mar. 12 The Power of Faith and Prayer (Jesus Teaches on Faith and Prayer)

Mar. 19 Sharing Communion (The Last Supper)

Mar. 26 Prayer (Jesus in Prayer)

**Sunday School Mission Projects**

From October through January, Sunday school offerings of \$542.72 went to support Asbury's stained glass window repair project.

Our new mission project is "Imagine No Malaria," which is a special project of the United Methodist Church Board of Global Ministries. Every 60 seconds, a child in Africa dies from malaria. For the next several months, our Sunday school offerings will go towards the purchase of insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Each net costs just \$10, and these nets have proven to be effective in fighting malaria in Africa.



**Church Library Consultation**

Since 1999 I have been Church Librarian, succeeding Charlotte Gallant. I have had assistance in maintaining the card catalog (typing sets of cards) first from Doris Mauck and later from Treva Everett. As Treva is now deceased, I want to begin exploring future options for the library, including computerizing the catalog.

Church libraries exist with various degrees of organization, from random books on shelves, all the way to rather complete systems such as the one we've been using, with Dewey classification numbers, full catalog records (author, title, subjects), and inserted book cards for checkout. There are various ways the system could be simplified (for example, grouping books in broad categories, putting checkout on "honor system" without cards, etc.). I've not found the present system burdensome, apart from keeping up with cataloging. Rather than take on the card-typing myself, I recommend we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

So far I've operated without any formal Library Committee, but now will need to identify people with knowledge and willingness to pursue various tasks. Ad Council has authorized me to proceed to ask for help with:

1. Identifying and selecting a catalog program and purchasing needed software and hardware.
2. Beginning automated cataloging of new items and retrospective conversion of those already in the library.
3. Identifying one or more persons interested in continuing work with the church library, assisting and/or replacing me.

I've scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. in the Church Library. If you are interested in helping in any way, please join us. I'm especially interested in those knowledgeable about computer software and able to advise a choice of program. I have done online cataloging (through OCLC) but have no experience in choosing systems suitable for a small library. I'm making some preliminary inquiries before the meeting.

If you are interesting in helping but cannot attend the meeting, please let me know. Thanks!

Julia Foster, Church Librarian

740-363-3562; juliafoster10@gmail.com

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our Children's Corner and Nursery continue to need additional volunteers. We currently have 13 volunteers for Children's Corner and 17 for the nursery with 2 volunteers that float between the two as needed. Each ministry requires 2 volunteers each week: Children's Corner has a brief lesson and activities during the sermon (all materials are organized and provided to you) and the Nursery (for ages 3 and under) operates from 10:30AM until the service is over. I create schedules in three-month increments and you have the option to choose which dates work for you. As each schedule covers 12-13 Sundays, and volunteers are ideally asked to serve no more than twice each quarter, you can see that we are not operating with a lot of spare volunteers—especially when you consider illnesses, vacations, and other things life tosses one's way! As we move into March, scheduling for April through June will begin. Please consider contacting me with questions or to add your name to our roster of wonderful helpers! Thanks!

Angie Haase, 740-369-3869 or Angela.haase@me.com

**On the Christian Education Bookshelf...**

***Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter*** by Laura Alary (Paraclete Press, 2016)

This book is an invitation for children (and adult readers, too) to wonder about the Lenten story. It helps children experience Lent with all their senses and to see it as a special time for creating a welcoming space for God. Readers of all ages consider new ways to Make Time, Make Space, and Make Room, just as Jesus did in the weeks leading up to Holy Week. This book is in the Asbury Library.