

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.

Phone: (740) 363-3611/Fax: (740) 368-8405

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E-mail: church@asburyohio.org

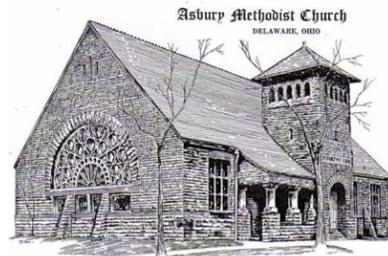
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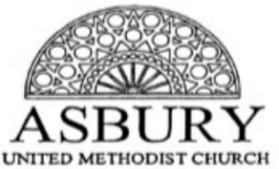
PAID

Delaware, Ohio

Permit No. 43



March 2018 Messenger



A Lenten Geography: A Sermon Series

March 4 Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 2:13-22

The Temple: A Place of Cleansing

March 25 Palm Sunday

Scripture: Luke 19:39-44

The Mount of Olives: A Crying Place

March 11 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 4:1-42

Samaria: A Place of Prejudice

March 29 Maundy Thursday

Scripture: Mark 14:17-25

The Upper Room: A Place of Decision

March 18 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 12:20-33

Jerusalem: A Fickle Place

Confirmation Class Has Begun

by Pastor Phil

At Asbury we have typically offered confirmation class on alternative years for youth in grade 7 and above. That seems to work well for a church our size where some years, we don't have a lot of kids in a particular grade. The past three classes were led by Emily and Jim Dietz, and we have been grateful for the interest and preparation they gave to this.

This year I am leading confirmation, and since most of the congregation is not directly involved, I thought you might be interested in knowing more about it. At present we have nine young people participating, and we are meeting on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

I think young people these days easily become isolated and alone. Due to social media, they may know a lot about the last 24 hours, but they know much less about the last 200 years or the last two millennia in the church. In response, I prepared a series of lessons that I hope will help them realize they are part of something much bigger than themselves. I have called it "*Finding Ourselves in God's Story.*"

The first session is titled "Worshipping in a Building Someone Else Constructed." We will learn about the history of the Asbury congregation and have a little scavenger hunt in the building. Our forebears in faith literally left their fingerprints on this place we call our church, and we want to learn more about them.

The second session is called "Singing Songs with Other Voices." We will learn more about the hymnal, not just as a collection of songs, but also as a book of worship that reflects the emphases of the Methodist movement. The hymnal includes a collection of texts and tunes from many cultures and every century. When people criticize hymnals as reflecting "just one kind of music from one point in time," they just don't know what they are talking about.

Our next session is "Praying the Prayer Jesus Taught Us." The early Christians, as they prepared for their baptism at Easter, were taught about the Lord's Prayer and why Jesus gave it to us. We will look at the particular petitions of the prayer, as well as think about prayer in general and why it can be hard for us.

First Thursday Organ Recital March 1, 2018

On Thursday, March 1, at 12:15pm, we welcome Mark Meuser as our First Thursday recitalist. Organist at Central College Presbyterian Church in Westerville, Mark is a composer, author, teacher, and very fine organist! He first appeared on our series last year, and we are delighted that he has returned with another insightful program for us. As always, tables will be set and beverages provided for those who wish to enjoy lunch during the recital.

The Asbury Arts Series presents composer Michael Burkhardt

conducting Love Unknown: A Festival of Passion Readings and Hymns

Sunday afternoon, March 4, 3:00pm

We are very excited to share with the congregation about our upcoming Lenten concert on March 4. It is rare indeed to have the composer of a concert work appear in our sanctuary to conduct its performance. Michael Burkhardt, whose organ and choral works have been frequently shared in our morning worship services, will be with us the weekend of March 3 and 4. He will rehearse with our choirs, play the organ during our morning service, and then conduct his **Love Unknown** at the Arts Series concert at 3pm on Sunday afternoon.

This work involves our Junior Choir, Readers, Handbell Choir, a Brass Quartet, flute, violin, organ, and timpani, our Chancel Choir, **and you, the congregation.** Burkhardt describes his work as "... a means for God's people to journey with Jesus, from his triumphal entry in Jerusalem to his death on Calvary's cross."

We invite you to plan now to participate with us in this journey through the Passion Story.

-Jan Swanson and Sally Casto

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The fourth session is "Reciting Creeds Someone Else Wrote." We will learn about the Apostles' Creed, which was one of the earliest creeds, and we will also review the other creeds in our hymnal. When we say "I believe," we are not starting from scratch. We have a foundation of good thinking to build upon, and some of those people died for their beliefs.

"Receiving a Book from Our Forebears in Faith" will be an opportunity for us to gain some "helps" for understanding the Bible more fully. I would hope this might encourage faithful participation in a Sunday school class, which not only helps us learn the scriptures but also helps us experience what it means to be in a learning community.

"On a Family Tree with an Englishman Named John Wesley" will explore our Methodist roots. I realize that our young people someday may be participating in another tradition. But just as many of you had been Presbyterian or Lutheran or Baptist or Catholic and carry some of those influences with you, I think it's important for our students to have a sense for "where we come from" as United Methodists.

"The Font of Remembrance, the Table of Forgiveness" will be an opportunity for us to think about the meaning of the sacraments of baptism and communion. In fact, confirmation is an opportunity for young people to prepare for their baptism, or if they were baptized when they were younger, to reaffirm the meaning of their baptismal covenant.

The final session is "Knowing that We Are Never Alone," which I hope will give us an opportunity to tie some of these themes together, as well as prepare for confirmation Sunday on May 20, which is Pentecost.

There is more to say, and I hope to return to this topic in next month's *Messenger*.

Patrick Carrier comes back to Asbury on March 25, 2018

On January 3, 2017 Asbury hosted a potluck dinner to meet and celebrate Patrick Carrier. Patrick grew up in Haiti, spending much of his childhood at Project Espwa. Through the generosity of many, including Asbury United Methodist Church through its Mission and Outreach Committee, as well as other Asbury members, Patrick has been able to come to the United States for higher education. He is attending/completing his two years at Clark Community College in the state of Washington.

During his spring break, Patrick will be visiting Ohio Wesleyan University. Patrick will again be accompanied by Rachel Vinciguerra, an Ohio Wesleyan graduate, who spent a year at Project Espwa as a volunteer coordinator along with our own Kelsey Ullom. As part of his trip to OWU, on Sunday March 25, Patrick will be attending worship at Asbury. We are grateful and blessed to be able to share this opportunity to be in Christian unity and deepen our relationship with Patrick.

Asbury will be hosting Patrick and Rachel for a potluck lunch immediately following the service. All are welcome.

-Jim Dietz

Thank you for the cards and prayers and the beautiful poinsettia at Christmas. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Yours truly,
Ethel & David Lehner

Thank you to those in the Asbury congregation who sent me get well cards when I was so sick in January. They were much appreciated.

I am doing much better now and your thoughts and prayers worked!

Sue Koloff

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

- Make water, milk and juice your only drinks for Lent / next few weeks
- For every time you want a soda, energy drink or not an important drink, you save that money, at the end of the challenge bring your savings to Asbury to go to Heifer International to drill wells for clean, safe drinking water.
- The benefits include saving lives and improving your own health.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

-ASBURY JOURNEY YOUTH

A WAY FORWARD CONVERSATIONS at ASBURY on THURSDAY, MARCH 8

The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination, and possible revision, of every paragraph of *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality, and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. Bishop Tracy Malone opened the planning sessions for these conversations last May with these words:

"We are here today because we honor and acknowledge that we all hold different views on how we interpret the scriptures as it relates to human sexuality. We are here acknowledging that we have different ways of how we are engaged in relationships and in ministry with our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer brothers and sisters in Christ, the beloved community, the beloved children of God. We are called to be the Church. We are called to be those who embody the love and the grace of God."

With these words from Bishop Malone's words in mind, conversations across our denomination and conference have been launched in preparation for a special General Conference in February of 2019 where a vote will be taken by all delegates and a new and hopefully unified course will be set for the United Methodist Denomination. As we prepare, the following questions about our current situation have been offered by the Council of Bishops:

- In our diverse and global existence, what is the shared mission of the Church?
- Is there a proactive way to live together in our differences that doesn't presume that we will solve our differences? If so, what would it be?
- What might be a form of unity that would empower us living together?
- What *is* our witness and what can *be* our witness to the world in relation to our differences?
-

All clergy and laity in the East Ohio Conference are invited, and encouraged, to participate in the local Conversations on a Way Forward.

Thursday March 8, 2018 - Asbury UMC Delaware

Time: 6pm-9pm Sign in, with coffee and light refreshments, begins 30 minutes prior to the start of the conversation. Our time together begins in the sanctuary with worship and framing of the context of the conversations using information from the suggested pre-gathering readings. Participants will then be dismissed to the rooms where their small groups of eight people will meet.

To register for this event and download preparation material go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/conversations-on-a-way-forward-registration-38001533610>
Questions may be addressed to Valerie Stultz – vsstultz704@gmail.com

*A copy of the suggested preparation materials is available in the church office.

A number of persons who work on weekdays have expressed an interest in the Exploring the Mystics experience offered on Thursday mornings. In response to this desire, I will be offering this same study on Saturday, March 17 from 8 am to Noon. If you would like to register, contact me - Valerie Stultz (vsstultz704@gmail.com) 440.668.1606.

UMW News (United Methodist Women)

Circle Meetings:

Hannah Circle: March 21– 1:30p
Program: “Learning for a Lifetime,”
Call to Prayer & Self-Denial by
Mona Ray
Hostess: Ann Elliot at the church

Lydia Circle: March 15—7:00p
Program: “The Sacred Space of
Legacy/Inheritance” by Judy Maxwell
Hostess: Grace Lang
100 Del. Xing W. Apt. 3011

Rebekah Circle: March 21– 9:30a
Program: “Learning for a Lifetime:
Developing Leaders,” Call to
Prayer and Self-Denial by Jayne
Marcum. To be held at Fresh
Start Café & Bakery

Other Opportunities:

March 17: Officers’ Training and Appreciation Brunch
at Harmony Chapel UMC.

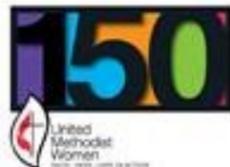
March 23: Day of Giving—Save the date and join us
in celebrating Day of Giving on March 23. Giving to
The Legacy Fund supports the continuation of UMW
service and advocacy for women, children, and youth
from this generation to the next.

Mid-Ohio District Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Mansfield Trinity UMC

Our speaker for the day, Arlene Smith, has made
several medical mission trips to Kenya and Haiti. The
program also includes a memorial service to honor
members who passed in 2017, the acceptance of
Second Mile giving items, recognition of local organi-
zation goals attained, and a communion service.



Chocolate Fare

The Chocolate Fare held on February 10,
2018 was a great success. The United Meth-
odist Women made over \$1800 toward our
pledge to mission. There were so many
amazing chocolate desserts of every kind,
and the café was filled with people enjoying
treats and good fellowship. It was a wonder-
ful day! Thank you to the congregation and
the MAP and Journey youth for making this
Chocolate Fare a terrific event.

Days for Girls: A UMW Sewing Bee

Days for Girls is an international organization
that provides environmentally friendly sanitary
supplies to girls and young women who other-
wise would miss out on 5 or more days of
school each month. These carefully made kits
will last about 3 years. On March 10 from 1 to
3 o’clock we will begin sewing some of the
components. We need volunteers to cut fab-
ric, sew and press. If you are interested,
please talk to Demi Badger
(demibadger@yahoo.com or Emma Dixon
(deladoc@yahoo.com).

UMCOR Sunday

**On Sunday, March 18, Asbury will cele-
brate UMCOR Sunday.**

**For more than 75 years, the United Meth-
odist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has
provided disaster relief, often long after
others have left the scene; aided refugees;
and confronted the crippling challenges of
world hunger and poverty.**

**Your financial support on UMCOR Sunday,
formerly known as One Great Hour of
Sharing, will make it possible for UMCOR
to continue to respond when disaster
strikes.**

A Journey from a Safe Place to a Brave Space By Lay Leader Leslie Beyer-Hermsen

Last year at this time, we were working with Noah to plan for his junior year in high school. His teachers at the Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD), his dad, and I all thought Noah should attend the Open House at Delaware Area Career Center (DACC) to see if he might be interested in any of their career tracks. For some reason, Noah was initially adamantly opposed to attending the Open House, but in the end agreed to do so. When the evening of the Open House arrived, Noah and I drove over together. We signed in and began to walk around to the various tables while we waited for our turn to meet with the Equine Sciences teacher. During this time, Noah became agitated and soon walked out of the building and started to walk home. I was a bit upset with him for leaving the event before having the chance to check out a career program. I caught up with him and we drove home together. When we got home, I allowed the two of us to have some space because I was still not pleased that he had not stuck to his part of the bargain to check out the career programs at the Open House. After some time had subsided, I approached Noah to talk about what had happened, though it was clear what happened—right? Not exactly. When I took the time to talk with Noah and to really listen to him, I found that he had misunderstood what was going on when we signed in for the Open House. He mistook the signing in as me enrolling him at DACC, so it was I who had not stuck to my part of the bargain. I love this example of something that seems so clear cut on the surface, but isn’t. We all bring to the table our own perspectives and interpretations and sometimes in so doing, don’t take the time to really listen and understand.

On Thursday, March 8, I will be attending the A Way Forward Conversations being held at Asbury. Knowing that there are varying perspectives and interpretations (some significant) on this topic, I am prayerful for conversations full of listening and understanding. I will be interested in seeing what transpires from both a personal and professional vantage point, as one of my responsibilities as Assistant Dean at Ohio State Marion is to oversee our Office of Diversity and Inclusion. In my role, I am always looking for new ideas to foster growth and development. Recently I came across the concept of Brave Spaces. Brave Spaces have a different purpose and are not antithetical to Safe Spaces. According to the Brave Spaces literature, Brave Spaces are most appropriate when actively attempting to address social justice issues. Insistence on a Safe Space as a condition of dialogue often privileges some and constrains other participants and interactions. Unlike Safe Spaces where people agree to disagree which tends to shut down conversations, Brave Spaces allow for controversy with civility that expects and honors different views with a group commitment to understand the source of disagreement and to work cooperatively toward common solutions. Brave Spaces and Safe Spaces share the tenet of no attacks, but Brave Spaces encourages the group to distinguish between personal attack on an individual and a challenge to an individual’s idea, belief, or statement that simply makes an individual uncomfortable.

Looking back on the DACC Open House episode, I realize that I had journeyed from a Safe Place to a Brave Space. Initially I assumed I knew WHY Noah reacted the way he did. I could have decided to go with the Safe Space approach, letting it slide, agreeing to disagree, since we often choose the EASY. Only when I ventured into the “uncomfortable territory” of asking him why...knowing how Noah can easily blow up when questioned...did I come to understand Noah in a different way. I am hopeful for the same at the March 8 Conversations.

For anyone who would like to read more in-depth on moving from Safe to Brave Spaces, there is a chapter in the book, The Art of Effective Facilitation (2013), called *From Safe Spaces to Brave Spaces: A New Way to Frame Dialogue Around Diversity and Social Justice* (Arao and Clemens).

Sunday School Spotlight by Susan Speer-Powers

During March, **Children's Classes** learn stories about Jesus during the final weeks of his life. The Bible Memory Verse for the month is Matthew 21:9: *Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!* The weekly lessons are as follows:

Mar. 4: Mary and Martha (based on John 12:1-8)

Mar. 11: Bartimaeus Shouts to Jesus (based on Mark 10:46-52)

Mar. 18: Jesus Breaks the Bread (based on Mark 14:12-26)

Mar. 25: People Welcome Jesus (based on Mark 11:1-11)

The **Tweens Class** will dive deeper into the season of Lent through these lessons:

Mar. 4: Sharing Communion – The Last Supper (based on Luke 22:7-23)

Mar. 11: Prayer – Jesus in Prayer (based on Luke 22:39-46)

Mar. 18: Suffering – Jesus' Betrayal, Arrest, and Trial (based on Luke 22:47–23:25)

Mar. 25: Death – Jesus' Death (based on Luke 23:26-56)

In March, the **Teens Class** will be exploring character – when beliefs, attitudes, and values line up with actions. Topics include Truth; Watch Your Words; Stuff; and Integrity.

Adult Sunday School Classes

The **Faith & Issues** class meets in the Parlor. The class continues to read and discuss *Hunting for Hope* by Scott Russell Sanders.

The **Spiritual Journey** class meets in the McCoy Room. On March 4, the class will begin a study based on *The Beatitudes From the Backside: A Different Take on What It Means to be Blessed* by J. Ellsworth Kalas.

Sunday School Missions

For the past three months, Sunday school offerings have supported **Delaware Diaper Pantries**. Total contributions to this cause will be close to \$600.

Asbury's Limited Activity List

Sarah Moore Home

26 N. Union St. Delaware, OH. 43015

Bob Fair – 4/19

Margaret Ellen Jones – 12/19

Willow Brook Christian Village

100 Willow Brook Way S. Delaware, OH. 43015

Dotty Florance – 6/28

Charlotte Gallant – 7/27

Betty Leslie – 2/5

Dick Wickham – 11/27

Marjorie Humes*

128 Willow Brook Way

Willow Brook at Delaware Run

100 Delaware Crossing West, Delaware, OH.
43015

Judy McCartney – 9/9

Ebb Haycock – 7/4

Jim Freed – 4/6

Delaware Court

4 New Market Dr. Delaware, OH. 43015

Pat McLead- 10/5

At Home

Helen Berrisford – 3/4

138 Rainbow Dr. Bluffton, OH 45817-1118

Janet Gallant

74 Orchard Way Delaware, OH 43015

Jo Stone – 8/30

201 Holl Rd. NE. Apt. 218A North Canton, OH. 44720

Howard Blanchard-5/17

160 Cider Mill Rd. Glastonbury, CT. 06033

Jeff Viri-Dunahue – 3/19

235 Long Trail Ostrander, OH 43061

Yvonne Potts – 7/31

209 Cottswold Dr. Delaware, OH 43015

Richard (7/16) and Paula (3/6) Gordin

11 Greenhedge Circle Delaware, OH 43015

*birthdate unknown