

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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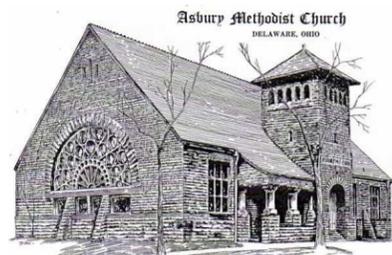
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# The Messenger

## May 2017



### Worship Schedule

- May 7**      **Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
Scripture: I Peter 1:17-23  
The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.
- May 14**    **Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
Scripture: I Peter 2:19-25  
Baptism of William List  
Blanket Sunday offering
- May 21**    **Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Scripture: I Peter 2:2-10  
Recognition of high school graduates
- May 28**    **Ascension Sunday**  
Scripture: Psalm 93 and Ephesians 1:15-23  
Robert Blanchard will be the preacher.

### Walnut Hills Chamber Choir in Concert at Asbury May 21

As its final concert of the 2016 – 2017 season, the Asbury Arts Series will present the Walnut Hills Chamber Choir, under the direction of Anthony Nims, on Sunday, May 21, at 4 PM in the sanctuary. The twenty-voice mixed choral ensemble has, in the four years since it was started, developed a strong reputation in the state for its technical virtuosity and musical perception.

The Chamber Choir performs a wide variety of repertoire from all style periods. The concert at Asbury will include J.S. Bach's Cantata, Aus der Tiefen rufe ich, Herr, zu dir (From the deep I cried, o Lord, to Thee), and Hugo Distler's motet, Fuhrwahr, er trug unsere Krankheit (Surely He hath borne our sorrows). The remainder of the program is comprised of lighter a cappella works from around the world. Selections will include folk songs and original compositions from Russia, Scandinavia, and the British Isles. As in its past performances at Asbury, the Chamber Choir promises to provide an exciting and delightful musical experience!

As with all the Asbury Arts Series concerts, this program is offered without admission charge. An offering will be received to help defray costs of the concert season. Do make this a special event on your calendar and plan to attend!

-Bob Nims

### Final First Thursday Recital will feature organist Carol Ann Bradley

On Thursday, May 4, at 12:15pm our monthly noontime recital series will conclude with a program by organist Carol Ann Bradley. Carol Ann is Director of Music at Our Lady of Victory Catholic church in Marble Cliff. Prior to coming to this position, Carol Ann served as Minister of Music at North Broadway United Methodist Church. Last year was her first appearance on our series, and we are delighted that Carol Ann has chosen to return to offer another recital for us. As always, tables will be set and beverages provided for those who wish to enjoy lunch during the recital. Thanks to you, our recital regulars, for providing such enthusiastic welcomes to all of the organists who have played for us this year.

-Sally Casto

### Another Chapter

by Pastor Phil

This morning our youngest said, "A month from today is graduation." She's had the days counted for a while. The one-month reminder was just another example of the many moments throughout the school year when we've said, "Well, this is the last time we [insert activity here]."

Of course, this is also a reminder that not only is she growing older, her parents are as well! When we sent our oldest off to kindergarten, I was younger than most of the teachers. Now some of them are just a few years older than my kids. But none of this is a surprise to those of you who have navigated your way through 70 to 80 years on this planet.

When you are a dog-walker, you notice the little things in people's yards that you don't see when you are driving. A neighbor has a little stone with this verse from Ecclesiastes: "For everything there is a season." So true.

We moved to Delaware ten years ago. Elizabeth was entering third grade. Since you have been an important part of this chapter of Elizabeth's life, we invite you to a graduation open house at the church on Saturday, May 20 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tammey and I appreciate the ways you have helped nurture Elizabeth in the faith.

### Meet Our New Members

**Ray and Shawna Ashead** transfer their membership from Powell UMC. They live at 357 Linwood Street. Their sons are Alex and Aaron. Ray and Shawna grew up in Salem, Ohio.

**Aaron and Christina Cook** attended the Catholic church prior to attending Asbury. They live at 150 W. Lincoln Avenue. Their children are Owen and Isabella. Aaron and Chris grew up in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

**Todd and Ronda Richardson** transfer their membership from Bellpoint UMC. They live at 142 Tar Heel Drive. They are the parents of Caleb, Abby, and Lynette. Todd and Ronda grew up in Ravenna, Ohio.

## Make Me More Like My Dog

By Lay Leader Vicki Lefevre

On Monday, April 3, at 6 pm, Riley, our big red golden retriever, died at home. My son's family adopted Riley from the Delaware County Dog Pound when he was just a puppy, and about seven years ago, Riley came to live with us. When he died, he was 15, deaf, and mostly blind, so in his final moments, we sat beside him on the living room floor, hugging and petting him, so he knew we were there.

Since he came to live with us, near him was one of my favorite places to be. I even asked my boss at the OWU writing center where I work part time if I could bring Riley with me to work. Not only would I have him with me in my office, but also, I knew that this sweet dog's presence would benefit the college students who are often stressed out when they come to see me. Riley was like a canine Dalai Lama whose very presence evokes peace and kindness, medicine for the soul. Especially when the "world is too much with us," as poet William Wordsworth wrote, it was therapeutic to have a friend like Riley. But my boss at OWU did not know Riley, and said, "No."

Living with Riley was like living with a well behaved and thoughtful adult. I never saw Riley aggressive or even angry, even when the grandchildren would climb on him like he was their jungle gym or ride him like he was their pony. I would growl at them, but Riley never did. He never had an accident in our home, even in his elderly years. He was rarely sick so he never cost us a lot of money in vet bills.

Outside our home, he was gentlemanly too. He could walk off leash in our neighborhood because he stayed right by my side. In 2012, after my retirement from full time employment, he and I would begin each day with our morning "joy walk." Together, he and I and my morning cup of coffee would amble up our street as I prayerfully noted the colors, smells, and sounds of the new day. His tail swayed with the movement of walking, and he wore that ubiquitous golden retriever smile. His pleasure intensified my joy. We were a team. I used to joke that I loved Riley so much that I could almost kiss him smack on his big dog lips until, on one of our walks, I saw him gobble up some miscellaneous dog poop.

Several years ago, my Aunt Jane gave us a pillow for Christmas embroidered with the prayer, "Dear God, help me be the person my dog thinks I am." Riley did not know if I was POTUS or penniless, if I was a republican or democrat, a Methodist

or an atheist, gay or straight, well dressed or slovenly. He loved me through terrible, bad hair days; through lazy, sedentary times when I should have gotten off the couch and taken him outside; through days when I hardly loved myself. Riley thought I was just fine the way I was.

The day after he died, I found some of Riley's red fur on the carpet, and it felt a bit like finding a treasure. With Riley's fur in my hand, I held something tangible of his, proof that this amazing dog had lived. I have had many dogs in my life, and loved them all, but Riley was my canine soul mate.

The word D-O-G spelled backwards becomes the word G-O-D. How perfect, for just as God loves us constantly and unconditionally, so do many dogs--"man's best friend" after all. And that is Riley's powerful lesson for me. I want to love people the way Riley loved me--exactly as they are now. No changes required: no pounds to lose, degrees to achieve, bad habits to overcome, nor attitudes to adjust. I want my love to be as reliable and trustworthy as Riley's.

Thus, my new prayer, "Dear God, make me more like my dog, except, of course, for his snacking habits."



### CIRCLES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:

**Hannah:** Wed., May 17, 12:00 noon. Potluck lunch at home of Jean Packer, 103 Cambridge Road.

**Lydia:** Thurs., May 11, 7:00 p.m. Program by Jody Everett Hostess: Corie D. Thompson, 25 Mason Avenue.

**Rebekah:** Wed., May 17, 10:30 a.m., Potluck brunch at church, McCoy Room #1. Program: "Asbury Youth: MAP and Journey," by Emily Dietz.

### UMW GENERAL MEETING

For the UMW General Meeting, May 4 at 7:00 p.m., we are pleased to welcome Lay Leader Vicki Lefevre for our program, "Laughing as Christians." We will meet in the Church Parlor. All are welcome. Rebekah Circle is hostess.

"Blanket Sunday" will be observed at Asbury on May 14, Mother's Day. The purchase of blankets aids efforts by **Church World Service** and United Methodist Women to help those displaced by war, hunger, disease, and natural disasters as they try to survive in some of the worst conditions possible.



**Ecumenical Church Women United**, a gathering of women from churches around Delaware, will have its annual meeting Friday, May 5, at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 28 East William Street. Potluck lunch will begin at 11:30. You are asked to bring a dish to share; meat, drinks and table service will be provided. Program begins at 12:15. Guest speaker will be Stephanie Rowe, Development Coordinator for Turning Point. An offering of "least coins" will be collected. Contact Julia Foster for information.

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

#### Children and Youth Sunday School Classes

The **children's classes** learn how God worked through Peter after Jesus' death. Peter healed people and spread the word of Jesus throughout Israel and beyond. The Bible verse for May is: *I'll tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock.* (Matthew 16:18).

May 7 Peter and John

May 14 Peter and Tabitha

May 21 Peter and Cornelius

May 28 Peter in Prison

As **Youth** read familiar stories in the Bible, they are encouraged to ask tough questions and make connections among the Bible, their faith, and modern culture. In May, youth explore the Book of Acts through these stories and themes:

May 7 Healing Others (Peter and John Heal)

May 14 Welcoming All (Philip and the Ethiopian Man)

May 21 Giving (The Offering for Jerusalem)

May 28 Resolving Conflicts (Paul and Barnabas Separate)



My sincere thanks to the kind people of Asbury who have prayed for me, sent cards and encouraging notes, and delivered nourishing meals after my recent hospitalization.

Judy Smith

Healing certainly happens with prayer, cards, food and support, and I thank everyone who took the time to do just that. Thank You, Pastor Phil, for your pre-operation prayer and home visit. I'm on the mend and look forward to being back in church very soon.

Jamie Applebach

### Address for Teena Haycock

Teena is currently in San Francisco with her daughter. She would appreciate hearing from her friends at Asbury. You may write to her at:

Mrs. Teena Haycock  
c/o Lorry Luikart  
2545 Union St.  
San Francisco, CA  
94123

### Adult Sunday School Classes

You are invited to participate in one of our adult classes at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings for stimulating discussion and reflection. Everyone is welcome!

**Faith & Issues Class** meets in the Parlor. They continue reading and discussing *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

**Spiritual Journey Class** meets in the McCoy Room next to the kitchen. They are reading John Ortberg's *Who Is This Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus*.

### Sunday School Mission Projects

This spring, our Sunday school offerings support "Imagine No Malaria," a special project of the United Methodist Church Board of Global Ministries. Every \$10.00 will purchase an insecticide-treated mosquito net. These nets are distributed in Sub-Saharan African and have been successful in cutting the rate of deaths from malaria in half. To date, we can purchase 31 nets. Follow our progress on the bulletin board at the entrance to the Education Wing.