

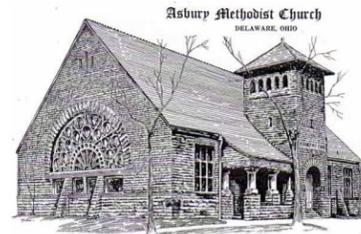
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
55 West Lincoln Avenue
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Phone: (740) 363-3611
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E-mail: church@asburyohio.org



DIAPER SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29

One day! Fun day! Sunday! Diaper day!

The Mission and Outreach Committee is excited to announce DIAPER SUNDAY on September 29.

The Diaper Bank of Delaware County was started by our very own Di Huston and Vicki Lefevre in April 2017. Since then, it has grown to help hundreds of Delaware County families in need. In 2018, they gave out over 38,000 diapers. In 2019, they have already provided over 27,000. Clearly, this is a real need in our community, and helping out is simple.

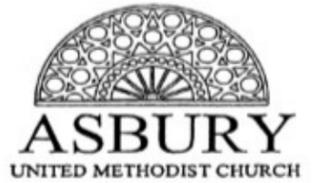
This is where you come in!

The Diaper Bank is funded exclusively by individual and group donations. We will be sponsoring our very own Diaper Sunday drive during the service on September 29. Every donation goes directly to families in need.

Because of the generosity of donors, the Diaper Bank has never had to turn anyone away. Let's make sure their good work continues. Look forward to more information about the Diaper Bank, and how YOUR donation can make all the difference to a family in need.

Jennifer Villanueva

The Messenger September 2019



Renewal Leave Reflections

By Pastor Phil

It is good to be back in a routine after my renewal leave. A few people have asked if I had any “big revelations” while I was away. That’s what I was afraid people would ask! The whole time I was on renewal leave, I was hoping for a “big revelation,” which guaranteed, I suppose, that none would come. But here are a few small revelations.

The church began as a lay movement and remains, at its heart, a lay movement. None of Jesus’ twelve disciples had attended seminary or even Lay Speaker Training! So I think it is a good thing for several of our lay members to lead worship and prepare a sermon. It also takes us back to our roots as Methodists. The early circuit riders were lay preachers.

It’s easy for the essential to be crowded out by the urgent. John Wesley instructed his preachers to spend their mornings in study and prayer and their afternoons visiting people. Some days go by and I have no time for any of that. I have the same 168-hour-week. What’s going on?

I have realized that email eats up too much of the day. I am trying to set boundaries for it by checking it in the afternoon and protecting the morning for study and prayer, as Wesley advised. And sometimes email is not the best way to deal with something anyway. A two-minute phone call is more efficient than a half-dozen email exchanges, and conflict is better dealt with in person than by email.

It’s good to get one’s mind on something completely different from work. My brother loaned me a copy of Ernie Pyle’s columns, and I have been reading them this summer. Pyle was a journalist who traveled with and wrote about ordinary soldiers during WWII. He was killed by a sniper’s bullet just before the end of the war.

When one considers what it was like to depend on one’s fellow soldiers for survival, it puts a lot of other things in perspective, such as national politics or church politics. As my brother has observed, maybe if we had more leaders who had been in some sort of national service, they would have learned how to work together in order to get things done.

It’s easy to fall back into old habits. I think about people who make progress in rehab, only to fall right back into unhealthy habits when they get out. I hope some of these “small revelations” and practices will become part of my ongoing disciplines in the months ahead.

Thank you to all for the positive words before and after my renewal leave. It meant a lot to me.

Sand in Shoes
Lay Leader Leslie Beyer-Hermesen

In August, I spent a week with my family on Kelley's Island—a week without being in a car (okay once to carry a bicycle with a flat tire to the general store on the island to get a new tire and inner tube)—nothing but bicycling, hiking, and swimming! So nice to be able to take life at a slower pace for a week.

For the past few years we have been fortunate to be able to rent a house that has become our island home each summer. The house has a screened-in back porch that is the full length of the house. The porch has a dining area and living room space. When we aren't out exploring the island, we spend our time in this outdoor space. On the wall of this porch is a painted canvas that reads "May you always have a shell in your pocket and sand in your shoes." I have read this canvas on other visits, but this time it particularly caught my attention and I really came to appreciate the wisdom that it imparted. For many of us a shell brings to mind the pleasantness of a walk on the beach. Sand in the shoes, not so much. Now to have "sand in your shoes" could be interpreted as reminding us that we sometimes have to pay our dues—you do the pleasurable thing of walking on the beach, you may just have to be willing to pay the price of sand in your shoes. Or with the good comes the bad—yin and yang, balance. When I read the canvas this time, however, I read "sand in your shoes" as a joyous thing, not an irritant to tolerate. The sand is part of the wholeness of the enjoyment of the beach experience, not a thing to be separated into its own category evoking a completely opposite emotion.

Have you ever noticed young children during a rain or right after a rain? Many of them love to run out into the rain and splash in the puddles. How often as adults do we try to restrain these children from going out into the rain or hold their hands in an effort to pull and direct them away from the puddles? And we certainly don't rush out into the rain or splash in puddles for enjoyment (or maybe some of us do!). The words from Joni Mitchell's song Both Sides Now, made popular by Judy Collins, come to my mind:

*Rows and flows of angel hair
And ice cream castles in the air
And feather canyons everywhere
I've looked at clouds that way*

*But now they only block the sun
They rain and snow on everyone
So many things I would have done
But clouds got in my way*

*I've looked at clouds from both sides now
From up and down and still somehow
It's cloud's illusions I recall
I really don't know clouds at all*

The song continues with refrains that end with "I really don't know love...life at all." We often find ourselves faced with challenges, some of which can make us feel out of control and not really knowing what to do—really not knowing a friend, our jobs, ourselves—fill in the blank—at all.

A couple of years ago my sister, for a birthday present, gave me Oprah Winfrey's book *What I Know For Sure*. In addressing challenges that seem to "have the power to knock us to our knees," she offers that "these experiences are gifts that force us to step to the right or left in search of a new gravity." Gifts—the wholeness of the experience. Do we really know or need to be in the know all the time? And even when we think we know, do we really? Sometimes, we have tunnel vision and forget that there are both sides. We might wonder for example, where is God with so much injustices around the world or think that our prayers have gone unanswered. I certainly don't profess to have the answers, but know that the answers are, at times, most certainly different that I anticipate. And in those times when I am engulfed with these kinds of questions yet can pause long enough to take in the full meaning of the sand in my shoes, I find God in the world and find answers to prayers in unexpected places. So, may you always have a shell in your pocket and sand in your shoes.

Asbury United Methodist Church Music Ministry ~ 2019-2020

TEEN/ADULT/BELL Choir season begins on Wednesday, September 4, 2019

CHILDREN'S Choirs begin Wednesday, September 11, 2019

We encourage and cordially invite you to participate in the musical opportunities offered below. Additional details to follow in the coming weeks. Please feel free to contact us should you have questions or want to learn more about how your family can be involved musically!

Jan Swanson, Director of Music and Choirs

idswan80@aol.com

Alleluia Choir ~ Grades K-2

Wednesdays ~ 4:15 - 5:00 pm

Peter Baylis, Director

majorbaylis@hotmail.com

Frances O'Flaherty, Accompanist

Junior Choir ~ Grades 3-8

Wednesdays ~ 4:15 - 5:00 pm

*(May end at 5:15 during Christmas, Easter and Musical seasons)

Jan Swanson, Director

Marly Hittepole, Accompanist

Teen Choir ~ Grades 9-12

Wednesdays and Sundays ~ with the Chancel Choir

Jan Swanson, Director

Chancel Choir ~ High School ~ Adult ~

Wednesdays ~ 7:00 – 8:15 pm

Sundays ~ 9:30 – 10:25 am

Jan Swanson, Director

Luke Tegtmeier, Organist, Accompanist

Bell Choir ~ High School ~ Adult

Wednesdays ~ 6:00 – 6:50 pm

Carol Brulotte, Director

September Birthdays

Sept. 1: Michael Casto, Paul Lance	Sept. 14: Laura Frisch, Mary Jean Roach, Erin Wiggins, Adam Lefevre
Sept. 3: Alice Baker; Amy Spencer	Sept. 15: Genevieve Bailly, Joe Peterson, Leslie Boey
Sept. 4: Michael Jones	Sept. 16: Dennis Sheets, Robert Wood
Sept. 5: Shirley Philpott	Sept. 17: Owen Cook, Dee Ketterling
Sept. 8: Jake Gibson	Sept. 18: Khara Cook, Jayne Lingo
Sept. 9: Judy McCartney, Rachel Brook, Noah Beyer-Hermsen	Sept. 19: Fred Manter
Sept. 10: Kimberly Wisecup	Sept. 24: Anna Spencer
Sept. 11: Sally Casto, Anne Fry, Dee Peterson	Sept. 25: J.B. Ritchie
Sept. 12: Emma Dixon	Sept. 27: Kelly Robinson, Beth Dolk
Sept. 13: Carolyn Diersing, Kate Tegtmeier	Sept. 30: Rock Jones

Thank you!

Special thanks to all who participated in summer worship as hymn sing leaders and soloists. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to share your gifts.

Lara Bailly, Jim Bartha, Jill Bixler, Sarah Brook,

Logan Byerly, Sue Chaney, Ann Davis, Rich Edwards,

Julia Foster, Angie Haase, Tom Major, Dawn McCleery,

Brad Ross, Kate Tegtmeier, Luke Tegtmeier, Trista Todt,

Lauren Vermilion, Phil Wilden

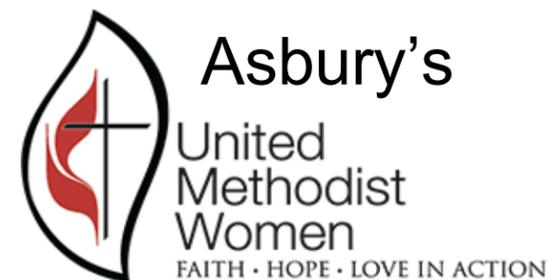
Summer Choir participants

Jan Swanson, Director of Music and Choirs

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate

Lydia Circle continues to sell a variety of fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate products each Sunday in the Great Room following the worship service. The proceeds from the sale are helping to support the UMW Days for Girls sewing project.

Note: Coffee bags cannot be recycled at the curb. But please consider returning your empty coffee bags to the Lydia Circle sales table for a potential project that will recycle the coffee bags by putting them to use in a new way. Thank you!



By Sue Chaney

UMW is 150!

For the next few months let's take a look at the history of UMW Circles! "For more than a century, women in the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren traditions have led a struggle for human rights and social justice. The generation of women who founded the early missionary societies developed powerful networks and organizational structures to help women attain full participation in the life of the church and society.

"In the early years of the women's mission organizations, the focus was on sending missionaries and helping to change the lives of women and girls in foreign lands. They incorporated the values of home and family into public

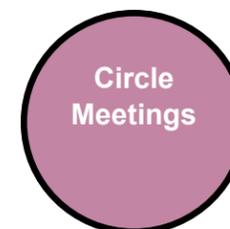
life, as they addressed issues of poverty, child labor, immigration, migrant labor, family life, racial discrimination, full clergy rights for women, and many other social ills of the day..

"Many problems faced by the women at the turn of the century have reemerged in our own time with a new and demanding urgency: new waves of immigration, homelessness, racial divisions, threats to the environment, substance abuse and addiction, lack of affordable health care, concerns for the well-being of children and the elderly, public education, questions about women's roles in society, and world peace.

"Because of the faithfulness and courage of the millions of women who

prayed, planned, organized, marched, petitioned, labored, and supported the work of the early missionary societies, the lives of countless individuals, especially women and children, have been irrevocably changed. Women, children and youth in our generation, and the ones that will follow us, are living the legacy of the women's missionary movement of the 19th century.

"We have much to be proud of and a great deal to celebrate as we continue the journey begun almost 150 years ago by our faithful and courageous foremothers." (from <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/about/history/timeline#roots>)



All circles welcome visitors! Please contact the hostess for more information or if you need assistance with child or family care. We want YOU to be in a circle!

Lydia Circle: Thursday, Sept. 12, 7:00 p.m. Program by Terri Litchfield. Hostess: Susan Speer-Powers, 141 N. Franklin St.

Hannah Circle: Wed, Sept. 18, 1:30, *UMW Book Review* by Joan Maxwell. Hostess: Dee Ketterling, 336 Sprucewood Drive. Responsible for PIN in Sept.

Rebekah Circle: Wed., Sept. 18, 9:30, *Annie's Outreach* arranged by Wanda Harmon. Hostess: Rosalie Hutter, 3633 Royal Dornoch Circle.

Mark your calendar!

Sept. 7 Days for Girls, 10-noon, McCoy Room

Sept 14 District Retreat, 10-noon, Chesterville UMC

Oct. 3 UMW General Meeting, *Children at Risk*, 7:00, Parlor. Hostess: Hannah Circle. (This is a change of date from the Program Books!)

No skills needed—training available!



Sewers, pinners, ironers, turners will continue to meet the first Saturday of each month (except July & November) at Asbury UMC from 10-noon. You are not committed to come the entire time or every month—just come when you can. New helpers always welcome! Hope to see you at our next work morning on **Sept. 7**. Contact Demi Badger if you have any questions.

Sunday School Spotlight by Susan Speer-Powers

New Sunday School Year Begins September 1

Sunday school classes for all ages, nursery through adults, will begin September 1, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Please take note of class offerings below and begin a new year with Sunday school!

Children's Classes meet on the lower level of the education wing. Children meet together in the K-2 classroom for a brief opening of song and prayer and then go to their respective classes. Class groupings are **Nursery, PreK Class** for ages 3-5, **Grades K-2**, and **Grades 3-5**.

Youth Classes

The **Tween Class**, for youth in Grades 6-8, meets in the middle classroom in the balcony.

The **Teen Class**, for high school students in Grades 9-12, meets in the Library.

Adult Classes

The **Faith and Issues Class** meets in the Parlor to discuss societal issues and current topics of interest to class members. The class will convene on September 1 to determine the fall study topic.

The **Spiritual Journey Class** studies various books of the Bible through current books and/or Bible study. This fall, the class will study the origins and history of the book we call our Bible. The class will meet in McCoy Room 2 this year.

The **Second Sunday Class** meets on the second Sunday of the month to discuss Asbury's response as a Reconciling Congregation to the 2019 Special General Conference and possibilities for the May 2020 General Conference. The group will meet on September 8.

New Class for Asbury Parents: Parents of Asbury children and youth are invited to enjoy coffee and conversation in the McCoy Room. The initial purpose of this group is to build relationships with other Asbury parents and to consider ways to enhance the spiritual development of our children and youth, but the group may identify other interests and purposes. Jennifer Villanueva-Henkle and Randy Litchfield will host this new group beginning in mid-September. Watch for details!

Mission Project



In July and August, our Vacation Bible School and Sunday school offerings have supported efforts by UMCOR – the United Methodist Committee on Relief – to assist migrants at our southern border. UMCOR has provided monetary grants and hygiene kits to six church-run transitional shelters for people leaving the U.S. government holding facilities. These shelters provide clothing, food, and an opportunity to shower and rest, as well as assistance connecting with relatives by phone as they arrange onward travel. Our offering (including that from VBS) currently totals \$534.18.

Explore and Wonder About God's Creation

Many thanks to all who participated in this summer's three multi-generational alternative VBS programs and especially to those who helped make the evenings possible. Nearly 100 children and adults participated in one or more of the three evening programs. Lynn Cook and her kitchen team provided healthy and delicious meals that helped us explore ways to enjoy good food, responsibly sourced and prepared. The recipes will soon be available via a downloadable link. The weather cooperated beautifully, so we were able to set up Exploration Station activities outdoors in the courtyard. Children enjoyed many fascinating exploration activities related to water, birds, and trees, and they collected treasures for their Wonder Boxes from each station. In recognizing our responsibility to care for all of God's creation, including the children and adults at the southern U.S. border, our VBS offering of \$406.00 will go to UMCOR Global Migration Advance for Border Assistance.

Youth Groups

Mighty Awesome Preteens (MAP)

The adventure continues!

6th, 7th, and 8th Graders:

Mighty Awesome Preteens (MAP) starts back up on September 11th at 5:00 p.m. (after Junior Choir).

Come to the Library after Junior Choir and get ready for an adventure!

Each week there will be an activity and then we will have dinner together in the McCoy Room at 5:45 p.m.

Parents: Want to help with meals? Please email me: mbuehler@mtso.edu

Cannot wait to see you all in the fall!

Megan Buehler, MAP Youth Leader

Ecumenical Youth Group (EYG)

All high school students invited!

We meet on Sunday evenings at Asbury Church from 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

We're looking forward to having another GREAT year!

We enjoy games, discussing life issues, community service, and making life-long friends.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Travis by email at: atraviseyg@gmail.com

Thank you!

Anna Travis, Director EYG