

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

Return Service Requested



Pastor: Reverend Philip Wilden

Administrative Assistant: Dawn McCleery

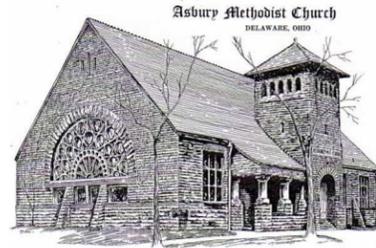
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RMC News by Leslie Beyer-Hermsen

The Reconciling Ministry Committee is deeply troubled by the murder of George Floyd and concurs with Pastor Jonathon Rue the “race and justice are Biblical issues.” Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, God commands us to care about justice. In his 1963 “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” Martin Luther King Jr. expressed his disappointment in white churches who seemed more “devoted to order than to justice” while remaining “silent behind the security of their stained-glass windows.”

Christians must not be silent anymore about the racism that permeates our country and devastates the lives of our black brothers and sisters. We must raise our voices as Christians to fight the deeply imbedded injustices in our country. If we are silent, we are complicit.

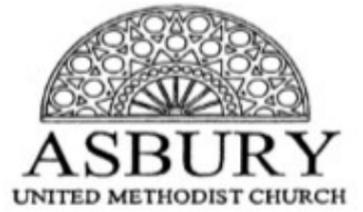
Our congregation has held four rounds of five of our anti-racism discussions which we pray are providing education, awareness, support, and ideas on how each of us can make a difference and live as authentic Christians. We have had about 44 participants over the four rounds. Please think about participating in the final discussion. We would love to have you! Dates and times will be forthcoming. Look for them in Pastor Phil’s weekly newsletters.

If you drive by the church any time soon, you will see that we have placed yard signs in prominent places that show a picture of Martin Luther King Jr. and a quote from his famous 1963 “I have a Dream” speech, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Let us vow to be part of the solution in fighting our racist culture; let us commit to action; let us work for justice; finally, let us do what Jesus would do (WWJD)—let’s love our neighbor as ourselves.

THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2020



Dear Friends and members of Asbury,

Enclosed in this issue of the newsletter is a survey. The introduction to the survey succinctly expresses its purpose, and those words are repeated here:

We, your staff and leadership, are discerning when to reopen the building for worship. Our first responsibility is to keep you safe. We know that in simply opening the doors for gathered worship, some will continue to choose to stay home, until you feel it is safe to come out.

In consultation with our Asbury COVID Advisory Panel, we are paying attention to the most recent recommendations, and we give thanks for your patience, perseverance and faithfulness. Your perceptions and expectations for when we gather together again are important, so we invite you to complete this survey.

I ask that you read the survey, give prayerful reflection upon the questions, and then complete it.

The surveys may be mailed to the church at 55 W. Lincoln Ave, Delaware, OH 43015 or may be placed into the mail slot of the Lincoln Avenue doors to the educational wing.

Please return them by September 15, 2020.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Pastor Phil



Getting to Know You
By Lay Leader Leslie Beyer-Hermsen

It has been nearly half a year since we have been able to meet, greet, and worship together at our church home at 55 West Lincoln Avenue in Delaware, Ohio. And it has been just about that same amount of time, actually the last Sunday that we worshipped in person, when our Reconciling Ministries Committee did a skit during Ministry Moments, role-playing and encouraging us to reach out and learn more about each other rather than just rushing out the door after the service or doing perfunctory greetings. Seven days later, our services went from in person to online and we seemingly lost our chance to put into practice our getting to know each other. But then, much to my pleasant surprise, and maybe to others as well, as we became more familiar with our new virtual environment, we also started becoming more familiar with each other.

We have been greeted, through the virtual opening of Asbury’s doors, by various members of Asbury, including some of our shut-ins. We have been invited into each other’s homes and yards through the cheerful welcomes that start each Sunday service. We have met each other’s pets and we have been blessed and delighted by the musical talents of so many of us that I think we should consider putting together a CD of “Asbury’s Greatest Hits”—okay, I realize that I am probably the only person who still listens to music on CDs, but you get my gist. Some of us might have known some of these things about each other, but now through our virtual sharing of our homes and talents, we know more. These things have been fairly easy things to share with one another. Doing a deeper sharing of personal experiences, thoughts, and beliefs can be a bit more challenging and may require the willingness to take risks.

One of the most recent ways that Asbury has attempted to push us to learn more about ourselves and others is through the *Five Things You Can Do* sessions. The Reconciling Ministries Committee has been holding sessions via Zoom and socially distanced outdoor meetings since June in response to the George Floyd Killings. The *Five Things You Can Do* programming has lent itself nicely to allowing us to get to know each other at another level: each of the conversations have ranged from one to one and half hours, focusing on a central theme and common thread from session to session. These conversations have also included a different mix of people each time, bringing in new and fresh perspectives along with the continuity of those who have attended each session. One of the emerging themes that has come out of these sessions is to reach out and work at building relationships across cultures outside of our Asbury church. Sometimes strengthening relationships across cultures comes in unexpected ways.

At one of the sessions, my husband shared about a cultural awakening he had with someone who is a close friend of his, an African-American poet. They were attending an all-day poetry workshop. When the workshop broke for lunch, my husband asked her if she wanted to join the other poets, who were all white, for lunch. She responded that she would rather just have lunch with him because when she was with all the others, she felt that she had to “perform”. This was something my husband had not realized before but was privy to through the openness of his friend, sharing her experiences.

Similar to our Asbury conversations, a few weeks ago, I read an article in *The Columbus Dispatch* about conversations that *Your Voice Ohio*, a journalistic collaboration of about 50 news outlets, was holding. Through their conversations, they were trying to get to know the rich diversity of Ohio citizens a bit better, to hear what their concerns were in a presidential election year. *Your Voice Ohio* held two-hour virtual conversations across the state with a wide range of constituents, single mothers, young dads, workers and retirees, gay and straight, black and white, men and women, young and old. The importance of uniting our country was a sentiment heard repeatedly. The participants viewed the protests as a positive step forward toward coming together as a country which they cheered as a sign of unity during this very divisive time in our country. In addition, they were encouraged and uplifted by seeing small signs of kindness during the pandemic—neighbors helping strangers and strangers then becoming neighbors because people took things further by trying to educate themselves about others’ histories, experiences, talents, and dreams. The *Your Voice Ohio* folks heard such things as:

“I have learned a lot the past few months and I have educated myself. I’ve educated my children. I think there needs to be more formal education with our history and not so much the white-washed history I had as a child. My eyes were opened to what was going on in the world and my heart was broken.”

“My eyes were opened to what was going on in the world and my heart was broken.” How moving is this statement? It begs for action and for change—of getting to know a worldview beyond one’s own. So, yes, let’s celebrate the opportunity that this strange time has given us to get to know each other, but let’s also embrace this moment that we have been given to make a positive difference through opening ourselves to getting to know others outside our current circles. Doing less enables the current structural inequities that exist to continue. However, when we take the risk to understand and get to know one another, the possibilities are limitless.

IN OUR CONGREGATION

Judy McCartney	Rick Cornett
LaVonne Moore	Scott Byerly
Kay Nardin	Shirley Vining
Judy Smith	Lloyd Baker
Doris Ebbert	Marcia Jones
Steve Mead	Emma Richards
Debbie Stansbery	Dee Ketterling
Jenise Lefevre	Francis Leclair
Larry Miller	
Lou Ann Chapman at the death of her brother	
Tim Cook at the death of his mother	
Rod Alsup at the death of his father	
Ed Powell, at the death of his sister	
Bruce Chapman as he recovers from knee surgery	

FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER

Cass Bizjak, friend of Frances O’Flaherty

Jay Richardson, Todd Richardson’s father, recovering from heart surgery

Todd Richardson’s aunt Sharon, recovering from a stroke.

Earl Mellon and Kathleen Allen, brother and sister of Mary Lou Payne

Bobbi Beyer, sister of Leslie Beyer-Hermsen

Tom Taylor, Anna Travis’ uncle

Ramon Barajas, friend of the Villanueva-Henkle Family

Mary Frantz, Emma Richards’ daughter

Kay Holfinger, aunt of Leslie Beyer-Hermsen

Mark Hutter, son of Richard and Rosalie Hutter

Patricia Miller, Bill Daniel’s sister

September Birthday List

Sept. 1: Mike Casto, Paul Lance

Sept. 3: Alice Baker, Amy Spencer

Sept. 4: Michael Jones

Sept. 5: Shirley Philpott

Sept. 8: Jake Gibson, Megan Buehler

Sept. 9: Noah Beyer-Hermsen, Judy McCartney, Rachel Brook

Sept. 10: Kim Wisecup

Sept. 11: Sally Casto, Anne Fry, Dee Peterson

Sept. 12: Emma Dixon

Sept. 13: Carolyn Diersing,

Sept. 14: Laura Frisch, Adam Lefevre, Mary Jean Roach

Sept. 15: Genevieve Bailly, Leslie Boey, Joe Peterson

Sept. 16: Dennis Sheets, Robert Wood,

Sept. 17: Dee Ketterling

Sept. 18: Khara Cook, Jayne Lingo

Sept. 19: Fred Manter

Sept. 24: Anna Spencer

Sept. 25: J.B. Ritchie

Sept. 27: Kelly Robinson

Sept. 28: Carol Ann Bradley

Sept. 30: Beth Dolk, Rock Jones

Joseph and Heather Lautenbach announce the birth of their daughter, Annika Joy, born on July 29. Big sister is Madeline Rose. Joseph reports that everyone is doing well.

Sunday School News
by Susan Speer-Powers

Godly Play—for children of all ages!

We are eager to explore a brand new set of Godly Play materials with you. We begin with one of the Godly Play "Liturgical Action Stories," which are lessons about the sacraments and traditions of the church. The rest of the stories are called "Sacred Stories," the stories of how God and people meet.

We begin September with The Circle of the Church Year, which is how the church tells its story. We will introduce our new circular wall hanging that shows all the colors, days, and seasons in the church year. Next, we will have lessons about The Holy Bible and The Books of the Bible, followed by an introduction to The Holy Family. From this point until we begin the season of Advent, our lessons will be Sacred Stories of the Old Testament.

Tweens and Teens Classes

We are exploring ideas about how and when our Tweens and Teens might meet. Please watch for details in pastor Phil's weekly emails.

Adult Sunday School Classes

Our two adult Sunday School classes meet via Zoom each Sunday morning. We encourage adults to zoom in to either or both of these classes...everyone is welcome! Please contact the class facilitators for the link to each class.

Spiritual Journey Class—Jim Dietz

Nurturing Faith Class—Jennifer Villanueva-Henkle

EYG—Ecumenical Youth Group

Asbury high school students are invited to join EYG for in-person gatherings this fall. EYG will meet outside in the Asbury parking lot beginning September 6 at 6:30 PM. Please bring a chair and wear a mask.

Vacation Bible School Recap

Asbury families created their own "VBS at Home" this year, with help from storyteller Peter Baylis, videographer Ed Hoar, and a Godly Play Creation Story Kit. Seventeen families, with a combined 32 children, participated in this new VBS format. The videos are posted on Asbury's YouTube (google Delaware Asbury YouTube) and will remain there for another month or so, in case you didn't get to complete the story. Families are encouraged to post photos of your family doing VBS and your creation numeral projects in the VBS Creation Story album on the Asbury private Facebook page.

Connect with Asbury on Facebook

Did you know that Asbury has two options to connect on Facebook? There is a public page and a closed group. The public page provides general information such as links to the Sunday services. The closed group is accessed by seeking approval from the group administrators and is a great place to post photos and messages that support each other in our spiritual journeys. You can join the closed group by clicking the link below and requesting access. Join the conversation by following our two pages. The links and QR codes are below.

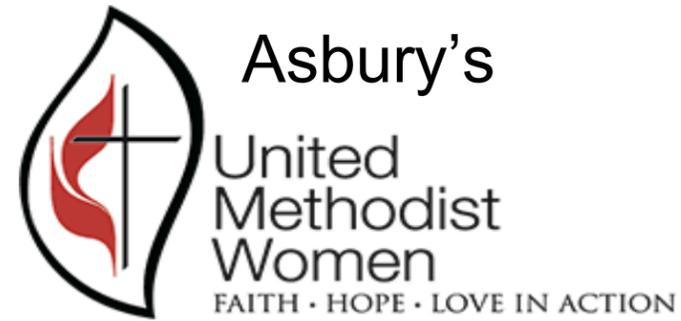
Asbury Public Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/www.asburyohio.org>



Asbury Closed Group Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/113633005372789>



By Sue Chaney

Soup for you!

Soup Luncheon pick-up will be available in the church parking lot November 8. This event is one that we count on to give us funds to donate to mission projects, and in the past we have been blessed to receive generous donations from our church family. We will be taking pre-orders and donations for pint containers. Watch for more information in the October Messenger and in Pastor Phil's emails. For now, mark this date on your calendar and look forward to some homemade **Soup for You!**

Sunday, November 8

Vegetable Beef Soup

Tomato Basil Soup

Potato Soup



Book Review by Mona Ray

The Soulmaking Room by Dee Dee Risher is her life dealing with environmental issues, racial issues, and poverty. She looks at life head on in honesty. For her theme base she uses II Kings 4:8-37. (look it up yourself). While seeing this scripture in a new way, she deals with death and resurrection in the failures and loss in everyday life. The chapter on "Finding Shafts of Light" was very helpful in looking at our world today. She says: "Anxiety assumes a world filled with harm and speaks to all we cannot control. While we have little control and much can harm us, gratitude also offers a large piece of truth...I'd been training myself in anxiety; but when I began to train my eyes to see blessing, my world changed."

Zoom UMW General Meeting

September 17, 7:00

Understanding Scripture Enhanced

by Holy Land Trip

Our speaker, James Lance, is a licensed local pastor in East Ohio Conference working on his MDiv/MACM dual degree from MTSO. As many of us know, he grew up in Delaware, Ohio while attending Asbury UMC and is excited to return for an evening presentation on how his understanding of certain scriptures were changed by his trip to the Holy Land.

James hopes to give us a glimpse of the Holy Land and share his insight on scripture. The presentation will consist of a display and explanation of photos from part of his trip to the Holy Land, followed by a discussion about the scripture that he was better able to understand through his trip. The five scriptures he will discuss are:

- ◆ Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37)
- ◆ The Fall (Genesis 3: 1-7)
- ◆ Faith Can Move Mountains (Mark 11: 12-26)
- ◆ Tradition and Pharisees (Matthew 7: 21-29)
- ◆ Stone that Rolled (John 19: 38-20: 14)

A Zoom meeting link will be sent in Pastor Phil's weekly email closer to the date. This is open to the entire congregation and friends. Come as you are,

A Kaleidoscope of Opportunity, Musical and otherwise....

noun: **kaleidoscope**; plural noun: **kaleidoscopes**

Origin early 19th century: from Greek *kalos* 'beautiful' + *eidos* 'form' + -scope.

a toy consisting of a tube containing mirrors and pieces of colored glass or paper, whose reflections produce changing patterns that are visible through an eyehole when the tube is rotated.



a constantly changing pattern or sequence of objects or elements.

Planning worship is similar to putting a kaleidoscope in focus – turning the tube into a beautiful form or image. As we reflect upon the last few months to inform planning for our future, I often think of the many hands and hearts that work together virtually to create meaningful worship services. As we plan and consider our musical opportunities, Pastor Phil presents a framework, and we set ourselves in motion adding hymns, songs, and anthems in an effort to reflect upon and enhance the tapestry of the scripture and message. We are indeed grateful for planning guides from The United Methodist Church, composer catalogues, The Book of Worship, Hymnal and The Faith We Sing Worship reference books and more. We are most grateful for the ability to share with colleagues, congregants and friends who contribute weekly to our worship services. These services as well as the world around us are changing constantly. Each week presents new opportunities for different elements, just as the turn of the kaleidoscope presents different images as it is focused. We hope you have enjoyed the “images” created by these virtual services and will continue to support our “vision” for the greater Asbury community through virtual message and music. Future musical opportunities are in the planning stages. Stay tuned!

We would like to thank those who have contributed to our summer worship service as hymn sing leaders or soloists. Please join me in acknowledging these participants in the formation of our “image” of worship. Putting the pieces together in “beautiful” form.

Thank You!

Summer hymn sing leaders, soloists and accompanists serve a vital role in worship. We are grateful to the following individuals who were collectively willing to share their gifts during June, July, and August. Thanks as well to the “behind” the scenes folks who may not be listed. We appreciate you! Thank you for your willing response, your ability to communicate virtually and most of all sharing with the Asbury congregation and beyond. I can guarantee that your contributions had many views!

A special thank you to Natalie Ritchie, who subbed for me in July!

With gratitude for your service to Asbury, Jan Swanson, Director of Music and Choirs
June 2020

Jill Bixler, Maggie Bixler, Violins

Carol Ann Bradley ~ Organ

Katie Hejmanowski, Dave Hejmanowski ~ Clarinet and Piano

Natalie Ritchie~ Vocalist

July 2020

Lara Bailly, Flute, Michael Bailly recording assistance

Emily Caton, Alex Caton, Hymn Sing

Alex Caton, Marly Hittepole, Piano duet

Jen Villanueva-Henkle, Hymn Sing

Alex Villanueva-Henkle, Trombone/Trumpet trio

Dawn McCleery ~ Hymn Sing and Vocalist

August 2020 - September

Peter Baylis, Hymn Sing, Sarah Brook ~ Hymn Sing, Vocalist

Logan Byerly, Emily Szillat, Lindsay Miller (Baldwin Wallace)

Andrea Colvin ~ Hymn Sing, Vocalist

Eric Proper ~ Trumpet

Natalie Ritchie, Katie Silcott, Jan Swanson ~ Hymn Sing, Vocalist

Dick Salsberry ~ Hymn Sing