

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

Website: www.asburyohio.org

E-mail: church@asburyohio.org

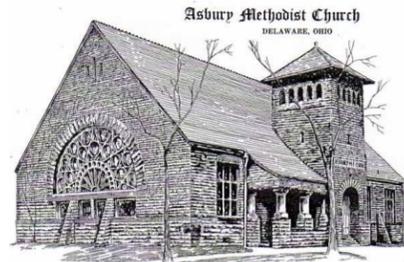
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September 2017 Messenger



Worship Schedule

September 3	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 16:21-28 Subject: the cost of discipleship The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.
September 10	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20 Subject: when Christians hurt each other
September 17	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35 Subject: parable of the unforgiving servant
September 24	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16 Subject: parable of the workers in the vineyard

CROP Hunger Walk

The Delaware CROP Hunger Walk will take place on October 8, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Hamilton Williams Campus Center at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Last year's walk raised \$9,812 to help hungry people in the U.S. and around the world through the work of Church World Service, an interdenominational organization which has been doing walks since 1969. Twenty-five percent of proceeds remain in the local community. This year's local recipient is People-in-Need (PIN).

CROP Walks not only help hungry people, but they also build community as churches work together for a worthy goal.

A donation envelope may be obtained from our Mission and Outreach Committee. Online donations may also be made.



Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality

by Pastor Phil

At the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Council of Bishops was asked to help lead the church through our forty-year argument about human sexuality, in particular, the passages of *The Book of Discipline* which speak about homosexuality.

In response, the Council of Bishops called for a special session of General Conference in February, 2019 to deal with just this subject. To prepare for that, a 32-member Commission on a Way Forward was formed to help us think through and pray about this matter and to make some recommendations for "a way forward." The 32 members of this group are theologically and culturally diverse and represent the various perspectives in the United Methodist Church.

In the meantime, the East Ohio Conference is developing a plan for conference-wide reflection and discussion. When those dates and places are announced, we will pass them along to you.

Although decisions like this are made on the global level, they are embodied at the local church level. We have already been having small group discussions at our committee meetings but we would now like to invite the entire congregation to take part in two discussions this fall. These will take place at the church on September 24 and October 1 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Child care will be available.

We will be reflecting on questions raised in a resource published by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry titled *Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness*. You can find the online version at http://www.gbhem.org/sites/default/files/study_guide_eng_final.pdf. You may purchase a print copy for \$7.49 at cokesbury.com. This will provide a helpful background to our discussions and will set them in the context of our Wesleyan heritage.

We will discuss the first two chapters on September 24 and the final two chapters on October 1. Our conversations will be moderated by Valerie Stultz and me.

I hope you will set aside time in your schedules for these vital conversations.

“They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love”
By Lay Leader Vicki Lefevre

It was Friday, Nov. 22, 1963, around 1 pm: I was in Mrs. Witsberger’s 9th grade French class at Hayes High School when the principal’s voice on the loud speaker interrupted our class. He spoke the stunning words, “The president has been shot.” I remember hoping that President Kennedy had been shot just in the arm, and he would be okay. Within minutes, however, the now iconic voice of Walter Cronkite replaced our principal’s voice as we absorbed the live pronouncement, “President Kennedy has died.” My African American friend Diane sitting right behind me began to cry. Soon, classes were cancelled, and about one thousand teenagers exited the high school quietly and solemnly. Kids feel safe when there is an adult in the room, and President Kennedy was our country’s most prominent adult, but now he was dead.

Flash forward to early Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, a glorious September morning—bright sun, blue skies, comfortable temperatures. By 9 am, I was in my office at Ohio Dominican University making last minute preparations for a 10 am class when my office phone rang, and Diana, then my partner and now my wife, said, “Did you hear about the airplane that flew into the World Trade Center?” I hadn’t. “What a terrible accident,” I thought, but then the second tower was hit. These were attacks—not accidents. The horrible news spread fast throughout campus, and within minutes, ODU students, faculty, and staff—like Americans everywhere—gathered around televisions and watched in disbelief as dust-covered people ran for their lives or jumped to their deaths to escape raging fire. Could this really be happening? On live television, we watched as the towers literally crumbled to the ground. Reports of the Pentagon and a plane somewhere in Pennsylvania deepened our horror. Even normally stoic newscasters wept as they reported the events.

Both In 1963 and in 2001, America had trusted leaders who calmed us, united us, and helped us feel safe. After President Kennedy died, Lyndon B. Johnson demonstrated just the right amount of gravitas as he was sworn in as our new President on Air Force One with Jackie Kennedy by his side, still in the infamous pink suit stained with her husband’s blood. After September 11, George W. Bush comforted our nation and reminded us that we should not succumb to hatred of Muslims. America had adults in the room; we would be okay; life would go on, and we would

heal as individuals and as a nation. Our goodness as a people and as a country would prevail.

And after 9/11, we had strong leadership at Asbury too. Pastor Warren Campbell Gaston scheduled an all-night prayer vigil in our sanctuary which brought comfort and strength to many in our congregation. During my time at the vigil, I remember repeating the Prayer of St. Francis. The prayer begins, “Dear Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.”

Our country is again in a time of crisis. There has never been a more urgent time to speak up and act out as Christians. We must follow the example of Jesus who advocated and modeled love, courage, and a life committed to a higher purpose. We cannot remain silent or uninvolved in the face of anti-Semitism, xenophobia, misogyny, and bigotry. German theologian and anti-Nazi dissident Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) wrote, “If I sit next to a madman as he drives a car into a group of innocent bystanders, I can’t, as a Christian, simply wait for the catastrophe, then comfort the wounded and bury the dead. I must try to wrestle the steering wheel out of the hands of the driver. Silence in the face of evil is itself evil.” Accused of plotting to assassinate Hitler, Bonhoeffer was hanged in a Nazi concentration camp.

In a recent letter to the laity of the East Ohio Conference, Bishop Tracy Malone wrote, “I encourage you to partner together in being God’s agents of love, peace, reconciliation, hope and justice...in confronting the hate and violence that is pervasive in our nation and world.”

Our kids should trust that indeed there is a trusted “adult in the room,” that all will be well—that goodness will prevail and love will always trump hate. I find reassurance and strength in the words to the hymn, “They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love.” Verse 2 reads, “We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand...and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land, and they will know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.”

And remember—if you find yourself in a situation where you need to be the “adult in the room,” you are never alone. God is always with you. Amen.



Come, singers and Ringers, your directors are eager to hear your joyful sound!

Our new choir year begins on Wednesday, September 6 when all of our choirs will meet for the first time. We are always eager to welcome new members, so please come to rehearsal if you’d like to join a choir this year. We would be delighted to see you!

Alleluia Choir for singers in grades K-2. The Alleluia Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays from 4:15 to 5:00pm. Jennifer Wood directs this group and Frances O’Flaherty serves as accompanist. This choir sings approximately every six weeks for worship. They rehearse in the lower level of the education wing.

Junior Choir for singers in grades 3-8. The Junior Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays from 4:15 to 5:15pm. They will sing for worship every 4-6 weeks, and they present a musical on the last Sunday in April. They rehearse in the Great Room. Sally Casto is the director and Marly Hittepole serves as accompanist.

Teen Choir for singers in grades 8-12. The Teen Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:00pm. They sing for worship every 4-6 weeks, and they rehearse in the sanctuary. Jan Swanson and Sally Casto work with this group.

Bell Choir for ringers from high school to adult. The Bell Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 6:50pm. They play for worship every 6-8 weeks. They also participate in the Delaware Area Handbell Festival in Gray Chapel on the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving. Carol Brulotte is the director. (Rehearsals will begin September 13)

Chancel Choir for singers from high school to adult. The Chancel choir sings for worship most Sundays. They also prepare extended choral works which are featured in the Asbury Arts Series performances. They rehearse on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:00pm and also on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:25am. Jan Swanson directs this choir.

We look forward to an exciting year of music making and we hope you will join us!

Sally Casto, Jan Swanson, Carol Brulotte, Jennifer Wood

First Thursday Recitals

Our *First Thursday Noontime Recital Series* will be returning in October when Robert Wisniewski, recently retired from St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Columbus, will perform our October 5 recital at 12:15pm. Plan now to reserve the first Thursday of each month from October through May for these exciting recitals.

Full Sound Chamber Group Concert: *You are invited!*

Once again Asbury will begin its 2017-2018 concert offerings with an evening with the Loritsch brothers from Bellefontaine, Ohio. It’s been our pleasure to host this family group of talented string players for many years. With commentary from Tsidqah Loritsch, the oldest brother who plays both piano and double bass, we are introduced to the selections they have chosen to share. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be received. We hope you’ll join us for a delightful evening of chamber music on **Sunday evening, September 10, at 7 pm.**



UMW Circles for September

Hannah: Wednesday, September 20 at 1:30p.
 Program: "Rev. Pauli Murray, Civil Rights Pioneers," by Julia Foster.
 Hostess: Demi Badger, and Melody Long at the church.

Rebekah: Wednesday, September 20 at 9:30a.
 Program: "Climate Justice" by Janet Gallant
 Hostess: Janet Schwab

Lydia: UMW General Meeting at Asbury September 14 at 7:00p.
 Program: "Sexuality: God's Good Gift"

UMW BOOK REPORT by Mona Ray

Remember Dippy by Shirley Reva Vernick is a great book for teens. I hope you will share it with your youth.

Johnny's parents are divorced and his mother has to go out of town on business for the summer. Johnny is to stay with his aunt and her son, Remember. Remember is a little different. Johnny's job is to care for Remember for the summer. There is the jerk next door, two good friends, and a promising girlfriend in the mix. The author shows that even those that are different make good friends. Remember is not just a cousin but now a friend. This book will be on the shelf in September. It is a youth book under Nurturing for Community.

Do You Desire to Draw Closer to God through Prayer?

Study various prayer traditions and spiritual practices from 9 to 10:30 pm on the third Thursdays of September, October, November and December. Join with others on the journey of faith. Discover the spiritual practices which best work for you as you seek a deeper relationship with God, yourself, and others. Meet in the Church Library unless otherwise indicated upon arrival. Meeting dates: Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21.

Questions may be addressed to the class facilitator, Valerie Stultz (vstultz704@gmail.com or 440/668-1606)

Dear Asbury Friends,

My summer plans took an unexpected turn in June as I underwent tendon repair surgery on my left foot. Since then I've been learning to be patient while my foot has been healing. During these weeks your many cards and calls have helped to cheer and encourage me, and I'm so very grateful for your love and care. I look forward to returning to the organ in September. I also want to thank Jan Swanson and Bob Nims who organized and prepared all the music for our summer services. Their service is sincerely appreciated!

-Sally Casto

I want to thank my Asbury Church family for your faithful prayers before and after my recent spine surgery. Thank you for the encouraging cards, the visits, and to the "food fairies" who bravely ventured into the area of cooking vegetarian meals. Thanks to my choir friends for the cheerful bouquet of flowers that lasted three weeks, and your help with all the little things that make it possible for me to continue being part of the choir every week. My recovery is going well and I hope to be back to church soon.

-Judy Smith

I would like to thank SPR and all the members of Asbury for the kind and loving well-wishes for my retirement. I thoroughly enjoyed the reception after last Sunday's service. It was nice to talk with so many friends. Sheila and I hope to have more time to spend with our grandchildren, those nearby and those far away.

-Van Ayers

Ministry Areas of Asbury

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development helps match the "gifts and graces" of members of the church with responsibilities which need to be done to further the mission and ministry of the church. Below are brief summaries of each committee's responsibilities; consider if you may be interested in serving Asbury by participating on a committee.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee –This committee serves a few important functions:

1) provide support for the pastor as the spiritual leader of our church; 2) perform human resource (HR) function to ensure appropriate staff is in place and prepared to support the mission of the church; 3) accountable for completion of forms that are submitted annually for Charge Conference and for the annual meeting with the District Superintendent.

The Trustees oversee and maintain church property including the parsonage. They are responsible for all use of the building and grounds; maintaining adequate insurance coverage; and ensuring the safety of all congregants. They approve and sign contracts; keep a current inventory of furniture and equipment. Each month one member serves as the Trustee of the Month to open and close the church, perform an elevator check, and clear debris brought on by weather.

The Mission and Outreach Committee works to educate and involve the Asbury congregation in local, national and international programs and agencies who minister to the poor, suffering and dispossessed. The committee financially supports local agencies and one international mission in Africa. The members also participate in activities at the local agencies (such as Second Fridays at Andrews House) as well as spearhead fund raising/donations on an as-needed basis.

The Education Committee is responsible for providing educational opportunities to all members of Asbury church, so they may grow in their relationship to God and their understanding of the United Methodist Church and our Christian teachings. Our main focus is organizing Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and offering Bible Studies and special programs throughout the year.

The Finance Committee assists with the preparation of the church's annual budget, reviews expenditures and income throughout the year and makes reports to the Administrative Council about the state of the church's financial affairs. The Finance Committee conducts an annual stewardship campaign and manages funds held in trust, in conjunction with the Trust Committee.

The Care Network is dedicated to connecting those people in the congregation that need assistance with those who can assist. The Care Network coordinates help with meals, finding a ride or helping with tasks around the house, welcome and follow up with visitors, sends care packages to Asbury college students and hosts funeral receptions.

The Chancel Committee's first responsibility is to set up and clean up communion. They also take care of changing the paraments and altar candles, and help to set up for baptisms. At holidays, they are responsible for decorating the altar and sanctuary. Christmas poinsettias, Easter flowers, palms, and the advent wreath are among the duties of the Chancel committee.

The Trust Committee receives, administers, and invests all bequests, trusts, and endowed funds of the church. It also provides information and provides opportunities for church members to make gifts by means of wills, annuities, trusts, life insurance, and memorials. These gifts enhance the mission and ministry of the church.

Sunday School Spotlight by Susan Speer-Powers



Fall Quarter for Sunday School Begins September 3 9:30 – 10:30 AM

Children's classes for PreK through Grade 5 meet in the classrooms in the lower level of the Education Wing. There is also a nursery for infants and toddlers from birth through age 3. The two youth classes, Tweens and Teens, meet in the Balcony rooms. Our classes and teachers are as follows:

Nursery: Nancy Ross

PreKindergarten (ages 3 and up): Jody Everett

Grades K-2: Valerie Stultz and Stacy Chaney-Blankenship

Grades 3-5: Ed Hoar and Christina Cook

Tweens, Grades 6-8: Jon Powers, Doug Swanson, and Megan Buehler

Teens, Grades 9-12: Bryan Davis and Buck Stultz

This fall, the **children's classes** will learn some of the Old Testament stories about the kings. September lessons are:

Sept. 3: Hannah Prays (based on 1 Samuel 1:1-28)

Sept. 10: God Calls Samuel (based on 1 Samuel 3:1-21)

Sept. 17: Samuel Anoints Saul (based on 1 Samuel 7:15-8:22)

Sept. 24: Samuel Anoints David (based on 1 Samuel 16:1-23)

The **Tweens class** also will study Old Testament stories this fall, but at a deeper level and in the context of topics of concern. In September, Tweens look at Genesis through these topics and Bible stories:

Sept. 3: Right Relationships – Creation (based on Genesis 2-3:24)

Sept. 10: Fear of Change – The Tower of Babel (based on Genesis 11:1-9)

Sept. 17: Trusting God – Abraham and Isaac (based on Genesis 22:1-19)

Sept. 24: Forgiveness – Jacob and Esau Reconcile (based on Genesis 33:1-17)

The **Teen class** engages in thoughtful and sometimes lively discussions about topics of personal concern to their life journeys and how that relates to their faith development. In September, they turn to stories from the Old Testament to guide these conversations.

Adult Sunday School Classes

The **Faith & Issues** class meets in the Parlor. The class is currently reading and discussing Anne Lamott's book, *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy*.

The **Spiritual Journey** class meets in the McCoy Room. Starting September 3, the class begins a study of *The Bible Jesus Read* by Philip Yancey.

Sunday School Mission Project

Sunday school class offerings have continued to support the UMCOR Global Migration Project that started during Vacation Bible School. To date, our donations toward this mission of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) total \$675.35!

Summer Sunday School Recap

A big thank you to all who helped with the children's and youth classes over the summer! Volunteers in the children's class included Demi Badger, Jim Bartha, Peter Baylis, Sarah Brook, Khara Cook, Di Huston, Terri Litchfield, Kathleen Miller, Nancy Prindle, and Natalie Ritchie. And volunteering with the youth class were Sue Chaney, Ann Davis, Bryan Davis, Kellie and Shane Dawson, Jon Powers, Brad Ross, and Doug Swanson. Thank you, all, for giving your time and energy to be with the young people of Asbury. You make a difference!

Bible Presentations

Nine young people were presented Bibles with the annual "unwrapping" ceremony during the Sunday school potluck on August 27. The Bible is the book of our faith that we, as a congregation, present to these young people. The children are encouraged to bring their new Bibles to the Grade 3-5 Sunday school class where they will get to know their Bible and how to use it. Receiving Bibles this year were Tyler Blankenship, Katie Caplinger, Bailie Conley, Owen Cook, Ellis Markward, Melayna Meadows, Ayo Okunlola, Madalaine Tucker, and Jacob Zahniser.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Children's Corner and Nursery continue to need additional volunteers. 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 September, scheduling for October through December 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

Asbury Youth attended Youth Annual Conference at Lakeside from June 9-11. Six youth along with Rebecca Wilden, as an adult leader, spent the weekend with more than 1,000 youth from the East Ohio Conference. The theme for the weekend was LIVE IT – based on Colossians 3:17. Bishop Malone led us in worship on Sunday and Rev. David A. E. Whitt was the weekend speaker. Entertainment was provided by rePercussion and Young Heart.

New this year were mission moment opportunities. Youth from Mid-Ohio District were asked to bring gently used books, travel sized shampoo and deodorants, and hand sanitizers. Other Districts brought other items. Our youth participated in card making for patients at the Cleveland VA hospital, packing care kits for parents at the Ronald McDonald house, and stuffing socks with care items for the homeless.

Three resolutions were debated and adopted:

- A Resolution to Encourage Churches to Host Workshops on Addiction;
- A Resolution to Encourage Youth to Engage in a Way Forward Discussions; and
- A Resolution Regarding the Inclusion of Youth in Jurisdiction & General Conference Delegation.

Feel free to check out the Youth Annual Conference recap video and Bishop Malone's sermon from YAC's Sunday morning worship service on the East Ohio Conference website. As always we are very grateful for all of the support that we receive from Asbury.
-Jim Dietz

Are you looking for child care or know someone who is? I am offering child care in my home beginning September 5 for all ages. I have 10 years experience working with children with developmental disabilities. Please feel free to contact me for more information if you or someone you know is looking. Thanks so much!

Cassie Spiegel (740-815-8132)