



**Asbury Church**  
a United Methodist  
Community

### Our Vision Statement

In all aspects of our lives, we will strive to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## PASSIONATE WORSHIP

### SUNDAY SERVICES

WORSHIP

8:00 AM in the Sanctuary

WORSHIP

9:30 AM in the Sanctuary

OPEN DOOR WORSHIP

10:45 AM in the Wesley Center

WORSHIP

11:00 AM in the Sanctuary

Pastor  
Eric S. Yeakel

### SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE

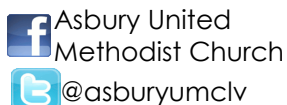
During our 9:30 Sunday School time, we have childcare for infants through three year olds. During our 11:00 Services, we have childcare available for infants through PreK.

### OFFICE HOURS

8 AM to 4 PM, M—F  
1533 Springhouse Road  
Allentown, PA 18104  
Phone: 610-398-2577  
Fax: 610-366-1108  
www.asburylv.org

Publicity Requests:

<http://publicityform.asburylv.org/>



# THE VINE

*faith in action... imagine your life changed.*

JANUARY 5, 2014



Happy New Year and Happy Epiphany! In Western Christianity January 6th is the last day of Christmas (Epiphany) and the day upon which we remember the visit of the wise men (representing the gospel being offered to the Gentile world) and the baptism of Jesus when he began his public ministry.

What a joy it is to report to you that the portion of the Christmas Eve offering to be distributed to Lofa County, Liberia is nearly \$1900.00. Because of your generosity, this donation will help them build a well to obtain clean drinking water. Praise God for this Christmas miracle offering!

This Sunday we kick off our new sermon series "Why? Making Sense of God's Will." In this series we will be looking at questions we all wrestle with on our faith journey. Even people who are deeply committed to their faith struggle to answer and re-answer some of the perplexing questions we will explore over the next four Sundays. This week we will address the question "Why do the innocent suffer?" I look forward to exploring this topic with you on Sunday.

Just a reminder, that the Open Door Service is moving back to it's original start time of 10:45 a.m. beginning this Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. This will allow the congregation to hear the same message without rearranging the order of service. I am looking forward to worshipping with you as we begin a new year.

*See you Sunday!*

*Pastor Eric*



**STARTING JANUARY 5, 2014, THE OPEN  
DOOR SERVICE IN THE WESLEY CENTER  
WILL BEGIN AT 10:45 AM.**

**DON'T BE LATE!**

### ASBURY PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 2014-2015

Booklets and applications available Monday, January 6.

#### Current Students and PlayDays Students

Applications will be accepted at the Welcome Desk (upstairs) beginning Tuesday, January 14 and Wednesday, January 15, at 8:30 a.m.

#### Church Members and Alumni

Applications will be accepted at the Welcome Desk (upstairs) beginning Thursday, January 16

#### General Public

Open House, Thursday, January 30 from 10:00 a.m. -- 11:30 a.m.  
Meet the teachers and see the classrooms!

**For more information, please call the Preschool Office at 610-481-0242.**

## RADICAL HOSPITALITY

**QUILTERS:** Share your sewing talents, skills or time with the Asbury Quilters. Providing an atmosphere that promotes the knowledge of and participation in the art form of quilting, the members embrace fellowship in the creation of a quilt for the Annual Asbury Bazaar and several other charity quilts. We normally meet Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM in Room 204. A quilters retreat is planned for the end of January. Join us for an evening of stitching. Please contact Diana DeFanti ([defantid@gmail.com](mailto:defantid@gmail.com)) for information and details on the next meeting date.

**DORCAS/MARTHA CIRCLE** will meet in the Parlor at 9:15 AM on Thursday, 1/9. Gary Millsbaugh will give a talk entitled "Myndfulness." Donna Nuss will lead the devotions. Faye Vibbert and Donna Nuss will be hostesses. The January mission project will be the collection of men's warm scarves and hats for Linkage, a center-city agency for the homeless. All women are welcome. If the Parkland School District has a weather-related delay or is closed, the Circle will NOT meet.

**PRISCILLA CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, 1/14, at 7:30 PM in the Aldersgate Room. Pastor Eric Yeakel will discuss Chapter 4 of *The Journey*: "The Importance of Grieving and Confronting Our Fears." All women are welcome. For more information, contact Brenda Baxter ([brendabaxter14@gmail.com](mailto:brendabaxter14@gmail.com)) or Judy Whitby ([jmwhitby@aol.com](mailto:jmwhitby@aol.com)).

**SUSANNA CIRCLE** will have their annual post-holiday dinner meeting at the Fairgrounds Hotel, 448 N. 17th St., Allentown, on Tuesday, 1/14, at 6:00 PM. After dinner, a representative of CareNet will update the Circle on their charities and Divine Resale Shop. Please make dinner reservations by 1/6 with Tea Kratzer (610-821-0258). All women are welcome! There will be no meeting in February.

**UMW PECANS:** If you didn't get to purchase pecans at the Bazaar or have used up your supply with holiday baking, there are a few bags left. Cost is \$11.00 for a 16 oz. bag, and may be purchased in the church office during business hours.



**ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED** to join Families on the Grow for Gym Night on Saturday 1/11, starting at 4:00 PM in the Wesley Center. It is a great opportunity for fellowship and for the kids (and adults) to run off some energy! We will order pizza and have some other snacks. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Paul Wood (610-437-1862 or [paewood@rcn.com](mailto:paewood@rcn.com)).

### THE 2014 INDOOR MINIATURE GOLF EVENT IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2014.

If you are creative and would like to create a golf hole, we are looking for you. It could be as an individual, a family, a group, SS Class or organization. We would like to have you join us. For more information contact Dick Black (610-967-5532 or [dickblack@rcn.com](mailto:dickblack@rcn.com)).



**ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2014;** The flower chart to sponsor altar vases for 2014 is now posted next to Room 218 on the upper level near the center staircase. Please add your name and phone number next to the date that you wish to sponsor and you will be contacted prior to that date for your dedication. The cost for sponsorship is \$45.00 for the two altar vases.

**EMERGENCY HELP AVAILABLE:** In the event of an emergency (such as a power outage), Asbury has taken steps to become a shelter for members of the congregation. We have shower and kitchen facilities, camp pads and internet connections. The church answering service will be prepared to help with any information you may require and will arrange to have someone meet you at the church.

## Prayers of Our Congregation

*May the Prince of Peace reign over all the world, in every heart, throughout the new year.*

### For those who are sick or in the hospital

Lord, we ask your mercy and healing for all those currently hospitalized or recently discharged, including Fran L. We ask you to have mercy on all those in pain, both physical and mental and grant them your peace.

### For those who need your special help

Lord, we affirm that your power is infinite and that you love us all like a devoted parent. Gratefully acknowledging your love and mercy toward us, we lift up these people for your care: Comfort for Harriet E. who is in hospice care; Laura H.'s father, Jerry, who has been hospitalized for the past week; All those suffering from depression during the holiday season, that their hearts be lifted.

### For those who mourn

Lord, we ask comfort for all who mourn the loss of loved ones, especially Sharon B. on the passing of her grandmother, Helen. Reassure them of your unending mercy and eternal love.

### For our children

We ask for your blessing on our children and on all children around the world.

### For our congregation

We ask that your gentle spirit live among us during the new year so that we treat each other with love. We ask that you be with all who worship and work at Asbury, strengthening and guiding each one.

### For the world, its people and its leaders

Lord, we ask your intervention in areas of conflict around the world, giving power to those who work for peace. We especially ask for your intervention in the Sudan.

### With thanksgiving for our joys

For hope in the new year, we give you thanks. We thank you for the blessing of this, your church, and its remarkable, resilient spirit. We thank you for all the opportunities you provide us to share our talents and blessings with others.

### For the missions we support

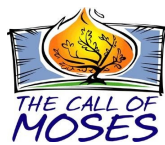
Our mission prayer this week is for Community Bike Works. This agency provides inner-city children living in at-risk situations with meaningful work-ethic alternatives to gangs, drugs and the streets. They use bicycles, peer role models and adult mentors to develop and nurture relationships and to engage youth; and once engaged, influence their behavior and their outlook about school and life. Nearly 90% of the students live in families with very low incomes, according to federal guidelines. These youth live in families that are unlikely to be able to afford either a bicycle or enriching after-school activities, both of which CBW provide. Most importantly, Community Bike Works offers a safe space where young people can develop caring relationships with peer and adult mentors while learning life lessons.

## INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

# CHILDREN

### Faith & Fun Alive Sunday School

- ☺ This week, Children's Sunday School will discuss listening and obeying God as we study the story of Moses and Burning Bush.
- ☺ Children in Kindergarten through 5th Grades will gather in Fellowship Hall for their Large Group Opening.



### Kidz Klub

- ☺ Kidz Klub will be held on Friday, 1/17, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. Children Ages 4 through 5th Grade are welcome to join us for dinner, gym games and a movie. Sign-up sheets are located upstairs in the Community Room, outside the Wesley Center and in Fellowship Hall at the beginning of Sunday School.

As a new year begins, we often find ourselves considering new endeavors. If you would like to offer your time and energy by becoming involved in an area of Children's Ministries at Asbury, please contact me. We have several opportunities for involvement, from teaching, planning, missions, Kidz Klub, VBS and more! Please consider being part of our children learning and growing in their faith.

**Contact Pam Unrath in the church office (610-398-2577 or [punrath@asburylv.org](mailto:punrath@asburylv.org)) for information on all Children's Ministry activities and opportunities.**



## asbury youth ministries



Hope you had a wonderful Christmas season and that your New Year is off to a great start!

Confirmation is the process of becoming a member of the church. The first session, an information session for both students and parents, will be held on 1/12 at 6:00 PM in Room 108. Weekly classes will take place beginning the following week and continuing through 4/13 during the Sunday School hour, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM, also in Room 108. Information on this year's class has been mailed to all 8th Graders and students who have never been confirmed. You can also visit [www.asburym.org](http://www.asburym.org) for information on Confirmation.

Be sure to come out for the first Sunday School (Sunday, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM, Room 108 and the Youth Lounge) and Youth Group (Sunday, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, Youth Lounge) of 2014, this Sunday, January 5!

**Contact Aaron in the church office ([aforney@asburylv.org](mailto:aforney@asburylv.org) or 610-398-2577) for information on all Youth Ministry activities and opportunities.**

## EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

### From the Financial Secretary:

- \$** We will be closing the books for 2013 on January 6, 2014. Contributions marked 2013 received after January 6 will be credited to 2014. Please indicate your envelope number on all correspondence.
- \$\$** Please do not put contributions for different years on the same check. Combining years increases the possibility of errors on your annual statement.
- \$\$\$** Remember, you can now make contributions to Asbury directly through our website or by submitting an authorization for direct debit to the church office. Call the office if you need more information about this.
- \$\$\$\$** Anyone desiring to make stock contributions or prepaid contributions for 2014 prior to the end of 2013 should contact me for instructions.

Suzanne Weida (610-398-2577 or [sweida@asburylv.org](mailto:sweida@asburylv.org))

## RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE



### CHANGE-FOR-CHANGE

is designated for "Bridging the Gap," a program of the Sacred Heart Hospital Parish Nursing/Community Outreach Department. The goal of the program is to assist in making its clients as independent as possible by providing assistance with various healthcare issues. Please place your contributions in the containers at the rear of the Sanctuary or in the Wesley Center

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Ramos Elementary School is holding a pancake breakfast from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM on Saturday, 1/11, at Applebee's on Cedar Crest (near the Target) to raise funds for school programs. For \$5.00 you'll enjoy an all-you-can-eat breakfast of pancakes, sausage and beverage and Ramos will receive \$2.50 for each meal served. Asbury has formed a partnership with Ramos to assist teachers in the classroom, donate books, and provide school supplies. Come out on the 11th to enjoy the food and fellowship while we help our friends at Ramos. We're also in need of volunteers. If you can help in the kitchen or with serving from 7:30 Am to 10:30 AM, please contact Dick McCreight (610-395-2261 or [dick.mccreight@juno.com](mailto:dick.mccreight@juno.com)).



CareNet is having a fundraiser "Dine to Donate" at Boston Market at 385 S Cedar Crest Blvd. Allentown on 1/8, from 4:00 PM to closing, Flyers and tickets (required) are available on the table near the downstairs Welcome Desk. Help them raise some money and enjoy a delicious meal too!



# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## Sunday, January 5 / Communion

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. God's Rainbow- 200
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School All Ages
- 10:45 a.m. Open Door Community Worship- WC
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Church of God- 106/108
- 2:00 p.m. AFC Basketball- WC
- 6:00 p.m. Asbury Basketball- WC
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group- YL/FH/108

## Monday, January 6

- 5:00 p.m. AFC Basketball- WC
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts- 108
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Jr. Troop 670- 103A
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Girls Group- YL
- 6:45 p.m. Brownie Troop 61025- 104
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 12- FH/106
- 7:00 p.m. Jubilation Ringers- 206
- 7:30 p.m. Praise Band- Sanctuary

## Tuesday, January 7

- 12:30 p.m. Program Staff Meeting- Aldersgate
- 5:15 p.m. Daisy Troop 654- 219
- 6:30 p.m. UMW Board Meeting- 106
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Guys Group- YL
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Volleyball- WC
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Ministry- Aldersgate
- 7:30 p.m. OA- 204

## Wednesday, January 8

- 8:45 a.m. Keep in Touch- Aldersgate
- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group- 231
- 12:00 p.m. New Vision Pioneers- Parlor
- 1:00 p.m. AA (Open) - 108

## Wednesday, January 8 (Continued)

- 6:30 p.m. Asbury Quilters Tea- Aldersgate
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12- 205/209/210/211
- 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noisemakers- 108
- 6:30 p.m. Rainbow Singers- 106
- 7:10 p.m. Youth Choir- 106
- 8:00 p.m. Apostle Ringers- 206
- 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir- 102

## Thursday, January 9

- 9:15 a.m. Dorcas Martha Circle- Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Open Door Rehearsal- WC
- 7:00 p.m. NARANON- 108
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir- 102

## Friday, January 10

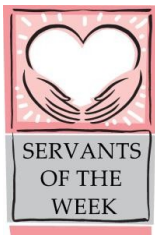
- 1:00 p.m. AA (Open)- 108
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack 12- 205/209/210/211/215
- 7:30 p.m. Youth Coffee House- WC

## Saturday, January 11

- 10:00 a.m. NARANON- 108
- 10:00 a.m. Pioneer SS Breakfast Set-up- 217
- 4:00 p.m. Family Gym Night- WC

## Sunday, January 12 / Baptism

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. God's Rainbow- 200
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School All Ages
- 10:45 a.m. Open Door Community Worship- WC
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration- Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Church of God- 106/108
- 2:00 p.m. AFC Basketball- WC
- 6:00 p.m. Asbury Basketball- WC
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group- YL/FH/108
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Committee- Aldersgate



### MaryAnn & Jen Kelley

MaryAnn and Jen regularly help to set up and tear down Wesley Center for the Open Door Service. They also volunteer at many children's events, including Kidz Klub, Vacation Bible School, and the Easter Egg Hunt. Jen worked at the UMW Bazaar in the Little People's Room. Thanks, MaryAnn & Jen!



ASBURY'S  
FINANCIAL  
HEALTH

COPIES OF ASBURY'S FINANCIAL  
PICTURE (AS OF 11/30)  
ARE AVAILABLE AT  
BOTH THE UPPER & LOWER LEVEL  
WELCOME CENTER DESKS.

### Our Staff

Eric Yeakel, Pastor  
Glenn Asquith, Interim Dir. of Pastoral Care  
Laurie Wallace Theisen, Director of Lay Ministries  
Pam Unrath, Interim Dir. of Children's Ministries  
Aaron Forney, Director of Youth Ministries  
& Leader of Open Door Worship Band  
Karen Bowermaster, Director of PreSchool  
& Interim Director of PlayDays  
Tom Gibson, Business Administrator  
Larry Hein, Head Custodian

eyeakel@asburylv.org  
gasquith@asburylv.org  
ltheisen@asburylv.org  
punrath@asburylv.org  
aforney@asburylv.org  
preschool@asburylv.org  
playdays@asburylv.org  
tgibson@asburylv.org  
lhein@asburylv.org