



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

HERITAGE WORSHIP
8:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

OPEN DOOR WORSHIP
5:00 p.m. in the Wesley Center

Senior Pastor
Eric S. Yeakel

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE



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

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 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/>

 Asbury United
Methodist Church
 @asburyumclv

THE VINE

faith in action... imagine your life changed.

FEBRUARY 11, 2016



PASTOR'S COLUMN

Lent is a 40-day season of repentance, fasting, praying, and giving, which prepares us to rightly commemorate Christ's death and to joyously celebrate his resurrection. The Season of Lent began this week with Ash Wednesday. The ashes point to our sin and mortality. The Hebrew people would publicly express their remorse, grief or repentance by placing ashes on their heads or faces. Jesus makes reference to this in Matthew 11:21. The ashes imposed on the forehead at the beginning of Lent are a sign of our need for the salvation Jesus will offer us by going to the cross.

Ashes also expressed the Hebrew people's grief at the death of a loved one, and at the same time the ashes symbolized their own mortality. Abraham notes in Genesis 18:27 that, as a man, he is merely "dust and ashes." Genesis 3:19 notes that "from dust you were taken and to dust you shall return." Therefore at the graveside of someone who is being buried, I will take a handful of dirt and place it on the casket with the words, "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust..." Ashes imposed at the beginning of Lent point to our mortality and our need for Easter and the hope of the resurrection.

During Lent many people "give up" some of their favorite things like: sweets, sodas, social media, etc. We fast during these forty days to identify with Jesus' forty days of fasting. The idea of "giving up" something or fasting is that it should help us see that Jesus matters more to us than the thing we hunger for. So how will you observe Lent this year?

See you in worship!
Pastor Eric

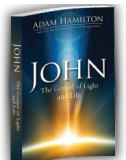


A Lenten Journey

We would like the congregation and guests alike to have a participatory experience during the forty days of Lent, and are inviting the Asbury community to bring sticks (twigs or small branches) from home (maybe from a recent storm or early spring clean-up) and to offer these sticks at the foot of the cross that is in the Sanctuary hallway. These sticks serve as a visual representation and metaphor of our awareness of our shortcomings, failures, burdens, and sin. Sticks are not easy to work with, as they are brittle, dry, unyielding, stubborn, and rigid – prone to breaking under the slightest pressure. They symbolize our human frailties. During this time of Lenten contemplation, we bring these sticks to the cross, and that makes all the difference.

Sticks may be brought in at any time during the Lenten journey, as we continue to reflect upon our lives and prepare to celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection, knowing that we are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.

This Lent, experience a season of spiritual growth by joining a six-week small group book study. Each group will study Adam Hamilton's book *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*. Groups will follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John. For a list of different group meeting times go to www.asburylv.org.



RADICAL HOSPITALITY / CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CARE



Save the date of 3/6 for the **Spring Blood Drive** facilitated by our Parish Nurse Health Ministry. Miller-Keystone Blood Center will have their coach on-site from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to accept your generous donations of the Gift of Life.

PEP CLUB (People Enjoying People) will meet in the Parlor on Friday, 2/19. (Please note change of location.) Refreshments and fellowship begin at 9:30 a.m., and a program of comedy, magic and illusions presented by George Reiger will follow at 10:00 a.m. All senior adults are welcome!

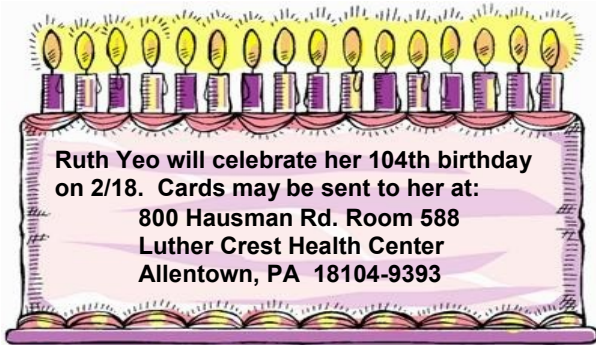
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS: It has been decided that no grief support groups will be offered this spring because of lack of interest and because there have been very few deaths in the congregation in the last 6 months. It is likely that grief support sessions will resume in September, 2016. In the meantime, anyone in need of grief support may check the Vine, local newspapers, or hospital newsletters for notices of other local grief support programs. Please feel free to contact Pastor Glenn Asquith (gasquith@asburylv.org) or Doris Farrar, R.N. (lafalot111@hotmail.com) if you have any particular needs for care in a time of grief.

PRISCILLA CIRCLE will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 2/16, in the Parlor/Community Room for "Soup & Salad." Members are asked to bring either a salad or dessert to share. Circle members will also assemble school supplies kits for distribution through the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) program. All women are welcome. For additional information, contact Judy Whitby (610-432-1848 or jmwhitby@aol.com) or Brenda Baxter (610-433-2583 or brendabaxter14@gmail.com).

THE PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, 2/16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Aldersgate Room. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. Please contact Pam Grossmann (610-398-8066 or pm.grossmann@gmail.com) or Dale Begany (610-216-9517 or dbegany@hotmail.com) for more information.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 2/17 at the home of Kim Bringham. We will discuss Chapter 5 from *The God We Can Know -- "I Am the Vine": Knowing God's Power*. Contact Kim for more information (610-298-0094).

2016 UMW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are now available as a hard copy from the UMW box in the workroom or as an email from Linda McCreight (lindamcc@ptd.net). Forms and required supporting documents must be submitted by Friday, 4/15.



COMMUNION BREAKFAST

AN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN OF ASBURY CHURCH

Annual Lenten Communion Breakfast

Saturday, 3/5, 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon in the Wesley Center

This year's service will feature Amy Enders as speaker and gospel singers from the Mt Zion United Methodist Women's Choir in Leesburg, Virginia. This is a very special Lenten service to share fellowship, worship and communion with other women. Please bring canned goods and/or non-perishable food for Allentown's Food Banks.

*Lord, in the midst of winter, when the days are cold and windy,
remind us of the warmth of your love and compassion.*

Cal Wick

For our congregation

Lord, we thank you for the journey that is Lent, which leads us to a greater, more meaningful communion with Thee.

For our children

Lord, have mercy on all children around the world, that they might have enough to eat, a place to sleep and someone to care for them.

For those who mourn

Lord, we ask comfort for all who mourn the loss of loved ones, especially the family of Beth Kleibschneidel, Daisy Girl Scout Troop Leader, who passed away last week. We also ask that you be with Phil & Dot Hess as they mourn the passing of Phil's Aunt Betty. Reassure them of your unending mercy and eternal love.

For the world, its people and its leaders

Lord, we ask you to bring peace with justice to warring parties in the Middle East. We thank You for the opportunity to choose our leaders through popular vote, realizing that not every country grants their citizens this freedom.

For the missions we support

Gracious Lord, this week we remember Lehigh Valley Youth for Christ. Our prayer is for their leadership to achieve their expansion goals this year in reaching the youth of the Lehigh Valley for Christ.

AMEN!

PRAYERS OF OUR CONGREGATION

For those who are sick or in the hospital

Lord, we ask your mercy and healing for all those currently hospitalized, recently discharged or in rehab, especially Beth Snyder, Jim Samois, Susan Jennings, Karen Moore and Bill Reed. Have mercy on those in pain; grant them 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 who need your special help. Georgie Miller's 14 year old grandson, Peter, who has a concussion. Kirk & Sara Brown's friend, Daniel, needs help and healing as he recovers from surgery for pancreatic cancer and awaits a treatment plan. Kimberley, who has a brain hemorrhage and Brian who has a brain tumor both need healing. Sarah Fullton, for successful surgery and recovery. Travel mercies for those going to a coaching retreat in Cape May next month. We lift up the Dobbins and Mack families for restoration of family healing, wisdom, and listening to the Lord as they deal with addiction and mental illness. Strengthen Amy as she undergoes medical testing.

With thanksgiving for our joys

Barry & Debi Olphin are thankful for the joy of a 30th wedding anniversary on 2/15. Lisa gives thanks that the Allentown School District will keep the Newcomer Academy open for immigrant students. Sue & Andrew give thanks for a winter break. Thank you for healing and for hope.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT



Contact Pam Unrath,
Director of Children's Ministries,
for information on all
Children's Ministries activities & opportunities
(punrath@asburylv.org or 610-398-2577).

Child care is available each week at the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service for infants and one-year-olds in Room 214 and for two-year-olds in Room 223. Child care is also provided during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service in Room 223.

In Children's Sunday School this Sunday, 2/14, all children's Sunday School classes will be studying Paul's teachings on "love" in 1 Corinthians 13. Children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade will gather in Wesley Center at 9:30 a.m. for Large Group Opening time.

Kids' Club will be held on Friday, 2/19, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We hope you will join us for dinner, games, crafts, snack, fun and more! Please RSVP to Pam Unrath by 2/16. Children are encouraged to bring a friend!

JAM (3rd—5th Grades) will take place on Saturday, 2/20, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Lehigh Valley Laser Tag. Please RSVP to Pam Unrath by 2/16 if your child can attend.

Asbury's Children's Ministry is seeking a patient, loving individual to join our child care team! This position requires availability approximately 2 Sunday mornings each month (from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m.). This individual should be willing to obtain Child Abuse and Criminal background clearances and participate in the Safe Sanctuaries training. This is a paid position. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pam Unrath in the church office (610-398-2577 or at punrath@asburylv.org).



Contact Aaron Forney, Director of Youth Ministries,
for information on all
Youth Ministries activities & opportunities
(aforney@asburylv.org or 610-398-2577).

Confirmation kick-off is this Sunday, 2/14, with a special meeting at 8:00 p.m. (following Youth Group) in the Parlor. Classes will run from 2/21 through 5/15 and will take place during the Sunday School hour (9:30 to 10:30 a.m.). Confirmation Sunday will be 5/22. Visit www.asburyym.org/confirmation for more information!

Our next Youth Group series, *The Walking Dead*, begins this Sunday, and we all have some things to learn from zombies. Don't watch the show? Don't worry—we won't be showing any graphic or inappropriate videos or images, and while we'll reference the show, you don't need to know it to follow along. Youth Group meets Sunday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge.

Sunday School is a chance for us to dig into our faith and dissect what it means for our lives, all while we get to know each other more as we work to live as part of God's community.

- ◇ **Middle School Sunday School Topic:** If you think about your friends, or certainly everyone you interact with at school, there are probably quite a few people in your life who don't share the same Christian beliefs as you. But what do they believe and how does it compare to what we believe as Christians? Come find out and join the discussion. Middle School Sunday School meets on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Room 106.
- ◇ **High School Sunday School Topic:** All year we're exploring topics related to loving our neighbor. Come explore new ground with us this week! High School Sunday School meets on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge.

Not sure if an event will take place because of winter weather? Visit www.asburyym.org or check our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), or [Instagram feed](#) before leaving home! (No accounts are required.) Also, make sure you're signed up for the Asbury Youth Ministries weekly email, which will also send notifications if events are cancelled.

RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE



CHANGE FOR CHANGE

is designated for the Winter Warming Station in the Fountain Park Pool Building on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive at 10th Street in Allentown. Operated by the Lehigh Conference of Churches, this facility offers overnight emergency shelter to those without homes. It is open daily from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. and has bathroom/shower facilities with bunk beds for up to 38 people. Two trained monitors are on duty each night. Please place your contributions in the "Change For Change" containers at the rear of the Sanctuary or in the Wesley Center.



Asbury
in Mission

MISSION PARTNER TO VISIT ASBURY



Our long-term mission partner, Rev. Donna Jones, will be visiting Asbury on **Sunday, 2/21**, to talk with us about the impact of her mission, Emerging Ministries, on the youth of North Philly. Rev. Jones, formerly pastor of Cookman UMC, runs an alternative school for marginalized teens. Stop by Room 217 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on the 21st to hear her stories and learn how you can support this important ministry.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 14 / Boy Scout Sunday

8:00 a.m. Heritage Worship - Sanctuary
9:15 a.m. God's Rainbow - 200
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship - Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Sunday School All Ages
10:45 a.m. Revelation Bible Study - 217
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
2:00 p.m. Pack 12 Den Meetings - 210/211/215/217
5:00 p.m. Open Door Alternative Worship - WC
6:00 p.m. Sunday Night Dinner - WC
6:00 p.m. Pack 12 Committee Meeting - Aldersgate
6:15 p.m. JAM - 210
6:30 p.m. John: Gospel of Light & Life - 208
6:30 p.m. Youth Group - 108/YL
8:00 p.m. Confirmation Kickoff Session - WC

Monday, February 15 / Presidents' Day

Office Closed / Building opens at 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Asbury Trio - Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Monday Night Men - 215
7:00 p.m. Worship Praise Band - Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Jubilation Ringers - 206
7:00 p.m. Finance Committee - Aldersgate

Tuesday, February 16

9:00 a.m. Clergy Breakfast - WC
6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry - Aldersgate
6:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle - Parlor
6:30 p.m. Church Council - 217
7:00 p.m. AIM - 106
7:00 p.m. Asbury Volleyball - WC
7:00 p.m. OA - 108

Wednesday, February 17

9:00 a.m. Prayer Group - 231
10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study - 108
1:00 p.m. AA (Open) - WC
5:40 p.m. Faith Ringers - 206

Wednesday, February 17 (continued)

6:30 p.m. Asbury Quilters - 204
6:30 p.m. Launching into Bible Study - 210
6:30 p.m. Journey 101: Loving God - 217
6:30 p.m. Joyful Noisemakers - 108
6:45 p.m. Rainbow Singers - 108
7:10 p.m. Apostle Ringers - 206

Thursday, February 18

6:00 p.m. Brownie Troop 6401 - 106
6:00 p.m. Open Door Band Rehearsal - WC
6:00 p.m. Sunday School Teacher Meeting - 217
7:00 p.m. NARANON - 108
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir - 102

Friday, February 19

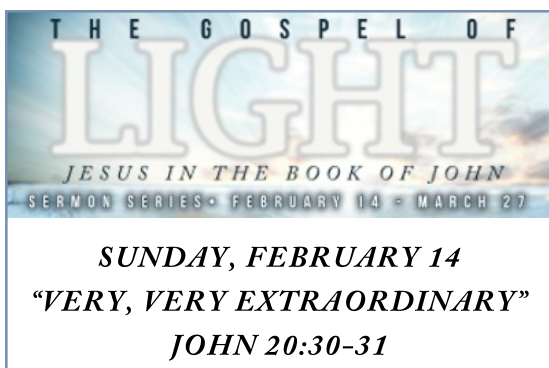
9:30 a.m. P.E.P. Club - Parlor
1:00 p.m. AA (Open) - WC
6:00 p.m. Kids Club - WC/106/108

Saturday, February 20

9:00 a.m. Girl Scout Thinking Day - WC/207-217

Sunday, February 21

8:00 a.m. Heritage Worship - Sanctuary
9:15 a.m. God's Rainbow - 200
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship - Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Sunday School All Ages
9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class - 108
10:45 a.m. Revelation Bible Study - 217
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
2:00 p.m. Pack 12 Pinewood Derby - Sanct. Hallway/Parlor
5:00 p.m. Open Door Alternative Worship - WC
6:00 p.m. Sunday Night Dinner - WC
6:30 p.m. John: Gospel of Light & Life - 208
6:30 p.m. Disciple 2 - 217
6:30 p.m. Youth Group - 108/YL
7:00 p.m. Dig Deep - 106



Our Staff

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Eric Yeakel, Senior Pastor | eyeakel@asburylv.org |
| Garth Olson, Director of Worship | golson@asburylv.org |
| Glenn Asquith, Director of Congregational Care | gasquith@asburylv.org |
| Laurie Wallace Theisen, Director of Lay Ministries | ltheisen@asburylv.org |
| Pam Unrath, Director of Children's Ministries | punrath@asburylv.org |
| Aaron Forney, Director of Youth Ministries & Leader of Open Door Worship Band | aforney@asburylv.org |
| Karen Bowermaster, Director of Preschool | preschool@asburylv.org |
| Cristina Lenner, Director of Communications | clenner@asburylv.org |
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