



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 Worship Center

Senior Pastor
Eric S. Yeakel

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE

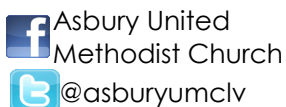
During our 9:30 Worship Service and Sunday School time, we have childcare for infants through two year olds. During our 11:00 Service, we have childcare available for infants through PreK.

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/>



THE VINE

faith in action... imagine your life changed.

DECEMBER 1, 2016



PASTOR'S COLUMN

On January 8, 2017, I will be starting a new series of messages entitled "Who Needs God?" This series is specifically targeted at people who grew up in the church and then left for one reason or another. For some people the reason they walked away from the church is because they couldn't figure out how to reconcile what they learned in school or what they experienced in life with what they learned in church. They decided that science is irreconcilable with faith, or pain and suffering in the world is irreconcilable with faith.

If you know someone who fits into this category, please consider inviting them to worship during this series. I want your friends, family and neighbors to reconsider Christianity because I think many of them left Christianity for reasons that really have nothing to do with the Christian faith. They left unnecessarily, so I'm inviting them to reconsider Christianity, not the Christianity of their childhood, but a grown-up faith with a grown-up God with a little bit different perspective.

Unfortunately, I think too many churches have not done a good job in laying a foundation of the Christian faith. The Church has given too many people a childhood faith that never grew up and they outgrew it. If I knew what they knew, and if I'd experienced what they've experienced, I'm sure I would feel the same way. But I just want them to know that maybe there's more, and I would love for them to give it another try. Please consider inviting a non-churched or nominally-churched friend to the "Who Needs God?" series.

See you in worship!
Pastor Eric

Advent Devotionals are available at the lower level Welcome Desk and on tables outside the Sanctuary. Pick up your free copy and spend some time each day preparing to celebrate the coming of our Savior!



A Bronze & Brass Christmas

**The Jubilation Ringers
and the
Liberty High School
Argyle Brass Quintet**



will present a Christmas Concert at 4:00 PM on Saturday, 12/10. (Snow date is 12/17.) Tickets are \$10.00. Go to JubilationRingers.asburylv.org to download a ticket order form or call Kim at 610-298-0094. Come and enjoy an afternoon of delightful Christmas music!

RADICAL HOSPITALITY / CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CARE

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet in the Parlor/Community Room at 11:30 AM on Thursday, 12/8, for their Christmas luncheon and party. Soups, sandwich wraps, fruit and desserts will be ordered out with the cost being divided by the number of reservations. All women are welcome. If you wish to attend and did not sign up at the November meeting, please call Karen Kutteroff (610-398-7491) or Louann Cline (610-395-1290) by 12/3.

SUSANNA CIRCLE will celebrate the Christmas season as the Rev. Dr. Glenn Asquith, who spent many years teaching at Moravian College, will tell us about "Celebrating a Moravian Christmas." We will meet at 6:30 PM on Monday, 12/12, at Judy Ehninger's home, 2620 Gracie Lone, Macungie (610-965-2290). All women are welcome!

PRISCILLA CIRCLE will meet at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, 12/13, in the Parlor/Community Room. Jeanne McLean will present a program, "Christmas Traditions at the Kinderdorf Pestalozzi," an International Children's Orphanage in Switzerland. A time of fellowship will follow the presentation. All women are welcome. Please contact Brenda Baxter (Brendabaxter14@gmail.com) or Judy Whitby (jmwhitby@aol.com) for more information.

PECANS: If you missed purchasing your South Carolina Pecans during the UMW Bazaar, they are available in the office during office hours ~ \$11.00 for a 16 oz. bag while supplies last. They will also be available at the UMW Christmas Tea on Sunday, 12/4.

LONGABERGER BASKETS from Dot Torrey's estate will be on sale in the Parlor/Community Room on 12/4 and 12/11 between worship services. The proceeds from the sale will go to our local mission partners. If you are looking for a great Christmas gift, please stop by.

PRAYER AND SHARE TOGETHER: Asbury regularly hosts two Christian support groups for Lehigh Valley women: one for women with loved ones who are struggling with emotional issues such as depression, anxiety, bipolar; and another for those who are afflicted themselves. Next meetings for both groups: Tuesday, 12/13, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. In Room 210. For more information, contact Linda (610-395-8756).

GOD'S RAINBOW, Asbury's Sunday School Class for young adults with developmental disabilities and autism, is in need of a few teachers and helpers on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30. Volunteering once a month (starting in January) would be very much appreciated, and training is provided. Contact Karen Mitton (karensmitton@gmail.com) if you might be able to help.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS OF REMEMBRANCE will be available in the Community Room starting 12/4 for families that have lost a loved one recently. The Parish Health Ministry invites anyone interested to take one, either for personal use or to give to someone who is having a difficult time during the holidays.

GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS: At a time when everyone around you seems to be obsessed with decorations, lights, special meals and the holiday spirit, those who are bereaved and grieving are painfully aware of the terrible hole in their hearts. Discovering ways to honor the memory of your loved one while continuing to be honest with yourself, your family and friends about how difficult it is to celebrate the holidays will be the theme of two sessions on "Grief and the Holidays." Led by Bill Arnold, Director of Congregational Care, two 1½ hour long sessions will be offered, the first on Wednesday, 12/7, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM and the second on Sunday, 12/11, from 2:00 to 3:30 PM. Both sessions will be held in the Parlor. Also, this year Asbury will offer "A Quiet Christmas" on Sunday, 12/18, at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary. This service, open to all, is especially designed to offer a prayerful atmosphere of peaceful and calm reflection, with a message in music, art and drama of hope and healing.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS are available at the Welcome Desks and on the website. Cost is \$10.00 for a 6½" pot. Donations may be made in someone's honor or memory to help with other decorating expenses even if you do not wish to take a plant. Deadline for orders/donations is Monday, 12/5.

CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS: We need a lot of help in order to make Asbury a warm and welcoming place on Christmas Eve! If you can greet, bake cookies, make coffee, sit at the Welcome Desk, or help on Friday to prepare, please look for a green form around the church, visit the Asbury website, or contact Laurie Wallace Theisen (ltheisen@asburylv.org).

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, in rehab or recently discharged, especially Alice Huey, Paul Frary, Ken Benson & Leann Taylor. We ask you to have mercy on all those in pain and grant them peace.

For those who mourn

Lord, we ask comfort for all who mourn the loss of loved ones. Reassure them of your unending mercy and love.

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: Linda McCreight asks for safe journeys for all those traveling throughout this holiday season. Beth Snyder asks comfort for Lauren and her family as Lauren's mother passed away suddenly.

For the world, its people and its leaders

Lord, may each citizen's heart soften with compassion for the difficulties endured by neighbors. May greed keep its distance from those in power so that mercy and justice may enter.

For our children

Inspire us to be quiet enough to learn from our children.

*Holy One, we wait and hope for your peace.
We live in the promise of your love.*

For our congregation

Lord, we ask that the spirit of hope fills us with joy. We offer welcoming hearts to all those searching for a church family.

With thanksgiving for our joys

Zedekiah Summerson, who lives in Colorado, recently became engaged, and his aunt offers prayers of joy and celebration. Bill & Evelyn Hart offer thanks for 45 years of wonderful membership at Asbury; they are moving to South Carolina to be closer to family. Remind us, Lord, of how simple our needs truly are and how abundantly you have blessed us.

For the missions we support

Today we pray for our Mission Partners, Bob & Joanna Kniley who work with Campus Target to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to college campuses in Asia. In August their toddler son, Daniel was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes which they are learning to manage. Bob & Joanna are expecting another baby boy which they have named Samuel David. Unfortunately they have learned that Samuel has Trisomy, a chromosomal anomaly and is not expected to live long after birth. Joanna is presently in her 33rd week. We pray for comfort, healing, wisdom and the support of friends and medical personnel for Bob, Joanna, Daniel & Samuel in the coming months.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT



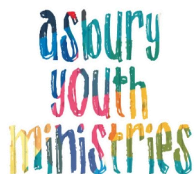
Contact Pam Unrath,
Director of Children's Ministries,
for information on all
Children's Ministries
activities & opportunities
(punrath@asburylv.org or 610-398-2577).

Throughout the month of December, BLAST will be focusing on what "Joy" really means. Most of us try to find joy through our stuff, our skills, or our relationships, but joy isn't dependent upon any of those things. Joy is about being content beyond those things. In Week 1, our bottom line is "I can have joy because God keeps His promises." Please be sure to stop by the Worship Center to get your copy of the Parent Cue sheets and this week's devotional guide to help reinforce this message at home throughout the week.

Each year, Asbury's children and their families work together to share the joy of Christmas with children in our neighboring communities. This year our children have elected to celebrate the birth of Jesus by extending their hearts to children at Ramos Elementary School. Children's Ministries will graciously accept donations for "The Special Gift" Advent Project from now until Sunday, 12/11. We appreciate your willingness to share the spirit of the season.

JAM (3rd- 5th Grades) will meet at 6:15 PM on Sunday, 12/11 at Five Below in Whitehall to wrap up our Special Gift Project. Children will be shopping for Christmas gifts for children at Ramos Elementary. Parents are welcome to attend and assist, but it is not mandatory. Please RSVP if your child will be attending as we need to be able to plan appropriately.

Please join us for *A Night in Bethlehem* on Tuesday, 12/13 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM as we transform the Worship Center into ancient Bethlehem. All are invited to join us for this fun, family event. There will be crafts, snacks, carols and a storytelling of Christ's birth. This is such a great way for families to experience and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!



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

REMINDER: Our Spaghetti Dinner is this Saturday, 12/3! We need your help (students and parents) to make this happen! Sign up at www.asburyym.org/spaghetti to assist, both with the dinner and to offer your musical talents as entertainment during the dinner.

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: Ok, so picture this: an angel shows up in your room tonight and tells you you're going to be the parent of the son of God. No big deal right? Wrong. You wouldn't just say "Okay, great!"... you would have some questions and fight back. But Jesus' mother Mary didn't fight back. What can we learn from her? Join the discussion in our lesson "Giving In (Mary)." Middle School Sunday School meets on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in Room 106.

High School Sunday School Topic: An inn, a manger, a census, a star... the place Jesus was born is clearly critical to the Christmas story. But over the past 2000 years, has there been anything about that place that supports it really being the scene as told in the Gospels? Join the discussion as we continue "The Case for Christmas" and examine "The Scientific Evidence." High School Sunday School meets from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in the Youth Lounge.

The hustle, the bustle, the rush, the waiting, the distractions... so many things are associated with the Christmas season. Almost everyone is familiar with the Christmas story and Jesus' birth, but beyond the story and its eternal impact on our lives, what does the story of the coming of our Savior teach us about living in the here and now? Join us at Youth Group as we begin our 3-week Christmas series! Youth Group meets on Sunday night from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the Youth Lounge.

Keep up-to-date with us online! Sign up for our [weekly email](mailto:weekly_email) and visit www.asburyym.org or check our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), or [Instagram feed](#). No accounts are required to access any of the social media accounts.

RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE



Change for Change

December's CFC is designated to help the Cherokee people of Cookson Hills, OK fund their Firewood Ministry. This project not only provides firewood for warmth and cooking, but also provides employment for reservation residents. Please place your contributions in the "Change For Change" containers at the rear of the Sanctuary or in the Worship Center.



Jewels of Hope is an AIM Mission Partner that benefits the families of the Phayiphini Community in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. Items will be available for purchase in the Community Room on 12/4, 12/11, & 12/18 between worship services. This mission is discontinuing so shop early for the best selection.



Tenth Well Completed in Liberia!

We are thrilled to report that under the leadership of James Wymon, District Lay Leader of the United Methodist Church in Lofa County Liberia, the 10th well in rural Liberian villages has been completed. With a source of clean water, the health and quality of life of our Liberian brothers and sisters is greatly improved. These wells have been funded by Asbury Church, Methodist churches in Florida and Western Pennsylvania and funds contributed in memory of Asbury member Paul Wingrove. God is good!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 4 / Communion

- 8:00 a.m. Heritage Worship - Sanctuary
- 9:30 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
- 12:30 p.m. UMW Christmas Tea - Wesley Center
- 2:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12 - 215/217
- 5:00 p.m. Open Door Worship - Worship Center
- 6:00 p.m. Sunday Night Dinner - Wesley Center
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12 Committee Mtg. - 217
- 6:15 p.m. Disciple FT New Testament - Aldersgate
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group - YL/108
- 7:00 p.m. Dig Deep - 106



Wednesday, December 7 (continued)

- 6:30 p.m. Asbury Quilters - 204
- 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noisemakers - 108
- 6:30 p.m. Rainbow Singers - 106
- 6:30 p.m. Grief and the Holidays - Parlor
- 7:10 p.m. Youth Choir - 106

Thursday, December 8

- 10:00 a.m. Friendship Circle - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12 Meeting - Wesley Center
- 6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group - Aldersgate
- 7:00 p.m. NARANON - 108
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir - 102

Friday, December 9

- 1:00 p.m. AA (Open) - 108
- 5:00 p.m. Henritz Class Christmas Party - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Preschool Cookies with Santa - Wesley Center

Saturday, December 10

- 8:30 a.m. Asbury Adult Basketball - Wesley Center
- 12:00 p.m. Troop 12 Lock-In - WC/106/108
- 4:00 p.m. Jubilation Ringers Concert - Sanctuary

Monday, December 5

- 1:00 p.m. Caring in a Nutshell Grief Group - Aldersgate
- 5:45 p.m. Dancing Stars Ballet Class - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Asbury Trio - 102
- 6:00 p.m. Troop 12 Leadership Council Mtg. - 106
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Praise Band - 102
- 7:00 p.m. Jubilation Ringers - 206/Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 6

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group - 231
- 10:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study - 108
- 12:30 p.m. Program Staff Meeting - Aldersgate
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 654 - 219
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 661 - 208
- 6:30 p.m. UMW Board Meeting - 106
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Volleyball - Wesley Center
- 7:00 p.m. OA - 108

Wednesday, December 7

- 1:00 p.m. AA (Open) - Wesley Center
- 5:40 p.m. Faith Ringers - 206
- 6:20 p.m. Apostle Ringers - 206
- 6:30 p.m. Launching into Bible Study - 210

Sunday, December 11

- 8:00 a.m. Heritage Worship - Sanctuary
- 9:30 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
- 1:00 p.m. Bleile Piano Recital - 106
- 2:00 p.m. Grief and the Holidays - Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Open Door Worship - Worship Center
- 6:00 p.m. Sunday Night Dinner - Wesley Center
- 6:15 p.m. Disciple FT New Testament - Aldersgate
- 6:30 p.m. JAM - Wesley Center/106
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group - YL/108



Our Staff

Eric Yeakel, Senior Pastor
Bill Arnold, Director of Congregational Care
Laurie Wallace Theisen, Director of Lay Ministries
Pam Unrath, Director of Children's Ministries
Aaron Forney, Director of Youth Ministries
& Leader of Open Door Worship Band
Karen Bowermaster, Director of Preschool
Cristina Lenner, Director of Communications
Tom Gibson, Business Administrator
Frank Taylor, Head Custodian

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Down to Earth
SERMON SERIES • NOVEMBER 27 • DECEMBER 24

December 4, 2016
" Savior "
Luke 2:8-12 & Matthew 1:20-21