



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/>

Asbury United
Methodist Church
 @asburyumclv

THE VINE
faith in action... imagine your life changed.

DECEMBER 8, 2016



PASTOR'S COLUMN

I want to thank the Asbury community for making Saturday December 3rd such a special day here at Asbury. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the season of Advent and keep us focused on the true meaning of this season.

Thank you to Dawn Palmquist and her team of volunteers that decorated the church for Christmas. Thank you to Kirk Brown for the wonderful job he did in decorating the Sanctuary. Thanks to Aaron Forney and Pam Unrath for decorating the Worship Center. Thanks to Linda and Dick McCreight for their leadership in organizing the *Stop Hunger Now* service project. There were 60 volunteers who prepared over 10,000 meals to be sent overseas for people who go without food on a regular basis. Thanks to all of you who helped prepare those meals. Thank you to all of the youth and youth volunteers for preparing a wonderful Spaghetti Dinner Saturday evening. Finally, thank you to Bill Arnold and the Chancel Choir for a great Advent Celebration Service Saturday evening.

For those of you who have suffered a loss recently and are having a difficult time during the holiday season, please plan on attending "A Quiet Christmas" on Sunday, December 18th at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary. This service is open to all, but is specially designed to offer a prayerful atmosphere of peaceful and calm reflection, with a message of hope and healing through music, art and drama.

See you in worship!
Pastor Eric



The sign-up chart to sponsor altar flowers for 2017 is now posted across from Room 218 on the upper level. 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.



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, and will be available at the door.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY / CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CARE

SUSANNA CIRCLE will celebrate the Christmas season as the Rev. Dr. Glenn Asquith, who spent many years teaching at Moravian College, speaks 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.

LONGABERGER BASKETS from Dot Torrey's estate will be on sale in the Parlor/Community Room on Sunday, 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).

P.E.P. CLUB (People Enjoying People) will meet on Friday, 12/16, at 11:30 AM in the Parlor/Community Room for their Christmas Luncheon. The Board will provide soup and beverages. Attendees whose last names begin with A-M are asked to bring salads, and those whose begin with N-Z should bring desserts. A musical program will be presented by The Ultimate Sound. All senior (50+) adults are welcome to attend.



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 on 12/11 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 a session on "Grief and the Holidays." Led by Bill Arnold, Director of Congregational Care, the 1½ hour long session will be offered on Sunday, 12/11, from 2:00 to 3:30 PM 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.

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 sit at the Welcome Desk before the 3:00 or 9:00 service, please visit the Asbury website, contact Laurie Wallace Theisen (610-398-2577 or ltheisen@asburylv.org) or look for a green form around the church,

STAMP MINISTRY: As you open your Christmas cards this year, please remember to save the stamps for Asbury's Stamp Ministry, a mission program of the UMW. Cut out the stamps, leaving at least ¼" border, and drop them in any of the collection containers throughout the building. Do not cut too close, or paper clip the stamps! For more information, contact Jan Kuhns (610-442-8766).

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 Paul Frary, & Ken Benson. 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, especially Linda Shephard and family on the loss of her father last week. 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: Dave & Lynda Hassick ask healing for their cousin, Chentille, who is a very young mom and is having a recurrence of lymphoma. The Hassicks also request comfort and healing for their friend, Mike, recovering from oral cancer surgery. We lift up all those who face medical tests and procedures. God strengthen, heal and comfort them.

For our children

Lord, we ask that you help broken families to heal so that the children can grow up in a loving environment.

*Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise*

For our congregation

Lord, we ask that the spirit of love inspire us to compassionate work. We thank you, Lord, for the beauty of Advent, making our hearts ready for the birth of our Savior.

For the world, its people and its leaders

Lord, we ask that you allow mercy and justice to enter into the hearts of leaders around the world, so their people are joyful. We ask for a lasting peace in the Middle East. Give us courage to speak up when we notice changes that need to happen locally and nationally.

With thanksgiving for our joys

Michele Godiska celebrates the birthday of her mother, Patricia Summerson. It is always our joy, Lord, to serve you while we serve the needs of others

For the missions we support

Today we offer prayers of joy for the sewing school in Lofa County, Liberia. The UMW recently purchased 5 additional sewing machines and through the generosity of Asbury members, four instructors are teaching sewing classes. With this training, students will have the skill to generate income to provide for basic needs for their families.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT



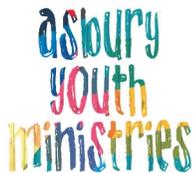
Contact Pam Unrath,
Director of Children's Ministries,
for information on all
Children's Ministries
activities & opportunities
(punrath@asburylv.org or 610-398-2577).

Child care is available each Sunday during the 9:30 AM Worship Service for infants & one-year-olds in Room 214 and for two-year-olds in Room 216. Child care is also provided during the 11:00 AM Worship Service in Room 214.

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 2, our bottom line is "I can have joy because everything is possible with God." 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 important message at home throughout the week.



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).

Thank you to everyone who made our Spaghetti Dinner a resounding success! Together, we were able to raise \$1100 toward our High School Mission Trip to serve in West Virginia in July!

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: Take a look at the Nativity scene in your house. Who's in there? Mary, Joseph, Wise Men, Shepherds, Baby Jesus... they're all supposed to be there, right? They were always meant to be there. But did they HAVE to be there? Join the discussion in our lesson "A Dream to Follow (Joseph)." Middle School Sunday School meets on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in Room 106.

High School Sunday School Topic: Jesus claims to be the Son of God. But does he fulfill these characteristics of deity? In other words, if we examine Jesus carefully, does his likeness closely match the sketch of God that we find elsewhere in the Bible? Join the discussion as we continue "The Case for Christmas" and examine "The Profile Evidence." High School Sunday School meets from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in the Youth Lounge.

The shepherds are always thought of when we consider the Christmas story, but we usually don't realize how important their role really was, or how many excuses they could have used to get out of their role in God's plan. As far removed as we may seem from being in charge of a flock of animals, we have more to learn from the shepherds than we think. Join us at Youth Group for Week 2 of our "**A Right-Now 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](#) 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 12/11 & 12/18 between worship services. This mission is discontinuing, so shop early for the best selection.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

A Few Notes from the Financial Secretary

We will be closing the books for 2016 on January 4, 2017. Contributions marked 2016 received after January 4 will be credited to 2017. Please indicate your envelope number on all correspondence. Please do not put contributions for different years on the same check – each year must be deposited separately.

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 2017 prior to the end of 2016 should contact me for instructions.

Suzanne Weida

(610-398-2577 or sweida@asburylv.org)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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



Wednesday, December 14

- 1:00 p.m. AA (Open) - Wesley Center
- 5:40 p.m. Faith Ringers - 206
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 6:20 p.m. Apostle Ringers - 206
- 6:30 p.m. Launching into Bible Study - 210
- 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noisemakers - 108
- 6:30 p.m. Rainbow Singers - 106
- 7:10 p.m. Youth Choir - 106

Thursday, December 15

- 6:15 p.m. Open Door Band Rehearsal - Worship Center
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12 - 210/215/217
- 6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group - Aldersgate
- 7:00 p.m. NARANON - 108
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir - 102

Friday, December 16

- 9:00 a.m. Preschool Christmas Prog. Rehearsal - Sanct.
- 11:30 a.m. P.E.P. Club - Parlor
- 1:00 p.m. AA (Open) - 108
- 6:00 p.m. Angel Tree Christmas Party - Wesley Center
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12 - 217

Saturday, December 17

- 8:30 a.m. Asbury Adult Basketball - Wesley Center

Sunday, December 18 / New Members

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. A Quiet Christmas - Sanctuary
- 4:00 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
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group - YL/108



Monday, December 12

- 1:00 p.m. Caring in a Nutshell Grief Group - Alders.
- 5:45 p.m. Dancing Stars Ballet Class - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Asbury Trio - Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Monday Night Men - 215
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Praise Band - Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 12 - Wesley Center/106
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 61025 - 108
- 7:00 p.m. Jubilation Ringers - 206

Tuesday, December 13

- 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. New Mom's Group - Wesley Center
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 661 - 208
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Night in Bethlehem - Worship/106/108
- 7:00 p.m. Prayer and Share Together - 210
- 7:00 p.m. Brewology - Offsite
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Volleyball - Wesley Center
- 7:00 p.m. OA - 108
- 7:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle - Parlor

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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December 11, 2016
"Emmanuel"
Matthew 1:20-23
Hebrews 1:1-3