



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

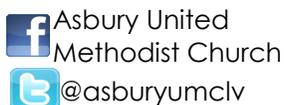
During our 9:30 Worship Service and Sunday School time, we have childcare for infants through two year olds. During our 11:00 Service, we have childcare available for infants through PreK.

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.

JANUARY 5, 2017



Pastor's Column

Beginning Wednesday, 2/8, Asbury will be offering a small-group opportunity called "Starting Point." Starting Point is an eight-week class that provides an opportunity to explore faith in a very safe, non-threatening environment. In fact, no question is off-limits. If you're new to faith, just checking it out, or coming back to church after some time away, Starting Point is a great first step. As a result of this group, you will experience a taste of what it's like to be in a community with other people on a similar journey.

The Starting Point small group will meet for 8 weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 217. Registration begins 1/22 on our website (www.asburylv.org). If you are interested, please register so I can order the correct number of books before the class begins. For more information, or if you have questions about Starting Point, please contact me at eyeakel@asburylv.org.

An eight-week Grief Support Class will be offered by Bill Arnold, Director of Congregational Care, beginning Thursday, 1/19. The class is open to all members and friends of Asbury United Methodist Church who have experienced a loss. Participants will work in a small group setting supporting each other while exploring the book "Beyond the Broken Heart." The class will meet Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Aldersgate Room, and will be limited to the first 12 registrants. Please contact the church office if you wish to attend or email Bill Arnold at barnold@asburylv.org.

*See you in worship,
Pastor Eric*

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2017

The sign-up chart to sponsor altar flowers for 2017 is now posted across from Room 218 on the upper level. There are many opportunities for sponsorship in February and March.

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 arrangements, and you may choose to take them home after the services or donate them to be delivered to those who are hospitalized or homebound. For more information, please contact Susan Berry (610-737-0356 or b33su3@gmail.com).

Administrative Assistant to Senior Pastor
20 Hours per week

Position Description available at www.asburylv.org

Send resume to info@asburylv.org

**POSITION
AVAILABLE**



For the month of January the UMW would like to help the Allentown Warming Station, an emergency shelter for homeless people run by Everlasting Life Ministries, and located at Fountain Park, 1000 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Allentown. We are collecting "NEW" socks, underwear and t-shirts for men and women. Please place items in the designated bin by the UMW Bulletin Board, near the elevator on the lower level. Contact Gary Millsbaugh if you wish to make a monetary donation.

SUSANNA CIRCLE will meet for their annual dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, 1/9, at the Bravo Italian Restaurant in the outdoor section of the Lehigh Valley Mall. For information or to make a reservation, please call Tea Kratzer (610-821-0258) by 1/5. After the dinner, a representative of Ten Thousand Villages will tell us about this Fair Trade Retailer which has been operating since 1946. All women are welcome.

PRISCILLA CIRCLE will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 1/10, in the Aldersgate Room. Cyndi Frank will continue the study of Paul with Lesson 4, "Called to Love." All women are welcome. For more information, please contact Brenda Baxter (brendabaxter14@gmail.com) or Judy Whitby (jmwhitby@aol.com).

PEP (People Enjoying People) CLUB will gather in the Parlor/Community Room at 9:30 AM on Friday, 1/20, for fellowship and refreshments. A program will be presented by Al Grout, Comedian, Juggler & Musician. All interested adults are welcome to attend.

Praying Our Way Forward ~ January 8-14, 2017

Let us all join in a week of concentrated prayer for our Church—specifically for the United Methodist Council of Bishops' *Commission on the Way Forward* and for the Church's effectiveness in fulfilling our mission to "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The Commission is charged to explore all that our United Methodist Book of Discipline says about homosexuality, particularly our laws, in the light of Scripture, tradition, reason and experience. The body will then make recommendations to a special session of General Conference in early 2019, which will discuss the findings and vote on recommendations.

Bishop Peggy Johnson urges us to pray together, especially during the assigned week of January 8-14, for a fruitful outcome of this effort and for the faithfulness and future of our Church in its mission to serve Christ.

We invite you to attend a Conference-wide Prayer Service, as part of our Week of Prayer, on Wednesday, January 11, at 7:00 PM, at Lima UMC, 209 N. Middletown Road, Lima, PA. Please join us there or at another prayer service that evening in your church, community or district.

"Pray that God will move in a mighty way, and that we, as a denomination, may remain one in Christ Jesus."

Bishop Peggy Johnson, Eastern PA Conference, UMC

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, 1/10, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 210. For more information, please contact Linda (610-395-8756).

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 Lisa Dolan, Dolores Zehner, Gladys Schoch, Ken Benson, Donald Mellen, Cheryl Boyle, Joan Potter, Russ Rooks, Mark Schessler and Wesley Hoffert. We ask you to have mercy on all those in pain 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 who need your special help: Jenn Springer asks for health and healing for her brother, Michael, recently diagnosed with a kidney tumor. Shirley Offutt lifts up Joey, the one-month old son of a LV Parish nurse, as he is hospitalized with breathing problems. Lord, we join Gerry Schiermeyer in asking health and healing for her sister-in-law, Eleanor Schiermeyer. Cindy Brown thanks God that Russ Rooks broke nothing in a fall Sunday morning, though his defibrillator keeps going off. We join with Tim and Tammy Dietrich who ask health and healing for our former pastor, Rev. Mindy McKonly, after knee surgery. We ask healing for Matt Hoffert who had an emergency appendectomy while traveling in Rome, Italy.

Lord of All, we are grateful for a new year of hope, full of promise. We look forward to each day and every moment spent in your presence. Guide us, bless us, and grant us the great gift of thy peace.

For those who mourn

Lord, we ask comfort for all who mourn the loss of loved ones, especially the families of Don Martin and Betsy Metzger. Reassure them of your unending mercy and love.

For our congregation

Lord, we need your continued blessings on our efforts to be true followers of Jesus Christ.

For our children

We ask that our children grow in love for others, in understanding, in forbearance, in wisdom and in self-discipline.

For the world, its people and its leaders

Lord, steer our leaders to see truth and to act with mercy, patience and justice. May your peace prevail throughout the world this year.

With thanksgiving for our joys

We are thankful for a new year in which to make better decisions so that we reflect the love Christ showed.

For the missions we support

Our mission prayer today is for the Salem Food Pantry at Salem United Methodist Church in Allentown. Through the hard work of their volunteers and generous donations from other churches and the community, Salem is able to provide nutrition assistance to people right here in Allentown.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT



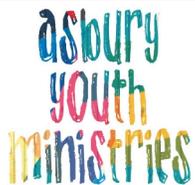
Contact Pam Unrath,
Director of Children's Ministries,
for information on all
Children's Ministries
activities & opportunities
(punrath@asburylv.org or 610-398-2577).

Children's Sunday School:

- * Child care is available during the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service for infants & one-year-olds in Room 216 and for two-year-olds in Room 214. Child care is also provided during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service in Room 214.
- * Children love to string together questions in an attempt to understand everything around them. This curiosity and thirst to know more continues throughout their lives. God has made each of us in such a way that we are always discovering, wondering, exploring, innovating, improving, and solving. He wants us to pursue knowing more, because He wants us to know Him more. That is why this January, BLAST will be taking a closer look at how the pursuit of "Knowledge" shows up throughout the Gospels. This Sunday, 1/8, we will begin our quest by looking at the story of young Jesus going to the temple to learn about God's word from the priests. Our bottom line for this week is: "What God says is the most important thing to know."

Children's Activities:

- * JAM (3rd, 4th & 5th Graders) will meet on Sunday, 1/8, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. in Room 210. Please RSVP to Pam Unrath. Remember, friends are welcome to join us!!
- * Kids' Club will be on Friday, 1/20, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This month is Movie Night! Children are invited to wear their pajamas (sneakers for gym time please) and join us for a night of dinner and gym games, as well as a short movie. Please RSVP to Pam Unrath by Tuesday, 1/17



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

We got a fantastic Christmas present: the dates for our **2017 High School West Virginia Work Week Mission Trip!** This year's trip will be July 16-22. We're looking forward to another fantastic year of serving God through this week. Start to pray for the trip and the family we'll be serving, and watch for registration to open in the next few weeks!

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: The Christmas story is now fresh in our minds... so what do we do with it? In the book of Galatians, we can get a glimpse into discovering who we are because of Jesus being born on that glorious night. The shepherds and wise men came to Jesus because of experiences they had. How did you come to follow Jesus? Have you? What have been your experiences? We'll talk about that and more in "No Lie: Galatians." **Middle School Sunday School** meets on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Room 106. High School Sunday School topic: If God can do anything, isn't this world filled with things that don't make sense? Why is there pain and suffering? Why are people murdered? Can't God just stop an event like that from happening? Come join the discussion in "Murder and Relationships, What Do They Have in Common?" **High School Sunday School** meets on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge.

What is Christianity all about, anyway? Why do we believe what we believe? What does it mean for you? Maybe you've grown up in the church and feel like you have answers to those questions. Maybe you rarely came to church growing up and aren't quite sure you know. Maybe you're somewhere between. Wherever you are, at Youth Group we're going to start the new year with the basics to create a "Starting Point" for a conversation about who we are. **Youth Group** meets on Sunday night from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge.

RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE



Change for Change

January's CFC is designated for the Kingdom Life Family Center, which sponsors a local food bank that serves over 210 families each month. While the program supports families from all over the Lehigh Valley, it focuses mainly on families in the Parkland School District. Please place your contributions in the "Change For Change" containers at the rear of the Sanctuary or in the Worship Center.

Thank You Notes from Ramos School

I can't say enough wonderful things about Asbury (Church). I am still overwhelmed when I think of what Asbury has done for my music program. With the money raised at the fundraising music concert that Asbury put on two years ago, I was able to buy 15 new (used but new to us) instruments for Ramos. That is why Luis A. Ramos once again this year has more instrumental music students than any other elementary school in Allentown!!! So far 20+ students have been able to start on an instrument that otherwise would not have been able to for financial reasons. That number will grow each year as students move on to the middle school, and those instruments move into another student's hands.

Will Wagner
Instrumental Music Teacher at Ramos

Our partnership with Asbury Church is the best thing to happen to our school. Ramos is a low income, urban elementary school with many needy kids. We really need the help of all the volunteers who spend valuable time tutoring our students and assisting the teachers. Some volunteers are also valued members of our PTA, who help raise funds for our students for field trips. Their biggest accomplishment has been to organize fund-raising for a much needed new playground for our school. I don't know how we did it before our partnership with Asbury!

Mrs. Kimberly Graham
First Grade Teacher (15 yrs.)
Luis A. Ramos Elementary

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 8 / Communion

- 8:00 a.m. Heritage Worship - Sanctuary
- 8:00 a.m. Pioneer Class Breakfast - 217
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. God's Rainbow - 200
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School All Ages
- 10:45 a.m. Revelation Bible Study - 210
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12 - 215/217
- 5:00 p.m. Open Door Service - Worship Center
- 6:00 p.m. Sunday Night Dinner - Wesley Center
- 6:00 p.m. Pack 12 Committee Meeting - 217
- 6:30 p.m. JAM - Wesley Center/210
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group - YL/108

Monday, January 9

- 6:00 p.m. Asbury Trio - Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Troop 12 Leadership Council Mtg. - 106
- 6:30 p.m. Monday Night Men - 217
- 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, January 10

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group - 231
- 10:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study - 108
- 10:30 a.m. Program Staff Meeting - Aldersgate
- 6:00 p.m. New Mom's Group - 214
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 661 - 208
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Volleyball - Wesley Center
- 7:00 p.m. OA - 108
- 7:00 p.m. Brewology - Offsite
- 7:00 p.m. Prayer and Share Together - 210
- 7:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle - Aldersgate



Wednesday, January 11

- 1:00 p.m. TelecomPioneers - Parlor
- 1:00 p.m. AA (Open) - Wesley Center

Wednesday, January 11 (continued)

- 5:40 p.m. Faith Ringers - 206
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. SPRC - Aldersgate
- 7:10 p.m. Youth Choir - 106

Thursday, January 12

- 6:30 p.m. Troop 12 Comm. Meeting - Aldersgate
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12 - 210/215/217
- 7:00 p.m. NARANON - 108
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir - 102

Friday, January 13

- 1:00 p.m. AA (Open) - Wesley Center
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12 - 217

Saturday, January 14

- 8:30 a.m. Asbury Adult Basketball - Wesley Ctr.
- 10:00 a.m. NARANON Area 25 Meeting - 108

Sunday, January 15 / Baptism

- 8:00 a.m. Heritage Worship - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. God's Rainbow - 200
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School All Ages
- 10:45 a.m. Revelation Bible Study - 210
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12 - 215/217
- 5:00 p.m. Open Door Service - Worship Center
- 6:00 p.m. Sunday Night Dinner - Wesley Center
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group - YL/108

Monday, January 16 / Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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

"I Have  a DREAM..."



January 8, 2017
"Gods of the 'No' Testament"
I John 4:7-12

Our Staff

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& Leader of Open Door Worship Band	
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Cristina Lenner, Director of Communications	clenner@asburylv.org
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