



Asbury Church
a United Methodist
Community

AUGUST 4, 2013

THE VINE

faith in action... imagine your life changed.

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

WORSHIP

11:00 AM in the Sanctuary

OPEN DOOR WORSHIP

11:00 AM in the Wesley Center

Teaching Pastors
Mark Moore and Eric Yeakel

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE

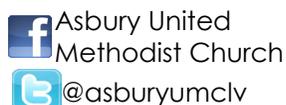
During our 9:30 Sunday School time, we have childcare for infants through three year olds. During our 11:00 Services, we have childcare available for infants through PreK.

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/>



CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS

Last weekend my family and I had the privilege of going to the "Families on the Grow" camping trip at Hickory Run State Park and the Pioneers Sunday School class farewell party for Ed and Kathy Keller. It was great to see the close relationships that have been cultivated within these Asbury groups. The Christian life is meant to be lived out in community. We need relationships with other Christians to help us on our journey of knowing, loving, and serving God.

The Apostle Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 5:11 "*encourage one another and build each other up.*" The Greek word for "encourage" is *paraclete*, which is also the word that Jesus used to speak of the Holy Spirit. When referring to the Holy Spirit the word *paraclete* is translated as "comforter," but it literally means one who is called to walk alongside you. Paul is, in essence, saying, "*we are to do for each other what the Holy Spirit seeks to do in us—be comforters and encouragers for one another.*" We are to advocate for one another, console one another, and encourage one another.

Do you have Christian relationships with others who cheer you on when you are discouraged and help you to not give up? If you do not have connections within a Christian community it is important for your spiritual growth to develop those types of relationships. The catch is that you have to cultivate them; they don't just happen. My prayer is that everyone would find opportunities to get involved at Asbury outside of worship.

Blessings, Pastor Eric

ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF HUNGER

How much do you know about hunger and poverty in our country? Here are some facts that may surprise you:

- ◆ 1 out of 2 children in America will have to rely on federal assistance for their food at some time during their childhood.
- ◆ The average time for a person to be on food stamps is 9-10 months.
- ◆ Less than 5% of nutritional assistance to families comes by way of charitable donations such as food pantries and soup kitchens.
- ◆ Obesity is often related to malnutrition.
- ◆ Over 8 million families with a full-time working adult live at or below the poverty line.

Those of us who don't have to worry about feeding our families from one day to the next may have a limited understanding of the real causes and affects of hunger in our community and nation. That's why it is the goal of our Church and Society Ministry Team to educate ourselves and the congregation to become partners and advocates in the fight against hunger.

Currently, we have an active mission at the Salem UMC Food Pantry in Allentown. Our funds through AIM, along with other charitable donations, have allowed us to supply a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables to the over 400 families that use the Food Pantry.

In October, we will be sponsoring a movie night at Asbury featuring the critically acclaimed film "A Place at the Table." This will be followed by an Offering of Letters campaign addressing key people in our government as advocates for the poor and hungry.

Our goals are large but our committee is small. If you feel called to help by either serving on our committee or in the Food Pantry, we would love to hear from you. For more information you may contact Chairperson Marsha Johnston (mljstv@ptd.net) or Lynn Shelly (lynnie819@aol.com).

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Thank You

USHERING OPPORTUNITY: Looking for a service opportunity to cover with your spouse, family member, Asbury friend? This is a light commitment of nine Sundays per year. An ushering team of two is needed for the 8:00 AM service on the second and fifth Sundays of each month. This service opportunity is shared with another ushering couple. You would be covering alternating second and fifth Sundays. Training will be provided by Cyndi Frank. If you would like to volunteer or have questions regarding this service opportunity, please contact Cyndi (frankcj@ptd.net or 610-799-6079)

PARKLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE will be held 8/9 and 8/10 in Asbury's Fellowship Hall. Donations of used books, games and puzzles will be accepted from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday through Thursday, 8/5 to 8/8. Bring your Asbury bulletin to receive \$1.00 off your purchase of \$10.00 or more. Please see the flyer posted on the lower level bulletin board for more information.

THE PIONEER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is attending the Summer Harmony/Allentown Band Concert at Parkland High School on 8/23 at 7:30 PM. We have reserved a block of seats and would love to have you join us. Tickets are \$15.00 each. Please contact Dick McCreight (dick.mcCreight@juno.com) if you are interested.

CROP BIKE RIDE UPDATE: On Saturday, 7/20, 25 bike riders joined the Second Annual CROP Hunger Bike Ride at Bob Rodale Fitness & Bike Park in Trexlertown. The weather was perfect and the Spirit was present. Over \$1,000.00 was raised! Special thanks go out from Barry & Debi Olphin to the Lehigh Wheelmen Association, Paul & Donalee Frary, Barb & Steven Jaindl and Dick McCreight.

Dear Friends,

There are no words adequate enough to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers during these last months. These prayers have undergirded us throughout this difficult time. God has blessed us with a wonderful church family and we are grateful for all of you. Our children were so happy to see so many of our Asbury friends whom they have known for years. They recognized them immediately and commented how little people had changed. A special note of thanks to the Asbury Women who prepared and served the reception. God has strengthened us with his love, peace and guidance. We thank you for being there for us.

Grace and Peace, Ruth Sevart & Family

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the delivery of the altar flowers from Sunday, 7/21. It was so nice to be visited by Paul & Carole Hoffman, and I enjoyed the flowers so very much. It was nice to be remembered.

Blessings, Joan Donham

The WV Work Trip Kitchen Kweens would like to thank the many people who helped make this year's trip a huge success! Thank you to everyone who donated various food items, corn, apples and monetary gifts! Thank you to our wonderful cookie bakers and pasta cooks! Thank you all for your prayers and well wishes! And a special thank you goes out to the Fulton Brown family for their Subway donation and to Barb Jaindl, Colleen Benson, and Dot Hess for their help and guidance.

Sincerely,

Bev Kerch, Karen Dearborn, Linda Lantaff & Tammy Yeakel

Prayers of Our Congregation

*"Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunity to serve You. Help me love others as you love all of us. And help me to have a gracious heart."
Sarah Fullton (Lenten Devotional 2012)*

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 Elizabeth R., John F., Terri P., Barry Z. and Phyllis R. 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. In the knowledge of your love and mercy toward us, we lift up these people for your care: Caroline T. as she seeks a new place to live; Jamie, who is hospitalized with complications with her pregnancy with twins; Jennifer S.'s father, Albert, who has pneumonia; Evelyn H.'s stepbrother, Bill, who is hospitalized with mental health issues; Opportunities for the unemployed to obtain jobs.

With thanksgiving for our joys

We celebrate the joy of Sean & Terri P. who recently welcomed a baby girl. We thank you for the Mellen family's joy and ask for travel protection as they accompany James to Scotland where he will compete in the Junior World's Championship Track Cyclist races

For our congregation

Lord, we thank you for the gift of this, Your church, and for its many ministries. Keep us ever focused on manifesting Your love in the world. Be with longtime members, Kathy and Ed K. as they sadly leave their Asbury family to start their adventure in North Carolina.

For those who mourn

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

For our children

Thank you for helping us to provide a week of fun and inspiration to so many children last week at Asbury's Vacation Bible School.

For the world, its people and its leaders

Lord, be with our leaders so that they may truly have the best interests of the citizens at heart.

For the missions we support

Lord, we ask you to look after missionaries Mark and Deidre Zimmerman in Nepal as they search for new housing for their family. We also ask you to help them expand the health ministry they are undertaking for the people of Nepal.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN



Faith & Fun Alive Sunday School

- ☺ VBS Sunday - All children PreK/4 – 5th Grade are invited to worship with their families at the 9:30 AM Sanctuary service on 8/4. The VBS kids will share a song they learned at our "Everywhere Fun Fair." Childcare is available for infants – 3 year olds in Room 223.
- ☺ All kids PreK – 5th Grade will meet 8/11 in Fellowship Hall for Sunday School.
- ☺ If you are interested in leading/teaching our children starting in September, please contact Linda in the church office this week. We are now planning for our new school year! We need leaders/teachers for all age groups (3 years – 5th Grade).

VBS — Everywhere Fun Fair

A huge **THANK YOU** to the all volunteers and staff for a wonderful Spirit-filled week. This week 80 volunteers and staff touched 179 little lives, and brought each one closer to Jesus. May God bless you all as you continue to serve God.



Please be in prayer this month for all our dedicated Sunday School and Kidz Klub teachers and leaders, as we plan and go forward on our journey to implement new, creative, and engaging formats for our children.

Contact Linda Arleth Smith in the church office
(610-398-2577 or larleth@asburylv.org)

for information on all Children's Ministry activities and opportunities.

Check out Summer Sunday School with Dr. Griebel – every Sunday 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM!

Summer is flying by! Be sure to catch one of the upcoming Youth Group meetings before it's too late!

8/4	No Meeting
8/11	Pool Party @ Howorths' (Time TBD)
8/16-17	Night on the Move (Check www.asburyym.org for a permission slip)
8/25	Youth Group @ Asbury (6:30 PM - 8:00 PM)

Summer is often a hard time to not wander. No school means no structure and more freedom. Maybe for whatever reason you haven't made it to church, Sunday School, or Youth Group lately. Sometimes, even though we try our best to avoid it, this happens. But be sure to realize that not being in church is not an excuse to allow your relationship with God fall flat. Haven't talked with him in a while? Start here: read Matthew 6:16-24. What is Jesus preaching in this passage? Where have you allowed these things – materialism, greed, impurity – to creep into your life (you're not alone – we all have)? What steps can you take this week – no matter how small – to begin to make positive change in your life to keep Jesus as the focus? As you wrap up your thoughts, pray to be strengthened in the decisions you've made!

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

asbury youth ministries



The Bible tells us to "Pray continually." (1 Thess. 5:17) Are you willing to do your part and pray once a month for 12 months so we can cover Asbury in prayer for an entire year? You can pray anywhere and at any time during your scheduled day. Contact Linda Woolbaugh (woolbaughs@ptd.net or 610-398-9370) for more information and to participate.

"My house will be called a house of prayer." (Matt 21:13)

RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE



During the month of May, central Oklahoma was devastated by six major tornadoes that resulted in 33 deaths, hundreds of injuries and several billion dollars in damages. Many, many people lost their homes. This month's CFC will go toward disaster relief for the Oklahoma tornado victims. AIM will channel donations through UMCOR – the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Please place your contributions in the designated containers at the rear of the Sanctuary or in the Wesley Center.



- Asbury's support has helped the Allentown Rescue Mission meet its summer challenge. More than 12,000 meals have been served and 6,390 nights of shelter provided.
- Sixth Street Shelter has had over 109 families with 223 children live in their shelters and benefit from their programs. Our help keeps these programs going.
- Turning Point is extremely grateful for our help so they can continue their assistance to the victims of abuse that are in need.
- Our support helped Everlasting Life Ministries to host their largest senior luncheon in May.
- CareNet is so grateful to have our assistance as they continue their efforts to provide pregnancy support services, baby supplies, and life skills to both women and men throughout the Lehigh Valley.

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELP SUPPORT AIM'S LOCAL MISSIONS!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 4 / Communion / Baptism

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Summer Sunday School- YL
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Open Door Community Worship- WC
- 1:00 p.m. Church of God- Sanctuary/106/108

Monday, August 5

- 10:00 a.m. Book Sale Set-up- FH
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 12- 106/108
- 6:30 p.m. Asbury School Board- offsite

Tuesday, August 6

- 9:00 a.m. Stewardship Meeting- Aldersgate
- 10:00 a.m. Book Sale Set-up- FH
- 12:30 p.m. Program Staff Meeting- Aldersgate
- 6:30 p.m. LV Walk Now for Autism Meeting- 217
- 7:30 p.m. OA- 204

Wednesday, August 7

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group- 231
- 10:00 a.m. Book Sale Set-up- FH
- 1:00 p.m. AA (open)- 108
- 6:30 p.m. "The Bible" Class- 217
- 6:30 p.m. Asbury Quilters- 204
- 7:00 p.m. Summer Harmony- Sanctuary

Thursday, August 8

- 10:00 a.m. Book Sale Set-up- FH
- 2:30 p.m. Parkland Press- Aldersgate
- 6:00 p.m. Open Door Worship Rehearsal- WC
- 7:00 p.m. NARANON- 108

Friday, August 9

- 10:00 a.m. Parkland Library Used Book Sale- FH
- 1:00 p.m. AA (open)- 108

Saturday, August 10

- 9:00 a.m. Parkland Library Used Book Sale- FH
- 2:00 p.m. PPMC Reunion- Parlor

Sunday, August 11 / Baptism

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Summer Sunday School- FH
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Summer Sunday School- YL
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Open Door Community Worship- WC
- 1:00 p.m. Church of God- Sanctuary/106/108
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group- offsite



KATHLEEN GUTHRIE



Kathleen is a regular Worship Coordinator, keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes on a Sunday morning. Director of Lay Ministries Laurie Wallace Theisen also appreciates Kathleen's faithful support of the Community Room. Thanks, Kathleen!



"The Bible"

Join Pastor Eric in Room 217 from 6:30 to 7:45 PM on Wednesday evenings to watch and discuss segments of this series shown recently on the History Channel.

- 8/7 Moses
- 8/14 10 Commandments/Jericho/Samson
- 8/21 King David
- 8/28 Babylonian Exile/Daniel

Registration is not required—come to any or all sessions as your schedule permits.

Our Staff

Mark Moore, Senior Pastor
Eric Yeakel, Associate Pastor
Laurie Wallace Theisen, Director of Lay Ministries
Linda Smith, Director of Children's Ministries
Aaron Forney, Director of Youth Ministries
& Leader of Open Door Worship Band
Tom Gibson, Business Administrator
Larry Hein, Head Custodian

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