



Asbury Church
a United Methodist
Community

DECEMBER 9, 2012

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

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
8:00 AM in the Sanctuary

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
9:30 AM in the Sanctuary

TRADITIONAL 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 separate infants/one-year olds, and two year old childcare classes. 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

Asbury United
Methodist Church
 @asburyumclv

BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

As we are in the season of Advent, we mark the beginning of the church year. Advent comes from the Latin word adventus, meaning “coming.” We wait in anticipation for the coming, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, even as we also prepare to mark the end of the calendar year.

As we celebrate the joy of this season of new beginning, I am also marking an ending—an ending of my time as your Director of Pastoral Care at Asbury as of December 31. This was a difficult decision that took much prayer and discernment, because I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment and every opportunity of service to you in the significant events of your lives. I have also thoroughly enjoyed working with the talented and committed group of Keep in Touch lay visitors at Asbury.

In addition to my work at Asbury, I have also been working two full days per week in Bethlehem in my pastoral counseling practice. I have now reached the time where I am finding it necessary to consolidate my energies and just focus on one part-time position. In this assessment, I have decided to concentrate exclusively on my expanding counseling practice and its greater potential for providing supplemental income.

Pastor Mark has planned that I will preach at the 9:30 and 11:00 Sanctuary services on December 30, followed by a reception where I will have an opportunity to greet you and celebrate our time and ministry together. Thanks be to God for the opportunities of both beginnings and endings!

Pastor Glenn

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF EFFORT

If you stopped by the church between 11/12 & 11/16, I'm sure you saw the 53 foot tractor trailer in the rear parking lot. Asbury PlayDays and Preschool (under the leadership of PlayDays teacher Kristy Leuthe) held a donation drive to help those hardest hit by Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey. Our efforts were a huge success! On Saturday, 11/17, the truck, which was 80% full, was driven to New Jersey and the supplies were delivered to three organizations: the Stafford Township Storm Relief Center, Kings of Kings Community church in Manahawkin, and the Tuckerton Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who supported us in this effort with their time and generosity. A special thanks goes out to Horwith Trucking for the use of their truck, GHG Logistics for their generous donation, and St. Joseph the Worker School for their tremendous contribution.

Beverly Kerch,

Director of PlayDays

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2013

The flower chart to sponsor altar vases for 2013 is now posted next to Room 218 on the upper level near the center staircase. 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 altar vases. Contact Nancy Chestnutt (610-432-1486) with questions.

SHARING THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Do you like to hear the bells as they ring prayers and praise in worship? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to ring those bells? Two new bell choirs will begin regular Wednesday evening rehearsals on January 16, 2013. One choir is for adults and the other is for youth in Grades 8 through 12. Experienced ringers and new ringers are welcome. Please contact Carol Lenhart (610-398-1205 or clenhart@asburylv.org) to save your place at the bell table.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Congregational Life & Care

THE JUBILATION RINGERS will present their annual Christmas concert, *Ring and Sing Christmas*, on Sunday, 12/9, at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Tickets are \$10.00 and will be available at the door.

SUMMER HARMONY CHRISTMAS CONCERT with guest choirs, including Asbury's Chancel Choir, will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Allentown at 7:30 PM on Friday, 12/14. Tickets cost \$15 (a portion of which benefits the Chancel Choir) and may be purchased in the church office, or by emailing Sara Brown (sbrown@asburylv.org) before 12/11.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH: Are you interested in providing gifts for a needy family or individual this holiday season? Stop by the Community Room to adopt an individual and/or family. Contact Marc & Betsy Dobbs for information (610-841-0471).

SUSANNA CIRCLE will meet at 7:00 PM on Monday, 12/10, at Peggy Connell's home, 937 Bridle Path Road, Allentown. (Call 610-432-2884 for directions.) Judy Ehninger will lead us in a Christmas devotion. Peggy and Don Connell will share their recent surgical mission trip to the beautiful Galapagos Islands. Join us as we celebrate the season! All women are welcome!

PRISCILLA CIRCLE will meet at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, 12/11, in the Aldersgate Room. Donna Nuss will present "An Evening of Christmas Stories and Devotions." Please bring a treat to share. All women are welcome. For more information, please contact Judy Whitby (610-432-1848 or jmwhitby@aol.com) or Brenda Baxter (610-433-2583 or bbaxter@ptdprolog.net).

DORCAS/MARTHA CIRCLE will be entertained by the Asbury Pre-School children at their meeting on Thursday, 12/13, at 9:15 AM in the Parlor. This month the Circle will be collecting \$1.00 candy bars wrapped in Christmas paper for Linkage, and small bags of snack food for Daybreak. If the Parkland School District has a weather delay the Circle will NOT meet. All women are welcome

UMW READING PROGRAM: "Aging With Grace," *What the Nun Study Teaches Us About Leading Longer, Healthier and More Meaningful Lives*, by David Snowden. This long-term research project involving 678 Catholic nuns (ranging in age from 74 to 106) offers many practical ideas. It finds that attitude, faith and community can add years to our lives. It studies the role of heredity and connection between linguistic ability and Alzheimer's. It discusses which foods promote longevity and the connections between strokes, depression and Alzheimer's. This is a warm, encouraging book that isn't a trial to read.

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, 12/11, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 208. Call Linda Curry Bartholomew (610-395-8756) for information.

NEEDED AND WANTED: A loving person to assist--once or twice each month--a young child in a typical (not special needs) Sunday school classroom. He needs help transitioning from playtime to lesson time. He needs a 1-on-1 for snack and craft time. And he occasionally needs a diaper change. Please contact Carol Collins (610-395-5245 or cnkramer@ptd.net.).

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 stamp, leaving at least 1/4" 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 (610-965-9262).

ORDER FORMS FOR POINSETTIAS ARE DUE MONDAY, 12/10!

Prayers of Our Congregation

"Lord, help us carry the light of your love to those in need."

For those who are sick or in the hospital

Lord, we ask your mercy and healing for all those currently hospitalized or recently discharged, especially Clyde B., Susan J., Dorothy S., Bonnie R. and Carolyn G. Jesus, 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 lift up Connie M.'s sister-in-law, Debbie, now in rehab. Please be with Jeff W.'s friend, Jerry K. The Laputka family's sister-in-law needs healing, Lord, for cancer and a bone marrow transplant. We ask relief of back pain for Richard. We ask comfort for David K. who has lost two sons within the last 2 years. We lift up Nancy and Kathy who are both in the latter stages of cancer. Lord, we ask for your compassionate help for Madia D.'s daughter, Alexis.

For our congregation

Lord, help us to see one another through your eyes of love, peace and compassion.

For the world, its people and its leaders

Lord, we ask your guidance for the world's leaders, that they be responsive to their constituents

For our children

Lord, remind us that what children want most for Christmas is our love and attention.

For those who mourn

Lord, we ask your mercy and comfort for the families of all those who have passed from our lives into your arms, especially the family of long-time Asbury charter member, Irene Kline, who passed away Dec. 2 in Florida.

With thanksgiving for our joys

We thank you for the joy of Sadie G.'s Nana's birthday. We thank you for healing and kindness. Linda A. has a new granddaughter, Alexandria Justine. We thank you for the joys of this season, looking forward again to celebrating the birth of Jesus.

For the missions we support

Lord, we ask that you be with Chris Henna and her new ministry "Healthy Women, Healthy Liberia" that seeks to provide basic health care and health education to the women and children of Liberia.

Amen!

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN



Faith & Fun Alive Sunday School

The 4th/5th Grade Large Group gathering is in FH on 12/9.

Christmas Eve Worship Service Rehearsals

Speaker practice is 12/9, at 9:00 AM in Room 218. Dress rehearsals for all children involved in the 3:00 PM Christmas Eve Service are Wednesdays 12/12 & 12/19 at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Rehearsal will start promptly. Parents of angels/shepherds please stay during the rehearsal.

Christmas Birthday Party for Jesus

This year we are having one HUGE Birthday Party for Jesus! All children ages PreK/4's through 5th Grade are invited to join us on Friday, 12/21 from 6:00 to 8:30 PM for a combo Faith & Fun Alive and Kidz Klub PARTY! Invite your friends, and invite your parents to help us. We need lots of volunteers! Join in the fun for dinner, story-telling, making Crismon crafts for your tree, singing, games & sports, and of course a big Birthday Cake for Jesus. Sign up in the Community Room or outside the WC. Email Linda to sign up or volunteer. Contact Sarah Kinzel, Pam Unrath, or Wendy Wright for information or to volunteer. Come celebrate the birth of Jesus! Thanks to both our teams for planning this awesome event.

Contact Linda Arleth in the church office (610-398-2577 or larleth@asburylv.org) for information on all Children's Ministry activities and opportunities.

Children & Youth through Grade 5 are welcome to participate in the 3:00 PM Christmas Eve Service by sharing a musical selection. Please contact Carol Lenhart (610-398-1205 or icarainbow@gmail.com) to volunteer.

YOUTH



A gigantic thank you to our High School Girls Small Group for their leadership in the Bucket Brigade! Through the tremendous generosity of our congregation we were able to assemble 15 complete buckets and have a handful of others that can be completed before they are delivered. This may not sound impressive, but each bucket is valued at approximately \$60. Thanks to all who donated and who helped assemble the buckets last Sunday morning.

A huge thanks also goes out to everyone who came out to our Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser! This year's donations will be put toward the 2013 West Virginia Work Week. Thanks to all the students who helped and a very special thanks to Cyndi and Doug Frank for their tremendous leadership and to Charley Myers and the kitchen crew for spearheading the cooking efforts.

Join us this week in Youth Group as we continue to talk about focusing on the real meaning of Christmas! Also, Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings, so be sure to attend!

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

ADULTS

THE ARMADA

The ARMADA is a group for young adults looking for Christian fellowship through Bible studies, service projects and just spending some quality time together. The "20-somethings" are known for losing touch with church life until they marry and have young children. Our group is trying to change that, hoping to "fight to bring our generation back to church." Typically, we meet every-other Saturday evening for a few hours for a faith discussion. We've also gone bowling, zip-lining at Pocono Plateau, mini-golfing, took in an IronPigs game, and visited the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit. We're beginning to add more service projects to our schedule as well. Most of our members are not Asbury members. Some have made Asbury their regularly attended church; others have joined our group because their home church does not have anything specific to their age group. The ARMADA is open to anyone who is post-high school age into their 30s.



RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

Asbury In Mission (AIM)



CHANGE FOR CHANGE this month is designated for Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County, a non-profit organization that delivers nutritious meals to 350 clients each weekday on 33 delivery routes. More than 130,000 meals are delivered each year. Their clients are seniors or adults with disabilities who are homebound, and unable to cook or shop for themselves. Please place your contributions in the containers at the rear of the Sanctuary or in the Wesley Center.

EVERLASTING LIFE MINISTRIES

Volunteers are needed by Everlasting Life Ministries to help with Christmas Dinner on Saturday, 12/15, at Bethany E. C. Church, 224 N. 6th St., Allentown. Needed are servers, baked goods, cash donations, and uncooked turkeys. (Turkeys can no longer be cooked in the home.) If you can help, please call their office (610-776-4009). This ministry is one that we support through Asbury In Mission (AIM).

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Asbury In Mission (AIM) is holding its annual "Gifts From The Heart" campaign beginning Sunday, 12/9, and running through Sunday, 12/23. Please prayerfully consider supporting one of our many mission partners. Gifts may be made in honor of a loved one. Nepali cards and Jewels of Hope will also be available for purchase. Please stop by the Community Room between 9:00 and 11:00 AM on the next few Sundays. You may contact Israel Olivieri (izzyolivieri@gmail.com) for more information or if you have any questions.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

We are happy to have the ability to hang banners again in the Sanctuary. New, safer hardware has been installed thanks to donations made in memory of Leonard Slider. Leonard was the brother of Peg Samois, and their mother, Rachel Slider, was one of the ladies who crafted the banner when the church was built in 1974.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 9 / 2nd Sunday in Advent



- 8:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. God's Rainbow Sunday School- 200
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Open Door Community Worship- WC
- 1:00 p.m. Church of God- 106/108
- 2:00 p.m. Cub Scout God & Family- 215
- 4:00 p.m. Jubilation Ringers Concert- Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. AFC Basketball- WC
- 6:00 p.m. Asbury Basketball- WC
- 6:30 p.m. Serendipity Small Group- 208
- 6:30 p.m. SNL/JHE- YL/FH/108
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Study- 217



Monday, December 10

- 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care- Aldersgate
- 5:00 p.m. AFC Basketball- WC
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 12- FH/106
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Girls Group- YL
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Guys Group- 208
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts- 108
- 7:00 p.m. Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal- 206
- 7:30 p.m. Praise Band- Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 11

- 8:00 a.m. Piano Tuning- Sanctuary/102
- 9:00 a.m. Zumba- FH
- 9:30 a.m. Advent Study- Aldersgate
- 12:30 p.m. Program Staff- Aldersgate
- 6:15 p.m. Brownie Troop 6926- 219
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 6244-106
- 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Share Together- 208/210
- 7:00 p.m. Mark Moore Bible Study- 108
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Volleyball- WC
- 7:30 p.m. O. A. - 204
- 7:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle- Aldersgate

Wednesday, December 12

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group- 231
- 10:00 a.m. Mark Moore Bible Study- 108
- 10:30 a.m. Preschool God Time- Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. AA (open)- 108
- 5:00 p.m. Karate- FH
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Dinner- WC
- 5:30 p.m. Daisy Troop 6075- 219
- 6:00 p.m. Karate- FH

Wednesday, December 12 (continued)

- 6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Rehearsal- Sanc.
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12- 210/211/215
- 6:30 p.m. Sarah Circle- 108
- 7:00 p.m. Church & Society- 202
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Study- 217
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Study- offsite
- 7:00 p.m. Karate- FH
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Choir- 106
- 7:00 p.m. SPRC- 108
- 7:15 p.m. Teaching Ministry Team- Aldersgate
- 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir- 102
- 8:00 p.m. Apostle Ringers- 206

Thursday, December 13

- 9:00 a.m. Zumba- FH
- 9:15 a.m. Dorcas Martha Circle- Parlor
- 9:30 a.m. Advent Study- offsite
- 10:30 a.m. Preschool God Time- Sanctuary
- 12:15 p.m. Advent Study- 215
- 2:00 p.m. Preschool God Time- Sanctuary
- 2:30 p.m. Parkland Press- Aldersgate
- 7:00 p.m. Open Door Worship Rehearsal- WC
- 7:00 p.m. Church of God Bible Study- 106
- 7:00 p.m. NARANON- 108
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir- 102

Friday, December 14

- 7:00 a.m. Advent Study- Aldersgate
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Study- Aldersgate
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12- 210/211/215
- 7:30 p.m. Youth Coffee House- WC



Saturday, December 15

Nothing Scheduled

Sunday, December 16 / 3rd Sunday in Advent



- 8:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. God's Rainbow Sunday School- 200
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration - Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Open Door Community Worship- WC
- 1:00 p.m. Church of God- 106/108
- 2:00 p.m. Cub Scout God & Family- 215
- 4:00 p.m. AFC Basketball- WC
- 6:00 p.m. Asbury Basketball- WC
- 6:30 p.m. SNL/JHE- YL/FH/108
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Study- 217

DEBI OLPHIN



Debi coordinates the CROP Hunger Walk every year, and this year organized a CROP Bike Ride as well. She is an active UMW volunteer, coordinated the Asbury cookbook, and has helped in various activities of the Annual UMW Bazaar, including the Silent Auction and Pecan Sales. She has also served as a Kitchen Kween for the West Virginia Work Trip. Thanks, Debi!!



Our Staff

Mark Moore, Senior Pastor
 Eric Yeakel, Associate Pastor
 Glenn Asquith, Director of Pastoral Care
 Laurie Wallace Theisen, Director of Lay Ministries
 Linda Arleth, Director of Children's Ministries
 Aaron Forney, Director of Youth Ministries
 Tom Gibson, Business Administrator

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