



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

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

THE VINE

faith in action... imagine your life changed.

DECEMBER 16, 2012

A Request from Pastor Mark

In just a few days, it will be Christmas. Family and friends will gather for great feasts, children will be excited to see presents under the tree, and many churches will have beautiful services where carols will be sung, candles lit, and the beloved Nativity story will be told once again.

This Christmas Eve, we will have 6 services at Asbury. (The schedule is listed below and on our web page.) Would you offer a special gift to Christ? Prayerfully consider extending an invitation to someone who is not currently part of a Christian congregation to join you for one of the services? Research indicates that an invitation to a Christmas Eve service is very likely to be accepted. To help you make the invitation, we have had a special card printed. This Sunday, consider picking up one of these invitations, writing the name of your friend on the envelope, and personally handing it to your neighbor. Offer to pick them up and bring them to church and share a special experience with you. Who knows – that may be the first step to bringing them to faith in Christ!

Scripture tells us that when one decides to follow Christ, all of heaven rejoices. Help there to be more celebrations in heaven and on earth as more and more people chose to follow the one who came to redeem us. It can all start with a simple walk across the room and an invitation to join you on Christmas Eve.



Monday, December 24, 2012

1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. – Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. – Wesley Center
7:00 p.m. – Sanctuary
9:00 p.m. – Sanctuary
11:00 p.m. – Sanctuary

THANKS FOR GIVING NETS NEARLY 39,000 LBS. OF DONATIONS

The Allentown Rescue Mission has announced the results of its 12th annual Thanks for Giving Food and Supplies Drive. Thanks to the overwhelming response of everyone who donated, valuable partnerships with local organizations and the help of 150 dedicated volunteers, the Mission received 38,775 pounds of non-perishable food, cleaning supplies and paper products throughout the month of November - an increase of nearly 3000 pounds over last year's drive. With a conservative estimate of \$2 per pound, this provides \$77,550 for budget relief. The Thanks for Giving Food and Supplies Drive also took in \$8,045 in cash donations and a total of \$1,205 in grocery store gift cards.

"The support we receive from the Thanks for Giving campaign is critical to our operation and allows us to help more people in need every year," said Dawn Washington, Allentown Rescue Mission Development Manager.

The Thanks for Giving Food and Supplies Drive aims to collect thousands of pounds of non-perishable food such as canned fruits and juices, granola bars, breakfast cereals and coffee; as well as cleaning products and supplies such as paper towels, toilet paper, spray cleaners, laundry detergent and large trash bags. All donations are used by the Allentown Rescue Mission locally, to benefit homeless people in its shelter and housing programs this winter and beyond.



Holiday Deadlines

Submission deadlines for the worship bulletins and *The Vine* are as follows:

For 12/23 — 8:00 AM 12/17
For 12/24 — 8:00 AM 12/17
For 12/30 — 8:00 AM 12/26

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Congregational Life & Care



PEP CLUB will meet at **11:30 a.m.** on **Friday, 12/21**, for their annual Christmas luncheon. The Executive Board will provide soup & beverages. Those with last names A-M are asked to bring salads to share, and those with last names N-Z should bring desserts. Following lunch there will be a musical program of marimbas and chimes presented by Lucille Breunig & Donna Debellis. All older adults are invited to attend.

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).

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 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 (610-965-9262).

SAVE THE DATE! The 2013 Chili Cook-off will be held on 3/16, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Proceeds will benefit the ministries of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches. If you'd like to participate as a chef, please contact Charley Myers (clmyers@ptd.net). If you'd like to help us plan this year's event, contact Dick McCreight (dick.mccreight@juno.com).

*Dear Friends,
I would like to thank you for your thoughts and prayers concerning my sister Judy's surgery and recovery. Her surgery went very well - better than expected, actually - on August 30. Chemo was delayed because her incision did not heal as quickly as expected, but now Judy has had two chemo treatments and she is responding quite well. Chemo will continue until the end of next March when she will face radiation therapy. Judy looks good and her mood is positive. She smiles and laughs easily. God's hand has touched her as well as her family. Thanks so much.*

Sincerely, Dawn Palmquist

*To the Asbury Methodist Church and Kristy Leuthe,
I wanted to thank you and everyone that helped to put this huge caravan together. All of our pantries are so blessed. We put together 125 turkeys and boxes of food for families and this is just one pantry. God is good and so are you.*

Sincerely, Marla Hoon, Tuckerton Food Pantry

*Dear Friends,
On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we want to thank you for your donation of 20 bags of food. Because of your caring and sharing, we are able to feed those less fortunate in our community. We are currently serving between 200 and 250 families per week. Again, thank you for your donation.*

Sincerely, AAEFB

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 Harry S., Ryan T., Clyde B., Susan J., Dorothy S., Robert L. and Bruce K. 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

We lift up Pastor Eric's son, Eric Jr. who had surgery for appendicitis last Saturday and is recovering at home. We ask your support for college students finishing up the semester with finals and traveling home. We ask healing and comfort for Lois W. who fell and broke her arm and injured her leg and hip. Lord, we lift up Chad, an Air Force Major and young father with Stage 4 melanoma, who has been given only 3-4 months to live. Lord, we lift up Donna C.'s friend Patricia who was diagnosed with cancer.

For our congregation

Lord, help us remember the lost and the lonely during this beautiful season of love's birth.

For the world, its people and its leaders

Lord, we ask you to give power only to those who are willing to be servants.

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 Steve & Kim Wisocky's nephew Patrick who was struck and killed by a car on his 42nd birthday. We ask for comfort for the family of former member, Joan Thomas, who passed away on 12/9.

With thanksgiving for our joys

Thank you for the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Thank you for the bad days which teach us and the good days that uplift us. Thank you for the lights and color and love that pervade the Christmas season. Thank you for the example of gentleness, humility and love which began in a manger in Bethlehem.

For the missions we support

Lord, we ask for your support for the Galley family whose Liebenzell Mission sends forth missionaries to carry out the Great Commission.

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

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

Final dress rehearsal for all children involved in the 3:00 PM Christmas Eve Service is Wednesday, 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.

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.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Asbury In Mission (AIM) is holding its annual "Gifts From The Heart" campaign 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 12/16 or 12/23. You may contact Israel Olivieri (izzyolivieri@gmail.com) for more information or if you have any questions.

GIVING TREE FOR CAMP INNABAH

There will be a Giving Tree with envelopes marked from \$1 to \$144 in the Community Room through the end of the year. If every envelope is filled, the camp's year-end deficit would be reduced by \$10,440.00. You may write a check on the spot or send it directly to Innabah. Thank you in advance for supporting Christian camping.

YOUTH



Coffeeshouse is this Friday! We're going to be changing things up a bit and the GYM WILL BE OPEN for sports! There will still be plenty of coffee, snacks, and music, so join us from 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM. Admission is \$5.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser raised \$821 towards next year's high school West Virginia Work Week! Thank you to everyone involved.

Speaking of the West Virginia Work Week, next year will be the 20th trip to Barbour County! To celebrate this momentous occasion, a 20th year reunion is being planned for November 29, 2013 in the Wesley Center to gather everyone who has been a part of this great experience since the first trip in 1994. Please save the date if you are a youth or adult who has served on the Work Week and join us next November as we remember and celebrate the wonderful things that have been accomplished.

Christmas is coming and we'll be taking some time off around the holidays. There will be no Youth Group on December 23 or 30.

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

A few notes from the Financial Secretary:

- \$** We will be closing the books for 2012 on January 7, 2013. Contributions marked 2012 received after January 7 will be credited to 2013. Please indicate your envelope number on all correspondence.
- \$\$** Please do not put contributions for different years on the same check. Combining years increases the possibility of errors on your annual statement.
- \$\$\$** 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 2013 prior to the end of 2012 should contact me for instructions.

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

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

ASBURY ENDOWMENT FUND

Under current tax laws, appreciated securities are deductible for income tax purposes at their current fair market value when given as gifts and the appreciation is not taxed at all; i.e., the capital gains tax is waived. Consider using these appreciated securities to fulfill your pledge or to make a special gift to the Asbury Endowment Fund.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, December 17

- 9:00 a.m. Preschool Rehearsals- FH/Sanc/Parlor
- 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care- Aldersgate
- 5:00 p.m. AFC Basketball- WC
- 5:30 p.m. Brownie Troop 6027- 108
- 6:30 p.m. Gress Mountain Ranch Board- 217
- 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. Finance Committee- Aldersgate
- 7:00 p.m. Monday Night Men- 215
- 7:30 p.m. Praise Band- Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 18

- 9:00 a.m. Preschool Rehearsals- FH/Sanc/Parlor
- 9:00 a.m. Zumba- WC
- 11:00 a.m. Advent Study- 108
- 12:30 p.m. Program Staff- Aldersgate
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 6244-215
- 7:00 p.m. AIM- 106
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Volleyball- WC
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Committee- Aldersgate
- 7:30 p.m. O. A. - 204

Wednesday, December 19

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group- 231
- 9:45 a.m. Preschool (205/218) Holiday Program- FH
- 10:00 a.m. Mark Moore Bible Study- 108
- 10:00 a.m. Preschool (104) Holiday Program- Parlor
- 1:00 p.m. AA (open)- 108

Wednesday, December 19 (continued)

- 5:00 p.m. Karate- Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Dinner- WC
- 5:30 p.m. Daisy Troop 6075- 219
- 6:00 p.m. Karate- Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Rehearsal- Sanc.
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12- 210/211/215
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Study- 217
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Study- offsite
- 7:00 p.m. Karate- Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Choir- 106
- 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir- 102
- 8:00 p.m. Apostle Ringers- 206

Thursday, December 20

- 9:00 a.m. Zumba- WC
- 9:30 a.m. Preschool (209/211/219) Program- Sanc.
- 9:30 a.m. Advent Study- offsite
- 10:30 a.m. Preschool (207/221) Program- FH
- 12:15 p.m. Advent Study- 215
- 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 21

- 7:00 a.m. Advent Study- Aldersgate
- 9:30 a.m. Preschool (219/221) Program- Sanc.
- 11:30 a.m. P.E.P. Club- FH
- 6:00 p.m. Kidz Klub- WC/FH/106/108
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Study- Aldersgate
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 12- 210/211/215

Saturday, December 22

Nothing Scheduled

Sunday, December 23 / 4th 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
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Study- 217

DORIS DORSEY



Doris is one of our newer volunteers. After joining Asbury in March 2012, she approached Laurie Wallace Theisen about helping in the Community Room. Doris cleans up the coffee area every Sunday she is available, which is a huge help. She also visits shut-ins, is involved with the PEP club, and is a member of the Dorcas/Martha circle of the UMW.



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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The 2013 Indoor Miniature Golf Event is scheduled for 2/2. If you are creative and would like to create a golf hole, we are looking for you. It could be as an individual, a family, a group, SS class or organization. We would like to have you join us. For more information contact Dick Black (610-967-5532 or dickblack@rcn.com).