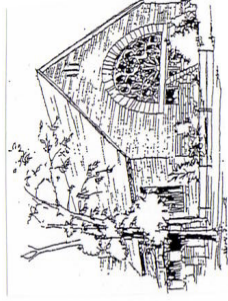


ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
55 West Lincoln Avenue
Delaware, Ohio 43015

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Return Service Requested

Pastor: Reverend Philip Wilden
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tues—Fri.
Phone: (740) 363-3611/Fax: (740) 368-8405
Website: www.asburyohio.org
E-mail : church@asburyohio.org



April 2011 Church Newsletter

Asbury Messenger

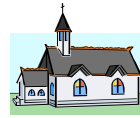
April 2011



Worship Schedule

- April 3 Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Scripture: John 9:1-12
Sermon: "Seeing the World Through Jesus' Eyes"
One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received.
Kim Wisecup will be the preacher.
The sacraments of baptism and communion will be celebrated by the Reverend Kempton Hewitt.
- April 10 Fifth Sunday in Lent**
Scripture: Matthew 20:17-28
Sermon: "True Greatness"
The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.
- April 17 Palm Sunday**
A service of lessons, hymns, and anthems centered on the passion of Christ.
- April 21 Maundy Thursday**
A Passover Dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. See details on page 3.
- April 22 Good Friday**
11:00 a.m. Community Cross Walk downtown, beginning at St. Mary's.
12:00 p.m. Ecumenical service at St. Mary's.
- April 23 Easter Vigil**
Worship at Asbury at 7:00 p.m. The preacher will be the Reverend Roy Reed.
- April 24 Easter Sunday**
Worship at 10:45 a.m., with the prelude beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Death Is Not the End
By Pastor Phil



I've been at Asbury for less than four years, but in that short time, we have lost several of our members to death. And when I think of those who have lost parents or other family members, the list grows longer.

Although All Saints' Day (November 1) is the time in which we name those who now worship God in heaven, I also think about them at Easter. As much as the culture tries to reduce Easter to something predictable (the rebirth of nature) or something cute (bunnies and baby chicks), the cross was not cute and the resurrection was not predictable. Even the disciples thought it was "an idle tale."

But each Sunday, and especially at Easter, the church is given the task of proclaiming that death is not the end: "O grave, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Yet, when we watch the evening news, it seems that death, rather than life, is the more powerful force. Wars, earthquakes, tsunamis, shootings, and auto accidents remind us of how fragile life is. It's easy to feel vulnerable, if not filled with despair.

Several years ago, Frederick Buechner offered these thoughts in an Easter sermon: "Anxiety and fear are what we know best in this fantastic century of ours. Wars and rumors of wars. From civilization itself to what seemed the most unalterable values of the past, everything is threatened or already in ruins. We have heard so much tragic news that when the news is good, we cannot hear it.

"But the proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I see this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well, but as one who has faced the cross in all its obscenity, as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God.

"In the end, his will, not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. His life and our lives through him, in him. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord has risen."

In these weeks which lead up to Easter, may we all receive the grace we need to live faithfully, even in the face of death. The gospels proclaim that Christ is risen. May he also live in us!

Forty Days of Prayer Reminder



To all the people who are participating in Forty Days of Prayer, please remember to contact the persons for whom you are praying sometime before Easter. You might send a card or note, or in some cases, a visit or phone call would be best. And thank you for your participation.



Easter Flowers



If you would like to purchase Easter flowers for the Asbury sanctuary, please complete the information and mail it to the church or drop it into the offering plate on Sunday. All flower orders must be accompanied by payment.

Deadline to order plants is *Sunday, April 3*

I/We (names) _____ wish to buy
(please indicate how many of each flower you would like below)

_____ Tulips @ \$10.00 ea. = _____

_____ Hyacinths @\$10.00 ea.= _____

_____ Easter Lilies @ \$10.00 ea. = _____

_____ Hydrangeas @ \$15.00 ea.= _____

_____ Azalea @ \$15.00ea. = _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

In memory of (please *print* clearly) _____

and/or

In honor of (please *print* clearly) _____

_____ I wish to keep my plant(s) and will pick them up after the Easter Service.

_____ Please give my plant(s) to one of our shut-ins.

*Thank you for your order to help beautify
our sanctuary for Easter Eve and Easter morning.*

Asbury Youth News

By Emily Dietz

Last month we told you about Journey's visit to the Juvenile Detention Center in Marysville. Since then we visited a second time and have decided to make it a monthly activity, usually on the second Sunday of each month. We invite others from the congregation to go along.

On Friday, March 18, MAP youth group had an overnight at the church. After pizza, we made a sleeping bag for a homeless Delaware person. A big "thank you" to everyone who donated materials for this. The sleeping bag will be on display outside the office for several weeks before we deliver it.

Both youth groups are doing a Lenten study based on the book by Adam Hamilton, *24 Hours That Changed the World*. We are using the book especially geared towards the youth. In addition to the book, we watch a short video presentation with each of the 7 chapters, focusing on the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 4 for the Blessing of the Animals. The whole congregation and their pets are invited to share this event with the youth. Thanks to all the wonderful people who supplied our youth group with meals on Wednesday evenings.

People In Need Annual CANpaign Food Drive March 21 – May 20, 2011



Once again, MAP Youth Group will be collecting food for our local People In Need. We are setting a goal of 1,000 cans/boxes. Please bring in your items and see our numbers rise on the scale. Some ideas are:

- Canned pasta
- Canned meat/fish
- Peanut Butter
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables

Please help us feed those who are less fortunate

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars!
More information to come!

Sunday, July 31 - Thursday, August 4

Jenny Edler (Carroll) will be looking for volunteers soon!
Please let her know if you are interested in helping in any way.
You can phone her at 363-5408



Passover Dinner – Holy Thursday:

"And Jesus said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." – Luke 22:15-16 (NIV)



We invite you to spend Holy Thursday participating in the Passover meal that was so important to Jesus and to our heritage. The meal or "seder" is free and will be held on Thursday, April 21st at 6:30 pm. For planning purposes, we do ask that you RSVP by Sunday, April 17. A sign-up sheet will be located on the table as you enter the church. You may also contact Kim Wisecup at Kwisecup@mtso.edu or (614)886-6747 if you wish to attend. In addition, Kim is looking for volunteers to assist with preparing the meal. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

One Great Hour of Sharing

We will receive a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on April 3. This offering supports the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through your generous support of this offering, our church can join with thousands of other congregations to provide immediate relief, as well as long term assistance to areas ravaged by natural disasters (such as the recent earthquake in Japan), flooding (in many parts of the U.S.) and warfare (Sudan).

To learn more about the ministry of UMCOR, visit their website at www.gbqm-umc.org/umcor



Mid Ohio Spring District Conference

Sunday, April 10 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Registration begins at 2:30 p.m.
At Faith UMC, 1574 St. Rt. 96, Ashland, OH

The agenda includes voting for 2012 District Lay Members to Annual Conference and approval of the 2012 district budget and leadership.

Our new District Superintendent, the Rev. Karen Oehl, will be present to bring greetings to the district. The speaker for worship will be the Rev. Karen Wolcott, who will share about the mission of Berea Children's Home and Family Services.



Jon Powers: Pastor To All

By Bill McCartney

We should not be surprised at the depth and breadth of Jon Powers' ministry - given the influences from his home and family. He was the third of 7 boys in a modest Ludington, Michigan household where his father needed to work several jobs and the family raised much of their provisions on their little farm.

Their dinner table, however, exposed them to the world. The boys would be asked about world happenings, and then they discussed their responsibility to them. One such issue of concern to the parents was racial justice. Even then, Jon's parents were ahead of others in the community in understanding how the Gospel impacted the hurts of the world.

Occasionally, the family had its own pain. In times of economic distress, they received loving support from neighbors, which Jon said made him both embarrassed and thrilled.

Jon is no longer embarrassed by how the Gospel transforms relationships among people. The centrality of the Gospel in our world has been Jon's hallmark throughout his life and ministry.

After college at Michigan State and seminary at Boston University, he found himself in campus ministry when he became an Associate at the East Lansing UMC. His major assignment was to reach out to students.

This emphasis continued with a 7-year chaplaincy at Adrian College (Michigan). He came to Ohio Wesleyan as Chaplain in 1988. He was delighted to follow Jim Leslie in that role, because Jim had become a mentor to Jon through the fellowship of Campus Chaplains. In fact, when asked his greatest joy in serving at OWU, Jon's immediate response was his pride in following in Jim's footsteps. He also lauded Blake Michael specifically and other faculty members in general.

From the start, Jon's ministry went well beyond any usual image of a college chaplain. Among the scores (literally) of individual campus ministries under his leadership, the thrust of many of them is to help students focus on the world around them so that they can see how the Gospel impacts their responsibility to that world and its needs.

Jon has a staff of five chaplain assistants and three other professionals to help run the programs. It's Jon's commitment to all of God's people, however, that undergirds those many programs. For instance, each spring, a host of mission teams deploy to serve human needs across the country and even around the globe. Every student returns changed - for the better. For instance, Jon is the staff member who relates to the Muslim students on campus. Jon's ministry never stops at the edge of the campus. His contributions carry into the Delaware community and especially into the mission and ministry of Asbury Church, where Jon teaches Sunday School, and is Asbury's primary provider of children's sermons.



Mission & Outreach News

By Vicki Lefevre, committee chair

The Mission and Outreach committee encourages everyone in our church family to participate in an essential aspect of our community outreach mission. Please donate! For your convenience, in the church foyer we have placed four collection bins for you to donate to the following organizations:



Common Ground Free Store Ministries which is a “partnership between Delaware churches, businesses, civic organizations, and caring citizens who believe that God’s mercy does not come with a price tag. Together, they have established a warm and welcoming store run by volunteers where everything is available to everyone free of charge—from clothing, shoes, diapers, and linens, to small appliances, books, and toys. There are no income requirements...Everyone is on common ground.”

Gimme #5 is a recycling program for your yogurt cups, hummus tubs, and other #5 plastics. Most communities, including Delaware, do not accept #5 plastics for recycling. So, donating your #5 plastics saves them from being sent to landfills and transforms them in the United States into other usable items, such as toothbrushes and razors.

People in Need (PIN) “Assisting families and individuals of Delaware County in a collaborative effort by providing personal emergency assistance with dignity and respect in their time of need.”

Soles4Souls has a simple concept, procuring shoes and getting them to those in need. Soles4Souls accepts all shoes, no matter what their condition or style, “changing the world one pair [of shoes] at a time.”

“Faith on the Margins” Discussion on April 12

Dr. Linda Mercadante of the Methodist Theological School in Ohio will present “Faith on the Margins: Spiritual But Not Religious” on Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at Beehive Books, 25 N. Sandusky St. Dr. Mercadante has conducted interviews with people across the country for an upcoming book on the topic. She will offer insights gained from her cutting-edge research, followed by an open discussion. During the talk, Dr. Mercadante will include information she gleaned from interviews with gays and lesbians, who often feel shunned from their home churches after coming out. Sponsored by ACT OUT Delaware and the Delaware Gay Straight Christian Alliance, the talk is free and open to the public. For more information, see the websites of ACT OUT Delaware (www.actoutdel.org) and the Delaware Gay Straight Christian Alliance (www.dgsca.org) or contact Tony Marconi and Martha Filipic at 368-1629.

United Methodist Women's News

The next event of the United Methodist Women will be on Saturday, April 16, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. One of the mission emphases this year is on Mother Earth. We are going to visit the Stratford Ecological Center at 3083 Liberty Road. Cherie Kowalski and Terri Litchfield are planning an exciting time for us. That means not only the UMW, but all the families that can make it. Terri will give us an introduction at 10. Then, weather permitting, there will be a tour of the center. This tour includes animals, greenhouse, and woods. Don't miss just because you don't want to tour. There will be activities inside for you as well as the outside activities. We hope several families will participate. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer as well as an information sheet. You will want to read the instructions. You are expected to bring your lunch. This must be a "no-garbage lunch." That means you bring a mug. Terri will also be instructing us concerning non-toxic cleaning primer. The UMW plans on meeting the cost of the room at Stratford.



Mission Moment

The United Methodist Women are working in several areas to help create a green economy. One of the projects that not only helps the earth but also the workers is gardens. In New Orleans a group of young people are turning a trashy vacant lot into a garden. They are keeping the old tires and filling them with good dirt. In these they will grow potatoes. Many Methodist churches are helping to plant community gardens. We all can be more "green" conscious by supporting our farmer's market, try to be environmentally responsible within our church, and educate ourselves to many different ways to go "green".

First Thursday series welcomes Muriel Byers, Ernestine Peebles, and Joan Maxwell for April 7 recital.

A Prelude to Easter will be the theme for our April Noontime Recital Series program. Joining Sally Casto to offer seasonal music will be St. Mary's organist Muriel Byers, retired organist Ernestine Peebles, and Asbury's Joan Maxwell on flute. Music which leads us from Lent to Easter will fill the sanctuary. We hope you'll join us and bring a friend as well. As always, coffee and tea will be available and tables will be set for those who wish to enjoy lunch during the recital.



Thank you

Nancy & I want to express our appreciation and gratitude for the many expressions of condolences and celebrations we have received from the members of Asbury following the recent deaths of each of our mothers.
Roy & Nancy Reed



Jon's ministry is applauded by all who know him, and is supported deeply by his wife, Susan Speer-Powers. They met while both were on the Adrian staff and were married in 1985. (Each has a daughter from a previous marriage.)

Jon's one concern in serving at OWU is the inescapable budgetary challenge. Nevertheless, the needs of students energize and undergird him in his work. He says they embody the great "ethos" of Ohio Wesleyan which makes it such an asset to Delaware. To which we say, Jon is a major asset to that university community, the Delaware community, and the Asbury community. We're grateful to his birth family which implanted the heart of Jesus so deeply in Jon.

Welcome, Susan Zimmerman By Mona Ray



Communion is the sacred act of reminding ourselves of Christ's life that was given for us. Since 2006, I have been getting the communion servers. I have enjoyed doing this job, but feel that it is time to pass it on. It has been a wonderful blessing to know that when I call, you say YES. Only three persons have said a definite no to serving in this manner. There have been times when the persons called say they are going to be away this month but will serve the next month. The special contacts that I have made in this way have been a joy. When you say yes, it is part of the commitment you made to Asbury. This job will now be passed to Susan Zimmerman. She is a lovely young mother that has invested many hours and much love into our church. So when she calls, please say yes. Thanks to all who have served. Your willingness to serve has meant so much to me.

Thank you!












For a number of years, Mona Ray has scheduled communion servers, and Jenny Edler has trained and scheduled acolytes. Both of them have recently stepped down from their position. We appreciate the time they have invested and their eagerness to involve others in worship.

We also wish to thank Leslie Beyer-Hermsen, who is now serving as our acolyte coordinator, and Susan Zimmerman, who is scheduling people to serve communion. These "behind the scenes" jobs are so essential to the life of the church.



April 2011

Trustee of the month: Andy Kiener

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:34 a.m.					1 Prayer Group 8:00a 	2
3-One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday EYG 7p	4 Boy Scouts 7p 	5 Care Network 10a	6-UMW Board Mtg. 10a Day Out Club 10a Junior Choir 4:15p Alleluia Choir 4:15p MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:30p Bell Choir 5:45 p MAP/Journey Dinner 6p Adult Choir 7p Journey 7p Trustees 8p	7- Noontime Recital at 12:15p Mission & Outreach 7p	8 Prayer Group 8:00a 	9
10 Willow Brook Service at 2:00p Noisy Coin  BP Screening EYG 7:00p  Weavings 7:00p	11 Boy Scouts 7p 	12 Ad Council 7p	13-Day Out Club 10a Junior Choir 4:15p Alleluia Choir 4:15p MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:30p Bell Choir 5:45 p MAP/Journey Dinner 6p Adult Choir 7p SPRC 6:30p Journey 7P	14 DCP Board Mtg 6:30p Northwest Neighborhood Association Mtg. 7:30p	15 Prayer Group 8:00a  Agency Conf. 12:00p	16
17-Palm Sunday EYG 7p	18 Boy Scouts 7p Compassionate Friends 7p 	19 Alzheimers Support Care Network 1p	20-Day Out Club 10a Junior Choir 4:15p Alleluia Choir 4:15p MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:30p Bell Choir 5:45 p MAP/Journey Dinner 6p Adult Choir 7p Journey 7p	21 Maundy Thursday Passover Meal 6:30p	22 Prayer Group 8:00a  Cross Walk 11:00 a Good Friday Service at St. Mary's 12:00p	23 Easter Vigil 7:00p
24-Easter 10:30a Prelude	25 Boy Scouts 7p 	26 Finance Committee Mtg. 7p	27-Day Out Club 10a Junior Choir 4:15p Alleluia Choir 4:15p MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:30p Bell Choir 5:45 p MAP/Journey Dinner 6p Adult Choir 7p Journey 7p	28 DCP General Membership Mtg. 6:30p	29 Prayer Group 8:00a 	30