



January Messenger

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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<u>CHURCH STAFF</u>	
MINISTER: Rev. Katie Osier	
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST (Interim): Sheila Hemans	
INTERTWINE YOUTH MINISTRY: Rev. Kara Jones	
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Rev. Carol Ann Bradley	
WORSHIP LEADER: Peter Baylis	
CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Natalie Ritchie	
CUSTODIAN: Tom Symkowiak	

"I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
 exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things
 to thy pleasure and disposal.
 And now, O glorious and blessed God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,
 let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

Adapted by John Wesley from *A Vindiciae Pietas*, Richard Alleine

January 1 marks a starting point for many. The gyms are packed with people, stores promote their "health" food, counseling and support groups see record numbers, while self help books fly off the shelves.. Some succeed in their resolve, but we are aware of how fast our will to self-improvement feigns.

Perhaps this is why I find the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer powerful in the start of the new calendar year. Rev. Chris Folmsbee says, "This prayer is a means of grace and is meant for the Holy Spirit to empower our progress in salvation. This salvific way, then, is meant to shape the behaviors of our life, enacting justice for the oppressed and producing an everyday kindness with which we love our neighbor with the same passion in which Jesus loves us. (The Wesley Prayer Challenge, 15)" Instead of "self-help," this prayer reminds us of surrender and suffering, honor and humility, and community and commitment – not for our own to-do list or self preservation, but to invite the Holy Spirit to take hold of our lives and let God move through us in powerful ways.

After Epiphany and honoring the Baptism of the Lord, I invite you to journey with me in the Wesley Prayer Challenge – a 21 day venture of surrendering to the Spirit and witnessing God's unfolding nature in our lives.

Rev. Katie Osier

THANK YOU FOR SERVING AS THE LEADERS OF ASBURY UMC

Great servant leaders help build the church family in their role, serving as a conduit of Christ's love in the world. Thank you to these fine persons who's term has concluded in 2023. We are grateful for the servant leadership you have provided.

Christian Education Chair	Sarah Brook	Trustees Chair	Steve Dolk
Recording Secretary	Angie Haase	SPRC Chair	Jerrel Blankenship
Membership Chair	Lou Ann Chapman		

We thank additional members who have completed their time as leaders in their respective committees. Asbury UMC celebrates the wonderful gifts all of these folks have offered.

Christian Education: Erin Gardner, Ashley Hejmanowski

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development: Julia Foster, Elaine Salsberry

Finance Committee: Tom Brook, Ann Davis, Anne Fry

Membership Committee: Mona Ray, Dick Salsberry

Mission and Outreach: Lynn Cook, David Mansperger

Reconciling Ministries Committee: Joan Manter, Judy Maxwell

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Linda Sheets

Worship Committee: Joan Maxwell

WELCOME NEW LEADERS OF ASBURY UMC

As we start the new year, we welcome new leaders. Thank you to those who have offered their yes. New Leadership Directories will be available by Sunday, January 21.

NEW TO COMMITTEES

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Evie Warr-Omness
Erin Gardner

TRUSTEES

Justin Cook
Adam Luce
Doug Brown

NOMINATIONS

Mike Bailly
Susan Speer-Powers

TRUST

Judy Maxwell

FINANCE

Dan Zahnizer
Ronda Richardson (1 yr)
Mark Sanford (1 yr)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Amy Chivington
Gretta Kumpf
Paul Lance
Jenny Swain

WORSHIP

Stacy Chaney-Blankenship
Sharon Hayes

MEMBERSHIP

Jayne Marcum
Bill McCartney
Judy Maxwell
Thai Sribanditmongkol

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Mallory Sribanditmongkol
Sandy Miller
Mike West
Cherie Kowalski
Jeanne Sanford

RECONCILING MINISTRIES

Mollie Brown
Mike Sterner
Lexy Lesniak

NEW BEGINNINGS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES: LAY READER'S REFLECTION

By Peter Baylis

For the longest time as a young child, I can recall seeing every early summer evening a group of young and sometimes older people dressed in white robes alongside the shore by the bay being submerged in the water by their minister. This image always left me with two thoughts. The first being, "Why would anyone want to get in that bay water that was filled with old, smelly seaweed and other junk?" (remember I was young) and the second thought was, "We don't we do baptism that way." And every year I was told to be "nice", as it was explained to me once again about the different ways one could be baptized. However, no one truly ever explained what baptism was or what it meant.

On Sunday, January 14, we will hear about the baptism of Jesus and in the service, we will be offering baptismal renewal as we are touched by water and we hear the words, "Remember your baptism and be thankful". However, I never have cared for the word "remember" for, "How can I remember something that happened to me as a baby, let alone rejoice in it?" But the original question remains, "What is the meaning of our baptism and why should we remember and rejoice in it?" The answer to this question is two-fold. The first being biblical and the second being interpretive.

The word baptism come from the Greek work baptisma which means the action of washing or plunging in water. This imagery is richly seen in the Hebrew Scriptures. "Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin...Cleans me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow." (Psalm 51:1-7)

So, as we come forward to remember our baptism on January 14, let us be mindful of why our baptism is important and why it is important to remember our baptism.

First, Jesus modeled baptism. "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John." (Matthew 3:13) "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the river Jordan." (Mark 1:9) "When all the people were baptized, and when also Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heaven opened up." (Luke 3:21)

Jesus directs baptism. "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Our baptism is a public confession. "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

Our baptism signifies a new name. "So, in Christ Jesus we are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, not is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:26-29)

Our baptism represents a new life. "Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into this death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too, may live a new life." (Romans 6:1-11) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (Galatians 2:20)

Our baptism establishes a new identity. "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Finally, baptism unites us in the faith. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

When we participate in baptism renewal, as well as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, each of these occasions can be seen as benchmarks and guideposts along our faith journey that lead us, and that help keep us on the path when life seems to overwhelm us. And when speaking of benchmarks or guideposts, I imagine seeing an individual continually moving without stopping, always looking ahead to what is next without a pause. But I believe that we also need to see these times in a different light and with a new and different understanding. For I see these occasions not only as benchmarks or guideposts, but as benches. Now, let's wonder about this for a moment. What do benches do? Benches call out to us and invite us in. Benches provide us with the opportunity to sit down, to find rest and give us the opening of time to take a break from the weight and worries of our life. Benches provide us with the unfolding opportunity to take the time to look inward without being rushed, to listen in silence, and to reflect and ponder away from all the noise that surrounds us. Benches provide the pauses in our hectic lives that are necessary so that we can truly be in prayer, to be with one with God and to be still. May we take these bench moments and celebrate and cherish them in the confidence that God is with us, that God loves us and God is always present in our lives. So come, and be glad in your baptism and be thankful.

Come to the Water - John Foley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcXRVfTC2D8>

<p>UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL CHOCOLATE FARE</p>	<p>February 10, 2024 10 am - 2 pm</p> <p>Volunteers, makers of chocolate desserts, & shoppers with sweet teeth will be needed!</p> <p>Sign ups to help begin Sunday, January 21.</p>  
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WINTER WEATHER: If a Level 2 Snow Emergency is in place at 7:00 AM Sunday, Sunday School and the Worship Service will be cancelled for that day. For the Level of snow emergency, you may access your favorite up-to-date local news source or check the Delaware County Sheriff's website: <https://sheriff.co.delaware.oh.us>.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR FOLLOW UP

For those who have collected food during Advent through the Reverse Advent Calendar, please **bring items to the Tree in the Great Room by Sunday January 8**. People in Need will be receiving these items donated the week of January 9. Thank you so much for contributing to families during this season!

JANUARY 2023 GIVING OPPORTUNITY (GO) SOCKS FOR COMMON GROUND FREE STORE

Giving Opportunity (GO) is a focused way for our congregation to locally give. Every month, the Mission and Outreach team identifies a specific need from a local agency to better support our Delaware brothers, sisters, and siblings.

This January, we are collecting socks for Common Ground Free Store. Bring your donation of new socks of any size and put it in the bin in the foyer marked for Common Ground Free Store.



SANDWICH SUNDAY NEWS

For the past couple of years, Asbury UMC has been committed monthly to donate 50 sack lunches and waters to our neighbors at White Sands, an underserved community in Delaware.



We learned in December that due to needed repairs for water systems that surpassed affordability, White Sands ownership had to shut down its facilities as of January 1. Yes, this forced families who resided there, trying to make it day to day, to find a new home or space. In conversations with area groups, there was not much we could do to stop this closure.

The Mission and Outreach committee and your pastor ask that you hold these families in your prayers, as well as the possibilities that may present themselves for them to find a new residence. We will be in discussion as to how to find other opportunities that will lead us to relational ministry with folks in Delaware, Ohio.

Thank you to the many volunteers who gave of resources and their time to make Sandwich Sunday a reality – bringing hope in a simple brown bag – knowing that someone loved them.

FAMILY PROMISE: SAVE THE DATE!

Our first Family Promise week is the **4th-10th of February 2024**

Volunteer Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094BAAAC2D6-46904502-1st2024>

LAUNDRY LOVE—2024



Asbury UMC has been invited to care for the community through Laundry Love. This occurs twice a month—one time during the day and one time in the evening. Those who attend do a maximum of 4 loads, paid for by the financial donations from area churches and organizations. Volunteers are needed to help connect with the neighbors that come through conversation, serving food, and various other roles. The next dates for Laundry Love, at the Superwash on Sandusky are **Monday, January 8 @ 5-8 PM** and **Monday, January 22 @ 10 AM—1 PM**.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE—LOOKING INTO THE NEW YEAR

November has definitely turned our annual deficit into a surplus for 2023. We have kept a close eye on expenses in December, so hopefully the month end numbers will push us even further into a surplus building our cash reserve. Thanks to everyone for your generous giving!

We will have year-end numbers for you in next month's Messenger. I look forward to a strong ending and be on rock solid ground as we go into 2024!

Many Blessings to you in 2024!

Tom Major - Treasurer

NUMBERS, NUMBERS, NUMBERS

2023	Deposits	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)
Jan - Oct	\$403,915.80	\$415,522.78	(\$11,606.98)
November	\$48,533.06	\$31,629.16	\$16,903.90
YTD Cumulative	\$452,448.86	\$447,151.94	\$5,296.92

2024 PLEDGES AND ENVELOPES

From Financial Secretary, Sue Chaney

Thank you for your pledges! We have received 84 pledges covering about 69% of our 2024 budget. If you have not pledged yet, it's not too late. You can do so on this secure online [form](#) or contact me and I am happy to privately assist you. In Mark 12 we read how Jesus praised the widow who gave all she had, her two copper coins. There is no pledge that is too small--it takes us all.

If you requested 2024 offering envelopes or used them in 2023, you will find your new ones on the table in the Great Room or the entry on Sunday, December 31. If you did not request envelopes and would like some, please let me know. I ordered extras. If you have envelopes leftover from past years, please return them to the office and we will mark them for reusing in our pews. They will not go to waste!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES: 9:30 AM EVERY SUNDAY

The regular Sunday School schedule resumes on January 8 at 9:30 AM. Since the new year can be a time for new beginnings, the Christian Education Committee invites you to consider trying out one of our Sunday school classes in January. If you have any questions, please contact the church office for more information.

Godly Play Class - PreK-Grade 5 - Lower Education Wing

January lessons in the Godly Play room begin with the arrival of the Magi on Epiphany, followed by Holy Baptism - Jesus' baptism and ours. For the next three weeks, before the beginning of Lent, we will have lessons about Jesus' life, including new stories about some of the miracles Jesus performed during his ministry.

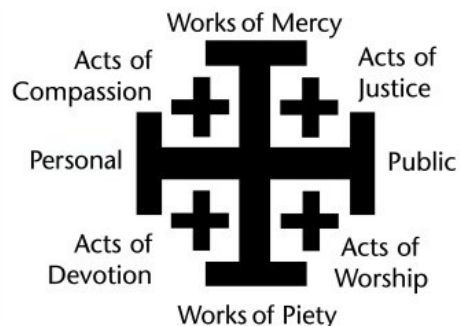
January 7 Epiphany: The Gifts of the Magi

January 14 Holy Baptism

January 21 Jesus in the Wilderness

January 28 Jesus Feeds Five Thousand People

February 4 Jesus and the Storm



Youth Class - Grades 6-12 - Middle Room of the Balcony

Youth are continuing on their quest for questions and answers, as well as their mural painting. Colors have been started and visions taking hold.

Spiritual Journey Adult Class - Asbury UMC Library

This class uses a book study to grow deeper in the scriptures and in faith. The class will continue working on The Gospel of Mark by Amy-Jill Levine starting January 7.

"Class With No Name" Adult Class - McCoy Room

This new group, led by Eric Osier, explores the text of the day for worship. The class delves into understanding different perspectives in the text and how it connects to life. Bring your coffee or tea and join us for an open-ended discussion. You are welcome to join us any Sunday morning!

INTERTWINE YOUTH MINISTRY COLLECTIVE



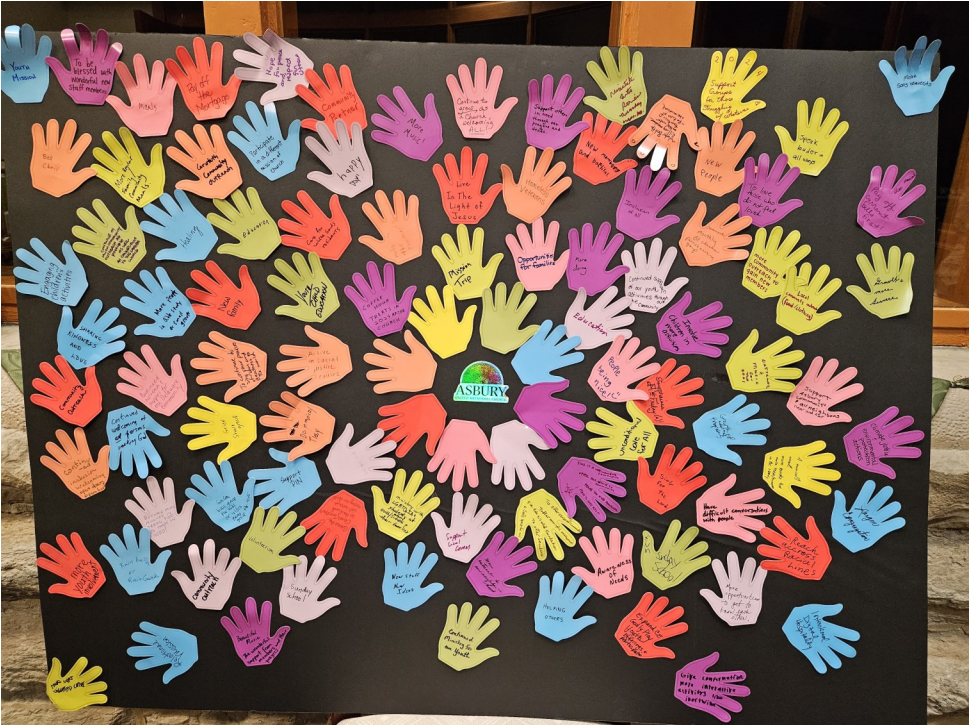
All high school and middle school youth - you are invited to start the new year by coming to an Intertwine gathering. There's always lots of fun for everyone, along with thoughtful conversations in age-level groups. Intertwine meets twice each month, once together and once as Middle School and High School separate gatherings. Mark your calendars for these January Intertwine gatherings, and please remember to RSVP to Rev. Kara so she can plan on how many to expect.

Sunday, January 7, 6:30-8:00 PM (GR 6-12) @ William Street UMC

Sunday, January 21, 5:00-6:30 PM (GR 6-8); 7-8:30 PM (GR 9-12)
@ First Presbyterian



Searching Inward Serving Outward Through Christ

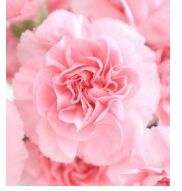


To Rosalie Hutter and family, in the passing of her husband Dick Hutter on December 2, 2023.

With Sympathy

To the family of Emma Richards who passed on December 16, 2023.

January
BIRTHDAYS



Prayers for the Congregation



Bill Daniels
Doris Ebbert
Nancy Henkle
Mike Jones
Sandy & Steve Mead
Ken Morton
Elaine Salsberry

Limited Activities List

Lois Benton	Helen Berrisford
Norma Chidester	Paula Gordin
Rosalie Hutter	Mike Jones
Kay & David Nardin	Yvonne Potts
Janet Schwab	Jeff Viri-Dunahue
Winnie Wright	

Friends in Need of Prayer

Bonnie Slusser: Ruth Ward's mother
Sue Byers: Ann Davis's sister
Leigh Rabby: Ann Davis's friend
Vivien Backus: daughter of Bob Backus
Jeff Brubaker, Dan & Heather Phillips request
Kathy Childress and family, sister-in-law of Heather and Dan Phillips
Greg Maddox, friend of Dan Phillips
Carrie Hall, Carol & Dick Brulotte's daughter
Tom Ebbert, Doris Ebbert's husband
Brandon Crist, Sharon & Jim O'Neal's grandson
Linda Potter, friend of Carol Brulotte
Jeff Campbell, friend of Mary Jean Roach

Our Asbury church members whose families are serving in the military

- Lisa Goodman
Ken Morton
- Sharon Hayes
- Blake Frisch
- Michele Starner
- Jim Bartha
- Meredith Alsup
- Larry Proper
- Lewa Okunlola
- Doug Brown
- Kanan Hejmanowski
- Marcus Haase
Macklin Meadows
- Jeff Pinyerd
- Natalie Cook
- Ayo Okunlola
- Demi Badger
- Sarah Brook
Winnie Wright
- Nancy Reed
- Betty Edwards
Brandon Whitmore
- Jennifer Villanueva-Henkle
- Michael Bailly
- Sarah Douds
Judy Maxwell

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2	3 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Adult Choir	4 7pm DCP Board	5 8am Morning Prayer	6 10am Mission & Outreach
7 9am Children/Youth Choirs 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	8	9 7pm Trustees	10 10am All Staff Mtg	11 5:30pm DCP General 7pm Lydia Circle	12 8am Morning Prayer	13
6:30pm Intertwine Youth @ William Street UMC			6pm Bell Choir			
14 9am Children/Youth Choirs 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	15 Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16 2pm Alzheimer Group 7pm Christian Ed	17 9:30am Rebekah Circle 1:30pm Hannah Circle 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Adult Choir	18	19 Messenger Deadline 8am Morning Prayer	20
21 9am Children/Youth Choirs 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	22	23	24	25	26 8am Morning Prayer	27
5pm Intertwine Youth MS 7pm Intertwine Youth HS Both @ First Presbyterian	5:45pm Delaware Community Chorus		6pm Bell Choir 7pm Adult Choir		4:30pm Olentangy HS Choir Concert	
28 9am Children/Youth Choirs 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	29	30	31			
6:30pm Confirmation	5:45pm Delaware Community Chorus		6pm Bell Choir 7pm Adult Choir			