



November Messenger

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Inside the September Issue:	
Mission, Outreach, Creation Justice	2-3
Christian Education	4-5
New Members	6
UWF Finance	7,9
Lay Leader Reflection	8-9
Birthdays, Prayer Requests & Calendar	10-11
Connection Opportunities	12

Remember that story about Thomas? After the resurrection when Jesus showed up to the 10 disciples, but then Thomas was not there, and he was frustrated. What did he want? He wanted to see and touch the hands of Jesus. He wanted to see the power of transformation right in front of him. Thomas wanted to know the power in Jesus's hands.

Sometimes we lose sight that our hands are made in the image, and now likeness, of God's hands – specifically being like Jesus's hands. While we do not bear the scar of the crucifixion, it does not mean our hands lack the power of God's transformative work in this world. In fact we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus through the Holy Spirit!

So, what does this mean as we live out our identity as the body of Christ – as the hands and feet of Jesus? It may mean different things for different people.

As we have discussed over these past months, the framework of the cross might help us consider this identity – this calling. How are we living out devotion – using our hands to hold the Bible to read it, to hold our hands together in prayer, to be intentional in journaling or fasting? How are we living out compassion – using our hands to provide for our neighbor, to share what we have, to offer our finances to the mission and ministry of the church? How are we living out worship – using our hands to share in communion and renewing our baptism, experiencing grace in communal song, prayer, and hearing of the Word? How are we living out justice – coming together to break the bond of errant systems, while building relationships with the least, the last, and the lost, and speaking on their behalf?

There is power in our hands through the Holy Spirit. The more we live into being one through Jesus Christ, the power increases – and not for our own edification, but for transformation – for beauty to break through the crust of despair, malaise, anger, and fear. There is power in our hands through the Holy Spirit to bring hope, help, and to help usher in the new thing God is always working within and around us.

Take a glance at your hands – what do you see? What have they been used for? What reminders are left? Where do you see the power of Jesus within them? Look deeper – it's there – waiting to be unleashed. How will you use these hands now?

I want to thank everybody for the many birthday cards, the cake that was served after church, and all the best wishes!

Love you, *Emma Richards*

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTER:

Rev. Katie Osier

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 Szymkowiak

MISSION AND OUTREACH

NOVEMBER 2023 GIVING OPPORTUNITY (GO)

Toiletries for Turning Point

Giving Opportunity (GO) is a focused way for our congregation to locally give.

Every month, we identify what a local agency desperately needs to better support our Delaware brothers and sisters. For November we are collecting toiletries for Turning Point.

Just bring your donation to the church and place it in the appropriate bin in the foyer.

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK – NOVEMBER 5-11, 2023

Building communities and strengthening lives.

During the week, volunteers from Asbury UMC are needed to help provide meals or portions of meals for the Family Promise House, whose mission is to work with families and set them on a sustainable path of living.

Men's Monday Grilling Night is back again! Any and all males are asked to meet Dana Goodman at the Family Promise House on Monday, **November 6 at 5 PM** to help grill and share the meal with those at the house. Bring a side or dessert with you!

Not sure what to do? That's okay – we are here to help. Even if you can provide a side, let one of the Mission and Outreach team members know, or contact the church office and we will get you connected. It is easier than you think!

See how you can help by clicking on the Volunteer

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094BAAAC2D6-43646875-4th2023>



PIN HOLIDAY CLEARING HOUSE: ADOPT A CHILD

Asbury UMC has been given 54 children to “adopt” this Christmas, by providing Christmas gifts through the PIN Holiday Clearing House.

A Christmas tree will be placed in the Great Room beginning Sunday the 26th of November with the 54 tags and gift requests for children.

Gifts will need to be returned to the church wrapped with the tag taped to the gift NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023.

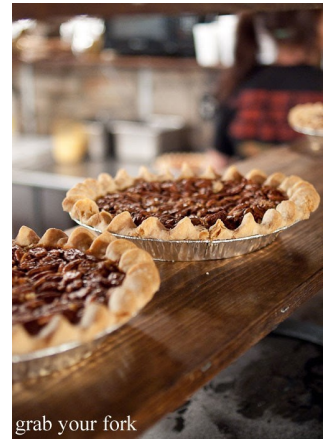
Thank you for your generosity in providing for children this Christmas!

THANKSGIVING IN A BAG: PIES! PIES! PIES!

Instead of our typical monthly Sandwich Sunday Lunch, this month we will be collaborating with other churches, coordinated by First Presbyterian, to provide a Thanksgiving meal for folks in our community, including White Sands.

Asbury UMC will be responsible for pulling together 40 pies of the 150 bags being created. This can happen in several ways:

- bake a pie (in a container that can stay with the family)
- purchase a pie and bring it in
- or donate \$10 towards a pie.



Sign ups for our 40 pies will be available Sunday, November 5 in the entryway. Financial donations need to be marked **TIB: Pie**. All donations – pie and financial – need to be brought to the church **no later than Sunday, November 19.**

Want to be part of delivery? Meet at First Presbyterian at 4:30 PM on Sunday, November 19. We will need help to deliver to White Sands as well as to hand out bags from the church itself. Please see Rev. Katie Osier for more details.

TREX PLASTIC RECYCLING PROGRAM—WE ARE ALMOST HALF WAY THERE!

This fall, Asbury UMC, in cooperation with Sunday School, the church began the Trex recycling program. So far, the church has brought in 224.3 Pounds of Plastic! We have until February to reach our 500 pounds.

Once 500 pounds of plastic has been recorded, Trex will in turn create a bench to be sent to Asbury UMC, which in turn will be used or shared with the community. While this does not completely irradiate plastic, it repurposes it for decking and furniture, as well as bring awareness of how much bag plastic exists in our world.



Continue to bring in clean plastic bags, wrapping film, bubble wrap, etc, to the marked containers at Asbury.

We still need your help!

- **Bring in plastic listed below.** Make sure it is clean and dry.
- **BAG WEIGHERS & DROPPERS.** Would you be willing to take a couple bags from the church to Kroger or Meijer? This is an easy task. The more bag droppers we have makes it even easier! Contact the church office today and volunteer.

Along with the plastic, the Sunday School offering will go to Caretakers of God's Creation, a UMC Advance Fund. Thank you in advance for listening to God's creation and responding.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: 9:30 AM, SUNDAYS

Sunday School classes for all ages meet 9:30 – 10:30 on Sunday mornings. Guests and new students are welcome in all classes!

Children's Godly Play Class (Pre-K – Grade 5): Lower Education Wing

In November, children in the Godly Play class continue to hear and work with stories from the Old Testament. On the last Sunday in November, we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, which is the end of the liturgical church year. Students will wear their year long beaded crosses for the service to celebrate the day.

November Godly Play stories will be:

November 5: The Story of King David

November 12: The Story of Esther

November 19: The Story of the Psalms

November 26: The Story of Christ the King Sunday

Youth Class (Grades 6-12): Upstairs Balcony in the Great Room – next to the Sanctuary

The Youth Class will continue the mural project they started last spring. Youth have brainstormed ideas for the mural that express who they are in relation to all aspects of their lives, including church, school, community, the world, and their own spiritual journeys. Youth look forward to sharing their mural with the whole church later this year.

The Class with No Name: Upstairs McCoy Room

A casual and non-judgmental discussion on the scriptures which are the base for the weekly sermon. No preparation is required. Participants are welcome to bring their Bible with them to class. All are welcome!

Spiritual Journey Class: Main Floor Library

This class uses a book study to grow deeper in the scriptures and in faith. The class is currently working on *The Gospel of Mark* by Amy-Jill Levine. Starting at the end of the month, they will switch to *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups. All are welcome!

CONFIRMATION: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12—6:30-8:00 PM, STUDENTS & MENTORS

Students and mentors will meet once again on Sunday, November 12, from 6:30-8:00 pm in the McCoy room. Our topic for the night is "Who is God? (and who God isn't)." Students and mentors are welcome to bring snacks and drinks for themselves. We will have water on hand.

Students are also asked to participate in a service opportunity this fall (October to December). Students received sheets to complete and turn in to share what they experienced.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CORNER

I'm thinking about volunteering...
but what can I expect in the Nursery and Children's Corner?

Nursery: You and one other volunteer will be in the nursery during the worship hour. We have a variety of toys, board books, and picture books to keep the little ones entertained for the hour. Parents leave their phone numbers so they can be texted in case they are needed.

Children's Corner: Two volunteers go downstairs with the children following the Children's Moment for about 15-20 minutes during the sermon. You'll have a picture book or Bible story to read aloud, and children have coloring pages and individual boxes with crayons and Play-Doh to use while you are reading. Children also add a bead to their necklaces at the beginning of the session. Jerrie Metz comes downstairs at the conclusion of the sermon to help line up the children and lead them back to the sanctuary.

To volunteer, see Angie Haase following the church service, or contact Angie at angela.haase@me.com or 740-513-5318.

INTERTWINE YOUTH MINISTRY



NOVEMBER

November 5 - Intertwine at First
Presbyterian, "Questions."
Middle School 5:00-6:30 PM,
High School 7:00-8:30 PM



November 19 - Intertwine at William
Street UMC, "What's in a Name?
Part 2." All youth grades 6-12,
6:30-8:00 PM



As always, RSVP to
Pastor Kara, please!

With the belief that life and faith are not dichotomous, Intertwine Youth Ministry Collective seeks to offer a safe space for youth (grades 6-12) to build relationships with others, pursue a life lived in Christ, and integrate faith into daily living. This inclusive and loving space offers an arena for youth to move closer to their identity as *imago Dei* while belonging to a community and participating in the ways of Jesus. We gather for a mix of fun, fellowship, study, prayer, service, and growth. Intertwine YMC is supported by Asbury UMC, William Street UMC, First Presbyterian, and Zion UCC.

Contact Asbury UMC for more information.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER FALL CLASS OF 2023!



Lin & Stan Fawley



Lexy Lesniak &
Michael Sterner



Cheryl Luce



Natasha & Adam Luce
Liam Spraggins



Graham Che Che Mukuha



Ryan Osier



Pat & Ken Seege



Dyan Scanlon



Jenny Swain

Numbers for September 2023:

023	Deposits	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)
Prepaid & Jan - Aug	\$351,245.22	\$352,108.29	(\$863.07)
September	\$18,353.08	\$32,058.36	(\$13,705.28)
YTD Cumulative	\$369,598.30	\$384,166.65	(\$14,568.35)

As you can see from the information above, we are “spending” more than we are “receiving” in offerings. We have had unexpected maintenance items come up that had to be taken care of. Such as the repair of the church’s fire detection system in the spring, that alone was just under \$12,500. This one repair is almost the amount of our current deficit as of the end of September. We have had other unplanned smaller expenses throughout the year and will likely still see a couple more before the year is done. We all know what one large unexpected expenditure can do to tight finances.

We have had to use most of our modest cash reserves to cover expenses throughout the year. Our cash reserve in our checking account is now very limited. A cash reserve helps us to remain current with expenses as they come due instead of possibly having to hold payments until enough deposits are made to cover the expenditure amounts.

The Finance Committee is therefore designating this year’s Christmas Special Offering to the church operating budget to erase our current deficit and to help stabilize our financial position. But we also want to continue to be a good neighbor in our community. A tithe (10%) from the Christmas Special Offering will be donated to a local charitable organization. The Finance Committee is in the process of selecting an organization now. We will be able to announce the selection shortly. We ask that you prayerfully consider giving generously to the Christmas Special Offering this year.

Thanks for all that you do and God Bless!

The Finance Committee



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE DECORATING NIGHT
 NOVEMBER 30TH FROM 5-8PM
 HOSTED BY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

We hope you’ll come and enjoy a fun evening together. The cookies will be ready to decorate, and everything you need will be provided. All ages are welcome, so come when you can and help with this fun endeavor.

It’s a joy filled evening and the joy continues the next day as we deliver the beautifully decorated cookies to local area groups.

Giving Thanks and Praise

It started out as a low murmur in the mid-morning. Slowly the sound increased, and I knew the fields surrounding the house were starting to be harvested. The two main crops in this area are corn and soybean, and the soybean was on the day's agenda. A breeze was picking up as I hurried to close the windows before the air became saturated with soybean dust. By midafternoon the harvesting continued and as I was sitting on the front porch one could easily see that the air was overwhelmed by gently floating particles. Just what the allergies needed. A day later the soybeans around us had been harvested and stored for the winter as I now wait for the harvesting of the corn, and once again the dust. I am quite sure the farmers are happy with their yield this year because the fields looked plentiful, and the farmers give thanks.

I too am pleased for the bounty of my small vegetable garden. As I peek in the pantry, I have the following: tomatoes, corn, green beans, potatoes, peaches, applesauce, various amounts of jam, tart cherries, blackberries, and the carrots and parsnips are waiting for the first frost which will become extra sweet before they are harvested. And just like the farmers, I too am happy with the yield this year, and I also give thanks.

And won't be long until we start to gather around a table filled with family, filled with friends, or filled with a combination of family and friends. And just like the farmers, just like my pantry, we gather around the table once the food is presented with delight in the feast that has been set before us and we give thanks.

Now, if you listen closely to the farmers, if you listen closely to me and to those gathered around the Thanksgiving table, I believe you will hear a familiar theme. I prepared the soil for planting, I planted the seeds, I weeded the crops, I watered when it was necessary, I harvested and I canned the food, I went to the store for stores to buy the food for Thanksgiving, I cleaned and I prepared the house, I cooked the food, I did the cleaning up, I did, I did, I did. Oh yes, let's not forget to say a prayer and thank God for all the good and good gifts of this year, but I really did all the work.

Do you see a problem with the above paragraph. As Children of God, we tend to boast and brag about all the things "I" have done, all the actions "I" do and then many times we tend to throw in a quick prayer somewhere thanking God, almost as an afterthought. Why even one of our Thanksgiving hymns reflect this sentiment: "We gather together to as the Lord's blessing". The action here is that "we" are doing the gathering, it is our doing.

So maybe as Children of God it is time to challenge ourselves and rearrange and refocus our thoughts in a new and different way. Maybe it is time to forgo the "I" and acknowledge that we truly aren't the ones in control. Maybe it is time to acknowledge that God is the action, that God is the "I" and we, well, we are the results. This is why the hymn **Gather Us In** by Marty Haugen is so poignant, and in my opinion should really be our new Thanksgiving hymn. We aren't doing the gathering, we aren't doing the action as portrayed in the hymn, **We Gather Together**, but rather in the hymn, **Gather Us In**, God is doing the gathering, God is bringing the harvest home and that harvest is us.

If you have ever walked along the beach, searching and gathering shells, beach glass and even small pebbles, I am sure you can relate to the following. You might pick up a shell and upon closer examination you realize that the shell is broken, or cracked, or the colors are kind of blah and you

toss it aside since it isn't perfect. The same goes for beach glass. The glass might not be smooth enough, or the edges are still rough, or you have plenty of that color already in your collection, so you toss it back into the ocean. Now could you imagine if God acted that way towards us? Pick us up, examine us and toss us aside if we aren't perfect. But yet as we hear in the hymn God "Gathers us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame" and our response should be one of loud praise and thanksgiving. For whom among us is perfect? Who among us is totally whole? We need to be thankful that God is the gatherer and that God is the action who accepts us for who and what we are.

And since God is our gatherer, we can and should rejoice that God calls each one of us by our own name. Have you ever been in a busy place and suddenly hear your name. You stop what you are doing and search the crowd wondering if someone was calling you or someone else. Or when you arrive at a destination and the people waiting for you shout out and call your name. You automatically respond with a broad smile as you rush over to those gathered who are waiting for you with hugs. By God calling us by our name rather than "hey you" or "so and so", this shows that God knows each of us totally as a person, unique and individual, and not just a hodge podge of people. "Call to us now and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound our name".

And finally, as we sit around the table this Thanksgiving, celebrating the gifts that we have received of family, friends, loved ones, food, etc. this past year, let us pause and take the time to remind ourselves and reflect with a new understanding that it is God who is the action of all aspects in our lives. It is God who gathers us in even though we are broken, we are cracked and we are not polished people. God loves us as we are, a simple and yet complex statement. And with this love God, "Gathers us in and hold us forever, gathers us in and make us His own, gathers us in all people together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone."

Gather Us In - by Marty Haugen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar0BXa82F9M>

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF SOUP LUNCHEON AND BAKE SALE NOVEMBER 12TH FOLLOWING THE CHURCH SERVICE

Please join us for time together and enjoy home made soup, hot dogs, and a selection of delicious baked goods.

Soups offered this year will be:

Vegetable Beef Soup

Cheesy Potato Soup

Creamy Squash Soup

Fall German Sausage Soup

Funds raised at the Soup Luncheon and Bake Sale are used for Missions. All are welcome!



Tom Moore, in the loss of his wife,
Lavonne Moore, on Sept. 22.



Mary Lou Payne, in the loss of her
sister, Eloise Fox on October 10.

Sue Chaney and the Blankenship Family, in the loss of her
sister-in-law, Karen Chaney Elbin, on October 20.

Prayers for the Congregation

Sandy Mead Steve Mead
Malcom MacLean Ken Morton
Bill Daniels Nancy Henkle



Also those on our limited activity prayer list,
located in the church foyer.

Friends in Need of Prayer

Leigh Rabby, friend of Ann Davis
Lillian Bouchard, friend of Linda LeClair
Sarah Everhart, daughter-in-law of Karen Everhart
Greg Maddox, friend of Dan Phillips
Kathy Childress & family, sister-in-law of Heather & Dan
Phillips
Vivien Backus, daughter of Bob Backus
Wendi Miller Rounsavall, daughter of Sandy & Larry
Miller
Jeff Brubaker, friend of Heather Phillips
Sue Byers, sister of Ann Davis
Carrie Hall, Carol & Dick Brulotte's daughter
Bobbi Beyer, sister of Leslie Beyer-Hermsen
Patricia Miller, Bill Daniel's sister

Our Asbury church members whose families
are serving in the military.

November BIRTHDAYS

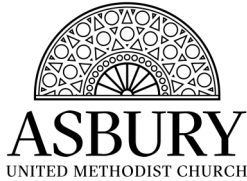


- 1 Dan Zahniser
- 2 Brian Frisch
Randy Litchfield
Brad Ross
- 4 DeAnna Zahniser
- 5 Peyton Spiegel
- 7 Karen Ansley
Karen Everhart
James Lance
Gerald Miller
- 8 Jeff Pinyerd
- 9 Steve Dolk
- 10 Ashley Hejmanowski
- 11 Dex Markward
- 12 Tim Cook
- 14 Fawn Hewitt
Melayna Meadows
- 15 Terry Hermsen
- 16 Maureen McCleery
- 19 Di Huston
- 20 Morgan Byerly
- 21 Judy Daniels
Melanie Serpa
- 22 Drew Brook
- 24 Judy Hamilton
MJ O'Flaherty
- 29 Vicky Cremer
Lev Dawson
- 30 Jeannette Abels
Chelsea Blankenship



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5</p> <p>9 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 5:00 PM Intertwine Middle School Youth Ministry (Gr 6-8) 7:00 PM Intertwine High School Youth Ministry (Gr 9-12) @ First Presbyterian</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:45 PM Del. Comm. Chorus & Youth Chorale</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Adult Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7 PM Staff Parish Mtg 7 PM DCP Brd. Mtg.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8 AM Morning Prayer Group 6 PM Asbury 1st Friday</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 5:00 PM Intertwine Middle School Youth Ministry (Gr 6-8) 7:00 PM Intertwine High School Youth Ministry (Gr 9-12) @ First Presbyterian</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:45 PM Del. Comm. Chorus & Youth Chorale</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10 AM All Staff Mtg 11:30 AM Progressive Lunch Grp. 6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Adult Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7 PM Lydia Circle</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8 AM Morning Prayer Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10-noon UWF luncheon prep</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12 N UWF Soup Luncheon 6:30 PM Confirmation</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10 AM UWF Exec. Brd. Mtg 5:45 PM Del. Comm. Chorus & Youth Chorale</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7 PM Trustee Mtg 7 PM Christian Ed</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Rebekah Circle 1:30 PM Hannah Circle 6 PM Bell Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7 PM Admin Council Mtg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8 AM Morning Prayer Group Messenger Dead- line for December</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 6:30 PM Intertwine</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:45 PM Del. Comm. Chorus & Youth Chorale</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Adult Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p>24</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 8 AM Morning Prayer Group</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:45 PM Del. Comm. Chorus & Youth Chorale</p>	<p>28</p> <p>2 PM Alzheimer's Grp</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Adult Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5 PM UWF Cookie Decorating</p>		



*Come and seek God,
You are welcome here*

*55 West Lincoln
Delaware, OH 43015*

*Phone: 740.363.3611
asbryohio.org
Email: asburychurchohio@gmail.com*

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AND STAY CONNECTED AT ASBURY UMC

- ◆ Fill out a **2024 Pledge Card** to support Asbury UMC's mission and ministry.
 - ◆ **Choose a name from the tree to support a child** at Christmas through People in Need.
 - ◆ Participate or swing by the **First Friday Booth** on November 3 from 6 to 9 pm.
 - ◆ Participate in the **New Prayer Shawl Ministry**
 - ◆ For **November's Giving Opportunity (GO)**, donate toiletries for Turning Point.
 - ◆ Save plastic bags and mailers to turn in for the **Trex Recycling Challenge**
 - ◆ Make/donate pies and/or deliver for **Sandwich Sunday** on **Sunday, November 19**
 - ◆ Participate in the **Sunday School Classes** on Sundays at 9:30 am
 - ◆ Engage with children through assisting with the **Nursery or Children's Corner**
 - ◆ Participate in a UWF Circle or General Meeting (See Newsletter for details)
 - ◆ Sing in the **choir and/or ring bells, serve as Communion Server, Greeter, Liturgist** to lead worship
- Support the transformational ministries of the church by your
- Prayers** (pray for ministry and people) **Presence** (come and participate)
- Gifts** (Donating items and/or Joyfully offering a Financial Gift) **Service** (Lead or Serve to help others)
- Witness** (Tell others about the Mission and Ministries of Asbury UMC and invite them)

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER MESSENGER

Articles for the December Messenger are due by **November 17**. Send to asburychurchohio@gmail.com. Thank you!