

October Messenger

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Now, I don't know how well you dance in real life. When I was young, that was my dream: to be a professional tap dancer. I would practice in my Easter shoes on our linoleum floor as often as I could. As soon as my parents picked up on the fact that dancing could be in my future, they enrolled me in dance class: ballet... Needless to say, I did not want to wear the tutu or the dance slippers – I wanted to make some noise! (Guess that hasn't changed much.)

What I did not realize at the time was that ballet provided a foundation that would take me to tap at some point. I could not see that practicing slowly would help my muscles learn rhythms and forms that would be used later when things would go faster. It required learning something new. It required failing, learning, and succeeding one step at a time. These strange forms did not seem to match my body or my passions, so it required practice.

Learning to dance with Jesus, I have come to understand, is quite similar. See, grace leads us to the dance of discipleship. According to Steve Manskar in his book *Opening Ourselves to Grace* states, "cooperating with the Holy Spirit and sanctifying grace by habitually practicing the means of grace does not come naturally... it is learned over time through discipline and practice with experienced practitioners. (p. 32)"

This is why it is important to keep dancing with Jesus and with one another. We need the routine, the muscle memory, the encouragement, the direction, and the challenge. Practicing daily our dance in grace may look like the Hokey Pokey to the world, but the truth is these dance steps are supposed to transform our lives into something the world doesn't recognize right away. Because our dance instructor is not of this world, our moves will be awkward, some even hard, but worth every turn.

Maybe it is the merengue of generosity, the foxtrot of forgiveness, the mambo of mercy, the salsa of study, the hip hop of hope, or the polka of gratitude. Each step we take we connect with our Lord and Savior. Yes, we can become sore if we sluff off in our practicing, but the beauty is – we keep being invited to dance. Get on those dance shoes! Let's be disciplined in living and loving this dance with Jesus.

Rev. Katie Osier

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

TASTE AND SEE: LAY LEADER REFLECTION—PETER BAYLIS

If you are hungry, come and be fed. If you are thirsty come and drink. If you are in need, come and you will be satisfied. Come, and I will nourish your body where you can find peace and rest. Come, do not hesitate. Come.

Growing up I remember my mother and I going to the food pantry/clothing pantry every Thursday afternoon along with Miss Abigail Larrison to volunteer for the afternoon. Did I do this voluntarily; absolutely not. Not only did I drag my feet, but I am quite sure I went kicking and screaming the whole way. This volunteering happened for me every summer during vacation when I would rather be at the beach, a neighbor's pool swimming or just being out and about with my friends. Why did I have to sit and stand in a stuffy hot building helping people that I didn't even know?

When we arrived at the pantry, my mom would unlock the door and turn the sign over. The sign was not your usual sign which said, "Open" but rather the sign said, "Hospitality Found Within". I was always intrigued by that sign, "Hospitality Found Within" and it was Miss Larrison who reminded me on more than one occasion that hospitality is the foundation of life. I can still hear Miss Larrison saying to me, "Peter, hospitality is our blessed duty to welcome strangers and friends alike. And since we are fortunate enough to have food and shelter, we need to welcome each person into our homes, into our spaces, and into our lives the best that we can. Especially to those who aren't as fortunate as you and me." It was not until I was much older that I allowed her words to finally sink in. Another way to define what God's hospitality is, "an offer to identify with outsiders and to treat them like insiders. Hospitality is extending privileges across differences. All of human life begins with God's act of hospitality, with God making a place for us in the world that God created, a world that we have no claim to inhabit."

Our Christian journey is a life of faith in that we are not asked to leave our bodies behind, but rather our life of faith and our pursuit of faithfulness is lived out in and through our bodies. We lift and raise our voices to praise God and we offer words of encouragement and hope; we move our hands and feet to fight for justice in the world as we offer hands of compassion and gentleness and when we truly open our eyes we see and behold the beauty of the Earth and all the creatures within.

In Matthew's Gospel we hear the story of Jesus feeding of the 5000 and just like so many centuries ago, Jesus continues to affirm the goodness of nourishing our bodies in our pursuit of being faithful as he feeds us today both in body and in spirit. For Jesus said to the disciples, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children." And for this nourishment of our bodies and spirit we give thanks.

The feeding of the 5000 does not only supply nourishment to those present, but it also helps to identify the significance of Jesus' actions involving the abundance and the lack of abundance of

food. First of all, the Roman Empire was marked by significant inequalities concerning food access. While the elite and those of power had an abundance of good quality food, most people struggled continually for adequate food and nutrition. Therefore, the lack of food was just one way most people experienced the injustice of power. Secondly, the biblical tradition identifies God’s will that hungry people be fed. In the wilderness God provided manna for the people. In Ezekiel, we hear Ezekiel condemning the leaders of Israel for failing to feed the people and in Isaiah, God declares that people should share one’s bread with the hungry. In the feeding of the 5000, we witness how Jesus takes control and hosts the meal. He blessed the food and gave it to the crowd. The language of “taking,” “loaves,” “blessed,” “broke,” “gave to the disciples”, “ate”, and “all”, appear in during the last supper, however, this is not the last supper, but the two are linked using food and in the giving of divine blessing. And for this nourishment of body and spirit we give thanks.

When we celebrate communion in October, let us be mindful that this is also Worldwide Communion Sunday. This day we lift and open our eyes to see our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace. As we partake in the bread and juice, may we truly taste and truly see the depth of God’s love not only for us, but for each person throughout creation. May we find the strength and the courage to look beyond the outer layer of ourselves and of others so that we can see and peer deep inside. And by opening ourselves up, may we be fed, may we be nourished and may we rejoice with wonderment of all the goodness of the Lord. And may this nourishment of our body and this nourishment of our spirit empower each of us to answer the call to go serve in the world, a world ever more in need of peacemaking.

“Taste and See” by James E. Moore, Jr.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yACCrBeUC80>

NUMBERS FOR AUGUST 2023:

2023	Deposits	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)
<i>Prepaid & Jan - Jul</i>	\$326,754.45	\$313,590.97	\$13,163.48
August	\$24,490.77	\$38,517.32	(\$14,026.55)
YTD Cumulative	\$351,245.22	\$352,108.29	(\$863.07)

As you can see, we are now in a deficit for the year. We have “spent” more than we have “received”. Just a quick reminder, if you are behind in your giving please try to catch up. If you are able to throw an extra dollar or two into the plate on Sunday mornings, please do so. Thanks to everyone for your offerings!

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2023:

Asbury Charge Conference: Saturday, October 7 @ 10 am at Sunbury UMC
 All members are able to attend. All leadership is encouraged to attend.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

2023 CROP WALK AND OCTOBER GIVING OPPORTUNITY (GO)



CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of [Church World Service](#), a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts (PIN in Delaware, Ohio).

To donate for October's GO for the CROP Walk, donate through the link, or make a check out to CWS/CROP and place it in the offering plate for the month of October.

Information and Donation Link: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/delawareoh>

SANDWICH SUNDAY: OCTOBER 22

Mission and Outreach leads the way to serve Sunday lunches to our food insecure community members. Each month we have been providing 50 lunches to residents of White Sands and a few other individuals.

We are thankful for those who have contributed food, helped put the lunches together, and delivered the lunches on Sunday mornings. Thank you for being a caring and giving congregation!

Sign up on sign up Genius online, come and help pack bags at 9:30 am, or deliver lunches following worship. Join together to offer an act of God's love through breaking bread with our community.



Sandwich Sunday: October 22 Sign up

Volunteer Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094BAAAC2D6-44614139-october>



NEW PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY AT ASBURY

Do you knit or crochet? Do you have left-over yarn in a tote somewhere? We are interested in starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry at Asbury and so are seeking help in making shawls for our friends who are ill or in assisted living or who just need to know someone cares. If you would like to help with this project, please contact either Doris Ebbert (740-368-4503) or Mary Jean Roach (740-815-3584 or mjroach7267@gmail.com). We will provide patterns for either knitting or crocheting, if needed. We just need help with the production! Thank you.

ALL MEMBER POTLUCK—GETTING TO KNOW YOU! SUNDAY, OCT 29

The Membership Committee is inviting you to celebrate together a churchwide potluck in the McCoy Room on Sunday, October 29, immediately following the worship service. We will be spending time intentionally getting to know old friends and new. Please bring food to share, and a serving utensil. We will provide the table service and beverages.

Hope to see you there!

Your presence makes this gathering the absolute best!



MUSIC MINISTRY

ADULT CHOIRS

Singing and ringing opportunities begin in September and October:

Adult Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, October 4 at 6:00 pm.

New singers and ringers are always welcome, so this would be a great time to join us. If you like to sing or ring, these are the groups for you! And you will meet some great people! How do you join? It's easy - just come to rehearsal.

Questions?

Talk with Carol Ann. You can find her at the organ after worship on Sunday or you can email her: cabradley1@gmail.com



CHILDREN/YOUTH MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Beginning **Sunday, October 1 from 9:00 a.m.- 9:30 a.m.**, we will have a kick-off party (donuts anyone?!) to begin our TWO choirs this year - one for children grades 2-5, directed by Peter Baylis, and one for youth grades 6-12, directed by Natalie Ritchie. We are also looking forward to having a *Spring Musical* for ALL children and youth (including younger children!).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

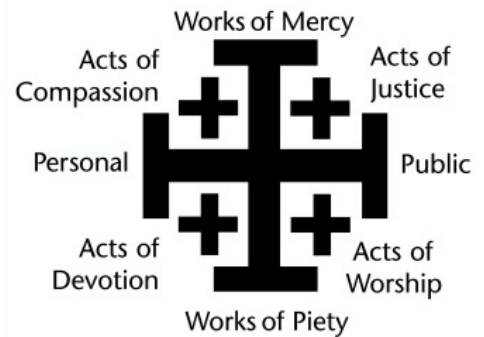
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: 9:30 AM, SUNDAYS

Sunday school classes for all ages meet 9:30-10:30 on Sunday mornings. Guests are always welcome in all classes!

Children's Godly Play Class (PreK-Grade 5): Lower Education Wing

October 1 is World Wide Communion Sunday, and we begin our October stories with the retelling of the Godly Play story that links the Good Shepherd from John 10 and Psalm 23 with Holy Communion. From there, we will continue learning about some of the important People of God in the Old Testament. October stories will be:

- October 1 The Good Shepherd and World Wide Communion
- October 8 The Story of Joseph
- October 15 The Story of Moses
- October 22 The Story of Samuel
- October 29 The Story of King David



Youth Class (Grades 6-12): Upstairs Balcony in the Great Room – next to 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 Asbury church family later this fall.

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 if they choose. All are welcome.

Spiritual Journey Class: Main Floor Library

The class will begin a new study, *The Gospel of Mark* by Amy-Jill Levine, starting in October.

CONFIRMATION 2023-2024

A year long journey has begun with students in grades 7 through 10. Please hold these students in your prayers as they learn more about faith, about the Bible, about tradition, about who God is and who God is in relationship to them.

October will include the largest series of meetings:

Sunday, October 8: 6:00-8:00 pm – Students and Mentors

Sunday, October 15: 6:30-8:00 pm – Students

Sunday, October 22: 6:30-8:00 pm – Students

INTERTWINE YOUTH MINISTRY

Intertwine meets two times each month at one of the four sponsor churches: Asbury UMC, First Presbyterian, William Street UMC, and Zion UCC. To make sure we have enough supplies for everyone, please RSVP to Rev. Kara Jones (karasjones3@gmail.com) so we can plan on how many to expect each week.



New This Fall: Intertwine is testing out a new schedule. One gathering each month will include all youth in grades 6-12, 6:30-8:00 PM. These combined gatherings will take place at Asbury and William Street, each of which has the space for large group games. When we gather at First Presbyterian and Zion, middle schoolers and high schoolers will meet separately. Middle school Intertwine will meet 5:00-6:30 PM and will look like a “regular” Intertwine gathering, just geared towards middle school only. High school Intertwine will meet 7:00-8:30 PM and will likely be in the form of a Fire-side Chat. This means we’ll all have to be extra aware of the Intertwine schedule, so please watch the Messenger, Bulletin, and weekly email!

Mark your calendars for the September Intertwine gatherings.

Sunday, October 1: Zion UCC

5:00 – 6:30 PM Grades 6-8

7:00 – 8:30 PM Grades 9-12

Sunday, October 29: Halloween and Costume Party

Combined Intertwine Grades 6-12 – 6:30- 8:00 PM – Place TBD

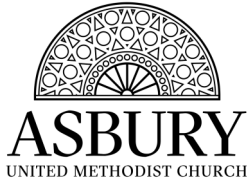
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: NURSERY AND CHILDREN’S CORNER

**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.



*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

- ◆ Participate or swing by the **First Friday Booth** on October 6 from 6 to 9 pm.
- ◆ Crochet or knit or deliver in the **New Prayer Shawl Ministry**
- ◆ For **October's Giving Opportunity (GO)**, donate to CROP WALK
- ◆ Save plastic bags and mailers to turn in for the **Trex Recycling Challenge**
- ◆ Pack lunches and/or deliver for **Sandwich Sunday** on **Sunday, October 22**
- ◆ Participate in the **Sunday School Classes** on Sundays at 9:30 am
- ◆ Sing in the **choir and/or ring bells, serve as Communion Server, Greeter, Liturgist** to lead worship
- ◆ Engage with children through assisting with the **Nursery or Children's Corner**
- ◆ Participate in a UWF Circle or General Meeting (See Newsletter for details)

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 OCTOBER MESSENGER

Articles for the November Messenger are due by **October 20**. Send to asburychurchohio@gmail.com. Thank you!

Prayers for the Congregation

Lois Benton
Nancy Henkle
Malcolm MacLean
Steve Mead
Jon Powers

Rick Cornett
Dee Ketterling
Sandy Mead
Ken Morton
Cheryl Shonebarger



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



Dave Miller and family, in the loss of his step-mother, Mary Ellen Miller

Ed Powell, in the loss of his brother

Don Litke and family, in the loss of his nephew, Brian.

Tom Moore and family, in the loss of his wife and church member, LaVonne Moore.

Friends in Need of Prayer

Leigh Rabby, friend of Ann Davis
Sandy Slusser, sister-in-law of Ruth Ward
Sarah Everhart, daughter-in-law of Karen Everhart
Eloise Fox, sister of Mary Lou Payne
Ally Anderson, friend of Kelly Robinson
Bill VanFossen, brother-in-law of Margaret Dixon
VanFossen
Bob McCartney, brother of Bill McCartney
Greg Maddox, friend of Dan Phillips
Paula Frank, daughter of Ed Hoar
Debbie Kines, sister of Sharon O'Neal
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.

October

BIRTHDAYS



- 5 Azeez Okunlola
- 6 Vivian Kumpf
- 12 Janet Alsup
Bruce Chapman
- 14 Pam Spence
- 17 Alexander Caton
Bob McCleery
Sharon O'Neal
Judy Smith
- 18 Eloise Gibson
Rev. Katie Osier
- 20 Nancy Henkle
- 23 Jim Porco
- 26 Heather Lautenbach
- 27 Sean Flannery
- 28 Carolyn Frobese
Suzanne MacClean
Marvin Philpott
- 30 Malcolm MacLean



OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World Communion Sunday 9 AM Kick off for Childrens' choirs 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship	2 5:45 PM Del. Comm. Chorus & Youth Chorale	3	4 Bell Choir 6 PM Adult Choir 7 PM	5 7 PM Finance Mtg 7 PM DCP Brd. Mtg.	6 8 AM Morning Prayer Group 6PM Asbury 1st Friday Downtown Delaware	7 10 AM Charge Conference, Sunbury UMC
8 9 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12:00- Potential New Member Class 6 PM Confirmation Class	9 10 AM UWF Exec. Brd. 5:45 PM Del. Comm. Chorus & Youth Chorale 7PM Staff Parish Mtg	10	11 11:30 AM Progressive Lunch Grp. 6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Adult Choir	12 7 PM Lydia Circle 7 PM Trust Comm	13 8 AM Morning Prayer Group	14 OH Health Hospice 1PM
15 New Member Reception 9 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	16 5:45 PM Del. Comm. Chorus & Youth Chorale	17 2 PM Alzheimer's Grp 7 PM Christian Ed 7 PM Trustees	18 9:30 AM Rebekah Circle 1:30 PM Hannah Circle 6 PM Bell Choir	19 7 PM UWF Gen. Mtg.	20 8 AM Morning Prayer Group Messenger Deadline for	21
22 Children's Sabbath Sandwich Sunday 9 AM Children's Choirs 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	23 5:45 PM Del. Comm. Chorus & Youth Chorale	24	25 6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Adult Choir	26 7 PM Mission & Outreach	27 8 AM Morning Prayer Group	28
29 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 5th Sunday Potluck 6:00 PM Intertwine Youth Halloween Party	30 5:45 PM Del. Comm. Chorus & Youth Chorale	31				