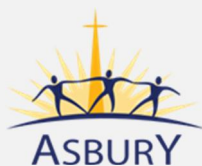


THE ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Mark Your Calendar...

All members of Asbury Church should plan to attend a **Special Church Conference on Sunday, August 20 at 1:00 PM**. At this meeting you will be asked to cast your vote to approve our Strategic Plan. Our weekly Circuit Rider newsletter will feature articles each week that look at our plan in more detail. **On Sunday, August 13**, there will be a **Town Hall meeting** to answer questions at the end of the first worship service - 11:00 am, in the Sanctuary. If you usually come for the 2nd service, plan to arrive early, grab your coffee and join the discussion.



Asbury Neighborhood Connection Delivering Water/Food

Our Community Center team serves thousands of families each month, but still hundreds of families are unable to come to us so we go to them. If you know of a family in need, whether it be food or water delivery or have any questions, you may call Kevin at 810-625-6115 or call Asbury Church at 810-235-0016.



A Plan Based on Love

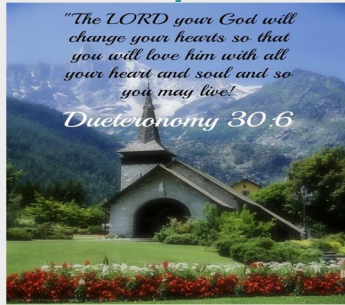
“Love your enemies! Do well to them... You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.”

Luke 6:35a, 36 (NLT)

This Sunday's title for worship is "Love" and our scripture is one of the most difficult ideas that Jesus left for us to do if we are to be His followers. In this part of Luke's Gospel Jesus acknowledges that this is not easy to do. But Jesus also points out that while we prefer to hold in contempt those persons whom we view as a threat, or disgust us, or those we feel have done harm to us, God has not done the same and so neither should we.

Such love is at the heart of our vision statement for Asbury that we adopted in 2010: *We envision a community in love with God, one another, and our neighbors, evidenced through the transformation of ourselves and our neighborhood.* Love of God, each other and our neighbor is a not easy. This statement moves from the easier to the most difficult in its demand on our tolerance and on our heart. We may think that we can love God but this is about as far as we can go. But we are not given this option according to Jesus. In chapter 14 of John, Jesus says that "Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me." In other words, loving each other and

Worship Guide



Traditional Service

10:00 AM

WELCOME

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OPENING HYMN

CALL TO WORSHIP

ANTHEM

READING OF SCRIPTURE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF PREPARATION

TEACHING

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING & BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Worship Service Times

Bible Study	10:00 am
Traditional Worship	10:00 am
Coffee Break	11:00 am
New Beginnings	11:30 am

In Our Prayers

Curtis Young	Rachel Bastine
Norma Buzzard	Merle Supernaw
Barbara McIvor	Jonathon Misner
Nancy Auger	Austin & MarySuffle
Shirley Craig	Mary Armstrong
Sarah Tanner	Elizabeth Wright
Judy Tanner	Mary Lyons

*FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO
ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN
NURSING CARE*

Sharon George	Elaine Lamoreaux
Mary Nations	Mary Russell
Shirley Moose	Charlayne Oram
Carmen Misner	Phyllis Roberts

even our neighbors is not an option for those who claim to love God. This statement of vision is incomplete unless we include everyone in our community.

Love is at the heart of our core values or at least love is at the heart of those values that we claim to hold to as the rock of our salvation. This claim is then at the heart of how we know that we are obedient to Jesus. The proof of our love is visible in the change that takes place in us and around us. But it is not just a little change that we are after. We anticipate radical, transforming change. We actually believe, or say that we believe when we say we are Christ followers, that each of us are being made new. We are an unfinished masterpiece and God is the artist. Our community is that part of God's canvas where we are being shaped and shaded. We are not reproduced from molds on an assembly line. We are each handcrafted to be a unique creation yet we each carry the image of God in our person. This is also true of each and every neighbor.

Transforming love can be seen. It can be felt. Such love has a spirit about it that is so pervasive that visitors can sense such love in the air they breathe when they encounter Asbury for the first time. This is the sort of love that is so powerful that persons are drawn to it like metal to a magnet. It is a contagious love and so each person infected with its power in turn is able to love others and this is the power that transforms overgrown vegetation on abandoned plots of land into beautiful gardens that feed our bodies and our souls. This manifestation of love is seen and felt by persons unfamiliar with the transforming love of Christ and their hearts are stirred as the Holy Spirit beacons them to see the power of God at work in their midst.

This is the plan that God has in mind for Asbury. God speaks to us through the prophet Jeremiah "For I know the plans I have for you. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT). Our discernment of God's strategic plan for us is nothing more and nothing less than a statement of faith in a God who both asks more of us than we can possibly do and gives us all that we need to do it. After Jesus told His followers in John 14 that He would soon be leaving them His final words at that time was "Come, let's be going." A call to action towards a different future. The lives of Jesus' followers had changed dramatically since meeting Jesus and their lives would continue to change in ways that they could never have imagined. But they followed in faith just as we are asked to follow in faith.

May you seize this very moment to stop and take in the blessing that is life itself and may you experience the joy of gratitude. May God bless you, may Jesus Christ walk with you and may the Holy Spirit fill you with good things. May your heart be filled with love for God and your neighbors.

By Pastor Tommy

Book Club News



We are in the midst of a discussion of a book titled *Soil and Sacrament*. Parker J. Palmer writes this about our book: “Fred Bahnsen believes that faith is expressed in the work of our hands as well as our minds and hearts, and that in community we can meet the needs of a hungry world. After reading his beautifully written book, I believe these things, too, and see new ways to put my beliefs into action. *Soil and Sacrament* is about new life for ourselves, our descendants, and the earth on which we all depend. A couple words of caution as we begin this next book. First, you do not have to read the book to attend, but it does help with the discussion and what you receive back from it. However, I will strive to copy sections of the book for persons who really don’t intend to put in the time and money I do need \$10 from each person who takes a book - I have only 10 copies so far due to the lack of availability of used, affordable copies.

Our goal is to continue to widen our circle and so we hope that you will join in on our discussion. We meet each Tuesday at Noon. Come join us for a light lunch, fellowship and discussion. Our food selections have been fantastic and we always have plenty to share. We are always on the lookout for our next book, video lesson or topic. Your participation and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

*Bahnsen, Fred. *Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013

Methodism Core Values

What good is it...if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

James 2:14-17 (NLT)

Last week’s Circuit Rider began a discussion of our core values as a congregation of the United Methodist Church. What are those core beliefs and ideas that we value above all else and that should drive our decisions? The Social Principles that are found in both our *Book of Discipline* and our *Book of Resolutions* is good place to begin. As we are able to articulate our core values we are in a better place for conversations about our future. Our core values help us to make a better decision in the midst of the daily noise of persons trying to convince us to agree with their choices. As Christians we face such decisions in the midst of a world shouting for us to make different choices. If we can stay in touch with our core values we can make hard decisions with confidence.

Our Social Principles are organized into sections beginning with *The Natural World* and continuing through the various ways that we are affected by our global and local community. These communities include nurturing, social, economic, political and the world. In our section on the *Economic Community* we read the following:

*Because we recognize that the long-term reduction of poverty must move beyond services to and employment for the poor, which can be taken away, we emphasize measures that build and maintain the wealth of poor people, including asset-building strategies such as individual development savings accounts, micro-enterprise development programs, programs enabling home ownership, and financial management training and counseling. We call upon churches to develop these and other ministries that promote asset-building among the poor...Poverty most often has systemic causes, and therefore we do not hold poor people morally responsible for their economic state. **

Too often our churches lose their way and our core values are replaced by the world’s values without our conscious recognition. One of the key responsibilities of a pastor is to bring this recognition into consciousness. This is not easy. No one likes to be reminded that they need to take corrective action. Nevertheless, we cannot say that love is a foundation for our lives if we are unwilling to hold each other accountable for how our statements of faith are lived out. How often have you heard such statements as: “Why is that our responsibility?” “We tried that before and it didn’t work.” “We can’t afford to do that.” “We already have our hands full.” “It’s not our fault the neighborhood changed.” The list of statements that stand in contrast to God’s promise of abundance are the sound of empty excuses for our lack of faith.

What's coming up...?

All Our Days

A New Worship Series
The Power of Prayer

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Philippians 4:6(NLT)



The tradition of using a string of beads or rope knot is an ancient tradition shared by many faith traditions around the globe. The common connection is the ability to give structure to personal prayer. Prayer beads offer a way to remind us of those things we want to talk to God about in our prayers. They can help shape our habits. This summer, we are invited to pray *ōAll My Daysō* and to make a *ahabit* of prayer wherever you are. Each Sunday in worship we will focus on one of the steps of the prayer beads but you are encouraged to pray these all summer long.

- July 30 *Concern* Luke 12: 22-34
- Aug 6 *Love* Luke 6:27-36
- Aug 13 *Neighbors* Luke 18: 1-8
- Aug 20 *World* Matthew 5:16
- Aug 27 *Holy Spirit* Luke 24:49
- Sept 3 *Jesus* Matthew 28:16-20

Meanwhile, the vision adopted by Asbury in 2010 lies before us. It is a vision of transforming love that we believe represents the successful attainment of our mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world. As a local church our world consists of those living around us and our call is to go out among them to share the good news in ways that resonate with their lives, putting aside our own bias, our own needs and our wants. May our words, thoughts and actions be pleasing in Your site, O God our help in ages past and our hope for years to come.

** The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016. The United Methodist Publishing House.*

A Center for Health & Wellness

Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Acts 4:30 (NLT)

One of our key strategic goals stated in our discernment of God's strategic plan for Asbury is for us to become a center for health and wellness solutions for our community. What might this look like? Does this mean that we are opening a clinic? The answer is yes in the spiritual sense. Of course, God may surprise us.

During June we provided space for two physicians to see patients. Dr Molly McMullin-Laird and her husband Dr Quentin McMullin are both licensed physicians who practice both traditional medicine along with anthroposophical medicine. Their clinic in Ann Arbor includes a large, organic farm that provides fresh produce and ingredients for their practice. This team of physicians along with six interns saw patients, offered treatment and information on healthier lifestyles. This is one example of how Asbury is already living into this strategic goal.



The Asbury Community Help Center is open Monday through Thursday each week. This center is operated by the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and provides bottled water and food for anyone who is in need. Hundreds of families visit Asbury each day. They are greeted on certain days by representatives from Genesee Health Systems as they drive by the mobile health unit that houses two clinical offices along with one or more healthcare professionals. Their focus is mental health but they often refer persons to other healthcare services. The Flint CORE team is also on hand to make sure that each household has the capability of filtered water in their homes. they provide water filters, filter cartridge replacements, information and can arrange to have an installation

Ways to get involved ...



Donate óYou can give online at FlintAsbury.org/donate

Music Ministry óWe are looking for vocalists and musicians.

Community Gardening ó The Asbury Farm needs volunteers.

Pantry - We need food items, including meats, paper products; personal items diapers, and financial support.

Social Media allows us to tell others about the work that God is doing. All of us can help enhance our presence in the social media by posting on our Facebook and utilizing our website for blogging.

Housing - the Asbury House offers local college students a way to use their gifts and passions together with their faith in building a better neighborhood.

Women’s Circles- The women of Asbury meet regularly in small groups.

Pastor’s Book Club meets each Tuesday at 12Noon for fellowship, food and learning.

Sunday Bible Study meets each week at 10 am to review & discuss scripture.

team go into a home to do necessary repairs and replacements to ensure that their water filter is working effectively. These are all examples of health and wellness solutions.

In another partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan Asbury is providing breakfast and lunch for children and their families Monday through Friday. This service is lieu of the free meal programs offered when schools are in session. Chef Kevin Croom supervises this program. Kevin has a degree is nutrition and is a professional chef with a passion for preparing food that is both good for you and a joy to eat. He also has a passion for sharing his knowledge and skills so that others can do the same for themselves. Kevin utilizes fresh produce and herbs grown on the Asbury farm. He knows what he can expect to receive from our farmers because he worked with them on the list of crops based on his goal of good, nutritious food for our residents. Doesn’t this sound like a center for health and wellness solutions?



We began implementing the plan that God has in mind for Asbury several years ago. There have been missteps and mishaps along the way but there has also been great joy and many testimonies from our community. We are just getting started. God has so much more in store for us. Volunteer some time to help out on the Asbury farm or with Kevin in the kitchen or serving meals. Say thank you to Ron who drives our bus each day to pick up families without transportation where the distance is impractical. Meanwhile, the Neighborhood Connection team will be out in the neighborhood going to the homes where our neighbors cannot come to us. But this is a topic for another article.

August 6 - Notes & Reflections - Concern

“Sell your possessions and give to those in need...Wherever your treasure is, there is the desires of your heart will also be.”

Luke 12: 22-34

Coming up this week ...

Neighborhood Deliveries /water-food

Meet Up and Eat Up: Breakfast & Lunch - Monday-Friday
8:00-9:30am & 12Noon-1:00pm

Aug 7	Mon	5:30pm	Worship Comm Meeting
Aug 8	Tues	12Noon 6:30pm	Pastor Book Club Washington Neighborhood
Aug 9	Wed		
Aug 10	Thur		
Aug 11	Fri	10am-2pm	Fresh Produce Giveaway
Aug 12	Sat		
Aug 13	Sun	10:00am 10:00am 11:00am 11:30am	Bible Study Traditional Worship Coffee Break New Beginnings

Look for announcements scrolling on our screen prior to the start of worship. Email announcements by the Friday before to FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com

In our worship service

Greeter	Christine
Children's Time	Rev Tommy
Candle Lighting	Karen
Usher	Jim, Anthony, JoAn
Media Support	Jim
Nursery	Carolyn
Coffee Break	Cyndi
Worship Leader	

Last Week for Worship

Attendance 41 Offering \$ 1,005

Coffee Break

Plan to meet outside the sanctuary each Sunday after the first service for coffee, tea, snacks, conversation and so on. The music will start when it is time to wrap up and head in for *New Beginnings*.

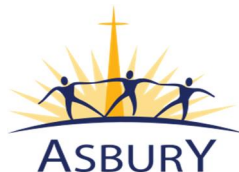
Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDaniel	Pastor
Jim Craig	Church Council Chair Asbury CDC Board Chair
Connie Portillo	Office Secretary
Kathy Howe	Choir Director
Rebekah Britton	Organist
Phone/Fax	810-235-0016 (call first when faxing)

WELCOME! - *Beinvenidos!*

We are happy you are here to worship with us today. Please fill out an information card and place it in the offering plate in order that we may be able to serve you further.

OUR VISION – *Nuestro Vision*



We envision a community in love with God, one another and our neighbors, evidenced through the transformation of ourselves and our neighborhood

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS – *Anuncios de la Semana*

Volunteers are Needed to help with weeding, picking and watering at our Asbury Farm Gardens and the Hoop House. We have a staff oversees these areas, but the heavy growing season we are in right now leaves them so busy they can't spend a lot of time in the gardens. If you can spare a couple of hours here and there, please contact me to see where and when your help can be utilized for this beautiful project that Asbury has in our very own community. Michele Weston: 810-624-1184 or mweston38@att.net.

Michele Weston

Asbury Member: Shirley Moose is still at Maple Woods Manor, 13137 N. Clio Rd, Clio MI 48420.



Up and Coming Meetings: Please note Church Council will be meeting on Monday, August 21st at 6:30pm. All involved, please plan to attend. Also, there will be a Worship Committee meeting on Monday, August 7th at 5:30pm in the Library.

Bus Rides for Breakfast and Lunch: Asbury will be picking up families in the neighborhood that are without transportation to come to our Meet UP and Eat Up Summer food program. Breakfast times are 8:00-9:30am and lunch at 12N-1pm. There is a sign up sheet downstairs and also upstairs on bulletin board. But only fill out one sheet. Any questions, just call the church office 235-0016 or call Kevin 810-625-6115.

New Asbury Church Directory: I am in the process of doing a new directory within the next few weeks, so please look over your directory and let me know if you have any changes, whether you need to add a new number, new address, add a family member or you want to add an email. Please leave your changes in my mailbox or call the office 235-0016 or email me FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com.

AUGUST 2017

Asbury UMC Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1 Pastor Book Club 12N	MEET UP AND EAT UP- Asbury, along with the Food Bank will be serving breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served from 8am-9:30am and lunch from 12N-1pm. Instructional classes on nutritional preparation and fun feeding will take place between breakfast and lunch on Wednesdays. Any questions, please call Kevin 810-625-6115.				5
6 Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am	7 Worship Comm Meeting 5:30pm	8 Recovery Wkgroup at 1938 Howard Ave 9am Pastor Book Club 12N	9	10 Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm	11 Fresh Produce Giveaway 10-2pm	12	
13 Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am Town Hall Meeting (in the Sanctuary) 11am	14	15 Pastor Book Club 12N Washington Neighborhood Assoc 6pm	16 Urban Ministry 9am	17	18	19 	
20 Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am Special Charge Conference -Vital Church Initiative 1pm	21 Church Council 6:30pm	22 Recovery Wkgroup at 1938 Howard Ave 9am Pastor Book Club 12N CDC Meeting 2pm	23	24 Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm	25 Fresh Produce Giveaway 10-2pm	26	
27 Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am	28	29 Water Resource Workgroup (at Food Bank) 9am Pastor Book Club 12N	30	31			