

The Asbury Messenger

Connect. Grow. Serve.

January 2016

• Lansing Asbury United Methodist Church

• Issue #11 Volume 29



Sermon Notes **God's Communication**

God communicates with people in many different ways. In Luke 2:8, God communicated with the shepherds. Why them? Well, we know one thing: the shepherds were some of the people who belonged to the lowest classes of Israel. That is why God chose to communicate with them, the social outcasts and the lowly, as the recipients of the good news about the birth of Jesus Christ. And I know clearly why God chose a manger in a barn. If Jesus were born in the temple or in the palace, only a select few would have been able to come and worship him. There would be a zero percent chance for those in the lower social classes, like the Shepherds, to be able to come and celebrate Jesus's birth. God didn't send Jesus, His only Son, to be celebrated by a limited number of people. The place where we worship Jesus Christ should be widely opened, and the people who come and worship him should be welcomed and treated fairly no matter what their social status or class in society. This was God's will, intention, and purpose in why God chose Bethlehem, a manger, Mary, Wise men, and shepherds. God's active, proactive, and intentional communication to invite and include the people with different cultures, races, and social statuses, as well as God's salvation and God's love and mercy was manifested there in the story of Luke chapter 2.

Communication is the human connection. The communication of God is God's connection with people. We who believe in Christ Jesus need to open the door to our church as widely as possible so that the Wise men and even the shepherds of our days can come and worship Jesus Christ our Lord. We who believe Jesus Christ as our Lord need to be humble and welcoming for visitors, neighbors, foreigners, and the social outcasts as much as possible. Jim Rohn said, "Effective communication is 20 percent what you know, and 80 percent how you feel about what you know." Effective communication is dependent on how you feel about what you know. I believe the way we, the people of Asbury, communicate with others and with ourselves will affect and determine the destiny of our church.

2016 Worship Service Schedule Update

Asbury Friends,

Starting in January 2016 and onward, Asbury will be making some changes to the Sunday Worship schedule.

Starting on January 3rd, and until further notice, there will be one worship service on Sundays, at 10:00AM.

This was a much needed change due to the confusion that was caused by constantly changing the time for service when there were combined services, as well as making the Traditional Service later in the morning to accommodate those who felt that the 9:15 AM time was too early. We feel this new schedule will be a welcome change, especially during the winter months, when getting to church early can be difficult.

This does not necessarily mean the end of our contemporary service – but we are still in the process of determining whether or not it will be continuing. Regardless, there will be a worship service at 10:00 AM every Sunday, whether or not the Contemporary Service continues.

We are grateful for your support and appreciate you voicing your thoughts and suggestions, and we thank you for your patience regarding the Worship times over the last few years. We will be sure to keep you posted regarding the continuation of the Contemporary Worship Service.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these changes, please don't hesitate to contact the Church Office with them.

Thank you,
Asbury UMC Staff

Upcoming Events

Asbury Brass Quintet Performance

The Asbury Brass Quintet will kick off the New Year by providing music for the traditional worship service on January 3rd. Selections will include "Trumpet Tune in G," "Salvation is Created," and "Gesu Bambino" with Jeff Howenstine on organ, all recently performed for Church Women United of Greater Lansing, "Save a Chair for Me in

Heaven with a vocal solo by Susi Greiner, and a Dixieland version of "Just a Closer Walk with Thee," that was recently performed as part of a DeWitt Community Band - Grand Ledge Community Band collage concert with Susi and the congregation joining in. Please join us!

Science Theatre

On January 24th at 3:30 PM, Asbury will be hosting a special Science Theatre Performance! Science Theatre is an organization run by student volunteers at MSU who go out into the community to teach children and adults alike about the wonders of science. There will be fun and interactive demonstrations that illustrate key concepts in biology, chemistry, and physics. Science Theatre strives to involve

the audience in each demonstration as much as possible by asking focused questions and allowing audience members to participate when possible.

This show is meant for people of ALL ages, and admission is absolutely free, so please bring a friend or two! And be sure to stay after the show for a FREE dinner of sloppy joe's! We hope to see you there!



Human Relations Sunday



Sunday, January 17 - The Human Relations Day offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy in the United States and Puerto Rico, through United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. It is one of six special offerings celebrated throughout the worldwide United Methodist Church.

"Souper" Bowl Offering

Millions of people will watch the commercials and cheer for their favorite team in the 50th Super Bowl game on Sunday, February 7th, 2016. For many years, Asbury UMC has celebrated the Super Bowl by participating in the National "Souper" Bowl of Caring.

This national, youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world was inspired by a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."



All "Souper" Bowl donations collected at Asbury this year will help support the Sack Lunch Program. Although Open Door Ministries closed, we have still been diligently delivering meals to JIMHO. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays since September 2011, this Asbury mission project has provided substantial, nutritious sack lunches to our brothers and sisters who are homeless.

Your donations will help purchase the meat, cheese, and bread for sandwiches, fruit, juice, chips, and packing supplies for well over 150 lunches per month. The "Souper" Bowl donations collected on February 7 will go directly to the Sack Lunch Program. When you see our youth with the soup pots at the end of the worship service on February 7th, please give generously!

Updates

Narthex Interior Decorator Sought

We're looking for somebody, or a small group, passionate about furnishing and decorating the newly refurbished room opposite the main doors to the church.

We're seeking to establish a welcoming environment which can also be used for social gatherings, meetings, and classes.

A small budget has been approved, funded by Memorial Funds from the Asbury Foundation. Whoever wants to take on this project is welcome to solicit opinions, suggestions, and additional funds. Pastor Cho will set the general direction of the

project, which is envisioned to include a large screen TV for education (DVDs, websites, and elsewhere) as well as for entertainment purposes.



Loose Coins and Underwear Shower

Our loose coins this month will go to JIMHO (Justice in Mental Health organization). JIMHO is a drop in center for those who have been diagnosed with mental health related issues. JIMHO was founded in 1980 as a place for people to just "be". Support and self-help groups, holiday meals, and recreational opportunities are available, as well as assistance with housing, social security, taxes, and transportation to appointments are just some of the things offered to those seeking help. Richard's Place, a nine bed emergency housing shelter, is owned and operated by JIMHO as well.



This year's underwear shower will provide needed items for clients of JIMHO. A laundry basket and a clothes rack will be in the narthex throughout January to collect new items of underwear (regular or thermal) and socks (tube socks are great for women or men). There is a need for

M, L and XL for both men and women. Other current needs include warm water resistant gloves, hats, wool socks, and long johns. And, as prior years, we will collect travel size personal hygiene items such as soaps, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

6 Lane Projects

Six Lane Mission Goals

There is still time to let the Sending Out Ministry know where you would like to see our 6 Lane Mission giving go. There are many worthy projects and we need to hear from you as to which ones are important to you. This year's goals will be set at the next meeting of the ministry team (Monday, January 4th). Contact any of the Sending Out Ministry team: Carole Armstrong, Lauree Roney, Lucinda Clark, Linda Hinz, Laurie Homer, Linda, Jubeck, or Ruth VanderWaals.

Changing Lives: the fund for Christian Camping

The West Michigan camping ministries touches more than 12,000 people each year - that's 12,000 stories of change that YOU can become a part of!

By donating to the Changing Lives Campaign, you can be a part of filling a crucial role in helping campers connect with Christ. This \$450,000 campaign will go towards providing additional summer camp scholarships, hiring full time directors to grow the capacity of each camp site, moving each of our camps toward more fruitful ministry and better facilities, and impacting lives for the transformation of the world. Part of this years' Christmas offering will go towards this campaign.

The West Michigan Conference operates 5 camps in the conference: Albright, Crystal Springs, Lake Michigan, Lakeview, and Wesley Woods. Many of us have attended summer camps or retreats at one of these camps. Asbury also has assisted in building and maintaining cabins at Wesley Woods.



Thank You

Christmas Offering

Thanks to your generosity, nearly \$1500 was received for the Christmas offering, which enabled us to complete our 6 Lane Mission giving and to contribute to the Changing Lives fund for Christian Camping.

Mitten Tree

Many children will have warm hands and heads this winter thanks to all who contributed to the Mitten Tree. A very large bag of hats, gloves, and scarves will be delivered to the clothing bank at Judson Memorial Baptist Church for this Christian Services program. A special thanks to the members of Asbury's knitting group who made so many hats and scarves.

Christmas Share Store

Thank you to all who brought in gifts of toys, clothing, games, etc. for the Christmas Share Store sponsored by Christian Services on Dec. 12. Your gifts, along with those from other churches, provided a bountiful selection of gifts. Persons from the Quality Living classes were able to "buy" gifts for their families and have a wonderful holiday.

Special Thanks – Tim Smith

We want to once again give a most gracious THANK YOU to our custodian, Tim Smith. Since Tim started working at Asbury in July, our church's interior has improved in so many ways. Every Sunday, when we gather for our worship services, the entire church looks beautiful – the Sanctuary is clean, the kitchen and fellowship hall are ready for our fellowship coffee hour, and everything is in working order. Tim doesn't let anything slide and he is always going above and beyond to ensure that everything is perfect.

Tim is also always ready to offer his comments and suggestions on how we can make the church even better, and recently he suggested and delivered on an idea that both improved the quality of

our worship *and* saved the church a chunk of money: Choir Risers. After some deliberation, Pastor Cho and the rest of the staff were ready to look into the possibility of purchasing risers for the choir loft, but after looking into the costs that would come with it, Tim told the staff that he would be able to build them himself with recycled wood, and build them he did!

Tim put many hours into getting materials, drawing out plans, building, and staining the risers that now sit in Asbury's sanctuary, and it hardly cost Asbury anything. We are forever grateful for Tim's dedication and resourcefulness, and Asbury will use these risers for years to come. Once again: THANK YOU, Tim!

January 2016

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

27	28	29	30	31	1 Paul Ransom New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 1:00p – GA Meeting
3 Jerry Hough 10:00a – Worship Service 11:00a – Fellowship Hour	4 Linda Jubeck 6:00p – Bible Study 6:30p – Sending Out Ministry Meeting at Schuler's 7:00p – GA Meeting	5 8:00a – Prayer Group	6 10:00a – Asbury Brass Practice 6:00p – GA Meeting	7 Merre Stahl Frank Eirosius Jr 9:00a Busy Hands 6:30p – Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p – Choir Practice	8 9:00a - Pack Sack Lunches	9 1:00p – GA Meeting
10 Carrie Hale 10:00a – Worship Service 11:00a – Fellowship Hour	11 6:00p – Bible Study 7:00p – GA Meeting	12 8:00a – Prayer Group 6:00p – Book Group at Schuler's	13 10:00a – Asbury Brass Practice 1:00p – Lamplighter's Circle 6:00p – GA Meeting	14 6:30p – Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p – Choir Practice	15	16 1:00p – GA Meeting
17 Sherry Powers Human Relations Sunday 10:00a – Worship Service 11:00a – Fellowship Hour	18 MLK Day Church Office Closed 6:00p – Bible Study 7:00p – GA Meeting	19 8:00a – Prayer Group	20 10:00a – Asbury Brass Practice 6:00p – GA Meeting	21 6:30p – Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p – Choir Practice	22 Laura Ferns 9:00a - Pack Sack Lunches	23 1:00p – GA Meeting
24 10:00a – Worship Service 11:00a – Fellowship Hour 3:30p – Science Theatre!	25 6:00p – Bible Study 7:00p – GA Meeting	26 8:00a – Prayer Group	27 10:00a – Asbury Brass Practice 6:00p – GA Meeting	28 6:30p – Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p – Choir Practice	29	30 1:00p – GA Meeting
31 10:00a – Worship Service 11:00a – Fellowship Hour						

