

The Asbury Messenger

Connect. Grow. Serve.

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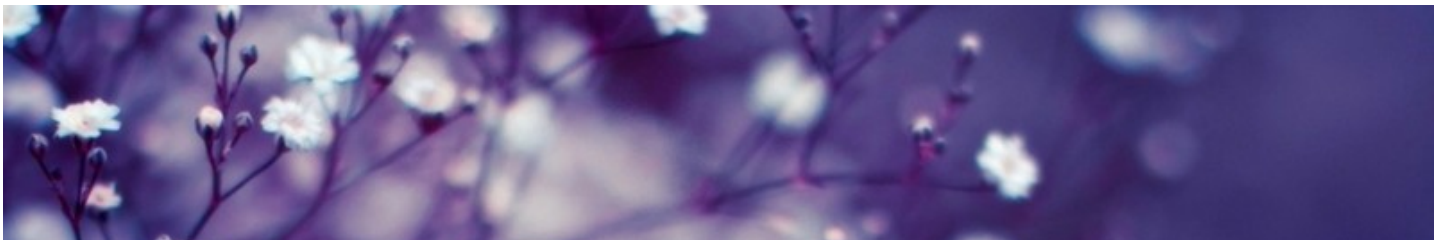
Sermon Notes **God's Guidance in the Journey of Faith**

"Have faith in God who will show you the way and the destination of your journey." God didn't say to Abraham, "Go to the land that I show you." God said, "Go to the land that I *will* show you." The general reaction that people would have towards this kind of saying would be to be anxious, fearful, and stressed about the things that might happen in the future. But, as people who have faith in God, this can be interpreted as the most powerful and positive promise from God to us.

"Will" is a future perfect form in English, and it is also a future perfect form in the life journey of people of faith. The same word, "will," can prompt a totally different reaction from us. There are so many people, including people of faith, who say "I will not go unless you give me clear direction and information," "I will not go if you do not show me the way right now," "I will wait until you show me the way to go." But God said to Abraham first, "Go," and there was no specific information about "when and where." God showed him the land, the direction, the place, the person, and the things that God would give him and his children, and his children's children. It was a great promise and clear assurance, which we often misinterpret as uncertain or unclear guidance and direction.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 says why God did such a thing for the people of Israel: “You shall remember all the ways which the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna ... that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.” Exodus 19:5-6 said, “Now, therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

What God expected from the people of Israel was not for them to be the most powerful people in the world, but for them to be the most faithful people, as God’s possession, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation who lived by everything that comes out of the mouth of God. God made Abraham a man of faith through a stressful life journey. The same God leads us towards the same direction in life. What people ask of God is success, fame, and power, but “what God asks of people is faith.” When we feel that we walk into the unseen world, let us remember that faith, in order to be faith, must walk into the unknown world and unseen land. God wants to create faith within us, so that we can be people of faith as God’s holy people.



Worship Service Schedule

Sunday Worship – 10:00am

Sunday, March 20th – Palm Sunday service @ 10:00am

Friday, March 25th - Good Friday Service @ 7:00pm
Sunday, March 27th - Easter Sunday Service @ 10:00am

Upcoming Events

One Great Hour of Sharing



On March 6 we will celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing. On this church wide Special Sunday, United Methodists focus on the work done by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR responds to natural disasters and humanitarian crises around the globe.

Recently, UMCOR responded to the situation in Flint, Michigan, where it came to light that the residents - including thousands of children - have been exposed to lead in their drinking water since April 2014. UMCOR provided a grant to support local United Methodist churches and other agencies to address the problem.

This community, somewhat reluctant to trust government agencies, has welcomed The United Methodist Church.

On One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, we share the goodness of life with people who hurt. Our designated gifts to UMCOR through The Advance and special appeals go directly toward relief efforts. Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering pays administrative expenses for UMCOR and supports ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace. When we assist UMCOR with our offering, we are part of the important work that happens in places like Flint, Michigan.

Capital City Brass Band Concert

The Capital City Brass Band will perform a concert at Asbury on Tuesday, March 29, at 7:30 PM. Admission is free, and there is no payment needed from Asbury to the band. They have asked if they can sell CDs and there is the possibility of good will contributions that might be split between Asbury and the band if we decide to do that.

Part of the program will be music the band will also perform the following weekend when they participate in the North American Brass Band Championships in Fort Wayne.

Web sites:

Capital City Brass Band - <http://www.capitalcitybrassband.com/>

North American Brass Band Championships

-<http://www.nabba.org/championships/index.html>

Thanks for arranging this go to Tracy Sonneborn, our Asbury Brass Quintet French Horn player, who is Capital City Brass Band president this year.



Keep Making Peace Conference

There are Americans who are locked in by poverty, racism and structural systems. Those Americans are likely to be locked up in prisons that fail to be "correctional systems." Once out of prison, those Americans are likely to be locked out of jobs and families. How can

Asbury Messenger

we set the prisoners free - free to learn and earn, love and be loved?

Mark your calendars - The "Keep Making Peace" conference, scheduled April 16 at University United Methodist Church in East Lansing, will focus on "Mass

Page 4

Incarceration: Locked In, Locked Up, Locked Out." Free Press columnist Rochelle Riley will be keynote, and it will include four workshops and a performance by The Ambassadors, a group of formerly homeless men from

Detroit's Cass Community Services. Add a veggie lunch, and it's only \$20/person or \$40/carload of three or more if registering by April 1, \$25 and \$50 after. You can explore and register at the website: <http://msuwesley.org/kmp2016>

Updates

Report on "Souper" Bowl Offering

Thank you for your support of the "Souper" Bowl this year. Nearly \$500 dollars was collected and will support our sack lunch program. Twice each month, church members help to pack lunches for 72 homeless and needy persons at JIMHO (Justice for Mental Health) in

downtown Lansing. A lunch consists of a meat/cheese sandwich, one or two fruits, homemade cookies and a piece of candy. The Souper Bowl offering will go a long way to help continue supporting this cause.

Easter Baskets

Each year Asbury works through Christian Services to identify 10 families who would appreciate an Easter dinner. Asbury members contribute through purchasing some of the food items from the tags on the board in the narthex and bringing them to the church by March 17. The Sending Out Ministry team sponsors this effort.



Changes in 6 Lane Goals

The Sending Out Ministry team has made some changes in the mission goals for Asbury in 2016. Added were goals for Grace Children's Hospital (\$100), Lansing Korean UMC (\$100), and Asbury UMC Work Camp (\$500). (We hope to be able to go on a work camp this Fall.).



Since most of our CROP Walk donations go directly to Church World Service rather than through the Asbury treasurer, we dropped the goal

for CROP although we will still advocate and support the CROP walk. Since Open Door Ministry has closed we have changed that goal to JIMHO (Justice in Mental Health) which we support with our sack lunch program. We have also increased the goal for the Sack Lunch Program to \$1500, which is closer to the costs incurred.

The 6 Lane Goals include support for missionaries, world projects, national

projects, world hunger, racial ethnic local churches, conference and district projects, and local missions. Each month we highlight one of these projects through "Mission Moments" on Sunday and through newsletter articles. If you have any questions about any of the projects, please contact any member of the Sending Out Ministry team (Carole Armstrong, Lauree Roney, Linda Jubeck, Linda Hlnz, Lori Homer, or Ruth Vander-Waals.)

March Loose Coins



Founded in August, 1987 by concerned members of the community, the Southside Community Kitchen (SCK) originally served meals to the hungry in south Lansing at Potter Park United Methodist Church. From the very beginning, the founders envisioned an interdenominational effort to address the needs of the hungry in Lansing area.

Asbury Messenger

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The SCK has been involved with over 35

congregations, and continues to be supported in their mission to feed the hungry by many local churches and denominations. When the Potter Park Church closed its doors in 2006, the Southside Community Kitchen moved to Christ United Methodist Church on Jolly Road. Christ United Methodist Church hosted SCK for 10 years, and on January 15, 2016 the SCK moved once again, to St. Casimir's Holy Family Center, located at 800 W. Barnes, Lansing.

Many people in the community experience food insecurity, and are faced with difficult choices - whether to eat, pay rent, pay for medical needs, buy gas, etc. In a 2010 Mid-Michigan Food Bank Report, states that the "average monthly household income among the kitchen clients was \$480 (median: \$570). Most of the guests at the Southside Community Kitchen live significantly below the poverty level, which makes maintaining nutrition, housing, transportation, and other basic needs very difficult. The SCK

makes it possible for these people who are struggling to stretch their limited budgets and ease some of their hardships.

Meals are served on Monday's and Wednesday's at St. Casimir's and at Gallilee Baptist on Tuesday's and Thursday's. If you would like to give of your time, you can become a regular volunteer and come in once a week or once a month to assist with meal preparation, serving, and clean up after the meal service.

Nutritious meals are served to anyone who desires a good meal and pleasant fellowship around the table. Asbury supports this ecumenical effort with people and with dollars. The Southside Community Kitchen is one of our 6 Lane Mission goals, and loose coins in March will go towards supporting this cause. *(For more information on the SCK and how you can help, please visit their official website - <http://www.southsidecommunitykitchen.org>)*

Altar Flowers

The 2016 Altar Flower sign up chart is available now! If you would like to provide flowers for a special occasion, please write your name and who/what the flowers are for on the date(s) on the calendar located at the bottom of the stairs on the lower level.

The cost is \$17.50 and you are welcome to take the arrangement home after the worship service. Checks should be made payable to Asbury UMC and clearly marked "altar flowers."



Calling

Asbury Messenger



All Book Lovers!

Do you love reading? Do you love to engage in discussions about the books you're reading with others who share the same passion? Why not join Asbury's Book Group? We meet the 4th Tuesday of the month, 6pm at Schuler Books Café, in the Eastwood Towne Center. The group chooses the books they would like to read. Please join us!

Tuesday Movie

Night

Do you love movies? Why not join us for our bi-weekly movie night! Movie nights are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. "Like" and follow Asbury's Facebook page for movie information and show times! All are welcome.

March 2016

Sunday
Friday

Monday
Saturday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

28	29	1 8:00a - Prayer Group 6:00p - Movie Night (movie time TBD)	2 Gerry Genson 10:00a - Asbury Brass Practice 6:00p - GA Meeting	3 Dean Parks 9:00a - Busy Hands 6:30p - Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p - Choir Practice	4	5 1:00p - GA Meeting
6 Jordan Ransom 10:00a - Worship Service 11:00a - Bible Study	7 Judy McLean 7:00p - GA Meeting 6:30p - Sending Out Ministry Meeting (Schuler's)	8 8:00a - Prayer Group 10:30a - Caring Ministry Meeting	9 10:00a - Asbury Brass Practice 1:00p - Lamplighter 6:00p - GA Meeting	10 10:00a - Staff Meeting 6:30p - Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p - Choir Practice	11 9:00a - Pack Sack Lunches 10:30a - Outreach Ministry Meeting	12 1:00p - GA Meeting
13 10:00a - Worship Service 11:00a - Bible Study 7:00p - Intl Camporee Meeting	14 Gene McGraw Wendi Karpinski Debbie Stevenson 7:00p - GA Meeting	15 Nancie Jones Doris Goad 8:00a - Prayer Group 6:00p - Movie Night (movie time TBD)	16 10:00a - Asbury Brass Practice 6:00p - GA Meeting	17 Richard Draper 6:30p - Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p - Choir Practice	18	19 1:00p - GA Meeting
20 PALM SUNDAY 10:00a - Worship Service 11:00a - Bible Study	21 7:00p - GA Meeting	22 8:00a - Prayer Group 6:00p - Book Group @ Schuler's	23 10:00a - Asbury Brass Practice 6:00p - GA Meeting	24 Hadiya Knight 6:30p - Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p - Choir Practice	25 GOOD FRIDAY 9:00a - Pack Sack Lunches 7:00p - Good Friday Service	26 1:00p - GA Meeting
27 EASTER SUNDAY 10:00a - Worship Service	28 7:00p - GA Meeting	29 8:00a - Prayer Group 7:30p - Capital City Brass Band Concert	30 10:00a - Asbury Brass Practice 6:00p - GA Meeting	31 6:30p - Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p - Choir Practice		

