

The Asbury Messenger

Connect. Grow. Serve.

May 2016

Lansing Asbury United Methodist Church

• Issue #15 Volume 33



Sermon Notes

The church is one of the three precious creations of God. When we walk in nature, we feel something great and feel everything that we should feel. When we walk in home, we feel that "there is no place like home in the world." When we come to church, we should feel in touch with the Holy Spirit to comfort us and surround us with the peace and love of God. If we feel the beauty and preciousness and greatness of God's creation, the church, even if we are being forced not to attend the church, we would come to church. When church and the people of faith rely on this world too much, it will lead to the spiritual people aggressively seeking out material possession, artificial food, which will always result in injury. And our spiritual nature will become insensitive resulting in us not experiencing the wonder and beauty of God's creation and presence in the church of Christ. There might be several reasons why people drop out from church. But one simple reason is that this world feeds us the artificial food, not spiritual food, too much for the spiritual people, and the people of faith rely too much on the artificial food, material things and the pleasure of the world.

I don't know why people don't come to church, but I know why I come to church. This is the place where I am most peaceful and comfortable, and feel the beauty and the greatness of God's creation. I feel great when I worship God with the people of God, where I grow in my faith in Christ, and what I serve others in mission. I hope you feel as I feel, and you experience as I experience. We don't need to worry about the future of the church of Christ and our church too. That's not what we as parts of the body of Christ are supposed to do. I am certain if we are the true body of Christ, and if we keep our spiritual sensitivity to the creations of God, the Lord will call others to be parts of God's church, and the church of Christ will thrive no matter what.

A Message from John & Ann Gerhardt

As many of you know, our 38-year-old son, Mo, has muscular dystrophy, and is in need of personal care the morning and at night. For the past year, we have been providing basically all of his care, but recently God has blessed us with a wonderful young lady who cares for Mo every night. She is thorough, patient, caring, and loving – the best he has ever had.

She (Monica) has just returned to the Lansing area with her family of four, ages 4 months to 7 years. She has just rented a house, and will soon move in with nothing. We can't imagine such a difficult and depressing scenario! She keeps her children clean and happy, but we can't imagine her stress. She is working 4 healthcare jobs and as a receptionist at a hair salon.

Can you find it in your heart to help her? Her immediate needs are:

1. A microwave
2. An iron and ironing board
3. Beds
4. Kitchen table and chairs
5. Sofa
6. Eating utensils and dishes
7. Pots & pans
8. 6mo - 1yr baby boy clothes
9. Children's books for ages 3-7

We thank you so much for your love and any donations you can make.

-John & Ann Gerhardt

Worship Service Schedule

Sunday Worship – 10:00am

Upcoming Events

International Dinner

Anticipate this... being able to sample Mexican, Korean, and American cuisine all on one plate for dinner in our fellowship hall!



The Outreach Mission Team's next big event is going to be an International Dinner! Our goal continues to be to welcome others from our community into our doors as we did with our Science Theatre event back in January.

We will be hosting this fun event on Wednesday, May 11th, from 5:30-6:30pm. The cost is \$5 per person, or \$10 per family, and this price includes one serving of each dish so you can try everything!

Desserts are so important to any dinner, and we are asking you to please help us by providing "An International Dessert Table." Simply bake or purchase a dessert from your family heritage, and name and label it. (We're asking that you please cut your dessert at home so that we can quickly serve it at the dinner). There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

What a fun event to ask a neighbor, friend, or even someone you've just met to attend with you.



Special Sundays

Golden Cross Sunday

MAY 1 -- On this Sunday an offering is taken to provide financial support for United Methodist Health and Welfare Ministries in the local, community, and annual conference.

Blanket Sunday

MAY 8 -- Each year, we offer the opportunity to honor or remember a woman who has been important in your life. Often, it is your mother or spouse, but it could be any woman who has influenced you. For a \$5 donation, a blanket will be purchased through Church World Services to be given to persons affected by disasters and other emergencies around the world. The comfort of a warm, soft blanket can make a huge difference to a person who is cold and hungry. On Sunday, May 1 and Sunday, May 8, someone from the Sending Out Ministry will be in the narthex to record your donation. Checks should be made out to Asbury UMC.



Updates

Sunday School

May 22 will be the last day for Sunday School until after school starts in September. There will be one 3-4-5 meeting each month during the summer, in which the children will come down during the church service and we will have activities to do with them. After church, we will have an outing planned. The children will be notified as soon as we have the plans made for each month.

Staff Changes

Asbury will soon be undergoing some staff changes, as the office assistant, Anne Marie, will be leaving us to begin a new and exciting full time position at Michigan State University. We are sad to be losing her, but excited and happy that she has found such a great opportunity. Anne Marie's last official day will be Sunday, May

1st, but she will still be around each Sunday for service.

We are currently holding interviews to find her replacement. We hope we can find someone soon who is experienced and willing to learn, and once we find the right person, we will keep you updated.

Cabin Clean-up



It's time to be thinking about a day where we can go to Wesley Woods and clean the Sunflower cabin that Asbury built

several years ago. Many hands make light work, and we are usually done in a half day - but we take our lunch just in case! A stop at the ice cream store makes a perfect ending to the day.

The cleaning is easy: sweeping out the cabin, clearing the leaves, washing down the beds and making minor repairs. It is possible that we will need to restrain the cabin this year as well.

If you can spend a day or a half day, contact Carole Armstrong. The date will be determined by who can go and when.

Garden Project

Several people met on April 10th to discuss the future of the Asbury Garden. We decided to continue the garden as a donation garden whereby the produce will be given to Haven House, the City Rescue Mission or other food bank. However, persons who help in the garden (planting, weeding, harvesting, delivering, etc.) will be able to use some of the produce themselves. A special thanks to Lori Homer and Vern Jones, for getting the soil ready. Planting will begin soon with lettuce, radishes, and spinach, followed by things like carrots, potatoes, beets, kohlrabi, tomatoes and peppers once the weather warms up.

If you want to be a part of this project to reach beyond our doors, contact Carole Armstrong.



Friday Volunteer Rotation

The new schedule for the Friday office volunteers is ready! Please make sure you get a copy of the schedule if you do not have one. If you are assigned on a day in which you're unable to come in, please try to switch with another volunteer first before contacting the church office, and then let the church office know of any changes in the schedule.

We are also looking for new volunteers who are able to come in once or twice a month on Friday morning to fold the Sunday bulletins and answer the phone in the office. Please contact the church office if you are able to give your time to help us.

As always, a special thanks to all of our Monday and Friday volunteers for dedicating a few hours every month to help Asbury.

May Loose Coins - Christian Services

Christian Services is a clearinghouse for many churches in Lansing. When a person is needing things like gas, money for utilities, personal needs, clothing, furniture, etc., Christian Services identifies an appropriate resource. If someone comes to the church requesting these things we refer them to Christian Services for screening.

Christian Services aims to help churches meet people's needs with the love of Jesus Christ. Through Christian Services, church members are putting their faith in action and providing help, hope and God's love to others. They are building caring relationships with those who are struggling, and moving beyond the expressed need to help address the underlying issues that contribute to poverty and hopelessness.

Christian Services is

- A strategy developed by local churches to help local churches help their neighbors in need
- A partnership of local churches working together to provide effective help and show God's love to those in need
- A collaboration between local churches and their community (agencies, ministries, government and schools) to provide effective help for the disadvantaged
- A vehicle that helps churches, collectively and individually fulfill their biblical mandate to reach out to people in need

One church alone can't deal with all the complex issues of poverty. It takes churches working together across denominational lines to meet these multifaceted needs.

Asbury supports Christian Services in many ways. Three times a year we collect personal needs products; at Thanksgiving and Easter we get the names of families for our food baskets; school supplies and clothing are often coordinated; and through our Six Lane Giving we contribute to the administration of the clearinghouse. Our loose coins in May will go towards this goal.



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 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.

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Ruth Miller 8:00a – Prayer Group 6:30p – Sending Out Ministry Meeting	4	5 John Gerhardt 9:00a – Busy Hands	6 Nick Mackley	7 Lauree Roney 1:00p – GA Meeting
8 10:00a – Worship Service	9 Devon Galliver 7:00p – GA Meeting	10 8:00a – Prayer Group 6:00p – Movie Night	11 1:00p - Lamplighter Circle 10:00a – Asbury Brass Practice 5:30p – Intl. Dinner Night	12 MacAllister Clover 6:30p – Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p – Choir Practice	13 9:00a - Pack Sack Lunches	14 <i>Boy Scout Training All Day</i> 1:00p – GA Meeting
15 10:00a – Worship Service 7:00p – Intl. Camporee Meeting	16 7:00p – GA Meeting	17 8:00a – Prayer Group	18 Alexandria Clover 10:00a – Asbury Brass Practice 6:00p – GA Meeting	19 6:30p – Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p – Choir Practice	20	21 <i>4:00p – Church being rented for wedding</i>
22 10:00a – Worship Service	23 7:00p – GA Meeting	24 Marty Livingston 8:00a – Prayer Group 6:00p – Movie Night	25 10:00a – Asbury Brass Practice 6:00p – GA Meeting	26 6:30p – Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p – Choir Practice	27 9:00a - Pack Sack Lunches	28 <i>3:00p – Church being rented for wedding</i>
29 10:00a – Worship Service	30 Memorial Day Church Office Closed 7:00p – GA Meeting	31 8:00a – Prayer Group 6:30p – Book Group				