



Hey church!

I remember early one morning, I was watching the sunrise, and thinking about faith. I go through periods of wondering and wandering spiritually, and I was facing doubts about this Jesus guy from forever ago. As I watched the sun come up, I thought about how even though we know better now, to the ancients the sun appeared to die every night and be reborn in the morning. I thought about how I trusted each morning that the sun would come up, even if it was hidden by the clouds. Let alone burying a seed in the ground, and seeing it blossom, or a caterpillar emerging as a butterfly. Resurrection is a part of life.

Then I thought about people I knew who had turned their lives around. People who had hit rock bottom and come up strong and brave, compassionate and joyful. And I thought about my own life, how I had grown the most when I had been forced to struggle.

These things reminded me, that fundamentally, above everything else, I am a person that believes in Resurrection. It's actually not hard to believe at all - I see it in creation, I see it in folks' lives, I've lived it myself. And I believe it of my Savior.

So in the midst of all of the amazing things going on in our church right now - the opportunity to dream and plan for the kinds of ministries our kids and grandkids will be able to grow from because of our new ministry space, the Living Last Supper and our really meaningful and innovative new Good Friday service, the Town Hall Meetings and Kick-Off Sunday and so much more - here's the question that matters to me the most: Out of the dead weight we all carry around, am I letting God resurrect anything in me at all right now?

Because fundamentally, more than anything else, God is a Resurrection God. You don't have to wonder if He's working on resurrecting you - that's who He is, it's the nature of His work, always, in every moment. I hope that this Easter, you experience the joy of the Resurrection, not only of Jesus' resurrection so long ago, but personally, for yourself, deep within your soul.

Blessings,

Lindsay

Our Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30pm Friday 8:30 am - Noon

Contact Us: Phone: 281-484-4814 Fax: 281-998-3438 **Online:** www.asbury.cc www.facebook.com/AsburyUMChurch/

Pastor: Rev. Lindsay Kirkpatrick

Holy Week

- Apr 9 – Palm Sunday
Easter Picnic & Egg Hunt
- Apr 13 – Maundy Thursday
Living Last Supper
- Apr 14 – Good Friday
Stations of the Cross
- Apr 16 – Easter Sunday

Mark Your Calendars

Apr 23 – Campaign Kick-off

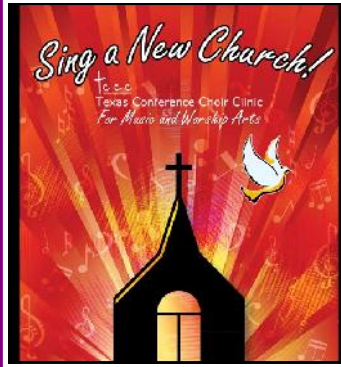
- Apr 1 – UMW Unit Meeting
- Apr 1 – Vendor Market on the Pavilion
- Apr 5 – Potluck for Faith & Family
- Apr 8 – Spring Cleaning at the Church
- Apr 14 – Church Office Closed
- Apr 17 – Church Office Closed
- Apr 24 – Readers' Group
- Apr 25 – Soul Sisters
- Every Mon & Thurs – Aerobics
- Every Wed – Faith & Family Nights

Please Note

Apr 16 – No UM Men or Blankets & Blessings. Please ensure your group is meeting during Easter week, April 9-16.

Upcoming Events

- May 10 – Mother's Day Tea
- May 21 – Commitment Sunday



The Texas Conference Choir Clinic will be held at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, Texas on June 5-9, 2017.

It is a camp for music and worship arts for level third grade students through adults. Scholarships are available for those who wish to attend, but applications should be submitted very soon. For more information, visit www.texaschoircamp.org, or contact Kay Lunsford. Applications for scholarships and registration are available online.

Treat First-Time Visitors as Guests of God

- Take the initiative to smile & introduce yourself
- Learn the visitor's name & express an interest in them by asking a few questions
- Let them know you are glad they are here
- Invite them back for next week or to an upcoming event
- Pray for them during the week



Sunday, 9:30 A.M., the elite visitor awareness commands go into action.



Check Out Our Library

The collection of books is located in Room 4, shared with the day school. Reading material is available to all. Just check out using the card file all types of Christian literature. Note areas by labels recommended by the UMW Readers Program. Fiction can just be taken, all is alphabetically categorized. Note the Response Magazines on the bottom shelf with relevant articles on UMC mission work throughout the world.

Currently UMW areas of study are Human Trafficking and also Latin American activities of church work. Much involvement by dedicated persons is reviewed.

Asbury's Readers Group, now in its 4th year, meets at Dixie McAdam's home monthly. Readings are discussed both relating to areas of missions and also Christian biographies.

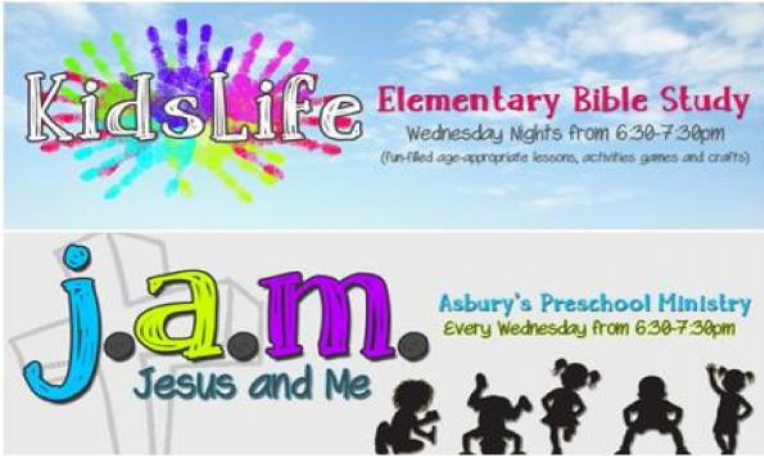
Contact Lou Harrison (713-962-4130) for information or a "tour" of the library. This is a first step to an actual place.



Crossroads Homeless Ministry is currently in need of clothes. **What is needed the most is men's pants, sizes 26 - 36 waist, boxers & briefs, and small men's shoes.** But of course all clothing, socks, belts, underwear, and shoes are always needed. Backpacks, gym bags, and even luggage are needed for the clients to carry their

belongings. Items may be brought to the church any day and put in or next to the PCM box in the Education Hall. Thank you!
(Contact Pat Sommerfield if you have questions.)





KidsLIFE & JAM

2017 Lenten Mission Project
4 week project beginning on March 22
and ending on April 19

We will be collecting items for Manna bags. Manna bags are a gift that will be given to a homeless person in our area.

We will ask for and gather donations for three weeks, and then put it all together in Ziploc bags on April 19th.

We will also make special note cards to put in each bag asking for God's blessing on the person that receives it. You can help us with this mission project by praying for us, especially over the next four weeks, and by helping us to get donations for our collection box.

Some items that we are looking for are....

New and used devotional books
Individual packs of cookies
Canned tuna with easy-open top
Cheese & cracker packs

Gallon-sized Ziploc bags
Cans of Vienna sausages
Small individually boxed cereal
Jerky

Plastic spoons
Raisins
Dried fruit
Granola Bars

Thank you for your generosity, Asbury!

Our February communion offering raised a little over \$200 and our goal was \$170. The money went to Africa University. This is a college supported by the United Methodist church with more than 1,200 students from 22 African countries.



April 8th, 8 a.m.

Come lend a hand sprucing up our church. We will be cleaning, clearing, and gardening.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Apportionments



So far 27% of our commitment to the Methodist Church's mission giving has been met. Thank you to our Finance Team for being good stewards for our church.

Good-bye

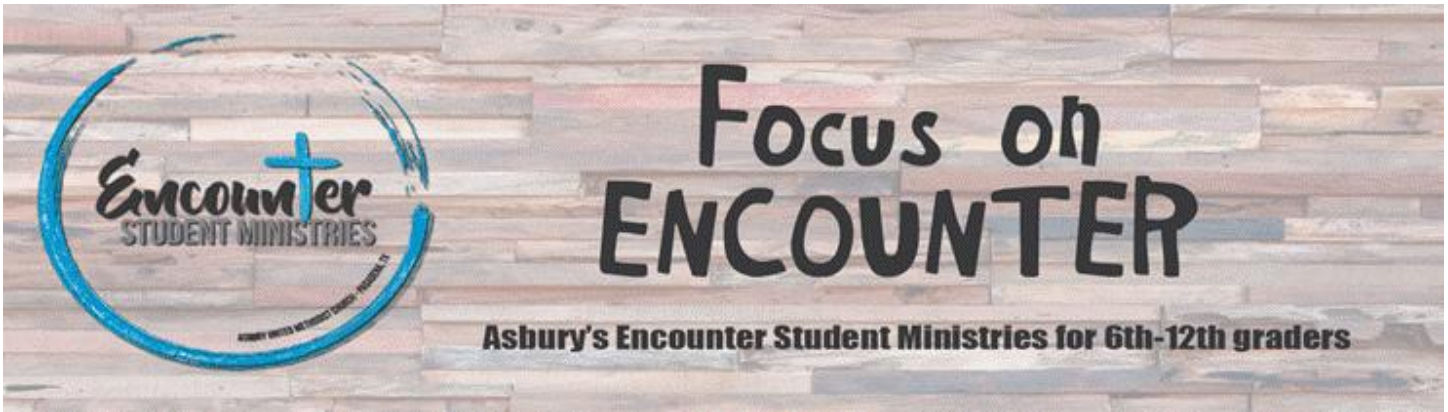
Doughnuts will no longer be served on Sunday mornings. You are welcome to provide them for your class, if you would like to have refreshments.



Come meet our new
Children's Ministry Director.

Sunday, April 2nd at 9:45

Nara Ebel is hosting a Children's Ministry Forum. All parents of preschool & elementary age children are invited.



Spotlight on Justin Murphy: Asbury's New Student Ministries College Intern



Where did you grow up? I grew up in Humble, TX. I then moved to Houston (in Summerwood), when I was 11.

What three traits best define you? I think the three traits that define me most are my humor, my persistence, & my loyalty.

What is your favorite worship song & why? I have multiple favorites!! I would have to say my favorite worship song is "Great As I Am" because it was one of the first worship songs that I ever heard, & it still hits me to this day. Nobody can stand before the power & the presence of the Great I Am.

What's one thing you couldn't live without? My pupper/dog/baby/love of my life.

Where have you most seen God at work in your life? God has been at work everywhere. I believe that is most apparent in the opportunities he has provided to me, such as this internship.

What is your favorite thing to eat? My favorite type of food is Mexican food, specifically queso.

What is your greatest fear? I have a fear of fear - as in being too scared to say something because of the fear of the situation...does that make sense?

Where is your favorite place to visit? My favorite place to visit is Denton, TX because it's such a beautiful small town.

What is your favorite thing to do? I love to watch baseball & workout!

Where is the best place you've traveled to & why? I went to Hawaii, & it was breathtaking!

What's the weirdest job you've ever had? I guess being an umpire is pretty weird.

What is your favorite scripture passage? Romans 12:9- "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good."

Which one would you want most: flying cars or robot housekeepers? Flying cars! Houston traffic is always too much to handle.

What are your three most overused words/phrases? "dude", "oh really?", & "the".

What book(s) are you reading right now? I'm reading Romeo & Juliet, as well as 2 Timothy.

Tell us something that might surprise us about you. I'm in love with Taylor Swift!

What are you most excited about in your new role as the Student Ministries Intern? I'm most excited to see what God does in these young students' lives & making relationships with them & seeing them grow!

Anything else you want to share about yourself? I am an avid dog lover, an avid proponent for music appreciation, & I love performing! I'm very excited to see how God uses this youth group to impact the community around Asbury.



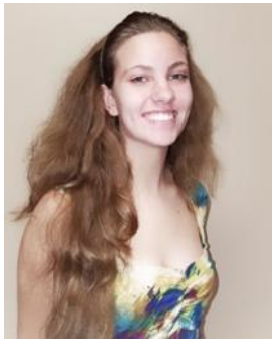


Angelle Warneke, already a part of our church family, is now also a member.



Beckett James Choma
(Son of Ryan & Tiffany Choma)
was baptized on February 26, 2017.

Welcome our new Children's Director, Nara Ebel.



Congratulations to Malleigh Ebel! She applied and was selected to represent Asbury as our High School Intern at the B.I.G. H.O.U.S.E. Jr. High Mission trip this summer. We are so excited to have Malleigh join us in this leadership position and look forward to seeing what God has in store for her in this role!

From Pasadena Community Ministry:

February is considered "National Volunteer Month." This year we decided to send to the churches the names of their members who volunteer with us and their hours. In 2016 we accumulated 14,106 hours. We so appreciate what your members have contributed to this.

Ron Epperson 28	Pat Sommerfield 129
Dorothy Fink 18	Mike Williams (New)
Dixie McAdams 62	

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Sincerely,
Jean Wottrich
Director

*Asbury remembers
George Anderson
1933-2017*

Prayer Concerns:

Mark Groves: recovering	Jackie Gaw
Marge Colello	Harold Hargus
Joe Martinez: cancer	Ron Epperson

Please pray for our members and friends affected by cancer and other health concerns as well as all family members and friends currently serving in the Military.

A weekly updated list of prayer concerns can be found in the Main Hall on the table to the right, before you enter the sanctuary.

PRESENCE . . .

Sunday, February 26, 2017	
8:45 am Worship Service	95
11:00 am Worship Service	121
Sunday, March 5, 2017	
8:45 am Worship Service	77
11:00 am Worship Service	114
Sunday, March 12, 2017	
8:45 am Worship Service	68
11:00 am Worship Service	123
Sunday, March 19, 2017	
8:45 am Worship Service	71
11:00 am Worship Service	116
Sunday, March 26, 2017	
8:45 am Worship Service	81
11:00 am Worship Service	153

General Fund Snapshot

2017 Budget	\$517,126.00
<u>Received thru 3/26/2017</u>	<u>\$104,397.21</u>
Still Needed:	\$417,728.79

Asbury's Capital Campaign

THRIVE



What's Happening?

- ❖ The congregation voted to hold a capital campaign
- ❖ The funds will be used to expand and enhance the church building

What's Next?

- ❖ Building committee will review all possible projects
- ❖ Drawings, bids, and information on each project will be compiled
- ❖ Town Hall meetings will be hosted for everyone to discuss ideas

What's Needed?

- ❖ Prayers for the campaign committee in their work
- ❖ Prayers for the building committee and the process
- ❖ Prayers for how you would like to contribute

"Everyone must embrace the thought that nothing can happen unless we give."

What's Exciting?

- ❖ Kick-off Sunday is on April 23rd
- ❖ Everyone is coming together as a team to make this a success
- ❖ Our new ministry offerings will be amazing

"[We should] use this opportunity to grow in giving."

How Capital Campaign Gifts Differ from Tithes and Offerings

What is the difference?

Last fall, we had the opportunity to return God's tithe and our offerings to enable our 2017 ministry plans. Our congregation has a big heart for extending God's grace and love in every possible way. We experienced an outpouring of God's blessings through the generosity of Asbury members. After Easter, we will launch our capital campaign called "THRIVE". This long-awaited effort will focus on expanding space for ministry and capital improvements. This is a good time for us to consider how our capital gifts differ from our tithes and offerings.

Tithes and offerings versus capital campaign gifts?

The Hebrew concept of stewardship begins and ends with God. The scriptures present a clear understanding of the concept of stewardship, possessions, and giving. Songs of worship even contain references and reminders to this important principle. "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1

This year, we have great things in store as we discover together new horizons in generosity, and its impact on our daily lives.

- To further examine the difference between our capital campaign gifts and tithes and offerings, consider Exodus 36. This passage tells us about the people bringing their special offerings, (not their tithes), to build the sanctuary of God. There was such an outpouring from the people; Moses had to send word for the people to stop giving. More than enough provision had been made. That must have been exciting!
- In II Chronicles, when King David assisted his son Solomon, in building the temple, all the people, led by King David, gave gifts toward its construction. These gifts were above those

it would take to run the daily business of the temple. There was never confusion or talk of splitting gifts, or the need to delay worship and ministry, while the temple was being built. The King and the people looked upon the opportunity to bring their building gifts as a special honor from God.

- Your capital campaign gift will be like those given by people in the days of Moses and King David, free will donations, above the tithe, to build God's house.

Now, contrast capital campaign gifts with our tithes and offerings to ministry.

- Our tithes and offerings enable daily ministry. Perhaps the most familiar passages on the tithe come from Malachi 3:10. Here, we are told to "bring God's full tithe into the storehouse (or church) . . . So there may be food in my house, (so ministry can occur, uninterrupted) and in so doing put me to the test," says the Lord; "and see if we will not open the windows of heaven for you, and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."
- Just as the house of God referred to in Malachi was the source of ministry, our church today is the center for all the ministries we provide for others and ourselves; it is the purveyor of the Good News of Christ. Our tithes allow us to reach out to people where they are hurting, feed the hungry, spread the gospel through Christian education, evangelism, and worship, and put people in touch with God. Please remember these two distinctive opportunities to grow in generosity:
- **Capital Campaign Gift** – A Special Gift . . . above and beyond God's tithe and our offerings, earmarked for special facility needs, which enable our Kingdom work.

Key Dates

April 23 – THRIVE Kick-off

May 21 – Commitment Sunday

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Holy Week at Asbury UMC

We can hope you can join us for our services and celebrations.

April 9th – Palm Sunday Services 8:45 & 11:00. Then stay after the service for the Easter egg hunt. Bring a picnic lunch (some sandwiches available) Our story time and egg hunt begin at 1 pm.

April 13th – Living Last Supper. This is a dramatic representation of Jesus and the disciples.

April 14th – Good Friday Reflection. You can come between 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. or between 6 p.m. & 8 p.m. to walk the Stations of the Cross.

April 16th – Easter Sunday. He is risen! Celebrate at 8:45 and 11:00.

April 23rd – He lives! Come worship with us as the Easter season begins. This will also be Kick-Off Sunday for our Capital Campaign, THRIVE.

