



**ASBURY UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

HEARTS THAT LOVE AND HANDS THAT
SERVE AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST



Volume 56, No. 1

CIRCUIT RIDER

January 1, 2017

Hello Church,

Why is it that we're willing to go out of our way to help others, but we won't do what we need to do for ourselves? For instance, I can go to a friend's house and help them clean all day long, but cleaning my own house is a different story! That's kind of how I think of New Year's resolutions, too.

I gave up on making my own personal New Year's resolutions long ago. I was tired of making goals for myself that I knew I'd abandon before the month was over! However, the goals we make as a congregation – I'm very serious about meeting those. And I see them through with the rest of the congregation to the best of my ability.

Scripture says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish . . ." (Proverbs 29:18a) so I want to share with you Asbury's resolutions for 2018. The number of goals may seem daunting, but God has given us some time-sensitive opportunities we just can't miss. I am confident that with everyone working together we will be able to meet these goals, which will lead to an abundant harvest of ministry for Asbury.

- ❖ **Direction:** To create, share and articulate a **discipleship path for Asbury**. We need a common vocabulary that everyone knows to help church members answer the question: What does it look like to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? We have a discipleship team led by Janice Williams, who will present their plans for this objective to staff, leadership council, and the congregation this year. In order for this plan to be effective, it will impact worship, lay leadership, children's and youth ministries, adult Bible studies, and more.
- ❖ **Connection:** To grow a **relationship with the new apartment complex** across the street. Over time this would lead to a goal that **10% of the residents become members** of Asbury. We imagine organizing socials, hosting a church open house, starting a Bible study there, having a crossing-guard ministry to help them walk over on Sundays and much more. While this relationship will take commitment and effort to establish, we have a rare opportunity that we don't want to ignore.
- ❖ **Invitation:** To **welcome 500 1st time visitors** from January 1st, 2018 – December 31st, 2019. That's an average of 20 first time families a month. This ambitious goal is doable and necessary. Church statistics show that an average of 10% of 1st-time visitors become active participants in the life of the church. Assuming an average family of 4 this would translate to 200 more attendees on Sunday. 100 new children in our Sunday School programs. 100 new people to attend small groups, like Soul Sisters or UM Men. Wow!

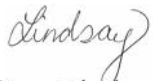
Our Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30pm Friday 8:30 am - Noon

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

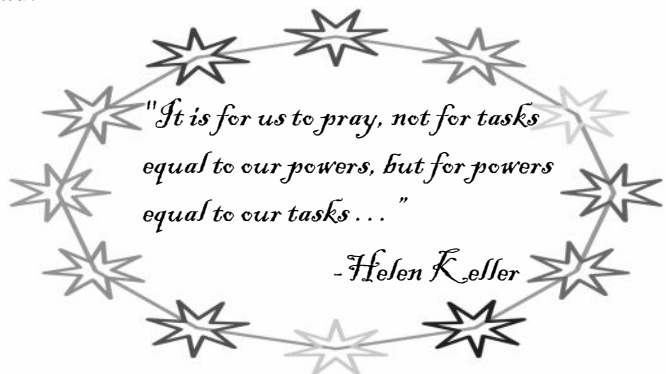
- ❖ **Contribution:** To have **Asbury known in the community** as a ministry that fills a need of its neighbors. Each option we are considering meets several criteria. 1) It must be relational so we can get to know the people we're helping. 2) It must be necessary to fill a desperate need in the community. 3) It must be accessible so any member of Asbury, from our preschoolers to our homebound members, will have a way to participate. This year we will identify and begin implementation of this new mission effort.
- ❖ **Anticipation:** To offer **clean-slate worship** once every 4-6 weeks. Starting worship planning with a blank sheet of paper is time-intensive and requires much effort, so we don't have the ability to plan worship this way every week. But offering it sometimes will allow people to come to worship with a sense of excitement. No one will want to miss out on this special and impactful style of worship.
- ❖ **Construction:** To begin and **complete our THRIVE building project!** We will be gathering for a vote on the final plans in the first part of the year. We hope to be "under construction" by March! It should be a 90-day build for the pavilion. After its completion we'll begin the renovations and redecorating of our current small group/Sunday School rooms. All of this remodeling needs to be accompanied, of course, by your continued faithfulness to our capital campaign.

I have to tell you it's a little nerve-wracking to be sharing these goals so openly, because now everybody will know if we don't achieve them. However, I want to share them anyway for 2 reasons. First, these are Asbury's goals, not mine or the staff's or leadership's goals. This means each one of us has both a responsibility to make them happen. For instance, welcoming 500 1st-time visitors will only happen if each of us does the inviting. Secondly, everything that's worth doing requires a step of faith. So a new mission emphasis will only get underway if each of you believe this is God's will for our congregation and are willing to act. We must trust that these goals will allow us to join God where He is already at work here at Asbury United Methodist Church. While being held accountable to these goals may be a bit scary, it is very exciting to anticipate all that is in store for us in the year ahead.

Happy New Year,



Rev. Lindsay Kirkpatrick



Church Calendar *(please contact the office for more information on any of these events)*

January Church Events

- Jan 28 - All-church Charge Conference & Vote
- Jan 10 - Faith & Family Resumes & Potluck Dinner at 6 pm (new time)
- Jan 6 - Vendor Market on the Pavillion
- Jan 9 - Asbury Day School Resumes
- Jan 17 - Seniors' Potluck Lunch
- Jan 21 - Eagle Scout Ceremony
- Every Wed - Faith & Family Nights
- Every Mon & Thurs - Aerobics

Upcoming Events for February

- Children's' Valentine Service Project
- Stewardship Campaign

Small Groups

- Jan 6 - UM Women General Meeting
- Jan 8 - GriefShare (meeting each Mon)
- Jan 9 - Girl Scouts #143006
- Jan 14 - Blankets & Blessings

- Jan 20 - UM Men
- Jan 22 - Reader's Group Book Discussion
- Jan 23 - Soul Sisters
- Jan 23 - Girl Scouts #143006
- Jan 28 - Blankets & Blessings
- Every Sun- Boy Scout Troop / God & Family
- Every Tues - Cub Scout Troop
- Every Wed - Re:Mind (DBSA) Support Group
 - Hearts and Handbells
 - Chancel Choir
- Every Thurs - Girl Scouts #134021 & #134152

Faith & Family Nights

Will resume January 10th at 6:30pm.

Potluck - New Year, New Time

The first potluck of the year is January 10th. We will meet for dinner at 6:00. Also, if you would like to contribute to the purchase of food, a donation box will be beside the coffee pot on Sunday mornings. This will help ensure there is enough food for everyone. Thank you.



Flower Calendar

Our annual flower calendar is now posted in the main hall. You can sign up to sponsor the altar flowers for a service. We are currently in need of sponsors for January.

SCRAP for CAP

Start saving all your scrap metal for this new drive. You can find a flyer with more information in the Main Hall. Some things to save: soda cans, wire hangers, even old Christmas lights. Check the flyer for a more complete list.



WHO IS UMW?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, UMW IS YOU. IT IS ALL LADIES OF THE CHURCH WHO HAVE A DESIRE TO SERVE AND FELLOWSHIP AND LEARN. SO LET 2018 BE THE YEAR YOU CONSIDER JOINING THIS GROUP.

WE HOPE YOU WILL ATTEND THE YEAR'S FIRST GENERAL MEETING ON JANUARY 6th, 10:00 AM AT ASBURY.

BRINGING COMFORT AND JOY



LAST MONTH THE YOUTH ONCE AGAIN PARTICIPATED IN ONE OF ASBURY'S MOST BELOVED TRADITIONS: THE YOUTH CAROLING AND PROGRESSIVE DINNER EVENT.



THRIVE



Building Project Update

Happy New Year!

Your building committee is working diligently to finalize details with our contractor, SLI. Preliminary plans have been shared with and approved by the United Methodist Conference and the District Superintendent.

The final plans and cost guarantees are now completed. On January 28th we will have a church conference to seek approval from the entire congregation. We are excited to be so close to sharing our final recommendations!

Thank you for your patience, support and continued giving to our THRIVE program!!

Charge Conference January 28th: Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting. The Building Committee will be seeking approval of the project's financing, the architect they're recommending and the building plans.



Coats for the Cold

The Crossroads Homeless Ministry is in need of clothing for its clients.

Items that would be appreciated are:

- *men's and women's jackets
- *warm hats & gloves
- *blankets
- *men's pants in sizes 30-40
- *men's shoes in sizes 9-15

All donations can be brought to Asbury. There is a collection bin in the Main Hall. Thank you for your warm-hearted generosity.



GRIEF SHARE[®]

Monday, January 8th
6:30-8:00

Please contact Susan Warner for more information. 713-557-9310

Join us for a weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one.

Sticky Resolutions



When Sylvia was younger, she would ask for the bandages featuring her favorite characters. Later I would apply one, thinking it would do the job. However, it wasn't long before the weak adhesive lost its grip, and the bandage fell off.

I think New Year's resolutions are often like those bandages. We know they'll be useful, perhaps they're even necessary. And the thought of the positive changes, just seems so attractive. However, it isn't long before they have fallen to the wayside forgotten.

A pastor that I once knew said the problem with adding a new practice to our day is that our lives are already as full as we would like them to be (or possibly can be). I would also add that our daily routines are comfortable and familiar. And this is why resolutions like getting up earlier for devotion time or going to the gym after work just don't stick.

For resolutions to work I think we must instead enhance or replace our current activities. Make the time in the car a time for devotion with a Christian audio book, for example. Perhaps you change your afternoon snack from chips to nuts. Finding ways to fit your resolution into your day will help them stick like the best brand name bandage.

Oh, and don't be afraid to act like a child. Rewards work just as well for adults as kids. Did your family play games rather than watch T.V. three evenings this week? Great. Then make Friday pizza night. If you celebrate your successes and put your setbacks behind you, your resolutions will stay in place as you see them through to achievement.



Treasured member **Gene Leonard** passed away at the beginning of the month. In December former members **Margaret (Marge) Colello** and **David Scarcella** passed away. **Joe Martinez**, husband of a former day school teacher, lost his battle with cancer. Jan Lindstrom lost her mother, **JoAnn Harlan**.

Asbury extends its sympathies and prayers to their family and friends.

Dear Asbury,

I just wanted to say how excited I am to be here at Asbury. I look forward to getting to know everyone and working with you.

Your new office manager,
Joyce Alberto



Madalynn (Maddy) Duke was baptized on December 10th. May God's grace and blessings guide you throughout your life.



Volunteer Needed
Asbury is need of someone to maintain our web site and the church app. Please contact the office, if you are interested.

Take Note



Welcome Center Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed for the new year. Please stop by the Welcome Desk or talk to Diane Peppo if you would be able to help one Sunday.

Thank you for offering your time.

Prayer Concerns:

- Alice Webb's mother
- Al McIntyre
- Thomas Hodges
- Mick Rooney, Mark Rooney's Dad
- Harold Hargus, Pat Sommerfield's dad
- All those 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 of the sanctuary doors.

Church Finances

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions. You have helped Asbury to finish the year well financially. In February we will provide you with a year end statement.

PRESENCE . . .

Sunday, November 26, 2017

8:45 am Worship Service	86
11:00 am Worship Service	116

Sunday, December 3, 2017

8:45 am Worship Service	84
11:00 am Worship Service	91

Sunday, December 10, 2017

8:45 am Worship Service	123
11:00 am Worship Service	137

Fantastic!

Sunday, December 17, 2017

8:45 am Worship Service	74
11:00 am Worship Service	109

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2017

11:00 am Family Service	194
5:00 pm Traditional Service	131

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2017

10:00 am One Service	173
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Join a Small Group

Get to know your Asbury family better while growing your faith.

Adult Sunday School Classes

Meeting at 9:50, there are 6 classes you could join: Seekers, Homebuilders, Crusaders, Fisherman, Journeyers, & Wesleyan.

Welcome Desk volunteers have information on what these classes are studying & where each class meets.

Other Groups & Studies

(Check the calendar or call the office for meeting information.)

Blankets & Blessings: This ministry makes blankets for people in hospice. All skill levels & craft types are welcome.

Soul Sisters: This group meets to discuss a selected book. At the next meeting members will talk about chapter 1 of "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World."

Readers' Group: Everyone discusses the book they have each been reading. Often members choose a book from the UMW reading list, some of which are available in our library.

United Methodist Women: There is a general meeting monthly at the church. You can also join a monthly small group.

United Methodist Men: The men of Asbury meet monthly to help each other grow their relationship with Christ.

Musical Opportunities: Hearts & Handbells, the Chancel Choir, and the Contemporary Worship Team

Support Groups: Re:Mind (formerly the DBSA group) meets weekly & the Griefshare group will begin meeting in January.

Scouts: 3 Girl Scout troops, a Boy Scout troop, & a Cub Scout troop meet at Asbury.

Adult Bible Study: Pastor Lindsay leads this weekly study.

(Don't see a group you're interested in? Why not start a new one? Pastor Lindsay would welcome to talking with you.)