

# the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church  
VOLUME 91 · ISSUE 40 · DEC 22 - JAN 23

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### WORSHIP

*Pastor's Column* 2

*Music* 3

FINANCE 4

### EXPLORE

*Adult Bible Study* 17

*Children* 11

*Youth* 13

*Asbury News* 18

*Adult Spiritual Formation & Membership* 8-9

### SERVE

*UWIF News* 14

*Altar Guild* 5

ACDC 6

ASP 12

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19

### OFFICERS OF OUR CHURCH

**George Whitehead**, *Leadership Team Chair*

**Dave Harris**, *Leadership Team Vice-Chair*

**John Marshall**, *Staff-Parish Relations Chair*

**TBD**, *Staff-Parish Relations Vice-Chair*

**Pawel Szczurko**, *Board of Trustees Chair*

**TBD**, *Board of Trustees Vice-Chair*

**Stephen Hearne**, *Finance Committee Chair*

**Dan Ervin**, *Finance Committee Vice-Chair*

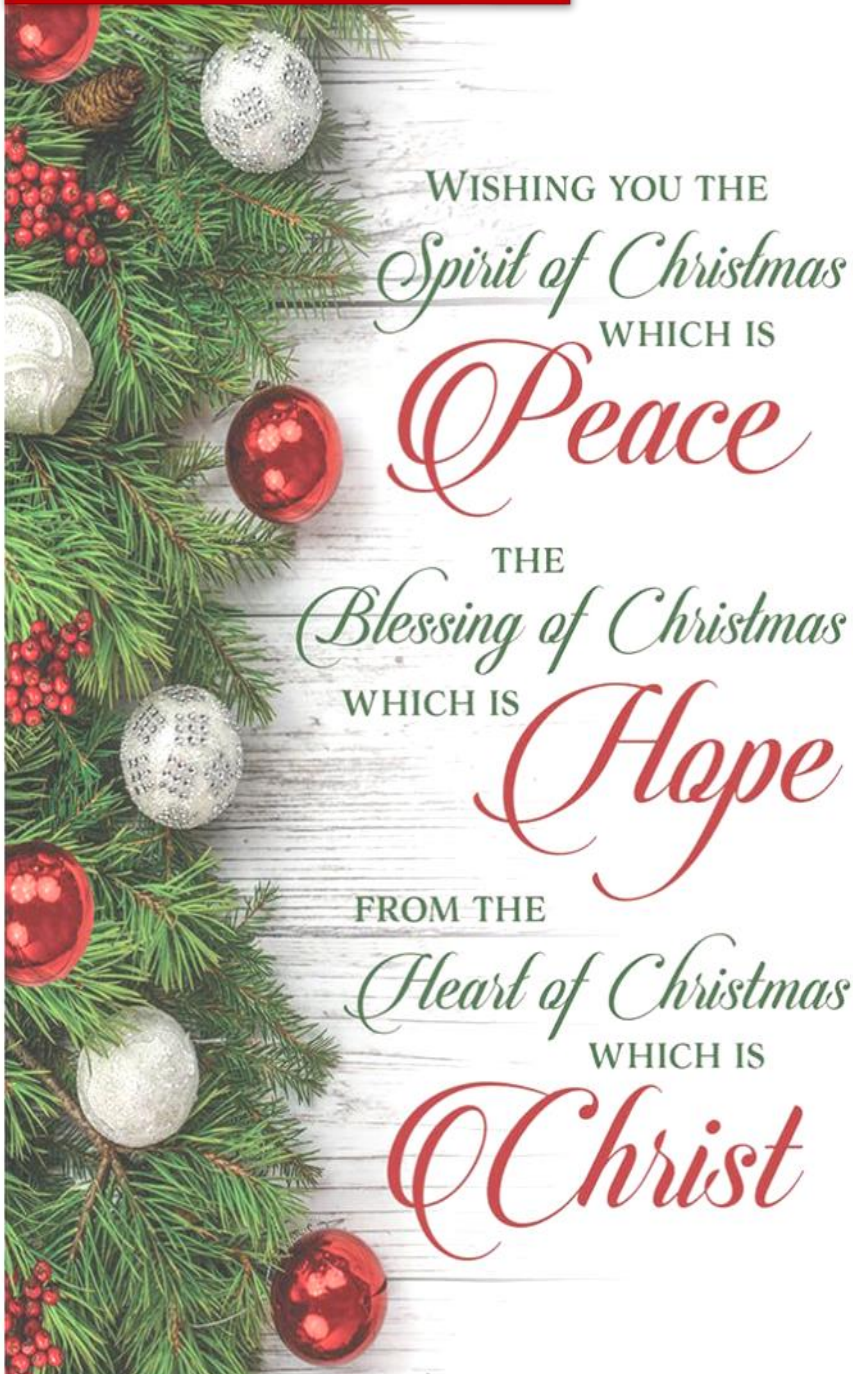
**Sharon Dashiell**, *ACDC Board Chair*

**Kim Bradshaw**, *Lay Leader*

**Laura Crum**, *UWIF President*

**Carlton Bradshaw**, *Chair, BOD, ASP*

Editor: *Lydia Childs*



*From the desk of*

## PASTOR TOM PASMORE

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. -1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:24

I love football. Whatever form it may take, wherever it's being played, I love it. It doesn't matter what kind of football either, whether it American, Canadian, Australian, soccer, or rugby. I love to watch it all. Whether it's seeing Bart Starr going into the end zone behind Jerry Kramer on 3rd and goal with 26 seconds left on the clock in the great IceBowl, or Landon Donovan's header past Mexican legend Oscar Perez in the 65th minute of the game, or the upending of the All Blacks by a small, undersized French team who outscored New Zealand 23-7 in the closing 20 minutes of the World Cup of Rugby match. Football manages to capture my imagination and reminds me of the joy of playing, just like when I was a kid.

This month will finish the FIFA World Cup of Soccer in Qatar, where the best of the best will play to see which country will take home the right to be called world champions for the next four years. While the US is competing, I find it much more entertaining to watch a wide variety of nations play against each other. It's fascinating to see the different ethnicities and cultures come together on the field and battle it out for 90 minutes. However, there is a point to the 64 matches. In the end, only one team can win the prize. Only one can claim the Cup.

Paul talks about "the prize" in his first letter to the church at Corinth. He focuses in on what it takes to be a hero in life, and what it takes to win as followers of Jesus and lovers of people. We need to train through spiritual disciplines to run the race like a champion. We need to pray, study, worship, fellowship, give, and serve. These disciplines will help us to develop stamina in our spirits, and help us to get in touch with God's plan for our lives. Success in this race requires that we also seek help in our training, the practice of all of our spiritual disciplines. This help comes through the Holy Spirit who gives us energy and life, and the help of other Christians who cheer us on. Throughout the training and the struggles of life, we learn to rely on God and mold our will to God's. You see, we need to see God not just as the judge of the race, but also as our teammate, our cheerleader, our biggest fan, and our best friend as well. It takes that kind of relationship to develop a winning lifestyle and to acquire the highly sought after prize that Paul refers to.

As you move through Advent, Christmas, and into Epiphany, remember that we need to be training continually, running to win the prize, ready to face the most difficult opponent, and that no matter what happens, God is on our side. God wants us all to be winners.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Blessed Epiphany,

**Pastor Tom**





## MUSIC MINISTRY

**Dr. Michael Stefanek**, *Director of Music Ministries*



Dear Church Family,

We had a fabulous concert presented by the Maryland State Boychoir, under the direction of Dr. Stephen Holmes and the Salisbury Children's Choir, under the direction of Alice Wigfield, on Saturday, November 19. They performed a variety of pieces that included works with organ, piano, percussion, and English horn. The well-crafted program of sacred and secular repertoire made for a beautiful evening. We had a great audience and I'm so grateful for all the support for this program.

A big thanks to Pastor Tom, Suzy Creel, and Ruth Campbell for all their hard work with hospitality and the kid's supper we had in the fellowship hall. Thanks to Bob Love for helping with the set up. Thanks to Jeff Harman for keeping an eye on sound for the concert and thanks to Heather Harman for taking some wonderful pictures, some of which are featured with this article.

There are exciting things coming up in December that you will not want to miss: Children and Youth Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. and Lessons and Carols by Candlelight on Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

This Christmas, we're continuing our annual tradition of featuring the children's music groups at the 4:00 p.m. service, Praise Band at 7:00 p.m., and the Chancel Choir with the Revelation Ringers at the 10:30 p.m. service.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season. I look forward to what the Lord has in store for us next year!

All Best,  
**Dr. Michael Stefanek**  
*Director of Music Ministries*



# FINANCE



• Finance statement for January- October reports a deficit of (\$18,131). With only two months left in the year, we are praying for our income to catch up with our expenses. We have faith we can accomplish this by everyone “pitching in”. We pray all 2022 pledge commitments can be fulfilled. Can you give over and above your commitment and/or giving? Every extra dollar donated is a blessing! In this season of giving, we would like to encourage you to place Asbury at or near the top of your list.

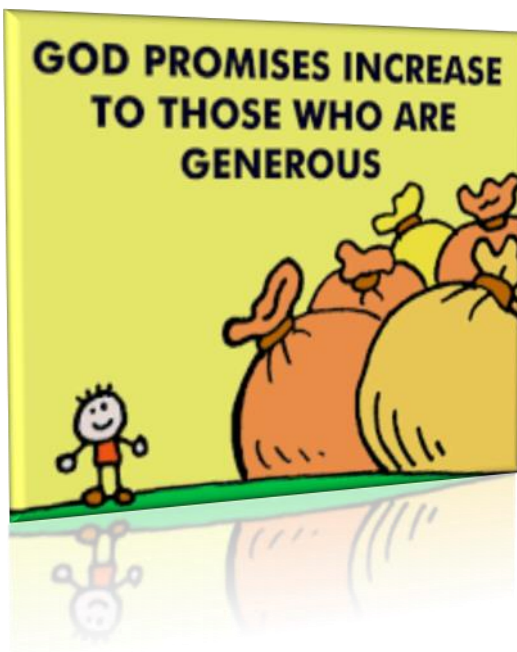
• Christmas offering-we have budgeted to receive \$5,000 through the special Christmas offering envelopes. You will find these envelopes in the pews during the month of December, and in a Christmas letter mailing from Pastor Tom. At this wonderful time of the year when we see the generosity of our Lord, we ask that each of our church members and attendees consider giving generously to the Christmas offering. Last year’s offering received was \$9,815- what a blessing! Can we match or exceed this year??

• 2023 Generosity Pledges- even though we have not finished 2022 yet, the Finance Committee is working faithfully on the operating budget for next year. You can help us create a realistic budget by returning a pledge card to let us know of your giving intentions for 2023. Each pledge makes a difference and gets us closer to closing the income and expense gap.

We praise God for the generosity of each and every one. We look back in thanksgiving over the past, and know that the same God who has met all our needs will meet us again!

A blessed Christmas is wished to all!

**Janice Ilczuk**  
*Director of Finance & Building*



	January- October 2022 Actual	January- December 2022 Budget
Pledged/unpledged Giving	\$538,138	\$670,000
Plate Contributions	\$22,525	\$20,000
Special Contributions	\$5,736	\$11,400
Endowment	\$12,786	\$12,786
Rentals	\$35,133	\$32,325
Interest-checking/mma/cd	\$4,584	\$4,501
Gain/loss on stock	(\$30)	(\$500)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$618,872</b>	<b>\$750,512</b>
Property Expenses	\$84,290	\$110,124
Ministry Expenses	\$245,750	\$315,457
Administrative Expenses	\$113,933	\$138,782
Apportionments	\$78,710	\$93,210
Employee Benefits	\$114,320	\$141,920
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$637,003</b>	<b>\$799,493</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$18,131)</b>	<b>(\$48,981)</b>
January Net	\$50,828	
January - February Net	\$43,403	
January -March Net	\$30,023	
January -April Net	\$35,909	
January - May Net	\$15,147	
January - June Net	(\$4,524)	
January - July Net	(\$10,447)	
January - August Net	(\$14,423)	
January - September Net	(\$7,077)	
January - October Net	(\$18,131)	

## A WORD FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR

Hello fellow Asburians,

Time passes quickly. It seems like we were just starting the year 2022 and planning projects for this year.

Year by year, we are striving to improve our church and renovate it as our budget allows. This year, we were able to complete the following projects, some of them visible and some of them “behind the scenes”:

- The Memorial Corridor (along Sanctuary) has been renovated. The old floor and ceiling tiles were removed, walls were painted, the new floor tiles and new ceiling installed (with much needed new lights).
- We continue to renovate the Asbury Child Development Center wing. With great help from ACDC, the corridor has been renovated. The old floor and ceiling tiles were removed, walls were painted, and the new floor tiles and new ceiling installed (with much needed new lights). As the renovations were progressing, we encountered a large hole under part of the corridor floor and had to reach out to a company that specializes in fixing those types of situations. We hope that the teachers and children enjoy their renovated corridors.
- The Asbury Child Development Center’s old exterior doors were removed and new doors were installed, improving security and appearance.
- All front steps and the access ramp at the carport entrance were renovated.
- One of the HVAC pumps was replaced to keep our church properly heated.
- The brick sidewalk in front of the sanctuary entrance had over 150 bricks replaced.
- A column at the sanctuary entrance had its marble tiles fixed.
- The women’s restroom in the office area was renovated with better lighting and new fixtures.
- We are in the process of replacing the Sacristy HVAC system.
- The parking lot was re-striped, and the gaps/cracks were sealed.
- With our Church & Society Ministry, we installed pollinator-friendly native plants at the south end of the parking lot dividers.
- Sound panels were installed in the sanctuary to improve acoustics.
- Other miscellaneous improvements were performed to meet insurance requirements.

We worked with the county to facilitate their repair to the “dip” in the parking lot entrance just south of the church electronic sign.

We would like to thank our Asbury staff. Without them, none of those projects would happen. So next time when you see them, please thank them for their work.

**Pawel Szczurko**  
*Board of Trustees Chair*

## ALTAR GUILD

**DECEMBER 2022**

**Sharon Dashiell, Chair**  
*All Members*



**JANUARY 2023**

**Brenda Martin, Chair**  
*Marilyn Batie*  
*Norma Dobrowolski*  
*Robin Evans*





# Christmas Eve SERVICES

Asbury United Methodist Church will celebrate the Christmas holiday with four services on Christmas Eve at 4:00, 5:30, 7:00 and 10:30 pm, all with distinctly different styles:

**4:00pm** - Filled with the sounds and sights of the season, this service will be a family focused worship experience. Traditional hymns will be sung on organ and piano.

**5:30pm** - An outdoor worship experience that will begin in front of the sanctuary on the brick patio. We will walk all the way around our facility, singing and reading the story of Christmas. The service will culminate with the singing of Silent Night in front of the outdoor nativity scene that faces Camden Ave.

**7:00pm** - A contemporary Christmas worship experience with music provided by the Praise Band from our very own Come As You Are (CAYR) service. A relaxed, yet meaningful way to celebrate Christ's birth.

**10:30pm** - A stirring, traditional Christmas worship experience filled with hymns, carols and special music.

All services will include a celebration of Holy Communion and singing with candle light. Children are welcome to come in their pajamas! For younger children, there will be glow sticks available instead of candles. Nursery will be closed on December 24 so our nursery staff can enjoy the worship services with their families.

## CHRISTMAS DAY - WE ARE ALL VIRTUAL!

Join us for a special online only worship experience on Sunday December 25th. You can go to our Youtube channel or search for Asbury UMC Salisbury on Youtube, beginning any time on Christmas morning. Merry Christmas!

## NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Start the new year off well! You are invited to come to church on January 1 for an Epiphany Worship experience at our regularly scheduled times of 8:00, 8:45, and 11:00 a.m. Praying God's blessings on 2023!

*You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. Psalm 65:11*

## ASBURY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

*Casey Taylor, Director of ACDC*



December is a very busy time around Asbury Child Development Center with lots of activities and events planned. On December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> all the students participate in the Annual ACDC Christmas Program @ 11:15 in the sanctuary.

ACDC is starting to plan for next school year's registration, which will take place for current students and their siblings on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Member Registration - AUMC Church members may register the week before priority registration (Feb. 6 - Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>). Open registration will take place on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Registration information will be available for pick up mid-January. Please call 410-742-7058 to schedule a tour. If you have additional questions do not hesitate to contact anyone in the office. Thank you!

Our school hopes that you all have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy time with your families and friends. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## BRASS PEW END CANDLESTICKS

A belated, but sincere thank you from the Altar Guild to some very special people who donated the funds needed to purchase our beautiful brass pew end candlesticks. This is our 10<sup>th</sup> year celebration of sharing the light and glory these candles emanate during our Christmas celebrations. There will be a permanent recognition placed in our Memorial Hall in the coming months. Thank you to:

Virginia Albert  
Ann Brown  
Sonny & Sylvia Chiofolo  
Bill & Patty Clendenen  
Art & Billie Cooley  
Bill & Shirley Cropper  
Keith & Holly Foster  
Audrey Hayman  
Stephen & Holly Hearne  
Tom & Beth Hershey

Elizabeth Hickman  
Rick & Cynthia Holloway  
Ruth Isear  
Virginia Jones  
Dana & Judy Kennan  
Louise Morgan  
Darryl & Leslie Nixon  
Joe & Pam Ollinger  
Aaron & Marlene Pulhamus  
Bill & Marlene Rinnier

Betsy Silver  
Bruce & Ellen Smith  
Josie Smith  
Mary Ellen Stark  
Shirley Sullivan  
Jim & Bette Taylor, Jr.  
Phyllis Taylor  
Ray & Klaudia Thompson  
Jeff & Dottie Turner  
George & Barbara Whitehead

## FARMERS MARKET RECEIVES CITATION AWARD

This past summer, the Camden Avenue Farmers Market was honored to receive the Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary's Citation Award. The Market has been serving the Salisbury community at Asbury United Methodist Church for well over a decade and a half now. Its origins stemmed from the local food pioneer Jay Martin and his Provident Organic CSA pick-ups with an official market forming in 2009 with five original farmer vendors. Thanks to the amazing support of the local Salisbury community, the market has grown to a maximum of 20 farming and local food artisan operations each Tuesday from 2:30-5:30 PM. Following Jay's high standards, only the very best operations are permitted to set up at market-with a true farm to table emphasis to this very day. We hope the community will continue to support the market for many years to come! Special Recognition was made to Asbury United Methodist Church, its Board of Directors and Leadership for continuing to allow the market to meet each week.



## ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Rev. Kristen Wall-Love, *Director*

Dear faith family,

December's spiritual practice is a daily devotional. Might I suggest Asbury's Advent devotional that goes along with our seasonal worship series? Make the commitment to spend daily time with God in this special season of waiting and anticipation. There are hard copies at the Welcome Centers or I can email you a pdf if you prefer.



January's spiritual practice is part of a larger 6 month theme: *Streams of Living Water*, by Richard Foster. This book is about the 6 traditions or streams in the Christian Faith, which all flow together to make robust and healthy flowing river of lived out faith. The traditions are: holiness, social justice, charismatic, evangelical, incarnational, & contemplative, which we will cover January-June respectively. These traditions are distinct, yet intertwined. We will be taking a 2-pronged approach: There will be a gathering the third Thursday evening of the month where we will talk about a specific tradition, focusing on that chapter in the book. And, in that same month, we, along with the congregation, will be training in that tradition with a related spiritual practice. You can attend some or all of the monthly gatherings. Please check the box on the back of your connection card to RSVP for the gathering and/or the practice of the month. \*If you will be attending the monthly discussions, please purchase the book and read chapters 1 & 3 for Jan. 19 at 7pm.



In January we will be thinking about holiness. Holiness deals with the virtuous life. Foster describes the holiness tradition as “a life that functions as it should” and states we should explore it “because through it we are enabled to live whole, functional lives in a dysfunctional world” (pg 96). Sometimes the connotation of holiness can be negative, so here is a helpful way to think about it:

**Holiness is not:** rules and regulations, otherworldliness, asceticism, “work-righteousness,” or perfection. **Holiness is:** sustained attention, bodily spirituality, striving to enter in, progress in purity (of heart), and loving unity with God.

Largely, practices of holiness involve small deaths to self. Since this can be done in the *little decisions* we make daily, January's spiritual practice will be “little decisions.” But the goal is not to simply sit there and suffer. In the midst of these “little decisions,” focus on:

- taking the risk of trusting God and watching God meet your needs
- abandoning the illusion of self-sufficiency
- experimenting with being content even though you're not getting every little thing you want
- as always, hanging out with God

*(continued next page)*

---

<sup>1</sup> Richard Foster, *Streams of Living Water*, 83-4.



Examples of small daily deaths to self:

- serving someone and not expecting that person to reciprocate
- not eating a doughnut at work when you usually do
- not answering back someone who puts you down
- not buying something you can easily afford but don't really need



With you on the journey,

*Kristen Wall-Love,*

*Director of Adult Spiritual Formation & Membership*



*Welcome to Jan Cormier!*

I was raised in central Illinois in the '50's, graduated from Illinois State in the 60's. When I had a chance to relocate to the Washington, DC area after graduation, I was thrilled and made the Baltimore/ Washington area home for many years. I met my husband, Richard, in what was then Rouse's "new city", Columbia, MD. Along with our daughter, Suzy (Creel), we eventually moved from Reisterstown out to the suburbs in Carroll County. I worked several part-time jobs locally and later in the business office of a Baltimore hospital until 1995 when Dick retired. Eager for a new environment and more golf courses to explore, we moved to Myrtle Beach and lived there for several years. We became active members of Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church while we were there. But being true northerners, in 2001 cold Carolina winters had us searching for areas farther south. New Smyrna Beach, FL became our new home where we lived until 2016. We were members of St Paul's Episcopal Church there. I worked as a supervisor for a Florida retail company, Beall's Florida, for about 10 years. We moved here to Salisbury in the fall of 2016, happy to be close to family and Maryland friends. Dick passed away in the spring of 2019 after a long battle with dementia and cancer. I enjoy exploring this area, quilting, and look forward to finding ways to become involved at Asbury.



***Jan attends the Festive 11:00 a.m. worship service. Be sure to say "hello"!***

<sup>2</sup> Renovare Institute, adapted from Gary Moon as well as ideas from Jan Johnson *Abundant Simplicity* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011), chapter 2.

## ANGEL TREE STARTS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH



*A Program of Prison Fellowship*

The Angel Tree Prison Fellowship Program provides children of incarcerated parents with Christmas gifts, and provides the parents with a means of staying in contact with the children. Angel Trees will be set up in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 4th. Register with a volunteer, pick out an Angel tag, and go shopping! We have 33 children this year, and each child gets two different Angel tags, a “toy” gift and a “clothing” gift. We also have Angel tags to provide each family with a grocery card for their holiday dinner. Each Angel gift should be \$25-30, but no more than \$30.

***All gifts and tags must be returned, unwrapped, to the church no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>.*** Don't want to go shopping, but still want to participate? Bring in your Angel tag and a check made payable to Asbury with “Angel Tree donation” in the memo line - we'll do the shopping for you!

*If you have any questions, please call Sheri at the church office.*

## SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

***Now Available in the Welcome Centers!***



1. Take a stocking (or several!) and a cardboard topper.
2. Fill the stockings with fun and useful things for children 0-12 years old.
3. Attach the topper, mark it with “boy” or “girl” and the age range (for example, “Girl 2-3”, “Boy 11-12”, etc.)
4. Place filled stockings in the marked Christmas boxes by either of the Welcome Centers, or in the hall across from the main office.
5. Please turn in your stockings by ***Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.***

## ADOPT A POINSETTIA!

Believe it or not, it's that time again! Silk poinsettias will be placed in the church to decorate for the Christmas season. You can adopt a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one and have them recognized in the worship bulletin. All monies collected are used by the Altar Guild for ongoing altar maintenance expenses throughout the year. Find an order form in one of the Welcome Centers, or in the front office. All orders must be received by Friday, December 9th .



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Heather Harman, *Director of Children and Care Ministries*



When snow falls, it changes the world around us. Many years ago, far longer than we can imagine, something else, even more special, came to change the world. Join Asbury's Children and Youth Musical groups as they present a Christmas Concert of beautiful holiday selections combined with dramatic readings based on the poem 'The Meaning of Snowflakes' by Holley Girth! Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m.



Our first Cereal Box Domino Challenge was a HUGE success! We thank each and every one of you who donated cereal for this challenge. We collected over 400 boxes, which were set up for a fun domino run for all to enjoy. Afterward, Heather and Brooke delivered cereal to HALO, Salisbury Urban Ministries, Christian Shelter, Fenix Youth Project, HHEH, Joseph House, and Village of Hope.





## ASBURY SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

Dude is a well known local character in Logan County, WV. A retired school bus driver, he is much loved throughout the community. Dude lives with his faithful friend, Jeb the dog, in their modest home along a busy county road. Their backyard is quite small, with a river at the bottom of a ravine running through. The home is in relatively good shape, but the front steps were in poor condition, and the back steps were made up of a few cinder blocks stacked upon one another with no mortar to hold them together.

One of your ASP work teams spent part of their week in Appalachia constructing a rear porch and steps for Dude and Jeb. As the "soil" is actually rock, the time and effort required to dig in the posts turned what would be a one day job on the Eastern Shore into a three day job. The crew persevered, and Dude and Jeb were left with a safe and sturdy means of egress to their back door. The next week's ASP team replaced the front steps.



Another concern with Dude's home was that the windows were in disrepair and provided poor insulation against the weather. Window replacement was beyond ASP's budget, but your generous financial support enabled us to make a donation to cover the cost of replacement windows. In all, your ASP team's time and effort gave Dude a safer home, and your generosity helped make that home warmer in the winter. Once again, offering up a bit of our time and resources resulted in long term life improvements for one of God's beloved.

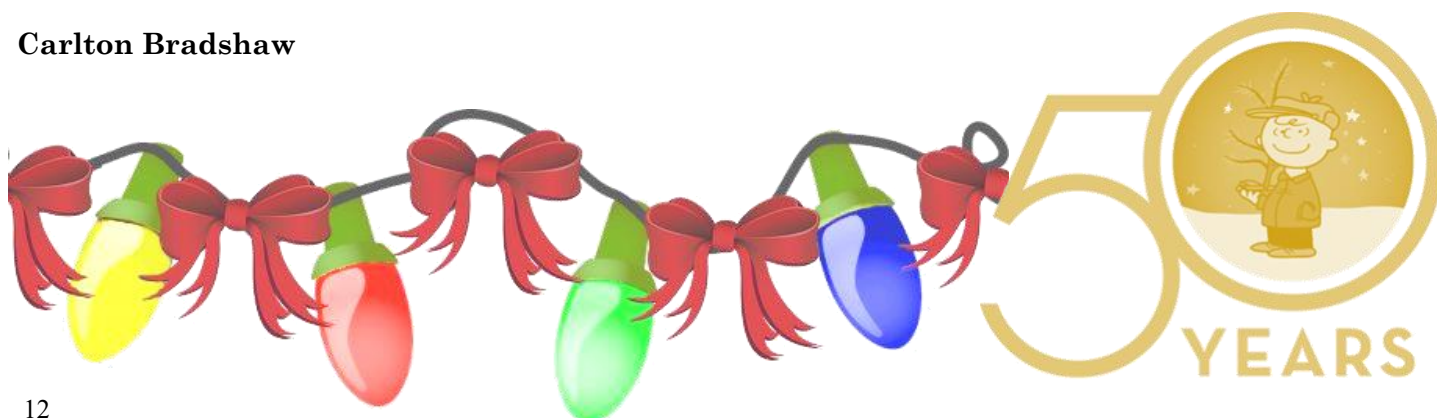
Pancake breakfasts, our primary fundraisers, resumed on November 13, and are scheduled on the second Sunday of each month through March, third Sunday in April due to Easter. This year, in celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> year in ministry, we are offering Chocolate Chip pancakes (with chocolate syrup and whipped topping) as an option at every breakfast.

We have also resumed our local service activities, which include serving dinners the first Sunday of every month at the Christian Shelter and building wheelchair ramps, in partnership with Chesapeake Housing Mission. Our first ramp build took place on October 22, and our remaining builds are scheduled for March 25, April 22, and May 13.

There is still room for our group to grow. Registration for high school students and their parents remains open through December 31. Thank you, Asbury, for your continued support of this longstanding ministry!

If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me at 410-896-2776.

**Carlton Bradshaw**



## YOUTH MINISTRY

Brooke Christensen, *Director of Youth & Family Ministries*

If you are a youth, parent, grandparent, or volunteer and would like to receive my weekly **Youth Update** emails filled with announcements, pictures, and updates on what we are learning about, please send a message to [brooke@asburyweb.org](mailto:brooke@asburyweb.org)

### Youth Group

Friendsgiving with Bethesda was a great success! The food was awesome, the games were fun, and the company was delightful.

Our next social gathering will be **Friday, December 9 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** We will be having a cookie swap and cupcake decorating contest. I'm so excited!!

In January, we will also be going on a Winter Retreat to Camp Pecometh!

2022 has been another fun year of growth and change for our youth group and I can't wait to see what 2023 has in store.



2022 has been a fantastic year for the Wesley Foundation. We have increased in number and established a real core group who isn't afraid to tackle tough topics in our Bible Study time. I am so proud of how far we've come in such a short period of time. We have also had a lot of fun along the way. In November we walked dogs for the Humane Society and had a Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy game night. In December we will have a Christmas Party and plan out the next semester!







# Circle NEWS

## *Eve Circle – Amy Cropper*

We will meet on December 21 at my house at 6:30 for our Christmas party. On January 18, we will meet in the Mackey Room at 7:15 p.m. with Suzy Creel and Kelly Taylor hosting.

## *Deborah Circle – Maggie Fulkrod*

Deborah Circle meets the last Tuesday of each month (except December when we break) and all women are invited. Our next meeting will be January 31 at 6:30 here at the church. We are continuing our "7 Experiment" study, which focuses on 7 items that interrupt our relationship with God and others. The overall

themes are fasting, simplicity, and excess in our culture. Contact Maggie Fulkrod with questions: 410.937.8104.

## *Joanna Circle – Carol Bisker*

Joanna will meet on December 12th at 10 AM at the home of Carol Bisker for our annual covered dish brunch.

## *Dorcas Circle – Susan Cropper*

Dorcas will meet at the home of Sharon Moak on December 13 at 10am. If you would like to carpool, meet at the church (office parking lot) at 9:30 a.m. Bring a reading to share. We will be having lunch and ask that you bring a side dish to share. RSVP to Susan Cropper at 410-845-8874 by Dec. 7th.



Our Annual Christmas Tea welcomes **ALL Asbury women**. It will be Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00. It will begin in the sanctuary with a musical performance by Salisbury University music major students under the direction of John Wesley Wright. Light refreshments with tea will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a festive afternoon.



## **UWIF needs your help:**

We will be hosting a *Cookies & Cocoa Bar at JMB on Wednesday, December 14th*. We are asking for homemade cookies of any kind, labeled for common allergens, to be donated. For questions or comments, please contact Ashlee Plotts, 443-243-1613.



## MARYLAND STATE BOYCHOIR AND SALISBURY CHILDREN'S CHOIR



These two choirs performed at Asbury on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Wow! What a wonderful performance. We were so fortunate to be able to host them this year. UWIF provided them with these goodie bags to thank them for sharing their musical gifts with us!



## CHURCH & SOCIETY

### A NEW YEAR FOR LUNCH & LEARN

Everyone is cordially invited to attend a series of talks this winter and spring on timely issues and programs affecting our community. Sponsored by the committee on Church & Society, we offer a light lunch, presentations from guest speakers doing important work, and engaging conversation. The floor is always open. Hope to see you there!

#### *Lunch & Learn*

*One Sunday per month, 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.  
Mackey Room*

**Dec. 4: Debbie Donaway, executive director, Salisbury Urban Ministries** <https://www.sbyurbanministries.org/>. SUM is a United Methodist program supported by seven covenant churches, including Asbury. It includes the Kid's Café, the Lazarus Food Pantry, Prescription Assistance, and God's Kitchen.

**Jan. 15: Jennifer Small, vice president, Maryland Food Bank.** The Eastern Shore Branch of the food bank serves some of the most food-insecure areas in the state, including Wicomico and Somerset counties. See <https://mdfoodbank.org/about/locations/eastern-shore-branch/>.

**Feb. 12 – Susie Keefer, Chairman of the Board, Congo Partnership (Lewes, DE).** Serving both spiritual and health needs of children in the Central Congo, this is a ministry of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and Western North Carolina Conference. See <http://www.congo-mission.org/>.

**March 12: Alyssa Hastings, sustainability specialist, City of Salisbury.** The first to hold her position, Alyssa Hastings oversees environment- and sustainability-related initiatives ranging from pocket pollinator meadows to community cleanup projects. See <https://wicomicoenvironment.org/profile/alyssa-hastings/>.

**April 2 – Brenda Mahan, Delmarva Program Coordinator, Society of St. Andrew.** See [ENDhunger.org](http://ENDhunger.org) for more information on this church-based project which promotes gleaning healthy food from America's fields *after* the commercial harvest is finished, to feed America's hungry.

All meetings to be held in the Mackey Room following the 11:00 a.m. service. A light lunch will be served prior to a talk and conversation with our guest speakers. Voluntary donations only. Please RSVP if possible to Lydia in the church office for purposes of room setup and lunch planning. (But please feel free to come even if you have not RSVP'd!) 410-749-2131.

## ASBURY RECEIVES GRANT TO HELP AFGHAN FAMILY

### UMCOR Mustard Seed Grant received by Asbury! 1 of 50 Awarded in U.S.

Asbury has just been notified that we will be awarded a \$2,000 Mustard Seed grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief to help the Afghan family with their new cell phones and monthly cell service.

Charles Emery, Tom Passmore & Robin Holloway collaborated to complete the competitive grant application, and Asbury will be among 50 U.S. churches to receive awards of up to \$2,000.

The Mustard Seed Migration Grants, inspired by the well-known parable about growth, gives churches the opportunity to assist refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented persons and migrants with one time support from the United Methodist Committee on Relief and continues its 80 year tradition of helping immigrants seeking to build a new life in the U.S.

As Jesus described in his parable, small mustard seeds have the potential to grow into something pervasive that spreads throughout a field. "Our hope is that, by learning more about migrants and actively engaging in caring for the most vulnerable in our midst, through these Mustard Seed Migration Grants, the 'seed' of welcoming strangers will be planted in new ways in congregations around the country," says the Rev. Jack Amick, director of global migration for UMCOR.

"We are thrilled and grateful to receive the support from UMCOR and are blessed to be recognized for our efforts on behalf of the Afghan family. God has surely been faithful in helping us meet the needs of this family," said Charles Emery in receiving the grant.

## HANDS AND HEARTS ENDING HOMELESSNESS



The time has arrived again to offer the homeless men in our community a shelter during the cold weather months. Hands and Hearts ending Homelessness (HHEH), formerly the Community Emergency Shelter Project (CESP) is a community-based effort to provide safe, temporary, emergency, overnight shelter and hospitality to these men. We open on November 12 and will be open until the beginning of April. Once again we are most grateful for Asbury's participation and look forward to seeing all of you again this year from January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 – February 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your support of this ministry.

### ***Basic Information:***

- \* The shelter location will be the same as last year: Community Building of Park Seventh Day Adventist (behind the church) on Deere Run Drive (across from the Shorebird Stadium and beyond Holt Paper).
- \* As we have done in the past, Asbury will supply breakfasts, lunches and dinners for 2 weeks as well as volunteers to work the registration shifts from 4:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.-11:00 p.m. (you don't have to stay and serve dinner).

### ***Asbury Contacts:***

- \* **General Information:** Sharon Dashiell - sharondashiell@comcast.net
- \* **Meal Sign-ups:** Shelly Marshall – shellymarshall413@gmail.com
- \* **Registration Volunteers:** Paul West – wpwestla@gmail.com
- \* **Henry Rutledge** – hamptonhunter1066@hotmail.com

\*\*\*If you want to volunteer anytime other than our 2 weeks or want to see what we may need in the way of donations. Please visit our website: <https://www.handsandheartsshelter.org>

## 2022-23 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Bible 101 class is continuing our study of the Book of Daniel until Nov. 27. We will begin the season of ADVENT that covers the four Sundays before CHRISTMAS.

Our ADVENT study will be *AWAITING THE ALREADY* by Magrey deVega, pastor of Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa, FL.

This study will take us through all four gospels. As we “await” the word we will discover that The Gospel of MARK wants us to slow down. The Gospel of MATTHEW wants us to confront a hurting world.

The Gospel of LUKE urges us to sing about obedience, praise and silence. The Gospel of JOHN would have us see light in the darkness and become a light for others. All are invited to come and study the Scriptures with us on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Fox room.



The **OHOM Sunday School** class welcomes all attenders with love, acceptance, and support. Classes are held in the Mackey Room and begin at 9:45 a.m. with joys and concerns before the study begins.

The next study is Adam Hamilton’s *John: The Gospel of Light and Love* followed by Amy Jill Levine’s Advent Study: *Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent*. Frank Shipper will be leading a class entitled "Tikkun Olam", which is a Hebrew philosophy meaning “repairing the world.”

Please join us Sunday mornings as we continue to listen and search for God’s guidance and explore how Asbury can continue to create and build community within our church and the Salisbury region.

DATE	TOPIC	FACILITATOR
12/4	Promise of Potential	
12/11	Journey to Joy	
12/18	Gifts of the Gentiles	
12/25	Christmas Day	No class
1/1	Christmas Day	No class



Brothers and Sisters In Christ , is an informal adult Sunday School group that meets in the Catley Library on Sundays from 10:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Currently, we are using the Wired Word, a weekly discussion revolving around current events. There’s no preparation to participate!

For Advent we will be using a study about the Dr. Seuss story of The Grinch. Come join us! If interested, please reach out to Mike or Laura Crum at 410-603-6129 or mhmc98@yahoo.com.



## ASBURY NEWS

### **Church Office Closed December 26—January 2**

The Church office will be closed December 26, 2022 - January 2, 2023. Voicemail and emails will be monitored for urgent needs. Otherwise, please expect to hear from the staff upon their return January 2, 2023.

### **The Opportunity Shop NEEDS YOU!!!**

If you can help our ministry by working 9:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays or Thursdays, please call Sheri at the church office. If you can only work once or twice a month, that's OK. We need new volunteers and would love to have you.

### **Opportunity Shop Holiday Hours**

The Opportunity Shop will be **CLOSED** beginning Friday, December 16 so the volunteers can celebrate Christmas with their families. The shop will reopen for donations Monday, January 2 and sales on Thursday, January 5, 2023.

### **Donations:**

Monday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **Sales:**

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*The shop is currently in need of fall and winter clothes, shoes, holiday and any kitchen or houseware items. Must be clean, functional and current. Tax receipts are available.*

*Thank you for supporting this important ministry!*

### **Salisbury Urban Ministries Holiday Hours**

SUM will be closed from December 19<sup>th</sup> until January 1<sup>st</sup> for our Christmas break. Any donations need to be dropped off before Friday December 16<sup>th</sup>. *Thank you for your support!*

### **Salisbury Urban Ministries Donations needed for:**

- ♦ ***Lazarus Food Pantry:***
  - Canned yams or sweet potatoes
  - Stuffing mix, Desserts (cake mix, brownie mix, etc.)
- ♦ ***Kid's Café:***
  - Hostess snack cakes
- ♦ ***Men's Welcome Center:***
  - Men's gloves

### **Spare Change – Change a Life**

Help change a life with your spare change: During December, please consider donating your spare change to Salisbury Urban Ministries. You will find large change jars in the Welcome Centers for each service.

Your spare change can: provide hot meals for children in the Kid's Café; provide warm coats and snack bags for homeless men; assist individuals to meet their prescription co-pays and better manage their chronic conditions; provide food bags of staples, dairy products, fish and meats to those in need in our community. A little spare change from each of us can go a long way!



## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



### NEW MEMBERS

**Jan Cormier, 11/13/2022**

### DEATHS

**Denwood Bloodsworth,  
11/13/2022**

**Mary Carey, 11/16/2022**

### MEMORIALS

**Audrey Hayman  
Bill & Sylvia Mears**

**Beth Hillman  
Vic & Jean Laws  
Virginia Mayer**

### **Denwood (Dennie) Bloodsworth**

*Michael & Joanna Abercrombie*

*George & Barbara Whitehead*

*Rick & Carol Bisker*

*Ron Petrey*

*Henry & Mary Louisa Ruthledge*

*Elisha & Doretha Jones*

*Marion & Barbara Dryden*

*Chip & Ruby Dashiell*

*Bobby & Nancy Hearn*

### **Elizabeth Hickman**

*Bruce & Christine Abresch*

### **Norman Frederick Schmager**

*David Shriver*



Date	Day	Time	Meeting
7	Wed	7:00 p.m.	SPRC
8	Thu	5:30 p.m.	Finance Committee
13	Tue	5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees

\*\*\* Meetings are subject to change, please check with church office for verification of date, time and location. \*\*\*

\*\*\* All meetings will be held in the Library, unless other arrangements are made. \*\*\*



Date	Day	Time	Meeting
4	Wed	7:00 p.m.	SPRC
10	Tue	5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
11	Wed	7:00 p.m.	Leadership Team
12	Thu	5:30 p.m.	Finance Committee
25	Wed	7:00 p.m.	UWIF
31	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Altar Guild



**2022**

Sharing with you the **Glory,**  
the **Wonder, the Miracle of**  
this Holy Season. **Have a Blessed**  
**Christmas and New Year!**

**2023**



**Asbury Church Staff**

\*\*\*Are you receiving a printed Asburian but would rather see it in color, on our website? Or would you rather not receive it? Please let us know. \*\*\*



**Senior Pastor:** *Rev. Dr. Tom Pasmore*  
**Pastor of Care Ministries:** *TBA*  
**Administrative Office Manager:** *Lydia Childs*  
**Administrative Assistant:** *Sheri Burchard*  
**Director of Music Ministries:** *Michael Stefanek*  
**Director of Children and Care Ministries:**  
*Heather Harman*  
**Director of Finance and Building:** *Janice Ilczuk*  
**Director of Adult Spiritual Formation and Membership:** *Rev. Kristen Wall-Love*  
**Director of Youth & Family Ministries:**  
*Brooke Christensen*  
**Maintenance Worker:** *Bob Love*  
**ACDC Director:** *Casey Taylor*  
**ACDC Asst. Director:** *Danna Abbott*



**Asbury United Methodist Church**  
 1401 Camden Avenue  
 Salisbury, Maryland 21801  
**Phone:** 410-749-2131  
**Fax:** 410-749-2914  
**Email:** [asbury@asburyweb.org](mailto:asbury@asburyweb.org)  
**Website:** [www.asburyweb.org](http://www.asburyweb.org)



**the ASBURIAN**

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit org.  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Salisbury, Maryland  
 Permit No. 29