

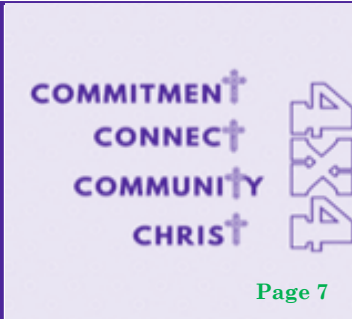
the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
VOLUME 82 ISSUE 31 • FEBRUARY 2022



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Mary Mitchell



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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*
TBD, *Finance Committee Vice-Chair*
Sharon Dashiell, *ACDC Board Chair*
Kim Bradshaw, *Lay Leader*
Laura Crum, *UMW President*
Carlton Bradshaw, *Chair, BOD, ASP*

Editor: Lydia Childs

love...
finds everything together
in perfect harmony"

Colossians 3:14



It has been an interesting start to 2022, but I know that the Lord is walking with us through these challenging times. While the omicron variant of the coronavirus has really put a damper on the start of the New Year, Asbury is moving forward in love and care for one another and the community.

To help us build community, we starting the year with a couple of major efforts in the congregation. The first is the creation of a brand new church photo directory! There is more information on page 4. Keep an eye out for this and make sure you sign up to be part of this photo directory.

There is also a production of *Godspell* that is currently in rehearsals right here at Asbury. The show will be performed on Palm Sunday weekend, April 8 & 9 in Fellowship Hall. There has been a great cast assembled and our own Mark Tyler and Michael Stefanek are doing a great job producing and directing this work. I am so excited to see this wonderful Broadway show come together, and am looking forward to seeing it in April.

Check out all the amazing ministries happening here at Asbury, and look for ways that you can put your *faith into action* this year!

Finally, I wanted to leave you with a word of encouragement. One of my favorite TV shows when I was in college was the *Red Green Show*. It was a Canadian version of *Home Improvement* where Red Green and his nephew, Harold, are trying to keep up the facilities at the Possum Lodge Men's Club. They are big hearted and well-intentioned, but totally hapless, which, of course, is why the show is so funny. However, at the end of each show, they close the program with the line. "Just remember, we're all in this together, and I'm pulling for ya." I don't know about you but I need to hear that. So, I want to invite you to reach out and encourage someone who is a part of our congregation today. We all need it right now.

Just remember, we're all in this together and I'm pulling for ya.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tom

Asbury Child Development Center

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and are ready to begin a brand new year!

This year we were able to have parents attend our Holiday Music Program in person and via livestream, for those who were unable to attend in person. We are so very proud of our little performers and their enthusiasm! We also want to acknowledge the hard work of our teachers and staff! They brought such wonderful holiday cheer to each and every one of us!

ACDC is starting to plan for 2022-2023 school year. Registration, which will take place for current students and their siblings on Wednesday, February 16th. Member Registration - AUMC Church members may register their child the week before priority registration (Feb. 7 - Feb. 11th). Open registration will take place on March 9th.

If you need registration information please call 410-742-7058 to schedule a pickup time. If you have additional questions do not hesitate to contact anyone in the office. Thank you!

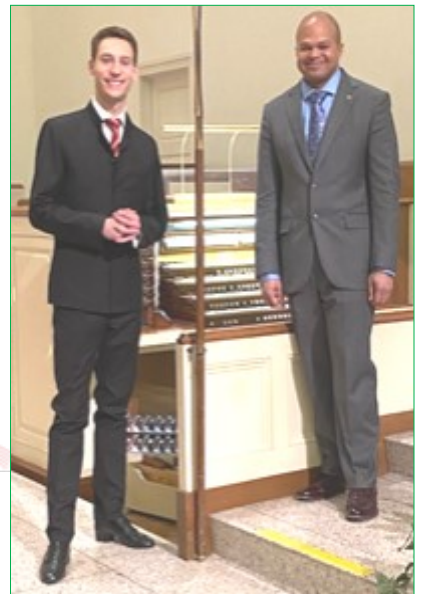
Casey Taylor, ACDC Director



Dear Church Family,

Our music ministry ensembles are busy preparing for upcoming worship services and planning music for Lent & Easter.

On January 15 we had an amazing organ concert performed by Lukas Hasler. His program included works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, Widor, and some of his own arrangements. His playing was vibrant, masterful, expressive, creative, and well thought out. He showed off the many colors of the organ in a meaningful manner. He brought a lot of warmth to the audience as well with his simple yet informative narrations. A true privilege and treat for us in Salisbury. Bravo Lukas!



Rehearsals have begun for the musical production, Godspell. Performances will be in Fellowship Hall on Friday, April 8 at 7:30 PM and Saturday, April 9 at 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM. Please mark your calendars to attend this exciting and meaningful show centered around the Gospel of St. Matthew, in which Jesus preaches through parables and storytelling. The show uses things such as clowning, pantomime, charades, acrobatics to tell the story of Jesus. The music selections vary in style and feature solos, duets, and company.

Godspell opened at the Cherry Lane Theater in New York City on May 17, 1971 and was an immediate hit with audiences. Because the theater was not large enough to meet audience demands, the show was moved to the Promenade Theater where it had 2, 124 performances. It eventually moved to Broadway in 1976, where it ran another 527 shows.

God Bless,

Dr. Michael Stefanek
Director of Music Ministries

CIRCLE THE DATE – IT’S TIME FOR YOUR CLOSEUP!

We are making plans for a new Asbury UMC photo directory and we would like **everyone** to participate. *That includes you – and your family!* Sittings are free and include one complimentary 8x10 photo. (Additional copies and sizes cost more but are totally elective.)

We have blocked out six days for the Universal Church Directories company to visit Asbury:

Thursday, March 24 (1 pm – 7:30 pm)
Friday, March 25 (1 pm – 7:30 pm)
Saturday, March 26 (10 am – 4:30 pm)
Thursday, April 21 (1 pm – 7:30 pm)
Friday, April 22 (1 pm – 7:30 pm)
Saturday, April 23 (10 am – 4:30 pm)

You will be receiving more information about this project, but in the meantime – *if you would like to reserve a time slot for your photo session, you can do so online.*

Go to www.ucdir.com and click on the link for Photography Appointment Scheduling (right side of the screen). On the next screen, enter the code for Asbury UMC, which is MD185, and the password, which is PHOTOS. You will then see all the dates and times that are available, and you can take your pick. Just follow the on-screen prompts.

(NOTE: Web signups will be routinely locked out every week for 48 hours, from midnight Friday to midnight Sunday, to avoid potential conflicts with in-person reservations. Paper signup sheets will be available in the Welcome Center every Sunday to allow folks to register the old-fashioned way if they prefer.)

If you have questions, please call the church office or email Sheri@asburyweb.org.

Children & Care Ministries

Happy New Year!

It was a busy December in kid’s ministries. The kid’s choirs had a concert and brunch with a jolly special guest who was enjoyed by all! Sunday School classes and choirs ended the year with some food and fun. The Cherubs and Kingdom Kids provided music for the 4:00 Family Christmas Eve service, and I really enjoyed sharing the beautiful book ‘Twas the Evening of Christmas’ by Glennys Nellist as the Children’s Sermon. I recommend all of her books! We are looking forward to more music, learning, and fun in 2022!

Heather Harman, Director of Children & Care Ministries



**Olivia and Victoria Szczerko
with our jolly special guest!**



Youth and 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

First Friday Youth Group

Our December First Friday event was based on the Netflix series Nailed It! The youth did an amazing job constructing all the challenges and had a blast along the way. I think we'll definitely be doing something like this again.



Our January First Friday did not quite go as planned. The WAVE conference went virtual but we were still going to gather and have a retreat weekend. Well then due to some Covid issues we couldn't meet together but cobbled together what community we could through zoom and texts. We did our best and that's all we can do.

For February we will be going to the Throwback Thursday Skate Night at Crown! Yes, it's the first THURSDAY not Friday this month. We are also collecting items for the Wicomico County Humane Society. There is a list of needed items on our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages if you would like to participate with us.



Souper Bowl of Caring

Yes! It is that time again. Time to get our fabulous Souper Store out of the basement and raise some funds to support Salisbury Urban Ministries' Lazarus Food Pantry. They have asked for monetary donations again this year due to the extra volunteers it would take to sort the product donations. We will have the Store set up in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall on Sunday 1/30, 2/6, and 2/13. We would love to see you in person but you can also mail a donation to the church with the check made out to Salisbury Urban Ministries and Souper Bowl of Caring in the memo line.



Brooke Christensen

Director of Youth and Family Ministries



Wesley Foundation

What is the Wesley Foundation?

The short answer is that we are the United Methodist presence on SU's campus and we are housed at Asbury. A slightly more interesting answer is that we are **aspiring** to be an anti-racist and LGBTQ+ affirming space for the church curious, church questioning and church loving student. I emphasize "aspiring" because we might not all be in the same place and that's ok. Not sure if you're on board with our aspirations? This is a great place for questions and GENTLE discussion.

So what are we up to?

Bible Study

Sunday mornings on the Fellowship Hall Lobby couches at 12:00pm there is a Young Adult Bible Study led by SU student Joseph Hayden. There is always an interesting discussion and I make sure we always have snacks! Who is a Young Adult? Generally, anyone over 18 can be a "young adult," we would love for you to join us!

Wesley Wednesday

This semester we are starting a once a month gathering on the Third Wednesday, or rather Wesley Wednesday! Our Wesley Wednesday event for February will be a Game Night at Asbury. Joseph and I are also going to be passing out hot chocolates around campus on February 8 and 15 so if you're around say hi and enjoy a sweet treat!

–Brooke

Asbury Service Project Update



Flexibility (adj) 1. Capable of being bent, usually without breaking. 2. Willing or disposed to yield; pliable. The ASP experience, and the trip in particular, demands flexibility. A project to replace flooring turns into floor joist replacements. Removing shingles for a roof job reveals rotten sheathing and rafters, which require immediate attention. A planned spot for a wheelchair ramp post is discovered to have a water pipe running through it. And so it goes; we make plans and then figure out how to adapt to the situation.

Such is the case for most of our lives these past two years. We were blessed to have the opportunity to resume pancake breakfasts in November and December, only to pump the brakes in January due to the latest surge. We are most grateful for our church family's support at the two breakfasts and look forward to serving you once again when the surge abates.

In the meantime, we continue to prepare dinners for the Christian Shelter once each month and plan to resume wheelchair ramp builds in partnership with Chesapeake Housing Mission in the spring. Ramp builds are scheduled for:

March 19

April 9

May 7

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

Spiritual Formation and Membership

COMMITMENT
CONNECT
COMMUNITY
CHRIST



Dear Faith Family,

In the near future Asbury will be offering 4X4 groups as a way to help us commit to connecting in community and Christ. “Fellowship” is a churchy word that means being together, AKA fellowship. Fellowship was our spiritual practice for January—well, at least making a commitment to fellowship in the coming months. Because of COVID concerns, we are going to keep the sign-ups open for the 4x4s a bit longer. Please refer to the Dec/Jan issue of the Asburian or contact Kristen if you missed the details. More to come!



We can totally multi-task, so while we continue signing up for 4x4s, we are going to move on to February’s spiritual practice: The Daily Examen. This is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God’s presence and discern God’s direction for us. The Examen is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God’s hand at work in our whole experience.

I have included one example for you (at right) and I am including another more visual approach (at the Welcome Centers). There are various forms of this and much helpful information—if you would like to receive weekly emails and reminders in February, please email kristen@asburyweb.org. There will also be an opportunity to chat with others who practiced this to share our stories, challenges, and victories in community. Make the commitment to spend this focused, daily time with God in the month of February. Let’s build up our spiritual muscles!

On the journey with you,

Kristen

Membership News



Mary Mitchell was welcomed into Asbury’s membership on November 28, 2021. She attends the CAYR worship service and we are excited to get to know her better. Please give her a warm Asbury “hello” when you see her!

Here is a little bit from Mary:

I began attending Asbury United Methodist Church about 2 years ago. It was welcoming and I began to feel a connection that was missing for several years. Becoming a member was an affirmation of my spiritual journey. I strive to deepen and grow my relationship with God and with others. My hope is to live my life with purpose and to share my spiritual gifts in a meaningful way.

Welcome Mary!

United Methodist Women

Circle Meetings:

Dorcas – Susan Cropper

Dorcas will meet on Tuesday, February 8 at 10 AM in the Mackey Room. Mark your calendars and hope to see you then.

Joanna – Carol Bisker

Joanna will meet on Monday, February 14 at 10AM at the home of Carol Bisker to work on cards for church.

Eve - Amy Cropper

Circle will meet at Kristin West's house on Wednesday, February 16 at 7:15 PM.

Deborah - Maggie Fulkrod

Deborah Circle meets the last Tuesday of the month--this month February 22 from 6:30-8 PM at the church. All women are welcome. Contact Maggie Fulkrod: mfulkrod1@verizon.net.

UMW Annual Tea Review

The annual UMW Tea was a success. The entertainment, food, and fellowship heightened our holiday spirit! Our UMW Woman of the Year was announced.

The entertainment was provided by Salisbury University vocal students under the direction of Dr. John Wesley Wright. Their program, entitled "Christmas on Broadway" was performed in the sanctuary and the talent of each performer was awe inspiring!

Food was provided by our UMW circle members – it was delicious! The SU students even got to take some treats home – needless to say, they were thrilled.

UMW Board Members for 2022 were introduced and each member was presented a white rose. The board members are: President: Laura Crum; Vice President: Ruth Campbell; Secretary: Ashley Plotz; Treasurer: Tracy Locke; Missions: Brooke Madruga; Membership: Connie Boccia.





New Circle Members were welcomed. **Circle Eve:** *Jessie O' Sheild, Stephanie Price, Kelly Taylor*; **Circle Deborah:** *Coleen Moscov, Katy Jennings, Danialle Kenny.*

A memorial tribute for Joan Hansen, who passed in 2021, was given with the lighting of a candle in her honor.



We ended the tea with a very special presentation to OUR UMW WOMAN of the YEAR: Tracy Locke. Tracy was nominated and selected for her

outstanding volunteer work at Asbury. Congratulations, Tracy! Tracy's husband and mother surprised her as she received her flower bouquet and award.

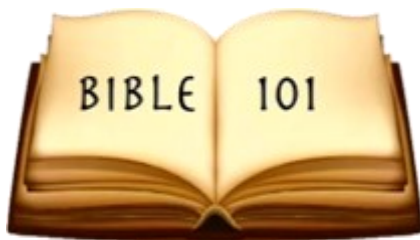
Open Hearts Open Minds

Greetings to Sponsored Ugandan Child



For over five years, the Open Hearts Open Minds class has sponsored an at-risk child in Uganda. Her name is Grace and she's been receiving services via Covenant Mercies. Due to the pandemic and poor access to vaccines, the school for Grace has been in shut down mode. Although Covenant Mercies has been trying to keep the education of these children (and feeding) going, doing so without the schools opened is far more challenging than here in the U.S. Covenant Mercies took letters to the children last month, so OHOM sent this photo of encouragement from our congregation to her and her family. Please pray for Grace and the other children and families in her village of Kiburara.

BIBLE 101 is now studying...



THE BOOK of JUDGES that is found in the Old Testament of The HOLY BIBLE.

We are discovering that GOD can use "anti-heroes" to carry out his work! One commentator writes, "the Book of Judges is embarrassing.... it is so earthy, so puzzling—in a word, so strange...." Yet the Bible 101 class at Asbury is pushing ahead!!

JUDGES is a story about God's chosen people drifting away from God and worshipping other gods of their neighbors. God responds by withdrawing his protection. Then they lose all their battles and become oppressed. We read in Judges that "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes"

Can this apply today?

Everyone is welcome to come. We have a large group of all ages, come and join us!

Asbury News

The Opportunity Shop

The shop has resumed normal operating hours:

Donations

Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 - 10:30am and Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00am - 1:00pm.

Shopping

Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00am - 1:00pm.

Please ensure than all donations are in GENTLY USED, GOOD CONDITION - clean, odor/smoke free, no rips, stains or pet hair, and equipment must be in good, working condition. Tax receipts are available.



Salisbury Urban Ministries



The Souper Bowl Challenge will be held on Sunday, February 13. We encourage our local churches and organizations to collect **monetary** donations to support the Lazarus Food Pantry.

It takes a large group of volunteers and staff to sort food donations. This year we are asking for monetary donations to help reduce the spread of the virus among our volunteers and staff. **Thank you for your continued support.**

In 2021 The Lazarus Food Pantry:

- ◆ Served on average 111 households (*many visited the pantry on a monthly basis*)
- ◆ The Pantry's food purchase value totaled \$13,971
- ◆ The Pantry staff and volunteers distributed 2791 bags of food

For additional information, please contact Salisbury Urban Ministries, 410-749-1563.

Salisbury Urban Ministries serves and ministers to the needs of materially impoverished people in our community.



Troop 421 News



Troop 421 continues to meet Thursday nights at the Scout house. These meetings included: preparing for Klondike, working on the Photography and American Cultures merit badges, and celebrating the holidays. The scouts have signed up for Summer Camp at Henson and Merit Badge College at UMES. December's campout was held at Colonial Williamsburg, and January's campout will be the Klondike competition at Henson Scout Reservation.

Debbie Dinkel
Scoutmaster Troop 421

February Altar Guild



Connie Boccia, *Chair*
Sara Lewis
Jean Laws



Church Announcements



MEMORIALS

Dana Kennan
M.W. & Barrie Tilghman, Jr.

Bob Shade
Bruce & Ellen Smith

Lawrence Staton
Bill & Shirley Cropper
Kenneth & Cheryl Valentine
R. Stanley & Faye Collier, Jr.

Jane Twilley
Sue & Robert Simms

FEBRUARY MEETINGS			
Date	Day	Time	Meeting
2	Wed	7:00pm	SPRC
8	Tue	12 Noon	Board of Trustees
9	Wed	7:00pm	Leadership Team
10	Thu	5:30pm	Finance Committee
22	Tue	10:00am	Altar Guild
23	Wed	7:00pm	UMW
<p><i>*** Meetings are subject to change, please check with church office for verification of date, time and location.</i></p> <p><i>* All meetings will be held in the Library, unless other arrangements are made.***</i></p>			

****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:

Rev. Genevieve Jones Brown

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*

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