

THE ASBURY NEWSLETTER

Sunday Services

9:00 AM: Contemporary
11:00 AM: Traditional
10:00 AM: Combined Service on
5th Sundays

With Rev. Julie A. Lewis

Sharing God's Love in Our Community

Sunday Programs

9:00 AM: Sunday School for ages
2 - 18
9:00 AM: Nursery Available
9:30 AM: Adult Sunday School
4:30- 6:30 PM: Youth Group for
grades 5 - 12



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An Autumn Reminder

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word
of our God will stand forever.”

Isaiah 40:8

From the Desk of Rev. Julie A. Lewis

Dear Friends and Family of Asbury UMC,

Fall has finally arrived and everywhere we see signs for pumpkin spice and other fall specific goodies like apple cider and apple donuts! It's also the time we know that winter is on the way and we will soon be trying to stay warm and hope that snow comes only lightly.

We don't always get what we want though, do we? We talk about our hopes for a lot of snow or not too much (depending on our own desires) but the truth is we can't make it snow or not snow. God is the one who has the ultimate say. We might talk about global warming making the patterns go askew and there is probably some truth to that as well, but we can't really change a thing and we just have to deal with what we're given.

The same is true in life. We don't know what the day, month or year will bring. We can have our hopes and dreams but in the long run, we can't change what happens to us or keep challenges from coming our way. So what do we do? Well, the first and best thing to do is pray. We have the wonderful ability to pray to the God who created all things and who can change what is going on. Second, we trust that no matter what happens, God is there with us through it all. God will never leave or forsake us and that is his promise to each one of us.

We don't know if the situation will change but we can rely on God who loves us unconditionally and walks with us through even the darkest moments of our lives. Things might seem overwhelming right now with the price of gas, inflation, financial uncertainty, a war that doesn't look like its going to end any time soon, or whatever you might be facing today, but we have a God who is more powerful, more loving and compassionate than anything we face. Together, we can get through any challenge simply by following Christ, drawing on the power of the Holy Spirit and trusting God has it all handled. Go forth in grace. Rejoice that God is king over all and that Jesus is with us by the Holy Spirit no matter where we go or what the weather in reality and in our lives looks like. We will stand on a firm foundation of faith.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Julie A. Lewis

Mission Team News

Mission of the Month

The team chooses local, national and international projects to support.

Coming Soon: October: Smyrna Community Thanksgiving Dinner; November: Warriors Helping Warriors; December: Mosaic Gift Cards and Joy Boxes. We depend on your generous donations to assist these programs.

Pecometh Disaster Fund

We are making a donation to the Pecometh disaster fund and if anyone in congregation is interested in helping you can send a donation to the church and put *Pecometh Disaster Fund* in the Memo Line.

Blessing and Personal Care Boxes

We make Food and Personal Care products available 24/7 to local residents. You can help by donating items. See Penny Carney for a list.

Mosaic

Houses disabled residents at two Mosaic homes in Smyrna.

Red Bird Mission Trip

This week long Mission trip to Kentucky will be May 1-7.
Mark your calendar and prayerfully consider joining the team this year.

HOPP

The Harvest Outreach People Project.

After prayerful consideration, the HOPP team decided to discontinue our participation in this project. We are exploring other food projects to participate in. Ideas? Let us know!

Senior Helper Program

This project was created to help our congregation and local neighbors that we care by helping with small tasks that some seniors and disabled cannot do for themselves - change a light bulb, put batteries in a smoke detector, hang blinds, fix a door knob. . . . You can volunteer to be a Helper or you can use the service. Flyers are available at the info center.

JOY Boxes

Christmas will be here before you know it and we will be working with the Smyrna School District and several other churches and organizations to provide gift boxes/bags to students in need. Student ages will be available November.

What's Your Mission?

What are you called to do to spread God's love?

You are invited to join the Mission Team or help with one mission. Contact Lisa Harshberger. 302-943-1075 or the church office.

Children's Ministries

Sunday School

Sunday School Recognition Sunday will take place on Sunday, October 18, 2026. The Children's Sunday School will be celebrated during the 9 am Service. The teachers will be recognized. A covenant service will take place. Bibles will be presented to third graders and 364 Bible Stories will be presented to first graders. The Adult Sunday School class will be celebrated at the 11 am Service. Please take part in recognizing these awesome volunteers.

Can You Play a Part in the Children's Ministry?

Volunteers are needed to staff the 2 year old through Kindergarten Sunday School class. A co-teacher is needed for the middle school/high school class. If you have a Sunday a month to volunteer or can make the commitment for September through May, please contact Wanda Foltz, Children's Ministry Director. Questions are welcome!



Trunks of Treats

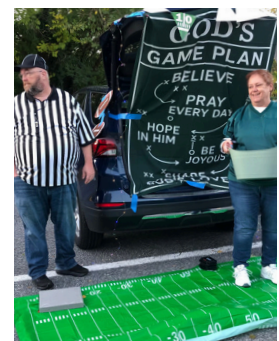
October 31st

6-8 pm

Asbury Parking Lot



Decorated Cars are needed to participate in Asbury's Trunks of Treats. If you would like to join in on this community event, please contact Wanda Foltz. Not feeling creative, Wanda can help you out with ideas or actual decorations. Come join in on the fun!



Youth Group

Updates

Sunday Youth Group group has resumed! All 5th- 12th graders are welcome to joins us on Sundays from 4:30-6:30.

Plans are being made for the youth to attend the UMC National Youth Rally in Dallas, TX in July of 2027. Keep a lookout for fundraisers throughout the year to help get them there!



26/27 ASBURY YOUTH IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 27 th , 4:30 -7 PM	Bingo Night
Oct. 11 th , 9:30-11:00 AM (Between Services)	Pot pie sale pickup
Oct. 18 th , 3 - 8 PM	Bonfire night @ Camp Pecometh
Nov.	Taking cookie dough orders
Nov. 1 st & 29 th	NO YOUTH GROUP (Happy Thanksgiving)
Dec. 20 th & 27 th	NO YOUTH GROUP (Merry Christmas)
Dec. (Date & Time TBA)	Cookie dough sale pickup
Dec. 13 th , 4:30 -7:30 PM	Christmas Party
Jan. 3 rd	NO YOUTH GROUP
Jan. (Date & Time TBA)	Pats Select Pizza Night
Jan. 22 nd - 24 th (No Youth Group)	Youth Rally
Feb. 14 th , 8:30-11:15 AM (No Youth Group)	Soup-er Bowl Can Drive
Feb. 9 th , 4 - 7:30 PM	Pancake Supper
Mar. 28 th	No Youth Group (Happy Easter)
Mar. 5 th , 4-8 PM & March 6 th , 9 AM - 1 PM	Egg Making
Mar. 14 th & 21 st , 9:30-11:00 AM (Between Services)	Distributing Eggs
Apr. (Date & Time TBD)	Marmy's Night
May 9 th	No Youth Group (Happy Mother's Day)
May 22 nd - 23 rd , 7 PM - 9 AM	End of Year Party Lock In
May (Various Dates & Times as Desired/ Needed)	Yardwork
July 10 th - 15 th (Exact Dates & Times TBA)	National Youth Rally Dallas, TX

Orders due by 10/4/26

Pie pickup will be 10/11/26 between services

Enjoy a warm from-scratch meal as the cold season approaches!

Chicken Pot Pies

Help Asbury Youth make it to the National Youth Rally in Dallas, TX this summer by supporting our brand new pot pie sale! The youth will be honoring Kristen McCracken by using her recipe to make delicious personal pot pies that are 5 1/4 inches each!

To order, stop by Asbury's Info center and grab an order form or email Michelle.Wilson.Youth@gmail.com

\$8.00 PER PIE 4 PIES FOR **\$30.00**

Vegetarian option available!

Get your pot pie orders in & be on the lookout for cookie dough sale forms in early November!

Finances

**** WE NEED YOUR ATTENTION! ****

Since COVID Funds ran out during the pandemic, our budget has been falling short with what is being given by about \$50,000 per year and we have been using the Endowment Fund to make up the difference. This cannot continue as we will use up that fund within the next couple of years. We, also, have had substantial building repairs that have been funded by the Capital Fund that are also part of the Endowment Fund.

In looking at our budget, there are really no cuts we can make as everything either pays staff or provides utilities and needed services. We need to find a way to move forward into the future to preserve our church community and we are asking for your help.

On **October 25th** , we will have **one combined service at 10 am with a catered luncheon** after the service. We are asking everyone available to attend to discuss those needs and to brainstorm some ideas to help before our Endowment Funds run out.

At this luncheon, we will also be discussing the Executive Leadership Team's proposal to sell the parsonage after Pastor Julie leaves Asbury. This will be voted on during our **Charge Conference on Sunday, November 15th after the 11 am worship service.**

Please join us. We are in this together and we know that God will find a way. It may be you that has the idea that God will use. Thank you for all you do and all your giving. We are blessed by every person who walks through our doors. Let us figure this out together.

Help us save energy . . . and money!
Turn off the lights when you leave a room! Thanks

Bazaar / Kitchen Update

Future of the Bazaar

The Asbury volunteers most involved with the Bazaar for the past few years met recently to discuss the future of the Bazaar and believe that it has become too much work for too few volunteers to justify continuing it as it has been in the past. We have tried for the last few years to rally volunteer support, but the results did not match the volume of work involved in the weeks leading up to, and the day of, the event. We noted that the traditional Bazaar date in November used to be a school and state holiday, but it is not any longer, which has resulted in fewer volunteers, lower attendance / support. Also, other community events have crowded the November calendar.

Instead, we discussed having several 1-day, limited-menu events, outside of the busy holiday season:

- **1x monthly Jan - April, on a Saturday, takeout only.** We could do soups, chicken and dumplings, maybe crabcakes... but only one or a few each time.

In addition to the kitchen work, volunteers would still be needed to take preorders and collect \$\$ in advance, or manage an app to do that part of the logistics.

We also discussed the possibility of hosting a Community Yard Sale at AFP in the Spring (as an alternative to what used to be the White Elephant Table at the Bazaar)

- We could rent / offer tables, invite food trucks, ect.
- People who bring things would take away anything unsold .



More to come! We need a champion to further envision / develop ideas. Please let Helen in the office know if you're interested in being involved with either of these possibilities!

Liberian Egg Project

When Bishop Samuel J. Quire, Jr. was elected Resident Bishop in 2017, his administration identified agriculture and agribusiness as its second highest priority, following evangelism and spiritual growth. Guided by this vision, the United Methodist Rural and Agriculture Development Program (UMRADP) developed a project entitled **“Sustainable Egg Production and Marketing Enterprise.”** The proposal was submitted to Asbury United Methodist Church in Smyrna, Delaware, USA, between April and May 2025 and was subsequently approved for funding.

Dr. Tolbert G. Nyenswah, Lay Leader of the Liberia Annual Conference and a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, played a key role in advocating for and facilitating support for this initiative. The Liberia Annual Conference expresses its sincere gratitude to Pastor Julie Lewis, Senior Pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church, and the entire Asbury congregation for their generosity, partnership, and unwavering commitment to making this transformative project a reality.

To launch the initiative, Asbury United Methodist Church provided seed funding of US\$5,810.00, which was transferred to the Liberia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. The project has been implemented under the leadership of Mr. Ezekiel Tye Freeman, Director of UMRADP, Liberia Annual Conference.

On 3 July 2026, Bishop Samuel J. Quire, Jr., Resident Bishop of the Liberia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, officially blessed and commissioned the sale of fresh poultry eggs produced at the United Methodist Church Poultry Farm in White Plains, Montserrado County, Liberia.

This occasion marks a major milestone in fulfilling the Church’s vision of promoting sustainability, food security, and self-reliance through agricultural enterprise development. By investing in poultry production and other income-generating initiatives, UMRADP is strengthening livelihoods, creating economic opportunities, and enhancing the long-term well-being of individuals and communities across the Liberia Annual Conference.

As the project continues to grow, it stands as a testament to what can be achieved through visionary leadership, faithful stewardship, and strong partnerships. It also demonstrates the Church’s commitment to integrating faith with practical initiatives that improve the lives of its members and surrounding communities.

We give thanks to Almighty God for His abundant blessings and pray for the continued success, expansion, and lasting impact of this important initiative.

Asbury Bulletin Board: News, Notes, & Needs

Charge Conference

Asbury UMC's Charge Conference will be Sunday, November 15th, after the 11 am worship service. This is the annual business meeting of the church where members vote on the budget, the pastor's salary and the Leadership slate for 2027. It is important for everyone to be there as we will also vote on using Endowment Funds to make up for any shortfalls in the budget as well as voting to sell the parsonage when Pastor Julie leaves Asbury. Every member has a voice and a vote. Non-members can come and ask questions but cannot vote. We hope to see everyone there at this important meeting. A pot luck lunch will be provided.



Happy 100th Birthday Nell Baker!

Vernon is Retiring!

Our custodian of many, many years, Vernon Berghorn, will be retiring at of October 31 st . We are currently interviewing for a replacement and will hire one soon. We are also planning a retirement good-bye for Vernon and will share those details when we get them in place. If you see him, please thank him for his years of service and wish him well.

Lay Academy

The Lay Academy will be held at Asbury on Oct. 9 and 10. Pastor Julie will be teaching a class.

Asbury Bulletin Board: News, Notes, & Needs

Delaware Shines

A press conference was held by the Governor at Asbury on Sept. 1. Despite the heat, it was a wonderful, well-attended event. It was a great opportunity to recognize Asbury as well as the exciting partnerships with Energize DE and Paradise Energy Solutions to install the solar panels.



A Note from our Director of Communications:

We Need Content!

When you are attending or hosting church events please take pictures and videos and send them to Teresa @ communications.asbury@gmail.com. This helps with social media engagement and will hopefully increase excitement and turn-out for future events!

Upcoming Events

- The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Oct. 7
- Safe Sanctuaries CPR training will be held on Oct. 13th at 6pm

New Young Adult Group!

A New Young Adult group is being started! The first meeting will be on Sunday, October 11th at 7pm in the Youth Room downstairs. Contact Michelle @ Michelle.Wilson.Youth@gmail.com for additional info, or just show up!

Follow Us on Social Media



*@Asbury United Methodist
Church Smyrna*

<https://www.facebook.com/share/18UCovyfqZ/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



@Asbury_umc_smyrna

https://www.instagram.com/asbury_umc_smyrna?igsh=YzB4bGZmZjlhbDRn

Follow us on Facebook for updates of what is going on in the Church and community as well as daily scriptures and prayer items posted each morning at sunrise.

Daily devotion “method” is part of what it means to be a Methodist!

Stay in Touch

(302) 653-1798

AsburyUMCsmyrna@gmail.com

WWW.AsburySmyrnaUMC.org

Facebook: @Asbury United Methodist Church
Smyrna

Instagram: @asbury_umc_smyrna

YouTube: @AsburySmyrna-UMC

20 W Mt Vernon St.

Smyrna, DE 19977

“Sharing God’s Love in Our Community”

