



The Announcer

September 2020

Our Vision is to be the church that displays the love of Christ and connects with people of all walks of life through our ministry, creative services, discipleship and outreach.

Our Mission is to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and share God's love with others.

Lectionary Readings

September 6, 2020 [Green]

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149 or Psalm 148 (UMH 861)

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 20, 2020 [Green]

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78 (UMH 799)

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

September 13, 2020 [Green]

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 (UMH 135)

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 27, 2020 [Green]

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (UMH 799)

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

Welcome Back to Asbury!

Sunday, September 6, 2020

Socially Distancing Service- Masks are required

The message will continue to be available on YouTube





September Birthdays

02	Lorraine Giangiulio
12	Brendan Linarello
14	Autumn Hudson
20	Linda Keenan
30	Bill Eliasson

Bible Study

Before the COVID-19 hiatus we started our new study of the Great Figures of the New Testament". It is presented by Professor Amy-Jill Levine of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School. She will be discussing well-known individuals such as Pontius Pilate, James, and Philip but also important groups and individuals who are not specified by name such as the Centurions, the woman at the well, the shepherds, and others. Professor Levine deftly discusses details of the person from the perspectives of the Biblical stories, culture, and literary criticism, how the church has viewed the person through history, and how artists and worshippers have viewed them. Probably one of the most fascinating aspects of the course is how she brings their personalities to life based on how they spoke, acted, or reacted within the confines of their culture. Some of the many figures discussed include Elizabeth and Zechariah, John the Baptist, Joseph, Mary and Martha, Lazarus, the Samaritan woman, Pharisees and Sadducees, Thomas, James, John, Judas Iscariot, Stephen, Philip, Paul, and Jesus.

Bill Gildea is serving as the facilitator of this class. Because of his extensive knowledge of ancient history, he is able to offer additional information to expand on the lectures, which adds a great deal to our understanding.

We start at 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship area.

Please join us when we resume the study in the future.

Committee Meetings

The Trustees meet the second Monday of the month via Zoom. Church Council meets the third Monday via Zoom. If you have any questions, suggestions or building concerns, these are the meetings to address them. Both committee meetings are open to the congregation, although voting privileges are limited to committee members. **If there is a change in either schedule an announcement is usually made in church the preceding Sunday.**

Women's Group Meeting

The Women's Group will not be meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Please plan to join the group when the meetings resume for their continuing study of the 21 Questions that John Wesley and his small group at Oxford would ask each other.

Please bring a bag lunch.

Meetings will be announced at our worship service and in "The Announcer."

Student Update

Congratulations to Nick Semon and Faith Myers for making the Dean's List for their first year. Please continue praying for them as they move into their second year at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA.

NAHS Graduate

James "Jamie" York graduated in June from Norristown Area High School and the Central Montgomery County Vo- Tech School after studying the Automotive course. Jamie is the son of Debbie and Sonny York and the brother of Rachel.

His grandparents are Theresa and Robert York of North Carolina and Phil Killian and the late Sandy Killian.

His "G" (his name for Grandmother Sandy) was surely watching and smiling down on him, celebrating a job well done.

Ginny Williamson is his proud great aunt!

Thanks

As we return to in sanctuary services, we need to thank everyone involved in Asbury’s virtual services. A big thank you to all of the readers. We enjoyed hearing and seeing members of our church family. Another big thank you to the production team. Providing the musical backdrop, Jeff Shephard, editing by Paul Shephard and lighting by Rev. William Shephard. Also, thanks to Rev. Shephard for his prayers. Finally, many thanks to our own You Tube star, Pastor Carlotta. Your messages were deeply appreciated during our physical time apart. Spiritually we remained the Asbury Family.



Eastern Pennsylvania United Methodist Conference Staff Changes

The Eastern PA Conferences’ four districts will share two full-time District Resource Assistants (DRAs), plus additional part-time staff, as of September 1. The cost-saving, efficiency move follows the departure August 31 of Michael Yancey as East DRA and North DRA Sheri Kentner’s announcement of plans to retire December 31. Kristin Reifsnnyder will serve as DRA for the East and West districts. New DRA Deb Boyd will serve the North and South districts. Kentner will work as a General Resource Assistant until her retirement in December. She will have specific projects and also help the two continuing DRAs prepare to serve two districts each in their new working arrangement.

Each district will also have a part-time clerical staff assistant to handle phone calls, email, filing and other basic tasks for 10 hours a week. Christina Collazo will continue to serve the North District part-time with an increase to 10 hours a week. The conference will also hire one 10-hour-a-week clerical assistant for the South District, and one to serve both the East and West districts at 20 hours per week combined. All district offices are now located at the Conference Office in Valley Forge

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Office Information

Mailing Address

Eastern PA UMC
Attention: East District
P.O. Box 820
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820

Physical Address

980 Madison Avenue
Norristown, PA 19403

Telephone Number

610-666-9090 Extension 1500

Installation Service For District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III

Sunday, September 27, 2020

4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Montgomery Square United Methodist Church
1900 County Line Rd, North Wales, PA 19454

The service will be live streamed and in-person. Meet and welcome our new East District Superintendent

2020 Charge Conferences

This year, Charge Conferences for the East District will begin on September 1st, and end by December 19th. Dr. Foster will be meeting the majority of churches individually. Asbury is scheduled to meet via Zoom on Monday, **October 5, 2020 at 7:00pm.**

Charge Conference documents **MUST** be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the charge conference.

One hour before the meeting time, the SPRC (or equivalent committee) will meet with Dr. Foster.

Charge Conference Documents and Instructions

Step-by-step instructions for using Google Drive to submit forms

Cabinet to lead Conference Prayer Meetings



Prayer Meetings Online

Eastern PA Conference's half-hour prayer meetings, held on Tuesdays at noon by video-chat on Zoom, will welcome a special cadre of prayer leaders in September. The conference Cabinet was invited to take the lead by the Rev. David Piltz, creator, coordinator and host of the ministry, and they accepted.

Piltz, who also leads Young People's Ministries for the conference, as well as being a campus minister at Drexel University and the new pastor of Valley Forge UMC, started the weekly prayer sessions in April, as the current Coronavirus pandemic was growing. Bishop Peggy Johnson is a frequent attendee, as well as other conference leaders and local church laity and pastors.

Now she and her appointive Cabinet, and new Connectional Ministries Director the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, will become guest-hosts over the next two months. Piltz hopes their spiritual leadership in this forum will draw more participants from their individual districts and beyond, and also add new, diverse voices and styles of prayer to the overall experience. It may even lead to inviting more guest hosts in the future.

Here is the upcoming schedule of Cabinet Prayer Leaders:

Sept. 1 Rev. Steve Morton, North District Superintendent

Sept. 8 Bishop Peggy Johnson

Sept. 15 Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Director of Connectional Ministries

Here is the Zoom access information:

<https://epaumc.zoom.us/j/591129374?pwd=dElpMUdVd09VTTBoRDZxTm9zejVqdz09>

Meeting ID: 591 129 374

Or Call in: +1 646 558 8656

WWWT? What Would Wesley Think?

Originally posted on the UMC website on July 30, 2020 by Glenn A. Wagner from the Michigan Conference

What would the founder of the world Methodist movement, that touches the lives millions of people globally and in the United States, say if he could be called upon to offer his advice today to United Methodists during a deadly pandemic?

Wesley response:

John Wesley was no stranger to upsetting circumstances. Wesley remembered the fire in February of 1709 when, at the age of five, he was rescued from the burning parsonage of the St. Andrews Anglican Church in Epworth, England. His father Samuel served as rector there for 40 years. John was saved in a dramatic rescue from the flaming upper floor. It happened after previous failed attempts to rescue him prompted an emergency family prayer for his survival and, brave onlookers made an impromptu human ladder by balancing on each other's shoulders to reach John just in time. His parents reminded John that he was "a brand plucked from the burning." Wesley learned under challenging circumstances to look for the presence of God amid each trial.

Plagues that caused massive loss of life were also a remembered part of life in England at the time of Wesley. In response to recurrent epidemics of bubonic plague, authorities in London instituted the tradition of publishing a Bill of Mortality each week. The "Great Plague of London," which hit the city in the summer of 1665, is estimated to have killed between 75,000 and 100,000 Londoners (out of a total population of about 460,000). This Bill of Mortality was still being published in 1723 while John Wesley was a student at Oxford and he noted in a letter home that an outbreak of smallpox took the life of one of his university classmates.[1]

Because of his conviction that healthy living is assisted by responsible life choices made in gratitude to God, John Wesley studied and shared the latest information about ways persons can work to maintain good personal health. His book, "Primitive Physic," promoted healthy habits. I believe Wesley would concur with medical doctors who advise safe practices for the sake of all during this pandemic. Wesley's three simple rules, which include, ***Do all the good you can, Love God, and Do no harm*** are still sound guides for personal and congregational practice.

John Wesley is also remembered for his willingness to adapt his leadership for the sake of the gospel in a period of great change.

Based on Wesley's own experience dealing with public health issues, unexpected conflict, and changing global circumstances, it is clear from John Wesley's writings that he would counsel the importance of unity. I believe Wesley would promote a non-partisan commitment to the gospel of peace, while at the same time embracing changes that may be needed.

John Wesley would have empathy for the enormous suffering caused by this pandemic but would prayerfully observe with gratitude how the coronavirus is also creating a new opportunity for the church to be in ministry. I believe John Wesley would affirm the way that the internet today is carrying the gospel message to new people. John Wesley would also realize that if a virtual meeting is required to sustain the church safely in troubled times, he would be first to use ZOOM for the sake of Christ's mission.

Notes:

[1] Gill, Frederick, editor, *Selected Letters of John Wesley*, Philosophical Library, New York 1956 pg. 2



Asbury Community Out Reach Projects

Forteniters Toiletries Collection

The "Toiletries Box" in the Pine Street vestibule is an adjunct to the annual dinner. There is an on-going need for grooming products which can be distributed to the group's members. These personal grooming items include: combs, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, shaving cream, shampoo, deodorant, emery boards, nail files and clippers, bobby pins, chap stick, bar soap, hand and body lotion, talcum powder, etc., (but no nail polish, that would require an acetone based remover.) THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS THAT NONE OF THE PRODUCTS CONTAIN ALCOHOL. If you have any questions as to whether a certain product is suitable or not, speak with Linda or John Keenan before you make the purchase.



Just a reminder...

Be sure to check the expiration dates on the the Salvation Army Food Pantry donations.

The Salvation Army Choice Food Pantry Collection

Thanks to everyone who continues to donate to this ongoing outreach project. Please continue to help fill the "Choice Food Pantry" shelves. Deliveries are made on Mondays, as the pantry is open on Tuesday by appointment only. This outreach project was started by the Women's Group in November 2015.

Items Needed

Peanut Butter and Jelly
Cereal- Boxes or Bags
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Boxed Mac and Cheese
Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Pasta or Rice
Hamburger or Tuna Helper
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Juice
Toilet Paper / Paper Towels
Baby Food and Diapers- all sizes
Napkins
Liquid Laundry Detergent
(Unscented)
Toiletry Items

Canned Items

Soups- Stews- Fruit-Vegetables
Tuna (packed in water)
Recyclable shopping bags

The deadline for the next Announcer is September 15, 2020

Email items to Cynthia at cyntober@aol.com.

Please include "Announcer" in the subject line.

Church Contact Information

Email- churchadmin@asbury-unitedmethodist.org

Address- 1441 Pine St., Norristown, PA 19401

Telephone- 610-272-1233

Email- churchadmin@asbury-unitedmethodist.org

Address- 1441 Pine St., Norristown, PA 19401