

# Asbury Connection

February 2017

Pastor Jeff Flagg

**A big thank you to all who financially supported the church in 2016!** We took on a big project in buying the bus to support our ministry plans. I have to admit that by the time December rolled around I was very worried about finances. We finished the year \$1150 dollars to the good, so thank you so much for your support.



We have been blessed the last few Sunday's with a growing number of youth & young families. I believe this is a direct result of Jennifer's work & the support you provide to her ministry & the vision of the church. Jennifer & I often talk about the future ministry of the church & how we can touch the lives of youth in our community. I look forward to seeing what opportunities we will come up with this summer.

United Methodist camps: This year the church will pay 50% of the cost for a person to go to camp. I want to thank the church for that very generous commitment to youth & families. Camping catalogs are now coming out in the mail & the church also has some on hand. If the cost of camp hinders your participation please let me know so I can help find other funding.

**Every committee should make sure they have representation attending Administrative Board Meetings.** Just because the pastor tries to make all committee meetings he is not the spokesperson for those committees. Your voice and vote is important.

**Being a pastor is a very demanding job!** The Book of Discipline that governs The United Methodist Church says this: P351 (2) "A clergy member's continuing education and spiritual growth program should include such leaves...one month during one year of every quadrennium (4years). Such leaves shall not be considered as part of the ministers' vacations and shall be planned in consultation with their charges or other agencies to which they are appointed as well as the bishop, district superintendent, and annual conference continuing education committee." With that being said, I am planning to use the month of July as a time for renewal. I feel this time is needed for my long term sense of well-being as I serve as a pastor. I want to give a big thank you to the SPPRC for their support in this endeavor. I will line up preaching & pastoral support in my absence. Pastor Jeff



Did you know that in the state of Louisiana it is illegal to send a surprise pizza to someone? That in Minnesota it is illegal to drive a vehicle with dirty tires? Or in Connecticut a pickle must bounce to be considered a real pickle? It seems that quite awhile ago some gentleman duped some buyers into buying cucumbers while believing they were pickles. Crazy! And yes, I promise there is a point to these seemingly random pieces of information.

You see, most of these laws are still on the books from decades, maybe centuries ago. For instance, that pickle law has been around since the 1800s. Do you think that most people in the state of Connecticut even know this law exists? My guess would be no. Feel free to check with any friends or family you have there. But while these laws are far from people's minds it does not negate their existence.

We will soon be heading into the season of Lent. The season when we will examine our lives and our relationships with Christ; looking for the ways we can improve upon them. Trying to weed out anything that does not serve God. I know, I wrote a similar thing last year. And the year before...and before...and...well, I have been in professional ministry for more than a decade so you do the math.

But this article from MSN has me looking at Lent in a new light. What if this year, instead of the surface examinations and changes we delve deep. We find those hidden things...those habits or hurts or grievances... that we have forgotten are even there. What if we really sat down, stripped away the protective layers and looked for the hidden pieces that keep us from God? Could you/we come out on Easter morning with a stronger relationship with God? I think so. Am I excited for this new journey? Not in the slightest. But am I willing to get uncomfortable to grow in Christ? Absolutely. And I hope you are willing to join me on this journey.

And, the next time you visit Maryland, make sure you wear sleeves. It has been illegal to wear a sleeveless shirt in that state since 1898. Just thought you should know. Jennifer

# Around ASBURY

★ Information for the March 2017 Newsletter must be received before noon on **Feb 17**.  
The newsletter will mail on Feb 22. ★

May the Lord's love comfort friends & family of: Max Smith, Kenn Anderson (Don Anderson's brother), & Marilyn Hansen (Linda Bibb's mother).

**UDMO Delivery:** Feb—Susan Griffith. March Needed

**Bulletin Delivery** volunteers **NEEDED** for 2017



Welcome to new members Curtis & Kelly Johnson, & their daughters Aubree & Hadlee!

## After-Worship Fellowship Servers

### February

- 5—Gayle Anderson, Dawn Scholtens
- 12—Trudy Anderson, Ann Crosby
- 19—Heather Arnold, Gayle Odland
- 26—Pat Tempel, Carolyn Cross

### March

- 5—Linda Bowers, Claudia Van Diest
- 12—Karol Bonjour, Kathy Hildebrand
- 19—AdraAnn Goettsch, Kathy Theobald
- 26—Hank Witt, Godfredsen family

Thank you to the Asbury Care Team for all the get well cards and visit. And to Pastor Jeff for his visits and prayers while I was in the nursing home. Donna & Melvin Longhenry



### United Methodist Women

The next meeting of the UMW will be Thursday, February 2, at 1:30pm. This is a very important meeting, so please try to attend.  
Colleen Rotschafer

### Kit Changes

This year, there are not many changes to the kits, but the big one is the acceptance of college ruled as well as wide line notebooks. Subject notebooks will also be accepted, but must not be over 270 pages.

Birthing kits are no longer being made. Large bars of soap are still needed for health kits. There is still a need for the motel soaps, lotions & shampoos. We will not be making sewing kits unless someone wants to make a complete kit.

"Zinger" combs, cheap plastic combs, are not acceptable in health kits. There is a cute song on Youtube about "zinger" combs.

Look for clearance & sale items all year. If you have a question on needs, there are lists on the large bulletin board in the narthex. Otherwise contact Pat Rittscher, 832-2470 or Colleen Rotschafer.

### This Little Light

Have you ever wondered about—or noticed—the red lantern hanging in front of the sanctuary?



This Eternal Flame, sometimes called the Altar Lamp or Everlasting Flame, indicates the presence of Christ in the sanctuary as well as belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The red light serves to distinguish it from other lights. It is found in many other churches of different denominations beside Methodist.

**Winter Weather Reminder:** If school is canceled due to bad weather on a day Asbury has evening activities for kids, Asbury activities will be canceled. Word will be spread of any cancelations ASAP via Quick Bits, Facebook, KQWC, KCCI, WHO-TV, & Asbury's answering machine message.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday & Wednesday schedules below			February 1 <u>Fay Layne Scholarship applications due by 4:30</u>	2 *UMW, 1:30pm *Missions, 6:30pm	3	4 Worship, 6pm
5	6	7 Tutoring, 4-7pm	8	9 *Care Team, 11am *SPPRC, 6:30pm	10	11 Worship, 6pm
12	13 Trustees, 6:30pm	14 *Pastor @ Crestview, 9:15a *Pastor @VDMC *Tutoring, 4-7pm *Finance mtg, 7pm	15	16 *Alzheimer support, 4pm *Ad Board, 6:30pm	17 Newsletter info due b4 noon	18 Worship, 6pm
19 District Gathering @ Iowa Falls 1st UMC, 2-4pm	20	21 Tutoring, 4-7pm	22 Newsletter mailed	23 Care Team, 11am	24	25 Worship, 6pm
26	27	28 *Pastor @ Southfield, 9:30a *Tutoring, 4-7pm	March 1	2	3	4 Worship, 6pm

**Each Sunday:**

**Kid's Cereal Bar, 8:30am; Sun. School for all ages, 9am; Worship, 10am; Fellowship for all, 11am; Confirmation, 11:15am**

**Each Wednesday: Man to Man, quarter to 7am; Women on the Walk, 9:30am; Middle School youth group, 3:30-5pm; Meal, 5-6pm; AWANA, 5:30-7pm; Choir practice, 6pm; High School youth group, 6-8pm; Praise Team practice, 6:45pm**

**February Birthdays**

**1**—Ken Bever, Joyce Ferrell, Amy Muller  
**2**—Kathy Swon, Dodie Wolfgram  
**4**—Andrea Draheim, Mark Trueblood, Darleen King  
**5**—Brad Anderson, Cindy Farley, Zach Hassebrock, Brad Hayes, Glenn Tjaden  
**6**—Jessica Kantak, Scott Griswold  
**7**—Garret Johnson, Beth Van Diest  
**8**—Lauren Corrow, Tara Leeper, Casey Kolbeck  
**9**—Cliff Hanson, Mary Hisler  
**10**—Daniel Ayers, Marilyn Middleton, Nathan Moenck

**11**—Karyl Bonjour, Lavern Cross, Janet Jansen, Sierra Steuerwald, Shannon Swon, Misty Ayers, Drew Doolittle  
**13**—Taylor Chamberlin, Linda Smith  
**15**—Caleb Crouthamel, Katie Greenfield, Leonard Rotschafer  
**16**—Dave Stoakes, Sydney Gelder, Reegan Rupiper  
**17**—Chris Mason, Wendi Strunk  
**18**—Sarah Elliott, Collin Holder, Doug Kolbeck, Marvin Gordon  
**19**—Bernadine Bottorff  
**20**—Stephen Mourlam, Steve Butler, Sue Heerema  
**21**—Cindy Bailey, Amy Atchison

**22**—Erin Anderson, Philis Fletchall  
**23**—Gladyce Carlson  
**24**—Ross Keane, Landon Hejlik  
**25**—Lynne Archer, Rose Bennett  
**26**—Cory Keenan  
**27**—Jesse Ahrens, Alys Kehoe, Donna Luhmann, Pauline Ruppel, Peg White, Marilyn Bottorff  
**28**—Doug Bailey

**February Anniversaries**

**Feb 8**—Wilbur & Eleanor Schumaker  
**Feb 19**—Tim & Kathy Anderson  
**Feb 20**—Art & Pat Downard  
**Feb 21**—Harry & Linda Smith  
**Feb 25**—Warren & Arline Snell; Mary Ellen & Troy Draeger

**Fay Layne Scholarship:** High School Seniors going to college can pick up a form in the narthex. Criteria for consideration include regular attendance & participation in Asbury activities. Completed applications must be turned in to the AUMC office by 4:30pm on Wed, Feb 1. No late/incomplete exceptions.

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**Ad Board Minutes, Thursday, November 22, 2016** Leonard Rotschafer called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Pastor Jeff opened with a prayer. Those present were: Colleen & Leonard Rotschafer, Roberta Knutson, Arlo Van Diest, Gayle Anderson, Pastor Jeff, and Jan Faint. Minutes of the last meeting were read. Roberta Knutson moved to accept the minutes as printed. Colleen Rotschafer seconded the motion. Carried.

**Education Committee** report was presented in print. Sunday School has started, Wednesday ministries, high school, middle school and AWANA are running smoothly. December will be a busy month.

**Endowment, Fellowship, Memorial and Missions**—no report.

**Finance**—Gayle Anderson reported there have been \$247,632 in pledges so far; budget is \$433,789. All bills are paid.

**SPPRC**—Roberta Knutson reported it has been a productive year. She reported the position of Administrative Secretary does not meet requirement of salaried person. Roberta moved that the Administrative secretary be paid hourly wage instead of salary. Gayle Anderson seconded. Carried.

**Trustees**—Pastor Jeff reported the Trustees found a 2013 bid for repair of the rubber roof on the bell tower. No one knew of the bid. People who were to do the black topping are still on hold. When the people who took the plexi glass off the window and said needed to repair the whole window, they were told to just put the plexi glass back.

**UMW**—Colleen said they are working on the Cookie Walk on the first Saturday in December. This will be the last Cookie Walk.

**Worship**—Pastor reported that Colby possibly will not be here due to some life changes. Pastor bought regular Advent bulletins for Advent services.

**Old Business**—none.

**New Business**—There have been requests from people wanting to know how the Trustees spend their money. Possibly in January there will be a Trustee report. The organ is still on the list to be repaired.

**Pastor's Report**—Anxious to see where we are at year-end.  
Pastor Jeff closed with prayer. Jan Faint