



The Asbury Update

February 2020

Asbury Memorial
Church
Rev. Billy Hester
Volume 33, Number 2
February 2020

JJ Warren to Guest Preach at AMC Sunday, March 1



The voice of United Methodist youth, JJ Warren, will take to the pulpit at Asbury Memorial on Sunday, March 1, 2020, to preach at the worship service at 11:15am. He will be signing his new book, *Reclaiming Church*, afterwards in the Connection Corner of the Social Hall.

JJ hit the international spotlight last June, when he called the United Methodist General Conference to account for unity through inclusion and love of all God's people. His impassioned short address to the GC can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7dMVbmHMpk&t=73s>

JJ's unexpected rise to fame has elevated the message that LGBTQ youth need a church home and that we all have a role to play in getting the life-giving message of God's abundant love out to those who are thirsting for it.

During this rare Southern appearance, there will be two other opportunities to hear JJ speak in our area. He will be speaking in Statesboro at the Georgia Southern campus on Friday, Feb. 28 at 5:30pm and at the Georgia Southern Armstrong campus in Savannah on Monday, March 2 at 12:30pm. See the promotional card found later in the newsletter for details.

Invite your friends, your family, your neighbors and particularly the young folks in your life to attend these events. Promotional cards will be available soon in the church office to give to folks and post in your favorite haunts.



“BIG” COFFEE HOUR, February 2nd

On the first Sunday of the month, we encourage folks to bring food to share with others at Coffee Hour after the service. Please drop off food items in the kitchen when you arrive at church.

1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401
www.asburymemorial.org
912-233-4351

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Having a Birthday? Call the office at 233-4351
or e-mail us at church@asburymemorial.org.

February

1st Cate Hill-Williams

4th Miller Jump

5th Iris Dayoub

Becca Terrett

Bob Walls

6th Kay Deffley

8th Valori Armstrong

Randy Bolinger

9th Carolyn Lewis

10th Laurie Fahey

Tom Lewis

Grayson West

11th Clara Spivey

12th Danny Beam

13th Ryan Gage

Wendell Hester

Wesley Hester

Judy Jones

14th Phoebe Alley

Mimi Mangrum

Numer

15th Stephen Butler

16th Cindy Hanks

Val Osborn Utsey

17th Zoey Kaar

19th George Enyeart

20th Debra Skinner

21st Kelly Limehouse

Nancy Munoz

22nd Jonathan Byers

23rd Aiden Taylor

24th Sandy McCloud

Pat Vitkis

26th Ernie Lee

27th Ray Sears



February

9th Michael & Harriet Jandrlich

10th Neil & Tina Austing

15th Andy & Sharon Page

19th Dina & Kathy Consentino

20th Pete & Beverly Vasta

23rd Bill & Ann Anderson

28th Mary & Renwick Pulwarty

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers on my recent trip to Sloan Kettering in NY. The nurse struck oil the first time she stuck me with the needle. Hooray!!! I'm a very, very hard stick, so this was nothing short of a miracle. I told her an entire congregation back in Savannah was praying for her. She said, "That's wonderful! I can feel it!"

Even better news than the first-time stick is that my cyst has remained the same size. So I'm good to go for another year!
Billy Hester

**"The opposite of poverty is not wealth.
The opposite of poverty is justice."**
Bryan Stevenson

Asbury Memorial
YOUTH GROUP



Pancake
and Sausage
SUPPER
\$7 a Plate

February 25th

5:45–6:30 pm in the Social Hall
Please sign up with the Church Office

Proceeds benefit the
Youth Summer Mission Trip

Dear Asbury Family,

Our daughter, Colleen Oakley, is an author of women's fiction. We are excited that E. Shaver's Bookstore is sponsoring an author's luncheon for her at The Chatham Club on Wednesday, February 19th. Below is a link for more information about the event and ordering tickets. Please feel free to share this exciting news with any book – loving friends. Hope you can join us!

<https://www.eshaverbooks.com/event/book-signing-and-luncheon-colleen-oakley>

Kathy and Bill Oakley

Dear Church Family,

Around the end of December, the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*, among other papers, ran an article about a new plan that would successfully divide the United Methodist denomination. The way the article was written, it almost sounded like a done deal. The next day, I received about 40 emails from all over the country asking me about it. Last Sunday, I **mentioned to the congregation that nothing is a done deal in our denomination until it's** voted upon at General Conference. And...it's often very difficult to predict what exactly will happen at General Conference.

So in case others of you are wondering...I thought I would share the same news with you. Nothing changes in our denomination until the delegates to General Conference meet and vote in May. Yes, there are leaders who have been meeting and trying to design a plan that could work....just as there have been various other leaders designing other plans. At this point, everything is the same and will be the same until things are voted upon in May.

So Asbury will stay on course with its goal of disaffiliation. If something remarkable happens at General Conference, we will let you know and go from there. But at this point, we're staying on course!

Rev. Billy Hester

“Each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done”

Bryan Stevenson

**Youth Opera International
presents a Winter Concert**

For the Love of Music

**A CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR PIANO AND VOICE
*including works by Brahms, Grieg and Strauss***

Sanford Jones, Pianist Rebecca Flaherty, Soprano
Marvin Keenze, Pianist



**Asbury Memorial Church
Monday, February 3, 2020 7:00-8:30 p.m.
1008 East Henry Street, Savannah, GA**

No RSVP necessary - Admission by donation
Light refreshments served following the program

JOIN US AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!



Wesley
Community
Centers of
Savannah, Inc.

LOVE WALK 2020



"IT'S A LOVE THANG!"

Saturday, February 8, 2020

3.6 mile walk starts at 9:00 a.m.

1601 Drayton Street

Savannah, Georgia 31401

(912) 236-4226

Thanks to a challenge grant, your Love Walk donation will be matched dollar for dollar (up to \$10,000) by an anonymous donor!

www.wesleyctrs-savh.org



Find us on Facebook!

ASBURY MEMORIAL THEATRE

2020 SPRING PRODUCTION

Man of La Mancha

Book: Dale Wasserman
Music: Mitch Leigh
Lyrics: Joe Darion



DIRECTOR TRAVIS SPANGENBURG
MUSIC DIRECTOR WARREN HEILMAN

PERFORMANCES

7:30 pm March 6, 7, 13, and 14 3:00 pm March 8 and 15

GENERAL ADMISSION \$20
\$15 SENIORS 65+ AND GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE
Tickets available online and at the door

Monitored parking available behind the church
(this musical contains some adult content)



1008 East Henry Street, Savannah, Georgia
(at the corner of Henry and Waters Avenue)
asburymemorial.org/theatre | 912.233.3595 (info)

MAN OF LA MANCHA IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH TAMS-WITMARK WWW.TAMSWITMARK.COM



**Join Cheri & Billy for the Renewal of Marriage Vows
February 14, 7:00 p.m. at City Market**

For over twenty one years, Rev. Billy & Cheri Hester have been leading a Renewal of Marriage Vows Ceremony for couples at the City Market on Valentine's night. The ceremony will be held in front of the gazebo. Be sure to arrive early as parking can be challenging. There's always Uber!

"Parents Night Out"

Friday, February 14th from 5 to 9 pm

Drop your children off at church and have some special time with your significant other. Contact Ruthie Duran Deffley at rdurandeffley@asburymemorial.org to reserve your spot!



Ash Wednesday

1st Day of Lent

Wednesday, 02/26/2020

Asbury will hold 2 Services

Noon and 6:30 pm

"The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated and the condemned"

Bryan Stevenson

Study Groups & Fellowship Groups

Asbury Memorial offers a wide variety of study and fellowship groups.

New Lectionary Study: Examining the Scriptures

Tuesdays

6:30-7:30 pm

Asbury Memorial Conference Room

Leader: Danny Beam

Each study date stands on its own. Come as you can to understand how we approach the Bible in order to truly understand what is written. Come: grow in faith, knowledge and confidence as "noble" Christians. All are welcome to this come-as-you-can Bible study with Rev. Danny Beam.



The Painting Group

Grab your watercolor brushes, paint and paper. Beginners and more advanced painters are welcome.

Sessions will be in the Social Hall. Dates are as follows:

February 13th & 27th, March 12th & 26th,

April 9th & 23rd, May 14th & 28th

From 10 am to 12 pm

If you are interested in joining the group, contact Carol Anderson at andersoncarol61@gmail.com.

Everyone welcome!

Course in Miracles

Facilitator: Rev. Marilyn Leigh

Thursdays, 4:00 to 5:30 pm

The Course in Miracles study group is dedicated to the study and practical application of A Course in Miracles to our daily lives. Our group allows the Course to guide us in becoming and expressing the Love that is the truth about us. It teaches the true meaning of forgiveness and challenges us to put God first in our lives.



A Course in Miracles is an open group. You may join at any time. The only thing that you need is the Third edition of A Course in Miracles which includes the text, workbook, teacher's manual and two pamphlets. It is available from the facilitator, Reverend Marilyn Leigh or may be obtained from Barnes and Noble or as an eBook from Amazon.

Join us as we journey together to God, the journey with no distance.

We meet on Thursdays at 4 pm. in The Asbury Memorial social hall. All are welcome. Contact Rev. Leigh by email at Revleigh@yahoo.com with any questions.

Study Groups & Fellowship Groups

Asbury Memorial offers a wide variety of study and fellowship groups.

10 o'Clock Hour

10 o'Clock hour, a continuing story of faith in action. Please join us!

February 2nd: Linda Bryan Wilder, Faith & Community Involvement..

February 9th: Lauren Dutko, Faith & Serving as a Social Worker to Seniors.

February 16th: Margaret Cook-Levy, Faith & Habitat for Humanity.

February 23rd: Laura Armitage, Working with Children Internationally and Fostering Children.

Questions: email Kathy Hodges at kathleenhodes@gmail.com

The Monday Seekers of Wisdom Group

This group meets on Mondays at 1:30 pm in the Social Hall.

- **Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus by Philip Gulley**

- Gulley puts the Christ back in Christian. This manifesto is a call not just to worship Jesus, but to follow him. It asks the daring question, "What if Christians actually began to take their Christ seriously?" The answer to that question could change the world." (Shane Claiborne, bestselling author of The Irresistible Revolution).

- The 10 chapters explore answers. A few are:
- Jesus Would be the Model for Living Rather than an Object of Worship
- Reconciliation Would Be Valued Over Judgment
- Inviting Questions Would Be Valued More Than Supplying Answers

Have a specific question? Email katesagegreene@comcast.net

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets on Thursdays at 7 pm in the Youth room which is located on the second floor of the education building.

Study Groups & Fellowship Groups

Asbury Memorial offers a wide variety of study and fellowship groups.

Wednesday Night Study Small Group

The Wednesday Night Study Small Group meets in the conference room from 6:30-8 pm. New members are welcome! Our goal is to get to know ourselves, each other and God better through dynamic study and conversation.

Questions? Text or call Susan Bolinger at 218.213.2127.



Reconciling Ministries IMPORTANT Meeting 2/2

Reconciling Ministries group will meet on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020 at 1:15pm after worship and Big Coffee Hour. Participants will get all the latest news on JJ Warren's rare visit to the South and Asbury Memorial on March 1, when he will be our guest preacher.

JJ Warren is a first year seminary student who lit up last year's UM General Conference with his call to evangelize the Word to LGBTQ youth and all people who are in need of the good word that God loves us all.

Our meeting will focus on the various opportunities to engage with JJ in the area and particularly, how to welcome him and support his visit to our church. Exciting things continue to happen at Asbury Memorial. Come Holy Spirit, come!



The Busy Bees meet on Monday mornings at 10 am. They welcome new sewers. If you should have any questions, please contact David Grice at degrice@comcast.net or Cindy Telljohann at cyndytel@gmail.com.



Green Team News!

Thanks to those who attended our January 23rd meeting. Our next Green Team meeting is Thursday, February 20th at Asbury in the Social Hall at 6:30 pm. The program is yet to be determined but no doubt, you will enjoy and learn.

For more information about the **Green Team** please email Carol Anderson at andersoncarol61@gmail.com or Nick Deffley at nicholasdeffley@gmail.com.

From the Connection Corner

If you're looking for more information about events happening at Asbury or how to get involved, come to the Connection Corner at Coffee Hour in the Social Hall after worship! There will be lots of new information each Sunday, and friendly people who want to help knit you into our community.

The Connection Corner is looking for a volunteer

We're looking for a volunteer to do a one-time data entry project from our "Where have you lived" and transformational movies, books, music, other' giant post-it wall exercises. We want to capture this information in a document to keep in a binder at the Connection Corner for new people to look at and add their information and answers to. Come to the Connection Corner to volunteer!

Acolytes Needed

Parents/Guardians, we are still looking for more children ages 8 -13 that are interested in becoming acolytes for the church services. It is a great way for the children to participate and learn more about the services. There will be training for all acolytes February 16th after worship. For more information, please contact Gerry Harman at gharman527@gmail.com.

The acolyte sign-up site is open for the months of January, February & March. To sign up, please go to the following website: ttsu.me/4uc8rs (The password is Asbury Memorial).

Chair Name Plate

As we worship on Sundays, how meaningful it is to see the name of a loved one etched into a nameplate on one of our beautiful sanctuary chairs. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one in a special way, complete an order form and turn it into the church office. Forms are available in the church narthex and the office. Please turn in a completed form to the office. The cost is \$250.00. The funds are used for the upkeep and maintenance of the sanctuary.

(Two examples of nameplates for the chairs.)

Elizabeth Lariscy
A Southern Lady
By R. Ward Lariscy

In Loving Memory
of
Dix Elliott

Hymnal Dedication

Would you like to give a hymnal to the church as a way to honor or memorialize a loved one, a friend or a group? Pick up a form from the church office, complete the information and either drop it in the offering plate or mail to the church office. The cost is \$20.

Taizé Services For Lent



Begin March

4th on

Wednesday

Nights

at 6:45 pm



**J. J. Warren,
LGBTQ Activist
and Author of
*Reclaiming
Church***

**Preaches at the 11:15 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday, March 1, 2020**

Book signing afterwards in the Social Hall

Asbury Memorial Church
1008 East Henry Street
(at the corner of Henry and Waters)
Savannah, GA 31401 | 912.233.4351



Other Events During His Visit

Friday, February 28 5:30 p.m.	Public Presentation Georgia Southern University, Statesboro Campus Room 1020, Interdisciplinary Arts Building Book signing afterwards Sponsored by Campus Life Enrichment Committee
Monday, March 2 12:30 p.m.	Public Presentation Georgia Southern University, Armstrong Campus Room 156, University Hall Book signing afterwards Sponsored by Campus Life Enrichment Committee



**It's our turn to take up the baton
and continue this marathon toward
the Promised Land of inclusion.**

—J. J. Warren, *Reclaiming Church*

facebook.com/itsmejjwarren

In *Reclaiming Church*, J.J. Warren continues his call to reaffirm that the Church must be welcoming to all, including young people like those he led at Sarah Lawrence College who "didn't know God could love them because their churches said God didn't."

The book addresses three points of importance to young people looking to be part of a church community and/or respond to a call:

1. The identity and nature of God
2. The role of Scripture in discerning God's call
3. The author's own experience of God, church, and identity

In the final chapter, "We Are the Church," Warren focuses on practical and positive steps for joining voices, being heard, building bridges, and working together so young people can reclaim Church in their lives.

Key Features:

- Affirms to the LGBTQ community and those who love them that the Church is for all.
- Inspires younger progressive people to stay within the Church and work to renew the call of ministry.
- Explores the Church's beginnings and its emphasis on community.
- Calls readers to focus on practical and positive steps to reclaim Church in their lives.



**Deland High School Choir
Deland, Florida**

1:30 PM Sunday, February 16th

The choir from Deland High School in Deland, Florida will be worshipping with us during our service on Sunday, February 16th and then be providing a full concert at 1:30 PM.

Please join us and support these talented young singers.

WHEN SHADOWS FALL

- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Cynthia Herold & Claudette Delong and family in the death of their brother, Melvin Wiley.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to the family of Freddie Patrick. Asbury lost a great friend and leader in our community and neighborhood.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Mary & Pat Prokop in the death of their close friend, Rooney Gray.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Chris & Bridgette Kincade in the death of their close friend and previous Asbury member, Stephanie Mojica.*



MEMORIALS

A Gift has been given to the Trustees Fund in memory of Melvin Wiley by

Sandra Katz

Cricket Watkins

Sally Jilek

Janet Dixon

Gordon Baker & Tom Lewis

Diversified Designs, PC

Joan Byrd

Karl & Judy Graham

A Gift has been given to the General Fund in memory of Melvin Wiley by

Pat & Mary Prokop

2019 Budget Offering

December 31st—\$23,0698.04

2019 Weekly Budget Need

\$13,170.00

2019 YTD Budget Need

\$684,840.00

2019 YTD Received

\$711,996.95

2020 Budget Offering

January 5th—\$8,749.00

January 12th—\$2,579.78

January 19th—\$18,636.11

January 26th—\$TBA

2020 Weekly Budget Need

\$13,830.00

2020 YTD Budget Need

\$41,490.00

2019 YTD Received

\$29,964.89

PRAYER REQUESTS
Asburians



Laura Angell, Pat Annel, Jean Butcher, Anita Clay, Wendy Ciccodicola, Carrie Collins, Linda Combs, Dianne Connor, Shane Conner, Margaret Cook-Levy, Gretchen Dodd, Ellie Gonye, Betty Haldeman, Chase Harrison, Geoff Harrison, Cynthia Herold, Roy Hill, John Hohnerlein, Harriet Jandrich, Barbara King, Monica Lekuch, Pam Parker Kress, Jack Lewis, Cynthia Linthicum, Scott McCoy, Brenda Mills, Grady Mills, Frances Monson, Eric Mullins, Marie Parker, Colleen Robinette, Nancy Saltsman, Roberta Smith, Geri Spears, Cabell Stewart, Carolyn Stuber, Pete Vasta, Kenn Waters, Diane Williamson, Marie Winters, Joe Zeigler

Family Members & Friends

Rain Alves, Kenzie Alves, Steve Amerson, Dewy Ambos, Sid Case, Linda Cowart, Larry Daniels, Peter DeCordova, Josh DeLong, Janice Dorminey, Sara Driggers, Dan Goff, Larry Grice, Catherine Price Guiton, Matt Hearn, Priscilla Hearn, Elsie Hilliard, Sherry Kennedy, Lynette Jones, Kenny Lewis, Kim Lewis, Lisa Lopinski, Kakky Lynn, May May Neidhardt, Marty Sears, Jan Newton Smith, Vanessa Smith, Emery Stanyek, Rev. Eric Titus

Asbury Memorial
Church
1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401-7128
INT.ID 206896
Office 233-4351 Fax 233-5026
www.asburymemorial.org

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #133
Savannah, GA

Return Service Requested

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Supplying the flower arrangements for the worship service is a wonderful way to commemorate a date that is important to you or a loved one. Please check the Flower Chart in the narthex and sign up. The cost is \$60. For more information call the church office at 233-4351.

Special Funds

One way to honor or to remember a loved one is with a memorial or an honorarium to some of our different funds such as the Trustee Fund, General Fund, Piano/Organ Fund, the Children's Fund, Youth Fund or one of our Mission Funds.

Newsletter Information

If you have an announcement for "The Asbury Update," please send it to the church office in writing by the 15th of each month. Contact Claudette DeLong, Office Manager at 233-4351 or email to church@asburymemorial.org
Office hours are 9 AM to 4 PM, Monday thru Thursday.

Mission Statement:

Asbury Memorial is a place where all people can develop their spirituality, use their talents, and grow in faith as we seek to love, serve, and celebrate God, each other, and our community.