



# The Asbury Update

## September 2019

Asbury Memorial  
Church  
Rev. Billy Hester  
Volume 32, Number 9  
September 2019

### The Future of Asbury Memorial

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

I am writing to you as we start up a new program year in the church. This is an exciting time as we sign up for new opportunities for learning, growth, and service at Asbury Memorial and in the world beyond. I love the seasons of the liturgical year and look forward to journeying with you through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. But even before Advent, we get to experience the incredible season of "God On Broadway"!

However, on most everyone's mind is September 8th, the day of the vote that will greatly shape the future of our church. There are four pages within this newsletter offering you information about the September 8th vote that is to determine whether or not Asbury Memorial will separate from the denomination and become an independent church. Please take the time to read this material. All church members are encouraged to vote.

I have heard that people have asked about my future. Let me share with you my intentions.

When I came to Asbury in 1993, it was with the hope that our denomination would live into its slogan of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors." I thought our denomination would follow its protestant cousins (Episcopalians, Lutherans, and Presbyterians) and would eventually fully include LGBTQ people. However, that has not happened. It became clear at the 2019 General Conference that due to the large number of delegates from overseas, this inclusion will not happen as the denomination exists presently.

Even though I have been Methodist my entire life, I cannot in good conscience continue pastoring in a denomination that does not fully include LGBTQ people. I will be withdrawing from the denomination in June. If the members of Asbury vote to become an independent church, I would be honored to continue to be their pastor. If the members vote to remain with the denomination, the bishop will appoint a new pastor for Asbury in June.

If you need to talk with me about any of this, please don't hesitate to contact me. And please don't worry about me. I am excited. Things have been stagnant regarding this issue for way too long. Whatever happens, all will be well! God is with us!!

Billy

**NO "BIG" COFFEE HOUR, September 1st**

**September 8th we will have a light lunch provided by the church  
prior to our Call Charge Conference.**

1008 East Henry Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
[www.asburymemorial.org](http://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](mailto:church@asburymemorial.org).

September

**2nd Maddie Gratias  
Pam Karacostas**

**4th Phyllis Carlino  
Delores Ellis  
Cathy Solomons  
Gloria Stahle  
Jason Zimmer**

**5th Haigh Angell  
Kelly Beaver  
Craig Hull Jr.  
Monica Lekuch**

**6th Sherry Moore**

**7th Johnnie Eason  
Skyler Gurley**

**8th Ed Jones**

**9th Bo Crowder**

**10th Graham Dalton  
Tila Strong**

**11th Laura Angell  
Madeline Kelso  
Sully McCaffity  
Renee Penrose**

**14th Jacques  
Beauchamp**

**15th Amy Jenkins  
Carol Klein**

**16th Bill Jahn**

**17th Marilyn Leigh  
John Marich  
Greg Martin**

**18th Ryan Boland  
19th Austin Howell  
Todd Nolan**

**20th Dottie Kluttz  
Michael Matheny**

**21st Judie Jones  
Sarah Povie  
Bryan Sikes**

**22nd Pat Ciccodicola  
Kelly Hall**

**23rd Billy Aiken  
Danny Lewis**

**24th Roy Hill  
25th Mary Ellen**

**Campbell  
Lauren Page**

**26th Deb Gibson  
27th Verna Enyeart**

**Doug Povie  
Sienna Varland**

**29th Janie Atkinson  
Betsy Davis  
Pam Lloyd**

**30th Jamie Gifford  
Geri Spears  
Scott Wygant**



September

4th Sam & Jan Durham  
4th Gerry & Marlon Harman  
10th Janet & Steve Wagner  
14th Chris & Laurie Fahey  
25th Will & Cindy Telljohann



**Congratulations!!**

**Congratulations to Natalie & Ross Munro on the birth of their twins. Walter Neil & Harriet Shea Munro were born July 1st. Walter weighed 5 pounds and 13 ounces. Harriet weighed 6 pounds and 1 ounce. Natalie & Ross can hardly wait to introduce them to their church family! Congratulations also to big sister Winnie & grandmother Pauline Munro!**

## Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month

September is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. While suicide prevention is important to address year-round, Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month provides a dedicated time to come together with collective passion and strength around a difficult topic. The truth is, we can all benefit from honest conversations about mental health conditions and suicide, because just one conversation can change a life.

Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

It can be frightening if someone you love talks about suicidal thoughts. It can be even more frightening if you find yourself thinking about dying or giving up on life. Not taking these kinds of thoughts seriously can have devastating outcomes, as suicide is a permanent solution to (often) temporary problems.

These resources are available if you are currently struggling with suicidal thoughts:

\* If it's an emergency in which you or someone you know is actively suicidal, you should immediately call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or call 911 or go to your local hospital emergency room

\*You can text "HOME" to 741741 to get in touch with a crisis counselor from your phone

\*You can go online to <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/> and chat online with someone 24/7

\*The Trevor Project offers crisis intervention and suicide prevention to LGBTQ youth through its hotline, chat feature, text feature and online support center at 866-488-7386. Text "START" to 678678 and at <https://www.thetrevorproject.org>

\*NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, provides lots of educational information about mental health in general, including suicide prevention and awareness along with specific support groups. Learn more at [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org) Savannah has a local chapter

\*If you would like to see a mental health clinician but do not have health insurance, HUGS offers mental health counseling at a low cost rate, making mental health services available to everyone. Learn more at [www.headsupsavannah.org](http://www.headsupsavannah.org)

You are also part of a community of family and friends at Asbury Memorial and if you are having thoughts of suicide, please let someone know at church. Or come talk to Ruthie Duran Deffley, Director of Family Ministries or Rev. Claire Marich, Associate Pastor. They can help you find the support you need. YOU ARE NOT ALONE. There is hope.

## Missions and Social Concerns

### *Habitat for Humanity Faith Build*

Members of Asbury's Handy Hands participated in the first day of the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build. We started with a bare slab and finished with two partially framed exterior walls! Thank you to Asbury's own Kevin Ambrey, Habitat's Construction Manager, who did a marvelous job leading our crew!

Thank you to everyone who participated, attended, donated, and/or purchased items at the "Love Is In the Air" fundraiser. Linda Combs and Margaret Cook-Levy are deeply appreciated for all of their efforts that helped raise money for Missions! Your kindness and generosity will help build a Habitat home. The Auction and Revue raised \$7,710.

#### Handy Hands Schedule

September 7: Help build 'God on Broadway' sets

October 5: The Barnes House (see below)

November 2: Habitat Faith Build work day



### ***September's Mission Partner of the Month: The Barnes House***

(Beginning in October, we'll feature a 'Mission Partner of the Month')

Located just a few blocks from Asbury, The Barnes House, a program of Union Mission, provides permanent supportive housing for up to 16 single formerly homeless women who have physical and/or mental disabilities. Through this program, ladies receive supportive services such as case management and community resource referrals.

#### **How can you help Asbury partner with The Barnes House?**

##### **A) Donate gently used or new items to The Barnes House**

You can help partner by bringing these items to the Connection Corner. They will immediately be put to good use.

-gently used items: bath and kitchen towels, washcloths, socks, twin sheets

-new items: laundry detergent, full-size bottles of body wash, women's underwear (sizes large or extra large)

##### **B) Volunteer at The Barnes House**

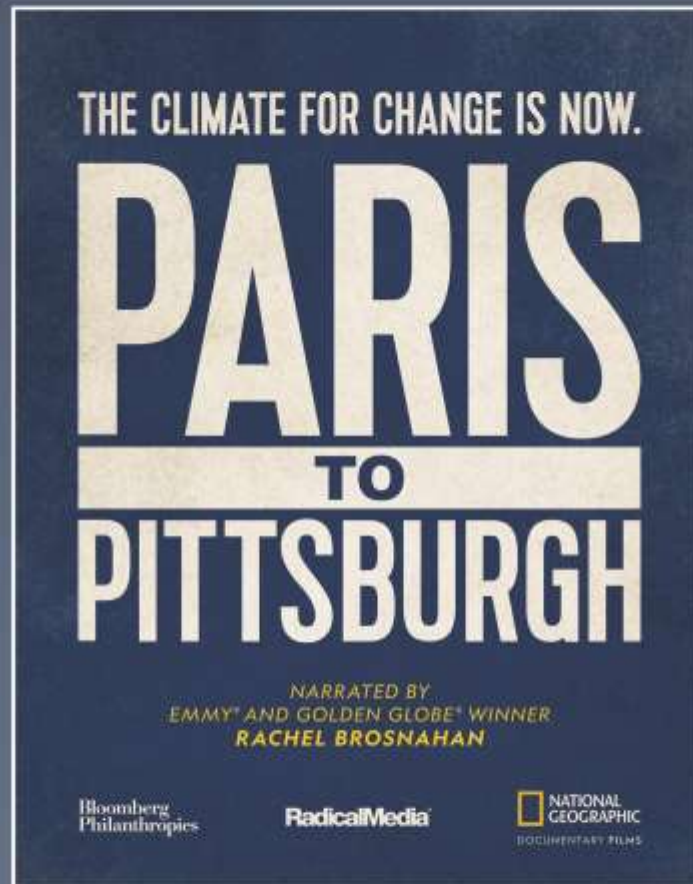
You can also help partner by giving one hour or less of your time! There will be information posted in the Connection Corner about one hour or less volunteer opportunities. Come see what's available and sign up with friends or a couple of Asburians you want to get to know better. Why just go to lunch or coffee when you could have a unique bonding experience that 'multiplies the Asbury love'?!

##### **Calling Any Clients of Thrivent Financial Services!**

Did you know that Thrivent will donate \$250+ annually *on behalf of* each of their clients to nonprofit organizations? If you are a Thrivent client and do not take advantage of this program, visit the Connection Corner for more information.



ASBURY MEMORIAL'S **GREEN TEAM** &  
**CHURCH AND SOCIETY TEAM** INVITE YOU TO  
**A FREE SCREENING OF**



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**  
**6:30 – 8:00pm in the Social Hall**  
Monitored Parking is Available Behind the Church



Interfaith Power & Light  
A Religious Response to Global Warming  
[interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://interfaithpowerandlight.org)

This film is being offered through Interfaith Power and Light to draw faith communities together to inspire local community action to heal the climate for the benefit of all.

The documentary showcases inspiring stories of the local, private sector, and community leaders across the U.S. who are continuing to take action to transition to a clean energy economy—regardless of federal inaction. It's a must see for people of faith concerned about the future of U.S. climate action. Join us!



## Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church

1008 East Henry Street  
Savannah, GA 31401-7128

Rev. Billy Hester, Senior Minister



August 19, 2019

Dear Church Family,

On **Sunday, September 8, 2019, at 2 pm**, there will be a **Church Conference**. The purpose of the Church Conference is to vote on whether we, as a congregation, will remain as United Methodists or whether we will disaffiliate from our denomination. Our Church Council voted in June 2019 to ask our District Superintendent to preside over a Church Conference to determine the will of the congregation in light of the new rules that go into effect on January 1, 2020.

At the Church Conference, **only members of Asbury Memorial who are present may vote**. You must be a member to vote and there will be no proxies for members who cannot attend. This will be the only business of the Church Conference. These are the rules of the United Methodist Church.

Please see the inserts for information regarding 1) how the United Methodist Church came to its position that becomes church law in January, and 2) what the Book of Discipline currently states and how that will change in January 2020.

Asbury's journey to September 8<sup>th</sup> is years in the making. For decades, the Rev. Billy Hester has been asking us to wait for the denomination to catch up to us in terms of welcoming everyone who wants to be a United Methodist, with all its rights and privileges. Many of us were sorely disappointed with the outcome of the Special-Called General Conference in February 2019, which decided that not only would some of God's children continue to be excluded from full participation, but mandatory penalties would be codified into the Book of Discipline for pastors who violate the current standards of the Book of Discipline which prohibits the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals, and the performance of same-sex marriages by United Methodist Clergy and in United Methodist facilities.

If our congregation, by a two-thirds vote, decides to withdraw from the United Methodist Church, we will be required to pay two years of apportionments and pay our portion of the unfunded pension fund liability for the pension program of the United Methodist Church. (This is not just our pastor's pension fund, but the fund for all pastors in the UMC.) The total amount that would be due is approximately \$280,000. In exchange, we would receive the deed to our building and our property that currently officially belongs to the UMC. This money would be due in the spring of 2020.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of the United Methodist Church™

phone 912.233.4351  
email [church@asburymemorial.org](mailto:church@asburymemorial.org)  
web [www.asburymemorial.org](http://www.asburymemorial.org)

When the South Georgia Annual Conference meets in June 2020, the delegates would vote, by a simple majority, whether to release us. Soon afterwards, the Trustees of the South Georgia Annual Conference would also vote and, if both bodies agree, the Trustees would sign over the deed.

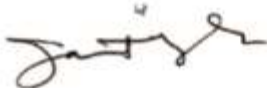
How will this affect Billy? Billy has been a pastor in South Georgia for more than 30 years and is fully vested in the retirement fund of the UMC. Because of the denomination's polity concerning LGBTQ people, he plans to retire at the South Georgia Annual Conference in June 2020. Then, if the congregation also withdraws from the UMC, we would hire him back to continue to be our pastor and he would surrender his ordination credentials. If the congregation decides not to withdraw, then another pastor would be appointed to us by our bishop.

One last thing to note: If the congregation votes to disaffiliate and you do not want to remain a member of Asbury Memorial, then the Rev. David Thompson, our District Superintendent, will help you find a new United Methodist Church home to which you would transfer your membership.

If you haven't already, please plan to attend one of the remaining Discussion Sessions. A Discussion Session is a great place to ask any questions you may have, voice your concerns and hear what other people are thinking. Additionally, you are invited to contact David, our District Superintendent, or Billy, our pastor, with your questions or comments. Their contact information is below.

Please be in prayer about this matter and, if you are a member, plan to be present in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm.

Sincerely,



Janet Wagner  
Chairperson of the Church Council



Preston Hodges  
Lay Leader



Billy Hester  
Pastor

**Contact Information:**

Rev. David Thompson  
david@sgaumc.com  
478-475-9286

Rev. Billy Hester  
bghester3@comcast.net  
912-233-4351

## How We Got Here: The UMC Policies Regarding Homosexuality

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, no practicing homosexual can become an ordained minister and no UM minister can conduct same-sex marriage ceremonies. Because of the controversy these policies have generated for decades, the Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference. Their mission was to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. A Special-Called General Conference took place in February 2019 to vote on their proposals.

After much prayerful deliberation the Commission on a Way Forward decided on two main proposals. One was called "The One Church Plan." It eliminated all language in the Book of Discipline that condemned homosexuality, allowed each church to decide whether or not to conduct same-sex weddings and each Annual Conference to decide whether or not to ordain homosexual clergy.

The other proposal, called the "Traditional Plan," not only maintained the discriminatory language in the Book of Discipline but also increased the prejudice against LGBTQ people. It required enforcement of penalties against clergy who are LGBTQ and those who perform same-sex marriages. Additionally, it created an exit plan where churches and/or pastors who cannot by conscience **uphold the Traditional Plan can leave the denomination and still retain their church's property.** Although a majority of the bishops favored "The One Church Plan," the majority of the delegates voted for the "Traditional Plan." It goes into effect on January 1, 2020.

As a result, our Church Council recently voted to ask our District Superintendent to call a Church Conference in order to give our membership an opportunity to decide whether to stay in the UMC or to disaffiliate. That Church Conference is scheduled for Sunday, September 8th at 2:00 pm, in the sanctuary.

To keep our congregation up-to-date, two informational sessions have been held and we are currently in the process of holding five discussion group opportunities so that every member would have the opportunity to learn what's going on and be given an opportunity to speak their heart and mind.

Please note that at the September 8th Church Conference, only those members who are present will be able to vote and the only business of that meeting will be to vote. This is a requirement of the United Methodist Church and will be enforced by our District Superintendent. Therefore, if you want to voice your opinion or ask questions please make sure to attend at least one of the remaining discussion sessions.



## Current Rules of the United Methodist Church, Book of Discipline, 2016

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God...The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching...We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons. (Para. 161, pg. 113)

... The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals<sup>1</sup> are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church. (Para. 304.3, pg. 226)

1. *"Self-avowed practicing homosexual"* is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, board of ordained ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual.

Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches. (Para. 341.6, pg. 278)

## New Rules of the United Methodist Church Effective January 1, 2020 (**"The Traditional Plan"**)

An expanded definition of "self-avowed practicing homosexual" to include people "living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual."

The creation of the council relations committee, as part of the Council of Bishops, to hold bishops accountable to restrictions related to homosexuality.

Minimum penalties for clergy convicted at trial of performing a same-sex wedding. Those penalties include one year's suspension without pay for the first offense and loss of credentials for the second.

The requirement that Boards of Ordained Ministry examine and not recommend candidates who do not meet standards regarding sexuality. It also empowers bishops to rule a candidate out of order.

The requirement that annual conferences certify only Board of Ordained Ministry nominees who will "uphold, enforce, and maintain the Book of Discipline related to ordination and marriage of practicing homosexuals."

Multiple changes to the complaint process under church law. These changes include requiring that bishops not dismiss complaints without reasons given; involving those making complaints in the just resolution process; allowing the church to appeal "errors of church law or administration" of church trials.

From: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/ask-the-umc-what-happened-at-general-conference>

# Study Groups & Fellowship Groups

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

## 10 o'Clock Hour Begins September 15

Are you longing to discern more about who God made and calls you to be? Are you hoping for a fresh space to find fellowship and life inducing conversation? Stretch, grow, and build relationships all at the same time at our study in the Social Hall at 10 am. All adults are welcome.

Here's what we're planning for you:

September 15: welcome back/get acquainted fellowship hour

September 22 and 29: the Reverend Claire Marich will be introducing the series "Discovering God's Vision for You and Your Spiritual Gifts"

October: discussion about the previous Sunday's "God on Broadway" themes

November and December: "Faith in Action" - speakers from within and outside the Asbury family

Come at 9:45 for coffee and fellowship.

Questions: email Kathy Hodges at [kathleenhodes@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenhodes@gmail.com)

## **The Monday Seekers of Wisdom Group**

The group will reconvene on Monday, September 9, at 1:30 pm in the Social Hall. Jane Thimme will facilitate a discussion to see what direction we want to take this autumn on our path as Wisdom Seekers. Come prepared to offer your insight, suggestions and blessings as we ask ourselves these questions:

What is the MISSION of our particular group as you understand it?

What would you like to read?

What topic have we not tackled that pulls at your thoughts?

What topic would you like to facilitate the discussion of?

## **Course in Miracles**

**Facilitator: Rev. Marilyn Leigh**

**Thursdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m**



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 4:30 P.M. in The Asbury Memorial social hall. All are welcome. Contact Rev. Leigh by email at [Revleigh@yahoo.com](mailto:Revleigh@yahoo.com) with any questions.

# Study Groups & Fellowship Groups

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

## Wednesday Night Study Small Group Starts September 4

Beginning September 4, the Wednesday Night Study Small Group will meet 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.

On September 4 we'll do a very interesting 'create your own personal coat of arms exercise'. It will ask you to consider things like your values, personal motto or credo you strive to live by, things you do well, your happiest moment or greatest achievement, things you would like to start doing today if time, talent, and money were no concern, your highest priority, life goals or aspirations, what you hope your legacy will be, etc.

We'll also pick a book to study. Current suggestions include books by Richard Rohr, Barbara Brown Taylor, John Dominic Crossan, Parker Palmer, Mary Oliver, etc.

Questions? Text or call Susan Bolinger at 218.213.2127.



## **Reconciling Ministries Network**

Follow our news on Facebook @ Asbury Memorial Reconciling!



The Busy Bees will start sewing the famous Clown Dolls and having fellowship Monday mornings at 10 am on September 9th. They welcome new sewers. If you should have any questions, please contact David Grice at [degrice@comcast.net](mailto:degrice@comcast.net) or Cindy Telljohann at [cyndytel@gmail.com](mailto:cyndytel@gmail.com).

## **Men's Group**

**The Men's Group will reconvene on Thursday, September 19th at 7 pm in the Youth room which is located on the second floor of the education building.**



## ***The Painting Group is starting again!***

***Grab your watercolor brushes, paint and paper. The Painting Group is starting again! Beginners and more advanced painters are welcome. Sessions will be in the Social Hall. There will be two sessions per month. Sessions will be on Thursdays, from 10 am until noon.***

***Dates are as follows:***

***September 12 & 26***

***October 10 & 24***

***November 7 & 21***

***December 5 & 19***

***If you are interested in joining the group, contact Carol Anderson at [andersoncarol61@gmail.com](mailto:andersoncarol61@gmail.com)***



## Wednesday Night Suppers Reservation Form

You still have the option of either the **salad bar** or the **hot meal with a small salad**. Both options include a homemade dessert and roll.

There are three ways to reserve your spot:

- Place this form in the offering plate
- Go to our website [www.asburymemorial.org](http://www.asburymemorial.org) and register
- Call the church office at 233-4351

**Supper will begin at 5:45 p.m. - Serving stops at 6:30 p.m.**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED**

**ON MONDAYS. NO LATER THAN 11 AM.**

Also, the type of meal must be selected at time of registration. If you do not make a reservation, you will need to wait until 6:15 p.m. so all who made reservations have been accommodated.

Meal Date: 09/18\_\_\_\_\_ 09/25\_\_\_\_\_ 10/02\_\_\_\_\_ 10/09\_\_\_\_\_ 10/16\_\_\_\_\_

10/23\_\_\_\_\_ 10/30\_\_\_\_\_ 11/06\_\_\_\_\_ 11/13\_\_\_\_\_ 11/20\_\_\_\_\_

or Permanent Request\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Indicate number of dinners:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Meal \$7.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Salad Bar \$7.00 (1 trip only)

\_\_\_\_\_ Child's Meal \$4.00 (12 & under) \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Salad Bar \$4.00

Maximum Family limit is \$28.00 per family





## Wednesday Night Suppers Menu

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Sep. 18th | <i>Chicken Tetrizzini, Steamed Florets of Broccoli, Sweet Carrots, Baguette with Roasted Garlic Butter</i>        |
| Sep. 25th | <i>Baked Ziti with Bolognaise Sauce, Squash Medley, Garlic Bread</i>  |
| Oct. 2nd  | <i>Chicken &amp; Sausage Gumbo, Green Beans, Long Grain Rice, Cheddar Herb Biscuits</i>                           |
| Oct. 9th  | <i>Beef Stroganoff with Egg Noodles, Steamed Mixed Cabbage, Sweet Baby Carrots, Buttered Yeast Rolls</i>          |
| Oct. 16th | <i>Baked Ham, Sweet Potato Patties, Southern Collard Greens, Macaroni &amp; Cheese</i>                            |
| Oct. 23rd | <i>Chopped Pork BBQ with Bun, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Barbecue Sauce &amp; Pickle Spears</i>                      |
| Oct. 30th | <i>Roast Beef with Mushroom Gravy, Southern Style Mashed Potatoes, House Prepared Kale Slaw, Whole Wheat Roll</i> |
| Nov. 6th  | <i>Chicken Marsala, Wild Rice Blend, French Cut Green Beans, Assorted Artisan Rolls</i>                           |
| Nov. 13th | <i>Beef Stew with Roasted Vegetables, Carrot Raisin Salad, Steamed Rice, Sweet Corn Bread Muffin</i>              |
| Nov. 20th | <i>Roasted Turkey Breast with gravy, Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Sweet Island Rolls</i>     |



# CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

Civil and Human Rights \* Economic Justice  
Environmental Justice \* Health & Wholeness  
Peace & Justice \* Women & Children

## On our Minds

There is almost too much for the human mind to ponder everyday. There are so many issues clamoring for our attention. Besides our family, work, elder care, child care, personal care, pet care, healthcare and keep a roof over your head care and keep food on the table care, it is tempting to not think about the enormous societal and global issues that face us. So we're talking to those of you who are in the we'd love to help but life is in the way people. We would like to help you become the "Ten Minute Disciple for Justice." Right now our country needs everyone's voice. We've provided some information below to get you started so that your voice can be heard.

## What's New

We have launched a Facebook page. You can find us by searching for [Asbury Memorial Church & Society](#). We can't electronically invite you each personally, but if you do a search and click join we'll include you right away. It is a closed group for Asburians and friends of Asbury so we can keep this a safe place to exchange information and ideas. We will post the latest information on social justice activities in our area, in Georgia and some national activity. As a member you can post information about any organization you belong to that supports any of the six areas above. We would love to learn about causes dear to your heart.

We encourage all of you to join the group and explore it. Under the heading "Files" is a listing of contact information for our federal legislators. There is also a sample dialogue for making phone calls.

If you have information or subject matter you'd like to have included on the page, please contact Paula Avena.

## Contact Information

If you have never contacted your legislator before it can be intimidating to make a cold call. If you call during office hours staff will answer and take your message. If you call after hours you can leave a voice message.

Here is a **sample script** to get you started.

"Hello Senator Perdue. I am a constituent and live in Savannah. I am calling today to urge you to vote for and support The Background Check Expansion Act. I feel strongly that we must do everything possible to prevent more unnecessary firearm deaths and mass casualties. I ask you to urge Senator McConnell to bring this legislation before the Senate. Thank you for your attention to this matter."

Whatever message you are giving be sure to say you are a constituent, be clear about what you are for or against, and politeness counts. Why is this important? The staff actually tabulates the phone calls. Please add these numbers to your phone contact list so that calling your legislators will be easy.

### HOUSE

Buddy Carter (D-GA01) (912) 352-0101

<http://buddycarter.house.gov/contact/>

Joe Cunningham (D-SC01) (843) 521-2530

<https://cunningham.house.gov/contact/email-me>

McConnell, Mitch - (R - KY) (202) 224-2541

Schumer, Charles E. - (D - NY) (202) 224-6542

Pelosi, Nancy - (D-CA) 202-226-0312

McCarthy, Kevin (R-CA) 202-225-2915

### SENATE

Isakson, Johnny - (R - GA) (202) 224-3643

Contact: [www.isakson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-me](http://www.isakson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-me)

Perdue, David - (R - GA) (202) 224-3521

Contact: [www.perdue.senate.gov/connect/email](http://www.perdue.senate.gov/connect/email)

Graham, Lindsey - (R - SC) (202) 224-5972

Contact: [www.lgraham.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-senator-gr...](http://www.lgraham.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-senator-gr...)

Scott, Tim - (R - SC) (202) 224-6121

Contact: [www.scott.senate.gov/contact/email-me](http://www.scott.senate.gov/contact/email-me)

If you know of any upcoming events that support our mission that you would like publicized please contact Paula Avena.

Your Church & Society Team

## Welcome Rev. Claire Marich

We are pleased and honored to announce Rev. Claire Harrison Marich, a native Chicagoan and an ordained deacon, has accepted the position as Asbury Memorial's part time associate minister. She has spent most of her ministry in professional healthcare chaplaincy, serving both in level 1 trauma hospitals and in hospice settings. She left a career in business consulting to pursue a vocation in chaplaincy, attaining her master's degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She has undergraduate degrees in Political Science and English from Loyola University of Chicago, along with a Master's of Science in Political Science in Revolution and Terrorism and African Studies from Northwestern University. Claire and her spouse, John, have been members of Asbury for the last two years. Claire and John have been married for 33 years and have two adult children: Peter, who lives in Savannah, and Stephanie who lives in Virginia Beach. We welcome Claire to her new position with excitement and gratitude.

### REMINDER:

#### Discussion Group Opportunities about Denominational Issues

**We will continue with our Discussion Group Opportunities about Denominational Issues. We have 1 more opportunity Sunday, September 1st at 1 pm in the Sanctuary.**



#### **Wednesday Night Suppers**

***Suppers are back for the Fall! They start September 18th. See insert for Reservation form and Menu. Our meals are catered by Senior Citizens, Inc. For each 3 meals sold, it provides a meal for a senior citizen. We want to thank our Hospitality Committee for their hard work and dedication to providing their services at WNS. Remember unless you select a permanent reservation, RESERVATIONS are due MONDAY BY 11 am.***



***Handbell Choir will start Sunday, September 15th at 9 am. They practice on the second floor of the Education building.***

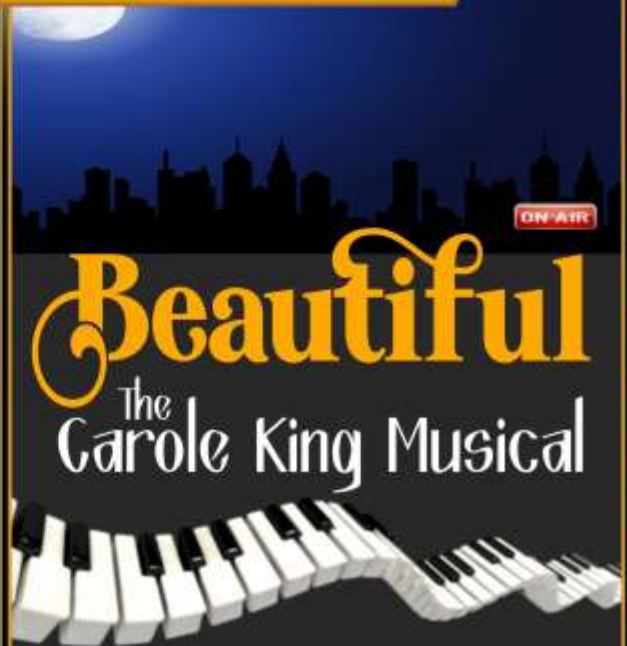


**GOD ON BROADWAY**  
**WORSHIP SERIES 2019**  
SUNDAYS AT 11:15 AM



**GUYS &  
DOLLS**

OCTOBER 6



**Beautiful**  
*The* Carole King Musical

OCTOBER 13



OCTOBER 20



OCTOBER 27



# RESULTS: 2019 MEN'S CAKE BAKING CONTEST

BEST TASTING:

BEST PRESENTATION:

MOST ORIGINAL:



**Chuck Eyler**  
Jesse Hall  
Paul & Todd Baiad



**Chris Gooby**  
Jason Zimmer  
Bill Jahn



**Danny Beam**  
Ray Ellis  
Steven Reed

RECEIVING/TABULATION: Sally Jilek JUDGES: Ann Anderson, Linda Combs, Helen Downing, and Laurie Fahey



**PAUL & TODD BAIAD**  
(Father & Son team)  
Chocolatesaurus Rex



**TIM BARNES**  
Strawberry Cake



**DANNY BEAM**  
Key Lime with Cream  
Cheese Frosting



**LUKE DEGUIRE**  
Maple Streusel  
Pumpkin Cake



**RAY ELLIS**  
Red Velvet Mirror Cake



**CHUCK EYLER**  
Pavlova



**CHRIS GOOBY**  
Key Lime/Coconut Cake



**JIMI GRIFFITH**  
Cinnamon Streusel



**JESSE HALL**  
Georgia Peach Cake



**MARLON HARMAN**  
Salted Caramel  
Chocolate Cake



**BILL JAHN**  
Chocolate Oreo Cake



**DANNY LEWIS**  
Pound Cake with  
Caramel Icing



**STEPHEN REED**  
Fireball Cake with  
Buttercream



**PETE VASTA**  
Sicilian Cannoli



**KENN WATERS**  
Georgia Peach  
Pound Cake



**JASON ZIMMER**  
Red Velvet Italian  
Cheesecake



# RESULTS: 2019 WOMEN'S DESSERT CONTEST

**BEST TASTING:**  
**BEST PRESENTATION:**  
**MOST ORIGINAL:**



**Katie Farmer**  
**Linda Combs**  
**Kathy Hodges**



**Rhonda Reed**  
**Janie Atkinson**  
**Sandra Katz**



**Alex Swanger**  
**Barbara Gooby**  
**Patty Lewis**

**RECEIVING/TABULATION:** Jason Zimmer

**JUDGES:** Tim Barnes, Daniel Folsom, Jesse Hall, and Chuck Long



**JANIE ATKINSON**  
 Asbury 3-Cs Cake



**LINDA COMBS**  
 Pineapple Upside  
 Down Cake



**LEE DAVIS**  
 Carrot Cake



**KAY DEFFLEY**  
 Texas Cake



**KATIE FARMER**  
 Aunt Gussie's Tennessee  
 Butter Cake



**BARBARA GOOBY**  
 Huckleberry  
 Peach Pie



**KATHY HODGES**  
 Lemon Rosemary  
 Tart



**SANDRA KATZ**  
 Strawberry/Chocolate  
 Cake



**CAROL KLEIN**  
 Potato Chip Cookies



**PATTY LEWIS**  
 Apple Slab Pie



**RHONDA REED**  
 Angelfood Dream  
 Cake



**NANCY SALTSMAN**  
 Chocolate Meringue  
 Cake



**ALEX SWANGER**  
 Mrs. Skeffington's French  
 Vanilla Cake w/Blueberries



**BEVERLY VASTA**  
 Chocolate Cake



# 2019 YOUTH AND KIDS COOKIE BAKE-OFF



**NATALIE CULJAN**  
Sugar Cookies



**CALEB DEFFLEY**  
Peanut Butter Cookies



**NATALYA KAY**  
Snickerdoodles



**THALIA, ALDOUS,  
& ATREGO HEINTZ**  
Assorted Cookies



**BARBARA JEAN KING**  
Caramel Pecan  
Snickerdoodle



**J J KING**  
Honey Sugar Cookies



**NICHOLAS LINDSAY**  
Peanut Butter Cookies



**IAN PERRY**  
M&M Cookies



**LUCY & KATE PERRY**  
Scout Sister Samoas



**CLARA SPIVEY**  
Mega Cookies



## Children's Church II

The Fosters are volunteers for Children's Church. When they start their class, they start with meditation. The children are given no instructions on how to pose. Each child has their unique pose.

Compliments of Ruth & Todd Foster

## 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 are wonderful friendly people that would enjoy knitting you into the community by providing you with lots of information.

The Connection Corner is looking for a volunteer to do a one time data entry project from our 'where have you lived' and 'transformational movies, books, music and 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. We also welcome smiling volunteers to the Connection Corner!

### **3rd Annual Asbury Community Thanksgiving Potluck**

If you are interested in helping to plan the upcoming Annual Asbury Community Thanksgiving Potluck, please sign up in Connection Corner.

## 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 coming soon. For more information and to sign up, please contact Gerry Harman at [gharman527@gmail.com](mailto:gharman527@gmail.com).

### MEMORIALS

A gift has been given to the Trustees Fund in memory of Cecile Crockett  
by Betty Hunter & family.

A gift has been given to the Trustees Fund in memory of Karin Klein  
by Betty Hunter & family.

A gift has been given to the Trustees Fund in memory of John Ashley Beam  
by Betty Hunter & family.

### HONORARIUMS

A gift has been given to the Trustees Fund in honor of Joan Byrd's birthday  
by Betty Hunter & family.

A gift has been given to the Trustees Fund in honor of Mary Alice Garvin's birthday  
by Betty Hunter & family.

A gift has been given to the Trustees Fund in honor of Pat Stewart's birthday by  
Joan Byrd  
Betty Hunter & family.

Gifts have been given to the Trustees Fund in honor of Janet Dixon's birthday by  
Suzie Williams  
Barbara Rogers



2019 Budget Offering  
June 30th—\$11,840.94  
July 7th—\$11,041.00  
July 14th—\$8,327.00  
July 21st—\$15,487.00  
July 28th—\$15,568.94  
August 4th—\$15,769.00  
August 11th—\$6,474.00  
August 18th—\$14,191.50  
2019 Weekly Budget Need  
\$13,170.00  
2019 YTD Budget Need  
\$434,610.00  
2019 YTD Received  
\$406,293.43

### **WHEN SHADOWS FALL**

- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Valori Armstrong and family in the death of her brother, Vaughan D. Smith.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Jamie, Bill, Kristen & Madeline Kelso in the death of Jamie's father, David Hamilton.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Shane Conner in the death of his grandmother Dorothy "Dot" Siddens.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Alice & Jim Burris in the death of Alice's sister, Sandra Oravec.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Betty Hunter, Kim & Steve Johnson in the death of their close friend, Henry Tuten.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Sandy Golden & Pierce Golden in the death of Sandy's ex-husband and Pierce's father, Robert Golden.*

## **PRAYER REQUESTS** **Asburians**



Laura Angell, Pat Annel, Jan Bell, Jean Butcher, Becky Case, Sheri Coffey, Linda Combs, Shane Conner, Vicki Cronk, Bo Crowder, Gretchen Dodd, Verna Enyeart, Ellie Gonye, Chase Harrison, Geoff Harrison, Cynthia Herold, Roy Hill, Betty Hohnerlein, Stacey Kern, Barbara King, Monica Lekuch, Jack Lewis, Scott McCoy, Brenda Mills, Grady Mills, Frances Monson, Eric Mullins, Natalie Munro, Linda Ostrow, Marie Parker, Colleen Robinette, Barbara Ruggere, Caroline Smith, Roberta Smith, Geri Spears, Brenda Spencer, Liz Sprague, Cabell Stewart, Carol Walls, Kenn Waters, Diane Williamson, Marie Winters

## **Family Members & Friends**

Steve Amerson, Dewy Ambos, Natalie Beam, Wayne Black, Sid Case, Ryan Collins, Linda Cowart, Janice Dorminy, Sara Driggers, Ruchi Ferro, Alex Geronimo, Dan Goff, Catherine Price Guiton, Matt Hearn, Roland Hill, Elsie Hilliard, Chris Linthicum, Hayley Linthicum, Buddy Murray, Joe Overton, Dal Poston, Barry Thurstin, Jan Newton Smith, Robert Smith, Sr., Vanessa Smith, Kathy Swanger, Carolyn Walters, Paula Watts, Paul Westbrook, Larissa Whitten, Leola Williams, Jeanie Wynne

### **WHEN SHADOWS FALL**

#### **Con' t**

- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Frances Monson and family in the death of her son, Bruce Monson.*

Asbury Memorial  
Church  
1008 East Henry Street  
Savannah, GA 31401-7128  
INT.ID 206896  
Office 233-4351 Fax 233-5026  
[www.asburymemorial.org](http://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 2019 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](mailto: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.**