

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Welcome to the Asbury Community

Sun Power

Using the sun's energy is nothing new. We humans are always looking for ways to harness the power of the sun to help make our lives more enjoyable. Sun tea comes to mind. Put some teabags in water and leave the jug out in the sun rather than use the stove. Its simple, easy and tasty, if you like tea.

Utilizing the sun's energy to turn on the lights is also relatively easy thanks to the progress that has taken place over the past decades. Today you can go on Amazon and purchase a relatively inexpensive light that comes with its own solar panel. Outdoor walkway lights can be found in many stores that are powered by a tiny solar cell.

Asbury's hoop house on Bennett Avenue utilizes two larger solar panels for energy from the sun for several purposes. On warm days the temperature inside the hoop house can rise beyond what plants are able to



The sides of the Hoop House are raised to lower the temperature

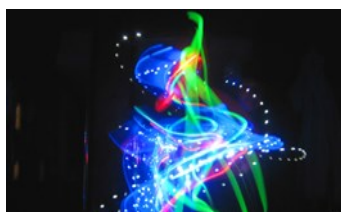
tolerate. Ventilation is provided by rolling up the side walls and by opening vents in each gable end. In our case, these cooling actions take place automatically based upon thermostats inside the hoop house. This requires energy which is provided by the sun. Other uses include lighting, a blower that keeps the poly roof inflated and a video surveillance system. Yes we have cameras

to deter theft and vandalism and protect our investments for the community.

Our next project with solar energy is for pumping water. However, none of us are experts in solar energy. Fortunately, the Ford Motor Company Fund awarded Kettering University and Asbury \$25,000 to integrate productive solar energy systems to scale up urban gardening efforts in our community.

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Glow in the Dark



This is the third article in a series on our core values as a

community of faith. In this article I want to focus our attention on being a light on a hill as a result of living out our core values. Jesus tells us that we are to let our light shine that others may see what it looks like when His followers live according to His instruction.

What does it look like? We glow. And in the darkness of the events that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia, the world needs our love to glow brighter than ever.

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Special points of interest:

- > SPRC will be meeting on Wednesday, September 13th at 4:00pm
- > Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 5 for Asbury's 90th Anniversary celebration
- > Neighborhood Connection is delivering food and bottled water. Call Kevin at 810-625-6115 or the church office for information, 235-0016
- > Basic Bible Study class will be starting up on Monday, September 11th at 12Noon

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Glow in the Dark...continued from Page 1

Far too often we witness inexcusable hatred taking center stage. Hate can never be justified and must be publically condemned by our leaders. The distance is simply too narrow between hate and violence. Racism is a disease that must be eradicated. But when hatred is tolerated and even justified it infects our culture, our institutions, our systems and even our churches.

However, there is something quite powerful that happens when love prevails even in the voice of protest. Perhaps this is an example of what it means to be a light on a hill that others may see our good deeds. A power emanates from our presence that is visibly felt by observers. It is not a power of hate but radiates from a center core of pure love. GLOW IN THE DARK means that even in times of darkness our love remains visible.

The world outside of ourselves begins with the threshold of our own door. A con-

cern for the world begins with a concern for our immediate neighbors. We may feel like we simply do not have the capacity for all of this love or at least not for all of this concern.

I often find myself ready to turn to a different program even within the 30 minutes of a world news program. There is simply too much pain in the stories I am hearing. It seems as though love is not news. Yet in a world where hate and violence is the norm wouldn't love be the more newsworthy story?

In what ways does our tag line, GLOW IN THE DARK, take us back to our core values? It seems that our core values presume there is a light burning within each of us that collectively is at least a bonfire. As our community grows our collective fire burns brighter and hotter.

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A youth volunteer from California plowing a row at our Jane Ave site

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

Matthew 5:14-15

Sun Power...continued from Page 1

This award is part of the Ford College Community Challenge. Kettering students will assist with the project by installing solar-assisted irrigation systems for Asbury. We hope to use surface rain catchment to collect water.

"With the sustainable method of collecting rain water, we can really turn this project into a large-scale process, into a large-scale business involving the community," said Noah Lukins '18. Lukins believes that Kettering students will be able to apply the engineering skills learned in the classroom and from their co-op employers to provide leadership and expertise on the project.

Support from the Ford Motor Company Fund will lead to the development and

installation of the solar technology. The ultimate goal of the project is to implement sustainable technologies in urban gardens in Flint to improve urban agricultural outputs and enhance access to healthy food for residents in Flint.

The foundation of Kettering's project is a unique partnership between Kettering faculty and students and Asbury. Dr. Laura Sullivan, Mechanical Engineering faculty member, is driving the collaboration by connecting Kettering students with community initiatives.

"Nutrition is a big issue for people in our community," said Pastor Tommy McDoniel. "Then the water crisis hit. With proper nutrition, many of those negative side effects can be kept dormant."



Blair & Terry weighing produce to take to the Local Grocer

New Beginnings

We will soon be adding some new signs at Asbury and some may say “Pardon Our Dust.” Our strategy to be a center for connections and a worship center requires that we make some serious structural changes to our worship center. Changes that may seem a bit over the top to some and even offensive to a few.

These changes are being done to support a variety of artistic productions in our worship center. This is the area that we formerly called the *Sanctuary*, and before that we used a term from the late 17th century, the *nave*. Technically, the *nave* is a rectangular area that is separated from the chancel area by a step. The sign over the entrance door still identifies this space as the *nave*.

The word “sanctuary” comes from a Latin word *sanctuarium*. Like other Latin words ending in *arium*, a sanctuary is intended to keep something inside. I presume the idea is to keep the “holy” or perhaps things that we have deemed holy inside. The more common usage for *sanctuary* is as a place of escape. A fugitive who holds up in a *sanctuary* is immune, at least according to medieval law.

Our term “worship” comes from an Old English word *weartscipe* which means worthy. Our common usage suggests that we find God worthy of worship. So a worship

center is a place where we go to show that we believe that God is worthy. A place where we worship God. Worship is most often done through some form of artistic expression. We humans use our God-given talents to creatively express our adoration for our Creator God.

We will be making space on our platform for more varieties of artistic expression. The area that is a “step up” from the floor of the walkways and seating areas in our worship center that is called the *chancel* area by us old-timers. Traditionally, this space was reserved for clergy. The word comes from a Latin word meaning cross-bars. It gives a sense of barrier or separation between the majority and the few.

Inspirational worship focuses on the majority who are not already in worship somewhere on Sunday mornings. We meet these persons where they are, church-wise, recognizing that the meaning of words like *chancel*, *nave* and even *sanctuary* are lost in translation. Moreover, our 21st century way of understanding Jesus leads us to realize that worship is not about furniture and fixtures. It is about the Holy Spirit finding a place in each of us whether we are on the platform or in a comfortable chair sipping on our coffee.



Inspirational Worship at a Presbyterian Church

True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth...

John 4:23

The Asbury UMC Family has new opportunities to join the Asbury Worship Team. We are looking for your help with to introduce our congregation and visitors to the Inspirational Worship Service that begins on September 10. We need leaders and members for the WELCOME and CONNECT Teams. There are opportunities to serve in hospitality, as greeters, media, and the new Cafe'. Our mutual goal is to make sure our members, visitors and guests are fully connected with us, as we go forward to become the spiritual beacon in our neighborhood. More information and job descriptions will be coming soon but in the meantime, please pray and ask God where your place can be in this exciting new time in our life together. Call Michele Weston to share your ideas and offer your service. 810-694-6266 or by e-mail at mweston38@att.net.

In Our Prayers

Curtis Young
Rachel Bastine
Norma Buzzard
Merle Supernaw
Barbara McIvor
Jonathon Misner
Nancy Auger

Austin & Mary Suffle
Shirley Craig
Mary Armstrong
Sarah Tanner
Elizabeth Wright
Judy Tanner
Mary Lyons

FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING

Sharon George
Elaine Lamoreaux
Mary Nations
Mary Russell
Shirley Moose
Charlayne Oram
Carmen Misner



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

Glow in the Dark...continued from Page 2

The brighter the fire the more noticeable the glow. Eventually, our light will be seen from further away calling more persons to join their flame with ours. Like a fire that spreads through forest full of dried underbrush our fire will spread consuming that which is dead that new life will spring forward out of the ashes.

Our collective fire depends upon our individual fire. This is why we say "glow" as a

way of reinforcing that individually our candles do not create such a brightness. Nevertheless, each of us who glow with the light of Christ within us are visible to a dark world. Each of us can offer a guiding light that others might also come to know the Christ that is within us. "I want what they have" said the coach in a recent worship video. "I want to be baptized" he said. Praying for the first time in a long time or perhaps for the first time in his life this man finds the words to ask God for the glow that he witnessed in his players. He too wanted to GLOW IN THE DARK.

Book Club News

.We are in the midst of a discussion of a book titled *Soil and Sacrament*. Parker J. Palmer writes this about our book: "Fred Bahnson believes that faith is expressed in the work of our hands as well as our minds and hearts, and that in community we can meet the needs of a hungry world. After reading his beautifully written book, I believe these things, too, and see new ways to put my beliefs into action. *Soil and Sacrament* is about new life—for ourselves, our descendants, and the earth on which we all depend."

A couple words of caution as we work our way through this book. First, you do not have to read the book to attend, but it does

help with the discussion and what you receive back from it.

Our goal is to continue to "widen our circle" and so we hope that you will join in on our discussion. We meet each Tuesday at Noon. Come join us for a light lunch, fellowship and discussion. Our food selections have been fantastic and we always have plenty to share. We are always on the lookout for our next book, video lesson or topic. Your participation and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

* Bahnson, Fred. *Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013.

Leadership in Worship & Service

Greeter	Christine
Children's Time	Pastor Tommy
Candle Lighting	Karen
Usher	Bob, Carolyn, Jim
Media Support	Bob
Nursery	Carolyn

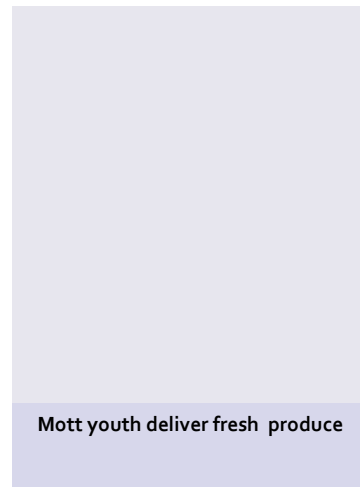
Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel	Pastor
Jim Craig	Church Council Chair
	Asbury CDC Board Chair

Connie Portillo	Office Secretary
Kathy Howe	Choir Director
Rebekah Britton	Piano & Organ

Coffee Break

Plan to meet outside the sanctuary each Sunday after the first service for coffee, tea, snacks, conversation and so on. The music will start when it is time to wrap up and head in for New Beginnings.



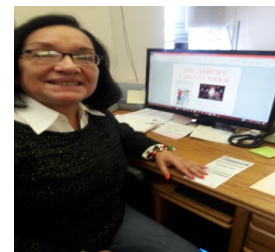
Mott youth deliver fresh produce

Worship times will change on September 10, 2017

9:00 am	Traditional Worship
10:00 am	Connect Break
10:30 am	Contemporary Worship

Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Acts 4:30 (NLT)



I am creating a new directory so look over your information & let me know if you have any changes or need to add a new number, address, a family member or you want to add an email.

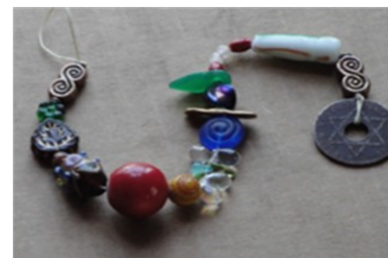
Coming up in Worship

All Our Days

A New Worship Series on the Power of Prayer
The tradition of using a string of beads or rope knot is an ancient tradition shared by many faith traditions around the globe. The common connection is the ability to give structure to personal prayer. Prayer beads offer a way to remind us of those things we want to talk to God about in our prayers. They can help shape our habits. This summer, we are invited to pray "All My Days" and to make a habit of prayer wherever you are. Each Sunday in worship we will focus on one of the steps of the prayer beads but you are encouraged to pray these all summer long.

Teaching Schedule

Aug 27 Holy Spirit Luke 24:49
Sept 3 Jesus Matthew 28:16-20



The tradition of using a string of beads or rope knot is an ancient tradition shared by many faith traditions around the globe.

**CHOIR PRACTICE WILL START
ON THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7TH—6:30PM!**

HAVE A FUN, SAFE LABOR DAY !

Traditional Worship team
meets Monday,
September 18th at
5:30pm

Coming up this week

Neighborhood Deliveries /water-food

Meet Up and Eat Up: Breakfast & Lunch -
Mon-Fri 8:00-9:30am & 12Noon-1:00pm

Aug 28 Mon

Aug 29 Tues 12Noon Pastor Book Club

Sept 1 Fri

Sept 3 Sun 10:00am Bible Study
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Break
11:30am New Beginnings

Last Week for Worship

Attendance 47 Offering \$ 1,081

Look for announcements scrolling on our screen prior to the start of worship.

Email announcements by the Friday before to:

FlintAsbury@gmail.com

Meet-up and Eat-up is a partnership between Asbury and the Food Bank that replaces the school meal program during the summer months...

Ways to Connect

Donate –You can give online at FlintAsbury.org/donate

Music Ministry –We are looking for vocalists and musicians.

Community Gardening – The Asbury Farm needs volunteers.

Pantry - We need food items, including meats, paper products; personal items diapers, and financial support.

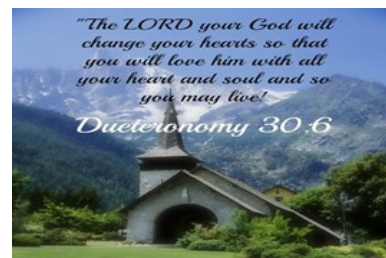
Social Media allows us to tell others about the work that God is doing. All of us can

help enhance our presence in the social media by posting on our Facebook and utilizing our website for blogging.

Housing - the Asbury House offers local college students a way to use their gifts and passions together with their faith in building a better neighborhood.

Women's Circles - The women of Asbury meet regularly in small groups.

Pastor's Book Club meets each Tuesday at 12Noon for fellowship, food and learning.



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

Welcome to the Asbury Community

1653 Davison Road
Flint, MI 48506

Phone: 810-235-0016
Fax: 810-235-0016 (call first when faxing)
E-mail: FlintAsbury@gmail.com



Neighborhood Connection



We envision a community in love with God, each other, and our neighbors evidenced by the transformation of ourselves and our neighborhood. We are a center for worship & spiritual growth, a center for connections and a center for health & wellness.

Our goal is a revitalized community where every resident can use their talents and passions for the common good, where children grow into citizens who contribute to building and maintaining a vibrant neighborhood, and all residents are able to enjoy safety, good health, a culture that fosters life-long learning and satisfying lives.

We believe that such an ambitious goal can never be attained without God's grace and abundance and Christ calls each of us to be disciples willing to share our witness through words and acts.

Kettering & Asbury receive Grant from Ford



Kettering & Asbury received a Ford Grant for solar-powered irrigation

The Ford Motor Company Fund is the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company. Ford Fund works with community and global partners to advance education, safe driving and community life.

ity, changing the way people move through smart mobility and building sustainable communities. Overall, the program is designed to empower college students to inspire community-building projects addressing pressing local needs. The Ford C3 is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2017.

Kettering student, Noah Lukins plans to write his thesis based on his experience working on this project. He will be guided by his Professor Laura Sullivan.

"This is an opportunity for students to demonstrate leadership in the community with an emphasis on sustainability. I'm looking forward to seeing Noah leading other Kettering students to engage residents of Flint about the potential of solar energy."

Dr. Laura Sullivan