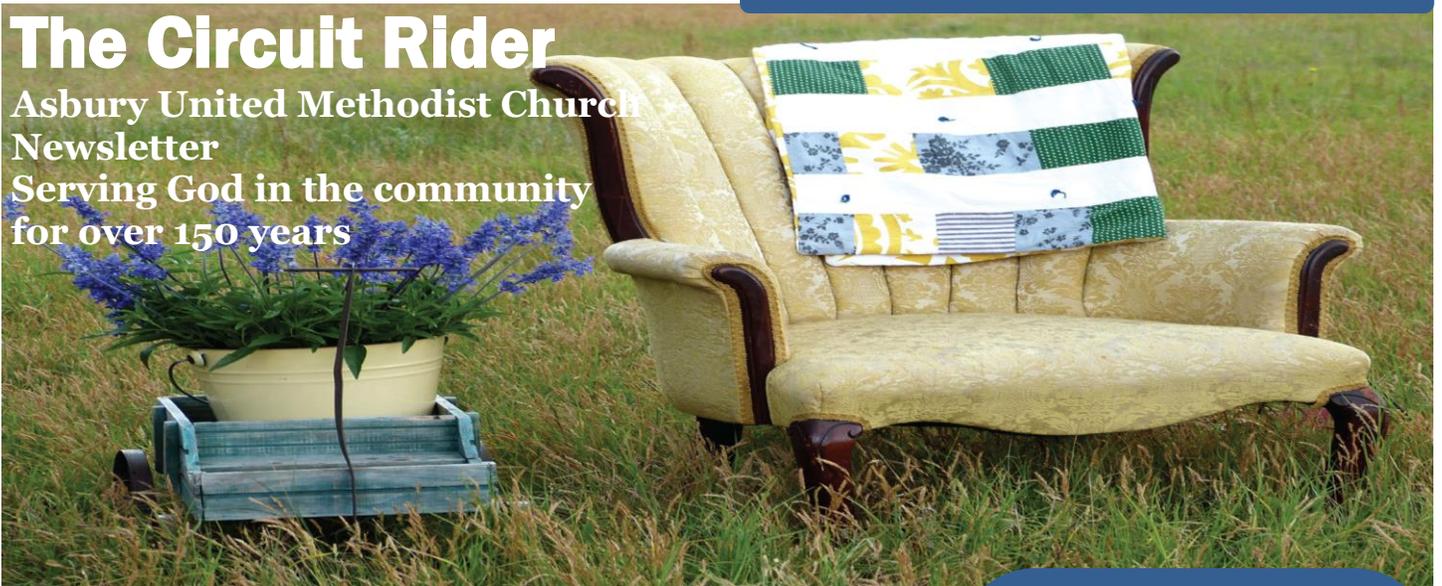


# The Circuit Rider

Asbury United Methodist Church  
 Newsletter  
 Serving God in the community  
 for over 150 years



July 2020

Dear Friends,

Filled with excitement and joy and a bit of anxiety, I am able to share with you the news that we have been given the green light from our Bishop and District Superintendent to re-open Asbury UMC for worship on our grounds! Thanks to the members of our Re-Opening Task Force, cleaning has happened throughout our building, guidelines have been written, supplies for maintaining cleanliness are in stock and plans are in place. We are ready to open for worship services to those who are ready to come, on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

For the duration of the summer and into September, we will worship outside under the trees, social distancing, wearing masks. There will be no contact (hugs, handshakes, hand bumps, etc.) between us, but a smile, a wave or wink to express our care and love for one another will surely be welcome! We will not be singing hymns as a congregation at this time, but will continue to be blessed by the many talents of our worship team. Be assured that the live streaming and conference call will continue to be available for use by anyone who is unable to be present at the church. There will be no fellowship hour and once the service is ended, we will depart in a timely and efficient manner, holding each other close in spirit and in love.

**THERE IS NO PRESSURE TO BE IN ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP SERVICE UNTIL YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY READY.** If you are one of the many who are particularly vulnerable to the COVID 19 virus, please use extreme caution in making the right decision as to when you will attend a worship service on Asbury's grounds! We miss you, but above all else, we want you to remain healthy!

In this newsletter, you will find the entire reopening plan, written by Jan and Bill King. It is thorough and comprehensive and has been approved by the Re-Opening Task Force prior to being sent on to the Bishop and DS. If you have any questions or concerns about this next step, PLEASE reach out to me on my cell phone: 860-817-5501. Let's join together in prayer as we take this next step forward.

## OUR STAFF

### Pastor

The Rev. Laura L. Galbraith

### Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Melissa Gray

### Custodian

Brandon Labadia

### Music Director

Steven Fasano

### Organist

Eugenia Kim

### Bell Choir Director

Kristen Russo

### Nursery Coordinator

Briana Hoffman

## CONTACT INFO

**Office:** 860-584-0529

**Fax:** 860-584-0520 (call first)

**Dial-A-Prayer:** 860-584-0520

**Parsonage:** 860-261-4131

**Pastor e-mail:**

[pastorlaura.g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorlaura.g@sbcglobal.net)

**Secretary e-mail:**

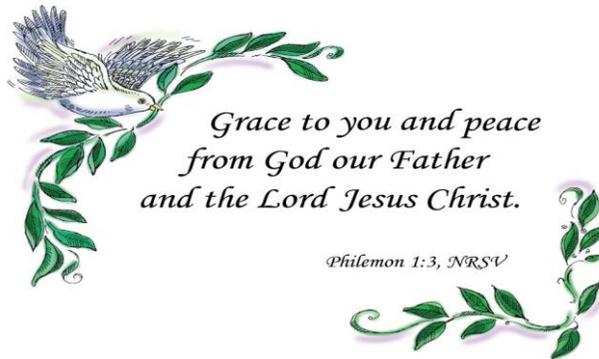
[asburysecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:asburysecretary@sbcglobal.net)

**Asbury Web Page:**

[www.asburyumcforestville.com](http://www.asburyumcforestville.com)

# PRAYER LIST

Annabelle Coloske, Tom Sallstrom, Audrey Kasakowski, Emily Hall, Pam Fake, Gloria DiMichelle, Dena Walker, Ron Brewer, Marilyn May, Pat Sallstrom, Lu Maringola, John Carlson, Ernest Szydlo, III, Steven Perrone, Jr., Carrie Zahacewski, Elsie Lyons, and others who have needs of which we may not be aware.



If you wish to be listed in the bulletin and newsletter for prayers, please call the church office at 860-584-0529 or e-mail us at: [asburysecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:asburysecretary@sbcglobal.net).

If you wish to relate prayer needs to the **prayer chain**, please call Phyllis Petit at 860-589-6059 or Mernie Whitcomb at 860-583-5373, or e-mail Pastor Laura at [pastorlaura.g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorlaura.g@sbcglobal.net). Please keep your call brief, and be aware of the privacy rights of the person(s) for whom you are requesting prayers.

# JULY BIRTHDAYS

01	Kerri Guglietta Ryan Amadio	10	Jay Komanetsky Phyllis Petit	23	Muriel Hassel
02	Ryan Donovan Ilene Rindfleisch		Lee Cranford Jr. Judy Kirschner	24	Carissa Guglietta Isaac Esten
03	James Schaffrick Laura West Adams		Paul Maskery	25	Charlotte Cole Jean Cummings
04	Darlene Cirrito Jacob Gomez	11	Shawn Anderson Tobias Henry		Stephanie Achilli Janelle Sanchez-
	Bethany Bircher		Edward Paradise		Gonzales
05	Luke Schilling		Paula Cousino	26	April Garthwaite
	Jessica Pinette	12	James Burrow		Mark Hazelton
06	Devan Rusgrove Jordan Butler		Thomas Dorman	27	Joseph Esposito Christopher Wright
	Nancy Rhodes		Natalie Boucher		Dale Landeen
07	Tyler Bonaker David Mahaney	14	Scott Pehmoeller	28	Guy Fletcher John Amadio
	Kristopher Fuller		Shannon Ferris		Kelly Anelli
	Andrew Ranucci	18	Barbara Hentz	30	A.J. Bajjo
08	Donna Pehmoeller		John Kirschner		Brendan Guerin
09	Jayden Barton Edward Smith	20	Mason Lishness		Michaela Gonzalez
	Patricia E. Potts		Everett Therrien	31	Pearl McIntyre Avery Costello
			Linda Bircher		
			Clayton Wheeler Jr.		
			Jaylynn Esposito		
			Kaylee Hudson		

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

01	Brenda Doncet	09	Elsie Lyons	18	Nicholas Donovan
02	Cindy Goodine		John Carlson	19	Patricia Jandreau
	Jasmine Colapietro		Julie Bircher	21	Dylan Leece
	Steffanie Pratt	12	Samuel Mahaney	22	Barbara Dubay
	Kim Reynolds		Tyler Roberts		Bailey Guerin
03	Gregory Marshall		Linda Henry	23	Madison Charette
	Lovey Fasci	14	Liam Horan		Allison Johnson
	Scott Redman		Robert Gray	24	Alan Sivers
	Robert Linn		Carson Rossignol		Michelle Leece
	Taylor Lafferty	15	Bethany Pelletier		Nicole Spaulding
	Kirk Marshall		Lori Schaffrick	27	Sue Wadowski
04	John Holcomb		Gardner Wright Jr.	28	Megan Servoss
07	Ella Schwartz		Andy Adams	29	Nina Dubay
	Lyla Carpio	16	Jana Ros	30	Robert Rhodes
08	Christina Derench		Grant Carter		Grace Lavery
	Vayda Martinez	17	Joyce Cannon		
	Michael Bailey		Destiny Bullard		
			Annabelle Coloske		
			Becky Ranucci		

## *What's in the Shopping Cart for 2020!*



Below is the shopping cart list for 2020. As always, thank you for supporting the Backpack Program by placing your donation in the shopping cart located in the Narthex.

July/August Cans of vegetables

September Juice boxes

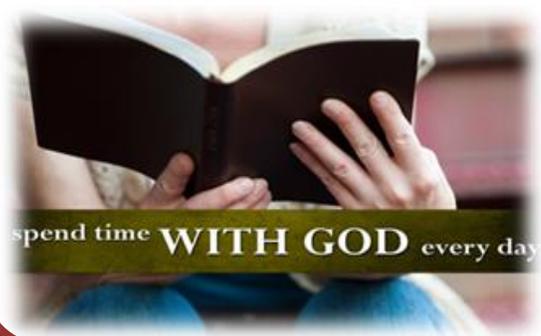
October Cans of Hearty soup

November Canned pasta

December Mac & cheese

Bill and Jan King are still packing backpacks for families in need in Bristol. While the church does remain closed at this time, if you can donate to the program, please call the church office at 860-584-0529 and leave a message. We will arrange a time for you to drop off your donations.

## Daily Bible Reading Guide



### **JULY 2020** **God's Life-Giving Word of Promise**

- 1 Genesis 12:1-20
- 2 Genesis 13:1-18
- 3 Genesis 14:1-24
- 4 Genesis 15:1-21
- 5 Genesis 16:1-16
- 6 Genesis 17:1-27
- 7 Genesis 18:1-15
- 8 Genesis 18:16-33
- 9 Genesis 21:1-21
- 10 Genesis 21:22-34
- 11 Genesis 22:1-19
- 12 Exodus 1:1-22
- 13 Exodus 2:1-25
- 14 Exodus 3:1-22
- 15 Exodus 4:1-17
- 16 Exodus 4:18-31
- 17 Exodus 6:2-13
- 18 Esther 2:1-23
- 19 Esther 3:1-15
- 20 Esther 4:1-17
- 21 Esther 5:1-14
- 22 Esther 6:1-13
- 23 Esther 6:14—7:10
- 24 Esther 8:1-17
- 25 Esther 9:1-19
- 26 Esther 9:20-32
- 27 Isaiah 35:1-10
- 28 Isaiah 42:1-17
- 29 Jeremiah 31:1-22
- 30 Jeremiah 31:23-40
- 31 Jeremiah 33:1-26

### **AUGUST 2020** **God's Life-Giving Word of Forgiveness and Mercy**

- 1 Isaiah 43:1-21
- 2 Isaiah 49:8-26
- 3 Isaiah 54:1-17
- 4 Isaiah 55:1-13
- 5 Lamentations 3:1-24
- 6 Lamentations 3:25-57
- 7 Hosea 1:1—2:1
- 8 Hosea 2:2-23
- 9 Hosea 3:1—4:10
- 10 Hosea 5:4-15
- 11 Hosea 6:1—7:2
- 12 Hosea 7:3-16
- 13 Hosea 9:17—10:15
- 14 Hosea 11:1-11
- 15 Hosea 14:1-9
- 16 Jonah 1:1-17
- 17 Jonah 2:1-10
- 18 Jonah 3:1-10
- 19 Jonah 4:1-11
- 20 Zephaniah 1:1-18
- 21 Zephaniah 2:1-15
- 22 Zephaniah 3:1-20
- 23 Haggai 1:1-15
- 24 Haggai 2:1-23
- 25 Zechariah 1:1-17
- 26 Zechariah 1:18—2:13
- 27 Zechariah 8:1-23
- 28 Zechariah 9:9-17
- 29 Zechariah 10:1-12
- 30 John 8:1-11
- 31 Philemon 1-25

**The Asbury 2020 Academic Scholarships have been awarded to the following students:**

**Vanessa Floyd  
Emma Avery  
Lukas Morin  
Allison Johnson**

**Congratulations and Best Wishes to them!**

## LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE

We are live streaming our service on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM.  
Our facebook page link is: <https://www.facebook.com/asburyumcforestville/>

Here is a link to the United Methodist Hymnal  
so you may sing along during the service:  
<https://hymnary.org/hymnal/UMH?page=5>

Here is a link to the New Revised Standard Version Bible  
so you may look up the scripture and gospel lesson:  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-NRSV-Bible/>

## CONFERENCE CALL WORSHIP SERVICE

Don't have Facebook?

An alternative is to call in to the church and be part of a conference call  
that we have arranged for Sunday service.

Call a few minutes before 10:00 to be signed in:

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

You will be asked for a meeting ID and password followed by the #. Dial the following:

Meeting ID: 154 542 604

Password: 309020

(be sure to include the # at the end).

You will be placed on hold until you are connected.

Say "hi" when you are connected so we know you are with us. You won't get a reply. You  
will be on mute for most of the service,

but we will unmute for a short period of time so people can greet each other.

If you have problems, please call 860-584-0529.

## TIME WITH PASTOR LAURA

On Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5pm, Pastor Laura is going to do a brief "check in" on Facebook. Follow the sign in steps listed above and hear her message and prayer. On Wednesday mornings at 11 am, Pastor will offer a storybook time for the children and others, reading a children's book and offering a brief message and prayer with our children of all ages. Follow the same sign in steps on Wednesday morning and stay connected!

## YOU TUBE

Although YOUTUBE is not live,

you can watch the Sunday service by using the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZsvF2RvURtKnnlQTJYnZ3w>

Live with Pastor Laura, and Storytime with Pastor Laura are also on our YouTube page.

Please subscribe so you get notifications when videos are posted.

Videos are put up on YOUTUBE as quickly as possible. They are also close captioned.

The mission of the New York Annual Conference is: *We strive to share God's love by CREATING SAFE PLACES where all are accepted and welcomed, CONNECTING the needs of people to the presence of God, and TRANSFORMING the world through Christ.*

In the opening statement from Bishop Thomas Bickerton in the 28 page PDF for the re-opening of the churches in the NYAC, he writes:

*“One of the most consistent ways to describe a Methodist is to talk about the link between Christian belief and Christian living. In our “Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Stance,” the Book of Discipline clearly connects the unity of faith with the consistency of good works.*

*In order to communicate this connection between faith and works, John Wesley created “The General Rules.” These directives were designed to be constant, yet simple reminders for those who participated in the Methodist societies.*

## **Do No Harm**

**by avoiding evil of every kind.**

## **Do Good**

**of every possible sort, and as far as possible, to all**

**Attend upon all the ordinances of God**

**by staying in love with God in disciplined ways**

*These rules were designed to help the Methodists see how they could move from general principles to specific actions. These very same rules of living are the ones we use as modern day Methodists to live out our discipleship. These very same rules simply describe the exact manner by which we have and will approach our systematic response to the Covid-19 pandemic.”*

It is with these words from our Founder John Wesley, our resident Bishop and the mission of our conference that the re-open team at Asbury UMC has established these procedures and protocols for in-person worship and other gathering to take place at Asbury UMC. The following steps / actions must be adhered to by all those who choose to attend worship services, use the building for other purposes including, but not limited to meetings, functions and any other type of gathering.

1) Everyone entering the property will have their temperature taken before each church service or event whether the service or event is outside or inside. Masks **MUST** be worn at all times. The only exception will be for those while speaking or offering a solo song during worship service. All other times, masks should be worn by the worship team and all participants at every event.

There are some reasons why a mask cannot be worn, i.e. health reasons, etc. If this is the case individuals will be asked to stay home, stay safe. For Sunday worship, the live stream or phone call in options will be available to participate in worship. Masks can be provided for those who do not have one. With any resistance to this rule, individuals will be asked to return home. Participants in any worship service or event are not to arrive more than 15 minutes before the start whether outside or inside.

2) Social distancing **MUST** be maintained at all times at worship services, meetings and all other events on Asbury property.

During outside worship, participants may sit with family or individuals with whom they share living space, but must maintain at least 6 feet between other participants. There will be no hand shaking, including passing of the peace, hugging or other physical contact allowed on church property whether services/events are held outside or inside. There will be no exit receiving line with the Pastor and Worship Leader following worship services.

For outdoor worship services, participants must provide their own chairs. These chairs must not be left at Asbury for use on the following week. A small number of chairs will be available for use during the worship services for those who do not bring their own chairs. All chairs provided by Asbury and all chairs used by groups for events at Asbury will be sanitized after the service. The responsibility of sanitization will be with the group that uses the property after each use.

3) For indoor worship services and anytime the sanctuary is used, alternate pews will be blocked off and opposite ends of the pews will be used. Several rows of pews in the front of the sanctuary will be closed off for the protection of the Pastor and members of the worship service.

Seating in pews will proceed as follows: One family or living unit will sit toward the center aisle in the pew, the next pew will be skipped, and in the next pew, the family will sit near the outer walls. While people are used to sitting in the same pews in which they have sat in for a long time, **SAFETY MUST BE THE FIRST PRIORITY**. If the sanctuary seating capacity reaches 50 %, additional parishioners will be asked to leave and watch the service on Facebook or use the call-in option.

4) Until further notice, there will be no choir or community singing of hymns. The only musical offerings will be soloists. Also, limited responsive readings will be used during worship and masks must be kept on at all times. For those offering a solo during worship, 10 feet distance from all other participants must be maintained.

5) Those in attendance of church services or all other events will be asked to provide their name and contact information upon entrance to the service/event. Each group that holds an event or a recurring meeting on the Asbury property, indoors or outdoors, will be required to maintain documentation of participants at each gathering. The New York Conference of the United Methodist Church has asked that clear and accurate records be maintained of those in the building for all gatherings in the event that an attendee contracts Covid 19. In the event of infection, notification will be quickly sent to those who were at the same service or event for further action as deemed appropriate by each person's medical care provider.

6) Until further notice, there will be no Fellowship hour or coffee hour gatherings in Wesley Hall, the kitchen or anywhere else on the property after the worship service or other events on the property. No coffee or other drinks or food items will be allowed. Wesley Hall will be closed to anyone, unless they are just passing through to get to an event. Until further notice the use of the coat rack in Wesley Hall is not to be used. It is necessary that everyone adhere to this rule to maintain social distancing.

7) For outdoor services and other events, the restrooms near the handicap door / library will be the only ones available for use. Participants will be required to wipe down all surfaces before and after use of the restrooms, including handles, doorknobs, sinks, toilet seats, etc. with the cleaning supplies provided. If an individual is unable to maintain the bathroom as required, they will need to have another individual help with this important task.

**The potential spread of Covid 19 increases quickly in high traffic areas including door knobs, railings, bathrooms and other high-touch areas so adherence to cleaning protocol is of necessity.**

8) Bibles and hymnals will not be available for use during worship services. Parishioners are welcome to bring their own Bibles for use during a service but no personal Bibles can be kept at Asbury. Participants will be encouraged to wipe down the outside of a personal Bible or hymnal after use in the church service. Cushions on the pews will be removed from the sanctuary until further notice. The Teddy Bear Ministry will remain available to those who desire to receive a Teddy Bear, however, bears will be kept separated from the pews and handed out as requested from storage.

9) All church meetings will be done on Zoom or other computer platform until further notice. This also includes Bible studies. It is important that adherence to Social Distancing guidelines is followed at all times and in all situations in order to be able to continue to care for each other and the community at large.

10) The use of ushers to help seat people and hand out church programs is eliminated until further notice. Bulletins will be put at the ends of the available pews before the service on Sunday. Ushers will not collect offerings until further notice. There will be a stationary collection plate available to put offerings in as participants enter the church service. Offerings can also be mailed to Asbury as well as the use of PayPal and other electronic services. Information is available for individuals who may consider setting up an automatic payment through their bank account. All offerings will be counted after remaining stationary for at least 3 days to eliminate the spread of Covid 19. All counters must wear gloves while counting all offering to protect themselves from contamination.

11) While the procedures and policies listed here apply to worship services, the same policies apply to ALL outside groups using Asbury UMC for meetings, gatherings, functions, etc. The taking of temperatures is at the discretion of the group using the building, however, the use of masks, social distancing, physical contact, sanitizing the areas used after the gathering MUST be maintained. Documenting the contact information each time of the attendees and collecting and safe guarding that information is also mandatory.

### **Requirements for those Renting and/or Utilizing our Facilities**

1) Renters and others using Asbury facilities, indoors or outdoors will be permitted to resume their activities upon a meeting with Asbury representatives and signing an agreement, on behalf of the particular group stating that they agree to comply with the same restrictions, guidelines, and cleaning/sanitation measures outlined in this document.

2) Negligence or non-compliance with these measures opens the door for the potential spread of the virus and to potential liability issues with insurance carriers. Non-compliance will be immediately addressed and rectified. Further use of the property will be placed in jeopardy.

3) Per the NYAC, any fund-raising or social activities that involves food preparation and distribution is cancelled until further notice. This would especially include fund-raising dinners, covered-dish dinners, or food distribution through buffets. The NYAC has documented illustrations that volunteerism in these activities has created breeding grounds for the transmission of the virus.

**Submitted,  
Jan King and William King  
June 2020**

**Approved by Re-opening Task Force,  
June 30, 2020  
Rev. Laura Galbraith, pastor**