

Dear Friends,

We continue to forge ahead in the midst of the Corona Virus. I'm blessed to see some of you on Sunday mornings in-person and many more online. I am moved by your continued willingness to abide by the safety guidelines set by our Bishop and the Governor of Connecticut. Based on what I have read, what is being passed along to me, and the increase in numbers of cases reported, I believe that we will be social distancing, wearing masks and refraining from group gatherings at least until springtime. Let's hope that it does not go any longer!

Ministry at Asbury carries on in different ways and members are doing their part to maintain our presence in the community. Our Worship Committee is at work planning for special online and in-person worship services for the special days in November and December. The Bristol Interfaith Council is at work planning for the Interfaith Service on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This service will be online with individual churches contributing various parts to the service. A link will be published for those who wish to watch and participate in a distanced way.

Your generous donations of food and personal care items continue to be shared with those in need in our community. Over the warm months, we maintained a "Blessing Table" in our parking lot for individuals who needed a little help to pick up canned foods and cleaning supplies. We are continuing to receive your donations and they are being distributed to the food pantries and agencies such as Brian's Angels, Prudence Crandall Center, Agape House and Salvation Army. The Backpack Ministry has begun serving the families in need of supplemental weekend food once again. Currently, 54 children and their families from six schools in Bristol are receiving a backpack filled with food to tide the family through a weekend.

Ten members will start the 32-week journey of Disciple Bible Study on October 27th with Debbie Bechert and Deanna Achilli leading. The class will do a combination of ZOOM meeting and in-person for those who are interested, social distancing, masks at all times. The Wednesday morning Bible class had been meeting outside in the parking lot, social distanced with masks. They are now meeting, following all cautionary measures, in Wesley Hall on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. Final plans are being put in place to begin a ZOOM Sunday School class for children grades pre-k to 5.

On October 8th, we held a Church Conference with the District Superintendent (DS) on ZOOM. We heard encouragement and appreciation from the DS who urged us to not be discouraged and keep on spreading the message of Jesus Christ throughout the community. I know these meetings do not accommodate everyone and can assure you that once we are able and comfortable with doing so, we will hold an in-person meeting with the DS to continue on our discussion. Because the meeting was held so early (as compared to the usual meeting time of mid-later November), we did not approve a budget or elect a full slate of leadership. We did elect Trustees: Scott Pehmoeller, Roy DiYulio, Cathleen Whillock and Jim Doncet per the requirements of the UMC.

I personally want to thank you as I also extend the appreciation and thanks from our Finance team for your continued faithfulness in giving to the ministries of Asbury UMC. With our major fundraisers cancelled for this year, we will be struggling at year's end. In the next month, we will be sending out an update for you regarding our year end shortfall. Look also for a fall pledge campaign to make your commitment of support to the church for 2021. Right now, any gifts that you are willing to share will be so appreciated and put toward fulfilling our commitments in ministry and paying our bills. If you donated supplies or goods for any of the fundraisers, would you consider making that a cash donation this year? Thanks to many who are working behind the scenes to organize fundraisers (look for the holiday coffee sale soon and there's still time to drop off clothes for the clothing drive!) and watch over our finances.

I am so blessed and inspired by the spirit of Asbury that continues to share our message of love and grace in so many special ways in these days. What each of you are doing to keep in touch with others and share concerns with me is what makes Asbury the place that it is. May God continue to bless us as we carry on to love and serve God and one another!

PRAYER LIST

Marilyn May, Bruce & Sharon Parsons, Betty Topalian, Tom Sallstrom, Audrey Kasakowski, Emily Hall, Pam Fake, Gloria DiMichelle, Ron Brewer, 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.

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. Please keep your call brief, and be aware of the privacy rights of the person(s) for whom you are requesting prayers.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|--|
| 01 | Molly Rusgrove Verna Pekrul Diana Esposito | 10 | Jonathon Hazelton David Pelletier Declan Lowrey | 20 | Darien Carter Andre Carter |
| 02 | Tyler Voisine Richard Kirschner Manny Martinez Melissa Gray | 11 | Scott Peterson Tidus Root | 21 | Ayden Mahaney Francine Boucher |
| 03 | Bryant Lishness Jr | 12 | Nadine Charest | 22 | Wesley Porrini |
| 04 | Laurie Landeen Gail Hyde | 13 | Jennifer Fiorini Calla Harrison Paul McBaine (Valliere) Linda Decker | 23 | Kathy Soucy Donald Puppel |
| 05 | D'Anna France Alethea Therrien Lori Trafton Kimberly Borkowski | 14 | Stacey Rich Joshua Fiorini Kathy Marshall George Hubbard | 24 | Bill King Julie Clement Matthew Baumberger |
| 06 | Katelyn VonHagen Ruby Harper Heather Baker Isaiah Sanchez | 15 | Abigail Pogemiller Zachary Martin | 25 | Donna Szydlo Michelle Bruce |
| 07 | Michael Pierce Katharyn Schaffrick | 16 | Margaret Hazelton | 26 | Cheyenne O'Donnell Jan King |
| 08 | Caleb Tye Mernie Whitcomb | 17 | Douglas Shea Daniel Donovan Christopher Swanson Cyr | 27 | Betty Topalian Timothy Jose |
| 09 | Cristina Harrison Michael Pinette Mary Esten Lindsey Majors | 18 | Edward Coloske | 28 | Melissa Rindfleisch |
| | | 19 | Scott Labadia Laurel Staub | 29 | Michael Kirschner |
| | | | | 30 | Andrew Barnaby |
| | | | | 31 | Jordyn Newton Wayne Devino |



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Eric Wright
Bryan Charest
02 Randy DiYulio
Jochen Maier
Lukas Morin
Glenn Fearn
Steve Schwartz
04 Jason Root
05 Jenifer Tabacco
06 Sara Rackliffe
07 Chris Grennan
Ronald Smith
Colton Limmer
08 Thomas Walsh
Deborah Sopchak
Wendy Bechert
Abigail Bechert
09 Kerry Scanlan Jr
Cassie Castonguay
Kelly Peasley
10 Bobbi Shafer
11 Payton Carter
Steven Leece

12 Jessica Demarest
13 Olivia Cannon
Caitlyn Stone
Gemma Derench
Brynn Stone
14 William Bircher
Debralee Alkoff
JoAnn Floyd
Scott Maskery
15 Wylla Apraku-Boateng
16 Mark Hazzard
17 Joy Coloske
Tanairy Barton
Aubree Staggers
Briana Hoffman
18 Bobby Linn
19 Paul Zahacewski
22 Ashley McBaine
Amy Anderson
Adalynn Burse
Nancy Doble
Reece Pelletier

23 Rachel Floyd
Jason Baldwin-Stephens
Daryl Deprey
24 Michael Coderre
26 James Taylor
Suanne McMahon
Raymond Lavery
Bruce Lauzier
Adam Coloske
Kerry Rusgrove
Frank Spirito IV
27 Michelle Mazarra
28 Kimberly Colapietro
Pamela Lewis
29 Audrey Kasakowski
James Hasler Jr
30 Carli Beveridge
Rowen Limmer
Jaden Carter



CLOTHING DRIVE

We will be collecting clothing, pocketbooks, shoes and hats to help raise funds for the church. Savers in Newington, CT will be accepting whatever we collect.

The cut off date for collecting clothes will be Sunday November 8th.

Clothing may be dropped off at the church outside by the double doors or they may be dropped off at Ann Morin's house.

For directions to Ann's house or for more information, please call her at 860-584-8576.

THANK YOU!

Dear Asbury Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for choosing me for the scholarship, it means so much! Asbury is truly part of my family and I will miss being able to go to church on Sundays and see everyone. I miss everyone so much!

Love, Ally (Johnson)

Daily Bible Reading Guide



OCTOBER 2020 God's Life-Giving Word of Justice and Peace

- 1 Habakkuk 1:1-17
- 2 Habakkuk 2:1-20
- 3 Habakkuk 3:1-19
- World Communion Sunday
- 4 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
- 5 Isaiah 1:1-20
- 6 Isaiah 1:21—2:5
- 7 Isaiah 3:1-15
- 8 Isaiah 4:2—5:7
- 9 Isaiah 6:1-13
- 10 Isaiah 11:1-16
- 11 Isaiah 32:1-20
- 12 Isaiah 33:1-24
- 13 Isaiah 34:1-17
- 14 Isaiah 50:1-11
- 15 Isaiah 57:1-21
- 16 Isaiah 58:1-14
- 17 Isaiah 59:1-21
- 18 Jeremiah 1:1-19
- 19 Jeremiah 2:1-25
- 20 Jeremiah 3:6-25
- 21 Jeremiah 4:1-18
- 22 Jeremiah 5:1-19
- 23 Jeremiah 5:20-31
- 24 Jeremiah 7:1-15
- 25 Jeremiah 10:1-16
- 26 Jeremiah 29:1-23
- 27 Jeremiah 30:1-24
- 28 Nahum 1:1-15
- 29 Nahum 2:1-13
- 30 Nahum 3:1-19
- 31 Ezekiel 34:1-31

NOVEMBER 2020 God's Life-Giving Word of Praise and Thanksgiving

- 1 Psalm 92
- 2 Psalm 93
- 3 Psalm 94
- 4 Psalm 95
- 5 Psalm 96
- 6 Psalm 97
- 7 Psalm 98
- 8 1 Chronicles 13:1-14
- 9 1 Chronicles 14:1-17
- 10 1 Chronicles 15:1-24
- 11 1 Chronicles 15:25—16:7
- 12 1 Chronicles 16:8-43
- 13 1 Chronicles 17:1-15
- 14 1 Chronicles 17:16-27
- 15 Psalm 121
- 16 Psalm 122
- 17 Psalm 124
- 18 Psalm 125
- 19 Psalm 126
- 20 Psalm 127
- 21 Psalm 128
- 22 Ezra 7:1-10
- 23 Ezra 7:11-28
- 24 Nehemiah 8:1-18
- 25 Nehemiah 12:27-47
- Thanksgiving Day
- 26 Psalm 138
- 27 Psalm 139
- 28 Psalm 135
- First Sunday of Advent
- 29 Psalm 49
- 30 Psalm 144



From the Stewardship Committee

First, let me start by thanking everyone who has been keeping up with your donations in these difficult times, and especially those of you who have gone above and beyond. We understand how difficult this is for many of you and are grateful for your generosity.

Our current budget situation is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Total Spending: | \$233,000 |
| Apportionments: | \$31,000 |
| Regular Envelope Contributions: | \$140,000 |
| 144 Program: | \$10,000 |
| Fundraisers: | \$30,000 |
| Budgeted Shortfall: | \$42,000 |

We are estimating that at the end of the year, when our total revenue and expenditures are added up, the shortfall for 2020 will be about \$40,000. Our hope is that we can eliminate this deficit by the end of the year so that we can start 2021 with a clean slate. Anything that you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. If you have fallen behind on your pledges, now would be a wonderful time to catch up. If you are current and can do a little more to keep our ministry going, that would be wonderful as well. There will be no Roast Pork Dinner or Yankee Peddler Fair this year, so we cannot count on those two sources of income.

This brings me to next year. With the Covid pandemic still upon us, we have no way of knowing when we will be able to return to full worship services. Most of our members have responded by mailing in their pledges or having their bank send out an automatic check every week or month. This has been crucial to Asbury in our ability to pay our bills. We must continue this momentum into 2021. If you are at all able, please consider increasing your pledge to keep our beloved church going until we can all gather together again in Christ's name. Together we can do this, and I look forward to seeing you all again when we can celebrate a full re-opening!

The deadline for the combined
DECEMBER / JANUARY
Circuit Rider is

Sunday November 8th.

Please leave all articles in the mailbox in the
church office or
e-mail them to:
asburysecretary@sbcglobal.net



Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday, November 1st

WE ARE KEEPING ASBURY IN MINISTRY IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES!

We are limited to our fundraising plans as we continue to follow the guidelines passed along to us by the State of CT and the New York Conference. We will not be able to prepare or serve food any time into the future. We also cannot hold any large gatherings like the Yankee Peddler Fair. Our leadership is trying to be creative and do some fundraisers monthly. Every fundraiser isn't for everyone, but please consider participating when you can! These fundraisers are going to be vital for Asbury's financial health.

NOVEMBER COFFEE FUNDRAISER!
Christmas Coffee Beanery Fundraiser

This is a return of the highly successful fundraiser that we did in September! We will be taking orders November 1-14 so that we can have orders in before Christmas. As we did in the past, orders can be emailed to aumcforestville.com and paid for by credit card on the website. Cash or check will also be accepted, dropped at the church or paid to the person you place your order with. Flyers will be available after November 1st and will be posted on the website at the same time.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR BLESSINGS TABLE!
WE DIDN'T REQUIRE ANY CONTACT WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE OR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION
FOR NEIGHBORS TO SIMPLY WALK UP AND TAKE WHAT THEY NEEDED!

Unfortunately weather interfered with what we were doing! The canopy was torn apart by a windy storm one Friday night and on a few occasions, food that was on the table got wet from a downpour (even with the canopy in place) and had to be thrown out. For these reasons, we've decided to stop the distribution of food and cleaning supplies in this way through at least the winter months. Your help is still needed in so many ways, so please continue to leave your food and cleaning supplies on the stage in Wesley Hall and they will be delivered to the Necessities Cupboard in Forestville or the Salvation Army. There are many agencies in need of assistance right now, so if you're wondering how to help, here are a few suggestions for the places that would appreciate your help:

PRUDENCE CRANDALL CENTER FOR WOMEN: (Domestic Violence Shelter and advocacy): They are always appreciative of donations of frozen vegetables for the meals at the shelter. Personal care items like deodorant and shampoo (either travel size or full size) are also appreciated. These items can be left at the church, or delivered to 594 Burritt St., New Britain, CT 06050

ASBURY BACKPACK MINISTRY: The Backpack Ministry has begun to serve fifty-three families from six Bristol schools. They would continue to value your donations, especially: individually wrapped snacks, boxed mac and cheese, juice boxes and hearty soups.

BRIAN'S ANGELS OUTREACH: Brian's Angels is always looking for individuals or small groups to sign up to provide a hot meal for thirty people who are served by the program each day. If you would like to contribute a meal or a part of a meal, please call Pastor Laura and she will coordinate with you and others for a meal on a particular date. They also appreciate cold cut sandwiches that can be placed in a lunch bag. They also always appreciate canned meals like ravioli or beef stew or individual bagged snacks or cookies. As the weather turns cold, they will also appreciate sleeping bags, sweat shirts, jackets and men's jeans. Brian's Angels is now located at the back of Prospect United Methodist Church, 99 Summer St., Bristol.

MERIDEN HUMANE SOCIETY: Animal shelters are seeing a rise in animals being abandoned due to owners who have lost jobs and homes and are no longer able to care for their pets. Donations of dog and cat food (canned or dry), and cat litter will be put to good use. Drop off at Asbury, or deliver to 311 Murdock Ave., Meriden.

SALVATION ARMY: The Salvation Army continues to operate a food pantry. Donations of nutritious non-perishable food will be gladly accepted. Drop off at Asbury or deliver to the Salvation Army at 19 Stearns St., Bristol.

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)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbdhnH0aoB>

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

Meeting ID: 851 0396 9469

Passcode: 570920

(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.

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.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER REGARDING SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ASBURY

WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY HAS BEGUN!
PLEASE JOIN TOGETHER AS WE CONTINUE TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER!

**We ask that you please arrive no earlier than 9:45 am
and depart directly to your car at the end of the service.**

We're glad to join with those who connect via the livestream or conference call at Asbury. PLEASE continue to do what keeps you feeling comfortable and healthy!

For those who come to Asbury, just a few reminders to ensure everyone's health and well-being:

Social distancing and masks worn at all times: Remain 6 feet apart at all times, including entering, checking in and exiting.

Refrain from singing, allowing the worship team to sing all hymns and responses. Did you know that singing, and even some humming, can spread droplets as far as 14 feet?!

As much as it is our nature to be with one another in fellowship, walking around and greeting others increases the risk of the spread of disease. We ask that once you have checked in, you seat yourself. Feel free to wave, blow a kiss, shout a greeting across to someone else!

Your health is most important so we ask that you allow the worship team to take care of putting things away at the end of services.

For now, whatever we must do to reduce risk and exposure is of utmost importance. The Spirit remains among us and we will continue to be God's blessed ... healthy ... people at Asbury!

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.

**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.