



Asbury United Methodist Church

Vision: To Make Disciples and Share God's Love

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Moody Colorado, Pastor

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Adult Sunday School 8:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m.

January 2018



Asbury Scholarships:

Each year Asbury awards college scholarships to Asbury members and to the children and grandchildren of Asbury members. 2018 scholarship applications will be available on the church web page (<http://www.asbury-wellman.com/ScholarHome.html>) beginning in late January. The application deadline will be April 1.

Other scholarships are also offered by the Iowa United Methodist Foundation. For more information about these scholarships, please visit <http://iumf.org/scholarships/>

Good News from Mission Market: The Mission Market collected \$300 for Asbury's Free Books for Mid Prairie Kids program. Thank you to all who contributed to the Mission Market.

Sunday School with Pastor Moody: Pastor Moody will be leading adult Sunday School on the second Sunday of each month. The focus of the class is on Basic Discipleship and Devotion. Individuals interested in attending the class are encouraged to give Pastor Moody their questions about our Faith and Spiritual Discipline.

THANKS-
Beth, Moody and John thank the Asbury Church for the greetings, prayers for Beth and the Christmas gifts. We appreciate them very much. God bless you all.
-Pastor Moody

Variations of Opinion in Church:

The Asbury SPRC met on December 27 and discussed the expression of varied opinions in the church. Difference in opinions is part of human nature, therefore the SPRC encourages members to reflect on issues that involve the ministries of this church including theological reflections and church administration. The Book of Discipline provides that "we assess the adequacy of our understanding and witness...as revealed in Scriptures, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience and confirmed by reason" (2012 The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church paragraph 105).

Difference in opinion with the pastor may be expressed in the following manner:

1. Individual conversation with the pastor, direct phone call or via pastor's email.
2. Approach a member of SPRC for assistance.

For any questions, please refer to Staff-Parish Relations Committee (Colette Yoder, Larry Whetstine, Mike McVey, Don Randol, Jim Roush, Deb Seward, Jared Droll, Julie Kinneer).

Finance Summary 2017 End-of-Year

General Budget and Conference Claims

YTD Needs 108,171.00

YTD Gifts 105,659.00

Overall YTD shortfall (2,512.00)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES!!!

- 1 Jim Palmer, Chris Stransky
- 3 Rob Adams
- 5 Carol Hulseberg, Olivia Greiner
- 6 Vincent Burroughs
- 7 Eric Parrott
- 10 Lori Owens
- 12 Dale Schroeder
- 14 Darla Cory
- 16 Doug Powell
- 17 Jim Seward, Ada Hulseberg, Keith Hoskins, Maddie Edgington, John Colorado
- 20 Keith Semler, Kenny Kempf, Martha Hall
- 25 Robert Black
- 28 Lyndsay Adams
- 30 Teri Mellinger



Pastor's Note

"You shall be my witnesses."

Jesus obliged everyone who has experienced salvation to testify for him. Preaching is a form of witnessing wherein the good news is proclaimed over the bad news. The Book of Discipline paragraph 105 contains the foundation of Methodist preaching practices, "we assess the adequacy of our understanding and witness...as revealed in Scriptures, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience and confirmed by reason." So that's how I've been testing all my sermons. See if you agree because I can only continue my preaching privilege as long as the UMC community allows me. This page will give you a hint of what you can expect when you listen to my preaching. Should you use this on Facebook, please post the entire page.

We derive our meaning and purpose from the words of Jesus in the Christian Scriptures, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;" (Luke 4:18 NKJV). To preach the gospel to the poor is to reveal the core message of the Bible for everyone to understand. God created man in his image, a free spirit with human body. This freedom includes the capability to turn away from God. The Biblical story of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden narrates the presence of a powerful tempter that can sway the human's choices and the weakness of the human to resist. Such weakness leads to the perils that result from giving in to the tempter. The Garden of Eden was a picture of a perfect paradise for as long as the Creator is revered as God. Adam and Eve fell out of grace as a result of their desire to become their own god. They were thrown out into the world to realize the meaning of imperfection apart from God. Paul wrote, "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15: 21-22). This is the message of the entire Bible. All Christian reflections and sermons must not contradict it.

The Gospel is called Good News because Jesus showed the way to regain favor with God. Biblical stories tell of the attempts of the humans for holiness but it is effective only if the transformation comes from within. Christ offers the inner power to overcome sin and evil with his Spirit. It needs to be constantly proclaimed because the humans need to constantly abide with him. Jesus emphasized the need for a wise choice, "If you abide in me and my words abide in you..." Preaching is not the time for condemnation but a practice of freedom to choose. Theological reflections in preaching help in laying down the choices. I don't only say the things that people want to hear. I follow John the Baptist and Jesus in calling the world to choose repentance, to firmly abide in God instead of the things that bring temporary pleasure and comfort. I am not preaching for entertainment but I have to try to catch the listeners' attention. The notion to stop preaching about sin and evil in the Methodist pulpit is not possible for me because my calling binds me in the Methodist Baptismal vow "to reject the evil powers of this world" (TUMH 40). I don't believe that the Methodist Church today stands on the middle ground. To be the church of Christ is to decidedly take a side and publicly make a confession like Peter that Jesus is the Christ. Communion confessions and collective recitations of the Lord's Prayer for deliverance from evil are public confessions. Its okay to be a privately isolated Christian but its awkward to recite a public confession alone. We can only stop when the Lord returns, when there will be no more need for the church, as everybody goes to hear Him directly. I always close with the challenge to choose the offer of Jesus Christ. I always pray for relevant insights for clarified choices on the world's current problems remembering that only the Holy Spirit can make the convictions. The interpretation of a sermon can be as many as the number of listeners. I name the bad news and good news with the use of imperfect human language. The miracle of a human becoming godly or the grasp of heavenly peace happens only with the Holy Spirit. -Pastor Moody.