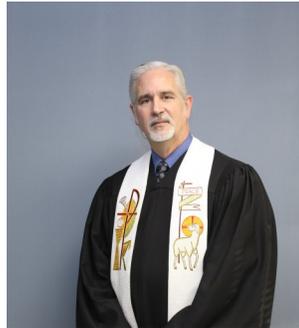


A word from the Pastor



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this article to you, I find myself in the midst of a struggle in my own heart and mind. This past Sunday I preached on the wonder of God's Word and the absolute truth it declares to us of God's will for our lives in this world. What God speaks to us is truth! Truth concerning who He is and who we are as His children. We hear clearly that we are sinful and separated from God and as such we are helpless. Just as quickly the Scriptures reveal the heart of God as our loving Father who would not abandon His children. He willingly paid the price and sacrificed His only Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin, death, and hell, and grant to us eternal life. All of this is absolutely true!

Knowing this! Believing this! What do we do? How do we respond to the world in which we live today? What does it mean to live in a fallen sinful world as God's redeemed children? Over the past few months we have seen major changes in the moral standard of our nation and community. The current discussion and conflict over bathroom use in the community and schools is simply the most recent issue. As I write this article, the United Methodist Church is meeting in General Conference in Portland. There have been verbal protests and demonstrations of those individuals who desire to see the UMC change our doctrinal position on human sexuality. Our church is divided, and the debates are filled with emo-

tional pleas to love and accept those who are different from us. Understand me clearly! There will be no resolve to the issues before us if we base our discussion on what we think or how we feel about the issues! There are many who have chosen to set aside the Word of God and hold forth their own opinions. While this is true, there are those who want to take the Scriptures and use them as a legalistic tool to punish those they oppose! Both sides are wrong! We are told if we reject the proposed changes to our doctrine concerning human sexuality we are unloving! We are also told if we make any changes we are unfaithful. In other words, it is a lose-lose situation.

We are told as Methodists that we must use Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience to guide us in our lives as God's people. Scripture is to be supreme, and the other three cannot violate the Word of God. Tradition helps us understand how Christians in the past have applied God's Word. Reason is applied to discern what it means to apply the truth of God's grace to any situation not directly identified or addressed in the Bible. Experience is personal and helps us understand the grace of God as we have personally been freed from sin and guilt. What do these teach us?

Allow me to place our discussion in the context of the early church. The Church of Jesus Christ was born into this world in a time when there was absolute moral decay. There were

Our Mission

Connect - to God and neighbor

Equip - to disciple

Send - to serve

Our Vision

A vibrant faith community that reaches out with the love of Christ to every generation for the transformation of the world.

In This Issue

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Sunday Worship:

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Services, Sanctuary

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages

Prayer Requests

Serving Schedule:

Greeters May 22nd

9:00 a.m. Sammie Rogers,
Mike Krueger

11:00 a.m.

Ushers May 22nd

H. Lane Captain, M. Waldrip,
B. Johnson, D. Hughes, K.
Magness, J. Curry

Technology May 22nd

Media Computer Carolyn K.

Sound Board 9:00 John B.

11:00 Anthony M.

Video Camera 9:00 Sunder P.

11:00 Jaci B.

Greeters May 29th

11:00 a.m.

Ushers May 29th

B. Johnson Captain, H. Lane,
D. Andjulis, D. Hughes

Technology May 29th

Media Computer Carolyn K.

Sound Board 11:00

Video Camera 11:00 Jaci B.

Attendance:

May 8th, 2016

9:00 75

11:00 112

Sunday School 48

May 15th, 2016

9:00 53

11:00 77

Sunday School 48

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND AND THOSE IN NURSING HOMES:

Lois Holt
Gertrude Merrit (Parks)
Trula Palmer

Mona Rogge
Wanda Stahl
Clarence Stahl

Prayers for Asbury Family and Friends:

Sue Angle	Barbara Cates	Deborah Hicks	Fred Martin	Reis Ritz
Chris Aldrich	Myrl Chapman	Herb Hintz	Carol Maxwell	Shirley Rybolt
Debbie Atkinson	Craig Cherry	Mary Hodges	Bob McCoy	Don & Barbara Shinn
Eric Baker	Carmella Ciulla	Bri Hurst	McDonald Family	Michelle Simpson
Michael Ballard	Ryan Conrad	Dotty Jones	Drew Menasco	John Smith
M'Lou Belton	Jon Decker	Sandra Jordan	Elijah Mendoza	Cheryl Stark
Phyllis Blair	Geneva DeShazo	Carolyn Kent	Nathan Mendoza	Diane Thomas
Jim Bolding	Matthew DeShazo	Jim Ketcham	Barbara Moses	Laura Turner
Steve Bolding	Marianne Dunn	Kay Kingon	EJ O'Donnell	Jim Ward
Dan Brazeal	Chuck Ellison	Earl Kinne	Lynn Patterson	Jake Westmoreland
Vicki Bredemeyer	Veronica Farrow	Betty Krueger	Lynn Phillips	David Weyant
Dr. Steve Brown	Kathy Fillpot	Keylee Latham	Molly Pruitt	Phyllis White
Brian Browning	Brantley Gover	Ralph Lewis	Toni Rainwater	Hearts and Hands Orphanage
Susan Bryans	Melba Hayden	Kathy Lollar	David Reedy	Grayson
Norma Bustamante	Sherrell Hendricks	Frank Love	Noel Reedy	Vickie
Pat Campbell	Cathy Herzog	Colleen Markey		

Rehab: Jerri Nickel

PRAYERS FOR MILITARY & DEPLOYED:

Alex Kinne, Navy Power School

Military & their families

From the Mailbag

Pastor and Members of Asbury UMC,

Finding the words to express the depth of our thanks is very difficult. You have gone out of your way to be kind. "A kind deed is like water for a flower: It makes the heart bloom." Thank you for planting a garden in our hearts.

Mackey Chapel UMC

Asbury family,

At a time like this, what a blessing a church family is. The ladies of the church prepared a great meal. Thanks for all the cards and calls.

Thank you,

Family of Ed Kull

Lectionary Readings

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 22ND: PROVERBS 8:1-4, 22-31, PSALM 8, ROMANS 5:1-5, JOHN 16:12-15

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 29TH: 1 KINGS 18:20-39, PSALM 96, GALATIANS 1:1-12, LUKE 7:1-10

Asbury Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 22nd, 2016:

8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer
 9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship
 10:00 a.m. Life Lessons
 11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship
 2:00 p.m. Piano Recital
 5:00 p.m. Ascent Youth

Monday, May 23rd, 2016:

6:00 p.m. Power Flex
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, May 24th, 2016:

6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 7:00 p.m. VSC Meeting, #121

Wednesday, May 25th, 2016:

Last Super Wednesday!
 4:30 p.m. Melody Makers
 5:30 p.m. Supper
 6:15 p.m. Activities for all ages
 7:15 p.m. Choir

Thursday, May 26th, 2016:

9:00 a.m. Stitchers
 6:00 p.m. Power Flex
 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Friday, May 27th, 2016:

Deadline for Newsletter Articles

Sunday, May 29th, 2016:

10:45 a.m. Prayer
 10:00 a.m. Life Lessons
 11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship
 Potluck Lunch Following Worship
 5:00 p.m. Ascent Youth

Monday, May 30th, 2016:

Office Closed
 6:00 p.m. Power Flex
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, May 31st, 2016:

Newsletter Day
 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 7:00 p.m. VSC Meeting, #121

Wednesday, June 1st, 2016:

Annual Conference Begins in Roswell, NM
 7:15 p.m. Choir

Thursday, June 2nd, 2016:

9:00 a.m. Stitchers
 12:30-3:30 p.m. WTX Twilight Vision, #110
 6:00 p.m. Power Flex
 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Sunday, June 5th, 2016:

8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer
 9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship
 10:00 a.m. Life Lessons
 11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship
 5:00 p.m. Ascent Youth

Contact Us

4001 E University

Odessa, TX 79762-8037

asburymcodessa.org

432-366-4455

Russ Nebhut

Pastor



aumcodessa

Fifth Sunday

Sunday, May 29th is a fifth Sunday. We will be having **one service only** at 11:00 a.m.!

Announcements

THEY'RE



GRADUATING

Senior Recognition

Our graduates will be recognized on Sunday, May 22nd. We will be honoring Aaron Jones and Luis Venegas, graduating seniors from Permian High School. Be sure to let these young men know how proud of them we are!

Opportunity for Service

Marion Reedy is in need of assistance. Some of the faithful communion stewards (those who prepare the bread and juice) are no longer able to serve. Marion is in need of additional volunteers for this special service to the church. Usually, if there are enough stewards, you only serve once a year. Please contact Marion at 432-366-4806 or the church office with questions or to participate. Thank you, Asbury, for your faithful service!

NEW EXERCISE MINISTRY - Receiving Donations!

There is much interest in a larger Exercise Ministry, an opportunity for our Asbury family to keep fit! We would like to facilitate a larger room with more equipment. If you have any equipment you would like to donate, we would be happy to pick it up from you. (Of course, funding also helps :-)

Items needed might include:

Treadmill, elliptical walker, exercise bicycle, stairs, flat screen TV

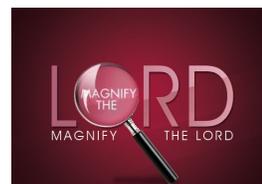
For information, contact Oscar Lopez at 972-971-1032.

Magnify the Lord- Asbury's 55/20 Celebration

Asbury is having a Birthday! Our congregation will turn 55 years old this Fall, and we are also approaching the 20th anniversary for the building of the Sanctuary. An anniversary committee has been appointed and the members are working diligently to prepare a wonderful celebration.

The date has been set for September 25th, and our former pastor Rev. Will Cotton will be returning to lead our celebration worship.

In order to facilitate our celebration, the anniversary committee is making a request of all our members and friends. We are asking each family to consider a special donation of \$55.00 in honor of our 55th year as a way to underwrite the expenses of our celebration. We are requesting this special offering as a way to provide a unique celebration and not impact our regular operating budget. Please give if you can, but know that we are blessed as a congregation as we all have much to celebrate.



no boundaries on moral behavior. Name a moral issue of today and it was present: homosexuality, polygamy, pedophilia, even sex with animals. There was drunkenness, rampant divorce, corrupt government, and abuse of power which resulted in the poor being abused. Everything we see in the world today was present. The question is this, "How did the Church of Jesus Christ respond to the situation it found itself in?"

You will not find a single passage in the New Testament where the Apostles rail against the government, nor will you find a single instance where people were barred from worship and told God did not want them. At the same time, you will not find the Church aligning itself with the corrupt society of the day, nor were the moral issues of the day condoned. In fact, both Jesus and His Apostles upheld a high moral standard as the will of God, while at the

same time accepting and loving all who were trapped in sin. The goal of the church was to be in the world but not of the world. To live in such a way as to reflect God's will, God's love, and God's grace to people who God loves and desires to save. The early Christians did not see it as their job to change or admonish society. It was the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ to love people who were in the midst of sin and reveal Jesus to them. It was only after the grace of God impacted their lives that God moved them to become what He desired them to be.

Has the mission of the church changed? Has our mission changed? No! It is not our place to judge society or any individual. It is our place to hold forth the absolute truth of God's Word which does not change. It is our mission to accept people, regardless of their station in life, and through loving them reveal the love and grace of God to

them. It is our place to trust God to work in their hearts through the Holy Spirit and move in them to grow to become what He desires them to be.

This is what the early Christians did and the result was a world which changed. It changes one heart at a time. May we learn to simply be who God has called us to be, and may God accomplish what He desires through us.

In Christ,

Pastor Russ

Pastor Russ Nebhut

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