

A word from the Pastor

Greetings Asbury Family,

Christmas Break at school and both the Christmas and New Year's celebrations create a wonderful time in the life of our kids and a whole lot of stress for we who are adults. If you kids are grown and gone you might have to recollect what it was like to experience these events in your life like some of our younger families. When we think of what Christmas has become in our nation with the commercialization of the holiday, it is no wonder we experience stress. Families are under huge expectations to provide toys, dinners, and a picture perfect life! But is this real? The truth is that toys are too expensive, dinners require a lot of work, and none of us is perfect.

We work so hard to present a picture of ourselves, our families, and even our church which presents to the world that we have it all together. We want others to believe we have no problems! Perfect kids, perfect marriage, perfect job, we want for nothing. The reality is that each and every one of us is a broken human being and therefore our families have their dysfunctional moments and our church is far from perfect.

We may be able to hide this reality from most of the world but we cannot hide the truth from God. We need to remind ourselves of this during this time of year. We work so hard to be perfect that we often fall into the trap of believing our self worth is based on how good we can be. When things go badly and we face the challenges of everyday life such as an argument with our spouse, or children who disobey or get in trouble, we question our own value. Then we work doubly hard to hide our problems and pretend everything is ok.

Let me remind you of a simple truth which you already know, but which each of us need to be reminded of almost daily. If you were perfect, you would not need Jesus to be born in Bethlehem. If life would truly good, God did not need to send His Son. If

the picture we attempt to present to those around us were valid, Jesus would not have needed to suffer and die on the cross. If our own self worth were truly based on how good we could be in this life, we would have no hope at all!

Now the truth! We are all fallen human beings. Sin is real and it hurts. All families on good days face challenges. Finances will always be a concern and no job is perfect. Whenever two sinful human beings are in contact with each other, there will be times when we sin against each other. We cannot become anything more than what we are on our own. The good news is that we don't have to! God loved us when we were lost! God loved us when we had nothing of value to offer Him. He loved us then and He loves us now simply because He places value on each of us because we are who we are, not because of anything we do or fail to do. This is called grace, God's undeserved love! God loved us when we were unlovable.

When Jesus came into this world it was to save us because we could not save ourselves. He came to save us because God the Father places such value on each of us that the thought of not having us as His children was more than He could bear. Jesus was born and endured the cross because He could not bear the thought of life in eternity without us.

So in the midst of all the family dinners, presents and kids around the tree, and the stress which accompanies these, please take a moment to remember why Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He came because God loves you! He came because God wants you! How valuable are you? Jesus was born, lived, and died for you! Let this be the one truth by which you determine your own self worth. You don't have to be perfect to know you are loved and forgiven.

God bless you and Merry Christmas,
Pastor Russ

2-in-1 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas Eve offering will be designated for the 2-in-1 Offering for Providence Place and Methodist Children's Home.

Providence Place, formerly known as the Methodist Mission Home, is located in San Antonio, Texas. It is a non-profit and for purpose organization fostering opportunities. They empower adults with disabilities and people on the adoption journey by supporting independence and building bright futures.

Methodist Children's Home offers hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community. MCH serves children and youth through residential programs on the Waco campus and Boys Ranch, and through foster care, transition services and a variety of services in communities throughout Texas and New Mexico.

Please be as generous as you can to support these wonderful ministries.

One in a Million- Ladies Wednesday Bible Study

You are invited to join us for "One in a Million," a Bible study by Priscilla Shirer, lasting 7 weeks, Jan. 11-Feb. 22, 2017. Priscilla encourages living the abundant life God offers, how to conquer "wilderness", aimless living and strongholds in your daily life.

Please pray about attending and inviting other ladies to join us.

Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m., January 11th-February 22nd, 2017.

Located in the Atkin's Community Room at Asbury UMC.
4001 E. University, Odessa, TX.
\$13.00 for the Member Book

Snacks and Coffee will be served!

Contact Abby McCullough at [432-559-3019](tel:432-559-3019), or Belinda Richey at [432-559-8763](tel:432-559-8763)!

Pastor Russ Nebhut

432-366-4455

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Odessa, TX 79762-8037

4001 E University



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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.

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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

Serving Schedule:

Greeters December 25th

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

11:00 a.m.

Ushers December 25th

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

Technology December 25th

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 January 1st

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

11:00 a.m. Marilyn Andjulis

Ushers January 1st

D. Andjulis Captain, B. Jones, G. Haynes, M. Krueger, M. Nelson, K. Lind

Technology January 1st

Media Computer Anthony M.

Sound Board 9:00 Tim. B.

11:00 Mike W.

Video Camera 9:00 Sunder P.

11:00 Jaci B.

Attendance:

December 11th, 2016

9:00 78

11:00 82

Sunday School 49

December 18th, 2016

9:00 75

11:00 86

Sunday School 41

Prayer Requests

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND AND THOSE IN NURSING HOMES:

Lois Holt
Gertrude Merrit (Parks)
Trula Palmer

Mona Rogge
Wanda Stahl
Clarence Stahl

Mary Jo Hill
Joy Bolding

PRAYERS FOR ASBURY FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Sue Angle

Melba Hayden

Nathan Mendoza

Bill & Joy Slack

Christie Applegate

Sherrell Hendricks

Clint Mesker

Roger Smith

Tammy Armstrong

Gene & Jimmie
Jeanette Hewitt

Paul Minton

Kimberly Stepp

Ronald Bennett

Mary Hodges

Noah Moss

Hollis Terry

Marilyn Brown

Tom Horton

Jerri Nickel

Sandra Vickers

Paul Brown

Kay Kingon

Jim Nickel

Bryan & Tara Vinson

Corey Carrell

Helen Lewis

Kim Nowlin

B.J. Westmoreland

Shelli Childers

Donna Lind

Catherine Paul

Glendya Williams

Adele Cortez

Keith Little

Sandi Phillips

Kaleb Zengher

Karen Crutchfield

Bailey Lively

Lisa Ramirez

Methodist Outreach in
Zambia

Jeanie DeShazo

Imiah Lively

Prisilia Ramirez

Chance

Mike DeShazo

Frank Love

Scarlett Robinson

Nolan

Mark Farquhar

Nancy Lovett

Steve Ruyle

Penny

Anita Guinn

Jenica Maroney

Maddie Saunders

Family of Bill Tausworthe

Dorothy Hart

Don & Barbara Shinn

Sympathy: To family and friends of David Weyant who passed away on December 18th, 2016.

From the Mailbag

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you for your gift to support several missionaries and ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries. When giving through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church, 100 percent of your contribution is applied to your designated projects or to missionary support. Your generosity makes it possible for the church to extend God's mission across the globe to more than 60 countries and to many areas of the United States.

May God Grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission!

General Board of Global Ministries

Dear Asbury Family,

Thank you so much for the very generous Christmas staff bonus gift!! It is such a privilege and joy to serve the Lord in this warm and loving church home. You are a precious part of our family life and faith! We thank God for you daily, praying we reach out to other Odessa people and families. May God richly bless your New Year!

In Christ's Love,

Belinda Richey

Lectionary Readings

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH: ISAIAH 52:7-10, PSALM 98, HEBREWS 1:1-4, JOHN 1:1-14

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST: ISAIAH 60:1-6, PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14, EPHESIANS 3:1-12, MATTHEW 2:1-12

Announcements

Floral Arrangements

If you have ordered flowers this year, please check the flower calendar to make sure that you have been credited for payment. The last column says that it's for "office use only." That's where you will find a "pd" indicating payment. Envelopes are provided, on the kiosk, for your payment. If there is a discrepancy, please contact the office. Remember, this is special giving and not part of your pledge. As the year comes to an end and the office closes out the financial books, the flower fund is just one of many that has to be reconciled. Thank you for your donations that bring living arrangements reminding us of God's creation!

Music Alert

We are searching for Middle School Singers interested in singing in an ensemble. Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grader interested in being a part of this group please contact Barbara through the church office at 432-366-4455 or her cell phone which is 432-889-4326. Please leave your name and number. We are looking for a small or moderate sized group loving to praise God through song!!

2017 Flower Calendar

The 2017 Flower Calendar is now on the kiosk in the narthex. The flowers on the altar each Sunday remind us of God's beautiful creation so thank you for considering this contribution. Maybe you would like to be a part of bringing this beauty to the altar area as a way of celebrating a birthday or anniversary, or honoring a special person or to memorialize a loved one. The cost of each arrangement is \$20 paid to the church office. Your payment, at the time that you sign up, is appreciated. Envelopes are provided to drop in the offering plate or for mailing. If paying by check or cash, please note that the amount is for flowers and specify the date you've completed on the calendar. The altar table can only accommodate two flower arrangements and that is why there are just two spaces provided for each Sunday. If you would like a rose on the altar for the birth of a baby or the recent passing of a loved one, please contact the church office or Debbie Garrett-432-362-7507.

Please deliver your end of year contributions to the office by December 30th!

Contact Us

4001 E University

Odessa, TX 79762-8037

asburymcodessa.org

432-366-4455

Russ Nebhut

Pastor



aumcodessa

Asbury Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 25th, 2016:

Christmas Day

One Service Only at 11:00 a.m.

Monday, December 26th, 2016:

Office Closed for Holiday

6:00 p.m. Power Flex

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 27th, 2016:

6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi

7:00 p.m. VSC, #121

Wednesday, December 28th, 2016:

No Activities Today- Christmas Holiday

Saturday, December 31st, 2016:

New Year's Eve

Sunday, January 1st, 2016:

New Year's Day

One Service Only at 11:00 a.m.

Monday, January 2nd, 2016:

Office Closed for Holiday

1:00 p.m. Deadline for Newsletter Articles

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 3rd, 2016:

Newsletter Day

10:00- Noon MOPS

1:00-3:00 p.m. Read & Review Book Club, Parlor

6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi

7:00 p.m. VSC, #121

Wednesday, January 4th, 2016:

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Super Wednesday!

4:30 p.m. Melody Makers

5:30 p.m. Supper

6:15 p.m. Activities

7:15 p.m. Choir

Thursday, January 5th, 2016:

12:30-3:30 p.m. WTX Twilight Vision, #110

6:00 p.m. Power Flex

7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Sunday, January 8th, 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 Student Ministries

