



## A word from the Pastor

Grace, Peace, and Happy New Year!

It has been a fast paced and blessed Christmas season, and I am personally very excited to see what God does in our midst this new year of 2017!

With a new year come new opportunities and new programs for our congregation. We have so many new members who have joined us that we are seeking way to connect our long time members with those who have joined us so as to create a true sense of oneness in our congregation. This takes a little effort on the part of each of you. When you see someone you do not know, please take the time to introduce yourself to them. While this is important with visitors, it is also of great value for all members. It is so easy to simply visit with those we already know. It can be a little intimidating to reach out to a stranger! But in truth, we are not strangers! We are brothers and sisters in Christ, redeemed together by the blood He shed on the cross for us. The life He now lives, resurrected and glorified, is the life we share together here today, and for eternity. We are a family, the people of God in this place called Asbury. We are joined together in faith to support one another and together to serve our God in His Gospel ministry. His desire is for each of us to know one another and to learn to count on and support each other as together He uses us to expand His Kingdom.

While we are working on an organized approach to make this easier, there are some

things which will begin very soon. The first is a new opportunity on Sunday mornings. In our kitchen at the parsonage, Steph hung a sign above the coffee pot - "Instant Human, Just add Coffee." It is true, I enjoy my coffee! So I am going to call this new Sunday Morning gathering "Coffee with the Pastor." Beginning on January 15<sup>th</sup> I will meet in the Parlor with anyone who desires to sit and discuss any and every topic. This will not be a formal presentation of any type. Rather, it is an opportunity for long time members, new members, or even visitors to ask and discuss anything which is a pressing question for them. Topics could range from our own Methodist history, to the current crisis facing our church body, to what we believe concerning Baptism. Any and every topic is welcomed and will be discussed opening and honestly so as to clarify, as much as possible. It is my hope and prayer that such an opportunity will create openness, honesty, and unity for all of us as a congregation. This opportunity will also allow members and visitors to gather and begin to form bonds with one another. My prayer, as always, is that God will use such times to work in each of our lives to mold us into the image of His Son Jesus Christ!

May you be blessed and know that as we walk into the future of this new year that God walks with us and His desire is to bless and use us for His glory!

In Christ,  
Pastor Russ

### 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

Pastor Russ Nebhut

432-366-4455

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Odessa, TX 79762-8037

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### Serving Schedule:

#### Greeters January 8th

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

11:00 a.m. Mary Davidson, Lois Lutes

#### Ushers January 8th

B. Johnson Captain, H. Lane, M. Krueger

#### Technology January 8th

Media Computer Mike D.

Sound Board 9:00 John B.

11:00 Anthony M.

Video Camera 9:00 Sunder P.

11:00 Jaci B.

#### Greeters January 15th

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

11:00 a.m. Charles & Bonnie Cotten, Terry Richey

#### Ushers January 15th

D. Andjulis, D. Hughes, M. Lippman

#### Technology January 15th

Media Computer Mike D.

Sound Board 9:00 Tim B.

11:00 Mike W.

Video Camera 9:00 Sunder P.

11:00 Jaci B.

### Attendance:

December 24th, 2016  
Christmas Eve

7:00 182

December 25th, 2016

11:00 70

January 1st, 2017

11:00 101

## 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 MILITARY & DEPLOYED:**

Military & their families

### **PRAYERS FOR ASBURY FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

Sue Angle	Anita Guinn	Jenica Maroney	Don & Barbara Shinn
Christie Applegate	Dorothy Hart	Nathan Mendoza	Bill & Joy Slack
Tammy Armstrong	Melba Hayden	Clint Mesker	Roger Smith
Ronald Bennett	Sherrell Hendricks	Paul Minton	Kimberly Stepp
Marilyn Brown	Gene & Jimmie Jeanette Hewitt	Noah Moss	Hollis Terry
Paul Brown	Mary Hodges	Jerri Nickel	Sandra Vickers
Corey Carrell	Tom Horton	Jim Nickel	Bryan & Tara Vinson
Shelli Childers	Kay Kingon	Kim Nowlin	B.J. Westmoreland
Adele Cortez	Helen Lewis	Catherine Paul	Glendya Williams
Karen Crutchfield	Donna Lind	Sandi Phillips	Kaleb Zengher
Jeanie DeShazo	Keith Little	Lisa Ramirez	Methodist Outreach in Zambia
Mike DeShazo	Bailey Lively	Prisilia Ramirez	Chance
Judy DeWeese	Imiah Lively	Scarlett Robinson	Nolan
Libby Ellrich	Frank Love	Steve Ruyle	Penny
Mark Farquhar	Nancy Lovett	Maddie Saunders	

### **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, or Belinda Richey at 432-559-8763!

## Lectionary Readings

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH: ISAIAH 42:1-9, PSALM 29, ACTS 10:34-43, MATTHEW 3:13-17**

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH: ISAIAH 9:1-4, PSALM 27:1, 4-9, 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18, MATTHEW 4:12-23**

## Announcements

### **Taking Down the Greens**

Join us this coming Sunday, January 8th, at 3:00 p.m. as we take down the Christmas decorations around the church! Dinner will be provided after we have finished taking down the decorations.

### **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.

## Contact Us

4001 E University

Odessa, TX 79762-8037

asburyumcodessa.org

432-366-4455

Russ Nebhut

Pastor



aumcodessa

## Asbury Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, January 8th, 2017:**

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  
3:00 p.m. Taking Down the Greens  
5:00 p.m. Ascent Student Ministries

### **Monday, January 9th, 2017:**

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Power Flex  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

### **Tuesday, January 10th, 2017:**

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

### **Wednesday, January 11th, 2017:**

Super Wednesday!  
9:00-11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Melody Makers  
5:30 p.m. Supper  
6:15 p.m. Activities  
7:15 p.m. Choir

### **Thursday, January 12th, 2017:**

9:00 a.m. Stitches  
11:30-1:00 p.m. The Well Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Power Flex  
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi

### **Friday, January 13th, 2017:**

12:00 p.m. Scrapbook Group, T/R

### **Saturday, January 14th, 2017:**

8:00-9:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast, F/H  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Scrapbook Group, T/R

### **Sunday, January 15th, 2017:**

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

### **Monday, January 16th, 2017:**

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
1:00 p.m. Deadline for Newsletter Articles  
6:00 p.m. Power Flex  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

### **Tuesday, January 17th, 2017:**

Newsletter Day  
10:00- Noon MOPS  
6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
7:00 p.m. VSC, #121

### **Wednesday, January 18th, 2017:**

Super Wednesday!  
9:00-11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Melody Makers  
5:30 p.m. Supper  
6:15 p.m. Activities  
7:15 p.m. Choir

### **Thursday, January 19th, 2017:**

9:00 a.m. Stitches  
10:30 a.m. Parks Communion Service  
12:30-2:30 p.m. WTX Twilight Vision, #110

6:00 p.m. Power Flex

6:30 p.m. Tai Chi

7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

### **Saturday, January 21st, 2017:**

8:00-3:00 p.m. CLS Class

### **Sunday, January 22nd, 2017:**

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

