

A word from the Pastor

I Want To Be A Dog!

Many of you, here at Asbury, are aware that my family and I are animal lovers. I grew up around horses and cattle most of my life, and I always had a dog. Many of you have met Milo, our yellow shepherd mix dog. He often accompanies me to the office and dutifully sits under my desk while I work.

I was sitting in our living room at the parsonage, and he came up to me, simply because he wanted to be petted. It got me to thinking! What is a dog like. Dogs are loving, loyal, trustworthy, and protective. Then my immediate thought was that this is exactly what God desires of each one of us.

God calls each of us in to His kingdom and the very first words we hear are that we are to be people who are marked and known by love. Milo at times simply wants to get as close to me as he can. Physical contact, is something he seems to yearn for and he can't ever seem to get enough of it.

Milo is well trained, so I rarely use a leash for him. I trust him not to run off or get into things he shouldn't. I believe this is also something God desires for each of us. He want to trust us enough to let us off the leash, as it were. He wants to be able to trust that we will be busy doing the right things while avoiding the "stuff" we shouldn't get into.

Trustworthiness is tied closely to loyalty. However loyalty goes beyond simply trusting us to do what we should and avoid what is detrimental. Loyalty is about the heart. Milo is my dog, our dog. He knows to whom he belongs and he would and could never belong to another. We live in a world which is always seeing to draw us away from our commitment to Christ. Loyalty to Christ is a matter of fidelity. Our hearts are in love with Him, first and foremost in our lives. So strong is our commitment to Christ that no one nor no thing could draw us away. I see this in Milo when he simply finds comfort in sitting at my feet, content to simply be in my presence.

There is one more aspect of Milo which I believe applies to each of us. He is protective. Heaven help the person who decides to break into our home. When company comes over he will actually position himself between Steph and our visitors so to protect her. I love him for that! He is always watching, observing, and listening to what is happening to determine what his posture needs to be. I believe God desires the same from each of us. There is a need to protect and defend those who would otherwise be vulnerable. There is also the aspect of protecting the truth of the Gospel from those who would desire to change it. This has always been a charge of the Church! One, I believe we need to take more seriously.

So, all in all, a dog is faithful in every way. So when I say "I want to be a dog" I truly do mean I want to foster in my life the attitudes I see in my dog and live them out in my relationship with God Himself.

On the flip side, there are things I do for Milo that mirror what God does for each of us. A pet owner loves, provides and care for, and gives purpose and meaning to an animals existence.

I do love Milo. He is a close companion. I know he will always be there when I need him. God has revealed, in a much greater way, that He loves us and He will always be present with us, no

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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 July 30th

11:00 a.m.

Ushers July 30th

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

Technology July 30th

Media Computer Randilyn W.

Sound Board 11:00

Video Camera 11:00 Jaci B.

Greeters August 6th

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

11:00 a.m. Marilyn Andjulis

Ushers August 6th

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

Technology August 6th

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:

July 16th, 2017:

9:00 69

11:00 92

Sunday School 77

July 23rd, 2017:

9:00 67

11:00 49

Sunday School 39

Prayer Requests

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND AND THOSE IN NURSING HOMES:

Lois Holt
Gertrude Merrit
(Parks)

Mona Rogge
Wanda Stahl

Mary Jo Hill
Joy Bolding

PRAYERS FOR ASBURY FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Rev. Mark Anderson	Dallas Garrett	Kay Kingon	Edna Reed
Ashton Ballard	Russell Garrett	Freida Lane	Ervin Renacia
Maverick Ballard	Logan Gibbs	Ralph Lewis	Harold & Janice Rhea
J W Bowden	Beth Gibbs	Kennedy Linch	Gleychaliz Rivera
Jerry Branum Sr.	Amalia Gonzales	Adi Lopez	Roger Smith
Brian Brokaw	Julie Graham	Bill McPherson	Diane Thomas
Laura Buckingham	Ricky Griffin	Pat McPherson	Ted Tuminowski
Casey Cates	Sarah Griffin	Paul Minton	Brenda Vicars
Jim Cornell	Anita Guinn	Amanda Moss	Sandra Vickers
Adele Cortez	Corinne Hefflin	Florenio Najar	Judy White
Judy DeWeese	Joe Henager	Jaynell Nash	Francis Wilbanks
Derrick Driskill	Minnie Henager	Jerri Nickel	Stella York
Libby Ellrich	Gene & Jimmie Jeanette Hewitt	Jim Nickel	Sarah Young
Tommy Ervin	Andy Hoefer	Dustin Orgen	Kaleb Zengher
Carrol Eustus	Nora Huerta	Fred Pleasant	Nolan
Mark Farquhar	Lacrisha Hurst	Molly Pruitt	Penny
Darren Faught	Angelina Jones	Lisa Ramirez	Christians in Malaysia
Dorothy & Syl Gaisbauer	Sandra Jones	Estella Ramos	Christians and Churches in Baghdad

Sympathy: To family and friends of Bill Lamb Sr. who passed on July 17th, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

Asbury UMC Offers Many Ways

To Give To God

- Sunday morning offering plate
- Electronic Giving on website:
www.AsburyOdessa.org
- Text Giving: 432-231-0775
- Giving Kiosk (Located in Narthex)



**Giving
back
to God**

Lectionary Readings

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 30TH: GENESIS 29:15-28, PSALM 105:1-11, ROMANS 8:26-39, MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH: GENESIS 32:22-31, PSALM 17:1-7, 15, ROMANS 9:1-5, MATTHEW 14:13-21

Announcements

Financial Update As of July 23rd, 2017:

2017 Year to Date Income: \$194,211.35
 2017 Year to Date Expenses: \$202,573.42
 2017 Year to Date Shortfall of: \$-8,362.07

Opportunity for Service

Marion Reedy is in need of communion steward 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!

Fifth Sunday

This coming Sunday, July 30th, is a fifth Sunday! We will be having Sunday School as usual at 10:00 a.m. followed by **one traditional service only** at 11:00 a.m.

There will be a potluck meal following the service in the fellowship hall. Please bring your favorite dish and join us as we enjoy a time of fellowship with our church family!

Contact Us

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Russ Nebhut
 Pastor

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matter the circumstance. The 23rd Psalm assures us of this. The love of God for each of us extends from the Garden to the Cross, all the way to His promise to be with us in this very moment of our lives.

In the same way I provide and care for Milo, God provides all we need for our daily existence. We could run out of trees before we completed a list of all God does for us. Food, clothing, house and home, family, friends, etc. All things needful for our everyday existence He provides. At the same time when we are in great need, be it an illness or tragedy, He promises to be present and to provide what is needed in the moment.

However, just as important as providing for us, God gives us meaning and purpose for life. As I said before, Milo loves to get in the truck and go to work with me. Be it a trip to the store or a morning at the office, when he is out of the house his whole attitude changes. He is more focused and observant. He listens more acutely. He is ready to obey a command instantly. If we could simply understand that God has given us meaning and purpose in our lives beyond simply existing, we could find a whole new excitement in our lives. There is so much more to life than the "rat race" we so often get caught up in. The impact of our existence is meant to be more than houses, cars, and money. God has entrusted to us the ability to touch and change lives forever! Forever, as in today and everyday beyond time itself. God wants to use us to do for others what He has already done for each of us in His Son Jesus.

So yes, I want to be a dog! I will gladly, and joyfully follow my master wherever He leads because I know He has only good in store for me.

Blessings,
 Pastor Russ

Asbury Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 30th, 2017:

Fifth Sunday— One Service Only

9:30 a.m.— 6:15 p.m. Texas Tech Reading Program, #121
 10:45 a.m. Prayer
 10:00 a.m. Life Lessons
 10:00 a.m. New Member Class
 11:00 a.m. Joint Traditional Service
 Potluck Meal Following Service

Monday, July 31st, 2017:

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday, August 1st, 2017:

7:00 p.m. VSC, #121

Wednesday, August 2nd, 2017:

7:15 p.m. Choir

Thursday, August 3rd, 2017:

9:00 a.m. Stitches
 12:30-3:30 p.m. WTX Twilight Vision, #110
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi

Friday, August 4th, 2017:

Noon Scrapbooking Group, T/R

Saturday, August 5th, 2017:

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Scrapbooking Group, T/R
 9:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Texas Tech Reading Program, #121

Sunday, August 6th, 2017:

8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer
 9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship
 9:30 a.m.— 6:15 p.m. Texas Tech Reading Program, #121
 10:00 a.m. Life Lessons
 10:00 a.m. New Member Class
 11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship

Monday, August 7th, 2017:

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
 1:00 p.m. Deadline for Newsletter Articles
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday, August 8th, 2017:

Newsletter Day
 7:00 p.m. VSC, #121
 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting. Atkins Room

Wednesday, August 9th, 2017:

Youth Balmorhea State Park Swim Trip
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 7:15 p.m. Choir

Thursday, August 10th, 2017:

9:00 a.m. Stitches

Saturday, August 12th, 2017:

8:00— 9:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast, F/H
 9:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Texas Tech Reading Program, #121
 10:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m. Back to School Bash

Sunday, August 13th, 2017:

8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer
 9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship
 9:30 a.m.— 6:15 p.m. Texas Tech Reading Program, #121
 10:00 a.m. Life Lessons
 10:00 a.m. New Member Class
 11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship



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