

## A word from the Pastor

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I waited to write this article until the morning before it was due. I usually attempt to get my work done early, but life has been challenging the past few weeks. There have been many wonderful events in our midst, such as the Back to School Bash, and the addition of new members through the blessings of new babies. There have also been difficult days! I have seen couples in crisis, and parents' hearts breaking at the death of a child. So as I sit writing this article, I am waiting for the darkness.

The eclipse is a few hours away and as I wait for darkness to cover our land, I was thinking about the light of Christ. What would life have been like without THAT LIGHT? What if darkness was all we had to look forward to? What would life be like without Jesus?

The reality is that we don't have to look very far to find the answer. There are somewhere around 150,000 people in our community. My best guess estimate is that we would be hard pressed to have 50,000 in church on any given Sunday. There are about one hundred thousand people in Odessa who live in darkness every moment of their lives. Now don't get me wrong, many of them are happy. They live what they believe are fulfilling lives. They make lots of money and live in nice homes. Their children are healthy and their retirement accounts are growing. But then what?

We live in the midst of a community which is covered in darkness. When the light of the sun is temporarily blocked out, darkness will cover our town. But then the moon will move and the light will return and life will resume, as normal. Then what? These people will return to their normal routines and life will continue all the way to the moment their life ends. They will have days of rejoicing and days of heartache, like all do. But when the end comes, what will happen next?

There are many who live in the midst of hardship and trials. We have children being abused, couples in turmoil with marriages falling apart, people addicted to drugs and alcohol and, in the midst of it all, there is a great amount of misery. It is easy to see how God could change their lives for the better. Yet, many are resistant to the call of God because of the misconceptions concerning what God is truly like. Many view God, at best, as distant and uncaring and, at worst, as vindictive and spiteful. So for many, the idea of turning to God never crosses their minds.

Jesus told us that we are the light of the world. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but on a lamp stand it gives light to the whole house. God is not asking you to do anything more than simply be who you are as individuals and families who know the heart of your loving Father. To be joyful in every circumstance of life because of the true life Jesus has won for you through His death and resurrection. Filled and empowered by the Spirit of God, you are prepared and equipped to live your life as a reflection of Jesus for the people of our community to see. All you have to do is to share your life with those around you. Invest who you are into the lives of those who do not know God and they will see Him in you. And in all things, God will be glorified.

Blessings,

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

### Serving Schedule:

#### Greeters August 27th

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

#### Ushers August 27th

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

#### Technology August 27th

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 September 3rd

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

11:00 a.m. Marilyn Andjulis

#### Ushers September 3rd

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

#### Technology September 3rd

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:

August 13th, 2017:

9:00 70

11:00 85

Sunday School 51

August 20th, 2017:

9:00 81

11:00 77

Sunday School 67

## 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 MILITARY & DEPLOYED: Military & their families

### PRAYERS FOR ASBURY FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Rev. Mark Anderson	Carson Gaddis	Ralph Lewis	Harold & Janice Rhea
Ashton Ballard	Dorothy & Syl Gaisbauer	Kennedy Linch	Gleychaliz Rivera
Maverick Ballard	Dallas Garrett'	Adi Lopez	Roger Smith
J W Bowden	Steve Glover	Bill McPherson	Diane Thomas
Jerry Branum Sr.	Amalia Gonzales	Pat McPherson	Ted Tuminowski
Brian Brokaw	Julie Graham	Bob McCoy	Brenda Vicars
McKinzie Brooks	Sarah Griffin	Paul Minton	Sandra Vickers
Marilyn Brown	Anita Guinn	Renee Morris	Mike Waldrip
Laura Buckingham	Corinne Hefflin	Amanda Moss	Judy White
Jane Calfy	Joe Henager	Florenio Najar	Francis Wilbanks
Casey Cates	Minnie Henager	Jaynell Nash	Stella York
Jim Cornell	Gene & Jimmie Jeanette Hewitt	Jerri Nickel	Sarah Young
Adele Cortez	Andy Hoefler	Jim Nickel	Kaleb Zengher
Judy DeWeese	Nora Huerta	Dustin Orgen	Nolan
Derrick Driskill	Lacrisha Hurst	Fred Pleasant	Penny
Libby Ellrich	Angelina Jones	Molly Pruitt	Zada- New Foster child for Rhett & Bailey Lively
Tommy Ervin	Sandra Jones	Lisa Ramirez	Service Men & Women
Carrol Eustus	Kay Kingon	Estella Ramos	Christians in Laos
Mark Farquhar	Freida Lane	Edna Reed	
Darren Faught		Ervin Renacia	

Sympathy: To Debbie Garrett at the passing of her uncle, BJ Westmoreland, on August 15th, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers are with Debbie and her family at this time.

Sympathy: To Bonnie Cotten at the death of her niece's son, Keaton Beseda. Please be praying for Bonnie and her family during this time.

Sympathy: To Marie Proctor and family at the passing of her sister on August 15th, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marie and her family at this time.

Sympathy: To Boyd and Marion Reedy at the death of Boyd's daughter. Our thoughts and prayers are with Boyd and Marion and their family at this time.

## Lectionary Readings

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH: EXODUS 1:8-2:10, PSALM 124, ROMANS 12:1-8, MATTHEW 16:13-20

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD: EXODUS 3:1-15, PSALM 105:1-6, 23-26, ROMANS 12:9-21, MATTHEW 16:21-28

# Announcements

**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!

**Asbury UMC Offers Many Ways To Give To God**

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

**Ladies' Bible Study**

You are invited to join us for "Faithful, Abundant, True," a study by Kay Arthur, Priscilla Shirer, and Beth Moore, lasting 7 weeks, from September 6th- October 18th, 2017.

Invigorate your personal walk with Christ and your ministry to others by reminders that God is "Faithful, Abundant, and True." Daily lessons are brief, only 15-30 minutes each.

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

Wednesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m., September 6th- October 18th, 2017. In the Atkin's Community Room at Asbury UMC. 4001 E. University, Odessa, TX. \$17.00 for the spiral Member Book

Snacks and Coffee will be served.

Childcare can be provided with notice.

Contact Abby McCullough at 432-559-3019, or Belinda Richey 432-559-8763 for more information!

**Contact Us**

4001 E University  
Odessa, TX 79762-8037

[aumcodessa.org](http://aumcodessa.org)

432-366-4455

Russ Nebhut  
Pastor

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# 10-Yr-Old Abducted From Front Yard. But What He Does Next Has Captor Begging Him To Leave

By Heather Laskin - July 23, 2016

Ten-year-old Willie Myrick was born to atheist parents, but he's been raised by his godmother, Codetta Bateman, who takes him to church and teaches him about God. "Faith is important to this house and believing in God is important," Codetta said.

But neither of them knew just how important Willie's faith would become. While Willie was out in his front yard in Atlanta, Georgia, a man drove up, grabbed the young boy, and threw him into the back of his car. Willie was obviously frightened, but his fear quickly turned to faith as he trusted God to help him in this terrifying situation.

Willie's captor told him he didn't want to hear a word from him, "So I didn't say nothin'," Willie recalled later. But he did start singing – a gospel song called "Every Praise," the chorus of which goes:

God my Savior  
God my Healer  
God my Deliverer  
Yes He is, yes He is

As Willie sang, his abductor cursed at him and told him to shut up, but the young boy didn't let up for three hours. Eventually, unable to take it anymore, the man stopped the car and told Willie to get out.

Willie ran to a nearby home and asked someone there to call his godmother. Police, who had already been canvassing the city looking for the boy, quickly came and picked him up. They say the song saved his life.

"If you praise the Lord he will help you in mysterious ways," Willie said. He also said he has enjoyed the media attention he has received since his release but notes that he's just an ordinary kid serving an extraordinary God.

"It really doesn't matter to me as long as I still have Jesus and he's still working and doing his magic," Willie said. "Well, it's not magic. It's just power."

# Asbury Upcoming Events

**Sunday, August 27th, 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

**Monday, August 28th, 2017:**  
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi

**Tuesday, August 29th, 2017:**  
7:00 p.m. VSC, #121

**Wednesday, August 30th, 2017:**  
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
7:15 p.m. Choir

**Thursday, August 31st, 2017:**  
9:00 a.m. Stitches

**Friday, September 1st, 2017:**  
Noon Scrapbooking Group, T/R

**Saturday, September 2nd, 2017:**  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Scrapbooking Group, T/R

**Sunday, September 3rd, 2017:**  
8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer  
9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship  
10:00 a.m. Life Lessons  
10:00 a.m. Coffee with Pastor Russ  
11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship

**Monday, September 4th, 2017:**  
Labor Day– Office Closed

**Tuesday, September 5th, 2017:**  
Newsletter Day  
9:30-11:30 a.m. MOPS  
7:00 p.m. VSC, #121

**Wednesday, September 6th, 2017:**  
9:00-11:00 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study  
4:45 p.m. Melody Makers  
5:30 p.m. Supper  
6:15 p.m. Classes for all ages  
7:15 p.m. Adult Choir

**Thursday, September 7th, 2017:**  
9:00 a.m. Stitches  
12:30-3:30 p.m. WTX Twilight Vision, #110

**Friday, September 8th, 2017:**  
CLM Class

**Saturday, September 9th, 2017:**  
CLM Class

**Sunday, September 10th, 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  
Multi Youth Volleyball & Softball Event, UTPB



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