



# Asbury Church

a United Methodist  
Community

30-August-2020

# Church Council Members

***I want to thank all the members of Church Council***

- Fulton Brown – SPRC Chair
- Gene Davis
- Judy Ehninger – Conference Representative
- Jim Flynn – Trustees Co-Chair
- Tim Holt – Trustees Co-Chair
- Erica Laudermilch
- Tim Lebrecht – Church Council Chair
- Pastor Barbara Lee\*
- Israel Olivieri (typically attends)\*
- Vendel Peter – Finance Chair
- Rebecca Schlener
- Pastor Eric Yeakel\*

\* = Non-voting member

# Mission and Vision



***Mission: To lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ***

***Vision: That the group of people worshipping together...***

- Attend worship regularly
- Serve Christ through church and community involvement and service
- Actively participate in at least one small group
- Establish and live a giving plan
- Invite others to worship and Asbury activities

***Objective of today's discussion***

1. Discuss Asbury's plan forward for Fall 2020 – time to worship together
2. Highlight how Asbury has lived the mission and vision 2020 to date
3. Highlight the completion of building repairs

# COVID-19 Re-opening Plan



## Highlights since June discussion:

- Aggressive Mitigation has been lifted – we are in the Green phase
- Successful completion of Asbury's survey (342 responses)
- Continuation of online services through the summer
- Move to in-person outdoor services August through Labor Day
- Weddings and funerals still taking place with limited numbers
- Children's ministry held "Backyard VBS"
- 90 Day Bible Challenge!
- Secured PPP Loan from the Federal government

Asbury continues to take its approach from the PA Eastern Conference Leadership while also looking at preferences from the Asbury Survey

Church Council has and will continue gradual re-introduction of in-person items.



# Worship: COVID-19 Plan for Asbury



I would like to announce Asbury's plan to re-open the sanctuary for worship effective 13-September. We used to know this day as Rally Day when we kicked off Fall activities and Sunday School.

The plan is to offer online worship as the **primary** means of worship.

We will also be offering in-person worship with a set of defined COVID-19 related rules to help ensure everyone's safety.

New Times and In-person worship

**September 13, 2020:**

**In-Person worship in the Asbury Sanctuary:**

**9:00 am**

**On-line worship from the Sanctuary:**

**10:30 am**



# Vision: Attend Worship Regularly



## Guidelines in Place

- Distance and Disinfection
  - We are taking guidance from the CDC, PA State Guidelines and those of the United Methodist Church
- Distance:
  - Maintain 6' between individuals and family units
  - It often takes 7-14 days for symptoms to show. Please stay home if showing symptoms or if you were in proximity of someone who is/was ill
  - Masks will be required of all volunteers and attendees
- Dis-infection:
  - US EPA approved disinfectants will be used per COVID-19 guidelines
  - Cleaning and disinfection will take place following each use of the sanctuary and space within the Asbury building

# Vision: Attend Worship Regularly



## **In-person worship will have the following guidelines**

- Asbury Code of Conduct will be in affect (masks are a must)
- Pre-registration is requested to allow for tracing should it be necessary
- Seating every other pew and 6' distance between family units (allows for approx. 100 attendees). Spacing will be clearly marked.
- No congregational singing
- Any singing in the service will have a maximum of 4 people strategically distanced
- Enter only the sanctuary from outdoors (upstairs entrance). No entrance going through the church building. Check-in will be outdoors.
- No books in the pews, no passing of offering plates, no bulletins, etc.
- Offering will be collected in an obvious location upon leaving the sanctuary.
- Ushers will dismiss each row separately to maintain distance while leaving the sanctuary.

# Vision: Attend Worship Regularly



## **Volunteers – Service opportunity to help with in-person attendance**

- **Ushers** – different scope than before; seating, exit by row
- **Greeters** – will be helping with check-in
- **Spotters** – help those that need assistance
- **Parking lot greeting and direction**
- **Singers:** We cannot sing so our choirs will not be available to sing in person. However Music staff will be contacting people in choirs to assist with both online and in-person services in groups of 4 or less
- **Bell choir:** Socially distanced bell choir is possible if enough members come together to ring



Initial indications are that we will need at least 12-16 volunteers per service, per week not including music volunteers. Opportunities to serve will be many. Please volunteer!



# Vision: Attend Worship Regularly



## Attendance

- Worship Attendance has waned during the summer. This is not atypical, and we hope that attendance recovers during the Fall
- Attendance Comparison March 13 –Aug 23, 2019 vs 2020

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Average Attendance	457	444*

\* = uses 1.4 multiplier x number of devices on Sunday morning.  
Does not include those viewing at other times.



# Vision: Service Opportunities



## Mission and service continues during COVID-19 constraints

These are active service opportunities

- Ramos cleaning items and hand sanitizer donations
- Health ministry collecting for Ripple Community Center
- Ramos Workday on September 26
- Plastic Sleeping mats for the homeless
- Pastoral care for ill and hospitalized
- Sending medical supplies to Liberia
- Financial support to service organizations



# Vision: Service Opportunities



## Asbury's Preschool

- Preschool is one of Asbury's longest running outreach to the community (42 years)
- Restarting in September with smaller classes to support COVID guidelines
  - Focus on 4's and pre-K only
  - Student total now 36
  - Last year's total 300
- Approved Health and Safety Plan
  - 4 classrooms with isolated in and out locations
  - Operate in "pods" concept
  - Minimal opportunities for interaction
  - Isolated from other rooms in the church
  - Monthly updates to Church Council
- Plan to reach out to Alumni and their parents for support



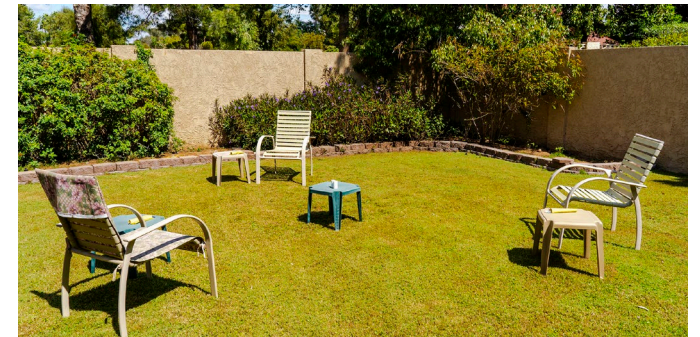
# Vision: Small Groups

## Asbury's small groups are meeting!

- Most are meeting online.
- Several have asked to meet at Asbury outdoors. This is acceptable if 2 items are done. 1) Coordinate with Israel Olivieri and 2) Abide by the Asbury Code of Conduct

### **Request for the Fall Semester: Remain Virtual**

- Please remain virtual when possible. Meeting outdoors is a good opportunity to be together – but please practice distancing and wear a mask!
- New Groups: New ideas or new leaders – now is the time. An example of a successful new group is the Tuesday morning Zoom Prayer Group

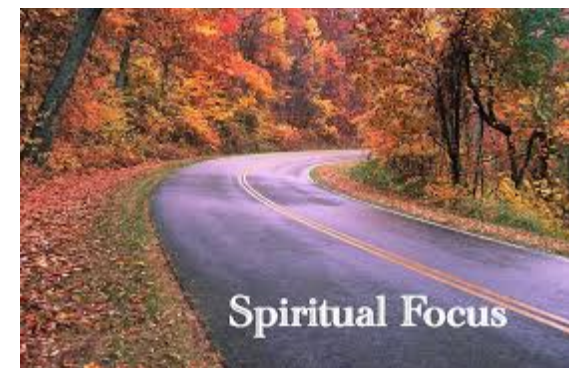


# Vision: Small Groups

## Asbury's Spiritual Focus Team



- Created to help support Asbury's Small Groups.
- Most of Asbury's small groups have a 1 on 1 contact on the SFT
- Are you interested to join a small group but don't know which one or want to see what one is like?
- **OPEN HOUSE** – This team is encouraging each small group at Asbury to have an Open House or visitation meeting to create an opportunity for new people to join and become more connected in small groups. Look for communication for these dates/times in Sept/Oct time frame.
- **Online Support:** Asbury's Spiritual Focus Team will be a means of technical support for those wanting to try online meetings.



# Vision: Small Groups



## Sunday School – Children, Adult, and Youth Group

- We are not quite ready for in-person Sunday school.
- In-person Sunday School will need to happen after we have successfully had in-person worship.
- Children's Sunday School and group materials and videos are provided to parents and students online.
- Youth Group taking place via Zoom
- Sadly, the West Virginia mission trip had to be cancelled.



# Vision: Giving



Giving Results from 2019 and 2020 for comparison January through July

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Income (offering)</b>	\$712,330	\$781,211	(\$68,881)

Expenses are also down by \$50,480

## Summary:

- Thanks to everyone for living their giving plan!
- Giving is down
- Expenses are down but still running a deficit
- We have been able to safe-guard Asbury jobs using the PPP loan
- The numbers above do not reflect Capital Campaign giving

# Vision: Inviting

By invitation, new people have joined worship and small groups, some from out of state.

- New Inquirers class is taking place with 6 new families joining virtually in September
- Families both in and out of the Lehigh Valley are joining us.
- The ability to share a link with someone you think would benefit from the service has never been so easy, and important.
- Small groups are now having people join virtually. Its simple and can be less imposing than in person

**Everyone – please take advantage of the ability invite others. Its as simple as forwarding an email or a link to the webpage.**





# Capital Projects!

- Exterior wall - COMPLETE
- Memorial Garden – COMPLETE
- Roof – nearing completion
- HVAC – ongoing but majority have been repaired or replaced



# Conclusion



1. Asbury Church continues to practice our Mission and living our Vision during 2020
2. Re-opening for worship 6 months from the day we closed due to COVID-19.
  - Using an incremental re-opening strategy
  - Look for new announcements of added in-person opportunities
  - Creativity and new ideas: Please share service ideas or activities that Asbury can pursue safely and as a church family
3. We are cautious, but also enthusiastic as we look to return to in-person worship while considering the safety of our congregation and our neighborhood.

Questions ???