



Asbury Church

a United Methodist
Community

8-August-2021

Church Council Members



I want to thank all the members of Church Council

- Gene Davis
- Judy Ehninger – Lay Member to Annual Conference
- Jim Flynn – Trustees Chair
- Sarah Kinzel– SPRC Chair
- Erica Laudermilch
- Tim Lebrecht – Church Council Chair
- Pastor Barbara Lee*
- Charley Myers – Asbury In Missions Chair
- Israel Olivieri*
- 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 worshiping 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

Welcome!



Welcome to our new members from Salem United Methodist Church!

We invite you to join in with the new and exciting activities for the Fall of 2021 as well as to our established ministries and activities: Choir, churchwide activities, small groups, service activities, etc.

Worship: Attendance Results 2021



Attendance in 2021

Worship attendance June and July Asbury UMC			
Description	2021	2019	2021 % of 2019 Attendance
In Person avg weekly attendance			
June	135	318	42%
July	177	326	54%
Online (devices * 1.4) avg weekly attendance			
June	197	63	
July	171	62	
Estimated Sept 2021 in person attendance			
Sept 2019 In Person Avg weekly Attendance	375		
50 % of 2019 in person attendance	188		
60 % of 2019 in person attendance	225		
70% of 2019 in person attendance	263		

As you can see our in-person numbers are growing but they are low when compared to pre-COVID 2019. We have been seeing between 40 – 50% of pre-COVID people in attendance at Asbury. Overall low but much better than the church as a whole where many are only seeing 20-30%.

Worship: Attend Worship Regularly



Worship Options:

In-Person:

Asbury has successfully worshiped in-person since February 2021. We plan to continue that into Fall 2021 and beyond. We pray that in-person worship will rebound to numbers at least as high as pre-COVID.

Online: Online worship continues to be a very important format of worship.

Services and type of worship for Fall

Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary:

9:30 am

**Note – Sunday school will take place with 9:15 drop off for children
Children’s Sunday School through 10:30(end of worship)**

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary:

11:00 am



Worship: Sunday School



Children:

- There will be in-person children's Sunday School
- The plan is for all children and teachers to be masked and follow CDC guidelines to the greatest extent possible.
- Children check-in will take place starting at 9:15 prior to the 9:30 service

Adult:

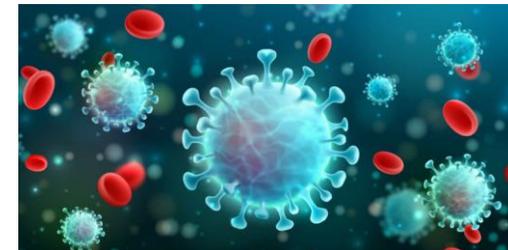
- Time – Start at 9:30am and will be in person unless your class plans differently.
- Please let Asbury leadership know if you need a larger meeting space. We will do our best to accommodate.



Worship: COVID plan - flexibility

In-person worship will have the following guidelines

- Asbury will be following CDC guidelines by state/county
- The Delta variant and likely others to come are real – *please get vaccinated* if you are not.
- Masks will be required indoors should Lehigh County fall into the substantial or high infection rate categories (greater than 50 infection per 100,000 people). Please watch as this can change quickly. We will be in constant communication as this can change quickly.
- Singing will take place but observing any necessary mask requirements.
- 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.



Vision: Attend Worship Regularly



Plan for 2021 and forward:

- As COVID-19 allows we get back to in-person worship and all it has to offer
- 70% of those regularly attending Asbury check in for a service each week
 - Whether in-person, online, or independent streaming
- Stream and record the sermon to share to a broader audience
 - Improve the use of social media
 - Consider and implement other media options
- Testimonials taking place in service on a more regular basis
 - Sharing on various topics that make Asbury meaningful to them

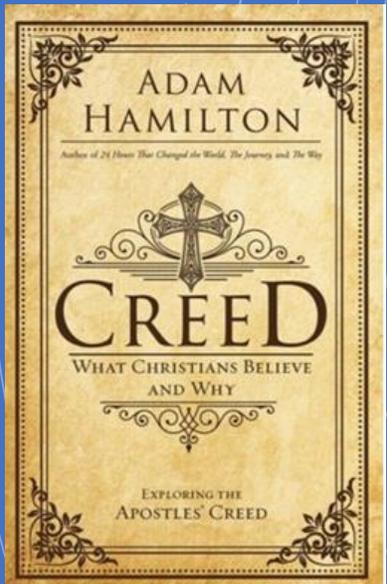
Vision: Small Groups



Small Groups: Asbury's building is now open for internal small group use. Please make sure to work with the office to schedule your group to meeting rooms of choice. Your group may also choose to stay virtual. Many have found a mix of virtual and in-person to be optimal.

- Bible Study
- Men's Groups
- UMW Circles
- Prayer Group
- Sunday School Classes – Adult and Children
- Seasonal Studies –
 - New Congregational Studies planned for September and December
 - **Help!!!: Leaders needed for September studies.**

Work with the Asbury's Spiritual Focus Team to help with any small group issues. They can be a direct link to solve the issue or elevate to Church Council or Committee leadership.



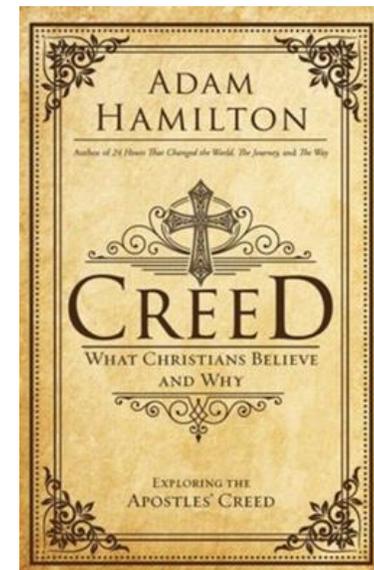
Vision: Small Groups

Small Group Goals 2021 and onward

- That all small groups fit within the mission and vision of Asbury
- That 50% of Asbury's regular attendees are part of a small group as measured by Advent/Lent studies.
- Please consider having your small group study the Adam Hamilton book "Creed" or join another small group to enhance your Asbury engagement during the months of September and October.

Do you have questions about foundational Christian truths such as the purpose of life? Believing that powerful answers are embedded in the Apostles' Creed, Adam Hamilton examines it to explore what Christians believe and why it matters. Topics are:

- God
- Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit
- The Church and the Communion of Saints
- The Forgiveness of Sins
- The Resurrection of the Body



Vision: Service Opportunities



Asbury Volunteers – **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** You can find a list of areas where volunteers are needed. Look on our website under Connect ... Next Steps ... Serve. You will find many opportunities to serve as an individual or as a group.

Salem Food Pantry - first and third Fridays and Saturdays of each month

AIM (Asbury In Mission) Upcoming Service opportunities for you or your small group to consider:

- August 28 – Ramos Elementary School grounds “Work Day”
- September – Planning a brunch for donation to CROP Hunger Walk – date tbd
- October – Mission brunch and Ramos Trunk or Treat (COVID dependent)
- November - Rescue Mission supply drive and start Gifts from the Heart.
- December – Continued Support for Angel Tree and Ramos family Christmas “Adoption”

Visit AIM’s Webpage to see the local, regional, and global missions they support financially.

United Methodist Women – Bazaar planning and volunteers



Vision: Service Opportunities



Service Plans for 2021 and onward

- Provide monthly opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus – AIM is helping to provide these opportunities
- Share the great work that AIM does on a more regular basis.
- Closer interaction with Asbury's preschool. Look for an upcoming story about how COVID-19 did not slow down this outreach of our church.
- Goal: 50% of Asbury to have participated in a Service opportunity whether coordinated through AIM, UMW, or volunteered individually.

How can you share God's love within our community and with those around you?

Vision: Giving

Giving and expense Results 2020 and 2021 Budget

Asbury Finances January through June 2021		
	2021	2020
Revenue	\$ 498,206	\$ 478,212
Expenses		
Admin Costs	\$ 35,324	\$ 35,890
Mortgage	\$ 58,080	\$ 48,728
Personnel	\$ 254,087	\$ 281,310
Misc Ministry	\$ 12,050	\$ 11,635
Property	\$ 70,554	\$ 59,784
UMC app make up (one time charge)	\$ 125,875	
Total	\$ 555,970	\$ 437,347
Year to Date Status	\$ (57,764)	\$ 40,865

Summary:

- Thanks to everyone for living their giving plan!
- One time charge to catch Asbury up on UMC Apportionment. This was required to complete the Salem Merger.
- News: Mortgage is changing. Consolidating 2 mortgages into one with American Bank.
- Creating new Investment sub-team to Church Council to watch over endowment and invested savings account. New monies from Salem UMC will be strategically combined with Asbury assets.
- PPP loans: Initial loan from the government has been forgiven. The second loan is still active.

Vision: Giving



Projections and Goals for 2021:

- Plans for 2021
 - Annual budget does not require injection from invested savings
 - Continue to monitor budget using key operating area breakdown (Operating, preschool, AIM, etc)
 - Re-energize the Endowment Fund and Invested Savings Supervisory Committee

Vision: Inviting

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

- **Online Services have a loyal following;** Please share a link to these services with a friend. Invite someone to your small group. People are now crying out for interaction.
- **Adult Inquirers Class** – 11 people are about to complete this in the coming weeks.
- **Kickoff of Fall Season** – Rally Day on 12-September. Look for details on this activity. This is a great way to get your small group started and get back into in-person interaction. Expect an outdoor food related event. This will include a special welcome to individuals from Salem.
- **Enhance Worship both in-person and online.** In a COVID world we are making plans to be the best we can both in-person and online. This will help achieve our goal of 70% of people worshipping weekly.

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



Vision: Inviting

New Opportunities for Inviting in 2021

- Small group opportunity starting in September for “Creed”.
- In-person services with music every week.
- Inviting Goals for 2021
 - Facility look and use to mirror what’s important to Asbury
 - Media/Social media strategy to be enhanced
 - New activities to do as a church – whether online or in person; What is an activity or event that would inspire you to invite a friend?

Conclusion



1. Asbury Church continues to follow our Mission and Vision during 2021.
2. Invite and welcome our new Salem members warmly into your groups and service teams this Fall.
3. We need your help!
 - Be flexible! Please pay attention to COVID related issues. Flexibility and patience will be a must as we move into in-person worship and service/small group interaction in a COVID world.
 - Volunteer – please engage in Asbury’s opportunities for worship, giving, serving, participating in small groups, and inviting.

Questions ???