



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

APRIL 2011

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Preparing for Easter

There is an old saying, “April showers bring May flowers.” Most of us have to provide those showers for our plants because 2011 promises to be a dry year. When showy flowers like daffodils and roses start to come out, our yards and community look beautiful.

What about our spiritual lives? Maybe we’re much the same. Many people are giving themselves a great Lent shower by participating in Bible and book studies which help us to focus on Jesus’ life and death. The intention of these studies is not just for knowledge’s sake: it is to bring about change to both our heads and hearts, to change our actions and attitudes. When we ourselves understand more clearly Jesus’ call to discipleship, then we can reach out to other people and help with their basic spiritual and physical needs.

If you aren’t in a class, it isn’t too late to join. Many of the lessons are self-contained and not built one lesson on the other. Check below for a list of ongoing classes.

On the next page of the Trails is another list: the Holy Week schedule. Yes, Easter comes late this year, even though stores have been displaying Easter basket candy and spring outfits for weeks at this point. We, too, are busy preparing for this special time, but in a much different way.

Palm Sunday is March 17. The children will wave palms and sing as we focus on the happy entrance Jesus makes into Jerusalem, before life changes so completely. On Holy Thursday, sometimes called Maundy Thursday, our service will be in the east Sanctuary. The sermon will be given by Ruth Rosen, who is a Jew who has found Jesus as her Messiah. She will guide us through the meal that Jesus ate at the Last Supper and relate its meaning for us.

Good Friday will be a Tenebrae service commemorating Christ’s ultimate sacrifice for us. We’ll read scripture, sing, and depart quietly. Saturday will host the regular Saturday evening service at 6:30 PM.

Easter morning begins with a Sunrise service at 6:15 AM in the east parking lot. It will be followed by an indoor pancake breakfast (donations accepted) at the west end of the church. Joyous Easter services will be at 8:30 and 11:00 AM—Christ has indeed risen!

Mark your calendars and share with those around you. Come with great expectations because the Risen Lord will meet us there.

Grace and peace!

Rev. Layloni Drake, senior pastor

Ongoing Lent Classes—please join us!

Praying with Each Other
Mondays, 10:00 AM

Jesus’ Parables of the Lost and Found
Tuesdays, 10:00 AM

24 Hours That Changed the World
Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

In the Dust of the Rabbi
Wednesdays, 10:30 AM

Brown Bag Bible Study
Wednesdays, noon

Prayers and Pilates
Thursdays, 10:00 AM

HOLY WEEK



SCHEDULE

Apr. 17 Palm Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
11:00 AM Acts 2 Worship

Apr. 21 Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM East Sanctuary

Apr. 22 Good Friday

7:00 PM East Sanctuary

Apr. 23 Holy Saturday

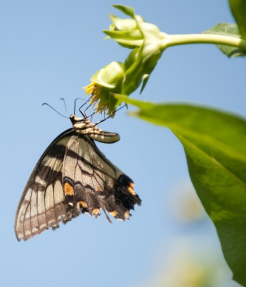
6:30 PM Acts 2 Worship

Apr. 24 Easter Sunday

6:15 AM Sunrise Service, east parking lot
6:45 AM Pancake Breakfast
8:30 & 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
11:00 AM Acts 2 Worship

“What the caterpillar calls the end of the world,
the Master calls a butterfly.”

—Richard Bach



The Cross is Pivotal

Pivotal means crucial or absolutely necessary. Such is the cross on which Jesus died. It represents salvation from sin and death. To see sin in all its cruelty and depravity, look at the cross. The cross can jar a person to the core.

In his parent's bedroom, a teenager noticed a picture he'd never paid attention to before. It was a vivid scene of the Crucifixion. As the boy studied it, his emotions began to stir. He saw the helpless Christ dying, the helmeted soldiers bearing spears, the crowd seething with hatred. Jesus was pinned to the cross, bleeding and helpless. Mary stood nearby, consumed by grief.

The picture revealed sin and its results: suffering and death. What if the room had a different picture, with an empty tomb and an angel announcing Christ's resurrection? Those represent that God loves mankind so much he still wants to save us, no matter what we've done.

“May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14, NRSV).

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
January/February 2011 Financial Report

INCOME	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledged	\$76,294	\$80,206
Non Pledge/Loose Plate	\$10,836	\$29,014
Shared Ministries	\$12,724	\$14,409
Building	\$4,300	\$2,847
Other Income	\$11,130	\$8,600
TOTAL	\$115,284	\$135,076
EXPENSES		
Outreach & Ministry	\$65,700	\$68,821
Administration	\$14,765	\$22,964
Shared Ministries	\$12,724	\$14,408
Debt Retirement	\$21,468	\$21,468
TOTAL	\$114,655	\$127,661
Surplus	\$629	

Designated Funds as at February 28, 2011 \$27,873

The trend is somewhat upward, but Shared Ministries are underpaid. Let's try to change this.

Easter's Meaning

In a 2010 Barna Group survey, two-thirds of Americans knew that Easter is a religious holiday. But only 42 percent connected its meaning to Jesus' resurrection. And only two percent of adults said they would describe Easter as the most important holiday of their faith.

Not everyone who connects Easter to religion has the facts straight. Two percent of Americans said Easter is about Jesus' birth. Another two percent said it's about Jesus' "rebirth." And one percent said it's a celebration of his second coming. Another three percent described Easter as a celebration of spring or a pagan holiday.

In the same survey, 31 percent of active churchgoers said they'd definitely invite an unchurched friend to worship with them on Easter weekend.

This Easter, share the truth and joy of the holiday with someone who doesn't know Jesus. News of the resurrection is too good to keep to ourselves!

—from *The Newsletter Newsletter*, April 2011



ASBURY TRAILS is a monthly publication of Asbury UMC, 10,000 Candelaria NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Rev. Layloni Drake, senior pastor; Laurie Carlson, editor. Opinions expressed in articles with bylines are those of the individual authors and may not reflect the opinions held by the church. Please e-mail articles by the 10th of the preceding month to trailseeditor@comcast.net or leave typed, double-spaced articles in the Trails mailbox at the church.

This issue's contributors are: Sue Campbell, Laurie Carlson, Layloni Drake, Vera Kleinhenz, Wim Kramer, Pat Phipps, Kathy Salazar and Mary Swigert..

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Pancake Breakfast

Right after the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 24, join your family for a hot breakfast of pancakes, sausage, bacon, cook's choice, juice, milk and lots of hot coffee! Breakfast will be served from 6:45-7:15 AM.

Sunrise Easter Service

Join us for an inspiring early morning service in the east parking lot on Easter Sunday, April 24, at 6:15 AM. The sun should come over the mountain about 6:24 AM. Our Sunrise Service is a short worship service with communion. Hot coffee and muffins will also be served.

Scholarship Reminder:

Emily Sannebeck Scholarship applications for the 2011-2012 school year are due on May 4. Please contact the church office for more information: 299-0643.

An Easy Way to Help the Needy:

HoneyBaked Ham

The HoneyBaked Ham Company will be here on Sunday, April 10, and again on April 17, to sell \$25.00 gift certificates. Asbury receives 50% of the price, and the proceeds go to the Needy Fund. Last time, in December, we received about \$500.00 to help those in need.

Thanks! And Congratulations!

This year, the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry has awarded more than \$5 million in scholarships and loans to more than 2,500 United Methodist undergraduate and graduate students, including more than 400 future seminarians. Your Shared Ministries make these scholarships possible.

Congratulations to Asbury member John Sais, who attends UNM. He received \$1,500 from the HANA scholarship.

Also, congratulations to Bethany Lust (her mom, Dacia, is Asbury's children's and youth music director), who attends McMurry University. She received the Conference Merit Award of \$500.

Spring Cleaning

March may have been windy, but it brought lots of volunteers to clean up Asbury. On Saturday, March 5, we spread bark in the playgrounds, trimmed plants and removed debris outside. On the inside, the Sanctuary pews were dusted, window sills and blinds cleaned, and in the West Hall, an old Acts 2 projector was installed with a screen for the musicians.

Other improvements this month included installing new Smart thermostats to help with the heating/cooling expenses. Money for the thermostats was donated last year.

Another major project was the construction of a new shed to house the golf cart and lawn equipment. Matt Sauter led a team of scouts from Troop #444 to clear the area and build the shed. The project should be completed very soon and Matt will earn his Eagle Scout. Asbury thanks Matt for taking on such an ambitious project to raise the funds and build a much needed storage facility.

—Sue Campbell

The Mission of Asbury United Methodist Church is to love God and one another through Jesus Christ, and to raise up a new generation of Christians.

As United Methodist Christians, we are part of a global movement of churches that is making a difference in the world. We share a faith in Jesus Christ and practice baptism and communion. We believe that God will comfort, guide, and forgive every person; that serving others is a priority; that worship can be both personal reflection and communal; and that our lives should reflect our beliefs.

Asbury practices the "open hearts, open minds, open doors" policy of the United Methodist denomination. We welcome all who seek to learn more about the Christian faith.

Asbury Ministries

United Methodist Women

A mighty wind brings the gifts of the spirit.
All women of Asbury are invited to lunch
on Sunday, April 3,
in the West Hall at 12:30 PM.
Rev. Melissa Madera will be our speaker.
Babysitting is available

--Mary Swigert

Children's Ministry

Children's Church

The Acts 2 Sunday morning service has several families attending with young children. The kids love participating in the service, but can also have their own activities during the sermon. Children's Church will begin in April with a fun lesson which includes a video and activities. After the lesson the kids take communion and then return to be with their families for the end of the worship service.

Pretzel Day

During Holy Week, Asbury has an Annual Pretzel Day with activities for kids age 4 through 5th grade. Kids from Asbury are invited to join the Creative Kids on Wednesday, April 20, from 2:00-5:00 PM. We make our own pretzels, watch some videos of the Holy Land and have lots of activities to help us understand the events leading from Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to the resurrection of Jesus on Easter.

Mom's Day Tea

The Creative Kids are hosting the Annual Mom's Day Tea on Saturday, May 7, at 1:00 PM. Tea, snacks and entertainment—a slide show and favorite songs—are provided. The theme is "The Best of Creative Kids." The program has been around for nine years! We'd especially like to invite former Creative Kids to help us celebrate. We hope everyone will join us to honor moms and Creative Kids.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for *Shake It Up Café*, Asbury's summer Vacation Bible School, June 13-17, from 9:00-11:30 AM. There is a preschool class for 3-4 year olds, and kids entering kindergarten through 5th grade form the regular session. All are invited to experience *Shake it Up Café*—where kids carry out God's recipe.

—Sue Campbell

Youth Ministry

"By now it was noon. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours—a total blackout. The Temple curtain split right down the middle. Jesus called loudly, "Father, I place my life in your hands!" Then he breathed his last. —Luke 23:44-46, The Message

Lenten Holy Walk

All youth of the church (grades 6-12) are invited to attend a spiritual walk. This is a very passionate weekend and requires you to sign a covenant agreeing to participate in all activities with an open heart. Participants attend the Seder Meal (Thursday night), then spend the night at Asbury UMC where we will watch Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ*, briefly discuss it, and then rest. The next morning (Good Friday) we'll leave the church at approximately 5:00 AM and travel to Nambe, NM (near Espanola). Next, we'll begin a 10-mile walk up to El Santuario de Chimayo. During the walk, we'll keep a vow of silence (no talking or texting), then pray together when we arrive at the church. The silence lifted, we'll then drive to a local restaurant, eat a meal and return to Albuquerque in time for Asbury's Tenebrae service, Friday night. Finally, on Easter Sunday, we'll attend the Sunrise service and pancake breakfast.

You do not have to be a member of Asbury's Youth Group to participate! Adults are needed for driving and/or walking in silence alongside the youth. If you would like to participate, please contact Kathy at 620-9891 or email ksalazar@asburyabq.org to sign up.

Congratulations to the Amazing Bible Racers: Sam March, Jennifer Langdon, Stephanie Lewis, Daniel Logan and Bryce S.! These senior high youth completed Leg One of The Amazing Bible Race by reading and studying the Books of Genesis through Deuteronomy in 12 weeks. Please give them your congratulations when you see them! Senior High youth: you can still join us for Leg 2 (Joshua through Esther)—see Kathy Salazar or Becky March!

April:

Sunday Youth Group meets from 2:00-4:00 PM followed by Youth Music from 4:00-5:15 PM
2: Amazing Bible Race: 7:45-8:15 PM
3: Youth Group and Youth Music
9: Final Amazing Bible Race: 7:45-8:15 PM. Good job, everyone!
10: Youth Group and Youth Music
16: Amazing Bible Race Dinner out
17: Youth Mission and Youth Music
21-24: Holy Walk (multiple day events)

—Kathy Salazar

Library News

By Pat Phipps, librarian



Create Your Own Story @ Your Library

Join us as we celebrate National Library Week, April 10-16.

Looking for a place full of adventure and excitement that's educational too? Why not visit Asbury's library? It's the perfect place to discover new worlds and begin the next chapter in your life's story. Study guides to enhance your understanding of the Bible, books to expand the horizons of your dreams and, of course, lots of 'just for fun' books – it's all free at your library.

You can contact us at library@asburyabq.org with any questions.

New in the Asbury Library:

UMW Reading Program. All donated by the UMW

Education for Mission:

My Sister the Father by Meri Whitaker

Social Action:

Not Just a One Night Stand: Ministry with the Homeless by John Flowers and Karen Vannoy

Nurturing for Community:

Middle School Confidential: Real Friends vs the Other Kind by Annie Fox

Large Print:

Palestine - Peace Not Apartheid by Jimmy Carter

Adult:

The Help by Kathryn Stockett. Donated by Mary Fontaine
Every Day Deserves a Chance: Wake Up to the Gift of 24 Hours by Max Lucado. Anonymous Donation

Children:

The Promise of Christmas/ La promesa de la Navidad by Peg Augustine. Bilingual English/Spanish

April Lectionary

April 3, Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)
Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41

April 10, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 130 (UMH 848)
Romans 8:6–11; John 11:1–45

April 17, Sixth Sunday in Lent (Passion/Palm Sunday)

Liturgy of the Palms; Matthew 21:1–11
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 (UMH 839);
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16 (UMH 764)
Philippians 2:5–11; Matthew 26:14–27:66
or Matthew 27:11–54

April 18, Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1–9; Psalm 36:5–11 (UMH 771)
Hebrews 9:11–15; John 12:1–11

April 19, Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1–7; Psalm 71:1–14 (UMH 794)
1 Corinthians 1:18–31; John 12:20–36

April 20, Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 70 (UMH 793)
Hebrews 12:1–3; John 13:21–32

April 21, Holy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10) 11–14; Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 (UMH 837)
1 Corinthians 11:23–26; John 13:1–17, 31b–35

April 22, Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Psalm 22 (UMH 752)
Hebrews 10:16–25; John 18:1–19:42

April 23, Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil

Exodus 14; Genesis 1:1–2:4a; Psalm 136:1–9, 23–26 or Psalm 33 (UMH 767); Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13; Psalm 46 (UMH 780); Genesis 22:1–18; Psalm 16 (UMH 748); Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21; Exodus 15:1b–13, 17–18 (UMH 135); Isaiah 55:1–11; Isaiah 12:2–6; Ezekiel 36:24–28; Psalm 42 (UMH 777); Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 143 (UMH 856); Romans 6:3–11; Psalm 114 (UMH 835); Matthew 28:1–10

April 24, Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24 (UMH 839)
Colossians 3:1–4; John 20:1–18 or Matthew 28:1–10



Trusting When It's Not Easy

During this time of Lent, as we continue to reflect on the terrible journey our Lord had to endure on his way to the cross, it's also time for self-examination. Such questions like: "What can be done to fix this?", "Who can I depend on?" and "Where do I go from here?" are in the forefront of my reflections this season because of an incident that really tested my spiritual resolve.

During the first week of Lent, I had the opportunity to go to Chicago for some professional development for the two positions I hold as choir director. I was looking forward to finally visiting my birthplace and learning many new skills. I anticipated renewing acquaintances with colleagues, making new contacts, learning new concepts and hearing some great choral music. All of the joy and exhilaration I felt was dramatically changed when a staff member from my hotel helped themselves to my computer during the first day of my trip. This is where the "What can be done to fix this?" question came in. As many of you have experienced when you lose something that is practically irreplaceable, it just hurts. There was no cooperation from the management of the hotel which made me feel helpless and alone. As I spoke to several of the employees of the hotel, I was getting different stories of their procedures – "Who can I depend on?". After filing the police report and speaking with another manager, I was told that the hotel is not liable for my computer and that nothing like this has ever happened to them before— "Where do I go from here?".

We all have what, who and where questions. Sometimes there are why's added in. My why was "Why me?". God says trust. I may not know any of the answers, but I know enough to trust that God will handle every and any situation I may find myself in. Even though my computer is a very present part of my life, I am confident that the Lord will provide me with the means to do what I need to do to move on.

I just want to be a good steward of the talents God gave me, a good wife, mother, grandmother, friend, colleague and coworker. Everything else—as they say—is gravy.

Lord Jesus, you are the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Give me the wisdom to set aside my selfish concerns and trust you in all I do. Amen

Soli deo Gloria,
Vera Kleinhenz, Director of Music / Organist

Above all, trust in the slow work of God

Give our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.
Above all, trust in the slow work of God,
our loving Vine-dresser.

—from "Waiting" by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Thinking of Others this Easter: Relief for Japan

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has partnered with the United Church of Christ in Japan and first-responder GlobalMedic to bring immediate relief to communities in Japan. If you would like to make an offering toward these efforts, please note UMCOR Japan Relief on your check or offering envelope.

Trusting the Unseen

A gardener planted two peony bulbs side by side. In a few weeks, as expected, the first one poked a single stem through the ground. The other would soon follow, the gardener thought. But it didn't. Many more weeks went by with no sign of life.

Then one day, to his surprise—not one, but five leaf points poked through the soil at once. When the peony bloomed, its flowers were more beautiful and numerous than those of the first bulb.

John Piper said, "In every situation, God is doing a thousand things that we cannot see and do not know." When God seems to have forgotten you and hope fails, don't despair. God is at work, and someday you will see.



Asbury Trails, a publication of
Asbury United Methodist Church
10,000 Candelaria NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Phone: 505-299-0643
E-mail: church@asburyabq.org
Website: www.asburyabq.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Come Worship With Us!

Traditional services:

Sunday mornings 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 AM

Contemporary services:

Saturday evenings 6:30 PM
Sunday mornings 11:00 AM



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