



The Asbury Update

September 2021

Asbury Memorial
Church
Rev. Billy Hester
Volume 34, Number 9
September 2021

"A Message from Our Church Council Chair"

Hello Church Family,

And by Church Family, I mean ALL of us--Asbury Memorial and Wesley Oak Churches! One year after Asbury Memorial's disaffiliation, I'm delighted to announce that Wesley Oak is now disaffiliated, too, and we are officially merged to be partners in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Please note I chose my words carefully. We are officially merged—documents are signed, notarized and filed with the appropriate governmental agencies—but we are just on the cusp of being practically merged: administrative systems are being combined, property use and care are coming together and leaders from both churches are meeting regularly to learn each other's histories, to evaluate the good that's happening now and to listen for the Holy Spirit to show us how to announce and invite the kingdom of God into this beautiful, yet challenged, city we call our home.

Planning a future in an uncertain time takes all the love and faith with which we are blessed. In some ways it seems harder and in others it gives us more space and time to be curious, to feel deeply and to think broadly. To me, it feels as if we're enclosed in a chrysalis, waiting for God's perfect time to emerge transformed to serve God through loving our neighbors.

During this time of discernment, I humbly ask you to continue to do what you have always done: to pray for our churches and its leaders. To attend worship in whichever sanctuary or through whichever media suits your needs best. To continue your support and to help when you are asked. Who could have imagined this a few years ago? Not me! But I'm excited about our future because I know that when we follow God's lead and hold God's people in our hearts, we are blessed to be a blessing in God's world.

Janet Wagner
Church Council Chair



1008 East Henry Street, Savannah, GA 31401
www.asburymemorial.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Having a Birthday? Call the office at 233-4351
or e-mail us at church@asburymemorial.org.

September

2nd Maddie Gratias

Pam Karacostas

Nancy Saltsman

4th Phyllis Carlino

Delores Ellis

Cathy Solomons

Gloria Stahle

Jason Zimmer

5th Haigh Angell

Kelly Beaver

Monica Lekuch

6th Sherry Moore

7th Johnnie Eason

Skyler Gurley

Anthony Walker-

Triplett

8th Ed Jones

9th Bo Crowder

10th Graham Dalton

Bob Norton

Tiia Strong

11th Madeline Kelso

Sully McCaffity

Renee Penrose

14th Kimmi Sampieri

15th Amy Jenkins

Carol Klein

16th Bill Jahn

17th Marilyn Leigh

John Marich

Greg Martin

18th Ryan Boland

Adele Packert

19th Austin Howell

Todd Nolan

20th Dottie Kluttz

Mike Matheny

21st Judie Jones

Sarah Povie

Bryan Sikes

22nd Pat Ciccodicola

23rd Danny Lewis

24th Roy Hill

25th Lauren Page

26th Deb Gibson

27th Verna Enyeart

Doug Povie

Sienna Varland

29th Janie Atkinson

Betsy Davis

30th Jamie Gifford

Geri Spears

Scott Wygant



September

2nd Warren Heilman & James Siler

4th Sam & Jan Durham

4th Gerry & Marlon Harman

5th Mary & Dorsey Flanders

10th Steve & Janet Wagner

14th Chris & Laurie Fahey

25th Bob & Jan Corey

25th Will & Cindy Telljohann

29th Catherine Gilbert & Sandy Golden



Children's Time Sunday Mornings

Will be taking a
break for the
summer.

Dear Asbury Family,

I have enjoyed your love, support and community for three years now and I wanted to say thank you. Our time together and our shared mission is very important to me, and John and I are grateful for our church family.

John has been recently diagnosed with advanced Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL), a blood cancer. He is feeling well overall, just fatigued. However, his immune system is highly compromised, which is scary at this time when Covid-19 is running rampant.

This has come as a shock to us and the last month has been a whirlwind of processing a lot of new information and emotions. We have found an outstanding care team at MD Anderson and are very hopeful about his treatment and prognosis. The most intensive **part of John's therapy will be coming up in September and October.**

I will be taking a leave of absence starting on Monday, August 23, 2021 and plan to return to our church work on Monday, November 1. This will minimize my exposure to the public and allow us the time to seek treatment in Houston, Texas. We need to keep John well, so that he can get to Houston and get truly healthy again!

Our amazing staff of wonderful human beings have been so very loving and supportive! All prayers and well wishes are welcomed. John has a webpage on [CaringBridge.org](https://www.CaringBridge.org) where you can follow his treatment progress while we are in Houston and moving forward. Please understand that we may receive your messages with glad hearts, but not be able to answer them personally or in a timely manner while we are concentrating on **John's wellness.**

I will miss being present with you and pray that you remain well in body and in spirit until my return. God is with us. Know that we will be worshiping with so many of you virtually through our online campus and will be praying for our church family at this time.

Love,
Claire

welcome

The Clergy, Staff and Staff Relations Committee are proud to announce that Asbury's own Ellie Covington has accepted the position of Director of Children & Family Ministries and will be coming onboard soon. Many of you who have worked with our vacation bible school over the years will remember Ellie and her exciting nature experiments and presentations and her many contributions in the nursery and children's church ministries. We look forward to having Ellie on staff and are excited to see her in this role. Give Ellie a warm, yet safe, socially distanced welcome when you see her in church!

Our Merger is Complete!



Sundays at 11:15 am

1008 East Henry Street
(at the corner of Henry and Waters)

Sundays at 9:30 am

3124 East Victory Drive
(at Mechanics Drive in Thunderbolt)

(Both services are available via LiveStream)



We will continue to be an inclusive community that worships in the Wesleyan Tradition. We are an "Altars for All" church that marries and blesses all couples, regardless of gender. To inquire about your celebration, contact the church office via phone or email.

912.233.4351 | church@asburymemorial.org | asburymemorial.org

CHRIST-CENTERED | FORWARD-THINKING | ALL-EMBRACING

We Welcome
and Celebrate

EVERYONE!



Dear Asbury family,

In light of our giving shortfall, please consider your pledge and giving. If you are sending in your pledges, a very heartfelt "Thank you." If you are behind in your giving, it would be great if you could try and get up to date with your giving as soon as you can.

If you have not made a pledge, it is still not too late to do so. If you call the church office they can fill out a pledge card for you or mail you one for you to fill out and return.

If you feel extra generous and find you can contribute a little more than you thought last year, we are happy to accept it. We want to be able to make sure that we end the year in a good place and can cover all our expenses. If you have questions about the Budget or other Financial questions, speak with our Church Administrator, Randy Canady or our Office Manager, Claudette DeLong and they can help address those or direct you to someone who can help.

Sincerely,

Michael Dayoub

Stewardship Chair

Asbury Memorial Church

Mail:

Mail your contribution by check to:
Asbury Memorial Church
1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401



Website:

Log on to our website:
www.AsburyMemorial.org

Click on



Complete the form as directed.
You can set it up to be a recurring donation!

online
GIVING
easy. fast. effective.



Mobile App:

From your smartphone:
Download the free GivePlus **GIVE PLUS+** app from the App Store or Google Play



Have you missed that beautiful opportunity to place your contribution in the offering plate on Sunday mornings? Well, have we got options for you! We have multiple ways for you to continue your support of Asbury Memorial and have listed them below. Thank you for your gifts!

Mail:

Mail your contribution by check to:
Asbury Memorial Church
1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401



Website:

Log on to our website:
www.AsburyMemorial.org

Click on



Complete the form as directed.
You can set it up to be a recurring donation!



Mobile App:

From your smartphone: **GIVE PLUS+**

Download the free *GivePlus* app from the App Store or Google Play
Open the *GivePlus* app and follow the simple directions
You can setup an account or just give as a guest
Make a one-time gift or set it up to be recurring

Text Giving:

From your mobile phone:
Send your contribution amount to 912-307-3206
Donate anytime, anywhere
Use easy debit/credit card registration
Make a one-time gift or set it up to be recurring



Church Office:

Call the church office at 912.233.4351

Asbury Community Cares Fund

Some Financial Relief May Be One Application Away: Asbury Community Cares Fund

Friends, these are hard financial times for some in the Asbury community.

An 'Asbury Emergency Funding Task Force' was created to help ensure no Asburian lost their home due to the pandemic.

We were thinking of and praying for you while we worked!

Please do not let pride stop you from applying to see if there might be some financial assistance available to help you through these difficult times.

Time may be running out to apply for some of these grants!

If you need financial help with your rent, mortgage, utilities and other things, please don't let pride stand in your way when there might be help just one application away.

Asbury has partnered with the experts at the non-profit Family Promise to help both individuals and families try to find financial resources that best fit your situation:

If you live in the city of Savannah, or Chatham, Effingham or Bryan county, there may be help for you through some emergency state, county and/or city grants. Again, **time may be running out to apply for these grants! Do NOT delay in applying!**

There is also a fund called the Asbury Community Cares Fund, given by Asburians *just* to help people in the Asbury community. This fund may be able to help you!

With one application through Family Promise you can apply for emergency state, county and city grants, as well as the Asbury Community Cares Fund, which was donated by Asburians *just* to help people in the Asbury community.

For fastest assistance, apply online: familypromisesavannah.org/amc (lower case amc)
If you have questions or need a paper application, call Family Promise at 912.790.9446.

Local Resources



The Coronavirus pandemic has stressed our resources in many ways: mental, emotional, financial, relational and spiritual. Your staff has compiled a list of resources to help folks with small businesses, to address budgetary changes, to find the latest information on symptoms and steps to take if you are ill, resources for mental health, obtaining food, and considerations for children and elders.

Go to the church website: www.asburymemorial.org and click on the COVID RESOURCES icon for more information. The resources will continue to grow and evolve as conditions change. Be Well! There is support in our community to ensure that you maintain a good quality of life and your church family is committed to your welfare.

Study Groups & Fellowship Groups

Asbury Memorial offers a wide variety of study and fellowship groups.

We are excited about the rich and varied opportunities for adult study and fellowship, some via Zoom. We hope that you will join in one or more of the programs.

Adult Ministries 10 o'Clock Hour & Wednesday Night Programs

Stay tuned! As we navigate the current waters of safety protocols, we are looking into the best way to restart our 10 o'Clock Hour study. In the meantime if you are interested in being part of the team of presenters (leader's guide materials will be provided), please contact Carol Melton at

cbmelton@bellsouth.net.

Wisdom Seekers Mondays, 1:30—3 pm Starting June 7th Wisdom Seekers will be taking a summer break.

Men's Group

The Men's Group has decided to continue to meet during the summer!

The Men's Group have been studying and discussing the book, *The Four Agreements* which will continue & conclude on September 19th. At that time the men will be making a selection for their next book. The Men's Group meets on Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom and welcomes all men. Members of the group are asked to volunteer to facilitate one of the sessions.

Zoom meeting ID: 844 3633 5506, Passcode: Asbury

Course in Miracles Facilitator: Rev. Marilyn Leigh Thursdays, 4:00 to 5:30 pm

The Course in Miracles study group is dedicated to the study and practical application of *A Course in Miracles* to our daily lives. Our group allows the Course to guide us in becoming and expressing the Love that is the truth about us. It teaches the true meaning of forgiveness and challenges us to put God first in our lives. If you are interested, contact Rev. Marilyn Leigh at revleigh@yahoo.com.

Green Team News!

The Green Team will meet via Zoom on September 20th at 7 pm.

We'll tell you about our new mascot, The Firefly!

Chuck Eyler will be sharing what he learned at the recent Green Team Summit, hosted by Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL).

David Alley is inviting a guest speaker to talk about composting in Savannah. Also, Suzie Williams and Carol Anderson will report on the Sierra Club / GIPL zoom meeting about taking climate action.

Exciting stuff to learn about!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89072538977?pwd=TXRGQ0YrdFRnd3lYS0d5V1ZQekFndz09>

Meeting ID: 890 7253 8977, Passcode: Asbury





Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jeff and Amy Tucker who were married Saturday, July 24th at Asbury in a private ceremony officiated by Rev. Billy. Jeff is a church member and has served as Finance Chair twice.

Birthday Flowers

The flowers give beauty and ongoing memories of Asbury and Savannah life. Each petal reflects divine and every day grace—counting 90 and some change.

Thank you, especially, Asbury staff.

Pat Stewart

Thank you!

Dear Asbury family,

I wanted to thank you all for the beautiful flowers you sent me for my birthday. They came at a very good time because I got really sick the day after my birthday with an upper respiratory infection and am still not completely well, so the flowers have really been beautiful to look at!

Love to all my Asbury friends & Thank you,

Diane Connor

Greetings!

I am excited to serve as the Director of Children and Family Ministries at Asbury Oak.

For those of you whom I haven't met yet I look forward to getting to know you, and for those of you I know I look forward to re-connecting! Stay safe, be kind, and shine on!

PLEASE



THANK YOU



Greetings, Asburians!

As our ability to interact in person may be limited, we need to remember that we are not alone: that we are still a vibrant faith community and God is present in the messiness of our lives to love us, lead us and witness our daily strife and pleasures.

Here are some ways to stay connected and some comforting resources:

There are also links on the Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/asburymemorialsavannah/> and the Church's webpage: www.asburymemorial.org

Encouraging Words

The Encouraging Words will be taking a break during the month of September.

Worship on Sundays

Beginning Sunday, July 4th, we will begin our 11:15 AM in-person worship with relaxed worship guidelines. RESERVATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE ARE NOT REQUIRED. We will ask you to register your attendance at the door. We will require that a face mask be worn. On line services may be accessed from: <https://vimeo.com/event/1061155>

Online Devotionals

From our own Methodist tradition is the Upper Room which can be seen online here: <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>





Feel Alone & Financially Insecure?

We're here to help!

Step Up Savannah helps in your journey towards financial security by connecting you with the right resources.



**step up
savannah**

Follow us on
Facebook Twitter Instagram

StepUpSavannah.org

GET REMOTE HELP WITH

SNAP

MEDICAID
HEALTHCARE RESOURCES

CAPS

TANF

WIC

APPLY REMOTELY FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS AT THESE LOCATIONS:

STEP UP SAVANNAH

Kimberly Paulk
912.330.6445
M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
By phone appointment only

ST. MARY'S COMMUNITY CENTER

Johnetta Ferguson & Linda Youth
912.447.0578 Ext. # 5
M-F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
By phone in order received

FIRST HISPANIC BAPTIST CHURCH

Anabel Perez
828.244.2485
Lunes y Martes 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Solo por cita telefonica

MOSES JACKSON ADVANCEMENT CENTER

LeQuinton Kates & Sara Williams
M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
912.525.2166
By phone appointment only

SAVANNAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Jeisie Jones
912.509.0771 / unap@savannahtech.edu
Hours based on client need
By phone appointment only

WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTERS OF SAVANNAH, INC.

Valeria Flowers
912.447.5711 /
flowerstv_wcc1601@yahoo.com
hours based on client need
By phone appointment only

FORSYTH FARMERS MARKET

Tasha Cunningham
347.861.9824
Hours based on Clients Need
By phone appointment only



THESE REMOTE SERVICES ARE FOR THE DURATION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GOD ON BROADWAY

Where Theology meets Theatre

POSTPONED!



**Fiddler
on the Roof**

10/3



SPAMALOT

10/10



HAIR

10/17



**THE
LION KING**

10/24



**THE ADDAMS
FAMILY**

10/31

Each Sunday in October, the regular worship service in the Asbury Memorial sanctuary revolves around themes of a different Broadway musical, using songs and characters from that particular show. The spirit of each Sunday's selection influences the entire service; and the Rev. Billy Hester centers his inspiring, and often amusing, sermon on the lessons of the musical and scripture. He and wife Cheri, both veterans of Broadway and off-Broadway productions, have shared their special talents with our congregation and the local community since the early 1990s.

Please consider joining us for one or more of these joyful services. "God on Broadway" is a whole new approach to spirituality and the quest to grow close to God and the love of Christ. We are sure that the experience will bless you.

WHEN SHADOWS FALL

- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Valori Armstrong in the death of her fiancée, Loretta Bouquet.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Alex, Stephen & David Swanger in the death of Alex's uncle, Donald Cowart.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Dan Nelson in the death of his good friend, Brian Malone.*
- *The members of Asbury Memorial extend our love and sympathy to Terri Benton, Randy Lanier & Gary Lanier in the death of their father and Asbury member, L.A. Lanier.*



MEMORIALS

***A Gift has been given to the Properties Fund by Carol Chambers in memory of
Kelly Hall***

***A Gift has been given to the Properties Fund by Joan Hester Byrd & family in memory of
Bob Paddison***

***A Gift has been given to the Properties Fund by Lisa Maguire, Michael Murray & Steve
Murray in memory of
Susan Murray***

***Gifts has been given to the JUST Fund in memory of Sanford Jones by
Preston & Kathy Hodges
Sandra Katz & Sue Hendricks
Sally Jilek
Kristin Freed
Joseph Colligan
Harry & Sandy Hoecherl
Lillie Feierabend
Judith Leaptrot***

***A Gift has been given to the Properties Fund in memory of L. A. Lanier by
Ethel Burriss
Richard , Ann Lutz & family***

***A Gift has been given to the Music Fund by Kay Deffley in memory of
Sanford Jones***

2021 Budget Offering

August 1st—\$6,918.66

August 8th—\$19,082.00

August 15th—\$14,469.67

August 22nd—TBA

August 29th—TBA

2021 Weekly Budget Need

\$13,830.00

2021 YTD Budget Need

\$456,690.00

2021 YTD Received

\$374,742.52



PRAYER REQUESTS



Asburians

Kevin Ambrey, Neil Austing, Kelly Barrett, Alice Burris, Fay Carroll, Anita Clay, Linda Combs, Diane “D” Conner, Gretchen Dodd, Helen Downing, Joe Driggers, Sam Durham, Katie Farmer, Bob Francischetti, Ellie Gonye, Chase Harrison, Roy Hill, Betty Hohnerlein, Pam Karacostas, Judith Kessler, Jack Lewis, Lynn Lord, Marion Manigo, Scott McCoy, Freida McGee, Brenda Mills, Grady Mills, Frances Monson, Virginia Moryadas, Dan Nelson, Marie Parker, Frank Ramsey, Barbara Ruggere, Nancy Saltsman, Caroline Smith, Roberta Smith, Cabell Stewart, Pete Vasta, Kenn Waters, Diane Williamson, Marie Winters

Family Members & Friends

Lindsey Aldred, Joanne Anderson, Rev. Grover Bell, Andy Blakely, Lisa Brown, Karen Browning, Gary Cartee, Phyllis Chappell, Don Cohen, Wanda Collins, Linda Cowart, James Thomas Crosby, Peter DeCordova, Bill Dodge, Gene Donaldson, Sara Driggers, Dan Goff, Catherine Guiton, Vickie Hamilton, Priscilla Hearn, Lindsay Kessler, Benjamin Leesburg, Kim Lewis, Donnie Malphrus, Jay Marshlick, Jane McCoy, Tyler McGowan, Margaret Odom, Jennifer Payne, Fredia Peggs, Tommy Taylor, Neola Walker, Carole Warfield, Jacob Williams, Christiani Yunkunis

Asbury Memorial
Church
1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401-7128
INT.ID 206896
Office 233-4351 Fax 233-5026
www.asburymemorial.org

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #133
Savannah, GA

Return Service Requested

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Supplying the flower arrangements for the worship service is a wonderful way to commemorate a date that is important to you or a loved one. Please check the Flower Chart in the narthex and sign up. The cost is \$60. For more information call the church office at 233-4351.

Special Funds

One way to honor or to remember a loved one is with a memorial or an honorarium to some of our different funds such as the Properties Fund, General Fund, Piano/Organ Fund, Family & Children's Ministries Fund, Youth Ministry Fund or one of our Mission Funds.

Newsletter Information

If you have an announcement for "The Asbury Update," please send it to the church office in writing by the 15th of each month. Contact Claudette DeLong, Office Manager at 233-4351 or email to church@asburymemorial.org
Office hours are 9 AM to 4 PM, Monday thru Thursday.

Mission Statement:

Asbury Memorial is a place where all people can develop their spirituality, use their talents, and grow in faith as we seek to love, serve, and celebrate God, each other, and our community.