

DECEMBER



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

A FUTURE AND A HOPE:
TO LISTEN, GROW, AND LOVE WITH GOD

THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2021

Have you ever been to a worship service that was spoken in a language that you were not familiar with at all? What images in the sanctuary were similar to what you are familiar with? What were completely different? How did it feel to have no idea what was coming next? Awkward? Exciting? Hesitant? Curious?

A colleague encouraged me to attend a Tongan United Methodist worship service. I had never been to one, but was curious to witness how they worshipped and engaging all of the senses to experience the similarities and differences. The language was a challenge, but I happened to pick up three words: Amen, David and Covid-19. The altar, pulpit and floor around them were covered in bright white, pink, orange and green. Men and women dressed in a combination of local and traditional garb. The chorus of songs were sung loud and harmonious, with the pastor speaking the verses (I think). Prayers were heartfelt and extensive. Some youth tried to take a nap along with a babe in arms. All were physically distanced and masked, even though the sanctuary was in somewhat of an outdoor setting. To be present together in the house of the Lord in worship transcends cultures and languages.

I discovered that the pastor was reading Psalm 132, so I pulled out my phone and read it in English. "I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids until I find a place for the LORD", verse 5 says. I had absolutely no idea what his sermon was about, but the scripture spoke to me as I was in the mindset of preparing for this upcoming series, The Inn, and how we can make room.

The dwelling place that this church had created was a most beautiful "footstool" that was far different from Asbury, but the Spirit of God was present. It was originally intended for the local English-speaking congregation, but the people decided to host a Tongan worship service in the afternoon. The people of this church community have created multiple dwelling places, and I recall how Asbury did something similar with a Korean church at the previous location on Portland Street. Asbury has a history of welcoming people different from themselves into God's dwelling place.

Now back to the time when you were in a foreign worship service. How were you welcomed? What was helpful to you? What made worship difficult? Were you able to connect with God despite the differences you experienced?

We are all worthy of being welcomed into the dwelling place of God, even the ones who might not get it all, or understand the language that is so familiar to us. Typical barriers in the world would hinder us if it were not for God's grace welcoming us in and the presence of the Spirit who intercedes for us.

Blessings as we make room to welcome the Christ-child into our lives,

Rev. Erica Gravely



Celebrate with us this Advent Season

Sunday, 11/28: The Inn Series: Making Room

Sunday, 12/5: The Inn Series: A Place at the Table

Sunday, 12/12: The Inn Series: How Much is Enough? - 1:30pm Caroling to Homebound and Pastor's Open House

Sunday, 12/19: The Inn Series: A Room with a View with music from Chancel Choir, Alabaster and Bells!

Friday, 12/24: 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, 12/26: The Inn Series: Dwelling

		Asbury Staff		
Lead Pastor Administrative Assistant Connections Coordinator	Erika Gravelly Julia Machin Bea Willingham	Music Director Student Ministries Community Outreach	Kathy Love Leon Johnson Linda Adams	Nursery Coordinator Pianist & Organist Gifts That Count Susan Lamy Teresa Kays Jim Wilson
1500 S Campbell Avenue Springfield, MO 65807 www.asburyunitedmethodist.org Church Email: asburyumc@sbcglobal.net		Pastor's Email: egravelly@asburyunitedmethodist.org The office is open Monday — Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM		

Video Worship

Miss a Sunday? Watch the worship service video at www.asburyunitedmethodist.org/

- December Birthdays**
- 
- 02 John Fuge
 - 03 Leon Johnson
 - 04 Dana Collum
Raylan Paterson
 - 05 Lincoln Johnson
 - 08 Linda Buffington
 - 13 Shannon Leger
 - 14 Tara Johnson
Kathy White
 - 15 Donna Brown
 - 18 Peggy Baier
Del Peck
 - 27 Sean Gravelly
Ella Hostetler
 - 29 Alena Pike
 - 30 Nicole Johnson

Those Serving
This Month



Accompanist: Teresa Kays
A/V: Steve Collum, Bill Love
Host: Bea Willingham
Greeters: Joan Wilson, John Fox, Judy Fox, Chuck Gregg, Karla Gregg, Sheryl Hill, Dana Collum, Janice Greene, Fred Marshall, Marsha Marshall, Threasa Ballenger
Usher: Neal Folkerts
Readers: Mary Blumhost, Karla Gregg, Mark Gideon, Patti Blanton, Nancy Lollar, Joan Wilson, Kimberlea Gray, Janet Bowman

Coffee with the Pastor



Pastor Erika Gravelly will be available the fourth Sunday of each month at **9:10 am and 11:40 am** to visit with anyone who would like to learn more about Asbury. Grab a cup and join us for the **next one on December 26.**

 To the leaders and members of Asbury UMC:
Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.
Thank you for showing compassion and love to our neighbors in need.

With deep gratitude,
Christie Love
Lead Pastor, The Connecting Grounds

Thank you so much for supporting the Child Advocacy Center with your donation of blankets. The children and the Center are truly grateful for your generous support.


Child Advocacy Center

PRAYER REQUESTS

Lisa Atkinson, John Bingham, the family of Marilyn Inman, Marlene Jones, Gabbi Hill, Peggy Fuge, Jeanette Williams, Janet Bowman & family, Janet Peck, Linda Buffington, Ron Garling, Cameron Cox, Clark Mikkelson, Teresa Kays, Jackie Fadler, Nicole Johnson, Neal Stehle

All prayer concerns will be listed for one month unless otherwise notified.

Those we hold in loving care who are homebound or limited in their transportation:

Pansy Bingham, Gary Metcalf, Nicole Johnson, Neal Stehle, Jackie Fadler, Barbara Davidson, Bob Drake, Marjorie Pettit, Shawna Allen, Cleo Huffman, Brenda Morris

Hospitality

We would still like to have more greeters before Sunday morning worship! Please let Ruth Spargo or Bea Willingham know if this is a ministry for you.

Not Receiving Asbury Email Blasts?

If you believe you are not receiving emails that others have, you need to take steps in your email program to allow the messages to get to your inbox. Each program is different, but here are a couple suggestions:

- If your server has a Junk folder, open that folder and search for emails from Asbury. If you find one, mark it as "not spam". This may bump future emails into your Inbox.
- Go directly to your email server (not through your phone's email app) and add webmaster@asburyunitedmethodist.org to your contact list.



TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is for: Weight-Loss

Support, Lose Weight, Proven Effective and Low-Cost - Membership Fee is \$32 + tax, Dues are \$5.00 per month. For more information please contact Sandy Chamberlain via the church office at 417-865-1335 or AsburyUMC@sbcglobal.net.

UMW News

UMW Sunday was celebrated November 21st with Philip Herzog, director of Development and Community Engagement at the Council of Churches, speaking. Mary Blumhost was presented the Special Mission Recognition. The UMW thanks all of those who participated with special appreciation for all of those who shared in the Corsage for Missions giving.

The UMW Christmas pot luck brunch will be held Saturday, December 4, at 10:30. Entertainment will be provided by a strings ensemble from the Play and Sing His Praises school. All women are invited.

Naomi-Ruth Circle will meet at Georgianne Sly's home for their Christmas pot luck at 6 p.m., December 13. Each person is to bring a \$10 gift for exchange.



December 2

Mission Springfield
Bridge Builders

December 4

UMW Christmas Luncheon
PSHP Christmas Concert

December 6

Special Session Charge Conference

December 9

Mission/Vision

December 11

Calendar Meeting
Staff Meeting

December 12

One Heart in Christ
Caroling and Open House

December 13

Naomi Ruth

December 14

Trustees

December 15

Crosslines Day

December 16

Bridge Builders

December 18

Jarrett Prayer Walk
Harmony House Lunch

December 21

Worship Committee

December 24

Christmas Eve Service

December 26

Coffee with the Pastor



Check It Out!

Dinner by Candlelight; Comfort and Joy for Advent, was written by Kevin Louise Schaner, a retired librarian. She is also a writer and a speaker who has traveled to five continents with Volunteer in Mission teams.

This book offers a very meaningful journey through Advent. Divided by the weekly themes with a meditation for each day, the reader can read the essay, spend time on the questions listed as “Christmas Conversations” and then act upon the “Advent Action.” This action may just be a reflection or it may truly cause one to take action. In the week of “Love,” the story of the poinsettia is followed by Conversations about the homebound and communicating love and the Action of taking a poinsettia to someone who is lonely and listen to his/her Christmas memories. On another day the recipe for hard candy is included.

As a part of the concluding “Christmas!” meditation it is suggested that the Christ candle be used throughout the winter to experience the joy of God’s ever present Love longer. It is suggested that this book would be especially important for those who are having to change “traditions,” (as many of us have had to) because it was written following sad changes in Schaner’s life.

Financial News

As of 10/31/2021* :

Contributions for October: \$22,775
Contributions Budget: \$21,333

Contributions YTD: \$201,297
Budget YTD: \$213,333

Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD: \$18,181
Other Income Budget YTD: \$23,467

Expenses YTD: \$200,944
Budget YTD: \$264,465

Apportionments Paid YTD: \$0 **Apportionments Budget:** \$29,971

*Updated numbers for the monthly newsletter are not always available until after it is published. Contact Bill Love if you have any questions - full reports are posted online.

Harmony House Lunch Saturday, December 18



This month we will be providing our regularly scheduled meal for the residents at Harmony House. Harmony House has asked us to come that date instead of Christmas Day. In addition, we will not just drop off the food, but will be allowed to help service it to the residents.

Because of Covid, Harmony House has outlined two rules. **All servers must:**

- Be fully vaccinated
- Wear a mask at all times

Please review the available slots at the link below and click the button to sign up (this includes servers). If you need help signing up, contact the church office at 417-865-1335 and Julia will help you. You can drop off any refrigerated and non-refrigerated items any time the week prior to December 18. Please be sure to label it “Harmony House.” You may also bring food on the morning of December 18, but please have it to the church no later than 10:30 am.

Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4BABAFA28A1FD0-harmony8>

Connection Information

Worship:

On Asbury Live! at <https://live.asburyunitedmethodist.org>

By landline or smart phone: (312) 626-6799, Meeting ID: 881 355 241, Password: 01 76 46

Sunday School 9:15am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/362387558?pwd=dWxzZ1NWVnMQQjZyWmRIWVExUERnQT09>

By landline or smart phone: (312) 626-6799, Meeting ID: 362 387 558, Password: 06 82 81

Monday Evening LYF Group, 6:30pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/613309770?pwd=Rm9UTGtTNXFHaFRWWW9gcVBDSUJkUT09> or call (312) 626-6799,

Meeting ID: 613 309 770, Password: 07 35 82



Power of Love for December: Reverse Advent for Isabel's House

Collect a gift each day for Isabel's House, which provides immediate refuge for children, ages birth to 12 years, whose families are in crisis. Items below are most needed, which also includes office supplies as well to keep this ministry running. Place item in a bag and pray for the recipients and the organization daily. Bring your bag on Christmas Eve or the following Sunday to worship.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Dec. 1: Kid-Friendly snack like NutriGrain Bars | Dec. 13: Pull-ups (2T – 5T) |
| Dec. 2: Outdoor toy like Sidewalk Chalk or Bubbles | Dec. 14: Vaseline |
| Dec. 3: Diapers (size 2 - 4) | Dec. 15: Bedding |
| Dec. 4: Toddler clothes (2T – 5/6) | Dec. 16: Youth clothes 10/12 |
| Dec. 5: Toothpaste | Dec. 17: Developmentally-focused game/toy |
| Dec. 6: Kid-Friendly snack like Cheez-its | Dec. 18: Boys shoes, youth 8-11 |
| Dec. 7: Craft kit or project | Dec. 19: Wide comb |
| Dec. 8: Masking table | Dec. 20: Eucarin skin lotion |
| Dec. 9: Pajamas | Dec. 21: Batteries |
| Dec. 10: Storybook | Dec. 22: 1 ream copy paper or cardstock |
| Dec. 11: Boxers/boxer briefs for boys 10/12 (not white) | Dec. 23: Enfamil Gentlease formula |
| Dec. 12: Girls shoes, toddler 7 through youth 10 | Dec. 24: Storybook |

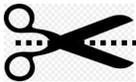


One Heart Holiday Fundraiser for the Crisis Cold Weather Shelter

One Heart will be selling jars of cookie (\$10) and cocoa mix (\$5), available starting December 5 through December 19. We will be taking orders for these as well.

We will also have a gift wrapping station in classroom across from the Adult Sunday School class the weekend of December 18th and 19th. We are asking a minimum donation of \$2.00 per gift. We will be at the church from 10:00 am to noon on the 18th for gift drop off and we will have them ready to be picked up on Sunday morning. If you have a lot of gifts, we ask that you do this option. If you have just one or two, we can wrap them between services on Sunday morning. Also, if you need us to pick up your gifts for wrapping, we can arrange pick-up and/or delivery - please contact Karla Gregg or Sheryl Hill.

To avoid identity theft and spamming, no personal contact phone numbers and email addresses are published in this newsletter. If you would like to reach out to someone who is listed, please contact the office and we will help you.



ONE HEART COOKIES AND COCOA MIX ORDER FORM

(please place order in Mission Springfield box in the fellowship hall)

Name _____

Phone _____

Preferred pick-up time _____

Description	Price	Quantity	Total cost per line
Sugar Cookie Mix (Quart size jar)	10.00		
Chocolate Chip Cookie Mix (Quart Size jar)	10.00		
Gluten-free Cookie Mix (Quart Size jar) Features oatmeal and M&Ms	10.00		
Peppermint Stick Cocoa Mix (Pint size jar)	5.00		
Totals			

(Checks may be made out to One Heart in Christ Circle.)