



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2022

How bright is your shirt?

Due to an anonymous gift from a church member, I was able to join a mission trip to Haiti in 2000. We stayed in the countryside and helped install a fish pond for fish to be raised in large quantity. Of course it was not just about us serving the Haitians, but they also enlightened us on the culture and history of their country. They have experienced hundreds of years of poverty, deforestation, slavery, corrupt governments, natural disasters... all things they never asked for. Yet their spirit, their joie de vivre, is infectious. In the morning they would greet us with a booming "bon jour" and wide beaming smiles. The work was hard, but the conversation was lively. Throughout the week, we noticed how the white shirts that they wore were so bright, almost whiter than a shirt that you could purchase straight from a store. It would magnify their smiles, their positive outlook on the day. How are they doing that, with the limited resources they possess and most likely washing them by hand? Citrus, we were told, was the secret.

I still wonder if I could use a lemon to make my clothes whiter than white, but the greater impression was the resilience of the Haitian people. In this present time, we have been run down, disrupted for a year and a half. We have been derailed from the moving and grooving in our culture and we are trying to find our footing again. As we hang up a new calendar, let this be a year of resilience. A year of stepping out of the mess with broad smiles and shouts of greeting, because we have been given a gift. Paul writes to his friend Timothy, "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

We have been given this special gift of God, not to keep it and hide it, but to encourage it to burn brightly. This Spirit blesses us with good qualities for good living. As Paul says, it certainly does not mean that we will never suffer, but through all of this we believe in the one who destroys death and brings life.

Shine brightly,

Rev. Erika Gravelly



New series beginning January 9: Made to Flourish

God created us not to be defined by our sin, but with a desire to live into God's hope for us. In this new year, what kind of experiences, traits and communities can help us to live more fully into our potential?

		Asbury Staff		
Lead Pastor Administrative Assistant	Erika Gravelly Julia Machin	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: asburymc@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/

- January Birthdays**
- 
- 03 Nancy Lollar
 - 06 Dixie Wooters
 - 09 Mary Blumhost
 - 11 Susan Lamy
 - 15 Kyden Brown
 - 16 Jim McKnight
 - 18 John Bingham
 - 20 Bob Bange
Judy Clements
 - 21 Bob Drake
 - 25 Kay Keltner
 - 26 Nicole Hostetler
 - 31 Barbara Davidson

Those Serving
This Month



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

Thank you Bea Willingham, Connections Coordinator

Bea will be stepping down as Connections Coordinator at the end of 2021 to work at United Way. She has been an incredible blessing in this position at a time when the Asbury Community needed connection most. Her phone calls and events at Asbury and in the community helped us to maintain connection, reach out to new people and celebrate God's blessings together. Please thank her for her work if you see her!



I would like to thank everyone at Asbury for the generous Christmas gift. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for allowing me 15 months to serve not only as the Connections Coordinator but also as the church treasurer and the web host for the online service.

You are all very special to me.

Blessings,
Bea

PRAYER REQUESTS

Brenda Morris, the family of Dorothy Roll, Arla Price, Mary Bennett, Doug Clements, Alice Stehle, Janice Greene & family, John Bingham, Gabbi Hill, Jeanette Williams, Janet Bowman, 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 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

January 4—6:30 at Asbury
UMW Planning Meeting: everyone welcome!

January 10—7:00 at Ginny Oliver's
Naomi Ruth Circle



One Heart would like to Thank everyone who supported our Holiday fund raiser. We raised

around \$400 for the Crisis Cold Weather Shelter.

Also if anyone has empty jars they would like to recycle, please return them to the church and we'll use them next year or for the UMW Super Bowl Super Soup Mix Sale. Thank you!

MARK your CALENDAR

January 3, 2022

Office Closed

January 4

UMW Planning Meeting

January 5

Taking Down the Greens

January 6

Mission Springfield

January 8

UMW Meeting

January 9

One Heart in Christ

January 10

Staff Meeting
Naomi Ruth

January 11

Trustees

January 13

Mission/Vision

January 18

Worship Committee

January 19

Crosslines Day

January 23

Potluck & Chili Cookoff
Education Committee
SAI Music

January 24

Creation Care Team

January 29

Jarrett Prayer Walk



Check It Out!

Jeffrey L. Staley based his novel of San Francisco Chinatown, Gum Moon, on the events of the life of his wife's grandmother.

Mei Chun Lai is three when she is sold to a cruel keeper of a brothel. She is rescued by a young Methodist girl and placed in a home for Chinese girls who are abused and trafficked. Her life is a moving saga of learning to play the piano and performing with a chorus, seeing her best friend's dramatic accidental death, and surviving the earthquake and fire. Her life takes a very unusual turn when she and a small group of Chinese children who can sing raise money in a nearly year-long cross-country trip sponsored by deaconesses and the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Despite the matron suffering a breakdown, thirteen-year-old Maud (American name for Chun) finds the strength to lead the little choir home.

Gum Moon is Cantonese for "Gold Door" or "Golden Gate." This is a UMW book in the category of Education for Mission.

Financial News

As of 11/30/2021* :

Contributions for November: \$15,757

Contributions Budget: \$21,333

Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD: \$19,465

Other Income Budget YTD: \$25,813

Contributions YTD: \$217,055

Budget YTD: \$234,667

Expenses YTD: \$218,819

Budget YTD: \$291,176

Apportionments Paid YTD as of 12/30/21: \$20,361 (67.9% of total due) **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.

The Asbury staff would like to thank you for their Christmas gifts this year. We were blessed with gift cards and your thoughtfulness was appreciated.



Thank you also to the 15 carolers who caroled to our homebound members. We ranged in age from children, youth, to adult and loved spreading cheer to others with our music. Thank you to Erika who treated us to pizza and treats at the parsonage.

Asbury staff,

Susan, Bea, Leon, Julia,
Teresa, Kathy, and Erika



Taking Down the Greens

Volunteers are needed to help with taking down the Christmas decor on Wednesday January 5th. We plan to work from 9 am to noon! Drop by to lend a hand! Many hands make light work!

Thank you!

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=Rm9UTGtTNXFHaFRWWW9qcVBDSUJkUT09> or call (312) 626-6799,

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



Power of Love

Our Power of Love collection for January is for Rare Breed and Life Restoration Ministries. Rare Breed is a place where homeless, at risk, or run away youth ages 13 - 24 in need of “Love and Caring” can go from the hours of 3:00 to 7:00. They can get the necessities of life – mainly caring. Rare Breed also has a facility for overnight housing if needed.

- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Wipes
- Kitchen towels
- Sheets
- Blankets
- Shower items
- Dishcloths
- Canned goods
- Soup
- Crackers
- Juices
- Hygiene items
- Toilet paper
- Toothpaste
- Brushes
- Razors
- Feminine hygiene products

If you would like to make a financial donation, please make sure checks are written out with Power of Love in the memo line. Gifts can also be given online on our giving page under the Power of Love project.

The Weather Outside is Getting Frightful...

That means more help is needed for our Crisis Cold Weather Shelter to House the Holy. Evening setup & check-in assistant, pet transporter at night or morning, laundry runner, overnight volunteer, cleanup crew, morning tear-down & check-out assistant slots are available. Email AsburyShelterSGF@gmail.com with any questions or to sign up. More information can be found at <https://asburyunitedmethodist.org/cold-weather-shelter-info/>

Crisis Cold
Weather Shelter

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.

**Super Bowl Super Soup Mixes (Just add water or tomatoes) –
A Fundraiser for Asbury UMW to benefit Women/Children**

Deadline to place your order: 2/2/2022

SUPER BOWL SUPER SOUP MIX

Name

Address

Email

Phone

City/State/Zip

Description	Quantity	Price/Pint	Quantity	Price/Quart	Total	
					Amount due	Amount due
Pasta/ Curly Soup		\$9		\$15	\$	\$
Rainbow 3 Bean Soup		\$9		\$15	\$	\$
White bean chowder		\$9		\$15	\$	\$
Cheesy potato		\$10	N/A	N/A	\$	\$
* Vegetarian Seasoning for soups		YES		NO		
Russian Tea Drink Mix		\$5	N/A	N/A	\$	\$

Total due

Available for pickup, beginning 2/12/2022 from 11-1. Check one:

_____ Yes, I will pick up my order at church

_____ No, I will need my order delivered