



**ASBURY**  
United Methodist Church

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

# THE MESSENGER

## MARCH 2023

Dear Friends,

Tammy, my sister's daughter, has been compiling answers to weekly questions about my family growing up. I was the only boy, born the fourth of six children. We've been instructed to share our responses with each other. I don't know what Tammy is going to do with the stories but it's really been quite surprising.

In general, growing up I remember my sisters always arguing. They'd argue over who was wearing whose clothing or whose turn it was to help make dinner and of course whose turn it was to clean up the dishes and many other things. So if you were to ask me, I'd say growing up we didn't really get along because we argued a lot. What's interesting is that the questions Tammy asks do ask the general question of how was your family growing up. No, Tammy asks us a "remember" type question each week. What we've been sharing are all stories of cooperation and overcoming obstacles and working together. I didn't realize I grew up in such a great family!

It's dawned on me that churches are the same way. In general, no church has enough money, no church has enough leadership, no church has as many people in worship and on and on. That coupled with how much time we spend in committees and gatherings hashing out these issues gives us a general feeling of "not enough - ism." In reality when you ask people to "remember a time" you get memories of amazing events or of stories of incredible cooperation and of miraculous victories over problems and situations. It's not hard to see God's miraculous power at work.

Psalms 103:2 says "O my soul, bless GOD, don't forget a single blessing!" Maybe during this Lenten season each of us can take time to remember and give thanks and really see what God has done, is doing, and will do here at Asbury church. I'd bet that each one of us will be just as surprised as I was. Maybe even inspired?

Now I need to get to this week's question: "Remember when you learned how to drive a car. Who taught you and on what car did you learn?" Between you and me I'm sure there was a lot of yelling but that's not the part I remember.

Blessings,

Tom

### Holy Week Services & Events

<b>Good Friday</b>	Friday, April 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM
<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>	Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 10:00 AM
<b>Easter Worship</b>	Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Join us for a special **Easter Breakfast** on Sunday, April 9 at 9:00 AM!


		<b>Asbury Staff</b>				
Lead Pastor	Tom Vansant	Worship Band Leader	K.I. Emmanuel	Children's Ministries	Susan Lamy	
Administrative Assistant	Julia Machin	Student Ministries	Leon Johnson	Pianist & Organist	Teresa Kays	
Music Director	Kathy Love	Community Outreach	Linda Adams	Gifts That Count	Jim Wilson	
1500 S Campbell Avenue Springfield, MO 65807  www.asburyunitedmethodist.org Church Email: asburyumc@sbcglobal.net			Pastor's Email: thomasavansant@gmail.com  The office is open Monday — Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM			

Those Serving  
This Month



**Accompanist:** Teresa Kays  
**Band Leader:** K.I. Emmanuel  
**A/V:** Steve Collum, Bill Love  
**Readers:** Kimberlea Gray, Joan Wilson, Mary Blumhost, Ruth Spargo, Mark Gideon, Karla Gregg, Janet Bowman  
**Greeters:** Joan Wilson, Karla Gregg, Suzanne Boyts, George Sly, Georgianne Sly, Judy Clements, John Fox, Judy Fox, Fred Marshall, Marsha Marshall, Threasa Ballenger

**United Women in Faith**




At the February meeting the annual Pledge Service was presented. There was an emphasis on prayer, selecting local prayer pals and encouraging prayers and contact with mission workers, both nationally and internationally.

The decision was made to take orders for quiche to be ready for "pick up" Mother's Day weekend. The Coordinator of Program Resources presented information about the Reading Program--reading, keeping records and receiving awards. She listed the books she had selected from the five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

**UWF Calendar** (All local meetings are at Asbury)  
 March 7, 6:30 p.m. –Planning (all are welcome)  
 March 8, 1 p.m. – Mary-Martha Circle  
 \*March 11, Spring District Meeting with Training at Aurora UMC  
 March 12, 830 a.m. – One Heart in Christ Circle  
 March 13, 6:30 p.m. – Naomi-Ruth Circle  
 \*\*March 17-18 – Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat  
 April 1, 10:00 a.m. (Gathering), 10:30 (Program) –Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

**Check It Out!**



Thomas and Tasmin were twins who were hired to oversee a wedding feast in Cana and they were worried when the host ran out of wine. [Sound familiar??] When Thomas decides to follow the miracle worker from Nazareth, Tasmin was determined to get her brother back. She shares many of her misgivings with the brothers of that magician-prophet and works with Jude to try to discredit the Nazarene and get their brothers back to their homes. This work of fiction is very interesting and helps the reader understand more completely the reason for Jesus' sacrifice.

A new book for the library: Daughter of Cana (Jerusalem Road, Book 1) by Angela Hunt was purchased by United Women in Faith and fits in the Spiritual Growth category of the UWF Reading Program.

Dear Asbury friends, members, & Pastor Tom,

Thank you so much for your prayers, calls, cards, & other acts of kindness supporting us due to the death of our daughter Diana. This has helped us get through this very difficult time.

Sincerely,  
Jim & Joan Wilson

## PRAYER REQUESTS

The family of Charles Tinder, Chuck & Mary Ewy, Kathy, Johnathan, & Sara Love, Jack & Becki Gladson, Kay Keltner, Jim & Joan Wilson & family, Margaret Weaver, Ella Hostetler, Doug Clements, Peggy Brown, Virginia Salvog, Bonnie Herndon, Nicole Johnson, Teresa Kays, Ron Garling

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:

Ann Marsh, Barbara Davidson, Bob Drake, Dixie Wooters, Gary Metcalf, Joy Whitescarver, Kathy White, Kay Keltner, Marjorie Pettit, Marlene Jones, Nicole Johnson, Peggy Fuge, Sharon Coomer, Shawna Allen, Virginia Salvog, Warren Meadows

### Serving our country:

Cameron Cox

## March Birthdays

- 06 Gabbi Hill
- 07 Chuck Ewy  
Larrie Mann
- 11 Georgianne Sly
- 16 Dan Whitescarver
- 17 Susan Cox  
Patti Goforth
- 18 Becki Gladson
- 19 Peggy Fuge  
Cal Pike
- 20 Ruth Spargo
- 23 Amy Langston
- 31 Lisa Atkinson



### Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, March 9, at 11:30 am. This month's restaurant selection is Springfield Family Restaurant at 2222 S Campbell Ave.

## MARK your CALENDAR

### March 2

Mission Springfield

### March 5

Breakfast Church & Ukulele Group

### March 7

SPR Committee

Trustees

UMW/UWF Planning Meeting

### March 9

Lunch Bunch

Mission/Vision

### March 11

UMM Meeting

### March 12

One Heart in Christ

### March 13

Naomi Ruth

### March 15

Crosslines Day

### March 25

Jarrett Prayer Walk

Worship Committee Planning Retreat

### March 26

Choir Practice

## Easter Egg Hunt

Asbury's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 am**. Please invite guests to this special event! Please see Susan Lamy if you have additional ideas or want to help.



## NEW THEATRE & Restaurant

### Asbury Goes to KC Dinner Theatre

Mark Gideon is organizing a bus to take a group to see Million Dollar Quarter at the New Theatre & Restaurant in Overland Park KS on Wednesday, May 17th. Cost is \$115.00 per person & includes transportation from Asbury, a delicious lunch buffet & a reserved seat at the show. The informational flier & reservation form are available in the office. **Reservations & payments are due no later than Monday, April 10th.**



### Power of Love

Our Power of Love collection for March will be for both Ozarks Food Harvest and UMCOR's fund to aid victims of the multiple, devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. To give to UMCOR's disaster relief fund, please visit <https://umcmission.org/umcor-international-latest-responses/>.

Ozarks Food Harvest is asking for:

- Tuna or other canned meat
- Peanut butter
- Boxed meals, rice and pasta
- Beans, soups or stews
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Cereal

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.

### Easter Lilies

Orders for this year's Easter Lilies will begin on Sunday March 12th & will conclude on Sunday, April 2nd. **Cost is \$10.00.** The lilies will be delivered to the church on Saturday, April 8th to decorate the altar for Easter Sunday, April 9th. Lilies can be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one or friend or can be given for the Glory of God. Lilies ordered can be picked up after the services on Easter Sunday. Orders blanks are available on the last page of this newsletter or can be found as an insert in the church bulletin and will also be available in the office. If you don't wish to order any lilies, you may make a donation to the Altar Fund. This money is used for candles & other decor for our sanctuary.



### Asbury Goes to SLT

Mark Gideon is organizing a bus to take a group to see **The Play That Goes Wrong** at Springfield Little Theater on Sunday, March 19th at 2 pm. Cost is \$65.00 per person & includes transportation from Asbury & a reserved seat at the show. The informational flier & reservation form are available in the church office. **Reservations & payments are due no later than Sunday, March 12th.**

### Financial News

As of 01/31/2023:

**Contributions for January:** \$15,390

**Contributions Budget:** \$19,167

**Contributions YTD:** \$15,390

**Budget YTD:** \$19,167

**Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD:** \$1,293

**Other Income Budget YTD:** \$1,871

**Expenses YTD:** \$24,934

**Budget YTD:** \$24,897

**Conference Missional Funds Paid YTD as of 12/31/22:** \$11,170 (37.9%) **Remaining Obligation:** \$29,464

We are still focused on paying our Conference Missional Funds (Apportionments). Any extra giving towards these obligations would be appreciated. **Thank you for your generosity!**

## Congratulations!

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Susan Lamy has agreed to assume the duties of Asbury UMC's Coordinator of Children's Ministries. This change in Susan's title and duties became effective January 1, 2023, and we are confident Susan's extensive training and experience in children's education will help bring new excitement to our education activities. She will be working closely with Children's Sunday School teachers Glenda Hefty and Nancy Lollar, whose dedication to our Asbury kids is so very greatly appreciated.

Although it has been some time since we have had small children and/or babies needing care in our nursery on Sunday mornings, never fear! Should the need arise (and we pray that it does), Susan will be available to take care of the nursery until other arrangements can be made.

I know everyone will want to give their thanks and appreciation to Susan, Glenda, and Nancy for their faithful service to Asbury and our children.

Blessings,

Carol Daniel  
SPR Chairperson

### Easter Lilies

Help decorate the sanctuary for Easter with an Easter lily.

An Easter lily can be given **in memory of or in honor of** a loved one, or they can be dedicated **to the Glory of God.**

To place your order, simply fill out this form and mail it along with payment to: Asbury UMC, 1500 S Campbell Ave, Springfield, MO 65807. **Payment is due by April 2, 2023.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Lilies: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00= \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication: For each Lily purchased, please indicate whether it is to be given **in memory of, in honor of, or to the Glory of God.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not wish to purchase a lily, instead please consider a special Easter donation to the Altar Fund.

*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.*