

September



**ASBURY**  
United Methodist Church

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

# THE MESSENGER

## SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Friends,

Who remembers Erich Brenn? I remember him from his appearances years ago on Ed Sullivan and The Tonight Show. With the internet, you can see those old shows again and watch Erich spinning plates on sticks. Yeah, he was that guy.

As fall approaches, we at church have some metaphorical plates to spin. In addition to the usual activities, we have a few new items.

After a great deal of prayer, the Mission Vision team has decided not to host the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter at Asbury this year. It was a tough decision, but for the health of our church it's time to step back. We will revisit our involvement again in 2024.

We are currently entertaining the idea of sharing Asbury's worship space with a new church startup. There are lots of logistics to work out and boundaries to set, but this would be a way to expand our impact on the community while giving us some budget relief.

We will be doing another BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible) Sermon Series through September. I'm excited for us to explore the most important sermon ever preached . . . no, not by me. It was preached by Jesus to the multitudes and recorded by Matthew in chapters 5 through 7 of his Gospel.

Once again, I'm going to be inviting folks to participate in the Renovare Book Club. You can join the club online at [renovare.org/bookclub](http://renovare.org/bookclub), and I will be leading a class on Fridays at 10:00 am in my office. The website offers many online meeting options too.


It's time to do Nominations! Please be prayerfully thinking about how God can use you here at Asbury and when someone calls, pray for how you can say yes.

I probably forgot a spinning plate or two. I'll have to run around like Erich Brenn and get them going again. All this is only possible through God's grace and your courageous participation.

Blessings,

Tom

		<b>Asbury Staff</b>			
Lead Pastor	Tom Vansant	Student Ministries	Leon Johnson	Children's Ministries	Susan Lamy
Administrative Assistant	Julia Machin	Community Outreach	Linda Adams	Pianist & Organist	Teresa Kays
Music Director	Kathy Love			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		



## UMW/UWF

On August 12 we were hosts for the District Mission Study, "Living the Kingdom." We served morning refreshments and chicken salad with croissants and a salad bar for lunch. Those attending also brought donations for the Youth kit for ShareFest (which was our July Love Event).

We are inviting all women to share in the Prayer Breakfast September 16.

The UWF Annual Meeting, "Grace Upon Grace," is in Lee's Summit on September 22 and 23.

**Calendar (All local meetings are at Asbury)**

September 5	Planning Meeting (All members welcome) —7:00 ( <i>Note Time</i> )
September 10	One Heart in Christ Circle—8:30
September 11	Naomi Ruth-Circle—6:30
September 13	Mary-Martha Circle—1:00
September 16	Prayer Breakfast—9:00 (registration at 8:30)
<b>September 22-23</b>	<b>Annual Meeting in Lee's Summit</b>



## Autumn Craft Bazaar

### October 13 & 14



Make plans to attend the Asbury Fall Craft Bazaar on Friday, October 13 from 9 AM to 3 PM, and on Saturday, October 14 from 9 AM to noon. Proceeds from this event will support the Altar Fund. A special private preview shopping event will be held on Thursday, October 12 from 3 to 6 PM. This private preview is for church members and their guests, as well as special customers of each of our 15+ vendors. Mark your calendars and bring a friend!

### Save the Date!

Sunday, October 29, from 4 to 6 PM will be our 2023 Trunk or Treat!

## Those Serving This Month



**Accompanist:** Teresa Kays


**A/V:** Steve Collum, Bill Love, Robbie Vansant, Sara Love, Chuck Gregg

**Readers:** Kimberlea Gray, Janet Bowman, Mark Gideon, Ruth Spargo, Nancy Lollar, Jim Wilson

**Greeters:** Joan Wilson, Karen Nordstrom, Karla Gregg, Sheryl Hill, John Fox, Judy Fox, George Sly, Georgianne Sly, Bill Frogge, Heather Frogge

### Interested in Helping During Worship?

[Click this link](#) or scan the QR code to sign up!



Please reach out to the office if you need assistance.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

The family of Marjorie Pettit, the Hardin family, Scouts BSA Troop 437, George Sly, Janice Greene, John & Peggy Fuge, Donna Brown, Marlene Garling, John Bingham, Bonnie Herndon, Nicole Johnson, Teresa Kays, Ron Garling

All prayer concerns will be listed for

### 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, Marlene Jones, Nicole Johnson, Peggy Fuge, Sharon Coomer, Shawna Allen, Warren Meadows

### Serving our country:

Cameron Cox, Shane Luke

### Job Opening

We are currently seeking a leader for our praise band, Alabaster. If you or someone you know is musically-inclined, please visit <https://asburyunitedmethodist.org/jobs/> for application information.

## September Birthdays

- 02 Bob Johnson
- 04 Anne Marsh
- 05 Susan Conover
- 07 Marjorie Pettit
- 11 Patti Blanton  
Jeanette Williams
- 12 Dan Scott
- 13 Karla Gregg
- 17 John Fox
- 18 Walter Boyts  
Steve Collum
- 19 Teresa Kays
- 20 Gene Inman
- 21 James Blanton  
Kevin Long
- 23 Frank Hinkle
- 27 Lisa McKnight
- 30 Chuck Gregg  
Tom Vansant



### Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, September 14, at 11:30 am. This month's restaurant selection is Springfield Family Restaurant at 2222 S Campbell.



Thank you for giving us a room to meet. We are very grateful.

TOPS #MO401

## MARK your CALENDAR

### September 2

Scouts BSA Merit Badge University

### September 4

Labor Day —> Office Closed <—

### September 5

UWF Planning Meeting

### September 6

Music Department Fall Kick-Off

### September 7

Mission Springfield  
Worship Committee

### September 9

UMM Meeting  
TOPS Fall Rally

### September 10

One Heart in Christ

### September 11

Naomi Ruth

### September 12

Trustees

### September 13

Mary Martha Circle

### September 14

Lunch Bunch  
Education Committee  
Mission/Vision

### September 16

Scouts BSA Workday  
ShareFest @ Hood UMC  
Women's Prayer Breakfast

### September 20

Crosslines Day

### September 30

Jarrett Prayer Walk  
PSHP 25th Anniversary



### Power of Love

Our Power of Love collection for September is for the Pregnancy Care Center. Their needs are:

- Sleepers (preemie—3 mos)
- Jammies & outfits (6 mos)
- Sippy cups & bottles
- Diapers & diaper ointment (newborn—4 mos)
- Cloth diapers
- Hats, socks, booties
- Baby bodywash, shampoo, lotion
- Outfits (preemie—6 mos)
- Baby toys
- Bulb syringes
- Pacifiers
- Adult personal hygiene items

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.

### 2023 Mission/Vision Team

Janice Greene: Mission/Vision Chair

Kimberlea Gray: Recording Secretary

Susan Conover: Member At Large

Amy Langston: Member At Large

Amy Meriweather: Member At Large

Renee Mikkelson: Member At Large

Bill Love: Finance Chair & Lay Member to Annual Conference

Carol Daniel: SPR Chair & Treasurer

Chuck Ewy: Trustees Chair

Glenda Hefty: Education Chair

Kathy Love: Worship Chair

Ruth Spargo: Hospitality Chair

Sheryl Hill: Mission Springfield Chair

Jay Polchow: Accounts Reconciler

### Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, October 8 from 1 to 3 PM, to help set up the Fellowship Hall for the Fall Bazaar. We need to clear the hall and set up tables and chairs for the vendors. Help is also needed to man the raffle booth during the bazaar on October 13 and 14. If you would like to volunteer on October 8, just show up to lend a hand. If you can work the raffle table, please contact Mark Gideon or the

### Chrysanthemums

Orders are now being taken for chrysanthemums to decorate the altar for World Communion Sunday on October 1! Mums are \$10 each and will come from M&M Greenhouse in Dunnegan, MO, where we get our geraniums each year. Plants can be purchased in honor or in memory of someone, or to the glory of God. If you don't wish to purchase a mum, but would like to support the Altar Fund, you can donate to the fund in lieu of purchasing flowers. Your mums can go home with you after either service on October 1; any plants not picked up will be planted at the church. The deadline to order and pay is Sunday, September 24.



Thank you to all the ladies who send such lovely cards and notes to me. I really appreciate it.

Blessings,  
Nancy Mikaelian

## Financial News

As of 07/31/2023:

**Contributions for July:** \$13,187

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

**Contributions YTD:** \$105,180

**Budget YTD:** \$134,166

**Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD:** \$7,444

**Other Income Budget YTD:** \$13,096

**Expenses YTD:** \$144,670

**Budget YTD:** \$170,526

### Restricted Fund Gifts (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

**Gifts for July:** \$9,211

**Gifts Budget:** \$2,917

**Gifts YTD:** \$33,516

**Budget YTD:** \$20,417

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## Check It Out!



History anyone?! We've received two books that are filled with illustrations and many facts—presented quite interestingly. 200 Years of United Methodism: An Illustrated History proclaims, “The people called [United] Methodists believed that they were serving God and God would use their service.”

Describing our denomination coming to America, the leaders and first developments of both Methodists and United Brethren are pictured. Sunday Schools appeared among American Methodists in 1786 and the earliest college was founded in 1787. The history does not sidestep the issues that have faced Methodists from the Revolution through the Civil War, through World Wars, liturgical fads and the social creeds. It ends with a section on the Archives and History Center.

The second book, History of the United Methodist Churches of Missouri, was edited in 1984 when Missouri still had the East and West Conferences. The foreword said that there were 1050 churches and histories were submitted by all but 30! I was so happy to see my home church, Pleasant Grove (in Shannon County), pictured and mentioning the popular Christmas plays written by one of the youth sponsors (my mother!).



***United Women in Faith Prayer Breakfast***

***Saturday September 16, 2023***

***Registration/Check In - 8:30am***

***Breakfast and Program - 9am***

***Program given by Rev. Jen Simmons,  
featuring a prayer labyrinth experience***

***Registration fee: \$10.00***

***Please Pre-Register by September 11, 2023***

***Name (s):*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Phone Number (s):*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Email address:*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Registration fee***      ***χ \$10.00 = \$*** \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*