



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2024

Dear Friends,

It's two days after Christmas, and we just got back from the Branson Belle. The weather wasn't great, and when we arrived, we found out the show and dinner would still happen, but the boat would remain docked. (In case you wonder if they refund anything if the boat remains docked, what they did was hand each person a ten-dollar bill as they boarded.) In addition to the boat not sailing, it turned out the show was not the Christmas show, as we had expected. Apparently December 27 is too late to catch the Christmas show. I couldn't even find Christmas music on the radio for the ride down there.

I guess the world is ready to move on. Jesus was born, and now that's out of the way until Easter when he rises from the dead again. Much of the time our faith follows that path too. So many places to go, so much to get done. Who has the time to linger on anything?

I have an app on my phone called Dwell. It presents a meditative devotion every day. They are good but they are slow; intentionally slow. One good thing about the Dwell app is that it reminds me to slow down.

I asked the Open Source AI on my computer to tell me the most pressing questions people have about God. I decided to make these into a sermon series for January and the first part of February. I hope you will make it a priority to participate; I think it will give us all a chance to slow down a little and think about God.

January

7 Finding God in a Scientific Age - Genesis 1:1-5

14 Finding God in a World of Brokenness - 1 Samuel 3:10-18

21 Finding God in the Noise - Jonah 3:1-5, 10

28 Finding God Outside the Church - Mark 1:21-28

February

4 Finding God in Your Doubt and Pain - Isaiah 40:28-31.

11 Finding God in a Divided World - 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

May you experience the blessings of slowing down and finding God in 2024!

Blessings,

Tom

Asbury Staff					
Lead Pastor	Tom Vansant			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			Pastor's Email: thomasavansant@gmail.com		
www.asburyunitedmethodist.org			The office is open Monday — Thursday		
Church Email: asburyumc@sbcglobal.net			9:00 AM – 2:00 PM		



UMW/UWF

UWF has been saddened by the loss of three members in the past month: Dixie Wooters, Alice Stehle and Bonnie Herndon.

In deaths of members UWF gives Gifts in Memory, contributions for missions.

More to Come: More information will be coming, but UWF is again taking orders for jars of dried soup mixes. These soup mixes will be prepared for delivery February 4, one week before the Super Bowl!

Calendar

January 2 Planning Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (There may need to be a change in date. Ruth will inform.)
January 8 Naomi Ruth Circle, 6:30 p.m.
January 10 Mary Martha Circle, 1:00 p.m.

Those Serving
This Month



Accompanist: Teresa Kays

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

Readers: Mark Gideon, Kimberlea Gray, Karla Gregg, Patti Blanton, Jim Wilson

First Friday Family Game Night **January 5—6:00 pm**

Did you miss the Family Game Night in December? One Heart will be hosting this event on a monthly basis. Please join us for the first Friday evening of each month at 6:00 pm. Bring your favorite game(s) and a snack to share. Your next opportunity is coming up soon!

Volunteers Needed—Saturday, January 13

Volunteers are needed on Saturday January 13, 2024 to take down & store the Advent decorations. We will meet in the sanctuary promptly at 12:30 pm to discuss work assignments & break into groups. Help is needed to take down the wreaths, undecorate the tree, pack up the Nativity scene etc. There are jobs for every skill level from sitting at a table to pack ornaments to climbing a ladder to take ornaments off the tree in the sanctuary! Members of The Table Anglican Church have been invited to join us. Many hands make light work. Mark your calendar & plan to join us!

PRAYER REQUESTS

The family of Bonnie Herndon, Mark Paxton, Janet Bowman, Jeanette Williams, John Fuge, Gene Day, Suzanne Boyts, Michael Blacksher, Margaret Day, Judy Clements, Mary Blumhost, Jim Wilson, Sue Ann Holloway, 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, Joy Whitescarver, Kathy White, Kay Keltner, Marlene Jones, Nicole Johnson, Sharon Coomer, Shawna Allen, Warren Meadows

Serving our country:

Cameron Cox, Shane Luke, Tyler Moore

One Heart in Christ Circle

One Heart Circle has signed up to feed our Unsheltered Community at Grace UMC on January 7. If you can donate brownies or are interested in helping, please contact Sheryl Hill, Karla Gregg, Glenda Hefty, Kathy Love, or Susan Cox.

One Heart will **not** meet on Sunday, January 14.

MARK your CALENDAR

January 1

Happy New Year!

January 2

UWF Planning Meeting

January 3

Worship Committee

January 4

SART Executive Board
Mission/Vision
Mission Springfield

January 5

First Friday Family Game Night

January 8

Naomi Ruth Circle

January 9

Trustees

January 10

Mary Martha Circle

January 11

Lunch Bunch
Education Committee

January 13

UMM Meeting

January 15

MLK Day—Office Closed

January 17

Crosslines Day
Fun Day

January 27

Jarrett Prayer Walk

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.



Video Worship

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

January Birthdays

03 Nancy Lollar

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



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, January 11, at 11:30 am. This month's restaurant selection is The Rock at 4018 S Lone Pine Ave.



Power of Love

Our Power of Love collection for January is for Isabel's House. Some of their needs are:

- Non-perishable meal items to send with families
- Organic/Natural/Special Dietary Pantry Items (Gluten Free & Dairy Free)
- Kid-friendly snack items (no peanuts, please)
- New Clothing/Outfits for discharge (18m—14/16)
- Dishwasher Pods
- Antibacterial Wipes

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.

2024 Mission/Vision Team

Kimberlea Gray: Mission/Vision Chair

Janet Bowman: Member at Large

Mark Gideon: Member at Large

Amy Langston: Member at Large

Chuck Gregg: Member at Large

Doug Clements: 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

ASBURY UMC

SPRING CLEANING RUMMAGE SALE MARCH 15 & 16

Save these Dates!

More details will follow.

To our dear Asbury family & friends,

Thank you

My brother and I would like to offer our sincere gratitude to each and every one of you. So many of you have shown so much love to our mom & entire family for so many years. You were each such an important part of her life & she loved you all. We appreciate all of you who visited & called during her illness, sent cards & flowers, attended her celebration of life & prepared a meal for our family./ We love and thank you all.

With prayers,
Donna Brown & Tommy Stehle

Financial News

As of 11/30/2023:

Contributions for November: \$15,499

Contributions Budget: \$19,167

Contributions YTD: \$170,191

Budget YTD: \$210,833

Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD: \$10,629

Other Income Budget YTD: \$20,579

Expenses YTD: \$215,659

Budget YTD: \$265,112

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

November: \$0

Budget: \$2,917

YTD: \$33,516

Budget YTD: \$32,083

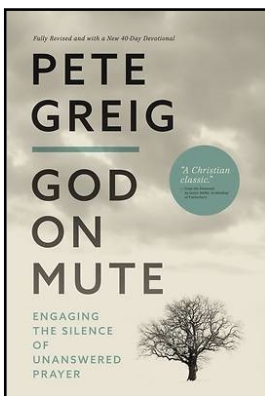
Thank you for your generosity! As we enter the new year our apportionment obligation to the Missouri United Methodist Conference comes into greater focus. Any additional gifts to this obligation are encouraged! As of 11/30/23 we have \$1,270 of our \$27,718 obligation (4.6%).



Check It Out!

A change of pace this month: a historical romance by Eugenia Price, The Waiting Time (one of the books from Bonnie Herndon's library).

The title of the book has a double meaning; the heroine Abby waiting through the prescribed grieving time following her husband's death and the waiting of the nation through the late 1850's as society waited for the inevitable division of the country. The reader gains more understanding of the dilemma of those who found the idea of owning people abhorrent but were caught up in the system so that their livelihood relied on slave labor... and the interesting view that many of the slaves were frightened to lose all they knew of secure situations. Ending just months before the attack on Fort Sumter, there is a mixture of joy and unease—no doubt true for so many at the time.



Lent Book Study

This Lenten season we will be doing a churchwide study of Pete Greig's *God On Mute*. If you would like to join in this study, please contact Julia at the church office **no later than Thursday, February 1** to add your name to the order list. Books are \$11.99 each.

Office phone: 417-865-1335

Office email: asburyumc@sbcglobal.net

THANK YOU!

The Asbury Staff would like to thank everyone for our generous Christmas gifts. We are blessed to serve such a wonderful congregation.

Tom, Julia, Kathy, Leon, Susan, & Teresa

HAPPY
New Year

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.