



THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2024



Dear Friends,

I love Christmas carols. I start listening to the Christmas station on the radio at Thanksgiving, and I listen until they quit playing carols after Christmas. As we approach Easter, I'm reminded of Andy Williams' song, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." Christmas is great for everyone, but for Christians, I think the "most" wonderful celebration is Easter.

The "God on Mute" study helps us deal with tough issues of faith and how and when God answers prayers. The Lenten season reminds us to be ready, because the journey isn't always easy. But it's all worth it because we've prepared, we've faced difficulty, and we've still maintained the kind of faith that lets us celebrate the amazing victory of Easter.

I'm writing this on February 29: Leap Day! Let's all remember that the Lenten journey continues through March, culminating in the most wonderful time of all: the resurrection miracle of Easter.

Blessings,

Tom Vansant

Simplified Structure

Asbury's board has now been converted to the simplified structure model. If you are curious about just what that means, there is a book explaining it available for review in the church office.

		Asbury Staff			
Lead Pastor	Tom Vansant	Alabaster Leader	Jareth Barnes	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		



UMW/UWF

The district event noted below will be a very special meeting, including a memorial service, 2023 awards, local officer training, and keynote speaker Dr. Yvette Richards, past UMW president.

Calendar

March 5 Planning Meeting at 6:30 PM
March 8-9 Legislative Training Event in Jefferson City
March 11 Naomi Ruth Circle
March 13 Mary Martha Circle
March 17 One Heart in Christ Circle
March 23 District Spring Meeting at Lebanon First UMC—"Finding Nourishment in UWF"

Those Serving This Month



Accompanist: Teresa Kays

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

Greeters: George Sly, Georgianne Sly, Judy Clements, Sheryl Hill, Karen Nordstrom, Suzanne Boyts, Lisa Boyts, Dustin Gardner, John Fox, Judy Fox, Bill Frogger, Heather Frogge, Joan Wilson

Readers: Mark Gideon, Patti Blanton, Ruth Spargo, Kimberlea Gray, Karla Gregg, Nancy Lollar, Margaret Weaver



Cards & Games Fun Day Wednesday, March 20—1:00 pm

Bring a snack and come have some fun with us! This is a new regular event on the third Wednesday of each month. Contact Ginny Oliver or Carol Elmore with any questions.

First Friday Family Game Night March 1—6:00 pm



Did you miss the Family Game Night in February? One Heart Circle is 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 games and a snack to share. Your next opportunity is coming up on April 5!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nadena Layton & family, Regan Spargo, Tom Vansant, Alena Pike, Jim Wilson, Jareth Barnes, Walter & Suzanne Boyts, Janet Bowman, the family of Bill Turpin, Nancy Mikaelian, Kylie Moore, John Fuge, Judy Clements, 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



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, March 14, at 11:30 am. This month's restaurant selection is Rib Crib at 1720 S Campbell.

MARK your CALENDAR

March 1

First Friday Family Game Night

March 5

UWF Planning Meeting

March 7

Mission Springfield
Worship Committee

March 9

UMM Meeting

March 10

One Heart in Christ Circle

March 11

Naomi Ruth Circle

March 12

Trustees

March 13

Mary Martha Circle

March 14

Lunch Bunch
Education Committee
Mission/Vision

March 15

Spring Cleaning Rummage Sale

March 16

Spring Cleaning Rummage Sale

March 17

One Heart in Christ Circle
Musical Practice

March 24

Palm Sunday
Musical Practice

March 28

Maundy Thursday Service

MARK your CALENDAR

March 29

Good Friday Service

March 30

Jarrett Prayer Walk
Easter Egg Hunt
Decorate for Easter

March 31

Easter Breakfast
Easter Musical Service

March Birthdays

06 Gabbi Hill

07 Chuck Ewy
Larrie Mann

11 Georgianne Sly

17 Susan Cox
Patti Goforth

18 Becki Gladson

20 Ruth Spargo

23 Amy Langston

30 Patty Yocum

31 Lisa Atkinson



Joy Whitescarver would like to thank everyone who thought of her on Valentine's Day and sent a lovely card. She wants everyone to know that she loves Asbury!





Power of Love

Our Power of Love collection for March is for Ozarks Food Harvest's Lenten Fish Drive. Their needs are:

- Cans or pouches of fish and chicken
- Fruits and vegetables
- Soup
- Cereal
- Boxed Meals, rice and pasta
- Peanut butter and jelly

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

Our Friends at Asbury,

Thank you so much for your generous & large donation. Every single item will be used to support kids & families when they need it most—all thanks to you! You're the best!



- "Team Isabel"
(Isabel's House)

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church on Saturday, March 30 for our Easter Sunday service. We will plan to work from 12:30 until 2:30 PM. There are tasks for everyone to do regardless of activity level from setting out the lilies around the altar to hanging the white material around the cross. Many hands make light work, so we hope to see you there!

One Heart in Christ Circle

One Heart will be feeding the unsheltered at Grace UMC on March 17th. Please contact Sheryl Hill, Karla Gregg, or Kathy Love if you are interested in helping with food prep or serving, or if you are willing to donate brownies – there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Thank you!



Financial News

As of 01/31/2024:

Contributions for January: \$17,228

Contributions Budget: \$16,719

Contributions YTD: \$17,228

Budget YTD: \$16,719

Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD: \$3,296

Other Income Budget YTD: \$1,921

Expenses YTD: \$17,211

Budget YTD: \$19,057

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

January: \$1000

Budget: \$433.34

YTD: \$1000

Budget YTD: \$433.34

Thank you for your generosity! As we continue in this 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 12/31/23 we have paid \$1,270 of our \$27,718 obligation (4.6%).

Check It Out!



What good timing—and what a great book! The Seekers Sunday School class finished Wrestling With Doubt, Finding Faith, by Adam Hamilton, just before we began our church-wide study of God On Mute. Rev. Hamilton, founding pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, has written more than thirty books including Why?, which I reviewed a few months ago.

Everyone has doubts, and the Introduction to this book is called “In Praise of Honest Doubt.” Chapter titles are these: “Is There a God?”; “The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible”; “Are All Non-Christians Going to Hell?”; “Is Heaven Real?”; “When Prayers Go Unanswered”; “Why Do the Innocent Suffer?” Adam Hamilton concludes that “God walks with us, God comforts us, and God uses us.” Using the message of Easter, he reassures, “Most of all, God promises that suffering does not have the final word.”

Easter Lily Orders

Orders for Easter Lilies began on Sunday, February 25th. The lilies are \$12.00 each. Orders must be placed & paid for no later than Sunday, March 24th. You can order lilies in honor of or in memory of a friend or loved one or they can be given to the Glory of God. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the lilies will go to support the Altar Fund. Lilies will adorn the altar on Easter Sunday, March 31st & may be taken home after the 8 AM or 10:30 AM services. Order blanks will be available in the church bulletin, from the ushers or in the church office.

ASBURY UMC

SPRING CLEANING RUMMAGE SALE MARCH 15 & 16

Donations can be dropped off at the church office during regular office hours: Mon—Thurs, 9AM—2PM. We will happily accept the following gently-used items:

- Clothing (all ages & sizes)
- Shoes (all ages & sizes)
- Books
- Toys, puzzles, & games
- Kitchenware
- Bedlinens & towels
- Home décor

We will not be accepting any appliances, power tools, or electronics; paint or household chemicals; or infant car seats, strollers, or portable cribs.

Easter Celebrations!

The Asbury Chancel Choir will be presenting an Easter musical, ***From Silence to Song*** by Joseph Martin, at the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday, March 31. Please join us as we present the story of Christ's redemptive grace as we journey through his ministry, to humility, to Calvary, and ultimately to victory. This is a meaningful musical of remembrance, reflection, and resurrection!

Please also join us for Easter breakfast hosted by the Asbury Youth and the YAX Sunday School class. Breakfast will be served from 9:00-10:15.

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.

