

September

# THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2024



ASBURY  
United Methodist Church

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

Grace and Peace to you, Asbury friends,

As summer begins to fade we anticipate stepping into a new season of cooler weather, rich color, and cozy moments wrapped in stillness. Much as seasons change from summer to fall, seasons of life bring change as well—sometimes welcome change, and other times uninvited change. Change causes movement. Emotions stir, our bodies brace, our minds process, and our hearts seek to cope. Yet, as we progress through the cycle of change, we adapt. We find we are made for this! God created us to be flexible. We are like clay in the potter's hand, stretched and reshaped for God's purposes. Knowing God is the artist reworking us into useful vessels, we can anticipate and embrace change as God's ongoing active force for good. Imagine that! God reworking us, even us, to be active forces of good in this weary world!

We face change every day, as do people in our community, our country, and our world. It is not easy. For this reason, in our "Reshaped" series, we have been talking about what God has to say about change. We are talking about steps for change: believing we are created for change, starting with inner change, being willing to let old expectations fall away, and having courage to take the first step. So, on **Tuesday, September 10**, we will offer a **Prayer and Healing service**. This will be an opportunity to place ourselves in God's hands as we name the changes we are facing and entrust ourselves to God's loving, creative, and reshaping work. It offers a step in the healing and recreative process moving us toward blossoming and flourishing in God's purposes.

Friends, let's embrace God's plans for us as exciting changes we are invited to unveil. Perhaps the something new and different God unfolds will be just the thing to awaken our spirits, to rejuvenate our mission, to realign our efforts, and to foster our courage.

God the potter is reworking us! Exciting things are shaping up for God's continuing work through you, Asbury!

Blessings,

*Rachel*

Pastor Rachel

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## Coming September 15<sup>th</sup>-October 6<sup>th</sup> Created for Connection

God created us for connection and community. Drawing on the experiences of the early church in scripture, we can relearn how God leads us into lives of meaningful relationship with God and one another. We will explore our connection with God, among Christians, with community, and, on World Communion Sunday, our connection with the larger church.



### 2024 Mission/Vision Team

Kimberlea Gray: Mission/Vision Chair

Carol Daniel: SPR Chair & Treasurer

Janet Bowman: Member at Large

Chuck Ewy: Trustees Chair

Mark Gideon: Member at Large

Glenda Hefty: Education Chair

Amy Langston: Member at Large

Kathy Love: Worship Chair

Chuck Gregg: Member at Large

Ruth Spargo: Hospitality Chair

Doug Clements: Member at Large

Sheryl Hill: Mission Springfield Chair

Bill Love: Finance Chair & Lay Member to Annual Conference

Jay Polchow: Accounts Reconciler



### Mums for World Communion Sunday October 6, 2024



Orders for chrysanthemums to adorn the altar for World Communion Sunday will open Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> & will continue until Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the mums is \$12.00 with a portion of the proceeds going to the Altar Fund. Mums may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved or given to the glory of God. If you do not wish to order mums, you are encouraged to make a donation to the AUMC Altar Fund. The mums will be available to pick up after the Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> service. Order forms will be available in the church bulletin, from the ushers, or can be found in the church office. Mums must be paid for when the order is placed. For more information, please see Mark Gideon.



The Asbury Music Department would like to extend an invitation to join us this fall! Anyone is welcome, just bring your love of making music for the Lord. There are no prerequisites! See Kathy Love or Jareth Barnes for more information.



Rehearsals return for the fall on Wednesday, September 4:

6:15 Asbury Ringers Bell Choir in the Choir Room (plays once a month during church)

6:15 Alabaster Praise Band in the Sanctuary (involved in worship every Sunday)

7:00 Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary (sings every Sunday in worship and has 2-3 musicals a year-Easter, Patriotic Pageant, and Christmas)

		Asbury Staff			
Lead Pastor	Rachel Stone	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

<p>1500 S Campbell Avenue Springfield, MO 65807</p> <p>www.asburyunitedmethodist.org Church Email: asburyumc@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Pastor's Email: Pastor.Rachel.Asbury@Gmail.com</p> <p>The office is open Monday — Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM</p>
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### UWF



On September 29 we will celebrate UWF Sunday. Our guest speaker during the worship service will be Kelly Harris, director of Safe to Sleep. She will not only be representative of the concepts of mission work of the UWF but she will be speaking as a part of our next sermon theme, "Created for Connection."

As we celebrate together, we encourage the sharing of Corsages for Missions\* with everyone in attendance and during the service honoring our Special Mission Recognition recipient. We will continue our celebration as we share in our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck.

\* The Corsage for Mission giving of ribbons came from the tradition of giving a floral corsage to honorees. Starting in 1951 in Arkansas the ribbon has been used to represent a gift to missions in lieu of a corsage. Today there are corsage ribbons available with a range of colors and words for \$1 and up which will say "you're special."

#### Calendar

- Sept. 3 Planning meeting, 6:30
- Sept. 9 Naomi Ruth Circle, 6:30
- Sept. 11 Mary Martha Circle, 1:00
- Sept. 15 One Heart in Christ Circle, 8:15 a.m.
- Sept. 27-28 Annual UWF Meeting, Sedalia

Those Serving  
This Month



**A/V:** Steve Collum, Bill Love, Rebecca Barnes, Sara Love, Chuck Gregg

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

**Readers:** Mark Gideon, Ruth Spargo

## PRAYER REQUESTS

The family of Sybil Hartley, Sheryl Hill & family, Kevin Long & family, Ruth Spargo, Patrick & Whitney Lynch, Janice Greene, Margaret Weaver, John Bingham, Doug Clements, Marlene Jones, Judy Clements, Janet Peck, Gene Day, Mark Paxton, 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 Swishelm, Shawna Allen, Warren Meadows

### Serving our country:

Cameron Cox, Shane Luke, Tyler Moore



A huge thank you to Lynn Clements for covering in the office! I truly appreciate you!

-Julia

## MARK *your* CALENDAR

### September 2

Labor Day → Office Closed ←

### September 4

Bell Choir & Choir Practices Resume

### September 5

UWF Planning Meeting  
Worship Committee  
Mission Springfield

### September 6

First Friday Family Game Night

### September 10

Prayer & Healing Service  
Trustees

### September 11

Mary Martha Circle

### September 12

Lunch Bunch  
Education Committee  
Mission/Vision

### September 14

ShareFest @ Hood UMC

### September 15

One Heart in Christ Circle

### September 18

Crosslines Day  
Cards & Games Fun Day

### September 28

Jarrett Prayer Walk  
UWF Fall Conference @ Sedalia

## September Birthdays



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



### Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, September 12, at 11:30 AM. This month's restaurant selection is Gailey's Breakfast Café at 220 E Walnut.



### Power of Love

Our Power of Love collection for September is for Newborns in Need. A list of their needs is available on the donation box in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

### Financial News

As of 7/31/2024:

**Contributions for July:** \$11,472

**Contributions Budget:** \$16,719

**Contributions YTD:** \$124,285

**Budget YTD:** \$117,031

**Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD:** \$27,307

**Other Income Budget YTD:** \$15,546

**Expenses YTD:** \$138,038

**Budget YTD:** \$136,653

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

**July:** \$0

**Budget:** \$433

**YTD:** \$27,307

**Budget YTD:** \$15,546

#### Apportionments

**Paid YTD:** \$16,215

**Total Due YTD:** \$26,545 (61%)

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**2024 year-to-date giving statements are currently available to be picked up in the sanctuary on Sundays and in the office during the week.**

Vacation Bible School is one of my favorite activities we do with our children at Asbury. It is a time when I see God at work every night. The best 'God Sighting' is the people and groups that come together to make VBS successful. I want to thank everyone that prayed for us, and to those who showed up to make this a special week for our kids. Shout out to the groups who prepared meals each night: the Methodist Men, Mary Martha Group, Sayla S., Seekers Group, Alabaster, and One Heart. To the Youth Volunteers: Lincoln, Holly, Sophia, and AJ, this group stepped up and did an amazing job. The Tribe Leaders: Glenda, Nancy, and Sara. The Shopkeepers: Ruth, Becky, Sheryl, Nicole, Jay, Jareth, Rebecca, and Kylie. Extra Help: Carol, Regan. Wall Hanging: Neal. To Kathy who was so gracious to do the opening and closings, the music, and storytelling. And to the VBS 2024 kids: Adonis, Ashlyn, Ellie, Gracie, Jameson, Johanna, and Jay.



-Susan Lamy

### Hospitality Report

On the August election day at least 100 of our voting neighbors enjoyed the bottles of water we provided, and one of our members who spent some time at our table received many words of appreciation for our hospitality. Let's prepare for the November election and provide many more bottles of water and cookies—and also spend time in greeting—saying “Welcome, Neighbors!”

To Asbury Methodist Church:

We would like to say thank you for our room.



Connie Williams & TOPS

### Prayer & Healing Service

We ask that you please join us for a prayer and meditation experience on **Tuesday, September 7, at 7:00 PM** in the sanctuary. We also encourage inviting any friends who might benefit from this quiet time of resting in God's healing presence.



### Check It Out!



When the author Jan Richardson unexpectedly lost her husband, she used her gifts and her grief to bless others. She wrote short, poetic blessings, starting with “Blessing for Getting the News” and including many with titles such as “Blessing of Memory,” “Blessing of Hope” and “Blessing That Does Not End.”

In the Postscript, Richardson writes that if there is any cure for sorrow, it won't look like what we expect; our life will never look like it did before. The healing will come in allowing ourselves to give attention to the grief and allowing it to show us a way.

This book is in the Spiritual Growth category of the UWF Reading Program.



### One Heart in Christ Circle

**First Friday Family Game Night:** September 6 at 6:00 PM  
Come join us from games and ice cream and bring your favorite board game or a deck of cards. So far the most games going on at once has been two—let's see if we can make it three!

**One Heart Meeting Change:** This fall One Heart is going to meet on the third Sunday of each month. We meet at 8:15 AM in the room across from the east stairs (Room 206). All women are welcome, especially if a Sunday morning meeting works best with your schedule.

*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.*