

DECEMBER  
**THE MESSENGER**  
DECEMBER 2024



**ASBURY**  
United Methodist Church

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

Greetings, Asbury friends.

What a joy it was to wander through our Asbury "Portrait Gallery of Faith," for in it we saw glimpses of God's creative, unique, and powerful presence at work in our lives. Thank you to each person who shared about actions they take by faith. May we continue to praise God for marvelous works of grace, service, and beauty among us!

Guess what? Our "Gallery" experience continues in our Advent series, "*imPossible*." Scripture will stir our imaginations as we wander through the "*imPossible* exhibit" exploring prophetic voices portraying expressions of hope, peace, joy, and love for God's people. Prophets are painters. They paint pictures of a time to come when hope will be made real, people will be at peace with one another, and all will shout for joy! Even if that time seems far off, we know it has already begun in Jesus, who is "love come down" to transform our lives and the world. This Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate how he has made possible what once seemed impossible – hope, peace, joy and love!

**Week 1: Hope Made Possible | Isaiah 11:1-10**

Emmanuel, God with us, gives us hope. When we know God through Jesus, we can have hope that one day all will be restored.

**Week 2: Peace Made Possible | Isaiah 2:1-5**

Jesus invites us into a change of mindset, offering us a new possibility for relating to others--a way of peace. We are invited to be agents of peace.

**Week 3: Joy Made Possible | Isaiah 35: 1-10**

God's deliverance of Israel, and of us, is cause for joyful celebration--not just human celebration but the celebration of all creation!

**Week 4: Love Made Possible | Matthew 1:18-25**

God shows us unimaginable love by sending Jesus into the world. By choosing to be with us in Christ, God gives us reason to trust that we, too, can love in ways we never dreamt possible

Friends, I look forward to taking this Advent journey with you.

In Christ,

*Rachel*

Pastor Rachel

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Want to join an "*imPossible*" study? Find a group of friends ready to welcome you for discussions about our "*imPossible*" Advent series. Here are a few options:

**Sundays at 10:45am:** YAX, led by Kathy Love in room 203; or Seekers led by Tom Vansant and Teresa Kays

**Wednesdays at 6:15pm:** Bible book club led by Amy Langston in room 103

**Thursdays at 10am:** "*imPossible*" friends led by Pastor Rachel Stone in room 210

		<b>Asbury Staff</b>			
Lead Pastor	Rachel Stone			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: Pastor.Rachel.Asbury@Gmail.com The office is open Monday — Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM		

### UWF



The United Women in Faith invite all women to come enjoy our **Christmas Potluck Brunch** on Saturday, December 7. Gather at 10:30 for a Christmas devotional and enjoy the Christmas music provided by an ensemble from the PSHP Home School Orchestra. Music begins at 10:45 and brunch at 11:00. Bring a dish or be our guest!

#### Calendar *(meetings are at Asbury unless otherwise indicated)*

Dec. 7 Christmas Brunch (times above)  
 9 Naomi Ruth Circle, Potluck at Ginny Oliver's, 6:00  
 15 One Heart in Christ, 8:15

#### Hospitality

About 150 bottles of water and more than a dozen packages of cookies (Ruth lost count!) were picked up by Asbury's voters at the General Election, November 5. Many expressions of appreciation were heard.

We just want to impress our voters that the congregation at Asbury UMC is made up of friendly, caring people. Let's keep it up in 2025!

Those Serving  
This Month



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

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

**Readers:** Kimberlea Gray, Ruth Spargo, Mark Gideon

**Communion Servers:** Tyler and Kylie Moore, Jerry and Kimberlea Gray

### 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's One Heart Circle Presents

## FIRST FRIDAY GAME AND PAINT NIGHT DECEMBER 6 – 6:00 PM

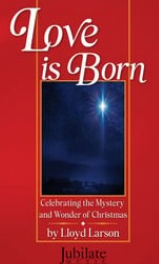
ALL CHURCH MEMBERS AND ALL AGES WELCOME

BRING A FRIEND

First Friday Family Night will be Friday, December 6 from 6-8 pm. We are expanding the offerings for the holidays with Painting with Susan Lamy for ages 6 and up. If painting is not your thing, you can play games instead. Please bring finger foods and RSVP for the painting to Susan at [slamy0111@gmail.com](mailto:slamy0111@gmail.com) by Wednesday, December 4 so she can have enough supplies on hand!

### Christmas Musical Service

Invite your friends and family to Asbury's Christmas Musical on **Sunday, December 22 at 9:30**. We are singing Lloyd Larson's *Love is Born* as we celebrate the mystery and wonder of Christmas. The Christmas story will be presented with the four traditional themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.



### Harmony House Lunch Saturday, December 21

This month we will be providing our regularly scheduled meal for the residents at Harmony House. If you would like to donate food, please review the available slots at the link below and click on the button to sign up. If you need help with signing up, please call the church office and Julia will assist you. Refrigerated and non-refrigerated items can be dropped off at the church the week prior to December 21, or you may also bring food that morning (please have the items to the church no later than 10:30 am).



Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4BABAF28A1FD0-53368331-harmony>

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathy Love, Margaret Weaver, Carol Fritts, Julia Machin, Marlene Garling, Dan Scott & family, Jeanette Williams, Janet Bowman, Doug Clements, Marlene Jones, Gene Day, Mark Paxton, 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, Sharon Coomer, Shawna Allen, Warren Meadows

### Serving our country:

Cameron Cox, Shane Luke, Tyler Moore

### Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, December 12, at 11:30 AM.

## MARK your CALENDAR

### December 5

Mission Springfield  
Worship Committee

### December 6

First Friday Game & Paint Night

### December 7

Calendaring Meeting  
UWF Christmas Brunch

### December 8

Christmas Musical Practice

### December 9

Naomi Ruth Circle

### December 10

Trustees  
Blue Christmas Service

### December 12

Lunch Bunch  
Education Committee  
Mission/Vision

### December 14

UMM Breakfast Meeting

### December 15

One Heart in Christ Circle  
Christmas Musical Practice  
Christmas Caroling

### December 18

Crosslines Day  
Cards & Games Fun Day

### December 21

Harmony House Lunch

### December 22

Christmas Musical Service

### December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### December 25

Merry Christmas!

### December 29

Brunch Church

## December Birthdays

John Fuge

Leon Johnson

Dana Collum

Lincoln Johnson

Brandy Hardin

Kathy White

Donna Brown

Peggy Baier

Ella Hostetler

Jane Metcalf

Alena Pike



## CAROLING

Sunday, Dec. 15 – 2:15 pm

Please join us in caroling this year to some of our members who are homebound. This is open to anyone of all ages and words to the carols will be provided. Meet at Asbury at 2:15 on Sunday, December 15. Help us share good cheer and our love with home bound members. Contact Kathy Love at [KALcello@cs.com](mailto:KALcello@cs.com) with any questions.

### Save the Date

Save the date for Saturday, February 15 at 6:00 for The Fabulous February Food and Fun Night! The YAX class will be hosting this fun evening for our Asbury friends.

### Power of Love



Our Power of Love collection for December is for Rare Breed. A list of their needs is available on the collection box in the Fellowship Hall, or by contacting the church office.

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 10/31/2024:

**Contributions for October:** \$12,361  
**Contributions Budget:** \$16,719

**Contributions YTD:** \$170,186  
**Budget YTD:** \$167,188

**Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD:** \$41,284  
**Other Income Budget YTD:** \$27,608

**Expenses YTD:** \$200,930  
**Budget YTD:** \$199,386

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

**October:** \$75  
**Budget:** \$433

**YTD:** \$3,125  
**Budget YTD:** \$4,333

#### Apportionments

**Paid YTD:** \$21,332

**Total Due YTD:** \$26,545 (80%)

**\$5,213 remaining for the year**

### Check It Out!



After a friend told me how a book by Billy Graham had affected her, I decided to check our church library to learn what books we have.

Billy Graham, hailed as the world's preacher, has a very down-to-earth account of his remarkable life and contacts. In his autobiography, Just As I Am, he tells about his relationships with heads of state like Queen Elizabeth and nine presidents from Eisenhower to Clinton (and may have continued beyond Clinton). His chapter headings give one a sense of his style-- from "Down on the Farm" to "The Best is Yet to Be."

Other Graham books on our shelves are Where I am; Heaven, Eternity and Our Life Beyond the Now, The Reason for My Hope; Salvation and the one that surprised me: Breakfast with Billy Graham; 120 Daily Readings.

### Poinsettia Orders for Advent

Orders for this year's Advent poinsettias began on Sunday, November 17 and will continue until Sunday, December 15.



Poinsettias will be pink & white & are priced at \$12.00 each. Poinsettias can be ordered in memory of or in honor of a loved one, or they can be given to the glory of God. If you do not wish to order a poinsettia, but would like to make a donation to the altar fund you may do so as well. Poinsettias must be paid for at the time of the order. Order blanks will be available in the church bulletin, in the church office or from the ushers. Poinsettias will be available for pick up after the church service on December 22.



**Blue Christmas**  
**Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

*Offering a quiet space to find comfort, hope, and healing for all who are experiencing grief, loss, loneliness, or struggle during this holiday season.*

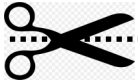
*This season brings a time of joy and excitement for many. Families and friends and coworkers gather to celebrate in good cheer. Gusts of energy, activity, and expectations swirl around us. For others, the activities of the season weigh heavily as grief, loss, disappointment, and other struggles seem to fill the days. For you we offer this quiet space to rest, to listen, and to feel God's presence wrap around you.*

*Come and be reminded of the comfort and hope found in the coming of Jesus, the light of the world. Come to just "be" in the warmth and stillness of God's reassuring word. Come and join us for this "Blue Christmas" worship experience.*

*Our doors will be open at 6:30pm if you would like to come a bit early to rest and center your heart. **The service begins at 7:00pm.***

**Please invite people you think would benefit from this sacred space during this season.**

**Childcare available for children ages 5 years and under.**



**ONE HEART COOKIE MIX ORDER FORM**

(Please place order in Mission Springfield box in the fellowship hall)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Orders due 12/9 - To be picked up Sunday 12/15

Description	Price	Quantity ordered	Total cost per line
Sugar Cookie Mix (Quart size jar)	15.00		
Chocolate Chip Cookie Mix (Quart Size jar)	15.00		
Gluten-free Cookie Mix (Quart Size jar) Features oatmeal and M&Ms	15.00		
Totals			

(Checks may be made out to One Heart in Christ Circle.)