



THE MESSENGER
JANUARY 2025



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

Living On Purpose

Greetings, Asbury friends!

I write to you on New Year's Eve, that transitional day of gratefully celebrating and appreciating what God has accomplished in the past year and looking forward with eager anticipation to the adventures God has in mind for the new year. What a joy it is to be on this journey with you!

We will open our new year with a Wesley covenant service on Epiphany Sunday, January 5th. Then, beginning January 12th, we enter a six-week series about living On Purpose.

Trying to discover the purpose of our lives can lead to a lot of questions. Who am I? Why am I here? What does living with purpose look like? Have you ever asked this question: Why am I here? Do I have a "calling"? What am I supposed to do with my life? What does purposeful living look like? Often, the world is all too ready to give us answers – promising that finding the perfect job or achieving the next milestone will make us happy. But in our next sermon series, we will embrace the questions as an invitation to discover what it is that God wants to do with the story of our lives.

How do we think about our direction or purpose as a church? We say things like "we are the body of Christ." "We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." What does that mean practically and how do we live it out? Do we, as a church, stay open to the leading of the Spirit that blows where it will? Are we open to doing things differently so we can grow together as a church in our relationship with God?

Our 2025 Mission/Vision team will be prayerfully considering these questions this year as we seek God's direction for Asbury ministries. We are asking God to help us build on the groundwork already laid—making prayer a priority, allowing ourselves to be re-shaped, celebrating connections, saying yes to God's leading, recognizing gifts God has given us, and trusting that with God all things are possible. We thank God for those who agreed to serve on our Mission/Vision Team, and those who will serve on our Leadership Development Team. You have an opportunity to play an important part in their leadership by praying for them! You can start praying for them today. And, during worship on January 12th, we will set aside time to offer a special blessing and prayer over these teams.

Friends, I look forward to seeing God's work unfold in and through us, this remarkable Asbury family.

In Christ,
Rachel

Pastor Rachel

Asbury Staff

Lead Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Music Director

Rachel Stone
Julia Machin
Kathy Love

Children's Ministries
Student Ministries
Pianist & Organist

Susan Lamy
Leon Johnson
Teresa Kays

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Springfield, MO 65807

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Pastor's Email:
Pastor.Rachel.Asbury@Gmail.com
The office is open Monday — Thursday
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

UWF



The first meeting of the year is a planning session at 6:00 PM on January 2 in the church library. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Calendar*

Jan. 2 UWF Planning, 6 PM
Jan. 8 Mary Martha Circle, 1 PM
Jan. 13 Naomi Ruth Circle, 6:30 PM
Jan. 19 One Heart In Christ Circle, 8:15 AM

*All meetings are at Asbury unless otherwise noted

Hospitality

Thanks to all of our greeters! Happy New Year!

Those Serving
This Month



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

Greeters: John Fox, Judy Fox, Karen Nordstrom, Joyce Booth, George Sly, Georgianne Sly, Judy Clements, Suzanne Boyts, Patti Blanton

Readers: Kimberlea Gray, Janet Bowman, Ruth Spargo, Joan Wilson

Communion Servers: Jim Enyart, Carol Daniel, Holly Hostetler, Sara Love

Asbury UMC 2025 Leadership Teams

We thank God for those serving on our 2025 Leadership Teams. You will hear more about each team and from each team throughout the year. Here are some of the first dates to note:

January 12	9:30am	Blessing of Leadership Teams during worship
January 26	3:00pm	In-Person Charge Conference at Wesley UMC, Springfield
January 28	6:30pm	State of Asbury Church (hear about where we are and what we are doing next)

Mission/Vision (Church Council)

Chair: Kimberlea Gray
Lay Leader: Margaret Weaver
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Bill Love
Class of 2025: Ruth Spargo; Janet Bowman; Chuck Gregg
Class of 2026: Chuck Ewy; Glenda Hefty; Mark Gideon
Class of 2027: Bill Love; Susan Cox; Kylie Moore

Church Officers for Church/Charge Conference

Council Chair: Kimberlea Gray
Lay Leader: Margaret Weaver
Trustee Chair: Chuck Gregg
SPR Chair: Glenda Hefty
Finance Chair: Bill Love
Treasurer: Carol Daniel Enyart
Finance Secretary: Karla Gregg
Membership Secretary: Julia Machin

Nominations/Lay Leadership Development Team

Chair: Pastor Rachel Stone
Lay Leader: Margaret Weaver
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Bill Love
Class of 2025: Carol Elmore; Lynn Clements; Ginny Oliver
Class of 2026: Janice Greene; Tyler Moore; Lisa Boyts
Class of 2027: Jim Gilmore; Patty Yocum; Doug Carroll

Power of Love



Our Power of Love collection for January is for Co-operative Crisis Cold Weather Shelter. Their most common needs are:

- Oatmeal
- Soft Granola Bars
- Toiletries
- Hot Cocoa
- Cup-o-Noodles
- Socks
- Hats
- Scarves
- Gloves

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Joan Wilson, Johnathan Love, Jesse Paxton, Kay Appleby & family, George Sly, Doug Cline, Amy Langston, Sean Layton & family, the Hostetler family, Lynn Clements, Debbie Jeffrys, John Bingham, Mary Ewy, Joyce Booth, Kathy Love, Carol Fritts, Jeanette Williams, Doug Clements, Marlene Jones, Gene Day, 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, Patric Lynch

Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, January 9, at 11:30 AM. This month's restaurant selection is Rey's Family Restaurant at 2129 W Republic Road.

MARK *your* CALENDAR

January 1

Happy New Year!

January 2

UWF Planning Meeting

January 7

Trustees

January 8

Mary Martha Circle

January 9

Lunch Bunch
Mission/Vision

January 11

UMM Breakfast Meeting

January 13

Naomi Ruth Circle

January 15

Crosslines Day

January 16

Worship Committee

January 19

One Heart in Christ Circle

January 26

Charge Conference @ Wesley UMC

January 28

State of Asbury

12/29 Service Recording

A video of our December 29 worship service will not be available on YouTube due to the service being held in the Fellowship Hall.

January Birthdays

Nancy Lollar

Mary Blumhost

Susan Lamy

Rachel Stone

Kyden Brown

John Bingham

Bob Bange

Judy Clements

Bob Drake

Kay Keltner

Nicole Hostetler

Barbara Davidson



Play and Sing His Praises would like to thank Asbury for the use of the whole building on

Fridays. As a small token of our appreciation PSHP has purchased 75 chairs and 3 chair rolling carts for the church. These heavy duty chairs can be seen throughout the church. Thank you Asbury for opening your building and for blessing so many groups in our community.



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.

One Heart in Christ Circle



First Friday Game Night will be **January 3 at 6 PM**. Bring a game and a snack, and join us for fun and fellowship!

We would also like to thank everyone who supported our cookie mix fundraiser. We couldn't do what we do without all of you.

Financial News

As of 11/30/2024:

Contributions for November: \$13,807

Contributions Budget: \$16,719

Contributions YTD: \$183,993

Budget YTD: \$183,906

Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD: \$43,503

Other Income Budget YTD: \$31,629

Expenses YTD: \$219,303

Budget YTD: \$220,296

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

November: \$0

Budget: \$433

YTD: \$3,125

Budget YTD: \$4,767

Apportionments

Paid YTD: \$26,545

Total Due YTD: \$26,545 (100%!)

Check It Out!



I've done it again. Back in November I'd barely started reading Christmas books—now I'm encouraging you to read a Christmas oriented book in January!

Another book in the Mitford Years series (the eighth) that really helps restore the Christmas spirit is Shepherds Abiding. Father Tim has never been one for handiwork—or any sort of work with his hands but out of love he steps out of his comfort zone. The author, Jan Karon, creates a novel which is almost a meditation about the gifts of the heart.

**Advent Décor Down—Volunteers Needed!
Thursday January 9, 2025—9:30 -11:30 AM**

Volunteers are needed to help Mark Gideon take down the advent decor on Thursday, January 9 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM.

If we have enough people show up, we can get it all done in two hours.

If we don't finish Thursday morning, we will need to return at 6 PM Thursday evening to get everything put away.

Please consider helping Mark with this important task.

Celebration!

Enjoy these messages from our District Superintendent, Mary Rodgers:

I just wanted to say nice work on Asbury paying 80% of their apportionments this year, which is up from 31.64% last year. That's amazing! Nice work, and thank you for your generosity! ...-Mary

There's more, though! When I told her you plan to pay 100% this year, she added:

Wow! That's wonderful Rachel. Please tell them my thanks and Merry Christmas! --Mary

Well done, Asbury! We celebrate many ways your generosity makes a difference, Asbury friends, I, too, thank God for your generous spirit and for the vital connections we make as together we share Christ's love with the world.

Blessings,
Pastor Rachel

Dear Asbury friends,

We thank you for your generous Christmas gifts to your Asbury church staff. You are encouraging, helpful, and wonderfully supportive. We are grateful and honored to serve as staff alongside each of you in ministry. What a blessing it is to be part of this church family.



With thanks and love from your church staff,

Leon, Susan, Kathy, Teresa, Julia, and Rachel

Thank you to each of you for sharing your incredible gifts during this Advent and Christmas season. Each time you shared your talent, time, insights, presence, prayers, and helping hands and hearts, you added to the fullness and beauty of the season here at Asbury. No doubt your efforts and attitudes shined light beyond Asbury into our weary world. We know God will continue to shine through us in this new year.

With gratitude and love,

Pastor Rachel

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.