



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2025

Here We Are, God. Use us.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' Isaiah 6:8

Just as the prophet Isaiah heard and responded to God's call, we too hear God's voice asking, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go?' Sometimes we think we have nothing to offer. We think, "what use am I to God?" Yet, as we have been pondering questions to help identify our purpose, we discover that God equips and uses each one of us to build God's kingdom. Each is loved. Each is valuable. Each is redeemable. We need courage to respond, "Here I am. I give you my true self—my heart, mind, body, and soul, including my faults."

The disciples did not think that their measly five loaves of bread and two fish could be of use in feeding thousands. So they wanted to send the crowd away. But when they gave what they had to Jesus, no matter how little compared to the felt need, he was able to bless it and send the disciples out to feed the hungry crowds. So, too, when we offer our own gifts to God with trust, expectation, and readiness to meet the needs of others, they will be blessed and multiplied.

At our "State of Asbury" meeting on January 28th, we identified a snapshot of who we are at this moment as a church family—strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. In effect, we are saying "Here we are, God. This is us. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. Use even us."

We offer to God what we have and who we are, knowing and trusting that, in God's hands, it will be more than enough.

May our hearts be open and ready to serve God's purposes.

In Christ,

Rachel

Pastor Rachel

Upcoming Worship Details to Note

"Favorite Bible Stories" Guest Preachers:

February 23—District Superintendent Rev. Mary Rodgers

March 2—Our very own Leon Johnson

March 5—Ash Wednesday service at 6:30pm

March 9-April 13 Lenten Series "The Hand of the Lord" (Small Group resources available)

Coming in next week's Asbury e-newsletter: Follow-up information about our "State of Asbury" meeting

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

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



All women are invited to the UWF meeting Saturday, Feb. 1st. Fellowship time is 10:00 a.m. and the program "The UWF calling: Giving for Mission" will begin at 10:30. Come and share in exploring what is included in the concept of mission and our how own unit gives.

Calendar*

Feb.	1	UWF meeting--10:00 a.m.
	10	Naomi Ruth Circle—6:00 p.m.
	12	Mary Martha Circle—1:00 p.m.
	16	One Heart in Christ Circle—8:15 a.m.

*All meetings are at Asbury unless otherwise noted

Asbury UMC 2025 Leadership Teams

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

Class of 2027: Bill Love; Susan Cox; Kylie Moore

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; Karla Carroll

Those Serving
This Month



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

Greeters: Joan Wilson, Karla Gregg, Sheryl Hill, Lisa Boyts, Dustin Gardner, Joyce Booth, Patti Blanton, Judy Clements, Karen Nordstrom

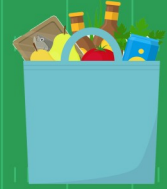
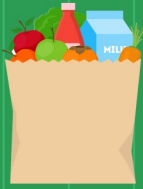
Readers: Kimberlea Gray, Janet Bowman, Jim Wilson, Ruth Spargo

Communion Servers: Doug Carroll, Karla Carroll, Jim Blanton, Patti Blanton

PHILADELPHIA

KANSAS CITY

Super Bowl



Sacking Hunger Challenge

Our Kansas City Chiefs are playing in their third-consecutive Super Bowl and their fifth in the past six years. They will play the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, Feb. 9, in New Orleans. To celebrate the occasion the Missouri Conference and the Great Plains Conference are challenging the Eastern Pennsylvania and Great New Jersey Conferences to a food drive competition.

Please bring nonperishable food items to the church through Sunday, February 16 so we here at Asbury can take part in sacking hunger!

Power of Love



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

Food items:

- Kid-friendly snack items (**nothing containing peanuts, please**)
- Non-perishable meal items to send with families

Baby Items:

- Baby Wipes
- Diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6) & Pull-Ups
- Baby food
- Formula for babies/toddlers (including formula for babies with allergies/sensitive tummies)

Clothing:

- New Clothing/Outfits for discharge (18m-14/16)
- New Socks (all sizes & genders)
- New Underwear (all sizes & genders, please no white)

Hygiene Items:

- Toothpaste & toothbrush carriers
- Cocoa Butter
- "As I Am" and Shea Moisture Hair Products
- Hair picks, wide combs, oils, wraps, and other supplies for coarse & ethnic hair

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

Kat Spohrer, Judy Clements, Amy Langston, Sara Love, Jesse Paxton, Dana Gilliam, Janice Greene, Karla Gregg, John Fuge, Jim Enyart & Carol Daniel, Doug Cline, John Bingham, Kathy Love, 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, Jack Gladson, 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, February 13, at 11:30 AM. This month's restaurant selection is Georgia Mac's at 1440 E Republic Rd.

MARK *your* CALENDAR

February 1

UWF Meeting

February 6

Mission Springfield
Worship Committee

February 8

UMM Breakfast Meeting

February 10

Naomi Ruth Circle

February 11

Trustees

February 12

Mary Martha Circle

February 13

Lunch Bunch
Mission/Vision

February 15

Lay Servant Training
Harmony House Lunch
Fabulous February Fun & Food Night

February 16

One Heart in Christ Circle

February 19

Crosslines Day
Cards & Games Fun Day

February 22

PSHP "Fun"draiser Carnival

February Birthdays

Keegan Bange

Andrew Scott

Linda Adams

Wesley Hardin

Marsha Marshall

Carol Elmore

Suzanne Boyts

Mark Paxton

Clark Reed

Sue Holloway



Do You Like to Decorate? Can You Help?

Mark Gideon is looking for someone to assist him with decorating our altar for Sunday services & our church for Easter & Advent. If you are someone who like to decorate & are willing to lend Mark a helping hand, please contact the church office.

Easter Musical Practice

The Chancel Choir will be starting rehearsals for the Easter Musical on Wednesday evening, March 12 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Anyone is welcome to join us!!



Check It Out!



Thanks to someone who left this book in the church library: Unshakable Hope; Building Our Lives on the Promises of God, by Max Lucado. Max Lucado uses a number of the Bible's significant promises and shows how they help overcome difficult life problems. Lucado uses unusual comparisons, such as the pride—and fall--of Bernie Madoff and King Nebuchadnezzar, and humor such as jokingly “flaunting” that he was Max at Office Max and being told, “Sir, you’ve got the name, but you don’t have the clout.”

He also used anecdotes about notable people from sports figures to martyrs of the Nazis. Each chapter includes a promise, such as “When a believing person prays, great things happen. James 5:16.” Following the fourteen chapters, there are Questions for Reflection, suitable for small group studies or personal contemplation.

Financial News

As of 12/31/2024:

Contributions for December: \$22,852
Contributions Budget: \$16,719

Contributions YTD: \$201,533
Budget YTD: \$200,625

Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD: \$49,971
Other Income Budget YTD: \$35,650

Expenses YTD: \$244,379
Budget YTD: \$241,207

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

December: \$700
Budget: \$433

YTD: \$3,825
Budget YTD: \$5,200

Apportionments

Paid YTD: \$26,545

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

Harmony House Lunch Saturday, February 15

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 February 15, 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/8050A4BABA28A1FD0-54540083-harmony>

Flower Order & Church Decoration Dates for 2025

For those of you who like to plan ahead, the following is our 2025 schedule for ordering flowers for Easter, Pentecost Sunday, World Communion Sunday & Advent, as well when we decorate the church for Easter & Advent. Keep in mind that this year, **no late flower orders will be accepted**. Orders must be submitted & paid for by the deadlines listed below:

Easter Lilies

Orders Begin - Sunday, March 23

Orders End - Sunday, April 13

Decorate for Easter - Saturday, April 19

Pentecost Geraniums

Orders Begin - Sunday May 11

Orders End - Sunday, June 1

World Communion Chrysanthemums

Orders Begin - Sunday, September 7

Orders End - Sunday, September 28

Advent Poinsettias

Orders Begin - Sunday, November 16

Orders End - Sunday, December 14

Decorate for Advent - Monday, November 24



Fabulous February Fun & Food

What: A FREE Italian Dinner and Asbury Family Feud Fun

When: Saturday, February 15 at 6:00 pm

Where: Asbury Fellowship Hall

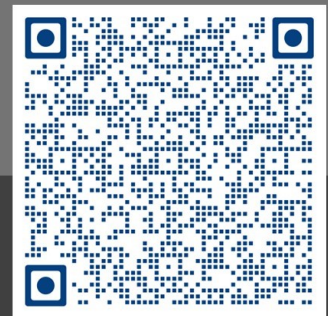
Who: YOU! And, invite your Friends!!

FREE – but you must sign up!

Paper sign-up in Fellowship Hall

Online sign-up: (or use QR Code)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4BABAF28A1FD0-54402004-fabulous>



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.