

MARCH

THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2025



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

Intentional about a Meaningful Lenten Journey

Dear Asbury friends,

I thank God for the many joys of serving alongside you as your pastor. I am proud to be part of a church family with a heart for meeting the needs of people in our community, for participating in Spirit-filled worship; and for gathering together to learn, laugh, love, and grow. May we carry this spirit of connection and intentionality into the next season of our church year: Lent.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection; a time to focus on our relationship with God, to grow as disciples, and to extend ourselves.

The theme for our 2025 Lenten Journey is: *In Jesus' Hands: the Hands that Transform Us*

Hands are used to heal, mend, build, teach, comfort, and so much more. Yet, as humans, our hands are sinful and unclean. Christ's hands are the ones that can transform our own dirty, sinful hands into beautiful, clean ones for His plans. Join us as we explore God's Word to see how Jesus' hands are used to transform lives and to equip our hands for kingdom work.

Friends, let's be committed and intentional during this season of Lent. Let's open our hearts and hands to Jesus' transforming work.

In Christ,
Rachel
Rachel

Key Dates During Lent

March 5th: Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30pm

March 9 - April 13: Sundays, "In Jesus' Hands" sermon series (Small Group studies that follow the series themes will also begin the week of Sunday, March 9)

April 14-19: Holy Week prayers, devotions, events, and services (details coming soon)

Easter Sunday is April 20th

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

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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



Are you a collector? Or maybe a “de-collector”? Watch for coming information and see how you can help—as a buyer, a seller, or both at the “Bargains, Books and Baked Goods” sale on May 30 and 31!

Calendar

*All meetings are at Asbury unless otherwise noted

- Mar. 6 UWF Planning meeting—6:00 p.m.
10 Naomi Ruth Circle—6:00 p.m.
15 SW District Spring Meeting, “Practicing Grace” at Hood UMC in Republic—9:30 a.m. *See flyer on bulletin board*
19 One Heart in Christ Circle—8:15 a.m.

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, Joyce Booth, Judy Clements

Readers: Ruth Spargo, Janet Bowman

Communion Servers: Mark Paxton, Margaret Weaver, Tyler Moore, Kylie Moore

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; Doug Cline

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

Mission/Vision (aka, "Church Council") Update

We are grateful for a great turnout at our State of Asbury meeting on January 28th. Thank you for participating and for sharing your insights and dreams for Asbury. We know God is at work among us, stirring our hearts for renewed and vital ministries.

The Mission/Vision focus for the next several months will be:

1. Leadership
2. Connections
3. Discerning God's vision for Asbury

Please keep your Mission/Vision team in your prayers as they discuss and develop these ideas in light of who Asbury is and who God is leading us to become.

In Christ,
Your Mission/Vision Team

Easter Lily Orders

Orders for Easter lilies will begin Sunday, March 16th and will conclude on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Cost: \$12.00 each. Lilies may be ordered in honor of or in memory of a loved one or given for the glory of God. Order blanks will be available in the church bulletin, from the ushers, or in the church office. Orders must be paid for at the time they are placed.

The lilies will be available for pick up after our Easter Sunday service on April 20th. Any lilies not picked up at that time or have no arrangements made for a later pick up, will be taken to our homebound members. Proceeds from the Easter lilies benefit the Altar Fund. **Please note that no orders will be accepted after the April 13th deadline.**

Power of Love



Our Power of Love collection for March is for Ozarks Food Harvest. Their needs are:

- Cans or pouches of fish or 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The family of Neil Adams, Margaret Weaver & family, Jeanette Williams, Dana Champ's twin grandsons, Janet Bowman, Clark & Renee Mikkelson, Jesse Paxton, Kathy White, Jack Gladson, the family of Dana Gilliam, Kat Spohrer, Amy Langston, Janice Greene, John Bingham, Doug Clements, Marlene Jones, Gene Day, Teresa Kays, Ron Garling

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

Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, March 13, at 11:30 AM. This month's restaurant selection is Springfield Family Restaurant at 2222 S Campbell Ave.

MARK your CALENDAR

March 4

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

March 5

Ash Wednesday Service

March 6

Worship Committee

March 8

UMM Breakfast Meeting
Church Work Day

March 10

Naomi Ruth Circle

March 11

Trustees

March 12

Mary Martha Circle

March 13

Lunch Bunch
Mission/Vision

March 15

UWF District Meeting @ Hood UMC

March 16

One Heart in Christ Circle
Easter Musical Practice

March 18

Education Committee

March 19

Crosslines Day
Card & Games Fun Day

March 25

Education Committee

March 30

Program Staff Meeting

March Birthdays

Cameron Cox

Gabbi Hill

Chuck Ewy

Larrie Mann

Georgianne Sly

Susan Cox

Becki Gladson

Ruth Spargo

Amy Langston

Patty Yocum



Sunday, March 9 – Stay for Lunch!

One Heart will be serving soup and chili starting after worship and continuing after the Sunday school hour. Please join us and donate to the love offering. Our funds help feed the unsheltered and various other projects throughout the year. We'll have games available to continue the time of fellowship.

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!!



Asbury Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 5, 6:30pm

Friends, let's be intentional this Lenten season. Plan to participate in this powerful Ash Wednesday experience. Come, prepare your heart to be touched by the hands that transform you. You are safe in Jesus' hands.

If you need a ride, let us know. If you drive and know someone who needs a ride, invite them to come with you.

What is Ash Wednesday All About?

Ash Wednesday begins the forty days of preparation and self-examination of Lent, as we move toward the cross and empty grave.

On Ash Wednesday, we are like Isaiah, seeing who we are in light of God's majesty:

We are mortal, frail, and dependent.

We examine ourselves, allowing God's holy light to reveal our sin, leading us to come in repentance before God.

We can be honest about our frailty, about the temptations and weaknesses we face in this life.

Ash Wednesday is also about recognizing the God who saved us from sin and death. Jesus stared death in the face, and won.

So, with Christ Jesus, we too can stare death in the face, and enter into the fullness of life that will not end when our mortal bodies die.

On Ash Wednesday, in the ashes we will receive, we discover our human weakness meets divine tenderness.

Sometimes God uses ordinary elements in unexpected ways to bring grace to our lives.

God uses ash, drawn in the shape of a cross on our forehead or hand not only as a sign of our sinfulness and mortality, but also a sign of divine love and compassion.

Financial News

As of 01/31/2025:

Contributions for January: \$17,860

Contributions Budget: \$16,725

Contributions YTD: \$17,860

Budget YTD: \$16,725

Other Income (Church Use, etc.) YTD: \$3,151

Other Income Budget YTD: \$3,688

Expenses YTD: \$19,212

Budget YTD: \$22,630

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

January: \$0

Budget: \$458

YTD: \$0

Budget YTD: \$458

Apportionments

Paid YTD: \$0

Annual Obligation: \$26,545 (0% paid)

Thank you for your generosity!

Check It Out!



“Leader: For bacon, eggs, and buttered toast, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

All: Make us bread. Knead us well. Help us rise.

Leader: For bagels, beans, and chili roast, Praise Mother, Child, and heavenly Hosts.

All: Make us bread. Knead us well. Help us rise.”

...Just an example of the Holy Stuff of Life; Stories, Poems, and Prayers about Human Things. Heather Murray Elkins (a professor of worship and preaching at Drew University Theological School) pieces together little items of “stuff” from spoons to tattoos, to broken chalices, to virgin cooking oil blessed by the Pope. And together she uses these items to create poems, liturgies and some light and some deeply spiritual theological “sermons.”

Fifth Sunday Potluck

Our first Fifth Sunday Potluck of the year will be Sunday, March 30th. The potluck will begin after church, at approximately 11:00 AM. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring food or drink to share.



Never miss a service! Options to join us for worship live on Sundays at 9:30am from home or elsewhere using your computer or telephone:

- **Livestream from the Internet (video & audio):** <https://live.asburyunitedmethodist.org/>. You can fill out Connection Card at <https://asburyunitedmethodist.org/connection-card/> and download the bulletin at [Newsletters & Bulletins – Asbury](#). The Broadcast starts at 9:15am and ends following the service or at 10:45am.
- **Live audio of the service is available via Zoom:**

If using a computer, go to Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/881355241?pwd=RERjbVo3UXFFK0d5M0o5OGh2L3RBZz09>

OR

If using a telephone, dial number:(312) 626-6799

On Zoom you may be asked to enter:

Meeting ID: 881 355 241

Password: 017646

The above information and links are also available from the church’s website: AsburyUnitedMethodist.org. For technical difficulties or additional assistance, please contact Bill Love.

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.