



THE MESSENGER
JULY 2025



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

*A friend loves at all times,
and kinsfolk are born to share adversity.*

-Proverbs 17:17

Greetings, Asbury Friends,

What a loving God we serve! God, who in wisdom and compassion, sends us friends and family to walk alongside us in good times and bad, and everything in between. God gives us friends who rejoice with us, grow with us, and who encourage us along our journey.

In July, we will celebrate the gift of friendship! Our theme is “You’ve Got a Friend in Me: God’s Gift of Friendship.” Plan to invite friends to join us on Sundays for worship and Wednesdays for “Dinner and a Movie.” Wednesdays are especially family friendly: each night including plenty of food, fun, and intergenerational fellowship. See details below.

Friends, we have the best thing in the world to share—the life-giving and deep love of God in Jesus! Let’s embrace this opportunity to invite others to experience God’s gift of love and friendship.

You are loved!

In Christ,
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

1500 S Campbell Avenue
Springfield, MO 65807

www.AsburyUnitedMethodist.org
Church Email: asburymc@sbcglobal.net

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

Summertime Plans

Worship Series

July 6: *The Bread of Life*

July 13, 20, and 27: *You've Got a Friend in Me: God's Gift of Friendship*

August: *Bible Stories for Grown Ups* (revisiting familiar childhood stories)

Connections

July 2: Patriotic Pageant—5:30 dinner, 6:30 program

July 9, 16, and 23: 5:30 dinner, 6:00 Movie Nights at Asbury

Starting July 6, New Sunday morning schedule:

8:30 Fellowship, coffee and donuts

9:15 Worship

10:15-10:45 More fellowship

10:45 Sunday School

One Heart in Christ Circle

As our worship service will be starting earlier beginning July 6, One Heart will be moving our meeting time to the second Wednesday of each month at 5:15 PM. We will not meet in July, but will be participating in a Movie Night.



Youth Update

Hi, Asbury fam! Our youth group now meets Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM and Sundays at 10:45 AM! We'd love for your youth/young adults to join us. Past youth are always welcome, too. Let's grow together!



Financial News

As of 05/31/2025:

Contributions for May: \$25,592

Contributions YTD: \$85,656

Other Income YTD: \$19,864

Contributions Budget: \$16,725

Budget YTD: \$83,623

Other Income Budget YTD: \$18,438

Expenses YTD: \$104,669

Budget YTD: \$113,151

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

May: \$

Budget: \$458

Use YTD: \$1,047

Budget YTD: \$2,292

Apportionments

Paid YTD: \$6,340 **Annual Obligation:** \$25,358 (25% paid)

Thank you for your generosity!

Asbury UMC 2025 Leadership Teams

Mission/Vision (Church Council)

Chair: Kimberlea Gray
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 Member to Annual Conference: Bill Love
Class of 2025: Carol Elmore; Lynn Clements; Ginny Oliver
Class of 2026: Janice Greene; Tyler Moore
Class of 2027: Jim Gilmore; Karla Carroll

Those Serving
This Month



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

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

Readers: Ruth Spargo, Janet Bowman, James Blanton, Margaret Weaver

Check It Out!



Have you ever marveled at how something worked out—probably so much better than you’d hoped—and you just had to conclude, “It’s a God thing.” Well, that’s the title of a book we were given: [It’s a God Thing: Everyday Signs God Loves You.](#) Created by Don Jacobson and K-Love, this is a Hallmark Gift Book filled with about thirty five accounts. Some tell of lives being saved in ways that can only be classed as miracles, and some are more the witness to the kindness of ordinary humans. Some are “feel-good” stories, and some have terrible sadness, but within all there is hope because God loves us unconditionally.

UWF

The UWF (along with the UMM) thank all those who helped in any way with our Books, Baked Goods, and Bargains Sale. Thanks for contributing items for sale; thanks for helping prepare for the sale; thanks for shopping! All of the funds go to our missions/ministries that extend from Asbury to Springfield and beyond!

Calendar

July	3	Planning Meeting	6:00
	9	Mary Martha Circle	1:00
	14	Naomi Ruth Circle	6:00



One Heart Circle is changing their meeting time to 5:15 on the second Wednesday monthly; however, on the 9th they will be serving the evening meal for those attending the movie night.

Looking Ahead

The UWF bimonthly meeting on August 2 will not be your ordinary UWF meeting. More information will come, but be prepared to make a pledge to women who’ll be rocking and doing a “crafty” service project.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mary Ewy, Beth, Kathy White, the family of Frances Johnson, the family of Bob Stone, Sayla Sherard, Ruth Spargo, Johnathan Love, Kylie Moore, Georgianne Sly, Peggy Brown, John Bingham, Kathy Love, Max & Liam, Doug Clements, Marlene Jones, Gene Day, Teresa Kays

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

Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, July 10, at 11:30 AM. This month's

restaurant selection is Leong's Asian Diner at 1540 W Republic.

MARK your CALENDAR

July 2

Patriotic Pageant & Dinner

July 3

UWF Planning Meeting
Mission Springfield

July 8

Trustees
Leadership Development Team

July 9

Mary Martha Circle

July 10

Lunch Bunch
Mission/Vision

July 12

UMM Breakfast Meeting

July 13

Camp Galilee Begins

July 14

Naomi Ruth Circle

July 15

Education Committee

July 16

Crosslines Day
Cards & Games Fun Day

July 22

PSHP Info Meeting

July 24

UWF Mission Conference

July Birthdays

Colton Bange

Lisa Boyts

Doug Carroll

Holly Hostetler

Karen Nordstrom

Dustin Gardner

Marlene Jones

Neil Folkerts

Kay Appleby

Joan Wilson

Glenda Hefty

Louise Sloan

Jim Gilmore



THE POWER OF LOVE

Power of Love

Our Power of Love collection for June is **school supplies for Jarrett**. We will be collecting:

- Lots of pencils
- Colored pencils
- 2 pocket folders with brads – plain colors
- 1 ½" binders
- Spiral notebooks

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.

A Note About Annual Conference

A couple weeks ago, pastors and laity from all over Missouri gathered in St. Charles, MO, for our annual meeting. Bill Love, Asbury's own Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, will share more reports from the weekend, but I wanted to share a profound item of vision and prayer.

In May, the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church unveiled a new vision statement for the United Methodist Church^[1]. The vision states:

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

The accompanying release added that “this vision reflects the Church's deep commitment to embodying God's dream for the world” and “complements the Church's long-standing mission statement, inspired by Matthew 28:1-20: ‘The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.’”

The vision encourages United Methodists to embody the following principles:

Love Boldly: Passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender and walk of life. [Inspired by Matthew 22:37-39 and John 13:34-35]

Serve Joyfully: With a Christ-like heart, journey alongside the most vulnerable, offering care and compassion with joy. [Inspired by Psalm 100:1, Nehemiah 8:10, John 13:14-15 and 1 Peter 4:10]

Lead Courageously: Follow Jesus' example by resisting and dismantling all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice and reconciliation. [Inspired by Joshua 1:9 and Ephesians 6:10]

“This new vision is not simply a statement or a plan, it is a catalyst for transformation,” said Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, President of the Council of Bishops. “It is a vision that will help the Church embrace the opportunities before us, to follow where God is leading us, and to more fully engage in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Friends, may this become our prayer, our desire, our commitment, and our reality for the whole body of Christ throughout the world.

^[1] <https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/umc-unveils-new-vision-statement-19057587>

**Save the Date:
Saturday, September 13**

Plan to join your Asbury family as **Asbury Serves Springfield!** Make plans with your group to participate. Watch for information on mission projects and other plans for the day.

Children's Ministry Summer Events

The Asbury Children's Department will be joining the church-wide activities for July and August and not having a traditional Vacation Bible School this summer.

Please join us for the following July dates:

- Wed, July 2 5:30 Dinner and 6:30 Patriotic Pageant
- Sunday July 6 Bread of Life
- Wed, July 9 5:30 Dinner and 6:00 watch Toy Story 1 & Bingo for all ages!
- Sunday, July 13 Toy Story 1 with activities
- Wed, July 16 5:30 Dinner and 6:00 watch Toy Story 2 & Trivia for all ages!
- Sunday, July 20 Toy Story 2 activities
- Wed, July 23 5:30 Dinner and 6:00 watch Toy Story 3 & Costumes for all ages!
- Sunday, July 27 Toy Story 3 activities
- Wed, July 30 5:30-8:00 Fun Night for children, youth, and young adults at Asbury

In August we will be learning about Noah, Abraham and Isaac, David and Goliath, Jonah, and Zaccheaus.

Please be in prayer for our children, youth, and adults attending Camp Galilee from July 13-18: Braden Baker, Sophia Brown, AJ Brown, Adonis Brown, Holly Hostetler, Lincoln Johnson, and Kathy Love. An updated list will follow soon.

Happy Birthday!

A very special birthday congratulations to Marlene Jones, who will be turning 90 this month! Marlene is a longtime member here at Asbury and dear to all of us. Happy birthday, Marlene!



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.