



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

# THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2026

Dear Asbury Friends,

Ah, we welcome a new month and with it we get to welcome spring and its refreshing encouragement. The sunny days, sprouting daffodils, and chirping birds are all rejuvenating signs of new life awakening around us. The atmosphere inspires us to freshen up our surroundings as we open up, clear out, and clean up as if starting anew.

The season of Lent offers a similar opportunity of “spring cleaning for the soul.” As we practice the art of listening to Jesus in prayer, fasting, daily Bible reading, and helping others, we are drawn closer to God who cleanses our souls. Not only might we give up certain luxuries or even needs, we also let go of things that interfere with hearing Jesus’ voice. Lent is a time to examine our lives and to release unhealthy habits, unkind words, unnecessary distractions, and selfish priorities. We clear those out to free up space in our lives to welcome Jesus, hear his voice, and follow his lead.

During this Lenten journey, may each one of us sincerely ask ourselves, “What do I need to let go to make more room for Jesus?” And may we, as a church family, ask the same question, “What do we as a church need to release to make more room for Jesus?”

May the refreshing words of Jesus renew your spirit and cleanse your heart this season as you Listen to Him.

In Christ,  
Pastor Rachel

## Asbury Staff

Lead Pastor  
Administrative Assistant  
Music Director

Rachel Stone  
Julia Machin  
Kathy Love

Alabaster Coordinator  
Children's Ministries  
Student Ministries  
Pianist & Organist

Kat Spohrer  
Susan Lamy  
Leon Johnson  
Teresa Kays

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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

## One Heart in Christ Circle



One Heart in Christ Circle would like to thank everyone for their support of our meals for the unsheltered. We fed roughly 50 people on February 20<sup>th</sup>, and have scheduled one more meal on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Power of Love



Our Power of Love collection for March is for Ozarks Food Harvest. A list of their needs is available on the collection box in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

## UWF

Our big event this month is our "March Madness" FUNdraiser on March 21. Everyone is welcome!



### Calendar

March 6-7 *Conference Legislative Training Event—Jefferson City—(Sheryl Hill is on the organizing committee)*  
9 Naomi Ruth Circle—6:30 p.m.  
11 Mary Martha Circle—1:00 p.m.  
11 One Heart in Christ—5:15 p.m.  
**14 Spring District Meeting "Following God's Guidance"—Nevada UMC**  
21 "March Madness"—5:00-7:00 p.m.

### Asbury UMC 2026 Leadership Teams

#### Mission/Vision (Church Council)

Chair: Kimberlea Gray  
Lay Leader: Janice Greene  
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Bill Love  
Class of 2026: Glenda Hefty, Doug Cline  
Class of 2027: Susan Cox, Becky Dobbs  
Class of 2028: Carol Elmore, Chuck Gregg, Karen Nordstrom

#### Nominations/Lay Leadership Development Team

Chair: Pastor Rachel Stone  
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Bill Love  
Lay Leader: Janice Greene  
Class of 2026: Lynn Clements, Ginny Oliver  
Class of 2027: Karla Carroll, Ruth Spargo  
Class of 2028: Jay Polchow, Jim Wilson

Those Serving  
This Month



**A/V:** Bill Love, Chuck Gregg, Karla Gregg

**Communion Servers:** Mark Paxton, Margaret Weaver, Karen Nordstrom, Linda Adams

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

**Readers:** Patti Blanton, Ruth Spargo, Joan Wilson, Mary Blumhost, Jim Blanton

### Hospitality

Greet everyone in attendance at church with a welcoming smile, but, also important, try to notice if someone has missed more than once in succession and give them a caring phone call!

Try to visit with someone you don't know too well at the 5th Sunday potluck on March 29.

Looking ahead: Election Day, April 7. Help Asbury be a hospitable polling site.

### Financial News

As of 01/31/2026:

**Contributions for January:** \$10,129

**Contributions YTD:** \$10,129

**Other Income YTD:** \$4,465

**Contributions Budget:** \$16,725

**Budget YTD:** \$16,725

**Other Income Budget YTD:** \$3,688

**Expenses YTD:** \$11,673

**Budget YTD:** \$22,609

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

**January:** \$0

**Budget:** \$458

**Use YTD:** \$0

**Budget YTD:** \$458

#### Apportionments

**Paid YTD:** \$0

**Annual Obligation:** \$25,358 (0% paid)

We missed one Sunday in January because of weather, so we are starting the year behind. Anything you can do to help would be appreciated!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Julia Phelps, Patty Yocum, Doug & Judy Clements, Miranda, Gene Day, Kat Spohrer, Chris Hensley, Dustin Gardner, Janice Greene, Janet Bowman, Mary Hartbarger & family, Kathy White, Amy Langston, Chuck Ewy, 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, Jack Gladson, Joy Whitescarver, Kathy White, Kay Keltner, Marlene Jones, Sharon Coomer, Shawna Allen, Warren Meadows

### Serving our country:

Cameron Cox, Shane Luke

### Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, March 12, at 11:30 AM. This month's

restaurant selection is Rib Crib at 1720 S Campbell. Contact Carol Elmore for more info.

## MARK *your* CALENDAR

### March 5

Mission Springfield

### March 9

Naomi Ruth Circle

### March 10

Trustees  
Tuesday LYF Group

### March 11

Mary Martha Circle  
One Heart in Christ Circle

### March 12

Lunch Bunch  
Mission/Vision

### March 14

UWF District Meeting @ Nevada

### March 17

Education Committee

### March 18

Crosslines Day  
Cards & Games Fun Day

### March 21

UWF March Madness

### March 24

Tuesday LYF Group

### March 28

Easter Fun Day

### March 29

Fifth Sunday Potluck

## March Birthdays

Cameron Cox

Gabbi Hill

Chuck Ewy

Georgianne Sly

Susan Cox

Becki Gladson

Ruth Spargo

Amy Langston

Patty Yocum



### Interested in helping to serve communion?

Contact Janet Bowman for more information!



### Video Worship

Miss a Sunday? Watch the worship service video at

[www.asburyunitedmethodist.org](http://www.asburyunitedmethodist.org)

## Sunday SCHOOL

We invite everyone to join us at 10:30 on Sunday mornings after church service for Sunday School.

**March  
21**

**5:00 to  
7:00**



#### Education Committee

The Education Committee is looking for people to help plan church events! If you are interested, please contact Susan Lamy.

#### Check It Out!



A big Thank You to Joan Lewis (one of our newer members) for the donation of a number of very interesting Christian fiction books (more about them later). I chose the one that didn't fit into a whole series, and it was the perfect one to read at this time. [Rich Beyond Measure; Zlata's Story](#) is written by Robin Lee Hatcher and is the only one here of the "Celebrating Women of the Bible" series, published by Guideposts.

Zlata has lost all of her family, parents, husband and child, and exists thanks to the inhospitable hospitality of her in-laws. The storyline moves through the time period of Jesus ministry, which has attracted the interest of Zlata (was she the one who gave the "widow's mite"?) and the unbelievable ire and hatred of her father-in-law Taneli, a Pharisee in Capernaum. Who was the winner?

*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.*



## 2026 LENTEN SERIES

Listen to Him: Forty Steps on the Road to Resurrection

Hello friends.

You are invited to participate in our Lenten study and worship. We will be learning listen to Jesus as we follow his journey from the top of the Mountain of Transfiguration to the bottom of the Valley of the Cross. During these forty days of Lent, we will lean in and listen deeply to Jesus. Daily Lenten readings will lead us from Luke 9:18 through Luke 23:56, followed by an Easter reading from Luke 24:1-8

Here are a few more details about Lent:

### **Worship times and dates:**

February 22-March 29, 9:15am. Sunday worship at Asbury UMC

April 2, 6:30pm. Maundy Thursday at Ash Grove UMPC (our “sister” church)

April 3, 6:30pm. Good Friday at Asbury UMC

April 5, 9:15am. EASTER Sunday worship at Asbury

“**Listen to Him**” **devotion books.** A key and helpful resource to guide you along the path. Books are still available for purchase in the church office. The cost is \$15 per book.

### **Groups Following the study:**

Adult Sunday school classes, 10:30am on Sundays.

Wednesdays, 6:00 PM

Thursdays, 10:00 AM

Contact Pastor Rachel if you are interested in participating in a midweek group. [Pastor.rachel.asbury@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.rachel.asbury@gmail.com)