

# April

## THE MESSENGER

APRIL 2026



**ASBURY**  
United Methodist Church

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

### Christ is Risen!

*"Jesus isn't here! He has been raised from death. Remember that while he was still in Galilee, he told you, 'The Son of Man will be handed over to sinners who will nail him to a cross. But three days later he will rise to life.'" - Luke 24:6-7 (CEV)*

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Easter reminds us that just as spring brings new life, Christ's resurrection brings restoration to our brokenness, renewal to our weariness, and reformation to our lives. The power of his resurrection is not merely a past event, but a current reality that forgives sins and transforms lives.

Easter brings holiday traditions to enjoy—family meals, bunnies and bright flowers, baskets, egg hunts and games—yet our focus remains on the transformative power of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is our joy!

During this Easter season we will celebrate Jesus and his life-changing work in the lives of early followers such as Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, Thomas, disciples on the Emmaus Road, and Paul.

Join us April 5<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday, and then April 12<sup>th</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup> for our "Resurrection Power: Stories of New Beginnings" series. Know that Jesus invites you to walk in new life, experiencing his resurrected presence in your daily life. Come and see!

May this Easter fill your heart with the joy of the resurrection, and may you feel the transforming power of God's love in everything you do. You are loved!

In Christ and with Easter joy,

*Rachel*

Pastor Rachel Stone



### 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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[www.AsburyUnitedMethodist.org](http://www.AsburyUnitedMethodist.org)  
Church Email: [asburyumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:asburyumc@sbcglobal.net)

Pastor's Email:  
[Pastor.Rachel.Asbury@Gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.Rachel.Asbury@Gmail.com)  
The office is open Monday — Thursday  
9:00 AM — 2:00 PM

### 3B Sale

Spring cleaning? Decluttering? Downsizing? Fill a box or two (or more!) and bring it to the church between May 16<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. On May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> United Women in Faith will be holding their 3B Sale: Bargains, Books and Baked Goods. All donations will be welcome.

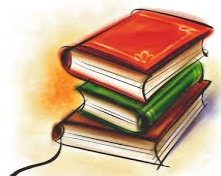
### Power of Love



Our Power of Love collection for April is for the Pregnancy Care Center. 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.

### Check It Out!



Repeating our thank you to Joan Lewis for the donation of last month's Biblical fiction and for a whole 24-volume series of "Secrets from Grandma's Attic," published by Guideposts from 2022 to 2024. I found the first volume, History Lost and Found, very intriguing but it's hard for me to imagine how many mysteries the different authors can find for writing those 24 novels—all from Grandma's attic (even if she did live to be 100!). Making the mysteries even more interesting to me is that Grandma's attic is in Grandma Pearl's Victorian home near the Mississippi River in Canton, Missouri, and that the granddaughters visited many familiar Missouri sites as they explored. Of course, knowing the publishing company can assure one that the stories continuously reveal stories of faith and love.

### 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

**Greeters:** Lincoln Johnson, Karen Nordstrom, Karla Gregg, Patti Blanton, Judy Clements, Joyce Booth, Sheryl Hill, George Sly, Georgianne Sly

**Readers:** Mary Blumhost, Ruth Spargo

### Harmony House Lunch Saturday, April 18

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 April 18, 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/8050A4BABA28A1FD0-63243838-harmony>

### Financial News

As of 02/28/2026:

<b>Contributions for February:</b> \$17,395	<b>Contributions YTD:</b> \$27,524	<b>Other Income YTD:</b> \$8,374
<b>Contributions Budget:</b> \$15,333	<b>Budget YTD:</b> \$30,667	<b>Other Income Budget YTD:</b> \$7,131
<b>Expenses YTD:</b> \$31,726	<b>Budget YTD:</b> \$45,499	

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

<b>February:</b> \$0	<b>Budget:</b> \$433	<b>Use YTD:</b> \$0	<b>Budget YTD:</b> \$867
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#### Apportionments

**Paid YTD:** \$0      **Annual Obligation:** \$24,393 (0% paid)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Peggy Brown , Karla Gregg & family, Kay Keltner, Marlene Jones, Nancy Lollar, Joan Wilson, Autumn Hatch, John Fuge, the family of Kathy White, John Bingham, Leon Johnson & Julia Phelps, Maranda, Chris Hensley & Kat Spohrer, Amy Langston

*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, 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, April 9, at 11:30 AM. This month's restaurant selection is Leong's at 1540 W Republic Rd. Contact Carol Elmore for more info.

## MARK *your* CALENDAR

### April 1

Holy Week Devotions

### April 2

Holy Week Devotions  
Maundy Thursday Service @ Ash Grove

### April 3

Good Friday Service

### April 4

UWF Meeting

### April 5

Easter Musical Worship Service

### April 7

Election Day

### April 8

Mary Martha Circle  
One Heart in Christ Circle

### April 9

Lunch Bunch  
Mission/Vision

### April 13

Naomi Ruth Circle

### April 14

Trustees  
Leadership Development Team

### April 15

Crosslines Day  
Cards & Games Fun Day

### April 18

Harmony House Lunch

### April 21

Education Committee

### April 25

PSHP "Fun"draiser Carnival

## April Birthdays

Sharon Coomer

Tom Stone

Bruce Champ

Janice Greene

Doug Clements

Mary Ewy

Bradley Love

Jim Wilson

Sheryl Hill

Lynn Clements

Bill Love

Nadena Layton



### 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.

### Save the Dates for these Fun Events!

1. The Asbury Staff will be hosting a breakfast for all our wonderful volunteers on Sunday, May 3, from 8-9 am.
2. Graduate Recognition Sunday will be on May 17 during church as we honor those high school and college graduates. Notify the office by Tuesday, May 12 to be included.
3. Asbury Calendaring Meeting Saturday, June 13 at 10:00.
4. Asbury will be hosting four evenings of Family VBS this summer. Bring the whole family for dinner, games, crafts, music, and snack. Save the following evenings: Monday, June 15; Tuesday, June 16; Tuesday, July 21 and Wednesday, July 22. Dinner at 5:30, VBS from 6:00-8:00. Fun for all ages.
5. The Patriotic Pageant, the Asbury Music Department Fundraiser, will be on Wednesday, June 24. 5:30 Dinner and 6:30 Program.
6. Camp Galilee Camp Dates have been announced. Asbury has funds to pay for a big portion of the fees. Grades listed are grades for 2026-2027.
  - a. Tikes, Grades 1-3, is July 1-3.
  - b. Elementary, Grades 4-6. is June 30-July 3
  - c. Jr High, Grades 6-8, is from June 28-July 3
  - d. Sr High, Grades 9-12, is from July 12-July 17

### Music Department News



The Chancel Choir has been busy preparing our Easter Musical, ***A Time for Alleluia***, by Joseph M. Martin. This musical walks us through the season of the life of Christ. You will notice the passion of the journey of Christ that leads up to Easter and the Resurrection. This partners well with our Lenten study of *Listen to Him* by JD Walt. This year we have divided up the musical over the two Sundays preceding Easter, as well as Good Friday and Easter morning. Thank you to the choir members and Teresa Kays for their dedication and love of the Lord.

### Education Committee

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

## United Women in Faith

Our own concept of “March Madness” was, as billed, a FUNdraiser! Thanks so much to Patti and James Blanton for their games and their novel ways of working out such fun team sports! Thanks to the members of One Heart Circle for their planning, decorating and tailgate food—and thanks to all who helped with food, ticket sales and participation. Also, a “Well Done” to One Heart for their food for the unsheltered on Friday, March 20.



Our bi-monthly unit meeting will be April 4. We will follow the usual schedule of “fellowship” from 10 to 10:30 and the devotion/business meeting/program will begin at 10:30. The annual observance of the “Call to Prayer and Self-Denial” will be tied to an Easter theme.

Because of schedule conflicts the Planning Meeting which has ordinarily been during the alternating month (odd months) with the unit program meeting (even months) is now being held on the fourth Thursday of the even month.

### Calendar

April 4 UWF meeting—10:00 AM Fellowship; 10:30, Program  
8 Mary Martha Circle—1:00 PM  
8 One Heart in Christ Circle—5:15 PM  
13 Naomi Ruth Circle—6:30 PM  
23 Planning Meeting—6:00 PM

*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.*