

June THE MESSENGER JUNE 2026



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

-Colossians 2:6-7

The Green and Growing Season

What wonderful seasons of celebration, mystery, and joy, we just completed during Eastertide and Pentecost! We experienced and learned of so many blessings, so many reasons to marvel, so many stories of remarkable transformation, and so many promises unfolding. Praise God for these moments of jubilant celebration!

Not every season in the church year is marked by celebration. Some seasons are “ordinary,” walking through day-to-day life steadily living out our faith. These seasons are devoted to spiritual growth. We have just stepped into such a season, a season known as “Ordinary Time,” but there is nothing ordinary about it! This season is a time to continue faithfully in prayer, worship, and devotion. This is an important season in the rhythm of our liturgical year. This is an important season in the rhythm of our lives.

Maybe you have noticed the changing colors that appear in our sanctuary throughout the year: purple, white/gold, green, purple, white/gold, red, and green again. Liturgical colors correspond to the seasons of the church year, a visible reflection of the mood and meaning of specific holy days and seasons. Again and again, the Church returns to green. A reminder that faith is not formed in a moment.

Quiet. Steady. Living. Methodically tending our soul. Intentionally ordering our daily walk of faith.

After the celebrations pass, green remains. Green reflects renewal, enduring hope, and the life that continues to grow. And, just as we water, nourish, and tend our gardens so that they might grow and flourish and produce fruit, so we tend our faith during these “ordinary” days.

May we prepare our hearts, and order our days with intention as we walk together through this green and growing season.

In Christ,

Rachel

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

A Note from Your Mission/Vision Team

Did You Know?

As leaders, we seek to steer our church according to God's design. Times change. Circumstances change. People change. But God's love and God's mission remain the same. For these reasons, we devote part of each Mission/Vision meeting to exploring who we are and to understanding the community around us.

For several months now, the team has been learning what it means to be successful no matter the size of our congregation. In fact, we are greatly encouraged as we walk through a book by Brandon J O'Brien titled "The Strategically Small Church." A weight seems to be lifting! We are seeing, and celebrating, opportunities to take advantage of who we are today—uniquely equipped for success in today's culture. Part of this discussion is helping us reframe our vision of "success." Big numbers are not the definition of success; rather, we look to define success through spiritual maturity, deep relationships, and authentic community impact.

Friends, please join us in praying for encouragement, insight, and clarity. We pray that the Holy Spirit moves in our church, reigniting our hearts and focusing our ministry.

Asbury matters when it comes to kingdom work!

Blessings,

Your Mission/Vision Team, Kimberlea Gray, Chair

Those Serving This Month



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

Communion Servers: Janice Greene, Tom Vasant

Greeters: Sheryl Hill, Karen Nordstrom, Suzanne Boyts, Lisa Boyts, Dustin Gardner, John Fox, Judy Fox, Patti Blanton, Joyce Booth, Joan Wilson

Readers: Janet Bowman, Mary Blumhost, Kimberlea Gray, Suzanne Boyts

Financial News

As of 04/30/2026:

Contributions for April: \$21,083

Contributions Budget: \$15,333

Other Income YTD: \$17,170

Other Income Budget YTD: \$14,262

Contributions YTD: \$66,779

Budget YTD: \$61,333

Expenses YTD: \$78,239

Budget YTD: \$90,997

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

April: \$0

Budget: \$433

YTD: \$0

Budget YTD: \$1,733

Apportionments

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

Thank you for your generosity!

**Harmony House Lunch
Saturday, June 20**

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 June 20, 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/8050A4BABA28A1FD0-64300828-harmony>.

Check It Out!



A “find” in the library for this time! Eric Sloane was widely recognized for paintings and books that defined early American life, culture and values. His book The Spirits of '76, obviously written a little more than 50 years ago, was a summary of his observations and philosophy of the American scene from the vantage point of 1976. He viewed the differences between the early American and the present (for him the bicentennial—for us the 250th anniversary) counterpart, seeing changes even physically, as well as moral and spiritual differences.

He listed ten of the original spirits of early America, comparing them with the changed spirits of today.

He chose Spirit of Respect instead of patriotism, feeling that that often has become pseudo-patriotism or nationalism.

The other spirits of '76 he chose were Hard Work, Frugality, Thankfulness, Pioneering, Godliness, Agronomy, Time, Independence, Awareness, He then added an 11th, which he felt was so strong in the “original '76” and remains to the current, “The Spirit of Hope.”

UWF

Our general meeting program June 6 will be the presentation of the Healing Quilt Project of the Ozarks. Father Joseph McCormack will display quilts as well as describe the program which makes lap quilts for families who have lost loved ones. Everyone is welcome.



All women are invited to the Southwest District Spiritual Growth Retreat at Aldrich UMC , Saturday, June 20. The theme will be “Following God’s Pathways.”

Calendar

June	6	UWF unit meeting: 10:00 Fellowship, 10:30 Program & Business Meeting
	8	Naomi Ruth Circle: 6:30 PM
	10	Mary Martha Circle: 1:00 PM
	10	One Heart in Christ Circle: 5:15 PM
	25	Planning Meeting: 6:00 PM

PRAYER REQUESTS

George Sly, Tom Stone, Kenney Hill, Tom & Susie Vasant, Anastasia Phelps, Judy Clements, Mark Paxton, Mary Blumhost & family, Margaret Day, Ruth Spargo, Gene Day, Susan Cox, Patty Yocum, Anna Robertson, Teresa Kays, Kay Keltner, John Bingham, Chris Hensley, Amy Langston

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, June 11, at 11:30 AM.

This month's selection is Luna Modern Mexican at 2925 E Battlefield #105. Contact Carol Elmore for more information.

MARK your CALENDAR

June 2

Leadership Development Team

June 4

Mission Springfield

June 5

Annual Conference

June 6

UWF Meeting
Annual Conference

June 7

Annual Conference

June 8

Naomi Ruth Circle

June 9

Trustees

June 10

Mary Martha Circle
One Heart in Christ Circle

June 11

Lunch Bunch
Mission/Vision

June 13

Calendaring

June 15

VBS

June 16

VBS

June 17

Crosslines Day
Cards & Games Fun Day

June 20

UWF Spiritual Growth Retreat
Harmony House Lunch

June 24

Patriotic Pageant

June Birthdays

Peggy Brown

Julia Machin

Kathy Love

Margaret Day

Renee Mikkelson

Clark Mikkelson



Power of Love



Our Power of Love collection for June is for Safe to Sleep. A list of their needs is available on the

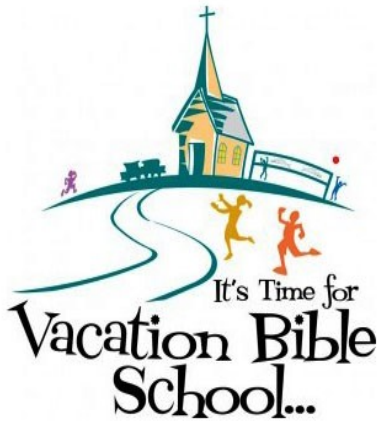
collection box in the Fellowship Hall, or via the church office.

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.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Sunday, June 7th, will be Laity Sunday during worship. We will celebrate how some of our Asbury family let their light shine through volunteering in our community. How do you shine your light in the world around you?



Vacation Bible School – Family Style

Asbury will be bringing people of ages together from toddlers to grandparents together for 2 nights of food, fun, faith, and friendship.

June 15 and June 16, 2026

6:00 pm – 8:30pm

A light dinner will be served at 5:30, with VBS from 6:00 to 8:30.

Seeking:

2 groups one for Monday and one for Tuesday, to cook and serve dinner

A few volunteers to help as guides, but we want you to be able to participate in the fun too.

To be successful and provide everyone with enough supplies we would like to know who plans to attend, even if you are just thinking about it at this time. There is a preregistration form available via the church office.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Susan Lamy or the Asbury Church office at 417-865-1335.

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

Music Department News

Please join the Asbury music department in celebrating our country's 250th birthday!!



Our annual Patriotic Pageant fundraiser will take place on Wednesday, June 24th.

Fried Chicken Dinner and the fixings will be served at 5:30, with the patriotic program at 6:30.

Wear red, white, and blue, and join in our celebration!

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.