

July

THE MESSENGER

JULY 2026



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

Be Like a Tree....

*Blessed is the one... whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers. -from Psalm 1:1-3*

I still remember a catchy song we taught children during VBS many years ago. The upbeat song, (with cool accompanying motions, of course) celebrates the core value of trusting God and knowing God's word. What I love are the repetitive lyrics that plant seeds of faith in the children's hearts.

Here are those lyrics:

*I'm gonna be like a tree, planted by the water
trustin' in the Father to keep me strong
I'm gonna be like a tree, planted by the water,
trustin' in the name of the Lord.
I'm gonna be like a tree, planted by the water,
trustin' in the Father to help me grow.
The deeper the roots go, the better the fruits grow
the blessings bloom out for all to see.
the deeper the roots go, the more my life shows
that Jesus is the Lord of me.
I'm gonna be like a tree, planted by the water...*

Asbury friends, let's be like a tree. And as we plant our hearts near streams of living water, our faith will grow stronger, our actions will blossom, our ministry fruitful, and our community will flourish. May we continue our prayer asking God to nourish our souls. May God deepen our roots and grow in us thriving kingdom work.

Blessings,

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

1500 S Campbell Avenue
Springfield, MO 65807

www.AsburyUnitedMethodist.org
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

Education and VBS Information

Thursday July 9, 7:00 pm - Education Committee meeting in the library. We will discuss VBS and upcoming events. If you would like to learn more, please join us or contact Susan.

Anyone interested in leading storytelling (Bible story) or games for this VBS: you are invited to join the Education meeting on July 9th or contact Susan.

Just a reminder: all volunteers are also participants in VBS you won't miss a thing.

To be successful and provide everyone supplies it is helpful to know who plans to attend. There is a preregistration form available; look for it in the bulletin or just outside the Sanctuary doors.

SAFE GATHERINGS REMINDER - I know several of us completed this training 3 years ago and those certificates are expiring soon. To renew you will need to take the training again. Please see or contact Susan for more information.

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

Those Serving This Month



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

Communion Servers: Sean Layton, Nadena Layton, Ruth Spargo, Regan Spargo

Greeters: Regan Spargo, George Sly, Georgianne Sly, Karla Gregg, Patti Blanton, Judy Clements, Joyce Booth, John Fox, Judy Fox, Lincoln Johnson

Readers: Mary Blumhost, Ruth Spargo, Suzanne Boyts

Financial News

As of 05/31/2026:

Contributions for May: \$13,596

Contributions Budget: \$15,333

Other Income YTD: \$21,103

Other Income Budget YTD: \$17,828

Contributions YTD: \$80,376

Budget YTD: \$78,667

Expenses YTD: \$93,685

Budget YTD: \$113,746

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

May: \$0

Budget: \$433

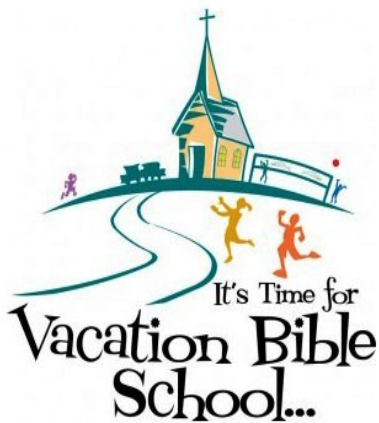
YTD: \$0

Budget YTD: \$1,733

Apportionments

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

Thank you for your generosity!



Vacation Bible School – Family Style

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

July 21 and July 22, 2026

6:00 pm – 8:30pm

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

Check It Out!



On a list of “Non-Fiction Books Everyone Should Read” this title stood out (a book our library has had for a number of years!): Tuesdays With Morrie; An Old Man, a Young Man, and Life’s Greatest Lesson by Mitch Albom. Morrie Schwartz was Mitch Albom’s favorite professor and he thought they would keep in touch, but “life happened” until Mitch saw Morrie on the Nightline TV show and learned that life wouldn’t keep happening for long. Morrie had ALS. Mitch spent fourteen Tuesdays with Morrie and it was as if his old professor was again teaching a class but in the most profound yet personal way—and all of us who read this are sharing—or auditing—that profound class of life with death approaching. This is a book of love but a very honest book. One of the book reviews says that, “the saints and Buddhas have taught us that wisdom and compassion are one. ...[Morrie’s]... living and dying show us the way.”

This is absolutely a book everyone should read.

UWF

The June UWF meeting was a very interesting presentation by Father Joseph MacCormack telling of the Healing Quilt Project of the Ozarks. They have joined with Young Entrepreneurs and meet at the Old Robberson School. They have memorials to many individuals as varied as Mickey Owen, MLK, and the little boy who was shaken to death. They also make recliner quilts and baby quilts and have young and old making squares or whatever they can. There will be an orientation July 14th, and they put Love and Compassion in Every Block.



Calendar

July	8	Mary Martha Circle, 1:00 p.m.
July	8	One Heart in Christ Circle, 5:15 p.m.
July	13	Naomi Ruth Circle, 6:30 p.m.
Aug.	1	ROCK-A-THON, 10:00 – 2:00

PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim Wilson, Mary Ewy, the family of Joy Whitescarver, Janet Bowman, the family of Louise Sloan, the family of Cindy Cook, Beth DeLange, George Sly, Tom Stone, Kenney Hill, Anastasia Phelps, Margaret Day, Gene Day, Susan Cox, Teresa Kays, John Bingham, 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



Our Power of Love collection for July is school supplies for

Jarrett. A list of needed supplies 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.

MARK your CALENDAR

July 2

UWF Planning Meeting

July 8

Mary Martha Circle
One Heart in Christ Circle

July 9

Lunch Bunch

July 13

Naomi Ruth Circle

July 14

Trustees
Leadership Development Team

July 15

Crosslines Day
Cards & Games Fun Day

July 21

Vacation Bible School

July 22

Vacation Bible School

Upcoming July Highlights

July 5: Communion Sunday

July 19: Hospitality Team Visioning Meeting

July 21-22: Intergenerational VBS, July session

July Birthdays

Colton Bange

Lisa Boyts

Doug Carroll

Holly Hostetler

Karen Nordstrom

Dustin Gardner

Marlene Jones

Neil Folkerts

Joan Wilson

Glenda Hefty

Jim Gilmore



Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, July 9, at 11:30 AM. This month's selection is Rebar Kitchen & Taproom at 2925 W Republic Rd. Contact Carol Elmore for more information.



Thank you to everyone who offered up prayers and expressed concern during some recent health struggles and all the upheaval of moving apartments. Asbury is such a wonderful, thoughtful community, and I'm deeply touched by your regard.

In Christ (and the office),

Julia M.



Camp Galilee News!

Asbury is sending campers and counselors to camp this month. This week Adonis Brown, Sophia Brown, and Lincoln Johnson are attending the middle school camp, and Sara Love and Braden Baker are counselors at the elementary camp. They are all attending this week and will be coming home on Friday, July 3.

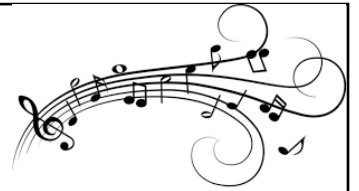
On Sunday July 12, to Friday, July 17, AJ Brown and Holly Hostetler will be attending the senior high camp and Kathy Love will be a counselor.

If you would like to send them an encouraging email you can email them at: director@campatgalilee.org Please include their full name and what camp they are attending.

Campers will be wearing their camp shirts and sharing about camp during church on Sunday, July 19.

Music Department News

Thank you for your support of the Music Department at our Patriotic Pageant. We had a wonderful time as we ate a great fried chicken meal and celebrated the semiquincentennial (or the 250th birthday) of the United States! The money collected will go towards repairs and maintenance on the piano in the Sanctuary. Asbury is blessed by our musicians! Our tenor section lost two members, as Tom Vansant moved to Kansas City and Jim Wilson has retired. Jim has been in choirs since he was 14 years old. He has been an incredible asset in his 77 year choir run. Thank you to both Jim and Tom.



Alabaster and Asbury Ringers will be taking off July and August and resuming in September. Our Chancel Choir will sing through July, then take off the month of August.

We will be singing our favorite hymns in July and August. Let Kathy Love know if you want a favorite included.

Blessings,

Kathy Love



Springfield Cardinals Baseball!

It's time to start thinking about our SW District Baseball event again this year on August 14th. The district has reserved seats in the shady section this year, so it won't be nearly as hot as it has been in the past! Please let the District Office know with the QR code at left how many tickets you would like. Registration is due no later than July 31.

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

UWF Rock-a-thon

Some of those women are planning on doing it again—rocking, talking, doing some good works,* eating and worshipping! On August 1st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. UWF will hold their second Rock-a-thon and would love to have lots of participation. You can join us in rocking (all or part of the four hour period); you can loan a rocker; you can make a pledge or a donation to the UWF mission work. Just ask!!

Last year there were several projects that were easy to do provided by Newborns in Need plus several others that women were doing, i.e., prayer cloths, baby hats for hospital.

Save These Dates!

Thursday, July 9, 7:15 PM	VBS helpers and Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 5:30 PM	Supper and Intergenerational VBS (Supper provided by YAX Sunday School)
Wednesday, July 22, 5:30	Supper and Intergenerational VBS (Supper provided by One Heart in Christ)
Sunday, August 16	Back to School Sunday
Sunday, August 30	Fifth Sunday Potluck following worship, no Sunday School
Wednesday, September 9	6:15 Bells resume, 7:00 Chancel Choir resumes
Sunday, September 13	Chancel Choir and Alabaster return

Mission/Vision Team (Your Church Board)

It is exciting to see glimpses of renewed energy bubbling up in our church family. The Holy Spirit is moving in and among us in marvelous ways! With joy we celebrate who we are and the gifts God has given us. No doubt God has good plans to use us for kingdom work!

Part of this important kingdom work is done by your church board members in their Mission/Vision Team meetings. The Board is committed to the intentional and prayerful work of learning, discerning, and pursuing next steps. In our July meeting the Board will finish up their discussion of the book, "The Strategically Small Church." The Team plans to have a productive conversation.

Thank you for your prayers for these leaders of Asbury. They bring valuable insight and voice, they are faithful and committed, they devote time to preparation and conversation, and they genuinely hold deep love for God and for this church family.

With gratitude,

Rachel

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.

