



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2026

*Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert*

-Isaiah 35:6b

We heard the splash of water pouring into our baptismal fount during worship on Sunday. That soothing, refreshing flow of cool water healing the body and restoring the soul. We shared in this holy moment celebrating the cleansing power of grace at work in the life of our friend, Larry, as he professed his faith in Jesus. What a joy it is to witness, to welcome him into the community of believers, and to remember our own baptism! We are reminded that God pours out grace like gushing waters in the wilderness and streams, restoring the desert with vibrant life. God's serene, cleansing, revitalizing grace saturating our lives.

The Bible is full of passages about water and its many rich meanings representing life, creation, purification, power, chaos, peace, healing, refreshment, longing, rescue, and renewal. In each case, God is present. Baptismal water is one powerful image of God's present grace.

As you go about your days this week, listen for sounds of water. Feel the cooling stream. Smell the cleansing rain. See water nourishing vibrant life. Drink in God's refreshing grace all around you. Taste and see that God is good.

Friends, may God nourish our spirits so that our words and actions may be like dew or a gentle rain into the lives of each person we meet. May God enable us to bring water into dry and painful places, and to speak words that strengthen and revitalize others.

This is kingdom work that God gives us.

In Christ,

Rachel

Pastor Rachel

If you have questions about baptism or about joining the church, email Pastor Rachel at pastor.rachel.asbury@gmail.com

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



Harmony House Lunch Saturday, August 15

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 August 15, 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/8050A4BABA28A1FD0-64903578-harmony>

Those Serving This Month



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

Communion Servers: Carol Elmore, Karen Nordstrom, Jerry Gray, Kimberlea Gray

Greeters: Joan Wilson, Karen Nordstrom, Suzanne Boyts, Lisa Boyts, Dustin Gardner, Regan Spargo, Joyce Booth, Lincoln Johnson, John Fox, Judy Fox, Judy Clements, George Sly, Georgianne Sly

Readers: Suzanne Boyts, Ruth Spargo, Mary Blumhost

Financial News

As of 06/30/2026:

Contributions for June: \$18,164

Contributions Budget: \$15,333

Other Income YTD: \$24,176

Other Income Budget YTD: \$21,394

Contributions YTD: \$98,540

Budget YTD: \$92,000

Expenses YTD: \$119,030

Budget YTD: \$136,496

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

June: \$776

Budget: \$3,566

YTD: \$776

Budget YTD: \$2,600

Apportionments

Paid YTD: \$2,000 **Annual Obligation:** \$24,393 (8.2% paid)

Thank you for your generosity!

Back to School Breakfast
Sunday, August 16—8:00 AM



Join One Heart in Christ Circle for an array of breakfast casseroles to allow for multiple dietary needs. We'll have mini-muffins and fruit to complement our options. We will be taking a love offering for our mission projects such as feeding the unsheltered and adopting a family at Christmastime. Your blessings to us help us bless others.



Check It Out!

You're not supposed to judge a book by its cover, but I've admitted before that I'm a "sucker" for catchy book titles! I'm not even sure where and when this book appeared, but I couldn't resist When You're a Christian, the Whole World Is from Missouri; Living the Life of Faith in a "Show Me" World. The author, James W. Moore, says he saw a young man wearing these words on his T-shirt.

The young man said that Missouri is the "Show-Me State" and in a sense the world is saying to Christians, "If you're a Christian, show me!"

The book is divided into 15 short chapters, each beginning, "Can the World See Your..." with such topics as these; "Christian gumption?"; "spirit of forgiveness?"; "your gratitude?"; and "your love?" The book is concluded with summaries, discussion questions, practical applications and prayer for each chapter. Although it is considered a study book it is very readable and effective in making the reader think of the characteristics that should be seen as we walk the walk in this "Show Me" world.

UWF



If you read this in time to get to the church by 10 AM on Saturday, August 1, come join us at Asbury for a few hours of fellowship and service. Bring a rocker, or fake it if you don't have one and we're out of extra rocking chairs. Simple hands-on service projects will be supplied by Newborns in Need, but you can bring your own. Just come and share the amount of time you can spare.

On August 29th the Southwest District United Women in Faith will present a Mini-Mission U at Hood UMC in Republic. The study is called, "Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives." In essence this is "God with Us" in adversity, through confronting injustice, through visualizing prayer. Check the bulletin board for information about registering, carpooling, etc.

Calendar

August 1	Rock-a-thon, 10 AM to 2 PM
10	Naomi Ruth Circle, 6:00 PM potluck at Ginny Oliver's
12	Mary Martha Circle, 1:00 PM
12	One Heart in Christ Circle, 5:15 PM
27	Planning meeting (all are welcome), 6:00 PM
29	SW District Mini-Mission U, 10 AM to 2 PM at Hood UMC in Republic

Looking Ahead: United Women in Faith Sunday, September 13

PRAYER REQUESTS

Beth DeLange, Jay Polchow, Becki Dobbs, Patti Blanton, Janet Bowman, Marlene Jones, Jim Wilson, Mary Ewy, Anastasia Phelps, Margaret Day, Gene Day, John Bingham, Amy Langston

Those we hold in loving care who are homebound or limited in their transportation:

Ann Marsh, Barbara Davidson, Jack Gladson, Kay Keltner, Marlene Jones, Sharon Coomer, Shawna Allen, Warren Meadows

Serving our country:

Cameron Cox, Shane Luke



Our Power of Love collection for August is for ShareFest. A list of what we are gathering 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

August 1

UWF Rock-a-thon

August 4

Election Day

August 6

Mission Springfield

August 10

Naomi Ruth Circle

August 11

Trustees
Leadership Development Team

August 12

Mary Martha Circle
One Heart in Christ Circle

August 13

Lunch Bunch
Mission/Vision

August 15

Harmony House Lunch

August 16

Back to School Breakfast

August 19

Crosslines Serve Day

August 26

Cards & Games Fun Day

August 30

Fifth Sunday Potluck

August Birthdays



AJ Baier

Sara Love

Sean Layton

Johnathan Love

Gene Day

George Sly

Daneel Daniel

Pat Shane

Carol Daniel

Diane Champ

Janet Bowman

Adonis Brown

Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, August 13, at 11:30 AM. This month's selection is Scramblers at 1131 E Republic Rd. Contact Carol Elmore for more information.

Cards & Games Fun Day



Our monthly game day will be moving to the 4th Wednesday of every month beginning on August 26. Playtime will continue to be 1PM to 3PM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join in the fun!

Welcome, newly baptized and professing member:

With joy we celebrate the baptism of Larry Presley. Larry talked about ways God has been at work in his life and he wanted to claim God's grace and declare his faith in Jesus. So, on Sunday, July 26, Larry came forward and was baptized during worship, surrounded by his family and his Asbury family. Larry also joined our church family as a professing member. We thank God for Larry and for the ways God is at work in his life. Larry has been part of our Asbury family for quite some time now. You might know him as the very special man in Lisa Boyts' life. Welcome, Larry!

And, friends, may we remember our promise to nurture Larry and one another in the Christian faith and life, including each other in our care and keeping these vows:

With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.

We will surround Larry
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that he may grow in their trust of God,
and be found faithful in his service to others.

We will pray for him,
that he may be a true disciple
who walks in the way that leads to life.

Putting Your House in Order

We are pleased to have Rev. Laura Murphy from the Missouri UM Foundation with us on Sunday, September 27th to present a message during worship at 9:15. After worship, she will lead a workshop about discerning your legacy and putting your house in order.

What is putting your House in order?

Are there things you'd like to get in order that would make your intentions clear for your loved ones if you become incapacitated or after you're gone?

What is discerning your legacy?

Rev. Laura Murphy presents material that looks at the theological, emotional, and practical aspects of putting your house in order. Her approach helps participants discover how to have conversations with their loved ones about their wishes while also forming meaningful legacies that can flow from this prudent planning and organization.

After worship, join a workshop with Rev. Laura Murphy from The Missouri UM Foundation.

Sunday, September 27, 2026

10:30am-noon

Asbury UMC, Fellowship Hall

This free 90-minute workshop includes a complimentary binder for each attendee filled with information, checklists, and easy-to-use forms for gathering key information and recording - not just the facts - but participants' intentions, hopes, and values.

Watch for more details coming soon!

Music Department News



Thank you to the members of the Chancel Choir that have served faithfully and musically throughout the year. The choir will be taking a well-deserved vacation from singing in the choir loft but will still be in the pews. Please take a chance to thank a choir member personally. We will be singing our favorite hymns this month. Let Kathy Love know if you would like to request a favorite!!

Please let Kathy Love know if you would like to share any special music during worship in August.

Asbury Ringers and Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9 at 6:15 and 7:00 respectively. We have a great time of fellowship and sharing of joys and concerns, as we rehearse music to enhance worship and glorify God. All are welcome!!

Blessings,
Kathy Love

Mission/Vision Team (Your Church Board)

For many months the Mission/Vision Board has been reading and discussing Brandon J. O'Brien's book entitled *The Strategically Small Church*. This book has provided the team with a renewed spirit as we look toward the future and celebrate who we are as a church. God has blessed us with a loving, caring, generous community of believers—people who put Spiritual Gifts into action through faith, giving, teaching, and mercy. As we look toward our future, we will explore the needs of our community and ways that we can best share our gifts in kingdom work. We embrace renewal as we look forward to what God is working in and through His church to grow His kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue vital conversations and discern next steps.

No doubt, God has good plans for us!

Mission/Vision

Hospitality

Asbury traditionally shows a “good neighbor” spirit by supplying water and cookies at the south entryway on election days. Not every voter takes time to take anything, but many express their appreciation.

Your help would be appreciated if you donated some cookies or water, or if you had time you could just stop by to see if the trays are full and to offer a smile to those entering and leaving.

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.