

September

THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2026



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. -Psalm 25:1

Anybody can make a playlist. In fact, I'm guessing you have already made one. Whether collected on vinyl albums, cassette tapes, CDs, MP3 players, on Spotify or Pandora, or even in your heart, throughout our lives we store favorite songs. They become part of the opus of our lives. Songs tap into our emotions. Songs capture memories. Songs accompany us through life experiences. Songs stir up memories, tears, laughter, dancing, peace, and comfort. Songs create connection. Songs become part of our story.

Songs are the poetic expression of the soul.¹

I read this statement and thought, "Exactly!"

During our September sermon series we will tap into an ancient playlist, thousands of years old, yet amazingly relevant. We will discover that this playlist taps into our soul, connecting us with God and ourselves. Come and hear how *A Psalm Playlist* stirs up praise, thanks, lament, and trust. Come and hear a few Psalms to add to your life playlist. Come and lift up your soul to God.

September is a great month to bring a friend with you.

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

¹Author Scott B. Bullock

September Sermon Series: *A Psalm Playlist*

Just like our favorite songs, in the Psalms we connect with creative expressions of life experiences. Our souls are awakened. We find ourselves in the Psalms. The Psalms are a playlist for our relationship with God.

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

Asbury UMC 2026 Leadership Teams

Mission/Vision (Church Council)

Chair: Kimberlea Gray
Lay Leader: Becky Dobbs
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: Becky Dobbs
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: Jim Blanton, Patti Blanton, Chuck Ewy, Mary Ewy

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

Readers: Becky Dobbs, Suzanne Boyts, Mary Blumhost, Ruth Spargo

Financial News

As of 07/31/2026:

Contributions for July: \$13,147

Contributions Budget: \$15,333

Other Income YTD: \$27,757

Other Income Budget YTD: \$24,959

Contributions YTD: \$111,197

Budget YTD: \$107,333

Expenses YTD: \$139,416

Budget YTD: \$159,245

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

July: \$0

Budget: \$433

YTD: \$776

Budget YTD: \$3,033

Apportionments

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

Thank you for your generosity!

One Heart in Christ Circle

One Heart meets Wednesday, September 9 at 5:15 pm. We will be packing the kits for ShareFest that evening.

Thank you to all those who contributed at our Back to School Breakfast. We raised \$268.



Check It Out!



About a year ago I introduced the book Shadow of the Storm and noted that it was not the first book of the Out of Egypt series by Connilyn Cossette.

Last month Amy Langston gave the church library the novels on each side of the above. Counted with the Stars is Book One of Cossette's Out of Egypt series. It begins with the loss of a fortune, causing Kiya's father to sell her into slavery. She was Egyptian, but was treated as badly as the Hebrew house slave. When the plagues strike Egypt Kiya chooses to flee with the Hebrews. Being despised by some but helped by others in the name of Yahweh leaves Kiya with a struggle between the country she knew or surrendering her future to Yahweh.

Wings of the Wind is the third book of the series, beginning just a year or two before the Hebrews were ready to enter the Promised Land. A Canaanite woman who'd been fighting disguised as a man becomes the responsibility and then the bride of the Hebrew who found her on the battlefield. Many characters, events, and customs are true to biblical accounts, but there's enough romance, adventure and intrigue to satisfy novel readers.

UWF

United Women in Faith Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, September 13. Our speaker will be Meleah Spencer, CEO of The Kitchen, Inc. since 2017. She was named one of the 2025 Most Influential Women by Springfield Business Journal. The Kitchen, Inc. provides services key to ending homelessness with connection to more resources that will allow those who've been homeless to achieve housing stability.



On UWF Sunday we'll continue two of our traditions. We will combine honoring our church family/friends while raising money for mission work by selling our Corsages for Mission., and we will present Special Mission Recognition (certificate and pin) to someone who served in a special way.

Calendar

Sept.	9	Mary Martha Circle	1:00 PM
	9	One Heart in Christ Circle	5:15 PM
	13	UWF Sunday	
	14	Naomi Ruth Circle	6:30 PM
	25-26	UWF Annual Conference Meeting at Farmington UMC	

PRAYER REQUESTS

Teresa Kays, Janet Bowman, the family of Chester McArthur, Regan Spargo, John Fox & family, Jim Enyart, Beth DeLange, Jay Polchow, Becki Dobbs, Patti Blanton, Anastasia Phelps, Margaret Day, Gene Day, John Bingham, Amy Langston

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

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

Serving our country:

Cameron Cox, Shane Luke

MARK your CALENDAR

September 3

Mission Springfield

September 7

Labor Day —> Office Closed <—

September 8

Leadership Development Team

September 9

Mary Martha Circle
One Heart in Christ Circle

September 10

Lunch Bunch
Mission/Vision

September 12

ShareFest @ Kings Way UMC

September 14

Naomi Ruth Circle

September 16

Crosslines Day

September 18

Men's Breakfast

September 23

Cards & Games Fun Day

September Birthdays

Bob Johnson

Anna Robertson

Anne Marsh

Patti Blanton

Jeanette Williams

AJ Brown

Dan Scott

Karla Gregg

John Fox

Walter Boyts

Teresa Kays

Gene Inman

Jim Blanton

Kevin Long

Frank Hinkle

Chuck Gregg



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, September 10th, at 11:30 AM. This month's selection is Amigos at 2259 S Campbell. 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!



Our Power of Love collection for September is for Newborns in Need. A list of their needs is available on the collection box in the Fellowship Hall and at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/OBD4V18CERLD>.

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.

Save These Dates!

September 9 at 5:15-Join One Heart Circle in packing kits for Share Festival; bells and choir resume
September 13-United Women of Faith Sunday, start mum order
September 18-Men's Breakfast at 7:30 am
September 27-Putting Your House in Order speaker during worship and workshop 10:30-12:00
October 4-World Communion Sunday
October 13-Prayer Service at 6:30 pm. More details to come!
October 31-Trunk of Treat 4-6 pm
November 1-All Saint's Sunday
November 22-24-Decorate for Advent
November 29-5th Sunday Potluck, the first Sunday in Advent and poinsettia orders start
December 8-Quiet Christmas service at 6:30 pm
December 20-Christmas Musical at 9:15 service
December 24-Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols at 8:00 pm
December 27-Breakfast Church and Carol Sing at 9:15 am



Men's Breakfast

Friday, September 18—7:30 AM

Cedars Restaurant—3322 S Campbell Ave

Asbury men are invited to get together for breakfast. Eating good food is fun, and so is hanging out with friends. We'd love to see you there and to hear your thoughts about ways we can build a ministry that supports you. Contact person is Tom Stone; he can be reached via the church office.

Putting Your House in Order: Message and Related Workshop

Sunday, September 27, 2026 9:15am worship; 10:30am workshop

Guest Leader: Rev. Laura Murphy

Sign up to participate in the Workshop

To find out more, flyers will be available in the Fellowship Hall at Asbury.

We welcome Rev. Laura Murphy to the pulpit and the classroom on Sunday, September 27th. Rev. Murphy serves as Director of Development at the Missouri United Methodist Foundation. During worship that day she will be presenting to us a message about Six Words that Shape a Legacy. After worship she will lead a workshop about Putting Your House in Order, connecting how our stories greatly impact our legacy and what we leave behind to others.

Music Department News

We are gearing up for a musical fall! Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 9: 6:15 for Asbury Ringers bell choir and at 7:00 for Chancel Choir. These groups are open to anyone! Join us for music, fellowship, and prayer time each Wednesday evening. The choir has enjoyed the month off in August, but are ready to get back to singing. Alabaster has already begun rehearsing. Check with Kathy Love about choir or bells and Kat Spohrer about Alabaster.



Mission/Vision Team (Your Church Board)

In the August meeting, your Mission Vision team continued to focus on the plans God has for Asbury United Methodist Church in growing His kingdom. We talked about how our membership vows are essential in growing God's Kingdom and why we are committed to serving at Asbury United Methodist Church. In addition, we set aside time to focus on financials and statistics to better understand where we are as a church. Also, we were reminded through discussion that Asbury United Methodist Church belongs to Jesus and that we exist to bring people to Jesus Christ through our prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness.

God has great things planned for Asbury United Methodist Church. Please join us in prayer we continue vital conversations and discern next steps.

Mission Vision

More Asbury Connections:

Here are some dates to add to your calendar to connect with your Asbury friends. These are great opportunities to invite guests to join the fun.

- Saturday, September 26 at 6:00. A free concert of the Galloway Chamber Orchestra at the new Hatch Auditorium at the Library Center on S. Campbell.
- Saturday, October 17 at 5:00. Around the campfire for hotdogs and s'mores!
- November-Mosaic Theme. Watch for more details.
- December 20 meet at 1:15 for Caroling, then back to the church for dinner.

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.