



ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2026

*Now then, you and all these people,
get ready to cross the Jordan River
into the land I am about to give to them...*

- from Joshua 1:2

God's people were about to enter the promised land. For years (an entire generation) they had been wandering in the wilderness. They waited. They grumbled. They obeyed...and they disobeyed. They worshipped God...and they worshipped other idols. They lived in anticipation...and they lived in discouragement. Why was it taking so long to enter the land God had been promising for all these years? Why aren't things going the way they wanted? It has been a long and wearying journey. But now, in the next chapter of their story, God is telling them, "Now then...get ready." God is about to lead them into the Promised Land and God has chosen Joshua to guide them.

This is exciting! At long last what was far off had now arrived. It is time. But the next steps will take courage.

Like the Israelites, we sometimes wander and wonder (and grow weary) in the waiting for the next step God has in mind. We experience this as a church at times, too. We go through the motions of ministry, of doing good things, of hoping and of discouragement. In our October sermon series, *Moving Forward: Courage to take the next step* we will travel with the Israelites as God leads them into the Promised Land. We pick up their story in Joshua 1 and will follow them as God expands their territory. Their next steps required trust and action. They had to push past yesterday's struggles, grief, and stagnation to pursue the new things God had in store for them.

Friends, Asbury is in such a moment. God is saying to us, "Now then, get ready!" Get ready to take that courageous step into something new. Get ready to focus and align your efforts. Get ready to be refreshed. Get ready to reclaim your purpose. Get ready to meet new people and to expand your reach. God has kingdom work for us to do!

This is exciting!

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

October Worship

October 4: "Now then, get ready!" (Joshua 1); World Communion Sunday

October 11: "What do these stones mean?" (Joshua 4)

October 18: "It was God who fought for you." (Joshua 6)

October 25: "Choose this day whom you will serve." (Joshua 24); Commitment Sunday

Please note: the previously published October 6 prayer service has been postponed until 2027.

Our next special prayer service will be Quiet Christmas on December 8th.

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

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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: Holly Hostetler, Lincoln Johnson, Julia Phelps, Leon Johnson

Greeters: John Fox, Judy Fox, Patti Blanton, Joyce Booth, George Sly, Georgianne Sly, Lincoln Johnson, Judy Clements, Suzanne Boyts, Lisa Boyts, Dustin Gardner

Readers: Becky Dobbs, Mary Blumhost, Suzanne Boyts

Financial News

As of 08/31/2026:

Contributions for August: \$13,807 **Contributions YTD:** \$125,003
Contributions Budget: \$15,333 **Budget YTD:** \$122,667

Other Income YTD: \$30,349 **Expenses YTD:** \$150,998
Other Income Budget YTD: \$38,525 **Budget YTD:** \$181,994

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

August: \$0 **YTD:** \$776
Budget: \$433 **Budget YTD:** \$3,467

Apportionments

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

Thank you for your generosity!



Harmony House Lunch Saturday, October 17

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 October 17th, 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/8050A4BABAF28A1FD0-66242799-harmony>

Check It Out!

When you hear the name Max Lucado, you probably have some idea about the books we've used in group studies or devotional studies, i.e., Grace, Anxious for Nothing, and And the Angels Were Silent. I just checked and learned he's written 239 books, so I shouldn't have been surprised to find one in our library that was a surprise to me. It's a NY Times Bestseller from ten years ago, Miracle at the Higher Grounds Café. It's described as a Heavenly novel, and one review said it was reminiscent of It's a Wonderful Life. In my opinion it was very reminiscent of the TV series Touched by an Angel, but, no matter, it was fun and heartwarming!



Most people would enjoy this book, which offers family love and turmoil, romance and heartbreak, bitter anger and miracles, and most of it is set in the coffee shop that is supposed to prevent bankruptcy.



UWF

We were very appreciative of our UWF Sunday speaker Meleah Spencer from the Kitchen, Inc., pleased to present Special Mission Recognition pins to Susan Cox and Sheryl Hill (who was at a family event that day), and thankful for all who purchased Corsage for Mission ribbons to honor one another and contribute to mission work.

Our October unit meeting will focus on our World Thank Offering, which is a way members of UWF show gratitude for God's blessings through prayer and financial giving. Sheryl Hill will lead the program.

Our final fundraiser of 2026 will be our quiche sale in November. More info to come!

Calendar

October	3	UWF Unit meeting, Gathering/refreshments, 10:00; Business/Program, 10:30
	12	Naomi Ruth Circle, 6:30
	14	Mary Martha Circle, 1:00
	14	One Heart Circle, 5:15
	17	Fall District Meeting, "Following God's Guidance," Aurora UMC
	25	Quiche sales begin
	29	Planning meeting, 6:00

PRAYER REQUESTS

Doug Clements, Glenda Hefty, Jack & Becki Gladson, Becky Dobbs, the family of Marlene Jones, Chris Hensley & family, George & Georgianne Sly, Carol Fritts, Regan Spargo, Beth DeLange, Anastasia Phelps

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

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

Serving our country:

Cameron Cox, Shane Luke

MARK your CALENDAR

October 1

Mission Springfield

October 3

UWF Meeting

October 4

World Communion Sunday

October 8

Lunch Bunch
Mission/Vision

October 12

Naomi Ruth Circle

October 14

Mary Martha Circle
One Heart in Christ Circle

October 17

Harmony House Lunch
Campfire Connections

October 21

Crosslines Serve Day

October 22

UWF Meeting

October 28

Cards & Games Fun Day

October 31

Trunk or Treat

October Birthdays

Andrea Bange

Nolan Scotidis

Marlene Garling

Mary Hartbarger

Chris Hensley

Joey Nordstrom



Hospitality

One of the ways we show hospitality is to provide water and cookies for voters coming to Asbury on Election Day (November 3rd). Watch for ways you can help with this! If you have any other ideas for hospitality at Asbury, feel free to share them with Ruth Spargo.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, October 8th, at 11:30 AM. This month's selection is Colton's Steakhouse at 2020 E Independence. Contact Carol Elmore for more information.



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.

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.



Cards & Games Fun Day

Our monthly game day is held on the 4th

Wednesday of every month. Playtime is 1PM to 3PM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join in the fun!

Worship Experiences Coming in November and December

November sermon series: *Mosaic: The broken made beautiful.*

November 1: All Saints Sunday

November 8, 15, and 22nd: Lay testimonies of God's restorative grace.

Advent Sundays: November 29, December 6, 13, 20

December 20: Music Ministry Musical

Quiet Christmas: Tuesday, December 8th, 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24, 8:00pm



Men's Breakfast Friday, October 16th—7:30 AM Village Inn—4222 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.

October Small Group Opportunities

Sundays: 10:30am

Seekers: *The Be Happy Attitudes*, book by Robert Schuller; Room 102-103. Teresa Kays, leader

Selah (Spiritual Formation): *Practicing the Way*, book by John Mark Comer, Asbury Nook (aka, the old library). Nancy Goodwin, facilitator

YAX: Revelation, room 203. Kathy Love, leader.

Tuesdays: *The Book of Joshua*. October 6-27, 10 am in the Asbury Library. Pastor Rachel, leader.

Wednesdays: Bible Book Club, Bible study tools; 6:15pm, room 103. Amy Langston, leader.

Music Department News

We are off to a great start this fall. Thank you to Eden Joseph for playing trumpet that added so much to our service on September 27th. We plan to start our Christmas musical rehearsal on Wednesday, October 28 at 7:40. Anyone is welcome to join us! Thank you, Asbury, for always supporting the Music Department.



Get a Little Nuts for a Great Cause!



The Gifts that Count's nut sale is back, and things are getting a little nutty! Stock up on delicious pecans, cashews, walnuts, peanuts, and more. Perfect for snacking, sharing, gifting, or hiding in the pantry so nobody else eats them.

Ordering will run from October 4th to October 18th. Order forms are available in the Fellowship Hall and the church office. Orders will be ready for pickup on Sunday, November 8th.



CHARGE CONFERENCE

**Sunday, October 11
2:15pm, Room 203**

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.