

THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2026

ASBURY
United Methodist Church

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

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."
– Matthew 18:20

The beauty of mosaic lies in the profound visual and emotional power of assembly. Individual pieces are carefully placed, each one adding its unique quality to help generate the broader design. The artist uses bits of stone, glass, seashells, or ceramic tiles—even random smithereens—arranged and bonded together to tell a story. Our church is a beautiful work of mosaic art—each person purposefully set by God's hand as a necessary part of God's greater design. What a captivating thought!

In our November series, *Mosaic: the broken made beautiful*, we will explore how God pieces together brokenness and transforms imperfect or even discarded fragments into an enduring masterpiece. Each Sunday our message will be offered by one of our Asbury friends as they share their testimony about God taking a broken piece of their life and transforming it into something beautiful.

Friends, each one of you is valuable. Each one has something important to add to the picture of Asbury church. We need you and we need each other as we work together sharing the image of God's love in the world. I invite you prayerfully to consider what role you will serve in our kingdom work in 2027. On Sunday, November 1st, we will set aside time during worship to dedicate to God our commitments—our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness—for our work of building God's kingdom in 2027.

I thank God for each one of you. You are loved!

In Christ,

Rachel

Pastor Rachel Stone

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

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November Sundays:

November 1: All Saints Sunday and Commitment Sunday

November 8, 15, and 22: *Mosaic: the broken made beautiful* lay testimonies
November 8: Becky Dobbs will share the message
November 15: Kat Spohrer will share the message
November 22: Janice Greene will share the message

November 29th: First Sunday in Advent

Asbury Staff

Lead Pastor	Rachel Stone	Alabaster Coordinator	Kat Spohrer
Administrative Assistant	Julia Machin	Children's Ministries	Susan Lamy
Music Director	Kathy Love	Student Ministries	Leon Johnson
		Pianist & Organist	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
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: Jay Polchow, Wendi Polchow, Joan Wilson, Carol Elmore

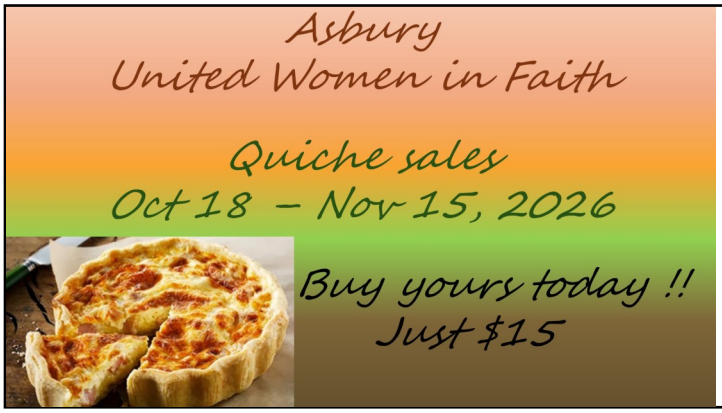
Greeters: Joan Wilson, Karen Nordstrom, Sheryl Hill, Lisa Boyts, Dustin Gardner, Judy Clements, John Fox, Judy Fox, Joyce Booth, Karla Gregg, George Sly

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

Hospitality

One major opportunity to show our hospitality is to provide water and cookies for voters coming to Asbury on Tuesday, November 3rd. There's still time to sign up to run by the church to bring some cookies, or just to check on the table in the south entryway to see if cookies, water and napkins are all available and to give a warm greeting to any voters you see.

Another church activity which always needs some extra hospitable activity is the Fifth Sunday Potluck. On November 29th come prepared to stay—and help with anything you notice that needs attention, from setup to cleanup. Encourage everyone to stay even if they just walked in and were unaware of our planned lunch. I don't think we've ever run out of food!



UWF Quiche Sale

Asbury United Women in Faith is having our annual quiche sale from October 18 to November 14. Each quiche is $15, and boy is it worth it! They are delicious! Proceeds from our sales go to support the global missions of the United Women in Faith, as well as the local missions of our unit, which include Crosslines, Rainbow Network, Pastor's Help Fund, and Children and Youth Ministries. Contact Susan Cox or the church office for more information.

Check It Out!



It's not the first time I've been attracted by a title, but who could resist How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People? Note the attention-getting words 'simple' and 'normal'!

It is written by Pete Greig, the author of one of the books we used as a church wide study, God on Mute. The first section, How to P.R.A.Y., lays out the structure: Step 1, Pause; Step 2, Rejoice; Step 3, Ask; Step 4: Yield, leading up to "Amen."

Among my favorite features are the ten two-page inserts of "Heroes of Prayer." The first one is called "Hero of Simple Prayer: Susanna Wesley," Two other recognizable "heroes" are Hero of Petition, Corrie ten Boom, and Hero of Unanswered Prayer, Joni Eareckson Tada.

Grieg is an authority on simple, honest, straightforward, from the heart praying, and this book can help you start on a lifelong practice.

UWF

The UWF is having an ordinary month of regular circle meetings, and an extraordinary month of quiche sales and preparation!

Calendar

Nov.	9	Naomi Ruth Circle, 6:30
	11	Mary Martha Circle, 1:00
	11	One Heart Circle, 5:15
	11-14	Quiche Prep
	15	Quiche sales end
	19-21	Quiche Prep
	21-22	Quiche Pickup



Carol Fritts, Teresa Kays, Regan Spargo, Susan Cox, John Fuge & family, Ella Hostetler, Georgianne Sly, Peggy Brown & family, Ruth Spargo, Amy Langston, Judy Clements, Kathy Love, Glenda Hefty, George Sly, Janet Bowman

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



Our Power of Love collection for November is AsBearies! Please help fill the pews with lovable new stuffed animals to be distributed to children in need.

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.



November 1
All Saints Sunday
Program Staff Meeting

November 3
Election Day

November 5
Mission Springfield

November 9
Naomi Ruth Circle

November 11
Mary Martha Circle
One Heart in Christ Circle

November 12
Lunch Bunch
Mission/Vision

November 18
Crosslines Serve Day

November 20
Men's Breakfast

November 21
UWF Quiche Distribution

November 25
Cards & Games Fun Day

November 26
Happy Thanksgiving!

November 27
Hanging of the Greens

November 29
Fifth Sunday Potluck

November Birthdays



Nancy Mikaelian

Jack Gladson

Becky Dobbs

Sophia Brown

Karla Carroll

Ginny Oliver

Regan Spargo

Tim Mills

Vicki Cline

Joan Lewis

Amanda Hinkle

Judy Fox

Mark Gideon

Kimberlea Gray

Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Thursday, November 12th, at 11:30 AM. This month's selection is Springfield Family Restaurant at 2222 S Campbell. Contact Carol Elmore for more information.



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 December

December sermon series*: Unwrapping the Names of Jesus**

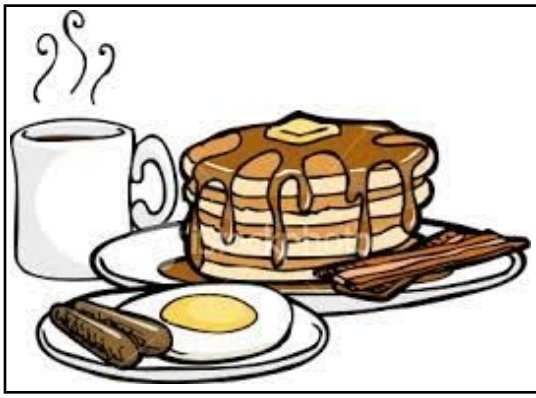
Worship experiences:

Sundays, November 29, December 6, 13, 20**, 9:15am
Tuesday, December 8, 6:30pm: Quiet Christmas
Thursday, December 24, 8:00pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service
Sunday, December 27, 9:15am: Breakfast Church, carols and devotion in Fellowship Hall

Midweek Advent Study led by our lay leader, Becky Dobbs

Tuesday mornings at 10AM on December 1, 8, 15, and 22nd. More details to come!

*Referencing the book *Unwrapping the Names of Jesus: An Advent Devotional*, by Asheritah Ciuciu
**Special Musical presented by our Music Ministries during worship on December 20th.



Men's Breakfast
Friday, November 20th—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.

Financial News

As of 09/30/2026:

Contributions for September: $9,818
Contributions Budget: $15,333
Contributions YTD: $135,012
Budget YTD: $138,000

Other Income YTD: $42,895*
Other Income Budget YTD: $32,909
Expenses YTD: $170,073
Budget YTD: $204,744

Restricted Fund Use (CWS, Apportionments, etc.)

September: $1,559
Budget: $433
YTD: $2,334
Budget YTD: $3,900

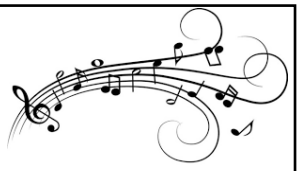
Apportionments

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

*Includes load of $9,800 from Restricted Funds

As we approach the end of the year we are behind in our apportionment obligation to the Missouri Conference. Apportionments, like local church offerings, are the lifeblood of many life-changing ministries within our denomination and conference. Asbury's financial partnership in the shared ministry of The United Methodist Church and the Missouri Conference makes a real difference locally and in communities across Missouri and beyond. Asbury's apportionment gifts make numerous positive outcomes possible in our collective, connectional ministry as the Missouri Conference. Please mark your above and beyond giving towards this as "Apportionments."

Music Department News



Please join us for a special time as we share song and fellowship with our members who are homebound or in the hospital. Meet on Sunday, December 13th, at 2:15 at Asbury. Song sheets and jingle bells will be provided. All are welcome to help spread the holiday cheer, even if you don't feel like you can sing. We will meet back at the church after caroling for chili and soup. Contact Kathy Love if you have any questions.



Watch for details about a special creative arts project we will introduce as part of our *Mosaic* series. There will be something for each person to add!

Thanks to Susan Lamy for coordinating this project.

One Heart in Christ Circle



One Heart Circle will be serving the Unsheltered Community Supper on Friday, December 4th. Please contact Sheryl Hill for more information if you are interested in helping.



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.