



The Asbury BEACON

October 2021

Volume 21, Number 6

THE VISION OF ASBURY

*To Make Disciples for
Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World.*

THE MISSION OF ASBURY

*To inspire People of
All Generations to
Love, Learn and Lead Through
Worship, Education, and Service.*

THE ASBURY MOTTO

*No Matter Where You Are on
Life's Journey, You are Welcome Here!*

If you have been in the Sanctuary during the month of September, you may have noticed an unusual, and I think, interesting chancel display created by our Chancel Design Team. What is displayed is a collection of masks from different places all over the world. Several of them are from my own personal collection, gathered over the past 30 years or so. The last one was picked up while in Jamaica, and the one before that was while on a mission trip in Haiti. It seems that most of the countries I have visited have masks of some kind, including the masks that can be bought in New Orleans, though they are mostly tied to celebrating Mardi Gras. I find masks to be interesting, and colorful, and emotive. Some are playful, others are scary.



The reason masks were chosen for September is because I wanted to offer a series on the heroes of Scripture who at critical points in their life turned away and tried to hide from God. I also wanted to shine a light on the “masks” that each of us are tempted to wear from time to time, behind which we hide our true selves. How many times has someone asked you how you were and you responded, “I’m good”, even when you were anything but good? How many times, have you hidden your anger, behind a smile? When was the last time that you honestly disclosed to someone the hurts upon your heart? When have you worked to “tone down” your enthusiasm about something or someone because it didn’t fit in with being an “adult”? I could go on and on listing examples of times when we have worn various masks, so to present to the world a presence that seemed most appropriate at least in our own minds.

May I state here and now that such behavior is often damaging to oneself? Also, such efforts never fool our God. Just as God “saw through” the hiding of the heroes of the Bible, God sees through the masks that we wear. I believe that God is able to handle and manage the complexities of who we are and how we feel at any given moment. I think God wants a relationship that is 100% genuine, “warts and all”, as a former Sunday School teacher often told us.

Perhaps it is time for us lay down our masks before the altar of God, and work to offer God and one another a true presentation of ourselves. I’m not giving permission for anyone to be destructive or abusive in their venting. I’m encouraging an open disclosure of the urgings on one’s mind, the hurt on one’s spirit, the almost bursting joy on one’s heart. True intimacy requires some risk taking and grace giving, safe spaces and receptive hearing.

May we take the risks to be genuine to ourselves, to God and to one another.

Grace and peace,
Laura

ASBURY'S STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
FAITH KIRCH

**ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR/
DISCIPLE DEVELOPMENT**
MAX BOVEE

BROADCAST MINISTRY
BOB KURTZ

CHILD CARE WORKER
ASHLEE WELDON

CLEANING SERVICES
FRANCES GOUTREMOUT

CONGREGATIONAL CARE
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FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE
DARLENE WELBOURN

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
DAN WEBB

TREASURER
DEBORAH VANHOUTEN

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PASTOR
REV. LAURA CALOS



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ASBURY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!

The leaves on the trees are changing into the beautiful colors of Autumn. Our summer activities are now warm memories and we are gearing up for the activities and the sights, smells and sounds of Autumn. God invites us to experience the colors of hope, peace, joy and love here at Asbury UMC as we strive to become disciples of Jesus Christ!

**Nursery for mom, dad
and little ones in the
back of the rotunda**

**Organizational Meeting for
Red Bird Mission Trip
October 11th
7:00 p.m.**

**CALLING ALL
ASBURY SHEPHERDS
For dessert & connections
October 12th**

**FALL RUMMAGE SALE
Oct. 29 and 30, 8:30-1:00
Wesley Hall
Including a Halloween bake sale!**

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
OCTOBER 17TH**

*For more details on the above opportunities,
READ ON!*

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, And do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ~ Matthew 19:14

We welcome all children to our service.

If your little one is not enjoying having to sit still, we have an area in the back of the rotunda with quiet toys and coloring pages where they can play and wiggle and you can still participate in and enjoy the service while supervising them there. There are comfy chairs for you there.

Myrtie



THE 2 NEW BANNERS YOU SEE ON THE PILLARS IN THE SANCTUARY WERE MADE BY

The Asbury Loving Stitches Quilt Group.

One banner features **musical notes** and the other banner features **hand bells**. Please thank Myrtie Schilling, Deb VanHouten and Lynn Morgan for their efforts.

The Quilt Group meets at 9:00 a.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month except for July and August
Sewers are welcome. Machines, tools and fabric are supplied.

Dear Friends,

I want to take this moment to thank all of you who shared in any way in the recent reception held in my honor at Stone Presbyterian Church here in Watertown. I am humbly grateful to have been able to share so many memories with those whose paths have crossed mine in these nearly 50 years of ministry in Watertown and the surrounding area, especially those forged in my life with the Asbury faith community. Asbury has been "home" to Myrtie and our family while I have journeyed throughout the community in fulfilling my call and for that I am especially thankful. We have been richly blessed. I look forward to continuing this walk together.

*Grace and Peace,
Toby (Rev. Leon "Toby" Schilling)*

ASBURY'S MISSION TEAM

The purpose of the Mission Team is to create and facilitate opportunities to help people in our local, state, national and worldwide communities.

Asbury's Mission Team met at the Parsonage @ 7 PM, Monday, September 13, 2021.

Paul Simmons, Chair of Salvation Army's Advisory Board, introduced Captain Dom Nickles, newly-arrived at our local corps. Captain Dom outlined several elements of the corps' program including 1,200 kids helped at Christmas, 37,000 meals served last year, 800 meals served at Thanksgiving, children's and youth programs and plans for future building expansion. The real need now is for youth programs. Paid staff includes 2 Captains (Dom and wife Elizabeth) and 2 assistants. All other work is done by volunteers. Approximately 90% of the money raised locally remains in Watertown.

A volunteer work trip to Red Bird Mission, Kentucky, during the week of April 3 - 10, 2022, (Holy Week and School Vacation) was discussed. The cost is \$600.00 for each person, covering travel, room & board and supplies for the project. Scholarship aid through the Mission Team has been available in the past. First UMC is also involved.

Kerry Roberge presented information regarding the Tunnel-2-Towers project dealing with home construction/remodeling for victim families of the Terrorist Attack on New York City and Washington on September 11, 2001. This was discussed, but a decision to donate was held over. Information was distributed for our consideration.

David had a good visit with Erin, Kiley and Kristen at the Victims Assistance Center in Watertown discussing mostly local sex trafficking and child abuse. Their Safe Harbor Program deals with these issues. Asbury has already donated \$1,250 to the VAC including \$1,000.00 from the Mission budget and \$250 from individuals. A program at Asbury, to raise awareness of these issues and seek out volunteers (Hot Line, counselors, etc.) was discussed but no action was taken.

Financial Commitments made:

- \$2,000 for our 2022 commitment to Dr. Mark Zimmerman, United Methodist Missionary in Nepal
- \$750 to Utica Neighborhood Center, which provides child care and family services to the Utica community.
- \$1,000 to Watertown Salvation Army for children and youth programs
- \$1,000 to MELT (Malawi Early Literacy Team) for their work in Malawi, Africa, supplying culturally appropriate early literacy materials and readers to twenty schools in the Northern Region of Malawi, Africa.

If you have mission projects that you would like the Mission Team to consider or if you would like to be a part of the Mission Team, please contact David Simmons at 315-816-8633.

MISSION TRIP PLANNED TO RED BIRD IN BEVERLY, KENTUCKY.

April 9-16, 2022

We will be having an **organizational meeting** at Asbury, on **October 11 at 7 PM.**

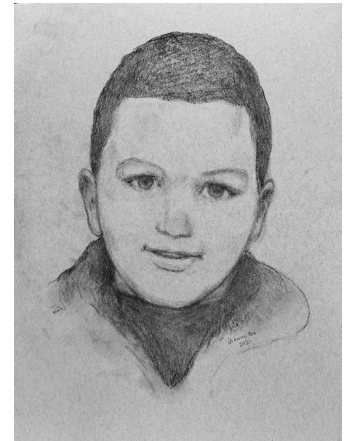
This will take about 1 1/2 hours.

UNYC TASK FORCE ON PEACE WITH JUSTICE IN PALESTINE/ISRAEL

For more than 30 years United Methodists from Upper New York (and the WNY and NCNY Annual Conferences that preceded it) have been “Getting off the bus” to meet Palestinian families when we have been on Holy Land tours. Sharing meals and hearing stories built relationships that have continued and grown over the years and now we want to share “Our Family in Palestine” with churches in Upper NY, so you can hear their “Cry for Hope” and we can help you carry out the “Because We Care” resolution passed at annual conference in 2021.

https://issuu.com/uppernewyork/docs/working_journal_vol._i_2021/s/12232556

Task Force member Dianne Roe from Corning First United Methodist Church spent 14 years in Palestine with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT). Her work was supported by the NCNY annual conference. In 2002 she was living in the village of Beit Ummar where she was a neighbor to the alAlami family. Eleven year old Muhammad alAlami was killed by Israeli soldiers in late July. She sketched his portrait and wrote the following reflection.



Our Family in Palestine-Beit Ummar By Dianne Roe

I looked at the photo in the B'Tselem (Israeli non-governmental Human Rights organization) report of the July 28, 2021 killing of an eleven year old boy in the West Bank village of Beit Ummar and I wondered if I knew his family when I lived in the village nineteen years ago.

Muhammad alAlami was killed by Israeli forces as he traveled with his father and two siblings in their hometown of Beit Ummar. http://www.btselem.org/press_releases/20210803_video_footage_proves_israeli_soldiers_shot_and_killed_11_year_old_muhammad_abu_sarah_had_no_reason_to_open_fire

I sketched his portrait above and noticed that he looked so much like the other children we met as we were preparing to move into one of the apartments that Abu Nabel AlQam had built for his sons in a three story building near Beit Ummar Junction. The first and second story apartments were already occupied by the older sons and their families. There was one apartment on the top floor that was vacant because the youngest son was still single and living next door with his parents.

The year was 2002. I had already been with CPT (Christian Peacemaker Teams) in Hebron-Al-Khalil for seven years and had met many families in neighboring villages. The municipality of Beit Ummar asked if we could have a presence in the village. Mary Lawrence, JoAnne Lingle, and I moved into the AlQam apartment. We were three women in our sixties, sent by supporting churches to be a non-violent presence in places of conflict. JoAnne was supported by Mennonites. Mary and I were both supported by our respective United Methodist Annual Conferences and by GBGM (General Board of Global Ministries).

That is how I happened to be living in the wonderful farming village of Beit Ummar - seven or eight years before Muhammad alAlami was born. He lived just behind the cemetery above the junction- a very dangerous place to live if the forces (Israeli) that are occupying and confiscating your land are planning on “cleansing” the lands bordering the road of Palestinian families. Unfortunately for the alAlami family, their family property bordered the road and was close to the junction. Israeli forces who guard the junction, either from a high tower or on foot, are on the lookout for “suspicious” activity. The soldier who killed eleven year old Muhammad thought that his father backing up his car was “suspicious” so he fired live ammunition at the car, killing Muhammad. Nineteen years earlier, about a week before JoAnne, Mary, and I were moving into our flat in Beit Ummar, the Israeli military shot and killed Muhammad’s uncle, Amjad alAlami because picking mint in the garden next to the house was “suspicious”. In the days that followed as the family gathered to grieve Amjad, Israeli military shot and killed his cousin Nidal. We moved to our apartment a few days later and happened to be walking behind members of the alAlami family on their way to the cemetery. That is how I met Um Nidal, and why I added a portrait of her to a mural I was painting in The Galilee. But that’s another story. I’ll tell you about it next time along with Beit Ummar involvement in Bereaved Families.

GREETINGS FROM THE TRUSTEES

Over the last two months we have a number of projects keeping us busy. With all the rain we have had this summer, it is a good thing our new roof was installed a year ago. This summer we have been working on our parsonage property. The driveway was sealed in August. We discovered the garage needs a new roof. It has been patched for this year and we are set to select a contractor to install a new roof next Spring. Jim Rafferty has pressure-washed, scraped, primed, and painted the garage door. A big "thank you" goes to Jim.

At the church we need to replace a storage shed that houses bagged salt, a lawn mower, the snow blower, and wagons that New Day CC use to give small children rides. This will likely be accomplished next year.

A major concern is an aged piece of equipment that is part of our main boiler system. This is a holding tank that contains a sump pump and receives returning water from our radiators and recycles it to the boiler. Age and rust have worked their wonders. Replacing this system is estimated to cost about \$4,500, plus removing the old system and installing the new one. We may be in the neighborhood of \$6,000 for this project. If this system fails during the heating season, we have been told it will take 4-6 weeks to get a replacement. The boiler would not function during this time. The Trustees think this should be done before the heating season starts.

We are also looking at contracts for snow plowing our parking lots and snow and ice removal on our sidewalks.

As you can see, the Trustees are staying busy! Best wishes to everyone this Fall. See you in church.

Glen Snell, Trustee

From Our Assistant to the Pastor - Max Bovee

Lancaster Bus Trip – 56 adults took advantage of our annual overnight trip to Lancaster county in Pennsylvania on September 30th and October 1st. Seeing "Queen Esther" at the Sight and Sound theatre was the highlight. A visit to the Amish Village, shopping and the enjoyment of great Pennsylvania Dutch food made the trip complete.

Study of Esther – 28 adults studied the book of Esther during a five-session Bible Study, preceding our trip and were enlightened. Thanks to all participants.

AMF – Asbury Men's Fellowship – We were pleasantly surprised last month with our first visit to IHOP. Therefore, we will continue to meet there for the foreseeable future at 8:00 a.m., on the 1st Saturday of the month, for breakfast, devotions by Max, and a project to follow if available. When you enter IHOP, our dining room is to your immediate right. Please join us!

Celebrating Asbury Banquet – About 30 Asburians enjoyed a sumptuous meal, followed by entertainment in Wesley Hall on September 24th. Randy Jerome's Catering from Adams Center made the evening special. Many thanks for those who joined us.



Assembling Baggies for Watertown School Staff October 3rd – After Church

We at Asbury are spreading LOVE and THANKS to organizations throughout our community. In October, we will be honoring all teachers and staff across the Watertown School District – 700 hardworking people, who educate and care for our kids.

We offer our appreciation once again for the items you donated in the big box. We asked for individually wrapped chocolate, and you came through! Thank you very much.

Right after church, on October 3rd we began with pizza and then got busy assembling all the baggies for 700 people. We delivered our ‘thank you baggies’ to the Watertown Schools the week of October 4th.

Where should Asbury Spread our Love Next? ***We Crave Your Ideas.***

So far, we have visited and honored the following:

- Watertown Fire Department
- Watertown Police Department
- Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department
- Samaritan Medical Center – Admin Staff

Please reach out to either Lisa Smith or Melanie Rafferty with your ideas.

Thank you for helping with Asbury’s efforts to spread both love and community awareness of Asbury’s caring and discipleship presence.

Melanie Rafferty and Lisa Smith (Co-Chairs, Membership & Evangelism)
315 783 1105 315 778 4173



SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK - Submitted by Max Bovee

October 3: Ephesians 4:2

“Be completely humble and gentle.”

October 10: Philippians 1:6

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

October 17: Colossians 3:13

“Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

October 24: Colossians 4:5

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.”

October 31: I Timothy 4:16

“Watch your life and doctrine closely.”

Dessert & Connection – Oct 12th **Calling All Asbury Shepherds!**

All Asbury Shepherds are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the “Dessert and Connection” on October 12th in the Parlor at 7:00 pm.

Besides enjoying dessert and coffee, we will chat about:

- *Our Experiences thus far*
- *Our joys and our challenges*
- *Questions we may have about how to navigate unique circumstances*
- *The joy of learning from Others*



Pastor Laura will be able to offer us her spiritual and insightful guidance about how to navigate unique situations that may arise. Besides enjoying some social time with one another, we promise that this will be a useful learning experience for all.

Shepherding, as you know, is a wonderful way for us to stay in touch and show we care. This is indeed an important Asbury mission. We say **Thank You** to all Asbury Shepherds who make connections with members of our church family!

Anyone can be a shepherd. If you have a caring spirit, you care about the Asbury Church Family, and you are interested in providing a connection with others, then you too can be a shepherd. **Everyone is invited to come on October 12th** if this is something you might want to explore.

Melanie Rafferty
315 783 1105

Lisa Smith
315 778 4173

CELEBRATING AUTUMN WITH *Haiku*

Haiku is a form of poetry consisting of 3 lines that tells about nature and one little moment in time taken from real experience. People seem attracted to the simplicity of the haiku form - that is, simply noticing, noting and recording moments that are happening around us. Think of haiku as “word shots” in place of snapshots.

Here are a few of John Scarlett’s about autumn. Pause after reading each one before going on to the next and “experience the moment” he is offering.

restless	geese	autumn wind
all night	excited to come	a gust
full moon too	excited to go	of starlings

(Parts of the above were taken from an article in the Hammond Presbyterian Church newsletter, written by Liz Scarlett)

Here is one I wrote:

cars stopped
waiting
family of geese crossing the road

Try it! See what “word shots” you can produce

Sue Beaman



October 1 Gerald Tucker
 October 3 Mark Robinson
 October 3 William Palmer
 October 3 Phyllis Sayers
 October 6 Karen Hill
 October 9 Marianne Scott
 October 9 Cynthia Murphy
 October 10 Eleanor Cerow
 October 11 Greta Bovee
 October 13 Myrtie Schilling
 October 14 Ora Phillips
 October 14 Leah Mae Carlisle
 October 16 Miyako Tanabe
 October 18 Christopher Coles
 October 20 Michael Doe
 October 20 Nancyy Doe
 October 25 Dorothy Carlo
 October 28 Kimberly Welt

October 06, 2007 Jeffrey and Kathryn Sero
 October 12, 1985 Herbert and Deborah Van Houten
 October 27, 2018 Christopher and Danielle Coles
 October 28, 1977 Willy and Darlene Welbourn
 October 28, 2006 Aaron and Stacie Johnson
 October 30, 1971 Louis and Nancy Dolloway
 October 30, 2009 James and Carol Wright

*May you always be warmed by each other's smile,
 Always take time to walk and talk awhile,
 Always know deep down you're each other's best friend,
 And enjoy the kind of love that grows and knows no end.
 Wishing you an 'always' kind of love!*

- Author Unknown

Happy Birthday to You!

Starting in October we will celebrate everyone's birthday for that month on the first Sunday of each month.

So, on your birth month, we invite you to come to church so you can have one of the first pieces of birthday cake that will be served during Coffee Fellowship Time in the Rotunda. We want to celebrate YOU!

We believe this will start a positive and fun new tradition for our Asbury family.

Melanie Rafferty (315-783-1105) and Lisa Smith (315-778-4173)
(Co-Chairs, Membership Evangelism)



These in our Asbury Family, pictured above, will be celebrating a birthday in October. We all enjoyed cake in their honor after worship on 10/3.

The deadline for the NOVEMBER Newsletter will be October 20th Please send articles in "Microsoft Word" format to Sue Beaman at wfpsec@gmail.com with cc: Asbury@gisco.net . Please send pictures as an attachment. If you don't have the ability to type them in "Microsoft Word," please bring them to the church office and Faith will type them and email them to me. Thanks for your contributions and help with our newsletter.

Sue Beaman

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Address Service Requested



Join us for
SUNDAY WORSHIP
at
8:15 a.m.
10:15 A.M.

AUTUMN

*Although I like each season,
There's none I hold more dear
Than on these bright blue-amber days
When autumntime is here.*

*The hills are flaunting red and gold
To mark October's day;
A view that is so dazzling
It takes our breath away.*

*The tawny fields so peaceful,
The harvest gathered in,
Our barns and bins now overflow
With God's good gifts again.*

*The sugar maple trees aflame
Neath sky of sapphire blue;
A picture only God could paint
And send each year anew.*

*I count all seasons beautiful,
Each one our Lord has blessed
But none uplifts my heart so much
As Autumn's warm caress.*

Kay Hoffman

Who Is Asbury United Methodist Church?

*We invite you to open this newsletter and meet the
People of Asbury United Methodist Church.*



WELCOME AUTUMN

*No Matter Where You Are on Life's Journey,
You are Welcome Here!*