



The Asbury BEACON

February 2022

Volume 22, Number 1

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!*

Pastoral Letter: "Stretching Ourselves to YES!"

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:4-7

I'm here to suggest that we welcome 2022 with a new motto, "Stretching Ourselves to YES!"

These past 2 years have been very difficult for all of us. So much of our lives have been curtailed in big ways and small. There was a time when we could not gather as a church. We were also encouraged to not gather in groups greater than 10 or 12 in number. We felt prevented from visiting loved ones. We stopped traveling for vacation. Our schools went to remote learning. We stopped going to stores and restaurants. Even tiny gestures like the blowing out of candles, has been curtailed. We have had to endure the wearing of masks for all of this time, and will likely have to do so going forward. Its been a poopy and pouting experience. As a pastor, I'm concerned that this negativity has become habitual for us. This isn't the people God has called us to be. We need to conquer this malaise with a contagious joy that startles and renews life around us.

Saying "No" is easy. It doesn't require listening and further discussion. "No" is a shut door. However, being a Christian, we are asked to live in the "Positive" frame of mind. We are to be grateful and thankful and always hopeful. Saying "Yes" stretches us and commits us into being a member of a new plan, a new direction. It encourages future discussion and opens the possibilities to new ventures and new ministries.

I want to challenge Asbury to resist the use of the word "No" for the coming year. Any proposals, ideas, plans, endeavors, suggestions, should be met with a positive response. It won't be easy at first, but I believe it is very possible and even playful. In order to encourage compliance, we have created a "No Jar." Every time we are caught giving a negative response we are encouraged to place in the jar an offering for Missions.

Let us "stretch ourselves to yes" this coming year, growing into the land of the possible.

Grace and peace,
Laura



ASBURY'S STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
FAITH KIRCH

BROADCAST MINISTRY
BOB KURTZ

CLEANING SERVICES
FRANCES GOUTREMOUT

CONGREGATIONAL CARE
PAMELA QUIMBY
DARLENE WELBOURN

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
DAN WEBB

TREASURER
DEBORAH VANHOUTEN

MAINTENANCE
WILLIAM NOVISKII

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DIRECTOR**
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MUSIC PROGRAM STAFF

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MELANIE RAFFERTY
MICHELLE RUDD
LISA SMITH
HELEN TIMERMAN
BINA WEST
MARTHA JABLONSKI

PASTOR
REV. LAURA CALOS



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Asbury Church Leadership - CHURCH COUNCIL 2022

Listed below are the Church Council members and their committee for 2022:

Rev. Laura Calos

Pastor

Jim Rafferty

Chairperson, Church Council

Michelle Rudd

Children/Youth/Sunday School

Lisa Smith (Co-Chair)

**Christian Connections
(formerly Membership & Evangelism)**

Melanie Rafferty (Co-Chair)

**Christian Connections
(formerly Membership & Evangelism)**

Joanne Rhode

Finance

Dan Webb

Financial Secretary

Deb Van Houten

Financial Treasurer

Orie Phillips

Lay Leaders

Lindsay Webb

Lay Member to Annual Conference

Grace Burke

Memorials & Gifts

Kerry Roberge

Missions

Myrtie Schilling (Co-Chair)

**Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee
(PSPRC)**

Sue Snell (Co-Chair)

**Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee
(PSPRC)**

Glen Snell

Trustees

Sue Snell

United Methodist Women

Krista Juczak

Worship & Music

Carol Plemons

Member-at-Large

Bruce Irwin

Member-at-Large

Feel free to reach out and contact these members
with your ideas and concerns.

Peace,

Jim Rafferty
Chairperson, Asbury Church Council

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- 1 Peter 4:10-11

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Trustee Mark Robinson has moved to the Atlanta, Georgia area. His efforts and expertise in our re-roofing, painting, and structural improvements in the attic project in 2020, were outstanding. In the John Wesley tradition of sharing your talents, Mark's work was a fine example. The gift of sharing his knowledge was greatly appreciated. We wish Mark and Roxanne our best.

We welcome Bill Smith as a new Trustee. Bill brings new ideas and enthusiasm to this position. We look forward to his addition.

One major project has been completed—repairs to the heating system. This was accomplished by McCabe's Mechanicals, Inc. We ordered and waited about 8 weeks for all the parts. They accomplished the following:

1. Installed new boiler feed pump system, with condensate receiver, automatic make-up water system and sight gauge.
2. Removed old rusted-out condensate tank, pump and piping.
3. Modified new system to pipe in existing return main.
4. Removed rusted-out pipe and fittings on return lines.
5. Installed new Hoffman VBF Boiler-feed system.
6. Installed new return piping and valve.
7. Installed new pump discharge piping, valves and gauge.
8. The new Hoffman Fed Pump System and freight cost \$4,500 alone.

Total bill for parts, valves, piping, gauge, modifications, labor, and new pump was \$11,064.67. Your contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) helped pay this bill.

A large area of the attic has been covered with 16" of blown insulation. We are trying to prevent the ice buildup experienced last year along Parker St. roof. This insulation should reduce the heat loss from the sanctuary that led to the ice problem. This project cost \$2,400. Your contributions to the CIF helped pay for this, also.

The walls on the left balcony stairway are finished and look great! Damage was due to both old water leaks and the age of the plaster. The hall ceiling in front of the parlor was deteriorating. There were cracks in the plaster due to the separation of the plaster and lathe underneath. This was an age-related problem. The plaster will be stabilized by drawing it back to the lathe with special screws. Once stabilized, a thin coat of plaster is applied, then primed, and painted. This is on-going with the age of this structure.

Soon scaffolding will be set up to start the work on the ceiling in the rotunda area at the back of the church. We are very fortunate to have Allside Painting operated by Marty Patchen with the help from Chris Patchen Construction doing this work. Marty's experience and expertise are critical in preservation work. I called on Marty the first time in 1991. His knowledge of our building is extensive.

Glen Snell, Trustee



by Jane Eastham

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.” No doubt many of you are familiar with the Serenity Prayer, but did you know that it is the most recited prayer throughout the world? That may be because 12-step programs like Alcoholics Anonymous have adopted it as their own.



Written by 20th-century American Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr in the early 1930s, the prayer has appeared in a number of different variations with the above version being the most popular today. Did you also know that there is a long version of the Serenity Prayer? It is printed here:

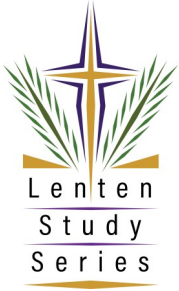
*God, grant me the Serenity
To accept the things I cannot change...
Courage to change the things I can,
And Wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it.
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His will.
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with Him forever in the next.
Amen.*

That the Serenity Prayer is not biblical in no way detracts from its power. It conveys a message of comfort, peace, hope, and grace. I rely on the Serenity Prayer nearly every day. It has taught me that, although life is filled with suffering, I can choose to find contentment and quiet joy in every circumstance. And what a relief to know that He is in charge so I no longer have to struggle for control of things that are out of my hands! Life is fragile and unpredictable. And, so, my hope rests in Jesus, trusting that He will make all things right in God’s perfect time.

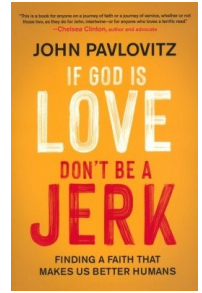
My prayer for you, then, is that you also might find strength and encouragement in the words of the Serenity Prayer. Repeat it out loud until you have it memorized, and then carry it with you wherever you go. I promise, it could change your life.

Watch for more “Did You Know...?” articles in future issues of the Asbury Beacon. If there is a topic or question of particular interest to you and you would like to see it addressed in one of these articles, please call me at 315-804-1350 or email me at urbanmissionjane@yahoo.com.



SIX WEDNESDAYS beginning March 2, 2022, 6:30 p.m. (via Zoom)

*"If God Is Love Don't Be a Jerk:
Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans."*



I've been perusing a number of books on faith and practice this fall, and have chosen one for our Lenten Adult Study. I was intrigued by the title, and decided to give it a closer look. In this book, the author, John Pavlovitz, challenges the church and more particularly the Christians from which the church is comprised, to live out their faith in ways that are loving and redemptive. He forcefully pokes holes in our assumptions about those who are included in the beloved society and those who are not. He challenges us on what "loving our neighbor as ourselves" must really look like, if we are to be genuine to this commandment. His writing made me uncomfortable at times, because it brought to light those places where I need to expand my faith and practice. I want to invite you to come and be uncomfortable with me. We'll grow together.

You can purchase the book in a number of formats through Amazon.com. It comes as a paperback, as an audiobook and as a kindle. I hope you will join me in this study.

Grace and peace,
Laura

Update from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

Congratulations Asbury!

Once again, Asbury United Methodist Church was celebrated by the conference for paying our Shared Ministry commitment in full! Our full payment for 2021 was \$33,132. This amount is calculated by our conference based on our operating income that is reported in our annual statistical report. The money collected goes to the following:

Ministerial Support, Conference Connectional Ministries, General (Global) Connectional Ministries and Administrative Ministries. Some items that are covered are to teach, ordain, appoint, develop and support clergy. Leadership training is provided. Camp and Retreat Ministries are supported as well as global organizations that reach throughout the world.

When you support Asbury, you support a much larger community. The Finance Committee is grateful for all that you do!

Joanne Rhode, chairperson

FROM ASBURY'S MISSION COMMITTEE

Greetings and congratulations from the Missions Committee here at Asbury! As we begin the New Year we want to take this opportunity to share with you some very important information including the report of your efforts to support the work of local, state, and worldwide mission efforts. During the year 2021 the Missions Committee was able to facilitate the distribution of your offerings and contributions in the amount of \$9180 in financial gifts as well as over 20,000 food items for the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry! That is something of which you should be truly proud!

Listed below are the names of the groups and organizations that Asbury currently supports or is considering supporting but there are, of course, many more possibilities. The Committee has given a great deal of thought to the decisions we have made and will continue to attempt to reach out to a diversity of causes both local, state, national and international in scope. With this in mind we would also like to engage you further in our work. We will appreciate your response to the following questions:

Perhaps there are others that you would like to suggest we support? Do you have any thoughts or suggestions you would like to offer with regard to the organizations we are currently supporting? Is there any other feedback you would like to offer the Committee?

If you would like to respond to these questions or other issues or concerns we invite you to reach out to us by calling the church office (315-782-3240), sending us an email (asbury@gisco.net) or mailing a note to the church (327 Franklin Street, Watertown, NY 13601). The Committee will respond to you at its earliest convenience.

Finally, a word about the way in which our mission efforts are fiscally supported. There is not currently an item in the Asbury Annual Budget for missions. The income we have available comes directly from you by your gifts and offerings. Those of you who annually ask for an offering envelope will, of course, recall that there is space on each envelope for you to identify your choice of a specific amount you would like to contribute to missions. The same opportunity is available to those who contribute through Online Giving. If you choose to make your offerings in other ways it is also appropriate for you to designate a specific amount to our mission efforts. If you have a specific group or entity you would like to support you can identify that group to us when you submit your offering and we will make that distinction. Finally, if you are not currently contributing to our mission efforts we hope this report will inspire you to consider doing so.

Again, we thank you for your generosity in giving to the mission work of our church. We deeply appreciate your commitment to this most important effort.

Grace and Peace to you from the Missions Committee,

Sue Beaman, Laura Calos, Leah Mae Carlisle, Aaron Johnson, Tamara Klock,
Pam Quimby, Kerry Robarge (chairman), Ben Rudd, Toby Schilling, David Simmons

For your information we would like to share the names of the groups and organizations that benefitted from your generosity as well as some that we have been asked to consider.

Chapin Living Waters

Neighborhood Center of Utica

United Methodist Committee on Relief

Malawi Early Literacy Team

Tunnel to Towers Foundation

Zoe Empowers

Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County

Dr. Mark and Deirdre Zimmerman, United Methodist Missionaries working in Nepal

Watertown Salvation Army

Taking a Short Pause

We are sorry to announce that we will not be hosting Coffee Hour and Fellowship Time due to 2 important reasons:

The increase in COVID numbers

The rotunda being closed off for ceiling painting

The February luncheon will also not occur this month as planned. Month by month, the Christian Connections Committee will assess whether or not we can share a nice pot-luck luncheon after church for everyone.

We love the fellowship, and we miss the fellowship when it cannot occur.

Thank you and love to all of you,

Melanie & Lisa, Co-Chairs of Christian Connections Committee
(formerly Membership & Evangelism Committee)



February is the Month of LOVE !

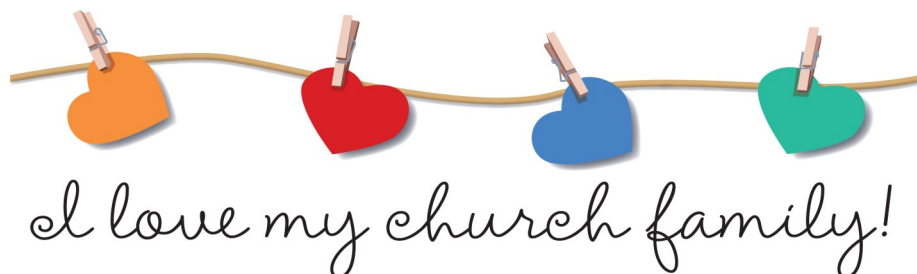
Valentine's Day (as well as the entire month of February) is the perfect time to send cards to your church family, your loved ones, and friends.

Many people are feeling lonely these days due to COVID and the cold weather. What a wonderful way to lift someone's spirits than with a simple note and a card!

How about sending cards to 5 people in the Asbury Church Family?

Let's continue to spread the love that Pastor Laura speaks about so often.

Lovingly,
Christian Connections Committee



I love my church family!

Spring Rummage Sale



JUNE 3-4, 2022

ITEMS NEEDED:

Furniture, dishes,
working small appliances,
jewelry, kitchen implements,
rugs, knick-knacks,
outdoor plants, house plants,
gardening implements,
toys, puzzles, books,
antiques, etc.

**NO COMPUTER EQUIPMENT OR CLOTHING, PLEASE.
ANY QUESTIONS, Call Susan Snell, 315- 782-8235.**



Do you have clothing items to give away? The ROCK CLOSET on State Street, behind the First Baptist Church is accepting good used clothing. They are especially looking for men's jeans, t-shirts, socks; men's, women's and children's winter coats, hats and gloves. Also needed are blankets, sheets and towels. Donated items are given away. The Rock Closet is open and will accept donations on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-2. Stop in and take a look around!

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK - Submitted by Max Bovee

February 6: 1 Chronicles 28:20

*"Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you.
He will not fail you or forsake you."*

February 13: 2 Chronicles 24:19

"He sent prophets to them, but they would not listen."

February 20: Job 5-9

"God does great things, and unsearchable, marvelous things without number."

February 27: Psalm 8:1

"Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth."

Happy Birthday to You!



If you see these January birthday people, please wish them a happy Belated birthday. We look forward to celebrating the February birthdays on the first Sunday of February. See you all there! Lovingly, from the Christian Connections Committee



february BIRTHDAYS

February 3	James Wright	February 12	Jean Sayers
February 3	David Witte	February 12	Adrianna Weldon
February 5	James Rafferty	February 14	Jean Luttmann
February 5	Sue Gamet	February 17	Nicole Lamica
February 5	Deborah Simmons	February 24	Melanie Rafferty
February 8	Carol Plemons	February 24	Bina West
February 9	Karen Boomhower	February 24	Max Bovee



Max and Greeta Bovee
February 18, 1984

*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



*To My Treasured Asbury Family,
The tribute to my 20 year tenure on the Asbury staff
was so very meaningful and appreciated. Your love came
through loud and clear. Many thanks for the lap quilt from our
beautiful quilters, the crown's jewels, and especially the warm
thanks from so many. My time at Asbury has been richly rewarding
and God gets all the credit from working through me. May we
continue to make memories together! Blessings, Max*

Address for Tom Carlisle:

Laurelwood Assisted Living, Room 132,
3797 Summit Glen Drive, Dayton, Ohio
45449, Phone number: 315-778-7510.



Anne Walker passed away
on January 3, 2022.
She was 102 years old.

The deadline for the MARCH Newsletter will be **February 20th**. Please send articles in "Microsoft Word" format to Sue Beaman at wfpsec@gmail.com with cc: Asbury@gisco.net. 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 for you. Thanks for your contributions and help with our newsletter.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WATERTOWN, NY 13601
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Website: www.AsburyUMC.net
www.Facebook.com/Asbury13601

Address Service Requested

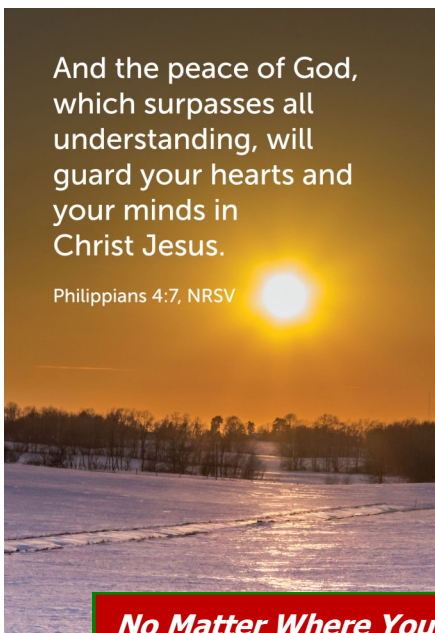


Join us for
SUNDAY WORSHIP
at
8:15 a.m.
10:15 a.m.

Who Is Asbury United Methodist Church?

And the peace of God,
which surpasses all
understanding, will
guard your hearts and
your minds in
Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7, NRSV



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

Rejoice
in **hope**,
be **patient**
in tribulation,
be **constant**
in **prayer**.

Romans 12:12, ESV



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®