



The Asbury BEACON

March 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: Church Membership Invitation

This coming month, I wish to warmly invite anyone who has been regularly attending our worship services, but has not yet joined the church to prayerfully consider becoming a member of Asbury Church now. **I will hold 2 get-togethers on Sundays: March 20th and March 27th in the Parlor from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Then we will take in new members during the worship service on Sunday, April 3rd.**

You may ask, "What does it matter whether I join a church or not? How will it affect me? What is expected of me?" All good questions.

The one who becomes "changed" by joining a congregation as a member is You. The friendships you have already made and the ones you will make aren't dependent on being "papered" as an official Asburian. In fact, the issue of membership will rarely, if ever, come into conversation. Most people aren't concerned about such things.

But as I indicated above, the one who is changed is You. It's like the difference between watching a game from the bleachers versus being in the game directly. A non-member will always be, at some level, an observer of the community of faith. They cannot vote on church matters, hold office on some committees, or participate as fully as those who are members.

When one decides to join a congregation as a member, it is as if he or she is deciding to be a player on the team. One agrees to "roll up their sleeves," enter into the midst of church life, serve more intentionally, and pray more fervently.

Is there a membership fee? Of course not. Everyone gives as they are able either in monetary ways or in service to support the ministry and mission of Asbury church. When one is a part of a team, we expect everyone to simply give their best for the team.

I hope you will consider church membership this year. If you have any questions, please reach out to me either by phone or email or speak with me on Sunday mornings. I want to be the bridge that moves you to "YES."

Grace and peace,

Laura

585-329-9934

rev.lauracalos@gmail.com



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

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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



by Jane Eastham

Most of you know that John Wesley was the founder of the Methodist movement in England. But did you know that Wesley never set out to establish a new denomination separate from the Church of England? Rather, he had hoped to accomplish a revival within the Church itself.

Did you also know that Wesley was plagued with doubts about his faith? And then, on May 24, 1738, while attending a meeting on Aldersgate Street in London, he had a profound spiritual awakening where he said his heart was “strangely warmed.” Wesley wrote of his experience, saying, “I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation, and an assurance was given me that He had taken away *my* sins, even *mine*, and saved *me* from the law of sin and death.”

Wesley was so moved by his Aldersgate experience that he committed himself to sharing the message of salvation with the rest of the England. In fact, he famously said, “I look upon the whole world as my parish.” But the bishops and clergy of Wesley’s day were not so welcoming of his enthusiasm and his passion to share the Good News of the Gospel. Many banned him from their churches. And so, in true Wesleyan fashion, he hopped on his horse and commenced an itinerant ministry that lasted more than 50 years, preaching in fields and in the open air wherever he could. It is said that Wesley rode 250,000 miles, far enough to circle the Earth ten times!! Now that’s dedication! It’s impossible to say how many lives Wesley touched through his ministry.

Perhaps you’ve had the same kind of doubts Wesley had. I know I have. Am I worthy of God’s love and forgiveness? Can God really love someone like me? I take heart from chapter 3 of Paul’s letter to the Romans. Verses 22-24 read: “God’s righteousness comes through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for **all** who have faith in him. There’s no distinction. **All** have sinned and fall short of God’s glory, but **all** are treated as righteous freely by his grace because of a ransom that was paid by Christ Jesus.” (Emphasis added.)

May these words warm your heart, as they have mine, and bring you assurance that God’s grace is sufficient for ALL people and in all circumstances because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That’s the Good News, and that’s the message of hope John Wesley dedicated his life to sharing with others.

Look for more on John Wesley in the next edition of “Did You Know...?”

Update from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

A huge thank you to everyone that supports Asbury through the giving of their time, talents, pledges and prayers! As we move into 2022, please know that we have a very tight budget, and we depend on you. Prices for everyday items are increasing and that has affected Asbury. We are blessed to have many strong programs at Asbury and we thank you, our congregation, for your continued support of them. We truly appreciate it!

Joanne Rhode, chairperson

POT-LUCK LUNCHEON



MARCH 6th, 2022
After Church

We encourage everyone to stay & enjoy fellowship

You may bring a main dish, a side dish, or dessert.

Drinks and table service will be provided

(The March birthday cake will also be provided)

Spring Rummage Sale



JUNE 3 & 4, 2022
8:30-1:30

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.

You may start to bring your items any time. Go to the church office to have Faith open the Wesley Hall door or bring items on Sundays. The office is open 10-2, Monday-Thursday. Thank you.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

In looking at issues that are in the future, painting and repainting projects are always with us. We are currently having the ceiling in the rotunda repaired and repainted. The rotunda ceiling has been with us for about 108 years. This is a major expense and effort. The completion of this project will finish our goal that was started with the new roof in 2020.

We also have other areas that need repainting and updating. We are hoping we can do much of this work with volunteers from within our church family. Some bathrooms need repainting, some lower ceilings, and other areas around the church. This may be a list of projects that will extend over the next few years to complete. Here is what we would like to have you consider:

If you see something that needs attention, please outline your concerns and notify the Trustees. They have a mailbox in the office.

If you would be willing to be a volunteer, contact a Trustee.

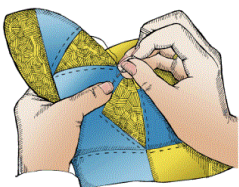
All projects will have to be considered and coordinated by the Trustees.

A major in-house project we will tackle this summer is the refinishing of the doors and woodwork on the outside of the main entrance. This will be coordinated by Jim Juczak. Jim has experience in this type of work and has volunteered to lead our efforts. He wants as many volunteers as we can muster, male and female. Starting in June, he will train and schedule work teams who will work 2-4 hours on 5-6 Saturdays. You will not have to attend every work session, but it will be very helpful if you can. The skills you will learn can be transferred to many other things i.e. stripping and refinishing furniture, etc.

If you are interested in helping with this main entrance project, please contact me at 315-782-8235 so we can create a list of volunteers. Please leave your name and a contact phone number or text 315-778-0170.

Lots of things are happening. Sharing of time and talents in the Wesley tradition strengthens our church. Come be part of this community of faith!

Glen Snell, Trustee



LOVING STITCHES

Asbury's quilting ministry, the **Loving Stitches**, is planning and working on a bazaar for November. Money raised will go to church expenses. If you would like to join us to work on projects, we'd love to have you. We meet on the first, third and fifth (if we have one) Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m., in the Sunday School office. No need to bring anything as we have the projects planned out. If you would like to form another group to make

things, it would be great. Woodworking or yarn crafts might be an idea. You can donate just on your own too. We'd love to have you join us at the quilting group for the fellowship and fun, though. Any questions, please call Myrtie or contact the church office, 315-782-3240.



Please Note the Name Change



We have a new updated name for one of Asbury's most active committees. The new name is **Christian Connections Committee**. It replaces the old name of Membership & Evangelism Committee

You may be wondering what kinds of things does **Christian Connections Committee** do in support of Asbury and beyond?

HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES:

Before worship, we provide a friendly greeting and deliver your prayer requests.

We ensure all newcomers feel like part of our Church Family (and that they are followed up with).

We send out cards, notes, and sometimes deliver plants.

We host Coffee Hour for a shared sense of community.

We host various dinners & events throughout the year.

We support and provide training to all of the Asbury Shepherds.

We ensure there is marketing and promotions on behalf of Asbury (ads, TV, Facebook, website, etc.)

We provide outreach to many organizations within our community: schools, hospital, law enforcement, the military, etc.

We are a bridge with Missions Committee and Sunday School for shared events and functions.

We celebrate birthdays each month.

We welcome new members into our Church Family several times a year.

We place focus on visitation and relationship building.

We promote a sense of Christian community both inside and outside of the church.

People on **Christian Connections Committee:**

Melanie Rafferty & Lisa Smith, Co-Chairs

Laura Galos & Orié Phillips, Advisors

Grace Burke

Pam Quimby

Lenora Forbes

Bill Smith

Anne Marie Gianfagna

Sue Snell

Lorraine Irwin

Carol Stoodley

Jean Marshall

Darlene Town

Martha Peyser



SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK - Submitted by Max Bovee

March 6: Psalm 26:2

"Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my mind and my heart."

March 13: Psalm 42:1

"As the deer pants for the water, so pants my soul for you, O God."

March 20: Psalm 61:8

"I will sing praise to your name forever, that I may daily perform my vows."

March 27: Psalm 66:10

"For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver."

MARCH Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|----------|-------------------|
| March 2 | Jean Gianfagna | March 26 | Jane Eastham |
| March 3 | Brendan Smith | March 27 | Thomas Carlisle |
| March 16 | Patrick Town | March 28 | Anthony Gianfagna |
| March 16 | Miles West | March 28 | Andrew Gianfagna |
| March 17 | Karen Doe | March 28 | Rosemary Denesha |
| March 18 | Connor Lamica | March 31 | Anthony Patrick |
| March 20 | Christopher Jeurissen | | |

A Hearty Thank you!

On behalf of all the staff at Asbury, I want to thank the congregation for the generous and much appreciated holiday bonus we received this month. It certainly felt like the most welcomed of Valentines!

Thank you so much!
Grace and peace,
Laura



Patrick and Darlene Town
March 9, 2009

*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



Phyllis Sayers
passed away on
February 4, 2022.
She was 95 years old.

WHO REDEEMETH THY LIFE

Every word found in all capitals in the passage below is contained within the group of letters.

Psalm 103:1-5

Bless the Lord, O MY SOUL:

and all that is within me, BLESS his HOLY NAME. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all HIS BENEFITS: Who FORGIVETH all thine INIQUITIES; who healeth all thy DISEASES; Who REDEEMETH thy life from DESTRUCTION; who CROWNETH thee with LOVING KINDNESS and TENDER MERCIES; Who SATISFIETH thy mouth with good things; so that thy YOUTH is renewed like the EAGLE'S.

I F T U B L H M Z T V W K J Y N
B X L E G N K O G W D U X D O E
T X O Q N R S G L F E H D I N B
L W V T G D O E T Y T G T W L X
Q F I V K N E Y I E N C N E U D
T O N S K W S R N T U A S F O M
O R G T A C X W M R I S M B S Y
D G K I F D O H T E E U K E Y E
I I I F W R H S T W R Z Q T M D
S V N E C M E Q W U U C Y I H E
E E D N L D D I Q F O K I X N J
A T N E H B T A W F V Y Z E S I
S H E B S A T I S F I E T H S X
E R S S H T E M E E D E R Z J K
S Z S I P E B O N X C F E H H G
D X F H D F Z G X S E L G A E U

The deadline for the APRIL Newsletter will be March 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

327 FRANKLIN STREET
WATERTOWN, NY 13601
315-782-3240
E-Mail: asbury@gisco.net
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.

Asbury United Methodist Church?

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



Lent
BEGINS

Wednesday, March 2, 2022



Sunday, March 13, 2022



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®