



# The Asbury **BEACON**

June 2022

Volume 22, Number 5

#### 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: Crafting the Sermon

I have just returned from a preaching conference in Denver, Colorado. It was inspiring to this “long in the tooth” pastor. This September will complete 37 years of preparing a sermon nearly every week. (There was a period of four years when I was an Associate Pastor and was called upon to preach once a month). Over the course of these years, I have been assigned to preach: once a month, once a week, twice a week and for seven years, three times a week. (By the third service, I was very sick of me!)

When I think of this, it gives me pause. Certainly, for 33 of the 37 years, I have read the Scriptures, picked a specific passage, prayed about the text, read commentaries on the text, prayed considerably more, and then would do the work of crafting a sermon that would be preached the following Sunday. Every sermon has been an original effort. I can faithfully say that I have never preached a sermon written by someone else. Whether the resulting message soared or sunk on any given Sunday, it was always my own work.

I also have never repeated a sermon. My dad advised me to file my notes from every sermon, in case some particular week, “the well ran dry,” and I could use a previously written sermon. I maintained this habit for the first four years of my ministry. A harried week came one time and I reached back into my files and pulled out my notes from a previously given sermon on a specific text. I was horrified! I thought what I had done in the previous years was absolute rubbish, and I threw that sermon and every other sermon that I saved into the trash. Like God’s gift of daily manna to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, that mustn’t be stored, I believe the inspiration for a sermon is for a specific season and time and location. Once given, it no longer has value, except in the minds and hearts of the hearers.

Worship is the most visible, regular and communal act that we participate in each week. Worship is the “glue” that defines us and holds us in relationship with each other. We gather to praise God in word and song, to share our concerns, to pray together, and to be fed on God’s word. renewed, refreshed, recharged are words we sometimes use to express our hopeful outcome from each worship experience. For Methodists, preaching is a significant component of the worship experience. Anyone attending a service expects to “hear a Word from the Lord” proclaimed to the assembled.

I remember one Sunday in 1990. My husband Steve was in a foul mood: a self-pitying, angry, confused and frightened mood. It was his first Sunday in a new appointment. As I was heading to my car to drive to my church for worship, (we were living in his parsonage at the time), he announced that he was quitting the ministry. He said he was “Done.” He was fed up with the system of our denomination, already knew that he hated this new appointment and was going to announce it to the people he was about to meet for the first

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This month's **BEACON** is sponsored by **Melanie and Jim Rafferty**.

Our newsletter is a very important tool in helping us to communicate with and keep our Asbury Family connected!

Thank you **Melanie and Jim** for being our “**BEACON ANGELS**” for June.

## ASBURY'S STAFF

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### BROADCAST MINISTRY

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Rev. Laura Calos



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## **NORTH COUNTRY MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT:**

**2020,1 – 2 VISION**



North Country Music Society is a community choral group based in Sandy Creek. After a 2-year hiatus, they will be hosting their 53<sup>rd</sup> concert series, **the concert is on**

**Sunday, June 5th, at 4 P.M.  
at Park United Methodist Church in Pulaski.**

Among the pieces to be performed this year will be a medley of songs from *The Greatest Showman*. There is sure to be a "...Defining Moment" during the concert, as well as "Reflection" and maybe some "Pure Imagination." "You Say," "I Am but a Small Voice," but someone might "Run to You," bringing a "Tapestry of Love." Everyone knows that it is "Never One Thing", but as we "Blow the Candles Out," it might be a good time to remember that "Salvation is Created." Oh, and don't forget the "Blessing!"

**Tickets are available at the door: \$7.00 - Adult, \$5.00 - Student, \$20.00 - Family**

**Please come share NCMS's 2020,1 - 2 Vision!**



**JUNE 3 & 4, 2022  
8:30-1:30  
Wesley Hall**

## **Asbury Needs Your Assistance!**

**PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**Monthly Newsletter (*The Asbury Beacon*): \$50**

**Weekly Bulletin: \$30**

**Altar Flowers: \$40**

**Weekly Streaming: \$45**

**Thank you.**

**Jim Rafferty, Asbury Church Council Chairperson**

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time. For a moment I stood frozen in time and space. I had to leave, but I wanted to do something, say something to take away the angst that he was feeling. I wanted to embrace him, tell him how much I loved him, bolster him, comfort him. In that brief moment given to me, I did none of those things. The words that came out of my mouth clearly came from some place outside myself. I turned to him and said, "Well, you best go look inside that spiritual cupboard of yours and find something, because these people are coming to be fed and it is your job to feed them!" And with that, I got in my car and left.

I was shaking as I drove to my church that morning. I was worried that I had been too harsh and not loving. I worried about his worship service and the people that were coming to hear him for the first time. I was very nervous about what I would find when I came back home. Turns out I was also speeding, for a police car followed me into the church parking lot with lights blazing. I quickly handed the officer my license and registration, asked him to leave them on my driver's seat when he was finished, and walked into church. I don't remember much else about that morning. When I did return home, I met a much calmer and happier husband. As was always, always the case, he immediately loved the people where he served. He decided that he would "stick it out."

Knowing that sermons are an integral part of the worship experience, and wanting more than anything to offer nourishing "food," I've been planning what I will preach during the summer season. I've decided to build my sermon series around the "I Am" sayings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. Unlike the other Gospels, where Jesus invited the followers to draw their own conclusions about him, in the Gospel of John, Jesus makes several declarative statements about himself, using common imagery in order to speak about holy understandings. It is my hope that these messages will draw each of us closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Grace and peace,  
Laura

## **WE ARE METHODIST! May We Pray Together, Laugh Together and Stand Strong Together**

As we find ourselves fighting the evil forces of this virus known as Covid, my faith in God tells me he is not leaving us to battle alone. This virus wants to live, but so do I. God is giving us opportunities to grow stronger and better equipped to fight. If our bodies, minds and spirits become healthier and stronger, then our chances of defeating the enemy increase.

**If you don't already use a daily devotional, consider trying it. It is a wonderful way to prepare yourself for the day. Consider reading the Bible from beginning to end. A little bit a day will strengthen your spirit. It doesn't matter how long it takes you to get through it. It is a wonderful story. It is God's story and about the people whom he loves. Come to Max's Bible Study. You will learn so much and you will feel renewed and refreshed.**

I invite you to share with your Asbury family other ways we can strengthen our minds, hearts and bodies.

Send me your ideas and we will share them in future newsletters. Together with God's help, we can defeat this enemy.

In love and peace,  
Sue Beaman



# A Video Study by Dr. David Jeremiah - 2022

“Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven”

Presented by M. Max Bovee in the Asbury Parlor  
on Monday evenings 6:30-8:00 P.M. as follows:

- |                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. June 6, 2022     | “What’s Up With Heaven?”           |
| 2. June 13, 2022    | “Where Are They Now?”              |
| 3. June 20, 2022    | “Won’t Heaven Be Boring?”          |
| 4. June 27, 2022    | “The Ultimate Extreme Makeover”    |
| 5. July 11, 2022    | “Heaven’s Oscars”                  |
| 6. July 18, 2022    | “The Heavenly City”                |
| 7. July 25, 2022    | “Worship in Heaven”                |
| 8. August 1, 2022   | “The New Heaven and The New Earth” |
| 9. August 8, 2022   | “What on Earth is the Millennium?” |
| 10. August 15, 2022 | “What About the Children?”         |
| 11. August 22, 2022 | “Tough-Minded About Heaven”        |

August 29, 2022 Make-up Date if Needed

**Synopsis:** “Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven” will answer and clarify the most important questions Christians have about their future eternal home. Pastor Jeremiah provides answers about the nature of heaven, the kinds of bodies we’ll have, why heaven will never be boring, infants and children in heaven, and the dwelling place God has prepared for us in heaven. If you have questions about heaven, especially assurance about how to get there, let Pastor David Jeremiah and Max, be your guides. Your eternal home will become as clear on earth after this study, as it is in heaven.

In 2015 many of you studied with Max a book entitled “HEAVEN,” by Rev. Randy Alcorn, in which we learned that the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final heaven will be here on a newly created earth. For those who participated in 2015, you will want to learn more truths revealed by Dr. Jeremiah which enhances the material of Dr. Alcorn. The new videos are captivating and very clear.

If you missed the previous Heaven study, you won’t want to miss this opportunity to have the mysteries of heaven revealed in the following format:

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 6:30-6:35 P.M. | Welcome and Opening Prayer                |
| 6:35-6:50 P.M. | Background and Getting Started Questions  |
| 6:50-7:30 P.M. | Watch the Video and Follow the Scriptures |
| 7:30-7:55 P.M. | Discussion of Video and Application       |
| 7:55-8:00 P.M. | Closing Prayer                            |

For questions or to register to participate, contact Max @ 315-232-4158.

### Bible Quiz

While in Jerusalem for Pentecost, people from many faraway lands miraculously heard the disciples preaching in their own native languages. Which of the following modern-day places was/were represented?

A. Egypt  
B. Libya  
C. Crete  
D. Rome  
E. All of the above  
F. A, B and D

Answer: E (See Acts 2:9-11.)

### Bible Quiz

Which follower of Jesus preached to the crowds after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost?

A. John  
B. Peter  
C. Mary Magdalene  
D. Paul

Answer: B (See Acts 2:14ff.)



by Jane Eastham

I hope you enjoyed Pastor Laura's messages on grace as much as I did. And once again we can thank John Wesley for sharing his special understanding of prevenient grace, justifying grace, and sanctifying grace. What I find so astounding about grace is that it is an absolutely free gift from God. I cannot earn it, I don't deserve it, and yet God has chosen to bless me in this way.

I love Paul's words in Chapter 2 of his letter to the Ephesians. In verses 8-10 he writes, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

Notice in this passage that salvation comes first – the free gift of God – and good works come next. Sometimes I get those two backwards! Sometimes I think if I just do all these good things, then God will be pleased with me and bless me. That's the cart before the horse! Paul reminds me that because I am saved by grace, God has already prepared me for the works of God's kingdom, and so I perform God's will for my life eagerly and joyfully. Well...most of the time, anyway!

Did you know that all the hymns in our United Methodist Hymnal are separated into different categories? So, for example, under the heading "Prevenient Grace" you will find "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" and "I Surrender All." Under "Justifying Grace" there is "Blessed Assurance" and "He Touched Me." And under "Sanctifying and Perfecting Grace" you will find "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" and "Take Time to Be Holy." These are just a few examples. Check your hymnal the next time you're in church and you will find many more beloved hymns on the gift of grace.

John Wesley was convinced that salvation was available to everyone. This was not a universal belief in Wesley's day and yet this is what he preached. This is a message that has the power to bring hope and peace into our lives even during times when we are feeling desperate and hopeless. This is a message that was meant for you and for all of us.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.

That's the power of grace! A free gift, and all we have to do is open our hearts and hands to receive it. Until next time...grace and peace to you!

*"Humility and patience are the surest proofs of the increase of love."*

~ John Wesley



## GARRISON KEILLOR ON METHODISTS

We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed, and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese.

But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodist-less place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Methodists, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage.

It's natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. They are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By joining in harmony, they somehow promise that they will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: People, these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you can call up when you're in deep distress.

- \* If you're dying, they will comfort you.
- \* If you are lonely, they'll talk to you.
- \* And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad.
- \* Methodists believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
- \* Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
- \* Methodists believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
- \* Methodists usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
- \* Methodists believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
- \* Methodists think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.
- \* Methodists drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
- \* Methodists feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
- \* Methodists are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at the church.
- \* Methodists still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna casserole adds too much color.
- \* Methodists believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you are a Methodist when:

- \* It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.
- \* You hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- \* Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- \* When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "and also with you."
- \* And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye!

*They saw what seemed to be  
tongues of fire that separated  
and came to rest on each of them.  
All of them were filled with the  
Holy Spirit and began to speak  
in other tongues as the Spirit  
enabled them.*

Acts 2:3-4



JUNE 5, 2022

*And hope does not put us to  
shame, because God's love  
has been poured out into  
our hearts through the  
Holy Spirit, who has been  
given to us.*

Romans 5:5



June 1 Richard Little  
June 4 Frank Rhode  
June 5 Emma Morris  
June 5 Susan Snell  
June 6 Anne Marie Gianfagna  
June 8 Helen Dundon  
June 10 Greg Quimby  
June 13 Susan Hirst  
June 14 Jean LaSage  
June 14 Alexander Patrick  
June 17 Miyako Schanely  
June 17 Faith Kirch  
June 18 Nicolette Marshall  
June 18 Mary MacAdam  
June 18 Meredith Rhode  
June 19 Deborah Van Houten  
June 21 Matt Hirst  
June 22 Krista Juczak  
June 25 Frank Massa  
June 29 Karen Granger  
June 30 Bruce Irwin



### **Mark & Susan Smith**

June 6, 1981

### **Rev. Leon & Margie VanWie**

June 6, 1986

### **David & Carol Stoodley**

June 7, 1980

### **Dr. Alfred & Jean Gianfagna**

June 12, 1977

### **Steven & Miyako Schanely**

June 19, 1999

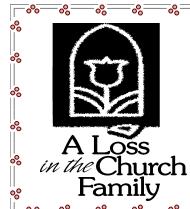
### **Peter & Pam Qumby**

June 20, 1970

### **Lynn & Corby Cleveland**

June 25, 1977

*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!*



**Miyako Y. Tanabe**

October 16, 1936-May 15, 2022

## **SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK**

Submitted by Max Bovee

### **June 5: Isaiah 66:13**

*"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you!"*

### **June 12: Daniel 6:26**

*"He is the living God and He endures forever."*

### **June 19: Zephaniah 1:7**

*"Be silent! I am the Lord God, and the time is near."*

### **June 26: Matthew 5:11-12**

*"Blessed are you when they revile you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake. Great is your reward in heaven."*

# 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.



## *Asbury United Methodist Church*

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You Are Welcome Here!**

