



The Asbury **BEACON**

July/August 2022

Volume 22, 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!*

Pastoral Letter: Forgiveness

“Be angry and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil”
Ephesians 4:26-27

I had a different plan for this edition of the newsletter, but something I observed troubled me so much that I need to write about it.

You may or may not know, that I frequently get a call from one of the local funeral homes, to do a funeral service and/or graveside service for someone who is not affiliated with Asbury Church. I have labeled them in my mind as “cold call funerals.” Perhaps someone in the family was at one time a Methodist. Or perhaps I’m called because I happen to be available. Perhaps I just have a good reputation for doing funerals. Who knows?

Anyway, I recently received a request to do a “cold call funeral.” I was to meet with the son and companion of the deceased the day before the services. It is a skill to gently pull information from family members about their loved ones, in order to make a service personal and meaningful to those who will be attending. Not to sound conceited or anything, but after 36 years in pastoral ministry, I’m good at it. I wouldn’t want to attend a funeral service and feel like the pastor knew little and cared less about the one who died. So, I have always taken the extra effort.

In the conversation, I learned many things. I learned that the dad and daughter were estranged, and she would not be attending the services. I learned that there was a time when all communication shut down because his wife of more than 30 years decided to divorce him. It was something the man never wanted to have happen, and he was extremely upset when it did happen.

Over time he moved on with his life, met someone very nice, and they moved to Florida, where he lived out the rest of his years.

His body was returned to the Watertown area, because he had pre-paid for his funeral expenses, including his burial plot at a local cemetery.

The next day, I gathered with a small group of family and friends of the man, and did the service, sharing anecdotes that I had gleaned from our previous conversation. The son also spoke about his dad, and the companion shared a lovely poem that she had written about their life together.

After driving to the cemetery, I got out of my car and led the procession of the casket to the cemetery plot. What I saw when I got there, took my breath away.

The memorial stone had been purchased years before when he and his wife were married. On the left was his name and birthdate. In the middle there once was a heart that probably listed their wedding date. At one time, I’m sure that on the right side of this stone, his former wife’s name was listed with her birthdate.

(Continued on Page 4)

This month’s **BEACON** is sponsored by **Frank and Joanne Rhode**.

Our newsletter is a very important tool in helping us to communicate with and keep our Asbury Family connected!
Thank you **Frank and Joanne** for being our “**BEACON ANGELS**” for July/August.

ASBURY'S STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
FAITH KIRCH

**ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR -
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MAINTENANCE
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CATHERINE MOWERS

MUSIC PROGRAM STAFF

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MELANIE RAFFERTY
MICHELLE RUDD
LISA SMITH
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BINA WEST
MARTHA JABLONSKI

PASTOR
REV. LAURA CALOS



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We want to introduce someone on our staff, who you already know very well! **Jane Eastham** is now doing church member visitations to assist the Pastor with her visitation list. With Covid, we found that we had a backlog of need and Jane has taken to this challenge beautifully.

Jane is originally from our area, moved out to the Midwest in her college years and stayed for several years. Family needs brought her back to the Watertown area and she has made this her permanent home.

Jane has many years of church experience. She was a certified lay speaker, a certified lay minister and completed her course of training and served as a local licensed pastor. Visitation is one of the areas of ministry that she has always enjoyed.

We welcome Jane to the staff of Asbury, and wish her great success!



ASBURY SUMMER PICNIC COMING!!

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 5:30 p.m.
THOMPSON PARK PAVILLION**

***Rain or Shine
Everyone Welcome!!***

**Bring a dish to pass, silverware, beverage, and
a folding chair.
Wonderful Hoffman Hot Dogs served.
Plates, cups, napkins, and water bottles provided.**

AFTER DINNER - A LIVELY AUCTION!!

- 1. Bring an item from your home which you don't need or want.**
- 2. Wrap it up to disguise it.**
- 3. Write a note on it where in the house it could be used.**
- 4. Be creative!! Bring more than one item if you want to.**

Money raised will be used to balance Asbury's budget.

COME ENJOY AN EVENING OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!!!



Asbury's Sunday School program is pleased to announce our **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** this summer for children entering grades preschool through sixth grade. We will be using Concordia's Monumental materials for the basis of this program, which will run from August 2-5. However, we will have some exciting supplemental activities including an African dance demonstration! As a service to busy parents, we will provide dinner for children at 5:20 each day before the program begins at 6:00. We would love for parents/special adults to join us for a closing assembly just before pick up at 8:00.

Please see Katie Jeurissen (402-540-2097) or Michelle Rudd (315-777-6174, michelle.marie.rudd@gmail.com) for details of how you can help! Student registration forms will be available in the church office or in the atrium.



Special MUSIC

THIS SUMMER

When the Chancel Choir is off for the summer during July and August, the anthem place in the school-year program becomes the spot for Special Music.

We encourage anyone who would like to play or sing to sign up for a Sunday. In the past there have been instrumental solos – flute, clarinet, violin, cello and guitar to name a few – as well as vocal solos, duets, trios and quartets, and piano solos.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the bell room off of the sanctuary. There are a few weeks where the Special Music spot is still open. If you want to sign up for a certain week and the Special Music spot is filled, please feel free to take the Offertory spot. Please consider sharing your gift of music with the congregation, for the glory of God!

Contact Cathy (315-778-5315) with any questions. Thank you!

(Continued from Page 1)

What I saw was this: Someone had desecrated the memorial stone. I strongly believe the someone was the man, whose service I was doing. It wasn't a professional job, where composite was used to fill in writing and then was polished smooth. No, this was done with a chisel and hammer. The name of the wife and the heart that would have listed their wedding date, had been brutally destroyed. It was clearly an act of anger, rage even. Honestly, the man had the resources to just purchase a new memorial stone. Instead, he left for posterity to see, including his children, his anger over the divorce.

During the committal service, I did my best to stand between the stone and the family, so to block the view of the man's hatchet job. (Probably the only time in my life that I was grateful for my considerable size). I didn't want the son, especially to see what his dad had done. After all, divorce or not, the woman was his mother. The image of what I saw has stuck in my memory. I will always be disturbed by it. But maybe, just maybe, this horrible image can become an object lesson.

The apostle Paul wrote: ***"Be angry and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil"*** Ephesians 4:26-27

Paul clearly understood the destructive role of residual anger. It is like a cancer that slowly eats away at all that is good and positive in a relationship. What is the antidote for anger, when one has felt wronged by another? The answer is simple to list, and difficult to do. **Forgiveness.**

Forgiveness is the act of no longer holding another accountable for the wrong that was done. It is also the letting go of the grip of resentment, anger, and hurt. It is simply letting all of that go forever. Forgiveness is an act of self-healing. The poison of anger is no longer taking hold of one's thoughts and dreams, in fact, their life. If anyone reading this has been holding on to anger against another for a considerable time, I hope that this story told, will convince you to forgive the one who has wronged you. Give yourself permission to be healed from this hurt, so that your heart, once filled with anger, is able to hold love and joy again.

Grace and peace,
Laura

Praise Band to Resume Fall 2022

Because of the COVID pandemic and accompanying restrictions, Asbury's Praise Band has not met since March of 2020. We are planning to resume rehearsing in September of 2022, and to play for the 2nd Sunday of each month (except September) as we had before we were shut down.

We have music for concert band instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, baritone, trombone and tuba. Percussion (especially "toys," i.e. cymbal, wood block, jingle bells, etc.) is sometimes included. Praise Band usually practices Thursday evenings before choir. Possible times are 5:15-6:00 or 6:30-7:15 (This will depend on bell practice and Praise Band members).

Our first rehearsal is scheduled for September 16th.

If you play and would like to join us, please let Cathy Mowers know and she will make up a folder for you! Also contact Cathy if you have any questions or concerns: 315-778-5313 or 315-232-3275. Thank you.

Cathy Mowers



Chancel Choir Looking for New Members



The Chancel Choir would like to invite singers to join us when we resume in September! All parts – soprano, alto, tenor and bass – are needed and welcome! Although you do not have to be able to read music, it is helpful. You also do not have to attend every rehearsal or every Sunday service.

Our first rehearsal for the school year will be September 8th, 7:15 p.m. in the choir room downstairs off of Wesley Hall, and our first Sunday service for the 2022-2023 year will be September 11! Please contact Cathy Mowers at 315-778-5313 or 315-232-3275 with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you in September!

~ They who sing pray twice! ~

Asbury Reaching Back Out to Schools

We are continuing to 'reach out' to organizations in an effort to spread Asbury's love and appreciation of them. We believe we should reach out one more time to the Watertown schools (both teachers & support staff). COVID has made things very tough for school staffs.

What's the Plan? In September, we plan to provide goodie bags to Watertown schools. We will thank & honor ALL teachers and staff throughout the district with an Asbury pen, a tea bag, and a couple of edible items such as chocolate and popcorn/granola bars (nothing homemade). The baggies will include a nice thank you for a job well done from our Asbury Church Family.

What can you do to help? We need the items below brought in throughout the summer and placed in the large box in the rotunda.

We need hundreds of these items so we appreciate whatever you can do. Items may come from Anyplace. (Aldi's has some great prices!) Please feel free to purchase them from your favorite store.

Thank you for helping with Asbury's Community Outreach efforts to spread both love and community awareness of Asbury's caring presence.

Melanie Rafferty and Lisa Smith
Co-Chairs, Christian Connection Committee



2022 Asbury Church Budget

Our budget for 2022 is challenging. We ask you to prayerfully consider your financial pledges & donations to Asbury. Rising costs have created financial challenges. Shown below is a status of where we are financially after 5 months.

Total Financial Requirement Estimate for 2022 - \$ 285,703

Expenses Incurred from January 1 – May 31st - \$107,041

Revenue Received from January 1 – May 31st - \$ 95,894

Deficit for January 1 – May 31st - **\$ 11,147**

2022 Total Year Deficit: If this trend continues, our deficit could reach over \$25,000. Our current trend is an obvious concern to us all. Your contributions make it possible for us to worship God at Asbury and to reach out and assist our larger community. Thank you.

Jim Rafferty
Chairperson, Asbury Church Council



LAY SERVANT CLASSES being offered this fall. Call the Church Office for more information and a schedule if you are interested.

Summer! A Wonderful Time to Host Coffee Hour

We encourage you to sign up to host coffee hour during the summer months. You can do so by signing up yourself or include friends and other family members to do it with you.

The sign-up sheet can be found in the Rotunda on the Big Table used for hosting. Simple instructions can be found on a laminated sheet to make the process easy for you.

You can sign up yourself or give me a call.

Thank you very much,

Melanie Rafferty
(315 783 1105)



Want to be a Greeter on Sunday Morning?

If you are interested in becoming a greeter, please let Lisa Smith know.

She will provide you with simple instructions to make you feel comfortable with this important Sunday morning task.

We want everyone to feel welcome when they enter God's house – Asbury Church.

Lisa Smith – 315-778-4173

**Our 2022 Grand Marshal
Mr. Robert LaSage**

Mr. Robert LaSage joined the Pillar Point Fire Department in the Summer of 1977. During his time at the Fire Department, he held many positions including Captain, Chief, Treasurer & working as Fire Police. He still works with the Department as Treasurer and Fire Police. While serving in the department he was honored with the Fireman of the Year Award in 1984.

In addition to his work with the Fire Department, Bob was a member of the Pillar Point Snowmobile Club, helping to check on residents in the winter, especially during ice and snowstorms. During the Blizzard of 1977, Bob even helped out by hauling some milk. Bob still helps the Auxiliary at times and helps with collecting money for use of the boat ramp by folks.

Bob has been married for 60 years this August, has 4 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Bob wants everyone to know he is forever grateful for the fundraising efforts folks in the community supported when he was diagnosed with cancer in 2015. Bob's dedication to community brings to mind Albert Einstein's quote - "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK - Submitted by Max Bovee

July 3: Matthew 11:29

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

July 10: Luke 6:46

"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

July 17: Luke 7:9

"Jesus said, 'I have not found such great faith not even in Israel!'"

July 24 : Luke 9:23

"Whoever wants to be my disciple, must deny themselves, take up my cross daily, and follow me."

July 31: Luke 12:15

"Don't be greedy! Owning a lot of things won't make your life happy or safe."

August 7: Luke 18:13

"God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

August 14: John 14:13

"Whatever you ask in My name, I will do. This way the Son will bring honor to the Father."

August 21: John 15:13

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

August 28: John 15:16

"I chose you and appointed you, so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last."

Happy Birthday to You!

If you see these June birthday people, please wish them a happy belated birthday. We celebrated the July birthdays on July 10th.

From the Christian Connections Committee



FROM THE TRUSTEES

We have recently completed the consolidation of the seven original deeds that created our main church property into one parcel with one deed. This required an attorney and considerable time to read over these deeds. In consolidating these parcels, we have eliminated the old property lines. These old lines created roadblocks if we wanted to add any storage sheds or other structures.

The parsonage garage at 305 Flower Ave. W. has a new roof. The old shingles were curled up due to age and a few were missing due to wind. This was completed on June 20.

Tim Desormo Construction has smoothed out the crushed stone in the Parker St. parking lot. Plowing snow had moved a lot of the crushed stone surface to the edges of the lot. They were able to greatly improve this parking lot and hopefully reduce areas that hold water and create mud holes after rain storms.

We continue to look after our church home and property. These expenses are covered by your support of the Capital Improvement Fund. Thank you for your continued giving to provide funds to allow us to pay for these projects.

Blessings,
Glen Snell, Trustee Chairperson

Save the Date!

for the Asbury Loving Stitches

BAZAAR

November 5, 2022

9 AM - 2 PM

In the Rotunda

Here's a preview of just a few of the items available



A BIG WINNER!

Our Spring sale included over 1,000 items!! It was amazing thanks to your generous donations. Thanks, too, to all our volunteers for arranging and sorting the items, for working the days of the sale to help the customers, and for packing and cleaning up. We called the Watertown Urban Mission to pick up the surplus which filled up their truck!! They were very grateful for your donations.

Our total for the sale was \$2500!!

Congratulations for this very successful fundraiser. We will be having a Fall sale probably in October. When you bring in your boxed donations, please place them neatly in the room to the left of the stage. If you can, please write on the box the main contents. Thank you all for a wonderful sale.

The Finance Committee



July 2 Joyce Tucker
 July 2 William Plemons
 July 3 Aaron Johnson
 July 3 Herbert Van Houten
 July 5 David Heasley
 July 6 Gerald Holder
 July 8 Erin Cantu
 July 13 Ben Rudd
 July 13 Carol Wright
 July 13 Debra Holt
 July 14 John Deal
 July 14 Lenora Forbes
 July 16 Louis Dolloway
 July 17 Sue Beaman
 July 17 Pam Hughes
 July 19 Lynn Cleveland
 July 19 Mary Nelson
 July 20 Rev. Laura Calos
 July 21 Lily Rudd
 July 22 David Forbes
 July 24 Carol Stoodley
 July 24 Linda Adams
 July 24 Emily Browne
 July 24 Tasha MacAdam
 July 26 Kimberly Little
 July 27 Quinn Sturge
 July 30 Sandra Johnson

HAPPY
 Birthday
 FROM YOUR
 CHURCH FAMILY



August 2 Hannah Johnson
 August 2 Robert LaSage
 August 3 William Smith
 August 3 Nathan Lehman
 August 3 Kay Phillips
 August 3 Kenneth Forbes
 August 4 Erin Brislan
 August 4 Kathryn Sero
 August 5 Luke Marshall
 August 7 David Stoodley
 August 10 Lori Hill
 August 11 Allyson Van Houten
 August 12 Margie VanWie
 August 14 Mary DeYear
 August 15 Lynn Morgan
 August 21 Michael Schanely
 August 25 David Schilling
 August 25 Sharon Quimby
 August 26 Shirley Berry
 August 26 Nancy Dolloway
 August 29 Sara Quimby



Paul & Deborah Simmons

July 13, 1968

Jim & Krista Juczak

July 16, 1983

Matthew & Susan Hirst

July 17, 1982

Fred & Frances Goutremout

July 22, 1967

Thomas & Tammy Olivas

July 27, 2012

Steven & Jean Marshall

August 1, 1992

Bruce & Lorraine Irwin

August 15, 1997

Glen & Susan Snell

August 20, 1966

Toby & Myrtie Schilling

August 24, 1968

Lawrence & Kimberly Welt

August 28, 2016

Craig & Susan Gamet

August 28, 1982

Robert & Jean LaSage

August 31, 1962

FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Syracuse Mets vs.
 Omaha Storm Chasers

Thursday, July 28

6:30 P.M.

\$1 coke products

\$1 hot dogs and coney

Tickets: \$14 - purchase at the stadium and arrange your own transportation.

Purchase tickets on 3rd base side so the sun is not in your eyes.

No group arrangements this year. No tailgate party.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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!*

Picnic at the Park

August 9, 2022 @ 5:30 pm
Thompson Park Stone Pavilion

All-Church Picnic

Please bring a dish to pass. Meat is provided.
This is a picnic for families and singles of all ages.



My Daily Prayer

Dear God, as I begin this day
Let me turn my thoughts to You,
And ask Your help in guiding me
In everything I say and do.

Give me the patience that I need
To keep my peace of mind,
And with life's cares, I hope, Dear God,
Some happiness to find.

Let me live but for today,
Not worrying what's ahead,
For I have trust that You will see
I got my "Daily Bread".

Give me the courage to face life's trials
And not from troubles run,
Let me keep this thought in mind,
"Your Will", not "Mine", be done.

And if some wish I do not get
Though I have prayed to You,
Help me to believe and understand
You know what's best for me.

I've failed you many times, I know,
But when tonight I rest,
I hope that I can kneel and say,
"Dear God, I've tried my best".

