



The Asbury BEACON

February 2023

Volume 23, 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: “Don’t Look Back! You’re Not Going There!”

I don’t know if I ever shared that I used to have an extensive t-shirt collection with funny sayings on each shirt. I had so many that I had a full-size quilt made for my grandson Josh using just some of my old t-shirts. A favorite one of mine read, “Pretending I’m a pleasant person all day is exhausting!” People would look at my shirt and then quizzically look at me to see if I seriously felt that way. I thought it was funny.

I no longer collect t-shirts, but I still peruse them in various catalogs. One that has caught my eye reads: “Don’t Look Back! You’re Not Going There!”

When we think about the future of the church, we often begin by lamenting about how things “used to be.” If only “blue laws” were still enforced. If only school-age sports practices and games were not on Sundays. If only people just came to church each Sunday, simply because they’re supposed to. If only.....

The “if only” gets us nowhere, quite frankly. We need to be forward looking people using the contexts and tools of this present age. Where we’ve been is fine for memory books and news clippings, but it is towards the future that our focus needs to be directed. Scripture tells us, “Without a vision the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:19)

I’ve asked Jim Rafferty, our newly elected Lay Leader, to lead the effort at being future focused. We truly need to know your thoughts and plans for the future of Asbury. Jim and a small group of volunteers will contact you for a brief, 10 minute, (okay, 15 minute) conversation focused on the following questions:

1. *What is on your mind when you think about Asbury?*
2. *Focusing on how Asbury might grow and thrive in the future, what are your ideas, focus areas, programs, and other things that we should consider doing?*
3. *In your opinion, what things are deterring Asbury from growing and thriving in the future?*
4. *How do we extend/expand our Christian presence outside the walls of our church?*
5. *What else is on your mind when you think about Asbury?*

Please give these questions some prayerful consideration before your discussion with Jim. I look forward to reviewing the input we receive from all of you as we focus on the future of Asbury.

Jim's email is: jim.rafferty@gmail.com. His phone is 315-408-9036. Thank you.

Grace and Peace,
Laura

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From the Editor

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

As a child, I remember thinking nothing I received was ever enough. I never had enough toys, then as a teenager I never had enough clothes. As a young adult I never had enough money. Someone always had something I didn't have.

As I grew in my faith I began to understand that God would always provide what I needed and it would be enough.

During the years when my husband and I were raising our three children, there were times when I worried and fretted if we were going to be able to pay our bills and provide the things that our children needed. I began to notice that during those times the funds would always come to us one way or another. They never came in large sums, but miraculously they came in amounts that were just enough for what we needed to cover an unexpected bill or expense.

I now know that I will never be rich in money, but God has given me an abundance of other things. I have 3 wonderful healthy children and 3 healthy grandchildren to love. God has given me some special gifts that I can share with them and with others. He will always give me the tools I need to share those gifts and that is enough.

I also know that whatever I receive and whatever God provides me with is enough; what I give away is never too little and never too much as long as I let the Holy Spirit be my guide.

Sue Beaman



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Prior to COVID, Sunday School held a class that also contained a mission project at the time of Super Bowl Sunday. This year, it will be the "Super Cereal Bowl" challenge.

This will be our take on the "cereal box domino challenge" (as seen on the internet).

The challenge will tie into our lesson/theme of how our deeds (collecting for those in need) are a way to show our love (since Valentine's Day is later that week). Also, about chain reactions - the boxes of cereal are our dominoes. How one thing (one box) can have an effect on others (other boxes falling over) and how this applies to our life when we do good deeds for others.

Donations of cereal are needed. A collection container for the donations of the boxes of cereal is located in the back of the rotunda. After the February 12th class, the cereal boxes will then be donated to the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The *Asbury United Women in Faith* met on Saturday, January 21, 2023 and discussed ways we can make a difference in the lives of women and children in our church, our community and in the world.

We would like to explore how we can work with Camp Aldersgate to provide some financial support and also we would like to support those youth from our church and our community who would like to go to Camp Aldersgate this summer.

We also unanimously voted to support our nursery and provide the funds needed to have it staffed with two people every Sunday throughout 2023.

In order to get a better picture of who the Watertown Urban Mission is today and how it is serving our community; we will tour the Mission on February 22nd at 3:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested in joining us should call Sue Snell at 315-782-8235.

Our next meeting will be on March 11, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. All women of the church are welcome to come and join us.

Blessings from
The Asbury United Women in Faith

FROM THE TRUSTEES

The congregation responded with exceptional support to our need to replace a Munchkin boiler that would no longer function. This new boiler has been installed and is working fine. This was an unanticipated expense of \$13,800. I am relieved to report the funds were raised and the bill has been paid. This is something to celebrate as we start the new year.

Painting and repair to the walls and ceiling of the stairway leading to the balcony near the main entrance has also been completed. This area received a lot of water damage over the years. The new roof corrected the problem, but we then needed to repair the damage inside. Your continued support of the Capital Improvement fund allowed us to pay for this. We wish to thank all who contributed for both of these projects.

We want to thank Bina West and Alvin Hasner for painting the doors and archway going into the bell storage area. Our custodian, William, has been painting the ceilings under the balconies in the sanctuary as well as other areas. This is a start on the list of projects we think we can do with volunteers. If you would like to help out, please let the Trustees know.

With the beginning of the new year, the Trustees have named new officers: President, Bill Plemons; Vice President, Joanne Rhode, and Secretary, Bina West. Deb VanHouten has resigned as Treasurer and also as a Trustee. We hope to fill the vacant Trustee seat at the next Church Council meeting. The remaining Trustees declined the position of Treasurer. The Trustees asked church Treasurer, Faith Kirch, to take on those duties, and she has agreed.

We want to thank Deb VanHouten for serving as a Trustee since 2005. She has also served as Trustee Treasurer throughout this period. She has been an outstanding Trustee whose knowledge and advice has been important to the success we have had in fulfilling our duties and responsibilities. She will be missed.

Blessings, Glen Snell



Bishop Hector Burgos became our Bishop of the Upper NY Annual Conference on January 1, 2023

His 5 priorities for our Conference are to be a pastor who:

1. Leads the church to grow in knowledge, experience, and outward expressions of the love of Christ.
2. Enables, equips, empowers, and encourages us to passionately live our faith and fulfill our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
3. Leads outwardly for us to be active agents of God's grace and mercy.
4. Ensures we are all good and equitable stewards of the resources entrusted to us.
5. Strives for unity celebrating our rich diversity and embody the grace of Christ.

Jim Rafferty, Asbury Lay Leader

CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

You may have wondered where this “new” committee came from and what happened to the Membership and Evangelism Committee. **The Membership and Evangelism Committee** recently changed our name to the **Christian Connections Committee** because of a shift in our philosophy and focus. We worked and are working to prioritize our members and our local community. We had meetings and ongoing discussions about what we hope to accomplish and to reflect these goals with a new name. The two new co-chairs are Lindsay Webb and Jean Marshall. Our thanks to Lisa Smith and Melanie Rafferty, our previous leaders, for their guidance.

In the Fall, Reverend Calos guided us through an exercise: What have we done? Where are we going? This was so helpful in guiding our path.

What do we do? Our committee members organize and coordinate the Potluck Luncheons at the beginning of each month. We also provide a cake to celebrate congregation members’ birthdays on the second Sunday of each month. Lindsay and Jean are working on Coffee Hour signups for the remaining Sundays in each month. The Christian Connection Committee also signs people up to greet at each entrance each Sunday for the 10:15 service. A member of our committee also staffs the Welcome Cart each Sunday following the main service.

One major goal is to care for YOU: to make sure no one gets overlooked or forgotten. In our meetings, we make sure the committee is aware of upcoming surgeries, illnesses, loss of a loved one, and other needs. If you or a family member would like a card or a prayer, please tell Faith Kirch, Reverend Calos, Jean Marshall, or Lindsay Webb.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for us, please let us know. We are truly trying to be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus. After all, the world needs more love, right?

Jean Marshall, Co-Chair



CALLING ALL CLEANERS!

Our church kitchen is in need of some love and care.

On Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Please come with a bucket and sponge in hand and help us deep clean our wonderful church kitchen. It has been more than 2 years since we regularly used our kitchen; and now that the outreach dinners are occurring every week, we notice that a thorough cleaning is needed. Many hands make light work!

Christian Connections Committee



2022 Wreath Sale



The annual wreath sale was a tremendous success! Thank you to each of you who sold or bought the 171 pieces that were ordered this year. Thank you to Glen Snell who made arrangements for the U-Haul truck which ensures that the wreaths and other items transport well. A special thank you also to the Men's Group who accompanied us to Hemlock Haven to load and then unload the wreath order. Another special thank you to those women and men who helped sort and prepare the evergreen pieces for pick-up. As you can see this definitely requires a team effort! The Finance Committee is proud to announce that the profit for this year's sale was \$914.50! This will be most helpful during the cold winter weather.

GET OUT OF THE CAR!

(This is supposedly a true account recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida.)

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle.

She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!"

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition.

She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down.

She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake.

The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing.

He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed.

Moral of the story: *If you're going to have a senior moment...make it memorable!*

Submitted by Sue Snell



- February 2 Abby Granger
- February 3 James W. Wright
- February 3 David Witte
- February 5 James Rafferty
- February 5 Sue Gamet
- February 5 Deborah Simmons
- February 9 Karen Boomhower
- February 11 Paul Tyo
- February 12 Jean Sayers
- February 12 Adrianna Weldon
- February 17 Nicole Lamica
- February 19 Cherie Danforth
- February 24 Melanie Rafferty
- February 24 Bina West
- February 24 Max Bovee
- February 24 Victor Adjaben



**Happy Birthday to those in our Church Family
who were born in January**



Max and Greeta Bovee
February 18, 1984

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

submitted by Max Bovee

February 5: Psalm 3:1

“Lord, how they have increased who trouble me.”

February 12: Psalm 34:15

*“The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and His ears are open to their cry.”*

February 19: Psalm 57:1

*“I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings
until the disaster has passed.”*

February 26: Psalm 63:3

*“Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.”*



A Loss
in the Church
Family

Dick Malone passed away on
January 27th after a short illness.
Please remember Mary and their
family in your prayers.



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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

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



*"The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?
- Psalm 27:1*

*I believe there are Angels among us...
Sent down to us from somewhere up Above.
They come to You and me in our darkest hour...
They show us how to live...
They teach us to forgive.
They guide us with the **Light of Love.**
- Author Unknown*

