



The Asbury **BEACON**

May 2023

Volume 23, Number 4

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: Come on in. We're Great

Recently, I had lunch in Adams at Gram's Diner. When one walks into the restaurant, there is a sign that reads something like, "Come on in. We're Great." (I may have the wording off, but the meaning is on point). I smiled and entered the restaurant, expecting a great meal. And for the record, my meal was delicious!

You may have noticed that we have a new banner attached to the fencing near the Sterling and Franklin corner. That sign reads, "Love Happens Here," a message both provocative and hopeful. I had something to do with the slogan, so I'm very happy with it.

Asbury is a place, where love and acceptance happens. I've experienced it in my own life and I've observed it in the lives of others. In a world so packed with distrust and hatred and violence, offering a safe community of love, meets an essential need in our lives today.

But maybe, just maybe, I should have eaten at Gram's Diner before we picked our slogan. Would we have enough confidence to proclaim to the passerby, "Come on in. We're Great!" I don't know, but imagining it causes me to smile.

The word "Gospel" by definition means "Good News." Good News is what we proclaim Sunday to Sunday. We share that God is alive and God's Spirit abides with us. We share that the Savior of the world, Jesus, is our friend. We share hope in our personal growth in Christ. We acknowledge that every day in every way, we are growing in Grace.

To proclaim that "we're great" requires us to be our best each week, to demonstrate to others the love that we have received. To be great, we must come to the throne of grace, expecting to be blessed by God, so to be a genuine blessing to others. To be great, we must not enter into worship reluctantly or casually, for greatness does not blossom from mediocrity.

I remember when I first came to Asbury, during the pandemic. Folks were on hand to greet each person who came, to give them a nametag, to assist up the stairs when needed, to offer hand sanitizer, and pre-packaged communion elements. Mostly, I remember the smiles, hidden by masks, but revealed in the eyes and voices of everyone. Asbury was truly great during those early scary days.

May Asbury continue to offer such attention to detail in welcoming one another each Sunday morning. May we boast in our hearts, if not in spoken words, "Come on in. We're Great!"

Grace and peace,

Laura

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FAITH KIRCH

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TREASURER
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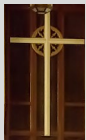
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"Even Now"

by Ann Weems

*She stands beneath his dying and will not be persuaded to leave,
despite the urgings of others.
They huddle against her in an effort to hold her against the pain,
But she stands erect, unleaning, her eyes upon his face.
From the hillside the sounds of weeping and wailing hang heavy
in the air, but she who held him in a stable in Bethlehem stands
silent beneath his cross in Jerusalem, her heart pondering still,
her soul magnifying the Lord, her spirit praising God,
knowing even now that she is blessed among women.*

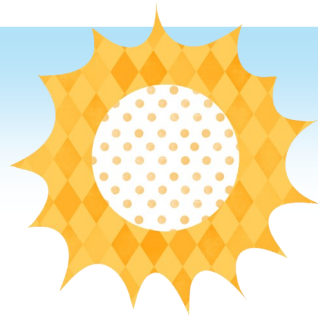


HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

The April BEACON is sponsored by **Dale & Marianne Scott and Glen & Sue Snell.**

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

Thank you **Dale, Marianne, Glen and Sue** for being our "BEACON ANGELS" for May.



Come Join the Team as we prepare for our

ASBURY SPRING

RUMMAGE, BAKED GOODS, AND PLANT SALE

MAY 12 AND 13, 2023

WESLEY HALL 8:30-1:30

WE NEED:

Baked Goods

Breads, Snacks, Cookies, Pies, Pastries

Volunteers Needed To

Unpack, Set up, Price, Help Customers

Call Sue Snell at 315-782-8235 if you can help,
or just come and shop!

PROCEEDS GO TO THE 2023 CHURCH BUDGET



Rummage Sale

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

- Luke 12:32

12 March 2023

Dear Friends,

This past January our medical school asked me to take a turn supervising senior students during their 4-month rural rotation, so I travelled by jeep out to Amp Pipal Hospital in the mountains 60 miles northwest of Kathmandu. I spent a week there, making rounds with the eight female students, testing their clinical skills, and ending each day with a teaching session. Evenings when I returned to the guest house, a view of the nearby mountain darkening against a peach sky filled the screened window, and my thoughts slipped back to a day in 1987.

I last lay eyes on my two porters as we cross the old airfield down by the river. After meeting me where the truck stopped in Turture, they somehow lash my various awkwardly-shaped travel bags into units and begin carrying them on their backs. It's hot and they intend to take it easy: after ten minutes of walking, they ask to stop and eat. Hoping to beat the approaching darkness, I push ahead, aiming for a spot high on the mountain where the porters indicate the Amp Pipal Hospital is located.

After about an hour of gentle climbing past banana trees and thatch-roofed stone houses, the first drops of rain bounce off the guitar case I'm carrying. I wonder where the rest of my porous pieces of luggage are now. April is not the monsoon season, but the rain continues, the light dims in the forest and the trail turns ever upwards.

I come upon three Nepali nurses who say they're also walking to the hospital. At first I consider going ahead of them, but as steep became steeper, I grow to appreciate their methodical pace. They know when to stop and rest, when to be refreshed by tea, and they have a flashlight while mine is with my porters – wherever they are. In the cool, steady drizzle, we pick our way among the shadows of half-seen rocks and tree roots. I think about the hot shower and food I hope will be waiting for me up at the hospital.

The forest thickens. There are no lights, no electricity, and no people. Who would be out walking on such a rainy night? Lightning flashes briefly illuminate the path. It seems like we've been walking for hours.

As we come around a hill, I'm startled by brightness a mile or so ahead. "The hospital," one nurse murmurs. As we draw closer, the hum of its generator and glowing rectangles of light conjure some spaceship touched down in a prehistoric land. The bright image dips in and out of the trees. The hospital compound apparently sits in the lap of a mountain whose black outline looms against the gray sky over my right shoulder. We arrive 15 minutes later and the nurses bring me into a cluster of houses, murmuring into two half-lit doorways, before finally leading me to a one-story dwelling at the top of the sloping compound.

A Caucasian woman comes to the screen door and after exchanging a few words of Nepali with the nurses, swings it open and looks me up and down.

"So here's Mark!" she exclaims in a Scottish lilt. "I'm Jill. Come in. Come in. What a night you've had to endure. Come right in now." She grabs my guitar case and pins the door open with her foot for me to enter, calling past me, "Ken! It's Mark! He's arrived!"

That first time I walked up the hill to Amp Pipal, I had no idea what lay ahead. I'd come to Nepal the previous fall planning to do a several-month volunteer stint and, despite not being a committed Christian, had stumbled into an organization called the United Mission to Nepal. During the next year on that mountain, among total strangers – several of whom would become lifelong friends – my life took a new direction: I became a Christian and discovered a calling, which meant spending my medical career in Nepal. Nearly twenty years after that hike, when a group of us were given the opportunity to found a non-profit healthcare organization, Amp Pipal was the template I had in mind for vitalizing Nepal's government district hospitals. Undeserved

blessings heaped ever higher, I met Deirdre in Nepal and our boys spent their childhoods becoming part-Asian.

The recent med school trip into those familiar hills, beneath the ageless, snowy gaze of Himal Chuli, became something of a bookend for me, because we've now decided this will be our last year in Nepal. I suppose we could cite an accumulation of reasons – both our sons due to be in universities in the U.S.; my Mom and aunts in Pennsylvania and not getting any younger; the ever-difficult Nepal visa situation – but as this term's end approached, we were hoping for more than a tally of pros and cons. Whenever people express surprise at our staying in Nepal this long, we usually admit it wasn't our plan; we've just felt God nudging us on from one term into the next.

As we considered America, our spoken and prayed plea was, "What in the world are we going to do back there?" We'd set this past Christmas, with Zac 'home' from college, to finalize our decision but by October still hadn't reached a consensus. One November morning as I reflected on how much I'd miss the chance to preach in Nepali church, a gentle question startled my reverie: "So why don't you become a pastor?" I had to admit it had never remotely occurred to me, but when I took stock of my experience and gifts, it began to seem half-plausible. I prayed for another couple of weeks before sharing the notion with Deirdre, who in turn said she felt a strong call to be in continued Christian ministry wherever we were. So, as subsequent weeks unfolded, my becoming a pastor in the neediness of the United States became a nucleus for our shared sense of mission.

It occurred to me to sound out three pastor-friends – in Australia, England, and America – and within two weeks all three had sent me unprompted emails about unrelated matters. On a zoom-call, one of them, a Bishop in the United Methodist Church, segued from explaining the Certified Lay Minister pathway into telling us of the 41 churches in Maine without a pastor.

During Zac's month-long vacation, our family had many conversations, looking back and looking forward. Neither Zac nor Benjamin embraced the idea of our leaving Nepal. "This is our home and we'd rather you keep it here than follow us to the U.S." There are many moving pieces to a decision like this. Another critical part involves whether Deirdre takes the exam to transfer her dietary qualification from Ireland to enable her to work in the U.S.

In our Nepal apartment, we've begun to segregate small items like books and paintings and clothes, to consider what stays and what goes with us. On the physical level, there will be lists upon lists, boxes and sales. On the personal level, we know this move will try each of us.

These prayer letters have given us a rich opportunity to regularly stop alongside the road and reflect on the journey. We trust they've also offered you a window and perhaps a focus for prayer. Having you walking along with us has been a gift.

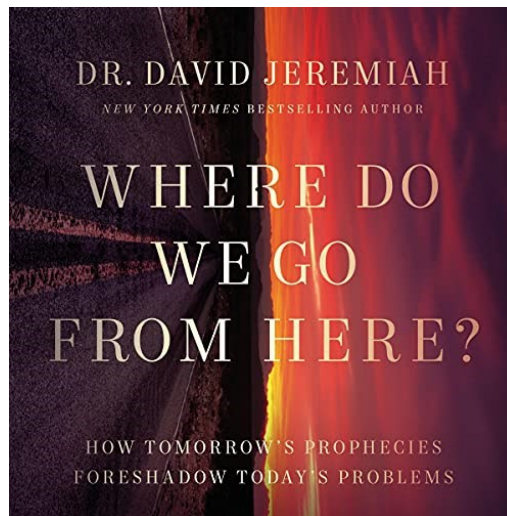
From this July through December our friends at Wesley United Methodist Church in Elkton, Maryland will again provide a base camp from which we'll visit the 50 churches who have long supported us in the U.S. After spending Christmas with family in Dublin, we'll visit churches in Ireland and at the end of January 2024 our tenure as UMC missionaries will come to an end.

For discussions about a possible assignment as local pastor in the New England area;
 For Deirdre's work, in dietetics or otherwise;
 For Benjamin's college decisions as they're finalized this April;
 For goodbyes from this once-foreign place we now call home.

That is, for God's perfect leading, even along uncertain paths on a rainy night

We thank you for your prayers.

Love,
 Mark, Deirdre, (Zachary), and Benjamin



A Video Study by Dr. David Jeremiah – 2023 *“Where Do We Go from Here?”*

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

June 5, 2023	<i>A Cultural Prophecy</i>	Socialism
June 12, 2023	<i>An International Prophecy</i>	Globalism
June 19, 2023	<i>A Biological Prophecy</i>	Pandemic
June 26, 2023	<i>A Financial Prophecy</i>	Economic Chaos
July 10, 2023	<i>A Theological Prophecy</i>	The Falling Away
July 17, 2023	<i>A Biographical Prophecy</i>	End Times People
July 24, 2023	<i>A Political Prophecy</i>	Cancel Culture
July 31, 2023	<i>A Spiritual Prophecy</i>	Spiritual Famine
August 7, 2023	<i>A Geographical Prophecy</i>	Jerusalem
August 14, 2023	<i>The Final Prophecy</i>	The Triumph of the Gospel
August 21, 2023	<i>Make-Up Date if Needed</i>	

Synopsis: The underpinnings of our culture are weakening. The eroding foundations and structural cracks of our nation and world are nearing collapse. We need to know the times and anticipate the return of Christ. We are able to see the signs of the times in the events now unfolding around us.

The events covered in this study are as interconnected as a spider’s web. Many professed Christians are abandoning the faith, creating a vacuum for the rising tide of Marxism. But this is no time to be discouraged! The Gospel will triumph as surely as Christ rose from the dead. Jesus is Lord, and history belongs to Him.

In this study, Max and Dr. Jeremiah will deal with ten prophetic issues as current as the morning news. At any moment, Jesus Christ will descend from heaven for His people. We haven’t long to wait. But until then, we need to understand what the age requires and to do so as the Lord commands.

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

A REMINDER!

**Asbury's annual bus trip will be
Wednesday, September 20 and Thursday, September 21, 2023.**

We will be seeing "Moses" at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA
and we will be taking a bus tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Cost: \$325/person

Price will include:

*Bus service and driver tip, Sight and Sound Tickets,
Overnight at Bird-In-Hand Resort (including tip),
Wednesday Smorgasbord Supper and
Thursday Smorgasbord Breakfast at Bird-In-Hand Restaurant.
Box Lunch at the Gettysburg Battlefield on Thursday before the bus tour.*

NOT INCLUDED:

Lunch on Wednesday and dinner on Thursday.

Your reservation will be secured once your deposit is received.

A waiting list will be established if necessary.

Singles: You must have a traveling companion and roommate.

Deposit of \$150.00 per person due ASAP.

Checks made payable to "*Asbury UMC*" with "*Lancaster Trip*" in the memo line
must be given to Lindsay Webb or mailed to her at
PO Box 27, Brownville, NY 13615; to be recorded and credited.

Questions: Call Margie VanWie at 315-771-9178, Lindsay Webb at 315-408-5099
or Rev. Leon VanWie at 315-771-9142.



FROM ASBURY'S MISSION COMMITTEE

- The Committee approved \$1,000 to be sent to UMCOR for the benefit of the southern states devastated by several tornadoes.
- Citi bus tickets have been purchased to be given to people using the Salvation Army services. Asbury's name and service times will be attached to the tickets.
- The Mission Fund will pay about \$1,100 to cover the cost of the 17 weeks of dinners that were prepared and served at Asbury in support of the homeless population.
- Over \$1,600 was raised from our noisy can collection on March 26 and other donations in support of the citizens of Ukraine.
- The Missions Committee has invited representatives from Urban Mission and The United Way to come and speak on transportation issues.

A PLACE FOR OUR YOUNGEST FRIENDS!



Our nursery is now open and the staff is waiting to care for your little ones while mom and dad enjoy the service. Of course they are always welcome to stay with you in the sanctuary. Mom or dad are also welcome to stay with your little ones in the nursery!



In keeping with Women in Faith's mission of identifying projects involving women and children who are in need/provide funding for organizations that can assist women and children, we are taking on a project to support Happy Period North Country.

Happy Period North Country was featured on a 2/27/23 WWNY news spot. Their organization is a not-for-profit made up of volunteers who assemble period packs and distribute them to community organizations.

There is a need for this mission. From the news story:

"Ten percent of women in the north country at some point have either missed work or school because they haven't had proper menstruation care," Roy said. "It's a worldwide problem. Period products are the number-three requested product at food pantries across the world."

There are 2 ways that you can assist with this project.

Donations of pads and tampons would be greatly appreciated.

A collection box is in the back of the rotunda.

WIF is aiming to make up 25 packs.

Each pack has 28 products with varying sizes and uses.



SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

submitted by Max Bovee

May 7: Isaiah 40:11

"He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart."

May 14: Isaiah 55:3

"Incline your ear, and come to me. Hear, and your soul shall live."

May 21: Jeremiah 6:16

"Ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls."

May 28: Jeremiah 17:7

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord."

Welcoming Pastor Michael Terrell

The Upper New York Conference has petitioned all churches welcoming a new pastor, with a specific outline of what must be done to accomplish this transition. (There is a copy of this mandate in the church office, if you would like to read it). This process is to occur over a period of a year and a half.

Asbury's PSPRC has appointed a "**Transition Team**" to manage this task.

Team members are:

Joanne Rhode, Darlene Welbourn, Jean Gianfagna, Krista Juczak, Jim Rafferty and Carol Plemons.

Joanne Rhode and Carol Plemons have been appointed co-chairs.

The goal and purpose of the team is to help facilitate a smooth transition for Pastor Michael, to help him step into his role at Asbury, with grace, continuity and ease.

The goal is to also assist Pastor Laura, with saying goodbye and moving into retirement.

We will be reaching out to the congregation for assistance with this project. Please feel free to contact the team members with your questions. Pray for Pastor Laura, as she moves forward, and for Pastor Michael and his family, as they transition to Asbury.

Your Asbury Transition Team

FROM THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



Memorial Day is the time of year to remember the family and friends who are no longer with us. In addition to planting flowers and attending parades, a memorial gift made in memory of your loved ones is a wonderful way to show your respect. If you would like to designate a "Memorial Gift," please place it in an envelope labeled "Memorial Gift" and place it in the offering plate or send it into the church office by May 31st. If you are paying by check, please make it **payable to "Asbury UMC - Memorial Gift."** Thank you.

The Memorial Committee members look for appropriate, tasteful, and useful ways to apply these expressions of love and friendship. Previous purchases have included hymnals, hand bells, paraments, altar furnishings, candelabras, church signs and directories, a podium, refurbishing the altar table cross, music for the choir library, replacement robes, a keyboard, a computer system, and audio equipment. As you can see, it is not difficult to find a suitable use for memorial gifts that will serve as a lasting memorial.

Orie Phillips and Lisa Smith
Co-chairs of the Memorial Committee



Ticks can be as lethal as a venomous snake in the wrong scenario! Please not only read it, but share it!

Make sure we get the word out about these ticks and the disease they carry! It's warmer weather! Beginning time for camping, hiking and getting outside to play. Don't let those pesky annoying ticks stop you. Here's how with a simple homemade solution!

Repellent for your pets:

For pets, add 1 cup of water to a spray bottle, followed by 2 cups of distilled white vinegar. Ticks hate the smell and taste of vinegar, and will be easily be repelled by this ingredient alone. Then, add two spoonfuls of vegetable or almond oil, which both contain sulfur (another natural tick repellent).

To make a repellent that will also deter fleas, mix in a few spoonfuls of lemon juice, citrus oil, or peppermint oil, any of which will repel ticks and fleas while also creating a nicely scented repellent. Spray onto the pet's dry coat, staying away from sensitive areas including eyes, nose, mouth, and genitals. When outdoors for an extended period, spray this solution on two to three times per day.

For you and your family:

In a spray bottle, mix 2 cups of distilled white vinegar and 1 cup of water. To make a scented solution so you do not smell like bitter vinegar all day, add 20 drops of your favorite essential oil.

The deadline for articles for the June Beacon is **May 22nd**.

Please send articles to Sue Beaman at asburybeacon@gmail.com
or send or bring them to the church office - Asbury@gisco.net

FROM THE TRUSTEES

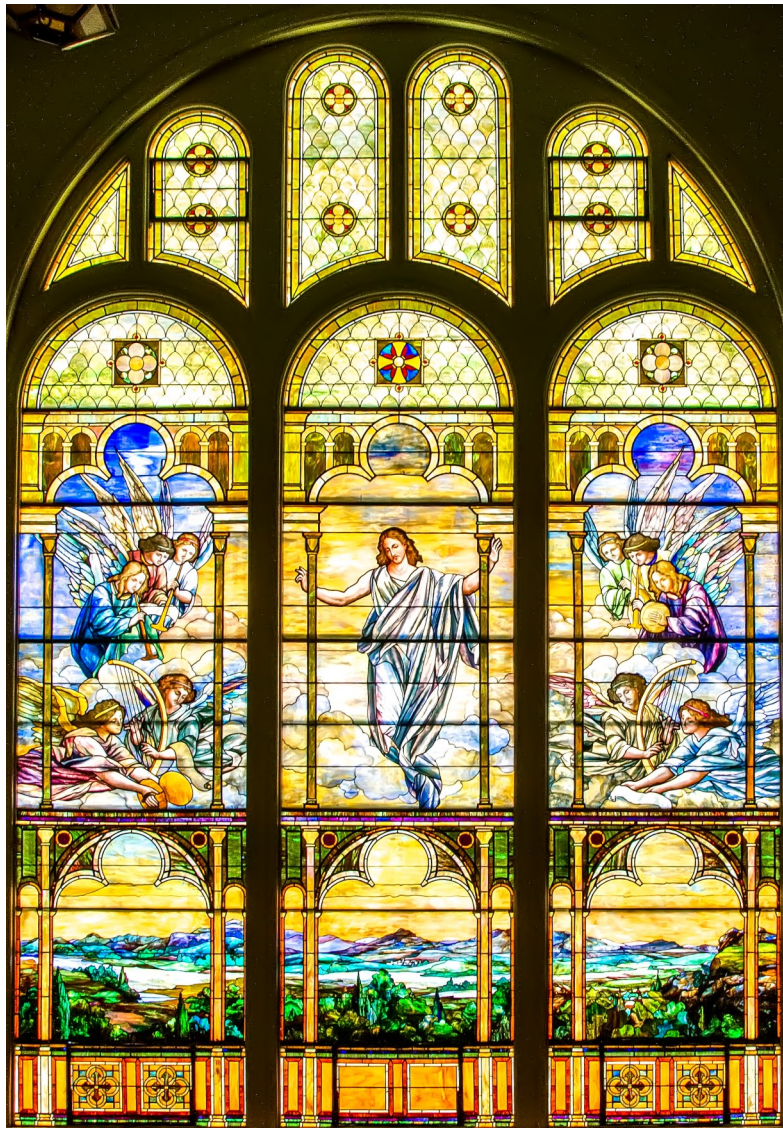
The Men's Group has worked on correcting some of our misplaced lawn pieces following a winter of clearing the snow from our parking lots. We thank this group for their efforts.

We are finding that sometimes when meetings are held in the parlor or downstairs in Wesley Hall, that the thermostats are not turned back to 62. This is a concern because our heating system continues to maintain the heat when no one is there. This results in increased energy use and adds to our heating expense. Please remember to turn the thermostats back to 62 at the end of your meeting.

Thank you for helping to control our energy use.

Glen Snell, Trustee

"I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father." - John 16:28



Dear church family,

A few weeks ago, I received an invitation from Barbara Sargent's son and family to come to NJ to celebrate and surprise his mother on her 94th birthday. I'm sure he has invited others from this church – Dan and I will not be attending – however, Jonda Ratigliano (past administrative assistant) and her husband, Mike, will be attending. Jonda approached me the other day with a great suggestion: to contact the church family and ask if they wanted to bring birthday cards to church and then I would take them to Jonda for her to take with them. **So if you'd like to send Barbara a happy 94th, please bring them to church by May 17th** and I will give them to Jonda to take with her.

Thank you!
Lindsay Webb

Thou hast put gladness in my heart...
Psalm 4:7 KJV



*Dear Friends at Asbury Methodist church,
we cant thank you enough for your
warmth and hospitality when we visited
your church and spoke about our beloved
Ukraine. we know there is a plan and
purpose in- It was so nice of you! everything!
Even evil can be turned to good. The
monies you sent were immediately sent to
Ukraine and some was used to get much
needed ^(medical) supplies to Ukraine. Thank you and
may God Bless you each and everyone!
Bo & Betty Krop*



May 7 Barbara Simmons
May 8 Darlene Welbourn
May 12 Joshua Little
May 18 Barbara Sargent
May 18 Ken Snell
May 20 Roxanne Robinson
May 20 Rev. Toby Schilling
May 21 Steven Marshall
May 25 Anne Fioretto
May 28 Edward Putzier



Christopher and Katie Jeurissen
May 2, 2011

James and Melanie Rafferty
May 3, 2003

Richard and Kimberly Little
May 8, 2010

Richard and Anne Fioretto
May 9, 1969

Rev. David and Barbara Simmons
May 23, 1986

Dale and Marianne Scott
May 29, 1965

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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.



Asbury United Methodist Church

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



“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” - John 13:34

