



The Asbury BEACON

September 2023

Volume 23, Number 7

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!*

This year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) was "Pets Unleashed: Where Jesus Cares Fur You" by Group Publishing. It was held Tues., Aug. 22nd -Thurs., Aug 24th, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. each night. A pet themed dinner: Tues. - "hot dogs", Wed. - "pupcakes and snausages" (pancakes and sausage), Thurs. - "purr-itos" (burritos/tacos) was served at 5:30 p.m. The mission project this year was to benefit the Jefferson County SPCA. This tied in with the theme of this VBS and was also chosen in memory of Stacie Johnson, who passed away earlier this year. She loved her pets and animals. She served many years with Asbury's children/youth program, especially with VBS. A total of \$216 was raised during VBS and with a "noisy can collection" during the post VBS church service on Sun., Aug. 27th. The kids also donated 36 dog chew pull toys that they made during one of the VBS nights in the projects with a Purpose activity station. The SPCA also came to visit VBS. They did a presentation of their services, a Q&A with the kids, and Trenta, a 3 month old kitten was a huge hit.

VBS 2023



ASBURY'S STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
FAITH KIRCH

**ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR-
VISITATION**
JANE EASTHAM
CELL PHONE: 315-804-1350
EMAIL:
URBANMISSIONJANE@YAHOO.COM

BROADCAST MINISTRY
BOB KURTZ

CLEANING SERVICES
FRANCES GOUTREMOUT

CONGREGATIONAL CARE
PAMELA QUIMBY
DARLENE WELBOURN

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
DAN WEBB

TREASURER
FAITH KIRCH

MAINTENANCE
WILLIAM NOVISKI

**MUSIC PROGRAM
DIRECTOR**
CATHERINE MOWERS

MUSIC PROGRAM STAFF
GHILYANA DORDZHIEVA
MARTHA JABLONSKI
LYNN MORGAN
MELANIE RAFFERTY
MICHELLE RUDD
LISA SMITH
LAURA WASHBURN
BINA WEST

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
SUE BEAMAN
ASBURYBEACON@GMAIL.COM

PASTOR
MICHAEL TERRELL



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COME FELLOWSHIP WITH US!!

There always seems to be a lot of talk in churches about Fellowship and its importance. When I think of Fellowship, I always think of it as that time after worship when the congregation gathers for coffee and cookies and conversation. So, I looked up the definition of fellowship. Fellowship is defined as "a community of interest, activity, feeling or experience." Everything we do at Asbury would fit into that category, including worship. Throughout this newsletter you will find activities and experiences where the Asbury community comes together to fellowship. Find the opportunities that interest you and come join in!



Men's Breakfast August 5, 2023 at IHOP

Next Men's Breakfast: Saturday, Sept. 9th, 8:00 a.m. at IHOP



Ladies of *Asbury Women of Faith* helping to prepare Chapin Living Waters' newsletter for mailing.

Hello Asbury!

A Note From the PASTOR



I trust you are doing well and are enjoying these final days of summer. It almost seems like summer just began, yet here we are already once again with vacations winding down for many people, while families with children are purchasing their Back-to-School supplies.

On **Sunday, September 3**, I invite all our children and youth to bring their backpacks to church and place them up near the altar so they can be blessed during our 10:15 AM service. This is called the "**Blessing of the Backpacks.**" We will bless them and say a prayer for all teachers, bus drivers and folks who educate our children. We will also share in Holy Communion.

We here at Asbury UMC are excited to announce that we are having a "**Back to Church**" Sunday on **September 17 at 10:15 A.M.** We recognize, of course, that many of you have been attending faithfully throughout these summer months, yet for many people, vacations and family activities have been interspersed throughout the weeks.

With this in mind, we are, of course, welcoming each and every person and family back and are looking forward to tremendous times of ministry to our church families in the months ahead.

Also, did you know that 7 out of 10 people who don't presently attend church have never been invited, yet would come if someone took the time to invite them? This is an amazing statistic that provides great opportunity for the church, and those of us who attend, to do our part in reaching out to our family and friends who presently are not in a church on a faithful basis.

Our challenge is simple: **Think of at least 10 people or families you can invite to our Back to Church Sunday, then write them down, and start looking for opportunities to invite them to "Back to Church Sunday"!** For some of them, it might be a time where indeed they do come back to church after being away for some time. For others, it might even be the first time they've attended church, but let's be intentional and prayerful as we consider who to invite. Again, at least 10 people, but if you feel led to invite more, by all means, go ahead!

Sunday School begins on September 17 as well, and help is always appreciated. I know under the leadership of Michelle Rudd, exciting events are planned for the children who are in our midst!

As is always my hope, there will be a message that will reach out with the love of God, and we will pray the Holy Spirit will open their hearts for all to receive it.

I'm looking forward to journeying with you through this season. Let us bring back Asbury to the days when this was "the place to be!"

You can do this!

See you on Sunday morning!

DeColores,

Pastor Michael





MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS AGAIN

Asbury's Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday evening, September 7, 2023, at 7:15pm. If you love to sing, please consider joining! We rehearse once a week, on Thursdays, beginning in September until the 1st week of June, from 7:15 -8:15pm. Sunday mornings we warm-up at 9:30am. In a Thursday rehearsal, we go over the "ditties" (the Introit, Choral Response to Prayer, and the Choral Benediction) for that Sunday, and we cover anthems for the next 3 weeks. Attendance every Thursday night is not mandatory. And although it is very helpful, you do not need to be able to read music. We need all vocal parts - soprano, alto, tenor and bass.



Chancel Choir is a fun and very important part of Asbury's Worship services. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to ask! You can reach Cathy at 315-778-5315, or at cwmusic84@gmail.com We hope you will join us in making beautiful music for our Lord!

Instrumentalist? Consider Asbury's Praise Band!

The Praise Band at Asbury is a group of instrumentalists, wind or string, that play the Prelude once a month in Sunday services. We rehearse every **Thursday** from **5:30-6:15pm**, this year **starting on Sept. 14th**. You do not have to play every month, or attend every rehearsal. It is helpful if you have at least a couple years of experience playing your instrument. If you think you would like to give Praise Band a try, please contact Cathy at 315-778-5315, or at cwmusic84@gmail.com, so she can have music ready for you and your instrument. Also, if you would like to learn how to play a band instrument or just have a refresher course), contact Cathy!





Agape Ringers

Agapè Ringers begin rehearsals in September. This adult bell choir is for beginner to intermediate bell ringers. So if you have always wanted to ring, this is the group for you.

Our rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 6:15–7:15 pm in the sanctuary. We thoroughly enjoy ringing as well as each other's company. Generally, we plan on ringing once a month during the regular Sunday service. Our first rehearsal is Thursday, September 7th.

This group of adults loves to “go on the road” and share their love of handbells with other congregations and other groups within our area. In the fall we hope to visit Summit Village and play for them.

We welcome you to join us and become as hooked on bells as we are. Please call Lynn Morgan, 315-493-2637 if you are interested, so that we will be ready for you to join us at our rehearsals. Looking forward to hearing from you!



Silver Tones Flute Choir brought beautiful instrumental sounds to our sanctuary during worship on Sunday, August 20th

Youth Group Event - “Escape from Sunday School” - on Sunday, Oct 1 during the 10:15 a.m. church service, there will be an escape room set up in Wesley Hall in the age 3-grade 2 classroom.

Looking to borrow: kid/toy purse, briefcase/small luggage with number lock system, locker combination padlock, small chest/box that can be padlocked, bicycle lock. If you have any of these items, contact Sarah Lehman at 315-767-2641.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

We have been busy through the summer months. The driveway at the parsonage has been re-sealed. When the parsonage garage was cleaned out in June, we discovered 4 windows that needed to be replaced. Jim Juczak constructed the new windows and they will soon be installed.

The carpets in the sanctuary and church office have been cleaned. The carpets have not been professionally cleaned since all the repairs and repainting of the sanctuary. They look much brighter.

The new organ for Chapman Chapel should be installed within the next 2-3 weeks. This \$20,000 organ was fully funded by donations from the congregation.



The annual cleaning and maintenance of the 2 boilers that heat the church, plus the furnaces throughout our education wing (now housing the New Day Children's Center), has been completed.

At the recent Finance Committee meeting, the reports show that our expenses continue to exceed our income. The Trustees have been asked to consider supplying some financial aid to help balance the budget. The Trustees have established a plan to support the budget with \$4,000 per month from the interest income generated by our endowment fund. We have previously provided this help when needed.

I hope to see you in church to meet and greet our new pastor and enjoy worshipping with our community of faith.

Blessings,
Glen Snell, Trustee

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, September 19th, 4:30 P.M. in the Parlor.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.



ASBURY WOMEN IN FAITH

You are invited to come learn with us!!

This is a revitalized women's group which takes the place of the former United Methodist Women's group. The name was updated to reflect all women who want to connect with other women and children by supporting them in many places, not just in our own church or denomination.

Our mission is to spend our 2023 endowed budget on special projects which will enhance the lives of women and their families in Africa and America. In March we sent \$1000 to help prepare for the opening of Camp Aldersgate's summer season. In June we packed over 80 Happy Period of the North Country kits for schools and other agencies. In August we just finished providing funds for Asbury's Vacation Bible School. In August we also stuffed newsletters for Chapin Living Waters, a non-profit organization that provides simple buckets and hoses for irrigation sites around the world.

On Saturday, Sept. 9th, at 9:30 am in the parlor, we have invited Margot McGorman to speak to us on behalf of the Women of Grace in Malawi, Africa. We want to learn what they do and how we can help them.

Please join with us to help learn about and fund exciting mission projects!

Susan Snell

ASBURY'S FALL RUMMAGE SALE **October 6 and 7, 2023** **8:30-1:30**

Items are already pouring in for the RUMMAGE SALE. Many people have taken the time this summer to clean out attics, cellars, and garages. The most popular items for the sale always are furniture, working/clean appliances, jewelry, tools, old glassware, and antiques of any kind. We don't accept clothing or computer items.

Our BAKE SALE this fall will feature homemade pies!! We have some great pie bakers at Asbury. Pies can be baked or frozen and ready to be baked. Our target is 40 pies - can we do it? Yes!! If you have another specialty recipe for a cake or cookie, please bake some of these, also. We will be serving free coffee and tea to go along with the baked goods.

Come get some great bargains and homemade baked goods.

All proceeds will benefit our Asbury 2023 budget. Thank you!!



10th Mountain Division

ASBURY HAS ADOPTED A PLATOON

Who is our adopted platoon?

A platoon from Alpha Company, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum.



Asbury's "Adopted" Platoon

Our "Adopted" Platoon:

42 Soldiers from Alpha Company, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum.

Duration & Location of the Deployment:

9 months (Aug 2023 – Apr 2024), Kuwait, Iraq, Syria.

How You Can Help:

Please pray for their safety & mission accomplishment.
A box is in the rotunda for you to place your donations.

Items the Soldiers need:

- Hygiene basics like soap
- Deodorant
- Disposable razors
- Writing paper/envelopes
- Individual snack packs (trail mix)
- Toothpaste (small tubes)
- Shaving cream (travel-size)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Personal notes & letters



Care
Packages
for our
Adopted
Platoon

Rather than a donation of items, you may mail a check to the church office annotated with "Adopt A Platoon." Christian Connections will purchase items.

Jim Rafferty, Asbury Lay Leader
Mobile: 315-408-9036

Lindsay Webb, Co-Chair
Christian Connections Committee



September 2 William Lennon
September 10 Michael Terrell
September 13 Patricia Littell
September 21 Lisa Sullivan
September 26 Judith Cota
September 27 Jean Marshall



Michael and Karen Hill
September 12, 1987
Nathan and Sarah Lehman
September 12, 2009
Mark and Christine Sutton
September 15, 1996
Richard and Helen Dundon
September 26, 2009
David and Lenora Forbes
September 27, 1997

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

submitted by Max Bovee

September 3: Romans 12:10

"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."

September 10: Romans 13:10

"Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

September 17: I Corinthians 2:5

"Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but rather in the power of God."

September 24: I Corinthians 3:11

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid in Jesus Christ."

The Value of Solid Friendships

"Most of life's great moments - the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds - involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

"Friendship

is being with the other in joy and sorrow, even when we cannot increase the joy or decrease the sorrow.

It is a unity of souls that gives nobility and sincerity to love. Friendship makes all of life shine brightly."

— HENRI NOUWEN



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!*



"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE



**GATHERED
IN MY NAME,**

THERE AM I AMONG THEM."

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV

Thank You letters from the girls who attended Aldersgate Horse Camp!

Thank you so much
Asbury for letting
me go to horse
camp. It was so
fun and Aldersgate
is awesome!
we even saw
owls

We saw lots
of mushrooms,
we got to
sing a lot,
we had cool
name tags
and smores!
♥ Erin

~~scribble~~
I really enjoyed church
Camp. My favorite activities
were horseback riding, games, swimming
and making new friends.

I hope I can go back again
next year.

I am very happy that asbury
gave me the opportunity to
attend church camp

~~scribble~~ It is an experience
that I will never forget!!

Thank you asbury!!!!

Love + blessings

~~scribble~~
Jaelah

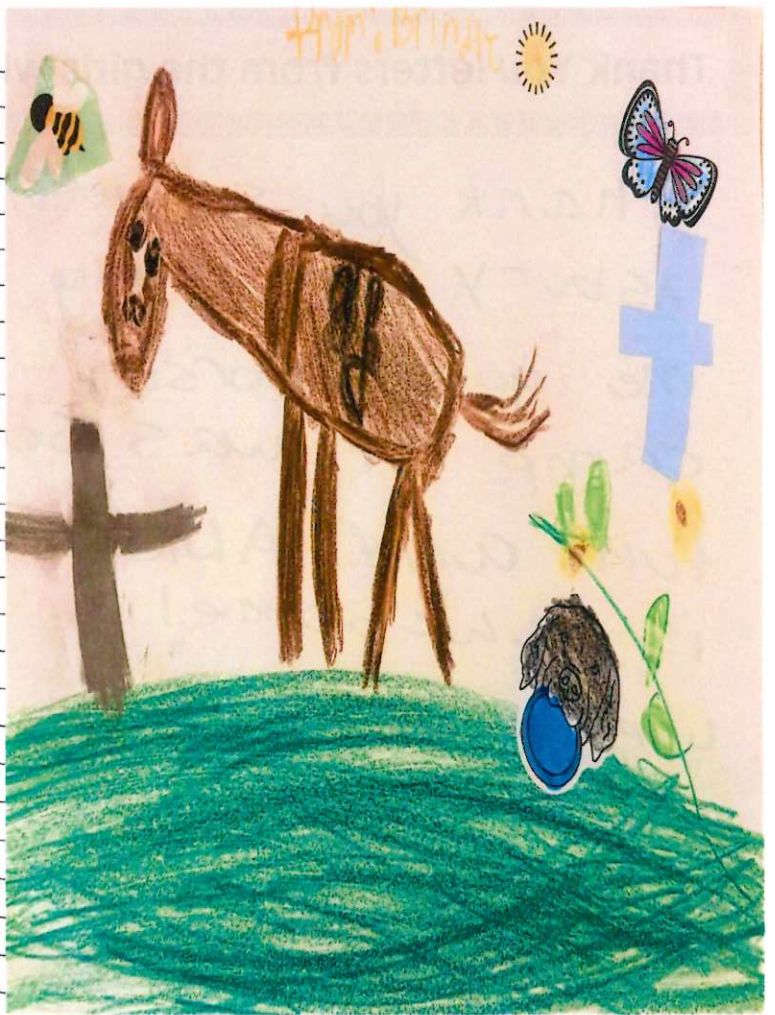


I really enjoyed church camp doing the fun activities like swimming, riding horses, games, campfires, making new friends, and many others made me truly happy. I will remember it for the rest of my life.

My favorite thing I learned about Jesus was how he healed the blind man. In the book of Mark it says that he took the spit and the mud to perform the miracle. It taught me that God and Jesus can save anything.

I am so grateful asbury gave me the opportunity to attend church camp. It is an experience that I will never forget. Thank you Asbury!

Love & Blessings
Brindie



Thank you for letting us come to camp. I enjoyed learning how to ride and groom horses. It was so much fun. I hope I get to come back next year. I loved having a campfire.
From, Abi* Patrick

