



The Asbury BEACON

February 2024

Volume 24, Number 2

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!*

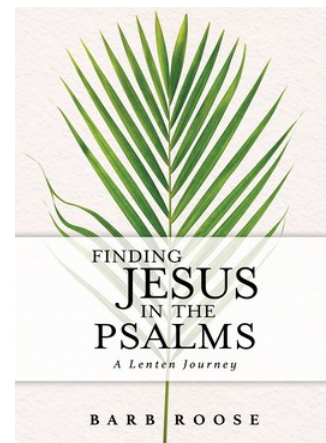
JOIN US FOR
ASH
Wednesday
The Beginning of
OUR LENTEN JOURNEY
FEBRUARY 14TH
12:15 & 6:30 PM
In the Chapel

Finding Jesus in the Psalms

Our Lenten Bible Study led by Pastor Michael
Monday, February 19th through March 25th from 7:15-8:30 p.m.

Journey with us for a meaningful encounter with the Psalms through the season of Lent. Combining an interpretation of the Psalms with real life stories, the study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 back to the painful cries of Psalm 22 uttered by Jesus on the cross. The study includes reflections on the life of King David and the original context of the writings, along with connections between the Psalms and the life and death of Jesus the Messiah.

“The Psalms provide a perfect framework for experiencing Lent through the verses that were Jesus’s own scriptures, offering both him and us strength and wisdom in a painful and redemptive season. The Book of Psalms hums with the heartbeat of our humanity with divinely inspired words that find purchase in the tenderest places in our hearts when our human words or wisdom fails us.” from Author Barb Roose



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Dear Asbury Family,

"To grant to those who mourn in Zion - to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified." - Isaiah 61: 3

A faint spirit, the oil of mourning, the ashes of grief - God promises to deliver us from these. What a blessing it is to serve a God who turns the sorrow of grief into a time of praise!

Wednesday, February 14, also Valentine's Day, is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. On Ash Wednesday, we recall the biblical custom of covering ourselves in ashes. By doing this, we mark ourselves in two ways: as those who are in mourning for our crucified Christ, and as those who are filled with a heart of sorrow for their sins. We will have a service with Imposition of Ashes in the chapel on **Ash Wednesday at 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.**

While our Advent celebrations are filled with joy as we remember the birth of our King, Lent is when we focus on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Traditionally, many believers choose to participate in some sort of fasting during this time - people have been known to fast from various foodstuffs as well as television and internet usage. Others decided to study the Bible more closely or experience a time of solitude. Perhaps you will commit to attending services from now until the glory of Easter (my favorite holiday!!) or dedicate a larger portion of your day to a time of prayer.

Whatever your personal preference, Lent can be the time when you decide to let go of old habits and develop a more joyful, Christ-filled way of living. I would like to invite you and your family to join me as we prepare for a time of tremendous spiritual growth and renewal.

I hope to see you on Sunday morning as we journey through Lent.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor
Michael*

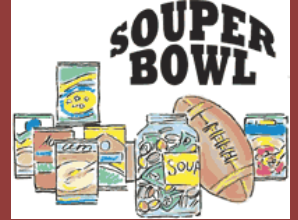




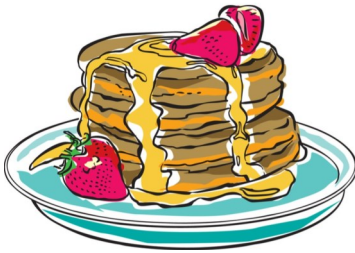
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 the Sunday School kids will be in the kitchen during church preparing a fellowship luncheon for the congregation. Tomato and chicken noodle soups, grilled cheese sandwiches and frosted football cookies are on the menu.

Also, Sunday School is asking for people to bring in cans of soup that Sunday for a literal "noisy can" collection.

Cans of soup will be donated to the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry.



Pancake Breakfast



On **Sunday, February 25**, the youth who may be attending summer church camp will be preparing and serving a pancake breakfast. This is an excellent way for the youth to have a way to actually be involved in raising money so that they will have the wonderful opportunity to attend camp.

We are going to have our breakfast again at Asbury, since the congregation liked to have it in previous years. Parents and youth will be involved in preparing, serving, and cleaning up following the meal.

In Wesley Hall, we will be serving pancakes with real maple syrup, a fruit cup, bacon, and beverages, including coffee, tea, orange juice and chocolate milk. The group will begin serving at 8:30 am on Sunday morning and go until 10:00 a.m. Then, they will resume serving following the 10:15 am service. Tickets for this fundraiser will be available in advance from our youth...\$6 per ticket. Tickets will also be available the morning of the breakfast. Thank you in advance for your support.

Lynn Morgan
Camp Agent



Children and Youth who are interested in attending church camp this summer should contact:

Lynn Morgan, 315-493-2637 or lkmorgan@twcny.rr.com



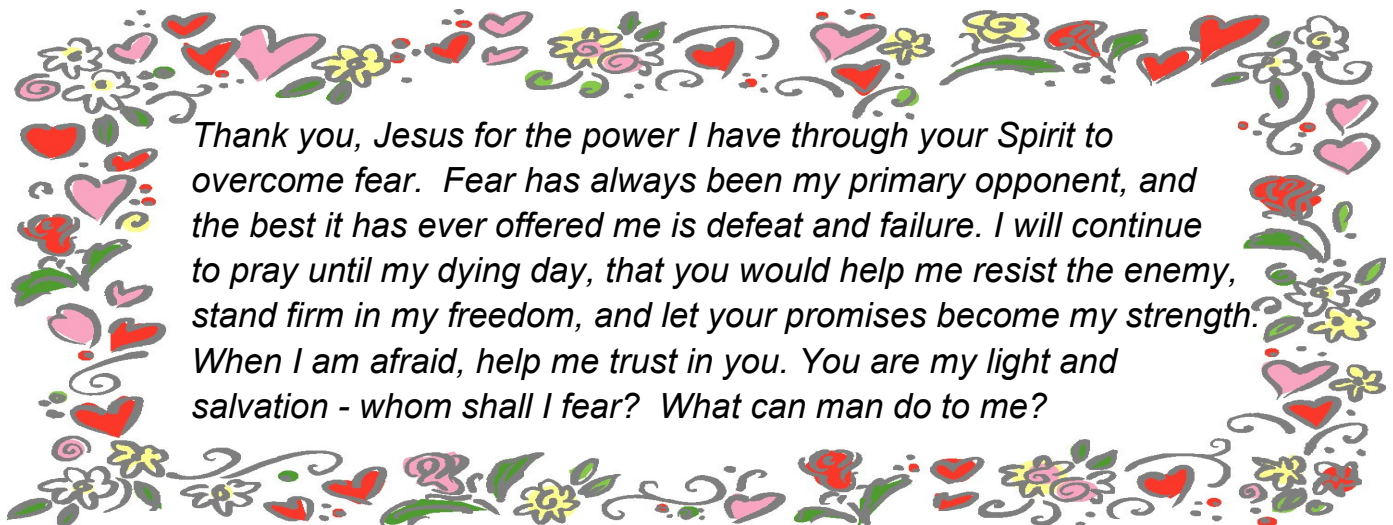
With each gust of wind I heard a loud creaking noise. It sounded like the building was going to come apart. I was sitting at the top of my staircase in my apartment. Hanging on the wall above me to my right was a statue of Jesus. The statue had been passed from my mother to my sister and from my sister to me. Directly in front of me were the two pictures of Asbury's bell tower - one of the tower as it was 40 or 50 years ago and the other as it is today after being refurbished. The doors at each end of the long hallway were closed. There I sat in fear with a blanket wrapped around me and a flashlight and my cell phone sitting on a table in front of me. I lived through the Blizzard of '77, the first big ice storm and the microburst, but this was different - I wasn't alone during those storms. After a couple of hours the winds began to subside a little. I climbed into bed thinking maybe the power would come back on before morning. I woke up around 2 a.m.; the only light was from my flashlight. I looked out the window - all I saw was blackness; I could not see anything else.

As the sun came up the next morning I looked out the window and saw several large trees had come down. Miraculously, none of them had fallen on buildings or cars. I opened the blinds to the patio doors at the back of my apartment. There in front of the glass were several birds fluttering around. There were bluebirds, finches and a single cardinal. They fluttered there for a few minutes as if saying, *you are going to be ok*. They then flew away. I called my brother who lives down the road from me. He had a generator. I packed a bag and some food and went and weathered the wind and snow storms of the next few days with my family.

One week later as I walked into my workplace, I was informed that my position at my place of employment was being eliminated. As God led me through the building to the outside door, I did not feel anger or sadness. I felt only relief, as I walked through the door to the outside, I know as I face the future, there will be more storms to weather; but I also know that God will always be there right beside me. I am being compensated through March 31 - EASTER SUNDAY! New beginnings?

Sue Beaman

The following prayer was taken from
Prayers and Promises for Grandmas:



Thank you, Jesus for the power I have through your Spirit to overcome fear. Fear has always been my primary opponent, and the best it has ever offered me is defeat and failure. I will continue to pray until my dying day, that you would help me resist the enemy, stand firm in my freedom, and let your promises become my strength. When I am afraid, help me trust in you. You are my light and salvation - whom shall I fear? What can man do to me?

In person services at Asbury were cancelled on January 14, 2024, but because of the gift of technology, we could worship through livestreaming on YouTube and Facebook. Pastor Michael sang the song below near the beginning of the service. It spoke to me. I hope it speaks to you too!

The Bishops

He's in the Midst

Published by [necicHoT](#)

*He's in the midst of our storm.
He's in the valley we walk through.
Where two or three are gathered in His name.
He'll be there, too.*

*When you feel so all alone,
He is standing next to you.
He's with us now.
Our Lord, He's in the midst.*

*As you travel down life's road,
He is with you every day.
With every step you take
He's walked ahead of you.
And every night as you lay down
Angels are camping all around.
I'll never be alone
for He is in the midst.*

*He's in the midst of our storm.
He's in the valley we walk through.
Where two or three are gathered in His name.
He'll be there, too.*

*When you feel so all alone,
He is standing next to you.
He's with us now.
Our Lord, He's in the midst.*

*Into the prison they were thrown.
Paul and Silas weren't alone.
They knew their God was there
and He would see them through.
So when the walls began to shake
and all their chains just fell away.
They cried behold our God
for He is in the midst.*

*He's in the midst of our storm.
He's in the valley we walk through.
Where two or three are gathered in His name.
He'll be there, too.*

*When you feel so all alone,
He is standing next to you.
He's with us now.
Our Lord, He's in the midst.*

*He's with us now.
He's in the midst.*

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COMMUNITY



DINNERS

Emmanuel Congregational Church is serving dinner Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. (eat in only) These meals are FREE and everyone is welcome. The menu is available on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelChurchUCC>

Asbury is volunteering to help Emmanuel Church with the **Tuesday dinners until the end of April**. A binder with sign-up sheets is in the Rotunda. You can sign up for:

Meal Prep (2-5 p.m.)

Set-up and Serve (4-6 p.m.)

Clean-up (6-8 p.m.)

Let us come together with Emmanuel to help provide a hot meal and friendship to our neighbors in need.

Asbury's Mission Committee has pledged \$1,000 (\$250 each month, January through April) to help Emmanuel cover the cost of the meals.



*Sending Love &
Prayers to*



OUR ADOPTED PLATOON



The Christian Connections Committee recently mailed out three boxes to our 42 Adopted Platoon members in Kuwait, Iraq and Syria and the Sergeant in Kuwait has assured us that they are very happy with the items they have been receiving. The committee is preparing to send another three boxes in February, March and April. Please support our troop by bringing in donations and placing them in the box in the rotunda. Here are the items most needed:

Hygiene basics like soap

Shaving cream (travel-size)

Disposable razors

Writing paper/envelopes

Personal notes & letters & cards

Toothpaste (small tubes)

Cards with winter snow scenes

Feminine hygiene products

Individual snack packs (trail mix)

Please do not bring in Speed Stick Deodorant as it melts in the heat.

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.

Besides our donations, the soldiers could use our prayers for their safety and mission accomplishment.

Thank you for your donations and your prayers. It makes a difference!

The Christian Connections Committee hosted our Churchwide Birthday Party Luncheon on Sunday, January 7th. Each month had a table decorated with a theme appropriate for the month and it was a joyous occasion. It was fun to sit with people who shared a birthday month with you. As always, the food was delicious and there was plenty of it. As the Children will be hosting a Souper Bowl luncheon in February, the next CCC luncheon will be on March 4th.



Max and Greeta Bovee
February 18, 1984

February 3	James Wright	February 12	Jean Sayers
February 3	David Witte	February 17	Nicole Lamica
February 5	James Rafferty	February 24	Melanie Rafferty
February 5	Deborah Simmons	February 24	Bina West
February 9	Karen Boomhower	February 24	Max Bovee

Pastor Michael baptized and the congregation received **Kellen Fitzgerald Keenan** into the Asbury Family on January 7, 2024

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK FOR 2024

submitted by Max Bovee

February 4: 1 Kings 4:5

"God said, Ask! What shall I give you?"

February 11: 2 Chronicles 5:13-14

"When the trumpeters and singers were as one, the Glory of the Lord filled the house of God."

February 18: Job 31:1

"I have made a covenant with my eyes."

February 25: Psalm 18:2

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress."

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Website: www.AsburyUMC.net
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Address Service Requested



Join us for
SUNDAY WORSHIP
at
8:15 a.m.
10:15 a.m.



Scan to visit
Asbury's
website



Asbury United Methodist Church

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



JOIN US FOR

ASH

Wednesday

The Beginning of
OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

FEBRUARY 14TH
12:15 & 6:30 p.m.
in the Chapel

Lenten Bible Study

Mondays beginning 2/19
7:15-8:30 pm
in Parlor

FINDING
JESUS
IN THE
PSALMS
A Lenten Journey
BARB ROOSE



"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."