



The Asbury BEACON

January 2024

Volume 24, 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!*



As we look out over the horizon of this new year, I probably don't need to remind you that none of us know what tomorrow holds. This is why it is so important to keep our eyes focused on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I want to share a New Year message for church members and attendees!

Most of us have either purchased a new car or at least taken a ride in a brand-new vehicle with the "new smell" still fully intact. Yet, it doesn't take too long for the "new" to become "old" or at least that feeling of new.

There's a powerful scripture in the Bible that I believe is still relevant in this day and age we live in. Isaiah 43:19 (NKJV) *Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

I realize this was written to the people of that day; however, I still believe we serve a mighty God who longs to do "new things" in our lives and even in our church! Imagine that?! Yet, these things God wants to do are usually accompanied by our willingness and cooperation. There may be some in our midst attempting to look out over the weeks and months ahead and can only see a "dry wilderness." Yet, let me remind you that He can still make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert!

I want to encourage you today to allow the Lord to do "a new thing" in your heart, marriage, job, church, school, or community! While we all will continue to go through times of refining and even trials, we serve a God who is faithful and WILL bring us through as we trust God! Rest assured that we love you here at Asbury United Methodist Church and will continue to pray for God's richest blessings in your life! YOU are highly valued and greatly appreciated!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Pastor Michael will be teaching a **CONFIRMATION CLASS** at Asbury UMC beginning in January. Confirmation marks the first time a baptized Christian publicly "confirms" their intention to live the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and so becomes a professing member of the local congregation and The United Methodist Church.

Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world.

Through confirmation, our personal relationship with Christ is strengthened. If your child is in 7-12th grades, or is mature enough to accept the responsibility to become confirmed, please let Pastor Michael know by January 15th.

Members of our confirmation class will become members in June, 2024.

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Asbury's Praise Band plays during worship

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**HOT CHOCOLATE
ANYONE?**



**Wednesday morning Prayer Circle
in Asbury's Parlor**

**P
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**Come join in the fun and fellowship at Asbury UMC.
Be a part of something special and experience God's love!**



THERE ARE ANGELS AMONGST US

35 tags with the Christmas wishes of children in our community hung from the branches of Asbury's Angel Tree. Thirty five angels stepped forward and made those Christmas wishes a reality. A big "thank you" goes out to those thirty five angels and a big "thank you" to Jean Gianfagna for guiding those angels. I am sure there were some happy boys and girls on Christmas morning.

Sue Beaman

SPEAKING OF ANGELS...



Dave Stoodley and Bruce Irwin

recently received certificates of appreciation for their efforts in their food pantry ministry and work with Salvation Army.

Dave collects \$5.00 a month (or \$60 a year) from members and friends of Asbury who are willing to participate. He and Bruce then call the Urban Mission Food Pantry every Monday to find out what is needed. They then go and purchase those items in bulk and take them to the Urban Mission Food Pantry. 16,431 items were delivered to the Pantry in 2023.

Bruce is a Board Member of the Salvation Army, and sells tickets for their Pancake Breakfasts and signs up bell ringers at Christmas time.

REMINDER FROM MISSIONS,

We have committed our time and our funds to assist Emmanuel Church in serving the "Community Dinners" from January 2, 2024 to the end of April 2024. Asbury will be responsible for every Tuesday, starting January 2. We need at least 8 volunteers every Tuesday till the end of April. Asbury will receive recognition on those Tuesdays which we are serving. Please sign up at the end of Sunday services or contact Jane Eastham to request to be included in the service of those in need. Thank You.

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK FOR 2024

submitted by Max Bovee

January 7: Genesis 50:20

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done."

January 14: Deuteronomy 32:10-11

"He shielded and cared for him like an eagle that hovers over its young."

January 21: Ruth 2:20

"The Lord has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead."

January 28: 2 Samuel 22:50

"I will praise you Lord, and I will honor you."



Taken from his people, **DANIEL** is exiled far from home in the powerful kingdom of Babylon. Now this faithful servant must navigate his new life inside a palace filled with golden statues and shifting empires. As royal pressures mount, Daniel is faced with a dangerous choice. Will his trust in the one true God remain steadfast through every test of faith?

From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, **DANIEL** is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres.



Thursday, September 19 and Friday, September 20, 2024.

COST: \$350

Price Includes:

Bus service and driver tip, Sight and Sound tickets, overnight at Bird-In-Hand Resort (including small tip for maid), Thursday smorgasbord supper and Friday smorgasbord breakfast at Bird-In-Hand Restaurant (including tips). We regret needing to raise the price, however, prices have increased significantly. **Not included:** Lunch on Thursday, lunch and dinner on Friday.

Deposit of \$150.00 per person due ASAP. Reservations are limited on a first come basis. Your reservation will be secured once your deposit is received.

Singles: You must have a traveling companion/roommate.

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

DON'T WAIT IF YOU ARE INTERESTED. THE BUS MAY FILL UP QUICKLY!

A waiting list will be established if necessary.

Questions:

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

FROM THE TRUSTEES

It has been another busy year for the Asbury Trustees. The largest single project was the purchase and installation of a new organ for the Chapman Chapel. This was a \$20,000 investment completely covered by private donations. It was a testimony of support to further the music program at Asbury.

As we approach 2024, we are looking at repairing the locks on the Franklin St. entrance. The current mechanisms have been in place since the building was built (1965). They are worn out. This could cost as much as \$1500 - for each door.

The second door project is the likely replacement of the entrance on Parker St. This set of doors was probably installed over 100 years ago. One side does not function due to an iron sill rusted into the base of the door. The working side is badly weathered with deep cracks in the woodwork. The stained glass in the upper part of the opening will be saved. This will likely be a moderately expensive project. We are looking at design options, but no cost estimates have been prepared.

It was good to see our sanctuary filled during the Northern Choral Society Christmas Concert. It was stimulating to hear the power produced by the congregation, orchestra, organ and the 65 members of the NCS. The River Ringers Handbell Choir and 30-member Children's Choir added musical variety to the program. The Trustees did spend some time preparing for this and the results were a joy to see and hear. It is a pleasure to be able to share our beautiful sanctuary with the community.

See you in church!
Glen Snell, Trustee



- January 2 Kerry Roberge
- January 9 Darrel Kicherer
- January 14 Frances Goutremout
- January 16 Jaelah Liriano
- January 17 Bonnie Peck
- January 17 Erica Pettit
- January 27 David Simmons
- January 29 Dan Webb

I would just like to say a "BIG" thank you to Faith for everything she does for everyone. Asbury is lucky to have such a great person in the office. Keep up the great work.

In Christian love
Karen granger

WE LOVE & APPRECIATE YOU, FAITH

Confirmation Class

If your child is in 7th-12th grade and would like to join our first 2024 confirmation class, please let Pastor Michael know by **Monday, January 15.**



A Loss
in the Church
Family

Joyce McIntosh, a longtime member of Asbury, died peacefully on Friday, December 8th. Due to failing health she moved from Watertown to Mississippi in October 2021 to live with her son and daughter-in-law, David and Lisa.

Services will be planned for a later date.

Please hold Joyce's family and many friends in prayer.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.Facebook.com/Asbury13601

Address Service Requested



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



Scan to visit
Asbury's
website



Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors...
The people of the
United Methodist
Church

Asbury United Methodist Church

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



*"For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And
nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."*

- Isaiah 60:2-3

