



# The Asbury BEACON

August 2024

Volume 24, Number 8

## 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!*

Hello Family,

I am beginning my second year as your pastor and I am truly blessed to be your spiritual leader. I am excited about the future and am grateful for your warm welcome to me and my children.

I recently met with the Asbury Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee on June 9 to discuss Asbury's Ministry and Mission, our beliefs and witness in the community, our current conflict level, and to set goals for the upcoming year. The co-chairs of our committee meet with me every month and just do a "check-in," which is helpful in case there are any issues.

Here are the goals we are working on:

1. Welcoming and encouraging new families and introducing them to the Pastor on Sunday mornings.
2. Identifying areas of interest for active participation in the ministry of Asbury.
3. Continuing to work with staff in productive ways.
4. Delivering sermons and teaching experiences that inspire, encourage, and challenge people in their discipleship process.

I am thankful for the trust you have placed in me and appreciate the support given to missions at Asbury UMC. As we move through the summer and to fall, I encourage us to invite more friends and family to worship and let us praise God together. I hope we can be even more creative in our worship and leadership together.

May God continue to bless us as always. Warm regards,

*Pastor Michael*



Pastor Michael sharing time with Young Disciples during Worship



Pastor Michael running in the "Boiler Maker" in Utica, NY, on Sunday, July 14th



Max Bovee meets Pastor Michael at the Finish Line. Great job Pastor Michael!!!

## ASBURY'S STAFF

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FAITH KIRCH

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**CONGREGATIONAL CARE**  
PAMELA QUIMBY  
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**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**  
DAN WEBB

**TREASURER**  
FAITH KIRCH

**MAINTENANCE**  
WILLIAM NOVISKI

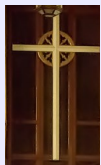
**MUSIC PROGRAM  
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# A MONTH OF MISSIONS

*The Purpose of the Mission Committee of Asbury United Methodist Church is to create and facilitate opportunities to help people in our local, state, national, and worldwide communities. To that end, we support many organizations with our gifts, our time, and our prayers.*

Following are some examples of how our Mission Committee and members of our church family have stepped up this past month to help our neighbors in need.

## **Bishop Héctor visits area affected by recent storms**

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez made a trip to Rome, NY on Monday, delivering storm relief supplies, leading a community in prayer, meeting with survivors, seeing the damage first hand, and spreading messages of hope.

Many people living in affected areas, including Lowville, Rome, Canastota, Eden, and other areas are still cleaning up after all the damage caused by these storms, leaving many in urgent need of assistance. Please continue to pray for all of those impacted.

## **Asbury Helping Out a Sister Church**



The flooding in Lowville in July was astronomical! So much damage was incurred for so many places. It will take a long time to recover.

The Lowville United Methodist Church and parsonage were not spared. They both had 3-4 feet of water in their basements, leading to damage which will take a long time to recover from.

A group of Asburians volunteered to help out on two different days with some maintenance in the parsonage.

**Day One:** Max Bovee, Joanne Rhode, Deb and Herb Van Houten, Sue and Glen Snell, and Carol and Bill Plemons painted.

**Day Two:** Lorraine Irwin, Jean Gianfagna, Darlene Chartrand, Bob Muntz, and Bill and Carol Plemons worked at removing wallpaper.

Between all, 42 hours of work was done. It was nice to be able to help out, and our work was appreciated. Thanks to all who helped!

Also, the Asbury MISSION Committee voted to send \$500 to Lowville UMC to help with repairs and replacement of a water heater.

At their July meeting the ASBURY MISSION COMMITTEE voted to support two international missionaries: **Wesley & Janna Cressman Family**, Missionaries in Spain, and **Patrick Abro**, Missionary in Burundi.

Listed below are some ministry highlights shared by the **Cressmans**:

- Ministry to children and women during the school year on Fridays is a ministry for which Janna has a passion and is close to her heart. They will also be meeting some during the summer. We anticipate Janna having the mothers into our home for a time of sharing on a more personal basis. Most of them do not know Jesus. We recently had an English class with the children and anticipate having another one this summer.
- A park ministry is in the works with a family in the church using evangelism and English.
- The beginning of relationships with Muslims is in progress. These people live and/or work near our apartment. We want to start with friendships and let them see the love of Jesus in us. The goal is for them to find Jesus to be their Savior and develop a personal relationship with Him. We would love to invite some of them to our home.
- This summer we will be hosting a series of children's services at the local church on Sundays. We will be studying about the Apostle Paul and memorizing scripture. We will also be having some fun times with the children.
- Wesley will continue being a part of two small groups throughout the week.



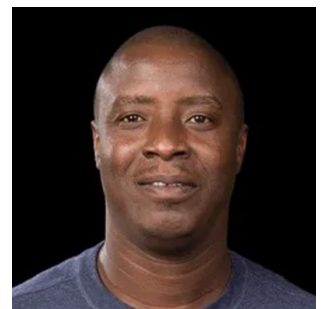
Cressman Family, Missionaries in Spain

We want to be available for whatever doors the Lord opens for us!

Our greatest financial need right now is our general support. With inflation and the fact that the Euro is now worth more than the dollar, we need increased support. Your consideration of our ministry is a blessing.

**Patrick Abro** is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as Health Operation Manager in the Burundi Annual Conference. He was commissioned in May 2016.

Patrick is from Côte d'Ivoire, where he is a member of the Jehova Jire United Methodist Church in Abidjan in the Côte d'Ivoire Annual Conference. He holds a basic degree in literature from Félix Houphouët-Boigny University in Abidjan, a degree in communications and human resources from the College of Abidjan, and master's degree in social science from the National High Institute of Social Science. He has additional training in project management and monitoring and evaluation. He has worked as a coordinator in the evaluation and monitoring of community projects in the annual conference's program to control HIV/AIDS and other pandemic diseases.



Patrick Abro, Missionary in Burundi

Born into a Christian home, Patrick was extremely active in the United Methodist Youth Fellowship on local, district, and annual conference levels. He was conference youth president and has also served the general church. He was a delegate to the 2012 General Conference in Tampa, Florida, and for the 2013-2016 quadrennium represented the West Africa Central Conference on the Division of Ministries for Young People (DMYP) of Discipleship Ministries (General Board of Discipleship). He also represented DMYP on the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund during the same quadrennium. He is a member of the United Methodist Health Board of Côte d'Ivoire.

His call to mission emerges from his faith journey. "God called me at a young age," Patrick says. "God called me in many ways during my journey, and I learned I can serve God in many ways. God opened my heart, my mind, my spirit, and my strength; God touched me and led me into his mission."

## **Changes at the Urban Mission**

The Watertown Urban Mission is no longer the old Urban Mission that most of us knew. The Impossible Dream Thrift Store has permanently closed. In the old thrift store space is now what is called "New Beginnings" and a "Code Blue" room.

New Beginnings is for people who are starting over from a house fire or for homeless people finding an apartment. In both cases, the people start over with New Beginnings by receiving vouchers for clothing, furniture, kitchen equipment, etc., which is all located in the bottom floor of the old thrift store. Vouchers are exchanged and the people may choose the items they need. These items are given away, not sold.

New Beginnings also includes an area for the community to help those in need. For example, if a person needs to sign-up for food stamps, Medicare, health insurance, etc., there are people there to help them or to help them find the help they need. New Beginnings will be open from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The top floor, which held the Impossible Dream Thrift Store, is now a "Code Blue" room, the only one in Jefferson County. If the temperature is 32 degrees or below, individuals may sleep here on cots. In the Summer, if people need a place to cool down, they can come to the Mission. In addition to a place to sleep at night, individuals may use this area in the daytime, unlike the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army needs their space for serving their every-day noon meal! This space can sleep ten and has shelves for their belongings. Food that is not perishable is available.

The Food Pantry hours have changed to 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Another change is the Friday afternoon food giveaway from 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. This food comes from the leftover perishables (fruit and produce) at grocery stores. One must sign up on Friday morning to be eligible to receive this food. Meals-on-Wheels is still under the banner of the Urban Mission.

So, one can tell there have been many changes at the Urban Mission. Much of this is due to the lack of income resulting from fewer people shopping at the Impossible Dream.

Barbara Simmons

## **Joy In Serving**

When God calls me to serve in one way or another, there is always a moment of hesitation.

Do I have the skills to do what he is asking? Will I let him down? Will I make a mistake and let myself down? I am learning that God always gives me the tools and the people I need to complete the task. He truly never gives me more than I can handle. God's joy and thankfulness I feel through the Holy Spirit is well worth the risk. I experience this joy every time I help to serve communion. As I extend my hands to serve, I feel that I become God's hands as the Holy Spirit works through me. **What joy that brings to my heart!**

I am now experiencing that joy and thankfulness as I volunteer at the Urban Mission Food Pantry. As I extend my hands to help them, I know it is God's hand that is making them feel comfortable in a situation that may be difficult for them. As we load the food into their car after they have completed shopping, they always thank me for my help. I know and feel that God is also thanking me. **What joy that brings to my heart!**

Sue Beaman

# ASBURY ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

THOMPSON PARK PAVILLION  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21  
5:30-8:00 p.m.

## PLEASE BRING:

A Dish to Pass                      A Beverage  
Silverware                              A Folding Chair  
Plates, napkins, and serving spoons  
will be provided.

## ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS

Don't miss this Family Fun Event!

Sign up in the rotunda or  
call the Church Office, 315-782-3240



August 2	Hannah Johnson
August 2	Robert LaSage
August 2	Angelo Gonzales
August 3	Bill Smith
August 3	Nathan Lehman
August 3	Kay Phillips
August 4	Erin Brislan
August 4	Kathryn Sero
August 7	David Stoodley
August 12	Margie VanWie
August 15	Lynn Morgan
August 15	Tack Farris
August 20	Madyson Smith
August 25	Bill Hickox
August 26	Shirley Berry
August 26	Nancy Dolloway
August 31	Jeannette Streeter



Steven and Jean Marshall  
August 1, 1992

Bruce and Lorraine Irwin  
August 15, 1997

Dr. Glen and Susan Snell  
August 20, 1966

Rev. Toby and Myrtie Schilling  
August 24, 1968

Robert and Jean LaSage  
August 31, 1962

## ASBURY'S FALL RUMMAGE SALE

You can donate,  
purchase or volunteer!

Friday, Sept. 27th &  
Saturday, Sept. 28th  
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Wesley Hall

*Don't Forget!*  
**BRING A LOAF OF BREAD**  
to church on Communion Sunday so we can  
collect loaves of bread for Watertown Urban Mission

ASBURY  
United Methodist Church  
Watertown, NY

## SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK FOR 2024

submitted by Max Bovee

### August 4: John 6:41

*"I am the bread which came down from heaven."*

### August 11: John 12:46

*"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me should not abide in darkness."*

### August 18: John 13:14-15

*"I then, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet... I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."*

### August 25: John 15:12

*"My command is this: love each other as I have loved you."*

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# ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Address Service Requested



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



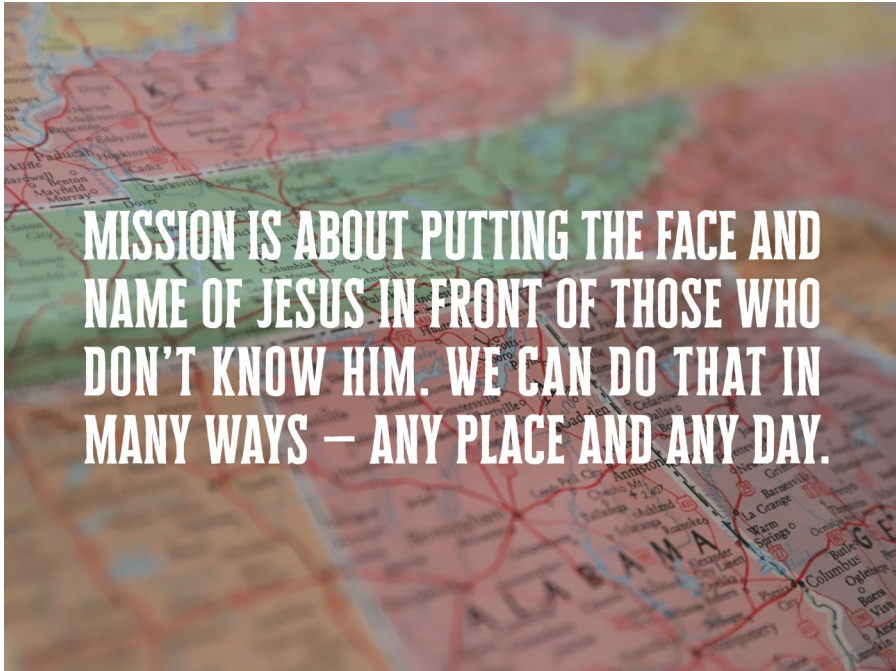
Scan to visit  
Asbury's  
website



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!*



**MISSION IS ABOUT PUTTING THE FACE AND  
NAME OF JESUS IN FRONT OF THOSE WHO  
DON'T KNOW HIM. WE CAN DO THAT IN  
MANY WAYS — ANY PLACE AND ANY DAY.**