



The Asbury BEACON

December 2024

Volume 24, Number 12

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!*

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

At Asbury
This December

DECEMBER Opportunities to LEARN, to FELLOWSHIP & to SHARE



ADVENT
Sundays, Dec. 1,
Dec. 8, Dec. 15 &
Dec. 22,
8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE**
Tuesday, Dec. 24th
6:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DEC. 29TH
10:15 a.m.
*Christmas
Hymn Sing*



THE COVER OF
It's A Wonderful Life

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m.

**NORTHERN CHORAL
SOCIETY CONCERTS**
Saturday, December 7th
Sunday, December 8th
3:00 p.m. both days
Asbury Sanctuary



Sunday, December 8th

- * Ives Hill Retirement: 1:30 p.m.
- * Samaritan Summit: 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 15th

- * Centennial Apartments: 1:00 p.m.
- * Samaritan Keep Home: 2:00 p.m.



**CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**
Sunday, Dec. 15th
during 10:15 worship



**ASSEMBLING BASKETS
FOR OUR SHUT-INS**
Saturday, Dec. 14th
9:30 a.m., in the parlor



In cooperation with the Salvation Army, Asbury is reaching out and sharing the spirit of Christmas with 35 young boys and girls. There is on an ANGEL TREE in the parlor with their names, ages, and Christmas wishes. If you would like to help make their wishes come true, take one of the names from the tree, buy a gift, and bring it back to the tree unwrapped by Tuesday, Dec. 10th, so we can get the gifts to the Salvation Army for distribution. Thanks for caring & sharing.

**MORE DETAILS
INSIDE
NEWSLETTER**



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
BOB MUNTZ
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LISA SMITH
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FROM THE TRUSTEES

We are rapidly approaching the end of year 2024. We have had another active year with the Trustees. The largest project was the replacement of the door and entrance on Parker St. This has received a lot of compliments, added considerable light to this entrance, and improved the security of our church. We still await the installation of a hand rail.

We continue to work to reduce the ice load along the roof edge on Parker St. It is possible this project may not be completed until 2025. However, other projects have been completed throughout 2024.

We want to thank all who have contributed to both the general budget and the Capital Improvement Fund. Our financial support comes through these two sources. It requires a sustained effort by many people to keep our beautiful church home in good shape.

We look forward to 2025 with the community of faith we call the Asbury congregation. See you in church.

Glen Snell, Trustee

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

submitted by Max Bovee

December 1: I Peter 3:8

*"All of you, be like-minded,
be sympathetic, love one another,
be compassionate and humble."*

December 8: I John 3:3

*"Everyone who has this hope
in Him purifies himself."*

December 15: I John 4:8

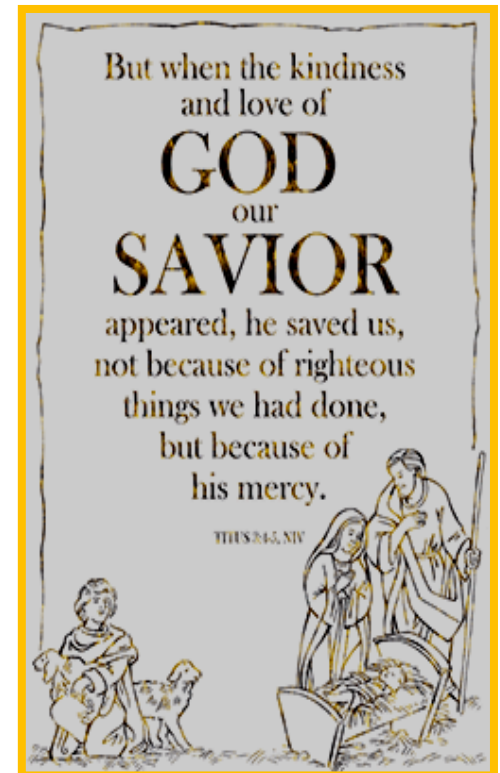
*"God is love, and anyone who doesn't
love others has never known Him."*

December 22: II John 1:6

*"Love means that we do what
God tells us."*

December 29: Revelation 4:8

*"They do not rest day or night, saying:
'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.'"*



The December BEACON is sponsored by *Darlene Welbourn and Mary MacAdam*. Our newsletter is a very important tool in helping us to communicate with and keep our Asbury family connected!

Thank you *Darlene and Mary* for being our "BEACON ANGELS" for December.

Christmas Greetings, My Asbury Family!

As the Christmas season approaches, it brings with it a time of reflection, joy, and profound gratitude. In this season of Advent, we are reminded of the greatest gift ever given – the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a time to celebrate the hope, peace, love, and joy that comes from God.

I want to encourage you to remember those in other areas of the world, especially at this time as war continues. This past year has been one of both challenges and blessings for many. We have seen times of hardship, but also moments of great community spirit and togetherness. Your faith, resilience, and compassion have been a source of inspiration to me and to others in our church family.

As we gather with friends and family this Christmas, let us remember those who are less fortunate and those who are alone during this season. Let's extend our hands in love and service, embodying the spirit of Christ who came not to be served, but to serve.

This Christmas, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the blessings in your lives and the grace that God has bestowed upon us. Let us also look forward to the coming year with hope and faith, trusting that God will continue to guide and protect us.

May your Christmas be filled with the joy and peace that comes from knowing and loving God. May the coming year bring you and your loved ones happiness, health, and abundant blessings.

*Please join us for our Sunday worship services and especially our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24 at 6:30 p.m.** Check out the newsletter for all the many other activities happening this month, which include Christmas Caroling, weekly Bell Choirs, an Advent Bible Study, a Sunday School Christmas Pageant, and more.*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Michael





FROM THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

As we approach the season of Advent, we invite you to join us in a cherished tradition that holds a special place in our hearts:

THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL TREE

The back of the sanctuary will be adorned with a memorial tree, symbolizing the enduring spirit of our loved ones. You have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the Memorial Committee in honor of someone dear to you.

HOW IT WORKS:

Make a donation to the Memorial Committee. Make your check out to
“Asbury UMC - Memorial Tree”

Fill out the form included in the Sunday bulletin and return it with your check to the church office by **Sunday, December 8th**. Please do not include it in your regular weekly offering envelope.

In return, a beautiful ornament will be placed on the tree throughout the Advent season. Each ornament bears the name of the person you wish to honor, creating a lasting tribute in our sacred space.

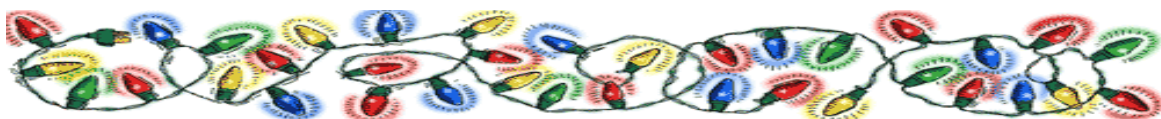
The Memorial Committee members look for appropriate, tasteful, and useful ways to apply these expressions of love and friendship. Previous purchases have included hymnals, hand bells, paraments, altar furnishings, candelabras, church signs and directories, a podium, refurbishing the altar table cross, 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.

This act not only illuminates the beauty of remembrance but also contributes to the meaningful work of our Memorial Committee.

Your participation in this tradition helps us create a sanctuary filled with warmth, love, and the enduring spirit of those we hold dear.

For more information, please contact Lisa Smith at
ljsmith2100@gmail.com or (315) 778-4173.

With love and gratitude,
Asbury Memorial Committee
Orie Phillips and Lisa Smith, Co-chairs



The **Women in Faith** will make **Christmas baskets** for shut-ins on **Saturday, Dec. 14, at 9:30, in the parlor.** Please bring a small basket if you have one, and a choice of wrapped candy, small baked goods like cookies wrapped in Saran Wrap, ornaments, small pocket-sized Kleenex, oranges, etc. After the baskets are filled and ready with the Christmas cards attached, everyone will take one or two baskets to deliver. Everyone is invited to participate. It's lots of fun, so please come!! Any questions, call Sue Snell, 315-782-8235.



Christmas Baskets
for Shut-ins

The **Christian Connections Committee** invites everyone to join us as we spread holiday cheer through Christmas caroling. Let's brighten up the holidays for our local seniors with music and joy! Here are the details:

Sunday, December 8th

- * Ives Hill Retirement: 1:30 p.m.
- * Samaritan Summit: 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 15th

- * Centennial Apartments: 1:00 p.m.
- * Samaritan Keep Home: 2:00 p.m.



There will be a sign-up sheet in the rotunda. Please sign up so we can let them know how many of us will be attending. Bring your voices, your holiday spirit, and some festive attire - Christmas hats, sweaters, or scarves are encouraged.

We hope to see you there as we share the joy and true meaning of Christmas!



- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| December 1 | Joanne Rhode |
| December 1 | Paul Simmons |
| December 1 | Lawrence Littell |
| December 4 | Michelle Mathieu |
| December 5 | Brittany Ives |
| December 7 | Michael Hill |
| December 12 | Sarah Lehman |
| December 21 | Olivia Lehman |
| December 21 | Willow Terrell |
| December 22 | Mary Smith |

William and Lisa Smith
December 27, 1997

Rev. Peter and Catherine Mowers
December 29, 2001

The deadline for articles for the January newsletter is **Thursday, December 26th.** Please email articles and pictures to Sue Beaman at asburybeacon@gmail.com in **WORD** format or give them to Faith in the church office.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WATERTOWN, NY 13601
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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. and 10:15 a.m.
AND CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight Service, 6:30 p.m.



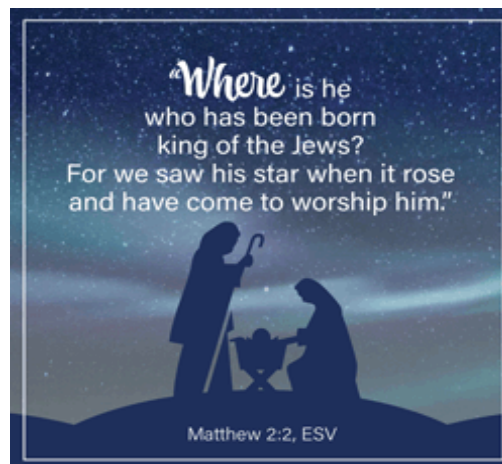
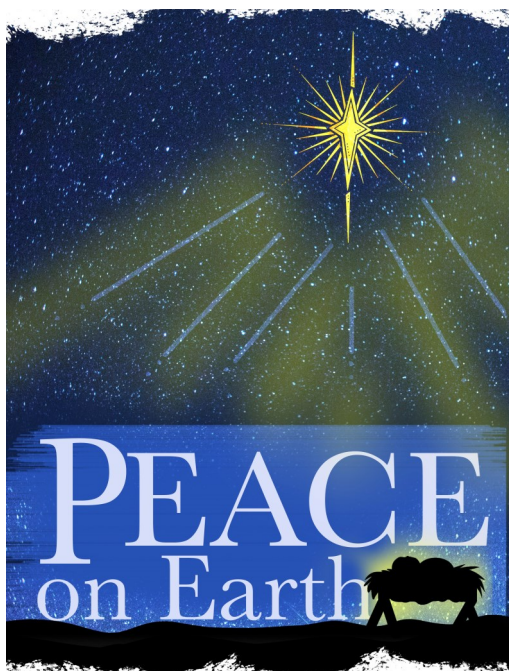
Scan to visit
Asbury's
website



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!***



A Poem by Amanda Gorman, America's poet

*We will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one...
There is always light, if only we are brave enough to see it--
If only we are brave enough to be it!*