



# The Asbury BEACON

March 2025

Volume 25, Number 3

## 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!*

### Lenten Greetings, Asbury Friends and 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!

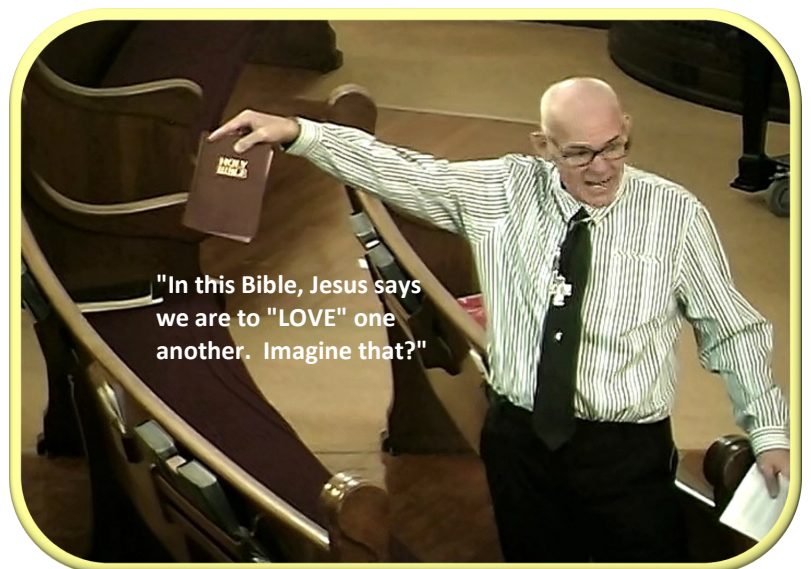
Did you know that Wednesday, March 5th is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Please join us for the Imposition of Ashes at two services that day in the Chapman Chapel. There is a 12 Noon and 6 p.m. service. I've been working on this to make it a very personal and spiritually moving service for you.

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.

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 or dedicating 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 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!

Blessings in Christ,



## ASBURY'S STAFF

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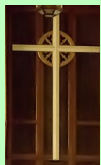
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## Join Us for the All-Church Pot Luck Luncheon!

Nothing brings a church family together like food and fellowship! Be sure to mark your calendars for our next two church-wide luncheons:

 **Sunday, March 2**

 **Sunday, April 13**

Both luncheons will be **potluck-style**, so bring a dish to share if you can. But don't worry if you forget - there's always plenty to go around! These gatherings are a wonderful time to enjoy a meal, connect with one another, and strengthen our church community.

## We can't wait to share this special time with you!

### We Need Volunteers for Coffee Hour!



In addition, we are in **desperate need** of volunteers to help with our regular **Coffee Hour**. This involves **setting up, bringing snacks, and cleaning up** - a small effort that makes a big impact on our time together. If you can help, please sign up! Your support is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to sharing food, fellowship, and community with you soon!

*The Christian Connections Committee*

## HELP US FEED THE THOUSANDS!



Buy a loaf or two of bread and bring it to Asbury on Communion Sunday - the first Sunday of each month. The bread is taken to the Urban Mission for distribution to those in need.

**92 loaves were collected in February!!**

Also, don't forget to sign up to help at the Community Dinners at Emmanuel Congregational Church. Asbury helps on Wednesdays. A binder with sign-up sheets is in the Rotunda.

The March 2025 BEACON is sponsored by *Sue Marino*.

Our newsletter is a very important tool in helping us to communicate with and keep our Asbury family connected! Thank you **Sue** for being our "BEACON ANGEL" for March.

## Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Ministries

The "Camp and Retreat Ministries" is the group in the Upper New York Conference that focuses on the 5 camps within the conference. In 2021, the "Camp and Retreat Ministries (CRM)" determined that it was important for the 5 camps to each establish a foundation and eventually establish strategic plans.

Dave Daily and Lynn Morgan are members of the Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center Foundation. By-laws have been written and approved and were submitted to the IRS to apply for receiving 501c3 status. It has been a roller coaster ride to seek tax-exempt status. However, Ben Mudge, the director at Aldersgate, finally received a letter from the IRS on February 5, 2025 that the Aldersgate Foundation has been granted tax-exempt status. This is a great move forward! Having the tax-exempt status, donors will now be able to deduct contributions they make to the Aldersgate Foundation. CRM is hoping that the 5 camp foundations will eventually be responsible for the operation of the camps.

Since we have youth who attend Camp Aldersgate, I felt it important to share what is happening at Aldersgate. It is an exciting time for Aldersgate to begin the process of becoming self-supporting. If you have any questions, Dave and I will try to answer them.

Lynn Morgan

### NEW DAY CHILDREN'S CENTER FUNDRAISER

AT

PANERA BREAD

21872 Towne Center Drive, Watertown

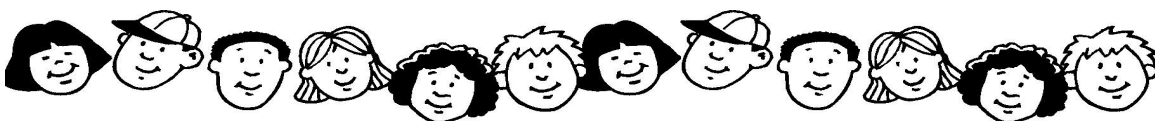
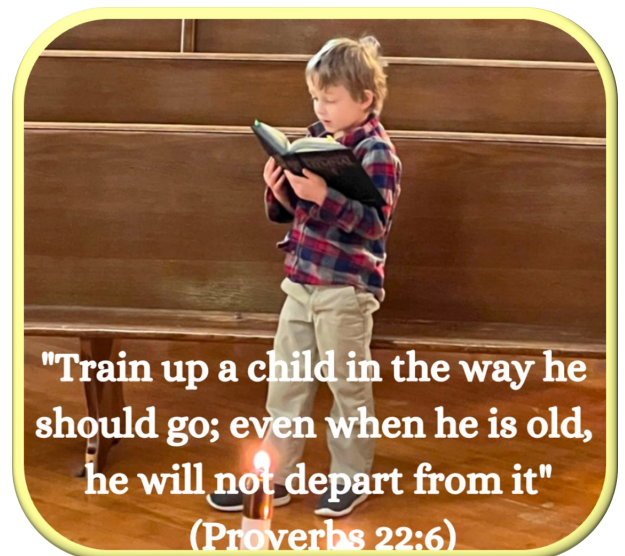
ON

March 18, 2025

4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

25% of net sales  
will be donated!

See attached  
FLYER





## TENTATIVE DETAILS BELOW

### ITINERARY (Tentative):

#### September 17 (Wednesday)

- 6:15 AM Meet at Hale Bus Garage (1067 Marble Street, Watertown, NY)  
6:45 AM Leave Watertown, stop in Pulaski for pick up  
6:45 AM-2:30 PM Travel Time – 2 Rest Stops (NY and PA)  
Everyone is responsible for their own lunch (bring bagged lunch or purchase “take out” at Pennsylvania rest stop).  
2:30 PM Arrive at Sight and Sound Theatre  
3:00 PM-5:30 PM Matinee - “Noah”  
6:15 PM-7:45 PM Dinner at Bird-In-Hand Family Inn Restaurant  
7:45 PM Check into Bird-In-Hand Family Inn  
8:00 PM Fellowship Time in the Eagle Meeting Room/rest/sleep

#### September 18 (Thursday)

- 7:00 AM-8:30 AM Breakfast Smorgasbord at Bird-In-Hand Family Inn Restaurant  
9:00 AM-9:30 AM Load Luggage onto Bus  
9:30 AM-11:45 AM Three Options to choose which you would like to do  
1) Spend 1.5 hours at Family Farm Quilts and Fabrics  
<https://familyfarmquilts.com/>  
2) Spend 1.5 hours at Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania (\$10 cost)  
<https://www.rrmuseumpa.org/>  
3) Spend 2.25 hours at Bird-In-Hand Family Inn and local area  
<https://birdinhandfarmersmarket.com/>  
Farmer’s Market, Artisan Village Shop, Antique Store, Creative Home Shoppe, etc. Or simply rest at Bird-In-Hand Family Inn (Lobby or Eagle Meeting Room)  
11:45 AM-12:30 PM Lunch  
12:30 PM Travel to Jake’s Country Trading Post  
<https://jakeshomeaccents.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/jakesctp/>  
2:30 PM Leave Jake’s to travel to Bingham’s Restaurant in Lenox, PA  
5:30 PM Dinner at Bingham’s Restaurant  
7:00 PM Leave Bingham’s to head home (including 15 minute stop at Tully Rest Area and stop in Pulaski to drop off)  
10:30 PM Arrive in Watertown

**Reservations are limited on a first come basis.**

**Your reservation will be secured once your deposit is received.**

## ALL ABOARD THE ARK

With a catastrophic storm on its way, Noah is given a monumental task: build a boat big enough to save his family from a flood that will cover the entire earth. As Noah endeavors to live faithfully in the midst of an increasingly chaotic world, can he trust that God's promises run deeper than the rising waters around him?

Returning for one season only, this landmark production takes you on board one of the world's best-known voyages as live animals fill the stage and aisles. Set sail inside the enormous ark as this extraordinary story comes to life in this special 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season!



## PLEASE NOTE

**COST: \$350**

**Price Includes:**

Bus Service and Driver Tip, Wednesday's cider & donuts at Whitney Point Rest Stop, Sight and Sound Tickets, Overnight at Bird-In-Hand Family Inn, Wednesday's Smorgasbord Supper, Thursday's Smorgasbord Breakfast and lunch at Bird-In-Hand Restaurant (including tips) and snacks for the trip.

**NOT INCLUDED:** lunch on Wednesday, dinner on Thursday, Railroad Museum entrance fee (\$10) and any shopping items you purchase.

**Deposit of \$150.00 per person due ASAP.**

Checks made 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.

**Singles: You must have a traveling companion/roommate.**

**A waiting list will be established, if necessary.**

In the next letter, we will need to know if you will meet the bus in Watertown or in Pulaski.

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

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

The deadline for articles for the APRIL newsletter is **Thursday, March 20, 2025**. Please email articles and pictures to Sue Beaman at [asburybeacon@gmail.com](mailto:asburybeacon@gmail.com) in WORD format or give them to Faith in the church office.

# 2025 Lenten Bible Study



## How did Jesus teach the Greatest Commandment to his disciples?

In his latest book *Reckless Love*, author and Pastor, Tom Berlin writes that Jesus taught them to love neighbor first as a way to more deeply love God. In his exploration of Jesus' teaching and travels with his disciples, Berlin suggests that Jesus teaches us how to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength by showing us how to love our neighbor.

While many hope to learn to be better family, friends, leaders, and neighbors by finding a deeper relationship with God; **what if becoming a better neighbor leads you to that deeper love of God?**

In *Reckless Love*, you will consider life, and learn how loving the people around you will completely renew your faith and give you a new experience of loving God.

This six-week Lenten Bible Study begins on **Sunday, March 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor**. Additional meetings: March 16th, 23rd, 30th, April 6th, and 13th.

**We celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 20th, 2025!  
Mark your calendars now!!**

## March is Women's History Month.

*Women in Faith* felt this would be a good time to host another **"PACKING PARTY"** to benefit *Happy Period North Country*.

**Happy Period North Country** is a not-for-profit made up of volunteers who are helping to address period poverty. What is period poverty? From their website: "Period poverty refers to inadequate access to menstrual hygiene tools and education. Period poverty results from living in a situation that makes period products unaffordable, as well as the fact that health insurance and food stamps do not cover the purchase of these products. Additionally, the "pink tax", a form of gender-based price discrimination which taxes goods that are culturally seen as "feminine products", raises the cost of menstrual hygiene products.

One way that Happy Period North Country is addressing period poverty is by assembling period packs and distributing them to about 20 tri-county agencies, including Community Action Planning Council, Victim's Assistance Center, Watertown Urban Mission, JCC Dorm Hygiene Closet, Emmanuel Blessing Box, First Presbyterian Open Table Dinners and Thrift Store. Each pack has 28 products with varying sizes and uses.

There are 2 ways you can help out. A collection box will be in the back of the rotunda for donations of period pads and tampons from March 2<sup>nd</sup> thru March 23<sup>rd</sup>. You can attend the packing party on Sunday, March 30th following the 10:15 AM main church service to help assemble the packs.


**Women in Faith last held a "packing party" in 2023. We made 85 bags total. Let's see if we can surpass that number. Contact Sarah Lehman 315-767-2641 with any questions.**



**March 2** Jean Gianfagna    **March 26** Jane Eastham  
**March 9** Ruzena Rudd       **March 27** Tom Carlisle  
**March 16** Patrick Town      **March 28** Rosemary Denesha  
**March 18** Connor Lamica   **March 31** Anthony Patrick



**Patrick and Darlene Town**  
 March 9, 2009  
**Angelo and Quay Gonzales**  
 March 11, 2022


 Deaths in Our Church Family

**Gerald Stanley Bretsch**  
 January 29, 1944-January 25, 2025  
**William ("Bill") Henry Hickox**  
 August 25, 1933-February 6, 2025

## SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

submitted by Max Bovee

**March 2: Psalm 23:1**

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing."*

**March 9: Psalm 37:7**

*"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him."*

**March 16: Psalm 88:1**

*"Lord, you are the God who saves me."*

**March 23: Psalm 100:2**

*"Worship the Lord with gladness, come before Him with joyful songs."*

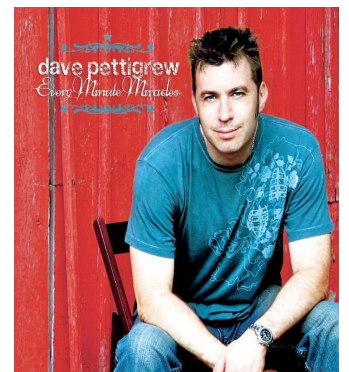
**March 30: Psalm 103:8**

*"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love."*



## COMING IN JUNE!

Asbury Church will host a concert featuring Dave Pettigrew on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 7 p.m. Dave Pettigrew is a Christian artist that has opened for many groups, including Michael W. Smith, for King & Country, Mercy Me, Jeremy Camp, Big Daddy Weave, Brandon Heath, Sidewalk Prophets, Phil Wickham, and many more. He has graciously agreed to sing at our church as part of his tour of the eastern side of the USA this June. He is an incredible performer and gifted speaker.



Flyers will be out as the date comes closer. Admission will be a suggested donation of \$10 and a canned good for the Urban Mission.

**I hope to fill the church!**

**Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend and spread the word!**

Please contact **Lindsay Webb (315-408-5099 or [lindsaywebb1102@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaywebb1102@gmail.com))** if you have questions.

# ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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[www.Facebook.com/Asbury13601](http://www.Facebook.com/Asbury13601)

Address Service Requested



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



Scan to visit  
Asbury's  
website

## Asbury United Methodist Church

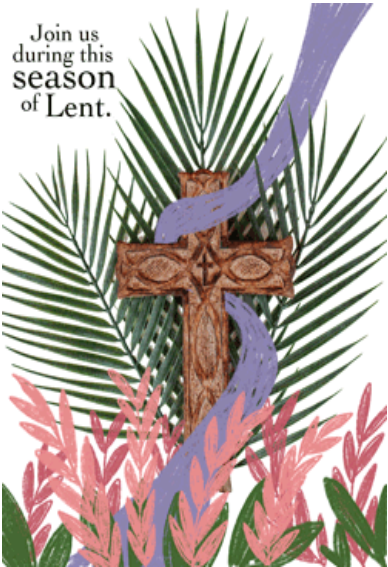


Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors...  
The people of the  
United Methodist  
Church

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



Join us  
during this  
season  
of Lent.



### Ash Wednesday Service

**March 5, 2025**

12 & 6 p.m.

**Asbury United  
Methodist Church  
Watertown, NY**



**MARCH 20TH!**