



# The Asbury BEACON

March 2026

Volume 26, Number 3

#### THE VISION OF ASBURY

*To Form Disciples of Jesus Christ Who Empowered by The Holy Spirit, Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously in Local Communities and Worldwide Connections.*

#### 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!*

*"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!

Ash Wednesday, February 18, was observed in the Chapman Chapel at Asbury, 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.

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 form of fasting during this time - people have been known to fast from various foods and from television and internet or phone use. Others decide 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 would like to invite you and your family to join me as we prepare for a time of tremendous spiritual growth and renewal.

Blessings in Christ,



*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."  
- Psalm 51:10*

**Coins for Lent Activity** - See calendar insert in this newsletter and follow this Lenten activity.

*The daily activities will remind us of all we have and how little others may have.*

You can follow the calendar for the daily reflections and Sunday prayers; however, if participating in the coin collection, you can get creative. You can decide what "coin" you want to use. You can decide if you want to just use pennies, just nickels, just dimes, just quarters or a mixture of all. You could just use whatever coin you have laying around the house (or maybe what you find under the couch cushion) for that day's donation.

The value of your "coin" does not have to match the number of whatever item is being asked for that day - like a "coin" for every pair of shoes in your house does not have to be 20 coins if you have 20 shoes. It is ok if you are just using a dime a day for your collection.

Some might like the visual of using coins every day. However, if you don't keep a lot of change around, you could also use a point system each day. On a "coin for every box of cereal" day, if you have 5 boxes of cereal, you could just write down 5 on your calendar. On a "coin for every pillow in your home" day you could write down 11 on the calendar. At the end of Lent, total up your number of points and convert that total into a monetary donation. So, if you end up with say a total of 200 points worth of items, you would donate \$2 if based on pennies, \$10 if based on nickels, \$20 if based on dimes, \$50 if based on quarters.

You can turn in your total collection on Easter Sunday. The money collected from this Lenten project will be donated to the Salvation Army.

For more information, check out <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/coins-for-lent-2026> or contact Sarah Lehman at 315-767-2641.

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



Patrick and Darlene Town  
March 9, 2009

Angelo and Quay Gonzales  
March 11, 2022



April 2 James Baker  
April 3 Glen Snell  
April 10 Lisa Smith  
April 12 Lorraine Irwin  
April 18 Alfred Gianfagna  
April 20 Grace Burke  
April 20 Leon VanWie  
April 24 Peter Mowers  
April 27 Darlene Chartrand



John and Eleanor Cerow  
April 3, 1976

Mark and Roxanne Robinson  
April 26, 1975

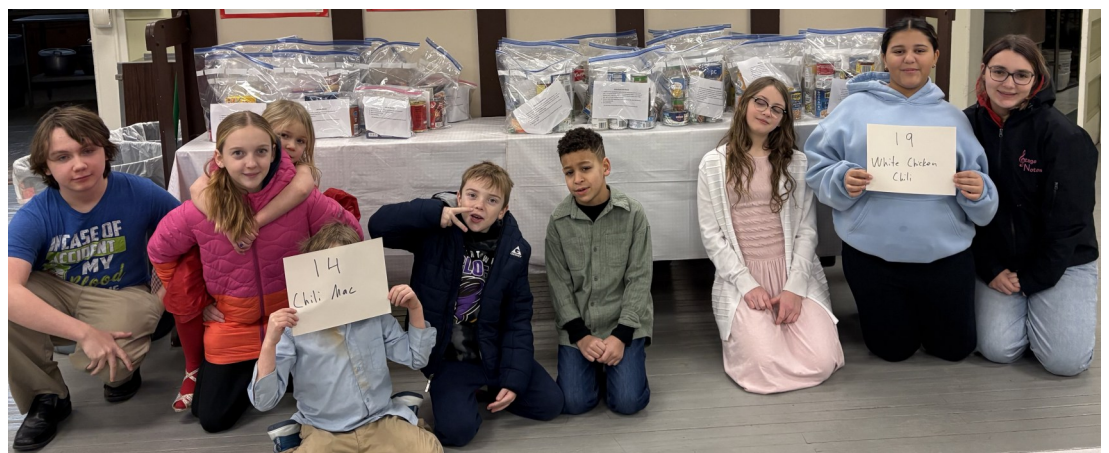
## “Souper Bowl” Sunday

**Women in Faith** would like to say thank you to those who donated items for the meal kits donated to the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry.

Our goal was 10 meal kits of each recipe for a total of 20 meal kits. We surpassed this goal. We were able to package and donate 15 Chili Mac kits and 20 White Chicken Chili kits.



Thank you also to Sunday School for helping to pack the kits. Women in Faith also purchased and donated 20 can openers to the Food Pantry.





## *The Hands That Carried Jesus Through Holy Week*

### **PALM SUNDAY**

The crowds that lined the road into Jerusalem held palm branches in their hands, waving them as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. They shouted “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”  
John 12:12-13

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

The 12 disciples prepare and share the Last Supper with Jesus, passing the bread and cup. Later that night, Judas betrays Jesus and hands him over to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders who had come for him. He was arrested and beaten at the hands of the guards.  
Luke 22:19-21

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

Jesus is brought before Pontious Pilate, who questions him. Pilate found no basis for charges against him, but the crowds insisted that he be crucified. Pilate washes his hands of the situation and hands him over to the people. The soldiers led him away to be crucified. The soldiers seized Simon of Cyrene and forced him to carry the cross following behind Jesus. Luke 23:1-26

The hands that had healed so many were nailed to the cross. Jesus’ last words before he breathes his last breath: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” Luke 23:46

A member of the Council, whose name was Joseph, asked Pilate for Jesus’ body. He wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb in which no one had been laid.

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

Jesus is risen from the dead and appears to Mary Magdalene and the Disciples. He shows them his hands where the nails had pierced his palms.

### **THE ASCENSION OF JESUS** (Acts 1)

Jesus raised his hands to bless the disciples and the Father reached out his hands and took Jesus up to heaven. The Disciples continued to be the hands of Jesus - reaching out, helping, and teaching.

Today, I strive to be the hands and feet of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as he guides me on my faith journey.

**HAPPY EASTER,**  
Sue Beaman

**EASTER EGG HUNT - SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>.** The Congregation will hide the eggs in the sanctuary following the 10:15 a.m. service. Sunday School will have a party/activities that day during regular Sunday School time.

There will be a collection box in the back of the rotunda for donations of individually wrapped candy or non candy items to be used to fill the eggs. **Please have donations in by Sunday, March 22nd, as we will plan to pack the eggs that day after church.**



# SPRING RUMMAGE, BAKE, AND PLANT SALE!

## APRIL 17th & 18th

Start cleaning out again; the spring sale is in 2 months! Fill the room downstairs in Wesley Hall with all the treasures you are ready to give to others: furniture, jewelry, kitchen items, small appliances (clean and working), tools, summer decorations, puzzles, books, toys, craft supplies, antiques, recipe books, and one-of-a-kind specials!

Once again, we want homemade pies - Asbury pie makers are the best! Make them ahead when you have the time, freeze them, ready to be baked.

And those beautiful plants. Take your cuttings now. Our customers love your plants!

At last fall's sale, your donated items raised over \$5,200!! Money much needed to pay Asbury's staff and programs.

**LET'S HAVE THE BEST SALE EVER!**

## FROM THE CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

### Warm Hearts & Warm Bowls

#### Church Soup & Chili Fellowship – March 1

Mark your calendars for March 1st and join us for a cozy afternoon of fellowship and flavor!



We're hosting a church-wide Soup & Chili Social - not a competition, just a joyful gathering around warm, comforting food and even warmer community. We invite you to bring a favorite soup, chili, or something delicious to go alongside - corn bread, crackers, rolls, or a simple dessert to share.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, laugh, and enjoy time together as a church family. Whether you bring a dish or simply bring your appetite, we would love to see you there.

**Let's fill our tables with comfort and our hearts with fellowship.**

### Mark the Date – An Evening with Dave Pettigrew Saturday, May 2, 2026, 7:00 PM

We are excited to announce that Christian artist Dave Pettigrew will be returning to our church on Saturday, May 2, at 7:00 PM for a special evening of worship, stories, and song.



Many of you will remember the powerful and heartfelt night we shared when he joined us last year. His music and storytelling deeply resonated with our congregation, and we are grateful to welcome him back.

This will be a free concert and a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, family, and neighbors to experience an uplifting evening together.

A free will offering will be taken during the intermission.

## From the Asbury Women in Faith

To coincide with March being Women's Month, Women in Faith is again sponsoring Happy Period North Country. Happy Period North Country is a local organization devoted to fighting period poverty - the inadequate access to menstrual hygiene products and education; 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.

Happy Period North Country provides to those who would otherwise go without within Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties. Agencies that they provide products to: Jefferson County CAPC, JCC, Urban Mission, Q Center, VAC, Emmanuel Blessing Box, First Presbyterian Open Table Dinners & Thrift Store, Salvation Army Warming Center, Jefferson County Head Start, CREDO, Lewis County: Lewis County Opportunities, PL Food Pantry, Forest Finds, Lewis County Head Start, Catholic Charities, St. Lawrence County: Renewal House, Gouverneur Neighborhood Center, SUNY Potsdam Health Centre.

How can you help? There will be a collection box in the back of the rotunda for donations of period product supplies. On Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have a packing party to assemble product kits. Each kit has enough products to last 1 period cycle - 21 pieces of product (pads or tampons) with an additional 7 panty liners. Last year, Asbury was able to supply 122 period product packs.

**For more information, contact Sarah Lehman at 315-767-2641.**

*"We only possess what we can give away."* Simone Weil, author

### MISSION COMMITTEE UPDATE

#### ***A Note We Received From Our Missionaries in Barcelona***

Hello from Barcelona!

Thank you for your patience with us as we get back into the routine of monthly updates. We have been blessed with God's help as we returned to Barcelona and experienced another Christmas and New Years here.

We have been busy with a variety of things this month. Janna is busy with children's ministry both in the English Group and Friday Night Fellowship group. Currently, the Friday night group is learning about "Emotions" and how God wants to hear from us. Ella loves English Group and Janna has taken on more responsibility with the English teaching.

Wesley has been busy with home improvement projects (even tackling the mold situation we discovered) and trying to work on inviting people into our home. He will be resuming time in the homeless ministry this week.

Last week, we were blessed by a visit from Nathan and Charity Brown. They shared their ministry, which is also in Spanish - [comeafterme.com](http://comeafterme.com). Please pray that God will use this online ministry to deepen the current believers in their spiritual walk.

The children are doing well transitioning back to Spain. We are working on the second semester of homeschooling. Just yesterday, Ella said, "I'm glad we live in Spain." What a gift!

We value your prayers and support. God wants to see so many of the people here turn to Him. Ministry is challenging, but we feel blessed to be a part of God's plan. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to serve Him in Spain.

Many blessings,

Wesley and Janna Cressman  
Barcelona, Spain, Hope International Ministries  
[www.feaministries.org/cressman](http://www.feaministries.org/cressman)

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Address Service Requested



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



Join us  
during this  
season  
of Lent.

