



The Asbury BEACON

May 2026

Volume 26, Number 5

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.

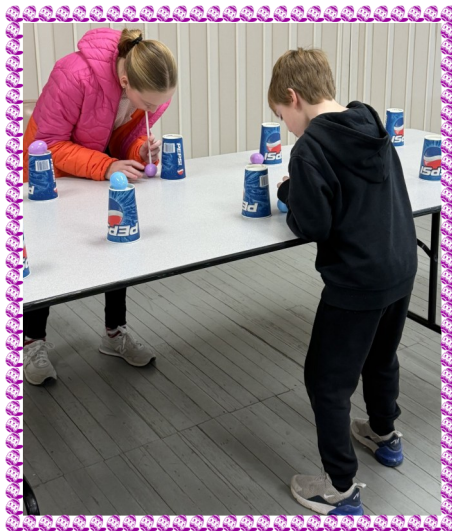
THE MISSION OF ASBURY

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!

On Sunday, March 29th, Sunday School held their Easter Party. Activities included preparing and enjoying Easter resurrection rolls, resurrection eggs lesson, games, and decorated bags for the Easter egg hunt at the end of the church service.



“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

- Romans 12:4-8

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



May 7 Barbara Simmons
May 8 Darlene Welbourn
May 20 Roxanne Robinson
May 20 Toby Schilling
May 21 Steven Marshall
May 22 Kellen Keenan
May 22 River Bogart
May 27 Brindle Veretto



June 4 Frank Rhode
June 5 Susan Snell
June 6 Anne Marie Gianfagna
June 7 Noah Terrell
June 8 Helen Dundon
June 9 Kate Fesler
June 14 Jean LaSage
June 14 Alexander Patrick
June 17 Faith Kirch
June 18 Mary MacAdam
June 19 Deborah Van Houten
June 20 Lawrence Woodruff
June 20 Dylan Leclair
June 22 Krista Juczak
June 22 Michael Sinclair
June 23 Kathleen Woodruff
June 25 Frank Massa
June 29 Karen granger
June 29 Derrick Kicherer
June 30 Bruce Irwin



Terry and Mary MacAdam
May 6, 1972

Matthew and Alayna Kinnard
May 18, 2019

Rev. David and Barbara Simmons
May 23, 1986

Dale and Marianne Scott
May 29, 1965



Mark and Susan Smith
June 6, 1981

Rev. Leon and Margie VanWie
June 6, 1986

David and Carol Stoodley
June 7, 1980

Dr. Alfred and Jean Gianfagna
June 12, 1977

Peter and Pam Quimby
June 20, 1970

AMAZING SALE!!

The **April rummage, plant, and bake sale** was once again a huge success thanks to your donations and volunteering efforts. We had excellent volunteers to set up, cashier, encourage sales, clean up, and deliver the remaining items to Urban Mission, other thrift stores, and the Senior Center. Special thanks to Melinda St. John for organizing and baking for the bake sale, along with those who made the most delicious pies, desserts, and snacks. All the baked goods were sold - **\$645!!** Thanks to Glen Snell, Gail Powers, and Martha Jablonski for supplying our beautiful plants which were all sold. Our total profit was **\$5613.78!!!!** This was a new record! You can be so proud of your efforts to help maintain the fine programs and generous spirit we have at Asbury UMC. **THANK YOU!!**

Susan Snell and Volunteers

From the Asbury Women in Faith



On Saturday, March 28, **Women in Faith** met along with women from **First UMC** and **Sulphur Springs UMC** to package period supply kits for Happy Period North Country.

We surpassed last year's record of 122 kits by making 133 kits this year. WIF also donated three 54 QT plastic bins with covers - bins were an additional wish list item of Happy Period North Country to help with their storage of products donated throughout the year.

Camp Aldersgate

It is that time of year to begin to think of special ways you might spend part of your summer. Camp Aldersgate and Retreat Center is located on Pleasant Lake in Greig, which is about an hour from Watertown, in Lewis County.

The camp programs offered are for children and youth, ages 7-17, which vary in length from a couple of days to a week. The Aldersgate experience includes all the usual favorites like swimming, arts and crafts, basketball, volleyball, and hiking. Cookouts, campfires, boating, horseback riding, fishing, and living in the yurts are some special activities offered in more specialized programs.

Camp gives children a solid foundation that lasts a lifetime, and equips youth for success by building them up and giving them the gifts of confidence, faith in God, and a healthy self-esteem.

Over the years Asbury has enabled many youth in our church to attend camp. The camp staff will be visiting our church on May 17 to share some fun things to do at camp. If you are interested in finding out more, go to the website:

<https://aldersgateny.org/summer-camp/>

As camp agent, I would be delighted to answer any questions you might have, and help find financial aid to enable your child to attend camp.

Lynn Morgan, camp agent

The May 2026 BEACON is sponsored by **Sandy Johnson**. Our newsletter is a very important tool in helping us to communicate with and keep our Asbury family connected! Thank you **Sandy** for being our "BEACON ANGEL" for May!

FROM THE TRUSTEES

There are several projects happening this Spring:

- **The sidewalk off of the paved parking lot will be replaced. A handrail will be placed along this sidewalk.**
- **The Chapel window woodwork (outside) needs to be stabilized.**
- **The woodwork will need to be painted and the plexiglass repaired/replaced.**
- **We will be working on 10 lower level Parker Street windows, repairing, painting, and replacing plexiglass.**
- **The double, red, steel doors on Sterling Street need to be replaced. They have rusted through.**
- **The leak in the back of the rotunda window needs to be fixed and the damaged wall repainted.**
- **The ice-damaged roof needs attention.**

The cost of these repairs is substantial. The sidewalk alone will cost \$14,400. We have submitted a grant proposal to help with the cost of the sidewalk but it will be several weeks before we know if we will receive it or not. The Trustees have sent a letter outlining these projects and are asking for the congregation's help. If you would like to donate to help defer the cost of these projects, you may mail a check to the office, attention Capital Improvement Fund, or give online through our website.

We appreciate any help you can give!

Asbury's Trustees

Meal Kits - Round #2

The meal kits we packed and donated to the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry back in February were a reported hit, so I thought we would like to do it again. To coincide with Pentecost - the birthday of the church - we are looking to assemble birthday cake kits. We will also offer a meal option of Teriyaki Chicken Rice. We would like to provide at least 10 of each kit. **We will plan to pack the kits on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. Also, we will be collecting donations of new can openers.**

On the back table in the rotunda, there is a sign up of the individual ingredients needed to make up a kit if you are able to donate one or a few items. If you would like to donate items for a whole kit, there are shopping lists available on the table. There is also a box on the table to place your donations in. **Any questions, contact Sarah Lehman, 315-767-2641.**

Teriyaki Chicken Rice

- 1 large can of chicken
- 2 pouches of microwavable white rice/jasmine rice
- 1 bottle of teriyaki sauce
- 1 can of peas/diced carrots mix

Directions:

1. Drain chicken.
2. Heat chicken with teriyaki sauce in pan on the stove. Add peas/carrots. Cook until heated thru.
3. Cook rice per package directions in microwave (or you can follow stove top directions).
4. Serve chicken mixture over the rice.

Birthday Cake Kits

- 1 box of cake mix
- 1 -12 oz. can of soda. (Use Coke for chocolate cake; Use Sprite for yellow/white cake)
- 1 can of frosting

Directions:

1. Pour cake mix into 9x13 foil pan.
2. Add 1 can of soda and stir until smooth.
3. Bake according to cake box instructions (usually 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes).
4. Cool cake and top with frosting.

DO YOU LOVE ME?

One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah! ... the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me. He asked me, "Do you love me?" I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Savior!"

Then He asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?" I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs, and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do and thought about the things that I take for granted. I answered, "It would be tough Lord, but I would still love You."

Then the Lord said, "If you were blind, would you still love my creation?" How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love You."

The Lord then asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?" How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to Your word."

The Lord then asked, "If you were mute, would you still praise my name?" How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me, God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song, but when we are persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks. So I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your Name."

And the Lord asked, "Do you really love me?" With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes Lord! I love You because You are the one and true God!"

I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "Then why do you sin?" I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect."

"Then why in times of peace do you stray the furthest? Why only in times of trouble do you pray the most earnestly?" I had no answers ~~ only tears.

The Lord continued. "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek me only in times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly? Why ask things so unfaithfully?"

The tears continued to roll down my cheeks. "Why are you ashamed of me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why in times of persecution, you cry to others when I offer my shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in my name?"

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed my word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you but your ears were closed. I have shown my blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard your prayers and I have answered them all. Do you truly love me?"

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When my heart had cried out and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be your child."

The Lord answered, "That is my grace, my child."

I asked, "Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do you love me so?"

The Lord answered, "Because you are my creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you until the end of days, and I will love you forever."

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, "How much do you love me?"

The Lord stretched out His arms, and I saw His nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, my Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed. ~~ Author Unknown

Submitted by Cindy Sealing

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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

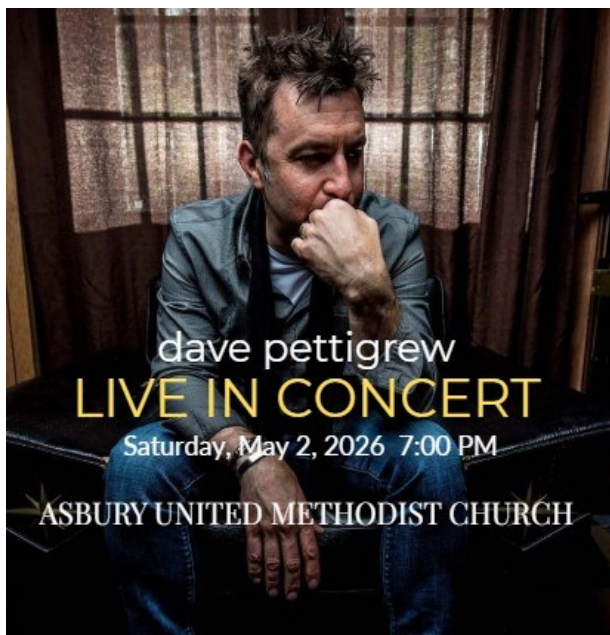


Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors...

The people of the
United Methodist
Church

Asbury United Methodist Church

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



dave pettigrew

LIVE IN CONCERT

Saturday, May 2, 2026 7:00 PM

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Lord,
I pray for
Your strength today
As I step into the world.
Your eyes today
As I see all that there is to see.
Your ears today as I listen intently
For every morsel of instruction.
Your heart today as I lean
Into you to be compassionate.
Your grace extended and given freely
As I communicate.
Your mercy handed out
As I encounter all the circumstances.
You in me, more of you and
Less of me today Lord.