



The Asbury BEACON

August 2026

Volume 26, Number 8

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!*

Hello Asbury Family,

Warm greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior! I hope this summer season has given you moments to slow down, look around, and remember the simple joys that God weaves into each day. It's hard to believe we have transitioned into the month of August already!

Summer is a special gift — a chance to step off the treadmill of busyness and breathe deeply. But true rest is more than a vacation or an afternoon nap. It is a quiet trust that our souls find their home in Christ alone. Jesus invites us in Matthew 11:28 as we heard a couple weeks ago, *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*

My prayer is that this summer, you find moments to come away with God — whether sitting quietly with your Bible on the porch, walking under a starlit sky, or sharing a meal with friends and family. Let these slower days remind you that you are loved not for what you do, but for who you are in God.

I also encourage you to stay connected to the body of Christ, even as you travel. Worship with us when you are in town — your presence blesses us more than you know. And if you find yourself on the road, carry His Word with you and pray for one another.

I remind you that our ministry still happens while you are away, and we are thankful that we have been financially sufficient to do the work God has called us to do — this only happens because of your extreme hospitality and generosity.

May this be a season of renewal for your body, mind, and spirit. May you return to the rhythms of autumn refreshed and ready for all that God has in store. I want to invite you to join us for our church family picnic on August 19, 5-8 p.m. at the Thompson Park pavilion. We always have a ton of fun and great food.

Rest well, dear friends. I miss you! The Lord delights in giving rest to His beloved.

Blessings in Christ,



OH, WHAT A NIGHT....

It wasn't back in late December 1963 when the Four Seasons sang this song, but an evening in July 2026 when Pastor Michael did the program entitled “Faith, Life, and Melody” and shared his life story through testimony and song. He told about the influence his Grandmother had on his life as a young boy and how a pastor gave him a little yellow cross as a young lad, which he still has today. He didn't understand the meaning back then, but he certainly does now! He told how God even influenced his life when he was very young and what it took for him to become a pastor. How God kept after him to preach the gospel and make disciples of men.

Pastor Michael played many songs, gospel and non-gospel, during each interval of his life story and how each affected his life. Many of the songs we knew and sang along with him. He even showed how different hymns could be jazzed up and really get the people moving.

Pastor Michael shared the biggest influence he had was when he came to Asbury and one woman really impacted his life and the decision he and the church made to bring him on board as our Pastor. The Asbury Family has a wonderful leader in Pastor Michael and we are truly blessed to have him. As Coke would put it, “He's the real thing!”

At the end of the program, we gathered around Pastor Michael and prayed for him for guidance, wisdom, safety, and strength as he takes care of his flock at Asbury. It was a very incredible night that we all shared with him and each other.



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PASTOR

Michael Terrell



SPECIAL THANK YOU

We wish to thank all the individuals that work on committees, usher, serve as greeters, serve communion, cleaning, maintenance, teach Sunday School and Bible Study, being part of the Asbury Family, and all the work that is needed, especially behind the scenes. Without you, God's work would not be able to be done.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 2

Hannah Johnson

August 3

William Smith

August 3

Nathan Lehman

August 3

Kay Phillips

August 4

Erin Brislan

August 7

David Stoodley

August 9

Randy Sealing

August 11

Allyson Van Houten

August 12

Margie VanWie

August 15

Lynn Morgan

August 20

Madyson Smith

August 21

Chris Clark

August 21

Eleanor Kinnard

August 26

Nancy Dolloway

August 26

Ethan Fesler

August 31

Jeannette Streeter



AUGUST

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 3

Susan Marino

September 5

Anderson Stenard

September 10

Pastor Michael

Terrell

September 13

Patricia Desjarlais

September 13

Scott Hodge

September 22

Mark Smith

September 26

Judith Cota

September 27

Jean Marshall

September 28

Susan Tague-Smith



SEPTEMBER

Michael and Karen Hill

September 12, 1987

Nathan and Sarah Lehman

September 12, 2009

Mark and Christine Sutton

September 15, 1996

Dr. Benjamin and Michelle Rudd

September 23, 2006

Richard and Helen Dundon

September 26, 2009



Many thanks to Sue Beaman for the wonderful newsletter, "The Asbury Beacon," she published each month. It was very enlightening and kept us well informed of the events going on in the church. We wish you many blessings as you begin your retirement. Thank you for a job well done!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

A Celebration of Life was held for Shirley Berry on July 27, 2026, at Asbury UMC, Pastor Michael officiated, as she passed on July 17, 2026. Please remember the family in your prayers.



ASBURY ANNUAL PICNIC

August 19

5-8 p.m.



Thompson Park

The Large Pavilion

Please bring: A salad, casserole, or dessert to share
Your own drink, silverware, and a chair
Hot dogs, plates, cups, and napkins will be supplied

The kids' splash pad and playground will be open.



The guest speaker will be Dr. Mark Irwin, zoo director. He will speak about his experiences at the zoo, selection and care of the animals, why the zoo is the 2nd largest attraction in our area, his vision for the future, and how we can help.

Come enjoy great food & fellowship!



FALL RUMMAGE SALE OCTOBER 2 & 3

Every six months, we fill the rummage room next to the stage with all the goodies we don't want! With summer here, it's a good time to clean out your garage, attics, and closets and go shopping for new things! Our best sellers will be Christmas items, jewelry, furniture in good condition, toys, puzzles, books, kitchen items, antiques, and of course, baked goods, especially homemade pies.

You can bring items on Sundays or during the week, Monday-Thursday, during church office hours (9 a.m.-1 p.m.). You can let our church secretary, Faith, (315-782-3240) know when you are coming and if you need any help. Any questions, please call Sue Snell, 315-782-8235. Thank you!!



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!



The Syracuse United Methodist Ministries (SUMM) is sponsoring the 45th

Annual United Methodist Family and Friends Night at the Ballpark, located at NBT Bank Stadium (1 Tex Drive, Syracuse, NY 13208) on Thursday, 8/6/2026, at 6:30 p.m. The Syracuse Mets will be playing the Omaha Storm Chasers. There will be no tailgate party, however, food and beverages will be discounted again this year for Dollar Thursday.

We will have 200-level assigned seats and will gather on the field at 6:15 p.m. to sing the "The National Anthem" from home plate. If you purchased tickets or have any questions, please see Leon VanWie.



Let's Play Ball!!!

For all newsletter articles and pictures, please send them to Cindy Sealing at csealing@twcny.rr.com in Microsoft Word format. You may also reach her at (315) 788-9046 or (315) 771-5251. They may also be given to Faith in the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA!!!



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our July Fellowship Coffee Hour as we celebrated our nation's 250th anniversary. A special thank you to Bill and Lisa Smith for donating the beautiful patriotic cake that made our celebration even more festive.

Please note that **there will be no Fellowship Luncheon in August**. We look forward to gathering again in **September** for food, fellowship, and fun. We hope you will plan to join us then!

Lindsay Webb, Chair of CCC



WEEKLY COSTS

To help offset the costs of printing the weekly bulletin and streaming our worship service, you may sign up on the sheets provided in the sanctuary. The costs:

- ◆ Weekly Bulletin -- \$30.00 per week
- ◆ Streaming -- \$38.50/Sunday or \$150.00/Month

You may mail or bring your gift to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Please note what you are paying for: one week's preparation of the Sunday Bulletin or funding one week or month of the streaming service. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS

Please meet our new members of the Asbury Family: Barbara Williams, Heather Drew, and Cindy and Randy Sealing. Show them an "Asbury Welcoming" and how caring we really are. We are very blessed that you have decided to join us and look forward to learning more about you.



SOMETHING TO PONDER

Some things you might find in a church are: an altar, candles, a pulpit, a cross, a lectern, musical instruments, a baptismal font, pews or a seating area, and an organ. Will we find you there?

WHEN GOD CALLS...

I came to Asbury when I was 9 years old. I was actively involved in the children's and youth programs until I graduated from high school. Most of the other kids my age went to college, I went to work right after high school graduation, and I drifted away from the church. I spent the next several years getting married and giving birth to my first child, Joshua.

When I returned from maternity leave to my job at an insurance company, I was told that the company was moving that branch to Syracuse. I was given the choice of moving to Syracuse or taking a layoff slip. Since my husband had a good job here in Watertown, I took the layoff.

When my son was about 7 months old, my unemployment benefits were about to run out. It was about that time that Ruth Hoke, long-time secretary at Asbury, came to visit me. We talked, and I told her I was looking for a job. A few weeks later I received a call from Glen Snell. He said, "I heard you are looking for a job." I said, "yes, I am." He said, "bring your resume to me at the animal hospital." I did, and I soon found myself interviewing in front of 6 or 7 sets of eyes. I had joined the church under my maiden name, so the committee members did not know me as Susan Beaman. (I don't believe my last name was ever changed in the records.)

One of the members stared at me and asked, "If you are a member here, why have we never seen you at church services?" Fair question! I was 25 years old, and I had no idea that God had a plan for me. Little did I know that God was calling me to become the church secretary at Asbury UMC.

There was a lot to learn the first couple of years, but I had a wonderful supportive staff working with me. I had to learn to type a bulletin on a stencil on a typewriter and then run it on a mimeograph. For those of you who have never done that, it involves cutting the stencil in half, typing on each half and then gluing it back together in the right order, and then running it on the mimeograph.

After 15 years as Asbury's secretary and treasurer, God called me away again. What I have learned since is that each time he called me away, he was preparing me for my next role. In the next few years, I was divorced and became a single mother of 3 teenagers. I had to find a way to support them and myself.

God led me to First Presbyterian Church as their secretary, where I worked for 25 years. While there, I learned and became proficient in Publisher. So, when I received the call that Asbury's secretary had gone out on disability and could I help, I heard God say, "go." I took on the task of producing Asbury's newsletter, even though I was working fulltime. It started as a temporary task that turned into long term. I have never regretted one minute of that decision. It became a creative outlet and has brought me great joy and satisfaction. I thank God for his guidance and support on my journey thus far.

Thank you to everyone, including Pastor Michael, who have been on this journey with me. Thank you for believing in me and allowing me to spread my wings and share my gifts. I thank Faith, our church secretary, for her help in getting the newsletter in the hands of the people. She is a gem, and I have enjoyed working with her.

For the last couple of years I have been feeling like I was in training for something. I sense God is guiding and preparing me for something. I don't know where He is leading me, but I know - ***When God Calls... I Will Go.***

I hereby pass the baton to Cindy Sealing. I know God will be her guide, and she will do a great job with the newsletter. I hope it brings her as much joy as it did me!

Sue Beaman

GOD ON VACATION?

What if God took a vacation and we were alone for a week. What a mess we would be in! We would probably fall apart. No prayers would be answered until He returned.

Hebrews 13:5: ***"...Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."***

God does not sleep and is always available for us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. What would it be like if you got some bad news during the middle of the night and you couldn't reach God for prayers until 9 a.m. Thank God. He is always available anywhere and anytime for a prayer to listen to us.

There is a story about a little girl on a train ride for the first time. The train trip was an overnight trip so the family reserved sleeper bunks, which were bunk beds with privacy curtains. When the family went to bed, Mom tucked the little girl in and assured her all was fine. But the little girl was still scared and said, ***"Mommy, I am scared!"*** Her mother reassured her again and told her everything is all right and God is here with you. Again the little girl said, ***"I am scared,"*** and again the mother reassured her that all was fine and that God was watching over her.

After several more outbursts by the little girl with each getting louder, a tired and grouchy gentleman, who had endured this as long as he could, spoke out loudly, ***"SHUT UP AND GO TO SLEEP!!!"*** After a short stillness, the little voice spoke again and said, ***"God is that you?"***

God doesn't always speak to us this way, but He is always ready to hear us and protect us and to respond to us, regardless of the hour!

We are very blessed to know God does not take a vacation and He is with us and ready to see us through whatever we are facing. It doesn't matter what time of day or day of the week – God is always there ready to help us.

Sometimes, we feel alone but we're not. God is there walking beside us or carrying us when we need Him the most.

REMEMBER: We can always go to Him – anytime, anywhere. You will never get a busy signal. He is there waiting for us.



THE QUILT

As I faced my Maker at the last Judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives, like the squares of a quilt, in many piles.

An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that was our life. But as my Angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares were. They were filled with giant holes! Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I had endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Others had a tiny hole here and there, other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune.

I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My Angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally, the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light and the scrutiny of truth. The others rose each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been.

My Angel looked upon me and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, death, and false accusations that took from me my world as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I had spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully; each time offering it up to the Father, in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me. And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it had been.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with eyes wide. Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded through the many holes, creating an image. The face of Christ.



Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, *"Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you. Welcome Home My Child."* ~ Author Unknown

LETTER TO OUR ASBURY FAMILY



Dear Asbury Family,

We are very blessed to call each of you our brothers and sisters in Christ. Since we walked through the doors at Asbury last November, you have made us feel very welcomed and that we belonged. It has made our transition to Asbury very easy and smooth. We did not have that nervousness you get when you enter a new church. From the very first day, you made us feel part of the family.

We have visited other churches, but they did not have that "family feel" when you walked in. People were nice, but there was something missing. A very special thank you goes to Wanda Mills. We take exercise classes with her at the YMCA. She knew we were looking for a church and she kept inviting us to come to Asbury. She said, *"You will love it there!"* We decided to come and "try" it out. She was right! And here we are members to a family that made us feel wanted.

Before we decided to become members, we met with Pastor Michael. From day one, he also made us feel very welcomed. We find that when we talk with him it's like we really matter to him and he doesn't give you some "off the cuff" answer to get you out of his hair. He is a really caring and genuine person – a true gem as a pastor and friend.

We thank you all for accepting us into the Asbury Family and making us feel welcomed and loved. We are very proud to become members of Asbury. It is a wonderful place to do God's work. We are sure God is looking down on each of you and saying *"Well done my good and faithful servants!"*

Blessings,

Randy & Cindy Sealing, Heather Drew

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Address Service Requested



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



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website



Asbury United Methodist Church

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



*When you have faith
in God, you don't have
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