



The Asbury BEACON

September 2026

Volume 26, Number 9

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 my Asbury Family,

I'm writing to encourage you to join us this coming Sunday — September 6, the first Sunday of the month — as we gather around the Lord's Table for Communion yet again. This is always a meaningful time in the life of our church, and I believe God uses it to draw us closer to God and to one another.

When Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, He gave a clear and beautiful command: *"Do this in remembrance of Me"* (Luke 22:19). Each time we partake of the bread and the cup, we are remembering the sacrifice of Christ, celebrating the forgiveness of sins, and renewing our fellowship with Him. It is a sacred moment — not because of the elements themselves, but because of what they represent: the body and blood of our Savior, given for us.

Communion is also a time for personal reflection. It's a chance to quiet our hearts before the Lord, confess where we've fallen short, and receive His grace anew. It reminds us that we are not alone in our walk of faith — we are part of a spiritual family, united by Christ's love and mercy.

If you've been away or unsure about coming, I lovingly encourage you to return soon Sunday, September 6. Let it be a fresh beginning, a new opportunity to experience the presence of the Lord in a tangible and powerful way.

Let us come with thankful hearts and worship together — remembering, rejoicing, and receiving all that Jesus has done for us.

P.S. - Don't forget to bring a loaf of bread or two for the Watertown Urban Mission!



Pastor Michael



BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

National Back to Church Sunday is September 20, 2026, a nationwide movement designed to help churches reconnect with those who've drifted away, as well as reach new families and visitors in their communities.

This day was set aside for churches to rally together after summer break, welcome their communities through their doors, and remind people that hope is found in Jesus and in the church community.

According to experts, 82% of people say they'd attend if a friend simply invited them, but only 2% of churchgoers ever do. Back to Church Sunday aims to close that gap. Each year, those churches who participate often see a 25–27% increase in attendance on that Sunday alone!

Once again, Asbury UMC will participate and encourages everyone to bring a friend to church – invite friends, family, co-workers, and more to church on this special Sunday.

Pastor Michael

ASBURY'S STAFF

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BROADCAST MINISTRY

Bob Kurtz

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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, 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.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 3
September 5
September 10

Susan Marino
Anderson Stenard
Pastor Michael Terrell
Patricia Desjarlais
Scott Hodge
Mark Smith
Judith Cota
Jean Marshall
Susan Tague-Smith
Barbara Williams



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



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 1
October 3
October 6
October 6
October 9
October 10
October 10
October 11
October 13
October 14
October 14
October 16
October 16
October 16
October 23
October 27
October 27
October 28
October 28
October 29
October 30
October 30

Gerald Tucker
Mark Robinson
Karen Hill
Matthew Kinnard
Marianne Scott
Eleanor Cerow
Michael Rudd
Greeta Bovee
Myrtie Schilling
Pam Quimby
Cherrie Clark
Meredith Forbes
Jim Juczak
Catherine Mowers
Abigail Patrick
Andrew Rudd
Kate Lamica
Kimberly Welt
Michelle Rudd
Alexandra Forbes
Samantha Furman



OCTOBER

Herbert and Deborah VanHouten
October 12, 1985

Chris and Cherrie Clark
October 14, 2007

Ethan and Kate Fesler
October 24, 2020

Willy and Darlene Welbourn
October 28, 1977

Louis and Nancy Dolloway
October 30, 1971

James and Carol Wright
October 30, 2009

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 31

2:00 p.m.

Wesley Hall



As is always the case, Charge Conference sessions are open meetings in The United Methodist Church. Only church members will be able to vote.



ASBURY'S BUS TRIP

The bus is full for Asbury's annual trip to Lancaster PA, to see a show at the Sight and Sound Theater. We will be leaving early Wednesday, 9/16/2026, and will return late on 9/17/2026. We will be seeing "Joshua" on Wednesday and then taking a scenic train ride through the Lehigh Valley Gorge in Jim Thorpe, PA, on Thursday.

For those going, the bus will leave Hale Transportation, park at 1067 Marble Street, Watertown, NY, on 9/16/2026 at 6:15 a.m. Questions, please contact Leon (315-771-9142) or Margie VanWie (315-771-9178) or Lindsay Webb (315-408-5099).

Please offer a prayer for traveling mercies to be with the 57 of us traveling this year.



**FALL
RUMMAGE SALE
OCTOBER 2 & 3
8:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.**

Items are already pouring in for the rummage sale. Many people have taken the time this summer to clean out attics, cellars, and garages. The most popular items for the sale always are furniture, working kitchen appliances, puzzles, tools, books, and antiques and toys. We don't accept clothing or computer items. Items can be brought from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday-Thursday and Sunday. You can let our church secretary, Faith, (315-782-3240) know when you are coming and if you need any help.

Our Bake Sale this fall will feature homemade pies!!! We have some great pie bakers at Asbury. Pies can be baked or frozen and ready to be baked. Our target is 40 pies! If you have another specialty recipe for a dessert, cookie, or snack, please bake some of these, also. We will be serving free coffee and tea to go along with the baked goods. Any questions, please call Sue Snell, 315-782-8235.

Spread the word—we have great bargains and delicious baked goods!!!

All proceeds will benefit our Asbury 2026 budget. Thank you!!!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Thank you to all who donated items for the "Christmas in July" event. 34 boxes of cereal, 40 other quick meal/snacks (mac and cheese Chef Boyardee pasta, ramen, cracker/cookie packs, etc.) and 28 bottles of laundry soap/9 dryer sheets/4 fabric softener were collected for the Watertown Urban Mission Pantry. 233 hygiene items were collected for distribution through the North Country Family Health Center.

Sarah Lehman

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.

Farewell

Saying goodbye to a family member or a friend is always hard. Please join in saying farewell to our organist, Ghilyana Dordzhieva, her husband, Arthur, and her son, Erdem, as they relocate to Massachusetts. Her son, Erdem will be starting prep school there. We wish you well and many blessings in your new life journey. We will miss you and know you will always have a home here at Asbury!



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.



BACKPACKS & BLESSINGS!

Join us on Sunday, 9/13/2026, for the Blessing of the Backpacks!

Children are invited to bring their backpacks to church to receive a blessing and prayers as we celebrate the beginning of the new school year.

Pastor Michael

CONFERENCE DATE CHANGED



Asbury's Annual Charge Conference will be held on Saturday, 10/31/2026, at 2 p.m. instead of Saturday, 9/26/2026, in Wesley Hall. All church members are invited to attend. Come to learn more about the workings of our church.



HI HO, HI HO, IT'S OFF TO SCHOOL WE GO!

It's that time again for all kids to go back to school. Labor Day is Monday, 9/7/2026; however, some schools are back in session before Labor Day. Please check with your school district to see when your child goes back to school.

Kids please bring your backpack to church on Sunday, 9/13/2026, for their blessing by Pastor Michael. We hope all kids have an awesome first day of school and a great year!



SEPTEMBER CHURCH LUNCHEON

As summer begins to wind down and we look ahead to the cooler days of fall, it's a wonderful time to reconnect with our church family!

After taking a break from our monthly luncheon in June, we're looking forward to gathering together again on **Sunday, September 13**. We hope you'll join us for good food, warm fellowship, and a chance to catch up after a busy summer.

Whether you've been traveling, spending time with family, or simply enjoying the slower pace of summer, our September luncheon will be a great way to welcome a new season together.

Mark your calendar for September 13 and plan to join us. We'd love to see you there!

Christian Connections Committee

CHANCEL CHOIR TO BEGIN

After having the summer off, Chancel Choir will begin a new season of singing joyously to the Lord – leading the hymns, singing an anthem and service music – on Sunday, September 13, 2026. We meet at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the choir room to warm up. We also have rehearsal on Thursday evenings, normally at 5:30 p.m., but if you can only come to rehearse on Sunday morning that works as well.

Our first Thursday rehearsal will be on September 10 at **5:30 p.m.** (yes, an hour earlier than normal), to prepare for Sunday the 13. **Note:** There is **NO** rehearsal on Thursday, September 17, due to the bus trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster, but we will still warm up and sing on Sunday, September 20.

If you are interested in joining us (and please know that you do not have to sing every Sunday), please come to rehearsal, either Thursday evening or Sunday morning. We would love to have you sing with us and use your voice to lift praise to our Lord!



SUMMER IS OVER – IT'S BACK TO WORK

Attention all committee/group members! It's time to get back doing God's work. If your committee/group did not meet this past summer, please contact your group leader or check the church website calendar to find out exact start date and times. We look forward to seeing what your committee/group has planned for the upcoming year, especially the choir and handbell ringers – we missed your beautiful voices and bell notes!



Church Calendar



BOOK CLUB MEETS

The Asbury Book Club will begin meeting to explore the wonderful and exciting world of literature the 1st Friday of each month starting in September at the Flower Memorial Library at 10 a.m. Please contact Lynn Morgan for more information. All are welcome.



Asbury is again participating in Boo at the Zoo, Thompson Park Zoo, on Saturday, 10/17/2026, and Saturday, 10/24/2026, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days.

Two to three volunteers are needed for each 2-hour shift. Sign-up sheets will be coming for signups.

Donations of candy and/or snack packs of Goldfish ~~ please avoid nuts. For those who do not like to shop we will take monetary donations and purchase additional supplies. All donations and assistance are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please see Amy Langone.



SOMETHING TO PONDER

I think Christians fail so often to get answers to their prayers because they do not wait long enough on God.

What do you think?

MEAL KITS – ROUND #3

The meal kits have been reported to be popular and appreciated items at the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry. Each meal kit has shelf stable items and no additional ingredients are needed. Helps to answer the question of *“What’s for dinner?”*

For round #3, thinking Fall-Homecoming-Casseroles (Chicken Cobbler and Chicken Broccoli Rice Casserole). Starting Sunday, September 20, 2026, there will be a sign up in the back of the rotunda if you would like to donate particular item(s) for a meal kit or a whole meal kit, a “shopping list” printout is available for those who want to donate a whole kit. There will also be a box to place donations in. On Sunday, October 11, 2026, we will plan to pack the meal kits after church. Any questions, please call Sarah Lehman 315-767-2641.

Chicken Cobbler

- 1 box garlic and herb biscuit mix or Red Lobster Cheddar Bay biscuit mix
- 1 large can chicken, drained, but save the broth
- 1 can peas and carrots mix, drained
- 1 can diced potatoes, drained
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup water

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Drain the chicken, but save the broth. Shred chicken with a fork.
3. In a 9x13 baking dish, add the chicken, drained peas and carrots and drained potatoes. Stir to combine.
4. In a bowl, mix the biscuit mix with its seasoning packet and 1 can of evaporated milk. Pour over the top of the chicken mixture in the baking dish.
5. In same bowl, combine the cream of chicken soup, the saved broth from the drained chicken, and 1/2 cup of water. Stir until smooth, then pour over the top of the biscuit layer. Do not stir.
6. Bake uncovered for 50 to 60 minutes until golden brown and bubbly.
7. Let rest 10 minutes before serving.

Chicken Broccoli Rice Casserole

- 1 can broccoli and cheese soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 package broccoli cheese rice mix
- 1 large can of chicken
- 1 and 1/2 cups water

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Combine all ingredients into a baking dish.
3. Bake uncovered for 30 minutes.



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC & GUEST SPEAKER

On August 19, Asbury families gathered at the annual church picnic at Thompson Park. The highlight of the evening, besides the delicious food, was a special speaker, Dr. Mark Irwin, Director of the Thompson Park Zoo. Dr. Irwin explained the history of the zoo which was founded in 1921 by volunteers from the community. The original exhibit were deer. Eventually, the zoo added monkeys, lions, etc. following the traditional path of most zoos in this country. However, they were housed in small cages which were not a healthy environment for them.



In the 1970's, concern for the welfare of these animals mounted. It was decided to change the purpose of the zoo by changing the type of animals, and how they were housed, to animals native to the United States and Northern New York. Bear, elk, wolves, and eagle exhibits were introduced in new and safer exhibits. A petting zoo of farm animals was opened.

Within the last few years, the zoo has become a refuge for animals that need rehabilitation. The latest additions have been a wolverine and a second otter. A butterfly house has also been constructed to grow butterflies that can be tagged and released to follow their flight path South. Dr. Al Gianfagna has been instrumental in this effort.

Dr. Irwin stressed the need for continued donations of money and volunteers to support the zoo. Pastor Michael volunteers Sunday afternoons and you can volunteer too.

The Watertown City Council and the County Board of Legislators do not support the zoo consistently each year. The zoo is the 2nd most visited site in Jefferson County following Boldt Castle. It is a unique addition to the education of hundreds of children and adults in the North County. Let's share our time by volunteering, visiting, and donating to this remarkable zoo right here in our own “back yard”!!!

Mission on the Move

The **Mission Committee** took their meeting out into the community in August. Along with some other interested Asburians, we took a tour of the Watertown Urban Mission Facilities. Urban Mission serves all of Jefferson County. There have been many changes at Urban Mission in the last couple of years.

Linda Johnston, Operations Director, was our guide. She talked about the different services that Urban Mission is focused on:

- ❖ **Housing Assistance** – Working with other organizations, striving to prevent and alleviate homelessness and housing insecurity.
- ❖ **Food Assistance** – The Food Pantry has been rebranded as *The Market* and is open to all members of the community. We were able to see where our bread collected on Communion Sunday is displayed for distribution.
- ❖ **Critical Needs** – Offering essential services that go beyond traditional social assistance programs.
- ❖ **Recovery Assistance** – The Bridge Program offers an alternative to incarceration for individuals facing legal issues related to substance use.
- ❖ **Meals on Wheels** - Enables seniors to live safely and independently.
- ❖ **Care Center** - The CARE/Navigation Center is a collaborative project bringing together several local, non-profit agencies with parallel goals to serve under-resourced individuals.

The Urban Mission Store, featuring clothing, furniture, and other miscellaneous items, is open once again, and anyone is welcome to shop there.

Go to: **WatertownUrbanMission.org** to learn more about what Urban Mission is doing to serve the needs of the less fortunate in our community.

Sue Beaman



CELEBRATING THE SNELLS

Approximately 85 individuals gathered at “The Loft” in the Lincoln Building in downtown Watertown on Sunday, August 16th, to honor Glen and Susan Snell for their many years of service to Asbury United Methodist Church. In attendance were 10 clergy (Pictured - seated left to right: Bruce Chapman, Jane Eastham, Penni Farrington, Max Bovee, standing left to right: David Simmons, Michael Terrell, Laura Calos, Leon VanWie, Bill Palmer, Pete Mowers, and Toby Schilling) who, over the years, have had a connection with the Snells and Asbury.

This was a free event for church members as well as Snell family members and friends, but many in attendance contributed money to help pay for the cost of the event.

It is notable that the 60th Wedding Anniversary of the Snells occurred on August 20, so their anniversary was also celebrated at this event.

Glen, a veterinarian, and Sue, a teacher, moved to Watertown in 1970 and joined Asbury United Methodist Church, and that same year, joined the Chancel Choir. Glen sang in the choir for 50 years and Sue, after 56 years, is still singing in the choir.

Glen’s 43 years of service on the Asbury Board of Trustees was recognized. For 18 of those years, he served as President of the Board. Glen has announced he is retiring from the board at the end of his present term. This event gave those in attendance a chance to recognize Glen for that service.

Sue was recognized for all her church committee work, which, by-the-way is ongoing, her leadership of many rummage sales and other fund-raising efforts, her work as a lay leader, her dedication to church music programs and for her involvement in many, many church activities.

The Rev. Leon VanWie served as the MC for the day and put together the program. Several pastors participated in the program.

The event was catered by Embellished Catering and the food received great reviews.

As noted, Susan’s and Glen’s 60th Wedding Anniversary was also celebrated. The Snell’s family has been, and still is, an important part of their lives. And so, it was appropriate that their daughter, Nancy Weislogel, and son, Ken Snell, were able to share stories of their experiences growing up in the Snell household. Their conversation turned out to be the most entertaining part of the celebration.

The event was a tremendous success and proved to be a great way to honor Glen and Sue.

Submitted by Bruce Irwin and Leon VanWie





MUSIC SOOTHES THE SOUL!!!

For as long as I can remember, I have loved music. When I was a little girl, I had a little piano with color-coded keys. There was a book of songs that were color-coded to go along with the piano. I spent hours playing those songs, and whenever anyone came to visit, I had to play a song for them. I love singing. I know all the words to most of the Christmas carols, and I love singing along when they are played on the radio at Christmastime. I also enjoy singing hymns on Sunday mornings. My list of favorites is getting longer and longer. As a little girl, I loved dancing, and I dreamed of becoming a ballerina.

Recently, I have heard God speaking to me through music. I am a member of the Board for Women of Grace Widows Fund (an ecumenical group that helps widows in the remote region of Malawi, Africa.) Two of our members travelled to Malawi this summer to assess the needs and accomplishments of the widows we support. I have always been amazed at the way the widows in Malawi always seem to be singing and dancing, even while they are working. When Margot and Cindy returned from their mission trip, Margot shared with me the pictures and videos she had taken. One video stood out to me. Cindy had been recently widowed. When the widows of Malawi learned of this, they took a collection and presented her with what amounted to a little over \$2 in American money. She was touched, and the tears began to flow. The widows then began to sing and sway to show their compassion, and soon our American widow had joined them. These widows in Malawi have so little, but they give so much.

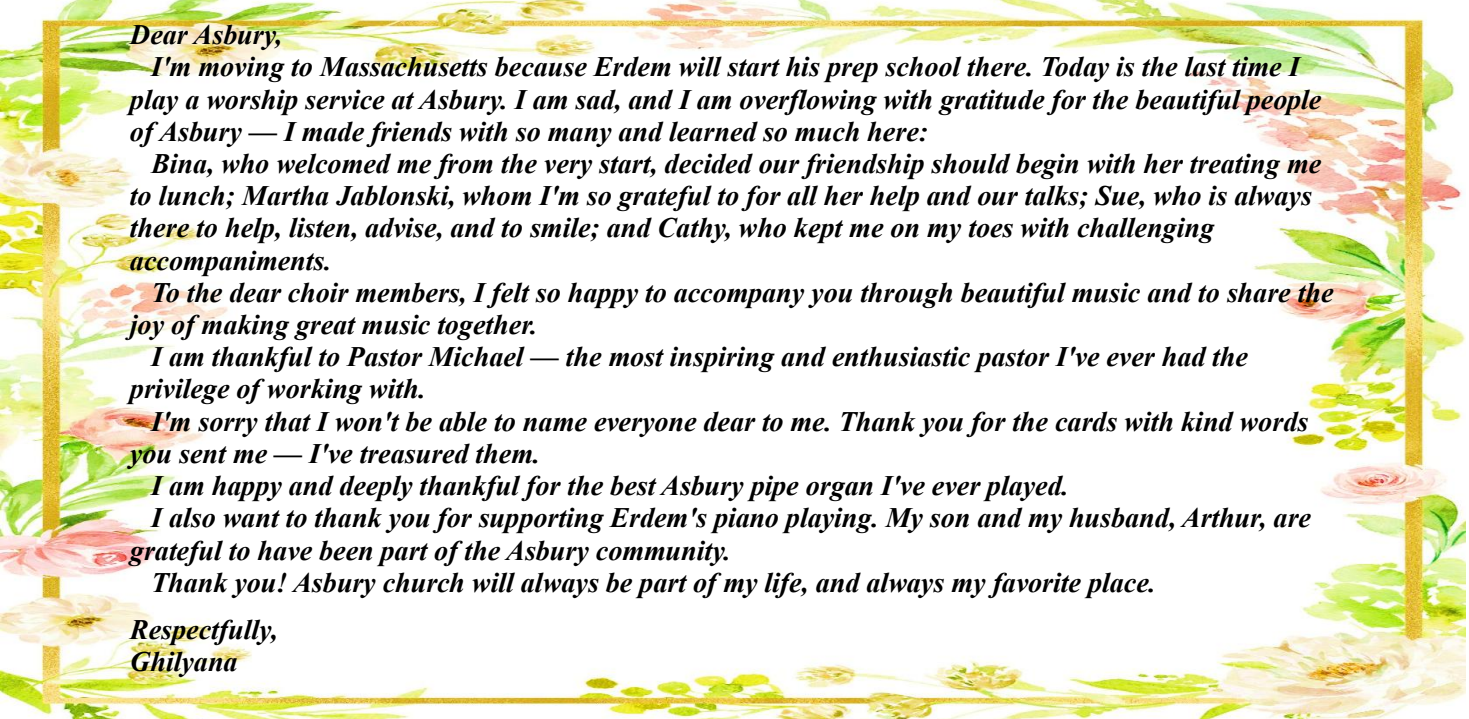
On a Sunday in July, The Silver Flutes came to Asbury and played for us during worship. The Silver Flutes are an ecumenical group that plays at various churches throughout the year. I could almost see God smiling, and the joy their music brought filled the sanctuary. Also, on that Sunday, Ghilyana played the organ for the last time at Asbury, as she and her family are moving out of the area. Her son, Erdem, played a beautiful piece by J. Brahms on the piano. Ghilyana played a piece by S. Karg-Elert on the organ. Both the piano and the organ pieces rocked our sanctuary.

On an evening in July, some members of the congregation gathered in Asbury's sanctuary to hear Pastor Michael share a part of his faith journey with testimony and song. As he sang and played the piano, it was clear to me that God has given him the special gift of music.

My question to God was: "How is it that some individuals and groups of people just seem to have the natural ability to bring joy where there is sorrow?" Is it cultural or instinctual? An answer came in a daily devotional I read each morning, titled, "Our Daily Bread." Researchers in a study group played drum rhythms for babies while monitoring their brain wave activity. Occasionally the researchers would omit a beat from the rhythm. Amazingly they found the infants brain waves spiked right when the note was left out – showing their young minds were already anticipating that beat and reacting to its absence. The study suggests the amazing way that God has created us. He's even wired us to embrace the wonderful gift of music and respond to it with joy. Pain, exhaustion, regret, or grief can sometimes weigh our hearts down and threaten to silence our songs of praise. As God heals our hearts and fills them with the rhythms of joy we were born to dance to, we can testify, "Lord, my God, I will praise you forever."

God has given the Silver Flutes, Ghilyana, Erdem, the Widows of Malawi, Africa, and Pastor Michael, the gift of song and dance, and how blessed are we that they share that gift with us and fill our hearts with joy. Asbury has a wonderful music staff, including the chancel choir, the bell choirs and their directors, and our organists and pianists. Come and let them fill your hearts with joy!

MUSIC SOOTHES THE SOUL!!!
With a joyful heart, Sue Beaman



Dear Asbury,

I'm moving to Massachusetts because Erdem will start his prep school there. Today is the last time I play a worship service at Asbury. I am sad, and I am overflowing with gratitude for the beautiful people of Asbury — I made friends with so many and learned so much here:

Bina, who welcomed me from the very start, decided our friendship should begin with her treating me to lunch; Martha Jablonski, whom I'm so grateful to for all her help and our talks; Sue, who is always there to help, listen, advise, and to smile; and Cathy, who kept me on my toes with challenging accompaniments.

To the dear choir members, I felt so happy to accompany you through beautiful music and to share the joy of making great music together.

I am thankful to Pastor Michael — the most inspiring and enthusiastic pastor I've ever had the privilege of working with.

I'm sorry that I won't be able to name everyone dear to me. Thank you for the cards with kind words you sent me — I've treasured them.

I am happy and deeply thankful for the best Asbury pipe organ I've ever played.

I also want to thank you for supporting Erdem's piano playing. My son and my husband, Arthur, are grateful to have been part of the Asbury community.

Thank you! Asbury church will always be part of my life, and always my favorite place.

*Respectfully,
Ghilyana*

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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

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



*Only in the Cross of Christ will
we receive power when we are
powerless; we will find
strength when we are weak; and
we will experience hope when
our situation is hopeless. Only
in the Cross is there peace for
our troubled hearts.*

