The Asbury BEACON

November 2026

Volume 26, Number 11

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!

Dear Asbury Family,

On Wednesday, November 25, at 6 p.m. in the Chapman Chapel at Asbury, we will be gathering together as a church for our annual Thanksgiving Eve service, and we would love to have you join us and bring family and friends to this special service celebrating our many blessings.

My home church always gathered for worship on the night before Thanksgiving. I was eight years old when I first attended the Thanksgiving Eve service, and was moved even at that young age by this service. When I entered the ministry, it became a part of my offering as a pastor. I do hope you can join me this year.

Thanksgiving has been celebrated as an official national holiday in the US since 1864, when, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of *"Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens,"* to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November.

We find celebrations of thanksgiving throughout the Bible. In Exodus 23:16 the people are commanded to *"celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when the crops are brought in from the field."*

Coming together as our Asbury family is an opportunity to give thanks for the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us throughout the year. This would be both as a church body as well as in our homes.

There are many around the table who do not yet know the saving grace of Jesus, so let's pray for families!

It is our prayer that you will invite your family and friends to join you, as our service will be a time of remembering physical and spiritual blessings. Our time will be spent with singing and praising the Lord, as well as hearing a message.

We look forward to seeing you and yours there!

In Christian love,

Pastor Michael

Dear Asbury family,

Depending on how well you know me or pay attention to my sermons, you might think that my mom brought me up well, or you might think I was raised in a barn. Of course, I'd like to think that you believe the former over the latter!

For what it's worth, my mom taught me to always be grateful for those small things and to say thank you or send a thank-you note when someone has given a gift to me, whether that was a present with a bow, a check for my birthday, or an act of love and kindness.

Your recent gift to me and my kids on Sunday, October 4, for Pastor Appreciation Day, was so very thoughtful and appreciated. The gift you gave me is one of the best kinds of gifts a person can receive: it was a gift that was thoughtful, selfless, and generous. Best of all, it was neither expected nor required; instead, it was a gift that you chose to give freely and from your heart. I am humbled and honored that you would give (such) a portion of your own gifts and resources as a token of appreciation of my work here at Asbury UMC.

Your gift was indeed very much appreciated and came at the right time. I'm amazed at what you all conspire behind my back! The cake was beautiful and delicious and I hope everyone had a piece of it.
I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you so much for your gift of love, your unlimited prayers, and your support. Your words and cards have been so moving.

Just a simple and humble, thank you. Thank you for being the special Christian disciples who gather at Asbury to transform the world.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Michael

ASBURY'S STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Faith Kirch

BROADCAST MINISTRY
Bob Kurtz

CLEANING SERVICES
Frances Goutremout

CONGREGATIONAL CARE
Pamela Quimby
Darlene Welbourn

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Dan Webb

TREASURER
Faith Kirch

MAINTENANCE
William Noviski

MUSIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Catherine Mowers

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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.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 2	Lindsay Webb
November 3	Tamara Klock
November 4	Heather Drew
November 7	Susan Chatterton
November 8	Dale Scott
November 8	Isabelle Kinnard
November 12	Linda Bennett
November 14	Martha Jablonski
November 14	Dodie Bretsch
November 24	Debbie Daily
November 28	Darlene Town

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dan and Lindsay Webb
November 9, 2002

Dr. Frank and Joanne Rhode
November 19, 1983

Dr. Grace Burke and Charles Mosley
November 29, 1986

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1	Joanne Rhode
December 1	Paul Simmons
December 4	Michelle Mathieu
December 5	Willam Van Houten
December 5	Brittany Ives
December 7	Michael Hill
December 11	Nicholas Delair
December 12	Sarah Lehman
December 17	Brooklyn Hart
December 17	Tanner Syrotchen
December 21	Olivia Lehman
December 21	Willow Terrell
December 21	Amanda Marino
December 22	Andrew Van Houten
December 22	Mary Smith
December 28	Suzanne Wrenn
December 29	Awanda Mills
December 30	Alayna Kinnard

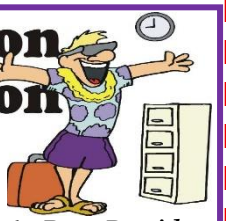
DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Michael and Susan Marino
December 1, 1979

Bill and Lisa Smith
December 27, 1997

Rev. Peter and Catherine Mowers
December 29, 2001

Pastor is on Vacation



Pastor Michael will be away from 11/7/2026-11/14/2026. Rev. David Simmons will be filling in on 11/8/2026.

KUDOS!!!

On Sunday, October 11, the United Women in Faith at Asbury prepared 20 chicken broccoli rice casserole and 14 chicken cobbler meal kits to be donated to The Market at the Watertown Urban Mission. Many thanks to all who participated. Nice job!

PASTOR APPRECIATION

A special coffee hour was held for Pastor Michael in celebration of Pastor Appreciation on Sunday, 10/4/2026. A beautiful cake and a monetary gift was given to him to thank him for all he does for us and to show how blessed we are to have him. As we say each and every Sunday

"Pastor Michael, you are loved!!!"

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

The following is the coffee hour schedule for November and December. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Smith. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

NOVEMBER

1 – No coffee hour – Salvation Army Pancake Breakfast
8 – Churchwide Luncheon
15 – Missions Committee
22 – Trustees
29 – PSPRC

DECEMBER

6 – No Coffee Hour – Northern Choral Society Concert
13 – Churchwide Luncheon
20 – Finance Committee
27 – Christmas Leftovers

DONATIONS NEEDED

We are seeking donations to help us defray the cost of supplies (paper products, coffee stirrers, creamers, sugar, etc.) for the coffee hour. If you would like to make a donation, please place it in the donation jar on the coffee hour table located in the back of the sanctuary. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

THE STORY OF THE FOUR CANDLES

The Four Candles burned slowly. Their ambience was so soft you could hear them speak...

The First Candle said, "I am Peace, but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit." Then Peace's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

The Second Candle said, "I am Faith, but these days, I am no longer indispensable." Then Faith's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

Sadly, the Third Candle speaks, "I am Love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them." Waiting no longer, Love goes out completely.

Suddenly, a child enters the room and sees the three candles no longer burning. The child begins to cry, "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit until the end."

Then the Fourth Candle speaks gently to the little child, "Don't be afraid, for I am Hope, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles."

With shining eyes, the child took the Candle of Hope and lit the other three candles.

Never let the Flame of Hope go out of your life. With Hope, no matter how bad things look and are – Peace, Faith, and Love can shine brightly in our lives.

COMMUNICATION

It has been brought to our attention that some individuals are not receiving information by email or mail. If you are not receiving information, please let Faith Kirch, Administrative Assistant, in the office know so the information we have can be updated. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by Amy Langone. Special thank you to Amy for her contribution.

If you would like to sponsor the monthly newsletter, please contact Faith Kirch, Administrative Assistant.

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 for 1 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.

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Due to the Pancake Breakfast at the Salvation Army on 11/1/2026, our luncheon for November will be held on Sunday, 11/8/2026, following the morning worship service. Please bring a dish to pass.

If you are unable to bring a dish, no worries, as there is always enough to go around.

Plan on attending for some great food and fellowshipping. We hope to see you there!

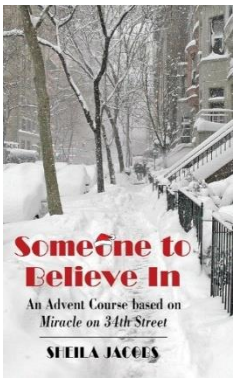
For all newsletter articles and pictures, please send them to Cindy Sealing at csealing@twcny.rr.com in Microsoft Word format. You may also reach her at (315) 788-9046 or (315) 771-5251. They may also be given to Faith in the church office.

Asbury Advent Bible Study for 2026

November 29, December 7, 13, 20 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Someone to Believe In: An Advent Study based on

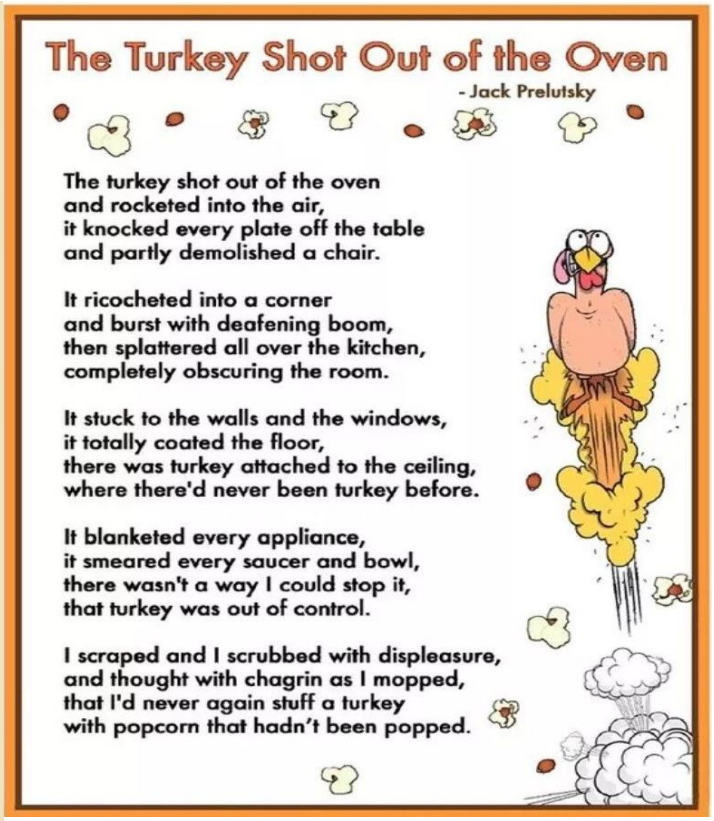
Miracle on 34th Street

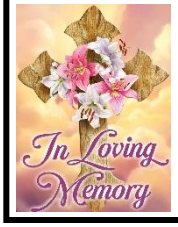


A Bible Study to help Christians grapple with faith, miracles, and the challenges this brings to our everyday lives.

The Academy Award-winning film famously puts Santa Claus on trial in an attempt to disprove his existence, hence why this film holds many teachable moments and discussion starters for modern day believers.

Join Maureen O'Hara, John Payne, Richard Attenborough, and Shelia Jacobs for this journey into the ultimate Christmas miracle.





A LOSS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

It is with much sadness to report that our Brother in Christ, Lynn S. Cleveland, passed away September 27, 2026. Please remember his family in your prayers.

NEW COORDINATOR

After over 20 years of coordinating the Asbury Food Pantry Fund, Dave Stoodley is stepping aside from the responsibility of collecting money for the fund. Deborah Van Houten has graciously agreed to take on this responsibility.

We, the church membership, thank her for her willingness to do this and know she will continue to keep this important church mission successful.

For ways to help Debbie with this very important service to others, please contact her. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Bruce Irwin

Color My World With Joy

Studies have shown that color, as opposed to black, white, and gray, has a positive effect on our mood. God has certainly blessed those of us who live in Northern New York. The changing seasons fill our senses with an array of different colors. Spring, summer, and autumn are God's gift to us for enduring the cold, gray days of winter.

In spring, the trees come alive with fresh, green leaves to give us shade in the warm days to come. Daffodils and tulips peek out of the ground to remind us that we are moving from winter to the new and fresh beginnings of spring. The warm days of summer bring us green grass, rainbows, blue skies, and fireworks exploding with color in the night sky. In Autumn, the green leaves of summer turn red, gold, and orange. The apple trees produce bright red apples for us to eat, and to make cider and delicious treats. Golden colored chrysanthemums and bright orange pumpkins begin to appear everywhere.

As the leaves fall from the trees and the chrysanthemums and pumpkins fade away, our thoughts go to Thanksgiving where we thank God for all the blessings he has brought us that year, and for the colors that surround us and bring us joy.

As winter approaches, I begin to surround myself with color. I have a multi-colored purse that I carry with me; and it always brings smiles and positive comments from people I see and meet along the way. When I recently went to the car dealership to lease a car, I told them I did not want a white, black or gray car. I am now driving a bright red car. Now, when I leave a store, I can immediately spot my red car in the sea of white, black, and gray vehicles. Even my toenails are painted orange to match the season - What joy!

As the cold and snowy days of winter bring me inside, I surround myself with color. December brings me the bright red, green, blue, and gold decorations leading to Christmas. Those *ugly Christmas sweaters* always bring a smile to my face also. The colored lights that surround us at Christmas fill my heart with joy and remind me of God's greatest gift to us – Jesus, his son. After Christmas, my tree stays up, and the Christmas ornaments are replaced with red hearts and a bright shining star on the top.

Winter also finds me putting together bright colored jigsaw puzzles, coloring pretty pictures with bright, colored pencils or reading a book with a happy ending.

One of the *Fruits of the Spirit* is **Joy.** Surrounding us with color is one way God brings joy to our hearts. I embrace it and I am thankful for this blessing God has given us. I hope you embrace the colors of the seasons and fill your hearts with **Joy** in the months to come.

Sue Beaman

"RUMMAGE /BAKE SALE BREAKS NEW RECORD"

It was raining hard the first day. There was not a big line waiting to come in to Wesley Hall. Where were all the customers? But, by 9 a.m., the crowd improved and there was a steady stream of customers.

The sale looked more like the first floor of a department store. Every available table was set up including 9 card tables. We estimated over 2,000 items!!! The bake sale displayed the best homemade pies, cookies, snacks, and specialty desserts. As usual, Melinda St. John was a great salesperson and baker. Very few items were left. Thanks to all the great bakers at Asbury! The total for 2 days was over $724 just on baked goods!!!

On day two, items were half price. Some people came back for the bargains, but many new folks were pleased with the bargains, too. I want to thank all who donated, including those who were not members of Asbury. It took two weeks to unbox and sort the items into categories, and then find attractive ways to display them. We had a great crew of helpers who worked 3 mornings a week, some afternoons, plus the sale days, too. It was a busy 2 weeks, but the reward was amazing. The total for the sale so far is $5963.!!! $25 is still outstanding. I am sure we will reach $6000 when someone donates $18 more!!! The total amount raised will pay for one week of Asbury's bills.

Congratulations to those who donated, volunteered, bought, and enjoyed the fellowship we created! It was a real group effort!!! Thank you all!!!

Sue Snell and Crew

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Website: www.AsburyUMC.net
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!

At this season of Advent while we await the coming of Jesus, we are called to be the love that Jesus brings. Let us prepare our hearts by loving and caring for others with God's own love and concern.