



The Asbury BEACON

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The Pastor's Corner

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

~ Lamentations 3: 22-23



Hello my new congregation! Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Laura Schaal Calos, your new pastor. I'm very happy to meet you as best we can amid this coronavirus plague that we must live with for the time being. I come to you from the Finger Lakes region of our great state, Waterloo to be specific. The village sits between two lakes, the Seneca and the Cayuga. I find living near water to be particularly life-giving, and I'm so glad that I can continue this practice in Watertown.

Because this is a "first impression," I thought carefully about what my scripture reference would be for this pastoral letter. Like you, I have my favorite Scripture passages, the ones I always turn to when needing encouragement in times of struggle, or the ones that help me to set my moral compass.

This one came to me in the night, and when I woke, I knew how I would begin my time with you and what it is that I want you to know first about me.

I wake up nearly every morning looking forward to the day. (I'm not worth much until I've had my second cup of coffee), but I'm still hopeful about what the day will bring. My late husband, being rather grumpy in the morning, both admired and was annoyed by this personality trait. He just couldn't understand how someone could be so consistently chipper. For him, it was just wrong.

I guess, I have an abiding trust in the goodness of God: God's patience, and forgiveness and mostly God's love. I believe in God's constancy and activity in human affairs. God didn't create the world and then leave us to ourselves, but is actively encouraging and guiding us if we just pause and listen to his leading. I think the greatest evidence of God's love for us is the gift of his son, our savior Jesus the Christ. John 3:16-17 are not just words to recite from memory, but is a truth I believe with my whole heart.

As the weeks and months and years unfold, you will learn more about me. I should prepare you by admitting that I have a quirky sense of humor and am subject to sudden outbursts of song. There are traits that will endear me to you and traits that will cause you to "sigh and look heavenward." Much like in marriage, we will discover much about each other and learn to accept the good and forgive the wrong. Let's begin the dance of ministry together!

Grace and peace,
Laura

ASBURY'S STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TAMMY OLIVAS

**ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR/
DISCIPLE DEVELOPMENT**
MAX BOVEE

BROADCAST MINISTRY
BOB KURTZ

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ASHLEE WELDON

CLEANING SERVICES
FRANCES GOUTREMOUT

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PAMELA QUIMBY
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FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE
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PASTOR
REV. LAURA CALOS



THE VISION OF ASBURY

*To Make Disciples for
Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World.*

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!*

A FOND FAREWELL



I believe it's safe to say that we will all miss Pastor Penni. We loved her because she was so personable, relatable and inspirational, not to mention her quick wit and caring hug or prayer. We loved her almost from the first moment we met her. I believe she will also miss us even though she is excited about retirement where she can enjoy family, travel, and relaxation.

Penni worked very hard these last few months during the Pandemic. Besides endless Zoom meetings, taping sermons, two inspirational pieces each week, etc., I believe that she felt isolated just like the rest of us. I think she missed all of us on Sundays, the music, and the beautiful Asbury sanctuary to naturally lift her spirits. If you want to send her a card to offer her well wishes on her next journey of life, I'm guessing a shower of cards in the mail would warm her heart and make her smile!

Her address is: 57 Traditions Pl, Henrietta, NY 14467-8971

AND...



A WARM WELCOME

While Asbury says a sorrowful goodbye to Penni, we are also blessed with Pastor Laura Calos to whom we want to provide a welcoming "hello." I trust in God that we will love Pastor Laura as much, if not more than, our short time with Pastor Penni. Pastor Laura is excited that God has called her to Watertown (from Waterloo) for the wide variety which Asbury UM Church offers our congregants and our wider community (to include the military). She expects to be with us for many years. I, for one, feel Penni's stay was too short, and I am encouraged that Pastor Laura will be here much longer so that even deeper relationships can flourish.

We are known as "the friendly church." People experience this before church with joyous chatter, during the passing of the peace, at Coffee Fellowship, and at group studies, etc. How will we present our welcoming and friendly spirit to Pastor Laura when there is no hugging, coffee fellowship, or in-person meetings due to social distancing? It appears we will need to find clever ways to extend our friendship to her. How about handwritten cards (insert a picture so she can see who you are); how about short emails which tell her how you feel (you also could insert a picture here). She is musical and has a dog so perhaps that could be a point of connection. I leave the rest to your imagination. May God bless our new pastor!

Her email is: rev.lauracalos@gmail.com

Her address is: 305 Flower Ave. W., Watertown, NY 13601

From Membership & Evangelism Committee,

Lisa Smith, Melanie Rafferty, Susan Snell, Carol Stoodley, Nancy Dolloway, Darlene Town, Amanda Weldon, Lorraine Irwin, Orié Phillips, Grace Burke, Marie Jewson, Sarah Lehman, Max Bovee

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Even though we did not have our more traditional end of the year last day of classes celebration in June, we still celebrated Sunday School. Goodie bags were delivered to our Sunday School kids.



Goodie bags had various things in them, but in particular a special thank you to Myrtie Schilling, Susan Hirst, Sue Snell and Jean Gianfagna for making the kid-sized cloth masks. Also, thank you to Anne Marie Gianfagna for taking the Jesus/Names for Jesus engraved stones we had planned on using at Easter and "entombing" them in homemade cotton candy scented soaps.



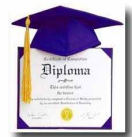
Hopefully we will be able to resume classes in September. If you have an interest in helping out with Sunday School for the upcoming Sunday School year (September thru June), please contact Sarah Lehman - 315-767-2641 or email sundayschool@westelcom.com. Even if you can just help out one Sunday a month or a couple of Sundays within the Sunday School year, it is greatly appreciated.

Sarah Lehman

CONGRATULATIONS!



to **Connor St. John**, who graduated from **General Brown High School** on June 26th. Well done!



“An Unexpected Gift”

I received a letter recently with an unexpected contribution to the Capital Campaign. The real highlight of this letter spoke to the heart about what Asbury has meant to this family. The positive influence this community of faith has had on many people and this city, is exemplified with this letter. The letter reinforces the idea of why we need a building to house our congregation and why a Capital Campaign fund was created.

I wrote Martha and requested permission to share this letter with the congregation. She graciously consented. I hope your spirits are lifted as mine were. Asbury and its people are a mighty force.

Glen Snell

Dear Glen,

Recently, I celebrated another milestone birthday, and my friend, Nora Bajjaly, sent me a card with a clipping from the Watertown Daily Times which detailed the current roofing project at Asbury. Because I do not know how the donations are registered, I am sending it to you. I realize that it is a modest amount, but, if possible I would like to give it in memory of George and Lois Stowell. They were very important people to my children and they would often take care of them for long periods of time.

For more than twenty years Asbury United Methodist Church was our home church while we lived in Watertown. I enjoyed happy years of singing in the choir and serving on committees, and both Mary and Sarah loved playing in the bell choir. Because of their love of that music, both girls requested that the bell choir play at their respective weddings and the choir members honored their wishes.

When Mary was a student in the Interior Design program at Syracuse University, she was asked to implement a new look for Asbury, which she was pleased and privileged to do. The congregation was most supportive in her endeavors, and to this day I shall always be appreciative of the confidence shown in her abilities.

Three family weddings: Mark’s, Mary’s and mine (second time around) have been held in the sanctuary, and Sarah’s was officiated offsite in Clayton.

With warm regards,

Martha

Southport, North Carolina

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back”

- Luke 6:38

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

July 5, 2020: Luke 6:32

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.”

July 12, 2020: Luke 10:40

But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!

July 19, 2020: John 3:20

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

July 26, 2020: John 8:11

No one, sir, she said. Then neither do I condemn you, Jesus declared. Go now and leave your life of sin.

Submitted by Max Bovee

GETTING HEALTHY AND STAYING HEALTHY WITH DARLENE

Know the Difference Between Heat Stroke and Heat Exhaustion

As temperatures rise during the summer months, so do visits to Beaumont emergency centers. However, with proper precautions, most heat illnesses can be prevented. "The most important things you can do to prevent heat illnesses are to stay hydrated and limit your time in the sun," explains Sandy Vieder, D.O., chairman and medical director of the Emergency Trauma Center at Beaumont Hospital, Farmington Hills.

According to the American College of Emergency Physicians, each year about 400 deaths and thousands of emergency department visits are caused by heat illnesses. While infants and people 65 and older are most at risk for a heat related illness, it can affect anyone, even exercise enthusiasts.

The early warning signs of heat exhaustion are nausea, light-headedness, fatigue, muscle cramping and dizziness. It is imperative to recognize the warning signs and act on them as soon as possible.

At the first sign of heat exhaustion, it is important to take the following steps to help get your temperature down and cool your body:

- Move to an air-conditioned place.
- Take a cold shower or use cold compresses.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Remove tight or extra layers of clothing.



Unlike heat exhaustion, a heat stroke requires immediate medical attention. Someone experiencing heat stroke may have a headache, confusion, no sweating, rapid heart rate, nausea or vomiting and may lose consciousness.

If a heat stroke is suspected, it is vital to take the following steps:

- Call 911 immediately.
- Move the person to a cooler place.
- Use cold compresses to get their temperature down.
- Do not give them fluids.

"Left untreated, heat exhaustion and heat stroke can lead to death. If an individual is confused, passes out, is hot, but not sweating, call 911. This is a medical emergency," says Dr. Vieder.

*Protect yourself and others by knowing the difference between **Heat Exhaustion** and **Heat Stroke**.*

Be prepared for the summer heat!

Beaumont Health 2020

Submitted by Darlene Welbourn



| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Makayla Marie Harwoo Doe | July 2 | Louis Dolloway | July 16 | Robert LaSage | Aug. 2 | Karen Beach | Aug. 16 |
| Joyce Tucker | July 2 | Sue Beaman | July 17 | Bill Smith | Aug. 3 | Michael Schanely | Aug. 21 |
| Bill Plemons | July 2 | Pam Hughes | July 17 | Nate Lehman | Aug. 3 | David Schilling | Aug. 25 |
| Aaron Johnson | July 3 | Lynn Cleveland | July 19 | Kay Phillips | Aug. 3 | Shirley Berry | Aug. 26 |
| Herbert Van Houten | July 3 | Mary Nelson | July 19 | Kathryn Sero | Aug. 4 | Nancy Dolloway | Aug. 26 |
| David Heasley | July 5 | David Forbes | July 22 | Luke Marshall | Aug. 5 | | |
| Gerald Holder | July 6 | Carol Stoodley | July 24 | David Stoodley | Aug. 7 | | |
| Eleanor Pettit | July 12 | Linda Adams | July 24 | Allyson Van Houten | Aug. 11 | | |
| Carol Wright | July 13 | Tasha MacAdam | July 24 | John Bowles | Aug. 12 | | |
| Debra Holt | July 13 | Kimberly Little | July 26 | Mary DeYear | Aug. 14 | | |
| John E. Deal III | July 14 | Quinn Sturge | July 27 | Joliese Haynes | Aug. 15 | | |
| Lenora Forbes | July 14 | Sandra Johnson | July 30 | Lynn Morgan | Aug. 15 | | |

***I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1***



Again Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Photos by Rev. David Simmons



These photos by Rev. David Simmons show the upgrading of the chandeliers by Eric Young; the continuing work on the roof, and the scaffolding being erected. It has been a very busy and productive month. We are moving forward on three fronts. We are grateful to David for his skills with his camera.

Donations continue to be received from our congregation and friends. We are thankful for all contributions. Income from our endowment fund will also be used to support this Capital Campaign.

Blessings,
Glen Snell, Trustee

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

~ Philippians 4:13

UPDATES FROM YOUR ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT

As you know by now, the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service resumed on Sunday, June 21, with social distancing and other restrictions in place. The last Sunday for Rev. Farrington will be June 28, with our new pastor Rev. Calos to begin July 5. I must plan ahead to re-start those activities for which I am responsible, with details as follows:

1. **AMF (Asbury Men's Fellowship)** - Next meeting will occur on Saturday, August 1st at 8:00 a.m. in Wesley Hall at Asbury. As you probably are aware, Bob Evans is not scheduled to re-open. On August 1st we will have a continental breakfast with coffee, juice, Danish and donuts, followed by devotions. At that time we will discuss options for holding our monthly gatherings in area restaurants. If you have a project to suggest for August 1st, please contact Glen Snell, Gerald Holder or yours truly. I am asking Bill Plemons to remind you about August 1st as the date draws closer. Thanks to those of you who did devotions while I was in Florida.
2. **Asbury Fellowship Night Out** - We have re-scheduled Ryan's Restaurant, 9290 Route 3, near Henderson Harbor for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 16. We will order from the menu with individual checks assured. You must make reservations with Max, not later than Sunday, July 12. Social distancing will be in place as per NYS guidelines. Also, you may plan ahead as originally scheduled to join us for our second of two nights out on Thursday, August 13, at 5:30 p.m., at P.J.'s Restaurant, Junction of Route 12 and 180 near Clayton. Reservations required by Sunday, Aug. 9.
3. **The Celebrating Asbury Banquet** - There will be one combined banquet for both ladies and men on Friday, Sept. 18, at 6:00 p.m., in Wesley Hall. The meal will be catered by RJ's Catering, Adams Center, with the following menu:
Tossed Salad, Fruit Salad, Baked Ham, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Broccoli/Cheese Sauce, Rolls and Butter, Bavarian Raspberry Cream Layered Cake with Chocolate Frosting
Beverage Station: Coffee, Lemonade, Iced Tea, Water
Cost: \$16 (Ages 11 and up), \$8 (Ages 6-10), Free (Ages 5 and under).
Paid reservations required with Max only, by Sunday, September 13.
Following dinner the men and women will separate into the two sides of Wesley Hall for the following programs:
Ladies: planned by the ladies - details to follow
Men: games at various tables - both card and box games welcome.
4. **Lancaster Bus Trip to see "Queen Esther" at Sight & Sound**
Theatre remains closed through July 15. Our trip for October 1 & 2 is still scheduled. After July 15, I will get a letter out to everyone involved, giving you the available options.
5. **Small Group Studies**
 - A. *Galatians & Ephesians*
I will offer a six-week study on these two important letters by Paul as follows:
Asbury Wesley Hall - Monday evenings, 6:30 p.m.:
July 13, 20, 27: *Galatians* (two chapters a week)
August 3, 10, 17: *Ephesians* (two chapters a week)
Samaritan Summit Village - The same study will be offered on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. (if and when conditions permit small groups to assemble), in late summer or early fall.
 - B. *Daniel* - scheduled for Asbury May 11-August 10, will now be held in 2021
 - C. *Heaven* - scheduled for Summit May 13-September 9, will now be held in 2021
(There is no large print edition of this book available.)
 - D. *Esther* - Assuming that our Bus Trip to see "Queen Esther" continues to be viable, we will hold a five-week study (open to all), just prior to October 1 & 2, as follows:
Monday evenings, 6:30 p.m., Wesley Hall, August 24, 31, NO class on Labor Day, September 14, 21, 28, with two chapters covered each week. You will need to bring your favorite Bible or borrow one from Asbury.

Max Bovee

WE, THE ASBURY FAMILY, ARE THANKFUL AND APPRECIATIVE OF THE GIFTS WE SHARE WITH EACH OTHER. WE ARE BLESSED!

We find ourselves observing the progress of Asbury's beautiful roof being revitalized and made new and we cannot help feeling a sadness due to missing our church family. Though the middle of March really is not long ago, it seems like it was just a couple weeks ago. We enjoy seeing our church, as we drive by frequently and when I am on Facebook at 9:40 in the evening and witness the wonderful work the Rudds continue to provide, and every Sunday morning waking up to seeing and listening to our gifted Pastor Penni. Though not in a physical sense, these are reminders of the special love we share as a family of Asbury. There is another kind of reaching out to our families and it is through our daily delivery of mail. What a feeling to know there is someone ever so kind to think of our family during these unusual times with providing a gift card to provide food for our family. It's in these moments that Asbury truly shines. There is a special love we have for one another within our physical structure, however, this unique time has demonstrated that our love goes beyond the walls. Whether we continue to witness the works of the Rudds, Pastor Penni, or the generosity of a gift, Asbury is filled with a special love for our families.

To the anonymous provider, Thank you for the Tops gift card. Your gift did not just provide nourishment through edible substance but rather a much needed and perfectly timed reminder of the Lord's mysterious works. It's with this gesture our love for Asbury continues to grow. We continue to think of and pray for everyone's health and safety during this COVID experience.



*With all our love and devotion,
David and Lenora Forbes*

Many thanks for all who helped welcome Rev. Laura Calos. For those who donated items to the welcome basket, those from the PSPRC who brought lunch and dinner on moving day, and for those who cleaned and sanitized the parsonage after the movers had moved Pastor Penni.



THANK YOU-THANK YOU—I want to thank everyone for all the lovely cards I received for my 90th Birthday on May 18, 2020.

I received over 55 cards and I appreciated each and every one of them - and all the notes.

A special "THANKS" to A FEW WHO "Made my Day" - to Paul and Debbie Simmons for decorating my front lawn early on May 18th, to Tom & Leah Mae Carlisle for the birthday cake left at my front door and to Deb Van Houten for my "Money tree." It is growing well, but no coin or bills yet!!!!!!

I had a wonderful ZOOM meeting with both of my children and all of the grandchildren and great-grands too.

*I appreciate each and every one so very much.
THANK YOU ALL AGAIN - IT WAS A WONDERFUL 90th BIRTHDAY."*

Barbara "B" Sargent

From the Desk of Bishop Webb: Pastoral Letter from the NEJ College of Bishops

Editor's Note: The following letter was released by the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops on Monday June 8, 2020.

We, the College of Bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, prayerfully stand with our pastors, members and churches during the aftermath of the recent deaths of unarmed African American people at the hands of law enforcement officers and citizens across our nation. We decry the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and countless others.

The racist system and structures that permeate every facet of life in the United States including health care, employment, education, wealth, the criminal justice system and housing infects our churches as well. In the face of these injustices we often embody the words of the prophet Jeremiah by treating "the wound of God's people carelessly, saying 'peace, peace' when there is no peace" because there is no justice. (Jeremiah 6:14)

The devastating effects of racism are many and every time we forget that each person is made in the image of God, we are all harmed. We have witnessed the murder of African Americans numerous times in the past in this country and it seems when the protests pass, we go back to our old ways and progress gained becomes lost. Ideas and systems that support white supremacy continue unchecked in our churches, communities and national politics. Human suffering among people of color that we have witnessed recently, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, is yet another reminder of the inequities in our racist society that has continued because we have been slow to work for justice.

In the long history the people called Methodists, when we have not been our best selves, we created the Central Jurisdiction (a segregated conference of African American Methodists). When we have been our best selves, we have labored for abolition, voting rights, civil rights and most recently we have been working to end mass incarceration.

The 2016 Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference entered into the "Call to Action" to address our complicity in perpetuating a culture of racism and white privilege in our church. We initiated many proactive steps to address the systemic racism in our jurisdiction. However, it has fallen short and needs to continue with even more urgency and passion.

The white bishops of the NEJ, in consultation with the bishops of color, declare the following:

We confess the racism and white privilege that is a part of our denominational heritage and our organizational system.

We pledge to take personal responsibility to challenge theologies and practices that promote or accommodate structural and systemic racism and replace them with systems of justice and equality. We call upon our baptismal vows to remind us to "renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, to reject the evil powers of the world and repent of our sin."

We pledge to repent of our personal racism, our failure to hear the cries of our brothers and sisters, our silence in the face of racial injustice, our valuing of law and order, possessions and power more than lives, and our complicity with police violence. We will follow our statement on "Criminal Justice" as found in our Social Principles, which calls for an overhaul of our justice system.

We pledge to be accountable to our sisters and brothers of color, engaging with them in a process of reconciliation for our churches in order to bring change to our denomination's system and structure.

We pledge to bring our prophetic voices to the public arena, lead our congregations to confront our racism and call for the accountability of all law enforcement officers who abuse their positions of power, authority and privilege. If while performing their duties they violate the law, they should be terminated. We further pledge to work to transform our criminal justice system, and create a denomination that exemplifies equality for all.

We pledge to further educate ourselves, our leaders and members in order to dismantle those systems for the sake of all God's children. We encourage Annual Conference leadership from each conference in the Jurisdiction to engage in a four-week Bible Study sometime in the fall so together we may discern how to equip clergy and laity to address the evil of racism from a faith perspective.

The NEJ College of Bishops, a multi ethnic group, hold our jurisdiction in prayer.

References:

A part of this pastoral letter was adapted from a recent statement by "Faith in Action" a national community organizing network, that gives people of faith the tools needed to fight for justice and work toward a more equitable society (faithinaction.org)

"The Baptismal Covenant" – Book of Hymns, page 34

"Call to Action" – www.nejumc.org/resources.html

"Humanizing Criminal Justice" #5031, 2016 Book of Resolutions, page 490

Asbury is Getting a Brand-New Website!



Q: What's going on?

A: Membership & Evangelism (and Promotions) Committee unanimously agreed that Asbury needs to have a new website in order to accommodate our current and future website needs.

Q: What's wrong with our current website?

A: Our current website is years old. Its platform (template) is inflexible and is completely tapped out. For example, pictures on the Homepage cannot be swapped out for newer, better pictures that could tell the great Asbury story, of which we are proud.

Q: We are grateful to whomever has been working on the website. Who is it?

A: Many, many, many thanks to Nathan and Sarah Lehman for their hard work and wonderful technical skills. Uploading Penni's sermonettes onto our current website has become a time-consuming labor of love. They, along with Lorraine Irwin, also upload cool pictures onto Asbury13601Facebook Page.

Q: What is the advantage of having a new website?

A: Statistically, people who are looking for a new church these days (church shopping) use a website to browse, get their information, and make a decision about whether or not they want to visit in person. We are designing the new website to have Feature Buttons on the Homepage for such things as: ***Children/Youth, Musical Ministries, Getting Involved – Groups/Activities, Serving Others – Missions, Broadcast Ministries, Prayer Requests, Capital Project/Campaign, and Church Calendar.***

Q: So, the website is a marketing tool?

A: Yes, it is. A good website is written from the newcomer's perspective. It should be rich with pictures that tell the best story about all that Asbury has to offer and why they might want to join us for fellowship and growth in their faith journey.

Q: How will we, as the people of Asbury, use the Website?

A: Good Question. There will be Tabs at the top of the Homepage for such things as Bulletins, Newsletters. You can easily click on Broadcast Ministries to hear a sermon you may have missed. Our "online giving" and Facebook link will also be easy to use, as well as the simple ability to submit prayer requests.

Q: Who is designing our new website?

A: A small Asbury team is collecting pictures and information to provide to M. Turcott of North Shore Solutions. He is our current webmaster, he is wonderful to work with, and has given us an excellent price.

Q: When can we see the new website? It sounds exciting.

A: Our webmaster is working on 2 large projects before he starts ours. We will see a new website sometime in late July if not before.

Q: How can I help?

A: Another great question. If you have digital photos that you would like to share, please send them to melanie@cortelimprovement.com. Unfortunately, once photos have been printed or put on Facebook, they lose their clarity and sharpness, which shows as pixelated. Please send pics off cell phones or digital cameras.

Thanks,

Melanie Rafferty, Co-Chair, Membership & Evangelism Committee

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.

~ Romans 12:4-6

*What Does It Mean to Be a Member of Asbury United Methodist Church?
What Does God Hope For Us?*

The Vows of Membership – Witness & The Connection to Asbury’s Stewardship Program

Luke 24:44-53 and 2nd Timothy 4:1-5

When people speak their “last words,” they don’t talk about things that are unimportant. And Jesus’ last words to the Church were to go and witness. What does it mean to be a witness? As Christians, we are asked to tell others what we have seen or heard on what God desires of a person.

While we can’t talk firsthand about experiencing Jesus’ death and resurrection, we can talk about our ongoing experience of His activity in our lives. As someone once said, the “most convincing proof of his resurrection is the ongoing testimony of the faithful that Christ lives and works among His people.”

We may not feel like we are an expert witness on all matters of our Christian faith. We should continue to work toward a better understanding. Strive to be able to explain what you believe and why you believe it. Remember, you are still an expert on what you have experienced with Christ.

Why should we witness? When we witness, we experience a blessing and the hope that another person may experience new life in Christ. If you have experienced the joy of new life in Christ, then you should want to have others experience that same joy.

If we don’t speak the truth of Christ to our world today, there is no shortage of others who will tell people all kinds of other ideas. What holds us back? Why don’t we witness more? We don’t witness like we should because we associate with people who share our faith and because our culture tells us not to do it. The prevailing thought about religion today seems to be that “faith is a private matter.”

We must not forget that the power that is behind us in our witnessing is the power of God. A most important gift is the ability to speak the truth powerfully, and without fear. After all, we’re sending a message that a man died on the cross to save them and rose from the dead. It may not be exactly the most “believable” message to some people. But our job is not to convince. Our job is to present the truth and allow God to do the convincing. Please continue to witness your faith throughout the year.

Jim Rafferty

ASBURY MEMORIAL GARDEN



After a cool beginning, the gardens around Asbury have begun to flourish. The tulips and daffodils were lovely. Then seeing 18 inch dandelions and the aggressive vines that are in the gardens was a disconcerting sight, to say the least. The large Memorial Garden is too much for one person to care for.

After I began the initial weeding, I reached out to several members for assistance. Dottie Carlo was the first person who actually inquired about helping. Knowing little about what was a weed or a plant, Dottie soon had a large pile of weeds. Another day, Dottie returned and was joined by Rosemary Denesha, Lorraine Irwin, and Sue Snell. Two huge paper bags were filled with weeds and other debris in about an hour and a half...most impressive! Even though some of those who responded to my request for help didn’t know a lot about gardening, they were most willing to learn. On yet another day, Rosemary and Dottie returned to put another huge dent in the vast quantity of weeds. Now that most of the garden has been initially weeded and mulched, the weeding will be significantly easier throughout the summer and into the fall.

A huge thank you to those who helped dramatically improve the appearance of the Memorial Garden. Your time and effort have been deeply appreciated! Since this is an ongoing project, please call me if you would like to lend a hand. It is even so much easier with many hands.

Lynn Morgan

Does the Prayer Circle Just Pray?



Many of you may not realize the workings of the Prayer Circle. At each meeting, this group starts with relaxation exercises while sitting in chairs. We relax our bodies and focus in quietly on our picture of Jesus. As we are picturing Him, an opening prayer is said. Each person then tells about the God-sightings they may have experienced the week before. Everyone mentions people they would like to have us pray for. Individuals can pray or the leader will pray. There is no pressure to pray out loud. Sometimes we read a passage from "Our Daily Bread," the booklet we receive at church and discuss what it means to us.

At the end of the meeting, we join hands and say "The Lord's Prayer" together. Currently, we are meeting at Thompson Park under the trees near the stone bandstand. We meet at 11:00am on Wednesdays for an hour. It's a lovely setting. We invite you to come, bring a chair, and your lunch if you would like to stay with us for lunch. If it looks like rain for that day, you will be notified and another day will be chosen for that week. Please call Susan Snell, 315-782-8235 with any questions. You are welcome anytime you would like to come.

Sue Snell

*Nation will not take up sword against nation,
Nor will they train for war anymore.*

~ Isaiah 2:4

THE KNIFE ANGEL

When knife crime rose across the United Kingdom, the British Ironwork Centre came up with an idea. Working with local police forces, the Centre built and placed two hundred deposit boxes around the country and ran an amnesty campaign. One hundred thousand knives were anonymously surrendered, some still with blood on their blades. These were then shipped to artist Alfie Bradley, who blunted them, inscribed some with the names of young knife-crime victims, plus messages of regret from ex-offenders. All 100,000 weapons were then welded together to create the KNIFE ANGEL, a twenty-seven-foot-high angelic sculpture with shimmering steel wings.

When I stood before the Knife Angel, I wondered how many thousands of wounds had been prevented by its existence. I thought, too, of Isaiah's vision of the new heavens and earth, a place where children won't die young or grow up in crime-breeding poverty, a place where knife crime is no more because all swords have been reshaped and give more creative purposes.

In its own way, the Knife Angel gives us a glimpse of God's promised future. Swords become plow shares. Weapons become artworks. You can find pictures of the sculpture on the internet. It is truly amazing.

Sheridan Voysey, "Our Daily Bread,"
May 21, 2020.

Dear Asbury Family,

Words cannot begin to express my love and gratitude to each of you for your outpouring of love and support shown to me throughout these last two years, culminating in Sunday, June 28th service. So many of you took the time to wish me well and gave me "air hugs". I have read each card lovingly written. You made me both laugh and cry! I am humbled by your generosity.

God blessed me in so many ways when God asked me to join you on this journey. Our time together is one of the high points of my life. My life is richer because of each of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I wish you the very best as you continue your journey of faith with Pastor Laura.



*A warm 'take care' hug
just for U!*

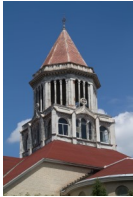
*Blessings,
Pastor Penni.*

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Join us for
SUNDAY WORSHIP
at
10:15 A.M.



Who Is Asbury United Methodist Church?

We invite you to open this newsletter and meet the People of Asbury United Methodist Church.



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

PSALM 23

| | |
|--------------|---|
| RELATIONSHIP | THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. |
| SUPPLY | I SHALL NOT WANT. |
| REST | HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES. |
| REFRESHMENT | HE LEADETH ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS. |
| HEALING | HE RESTORETH MY SOUL. |
| GUIDANCE | HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS |
| PURPOSE | FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE. |
| TESTING | YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, |
| PROTECTION | I WILL FEAR NO EVIL |
| FAITHFULNESS | FOR THOU ART WITH ME |
| DISCIPLINE | THY ROD AND THY STAFF THEY COMFORT ME. |
| HOPE | THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES |
| CONSECRATION | THOU ANOINTEST MY HEAD WITH OIL |
| ABUNDANCE | MY CUP RUNNETH OVER. |
| BLESSING | SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOR EVER. |