



The Asbury BEACON

March 2021

Volume 21, Number 2

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!*

This month's **BEACON** is sponsored by **Jim and Melanie Rafferty**.

Our newsletter is a very important tool in helping us to communicate with and keep our Asbury Family connected!

Thank you **Jim and Melanie** for being our "BEACON ANGELS" for March.

Risks

Some people love them. Others avoid them as much as possible. There are risks I would never, ever take: gambling with my retirement; bungee jumping; sky diving; to name a few. Risk takers, or dare devils are a breed unto themselves. I remember as a youth watching Evil Knieval, a motorcyclist, who took tremendous risks, jumping huge rows of cars, trucks, expansive canyons, each attempt being more daring than the one before. My younger brother tried to do stunts of his own on a bicycle, using church property as his base of operations. (I bet the Trustees loved that!!). I remember one time when he took a big spill and someone who watched it happened called the rescue squad. When they arrived, someone asked, "Whose kid is this?!" My father had to admit that the child was his.

Some risks are unavoidable. We find ourselves in a place where we have to choose one direction or another. We hope that the risk taken is going to arrive at a good place, but we don't know that at the time of choosing. We hope. We pray.

This season of Lent, I'm doing a sermon series on some of the risks that Jesus took during the last week of his life, a season we call Holy Week or Passion Week. It begins on Palm Sunday and continues until the crucifixion and burial. In fact, the week doesn't end until Easter morning.

Here are some of the risks that Jesus took.

- Jesus risked his reputation. He was understood as a teacher, preacher and miracle worker. With his entry into Jerusalem, he symbolized for those who would notice, that he was also the Messiah, the one who would save Israel.
- Jesus risked showing righteous anger. We like the loving Jesus that welcomes children to sit on his knee. We are uncomfortable with an angry Jesus, but Jesus did show his anger when he needed to.
- Jesus risked being challenged. Even though Jesus spoke with authority, his authority was often questioned and challenged before a listening crowd. One clumsy response would be fatal to his following.
- Jesus risked rejection. He cared for others and allowed others to care for him in unconventional ways.
- Jesus risked the loss of friends. At the last supper he pointedly shared that one of his friends, would betray him and that another would deny him because he knew it would happen.
- Jesus risked temptation. Temptations were the bookends of Jesus' ministry. At the beginning and at the end, he dealt with desires to exert his power as the Son of God.

My hope is that in exploring the risks that Jesus took to be faithful to himself and to God, that we can delve deeper into our own spiritual risk-taking in being faithful followers of our Savior. I hope you will join me each Sunday, in person or by livestreaming, as we explore this series.

Grace and peace,
Laura

ASBURY'S STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
FAITH KIRCH

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

BROADCAST MINISTRY
BOB KURTZ

CHILD CARE WORKER
ASHLEE WELDON

CLEANING SERVICES
FRANCES GOUTREMOUT

CONGREGATIONAL CARE
PAMELA QUIMBY
DARLENE WELBOURN

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE
DARLENE WELBOURN

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
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REV. LAURA CALOS



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2021 Asbury Leadership Team



Pastor
Chairperson, Asbury UM Church Council
Assistant to Pastor (Disciple Development)
Children/Youth Ministry
Finance Committee
Lay Leaders
Membership & Evangelism
Memorials & Gifts
Mission Team
Pastor/Staff Parish Relations
Trustees
Worship Committee
Ushers
United Methodist Women
Safe Sanctuaries
Member at Large
Financial Secretary

Rev. Laura Calos
James Rafferty
Max Bovee
Sarah Lehman
Joanne Rhode
Lindsay Webb
Lisa Smith & Melanie Rafferty
Grace Burke
David Simmons
Myrtie Schilling & Sue Snell
Glen Snell
Orie Phillips
Lorraine Irwin
Sue Snell
Leah Mae Carlisle
Bruce Irwin
Dan Webb



TWO RECIPES TO BOOST YOUR SPIRITS AND MAKE YOUR HEART SING!!

CINDY GILL'S GREAT SNACK MIX

2 C. Pretzels
2 C. Chex Mix (Mixed 3 Brands Best)
1 C. raisins or craisins
1 C. mixed salted nuts
1# Bag of White Chocolate Chips
2 T. Vegetable Oil



Mix pretzels, cereal mix, raisins and nuts into a large bowl.
Heat chocolate with 2 T. oil in microwave until melted and pour over the cereal mixture.
Stir carefully until chocolate covers all the ingredients. Pour out onto wax paper, flatten
to a single layer and let harden. Break into bite sized pieces and chow down!!



MICROWAVE FUDGE

Stir together:

1 box (16 oz.) confectioner's sugar
6 T. margarine or unsalted butter
1 t. vanilla
4 T. milk
1/2 C. baking cocoa
dash salt

Cook one minute on high. Stir. Cook 2 minutes
Stir. Cook 2 minutes. Stir.
Spoon into an 8x8 pan and pat down.

ENJOY!!

*Recipes submitted by
Sue Snell*

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

It is mid-February as I write for this March issue. Our Sunday School team will be meeting on Sunday, February 28th to decide about resuming in-person classes. We will continue to look forward to Easter - with plans to modify our traditional Easter egg hunt into an Easter/Spring themed table-n-treat parade to be held on Sunday, March 28th. We will continue to keep the health and safety of those we serve - our kids, families and teachers at the forefront.

While we have been on pause in February, we have sent out links to our Sunday School families to the "Journey Today Show" on YouTube. I came across this weekly video series while looking to see what other UMC churches were offering for virtual content. Each video is approximately 5-8 min long. Per the YouTube "about" section - "The Journey Today Show is created by Family Pastor Jeremy Brownlee and Student Pastor Toshaun Avery to encourage families to spend time together as a family and to have real conversations about your faith and the questions you may have about your faith. Watch the show on your own, as a family or as a small group to help grow in your faith together. Every episode includes scripture, a BIG IDEA of what we are learning from the scripture and a fun and crazy activity to help you remember what God is teaching us through His word."

Sarah Lehman

Eggs and Chicks and Bunnies are near
For Easter, you see, will soon be here.

But what is Easter and why the Spring season?
Gather 'round and I'll tell you the reason!

Chicks are hatched out of eggs, you see.
They represent new life for you and me.

For Jesus died and was buried three days,
Then Easter morning, he was raised.

So when we die, we can live again.
Jesus gave new life to all God's children.

Bunnies are part of Easter too;
They're born in the Spring when all is new.

The grass, the flowers, and leaves start to grow,
Putting an end to their sleep in the snow.

So, as you gather your treats and have fun,
Let them remind you of Jesus and all He has done.

- Author unknown



MORE ASBURY VISITS TO SAY “THANK YOU”

Showing appreciation to Samaritan Medical Ctr. & Watertown Fire Dept.

(part of our outreach and evangelism efforts)



Thank you to Sue Snell and all of you who created and filled individual bags so that Asbury Church could make a nice presentation to the ***maintenance and secretarial staff at Samaritan Medical Center*** – two often overlooked groups.

On that same December day, we continued on to the ***Watertown City Fire Department*** on Massey Street to make a presentation – with cakes in tow – to both the day and night shifts. They expressed their appreciation about our kind gesture.



What is our purpose? To spread the ‘good news’ from Asbury about how much we appreciate what others do each and every day within our community. Whether individually written notes in the bags or the writing on the cakes, the presentation from Pastor Laura Calos is simple: we “thank you” and “we appreciate you.” May our gratefulness and ‘light’ bring joy to the individuals whom we come in contact with, especially during these challenging times of COVID.

So, what’s next?

We hope to visit other locations in the spring when the weather is nicer. In the meantime, we will be working on celebrating the Asbury New Day and “Adopting-a-Platoon” at Fort Drum. We are also hoping to honor our local school teachers. Stay tuned for more details in the months to come.

Love to all of you - from Membership & Evangelism Committee,

Lisa Smith and Melanie Rafferty



A VALENTINE REMEMBRANCE

On Friday, February 12, Lorraine Irwin and Sue Snell, distributed 36 gift bags filled with candy, cards, and love, to the New Day Children's Center staff. These bags were lovingly made by members of the Membership/Evangelism Committee to honor the New Day staff for their excellent work. New Day is part of the ongoing mission of Asbury to provide exceptional child care for the working parents in our community.

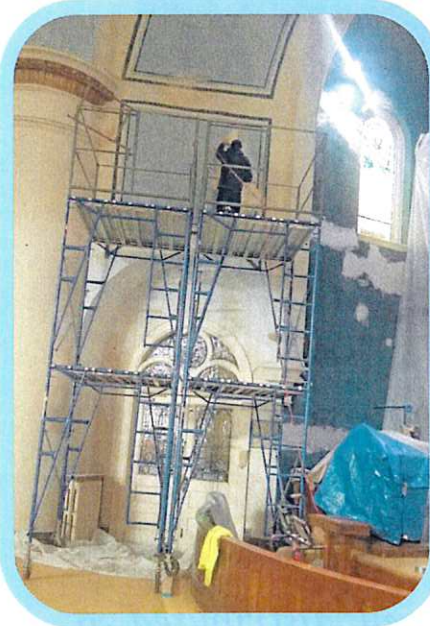
Sue Snell

A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER; JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU ALSO ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

John 13:34-35

From Our Assistant to the Pastor - Max Bovee

Please be sure to obtain a brochure listing all activities planned by your Assistant Pastor for 2021. They may be obtained from the Welcome Center or from the church office. Many special events are scheduled from May-December, Max's 20th and final year at Asbury.



FROM THE TRUSTEES

The painting and repair work has started in the front of the sanctuary and will move toward the rear. There is a lot of damage and work to be done. The last time the ceiling has been fully examined, repaired and painted was 1989. We do not have to paint everything, but many areas need attention.

We will be using funds from our Capital Campaign as well as some funds assigned to the Trustees in our 2021 budget for Maintenance and Repairs. Some funding generated by our Endowment Fund will also be necessary. I expect the total cost of repair and repainting the sanctuary and rotunda ceiling will be in the range of \$50,000 to \$60,000.

The Capital Campaign is due to end May 31, 2021. We have two important projects to complete. One is the paint & repair inside church. The second is the need to re-point some stonework and paint the edge of the roof. At present, we have no contractor or estimate for this second project. Maintaining our support of the Capital Campaign is critical to its success. We are debt-free after accomplishing last year's goals.

One topic discussed at our last Trustees' meeting was the issue of church security. We have experienced times when doors have been left unlocked and also the alarm system has not been set. We have been lucky that nothing has been disturbed. These issues are all a result of our own church members. If you are the last to leave the building, please be sure to lock doors and set the alarm. If someone is still in the building, please remind them it is their responsibility to lock the doors and set the alarm. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Plemons or Glen Snell. We believe most of these incidents happen when people just forget about being responsible for securing the building. Let's work towards the goal of protecting our church home.

Blessings,
Glen Snell, Trustee

Update from the FINANCE COMMITTEE



On Sunday, Lindsay spoke about the importance of each part of the body. Her point was that everyone is a part of the church and God's plan and we all have our talents and gifts to give to the body of the church. As we enter a new year and hope for normalcy, the finance committee is committed to ensuring that we use our resources carefully. Please know that any monies that are given are prayerfully used for various budget items. You can continue to give weekly at services or you can set up automatic giving by going to our website, or mail a check if you prefer. All of your gifts are greatly appreciated. The entire Finance Committee thanks you for your continued support!

Joanne Rhode, Chp.

TITHING THE BLESSINGS AND TREASURES WE ARE GIVEN.

There are several places in the Bible that talk about tithing (giving a tenth of what we have or receive) to God. As we live in a society today where expenses are continually rising and income is becoming more fixed or decreasing, it is becoming more of a challenge to tithe to God. I know for me it has become a balancing act between my obligations, my needs, my wants, and what I want to pay forward and give back to God and Asbury. I made a promise to God a while ago that I would give as much as I could on a regular basis, but when extra money or gifts came my way, I would give 10% to my church and God, and to those with a greater need than mine. Like you and me, Asbury's income is decreasing and expenses are rising.

We all received a 2nd stimulus check from the Federal government. This is unexpected and extra income for me. In keeping with my promise to God, I will give 10% (\$60) above and beyond my pledge to the operating budget of Asbury, and or the Capital Campaign or to the Mission Team.

If possible for you, and you feel the spirit moving you in that direction, I hope you will consider tithing or giving a portion of your stimulus check to Asbury.

*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 with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
Luke 6:38*

Sue Beaman

FROM THE MISSION TEAM

Our missionary in Nepal, Mark Zimmerman is coming to Asbury!

Mark Zimmerman will meet with us on Monday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m., in Asbury's sanctuary. We will also livestream the event. All are invited to attend either in person or via livestream from our website: www.AsburyUMC.net.

Special Speaker during Asbury Worship - March 21

Madelaine Taylor, Development Director for the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County will share briefly with us about the Victims Assistance Center's 100 Campaign - why the campaign is needed and how Asburians can be helpful. We have also invited her to stay after the worship service to answer questions you may have.

"BECAUSE OF YOU....."

Naomi Debbie dreamed of becoming a teacher. But like many women around the world, she has had to settle for work as a street vender, scraping by amid Sierra Leone's dusty, overcrowded markets.

Naomi married young but there was no money for prenatal care. Tragically, her first baby died at the hands of a local birth attendant and her second pregnancy miscarried. Then, an outreach team from the Jaima Health Center, a United Methodist facility focusing on maternal, newborn and child health, visited Naomi's village.

Naomi enrolled in the center's prenatal program. When she developed complications, the staff nursed her through to the birth of a healthy son. "My dream of becoming a mother has come to reality!" she says.

People like us at Asbury, in Watertown, New York, are responsible for this happy ending. We contribute to helping vulnerable women like Naomi benefit from greater health resiliency by contributing to the *mission of the United Methodist Church*.

Northern Flow District United Methodist Women - Saturday, May 1st. 10:00 a.m. by Zoom. Mark your calendar. Lauren Ashby. will be our speaker. She is a young woman who will graduate from Sarah Lawrence College this semester.

Her topic is:

"A Conversation Around Anti-Racism and Strategies to Better Live Our Charter for Racial Justice in Northern New York."

Leah Mae Carlisle

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

March 7: Psalm 105:5

"Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgements He pronounced."

March 14: Psalm 117:1

"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples."

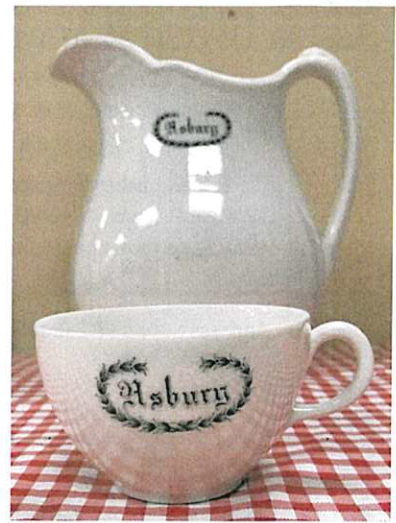
March 21: Psalm 120:1

"I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me."

March 28: Psalm 145:14

"The Lord upholds all who fall, and lifts up all who are bowed down."

Submitted by Max Bovee



The dishes pictured here are extra dishes we no longer need in our Asbury kitchen. These are just a sample of what is available. We are taking orders for these during the month of March. If you are interested in buying some, please contact Sue Snell, 315-782-8235. We have 2 pitchers at \$10. each, 10 cups with saucers at \$5.00 a set, 2 platters at \$10 each, and many plates, saucers, dessert plates, and sauce dishes. These are great mementos of Asbury. Order them today! We would be glad to deliver.

Spring/Summer

**RUMMAGE
& BAKE
SALE**

**JUNE 3, 4, 5
WESLEY HALL
8:30-1:30**

We have many good things already,
so we are not taking any more
donations for the Rummage Sale.
We will, however, be accepting
donations of baked goods for the
Bake Sale



| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Stella Garitz | March 2 |
| Jean Gianfagna | March 2 |
| Joyce Kicherer | March 8 |
| Sandra Queal | March 14 |
| Patrick Town | March 16 |
| Miles West | March 16 |
| Karen Doe | March 17 |
| Jane Eastham | March 26 |
| Thomas Carlisle | March 27 |
| Anthony Gianfagna | March 28 |
| Andrew Gianfagna | March 28 |
| Rosemary Denesha | March 28 |

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

327 FRANKLIN STREET
WATERTOWN, NY 13601
315-782-3240

E-Mail: asbury@gisco.net
Website: www.AsburyUMC.net
www.Facebook.com/Asbury13601

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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!**

Guide to Holy Week



Palm Sunday - the Sunday before Easter.
Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into
Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches.

Maundy Thursday - Thursday before Easter.
Commemorates the Last Supper.

Good Friday - Friday before Easter.
Most solemn day of the church year.
Observes the day Jesus was crucified.

Holy Saturday - Saturday before Easter.
Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb.
This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on
what we'd miss in a world without Jesus!

Easter Sunday - Hallelujah! Christ has risen!
This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!



EASTER FLOWERS



I write this in February to meet the March newsletter deadline. It's snowing and cold, hardly Spring flower weather, but Spring will come and with it the promise of Easter. To help you and Asbury plan we are enclosing an order form for Easter memorial flowers. We will not be using lilies this year as Pastor Calos is very allergic to the strong scent. In their place we are using Easter egg mums which are three mums of varied pastel colors in a 6" pot. **The cost of each plant is \$12. All orders need to be made through the church office by Tuesday, March 23.** If you are not ordering through the church you are asked to submit this form so your information may be included in the bulletin. Again, out of concern for Pastor please do not bring a lily or any plant with a strong fragrance. **All plants need to be at the church by Thursday, April 1.**

**Because of COVID concerns and restrictions the church will not be delivering plants.
You are asked to take your plant after the service.**

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

GIVEN BY: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

ORDERING THROUGH THE CHURCH: _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS: _____

BRINGING MY PLANT HOME: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ **CHECK:** _____ **CASH:** _____

