



The Asbury BEACON

April 2021

Volume 21, Number 3

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!*

Keep Trying to Share the Better Message

I found this cartoon in a file that once belonged to my dad. Apparently, whenever he found a comic strip that seemed to touch on something 'close to home,' he would carefully cut it out and add it to his file. I don't know if he ever did anything with them, except to collect them. Each one seems to be a commentary on some aspect of the human condition. He had a Peanuts series that addressed the changing social norms of promptly sending hand-written thank you notes for gifts received. Poor Sally, (Charlie Brown's little sister), found herself in an emotional doghouse, sorry to be there, and yet unable to understand the fuss of it all. She had already thanked the giver verbally. Why did the giver expect a handwritten note? What was wrong with a verbal 'thank you?' There is no waste of time, trees or ink with a verbal thank you. Doesn't our obligation to provide homes for the birds and shade for future generations override the social expectation of a written note? How many trees have needlessly died because older people stubbornly refuse to accept new and improved methods of showing gratitude? (The series went on for several days. I think Dad saved every one).



The comic strip I'm using in this letter is a gentle reminder to all of Christian faith to be diligent at sharing the real message of Easter. The message of Easter is this: God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. God demonstrated his ultimate power over sin and death. God demonstrated steadfast love and mercy. Through the suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has reconciled us again to God. Hallelujah! May the wonder, joy and hope of Easter be yours.

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
DAN WEBB

TREASURER
DEBORAH VANHOUTEN

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PASTOR

REV. LAURA CALOS



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HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 1, 6:30 p.m. - Holy Thursday Communion Service, Sanctuary

Friday, April 2, 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - Good Friday Services, Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE

April 4th, 6:39 a.m.
Thompson Park
Pinnacle

EASTER SUNDAY
SERVICES AT ASBURY
10:15 a.m., Sanctuary



From Our Assistant to the Pastor - Max Bovee

Activities resume in full swing beginning in May.

A study of the Old Testament book of *Daniel*

(Visions from the Sovereign)

13 weeks on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.
in the Asbury Parlor or Wesley Hall.

Bring your Bibles, prepared for this fascinating book on prophecy and end times, following our study of Revelation.

May 10-August 16.

"Heaven" by Randy Alcorn

Wednesday mornings at 10:00 A.M. at Summit, First Floor Assisted Living Dining Room. Books are \$15 and must be ordered by Max on May 1. Please contact him to reserve your copy or for further information.

May 12-August 25.

Family Night – Pizza/Movie Night.

At 6:00 P.M. there will be pizza and soda in Wesley Hall.

From 6:45-8:30 p.m., "*Fly Away Home*," in the Parlor with popcorn.

"The soaring adventure of a 13-year-old girl and her estranged father who learn what family is all about when they adopt an orphaned flock of geese and teach them to fly!"

May 21st

Free, but reservations required by Sunday, May 16, with Max.

AMF (Asbury Men's Fellowship)

Saturday, May 1st, at Cracker Barrel, at 8:00 A.M.

Devotions - Max Bovee.

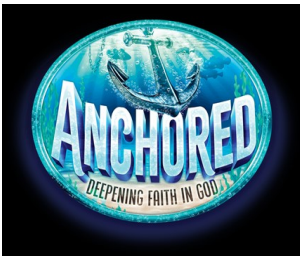
Contact Glen or Gerald for project suggestions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School in-person classes to have resumed Sunday, March 28th, with our Easter Party; and, in lieu of our traditional Easter egg hunt we held an Easter table -n- treat parade. Thank you to those who donated treats and also to those who helped decorate tables.

At this time, we will continue with classes for Ages 3-K and Grades 1-6 each Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month when Communion Sunday is held. Family worship will be observed on those Sundays (April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th). Last day of classes for the 2020-2021 school year will be Sunday, June 13th. We are planning a child led worship service that day. Stay tuned.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Planned dates for VBS this year are Tuesday, July 27th thru Thursday, July 29th starting at 6 pm each night. Program is "Anchored: Deepening Faith in God" by Group Publishing. There is a VBS planning meeting on Sat., April 24th, 10 AM in Wesley Hall. If interested in helping out with VBS this Summer, please contact Sarah Lehman- sundayschool@westelcom.com or call 315-767-2641.

NOTES FROM OUR BIBLE STUDY

Hope for Hard Times, Lessons on Faith

In this Bible study, we are learning what faith can do based on the miracles that the prophets, **Elijah** and **Elisha**, were able to ask of God. They had tremendous faith because they had a close relationship with God. They believed in what He told them to do even though they didn't always understand it.

As far as modern day miracles go, they may not be as evident or as spectacular as what happened in the Old Testament, but they can be just as meaningful in our lives. The important thing is developing a closer relationship with God; talk to God, anytime, anywhere - driving, cleaning, working in your workshop, mowing lawn, sewing, doing laundry - just do it! Tell him your worries, your needs, your gratitude, how you feel that day. Especially now, when we are alone much of the time. When you tell God what is on your mind, you will feel a burden lifted from your shoulders. You have told someone non-judgmental who listens and cares about you. That is the important thing.

Miracles don't have to be huge; they can just be answered prayers. Look back on your life and remember the times when someone you have loved has survived cancer or a bad accident. When you have finally found much satisfaction in a new job. When you came to Asbury and felt God's spirit. These are small miracles that we often don't realize at the time. The biggest miracle will be when we survive this pandemic to once again be with our extended families and friends. Know that God is with you to do just that.

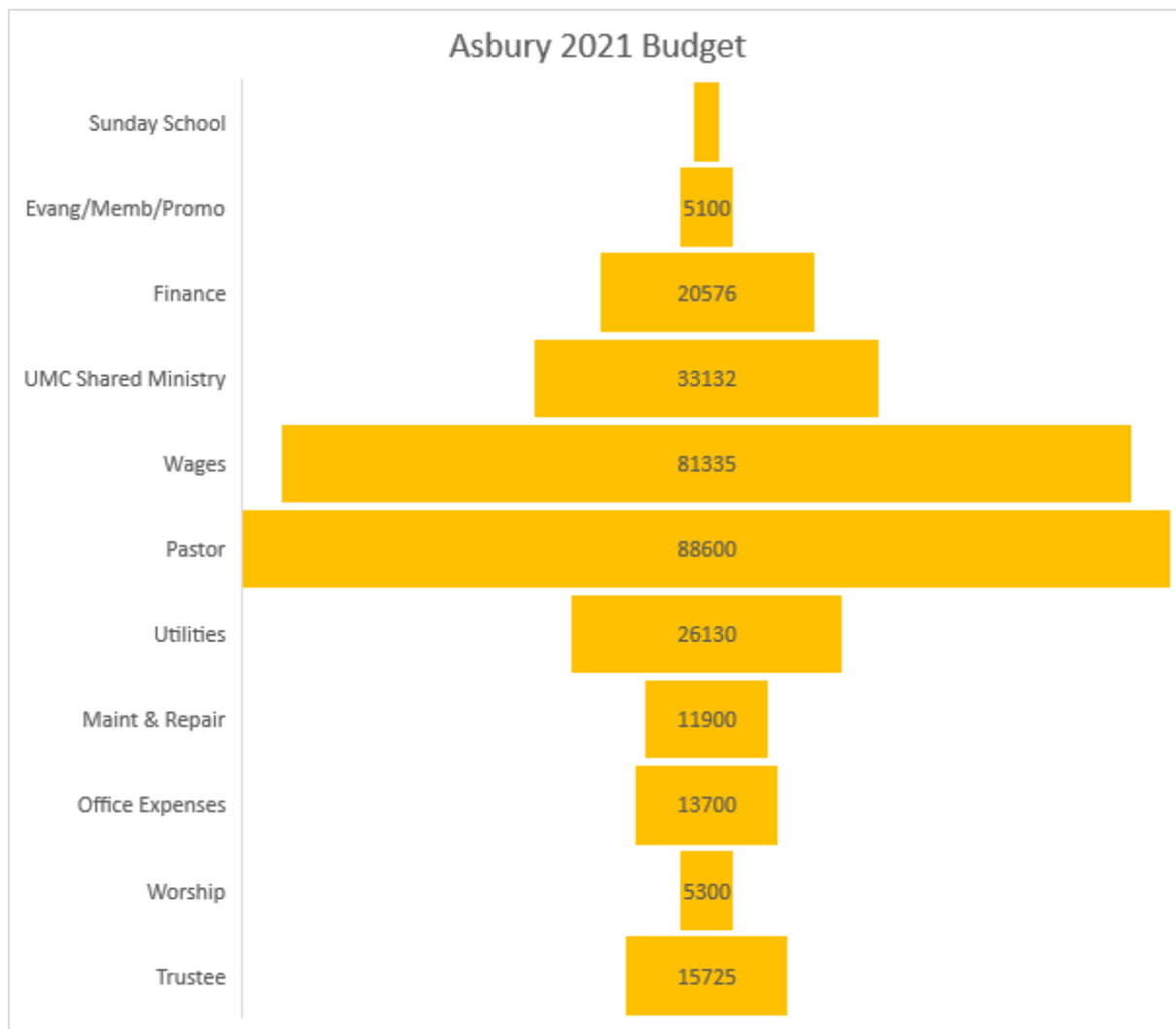
MIRACLES TO YOU ALL!

Sue Snell

Update from the FINANCE COMMITTEE



The finance committee would like to make you aware of Asbury's 2021 budget with the chart below.



SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

April 4: Matthew 21:9

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

April 11: Psalm 146:5

"Blessed are those whose help is in the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God."

April 18: Proverbs 16:18

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."

April 25: Proverbs 16:24

"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."

Submitted by Max Bovee

FROM THE MISSION TEAM

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*“Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.
All things break. And all things can be mended.
Not with time, as they say, but with intention.
So, go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.
The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.”*

- L. R. Knost

Mark & Benjamin Zimmerman Visit Asbury

On March 8, Dr. Mark Zimmerman and his youngest son, Benjamin, came to share at Asbury. In January, Benjamin started study at a new school, Hoosac School near Troy, NY. Benjamin is a junior in high school. He wants very much to be able to play basketball as well as learning his academics. Nepal offers academics but not basketball. Mark is here to see that Benjamin gets a good start in this new school. Now, both Zimmerman boys are attending schools in the USA. Zachary is a freshman at Swarthmore College near Philadelphia, PA. Our Asbury Missions Committee feels it might be fun to send a few “Care Packages” to Benjamin and Zachary this school year. If you would like to help with these “Care Packages” contact Leah Mae at leahtomc@gmail.com To view the recorded video with Mark and Benjamin at Asbury go to: AsburyUMC.net choose live service: Asbury Presents Dr. Mark Zimmerman.

VAC 100 Campaign

VAC stands for Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, Inc. They are looking for 100 supporters (individuals or groups) passionate about ending abuse in our community. These 100 supporters are asked to raise \$1,000. each for the VAC by November. Our Asbury Missions Committee is inviting all Asburians to participate in raising \$1,000 to help the VAC. Because of COVID VAC cancelled its two special annual fundraising events. This leaving them underfunded for 2021. During 2020 the Center continued to deliver services by technology. They served 7,500 community members, including almost 2,000 children. The agency’s hotline saw a 100% increase in calls. Ask yourself: Is there a need? Absolutely! Is Asbury willing and able to help? Absolutely! How can we do that? To start let’s make a donation. Designate on your contribution envelope your gift to VAC 100. Mail or walk your gift to Asbury UMC, 327 Franklin St., Watertown, NY, 13601. Be sure to label VAC 100 on the memo line of your check.

Together we can do this!

Urban Mission Food Pantry

David Stoodley and Bruce Irwin are our Food Pantry Team Leaders. They collect \$5 a month from Asbury Families who want to take part. Every Tuesday David calls Urban Mission to ask what they need that week. He and Bruce then go to Aldi’s and buy those items in bulk and take them to the Urban Mission Food Pantry. Last year the *Asbury Food Pantry Team* gave 18,101 items. So far this year Asbury has given 4,878 items. See David if you would like to support or be a part of the *Asbury Food Pantry Team!*

RELATIONSHIPS

Covid-19 has caused me to look at things from a different perspective. I asked myself the question: How important are relationships to my faith and well being? It is in the building of relationships that I have grown in my faith and as one of God's children.

Some relationships are long lasting; others are short lived, but only one has stayed with me throughout my whole life.

As a baby and a child, I relied on my parents and family to guide and take care of me. Later, it was teachers and friends and then co-workers who helped me as I grew and expanded my horizons. It wasn't until I was married and had children of my own that I began to realize that someone was walking with me. It began as incidents where I felt someone was watching over me. As my marriage ended and my children struck out on their own, I felt alone and abandoned. It was then that God let me know that he was with me, and he had a plan for me. My path was about to change, and I would embark on this journey with his help and support.

There are always going to be bumps in the road; it is during these times that we grow the most. We learn to rely on the people we form relationships with for support and strength. My daughter, who is 8 months pregnant, called me last week sobbing. She couldn't sleep. She was exhausted and anxious about what to expect when the new baby came, and I think she was a little homesick and missing her family. I reassured her that everything was going to be ok and that I loved her. After hanging up the phone, I immediately prayed for God's help. The next day she called to let me know that she had received multiple tips from friends and family because they had experienced something similar. I found a card that read, "Though we are apart, you are always in my heart." I sent her the card and I included the "Prayer of Hope" that I had sent to friends and family at Christmas.

*Lord Jesus, I pray this day for strength,
because there are times when things get tough, and I feel like quitting.
Lord Jesus, I ask this day for comforting reassurance of Your love,
because there are times when people fail me, and I am tempted to lose hope.
Lord Jesus, I seek this day for Your light to guide my steps,
because there are times when life is confusing and difficult, and I lose my way.
Help me, O Lord to pick up the pieces, wipe my tears, face the sun and start over again,
for all is possible when I place my faith and trust in You, my Saving God. Amen.*

After I had the first Covid shot, I began to fear having the second shot. Listening to other people's stories and living alone, I became more than just a little anxious. My son, Dustin (middle child), called me one night and asked me when I was having my second shot. I told him; his response was, "I will be up that day and spend the night." As I hung up the phone, I knew God was reassuring me that he was with me, and I need not be afraid!

There are many lost sheep out there in our communities and in our world. Many do not know that God is walking with them. As the Mission team and the Asbury Family reach out beyond our doors, I believe God is asking us to be his hands and feet and help those lost sheep find their way home.

We form many relationships in our lives, most of which are temporary. There is only one relationship that follows us throughout our entire life - God walks with us every step of the way.

Sue Beaman

P.S. My Christmas cactus, that has not bloomed since I purchased it two years ago, has a beautiful pink blossom on it. Easter is coming, Spring is coming, and God is still with us!!





Martha Lava	April 1
James Baker	April 2
Maggie Webb	April 3
Gertrude Ives	April 3
Glen Snell	April 3
Warren Cadwell	April 4
Heather Granger	April 4
Mark Smith	April 4
Marilyn Brown	April 9
Lisa Smith	April 10
Lorraine Irwin	April 12
Jeffrey Sero	April 16
Alfred Gianfagna	April 18
Grace Burke	April 20
Leon Van Wie	April 20
Irene Stackel	April 21
Jane Alteri	April 24
Darlene Chartrand	April 27

WHO LIKES TO MOW THE LAWN?

God loves a mown lawn in the summertime!
And so does Pastor Laura!

Unfortunately, she does not have a good rapport with the lawn mower at the parsonage. She would like some volunteers to mow her lawn this summer. If you are interested, please contact Myrtie Schilling or Sue Snell. They will make up a schedule for the summer. This is an equal opportunity job for men or women. The parsonage does have a new gas push mower. Great chance for exercise!



Upcoming UMW Sponsored Programs

Special Asbury UMW Zoom Program

Saturday, April 24 at 9:30 a.m.

The United Methodist Women have sponsored two Saturday morning programs - one in January and one in February. Topics have included, "Answering your questions about Covid and the Vaccines" and "The Mental Health Effects of the Covid Pandemic." Both were excellent presentations by Dr. Frank Rhode and Chantel Lockwood. In April our program will focus on understanding suicide as it affects us all. We all know the stresses that this pandemic has placed on us. Perhaps by learning more about suicide, we can help someone by recognizing the signs and stop them before it is too late. Please plan to join us on Zoom. More information to follow.

Northern Flow District United Methodist Women

Saturday, May 1st, 10:00 a.m. by Zoom.

We are very excited to have a wonderful young woman, Lauren Ashby leading us in "A Conversation Around Anti-Racism and Strategies to Better Live Our Charter for Racial Justice in Northern New York." Our very own Lindsay Webb will lead our devotions. Everyone is invited. For the Zoom link: email Leah Mae at leahtomc@gmail.com

Do you receive the Northern Flow District United Methodist Women's Newsletter?

If not, contact Sandra Comstock at sconstock6@twcnny.rr.com or P.O. Box 439, Sandy Creek, NY 13145 or call her 315-387-3640. She will be happy to send it to you by email or US mail.

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.

The Easter egg is a symbol of the empty tomb of Jesus. Like a bird hatching from the egg with life, it is a reminder that Jesus rose from the grave and Christians will also have eternal life. Early Christians stained the eggs in memory of the blood of Christ shed at his crucifixion. In modern times, the eggs are still dyed or chocolate eggs jelly beans and plastic eggs are placed in a basket



For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
- Song of Solomon 2:11-12

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