



The Asbury BEACON

May 2021

Volume 21, Number 4

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!

SHORT STORIES BY JESUS

I'm planning my next sermon series for this spring. I have become acquainted with a Jewish New Testament scholar named Amy-Jill Levine, a Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee. Through her writings, she is challenging me to delve deeper into the life and ministry of Jesus. She argues that it is essential for a student of the Bible to look at the life and times of 1st century people, and their view of the world at that time. Such a study will shed new light on the teachings of Jesus for his time and for ours.

The Parables of Jesus that I have chosen are probably familiar to all of us. My hope is that we can find a new and richer meaning of them for our present time. My Sunday plan is as follows:

May 2nd: *The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin*

May 9th: *The Pearl of Great Price*

May 16th: *The Widow and the Judge*

May 23rd: *The Good Samaritan*

May 30th: *The Mustard Seed*

June 6th: The Laborers in the Vineyard

On June 13th the Sunday School program will be leading the worship service and on June 20th, my colleague, David Simmons will be preaching.

I am so pleased by the growing numbers in attendance at worship, and look forward to seeing more of you as your comfort level returns for in-church worship. Until that time, please continue to worship with us virtually when we livestream the service each Sunday on:

www.asburyumc.net

Grace and peace,

Laura



Asbury's Tulip Garden in full bloom!

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 Goutremont

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Pamela Quimby
Darlene Welbourn

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

Darlene Welbourn

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Dan Webb

TREASURER

Deborah VanHouten

MAINTENANCE

Gerald Holder

MUSIC PROGRAM

DIRECTOR

Catherine Mowers

MUSIC PROGRAM STAFF

Ghilyana Dordzhieva

Lynn Morgan

Melanie Rafterty

Michelle Rudd

Lisa Smith

HeLEN Timerman

Bina West

Jennifer Whitenack

PASTOR

Rev. Laura Calos



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From Our Assistant to the Pastor - Max Bovee

AMF (Asbury Men's Fellowship)

Devotions by Max Bovee.

Contact Glen or Gerald for project suggestions.

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

Saturday, June 5th, at Cracker Barrel at 8:00 A.M.

Family Night - Pizza/Movie Night

At 6:00 P.M. pizza and soda will be served in Wesley Hall, and from 6:45-8:30 P.M., *Fly Away Home* will be shown in the Parlor with popcorn.

Fly Away Home is 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!

Friday, May 21st

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



A Study of the Old Testament Book of Daniel

(Visions from the Sovereign)

13 weeks on Monday evenings at 6:30 P.M.

Will be held 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.



There are plans to resume summer camp at Aldersgate this summer. Pam and Garrie, the directors, are planning on running small groups of campers to be able to ensure their safety. They do not have specific guidelines from NYS yet, so plans may need to be adjusted. They anticipate that campers will be in specific groups and do everything in those groups, minimizing exposure to the total group of campers. Registration fees will be 100% refundable this year, so there is no financial risk. Registration will be open soon, and I will hopefully be able to do that as I have in the past.

Read about the four offered programs and see how comfortable you are with the plan at present. There will also be a camp for Senior Highs the week of June 27. Family Life weekend will run July 9-11. One Day Adventurer hasn't been scheduled, yet.

Pam and I have been in frequent communication and now I'm on the site planning team. If you have any questions, please ask. If I don't know the answer, I will get one for you.

Lynn Morgan
Camp Agent

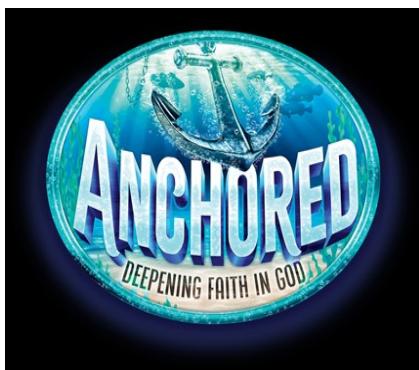
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

In-person Sunday School classes 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 Age 3-K and Grades 1-6 each Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month when Communion Sunday is held. Children will participate in family worship on those Sundays (May 2nd and June 6th). Last day of classes for the 2020-2021 school year will be Sunday, June 13th which will be a child led worship service with an end of the year celebration following the service.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



VBS this year will be held Tuesday, July 27th thru Thursday, July 29th 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. each night for ages entering kindergarten thru 6th grade. Program is "Anchored: Deepening Faith in God" by Group Publishing. Registration will start next month. Mission project will be Marion Medical Mission's Shallow Well Program to ensure safe drinking water to help eliminate water borne/sanitation related diseases.

If interested in helping out with VBS this summer, please contact Sarah Lehman- sundayschool@westelcom.com or call 315-767-2641.

SPECIAL ZOOM SPEAKER COMING!!

- Recently, there have been two North Country teens who have committed suicide. Why has this happened? How could it be prevented? What can parents and grandparents do? What can we as a congregation do?
- On Wednesday, May 12, at 7:15pm, Alicia Ruperd, Mental Health Services Coordinator for Jefferson County, will present a Zoom program for anyone interested in the reasons for and the prevention of suicide in adults, teens and youth. She has served as the chair for the Jefferson County Suicide Prevention Coalition since 2016. She is a certified trainer in Mental Health First Aid for adults and public safety and QPR Suicide Prevention.
- Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer), learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone for help.
- In this presentation, you will examine the myths vs. the facts of suicide, learn the types of suicide clues and warning signs, discuss types of intervention skills, and realize that suicide is not just a national problem, but a local health problem, too. There will be time for your questions throughout the presentation.
- Don't miss this lifesaving program sponsored by Asbury United Methodist Women. Call or text Susan Snell, 315-782-8235, or email her at sueglen.snell@gmail.com to be put on the Zoom list.

**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.

CAN YOU HELP WITH SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC?

Starting June 20 until September 5, the anthem spot in the service will be filled with Special Music selections. If you want to sing a song, or play a song on your instrument - all instruments welcome; guitar, violin, recorder, harmonica, or...? Let Cathy Mowers know!

Please call Cathy (315-778-5315) or send her an email at cwmusic84@gmail.com to set your day. Let her know at that time if you will need an accompanist.

Thank you for using your gift of music for the glory of God!

Update from the FINANCE COMMITTEE



2021

In "The Beacon" last month, we outlined Asbury's required operating costs for 2021. This is in keeping with our commitment to provide you relevant information. Here is a quick summary once again of those Required Costs:

- Membership/Evangelism/Promotions	\$ 5,100
- Finance	\$ 20,576
- UMC Shared Ministry	\$ 3,132
- Wages	\$111,935
- Pastor	\$ 58,000
- Utilities	\$ 26,130
- Maintenance & Repair	\$ 11,900
- Office Expenses	\$ 13,700
- Worship	\$ 5,300
- Trustees	<u>\$ 15,725</u>

TOTAL REQUIREMENT \$301,048

CURRENT PLEDGES \$197,277

CURRENT DEFICIT **\$103,771**

We truly appreciate your generosity through prayerful donations of your time, talents, and financial resources. We want to ensure that Asbury continues to serve the needs of our congregation and our wider community.

Thank you for your continuing contributions.

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK - Submitted by Max Bovee

May 2: Proverbs 20:3

"It is to one's honor to avoid strife."

May 9: Ecclesiastes 5:2

"Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart."

May 16: Isaiah 1:18

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

May 23: Isaiah 43:4

"You are precious and honored in my sight, and I love you."

May 30: Jeremiah 29:11

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."*

FROM THE MISSION TEAM

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.



There are 529 pinwheels in the above picture.
Each pinwheel represents an abused child that was helped in 2020
by the Victims's Assistance Center of Jefferson County!

LET'S HELP VAC HELP THE CHILDREN OF JEFFERSON COUNTY!

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. In April the *Asbury Food Pantry Team* gave 1,225 items. So far this year Asbury has given 6,495 items. See David if you would like to support or be a part of the *Asbury Food Pantry Team!*

GREETINGS FROM THE TRUSTEES

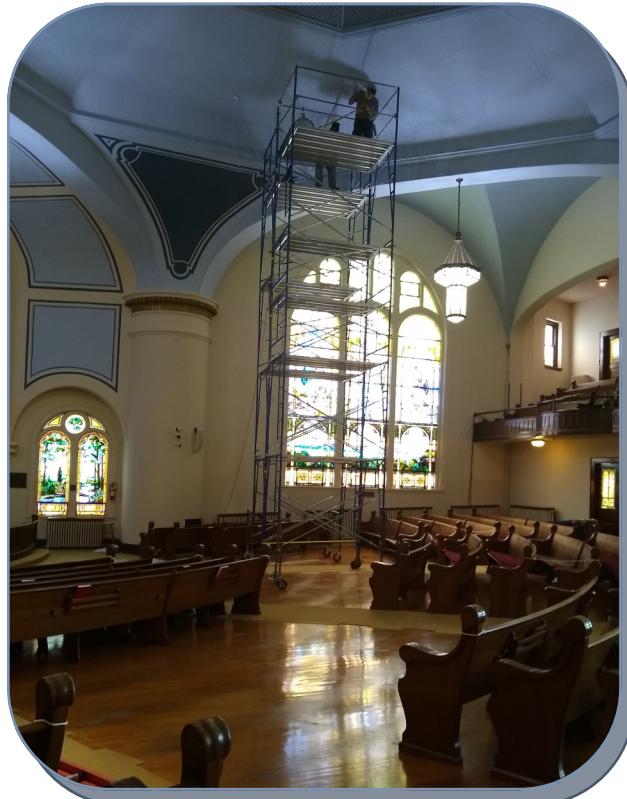
The painting project continues. Much has been accomplished and much remains to be completed. We have been able to have a Sunday service throughout this period even with scaffolding in place and some pews out of service. The painting crew has worked hard to clean up at the end of each week. Frances Goutremout has put in many hours vacuuming and dusting every week. She deserves a lot of credit for maintaining our sanctuary in the midst of the ongoing work.

RSI, our roofing contractor, has returned and has removed damaged cement on our sidewalks due to their heavy equipment used throughout the roof replacement. They have also been working to repair the grass area with new topsoil and reseeding these areas.

Capital Construction has completed their work in the attic and tower with a new floor above the beams. This gives us safe access to this area of the tower. Our thanks are given for major and essential improvements within the attic and tower. These areas do not show from the outside, but were and are critical for the reroofing, painting of the tower, and future of this structure we call our church home.

The beauty of our church is being restored with what has been accomplished and the current ongoing work. Contributions to our Capital Campaign have been outstanding. A major source of financing for all of this work has been income generated by our Endowment Fund. This was started years ago by far-sighted members of Asbury. It has received a lot of additional support since Sue and I joined this church in 1970. I strongly encourage everyone to consider including Asbury in their planning and creating a will. There will be times in the future when this Endowment Fund will be called upon to supply financial support for this community of faith. You can be a part of this plan.

Blessings,
Glen Snell, Trustee



Loving Others Spreads Love & Friendship

Here is a poem that I hope will provide you with some inspiration:

"In the Time of COVID"

*I got your hugs today – not with your arms about my shoulders
but with your thoughts around my heart.
They raised my spirits and hopes high
they crushed the loneliness and sadness of being shut down,
a note to tell me that I am loved and thought of --
a moment of your time to make my day.*

*I thank you friend for care and love
that broke through that barrier of aloneness,
that caused my heart to remember that with
friends, loved ones and God in my life,
that I can go on and I am never alone. – Hugs*



At Asbury Church, we are a generous and loving Family. May you continue to reach out to members of our Church Family with cards, calls, emails, and visits. COVID has made many people feel lonely and isolated. May you grow more comfortable in your encouragement of others to return to church, especially those whom you have not seen and whom you miss. Asbury Church continues to be COVID safe and is also spacious enough to house everyone at a distance. After all, we have yet to fill the balconies and the extra seating along the back of the sanctuary. There's room for all at Asbury!

Lovingly, Membership and Evangelism Committee
Melanie Rafferty & Lisa Smith

To The Glory of God

On Sunday mornings we come together as a church family to praise and give thanks to God. We sing praises to God through hymns and through our gifted musicians. We praise God through the reading of scripture and Pastor Laura's inspiring sermons. We give thanks to God through our prayers and our offering of our gifts. Every Sunday Bina West makes sure our flower vases on the altar are filled with beautiful flowers. At Christmas and Easter she arranges the flowers around the communion table with the colors and flowers of the season. Bina has a wonderful gift, and we are blessed to have her as a part of the Asbury Family. In the picture below, you will notice the blue flowers form a cross in the middle of the arrangement - *To the Glory of God! Thank you Bina!*



Easter 2021

I See God
Everywhere



My
Church



Malawi Early Literacy Team (MELT)

The Church Book Series - Sponsor a Book - Receive a One-Page Dedication

M.E.L.T. is excited to share the church book series sponsor opportunity. You, your family, church group, or group of friends will receive the acknowledgement page on the inside front page of the books as well as a set of books! You may decide to sponsor in honor of or in memory of a family member or loved one.

Book Details

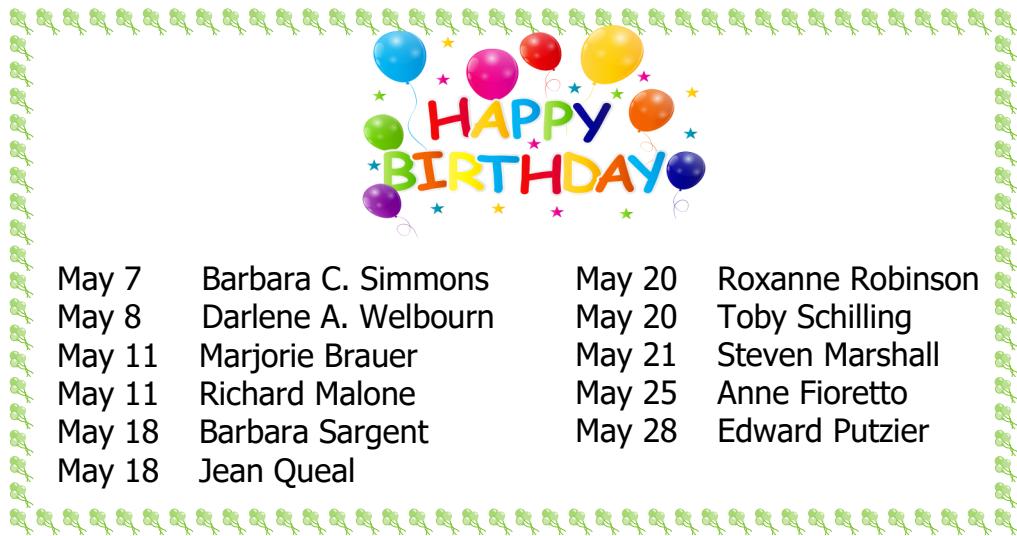
We have four titles drafted and ready to print for the newly constructed MELT Central Library located in Mzuzu, Malawi. This is the first library of its kind in the Northern Region of the country. The MELT1 Book Mobile service delivers books to 20 primary schools putting books in the hands of thousands of young school children each year. The four titles are: My Church, I See God Everywhere, Sunday is Special, and In My Church.

Sponsor Details

Each title is available to sponsor for \$2,500.00. This supports project costs from the book's conception all the way to the hands of children! Costs include layout fees, publication, airline trunk fees, and funds towards one teacher traveler going to Malawi to assist with the Professional Development workshop that supports the teachers receiving this new material. 500 copies of the book you sponsor will be printed with 300 traveling to Malawi. Books remaining in the US are for replacement as well as being offered to church schools for their use. Children here can enjoy these beautiful books in "busy bags" during church or in their school programs. Supporting young children on both sides of the globe.

Contact Heather White 315-778-9867 heatherwhite4@gmail.com

Carolyn Osborne 315-773-1170 chosborne07@gmail.com



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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!**

'If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

- John 14:15-21, 25-27