



The Asbury **BEACON**

July/August 2021

Volume 21, Number 6

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!*

Getting Back to Something like Normal

A part of me feels like I have been let out of prison! At least for a time. Having been fully vaccinated, and following the directions of the Center for Disease Control, I have been able to leave my mask in my pocket when going to a restaurant or shopping. I still need my mask when going into a doctor's office, or using public transportation, or entering worship on Sunday. The strict adherence to safety protocols has definitely been lessened. I am thankful.

Everyone in my family that can be vaccinated, has been vaccinated. This includes the grandchildren over the age of 12. My hope is that come fall, all school age children will be able to be vaccinated. I want them to be protected too.

I am not "middle of the road" when it comes to this issue. Color me un-American, but I sincerely believe that the safety of the community overrides the rights of the individual. I also feel that as a Christian, Jesus' call to "love thy neighbor," requires us to do our best to not bring harm to our neighbor.

Because, so many in the congregation have been vaccinated, we are lightening our policies about worship. We have removed the ropes that limited the pews that could be used on Sunday. If you are one who always had a favorite spot, you may return to that spot. We are not asking the ushers to seat us or dismiss us. We are opening all of our doors on Sunday for entering and exiting.

We are resuming the time of fellowship following the worship service. I've been told by a reliable source, that coffee is returning too!

If you are seated, and there are no children nearby, and you are vaccinated, you are free to lower your mask. When singing, we ask that you lift the mask back up, and also when walking around the sanctuary.

We will need to be flexible going forward. If the situation changes and the Center for Disease Control, or the governor's office makes new recommendations for our safety, we will make adjustments.

It is my prayer and my hope that this challenging season is mostly behind us. Too many lives have been lost, too many people have had their health impaired, too many tears have been shed. I look forward to "seeing the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." (Psalm 27:13)

Grace and peace,
Laura

This month's **BEACON** is sponsored by **Paul and Deb Simmons**.

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

Thank you **Paul and Deb** for being our "**BEACON ANGELS**" for July/August.

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

MAINTENANCE
GERALD HOLDER

**MUSIC PROGRAM
DIRECTOR**
CATHERINE MOWERS

MUSIC PROGRAM STAFF
GHILYANA DORDZHIEVA
LYNN MORGAN
MELANIE RAFFERTY
MICHELLE RUDD
LISA SMITH
HELEN TIMERMAN
BINA WEST
JENNIFER WHITENACK

PASTOR
REV. LAURA CALOS



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RUMMAGE SALE SMASHES ALL RECORDS!!!

Congratulations to Asbury for outstanding donations, terrific help, and a spirit of outreach to the community!

For the first time we had donations that overflowed the storage room to fill the entire stage area. We used every available table in Wesley Hall. Thank you for cleaning out attics, houses, garages, and giving us your donations.

WE RAISED \$4368.64!!

Thank you for those who contributed to the bake sale for summer camp scholarships. Over \$400 was raised! Melinda St. John and her helpers sat for 3 days selling scrumptious baked goods and Asbury cookbooks.

There is an old saying, "Many hands make light work." That is certainly true at Asbury.

Here are the volunteers that made this sale so special:

the movers of furniture and tables: the Men's Group, Max's evening Bible study group; Sarah, Nate, and Olivia Lehman who organized the toy sale room and promoted the sale online; the unpackers and pricers: Joanne Rhode, Carol Plemons, Sandy Johnson, Susan Hirst, Barbara Simmons, Marianne and Dale Scott, Martha Peyser, Pam Hughes, Tamara Klock and her sister, Yvonne, Krista Juczak, Ken and Bentley Sturge from Rochester, Glen Snell, and Gerald Holder.

**Thank you to all who helped repack and clean up.
YOU ALL DID A GREAT JOB!!**

Sue Snell



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



The last day of classes for the 2020-2021 school year was on Sunday, June 13th, when the children led the service. The children did a wonderful job. Thanks to Michelle Rudd for helping to create and direct the program. Thank you to Katie Jeurissen and Susan Hirst for being teachers this year. Also, thank you to our kids and their families who participated in this most unique year of Sunday School classes in this time of COVID.



After the service the kids enjoyed some fun and games down in Wesley Hall - bean bag toss, wooden spoon/egg relay and pick a lucky duck. One of the items in the goodie bags were lavender growing kits. Lavender, according to Google, is most commonly associated with love, devotion, purity and grace. In the Bible it went by its Greek name-spikenard and would have been used in purification rituals and healing and would have been used in the anointing of Jesus' feet by Mary Magdalene.

When given as a gift, lavender symbolizes new adventures and opportunities. On that note, this is my last Sunday School newsletter article as I step down from Sunday School Chair and teaching to pursue some other adventures and opportunities. Thank you to Michelle Rudd who has volunteered to lead the Sunday School program. I know the program under her leadership will continue to do great and awesome things.

Sarah Lehman

ASBURY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!

Like a flower opens up to the sun, Asbury is opening up, and God is calling us back, to worship, to fellowship, to share and to connect to Him and each other. Below are some of the opportunities for us to connect this summer and grow in God's Love.



**SUNDAY CHAPEL
SERVICE IS BACK**
8:15 a.m. every Sunday

**NURSERY IS OPEN
SUNDAY MORNINGS**
for Infants thru age 5

VBS
July 27th thru July 29th
6-8 p.m. each night

MEN'S BREAKFAST
July 11th, 8:00 a.m.
At Denny's

SATURDAY BREAKFASTS
at the Parsonage
with Pastor Laura
July and August

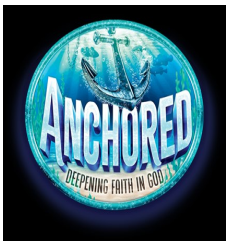
**SMALL GROUP
STUDIES WITH MAX**
on
Daniel, Heaven & Esther

CHURCH PICNIC
August 19th
4 to 9 p.m. at
Thompson Park Pavilion

PROGRESSIVE SUPPER
August 12th
Beginning at 4:30 p.m.

**ASBURY FELLOWSHIP
NIGHT OUT**
August 25th, 5:30 p.m.
at Tully's

*For more details on the above opportunities,
READ ON!*



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.

Registrations are due by 7/23/21

Completed forms can be scanned and emailed to
sundayschool@westelcom.com or mailed/dropped off at
the church office, 327 Franklin St., Watertown, NY 13601

Mission project will be **Marion Medical Mission's Shallow Well Program** to ensure safe drinking water to help eliminate water borne/sanitation related diseases in Africa.

For more information: their website is <https://www.mmmwater.org>.

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

Objects/supplies needed for VBS:

- Life vest** (adult large)
- Diver's mask/snorkel**
- Swim fins** to fit size 10.5 male feet
- Pair of arm floaties** to fit adult
- Inflatable swim toy** (around the waist style preferably)
- 1/2 PVC pipe** - 11 inches long
- 20 oz Gatorade bottles** - empty, cleaned & with caps on (will need at least 41)

If you can help provide any of these items, please contact Sarah Lehman at 315-767-2641

The Return of Summer Camp Fun in 2021!

Camp Aldersgate in Brantingham will be open this summer for 4 weeks which is exciting! The theme is: **"STEADFAST: God's love endures forever!"** from Psalm 100. With all the changes in the lives of children this past year, it is more important than ever to remember that God's love is forever!

As of June 23, Aldersgate has received notice that the state has lifted all COVID guidelines and restrictions for children's camps. Masks will be encouraged when indoors, except for eating and sleeping. Pam and Garrie (directors) have a goal of 60 campers for the summer. 21 campers are fully registered with 11 more in the pipeline.



It is with great joy that you know that 3 of Asbury's children have decided to go to Aldersgate this summer for **S'mores Camp**. Hopefully some more children will consider attending camp. If your child is interested, please contact me soon to register your child for a life-changing experience.

Lynn Morgan (camp agent)

HIGHLIGHTS from the ASBURY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING on June 6, 2021

There are many great things going on at Asbury. Here are the highlights from our June 6th meeting:

- Chapel Service will begin July 4 at 8:15 a.m.
- You will receive your 2021 Stewardship Program letter from Pastor Laura in early September. Stewardship Sunday is October 17th.
- Church picnic date is planned for August 19th at Thompson Park.
- COVID changes continue. You may now seat yourself. All pews are open. Please sit 3 feet apart; masks only required as you enter & depart the church. Once you are seated you may remove your mask unless you are seated near children. Masks are still required if you are singing or around children. People may leave the service as they please after the Benediction.
- Vacation Bible School is planned for July 27-29 from 6-8pm each evening. Volunteers are needed.
- Trustees are seeking a bid to re-point the exterior stone work of the church. The roof edge of the church also needs to be painted. Starting November 1st, the rotunda area will be re-painted.
- Membership & Evangelism Committee is assembling "welcome back" gift bags for teachers in several school districts and will distribute them this Fall. The congregation will be asked to contribute items over the Summer. A box will be placed in the Rotunda.
- To Promote Asbury, Bill Smith is setting up TV spots for Asbury during July & August. He is also planning a billboard display for October & November on the Screen in the Watertown Square.
- Nursery care needs to hire 2 adults to care for children, ages 1-5, during the 10:15 Sunday service. Interviews are planned.
- Starting July 10, Pastor Laura is hosting Saturday breakfasts at the parsonage during July and August to get to know more people. Please sign up on the board in the rotunda for a wonderful breakfast!

Peace,

Jim Rafferty, Chairperson Asbury Church Council

From Our Assistant to the Pastor - Max Bovee

Asbury Fellowship Night Out

On June 23, over twenty gathered at the Blue Heron Restaurant in Chaumont for an evening of food and fellowship on their outdoor patio.

A second opportunity awaits all interested on **Wednesday, August 25, at Tully's Restaurant**, 1050 Arsenal Street, Watertown @ 5:30 P.M.

Progressive Supper

Date has been changed from July 28 to Thursday, August 12, with a rain date of August 13. Open to all who have had their Covid shots, with attendance limited to 30 on a first come basis.

4:30 P.M. – Meet at VanHouten's – 21066 Stone Road – Dexter (Pillar Point) to carpool.

5:00 P.M. – LaSage's – Chips, Dip and Beverage.

5:30 P.M. – Plemons' – Crackers, Cheese, Croghan Bologna and Beverage.

6:00 P.M. – VanWie's – Tossed Salad, Rolls and Butter and Beverage.

6:30 P.M. – Malone's – Ham, Potato Salad, Beans and Beverage.

7:30 P.M. – VanHouten's – Cake, S'mores and Beverage.

Bonfire, Songs, and Fellowship. Everyone brings their own lawn chair.

\$12 per person, payable when reservation is made with Max.

Celebrating Asbury Banquet

Date has been moved from September 17 to Friday, September 24, at 6:00 P.M. in Wesley Hall.

Catered by Randy Jerome of RJ's Catering – Adams Center.

Menu: Tossed Salad, Rolls and Butter, Baked Ham, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Garlic Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Broccoli with Cheese Sauce, Fruit Salad, Beverage Station and Bavarian Raspberry Cream Layered Cake with chocolate Frosting.

Ladies and Men will eat separately with appropriate programs to follow. Prices announced in August.

Paid reservations in advance only by Sunday, September 12.

Lancaster Bus Trip

Thursday, September 30 and Friday, October 1 to see "Queen Esther" at Sight and Sound Theatre.

September 30th: 6:30 A.M. – Meet at Clarence Henry Coach

3:00 P.M. – Queen Esther

6:30 P.M. – Pennsylvania Dutch Family Style Dinner at Hershey Farm Restaurant

Overnight at Hershey Farm Inn

October 1st: 8:00 A.M. – Breakfast at Hershey Farm Inn

9:30 A.M. – Visit Amish Village with House Tour

NOON – Shop @ Shady Maple Gift Shop

2:00 P.M. – Shady Maple Smorgasbord

6:00 P.M. - Bingham's Family Restaurant

10:00 P.M. – Arrive back in Watertown

Small Group Studies

"Daniel" - Meets Mondays, 6:30 -7:30 p.m., in Asbury's Parlor, July 12-August 16 - Open to all – Bring Bibles.

"Heaven" – Meets Wednesdays 9:30 -10:30 a.m., at Summit, July 7 – August 25 - Open to Summit residents only.

"Esther" – Bible study on Book of Esther, preceding trip to Lancaster. Open to all whether going on bus trip or not.

Meets Monday's, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in Wesley Hall, August 23- September 27 (omitting Labor Day). Bring Bibles.

Contact Max @ 315-232-4158 for more information regarding these events.

GREETINGS FROM THE TRUSTEES

Construction around Asbury is much quieter this summer than one year ago. We have our parking lot back, the roof work is finished, the painting and structural repairs in the attic and tower have been completed. Activity within the church is getting back to normal due to Covid vaccinations. We are now able to enjoy a much more normal 10:15 service and Chapel is resuming July 4 at 8:15.

Our bills for all work done to date are paid with no outstanding debt. I want to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our Capital Campaign. During the 3 year period (6/1/18)—5/31/21), our congregation and Asbury friends raised \$348,915! This is an amazing accomplishment.

Additional income came from a small balance that remained from a previous capital campaign fund, insurance money for our roof due to roof damage during a windstorm in April 2018, cashing in some CD's with the United Methodist Development fund, and major help, about \$400,000, from investments in the Asbury Endowment Fund. Costs of all work and projects to date total \$925,834. All bills have been paid.

As always there is some work still to be done. Finishing the interior painting and repairs will start about Nov. 1. There is re-pointing of some of the exterior cut stone and painting of the edge of the lower roof. Improvements need to be done in our sanctuary audio system.

The Trustees have discussed how we can plan to pay for the remaining work. The Capital Campaign ended 5/31/21 with a balance of \$27,414. The Trustees have decided to transfer the balance to a fund called the Capital Improvement Fund to help pay for the work remaining and future projects. No pledges will be requested. Anyone can contribute to this fund. Incoming donations need to be clearly marked Capital Improvement Fund. The Trustees also agreed that income from Invested Funds from the Asbury Endowment Fund may be used to complete these projects.

It is remarkable to think about all that has been accomplished to maintain Asbury for the future. It is also exciting to be able to look up and see how our roof, tower, and steeple are a beacon to the community.

The Trustees thank you for all your prayers and generosity.

Blessings,
Glen Snell, Trustee

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand..

- Isaiah 41:10

Asbury Reaching Out to Schools

We at Asbury are continuing to reach out to organizations to let them know that Asbury Methodist Church supports them and cares about them. Last year we visited and honored the Watertown Fire Department, Police Department, and the Sheriff's Department as well as Samaritan Medical Center.

What's our next venture? We intend to provide goodie bags to several local school districts in September. We plan to honor ALL teachers and staff throughout a district with an Asbury pen, our bookmark, and some edible items such as chocolate, tea, and popcorn or cookies (nothing homemade). The baggies wrapped in ribbon will include a nice label with a "thank you" for a job well done from Asbury Methodist Church.

What can you do to help? We need the following items brought in throughout the summer and placed in a basket or box in the Rotunda.

We need hundreds of these items so we appreciate whatever you can do. These items were purchased at Aldi's for a great price! Please feel free to purchase them from your favorite store.

Thank you for helping with Asbury's evangelism efforts to spread both love and community aware of Asbury's caring and discipleship presence.

Melanie Rafferty and Lisa Smith (Co-Chairs, Membership &
315-783-1105 315-778-4173 Evangelism Committee)



Bring a dish to pass, your table service and drink. We will have a silly auction. Bring something funny to be auctioned off for a good cause yet to be determined. Come enjoy food, fellowship (finally!) and getting to know our Pastor Laura better.



July 2	Joyce Tucker	August 2	Robert LaSage
July 2	William Plemons	August 3	William Smith
July 3	Aaron Johnson	August 3	Nathan Lehman
July 3	Herbert VanHouten	August 3	Kay Phillips
July 5	David Heasley	August 4	Kathryn Sero
July 6	Gerald Holder	August 5	Luke Marshall
July 12	Eleanor Petit	August 7	David Stoodley
July 13	Carol Wright	August 11	Allyson VanHouten
July 13	Debra Holt	August 12	John Bowles
July 14	John Deal	August 12	Margie VanWie
July 14	Lenora Forbes	August 14	Mary DeYear
July 16	Lou Dolloway	August 15	Joliese Haynes
July 17	Sue Beaman	August 15	Lynn Morgan
July 17	Pam Hughes	August 16	Karen Beach
July 19	Lynn Cleveland	August 21	Michael Schanely
July 20	Rev. Laura Calos	August 25	David Schilling
July 22	David Forbes	August 26	Shirley Berry
July 24	Carol Stoodley	August 26	Nancy Dolloway
July 24	Linda Adams		
July 24	Nancy Weislogel		
July 24	Tasha MacAdam		
July 26	Kimberly Little		
July 27	Quinn Sturge		
July 30	Sandra Johnson		

NEW COMMITTEE IS FORMED

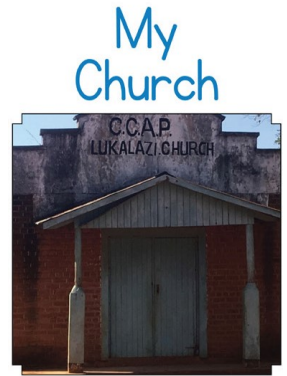
It takes a whole committee to replace one Bina. For more years than she cares to remember, Bina West has taken care of the beauty of the chancel area each and every Sunday. She has organized the poinsettias at Christmas time and the lilies at Easter. Week in and week out, she has changed the colors of the paraments to match the church liturgical season, and has taken care of the flowers next to the communion table. Bina has contacted families who have wanted to purchase flowers for Sundays, and has taken care of the ordering, the picking up or the arrangements, the care for the flowers between each Sunday. She has even delivered flowers to people who ordered them but were unable to pick them up following a service. After so many years of faithful service, Bina is stepping down. It is with deep appreciation that we thank Bina for all that she did and continues to do for our church. We love you Bina!

The Chancel Design Team, under the leadership of Joanne Rhode will do its best to pick up the mantle of responsibility for enhancing the chancel area from week to week. Joanne and her team of creative folk will design this sacred space to enhance the worship of God from week to week. Our pastor, Laura, has presented her sermon series for this summer. It is on the use of stones and rocks to communicate the teachings of scripture. So, for this summer, rocks will be artfully displayed on the communion table. The hope is that in carefully designing the visual centerpiece, it will stir curiosity in the minds of those attending worship either in person, or online.

If you are interested in being a part of the team, please speak with Joanne Rhode.

Malawi Early Literacy Team

In the spring, Heather White came to Asbury to share that M.E.L.T. had a church book series sponsor opportunity. She told the congregation about the book details which would support the project from the book's conception to actually putting the book into the hands of the Malawi children. Heather shared the title Asbury would help sponsor, My Church. During Sunday School that day, she read the book and the kids created their own book about their church.



To date, \$371 has been donated to this worthwhile endeavor. Sackets Harbor Presbyterian Church has also contributed monies from the deacons. Several other churches are considering joining in. If you would like to contribute, but haven't done so, your support would be deeply appreciated. **All checks should be written to Asbury UMC with MELT in the memo line.** Thank you for helping with this mission project.

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK - Submitted by Max Bovee

July 4: Mark 6:31

Jesus said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

July 11: Mark 6:50

"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

July 18: John 10:27

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.."

July 25: John 14:2

"My Father's house has many rooms; I am going there to prepare a place for you."

August 1: John 14:3

"I go and prepare a place for you."

August 8: John 15:4

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you."

August 15: Romans 8:16

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

August 22: Romans 11:36

"For of him and through him and for him, are all things made."

August 29: Romans 14:4

"Who are you to judge someone else?"

The deadline for the September Newsletter will be August 15th. The September newsletter will be emailed. If you would like to continue to have the newsletter mailed to you, please contact the church office and let Faith know.

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!*