



# The Asbury BEACON

November 2021

Volume 21, Number 9

## 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!*

## Pastoral Letter: Finding Beauty

I recently came back from a 2-week vacation in Europe. I spent nearly a week in southern Portugal, and nearly another week in Athens, Greece. The Covid issues were the only obstacles we had to navigate around during the trip. I was tested 4 times in all for Covid-negative every time. We wore masks whenever outside with crowds and always inside stores and buildings. My travelers and I felt very safe throughout the trip. As someone who has always traveled to new and different places, going virtually nowhere for the past 2 years has been very discouraging for me. I need to visit the “unfamiliar” from time to time in order to clear out the cobwebs in my brain, and be inspired by what I see and experience. This most recent vacation didn't let me down.

When in Athens, I visited the Archeology Museum of Greece. It was totally amazing. My 2 traveling companions are not lovers of museums, but even they thought the experience was terrific. The exhibits went as far back in history to 3200 B.C., which we know as the Early Bronze Age. Each exhibit displayed artifacts from a distinct period of history up to the Roman period. Pottery, armor, cooking implements, sewing needles, jewelry, death masks, statues and more were on display.

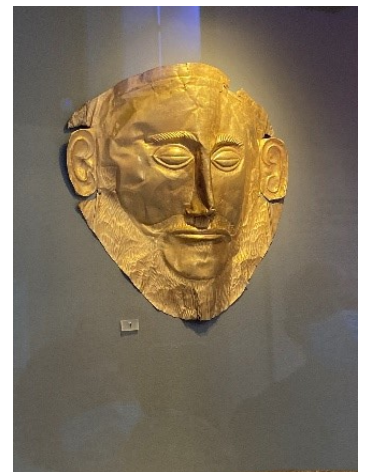
(I remember once on a trip to Israel we visited an archeology dig. Men and women worked in small 18-inch squares, sifting the dirt with a screen and using tiny soft brushes to reveal a tiny piece of this or that. One woman was very excited to have uncovered a complete oil lamp, about 2 inches in diameter. My Steve said that he would have loved to participate in a dig someday. I know that I wouldn't have the patience).

What struck me most was the artwork in each item. Whether a jug for holding water, or a dish for food, or anything else, the piece was ornamented with art. Exquisite beauty found in the most-simple of pieces amazed me. I learned something very important that day; that the human spirit, no matter the era, seeks and communicates beauty in the world around them. Whether, as religious devotion, mythology, to express grief, or simply the daily activities of the normal person, artists have shared what they feel in exquisite ways that touch the human heart if we take the time to notice.

During these wretched nearly 2 years of the pandemic, so distracted by inconvenience, fear and grief, I think I forgot about beauty and the need to communicate it boldly. God has given to humankind these tremendous gifts: to love, to imagine, to express the best of us. It is time to reclaim this gift to cheer us up personally and to spread joy and inspiration to others. It is a gift from God for us to enjoy, no matter the season in which we live.

Grace and peace,

Laura



**ASBURY'S STAFF**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
FAITH KIRCH

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

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**PASTOR**  
REV. LAURA CALOS



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# ASBURY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!

As we celebrate the harvest and thank God for the blessings He has given us, we are thankful for the warmth of Asbury through the wonderful structure and through our wonderful church family! God invites us to experience the sights, sounds, smells and colors of the season here at Asbury UMC as we strive to become disciples of Jesus Christ!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
Sat., November 6th  
8:00 a.m.  
At IHOP

**SALVATION ARMY  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
November 7th  
8:00-2:00

**HARVEST  
POT-LUCK LUNCHEON**  
November 21st  
After Worship

**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
Rev. Dora Schneider**  
November 7th, 4:30 p.m.  
At First UMC

**ANNUAL CHURCH  
CONFERENCE**  
November 13th  
10:30 a.m.

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

## RECIPES FOR FALL

### Pumpkin Cheese Cake

- 2 C. canned pumpkin
- 1-12 oz. can evaporated milk
- 1 C. sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 1/2 C. chopped nuts
- 1 1/2 sticks butter or margarine, melted

Mix pumpkin, evaporated milk, sugar, eggs, and spices together.

Grease the bottom of a 9x13 pan.

Pour mixture into pan.

Sprinkle cake mix over mixture.

Top with nuts, then pour melted butter over nuts.

Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.

### Rochelle's Apple Brownies

- 2 C. all purpose flour
- 1 C. brown sugar
- 1 C. white sugar
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. cinnamon or more to taste
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 stick of butter (unsalted) softened
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1/2 C. milk
- 4 to 4 1/2 C. pared, diced apples
- 1/2 C. chopped walnuts

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Grease a 9x13 pan.

Sift flour, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt into a large bowl.

Add butter, eggs and milk.

Beat by hand until just combined & thick.

Fold in apples and nuts, spread in prepared pan.

Bake 1 hour or until top springs back to the touch. Makes 16 servings.



**NOVEMBER 21ST AFTER WORSHIP**

**POT-LUCK LUNCHEON**

**(We encourage everyone to stay & enjoy fellowship)**

**You may bring**

**a main dish, a dessert, or a side dish.**

**Drinks and table service will be provided.**

# ASBURY'S MISSION TEAM

*The purpose of the Mission Team is to create and facilitate opportunities to help people in our local, state, national and worldwide communities.*

In addition to all the food donated by Asbury to the Watertown Urban Mission, gathered by David Stoodley and Bruce Irwin, the Mission Team committed \$1,500. to the Mission. The Mission's request was that this be earmarked for Meals on Wheels which is one of its major programs.

The Mission Team also approved \$500. for Chaplin Living Waters and another \$500. for scholarships (camperships?) for the Red Bird Mission Trip in April, 2022.

Some concern had been expressed about the Mission's financial situation because of the reduced income from the Impossible Dream Thrift Store. We have been assured that a strong financial foundation exists and programs are being funded with grants and community events as well as donations from churches and individuals.

Another of the Urban Mission's programs is their Getting Ahead/Staying Ahead Program. One hundred forty one people have graduated from the program within the last two or three years. Participants (called "investigators") commit themselves to 16 weeks of regularly coming together, doing homework and investigating within themselves how they can improve and rebuild their lives and situations. In this process they realize they are not alone, that there are resources in the community for them, that in opening themselves up to their peers, solutions can be discovered. The Mission's Executive Director, Dawn Cole, and her staff also commit themselves to the 16-week course and have found it profitable for themselves.

The Urban Mission, originally church-founded, has become one of Watertown's largest and well-respected social services agency.

## Upcoming Events from the Salvation Army

The Watertown Salvation Army (WSA) Advisory Board is bringing back the **Pancake and French Toast Breakfasts** after a two-year absence due to the Covid pandemic. The date for the breakfast is **Sunday, Nov. 7**. The cost of tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.



Also, on **December 3**, please plan to support the WSA's **Old Newsboys Day event**. After the Red Kettle Drive, this is the largest fundraiser for the Watertown Corp. We, The Advisory Board hope Asburians will help support this event and welcome volunteers who would like to become involved in selling copies of the Watertown Daily Times on that date.

Another upcoming fundraiser - the largest - is the annual **Red Kettle Campaign**. In the past, Asburians have teamed up, in pairs, to "ring the red kettle bell" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for one day at the local Tops Market. Sixteen volunteers can easily cover that day shift. A sign-up sheet will be posted in time to plan participation in this event.

Please consider becoming involved with any or all of these special events. Please see Orié Phillips, Paul Simmons or Bruce Irwin if you want more information or have questions.

Bruce Irwin

## UNY Task Force on Peace with Justice in Palestine/Israel

This is the second in a series, "Because We Care," from our UNY Task Force on Peace with Justice in Palestine/Israel.

We will look at how our journey into Palestine has intersected with our United Methodist struggles toward Black and Indigenous liberation.



Cynthia Kent, chairperson, Native American International Caucus, reads the [statement of solidarity with Palestine](#), May 16, 2016, at UMC General Conference in Portland, OR. (Photo from UMKR video, used by permission).

### Black and Indigenous Solidarity with Palestine

By Dianne Roe

The first "Journey Toward Understanding" taken by members of the New York West Area (former Western NY and North Central NY Annual Conferences) was led by our African American Bishop Forrest Stith in January 1989. Our first full day in Jerusalem was on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. For our evening prayer-communion service at the hotel, Bishop Stith reflected on the experiences of the day, comparing it with his experiences as a Black man, and comparing the intifada with the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Many of us in the room were moved to tears.

In the months and years that followed, these similarities became increasingly evident, leading to solidarity acts among Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples, including the Palestinians. For me, the intersection of these issues was highlighted in a simple conversation I had with Laila Hasan, my friend from Hebron-Al Khalil when she visited me in Corning.

Laila was in our Upper New York Area while visiting her brother in Saratoga Springs. When she came to my home in Corning, we walked over to First UMC where she was presenting a program, cooking maktouba for us, and selling embroidery from the Women's Cooperative in Hebron.

As we were walking down Market Street, she looked up at facades of what we call "Historic Market Street" and she asked me how old the city was.

I answered, "well, the settlers came two or three hundred years ago." "Settlers?" she asked, with a look of alarm on her face.

I knew the reason for the expression on her face. The Israeli settlers who have invaded Palestinian villages and municipalities are terrorizing the neighborhoods and making everyday activities like harvesting crops and attending school impossible and dangerous for Palestinians.

The Israeli human rights group B'tselem has documented settler violence against the Palestinians for decades. Link below

[https://www.btselem.org/topic/settler\\_violence](https://www.btselem.org/topic/settler_violence)

I lived in the Old City of Hebron-Al Khalil. The shop that housed the Hebron Woman' Cooperative was established during the Second Intifada and was just around the corner from our Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) apartment.

Militant right-wing Israeli settlers formed enclaves around and inside the Old City, and terrorized the Palestinian residents. I personally saw settlers shooting up the roof top water tanks of Palestinians during a severe water shortage. My teammate witnessed settlers setting fire to Palestinian shops, while the shopkeepers and their families were under curfew in their apartments above the shops.

I wanted to say to Laila that our settlers were not like that. But I could not say that because about ten miles away from where Laila and I were walking down Market Street, there is a historic marker.



I have to remind myself that I live on land stolen from the Seneca and the Lenape. The destroyed village of Runonvea near me and the forty other native villages and food storage destroyed by General Sullivan's troops in 1779 parallels the more than 500 Palestinian villages destroyed during the Naqba in 1947-48.

The continuing process of annexation, broken treaties, pipeline construction, etc. in my country parallels the continuing Naqba in Palestine with ongoing destruction of Palestinian villages and homes, such as what I witnessed in 1996 when the Israeli military demolished the Jaradat home.

### **Jaradat Home Demolition**



Photo by Mark Frey, Christian Peacemaker Team. Used by permission.

I understand now why the Native American and Black communities identify so closely with the Palestinians in their liberation struggle.

For more resources from United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) on Black-Palestinian solidarity, use the following link.

[https://www.kairosresponse.org/black-palestinian\\_solidarity.html](https://www.kairosresponse.org/black-palestinian_solidarity.html)

Submitted by Leah Mae Carlisle

# Tax Savings Possible

**Are you at least 70 1/2 -years-old?**

**Do you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?**

**Would you like to save paying income taxes on some, or all of the money you are withdrawing from that account?**

If you answered yes to all these questions, then you may be able to use a federal tax rule to your advantage.

It is called the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) rule. This rule allows traditional IRA owners to exclude a portion, or all, of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their adjusted gross income if they give that money to a qualified charitable organization, such as Asbury Church, or any 301 (c) (3) non-profit.

Even those taxpayers who are 70 1/2 to 72-years-old, but not yet 72 and thus not required to take a RMD, can take advantage of this rule if they are withdrawing money from their IRA.

This is a good way to save on paying taxes as you donate to a charity that would otherwise have gotten a donation from you anyway. You may even feel you can give a bit more to Asbury from the tax savings you accrue.

Please contact Bruce Irwin, from the Asbury Finance Committee, or your tax advisor for more information about this.

## From Our Assistant to the Pastor - Max Bovee

Thank You for Supporting:

### **Celebrating Asbury Banquet**

On September 24 thirty Asburians enjoyed a delicious meal together and fellowship afterward.

### **Lancaster Bus Trip**

In spite of several late cancellations due to Covid-19 concerns, we went with a full bus of 56 participants and thoroughly enjoyed Queen Esther and the other planned activities.

### **Small Group Studies**

All 2021 studies are now completed, with a great attendance at each.

### **2022 Study**

Max will return on a volunteer basis next year to lead one study as follows: "Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven," by Dr. David Jeremiah. An 11-week video study on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 P.M. in the parlor during June, July and August.

### **AMF (Asbury Men's Fellowship)**

Saturday, November 6 at 8:00 A.M. at IHOP, Arsenal Street. Bill Plemons will lead devotions. A work project, if any, will be announced.

### **PLAN AHEAD**

For one last activity coordinated by Max

#### **Friday, December 10 – Special Advent Gathering in Wesley Hall.**

6:00-7:00 P.M. – Pizza, Salad and Beverages

7:00-8:00 P.M. – Christmas Carols and Hymn Singing

8:00-8:30 P.M. – Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundaes

**Cost:** \$5 per person in advance.

**Reservations and payment due by Sunday, December 5, to Max Bovee.**

# GREETINGS FROM THE TRUSTEES

On Sunday, October 17, during the 10:15 service, we had a re-dedication and celebration of work accomplished on our church building in 2020. This involved stripping and replacing of our roof and the roof on our educational wing, which now houses the New Day Children's Center. It also involved repairs and strengthening of beams in the tower. Repairs and painting of the tower and steeple were also achieved. This whole project was a giant undertaking and the first major upgrade to these areas in over 100 years. It was necessitated by damage to our roof due to a violent wind storm in April 2018. The insurance adjustor said the roof needed to be replaced and was beyond repair.

The history of the Asbury building can be summarized briefly. The congregation was worshiping in the State St. Methodist Episcopal Church which was located where the Burger King is situated now. It was reported the congregation was unhappy with all the noise of horse traffic and the screech of the streetcars on State St. They purchased the Moffett property on the corner of Sterling and Parker St. The architects were from Cincinnati, Ohio, and designed a building that could be constructed in two phases. Phase I was started in 1908 and completed in 1909. This was the part of the church facing Parker St. The congregation worshiped in this part while raising funds for Phase II, which was started in 1912, completed in 1914, and dedicated in February 1914. The reported cost was \$100,000. Another \$25,000 was spent on furniture, pews, and an organ. Over the years, the six other parcels of land were purchased to allow Asbury to have full ownership of property around the church.

The text of Rev. Calos' sermon on 10/17/21 centered on abundance of the gifts God has given us. I can tell you we certainly observed this in seeking support to accomplish our goal.. We received support from the community at-large, from our insurance company, from in-kind donations (all the scaffolding was donated by Stebbins Engineering—valued at more than \$100,000), and from income generated from our endowment fund. We used between \$300,000 and \$400,000 from our endowment fund. The principle was not used. Without our endowment fund, we would not have been able to accomplish our goal. We give thanks for the vision of starting this fund by early church members and those continuing to build its strength today. These members that have donated to our endowment fund are still contributing and with us today. Please keep this in mind as you develop estate planning. Remember your church in your final plans. To date, we have spent \$930,000 on these projects, and we are debt free! That is something of a miracle that we should all celebrate.

The Trustees have spent a lot of time and effort in this last year working through all this construction. Our sanctuary has been restored to its great beauty, but we still have repairs and painting to complete in the rotunda ceiling and in the stairways up to the balconies. We expect that work will restart in late November or early December. We also plan to put in some blown-in insulation in the attic to try to reduce the massive ice buildup on Parker St. which we experienced last winter.

The Trustees continue to work on problems that involve the building and the parsonage. We want to thank everyone for your support. Stay healthy and we hope to see you in church.

Glen Snell, Trustee

*“But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart;  
Consider what great things he has done for you.”*

I Samuel 12:24



# Spreading Asbury LOVE and THANKS to Watertown School Staff

It was both enjoyable and rewarding to load 700 baggies full of snacks and treats for all teachers and staff of the Watertown Schools. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all of you who helped with this endeavor because you:

- Provided moral support for this endeavor
- Purchased items in the big box in the Rotunda
- Gave money so that we could purchase the needed items
- Gave your time on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> on the Wesley Hall assembly line to create the baggies
- Drove to a Watertown School building to deliver the “thank you” baggies



**CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS:** We are spreading Asbury’s message of LOVE through our ads, TV spots, church website, Facebook posts, and our visits to various community organizations. We are actively spreading Asbury’s caring and discipleship presence to the community.

If you have ideas or comments, please give us a call.

Melanie Rafferty & Lisa Smith  
(Co-Chairs, Membership & Evangelism Comm.)

## FROM THE CHANCEL DESIGN TEAM

*Please remember if you would like to bring in flowers in honor or memory of someone or a special event, you need to let Faith (office) or me know. It will be noted in the bulletin and I can have a plant stand available on Sunday. The flowers may be left in the kitchen refrigerator prior to Sunday. If you bring them in on Sunday, you may place them on the plant stand that is located near the alter rail. Flowers should NOT be placed on the piano! Thank You!*

*Joanne Rhode*

### A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

*Dear Lord,  
Today we give thanks  
For our many blessings,  
As we pray for those in need.  
We give thanks  
For our family and friends  
As we pray for those who are lonely.  
We give thanks for our freedoms  
As we pray for those who are oppressed.  
We give thanks for our good health  
As we pray for those who are ill.  
We give thanks for our comfort and prosperity  
As we share our blessings with others.  
On this day of Thanksgiving,  
May the love of God enfold us,  
The peace of God dwell within us  
And the joy to God uplift us.  
Amen.*



### SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK - Submitted by Max Bovee

#### **November 7: Hebrews 11:1**

*"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*

#### **November 14: Hebrews 13:16**

*"Do not forget to do good and to share with others."*

#### **November 21: James 1:2**

*"Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of many kinds."*

#### **November 28: James 2:12**

*"Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom."*



November 1 John R. Cerow  
 November 2 Lindsay Webb  
 November 4 Stacie Johnson  
 November 8 Dale G. Scott  
 November 9 Stephanie Mider  
 November 9 Danielle Coles  
 November 9 Tammy Olivas  
 November 11 Erin King  
 November 12 Linda Bennett  
 November 14 Martha Jablonski  
 November 28 Darlene Town



Dan and Lindsay Webb November 9, 2002  
 Frank and Joanne Rhode November 19, 1983  
 Charles Mosley and Grace Burke November 29, 1986

*May you always be warmed by each other's smile,  
 Always take time to walk and talk awhile,  
 Always know deep down you're each other's best friend,  
 And enjoy the kind of love that grows and knows no end.  
 Wishing you an 'always' kind of love!*

- Author Unknown

## Happy Birthday to You!

October birthdays were celebrated during Coffee Fellowship right after church on Oct 4th. We look forward to this new tradition of celebrating everyone's birthday for that month on the first Sunday of the month.

We will provide birthday cake again on November 7<sup>th</sup> in honor of our November birthdays -- we hope to see you then!



*A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR*  
**Rev. Dora Jean Schneider**  
 will be held at  
**First United Methodist Church**  
 236 Mullin Street, Watertown  
**Sunday, November 7, at 4:30 p.m.**

*Rev. Schneider had been pastor at First UMC for nine years prior to being transferred to the Rome (NY) UMC. She returned to Watertown after retirement. Before coming to the First UMC here, she served as pastor of United Methodist Churches in Cape Vincent, Three Mile Bay, Fulton, and Canton.*

*Dora was born in Lewis County and was active in the Beaver Valley UMC in Naumburg for several years while growing up and teaching school. She entered the ministry in 1980, entering the Seminary at Drew University in New Jersey. She was first appointed to the Cape Vincent Parish in 1984 upon graduation. She received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew in 1994.*

*All are welcome to participate and remember our sister church's recent pastor.*

**The deadline for the DECEMBER Newsletter will be November 19th.** Please send articles in "Microsoft Word" format to Sue Beaman at [wfpsec@gmail.com](mailto:wfpsec@gmail.com) with cc: [Asbury@gisco.net](mailto:Asbury@gisco.net) . If you don't have the ability to type them in "Microsoft Word," please bring them to the church office and Faith will type them for you. Thanks for your contributions and help with our newsletter.

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# ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Address Service Requested



Join us for  
SUNDAY WORSHIP  
at  
**8:15 a.m.**  
**10:15 A.M.**

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## *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!*