



Loving God. Growing Together. Reaching Out.

January 6, 2025

A Year of Impact. A Future of Hope.

Year-End Ministry Impact Report to the Asbury Congregation

Dear friend,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ. As I reflect on this past year, my heart is filled with gratitude; for your faithfulness, your generosity, and the countless ways you have shown up for one another and for our wider community. This year has included both challenge and blessing, yet through it all, I have witnessed God at work in powerful and sometimes very quiet ways.

What follows is a celebration of the ministry impact you helped make possible through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, and a hopeful look toward where God is leading us next.

With gratitude,
Pastor Sharon

OUR PRAYERS: PEOPLE LIFTED, FAITH SUSTAINED

Caring for one another remains at the heart of Asbury's ministry. Each week, Pastor Sharon, alongside a faithful group of volunteers, visits homebound individuals and those facing illness, hospitalization, grief, and ongoing hardship. Through prayer, presence, Holy Communion, and practical support such as transportation to medical appointments, they bring comfort in heavy moments and remind people that God is with them.

This quiet, faithful work ensures that every person knows they are seen, valued, loved, and deeply missed, even when they cannot be present in worship. It is prayer in action and one of the most sacred and life-giving expressions of who we are as a church.

OUR PRESENCE: SHOWING UP TOGETHER

Asbury is a living, growing church. Your faithful presence has sustained this community. Each week, more than 61 people (on average) gather for Sunday morning worship across two services, with an additional 514 weekly views (on average) by those worshipping online through livestream. Our traditional service is also shared weekly at 10:30am on WGRV radio, extending worship to many more across Greene County.



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Our weekly gathering at Morning Pointe of Greeneville reaches 10 – 15 assisted living residents each Thursday morning who might otherwise be unable to participate in worship. It lets them know they are supported, they are loved, and they are not forgotten.

Each week, 25 chapel kids and 6 adults come together to learn about Christ and grow in faith, laying the foundation to live out God's love in their lives, and establishing an important sense of belonging, community, and joyful worship at an early age. At our ACEC Christmas program, over 60 parents, grandparents, and caring adults joined us, celebrating the children's faith and the joy of Christ's birth.

In 2025, more than 140 people gathered for Holy Communion on Christmas Eve across two services. And throughout the year, Asbury celebrated its 150th anniversary in ministry with special services, including a wonderful Living Legacies service which honored our faithful members in their 90s. The year-long celebrations included monthly special worship services featuring former pastors, two Bishops, and other special guests.

Today, we count 160 members on our rolls. In the past year, three new members joined through profession of faith, and we celebrated one adult baptism; visible signs that God continues to bring new life, new commitments, and renewed faith into our community.

OUR GIFTS: GENEROSITY IN ACTION

Generosity fuels every ministry at Asbury. In 2025, you faithfully gave more than \$501,000 to support the mission and ministry of our church. From those gifts, over \$27,837 went directly to 45 local families through our Benevolence Ministry, helping our neighbors in need cover rent, utilities, and essential expenses during a year marked by rising costs and shrinking public assistance. Because of your generosity, families kept the lights on, homes were heated, and in many cases, eviction was avoided.

Since late 2024, we increased our presence in hurricane relief by committing financial resources and dedicated leadership. After Asbury opened its doors through our partnership with the American Red Cross to provide families a place to stabilize and begin recovery following the storm, one of our members stepped forward to lead (with assistance from many other dedicated volunteers) the hard work of repairing and rebuilding homes lost to historic flooding in our community. In 2025, Asbury received donations totally more than \$12,000 to support the ongoing disaster relief and restoration efforts. In total since September 2024, Asbury has collected and distributed more than \$58,000 for disaster relief directly to Greene County residents affected by the storm.

The remaining gifts were invested directly into the everyday, behind-the-scenes work of ministry; supporting staff salaries, maintaining and caring for our facilities, and resourcing programs that



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serve people of all ages. These investments ensure that our buildings are more than bricks and mortar; they are active, welcoming spaces where worship happens, children learn, youth gather, recovery begins, meals are shared, and neighbors find help and hope.

Simply put, these dollars keep the doors open, the lights on, and ministry moving forward week after week. As we look ahead to 2026, continued generosity isn't just about sustaining what we do; it's about strengthening this church that shows up for its community, makes room for everyone, and puts faith into action every single day. That's an investment worth making.

OUR SERVICE: LOVING BOLDLY, SERVING JOYFULLY, LEADING COURAGEOUSLY

Asbury continues to serve our neighbors with compassion, courage, dignity, and consistency, especially those facing hardship and uncertainty. In partnership with the CARE Center of Greeneville, Asbury opened a community warming shelter on more than 25 cold nights throughout 2025, offering warmth, safety, and welcome when temperatures dropped below freezing.

Since March, Asbury's partnership with CANUP (Coalition Addressing the Needs of Unhoused People) has provided more than 600 meal kits, with weekly deliveries serving approximately 30 - 45 individuals of all ages and circumstances. Each kit is a reminder that every person matters, is seen, and is cared for. One individual shared that the simple words "we're glad to see you" changed how he understood both church and grace. This ministry matters. These kits don't just serve those who are unhoused; they also support individuals and families who are housed but stretched impossibly thin. After rent and utilities are paid, many have little or nothing left for food. A simple bag of food can mean the difference between stress and relief, between going without and getting through the week.

This year also included vibrant community outreach. Our community Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat programs were attended by over 100 children and adults coming together to celebrate life in a safe and welcoming environment. We also hosted Vacation Bible School and our annual Prom Closet, which provided 99 young women with prom dresses. United Methodist Women awarded a \$1,500 college scholarship to a deserving graduating senior, and they hosted a Holy Week luncheon attended by more than 60 community members.

Behind the scenes, faithful stewardship made all this possible. Our Trustees and facilities volunteers navigated significant challenges including replacing an aging boiler and multiple HVAC units, repairing major plumbing issues, and installing programmable thermostats to lower energy costs. This essential often unseen work ensures that Asbury remains a safe, welcoming, and ministry-ready home. We are deeply grateful for our Trustees and dedicated facilities volunteers whose quiet, faithful work sustains our ministry today and into the future.



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OUR WITNESS: BEYOND OUR WALLS

Asbury's witness continues to grow beyond our campus. With more than 1,300 followers and more than 73,000 social media views in recent weeks, our story is reaching people well beyond the 'friends of Asbury.'

Through Asbury's Child Enrichment Center, Asbury is providing a quality Christian learning and day-care center for more than fifty children in our community, giving them a safe and supportive environment that fosters enthusiastic learning and development, while nurturing an age-appropriate Christian faith.

And together with Tates Chapel and Pruitt Hill, Asbury helped support a parish-wide children and youth ministry engaging more than 40 children and adults each week. Together with our sister churches and the community, we're crossing cultural and denominational lines to be the church of Jesus Christ. Our facilities also hosts a local NA group several times each week, supporting more than 20 individuals in recovery, with Asbury providing monthly shared meals.

LOOKING AHEAD: HOPE AND EXCITEMENT FOR 2026

As we look toward 2026, we do so with renewed hope and energy. God is not finished with Asbury. Clear goals will guide our shared life together, as we seek to:

- Grow congregational participation in small groups from 28% to 50%, deepening discipleship and connection.
- Expand benevolence and CANUP food-kit ministries to meet rising community needs.
- Build bridges by engaging neighbors beyond our walls and inviting those who are unchurched or marginally churched into authentic community.
- Maintain and refresh our facilities through sustained stewardship. As funding allows, several important capital and maintenance initiatives are planned to ensure Asbury remains safe, welcoming, and accessible for all who enter our doors. Key priorities include:
 - repairing structural damage to the church cupola,
 - addressing deferred maintenance in the kitchen,
 - improving exterior security lighting, and
 - completing targeted facility refreshes throughout our church buildings, including our child enrichment center. These improvements will enhance safety, hospitality, and accessibility while honoring the historic character of our campus.

These investments are not simply about buildings. They are about creating spaces where ministry can flourish, where neighbors feel welcomed, and where future generations can gather to worship, serve, and grow together. These goals are ambitious, but they are grounded in the faithfulness already present among God's people at Asbury.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The strength of Asbury has never rested on a few people doing everything. It has always grown through **many people doing something**. As we look ahead, here are four meaningful ways you can help sustain and strengthen our church in the year ahead.

1. Continue your faithful giving; **and consider a small step forward.**

If you already give, thank you. Truly. Your generosity makes ministry possible. As we move into the coming year, we invite you to prayerfully consider increasing your giving, even by as little as \$5 per month. It may feel small, but when many people take one faithful step, the impact is significant. Together, these gifts fuel worship, care, outreach, and the daily work of ministry.

2. Worship with us in-person, consistently.

Worship is where we are formed, renewed, and sent back into the world. We encourage everyone to **make in-person worship a priority at least 4 out of every 6 weeks** this year. Your presence matters more than you may realize. It strengthens the community, encourages others, and helps make worship feel alive and welcoming to newcomers.

3. Find your people—join a small group.

Faith grows best in circles, not rows. This year, we challenge everyone to **participate in at least one small group**: a Bible study, Sunday School class, or seasonal group. Small groups are where questions are welcomed, relationships deepen, and faith becomes personal and lived, not just discussed.

4. Serve in one simple, meaningful way.

You don't have to do everything, just one thing. Consider choosing one volunteer role that fits your schedule, abilities, and gifts. Here are some of our current needs to get you started.

- Help in the church office a few hours each month
- Help maintain and organize our shared spaces throughout the church one day a month
- Care for the kitchen by helping keep it tidy and organized, helping to empty the freezer/refrigerator each week, and taking inventory of our stocking needs
- Serve as a liturgist, usher, greeter, acolyte, or communion server once a month
- Assist our facilities volunteers with maintenance projects
- Assist our production teams with livestream and sound
- Help maintain our grounds and prayer garden, keeping them clean and beautiful
- Refresh our bulletin boards and announcement areas throughout the church
- Co-lead a small group, discussion group, or Sunday School class



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- Support our youth and children's programming
- Help with our Tuesday ACEC chapel or our Thursday Morning Pointe worship programs
- Pack CANUP food kits one afternoon per month
- Sing with the choir

These roles may seem small, but they create a warm, sacred, and well-functioning church where ministry can thrive.

5. Invite someone to 'come and see'.

One of the most powerful ways to support the life of the church costs nothing but courage. This year, we invite you to **personally invite at least one person to come and see what God is doing at Asbury**: a neighbor, friend, coworker, or family member. A simple invitation to attend worship, a small group, or a special service can open the door to belonging, healing, and renewed faith. Churches don't grow through promotion alone; they grow because someone cared enough to say, *"Come sit with me."*

Closing Reflection

Asbury is re-anchoring itself in the United Methodist vision to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. Rooted in tradition and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit, we are becoming a more connected, compassionate, and courageous community of faith. As Asbury looks ahead, we choose to serve joyfully. Rooted in the joy of the Lord, we find the strength to continue, to care for one another, and to step faithfully into the future God is unfolding before us.

Thank you for being a church that shows up, gives generously, serves faithfully, and believes that God is still at work among us. The foundation is strong. The invitation is open. And the year ahead is filled with hope.

With deep gratitude,

The Church Council

Asbury United Methodist Church

Where All Are Welcome. Always.