



201 South Main Street, Greeneville, TN. 37743 | 423.798.1050 | www.asburylife.org

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September



"God's love surrounds me today and every day"

ASBURY

Since 1875

A United Methodist Church

Loving God, Growing Together, Reaching Out

From the Pastor's Desk
September 2025



“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”
— Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

Dear Church Family & Friends,

September is here, and with it comes the tempering of the warm breeze of late summer, the hum of back-to-school preparations, and the hopeful stirrings of a new season of ministry at Asbury. While the temperatures may still say summer, our hearts are already turning toward fall—a season of fresh purpose and renewed faith.

We are entering this season with excitement, energy, and expectation, and I'm thrilled to share some of what God is doing in and through our church:

New Ministries Launching This Month

Abundant Life Bible Study @ Laughlin Life Care Center-Every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., we'll be hosting a weekly Bible Study at Laughlin Life Care Center in Greeneville. Please join us as we commit to our mission statement of love, Grow Reach!

- **Morning Glory@ Morning Pointe Bible Study** – Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m., we'll be hosting a weekly Bible study at Morning Pointe Senior Living in Greeneville. Join us as we bring comfort, community, and the Word of God to our senior neighbors.
- **Tiny Seeds Chapel** – Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., we partner with the Asbury Child Enrichment Center to offer a joyful, age-appropriate chapel service for our 3–4-year-olds. A precious time where the seeds of faith are lovingly planted.
- **Camp Fire Covenant Men's Ministry** – Kicking off Wednesday, September 4, this new monthly men's ministry invites all men to gather for spiritual growth, mutual support, and real fellowship around the fire of God's Word.
- **Crochet Corner**-Every Thursday at 4:00 pm. Free yarn, free hooks and free snacks. Just bring yourself and a teachable spirit.
- **Spiritual Practices**-Rev. Sharon Bowers-Wednesday at 6:00 pm. (5:15 pm. Dinner)
- **Building Bridges Weakening Walls** - Wednesday at 6:00 pm. (5:15 pm. Dinner)

And more...

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Blank page any ideas?

Could we put the church calendar sept / oct calendar?



You are cordially invited to join our small group studies/ conversations/ fellowship. Please see Church website for additional details.



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Bible Studies for All Ages

This fall we are offering new Bible studies for children, youth, adults, and seniors. Whether you're returning after summer or just beginning your faith journey, you're invited to join us in learning and living God's truth.

- Making Sense of the Bible-John Reviere
- Reckless Love-Sheri Whitfield

Sunday School for Both Services

- Sisters By Grace-Marcia Parson
- LaRue Class-Steve Parsons
- Family Enrichment Small Group-Ryan McMillin & Abby Whitaker Martin
- A New Cooperative Parish Relationship

We're thrilled to begin a new cooperative parish with our Greene County neighbors: Pruitt Hill UMC and Tate Chapel UMC, under the leadership of their new pastor, Rev. Pfwanga Muyambo. Together, we are committed to deepening our Methodist witness in Greene County and beyond through shared outreach, worship, and community-building. Our first joint initiative launched on August 27, 2025: **Building Bridges and Weakening Walls** – A District Grant-funded children's ministry that begins our shared work with creativity and love for the next generation.

Welcome Ms. Kathy Bevins!

We're overjoyed to welcome Ms. Kathy Bevins as our new Office Administrator! With her gracious spirit and heart for the church, she's a gift to our ministry. Stop by the office and give her a warm Asbury welcome!

A Very Special Visit: Bishop Debra Wallace -Padgett

As part of our ongoing 150-Year Church Anniversary Celebration, we are honored to welcome our Holston Conference Bishop, the Rev. Debra Wallace-Padgett, to worship with us on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 10:30 am for a blended service in the main sanctuary. Mark your calendar for this historic and spirit-filled moment in the life of our church—you won't want to miss it!

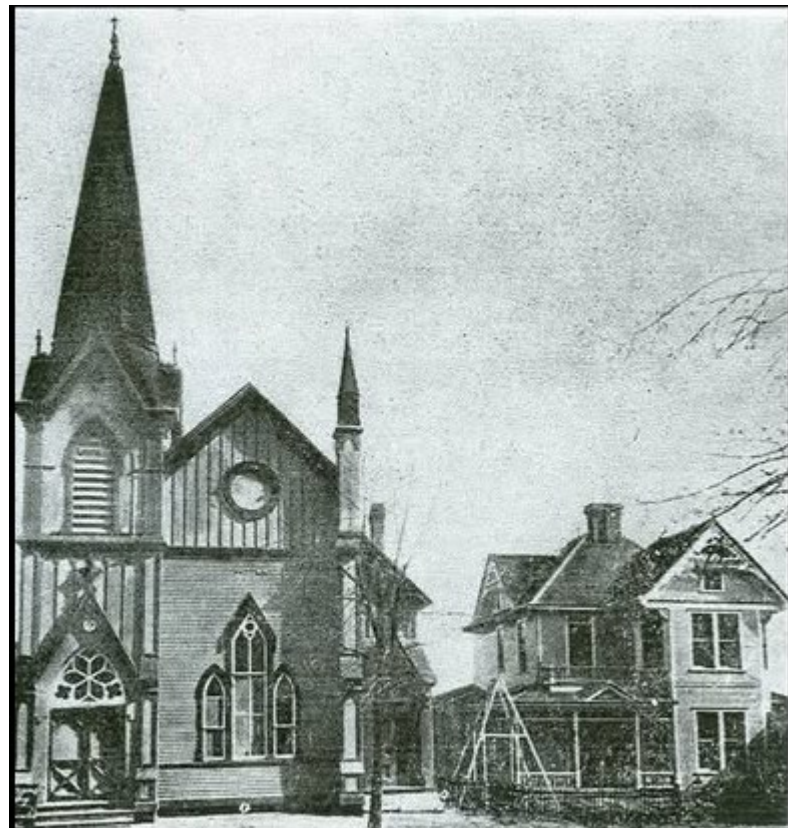
As Isaiah reminds us, God is doing a new thing among us—can you see it? Let's step into this season together, with open hearts, willing hands, and great expectation for the blessings to come.

With joy and gratitude,
Rev. Sharon Bowers

Lead Pastor, Asbury United Methodist Church

HAVE AN EVENT YOU WANT TO PUT ON A PUBLIC CALENDAR?
PLEASE SUBMIT TO JOHN REVIERE and KATHY BEVINS FOR POSTING IN THE MONTHLY NEWS LETTERS.

150 Years in Ministry to Greenville and surrounding areas



Kevin James and family ready help to package up kits for CANUP. Won't you come out and help next time?



Mission Opportunity – Food Kits for the Homeless

Asbury UMC has an opportunity to partner with CANUP (Coalition Addressing the Needs of Un-housed People) and provide food kits for those in need. CANUP delivers over 500 food kits a month to homeless individuals, estimated to be over 100 in our community during the last count conducted by the organization.

How can you help? The food kits consist of 9 items in a one gallon sized bag. The 9 categories are:

Category 1: protein – tuna or chicken in a package or can; beanie weenies, Vienna sausage, pork 'n beans, etc.

Category 2: individual-sized vegetable cups (peel top), typically sold 4 or more to a pack.

Category 3: individual-sized fruit cups (peel top)

Category 4: any kind of wrapped dessert – ie. Moon Pie, pudding, etc.

Category 5: small sleeve of Ritz crackers – comes several to a box

Category 6: small individual-sized chips – comes in a large box of assorted chips

Category 7: bottled water

Category 8: Peanut butter cups – sold 8 to a package

Category 9: Granola bars

Our goal is to package 50+ food kits a month. You can donate items from the categories above for volunteers to pack, build a kit yourself with all the items, or donate money and we'll do the shopping for you. Donations for the kits will be staged in the Wesley Room on the 1st floor by Sisters of Grace. Volunteers will assemble the kits the last Wednesday of each month. They will then be delivered to CANUP for distribution.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact **Kevin James** at 423-470-2319 or dkevin.james@gmail.com. Monetary Donations are welcomed.

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

THE HISTORY OF ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM 1873 TO 2012



COMPILED BY
CAROLYN S. GREGG
APRIL 2012

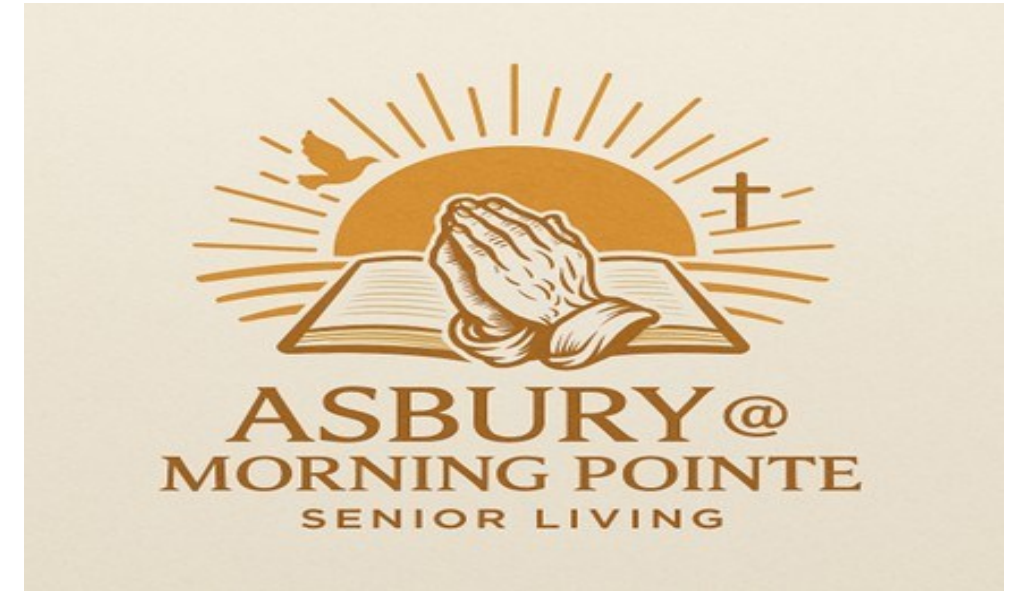
Entire history book is available for purchase. Please check in with Kathy in the Church Office, She will be happy to provide this wonderful memorial of Asbury's United Methodist church family.

Guest Speakers at Asbury 150th Anniversary Celebrations



Rev. Brad Hyde was our guest speaker July 13th. His pastoral heart has been shaped by service in diverse settings, from hospitals and shelters to vibrant congregations across the Holston Conference.

Now serving as the Lead Pastor of Bearden UMC in Knoxville, TN, Rev. Dr. Hyde brings that same passion and thoughtfulness to his ministry—blending deep theological insight with innovative, community-rooted outreach. Brad received his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and later completed a Doctorate of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary.



The beautiful ladies: Doris Allen, Lynn Reviere, Barbara Serral, Marge Saulsbury

Gather round the table for Bible Study at the Senior Center

The Ladies of Sister by Grace have a wonderful time at fragrant
Midfield Lavender Farm in June.



Guest Speakers at Asbury 150th Anniversary Celebrations



Rev. Mike Feely was our guest speak August 10th. Michael Feely serves as Director of Missions and Congregational Care at Christ UMC in Chattanooga. He has led ministries including Mountain TOP, Camp Lookout, and Henderson Settlement, and pastored churches in the Holston Conference. Michael has also served on Chattanooga's City Council, taught history as an adjunct professor, and held leadership roles with Habitat for Humanity, the Holston Foundation, and the Community Foundation.

He currently chairs the SEJ and Holston Conference Commissions on Archives and History, serves on the UMC General Commission on Archives and History, and edits *Historians Digest*. Michael and his wife, Annette, live in Chattanooga, where they enjoy time with their four adult children, a beloved old dog, and the Chattanooga Gospel Orchestra—where Michael occasionally plays trombone.





The Reverend Dr. Debra Wallace-Padgett was elected a Bishop of the United Methodist Church at the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. She served as the episcopal leader in the North Alabama Conference from 2012-2024, with the addition of the Holston Conference on September 1, 2021. On September 1, 2024, Bishop Wallace-Padgett began her new assignment in the Holston Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the West Virginia Conference of the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

At the time of her election, she was the lead pastor of St. Luke United Methodist Church in Lexington, Kentucky. During her tenure St. Luke grew in membership, strengthened its infrastructure, built a \$4.5 million Ministry Life Center, and launched a multi-cultural worship service. Prior to then, Wallace-Padgett served six years as Prestonsburg District Superintendent, three years as pastor of Paris First UMC, 11 years on staff at Lexington First UMC, and two years as Director of Christian Education at Lexington Epworth UMC. She also provided leadership in a variety of roles in the Kentucky Annual Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction, and General Church.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett was elected President of the World Methodist Council in Gothenburg, Sweden, on August 14, 2024. She has also served as President of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (2012-2016), a member of the Connectional Table (2012-2016), a member of the Commission on a Way Forward (2017-2019), and on the Council of Bishops Executive Committee (2014-2020), as well as chair of the Standing Committee on Evangelism for the World Methodist Council (2016-2024).

She is a graduate of Berea College (Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education), Scarritt College and Graduate School (Master of Arts in Christian Education), Lexington Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity), and Asbury Theological Seminary (Doctor of Ministry).

Bishop Wallace-Padgett is married to Reverend Lee Padgett, a retired deacon in the United Methodist Church. They are the parents of two adult children, Leannra Thompson (Alexander) and Andrew Padgett, and have two granddaughters (Crindalyn and Raylena Thompson).

We put together three wonderful receptions for our guest speakers in June (Doris, Judy, Lynn & Frankie), July (Rebekah and Sandra) and August (Debby & Rebekah). Special thanks to all the ladies who contributed pastries, fruit, flowers and their time.



June 6 reception hosts:

Lynn Reviere, Judy Reviere, Doris Allen, Marty Masker & Frankie Hagan

We also, joined the Sisters by Grace (although most of the UMW ladies are members of the Sunday School Class) on two field trips. One was to a lavender farm in June and another to a tea-room in Morristown in July.



Busy Bee Award: If you haven't noticed the alter kneeling pads in the last few weeks, you are going to be amazed at how clean they now are. That is thanks to **Judy Reviere**, who created her own magic potion and lovingly, but painstakingly dabbed the solution on those vintage, embroidered pads until they were stain free. Judy, thank you for all the behind-the-scenes chores you and Bart do for our church!

What's Next for the UMW?

September 19th: @ 10:30 Meeting Location: Debby Hendrix's home, for more information you email Debby @debbyandmarty@gmail.com for more details.

September 21st: 9:45 Reception for Bishop Wallace Padgett .

Vacation Bible School

Members enjoy food and fellowship at the May UMW meeting



Monthly meetings are a Mission of United Methodist Women. For more information or if you would like to participate please contact Dorris Allen @ (423) 329-9092.



The halls of Asbury echoed with laughter, music, and excitement as 32 children gathered for a 3 day morning Vacation Bible School (VBS), held from July 15th to July 17th. This year's scripture based theme brought stories of faith to life, leaving a lasting impression on young hearts and minds.



Fishers of People packing Canup bags

VBS was led by a dedicated and talented team of volunteers. We also included our ACEC children in the 3-4 and 4-5 year classrooms. Although their ACEC teachers came with them, our Asbury leaders were their VBS teachers. Children from ages 3-11 joined in for Bible lessons, worship, music, crafts, games/activities, and snacks—all designed to teach about Jesus and love in a fun, engaging way.



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Each day centered around a Bible story, reinforced through songs, crafts, and hands-on activities. Children learned scriptures about building your life on Jesus, being fishers of people, and how Jesus calms storms. Parents and teachers expressed that children came home singing about “the wise man” and “making fishers of men.”

VBS 2025 was more than just a summer activity—it was a powerful reminder of the church’s role in fostering faith and community. The decorations are down, the Fellowship Hall activities that allowed children to build, fish, and sail boats were put into storage, the healthy, fun snacks were eaten, the paint and glitter from the craft room has been cleaned, and the music has faded. However, the spirit of the week continues to live on in the hearts of all who were part of it.



A special thanks to all of our volunteers! Sandra Fox, Sarah McMillian, Emily Whitaker, Cindy Samms, Judy Reviere, Carol Bowers, Ivy Leonard, Amie Serral Moyer, Terri Lamons, Don Stansfield, Bert Bradley, Rebekah Taylor, Abby Whitaker Martin, Susan Cash, and Kristie Osterburg!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OF ASBURY

By Doris Allen, President

Happy Middle of Summer! Even though we have not met together in the last 3 months, it has been a busy time for the ladies of the UMW.

Our last meeting was held in May at the home of Judy Reviere with assistance from Judy Reviere. Lynn Reviere led us in a devotion and upcoming events and other business was discussed. It was decided to increase the scholarship amount this year. Andrew Whitaker was the high school scholarship recipient and Debby Hendrix presented him the award during the 10:00 service.

May meeting hosts:

Judy and Lynn Reviere

Lynn leads the May meeting in a devotion.

