



# ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

May 2025



## ASBURY

Since 1875

A United Methodist Church

*Loving God, Growing Together, Reaching Out*





Dear Asbury Family and Friends,

It's May, and summer is just around the corner! As the seasons change, so too does the energy at Asbury United Methodist Church. We're filled with excitement and anticipation for all that God is doing in and through our church.

We are especially encouraged by the participation in our leadership visioning process. Many dedicated individuals have stepped forward to help shape our future, and together we are leaning into God's call with faith and boldness.

As we look ahead, we are focusing on three primary strategies for the coming year—all aligned with our vision of Loving God, Growing Together, and Reaching our Community. These strategies will help guide our ministries, strengthen our church family, and expand our outreach in meaningful ways.

There are so many ways for you to get involved at Asbury:

**Mission & Benevolence:** Help visit those who are homebound and in nursing homes, pack hygiene kits, and serve those in need through our ongoing partnerships. - **Bible Study & Spiritual Growth:** Join our Wednesday studies or consider starting a new one—we're ready to support your leadership. - **Small Groups:** Prayer groups, study circles, and affinity-based fellowships are growing, and some are just waiting for someone like you to say "yes" and help lead. - **United Methodist Men & Women:** Our UMM and UMW are spaces for meaningful service, prayer, and support. - **Children, Youth, and Young Adults:** From Sunday school, to Youth Night to camp in the community, there are vibrant opportunities to grow in faith and fellowship. - **Older Adults:** Your wisdom is cherished. Join or lead gatherings that connect faith with life experience.

Asbury is ready and primed for an amazing year full of worship, service, growth, and renewed hope. I invite you to stay engaged, stay prayerful, and stay open to how God is moving in and among us.





## Rev. Kim Mustard Goddard Returns to AUMC as guest pastor!

Former AUMC pastor, Rev. Kim Mustard Goddard served as visiting pastor on Sunday, May 11th as part of Asbury's 150 year anniversary. It was also Mother's Day and AUMC mothers were honored and acknowledged with a gift.

In her sermon, Rev. Goddard reminded us, it's our turn. It's our turn to lean in, live in, love in the example of Christ for the generations who will follow. It's our turn to create the legacy that will shape the experiences of the future generations; a legacy of love and grace. For we are called to "Love the Lord [our] God with all our heart, our soul, and our mind...and to love our neighbor as our self." In this, there is no greater purpose.

A reception for Rev. Kim Mustard Goddard was enjoyed following the service.



And on a personal note, I want to offer my deepest and most heartfelt thanks to each of you for your prayers, encouragement, and continued support throughout my dissertation process. Your love has carried me through, and I do not take it for granted. Thank you for walking this journey with me.

Let's say "yes" together—and watch how God transforms lives through our faithfulness.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Sharon Bowers Lead Pastor, Asbury UMC

In dissertation mode!!





UMW IN ACTION!!!

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY!!

“Chef” Rodney Bell made this delicious meal for the teachers in the Asbury Enrichment Center for recognition of Teacher Appreciation Day! Pastor Bowers and Dee Roby managed to sneak in and enjoy the food and fellowship also!

Thank you so much Rodney!



Reception for Rev. Brent Hall

Hosted by Alice Russell, Sue Southerland and Doris Allen.

Reception for Rev. Kim Goddard  
Hosted by Terri Lamons, Stephanie Hite, and Doris Allen.





## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OF ASBURY



### MAY, 2025

What a wonderful UMW experience we had in April! We were so busy that we had to forgo having a monthly meeting, but so many wonderful memories were made through our work serving others.

4/13 – Reception #2 for Rev. Brent Hall (150 Anniversary Celebration)

4/16 - Holy Week Wednesday Meal – Menu: Hot Chicken Salad, Cranberry Salad, Green Beans, Rolls & Coconut Cream Cake. The tables were decorated with vases of white daisies and a purple straw flower. The estimated attendance was 60.

5/11 – Reception #3 for Rev. Kim Goddard (150 Anniversary Celebration)

### What's next?

5/18 - Potluck meal – We are hosting a meal for the Rev Cecil Mills and the Friendship Baptist Church congregation who will be attending. Please bring a dish and plan to fellowship.

5/18 – Scholarship award to a high school senior.

5/20 - We are still working on our hygiene kits for Liberia. At this time, we have not met our goal of 100, but we are so proud and grateful for the 60+ that has been donated as of May 12<sup>th</sup>.

6/8 – Reception #4 for Jeanne Higgins – 9:45 in the front of church, weather permitting.

NO MEETINGS IN JUNE – JULY – AUGUST. Enjoy your summer!

NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> (3<sup>RD</sup> Thursday of the month) - Place to be announced soon.

## ONE GOD, ONE VOICE, ONE FAMILY



Rev. C.C. Mills, Pastor of Friendship

On Sunday, May 18th a historic event occurred! The congregations of Friendship Baptist Church and Asbury United Methodist Church came together to worship as one family! This joint service was such a blessing!



Friendship Baptist Church Choir



Some of the congregation!



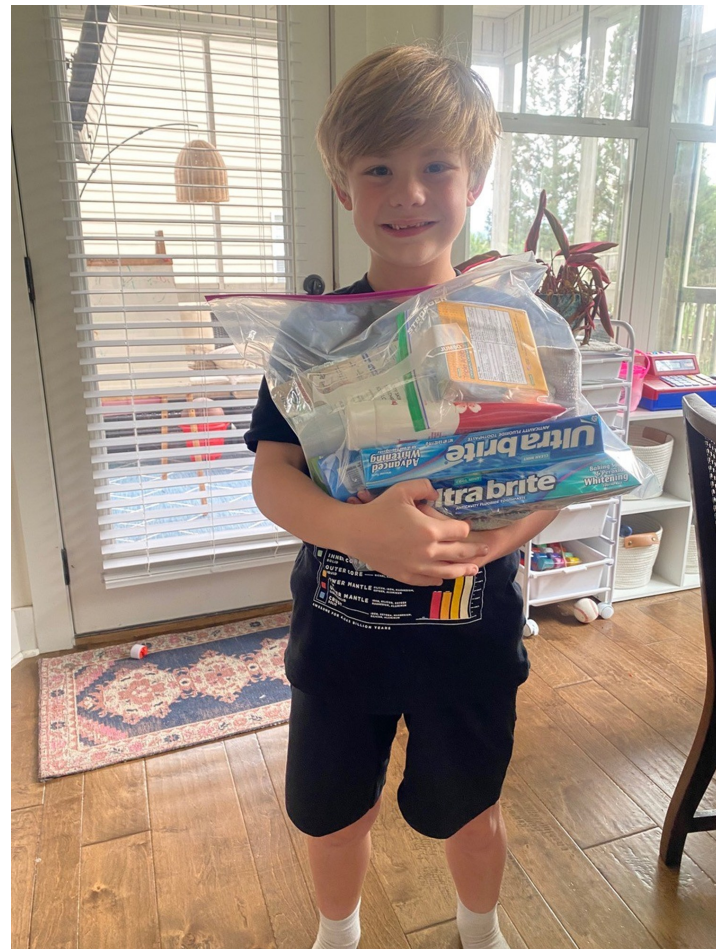
Don Stansfield, III sharing a Bible story with the children.



More proud assistants!







Proud assistants!!



## ***CONGRATULATIONS ANDREW!!!***

Debbie Hendrix presented Andrew Whitaker with the AUMW scholarship!  
He will be pursuing a career in music education.



Andrew Whitaker's proud family!





Cindy Sams  
Traditional Minister Of Music



### **The History of AUMC Choirs**

#### Chancel Choir

Asbury's Chancel Choir is blessed with the talents of many singers who enjoy lifting their voices in praise on Sunday mornings and for special services during Christmas, Easter, and other occasions. The cantatas they share with the church have included string ensembles, brass choirs, and visiting singers from area churches. They hosted The Home of the Brave to honor veterans and were joined by members of several other choirs in this event. They will take requests and have shared their songs with nursing homes in their attempt to bring joy to others. Their Christmas and Easter cantatas also incorporate favorite classics as well as more modern Christian music to reach the various music preferences of the whole church. These loyal participants in the services provide solos as well as ensemble music while leading the worship service all during the year. They invite others to join them in their worship experiences as well as the enjoyment of each other in their practice sessions and outings. Reading music is NOT a requirement—only enjoying singing is essential. Members will gladly help new members to learn the songs and more about music. Try out this choir—you may become the newest member. All they ask is that you love singing and being with others who also love music!



Doris Allen and Marcia Parsons  
sorting kit items.





### **Thank you church family - we met our goal!**

One hundred personal hygiene kits for Liberia, along with a check for \$800 to cover the shipping costs, were delivered by Asbury to our district office in Morristown this past week. Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to meet our ambitious goal of 100 that the UMW and our Youth set for our church back in March. These hygiene kits, which include shampoo, body lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, body spray, wash cloth, hand towel, ibuprofen and anti-bacterial ointment, were added to the kits collected from other churches within the Mountain View District to hopefully meet the District's goal of 500 kits. The collected kits will go to the Holston Annual Conference, where after prayer and a big celebratory send-off, the kits will be shipped to Liberia. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this vital ministry, participating in the Great Commission by sharing the good news of the love of Jesus Christ through these gifts. (The pictures show the kits being packed up for delivery by Doris Allen and Marcia Parsons, along with pictures of some children who helped make the kits, Rilee Lamons and the grandchildren of Steve and Marcia Parsons, Grayce Parsons and Rose and Thomas Arrowood.)



### **Reflections Choir**

The Reflection Choir was formed for the senior adults who enjoy singing and spending time with others. This group has traveled to area churches, senior citizens centers, nursing homes, and Dollywood to share their Christmas, Easter, and other cantatas. They also provide the music leadership in many of the Sunday Early Services. They enjoy doing solos, duets, and three-part music as they use their talents to serve Asbury and the neighboring communities. They have hosted the Harvest of Musical Memories for several years to bring together singers from other churches on a Sunday night in October to provide good “old-time” music for the local area churches. No music reading is needed. Just join them at their rehearsals and learn how you can enjoy fellowship and music at the same time!

### **Handbell Choir**

To Ring or Not to Ring is the theme of the eleven ringers who make up the Handbell Choir. They group provides music for special services during the year. Practice is an enjoyable experience as they work to join their bells in harmony to play as many as eight notes at the same time. Christmas and Easter seasons are the times they work to provide exciting songs for the worship services. They always welcome new ringers to provide more bells for the music—the more ringers they have, the more music they can perform. Check them out!



## ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT FULL OF FUN AND GAMES AND THE EASTER BUNNY!!!

Asbury's Annual Easter Egg continued its tradition of being a fun-filled event for Asbury children past and present, our ACEC children, members young and old, and children in the community! Besides lunch and an egg hunt, other activities included a cake walk, a tattoo station, a craft station, cookie decorating, bunny bowling, golf, carrot ring toss, guessing numbers of objects in a jar, word searches, and of course pictures with the Easter Bunny! Thank you to everyone who donated candy, plastic eggs, food and drink items, your time, and your good thoughts and prayers. It was heartwarming to have our adult children who participated as children, bring their young children back to Asbury for the celebration and egg hunt. It is truly a tradition and an event that continues to contribute to 150 years of service!



Easter Bunny and friends!



Enjoying Easter activities!

“Scrambling” for Easter eggs!

