

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



“Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him; bless his name. “

Psalms 100:4

ASBURY

Since 1875

 A United Methodist Church

Loving God, Growing Together, Reaching Out



 A United Methodist Church

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Season of Thanksgiving 2025

From the Pastor’s Desk
Asbury UMC Newsletter – 2025

Dear Asbury Family,

As we enter this beautiful season of Thanksgiving, I want to ask you to consider not just doing Thanksgiving business as usual, but start this holiday by taking a few moments to pause and reflect—not just on the meals, the gatherings, or the decorations, but on the deeper, heart-level gratitude that comes from recognizing God’s hand in our lives. Friends, had it not been for the Lord on our side, we would have already been consumed, and the knowledge of that alone should be enough to make us stop and say thank you.

Let us give thanks with a profoundly grateful heart, taking a few quiet moments to remember the places God has brought us to and the challenges God has brought us through.

Scripture for Thanksgiving:
“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” – Psalm 107:1

To enrich our time of reflection, I’d like to introduce you to *Lectio Divina*, a prayerful way of reading Scripture that helps us hear God speaking directly to our hearts. Here is Psalm 107:1 in three different translations—take a moment with each:

NIV (New International Version): “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”

ESV (English Standard Version): “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!”

MSG (The Message): “Thank God! God’s love never runs out. His faithfulness never quits.”

Gratitude Journal: From Thanksgiving to Christmas
A Season of Thanks and Hope
Continued

Week 3: Joy – Finding Beauty in the Everyday

Day 1: What made you smile today?

Day 2: Who brings laughter into your life?

Day 3: What song, verse, or quote lifts your spirit?

Day 4: Describe a moment when you felt God’s presence.

Day 5: What’s one way you can share joy with others?

Day 6: What memory always brings you happiness?

Day 7: What’s one gift in your life that money can’t buy?

Week 4: Love – Celebrating the Gift of Christ

Day 1: Who has shown you unconditional love?

Day 2: What does ‘Emmanuel – God with us’ mean to you?

Day 3: How have you seen love at work this season?

Day 4: What are you most grateful for today?

Day 5: How can you carry the spirit of gratitude beyond Christmas?

Day 6: Write a thank-you note (to God, someone you love, or yourself).

Day 7: What has this season of gratitude taught you?

Gratitude Journal: From Thanksgiving to Christmas

A Season of Thanks and Hope

Week 1: Thanksgiving – Cultivating a Grateful Heart

Day 1: What is one blessing from this year you’re most thankful for?

Day 2: Who has shown you kindness recently?

Day 3: What simple pleasure brings you joy today?

Day 4: Write about a challenge that taught you something good.

Day 5: Name three things in nature you’re thankful for.

Day 6: What’s a tradition or memory that warms your heart?

Day 7: How can you express gratitude to someone this week?

Week 2: Advent – Waiting with Hope

Day 1: What gives you hope right now?

Day 2: Who helps you see light in dark times?

Day 3: What are you looking forward to this season?

Day 4: Describe a small act of kindness you received.

Day 5: What helps you feel peaceful during busy days?

Day 6: How can you bring joy to someone today?

Day 7: What blessing have you overlooked lately?

(continued from previous page)

How to use *Lectio Divina*:

1. Read slowly – Take one version at a time and read it slowly, aloud or silently.
2. Reflect – Let the words sink in. What phrase or word catches your heart?
3. Respond – Pray with the scripture. Speak your thanks, your worries, your hopes to God.

Rest – Sit quietly and let God’s presence fill you.

Friends, as your pastor, I want you to know how deeply grateful I am for every member of the Asbury family. Your love, your service, your prayers, and your faithfulness make our church a place where God’s kingdom grows. Recently, I heard Terri Lamons describe Asbury as the “people’s church,” and my heart was “strangely warmed!” I am humbled and inspired by your commitment to one another and to our community.

This Thanksgiving, may your hearts overflow with gratitude for all God has done and continues to do. Let us not forget to give thanks daily, in little and large ways.

I continue to be grateful, grateful, grateful!

With love and thanksgiving,

Rev. Sharon Bowers

Lead Pastor, Asbury UMC



On Sunday, October 26th, Asbury United Methodist Church came together in a spirit of deep gratitude and heartfelt celebration for a truly special occasion Give Them Flowers Now –**Honoring Our Living Legacies**. The sanctuary was filled with warmth, love, and reverence as the congregation gathered to recognize our cherished members in their 90s, whose unwavering faith, tireless service, and gentle wisdom have helped shape the heart and soul of Asbury for generations.



Pastor Sharon Bowers Pictured with our cherished members



Honoring Nancy Worley



Honoring
Jermaine Reece-
Cutshaw (np)



Honoring Barbara Serral

Join Us for Sunday Worship!

We'd love for you to join us this Sunday as we come together in worship, fellowship, and study of God's Word!

Traditional Service – 10:00 AM

Join us for a meaningful time of worship filled with timeless hymns, scripture, and reflection.

Contemporary Service – 11:00 AM

Come experience a vibrant service with uplifting music, relevant teaching, and a welcoming atmosphere for all ages.

Sunday School Classes– 9:00 AM

- Sisters by Grace** with *Marcia Parsons* – A time of encouragement, study, and connection for women seeking to grow in faith together.
- Life in the Kingdom Class** with *Steve Parsons* – “*Mark: The Essential Gospel*” – Dive into the Gospel of Mark and discover the heart of Jesus’ ministry and message.

Sunday School Classes– 10:00 AM

- Coffee and Conversations** – A relaxed and welcoming time of *praying God’s Word, meaningful conversation and connection, and coffee with breakfast treats.*

Whether you’re new to the community or a longtime member, there’s a place for you here. Come as you are and be part of a Sunday filled with worship, learning, and fellowship!

New Bible Study for Advent

Advent Study 2025: “What Do I Want for Christmas?”

Saturdays, Nov. 29 – Dec. 20 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon (light breakfast at 9:30)

Join us for a four-week Advent study based on James W. Moore’s book as we explore the true gifts of the season—**Hope, Freedom, Christ, and Salvation**—through Scripture, reflection, and fellowship. This Study is in partnership with our parish church's Pruitt Hill & Tate Chapel. Books are available. Last year we had a great time, and we are expecting more of the same this year.

All are welcome!

From the first whistle to the final bite, our Asbury volunteers make sure the Greenville Devils are well-fed and game-day ready. This week's delicious spread – Baked Ziti, Breadsticks, Chicken Alfredo, Salad, and Brownies – was the perfect recipe for a touchdown!



Honoring Frank Jennings



Honoring Felty Massengill



Honoring Marge Salsbury



Honoring Ruth Whitfield



Honoring Lou Coleman



Honoring Lynn Reviere

Trunk or Treat 2025

Kids of all ages came together for a grand evening



Happenings at Asbury Child Enrichment Center:

NOVEMBER

ACEC
Monthly
Newsletter

Cooler Weather Is Here

Please make sure your child brings a jacket or something warm to wear while playing outside. State licensing rules require us to have outdoor play when temperatures are between 32°F (including wind chill) and 95°F (including heat index). Also, please remember to label all of your child's belongings, including jackets, hats, and gloves. This helps us ensure items make their way back home each day!

Cold & Flu Season Prevention

- Teach proper hand washing (20 seconds, soap + warm water)
- Encourage covering coughs and sneezes with elbows
- Bring **extra changes of clothes** to limit germ spread
- Keep children home if fever $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ or vomiting within 24 hours

Dates to Remember

- ACEC Family Thanksgiving Meal 11/20
- ACEC Closed 11/27 & 11/28

Happy Birthday To...

Manny	11/08
Tucker	11/10
Frankie	11/13

Reminder

Kindly return the Thanksgiving meal order form and payment (exact change or check) to your child's teacher on or before November 10th.





By Doris Allen,
President

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OF ASBURY

Change to meeting time was approved to 11:30 - 1:00 so that members could attend the Morning Pointe Bible Study held weekly at 10:00 am.

Next meeting is November 20th @ 11:30, and every third Thursday of every month.

This month will be in the Parlor, light lunch will be provided.



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.



On Wednesday, October 29th, we held our annual Trunk or Treat community event. Due to rain, we moved inside, turning Trunk or Treat into Table or Treat, and everyone had a wonderful time. We are grateful for our community and feel blessed by the dedication of our ladies, and gents, who wear many hats and especially enjoy spending time with the children.



From the Trustee’s Committee Lead
Bob Leonard:

As we wrap up the third quarter of 2025, I want to take a moment not just to provide a stewardship update—but to reflect more broadly on all that’s happening at Asbury. We have more than numbers to report—we have a story of faith, leadership, and community to celebrate.

Faithful Financial Support

We’re on target with our annual giving goals—a strong position for this point in the year. In past years, we’ve often entered the fourth quarter needing to close a large gap. This year, thanks to your generous response to the Challenge Gift Campaign and the steady commitment of our congregation, we’re tracking right where we need to be.

We’re also ahead of last year’s giving—an encouraging trend and a testament to your faith in Asbury’s mission.

Ministry in Action

Ministry is thriving at Asbury. Our small groups continue to grow, fostering connection and spiritual growth. The Benevolence Team is actively supporting those in need throughout our community, and our United Methodist Women recently provided a full meal for the Greeneville High football team—another beautiful example of love in action.

We’re also seeing a renewed focus on reaching out to members in assisted living, ensuring no one is left out of the life of the church.

Investing in Our Church Home

We’ve made meaningful improvements to our facilities. A new boiler and updated temperature control systems were installed this month, helping us steward our building resources more efficiently.

Our incredible volunteer maintenance crew, led by Tom Smith and Bart Reviere, has completed dozens of projects across the campus. Their work has made a visible impact on the beauty, safety, and functionality of our church home.

Shared Leadership and Commitment

Asbury continues to thrive thanks to a strong and faithful leadership team. The Church Council has played a vital role in guiding our mission and supporting the many ministries that make Asbury a place of welcome, worship, and service.

We are especially grateful for the steady and visionary leadership of Rev. Bowers, whose pastoral care and outreach continue to expand Asbury’s ministry beyond our walls. Her commitment to building deeper relationships and engaging with the broader community is helping shape a more connected and compassionate church.

We also want to recognize Kathy in the office, whose tireless behind-the-scenes work keeps our operations running smoothly. Her dedication and attention to detail are essential to the day-to-day life of Asbury, and we are deeply thankful for her service.

A Grateful Perspective

We’re seeing real momentum across our congregation, and it’s inspiring. This response reflects a church that deeply believes in the work God is doing through our community. Your gifts are helping us serve, grow, and impact lives in powerful and lasting ways.

Thank you to all who have made a difference so far this year. As we enter the final stretch of 2025, let’s stay faithful and finish strong with our giving so we can complete our goals and continue the mission God has laid before us.

With gratitude,
Bob Leonard

Benevolence Corner

My Neighbor’s House is a new 501©(3) non-profit organization in Greene County, formed this year in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene by three dedicated women who had been working with the flood victims. Seeing the gaps in existing support systems for our county’s most vulnerable residents and moved by their shared compassion and faith, Abby Cole Keller and Jana Wills, later aided by Louise Crum, envisioned and put into action a plan that reshapes how local assistance is provided. As stated on its website, My Neighbor’s House works year-round, bridging the gaps in resources, fostering community resilience and ensuring that support is always available, not just in moments of crisis but in everyday struggles.

The name “*My Neighbor’s House*” was inspired by the Biblical passage from Luke 10:27, which states, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

I serve on the board of My Neighbor’s House and it is evident to me that God is mightily at work in this endeavor. In just the few months since the organization was first formed, it has already found a home in the former Bradburn Hill United Methodist Church, located just a mile out of town on Kingsport Highway. Supported by grants from organizations such as AIDNET and United Way, donations and fundraisers, MNH has already been meeting the needs of our community with financial need, clothing, and food. The facility is currently being readied so that it can be a home base for non-profits and the fellowship hall can be rented out for events, providing additional funding for the services provided by MNH. The Board is comprised of ministers and leaders from our local churches. To read more about MNH, you can go to its website, at <https://www.welcometomnh.com>. Or you can visit, as the office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 5:00.

Additionally, to meet the food needs of our community during the federal government shut-down and the cut in SNAP benefits, MNH will be open Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the month of November from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., so that working families can pick-up food at a convenient time. I urge you, if you are able, to consider making a monetary or food donation to MNH, or even volunteering to help distribute food, as they are asking churches to volunteer for a night.

Please do not hesitate to contact me about MNH if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Marcia Parsons