



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

February 2025



ASBURY

Since 1875

A United Methodist Church

Loving God, Growing Together, Reaching Out

ASBURY BEHIND THE SCENE!



Dear Asbury Family,

This is the season of love, reflection, and renewal. We have the awesome opportunity to exist in the tension of leaving Winter behind and welcoming Spring. This is such a time that necessitates that we process where we are and where we want to be. Also, this month, we celebrate Black History Month, honoring the rich contributions of African Americans to our faith, community, and nation. It is a time to celebrate our shared history and commit ourselves to the work of justice, reconciliation, and unity in Christ. We are ALL in the “circle of life” together and we are much better together than we could ever be apart.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 New International Version

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

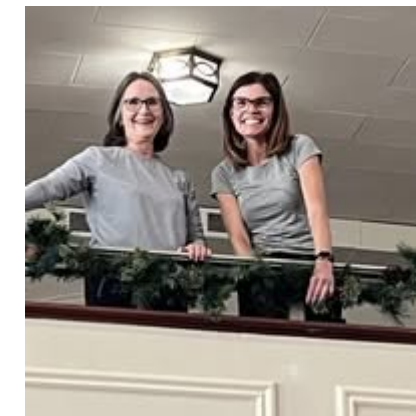
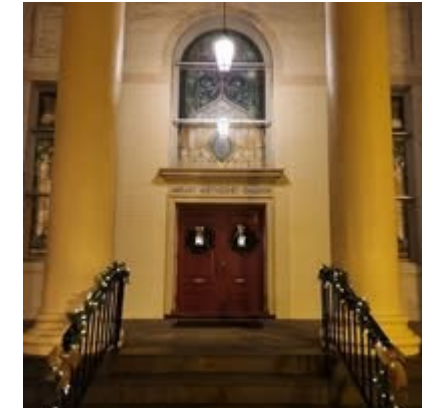
February also brings us closer to the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 14 and Easter (Resurrection) Sunday on April 20, 2025. This sacred time calls us to search our hearts, deepen our spiritual practices, and draw closer to God. Many of us just completed a 21-day fast in preparation for our upcoming time of prayer and self-denial. I encourage each of you to consider joining us in the Lenten journey with opportunities to experience forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation. This is a season where each of us can mend our hearts, seek God’s direction for our person and shared “next big steps” and commit to advancing the kingdom of God at Asbury by loving fiercely, growing spirituality, and reaching out to the community like Jesus did. We can live out our commission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world one encounter at a time.

As our ministries continue to grow and thrive, we are excited to launch a new worship service on Sunday evening, For Youth by Youth! I hope that you are finding a place to connect, to get deeper involved and make Asbury your “sweet spot!” Your presence and participation make a difference!

Let us continue to be a church that God can count on to love out loud, not just in February but always! I am grateful for each of you and look forward to all that God has in store for Asbury UMC in the coming weeks.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Sharon





Asbury UMC Prom Closet

COME FIND YOUR PERFECT PROM DRESS
AND TAKE IT HOME FOR \$10!

WHO: ANY 8TH-12TH GRADER NEEDING A PROM DRESS

WHEN: FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 4PM-8PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 9AM-2PM

WHERE: ASBURY UMC
201 S. MAIN ST.
GREENEVILLE, TN 37743



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



Andrew Johnson Bank



Making a Difference Together

Bob Leonard

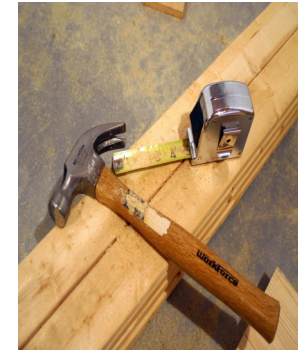
Elevating Our Kitchen – A Job Well Done!

Rev. Bowers has encouraged us to elevate ourselves, and that’s exactly what has happened in our church kitchen! Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers, the kitchen has undergone an incredible transformation in both cleanliness and organization.

This project would not have been possible without the hard work of our amazing volunteers: **John Cash, Michele Loven, Emily Bell, Jeff Taylor, Stephanie Hite, Ivy Leonard, Holly McGaw, Doris Allen, and Tom Smith.**

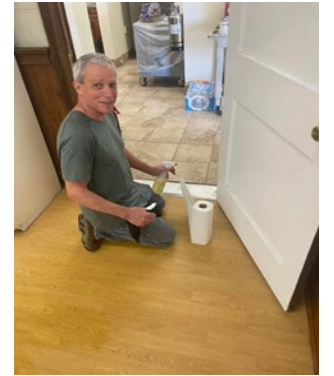
Editorial Note: A special “Thank You” to Bob Leonard, who organized this project!!





Rebuilding Homes — Rebuilding Lives

By Tom Smith



I have helped people around me fix things my whole life. I have been blessed to be able to retire early with good health. Myself and many other volunteers say “How can we not help?” I was talking to Steve Burkhart (who does disaster and needy people’s rebuilds) about volunteering on one of his projects before Helene. As the event unfolded, I asked him who to talk to about helping needy flood victims. He told me to contact AIDNET for Greene County. When I talked to them they said they would love to partner with Church groups that could support their mission with volunteers and finances.

Working on these projects has been very moving and every single person has prayed with us as we work through the projects. We did have one individual that did witness with us. He says he is a changed man. He and his wife have joined a church near their home. When people thank us we tell them “you are welcome, glad we can help and we are doing what Jesus tells us to do”.

With AIDNET, CARE, Church Street, Concord UMC’s of Knoxville, local citizens and Nazarene Disaster we have helped thirteen residents. Asbury has been heavily involved financially and volunteering on three homes. We will be working on three more as time goes on. Every family you meet starts with the horror story of the event, then as you talk about what and how we can start to get them back together the tears and hugs start to flow. The most gratifying thing is to see the joy, hope and smiles when they start seeing some progress, like the day they don’t have to worry about finding a trade, or when they see the house with the drywall in.



After restoration



Before restoration



AUMC Celebrates 150th Anniversary!!

Carolyn Gregg

During each month material will be provided in the newsletter about the history of the buildings, organizations, projects, and other special events in the life of the church. We will have bulletin boards in the halls to show photos. We are asking members to provide any information that they may have about the life of Asbury since 1875. We plan to have a history moment in the bulletin each week honoring people and events that occurred.

We invite you to bring us photos or tell us stories of things that were important to you. We will include your information with the material collected. Our committee includes Doris Allen, Sharon Bowers, Bill Brown, Carolyn Gregg, Marcia Parsons, John Reviere, Dee Roby, Cindy Sams, Jeff Taylor, and Abby Whitaker. We welcome other members to join us in searching for information. Just contact one of these people to let them know you will assist us in this project. Please check out what we will be presenting each week.

Please walk to the front of the church and look at the cornerstone to see what name is there.. It is on the left column near the stairway.

FUN FACT: The Names of Our Church

Methodist Episcopal Church (North)—1875-1908

Asbury Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church—1908-1968

Asbury United Methodist Church—1968- Present



Youth Ministry
Rev. Natasha DeBord

We had such an amazing January! We were blessed to be able to take 18 youth to Resurrection this year. The band FRVR FREE led in musical worship each session with Adam and Tega bringing the message. The weekend was spent being reminded of who Jesus is and who we are in God’s eyes. The best part of the weekend was getting to see things click for our group. The conversations we had after sessions were both enlightening and thoughtful. This seems to be our best Resurrection as a group yet. Each and every person that was on the trip had a wonderful time and can’t wait until next year!

Looking forward to February, the youth have asked to make Valentine’s Day cards for our local nursing homes. It is exciting to hear them asking to engage with those outside of our walls. Especially to reach out to others they don’t even know. So to honor their request, we will be making Valentine’s Day cards and get some other goodies to share with the residents of local nursing homes.

Lastly, I have a request. We are looking for others to help minister to our young adults and children. If you feel led to help with a Wednesday meal or to just hang out with us as another adult during our lessons, let someone know! If you feel you are interested in helping us get a youth centered service up and going, reach out to us! If nothing else, I encourage you to continue to pray for both our children and young adults, and all those involved in these areas. I look forward to hearing from you!



ASBURY UMW REPORT – Doris Allen, Chair

NEXT MEETING:

FEBRUARY 20TH

10:00 AM

CHURCH PARLOR ON 2ND FLOOR

The ladies of the UMW were blessed to provide a meal for the family of Phyllis Stansfield following her funeral on February 1st. Phyllis was a member of the UMW for many years.

We will be assisting the **PROM CLOSET** committee by helping girls select their dresses **March 7th and 8th**. Anyone who would like to be a part of this wonderful program, can contact Emily Bell and let her know what hours you can work. We will be setting up during the week prior to the event. If you have or know of anyone who has gently used formal dresses, please bring them by the Church Office during office hours. We will be taking them year-round as well.

We sent Valentine cards which included a gift card to our college students. We hope they enjoyed them and let them know their church family remembers and prays for them often.

We look forward to providing the women in our congregation an opportunity to fellowship, provide scholarships and service to our church and our community. If you are not yet a UMW member, please join us anytime.

Contact **Doris Allen @ 423-329-9092** if you have any questions.

ELEVATE!!

By Dr. Rebekah Taylor

“Elevate your mind, get yourself together!” is a cheer many of us may remember from our younger days. If so, the tune and beat are most likely playing in your heads as you read this!

Reverend Bowers recently spoke of her former cheerleading days at South Greene High School and referenced this cheer as words of inspiration to Asbury. SPRC is committed to elevating our minds to think big and possibly differently than in the past. We are meeting monthly rather than quarterly. This enables us to stay abreast of things happening in our church and act upon them as quickly as possible. We are committed to Elevating Our Minds and Elevating Asbury. We have a lot to be proud of and to cheer about. Grab your pom poms and banners, and let’s all follow the lead of our pastor. Let’s Elevate Our Minds!

