



Kevin Janes, Don Fox, Sandra Fox and Judy Reviere. Don is saying "No, Kevin, over there!"

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

April



"Death could not hold Him.
Rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!"

ASBURY

Since 1875

A United Methodist Church

Loving God, Growing Together, Reaching Out



James Gregg



CELEBRATING RESURRECTION, RENEWAL, AND VISION

HE IS RISEN!

What a joy it is walking through Holy Week with each of you—beginning with the palms of praise, moving through the sobering steps of Good Friday, and arriving at the glorious celebration of Easter morning. We are Resurrection people, and Easter reminds us that new life is always possible through Christ.

From sunrise services to the joyful noise of music and the sacred sharing of communion, Holy Week at Asbury will be Spirit-filled and deeply meaningful. Thank you to all who are committed to making it such a special time—your prayers, presence, and participation bring new life to every moment.

A VISION FORWARD – ASBURY VISION 2025

We’re also celebrating a new kind of resurrection—our restart, redirection and renewal through Vision 2025! With consultant David Vaughan, we’ve begun an intentional journey of visioning and structuring for a faithful future. March marked a strong start, and we’re seeing God move as we lay the groundwork for what’s next.

LEADERS: YOU ARE NEEDED!

Mark your calendars for the final organizing session of Vision 2025 on Saturday, May 3, 2025. We need every leader, every heart, every gift in the room as we finalize our new vision and begin implementing our strategy. This is your opportunity to help shape Asbury’s future for generations to come.

NEW BEGINNINGS ARE FOR EVERYONE

New beginnings are not just for the young. We are celebrating 150 years of ministry at Asbury UMC, and we are only getting stronger. Our anniversary year is off to a powerful start. With hearts full of gratitude, we honor the legacy of those who came before us and embrace the future God is unfolding.

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BUILDING SHELTER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NONE

The Conestoga hut (micro-shelter) was designed and first built in 2012 in Eugene, Oregon to provide safe, secure shelter for the homeless. The idea has spread across the country. We work with **CANUP (pronounced ‘canopy’)** to build the shelters and have built four so far. The cost for building a shelter is between \$2000 - \$2500 and funds come from donations and grants to “CANUP”. The building of the shelter comes from volunteer groups in the community. The shelter provides 60 square feet of interior space with a bed and room for storage and has a 20 square foot covered porch.

Asbury’s build team spent two days this past week constructing the above hut which will be placed in the community. They did an outstanding job and hopefully this is the first of many huts to come. The build team included: Don and Sandra Fox, Kevin and Diane Jaynes, James Gregg, Art Masker, Charlie Green and Bart and Judy Reviere.



L to R: Art Masker, Bart Reviere, Charlie Green, Diane Jaynes, Kevin Jaynes, Sandra Fox, Lynn Reviere, Judy Reviere, Don Fox, James Gregg



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Mission Opportunity – Food Kits for the Homeless

Asbury UMC has an opportunity to partner with CANUP (Coalition Addressing the Needs of Unhoused 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

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

MINISTRY WITH EXCELLENCE

We are so grateful for the leadership of our church—those who serve behind the scenes and in the spotlight. Your dedication to ministry with excellence is evident in every service, study, and step forward. Asbury is rising, and it’s because of faithful servants like you.

WE WERE MADE FOR EVANGELISM

We recently completed our churchwide series on The Purpose Driven Life, by author Rick Warren and what a journey it has been! We ended the series with the sermon titled, “We Were Made for Evangelism”—a reminder that we are called to share the Good News of Jesus in our everyday lives.

Here are Three Simple Steps to Personal Evangelism:

1. Accept the Mission – Know that evangelism isn’t optional; it’s your calling as a follower of Christ.
2. Build Relationships – Share life with others. Listen well. Love deeply. Your presence matters.
3. Share Your Story – Tell what God has done in your life. No theology degree needed—just your authentic testimony.

Let’s be a people who live and share the Gospel with boldness, compassion, and joy.

With Resurrection Hope,

Sharon

Rev. Sharon Bowers

Senior Pastor, Asbury UMC

“New life. New vision. New church.”

AFTER EASTER SERIES: The Resurrection Prayer

Based on John 11:38–44 | Written by Rev. Sharon L. Bowers

The Resurrection Prayer: Speak Life To Death

Join us for a powerful 10-week journey through The Resurrection Prayer, a transformational series based on the words and actions of Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus. Each week, we’ll explore a different aspect of resurrection faith—how to speak life into what seems lifeless, and how to trust God for the impossible.

Weekly Topics:

- Introduction Where Have You Laid It?
- Chapter One: Take the Limits Off God
- Chapter Two: Attitude of Gratitude
- Chapter Three: Confidence in God
- Chapter Four: For the Sake of Others
- Chapter Five: Faith Activated
- Chapter Six: Cry if You Want To
- Chapter Seven: Name the Dead Thing
- Chapter Eight: Command the Change You Want
- Chapter Nine: Dead Things Walking
- Chapter Ten: There is Resurrecting Power

UPCOMING HOLY WEEK EVENTS



Holy Week 2025

You’re Invited - Join Us And Let’s Seek Him Together

Sunday, April 13 - 10:30 am
Palm Sunday Worship with special guest, the Rev. Brent Hall and the Rev. Sharon Bowers

Wednesday, April 16 - 12:00pm
Holy Wednesday Service with the Rev. Todd Jenkins followed by hot chicken salad luncheon

Friday, April 18 - 6:30 pm
Good Friday Tenebrae Service with special guest, the Rev. Mark Wills

Saturday, April 19 - 11:00 am
Community Easter Egg Hunt followed by lunch with Asbury

Sunday, April 20- 07:00 am
Easter Morning Celebration - Contemporary Sunrise Service and potluck breakfast.

Sunday, April 20 - 10:00 am
Easter Morning Celebration - Traditional Worship

201 S Main Street. Greeneville TN, 37743. www.asburylife.org

HOLY WEEK

HAVE AN EVENT YOU WANT TO PUT ON A PUBLIC CALENDAR?

PLEASE SUBMIT TO JOHN REVIERE AND DEE ROBY FOR POSTING IN THE MONTHLY NEWS LETTERS.

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Of significance to me is the David R Britton window. He was my great, great, grandfather. It was in the parlor of his home in 1875 that a meeting of the Official Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North was conducted. They were given permission by the Bishop to purchase the lot on which our current church stands. Britton was a member of the Official Board.

All of the historical detail included in this article was derived from Carolyn Gregg's book, The History of Asbury United Methodist Church from 1873 to 2012. Pictures of each window, and the people for whom they are placed, may be found on pages seven through thirteen. This book is packed with interesting information about our Church and I encourage each of you to read it from cover to cover!

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me."⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."





Rev. Brent Hall will be the guest minister on Palm Sunday, April 13th at 10:30 a.m.

Greetings to all my fellow Asburians. I still see myself as one of you because you can take a preacher out of a church but you can't take that church out of the preacher. There are so many precious memories for me and my family from our six years at Asbury and also from being a part of the Greenville community. Happy Birthday Asbury!



Rev. Todd Jenkins will be the guest minister on Wednesday, April 16th, 12:00 p.m. Join us for the community Lent service with a meal of hot chicken salad to follow. All are welcome!!

Rev. Todd Jenkins has been the pastor of First Presbyterian USA Church of Greeneville since July 28th, 2019. Rev. Jenkins is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary.



Rev. Mark Wills will be the guest minister on Friday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m. Join us for our Tenebrae Good Friday Service, Remembering Christ.

Rev. Mark Wills is a member of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church. He received his Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt University and is currently a Dean at Walter State Community College, Greenville campus.



Bill Brown
Administrative Council, Chair
Member of Anniversary Committee

The Story Behind Leaded Glass Sanctuary and Narthex windows

As we have already noted during our recognition of the 150th Celebration of Asbury United Methodist Church, the construction of the building in which we worship today began with the laying of the cornerstone on October 2, 1911. The building was dedicated on April 21, 1912 so the thirteen “primary” stained glass windows in the Sanctuary and Narthex were placed during that time. (There are also two windows, one on either side of the balcony, which were not recorded as memorials.)

Most of the thirteen windows were pledged by family members of the people memorialized. It is believed that the rectangular windows, with transom, cost about \$100 and the larger, arched windows, \$250. As you can see, they were made to open and not only on the day of dedication, but many Sundays thereafter until the building was air conditioned, the lower sashes would be fully raised and those by the balcony tied open with a rope attached to the balcony railing. (I have first-hand knowledge that this is factual!) In the late 1980’s or early to mid1990’s I believe, Plexiglas coverings were added to all of the windows for protection.

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150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WITH REV. DR. CHUCK STARKS



