

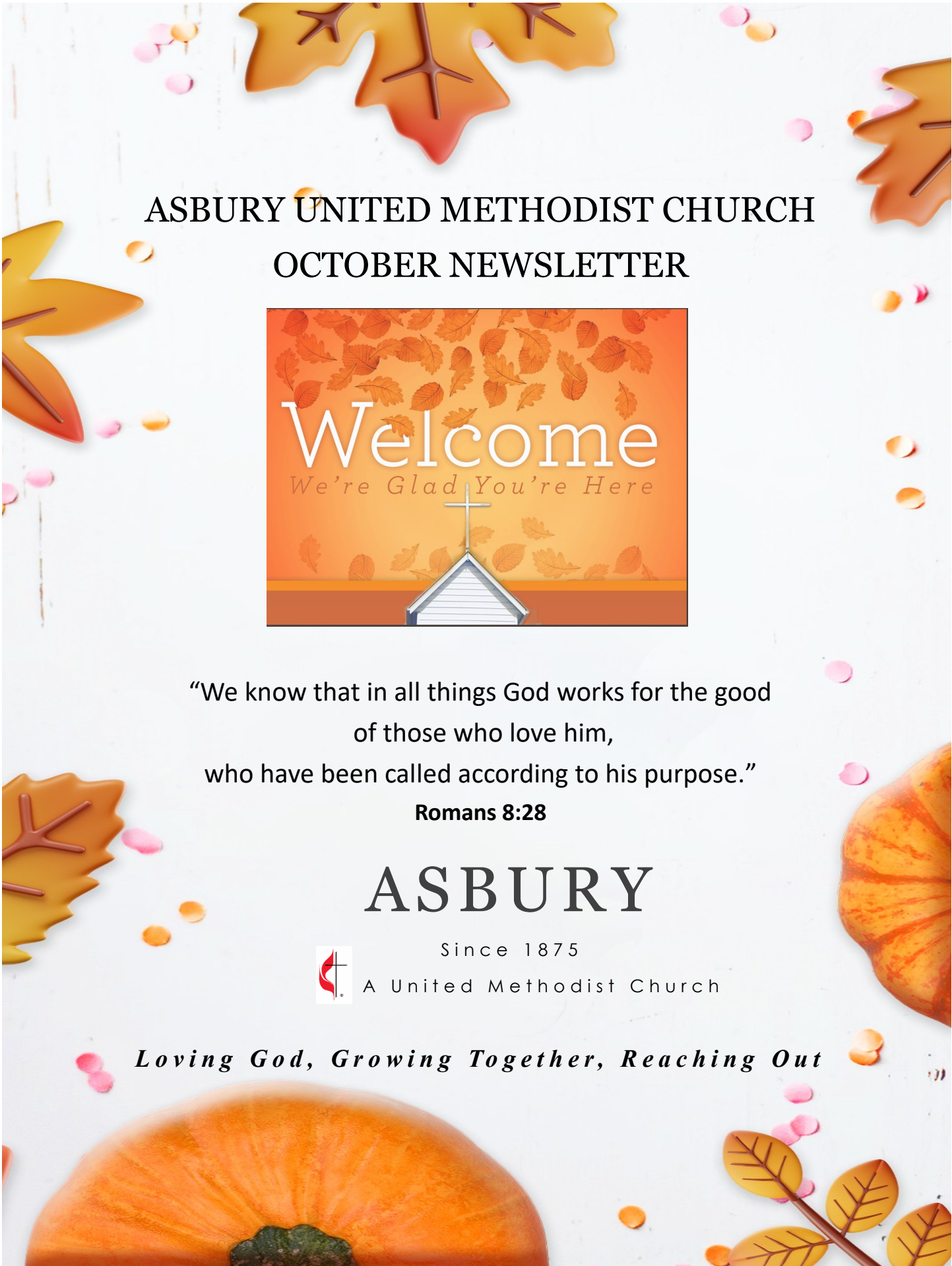


A United Methodist Church

201 South Main Street,
Greeneville, TN. 37743

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www.asburylife.org



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



"We know that in all things God works for the good
of those who love him,
who have been called according to his purpose."
Romans 8:28

ASBURY

Since 1875
A United Methodist Church

Loving God, Growing Together, Reaching Out



From the Pastor’s Desk
Asbury UMC October Newsletter – 2025

Greetings Church Family,

Autumn is in full swing! Our bible studies, small group, and Sunday school classes are thriving. Trunk or Treat is scheduled on Asbury’s calendar, Thanksgiving preparations are underway, and we are looking forward to celebrating the Living Legacy Event, honoring our seniors who are 90+ on October 26th, 2025 and we had a special 150th Anniversary with our Holston Conference Bishop Debra Wallace Padgett preaching on a Sunday morning, encouraging us to “*Grow in Grace, by Showing Up!*” It is a busy season, but it is also a perfect time to pause, reflect, and embrace the beauty of God’s creation around us. As the leaves change to their glorious colors, we, too, are reminded that we can change our hearts so that our lives bring God glory now and in the future.

A Season to Slow Down

As the leaves turn and the air cools, let us remember to slow down and enjoy the simple blessings of fall. Just as we prepare our gardens for spring by planting seeds in the fall, we too can prepare our hearts and spirits for the growth God has planned. Take a moment this month to enjoy a walk, breathe in the crisp autumn air, and notice the beauty around you. Fall is God’s invitation to us to experience radical transformation.

Transformation in Our Lives

Change is a part of life—and it’s critical to living out our faith fully. As Greg Brady sang in *The Brady Bunch*, “It’s time to change, time to rearrange who you are and what you are going to be.” Spiritually, this reminds us that God is always inviting us to grow, transform, and align more closely with God’s purpose for us.

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From The Heart...

Scripture: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
– Romans 12:2 (NRSV)

Reflection:

October is often the time when we see the season change. It is the time when the trees let go of their summer splendor and prepare for their winter wonderland. This transformation travels a path from beauty to beauty and gives us an opportunity to change. Much of this happens automatically, and yet some of it requires a gentle nudge from nature. Regardless, all change is grace-filled and is an opportunity for fresh expressions of Christ in us, the hope of glory! God invites us into a deeper relationship and welcomes us warts and all.

The daily process of letting go of what no longer serves God’s purpose for our lives is critical to growth. Rest for the weary is a promise given to us by God, and sometimes to get to that position, we must release old habits, mindsets, fears, and failures. We can replace it with unspeakable joy, the peace that passes all understanding, and life on purpose. God is calling us to go let go of all that stands in our way, and to welcome new mercies every morning,

Journal Prompts:
Where in your life do you sense God inviting you to change or grow this season?

What “old leaves” might you need to let fall away?

How do you experience the renewing work of the Holy Spirit in your daily routines or relationships?

Write a prayer asking God to help you welcome transformation with faith and courage.

Prayer:

Lord, as the seasons change around me, change me from within. Renew my mind, refresh my spirit, and reshape my heart to reflect Your love. May I welcome transformation not with fear, but with faith. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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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!

We can't wait to see you this Sunday!

Scripture for Reflection:

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” — Romans 12:2

This verse reminds us that true transformation comes through God's guidance, shaping us to reflect God's love in all we do. This is the season for renewed minds and compassionate hearts. This is the time to launch out in the deep and get ready for the haul. Authors, Dr. Stephen Handy and Dr. Mike Bowie, in their leadership development book, *Dare to Shift*, challenge us to be innovative thinkers and prophetic leaders who are self-aware of how to show up and align creatively. This is our season!

“Ready, set, you bet!” This October, let's embrace transformation—taking time to rest, reflect, and plant seeds of faith that will flourish in the months to come. Allow your soul to reset so that your will becomes God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

Blessings,

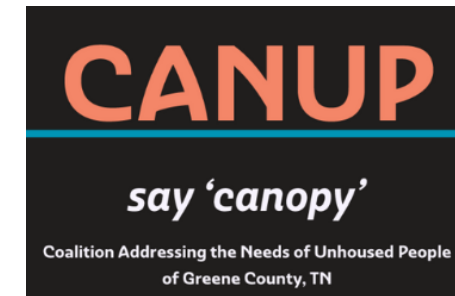
Pastor Sharon

Lead Pastor, Asbury United Methodist Church

Guest Speaker at Asbury 150th Anniversary Celebrations Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett Reception



Friends, family, and children—young and old—came together for a joyful reception in honor of the Bishop. The front porch was filled with laughter, conversation, and the warmth of fellowship as our church family celebrated this special time together. It was a beautiful reminder of the love and unity that bind us as one in Christ.



Packing Food Kits for the
Vulnerable in Our Community

Most

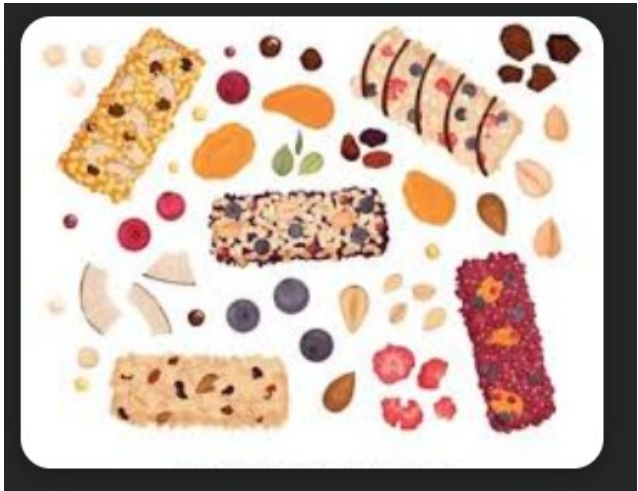
About Canup: Asbury UMC has now packed over 400 food kits for CANUP (Coalition Addressing the Needs of Unhoused People in Greene Co) since beginning this ministry in March. These kits are passed out to not only the homeless on the streets in Greeneville, but also to many individuals and families who are food insecure. Not only do your donations provide a needed meal and water, but HOPE to individuals, telling them that they matter and someone cares. Please help us continue providing these meals with your generous donations of food – protein (Vienna Sausages and Beanie Weenies), cereal bars, peel-top vegetable cups, fruit cups, chips and crackers. Food kits are packed the last Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm in the Wesley Room and taken to the CANUP office on Tusculum Blvd 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.

The pantry for CANUP food kits is running low and we are asking for donations of all food items, in particular protein, crackers (short stacks), and veggies (single serve, peel-top). We will be packing kits **Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 5:00 pm**. If you have any questions, contact Kevin James. Thank you for helping feed the homeless and food insecure in Greeneville / Greene County and letting them know they matter.

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

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

Mission Opportunity – Food Kits for the Homeless



150 Years in Ministry to Greeneville and surrounding areas



Please join us in celebrating and surrounding our new members with prayer, encouragement, and friendship. We're so glad you're here—you belong.



Pictured above: Rev. Bowers, Chuck and Sherin Whitfield, Cassie Korbs-Gulino



Pictured Left,
Piper Halcome, Rev. Bowers



Asbury Child Enrichment Center

Exciting News!

We are thrilled to share that we will be reopening **Class 1B - the Bumblebee Class!**

This special class serves as a **transition room**, designed for children around **10 months to 16 months old**. With a maximum of **5 children**, our goal is to give older infants and young toddlers the time and support they need to comfortably adjust before moving into the bigger one-year-old class.

We are also excited to announce that **Ms. Maddie Sayers** will be the **Lead Teacher** in the Bumblebee Class. Many of you already know Ms. Maddie from her time as one of our wonderful summer substitutes over the past couple of years. To support her, we will also be hiring a part-time assistant teacher.

We can't wait to welcome our little Bumblebees into this nurturing and engaging space!

Content contribution from A.C.E.C. Director Chassidy Inscore





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OF ASBURY

By Doris Allen, President

The September meeting was held at the home of Debbie Hendrix. She provided the ladies with a beautiful breakfast. Prayer concerns and praises were made prior to a devotional led by Debbie. Discussion on upcoming projects and ideas were made on how to better serve our shut-ins for the holidays.

Members enjoy food and fellowship at the Sept. UMW meeting



- November 5th @ 1:00 - Workshop for making gifts for shut-ins
- 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.

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.

October/ November Coming Up in's and Opportunities to Serve:



- Asbury is hosting the Greenville High School Football team on October 23! We'll provide a high-carb dinner and Scripture, serving from 3:30-4:15 p.m. Volunteers are needed for setup, serving, and cleanup. Donations toward the meal are welcome—please mark your check or envelope "GHS Football." Let's show our community the heart of Asbury! Please reach out to Doris Allen or the church office for additional information.



- We are richly blessed to walk alongside faithful members who have journeyed with the Lord for 90 years and beyond. Their wisdom, love, and steadfast witness continue to inspire our church family in countless ways. Join us on **Sunday, October 26th at 10:00 a.m.** in the Traditional Service as we "**Give Them Flowers Now**"—a special celebration honoring their lives, faith, and enduring example. Come share in this joyful time of gratitude and love!



- On Wednesday, October 29th, at 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. we will be hosting a trunk or treat in the back parking lot. We're looking for volunteers to bring decorated trunks and pass out candy. Extra candy donations are welcome! If you're bringing a trunk, please arrive by 5:00 p.m.
- Don't Forget – Daylight Savings Time is Coming!



On Sunday, November 2nd, we "fall back" one hour! That means an extra hour of sleep – or an extra hour to enjoy your morning coffee before church! Be sure to set your clocks back on Saturday night so you're right on time Sunday morning.

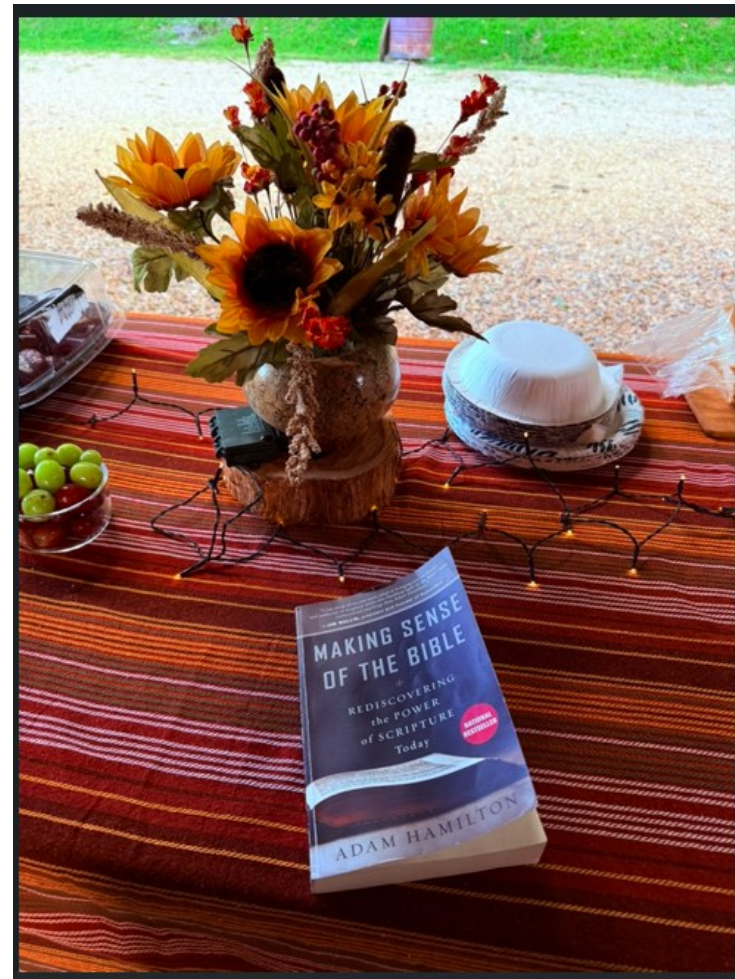
- Sunday, November 2nd at 5:30 p.m. Join us for *A Place for Grace* – a monthly gathering where we share a meal and share life together. Each **first Sunday of the month**, we come together with our friends from **Narcotics Anonymous** to celebrate community, hope, and belonging. This is a time to connect, listen, and remember that we are more alike than different. Everyone is welcome – come as you are and find your place at the table.



Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today

BY ADAM HAMILTON

Bible Study at Barton Hollow Farms, Gathered together for fellowship and to build a loving, Christ centered community. "We share stories, insight, and prayer, we grow in both knowledge and love for God and other. This is a safe welcoming space for every question, doubt, and discovery you bring."



Making Sense of the Bible: Conversations That Matter

Each Tuesday evening from 6:00 – 7:30pm, a group of 14 faithful and curious participants gather on the back porch at Barton Hollow Farm to enjoy the sounds of nature and consider best selling author Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible*, a 12-week journey into scripture. We are deep in the study and the energy has been high as we explore not only the Bible's history and structure, but also the role it continues to play in shaping our faith and lives today.

What makes this group special is the way each session unfolds. Guided by our study guide, we follow a rhythm that creates both focus and openness:

- **Opening Prayer** to center us in God's presence.
- **Guided Discussion** that brings the week's readings into conversation with real questions.
- **Key Points & Insights** that highlight clarity amid complexity.
- **Honest Conversation** where every voice is welcome and every question is valued.

The result? A setting that feels less like a lecture and more like a family around the table—curious, thoughtful, and eager to listen and learn from one another.

Whether you've been studying the Bible for decades or are just beginning to explore its pages, you'll find this group welcoming and accessible. Each week has its own theme, so it's never too late to jump in.

We'd love for you to pull up a chair as we continue uncovering the wisdom and wonder of God's Word—together.

Learn more and sign-up at <https://asburylife.churchcenter.com/groups/small-groups/making-sense-of-the-bible-study-group>

