

Good News



Volume 3, Issue 235
APRIL 22, 2026

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Traditional Service 8:30am
RootsKids 8:30 & 10:30
Adult Classes 9:30am
Praise Service 10:30am
Communion on May 3

Our Mission:

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

Who has a Place at the Table?

At the annual conference this past year, our Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai pointed out to the assembled conference members that for the first time in our history as Methodists, we are not officially discriminating against anyone. We are in a unique place in our history where our words of welcome can be fully open and genuine.

Like most Christian denominations in the US, Methodists have struggled with racism. Until the formation of the United Methodist Church, the previous Methodist Church segregated black pastors, bishops, and congregations into a "central conference", based solely on their race.

Full clergy rights for women did not come to the Methodist Church, one of our predecessors, until 1956. Up until then, women were allowed to serve in less recognized roles, but not as fully ordained elders in the UMC.

It was not until 1980, within the last 50 years, that the first woman was elected Bishop.

We used to discriminate against persons who had been divorced. We used to discriminate against mixed-race couples.

And until a little more than two years ago, discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons was enshrined in our Book of Discipline.

For generations, the Methodist movement has been moving step by step toward believing that every person is a child of God, and is welcome in God's Church. We have the clearest mandate we have ever had to welcome all people into God's Church!

We do so because we have come to realize that our very understanding of the sacraments and the gospel teaches us that God's desire is to bring all into God's kingdom. God desires that none should perish, but all come to life.

It is a vast vision! It is a vision that human beings often fight. We want to decide who gets in. We want to decide if someone is worthy or welcome. We want to decide who to invite and who to leave out. But God's vision is for all of God's children to meet around Christ's table.

In the 1990's, there was a popular Christian artist named "Ray Boltz" who sang a song, "Until All Have Been Served." It is a song about how, during the service of communion, the pastor, towards the end of the service, asked if everyone had been served. The song shares God's vision that God's desire is that all are invited and included at the table.

As children of God who have a seat at Christ's great banquet table, let us make sure that all are served!

In Christ's Boundless Love, Pastor Tim

Discipleship Moment



As we proceed through the year, we will explore the 7 areas of the Discipleship Pathway. This month we will explore the area of PRAYER.

God wants us to seek a relationship with Him. One way to help build a closer relationship is to take time to pray. God wants us to lean on Him with our worries and with our praise! Whether you pray before you go to sleep at night, together with your family before a meal, or if you use a prayer journal, we can use that time to pour out our hearts to God and listen.

Take a quick self check: How is your time with God going lately? What has helped? What's been missing? Try not to judge yourself! Be honest and ask God to refresh your relationship.

Maggie Fioramonti and Jean Black Co-Leaders Discipleship Team

Miracle Sunday is May 17, 2026

This is a special United Methodist Conference Offering to help support 500 students annually to prepare for pastoral ministry across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. To give to this important mission please make your check to Asbury and indicate "Miracle Sunday." You may also use the Online Giving option on our website JesusIsTheBridge.org and choose the Missions tab. To learn more, go to iaumc.org.



LIFT is coordinating with Hiney Heroes for the **World's Largest Diaper Drive!**
 This drop in "Baby Shower" takes place **May 1st - 31st**
 simply drop off diapers at the designated table located inside the Main Entrance any time in May
Any size baby diapers will be appreciated!
 Contact Stephanie Pim, Julia Hensch or Jenny Bloomquist for more information or go to the LIFT Facebook Page for details.





BLESSING BOX
 Now Accepting Donations!
 Non-Perishable Food
 Personal Hygiene & Paper Products
 bring donations to the box marked Blessing Box located at Mission Drop Off near the elevator

Mark Your Calendar! Watch this space for more information on a fun ladies event coming to Asbury Café on June 9!



Bits and Pieces from Your Parish Nurse Team Carol Jackson and Cheryl Ewert STRESS: What to do about it?



April is Stress Awareness Month. Acute stress is short-term stress which comes and goes quickly. It can be positive or negative. It's the feeling you get when you're riding on a rollercoaster or having a fight with your significant other. Everyone experiences acute stress from time to time.

Chronic stress is long-term stress that goes on for weeks or more. You may experience this stress due to marriage troubles, family illness, issues at work or financial problems. It's important to find ways to manage chronic stress because it can lead to health issues.

How do you manage stress?

- Try relaxation activities like meditation, yoga, tai chi, breathing exercises and muscle relaxation. You are able to find programs for this purpose online.
 - Take good care of your body each day. Eating right, participating in physical activity and getting enough sleep are essential. Stay positive and practice gratitude, acknowledging the good parts of your life.
 - Accept that you can't control everything. Find ways to let go of worry about situations you can't change.
 - Learn to say "no" to additional responsibilities when you're too busy or stressed.
 - Stay connected with people who keep you calm, make you happy, provide emotional support and help you with practical things. A friend, family member or neighbor can become a good listener or share responsibilities.
- If symptoms of stress aren't going away with stress relief techniques, and if you're feeling overwhelmed, talk to a healthcare provider.

THE MAY FOOT CLINIC WILL BE THURSDAY, MAY 28TH since that Monday is Memorial Day. Let Cheryl know if you want to schedule.
THE NEXT BLOOD DRIVE IS MONDAY, JUNE 8TH.

Missions

AIM (ASBURY IN MISSION) "DOING GOD'S WILL"

AIM MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR MAY IS FAMILY RESOURCES AND HOSPICE CARE



- **Family Resources** provides free, confidential services to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, human trafficking, homicide and other violent crimes. To learn more, go to famres.org.
- **Hospice Care** provides end-of-life care both in-home or at a skilled care facility. Learn more at genesishhealth.com/hospice.

You may give online at JesusIsTheBridge.org by choosing Online Giving and using the "Missions" option. Checks may be made payable to Asbury UMC with May MOM on the memo line.

Thank you for Your Service!

Thank you for your generous Easter Offering gifts for Mark Twain Backpacks and the Element 412 Blessing Box totaling \$1,166.

Thank you for your generous giving to AIM March MOM of \$100 to Fishers of Men and \$481 to UMCOR.

Thank you to Asbury WINGS Group, Berst's, Pim's and Gackle's for preparing & serving recent Zion Meals!

- **Office Hours** Asbury Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00-Noon and afternoons by request. Please feel free to contact a staff member if you need assistance after hours.
- **Newsletter Deadline** Items for the next Good News should be in the office no later than **8:00am on Monday, May 4.**
- **Community Hymn Sing** The 3rd iteration was hosted by Asbury on April 12th. Attendance peaked at 140 including 25 playing musical instruments. We sang old favorites such as "It is Well with My Soul" and "Great is Thy Faithfulness" along with newer ones with orchestra and even one with a blue grass band including Rob Swinney on the fiddle. Time to put the next one on your calendar - **Sunday afternoon, July 19th at 3:00pm**, again at Asbury. John Pfautz would like to thank Asbury for being such a gracious host to these community events.
- **Friendly Thrift Center** is in need of boy's tops & bottoms, travel size shampoo, lotion, etc., bed pillows, queen sheets & sleeping bags. Your donations are always appreciated! There is a bin on the lower level at Asbury near the elevator where you may leave your items.
- **Communion Volunteers Needed!** Please contact Meg Larson at or the church at 563-355-5218 if you can help!
- **Hannah Circle** Join us on **Tuesday, May 12.** More information in the next Good News. All women are welcome!
- **Rachel Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30pm in Connections Café** to hear from Kit Evans Ford from Argrows House. Come join us!
- **Card Ministry** Next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30pm.** To learn more, go to their Facebook page, the Asbury website or contact Alinda Littrel or Linda Dudgeon.
- **Loom Crafters Update** Thank you everyone for your generous donations of plastic bags for the sleeping mats. We have made 5 mats so far and are continuing to meet the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is **Monday, May 11 at 6:30pm** and everyone is welcome to join in the fun. **Please remember that we are currently running out of storage space so we are putting a PAUSE on collections for now.** We will let you know when we are ready for more donations.
- **Craft & Chat** Next meeting of this drop-in gathering is **Saturday, May 16, from 9:00-Noon in the Connections Café** at Asbury. Bring your own supplies and work on any craft project you like, or come and help make a sleeping mat for those in need! Contact Michelle Bonney.
- **LIFT - Ladies In Fellowship Together** Please join us for our Game Night & Service Project for Mark Twain Elementary teachers on **Saturday, April 25 at 4:00 in Connections Café.** See our LIFT Facebook page for more information. You may also contact Jenny Bloomquist, Julia Hensch or Stephanie Pim. All women are invited!
- **Asbury Men's Group** Join us in person at the church on the **second and fourth Saturday mornings of the month at 7:45am.** Contact Cliff Pim, Phil Paulson or the church office (563-355-5218) for more information or the **ZOOM** link.
- **Asbury Foundation** Thank you to Brimeyer's, Hill's and Rebecca Reiter for their recent gifts to the Asbury Foundation. For information on how you can guarantee a strong future for the life and ministry of Asbury through a gift to the Foundation, please contact John Rabine or the church office. **This is a thoughtful way to honor your birthday or other special occasions.**