## **ASBURY UPDATE**

# NOVEMBER 2023



VOLUME 35

NUMBER 11

# November Birthdays

- 1 Dina Consentino Lenna Dembski
- 2 Mirabelle Deffley Shirley Irvine
- 5 Dale Karacostas Kristen Kelso Sharon Page
- 6 Sam Crisp
- 7 Jennifer Lindsay
- 8 Kelly McDaniel
- 9 Emily Garrard
- 11 Shelbi Hanton Claire Knight Martha Parsons Laurie Tanner

- 12 Steve Gagne
- 14 Jason "JJ" King Ward Lariscy Lora Matos Rosser Redd Jeramy Via
- 16 Barri Marshall
- 17 Mary Thompson
- 18 Tyler Gage
- 19 Betsy Kammerud
- 20 Andrew McGowan

- 22 Paul Irvine Kathy Oakley
- 23 Cliff Harley Scott Porch
- 24 Vickie Harold
  Marion Manigo
  Wayne McGowan
  Laura Picone
  Sandra White
- 25 Chris Kincade Kent Urness

- 26 Gale Dick Karl Graham
- 28 Virginia Moryadas
- 29 Hannah Anderson Liz Urness
- 30 Ellie Covington



# NOVEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29		31	1 5:30p Dia de los Muertos Supper 6:00p - Youth 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30p St. Andrews Chorus Concert 7:00p Men Friends (Mens Group)	3	4 10:00am Grief Seminar
5 9:30a Service @ Wesley Oak  11:15a Service @ Asbury Memorial  1:00p Medicare Workshop	7:00p SMART Recovery @ Wesley Oak	6:30p St. Andrews Strings Concert	8 5:30p Wed. Night Supper 6:00p - Youth 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	7:00p Men Friends (Mens Group)	10	11 9:00a Yard Sale at Wesley Oak 5:30p Parent's Night Out @ Asbury Memorial
12 9:30a Service @ Wesley Oak  11:15a Service @ Asbury Memorial	13 1:30p Wisdom Seekers 7:00p SMART Recovery @ Wesley Oak	6:30p Ministries Round Table Meeting	15 5:30p Wed. Night Supper 6:00p - Youth 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	7:00p Men Friends (Mens Group)	17	18
19 9:30a Service @ Wesley Oak 11:15a Service @ Asbury Memorial	7:00p SMART Recovery @ Wesley Oak	21	6:30p Choir Rehearsal	Happy Thanksgiving	24	10:00a Christmas Tree Pickup @ Wesley Oak
26 9:30a Service @ Wesley Oak  11:15a Service @ Asbury Memorial	7:00p SMART Recovery @ Wesley Oak	6:30p Church Council meeting	6:00p Youth 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	7:00p Men Friends (Mens Group)		
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## From the Desk of the Director of Joy...

### What Mohammed Taught Me

On the edge of the Sahara desert in Morocco recently, our tour guide took us to visit a local farmer, named Mohammed (which is actually a very common name in Morocco.) He was glad to show us his farm. Years ago, Mohammed and his father used a divining rod to find underground water, and then he built an irrigation system. His wells have turned a little corner of the desert into a garden of Eden. His farm now supplies food and an income for him, his wife, and their children and grandchildren.

Mohammed smiled as he pointed to his various crops of beans, peas, corn, tomatoes, and all kinds of peppers. We walked through orchards with peaches, pears, oranges, lemons, and limes. He took us into a grove of date palms, and he showed us the cold, clear water from one of his two wells.

At the end of the tour, we walked back toward his house where he lives with his family. Near his house, he built pens and sheds for his sheep, goats, chickens and guineas. We passed grape vines and a plot brimming with eggplants as we got closer to his house.

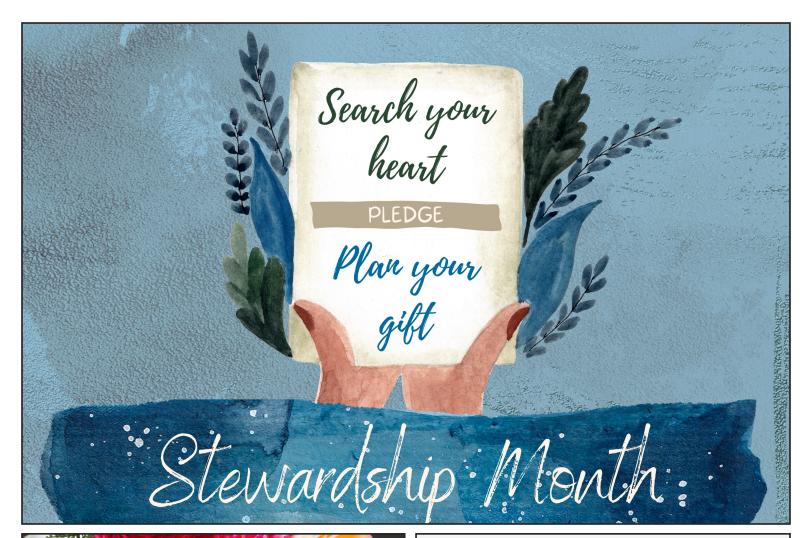
Near the end of his tour, Mohammed stopped to show us a fig tree, fruit ripening on its branches, and he asked if we had questions. Just at that moment a few birds flew overhead, reminding me of how my neighbor back home has to cover his fig bush with netting to protect the fruit from birds. "Mohammed," I asked, "what do you do to protect your figs from the birds?"

He smiled at me, and said, "Well, we worked hard to bring water here for all these plants. And they produce well. Allah gives us the produce of this farm as a gift. These figs, these oranges, these dates -- all that you see here provide food for me, and for my family, and for my animals. And yes, even the figs provide for us. But the food is also for the birds. They are God's creatures, too. The birds need to eat, just as we do. Allah provides for them, with our help, of course."

In that moment, Mohammed taught me again the meaning of the word, "stewardship." He reminded me that we are all stewards of everything we have. God gives us all that we need. But remember, God is very generous. Yes, God gives us what we and our families need. And God Gives what our dependents need, and what our neighbors need.

God gives us so much. But these gifts are not meant for us to hoard; they are meant for us to share. All that we "have," belongs to us all. We are stewards. And as stewards of God's gifts, we're meant to share. Even with the birds of the air. God loves them, too -- through what we share of what God gives us. That's what Mohammed taught me.

~ Rev. Richard Allen, Stewardship Committee member





SAVE THE DATE

12 MONTH





ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

6:30PM



## **COASTAL INTERFAITH GREEN TEAM UPDATE**

Members of the Coastal Interfaith Green Team met at Lake Mayer on Saturday morning, October 7th, to ride the extensive bike trails that the City of Savannah has constructed over the last several years. Our guide was Ms. Caila Brown who is the Executive Director of Bike Walk Savannah. Caila's work at Bike Walk focuses on policies, projects, education, and events that encourage people to bike and walk instead of always relying on a car. Her goal is to create a Savannah that is equitable, safe, and connected for people of all ages and abilities.

Our group rode on the first phase of the Tide to Town bike and walking trail, the Truman Trail. In the future, trails will link Lake Mayer Park Trail Loop to the Daffin Park Trail Loop creating approximately nine miles of continuous off and on-road bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. In addition, the Truman Trail will connect over 800 acres of park and recreation space and 18 neighborhoods.

All in all, it was a splendid way to spend a Saturday morning and envision a time when it will be possible for residents of the Southside of Savannah to bike safely to their schools and jobs in the mid-town and downtown areas.



# RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISER

Proceeds to pay for a new roof for Wesley Oak Church

Saturday,
November 11th
9am to 2pm

Wesley Oak Church Thunderbolt, GA



1 in 4 children in South Georgia live in homes where having enough food is a struggle every day.

P.A.C.K. is committed to packing and delivering over 10,000 bags a month to children in Chatham county and the surrounding areas.

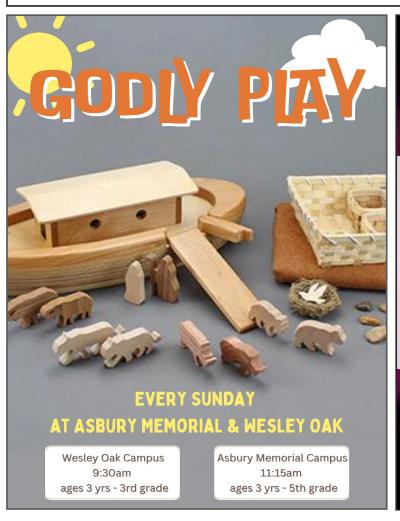
## VOLUNTEER - Mondays & Thursdays 10am - 12pm

4 Mall Terrace - Savannah



www.packsavannah.com







## ASBURY MEMORIAL / WESLEY OAK



# A GRIEF SEMINAR GIVING YOURSELF PERMISSION

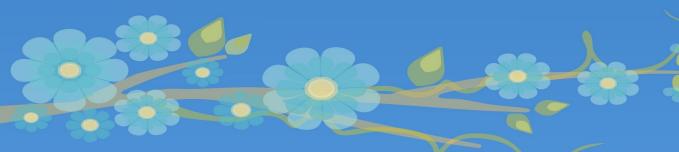
...What to pack for your grief journey

Betsy R. Kammerud, LCSW, LISW, CCTP Director, Full Circle & Counseling Services

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

This seminar will educate the attendee on what grief is and is not. It will provide tools that are useful along the journey of grief. Come to gain an understanding of how to integrate grief into your daily life.

Reserve your place at 912.233.4351



## **Asbury Memorial Campus**

1008 East Henry Street | Savannah, GA 31401 912.233.4351 | church@asburymemorial.org



Men Friends is the Asbury Memorial and Wesley Oak Men's Group that meets on Thursday nights via Zoom.

We are reading the book "Do I Stay Christian?" by Brian McLaren, who has authored over 15 books. The book is described as 'a guide for the doubters, the disappointed, and the disillusioned." We will read the book over a period of 6 weeks, but you are welcome to join our discussion if you are not doing the reading. We are distributing a short summation of the chapters to be covered each week so no one will feel left out.

We begin each meeting with a time of voluntary sharing about what's happening in your life, or whatever you care to share before we begin our discussion of the week's readings.

There is a wonderful mix of deeply serious discussion and a lot of laughter as well. There is no commitment to attend, or requirement that you have to have been here from the beginning. Drop in and give us a try. It's a great way to connect and make new friends, all from the comfort of your home.

Should you have any questions, contact Gregg Walther at gdw0517@gmail.com.

We meet each Thursday 7:00p - 8:30p Zoom meeting ID: 844 3633 5506, passcode: Asbury



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FRIENDS

Asbury Memorial and Wesley Oak Men's Group

Wednesdays at 7pm

## **Pride Families Group**





Pride Families Group is a social group for parents or caregivers and their LGBTQIA+ children ages 13 and younger. The group meets the third Saturday of each month to provide a safe, affirming place for fellowship, and for the kids to meet and connect over games and stories.

Check the Programs & Services calendar for program information or contact:

Angelic by email uniqlymyself@hotmail.com

Third Saturday of Each Month From 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.



# SMART RECOVERY FOR INDIVIDUALS

Do you want to address an addiction problem or harmful habit? With our practical tools based on cognitive and motivational psychology and addiction research, SMART Recovery helps you make and sustain positive changes that lead to a balanced life.

Through our meetings, tools, and strategies, SMART can help you stop harmful habits and behaviors, including addiction to alcohol and other drugs, or negative behaviors related to relationships, sex, spending, gambling, eating and exercise disorders, and self-injury.

SMART Recovery is unique. Our science-based approach emphasizes self-reliance, self-resilience, and self-empowerment. With SMART, you are the expert on your recovery. You choose how to personalize your plan for successful change. There's no requirement to commit to a lifetime of SMART Recovery meetings. You decide when and if the time is right to move on.

## **SMART and Other Recovery Groups**

SMART Recovery believes that people find their own paths to successful recovery. For some, that path may include 12-step programs or other support groups. Although SMART's approach differs from those of other organizations, it does not exclude them. We recognize and support the fact that many individuals benefit from participating in more than one support community.

#### **Get Started**

Ready to get started? SMART Recovery hosts online and face-to-face meetings around the world. Our online message board is an excellent forum to learn about SMART and get 24/7 support.

#### Learn More

Visit www.smartrecovery.org to search for local meetings and to join our online community.





#### LOCAL MEETING INFORMATION

Mondays 7:00-8:30pm

Wesley Oak Church 3124 E. Victory Drive Savannah, GA 31404

All are welcome!

#### LOCAL CONTACT

Ruthie Duran Deffley

ruthie@healthymindga.com

#### CONFIRM MEETING DETAILS\*

http://www.smartrecovery.org/meetings

\*Meeting times, days, and locations are subject to change. Please confirm meeting details prior to attending.

## **Study Groups & Fellowship Groups**

Asbury Memorial offers a wide variety of study and fellowship groups.

We are excited about the rich and varied opportunities for adult study and fellowship, some via Zoom. We hope that you will join in one or more of the programs.

## **Wisdom Seekers**

Facilitator: Trish Haverkamp 2nd & 4th Mondays, 12:30pm—2:00pm

If you have any questions about the group or the book, please email Margaret Clay at margaretclay@comcast.net.

Zoom Meeting ID: 864 8291 0310, Passcode: Asbury

#### **Men Friends**

Men's Group for Asbury Memorial and Wesley Oak
Facilitator: Gregg Walther
Thursdays, 7:00pm—8:30pm

The Thursday night Men's Group welcome all men to join us for an evening of discussion and fellowship. We talk about topics suggested by our members, recently 'Christian nationalism' and the state of the Christian Church in general has sparked much discussion. What's on your mind? Should you have any questions please contact Gregg Walther at gdw0517@gmail.com. The Men's Group meets Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 via Zoom and welcomes all men. If you're looking for a way to connect, make new friends and participate in some fascinating discussions, all from the comfort of home, give us a try. We have a great time, come join us!

Zoom meeting ID: 844 3633 5506, passcode: Asbury.

### A Course in Miracles

Facilitator: Rev. Marilyn Leigh Thursdays, 4:00 to 5:30 pm

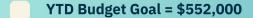
The Course in Miracles study group is dedicated to the study and practical application of A Course in Miracles to our daily lives. Our group allows the Course to guide us in becoming and expressing the Love that is the truth about us. It teaches the true meaning of forgiveness and challenges us to put God first in our lives.

If you are interested, contact Rev. Marilyn Leigh at revleigh@yahoo.com.

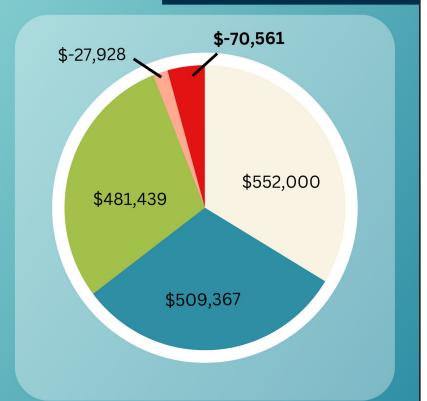
## **Financial Health**

## As of September 2023

## **General Budget**



- Actual YTD Expenses = \$509,367
- Actual YTD Contributions = \$481,439
- Current Contributions to Expenses
  Ahead/Behind = \$-27,928
- Actual Ahead/Behind if ,Budget spent = \$-70,561



## **PFLAG** SAVANNAH

4TH TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 5:30PM - 8PM

FIRST CITY PRIDE CENTER 1515 BULL STREET SAVANNAH, GA



PFLAG of Savannah Georgia is a locally based volunteer organization that was created to fill a need for support within the coastal empire, and the low country. PFLAG is all about kids, parents/family, and allies. We are here to educate, advocate and support those with LGBTQ+ children in our community.

PFLAG of Savannah Georgia sprang forth from volunteers at our local LGBTQ+ center First City Pride Center. We saw a lot of parents coming in and saying that their children had come out to them and they wanted to be supportive but didn't know how. Carla Faith Moore and Donna Vargas volunteers at the center took this as both a good sign and a challenge and ran with it. Beginning in May with an initial meeting to organize and ending in our official first meeting in September lots of work by many dedicated volunteers created this great group.

Our mission at PFLAG of Savannah is to provide support for families and allies of the youth in Savannah, coastal Georgia and the low country. We provide monthly support group meetings the 4th Tuesday of every month from 5:30-8pm at First City Pride Center located at 1515 Bull Street, Savannah Georgia.

Email pflagsavannaga@gmail.com or look us up on Facebook PFLAG Savannah GA | Facebook



# Mhen Shadows Fall

The members of Asbury Memorial and Wesley Oak extend our love and sympathy to:

Curtis Veal in the passing of his long-time friend,
Bonnie Ridley

Tricia Kilgore in the passing of her father,
Steve Henman

Tom Wages (dear friend) and Ray Ellis (caregiver) in the passing of Don "Donny" Grimes



## **Asburians**

DiAnne Amerson, Gordon Baker, Dina Consentino, Sheri Coffey, Gretchen Dodd, Sam Durham,
Ray Ellis, Katie Farmer, Ellie Gonye, Gerry Harman, Chase Harrison, Lawrence Hyde, Dale Karacostas,
Bonnie & Zoey Kaar, Judith Kessler, Rev. Marilyn Leigh, Jack Lewis, Marion Manigo, Brenda Mills,
Virginia Moryadas, Marie Parker, Mary Prokop, Frank Ramsey, Charles Richardson, Cabell Stewart,
Pat Stewart, Kenn Waters, Diane Williamson, Peggy Zeigler

## Family Members and Friends

Max Clements, Collie Collins, Linda Cowart, Sharen Demstetter, Travis Dodd, Susan Doughtie, Sara Driggers, Captain Clarence Few, Caitlin Hand, Priscilla Hearn, Ernest Lee, Anna Lewis, Jackie Lewis, Matt Moll, Pat Munoz, Tony Munoz, Leonard Nicoletta, Fredia Peggs, Paula Ruehling, Rachel Shelburne, Linda Southerland, David Steinhauser, Robert Zimmer

## Memorials

A gift has been given to the General Fund in memory of Virginia Holliday by Vickie & Kenny Echols

A gift has been given to the Raise the Roof Fund in memory of Virginia Holliday by Pat & Howard Hackney A gift has been given to the Raise the Roof Fund in memory of Joan Byrd by Pat & Howard Hackney

A gift has been given to the Properties Fund in memory of Elizabeth Sprague by Martha Rudd A gift has been given to the Properties Fund in memory of David von Winckler by Marcia Budarz

## Honorariums

A gift has been given to the Properties Fund in honor of Wendy & Pat Ciccodicola by Gloria Moses A gift has been given to the Properties Fund in honor of Jason Zimmer & August Alderman by Gloria Moses

A gift has been given to the Properties Fund in honor of Sandra Katz by Gloria Moses A gift has been given to the Properties Fund in honor of Kim & Steve Johnson by Gloria Moses



# CHAIR NAME PLATES

As we worship on Sundays, how meaningful it is to see the name of a loved one etched into a nameplate on one of our beautiful sanctuary chairs.

If you would like to remember or honor a loved one in a special way, complete an order form and turn it into the church office. Forms are available in the church narthex and the office. Please turn in a completed form to the office.

The cost is \$250.00. The funds are used for the upkeep and maintenance of the sanctuary.





Have you missed that beautiful opportunity to place your contribution in the offering plate on Sunday mornings? Well, have we got options for you! We have multiple ways for you to continue your support of Asbury Memorial and have listed them below. Thank you for your gifts!

### Mail:

Mail your contribution by check to: Asbury Memorial Church 1008 East Henry Street Savannah, GA 31401



#### Website:

Log on to our website: www.AsburyMemorial.org

Click on



Complete the form as directed. You can set it up to be a recurring donation!

## **Text Giving:**

From your mobile phone:
Send your contribution amount to 912-307-3206
Donate anytime, anywhere
Use easy debit/credit card registration
Make a one-time gift or set it up to be recurring



#### **Church Office:**

Call the church office at 912.233.4351

Both our Finance Chair and Stewardship Chair would also want to remind you, "It is NEVER too late to make and pay a pledge!"





# Wesley Oak Leaf November 2023

#### SMALL THINGS MAKE FOR UNEXPECTED JOY

It is wonderful and comforting to celebrate in the everyday stories of an unexpected joy. Jason tells the story of the Great Flood of 1993, a flood that flooded out many small towns along the Mississippi River. The small town of West Alton, population 356 of Missouri was covered in flood waters for 75 days! Jason, then a freshman of McKendree college, led a flood relief effort of students, faculty, and staff to West Alton. They needed to clear out several feet of dried mud left behind after the flood waters had receded. The dried mud was as hard as concrete, and it was toxic, so it had to go! The small town had only 1 backhoe, a large machine excavator used to pull back the dried mud. The volunteers were using shovels and minor picks to break up the mud. Things seemed impossible, hopeless, and miserable. As they were working, Jason spotted, under a nearby carport, an old tiller. Jason asked the homeowner if the tiller ran. The gruffy man replied, "that tiller's been underwater for 75 days." The man was heartbroken, frustrated,

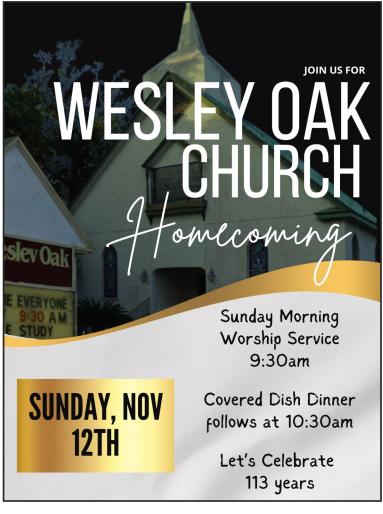
and mad - his home had been flooded for 75 days! Well, Jason said, "I'll get it running!" So, he took off the gas tank, took off the carburetor, changed the oil, cleaned it all out and put it back together again...three pulls and it started! The man looked over and started to cry. He had lost all hope till that minute. They began to till up the hard mud around his home and around the surrounding homes! Later that same evening, the man was at the town hall telling everyone about his tiller. That tiller starting up brought the man unexpected hopeful joy. That tiller was a small and mighty miracle in the devastation of a long and destructive flood.

August Alderman

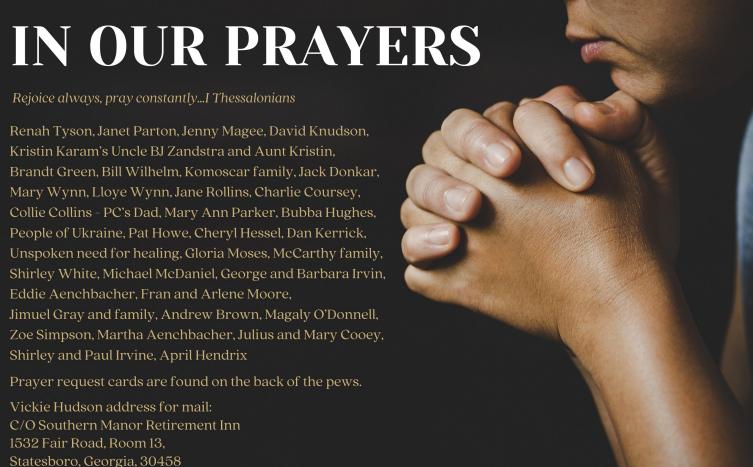


Thanksgiving Sunday - November 19th at 9:30am

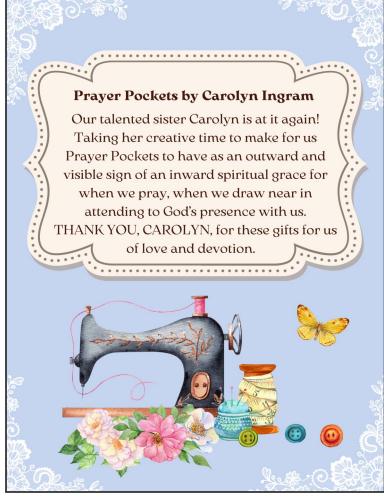














## Asbury Memorial Church

1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401-7128
INT.ID 206896
Office 233-4351 Fax 233-5026
www.asburymemorial.org

**Return Service Requested** 

Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Permit #133 Savannah, GA

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

Supplying the flower arrangements for the worship service is a wonderful way to commemorate a date that is important to you or a loved one. Please check the Flower Chart in the narthex and sign up. The cost is \$70. For more information call the church office at 233-4351.

## **Special Funds**

One way to honor or to remember a loved one is with a memorial or an honorarium to some of our different funds such as the Properties Fund, General Fund, Piano/Organ Fund, Family and Children's Ministries Fund, Youth Ministry Fund, Laura Angell Scholarship Fund, Pet Memorial Fund or one of our Mission Funds.

## **Newsletter Information**

If you have an announcement for "The Asbury Update," please email Chris Kincade at ckincade@asburymemorial.org.

## **Mission Statement**

Asbury Memorial is a place where all people can develop their spirituality, use their talents, and grow in faith as we seek to love, serve, and celebrate God, each other, and our community.