



Asbury United Methodist Church

Wellman, IA

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Lisa Crow

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Sunday School: 9:30 AM Worship: 10:30 AM

September 2025

Back to Church Sunday - September 7th: Mark your calendar! Invite your neighbor! Join us on Sunday, September 7th as we fall back into the routine of making church a priority in our lives. If you have missed a lot of church over the summer or over the past 5-10 years, this is the day to come back! Invite your friends!

Backpack Blessing – September 7th: Are you a student, parent of a student, or teacher? Even though school has already begun, we want to pray a blessing over our students of all ages & teachers for a wonderful school year! On Sunday, September 7th we invite students & teachers to bring their backpacks to church with them. We will pray a blessing over them during our worship time and start their year off on the right foot.

Sunday School Begins!!!! Adult Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 7 @ 9:30 am. Even if you have never joined a small group in the past, this group will welcome you with open arms! Each Sunday, they meet in the room just across the hall from the sanctuary before worship. Plan to join them starting on Sept 7th!

Special Service on September 21: Madena Schlabaugh will be turning 109 on September 20! To celebrate with her, we'll be holding our September 21 Sunday morning worship service at Pleasantview Home in Kalona, where Madena lives. We'll start at our usual 10:30 AM time. If you'd like to help set up chairs, plan to arrive a few minutes early. Get ready for singing and some good fellowship with Madena and other residents at Pleasantview!

Coat Giveaway: Mid-Prairie Council of Churches will be having a coat giveaway on Saturday, Oct 11, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Kalona United Methodist Church. If you have a coat you'd like to donate, please bring it to Asbury by Sunday, October 5, and Donna Palmer can take it over to Kalona.

Ingathering 2025: The 46th Annual Mission Ingathering will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2025. Our purpose is to show the love of Christ to the world's people by ministering to their needs. Our times have changed. The methods and means may change. The work of being in mission continues.

IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Ingathering



This year, Asbury will be focusing on assembling Student Kits that will be shared with kids around the world. Please drop your kits off at the church by Sunday, October 26. Each kit should include:

- 3 Notebooks -1 subject spiral 8"x 10 1/2"
- 1 Ruler -12" long with metric
- 6 Pencils - unsharpened (solid color pencils are preferable to those with patterns)
- 1 Pencil sharpener (not the tiny 5/\$1 types)
- 1 Eraser - 2" or larger
- 1 Box 12 colored pencils
- 1 Box 24 crayons
- 1 Pair student scissors (rounded or slightly pointed)
- 1 One-handed cloth bag: pattern available at <https://www.midwestmission.org/patterns> No camouflage prints, and new fabric only, please.

Laity Day with Bishop Kenetha: Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Do you want to meet our Bishop? She would love to meet YOU! Mark your calendar today and plan to attend Laity Day with Bishop Kenetha, and watch for more information to come!

WANTED - Circuit Lay Member!

We are seeking a lay member to serve as the representative of Asbury UMC in our Circuit. Recently,

our Circuit (which is made up of clergy & lay members of neighboring United Methodist Churches) made a change in format and decided to split into two groups—one with clergy, and one with laity (laity is everyone who is not clergy). The newly formed Laity Circuit will be meeting monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month at noon. The work you do will inform your pastor on how best to assist you in doing mission ministry. If you are interested in serving or hearing more about this role, please contact Pastor Lisa!

Pastor's Note: "Ubuntu"

I was raised in the church, maybe you were too. We didn't just go to worship on Sunday, we were there several times during the week as well. It seemed, as a kid, that every time the church doors were open, we were there. I went through periods in my life where that was something that I loved, followed by periods where I was the prodigal child running in a very different direction other than the church. When I came back to the church in my twenties, I didn't attend every Sunday and I wasn't involved in the way that I was in my youth. When I returned to church, Lynn and I were in the midst of raising his daughter (who was 7 when we married) and I began to see how important the church community was in my life and in the life of my step-daughter. I began to understand that being part of the community of believers is vital for my own faith journey. I also began to understand that sharing my unique spiritual gifts is important in order for the church to be the community that it is called to be.

Ubuntu is a South African word that has been translated to mean "I am, because we are." I started to understand that we all serve an important role in the church, and that when people are missing from our gatherings, we don't feel whole. That doesn't seem like a big deal, but it is. The energy of our worship changes when there are more people there. Our sense of mission to the world suddenly seems more important and do-able. When we come together as the body of Christ, we are better—together. Ubuntu. I am, because we are.

We are called into community by Christ for the betterment of ourselves and the community as a whole. When we participate in worship, study, fellowship, and the breaking of bread with one another, we all become better. We are interdependent as a community of believers, relying on one another to grow in our faith in Christ and strengthen our souls for the journey that is set out before us in this broken world. It's worth the effort of getting yourself and your family to church! Even if the sermon isn't on point, even if the music isn't your favorite song, even if the slides don't work the way they should... it's worth it because it is within the community of believers that we experience the risen Christ. We are fed when we show up with an eager heart to worship God. And, we need you in order to be us.

There is no better time than this Sunday to get back into the routine of making church a priority in your life. Whether you have been gone over the summer, or over the last 5 years (or more!) mark your calendar to join us for worship on Sunday morning, and plan to stay for fellowship time after worship. We'll save you a seat!

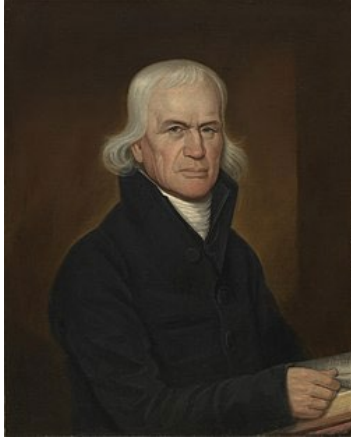
Walking Alongside You,
Pastor Lisa

"The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything." -Acts 2:42-44

Special Feature: Know your Methodists!

Have you ever noticed the people depicted in the stained glass in our fellowship hall? Take a look the next time you're in the church...who are all these folks? Why, in 1950, did our congregation deem them important enough to enshrine them there, to keep us in their watchful gaze as we sip coffee after worship? In the next several issues we'll take a little spin through Methodist history and investigate these peoples' lives. It's time you knew your Methodists!

Mystery Methodist #3: Francis Asbury



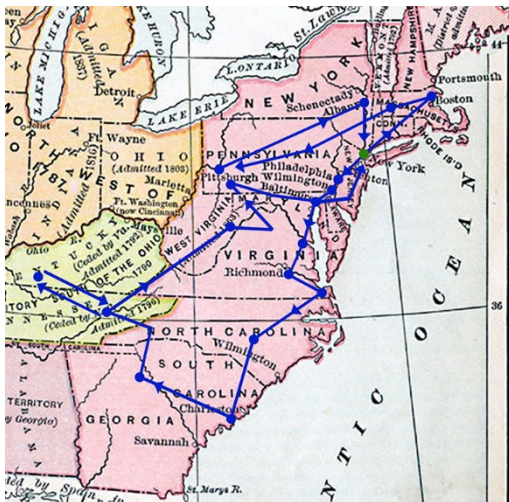
Thus far in our series we've dug into the British roots of Methodism, the dynamic duo of John and Charles Wesley. But this month we're shifting the spotlight toward the bridge between the Old World and the New: the man who guided American Methodism through the turmoil of the Revolutionary era,

planting Methodist churches all across frontier America: **Francis Asbury**.

The Prophet of the Long Road:

Asbury was born in 1745 to working-class parents in England. Though he learned to read the Bible by age 7, he had to drop out of formal education at age 12. He apprenticed as a metalworker and became a local lay preacher. At age 22, John Wesley appointed him to serve as a missionary in the American colonies. Asbury spent the next 45 years traveling, usually on horseback and through rough terrain, across America, covering 265,000 miles by the end of his career. Because of his ministry to the young American nation, Asbury has been called 'The American Saint,' and 'The Prophet of the Long Road.'

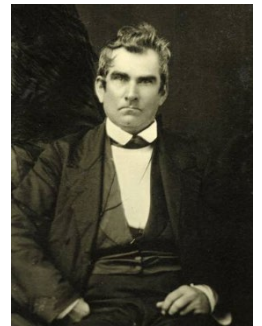
The map at left shows a "typical" ministry year for Asbury: 1791-1792. In any given year, he racked up 4,000 to 6,000 miles on



horseback. That's 13 to 19 miles per day, not counting Sundays. Asbury said in his diary: "I seldom mount my horse for a ride of less distance than twenty miles on ordinary occasions; and frequently have forty or fifty in moving from one circuit to another. In traveling thus I suffer much from hunger and cold." Especially beyond the Appalachian Mountains, settlements were sparse...a day between farms, several days between towns. Methodist historian Rev. Alfred T. Day said "He was a frontiersman and a pioneer. He could have given Lewis and Clark a map to follow before they embarked on their journey and told them which roads to take and which roads were dead ends."

With American expansion in full swing, Methodist congregations needed ministers. As Bishop of the newly-formed Methodist Episcopal Church, Asbury ordained ministers wherever he traveled. Under his leadership, the Methodist Episcopal Church grew from 1,200 to 214,000 members and more than 700 ordained preachers.

Fun fact! In Kentucky in 1802, Asbury ordained Peter Cartwright, who became a circuit riding preacher in Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Indiana and Ohio. In 1824, Cartwright founded my home church in Pleasant Plains, Illinois: Peter Cartwright UMC. So Asbury is my spiritual grandfather or something, I guess? -SDJ



Peter Cartwright: A veritable ray of sunshine.

Asbury's district eventually encompassed an area the size of continental Europe, excluding Russia. He was more widely recognized face-to-face than either Thomas Jefferson or George Washington. Historian John Wigger said "Landlords, lords and tavern keepers knew him on sight in every region, and parents named more than a thousand children after him." He became so well known that a person need only address a letter "Bishop Francis Asbury, United States" for that letter to find him.

Asbury crossed the Allegheny Mountains 60 times, but he dreaded the Appalachian Mountains; he spoke of his forty times "over the Alps." From his diary: "One of the descents is like the roof of a house, for nearly a mile: I rode, I walked, I sweated, I trembled, and my old knees failed: here are gullies, and rocks, and precipices." Asbury kept up this relentless pace for 45 years.

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Understanding America

The Rev. Alfred T. Day III reflected that as an Englishman, Asbury had to adjust his expectations to match the reality of American life and culture. "There were times in the conflicts, in the development of the American Methodist Church in the colonial era when Asbury could have drawn a very hard line in the sand. But he seemed to have the knowledge and insight to know that when enforcing the rules too strictly might have a negative and deadly effect on his developing the American Methodist Church."

However, there were two situations in which Asbury's beliefs prevented him from engaging in compromise. During the Revolution, Asbury refused to endorse either Great Britain or the newly-formed U.S. government, wishing to "remain aloof from the political and military fervor that swept the country at that time." He was based in Maryland, and the State enacted a law requiring all citizens to sign an Oath of Allegiance, upon penalty of incarceration for treason. Asbury proclaimed his neutrality and fled to Delaware, where the taking of a loyalty oath wasn't required. Asbury remained hidden during the war and ventured occasionally back into Maryland, which sometimes placed his parishioners in compromising circumstances.

In the second situation, Asbury also fell afoul of pro-slavery sentiments in Maryland and further south. He taught that "slavery was a crime against the laws of God, man, and nature." Among the men he ordained was Richard Allen of Philadelphia, the first African American minister in the United States. In 1780, Asbury met formerly enslaved man Henry Hosier, who began serving as Asbury's driver and guide. Although not literate, Hosier memorized long passages of the Bible as Asbury read them aloud during their travels. Hosier eventually became a famous preacher in his own right, the first African American to preach directly to a white congregation in the United States.

Hard on Himself, Hard on Others

Asbury set stratospherically high standards for himself, and others struggled to measure up. He rarely owned more than he could carry on horseback and he advocated against higher wages for ministers. He practiced voluntary poverty in a way that was reminiscent of certain Catholic monastic communities, like the Franciscans. Asbury took poverty to the extreme, often beginning a journey without enough money to complete it and trusting God to make it all work out. He once set out for Boston from New York, refusing to take more than \$3 with



Text in window: "Go to live with God and teach others to do so."

him. While this precarity compounded the hardships he experienced, it also ensured that he was immune from accusations of greed and hypocrisy that other preachers faced. He spent most of his days on horseback and most of his nights as a recipient of someone's hospitality. Regular people saw him when he was tired, sick, or both. He gained a nationwide reputation for piety and holiness, and this amplified his message of repentance and new life.

Predictably, Asbury was hard on his ministry trainees. His diary included non-nonsense appraisals of their effectiveness as preachers. Historian Dale Patterson said: "It would be, you know, 'Jones' and the word 'useful' next to it. 'Peters, a bawler' which means as he sings or he preaches he just sort of yells constantly. He's a bawler. Someone else, 'needs practice.'"

Asbury tended to be a pessimist and believed himself to be "a true prophet of evil tidings, as it suits my cast of mind". However, those who knew him considered him an extremely sensitive person. In his journal he recorded more failures and misgivings than successes in ministry. Asbury's drive and discipline are legendary, and one can't help but feel compassion for him, given all the ways he voluntarily suffered for the sake of the Gospel. He was a tireless missionary, and it's likely that he personally converted the ancestors of many of us who have roots in the American westward expansion. Today he is celebrated as the architect of American Methodism, and he remains a challenging example for anyone who is trying to live a life that's surrendered to Christ.

(Check back in next month for the next installment of Know Your Methodists – A social justice crusader who helped establish the 8-hour workday. Whoop Whoop!)

Scripture Readings for September

Scripture Readings for September 1-7:

Monday: Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-26,
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Tuesday: Jeremiah 18:1-11, Luke 14:27
Wednesday: Jeremiah 19:1-13, Luke 14:28-30
Thursday: Jeremiah 19:14—20:6,
Luke 14:31-33
Friday: Jeremiah 20:7-18, Luke 14:34
Saturday: Jeremiah 21:1-10, Jeremiah 22:1-12
Sunday: Luke 14:25-33, Jeremiah 22:13-19

Scripture Readings for September 8-14:

Monday: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28,
Luke 15:1-7, Psalm 14
Tuesday: 1 Timothy 1:1-7, Luke 15:8-11
Wednesday: 1 Timothy 1:8-11, Luke 15:11-32
Thursday: Jeremiah 5:13, 30-31,
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Friday: Jeremiah 6:13-20,
1 Timothy 1:18-20
Saturday: Jeremiah 7:1-15, Jeremiah 7:30-34
Sunday: Luke 15:1-10, Jeremiah 8:4-11

Scripture Readings for September 15-21:

Monday: 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-9,
Psalm 79:1-9
Tuesday: 1 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 16:10-12
Wednesday: Jeremiah 8:18—9:1, Luke 16:13
Thursday: Jeremiah 9:4-9, 23-26,
Luke 16:16-18
Friday: Jeremiah 11:18—12:6,
Jeremiah 15:10-21
Saturday: Jeremiah 17:14-18; 18:18-23,
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Sunday: Luke 16:1-13, 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Scripture Readings for September 22-28:

Monday: 1 Timothy 3:8-16, Luke 16:19-31,
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Tuesday: 1 Timothy 4:1-5, Luke 17:1-2
Wednesday: 1 Timothy 4:6-16, Luke 17:3-4
Thursday: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15,
1 Timothy 5:1-16
Friday: Jeremiah 32:16-35,
1 Timothy 5:15—6:2
Saturday: Jeremiah 32:36-44, 1 Timothy 6:3-21
Sunday: Luke 16:19-31, Jeremiah 33

Scripture Readings for Sept 29 – Oct 5:

Monday: Jeremiah 39:1—40:6, Luke 17:5-6,
Psalm 137
Tuesday: Jeremiah 52:1-16, Luke 17:7-10
Wednesday: Lamentations 1:1-6, 11-12,
2 Timothy 1:1-7
Thursday: Lamentations 2:11-20,
2 Timothy 1:8-15
Friday: Lamentations 3:1-24,
2 Timothy 1:15—2:7
Saturday: Lamentations 3:25-36,
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Sunday: Luke 17:5-10,
Lamentations 4:2-4, 9-10; 5:9-22

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES!!!

2 Jim & Deb Seward
3 Jim & Donna Palmer
7 Bill & Julie Kinneer,
Carl & Laverta Yoder
8 Levi & Alisha Kelley
11 Bowen Pennington
13 Kasen Stransky
14 Cecil Kelley
15 Bob & Melanie Stutzman,
20 Madena Schlabaugh, Alex Bean
21 Mike McVey, Larry & Millie Whetstine
26 Jackson Pennington
29 Millie Whetstine, Andy & Melody Rowe
30 Ed Whetstine

Date	Ushers and Coffee Servers	
9/7	Beans & Cooper/Ehrenfelts	Beans
9/14	Lori Reece, Nelsons	Lori Reece & Kym Kral
9/21	Rowes	Rowes
9/28	Powells	Powells

Sound/PowerPoint Coverage							PowerPoint Prep					Song Leader					
Date	Lori	Anita	Donna	Mike	Maria	Gracy	Lori	Anita	Donna	Mike	Gracy	Lori	Maria	Mike	Pam	Melody	Shauna
9/7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9/21	Service @ Pleasantview											Service @ Pleasantview					
9/28	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>