

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 0

Action at Asbury



Asbury United Methodist Church, 1810 Kellogg Avenue, Janesville, WI 53546

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Pastor's Pondering



And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2: 10-11 KJV)

Bible passages like these, never grow old! For even when so much in our world has been challenged and changed, these beautiful verses from the King James translation of the Gospel of Luke remain a familiar comfort to our hearts and our minds and our souls.

They remind us that one thing remains a constant in this ever-changing world – and that constant is Jesus Christ. He is there for us, born into our hearts once again. With the babe, we find Hope, Peace, Joy and Love; four Blessings of Faith which we celebrate as we light our candles upon our Advent wreath.

The pandemic has scarred the world with a deep fear of sickness and death. Yet even as we daily face this stark reality, we as people of faith still find hope for the future, peace for our souls, joy in our living, and love for our hearts - all because God is with us, in that little baby born in a manger so long ago.

With Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, we can heed the words of the angel, "Fear Not!" But instead face the world with confidence that Good shall overcome Evil, that Light shall overcome Darkness, that Life shall overcome Death.

My prayer is that throughout the season of Advent and into the days of Christmas, we cherish the Good News that the angel shared with the shepherds – God is with us – and that is all we really need!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Will





December Worship Schedule and Themes

All Services Are Online Only

December 6 Second Sunday of Advent Peace In-Home Holy Communion

Sermon: "Looking Toward the Day of God"

Scripture: 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Peter lays out what he expects as the Early Church awaits the Lord's return.
Do we wait upon Jesus Christ with fear or with peace?

December 13 Third Sunday of Advent Joy

Sermon: "The Light Approaches"

Scripture: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist signals the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, into the world.
Do we participate in John's mission to prepare others to receive the Messiah even today?

December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent Love

Sermon: "The Story Begins"

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

Luke shares the story of Mary's visit by the angel Gabriel which heralds the news of God's coming into the world in God's Son, Jesus Christ.
We revisit how it all began.

December 24 Christmas Eve The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sermon: "A Christmas Like No Other"

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-20

We will hear the familiar story of Jesus' birth and sing many of our favorite Christmas Carols while lighting our candles in our homes. This will be a Christmas to remember!



December 27 First Sunday After Christmas

Sermon: "What Child Is This?"

Scripture: Luke 2: 22-40

It must have been amazing and confusing being Mary or Joseph. Did they fully realize who their little boy was? Hear how Simeon and Anna help them understand that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah.



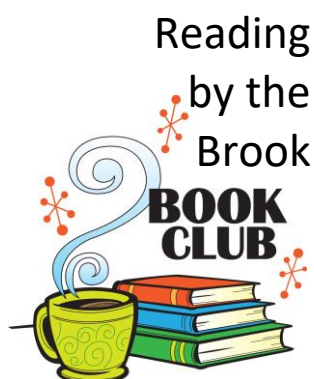


October saw income of \$9,416.71 and expenses of \$10,860.38.
Current unrestricted assets are \$11,218.15.

October Missions:

ECHO - \$360
Missionary Paul Webster - \$190
Mission Bolivia - \$100
School Supplies - \$60
Lincoln School - \$25
GIFTS - \$10

Thank You For Your Generosity: Denny Hanks, Asbury Bookkeeper



The novel *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker was our November book choice. "A rare novel. Telling the story of a young blind man's journey through a world of auditory intensity, Jan-Philipp Sendker renews one's faith in the possibility of real, pure love. I finished the book in tears." - Review by Shawna Yang Ryan, author of *Water Ghosts*. The discussion of this book will take place as a Zoom meeting on Sunday, November 29, at 10:00 a.m. There will be no book club in the month of December. For more information, contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or rk Dahlke@yahoo.com.

Light the Night 2020



This year, Asbury UMC is offering the chance to remember or honor loved ones with Luminaries on Christmas Eve. White bags will be displayed along the front drive-through and sidewalk areas honoring or remembering your loved one. A candle inside each bag will light up the names written on the outside. The cost of a luminary is \$5 each or 3 for \$10.00. The funds raised from this event will go towards the Salvation Army. Please fill out the bottom portion and turn into the office by **December 18.**

Your Name _____

In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____

Amount Enclosed _____

A check can be made payable to Asbury United Methodist Church with Salvation Army on the memo line.



We give prayers of thanksgiving for your loyal support during the month of November for our local ECHO (Everyone Cooperating to Help Others) program. Our December Mission Matters Moments will center on our traditional Mitten Tree giving of mitten, scarves, and hats for Lincoln and Jackson Elementary Schools. **Please note changes to dropping off items listed under the Mitten Tree information in this newsletter.** We also will be supporting the Parker High School Big Give program. **Please note the changes to this year's program. Due to the COVID-19 virus, we will be limiting our giving to gift cards and monetary donations. Please see further information about the student's background and a list of gift card wishes in this newsletter.**

ASBURY UMC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Ministry Name: Asbury Mitten Tree and Parker High School Big Give

Ministry Location: Both ministries take place at Asbury during the Christmas Season. The Mitten Tree items are donated by Asbury Congregants and dropped off at Asbury during the Christmas season. They are then delivered to the schools after the winter break. The Parker High School Big Give donations are collected at Asbury and due by December 13 in time to be delivered to the students' homes before Christmas Break.

Ministry Contact Person: **Mitten Tree** - Joan Tiffany (608)752-5426 and **Parker Big Give** - Kathy Dahlke (608)295-7623

Ministry Mission Statement: Asbury UMC is a place to feel the warmth of God's love for all and to show love to one another and the community by continuous service.

Ministry Needs: Asbury Mitten Tree contributions are given to Lincoln and Jackson Elementary Schools to help keep students warm and safe during the cold winter weather. Asbury participation in the Parker High School Big Give Program gives students in need a brighter Christmas by providing essential items with wellbeing wishes for their future.

We welcome your ideas and invite you to join our RTC Zoom meeting on December 7 at 6:00 p.m. Contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or rkdahlke@yahoo.com with your ideas, suggestions, or questions.





Student #2 is a male Junior. Lives with mom and dad. Mom is disabled and Dad is a truck driver. Struggle to make ends meet. The student recently got a job to help parents financially.
Student #2 GIFT CARDS: Xbox, Walmart, Sentry, Subway, DQ, A&W, Culvers

Student #3 is a female Senior. She has grown much in four years. She didn't care much for school her freshman year. However, she now will be graduating early, at semester, including college credits. She wants to become an Early Childhood/Day Care Worker
Student #3 GIFT CARDS: Kohls, Walmart, Pink, Noodles & CO, Taco Bell

Student #13 & #14 are siblings. #13 is a male Freshman and #14 is a female Junior. Dad is unable to work. Mom works, but it is a minimum wage job. They really struggle to make ends meet.

Student #13 GIFT CARDS: Walmart, Little Caesars, MacDonalds
Student #14 GIFT CARDS: Walmart, Kohls, Arbys, McDonalds, Itunes

Students #15, #16, are sisters. Dad is not around. Mom does hair. #15 is a Senior who will be graduating early at semester. She plans to attend college to become a Vet Tech. Last year, the family took in another child, Student #17 a female. Student #17 came from a horrible household. She would not be as successful as she is without the help of #15 & #16 and their mom. They are legal guardians to #17, but there is no monetary support to assist with raising an extra child. This has put an extra financial strain on the family.

Student #15 GIFT CARDS: Walmart, Kwik Trip, DQ, Taco Bell, McDonalds
Student #16 GIFT CARDS: 5 Below, Bath & Body, McDonalds, Movies 16
Student #17 GIFT CARDS: Walmart, Zumiez, Dunkin

Student #32 is a female Senior. She is 17 and on her own. Parents are not in the picture. She stays with friends in Beloit and commutes to Parker. Even with her personal struggles, she still maintains around a 3.0 GPA. After graduation, she plans to attend URock or Blackhawk Tech.

Student #32 GIFT CARDS: Rue 21, Walmart, Walgreen, Popeyes

NOTE: Monetary contributions and gift cards can be dropped off at church Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. Checks should be made payable to Asbury UMC and Big Give should be written on the memo line. If you are dropping off or mailing gift cards, please include a note saying For Big Give. For those dropping off checks or gift cards at church, there will be a box in the narthex labeled BIG GIVE. PLEASE WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU ARE INSIDE THE CHURCH BUILDING.



ECHO continues to meet the needs of the community during these trying times. They provided 364 months of rent assistance between January and October, 2020, to keep clients from becoming homeless. They have also provided 3594 shelter nights to keep people from experiencing homelessness (living outside or in their cars). Please consider donating food or monetary donations to ECHO. Due to Covid, many holiday activities have to be altered. This year for the toy distribution, ECHO is requesting monetary donations of gift cards from Blain's Farm & Fleet. Parents will receive a gift card to purchase presents along with a prepacked goodie bag full of stocking stuffers for children in need in our community. Please consider donations so these children can have a Merry Christmas. Last year, ECHO provided 517 children with toys and distributed Christmas trees and decorations to 98 families. Please consider being part of ECHO's holiday tradition. Donations accepted now through Dec. 10. Please take gift cards (and holiday wrapping paper) directly to ECHO or contact Heidi Jensen (608-201-6930) for pick-up. ECHO is at 65 S. High Street.

Pantry Needs: Peanut butter and jelly, instant oatmeal, spaghetti sauce, tuna, beef stew, soup and crackers. Dish soap, toothpaste, bar soap, laundry soap and deodorant.

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 5: Cranksgiving Food Drive at Velocity Multi-sport & Cycling

Dec. 11: Toy distribution at ECHO

Dec. 25: Christmas Dinner, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Christmas Dinner at St. William Catholic Church, delivery and carry-out only

Jan. 19: MOD Pizza Fundraiser, 3360 Milton Ave., Janesville. Valid for dine in, carry out or delivery. Mention ECHO when ordering or use code **GroupRaise** and MOD will donate 20% of food and beverage sales to ECHO.

Early Feb.: on-line Valentine-themed silent auction



Monthly report: 19 men were given 1,767 warm meals and 589 nights of safe shelter.

Our previously scheduled Grand Opening Event of the Gifts Thrift Shop has been postponed to 2021 in hopes that we can have our event outside and allow more families to join us.

All donations for GIFTS, except food and monetary donations, should now go to GIFTS Thrift Store. Please drive up between **10 AM-5 PM, Monday-Saturday** at the West side doors (Alden Rd.) of **1141 Blackbridge Rd.**

GIFTS Thrift is located next to the new VA location in the old Blackbridge Bowl building.

Our Gifts Holiday Needs List:

Gift Cards (\$5 & \$10 food or gas cards)
 New Socks
 New T-Shirts
 New PJ Pants
 New Underwear
 Men's Slippers
 Hats, Gloves, Boots, and Coats
 Men's Cologne
 Men's Lotion
 Earbuds
 New Pillows
 Flashdrives
 Folders, Binders, and Journals



Happy Belated Birthday to George Christopherson!



2 Renee Hinkle

3 Steve Whitney

4 Ronda Cass

8 Linda Sailing

10 Sarah Nelson

11 Rogena Andrus

14 Carol Isbell

22 Brian Zeilinger

23 Ione Watson

24 Mark Bakken

24 Debra North

26 Diana Jewson

26 Sherry Wilkerson

31 Winfred Bold

31 Katlyn Luepnitz



17 Brooke & Cody Thompson

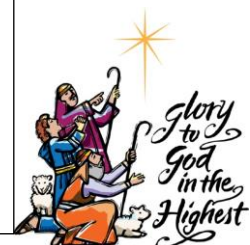
18 Eudoris & Lloyd Peterson

26 Donna & Ronald Havens

28 Carol & Don Isbell



Thank you to our 15 volunteers who have offered to serve on our new "Check-In Team" Ministry. The church directory has been divided up and callers are ready to "check-in" with every member and friend once a month via telephone. We are called to care for one another and want to see to everyone's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health by making a simple, friendly phone call. A friendly voice offering a quick chat goes a long way these days for many lonely souls! We want to make sure we keep you connected to Asbury UMC, so stay tuned for your contact call.





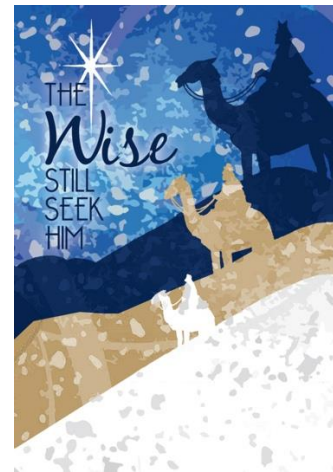
Continuing Care List

Judy Campbell, Darlene and Richard Coulthard, LaVita Fanta, Robert Geisler, Marcy Gordon, Shirley Graves, Carol and Don Isbell, Diana Jewson, Hjordis Olson, Lucille Osborne, Virginia Scarborough, Ione Watson, Charles Weber, June Zeilinger.

Pray for the family of Eileen Wolfe who passed away on October 28. A celebration of life will be held at a later date at Asbury UMC as the present health situation clears. Memorials may be made to Asbury UMC. Condolences may be sent to her sister: Faye Schilberg, 4242 Greenbriar Dr., Janesville, WI 53546

Please keep the families of those who have suffered a loss this year in your prayers during the holiday season.

Special Note from Shelly Wheaton, SPRC:
If you would like to send a Christmas gift for Pastor Will, please send it to the church with a note that it is for his gift. Denny will hold it until Christmas. Thank you!



Dear Asbury Family,
Many thanks for all the loving support of prayers, cards, and notes during my 'siege of shingles' this past summer. It's one more blessing of being part of our caring AUMC!
Sincerely, Ione Watson

To Pastor Will Jewson & members of Asbury UMC,
Thank you for serving as a drop-off and pick-up site for the Wisconsin Annual Conference 2020 Ingathering for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Your efforts and generosity contributed to the collection of 2534 pounds of supplies to be distributed to people in need in the Midwest and beyond. On behalf of the Wisconsin Mission Motivation Committee and the Disaster Response Team, I extend our deepest gratitude to all who participated or supported this act of mercy.




Grace and Peace, Mary Balson, Mission Motivation Chair

* Newsletter articles are submitted to Jan Diers at jrdiers@charter.net

December



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Online Worship Service & Communion	7 6 pm ReThink Church Zoom Meeting	8	9	10	11	12
13 Online Worship Service	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Online Worship Service	21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Online Service</i> 	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i> 	26
27 Online Worship Service	28	29	30	31		



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CHILD
IS
BORN



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December, 2020