

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 1

Action at Asbury



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

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Pastor's Pondering

On January 6, 2021, people throughout the world witnessed rioters storm the United States Capitol building in Washington, DC. Among the mob were several people carrying crosses and signs suggesting that this act was in some way consistent with Christian conduct. The attempted insurrection was prayed for and framed as a "holy war" and therefore, was justified by these people.

I find their conduct appalling.

Maybe it is time to revisit what life in the Spirit looks like. Maybe we, as followers of Jesus Christ, need to be reminded of the model for living that is taught in Holy Scripture.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Galatians identifies nine "Fruits of the Spirit." These "fruits" are the outward signs of inward grace with which we are blessed when we seek to truly live as Jesus taught. They are guiding principles which should govern our day-to-day living and serve as examples to others who witness our conduct.

The "Fruits of the Spirit" include love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

What we saw unfold in our nation's Capitol was the very antithesis of these "fruits." What was done in the name of Jesus Christ did not represent Christianity or Christian conduct in any way.

Instead of love, the conduct was driven by hate. Instead of joy, we witnessed anger. Peace was replaced by violence. Forbearance (patience and tolerance) was absent. Kindness was drowned out by murderous chants. Goodness was assaulted by evil. Faithfulness became lawlessness. Gentleness morphed into brutality. Self-control was completely absent.

The life of Jesus Christ represented nothing we saw that horrifying day. Yet some, somehow, continue to link these evil acts with the faith we cherish. I am not one of them!

By chance, I write these thoughts on Martin Luther King Jr. Day; a day where civil rights and the right to *peacefully* protest is affirmed. Christians have a right, indeed a responsibility, to speak out when injustices occur in our world. Jesus did this often as he upheld the principles found in the "Fruits of the Spirit." But the extent of his "violence" never escalated past the act of turning over the tables of those denigrating the temple courts – a far cry from the violence we saw in Washington, DC.

We are called to bring the world love, hope, peace, and joy. May the people of the world see the "Fruits of the Spirit" in the lives we live, every day and always.

Blessings,

Pastor Will



February Worship Schedule and Themes

All Services Are Online Only

February 7 Fifth Sunday After Epiphany In-Home Communion

Sermon: "How Great Is Our God?"

Scripture: Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c

The Psalmist praises and glorifies God by reflecting on how God cares for creation. How might caring for the earth honor God?

February 14 Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon: "Ascending Toward God"

Scripture: Mark 9: 2-9

Peter, James, and John get an experience of a lifetime as they witness the Transfiguration of Jesus. What mighty wonders bring us closer to God?

February 17 Ash Wednesday (Worship - TBD)

February 21 First Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "Remembering the Covenant"

Scripture: Genesis 9: 8-17

God made an eternal covenant with Noah following the flood. What should we remember when we see a rainbow in the sky?

February 24 Lent (Worship - TBD)

February 28 Second Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "Losing Life to Find It"

Scripture: Mark 8: 31-38

What does it mean to "lose our lives for Jesus?" What is our reward?



Please Let Us Know...



One of the many problems that has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic is a lack of communication between those in need of prayer and Pastor Will and the Asbury Church office. Unfortunately, with restrictions of visitations and other opportunities to interact, we often find out about hospitalizations and illnesses well after the fact. Due to privacy laws, hospital chaplains do not call to inform us of those admitted unless specifically instructed to call by the patient.

Please let us know if you or someone for whom you have permission to speak, desires to be placed on our church's Prayer List. We all know the value of prayer, but if we are not informed, your church family is unable to do their prayerful part on another's behalf. Simply call the church office at 608-752-7961 or Pastor Will at 920-960-0678, and we will handle the rest! Moreover, if you are hospitalized and are subsequently released, please inform us of where you are headed. Some folks are sent home, while others enter rehab at area nursing homes or stay with family.

The Asbury Church Family wants to do our part, but it needs to begin by your keeping us informed. Thank you for helping us care for one another.



December saw income of \$12,830.79 and expenses of \$10,647.25.
Unrestricted net assets is now at \$16,498.28.

Mission contributions:

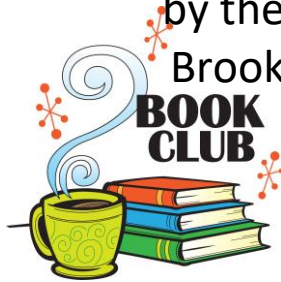
Salvation Army -\$150

ECHO -\$1,300

Lincoln School -\$50

Parker High School Big Give Program -\$884 (Grand Total of \$1,384) Plus gift cards

Reading by the Brook



Our book discussion read for the ending month of January was *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes. The review of this book states, "Taking a job as an assistant to extreme sports enthusiast Will, who is wheelchair bound after a motorcycle accident, Louisa struggles with her employer's acerbic moods and learns of his shocking plans before demonstrating to him that life is still worth living." Interested readers are welcome to join us for our book interchange via Zoom. For more information, contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or rkdahlke@yahoo.com.

Memory Café



Caregiving and Technology

DATE: February 3, 2021 at 2:00 PM

Register by calling the ADRC

608-741-3600 and the Zoom link will be provided



SAVVY Caregiver:

This class lasts for 90 minutes once a week for six weeks. Tentative start dates are Fridays beginning in mid-February. Let me know if you want to be on the list for more information. This program goes beyond introductory educational offerings. Based on research by experts in caregiving techniques, this six-week course will provide clinical-level training for family caregivers. Participants will graduate with:

- Personal knowledge, skills and caregiving outlook
- Skills to assess abilities of your loved one with dementia
- Confidence to set and alter caregiving goals
- Strategies to manage activities of daily living
- Perspective on the course of Alzheimer's and related disorders



We thank you for your kind charitable donations to Red Bird Mission in the Appalachian Mountains in Southeastern Kentucky. Your financial support was a blessing of providing funds to empower individuals with educational, health, and community outreach ministries to area low-income residents. Our February Asbury Ministry Matters will center on HealthNet of Rock County, Inc. HealthNet is a volunteer-based medical, vision, and dental clinic that provides primary health services to Rock County residents who are low income and uninsured or underinsured, including veterans. HealthNet offers general primary medical care, dental care, mental health counseling, and vision services. These services are donated and offered free to qualifying patients.

ASBURY UMC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Ministry Name: HealthNet of Rock County

Ministry Location: 23 W. Milwaukee St., Janesville, WI (2021). If you would like to learn more about HealthNet, please contact us at development@healthnet-rock.org, 608-314-1923 or by visiting our website at www.healthnet-rock.org.

Ministry Start Date: 1994

Ministry Contact Person: CEO Ian Hedges

Ministry Mission Statement: HealthNet of Rock County, Inc. (HealthNet) is dedicated to the provision of quality primary health care and health information, free or at low cost to the medically underserved residents of Rock County, Wisconsin. Their services include Medical, Dental, Chiropractic, Prescriptions, Women's Clinic, Mental Health, and Case management.

Ministry Needs: Monetary, for every \$1 they receive in donations, they are able to provide \$6.60 worth of patient care. HealthNet is always in need of office and clinical supplies. Below is a list of our continuing needs: Current & expired medications, Diabetic Supplies (test strips & insulin), Incontinence wear, Pen needles, Cleaning supplies, Garbage bags, Paper products, Copy paper, Post-its, Legal pads, File folders, Bus tokens, Gas cards, Gauze/bandages, Pill bottles/organizers, Toothpaste/floss, Nutrition shakes, Small equipment (canes, walkers). HealthNet is always looking for volunteers. Doctors, Nurses, Dentists are always in demand. They also are in need of receptionists and clerical help. With donations from our congregation here at Asbury, HealthNet is able to keep their doors open to provide patients with much needed support during these uncertain times.

We do NOT accept: Liquids not listed above, Power wheelchairs, Hospital beds/equipment, Colostomy pouches, Narcotics/opioids, Feeding tubes/supplies, CPAP Machine, Home furnishing, Clothing, and personal items.

We welcome your ideas and invite you to join our RTC Zoom meeting on February 1, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or rkdahlke@yahoo.com with your ideas, suggestions, or questions.



Last Year at GIFTS...

**74 different men were given:
4,656 nights of safe shelter
12,977 warm meals
1,733 hygiene items
514 clothing items**

Thank you to all who made this possible!

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### **COVID Update**

We are glad to welcome in 2021 with hopes of better days. GIFTS has not had any illnesses and we praise God for that. All staff, guests, and volunteers are required to wear masks and have their temperatures taken. We are diligently sanitizing surfaces and deep cleaning our shelter. We are requiring any potential guests obtain a negative COVID test prior to being considered for our program. Please continue to pray for health at GIFTS!

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Chris's Story of HOPE in the New Year

"I was fighting personal demons and I lost my job which brought me to homelessness. Coming to GIFTS was a relief because I found a place that offers a positive program with spiritual and emotional healing in addition to all the basic needs. I am now on my way to having peace in my life and maybe finding happiness again. I am looking forward to helping serve in my community and gaining back my self-worth. I am so thankful for GIFTS."

-Chris

Volunteers Needed

We need meals and overnight coverage in January and February. Please email Outreach@GiftsShelter.org for more information.



Each of us is indeed an incredibly essential light in the midst of transformative times. Imagine if we collectively combine our lights and carry our illumination into 2021—shining forth our authentic gifts with blessings of love, joy, harmony, peace, protection, and gratitude . . .

--Sage-ing International





Agrace Offers Free, Virtual Grief Support Groups

Children, teens, and adults can find hope and healing after a death with the help of Agrace grief support specialists. Various grief support groups will meet online, every other week, from January to May. There are no fees, and participants can join from home, anywhere in southern Wisconsin. Pre-registration is required. Call (608) 327-7135 with questions or to register.

Child/Teen Loss Support Group is for adults who have experienced the death of a child and have school-aged children/teens; it meets every other Tuesday, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Spouse/Partner Loss Support Group is for adults whose spouse/partner has died and who have school-aged children/teens; it meets every other Wednesday, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sibling Loss Support Group is for children ages 5 to 18 who have lost a sibling. It meets every other Monday, from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Children are grouped by age.

Parent/Primary Caregiver Loss Group is for children ages 5 to 18 whose parent or primary caregiver has died. It meets every other Thursday, from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Children are grouped by age.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

--Mark 6:50

1 Brent DeRemer
2 Andrew McGrath
12 Mark McKinney
12 Alexis Nelson
13 Cari Croft
14 Sally Kruse
14 Austin Laufenberg



20 Jeff North
23 Charles Weber
25 Andrew Cresswell
26 Duane Andrus
26 Arlie Ellis
28 Will Jewson



16 Karen & Marv Nelson



2020 was a year like no other for all of us. ECHO came up with creative ways to continue to serve those in need.

Highlights of this year include:

405 months of rent were paid (January-November)
3929 shelter nights were provided (January-November)
375 households received Thanksgiving baskets
50 Christmas stockings were given to Boys and Girls Club
355 Christmas goodie bags were distributed
400+ children received Christmas gift cards

Needs: canned meats, soup, crackers, laundry soap, dish soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo.

Upcoming Events: starting **Feb. 1**, an on-line auction benefiting ECHO will occur. Visit the ECHO website for more details at echojanesville.org



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.



Dear Friend of ECHO:

On behalf of our clients, the ECHO staff and Board join me in thanking you for your December 28, 2020, donation of \$1,300.00. Your support has meant that people in need in our community have received help with the most basic of human needs: food, housing, transportation, and other general well-being services. More than ever, ECHO relies on the support of the community to help individuals and families with emergency needs.

Jessica Locher, Executive Director



Thank you to all who supported the Light The Night Luminary event. Sixty-five luminaries graced the front of our church. Despite single-digit temperatures on Christmas Eve, we had several members venture out to view the luminaries. We raised \$245.00 for the Salvation Army!

Pat Spors



We, the family of Kerry Culb, would like to thank everyone who has called and sent cards of sympathy. Your compassion is so evident to us. Our strength comes from our God and all the support shown by so many. May 2021 hold positive promises for all of us. Thank you all.

Charlie and Judy Culb

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

February

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6 PM Rethink Church Zoom Meeting	2	3	4	5	6
7 Online Worship Service & Communion	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Online Worship Service 	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday, Worship TBD	18	19	20
21 Online Worship Service	22	23	24 Lent, Worship TBD	25	26	27
28 Online Worship Service						



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We are on the Web!
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FEBRUARY
2021