

J U L Y 2 0 2 1

# ***Action at Asbury***



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

Phone: 608-752-7961 Email: [asburyumc@charter.net](mailto:asburyumc@charter.net)

Website: [www.asburyumcjl.org](http://www.asburyumcjl.org) [facebook.com/asburyumcjl](https://facebook.com/asburyumcjl)

## **Pastor's Pondering**

### **A New Normal?**

*Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

*<sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21: 1-5)*

As I write this month's "Pastor's Pondering," Rock County has just lifted the last of their COVID-19 regulations. The headline in today's Gazette is "Mask Mandate Lifted." And this morning, I removed the blue tape that separated families in our sanctuary pews.

Things are inching their way back to normal. But exactly what the new normal will look like is anybody's guess!

What will our church look like? Who will be attending and who will not? These are all open questions to be answered over the course of time.

In the book of Revelation, John "sees" "a new heaven and a new earth." Indeed, God is always creating things anew. And that which God changes becomes the new normal we all experience. Yet through these sometimes-difficult changes, one thing remains consistent. God is with us through it all. God remains our God and we remain God's people. Never lose track of God's love and the love in which we hold one another.

Blessings to all and I'll see you on Sunday!

Pastor Will



# July Worship Schedule and Themes



## Live Services at 9 a.m.

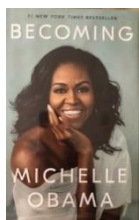
July 4	Sixth Sunday of Pentecost Rev. Duane Andrus to lead worship.	Holy Communion
July 11	Seventh Sunday of Pentecost  Scripture: Acts 9: 1-19 Sermon: "The Man Who Changed His Name" Saul is chosen by God to be the great evangelist to the Gentile world. Through his dynamic conversion experience on the road to Damascus, he becomes an entirely new man. The story proves the point that God can change us for the good.	
July 18	Eighth Sunday of Pentecost  Scripture: Mark 6: 30-44 Sermon: "You Feed Them!" The story of the feeding of the five thousand attests to the power of Jesus to do the miraculous. But it also speaks to the mission of our work and responsibility as his disciples.	
July 25	Ninth Sunday of Pentecost  Scripture: Romans 8: 35-39 Sermon: "Bound by the Love of God" Paul reminds the church that God loves us in Jesus Christ through all trials and tribulations. That love remains the same for each of us today.	



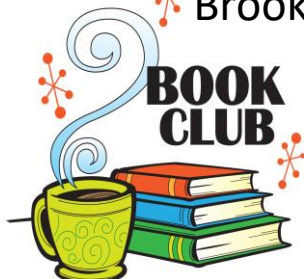
May saw income of \$13,667.06 and expenses of \$11,268.73.  
Unrestricted net assets are \$21,423.15.

### May Missions:

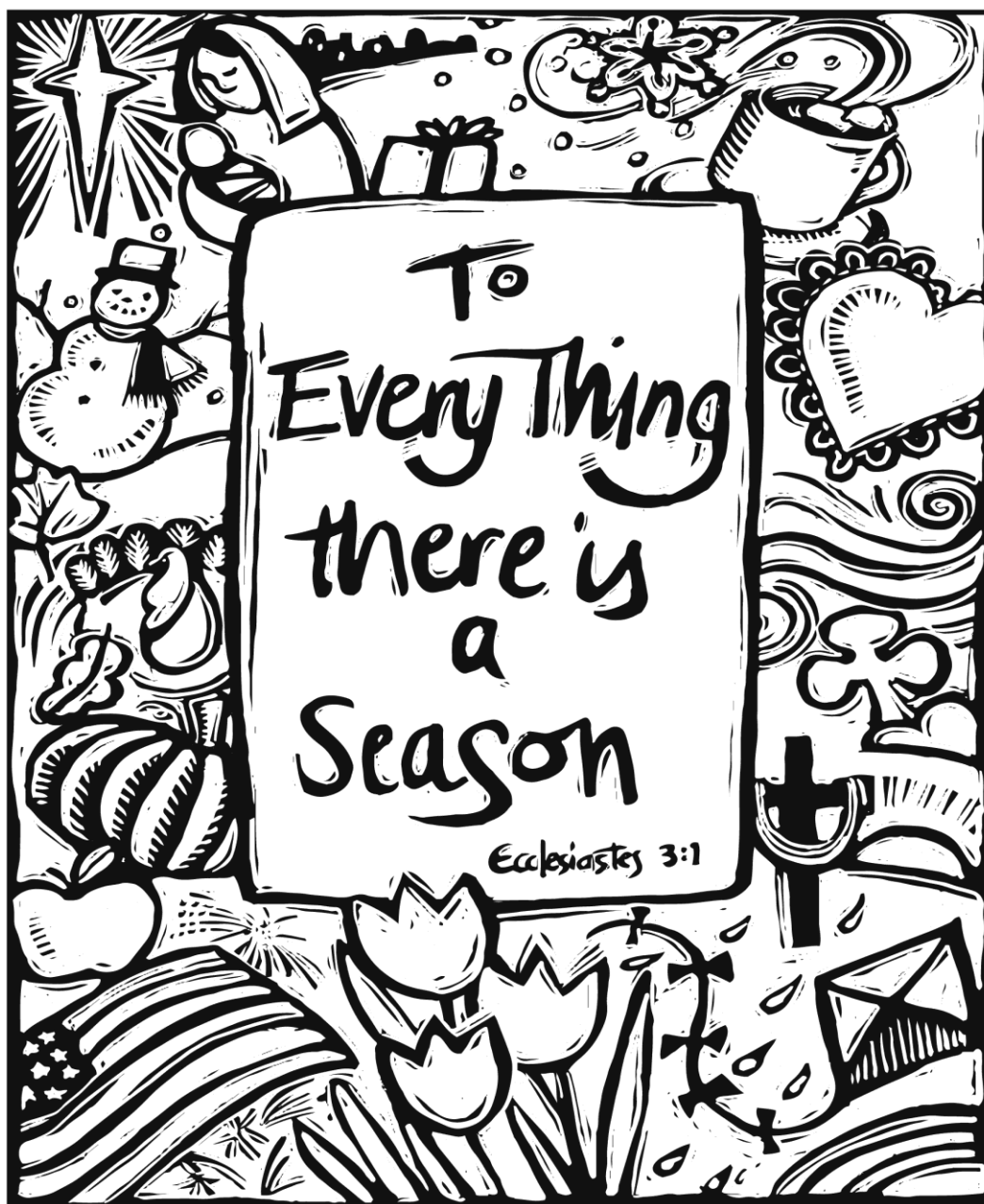
ECHO - \$100  
Crop Walk - \$1,315 that passes through church books  
India Covid 19 - \$1,290  
Native American mission - \$130  
Lincoln School - \$25  
Thank You For Your Generosity: Denny Hanks, Asbury Bookkeeper



## Reading by the Brook



New York Times # 1 Bestseller *BECOMING* by Michelle Obama is the popular choice of our July book read. "There's a lot I still don't know about America, about life, about what the future might bring. But I do know myself. My father, Fraser, taught me to work hard, laugh often, and keep my word. My mother, Marian, showed me how to think for myself and to use my voice. Together, in our cramped apartment on the South Side of Chicago, they helped me see the value in our story, in my story, in the larger story of our country. Even when it's not pretty or perfect. Even when it's more real than you want it to be. Your story is what you have, what you will always have. It is something to own." - From the Preface. Our book conversation will take place on Wednesday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Asbury. ZOOM participation is also available. Interested readers are welcome to join us for our book discussion. For more information, contact Kathy Dahlke at 608-295-7623 or [rk Dahlke@yahoo.com](mailto:rk Dahlke@yahoo.com).





We give praise for your generous gifts to support our Native American Ministry focus during the month of June. By giving to Native American Ministries, you equip seminary students who honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You empower congregations to find fresh and culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities with Christ's love. Our July Ministry Matters will center locally with our support for our community ECHO service.

### ASBURY UMC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

**Ministry Name:** ECHO (Everyone Cooperating to Help Others)

**Ministry Location:** 65 High Street, Janesville, WI 53548 Phone: 608-754-5333

**Ministry Start Date:** 1969

**Ministry Contact Person:** Asbury UMC ECHO Coordinator Heidi Jensen

**Ministry Services:** ECHO has grown from being a food pantry and clothing depot to being a charity organization called upon to help meet temporary housing, food, transportation, and other emergency needs for low-income families. ECHO seeks to help people help themselves through its programs and services, not readily available through other sources, and to assist them in utilizing other existing services and programs in the community. It does not impose any theological or political value system upon those served. Requests for assistance may be made at the ECHO Office. ECHO receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and/or a federal, state, or local public or private entity to provide services for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

**Ministry Mission Statement:** ECHO's mission is dedicated to meeting housing, food, and other basic human needs and addressing the barriers to self-sufficiency.

**Ministry Needs:** Food Pantry – providing food, including commodities, Janesville Farmer's Market Vouchers, Senior "Stock Box" Program, Bread & other Food provided to breakfast clubs, agencies, etc. Emergency Rent Assistance, Emergency Lodging, Cleaning & Personal Supplies, Diapers & Baby Food, Gas & Bus Vouchers – out of funding, Humane Society Pet Pantry, Clothing Vouchers, Community Meals, School Supplies, Easter Candy Basket Program, Thanksgiving Baskets, Christmas Toy Program, Adopt-A-Family Program, Christmas Day Dinner, Miscellaneous Service, Info. & Referral Service for people requiring public aid or help from other agencies.

We welcome your ideas and invite you to join our next RTC meeting on Monday, August 2, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. **Please note that there will not be a RTC meeting in July.** Contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or [rkdahlke@yahoo.com](mailto:rkdahlke@yahoo.com) with your ideas, suggestions, or questions.



### ESSENTIAL JANITORIAL NEEDS AND LANDSCAPING

We are gratefully meeting our goal of adding disciples and followers for the care of our Asbury Church Building & Grounds. We are lightening the load by sharing our time spent on the tasks together. The following are the lead volunteers: Steve & Diane Bundy, Donna Havens, Deanna Sanwick & Pat Erickson, Claude & Faye Eakins, George Stone & Ushers, Wendy Anderson-Markow, & Praise Band, Steve & Brenda Whitney, Linda Sailing, Pat Spors & Stitchery Group, Jeff Quaerna, Peggy Eggen, Vicki Jo Barlass, Mark & Shelly Wheaton, Josh & Kasey Rosburg Family, Joan Tiffany, Pastor Will, Amy Powell, Bob Banner, Trustee Committee, Mark McKinney, Russ & Kathy Dahlke, Mickey Abbott, Jeff Quaerna, Mike & Cheryl Woods, Mike Diers, Mark & Herb Polzin. We give thanks for these volunteers and welcome others to join in at any time!

*The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.*

*Do not forsake the work of your hands. Psalm 138:8*



## ECHO Report July 2021

### ECHO Calendar of Events:

**July 1 – December 28, 2021** Calendar Raffle

**July 20** MOD Pizza Fundraiser

**August 20** School Supply Fundraiser

**October 23** Empty Bowl Soup Fundraiser

**November 20** Thanksgiving Basket Distribution

**ECHO Needs:** Rice, Tuna Packs, Oatmeal, Hormel Compleats, Ramen Cups, Barilla Ready Pasta Packs, Applesauce Cups, Hamburger Helper, Fruit & Veggie Cups, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Dish Soap, Deodorant, Laundry Soap, Diapers size 4-7, Shampoo, Conditioner, fresh veggies from your garden (plant extra).

**New Fans** are needed to keep cool in warm weather. Last year, ECHO was able to provide fans to 59 clients.



## Hospice Volunteers Needed in Rock County

Volunteers are needed to assist customers, operate the cash register and sort donations at the Agrace Thrift Store in Janesville or make companionship visits to local Agrace hospice patients.

Agrace will host volunteer orientation **Tuesday, July 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at its Janesville office. Pre-registration is required. Call (608) 327-7163 or visit [agrace.org/volunteer](https://www.agrace.org/volunteer) to fill out an application.

## Agrace Offers Three Virtual Support Groups in July

Agrace is offering three professionally led, virtual (accessible with a tablet, computer or smartphone) grief support groups in July.

- **Bridges Support Group** is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. It meets July 7 and July 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **COVID-19 Loss Group** is for adults grieving the death of any loved one due to the COVID-19 virus. It meets every other Wednesday. In July, meetings are July 14 and 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. There is no cost to attend this group.
- **LGBTQ+ Spouse/Partner Loss Group** is a six-week series for people grieving the death of their spouse or life partner. It meets Tuesdays, July 20 to August 24, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

These groups meet online and are open to the public. There is no fee for people whose family member was in hospice care in the past 12 months; fees for others can be lowered or waived, if needed. Pre-registration is required; call (608) 327-7118 with questions or to register.



1 Troy Osborne  
 2 Wendy Anderson-Markow  
 2 Harriet Christopherson  
 3 Richard Coulthard  
 3 Jodi McMullen  
 3 Stephen Nelson  
 4 Judy Campbell  
 4 Ruth Polzin  
 5 Barb Doubleday



5 Brandon Zeilinger  
 8 Patrick Waite  
 9 Stan Curtis  
 9 Richard Lyth  
 9 Gaye White  
 17 Carolyn Schultz

18 Theresa Luepnitz  
 18 Mike Woods  
 21 Faye Eakins  
 21 Madolyn Rosburg  
 22 Dennis Sailing  
 23 Jan Diers  
 24 John Luepnitz  
 28 Robin Bent  
 28 Arlette Walker



1 Wendy & Larry Markow  
 2 Marj & Bob Banner  
 10 Gaye & Mike White  
 23 Judy & Charles Culb  
 27 Bobi & William Abraham



28 Deborah & Lloyd Coulthard  
 28 Faye & Claude Eakins  
 30 Jan & Mike Diers  
 30 Evelyn & Raymond Stafford



## 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.

Prayers for the family of Dale Kruse as he passed away on May 31, 2021.



Pastor Jewson and Asbury, "Searching for something to hold unto....." Your messages continue to give us many handholds to get a grip on a way of life that exemplifies Christian values. Thank you for all you and Asbury UMC does to make life better for everyone.

Dave Figi

# July



# 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 In-person 9 am and Online Worship 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 In-person 9 am and Online Worship	12	13	14 6:30 pm Book Club	15	16	17
18 In-person 9 am and Online Worship	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 In-person 9 am and Online Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31 



\* Newsletter articles are submitted to Jan Diers at [jrdiers@charter.net](mailto:jrdiers@charter.net)



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 2021