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# ***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**



Easter morning of 2021 was a morning of celebration which many of us will not soon forget! After 55 long weeks apart, due to the threat of COVID-19, we finally gathered again in the sacred space of the Asbury sanctuary. Coming together offered a fresh feel to the message of Resurrection and New Life by way of the miracle of Easter. Just looking out from my pastor's perspective to the full, yet safely spaced pews grouped with families I have missed for so long, made me all the more hopeful that Asbury Church will rise again just as did our Savior.

While things were not back to normal, we took a giant step in that direction. And it felt so very good. It was wonderful to make eye contact with attentive members of our church family while sharing my message, "Resurrection and Reunion." It was rewarding to read the Easter account from the Gospel of John and know it was landing on ears waiting so exceedingly long to experience it "live." And it was all the more memorable to see our church featured in "The Gazette" Monday morning with a front-page article by Neil Johnson (who was in attendance Easter morning to capture first-hand, the "feel" of the reopening moment.) His column titled "Sunday Revival" will serve as a nice piece of the Asbury History we chronical.

So, where do we go from here? Well, I am committed to slowly and safely reintroducing elements of worship still missing. Things like the coffee hour in the narthex, the sharing of the Peace of Christ, congregational singing, receiving the weekly offering while enjoying a Christian music video, children's moments, prayer cards, and of course the opportunity to properly greet you with a hug or handshake as we exit our service. And who knows, maybe we'll come up with some new ways of worshiping which will become part of our tradition!

Know, too, that I remain committed to offering the recorded online worship. We have discovered that to be an especially important "new worship opportunity" for friends and members who are home-bound or working or away on a vacation or prefer a worship time other than that of our "live" service. I don't want to end a worship opportunity for someone for whom online worship is the only viable option!

I only expect that as time goes by and life achieves a safer new normal, we will have even greater opportunities to offer and participate in ministries both as we knew them, and as they will become.

Welcome home my Asbury Family! I am glad you can again, stop by!

Blessings,

Pastor Will



## May Worship Schedule and Themes

## "In-Person" Worship at 10 a.m. or Online

May 2	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion
	Scripture: John 15: 1-8 & 1 John 4: 7-21 Sermon: "Bearing Fruit in a Rocky Garden" Jesus uses the analogy of The Vine and The Branches and challenges his disciples to be fruitful in their work. What is necessary to truly bear spiritual fruit?	
May 9	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Mother's Day
	Scripture: John 15: 9-17 & Psalm 98 Sermon: "It's All About the Love" On this Mother's Day we hear Jesus teach extensively about the role of love in Discipleship. Do we often enough make love the focus of our living?	
May 16	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Ascension Sunday
	Scripture: Acts 1: 1-11 & Ephesians 1: 15-23 Sermon: "Gone but Never Forgotten" Jesus' ascension is by no means the end of his story. For ministry was just beginning for his followers. They proclaimed his message with the assurance that he will come again.	
May 23	Pentecost Sunday	
	Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21 & Romans 8: 22-27 Sermon: "Spirit for All" The Holy Spirit provides us with an all-inclusive example of God's power and love. Likewise, Christ's Church must be open to, and in service of, all people.	
May 30	Trinity Sunday	
	Scripture: Isaiah 6: 1-8 & Romans 8: 12-17 Sermon: "Send Me!" Isaiah's call narrative is quite dynamic. How might God be calling you to serve?	



## Many Hands Make Light Work

A BIG thank you is in order for all those who assisted with our Clean Sweep last March. Items were purged, nooks and crannies were cleaned and organized. Now as the dust settles from our renovation project, the cobwebs appear and ongoing cleaning is necessary. Many thanks to the Eakins for their untold years of service vacuuming the sanctuary on a weekly basis. Here's an opportunity for many of our members to be in a servant ministry at Asbury. A plan to keep our building clean has been devised. We are looking for 12 disciples to step up and each take 1 month out of the year to clean. (A list of monthly chores can be obtained from the Trustees.) Because many hands do make light work, each of the 12 volunteers can enlist their own team to help them for their month. Call the church office now to pick your month!



Thank you so much to our congregation for your amazing support in continuing to pay off our church elevator loan. We have sent a check for **\$10,000** this month toward our church loan. Our outstanding balance is now **\$61,000**. That is wonderful news!!

March saw income of \$11,264.50 and expenses of \$10,966.44.

Missions:

Health Net - \$2,340

Salvation Army - \$95

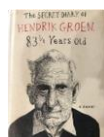
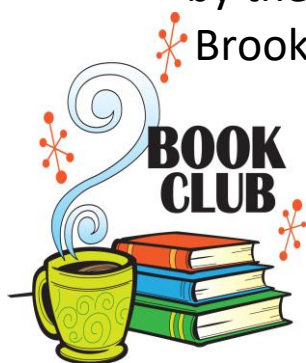
ECHO - \$360

UMCOR - \$330

Lincoln School - \$50

Thank You For Your Generosity: Denny Hanks, Asbury Bookkeeper

Reading  
by the  
Brook



*The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen* is our pick for our May book reading. The book cover reveals, "A bestselling phenomenon that has captured imaginations around the world, **THE SECRET DIARY OF HENDRIK GROEN** is an irresistible novel about friendship, love, and an old man who is young at heart. Charming, inspirational, and laugh-out-loud funny, with a deep and poignant core, it is a page-turning delight for readers of any age." Our book conversation will take place on Wednesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. in Asbury Fellowship Hall. Masks and social distancing will be required. 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 [rkdahlke@yahoo.com](mailto:rkdahlke@yahoo.com).

Memory Café



Weekly online **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** workshops begin **May 5**. This six-week course is designed to teach caregivers how to take care of themselves and consider their well-being while caring for others. Courses run from 1:30 to 3:30 PM Wednesdays from May 5 to June 9. Workshops will be led by Teena Monk-Gerber of Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin and Cori Marsh of the Rock County Aging and Disability Resource Center. Registration is required by April 28. A suggested donation of \$10 will be welcomed. For more information or to register, call 608-757-5309 or email [lisa.messer@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:lisa.messer@co.rock.wi.us)



*Garden Lovers: Please contact Kathy Dahlke, 1-608-295-7623, if you can help with outside flower care during the growing season, May-October.*



## Calling Attention to all Asbury History Buffs and Book Lovers

We are excited to welcome all to come and visit our new library located on the lower floor at church. It is the first room located on the left-hand side of the hallway as you come from the elevator area or the stairway off the narthex. The library is open to greet you as you explore the bookshelves' contents and the church membership directories, as well as the Asbury history books. More history items can be found in the cedar chest behind the first doorway. You will also find extra church membership directories spread out on the shelving between the two doorways. These are available for your taking and keeping. The rest of the church reading material can be checked out. There will be a clipboard in the room for your signage. Lastly, but not least, you will also find children shelving filled with books, puzzles, and toys to entertain the youngsters in your family. We encourage you to gather and find enjoyment as you browse and read. We hope you will find warm memories, spiritual inspirations, and relaxation in this area. There are chairs, tables, and couches to provide you comfort and the ability to spread materials out. We welcome you with joy and blessed reading. **"You can read the Bible, and should, but until you study it, it doesn't come alive for you and teach you a lasting lesson."**-Unknown



### Asbury's Little Free Library Expanding Book Access for All

Asbury's Rethink Church Team years ago realized that one of the most successful ways to improve the reading achievement and literacy of children (of all ages) is to increase their access to books, especially at home. Since 2009, when the first Little Free Library was placed in Hudson, Wisconsin, there are now thousands of them offering residents the chance to "take a book and share a book." We encourage you to take time to explore our Little Free Library.



### *Little Food Pantry in the Prairie*

A few years back I had heard of someone who took the idea of the Little Free Library and made it into a Blessings Box, stocking it with non-perishable items. I really liked that idea of having one at Asbury for a couple reasons. We have quite a few families that visit the playground and with the Pick N Save store closure, it would be an opportune place for families in the area who were experiencing difficult times.

I approached Russ Dahlke about building one and he didn't hesitate to tackle the project! That is the basic story of the Little Food Pantry in the Prairie and how it came to be.

I have been trying to stock it from time to time but I have not been able to keep up with the demand. The summer before Covid, there were times I would stop by in the morning to stock it and by the afternoon it would be empty again! Anyone wishing to help stock the pantry is welcome!

Dawn Cresswell

"The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children."  
—Elaine Heffner



May  
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"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway."  
—Erma Bombeck



Our April Ministry focused on our local CROP Walk. We thank all who participated in the walk and who gave monetary donations that benefit those in need in our community as twenty-five percent of the funds raised are returned to ECHO in our community to support local hunger-fighting efforts. Our May Ministry Highlights will feature Native American Ministry. On Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodists cultivate and support urban missions with Native Americans and fund scholarships for Native American seminarians. Our Wisconsin Conference retains 50 percent of the offering to strengthen and develop Native American ministries. The remaining 50 percent of the offering expands mission work with the Native American Urban Initiative and provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved schools of theology.

## **ASBURY UMC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT**

**Ministry Name:** Native American Ministry Sunday

**Ministry Location:** United Methodist Church Worldwide

**Ministry Start Date:** The Odanah United Methodist Church was dedicated on April 3, 1898, by A. J. Davis of the Ashland District. Its founder and first minister was Thomas C. Thomas, an ordained Ojibwa Native American from Michigan. Thomas was a member of the West Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was elected during his time to be a delegate to Washington DC. The Oneida Church, another Wisconsin UMC church, is close to 200 years old and the oldest church in the Conference having brought the Methodist Societies to Wisconsin from New York. The church is open to all people as well as all Native Americans. The Oneida Church is committed to walk alongside the traditionalists, while bringing the gospel to them in a culturally sensitive way.

**Ministry Purpose:** Whether it is providing shelter for victims of domestic violence, filling food pantries, starting new churches or educating Native American seminary students, this designated offering takes place as a way United Methodists honor Native Americans.

**Ministry Vision:** On Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodists cultivate and support urban missions with Native Americans and fund scholarships for Native American seminarians.

**Ministry Mission Statement:** When you give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, 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.

**Ministry Needs:** This offering funds scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians, strengthens and develops Native American ministries and communities, both urban and rural, and supports Native American outreach at the annual conference level. Remember you can celebrate this Sunday and any Special Sunday on a day of your choosing.

We welcome your ideas and invite you to join our RTC meeting on Monday, May 3rd, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

**Please Note: We will tentatively meet at church with masks and social distancing for our May meeting.** Contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or [rkdahlke@yahoo.com](mailto:rkdahlke@yahoo.com) with your ideas, suggestions, or questions.



Using the code below,  
decipher the Bible message.

7 15 4 so 12 15 22 5 4 the  
23 15 18 12 4 that he gave is only  
19 15 14 , so that 5 22 5 18 25 15 14 5  
who 2 5 12 9 5 22 5 19 in him won't  
16 5 18 9 19 8 but will have eternal  
12 9 6 5 . (John 3:16, CEB)

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4
E=5	F=6	G=7	H=8
I=9	J=10	K=11	L=12
M=13	N=14	O=15	P=16
Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20
U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24
Y=25	Z=26		



## 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.

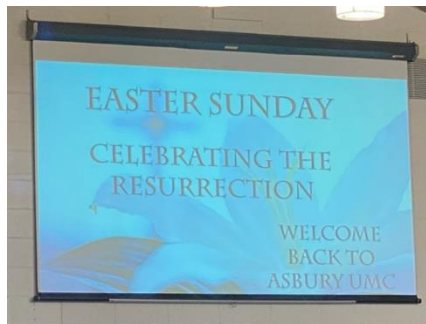


***Spring Showers?***  
*The old pipes in the boiler room broke on April 10. Water was confined to the boiler room, thank goodness, and Russ Dahlke came by immediately with pipe wrenches and turned off the main water supply. A plumber will be contacted on Monday.*



Burning the prairie helps control weeds and keeps out trees/shrubs. It also heats up the earth, allowing the native plants a head start in growing and clears out the dead debris allowing the native plants to fill in thicker.

--Chuck & Kari Campbell



Hallelujah! We are back!  
Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021





2 Pat Spors

4 Karen Nelson

6 Dakota Reece

7 Makenzie DeWar

7 Bob Miller

8 Kathy Dahlke

8 Joyce Peters

9 Marilyn Waldsmith

10 Brooke Thompson



13 Ron Cresswell III

13 Owen Peters

15 Elizabeth Waite

15 Mike White

16 Braxton Phillips

20 Jaicy Campbell

22 Larry Burns

25 Don Isbell

25 Lois Symons

26 Dale Clark

27 Lloyd Peterson

30 Julie Polzin

6 Tina & Mark Bakken

11 Desiree & Jason Laufenberg

19 Diane & Steve Bundy

23 Shelly & Mark Wheaton



27 Deborah & Marc Shapiro

28 Peggy & Hans Eggen

29 Sue & Robin Bent

29 Nonie & Skip Reed



Pastor Jewson and Asbury,

Pastor Jewson's messages have made the last year special for me. Thank you for your outstanding video services. Carolyn's music and the video/design team of Tina, Connie, and Julie all are greatly appreciated. You all have certainly adjusted to the challenges of the COVID crisis and we at home are most thankful for your contributions to our spiritual life.

The best to you, Dave Figi

Many thanks to Lois Symons and Maggie Bunderson for donating dozens of beautiful prayer shawls.

Dear Members of Asbury United, I would like to thank you for your charitable contribution of \$2,340 to HealthNet of Rock County, Inc. Donations like yours help us alleviate some of the costs of providing care to our patients in medications, imaging/x-rays, women's clinic supplies, insulin, and dental exams. Thank you for always putting your faith into action.

Sincerely, Ian Hedges, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Asbury United Methodist Church, Thank you for your generous recent gift of \$150 to The Salvation Army. It's so important to remind our neighbors that, even in times of sadness and great loss, there is hope for a brighter future. With your kindness, we can provide that hope. Your gift has the power to help so many who are in need. --Major Thomas McDowell, Rock Co. Coordinator

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



May



2021

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

"If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way mom told you to in the beginning."

—Unknown



God, thank you for this day and the opportunities it offers to share your love with others. Amen.

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