

N O V 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  
Thanksgiving  
Message



## **Pastor's Ponderings**



"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.  
Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations." - Psalm 100

It is good to be reminded of the need to be thankful in life.

In times like these, it can be easy to dwell on all the problems in the world, as the pandemic has touched everyone in so many negative ways. We approach Thanksgiving Day, knowing that for many families, the traditional gatherings will not happen. Caution will take precedence over tradition.

Yet there is much to celebrate! There is much to be thankful for, even in this troubling year! I am thankful for friends and family and the way they continue to support me. I am thankful for Asbury Church and the way its parishioners show love and compassion for one another.

And I am thankful for our God who is with us through all of this, with love and faithfulness which endures forever.

What are you thankful for in 2020? Take a moment each day in this Thanksgiving month and identify something or someone that you are thankful for. Take a moment each day and worship the Lord with gladness and praise. It will help you find hope and put your mind at rest.

Give Thanks!

Pastor Will





## November Worship Schedule and Themes

All Services will be online only.

- November 1 All Saint's Sunday In-Home Holy Communion  
Sermon: "Til We Meet Again"  
Scripture: Revelation 7: 9-17  
This Sunday we will honor and celebrate the lives of our church's saints who have gone on to glory. Since this year's event needs to be virtual, we will invite you to light a candle in your homes, as Pastor Will lights a candle on the altar, in memory of our departed loved ones.
- November 8 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: "The Cry at Midnight"  
Scripture: Matthew 25: 1-13  
Rev. Stan Curtis is scheduled to lead worship.
- November 15 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant!"  
Scripture: Matthew 25: 14-30  
Jesus shares the Parable of the Bags of Gold with his disciples and teaches them about what God expects from us when we are granted blessings. Do we work to add to the gifts God grants?
- November 22 Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday  
Sermon: "Thanks Be to God"  
Scripture: Psalm 100 and Ephesians 1: 15-23  
Thanksgiving is quite different this year due to the pandemic. This morning we will take a moment to be intentional about identifying those things for which we should be thankful.
- November 29 First Sunday of Advent  
Sermon: "Watch!"  
Scripture: Mark 13: 24-37  
We begin the Season of Advent today by watching and anticipating the return of Jesus Christ. How might we prepare our hearts and minds and souls to receive the Lord anew?





## What's Next With Worship? – Part Two

In last month's newsletter we began to ponder what worship might look like as the weather changes and the pandemic worsens. As I write this, Wisconsin is breaking record after record concerning COVID-19 cases in our state. We are currently the hotspot in the nation as far as infections go.

It is against this reality that **we will return to "online worship" exclusively** for the time being. We will continue to watch the infection numbers closely and adjust when it is safer.

At some point, I still plan to offer an opportunity for Spiritual Formation by making the sanctuary available for a time of "Prayer and Meditation." We will restrict the number of people present at any given moment – probably not more than ten worshippers – and reservations will be required. Of course, masks and maximum social distancing will need to be observed.

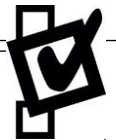
This "Prayer and Meditation" opportunity may include a Scripture reading, a devotion, or a pastoral prayer, and recorded music. For those wishing to view it, the online worship service may be shown on the big screen following approximately 15 minutes of prayer and meditation.

Further ideas for this opportunity are welcomed.

I am considering three "Prayer and Meditation" opportunities during the week. Sundays at 10 a.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m., and Thursdays at 2 p.m.

**The church office will notify the congregation when this Spiritual Formation opportunity will begin.**

Pastor Will



## Join the Asbury Check-In Team

Can you use a phone? If you answered "yes," then you have what it takes to be part of the new "Asbury Check-In Team!" This new ministry is one of our church's responses to the pandemic and social distancing. We want to make sure no one in our church family "falls through the cracks" and feels abandoned and alone.

The Check-In Team will divide up the church directory and "check-in" with every member and friend twice 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.

If you can serve in this new ministry, please contact Pat Spors at 608-487-1211 or Kathy Dahlke at 608-295-7623. The more team members we can get, the easier this important ministry will become. A friendly voice offering a quick chat goes a long way these days for many lonely souls!



September saw income of \$8,671.00 and expenses of \$12,925.88. Our unrestricted net assets dropped to \$12,422.94.

### Missions:

Mission Shelters - \$730  
Missionary for September - \$90  
ECHO - \$280  
Lincoln School - \$75

Thank You For Your Generosity: Denny Hanks, Asbury Bookkeeper



Our October monetary giving for our Mission Matters Moments was gratefully received for the In Mission Together (IMT) Bolivia Methodist Church, Bolivia, and The United Methodist Church, USA, helping to give resources to reach, serve, and share its ministry. Our November Ministry Matters Moments will support our local ECHO. Everyone Cooperating to Help Others is a non-profit charity that helps the less fortunate in Rock County with their basic needs. While some resources may be provided directly by the agency and its faith-based partners, most of the support they offer clients is in the form of referrals. Also, the organization relies heavily on donations as well as volunteers from the community.

### **ASBURY UMC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT**

**Ministry Name:** ECHO (Everyone Cooperating to Help Others.) Life is an ECHO. What you Send Out, you Get Back!

**Ministry Location:** 65 High Street, Janesville, WI 53548

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

Executive committee members: President, Nancy Hansen-Bennett; Vice-President, Heidi Jensen; Treasurer, Rick Mueller; Secretary, Maureen Birchfield; Member at Large, Dori MacFarlane; Member at Large, Greg Kraft; Past President, Gloria Huschka; Interim Executive Director, Jessica Locher. ECHO, Inc., Phone: 608-754-5333, Fax: 608-754-9199, E-mail: [office@echojanesville.org](mailto:office@echojanesville.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville](http://www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville) [www.twitter.com/ECHOJanesville](http://www.twitter.com/ECHOJanesville)

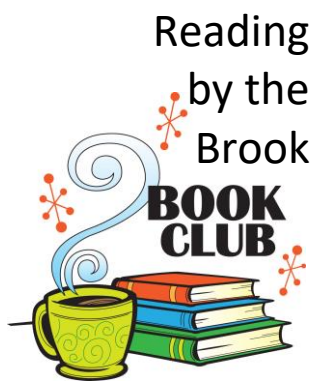
**Ministry Mission Statement:** ECHO's mission is dedicated to meeting housing, food and other basic human needs and addressing the barriers to self-sufficiency.

**Ministry Services:** Food Pantry – providing food, including commodities, Janesville Farmer's Market Vouchers, Senior "Stockbox" Program, Bread Emergency, Rent Assistance, Rapid Re-Housing, Emergency Lodging, Cleaning & Personal Supplies, Diapers & Baby Food, Gas & Bus Vouchers – out of funding, Clothing, Community Meals, School Supplies, Easter Candy Baskets, Thanksgiving Baskets, Christmas Toy Program, Adopt-A-Family Program, Christmas Day Dinner, Miscellaneous Services, Housing Navigation, PATH Outreach, Info. & Referral Service. for people requiring public aid or help from other agencies.

**Ministry Needs:** During these difficult times, ECHO continues to provide food and rent assistance to those in need. Along with food and supplies, monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in the grocery cart at church or taken to ECHO.

**See more ECHO information in this newsletter. Watch for more information coming in regards to the traditional Parker High School Christmas Big Give in the coming weeks.**

We welcome your ideas and invite you to join our RTC meeting on November 9 (**Note date change**) at 6:00 p.m. in the Peace room. Contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or [rkdahlke@yahoo.com](mailto:rkdahlke@yahoo.com) with your ideas, suggestions, or questions.



*A Slight Trick of the Mind* by Mitch Cullin was our Asbury October Reading by the Brook book selection. “In this intricate, absorbing, and mysterious novel, Mitch Cullin raises Sherlock Holmes from the dead so persuasively that I was startled to recall the great detective had never existed outside the covers of a book. *A Slight Trick of the Mind* is a wonderful homage to Conan Doyle and a wonderful novel in its own right,” Margot Livesey, author of *Banishing Verona*. The discussion of this book is set for Sunday, October 25, at 10:30 a.m. at Asbury. Zoom will be offered for those who are unable to come. Our November book will be chosen soon. For more information, contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or [rkdahlke2@yahoo.com](mailto:rkdahlke2@yahoo.com).

## Memory Café



While we may still be working from home and offering virtual events to keep everyone safe, we are offering many things for Rock County residents to do. There are still a few spaces open for the state wide book club if anyone is interested featuring the book “*Dementia Reimagined*” by Dr. Tia Powell. We will offer another session in January. *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* will be offered for the final time in 2020 beginning later in October. It is a class to assist caregivers in learning how to take care of themselves. We have had great feedback on the virtual classes we have held so far this year. We will also be hosting our Annual Boot Camp Virtually this year on Saturday, November 7, 2020. Bootcamp is for any family on the dementia journey. We focus on planning, getting your questions answered and where to go for assistance and support. Anyone is welcome at any of these events. Our support groups continue as well—you can zoom in or call in to any of these programs! Please join us if you can!! Email or call me at 608-921-7165 for more information or any questions you may have. We are here to support you!! Please feel free to share with others as well. Take Care!

Cori Marsh, Aging & Disability Resource Center

Mondays --- 10:00 AM Caregiver Coffee Hour  
 Tuesdays --- 1:30 PM Caregiver Support Group  
 Tuesday Evenings --- 6:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Caregiver Support Group  
 Wednesday Mornings --- 10:00 AM Wacky Wednesday Social Hour for Fun  
 Thursdays --- 10:00 AM Early Onset Memory Loss Caregiver Support  
 Fridays --- 1:30 PM Afternoon Social Hour/Memory Café

Contact Cori Marsh at 608-921-7165 or [cori.marsh@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:cori.marsh@co.rock.wi.us) to register and get the Zoom Link or dial in information





## ECHO Report October 2020

ECHO continues to provide food and rent assistance to those in need in our community during these difficult times. Please consider donating food and supplies or a monetary donation to ECHO. Food donations can be placed in the grocery cart at church or taken directly to ECHO.

### Upcoming ECHO Events:

- 10/24** Empty Bowls to Go – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.--drive thru pick up for preordered soups at YMCA's back parking lot off of Court Street.
- 11/21** Thanksgiving Basket Distribution at Rock County Fairgrounds, pre-registration required.
- 11/26** Festival Foods Turkey Trot – virtual 5-mile run or 2-mile walk. Sign up by 11/8 for \$20, includes a long sleeve shirt, buff, and coupon for a full-size pumpkin pie which will be mailed to you. Your registration also includes a chance to win a 2020 Subaru Crosstrek. Register at [festivalfoodsturkeytrot.com](http://festivalfoodsturkeytrot.com)

## Landscaping PROJECTS

November brings the completion of our construction Landscaping project. In September, plantings were completed in the new landscaping areas. Retaining walls were added and completed in October. Elnoe Campbell made and installed metal landscaping edging which was donated by Globe Sheet Metal. Leftover brick pavers from the previous church landscaping were used to make a brick path approach to the parsonage backyard porch deck. Seven trees were planted in late September and early October. Ron Scobie Family donated two trees in memory of Eunice Scobie. Claude and Faye Eakins donated money for a third tree and Ardis Bender donated money for a fourth tree. The three remaining trees were purchased from the existing landscaping monies that were generously contributed by others in our Asbury family. In conclusion, we also wish to give our appreciation to all our wonderful Asbury volunteers who helped with these projects. Any monies left over from the landscaping fund will be applied to our elevator loan.



SO MANY BLESSINGS





## Hat and Mitten Tree

This Asbury tradition continues with a small adjustment. We are once again asking for donations of hats, scarves, ear warmers, gloves and mittens. This year please place your donated items in the delivery box out in front of the church. These will be counted and delivered to Jackson and Lincoln Elementary schools to help keep the children warm this winter. Thank you for helping us show the love of Jesus.



1 Ruth Davis

6 Leigh-Ann Waite

7 Max McGrath

8 Betty Jo Clough

10 Judy Culb

11 Vicki Jo Barlass

11 Violet Rosburg

13 Brennan Abraham



14 Shirley Nelson

14 Rhianna Waite

15 Marj Banner

16 Deanna Sanwick

18 Virginia Scarborough

19 Pam Haas

26 Tina Bakken

26 Connie Nelson

29 John Brikowski



10 Tracy & Brian Reece

10 Brenda & Steve Whitney



24 Ronda & Wade Cass



Please submit newsletter articles by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month to Jan Diers at [jrdiers@charter.net](mailto:jrdiers@charter.net) Thank you!



## 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, Eileen Wolfe, June Zeilinger.



## Virtual Visits Keep Agrace 'Alongside' Patients

### *How we've adapted to prevent COVID-19 spread*

The beauty of both hospice and palliative care is being alongside a patient through tough times, physically and emotionally. But in 2020, very little is as it should be.

As COVID-19 continues to prevent us from entering some patients' homes and long-term care facilities, virtual visits are saving the day. Using smartphones, iPads or laptop computers, video chats let our staff see our patients—and our patients see their loved ones.

Christine Lawrenz, an Agrace hospice nurse case manager in Janesville, says that while virtual visits have obvious limits, there are ways to help from a safe distance. **"With virtual visits we can work on symptom management and talk about how people are feeling—their anxiety, their mood. COVID is very anxiety-inducing for a lot of people, and I think virtual visits were the only way some people were going to accept any help from us."**



## 3 Ways You Can 'Volunteer' Now

1. **Masks:** Make and donate cloth masks. They're needed for visitors who arrive at Agrace without one.
2. **Comfort shawls:** Handmade shawls and lap blankets are a comfort to our patients. All donated shawls and lap blankets must be in plastic bags. Please, no holiday colors so that they can be used year long.
3. **Donate 10" new Teddy Bears** with tags attached (in plastic bags) to be given to any young visitors.



### *An Abundance of Thanks*




Thank you to Globe Sheet Metal. They graciously donated landscape edging for the front of the church and parsonage!

On behalf of the Mercyhealth Development Foundation, thank you for your most recent gift of \$243.00 to support the House of Mercy Homeless Center which provides emergency shelter to homeless families. —Jennifer Johns, Development Director

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$244.00 received in September in support of YWCA Rock County's Alternatives to Violence program. Every gift given helps improve the lives of women, children, and families in our community.

--Angela Moore, Executive Director



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|-----------|--|--|---|
| 1<br>Online Worship<br>Service &<br>Communion | 2   | 3<br><b>ELECTION<br/>DAY</b><br> | 4         | 5  | 6<br> | 7   |
| 8<br>Online Worship<br>Service                | 9<br>6 pm<br>ReThink<br>Church  | 10  | 11        | 12   | 13   | 14  |
| 15<br>Online Worship<br>Service               | 16  | 17  | 18        | 19   | 20   | 21<br>9 am<br>Virtual<br>Charge<br>Conference   |
| 22<br>Online Worship<br>Service               | 23  | 24  | 25        | 26<br> | 27   | 28  |
| 29<br>Online Worship<br>Service               | 30<br> |   |           |  |  |  |



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