

O C T O 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 Ponderings**



"Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice.  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.  
If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.  
I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.  
I wait for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.  
Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
for with the Lord is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.  
He himself will redeem Israel  
from all their sins. (Psalm 130)

I just finished attending a ZOOM meeting with Bishop Jung and my pastoral colleagues from the SE District of the WI Annual Conference. Bishop Jung began our time together by sharing a devotional based on Psalm 130.

The Psalmist prays to God for mercy. Clearly, the writer's heart is heavy concerning something in his life, something in his world, something which has moved him deeply and he expresses this profound concern with great passion.

Bishop Jung acknowledged the reality that we are living in a time of great unrest – the COVID-19 crisis, racial inequality and injustice, and a troubling political divide in our nation to name just a few. He referred to this unrest as "Divine Interruptions" – interruptions in life which give us pause to re-evaluate what is important and ponder how we might respond as Children of God. As pastors, the Bishop reminded us that we are "carriers of hope."

As I reflect on the Bishop's inspirational words, it occurs to me that each of us as Children of God are "carriers of hope." We all are called to put our hope in the Lord. We are all called to look to God for forgiveness and find in the Lord unfailing love and full redemption.

In times such as these, we are invited to join with the Psalmist and pray for a new day dawning. A new day of hope and redemption. God is good!

May God bless your new day!

Pastor Will



## October Worship Schedule and Themes

October 4      Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost      World Communion Sunday

Sermon: "Equality by Faith"

Scripture: Philippians 3: 4b-14

Paul was a man with all the "right" bloodlines, yet he discovered that none of that mattered. His lineage meant nothing. He discovered it is faith in Christ that counts. Learn how faith makes us equal.

October 11      Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: "Thinking of Such Things"

Scripture: Philippians 4: 4-9

Paul encourages the Philippian faithful to focus on things of holiness. Discover how a positive outlook on life can change us and those around us for the better.

October 18      Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: "You've Been Chosen"

Scripture: 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Paul celebrates those in the church and reminds them that they have been chosen by God. How might we approach life as chosen people of God?

October 25      Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost      Reformation Sunday

Worship details TBD as this Sunday rests on Virtual Annual Conference.





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## What's Next With Worship?

As the Wisconsin weather begins to change, churches throughout the community are faced with the difficult challenge of how we shall conduct worship services. Obviously, as the temperature gets colder, we will have to discontinue our outdoor worship services at some point. But what model of worship do we turn to then? Do we go back to online worship only, or do we try to safely bring some sort of worship experience into our sanctuary? If we come indoors, we will be forced to limit our capacity and adhere to strict COVID-19 regulations. Recently, the pastors of our Circuit met to discuss this issue in detail. Some of our UM churches have begun to open on an extremely limited basis, others have not opened at all. The Bishop and Cabinet have “recommended” that our sanctuaries remain off limits for the balance of 2020. No one is happy with that recommendation and all are trying to find a better solution.

Recently, Asbury's SPRC met to discuss this issue and explore our options. It was tentatively agreed that due to the COVID-19 numbers in Rock and surrounding counties, and the reality that we are an “aging church” we are trending toward following the Bishop/Cabinet's recommendation and return to online worship only when the weather becomes challenging. Please note that this decision may be amended if COVID-19 numbers get better. We understand how important “in-person” worship is to Asbury church and are looking for ways that we might be able to safely gather.

One suggestion under consideration is a few “prayer and meditation” opportunities a few times during the week in our sanctuary with **VERY LIMITED** numbers allowed at any one given time. This option would require reservations, masks, and extreme social distancing. Stay tuned for more details on this new form of Spiritual Formation.

This single decision is by far, the most important and difficult one I have had to make in my ministry to date. I take your health and safety very seriously. Please pray for wisdom as we make this decision.

Pastor Will



Communion at Outdoor Service



## Asbury Church to be an Ingathering Drop-Off Site

Asbury Church has been asked to serve as a drop-off site for the 2020 Ingathering for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) by Mission Motivation Chair, Mary Balson. Churches and individuals of the SE District are invited to bring items that MMDC needs to Asbury Church from October 21<sup>st</sup> through October 23<sup>rd</sup> and again October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> between 8 a.m. and noon or by appointment by calling Pastor Will at 920-960-0678. You can see the items needed by watching the three videos on "assembly instructions" of the kits at the following website:

[www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects-patterns/umcor](http://www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects-patterns/umcor)

It is not necessary to put everything in kits. If you have extra supplies, they can also be sent as there will be a use for them.



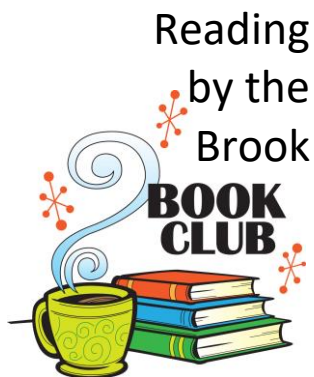
August saw income of \$11,582.67 and expenses of \$10,723.66. Our unrestricted net assets are at \$16,626.55.

### Missions:

Mission Shelters - \$730 collected

ECHO - \$180 collected

Thank You For Your Generosity: Denny Hanks, Asbury Bookkeeper



Our Asbury Reading by the Brook friends read in September Elizabeth is Missing by Emma Healy. We have not ordered our group book for October at the time of this printing. We are hoping to read A Slight Trick of the Mind by Mitch Cullin or Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool. For more information, contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or [rkdahlke2@yahoo.com](mailto:rkdahlke2@yahoo.com).



Book Club in  
Zoom &  
Outdoors







We give praise for your monetary support in September for the Asbury's Ministry Matters Methodist Minister Paul Webster and the Mujili Falls Agricultural Center in Zambia. Your giving supports the needs of poor, rural people. It addresses community social, economic and health problems holistically. We also give thanks for the collection of school items you provided to the local students in our community as they return to school under the trying times of the Covid 19 pandemic. Each student needs his own supplies as no sharing is allowed during this time. In October, our mission focus will be on In Mission Together (IMT) Bolivia Methodist Church, Bolivia, and The United Methodist Church, USA. The Iglesia Evangelica Bolivia (IEMB) does not have enough resources to reach, serve and share its ministry, and it is because of this that they have been receiving Volunteer Teams (VIM Teams) from the US that come to Bolivia to support the IEMB with economic resources and to share their faith with their Bolivian brothers and sisters. The relationship that develops between the Bolivian Church and the solidarity that the teams provide are very important to us. The sharing of faith and culture, the knowledge that we are truly one in the universal Body of Christ, as well as our mutual prayers, strengthen us both.

#### **ASBURY UMC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT**

**Ministry Name:** (IMT) In Mission Together Bolivia Methodist Church and The United Methodist Church, USA

**Ministry Location:** Bolivia and USA

**Start Date and Contact Persons:** Associate member of WCC member since 1971  
Website: <http://www.iemb.cc/> Membership: 9,053 Pastors: 32 Congregations: 188

**Ministry Mission Statement:** The goal of the mission is the establishment of a self-sustaining United Methodist Church with holistic ministries empowering people in their context, community and country.

**Ministry Needs:** Donating funds for the Salary of the Director of the Promotion Office and the Promotion Office. You can join a VIM (Volunteers in Mission) trip and bring a sleeping bag that you will leave for the Promotion Office to be used for other teams coming to Bolivia. This need is because they have no resources to buy new ones. Helping making connections with other churches and/or VIM teams. You can also share your experience in Bolivia with other churches and VIM teams encouraging them to come to Bolivia; they have many places and projects in need all over Bolivia.

We welcome your ideas and invite you to join our RTC meeting on October 5 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.

# Landscaping PROJECTS

Have you seen the beautiful planters filled with mums in the front of the church entrance? They were purchased by Mark McKinney and planted by Mark and Lois McKinney in memory of Eunice Scobie. The final landscaping of trees, shrubs, and plants along the front of the church building began in mid-September. Brick pavers and edging was also completed at the church and parsonage. Thank you to all the Asbury volunteers who helped with the projects. We give thanks for your generosity in monetary funding for these projects. Financing by check should be written out to Asbury UMC listing landscaping on the memo line. Any monies left over from the landscaping fund will be applied to our elevator loan.





## October 2020 ECHO

As of September 1, 2020, Jessica Locher has been named interim executive director of ECHO. Jessica has been serving ECHO as associate director for many years.

ECHO is in great need of food or money donations to serve those in need in our community. ECHO needs items for Homeless Care Packages: plastic silverware, disposable cups, paper bowls and plates, napkins, baby wipes, toilet paper, can openers, microwavable foods, single serve beverages and hygiene items.

### Upcoming ECHO Events:

**Now till sold out** – Empty Bowls to Go. Soups to be made by 20 area restaurants. Soups will be pre-sold in quart freezer-safe containers: \$8/quart or \$20/3 quarts. Order on [www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org) Soups will be available for pick-up October 24 from 11 AM-1 PM at YMCA of Northern Rock County's back parking lot off of Court Street.

**November 21 -** Thanksgiving Basket Distribution

**November 26 -** Festival Foods Turkey Trot





Last month at Gifts:  
15 different men were provided  
293 safe nights of shelter and  
1,001 warm meals

#### **Needs List**

Paper Towels  
Copy Paper  
Disinfectant Wipes and  
Spray  
Powdered Drink Mix  
Powdered Coffee  
Creamer  
Bottled Water  
Napkins  
Non-Latex Gloves  
Face Masks  
Milk

**Donations** can be  
dropped off or sent  
through [Amazon](#) to **1025  
N. Washington St,  
Janesville, WI.**

#### **Fall Meal Openings**

We have openings for meals in October. Please  
email [Outreach@GiftsShelter.org](mailto:Outreach@GiftsShelter.org) to help provide a meal.

**We have added Plexiglass to our serving area!**

GIFTS is thrilled to announce that the **Thrift Store** is coming  
along. We need volunteers to help get things sorted and  
ready to sell.

Our **GRAND OPENING** is set for November 7 from 11-3 PM  
with a ribbon cutting by Forward Janesville at 11:30, pumpkin  
decorating, raffles, and lots of fun and games!

#### **CALLING ALL BAKERS!!**

We are looking for **bakers to donate baked goods** for our  
grand opening bake sale! All proceeds will go towards  
benefiting GIFTS Men's Shelter and help support the men we  
serve.

Call Brittany Ranum at 608-373-1901 for further information.

Since COVID-19, our numbers have dropped. Part of this is  
due to the weather being warmer and our guest numbers  
generally go down in the summer.

The other part of this is because we were really focused on  
keeping the men who were already with us, safe. While we  
could have been taking new guests during the pandemic, we  
followed the advice of the CDC and Health Dept. and chose to  
protect those already in our program.

Had anyone contracted the virus, we would have had to shut  
down completely leaving us unable to serve any of those in  
need.

We are continuing to be diligent about safety precautions and  
cleanliness. **Thank you** to all those who continue to support us  
during this unprecedented time.





## *Good Samaritan Fund*



Our job as good neighbors is to be there for one another and to work together to make sure all of God's children are treated with love. We at Asbury UMC have a great opportunity to be a Good Samaritan to our neighbors. Simply purchase a \$20.00 Kwik Trip gift card and present it to Pastor Will. By having a "stash" of these gift cards available, he will be equipped to reach out to folks in need who come to him for help. Together we can follow the example of the Good Samaritan and heed Jesus' words: "Go and do likewise."



3 Nonie Reed

4 Bob Banner

4 Elnoe Campbell

7 Cheryl Woods

8 Dennis Hanks



10 LaVita Fanta

11 Steve Bundy

20 Jill Plach

25 Kari Campbell

26 Denise Thomas



1 Barb & Bill Doubleday

6 Kathy & Russ Dahlke

12 Jill & Rick Plach



15 Theresa & John Luepnitz

21 Arlette & Cliff Walker

24 Jerriann & Larry Burns

25 Ruth & Herb Polzin



## 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.

Pray for the family of Eunice Scobie as she passed away on September 1.

God  
wink

SIGH

Before you go to sleep, take deep breaths and think of these things in your day:

**S** - Success—what you enjoyed or managed well today

**I** - Improvement—what could you have improved, done differently

**G** - Grateful—what are you truly grateful for today

**H** - Hope—what can I hope for next, for tomorrow



Thank you for your thoughtful cards, your caring notes, and your generous donations in memory of Eunice Scobie. Your loving support and prayers are greatly appreciated.

--Ron Scobie and Family

October

OCTOBER



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 	3
4 10 am Worship Service	5 6 pm ReThink Church	6	7	8	9	10
11 10 am Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10 am Worship Service	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10 am Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31 



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