

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 0

Action at Asbury



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

Phone: 608-752-7961 Email: asburyumc@charter.net

Website: www.asburyumcjl.org facebook.com/asburyumcjl



Pastor's Ponderings



¹¹ The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (1 Kings: 11-13)

Sometimes, we might feel like the prophet Elijah, standing alone on a mountain of trouble, looking for God. And with all the challenges before us these days, it might feel like our mountain is being torn apart by wind, earthquakes, and fire making it especially difficult to hear the voice of God through all the chaos and noise.

That is when we need to listen closely – listen to that which speaks to us in the silence. For God came to Elijah in a gentle whisper. The voice of God was not like the other sounds which caused him such anxiety. The voice of God was a calming whisper which brought peace and comfort to this troubled man.

That voice of God is still found in a gentle whisper. It is found in the balmy breeze blowing through pine trees. It is found in the gently flowing water of a pristine stream. It is found in the delicate chirp of a tiny songbird.

Anxiety and stress are at very high levels for many people these days – and understandably so. We need the peace and comfort that only God can provide. God still provides it. We simply must look and listen in the right places.

May you discover the voice of God speaking gently to you, bringing peace and comfort to your soul. Remember, God is always near!

Blessings,

Pastor Will





September Worship Schedule and Themes

ALL SERVICES WILL BE OUTDOOR SERVICES ON THE ASBURY LAWN

ONLINE WORSHIP WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE

- September 6 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (9 a.m. Outdoor Worship)
Sermon: "Praise is a Way of Life!" ***Holy Communion will be served.**
Scripture: Psalm 148
The Psalmist sings a hymn that tells of the breadth of praise. Praising God is a lifestyle and is all encompassing. How might we live the life of praise?
- September 13 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (10 a.m. Outdoor Worship)
Sermon: "Forgiving from the Heart"
Scripture: Matthew 18: 21-35
The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant drives home the message of forgiveness. Forgiveness is at the center of our faith. Are we actively striving to be a forgiving servant?
- September 20 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (10 a.m. Outdoor Worship)
Sermon: "God Will Provide"
Scripture: Exodus 16: 2-15
The Story of Manna and Quail demonstrates God's love and deliverance for struggling people. God provides! How is God providing for us today? Are we grateful or do we continue to grumble?
- September 27 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (10 a.m. Outdoor Worship)
Sermon: "Imitating Christ"
Scripture: Philippians 2: 1-13
Love, joy, tenderness, compassion, humility. . . All these and more are traits of our Lord. Paul calls us to imitate Christ in our lives. Are these traits people see in us?



****In-Person Holy Communion to Return in September***

The church office has ordered through Cokesbury.com individual Communion kits which will be offered to individuals for Communion during our Outdoor Worship Service on September 6th. These sealed kits contain 6 ml of sacramental juice and a round unleavened bread wafer made without additives. Individuals in attendance will be instructed to take one kit per person when they arrive. Note that Communion will also be offered remotely through our Online Worship Service as well.





Dear Lay and Clergy Leadership of the South East District,
Greetings in the Name of Christ! This is the first email I have been able to send to laity for far too long! When the WAC email system was updated, new tools for sending mass emails to district leadership had to be re-developed. I hope this email gets to many South East District laity in addition to clergy!

It goes without saying that we have entered uncharted waters as we seek to be the Church during this Covid-19 Pandemic. While we encounter challenges, new opportunities also present themselves. After five months of this pandemic reality, fatigue and frustration can easily consume us as we cry "how long oh Lord!? When will life return to normal? When can our churches fully open and programming return to the way it was?" Throwing caution to the wind because of Pandemic fatigue has led to resurgence of the virus and concerns and frustrations mount. Here is some thoughtful guidance::

- Instead of spending primary energy on when and how to reopen, use that creative energy to further develop ways to be in ministry in the current environment. How can the Church in a pandemic era most effectively make disciples, build supportive community and impact the wider community virtually and through other creative methods. We must plan assuming that the pandemic will significantly impact our lives until a vaccine is widely produced, widely used and proved effective. Think in terms of a year! Even when congregations open using necessary protocols, most people self-select not to attend until a vaccine is available. So it is wise and fruitful to plan our ministry with that reality in mind. I have seen so much creativity and excellent ministry in the midst of Pandemic. You are doing some great work! The Church of Jesus Christ is the living Body of Christ not confined to a building. Whether in or out of the building, you are doing some wonderful ministry! Thank you!
- When planning re-opening of in-person worship and other group activities, caution is still the top recommendation. Bishop Jung and the WAC Covid-19 Task Force affirm that by our polity these decisions ultimately belong to local church pastoral and lay leadership utilizing Conference, State, CDC and local guidelines. The safest option still is to not open for in-person, indoor worship until virus transmission declines dramatically and consistently. Once opening is considered, stringent guidelines must be followed for the safety of all. A few of our congregations have begun indoor in-person worship following those guidelines. The Bishop and cabinet also fully support clergy and lay leadership who are waiting for in-person worship and other large group activities until risk factors significantly decline. Some churches around the state and country are even waiting to

Continued on page 4

open until a vaccine is available. These decisions are not easy to make. I support caution in opening for indoor in-person experiences. Whenever you do open for in-person, in-door experiences, follow the protocols provided by WAC, the CDC and your local health departments. I appreciate the congregations that are doing just that.

This is an exhausting season of life for all of us. Those in leadership feel an extra burden of responsibility and anxiety! Most of us have been learning how to do ministry in whole new ways and some of these ways will become the new normal. In the midst of Pandemic we have been inundated with realities of racial injustice, economics challenges, hunger, housing insecurity, natural disasters and more. Anxiety runs high for most everyone. One clergy thought of a title for a new class, "Why Am I Irritated at Everyone?!" Dear friends, God is with us in the midst of this pandemic and the confluence of societal tension and international trauma. May our congregations be communities of peace even when we don't all agree about the best way to move forward. I pray that you support one another with patience and love. Please contact me if I can support you in any way.

Blessings in Christ!

Forrest Wells, South East District Superintendent



July saw \$13,164.65 in contributions and \$10,657.38 in expenses. Our unrestricted net assets are \$15,789.43.

Missions:

ECHO - \$255

UM Child Services - \$375

Thank You For Your Generosity: Denny Hanks, Asbury Bookkeeper



Asbury Aggressively Pays Down Debt!



Do you need a little “good news” these days? I think we all do! Did you know that since April, 2020, the generous folks of Asbury Church have aggressively contributed to our Building Fund enabling us to quickly pay down our Principal balance on our construction loan? We have made three separate \$10,000.00 Principal payments, one payment of \$12,000.00, and in August, we sent in an enormous payment of \$30,000.00! **That totals \$72,000.00 in Principal payments in five months!!** Our Principal balance is now down to about \$110,000.00!

A special “Thank You” to all who have made contributions to this effort and a huge “Thank You” to one member who recently sent us a check for \$21,000.00 to help the debt shrink. Asbury is extremely fortunate to have members who love their church deeply and want to make sure it is financially healthy as it moves into the future. Something to celebrate!!



September, 2019



September, 2020





We give praise for your monetary support in August for the three local Janesville Shelters, – GIFTS Men’s Shelter, YWCA Women’s Shelter, and HOUSE OF MERCY Women and Family Shelter. A special thanks to Maggie Bunderson and Asbury helpers who participated in serving a meal at the GIFTS Men Shelter in memory of Steve Bunderson during the last week of August. Asbury’s Ministry Matters in the month of September will focus on Methodist Minister Paul Webster and the Mujili Falls Agricultural Center in Zambia.

ASBURY UMC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Ministry Name: Board of Global Ministries commissioned Wisconsin Missionary Paul Webster and the Mujili Falls Agriculture Center.

Ministry Location: Mujila Falls Agricultural Center in Kanyama, Zambia, a landlocked country in southern Africa.

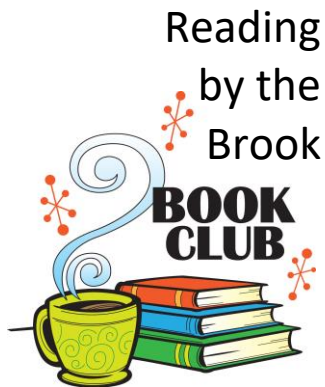
Start Date and Contact Persons: Reverend Paul L. Webster, commissioned in 1992, is a Wisconsin native whose ministry involves being a rural economic development specialist at Mujila Falls.

Ministry Mission Statement: Paul L. Webster’s work as rural economic development specialist serves the needs of poor, rural people. Projects promote major programs in education, health, sustainable, and appropriate agriculture community development, evangelism, and church construction. They strive to address community social, economic, and health problems holistically.

Ministry Needs: You can help support the work of our Wisconsin Missionaries by inviting them to visit during their itineration time. You can support them financially using their listed Advance Code number. And you can support them at the level of Covenant relationship of \$5.00 per member or \$2500 per church, which puts your church on the “must visit” list when they return home to itinerate. They appreciate your prayers and communication.

We welcome your ideas and invite you to join our RTC meeting on September 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Peace room.

Contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or rkdahlke@yahoo.com with your ideas, suggestions, or questions.



Our Asbury Reading by the Brook friends met on Sunday, August 23, following the Asbury UMC outdoor church service. We found the discussion of the book *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate very enlightening. We have not chosen our group book for September at the time of this printing. For more information, contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or rk Dahlke2@yahoo.com.

YOU CAN HELP



September 2020 ECHO

After more than 25 years as Executive Director of ECHO, Karen Lisser will be retiring August 31! During her time at ECHO, it has grown from a small grass roots organization started by local churches to an essential social service agency serving one in five residents in Janesville. **Karen's retirement open house is August 27, 2020.**

So far this year, ECHO has provided 214 months of rent assistance and 2,074 nights of shelter for those in need. ECHO will continue no-contact service delivery until September 30. Orders are called in and drive up service is available from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations can be placed in the shopping cart in the narthex or taken directly to ECHO and placed in the cart just outside the loading dock door.

Food Pantry Needs: pop-top canned meals, peanut butter, instant potatoes, canned meat, box meal kits, juice, deodorant, diapers (sizes 3–6), shampoo and conditioner.

Upcoming ECHO Events:

October 24 – Empty-Bowls-to-Go: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pre-orders are required. Purchases will be on-line prior to the event. 20 varieties will be available. \$8/quart or 3 quarts for \$20. Purchase and pick-up location information will be released closer to the event.

November 21, 2020 – Thanksgiving Basket Distribution

Memory Café



From Cori Marsh,
Aging and
Disability
Resource Center
of Rock County

Topic: Monday Morning Caregiver Coffee Hour 10 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92158593909?pwd=RXN6NGpuMlJmTTJTZnlwdWMzeTZ6UT09>

Meeting ID: 921 5859 3909

Password: 969476

DIAL IN +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 921 5859 3909

Password: 969476

Topic: Rock County Caregiver Support Group Tuesday at 1:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/871380322?pwd=MTFwNkpqSU5UcXdsZGRyL0F2K2NVdz09>

Meeting ID: 871 380 322

Password: 315148

DIAL IN +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 871 380 322

Password: 315148

Topic: Tuesday Evening Support Group 1st Tuesday 6 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99265219709?pwd=YzMxVEpWSXhaZVZlSm5yN0N5R05LUT09>

Meeting ID: 992 6521 9709

Password: 652706

DIAL IN +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 992 6521 9709

Password: 652706

Topic: Wacky Wednesdays Social Hour for Families 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95906299290?pwd=ZWZ3UFZlZE5lRk5VRVhXUVdnd2JjUT09>

Meeting ID: 959 0629 9290

Password: 473342

DIAL IN 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 959 0629 9290

Password: 473342

Topic: Early Onset Caregiver Support Group Thursdays at 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95470759876?pwd=Tnc1SnRnV2JkWFb4NzNseEJGOEgzQT09>

Meeting ID: 954 7075 9876

Password: 413264

DIAL IN +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 954 7075 9876

Password: 413264

Topic: Social Hour/Memory Café Fridays at 1:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93924235263?pwd=eVozZ2FuSDdlcmxUkRhN0YrYmYrQT09>

Meeting ID: 939 2423 5263

Password: 212300

DIAL IN +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 939 2423 5263

Password: 212300



**10 AM Worship Service
starts on September 13**

2021 Upper Room Daily Devotional Subscriptions



The Upper Room daily devotional guide contains meditations that show real people struggling to live faithfully in real-life situations, with the Bible as the touchstone for and measure of faithful living. The writers of the daily meditations that appear in ***The Upper Room*** are both laity and clergy and come from around the world.

If you would like to be a subscriber for 2021, please let the Church Office know along with your payment of \$7.00 by October 4.

If you put your payment in the collection plate, it needs to be clearly marked for Upper Room subscription, so the counters know how to record it.

Any questions, please contact the church office, 608-752-7961, or asburyumc@charter.net.

Heavenly Humor

When the Navy works from home



Landscaping PROJECTS

We are happy to report that our Asbury outdoor construction is nearing its end. We give thanks for the six Asbury men who helped with the outside sanctuary door exits' cement slabs: John Brikowski, Mike Diers, Mike Spors, Jeff Quaerna, Russ and Rick Dahlke. The projects that are left to do are a brick walkway approach for the deck area of the parsonage, a landscaping boarder built around the new Asbury computerized sign, and the landscaping of trees, shrubs, and plants along the front of the church building. Asbury volunteers will continue to be doing these projects. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Russ Dahlke at 608-290-6283. 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.



New cement doorsteps!



4 Mary Quaerna
 6 Raymond Stafford
 9 Tamara Kuehne
 13 Gloria Osborn
 14 Paul Bollig
 15 Mike Diers
 15 Eugene Oleson
 17 Holly Havens
 18 Tim Schwenn
 19 Bonnie Nagler



20 Lynn Curtis
 23 Bill Doubleday
 23 Joan Tiffany
 25 Diane Bundy
 26 Garrett Sanwick
 27 Hjordis Olson
 27 Sylvia Wepking
 29 Lloyd Coulthard
 29 Layton Phillips
 29 Herb Polzin

1 Bonnie Nagler & John Brikowski
 9 Bunny & Bob Miller
 14 Kari & Charles Campbell



21 Cari & Ryan Croft
 25 Judy & Elnoe Campbell
 25 Leigh-Ann & Patrick Waite
 29 Julie & Mark Polzin



Continuing Care List

Judy Campbell, LaVita Fanta, Robert Geisler, Marcy Gordon, Shirley Graves, Diana Jewson, Shirley Lyth, Hjordis Olson, Lucille Osborne, Virginia Scarborough, Eunice Scobie, Ione Watson, Charles Weber, Eileen Wolfe, June Zeilinger.

If you would like to visit Diana, Alden Park Nursing Home is now allowing window visits with their residents. To visit Diana, call Alden Park Nursing Home @ 608-676-2203 and ask for Laura, the activities director, to make a reservation for a 15-minute window visit.

Pray for the family of Ruth Oliver as Ruth passed away August 5. Memorials may be given to the RIMO Scholarship fund. Condolences can be sent to Ruth's daughter, Kathleen Schultz, 917 Cambridge Dr., Janesville, WI 53548.



OUR Asbury UMC Janitorial Toolbox need has been met! We give thanks for the donations given by Carolyn Schultz and Claude and Faye Eakins.



Dear Friend of ECHO:

On behalf of our clients, Executive Director Karen Lisser, the ECHO staff and Board join me in thanking you for your July 31, 2020, donation of \$255.00. 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. As government funding decreases, more than ever ECHO relies on the support of the community to help individuals and families with emergency needs.

Sincerely, Jessica Locher, Associate Director



Dear Friend,

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and let you know how much I appreciate your involvement in GIFTS Men's Shelter. My name is John Koesema and I have been blessed with the privilege of leading the ministry at GIFTS as the new Executive Director. My family and I relocated from Dallas and are thrilled for this new journey. I want you to know how grateful I am for your continued support and that I am committed to stretching your dollars to make them work as hard as you did to earn them. If you have any questions about the direction or vision of GIFTS, please feel free to reach out to me. I would love to hear from you. Thank you so much for giving back to those who need it most. We are truly blessed by your generosity.

Sincerely,

John Koesema
GIFTS Executive Director



September

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9 am Outdoor and Online Worship Service with Holy Communion	7 (Labor Day)	8	9	10	11	12
13 10 am Outdoor and Online Worship Service	14 6 pm Rethink Church	15	16	17	18	19
20 10 am Outdoor and Online Worship Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10 am Outdoor and Online Worship Service	28	29	30			



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