

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 2

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 Pondering



"It's Not About Me"

"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself' (Leviticus 19:18), you are doing right. – James 2:8

I write this "Pastor's Pondering" a few days after watching ABC's World News Tonight. Yet again, I watched as a select group of congressmen in Washington, DC stood toe to toe, arguing with, and criticizing, some of our nation's top medical experts. The cameras caught the action as tensions mounted; especially as Kentucky Senator Rand Paul and Dr. Anthony Fauci squared off. For me, moments like that show just how much the political divide have harmed us, as a national community.

Somehow, we have de-evolved into a nation of individuals, as opposed to a national community. Somehow, some (maybe many), have concluded that individual rights or choices supersede the good of the community. COVID-19 and the issues of vaccinations and masking have brought this debate to the national front and center.

How do we approach this from a Christian faith perspective? What should be our faith-based ethic?

I believe that the Christian faith is firmly established in the mandate to "Love your neighbor as yourself" and the best example of this is found in the life of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jesus' entire life's ministry was grounded in doing the will of his Father. It was grounded in caring for *everyone* he encountered, whether that meant healing the sick, feeding the hungry, or eating with sinners. He was the master of loving those whom no one else would love.

But the greatest example Jesus offers to us of him valuing community over individualism was his willingness to go to the cross for folks like you and me – sinners that he loved enough to lay down his life. People he never physically met yet held a place in his welcoming heart.

Remember Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane? It was the night he would be arrested. He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

If Jesus valued his life over ours, if he valued individual choice over communal good, then his prayer would have been very different. He would not have prayed that last sentence, but instead would have asked his Father, for whom all things are possible, to save him from death. He, as an individual, would live, and we, as community, would die an eternal death.

But Jesus valued community first. Life was not about him; it was always about "the other." That is the example he has left for us to live by.

What sacrifice will you offer, as followers of Jesus, for the good of those around you? What individual rights will you give up to best love your neighbor? I pray that we all take a moment, and pray about it...

Blessings,

Pastor Will





Worship Schedule and Themes

February 6 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion in the pews with Communion Kits

Scripture: Luke 5: 1-11 & 1 Corinth. 15: 1-11

Sermon: "I Am What I Am"

Peter and Paul were far from perfect, yet God chose to use them both to build the Church. Nothing has change to this day!!! God still uses people – even those who might have a skeleton in his/her closet. We will study how God lifts up people from all backgrounds to build the Church and bring others to Christ.

February 13 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Luke 6: 17-26 & 1 Corinth. 15: 12-20

Sermon: "Hope for the Hurting"

People hurting from every malady known gathered around Jesus when they met upon the mountain. And what they found was hope for the future. Jesus offers the same today. We just need to listen to, and put our trust in, Him and the power his Spirit brings.

February 20 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Luke 6: 27-38 & Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40

Sermon: "The Greatest Challenge: Loving the Unlovable"

In the call to "love your enemies," Jesus places before the people the greatest challenge humanity may ever face. We all know of people who champion hate and prejudice and evil. We all have experienced individuals who seem to enjoy walking on the backs of the powerless or disadvantaged. So how do we approach Jesus' teaching to "love your enemies?"

February 27 Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: Luke 9: 28-36 & Exodus 34: 29-35

Sermon: "Shining in the Presence of God"

Our Scripture readings express the radiance of Biblical figures as they stand in the presence of God. How might we shine before the Lord? How has God used us to shine upon others? Do our lives provide a guiding light for those living in darkness? Transfiguration Sunday is all about God's light shining through us.



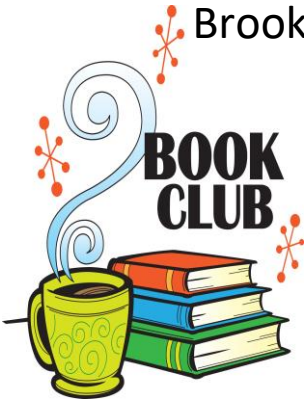


December saw income of \$16,537.61 and expenses were \$12,830.77
Unrestricted net assets are \$18,041.80
Paid all Apportionments for the year in FULL!

Missions:
Parker Big Give - \$620.00
Project 16:49 - \$1,770.00

Thank you for generosity: Steve Bundy, Asbury bookkeeper & Julie Polzin

Reading
by the
Brook



Our Asbury book readers have chosen for the month of February,
The Dutch House, by author Ann Patchett.

This book has earned the following accolades: Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize,
New York Times Bestseller, **New York Times Book Review** Notable Book,
also **TIME** Magazine's 100 Must-Read Books of 2019.

This story is a dark fairy tale that spans several decades. It is about two smart
people who cannot overcome their past.

Interested readers are welcome to join us for our book discussion on
Wednesday evening February 16, at 6:30 pm at Asbury. For more
information contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or
rkdahlke@yahoo.com

Memory Café



Memory Café Meeting times:

Location: Asbury Church

Time: 10 AM on February 26, 2022

If things change, I will post it on our website banner.

Project 16:49 sent a Thank You letter for the recent
donation of \$1,770 Asbury's Congregation Members
donated and saying, "Thank you for making the holidays
merrier and winter warmer for our youth."

Harrison Elementary School sent a thank you letter for all
the generous donations of beautiful hats and mittens for
their students.





Wisconsin Conference UMC **VIM NATIONAL TRIPS 2022**

Trips are posted on our Wall inside the Narthex for your viewing. I have saved the information on my computer if there is a certain trip in which you are interested. Please let me know and I will email details to you.

Trip dates and Names:

February 19 – 27, 2022
Storm Repair - Marion, Alabama

Lake Charles, Louisiana; March 19 – 27, 2022
Storm / Disaster relief and repair

April 24 – 28, 2022 - SIFAT- Lineville, AL
SERVANTS IN FAITH AND TECHNOLOGY (SIFAT)

May 15 – 20, 2022
Pine Lake UMC Camp, Westfield, WI

June 21 – 25, 2022
Red Cliff Reservation, Bayfield, WI

September 25 - 30, 2022
Lake Lucerne UMC Camp, Neshkoro, WI

March 20-24, 2023
Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Pawnee, IL





RETHINK CHURCH January 3, 2022

Present: Kathy, Jeff, Pastor Will, Pat, Heidi



Jeff opened with devotions by C.S. Lewis. Christians know that God loves us. Good comes from Christ's life in us.

Mickey was sick tonight but submitted her report on AOK. She noted that Donna had COVID so had no information from her. Suggestion to see if they are still in need of Devotional materials. Mickey will put up the Red Bird Mission bulletin board.

Linda submitted a letter of resignation from this committee. She said it is difficult for her to hear, especially with masks, so does not feel she can contribute effectively. She indicated that she would continue to support this ministry financially and prayerfully.

Ministry Matters Moments: Pastor Will expressed his gratitude for the congregational giving. We have qualified for the United Methodist Conference Rainbow Covenant for the third year in a row by our giving to missions locally, statewide, nationally, and worldwide through our monthly outreach focused offerings.

February: Health Net Pat will contact Ian Hodges for a short overview of their programming.

March: UMCOR

April: CROP WALK April 24, at 1:00 at Cargill.



Asbury has a need for additional gas gift cards for our **Good Samaritan program**. Pastor holds these \$20 -\$25 cards and gives them as he sees fit upon request of a person in need. We are currently out of gas cards.

Pastor mentioned that the membership list has been revised. A suggestion was made to revise the **Outreach Connection** with those who are not attending in person to touch base and see how they are doing.

(VIM) Volunteer In Mission trips have been posted. We will have a list on the counter in the narthex and posted on our website. (See page 3)

We welcome your ideas and invite you to join our next RTC meeting on Monday February 7th, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) or rkdahlke@yahoo.com with your ideas, suggestions, or questions.





ASBURY UMC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Health Net of Rock County Inc.

Ministry Location: 23 W Milwaukee St, Janesville, WI (2021)
prescriptions, and more. If you would like to learn more about HealthNet, please contact us at development@healthnet-rock.org, 608-314-1923 or by visiting our website at www.healthnet-rock.org.

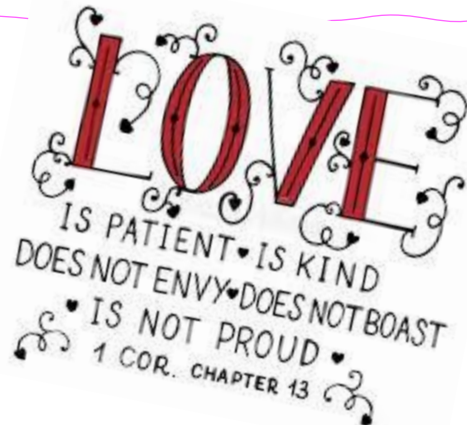
Ministry Start Date: 1994

Ministry Contact Person: CEO Ian Hedges

Ministry Mission Statement: HealthNet of Rock County Inc. (HealthNet) is dedicated to the provision of quality primary health care and health information, free or at low cost to the medically underserved residents of Rock County, Wisconsin. Their services include Medical, Dental, Chiropractic, Prescriptions, Women's Clinic, Mental Health and Case management.

Ministry Needs: Monetary, for every \$1 they receive in donations they are able to provide \$6.60 worth of patient care. HealthNet is always in need of office and clinical supplies. Below is a list of our continuing needs: current & expired medications, diabetic supplies (test strips & insulin), incontinence wear, pen needles, cleaning supplies, garbage bags, paper products, copy paper, post-its, legal pads, file folders, bus tokens, gas cards, gauze/bandages, pill bottles/organizers, toothpaste/floss, nutrition shakes, small equipment (canes, walkers).

We do NOT accept: Liquids not listed above, Power wheelchairs, Hospital beds/equipment, Colostomy pouches, Narcotics/opioids, Feeding tubes/supplies, CPAP Machine, Home furnishing, Clothing, and personal items.





Three new hires are getting their bearings at GIFTS. GIFTS now has staff for late afternoon/early evening coverage to support volunteers for meals and overnights.

Agrace Offers Two Virtual Support Groups in February

Agrace is offering two professionally led, virtual (accessible via Zoom with a tablet, computer, or smartphone) grief support groups in February.

- **Bridges** is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. In February, meetings are February 2 and 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Pre-registration is required.
- **Spouse/Partner Loss Support Group** is a six-week grief support group series for adults whose spouse or partner has died. It meets Mondays, February 14 to March 21, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

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.



Fundraiser: March 26 - Swing into Spring at Glen Erin
Donations are always accepted; however, monetary donations can purchase more items per dollar.



Kentucky Tornado Relief



When members of Asbury UMC hear of a need, it's our love of God and for others that prompts us to help fill that need.

A recent Gazette article told of groups in the area who had donated needed supplies to fill a semi-trailer driven by a volunteer from Clinton, Wisconsin to Mayfield, Kentucky where a tornado had hit on December 10, 2021.

A second load was being planned so a group from Asbury packed up a load and Pat Spors made a delivery to Clinton.

Items sent include 145 hats, 18 hat/ scarf sets, 6 hat/mitten/scarf sets, 95 pairs of mittens, 5 pairs of slippers, 34 afghans, 4 fleece blankets, 19 quilted blankets, 3 baby blankets, and 2 baby hats.

A big thank you to Peggy Wallman, a friend of Asbury UMC, who donated dozens of bags of knitted items.



Asbury Mitten Tree

The result of this year's mitten tree was a real gift to local children.

Lincoln Elementary school received 150 pairs of mittens and 6 coats for their family resource center.

Jackson Elementary school received 50 hats, 50 pairs of mittens and 12 ear warmers.

Harrison Elementary school received 35 hats, 25 pairs of mittens and 13 ear warmers. (Tina Bakken's daughter Jennifer teaches there and mentioned they rarely get donations.)

AOK at the Janesville Community Center received 21 hats, 4 pairs of gloves, 2 scarves, 1 ear warmer and 3 hat/scarf sets.

Thanks to all for sharing God's love!





The first motorcycle was purchased to support the Bolivian Ministry.

The motorcycle was presented in the Annual Conference on January 6th.
And it will be delivered to the *Lago* District.

The WI Conference has now collected money for the 2nd and 3rd motorcycles!

Asbury can be proud to have supported this ministry so pastors in Bolivia can now travel to isolated villages to spread God's Word.



Thank you!

UMCOR sent a thank you for Asbury's support in the vehicles for Evangelization, Social Service, and Other Church Needs. We have raised: \$1,675.00 by 12-10-21



Violet Rosburg was Baptized on 1/9/2022 by Pastor Will.

Trumpet Trio!!!

Pastor Will, Connie Nelson, and Madolyn Rosburg played for the Congregation on Sunday January 09, 2022.



February

1 Brent DeRemer

2 Andrew McGrath

12 Mark McKinney

12 Alexis Nelson

13 Cari Croft

14 Austin Laufenberg



20 Jeff North

25 Andrew Cresswell

26 Duane Andrus

26 Arlie Ellis

28 Will Jewson



16 Karen & Marv Nelson






Continuing Care List

Judy Campbell, Darlene and Richard Coulthard, LaVita Fanta, Robert Geisler, Marcy Gordon, Carol and Don Isbell, Diana Jewson, Shirley Nelson, Hjordis Olson, Lucille Osborne, Virginia Scarborough, Ione Watson.



February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 	3	4	5
6 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service & Communion	7 6 PM Rethink Church Meeting	8 10 a.m. Stitches Group	9 Bible Study @ 5:30p.m. Peggy Eggen's House	10	11	12
13 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service	14 	15 10 a.m. Stitches Group	16 Book Club @ 6:30 p.m. Bible Study @ 5:30p.m. Peggy Eggen's House	17	18	19
20 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service	21 	22 10 a.m. Stitches Group	23 Bible Study @ 5:30p.m. Peggy Eggen's House	24	25	26
27 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service	28					

* Newsletter articles are submitted to Amy Powell at asburyumc@charter.net



Asbury United Methodist Church
1810 Kellogg Avenue
Janesville, WI 53546

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

We are on the Web!
Find us at
www.asburyumcjl.org

Join us on Facebook at:
facebook.com/asburyumcjl

FEBRUARY
2022