D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 2

Action at Asbury



Asbury United Methodist Church, 1810 Kellogg Avenue, Janesville, WI 53546
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"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." – Luke 2: 8-10 KJV

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him." – Matthew 2: 1-2 KJV

I really can't imagine what it must have been like for those simple shepherds that magical night when Jesus was born. It's hard to grasp the splendor in the air as the "glory of the Lord shone round about them" as they gazed upon the angel of the Lord. I can only imagine that they were indeed, both terrified and mystified.

Yet there was God's angel, speaking words of comfort – words of assurance – in that most fearful moment. "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

And I sit in wonder at the power of God, to place that star in the heavens, which would draw these wise and powerful men from their seats of honor to journey from afar to bow down and worship a tiny little boy. Even the mighty are summoned to the Savior!

In sending Jesus Christ – God's one and only Son – into our world, God was doing the most loving and caring thing for *ALL* people, including those of lowly status and challenging means as well as those of the highest repute and deepest wealth. Shepherds are called. Kings are summoned. The moment was – and is – meant for *ALL!*

No one is "too poor," "too little," "too insignificant," "too unimportant" to be cherished by God.

No one is "too wealthy," "too big," "too mighty," "too powerful," to be loved by God.

Jesus Christ is God's gift for *EVERYONE!* Jesus Christ offers new life, new chances, new hopes for each of us! Now that is love!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Will





December Worship Schedule and Themes

December 4

Second Sunday of Advent Second Sunday of Advent 10am Worship with Holy Communion

Scripture: Matthew 3: 1-12 & Isaiah 11: 1-10 Advent Theme: Peace

Sermon: "Preparing the Way"

Today we are introduced to John the Baptist as he prepares the people for a life of repentance and righteousness. We will learn from him the the value of following God's way - the way of love.

December 11 Third Sunday of Advent 10am Worship



Scripture: Luke 1: 46-55 & Isaiah 35: 1-10 Advent Theme: Joy

Sermon: "Mary's Song"

Today we rejoice with Mary. What an incredible journey she must have been on as she carried the Christ Child. We will explore how she trusted God even

as others were certainly skeptical of her story.

December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10am Worship



of Advent

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25 & Isaiah 7: 10-16 Advent Theme: Love

Sermon: "Joseph's Dream"

Today we will examine Joseph's story. His journey must have been almost as challenging as was Mary's. Yet he followed his God and remained faithful to

his betrothed.

December 24 Christmas Eve

7pm and 10pm Worship with Holy Communion



Our traditional Christmas candlelight services featuring the Christmas story and much singing and rejoicing.

Christmas Eve December 25 Christmas Day 10am Worship



This will be a service of Christmas music featuring Congregational singing, our Choir, Vocalists, Handbells, the Praise Band, and the Jazz Band. Come join in a time of Christmas joy with the Asbury Church Family!



Harvest Dinner

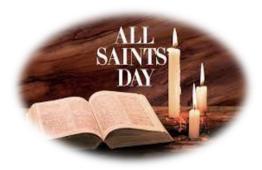
We fed more than a hundred people.



The delicious smells of pies, ham, sweet potatoes floated through the church. Sounds of laughter and many footsteps echoed throughout on October 29, 2022.

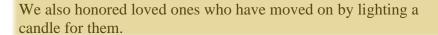








On November 6 we lit a candle in remembrance of Shirley Lyth, Sandy Lewis, June Zeilinger, Sally Kruse, Marcy Gordon, Judy Campbell, Jean Farris, Denny Hanks, Marilyn Waldsmith, Hans Eggen, Roger Lewis, Karen S. Nelson, and Bonnie Nagler, who have left us.







Reading by the Brook

Asbury Book Club is looking forward to our December Christmas Book read by author Debbie Macomber.

Our discussion will be followed by the book movie and will be watched in the church sanctuary on the big screen sharing movie theater treats. Interested readers are welcome to join us for a book discussion at Asbury on Tuesday December 20th at 6:30 pm. For more information contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) rkdahlke@yahoo.com



will meet on December 28 10 – 11 AM at Asbury (4th Wednesday of each month.)

Memory Cafes are socially based and include fun learning activities, stories, and/or music. The focus is on what we can do, rather than what we can't do.

This is a safe, social environment for people interested in keeping their brains healthy and those experiencing some memory loss.

This month Memory Café will be doing a 'Year End Wrap Up.'



You may pick up your Poinsettias after Christmas Eve Service.
Thank you

and enjoy their beauty.

January 11 All church ministry planning meeting and calendaring. Details in next newsletter.









Continuing Care List

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

Please keep the families of those who have suffered a loss this year in your prayers during the holiday season.



Hat
And
Mitten Tree

As the cold weather arrives let us once again share some warmth with our area elementary school children.

This year, as in the past, with the beginning of Advent we will display the Mitten Tree in the narthex.

Please bring your donations of hats, gloves, and mittens to share with the children at Harrison, Jackson and Lincoln schools.

Lincoln School needs Kid's tennis shoes Sizes: 2-3-4.

They also need new socks and underwear.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support!

Tennis Shoes for Lincoln School



LET THE PREPERATIONS BEGING

Advent is upon us:

December 11 @ 1:00-3:00

<u>Card Making</u>: Come learn the art of making cards and gift tags. Supplies will be provided so come enjoy an afternoon with friends.



December 14 @ 10:00 – 12:00

<u>Cookie Baking</u>: Bring your dough and we will all join in the baking. We can help each other create and frost cookies. Sharing is Caring. The more the merrier!



December 18 @ 1:00-3:00

<u>Caroling</u>: Join us as we travel to homebound members and friends to share our cards, our cookies, and our joyful songs. We will meet at church to carpool.







We give thanks for your monetary contribution in November for the new In Mission Giving Together Ministries.

Our December Ministry will be our traditional focus on Parker High School BIG GIVE PROGRAM and our Lincoln, Jackson, Harrison, Van Buren elementary schools MITTEN, GLOVES, AND HATS TREE.

Ministry Name: Parker High School BIG GIVE and the Asbury MITTEN TREE for elementary schools.

Ministry Location: Janesville WI Schools

Ministry Contact: Deri Eastman Parker High School Closet and BIG GIVE Program. Coordinator Jeff Quaerna Asbury Member Representing Lincoln Elementary School Needs

Start Date: BIG GIVE Celebrating 15th Year

Lincoln School - Mitten Tree Who knows how many Years Have Passed since Asbury began.

Ministry Purpose: The BIG GIVE is a seasonal non-profit organization that helps students at Parker High School have a Merry Christmas. The Mitten Tree donations of gloves and hats and mittens provide winter warmth for the elementary students.

Ministry Mission Statement: The 15th Annual Parker High School BIG GIVE is underway for a Merry Christmas for those in need. The Mitten Tree items bring warm winter protection for elementary students.

Ministry Needs: The community support for The Parker Big Give program for students in hardship during this Christmas season. The supply of winter clothing for Elementary children in need.















Student: 8 & 9 are sisters. (Freshman & Sophomore)

Dad has not been in the picture for a long time.

Mom is currently raising the two sisters, plus two others by herself.

Mom struggles to keep a job. Money has been EXTREMELY tight this year.

Food is really running low, and the sisters take food cards from us to get groceries from Sentry.

The oldest sister just got a job and works as much as she can to support the family. Both girls are super smart and work really hard at school. Both want to graduate early, go to college and move out. These are two that will break the cycle of poverty.

Gift Cards to: Amazon, Sentry, Woodman's

Student: 11 (Senior Girl)

Is a senior at Parker.

She lives with her mom.

They have been on again off again homeless most of her life. The student works so hard in school and does well. Her plan is to join the military after graduation to earn money for college and have stability in her life.

Gift Cards: Movie 16, Taco Bell, Wal-Mart, and to buy school supplies

Student: 12 (Senior Boy)

This student's story is just so sad.

Dad moved to a different state (about 10-15 hours away) about 10 years ago.

The boy doesn't see or have contact with his dad often.

There is little to no financial support from him.

The boy's mom has been sick with cancer on and off his whole time at Parker.

Last May, she passed away. The boy is now living with a family friend until he graduates.

He plans to go to work right after graduation.

Gift Cards: To buy a yearbook, Cleveland Merchandise, and to buy clothing

















Student 31(Boy)

This student lives with his single mom and his three siblings.

He is the oldest and so wants to do better than what he has right now.

Mom works, but with four boys to feed and clothe, money is tight.

This student is on track for graduation and is using any chance to make his life better.

He is currently taking classes at Parker that also count as college credit.

Classes like English, auto, welding, manufacturing, etc.

All these classes will transfer to Blackhawk Tech to help him get his associates degree at no cost to him. He will have seven classes that will count towards college before he finishes high school - how cool is that!

However, he does need help with getting the things he needs to start his welding career.

Gift Cards for: Boot Dryer, Phone charger, and socks

Students 43 & 44 are siblings

They live with their single mom and an older brother.

Mom went back to school recently and got her CNA license.

She is employed, but as you know, CNAs do not make a lot of money.

They have great attendance, but one can tell that they are definitely lacking things at home.

Gift Cards for: Amazon, STEAM, and Visa to buy clothing

















Student 48 (Female)

She lives with her mom.

Dad, the primary earner, died this past May.

Mom works, but it is at a minimum wage job.

Money has always been tight, but since her father's passing, finances have been really tough.

Gift Cards: Wal-Mart, Dunkin's, Hobby Lobby, Amazon, and Books A Million

NOTE: Monetary contributions and gift cards can be dropped off at church Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. Checks should be made payable to Asbury UMC and Big Give should be written on the memo line. If you are dropping off or mailing gift cards, please include a note saying For Big Give. For those dropping off checks or gift cards at church, there will be a box in the narthex labeled BIG GIVE.

If you would like to remove a tab from one of the students but cannot make it in to do so, please just email or call the office and I would be glad to pull the tab down and write your name on it so, when the item is dropped off, we may put the tab on the gift.









Current Needs:

Cereal, hamburger helper, canned soups and stews, canned meat, mac n cheese, mashed potatoes, shampoo, conditioner, diapers (sizes 5-6)



Service Report September 2022:

220,283 - Meals provided

550 - Hotel nights provided

46 - Homeless outreach contacts

26 - Months of rent provided

44 - Families received transportation assistance

237 - Pets received food

ECHO CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

From 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Free dinner is open to all

ECHO provides a free Christmas Dinner at St. Williams Church, 1822 Ravine Street, Janesville.

Please call the ECHO office at 608-754-5333 if you need

a volunteer to give you a ride to the meal, or if you would like your pre-cooked meal delivered to you on Christmas Day.



Christmas Toy Distribution

Due to COVID-19 and ensuring the safety of our clients, volunteers and staff, ECHO will be modifying their annual Toy Distribution. This year, ECHO is requesting monetary donations or

This year, ECHO is requesting monetary donations or gift cards from Blain's Farm n Fleet. Parents will receive a gift card(s) to purchase presents along with a prepacked goodie bag full of stocking stuffers and holiday cheer for children in need in our community.

Donations accepted now through December 9 at ECHO office, 65 S. High St.

9am-Noon & 1-4pm, Monday-Thursday, 9am-Noon, Friday, or call 754-5333 for appointment to drop off donations.

Holiday wrapping paper is needed and can also be dropped off along with the gift cards.

Please be a part of our holiday tradition.

Toy Distribution - Friday, December 8,9, and 12 at ECHO (65 S High Street)

Any toy donations will be used for Birthday presents throughout the year for children in need.





- 2 Renee Hinkle
- 3 Steve Whitney
- 4 Ronda Cass
- 8 Linda Sailing
- 10 Sarah Nelson
- 11 Rogena Andrus
- 22 Brian Zeilinger
- 23 Ione Watson
- 24 Mark Bakken
- 24 Debra North
- 24 Georgia Oblak
- 26 Diana Jewson
- 26 Sherry Wilkerson



- 17 Brooke & Cody Thompson
- 18 Eudoris & Lloyd Peterson
- 26 Donna & Ronald Havens
- 28 Carol & Don Isbell

Faith In Stitches

We have made 43 pillowcases, some for 16:49 youth and for our future craft sale.

Diana's favorite color is blue, so she got one with her name on it.



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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Joy to Significant the World			Asbury Charge Conference @ 6:30 PM	Faith in Stitches @ 3:30 – 7:30 PM	2	Jazz Band Practice 9 AM Praise Band Practice 10 AM
9-10AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Service & Communion	5 RTC @ 5:30 PM	10AM Stitch Group	Bells @ 4 PM Bible Study @ 5:30PM Location: Peggy Eggen House	Asbury 2 Go trip to Fireside @ 9:45 AM at the Church.	9	Jazz Band Practice 9 AM Praise Band Practice 10 AM
9-10AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Service	12	13 10AM Stitch Group Men's Breakfast @ Eagle Inn 2 8:30 AM	Women's Covenant @ 8 AM @ Eagle Inn Bells @ 4 PM Bible Study @ 5:30PM Location: Peggy Eggen House	Faith in Stitches @ 3:30 – 7:30 PM	16	17
9-10AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Service Christmas Caroling	19	20 10AM Stitch Group Brook Book Club @ 6:30PM	Bells @ 4 PM Bible Study @ 5:30PM Location: Peggy Eggen House	22	23	7 & 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service CHRISTMAS EVE
9-10AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Service Christmas	26	10AM Stitch Group	10AM Memory Café "Year End Wrap Up" Bible Study @ 5:30PM Location: Peggy Eggen House	29	30	31



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