

AUGUST 2023

Action at Asbury

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

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

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"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought." – 1 Corinthians 1: 10

Pastor's Pondering

Division hurts. Disagreement strains relationships. Whether it happens in a family, in a community, or as St. Paul witnessed, in a church, divisions and disagreements risk devastating and possibly permanent damage to the love and unity which God desires for all creation.

Time and again, Jesus returned to the central theme of his ministry and mission: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." – John 13: 34b and again: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." – Luke 6: 27b.

A big part of "loving" is unity. That is the unceasing effort to be understanding, inclusive, and accepting of others even when their perspective clashes with our own. We all know this effort can be very trying and difficult. It requires that we be willing to walk in another's shoes with an open and compassionate heart and mind.

Until a few years ago, I had never heard the term "disaffiliation." Now, the term is heard often in certain United Methodist circles. I haven't mentioned disaffiliation much at Asbury Church mainly because the differences within our Church Family bring us nowhere near such a drastic and devastating "solution" as disaffiliation demands. I am thankful to witness so much more unity in our congregation than disunity. Unfortunately, this is not the case in some of our United Methodist churches.

I continue to celebrate what has been a hallmark of Methodism since the days of John Wesley. That is the ability of our denomination to exist as a large and welcoming tent, under which people of all persuasions come together in unity despite our differences. I continue to celebrate the diversity of people and ideas and theologies hanging together for the goal of loving one another as Christ commanded.

It is said that John Wesley coined the phrase, "Agree to disagree." I think that that phrase is not only wise but is necessary if we are to be a church which lives by our slogan, "Open hearts, open minds, open doors."

I found the following prayer online at biblestudytools.com. I think it is worth sharing.

"God, we need you. Some days feel so broken and uncertain. We're hurting, we're struggling, and we're aware, more than ever, of our own weaknesses, and of the dark forces that constantly surround us, fighting to gain ground in our lives and families. We choose to stand our ground today and say, "no more." We ask for your help to set aside our differences and look to the greater cause, the cause of Christ. We ask that you would help us to truly live a life of love. We ask that you surround this country and cover us with your mighty hand. We pray for unity in our land, that in spite of our differences, we would be willing to stand strong together and live out our days with compassion and grace. Remind us to live aware, to redeem the time, listen to your words, and be willing to make a difference in this land. Give us the courage to speak out. Amen."

Blessings to All!

Pastor Will



August Worship Schedule and Themes

August 6 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10AM Worship with Holy Communion

Scripture: Genesis 32: 22-31 & Matthew 14: 13-21
Sermon: "The Demands of Discipleship"

Our two Scripture readings today highlight two well-known stories: Jacob at the Jabbok and The Feeding of the Five Thousand. While the stories are quite different, they share a theme of the demands of discipleship. Discipleship is far from easy. We will explore the ongoing work and struggles to do the will of God.

August 13 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10AM Worship

Scripture: Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 & Matthew 14: 22-33
Sermon: "Never Lose Faith"

Again, our two Scripture readings highlight two well-known stories: Joseph and his coat of many colors and Jesus' walking on water. Joseph faced the worst days of his life due to the jealousy of his older brothers, while Peter faced the grave fear of drowning as his walk on water quickly failed. We will examine the role of faith which ultimately pulled these two individuals through tough times in life.

August 20 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10AM Worship

Scripture: Genesis 45: 1-15 & Matthew 15: 10-28
Sermon: "The Rewards of Forgiveness and Faith"

Yet again, our two Scripture readings highlight two well-known stories: Joseph making himself known to his brothers and Jesus healing a woman of faith from outside the Israelite community. We will discover what can be found when we forgive and when we express our life of faith.

August 27 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10AM Worship

Scripture: Exodus 1: 8 - 2: 10 & Matthew 16: 13-20
Sermon: "Moses and Peter: Two Unlikely Children of God"

Our two Scripture readings today highlight two important Biblical figures: Moses and Peter. Both men become God's chosen to build God's kingdom at different times in Biblical history. We will examine how God can use ordinary people in extraordinary ways for God's purposes.



Confirmation

Confirmation Classes

Pastor Will is planning on offering Confirmation Classes this fall. If you have children or grandchildren of middle school ages who want to learn more about their faith and place in the church, please contact Pastor Will to get them enrolled. Pastor Will will be meeting with parents to determine the best time to hold classes.



Stay up to date with area events by viewing our Facebook page: facebook.com/asburyumcjvl
Or go to our website to view music videos from the past, sermons, or to get our newsletters at www.asburyumcjvl.org



Dave Figi Joined July 9, 2023

Memory Café



If you, a loved one, neighbor, or friend would like to participate, please join us at Asbury UMC on August 23 at 10:00 AM.

Coffee and refreshments are an added bonus.

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP NEEDS APPRECIATED

Lincoln School still needs:

Kid's tennis shoes:

Size 2

Size 3

Size 4

They also need new socks and underwear. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Asbury UMC Continuing Care Team Needs Volunteers

The loneliness epidemic in the United States: How do we at Asbury UMC address this issue?

By cultivating a culture of connection! Social connections matter for our health and happiness. Asbury UMC has had a "care team" making home visits, phone calls and sending cards to those members who are shut ins. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, home visits were discontinued for safety reasons. It is now time for caring visits to safely begin again. We plan to send 2 care team members together to visit folks in their homes but currently we only have 3 people on the care team.

Please say "YES" to joining the care team.

As a quote from Pastor Will's recent sermon suggests: Christians are called to care, share, listen and love. Please call the church office if you will join the team. 608-752-7961



Hospice Volunteers Needed in Rock County

Volunteers are needed to assist customers, operate the cash register and sort donations at the Agrace Thrift Store in Janesville or make companionship visits to local Agrace hospice patients.

Agrace will host volunteer orientation **Tuesday, August 22, from noon to 5 p.m.**, at the Agrace campus in Janesville. Pre-registration is required. Call (608) 327-7163 or visit agrace.org/volunteer to fill out an application.

Agrace Offers Virtual Grief Support Group in August

In August, Agrace is offering **Bridges**, a professionally led, virtual grief support group. Bridges is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month via Zoom. In August, the meeting is August 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

There is no fee for this program if a participant's 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 for each session.

Call: (608) 327-7110 with questions or to register.



We give thanks to everyone who gave their support in July to assist our local ministry ECHO, Everyone Cooperating to Help Others. In the month of August, we will focus on our Bolivia Methodist church ministry; we will be supporting it through the monetary need for New Sewing Machines.

Ministry Name: Bolivia Methodist Church

Ministry Location: Bolivia

Ministry Start Date: Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia was founded by American Methodist Missionaries in 1906. The work progressed and in 1969 it became autonomous.

Ministry Contact Person: Work Phone: 591 2 249 1628 Fax: 591 2 249 1624

Ministry Mission Statement:

Our Partnership between the Wisconsin Conference of the UMC and the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia, brings the opportunity to build bridges of support, love, learning of both cultures, company, and mutual celebration of one faith in Jesus Christ.

This is the understanding of our relationship, for: "**WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST.**" The members of the committee that works with this partnership want to invite you all to be a part of this relationship through your prayers, help and support. The Wisconsin Conference is all of us! It is you; it is me!

Ministry Vision: Prayer | Support by praying for our team, for our long-time with our Bolivian sisters and brothers, and for the opportunity to join God's mission into the world as we go to serve together.

Ben Gwaltney made one of the first foreign mission trips to Bolivia in 1988.

He wrote at the time: La Paz is like no place I've ever been to or seen in my life. Driving down from "Alto La Paz", the high plateau where the airport and some fields are, the shacks cascade down the rim like water running into a bowl, collecting in the center in a tight, low mass of mud brick which is downtown La Paz. I wish I could take pictures of every single thing I see, and somehow convey the sense of wonder that the small, wrinkled ladies with bowler hats and short, smiling, capped men give me.



SAVE THE DATE



What: ALL-Church Craft Sale

When: November 18

From: 9 am to 3 pm

Proceeds will go to ECHO and Asbury's Good Samaritan Fund.

Together let us open our doors to the community.

Asbury has an abundance of talented individuals, so we hope to showcase your skills.



With:

- Artwork
- Baking
- Candy Making
- Cards
- Jewelry
- Sewing
- Stitchery
- Woodworking



And



and a **light lunch**

From: 11 am - 1 pm

with a basket for donations.

Not sure if you are crafty?

You can participate in many other ways....

- Advertising
- Assist with cashier
- Clean-up and/or Set-up
- Elevator helper
- Making Signs
- Pricing items

Want to donate your time to help that day?

We will have a spot for everyone.

Shifts are 3-4-or 7-hours spots.

Many hands make light work.

Do you have a craft idea that we could do as a group?

Working together on a joint project is a great idea.

A secondhand shop is a possibility.

Let's get started now so we have items available for sale in November.

Watch the bulletin board across from the office for details.

Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex, or you may call the church office.

2 Pat Erickson
3 Jeremiah Harden
4 Juanita Wingfield
5 George Stone
6 Donna Johnson
6 Willis (Bill) Powell
8 Brenda Whitney



11 Marc Shapiro
14 Ronald Havens
20 Ryan Croft
21 Marv Nelson
23 Robert Geisler
26 Claude Eakins
26 David Hill
29 Peggy Eggen

11 Pat & Mike Spors
18 Mickey & Larry Abbott



22 Lynn & Stan Curtis
30 Rogena & Duane Andrus



Continuing Care List

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





ECHO's Wishlist link

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1K3ZDHJSPBTE3?ref=wl_share



SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Markers – Thick and Thin
- Dry Erase Markers
- Kleenex
- Crayons
- Erasers
- Pens – Black, Blue and Red
- Scissors
- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Folders
- Spiral Notebooks
- Highlighters – Yellow
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Post It Notes – Yellow
- Composition Notebook
- Water Colors
- Supply Case/Bag

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF TO ECHO BY AUGUST 11TH - 65 S HIGH ST FOR OTHER DONATION DROP OFF SITES PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.ECHOJANESVILLE.COM





We are in need of Hygiene Kits for our PATH Outreach program

ITEMS Needed:

- Deodorant
- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Nail clippers
- Wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Shampoo/conditioner/bodywash
- Chapstick
- Bandaids- first aid items
- Large black garbage bags






Dear Friends in Mission,
Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift of \$1,645.00 to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be—Thank you! And through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in the U.S. and in more than 60 countries in which UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct ministry to persons in need. May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and Peace, Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

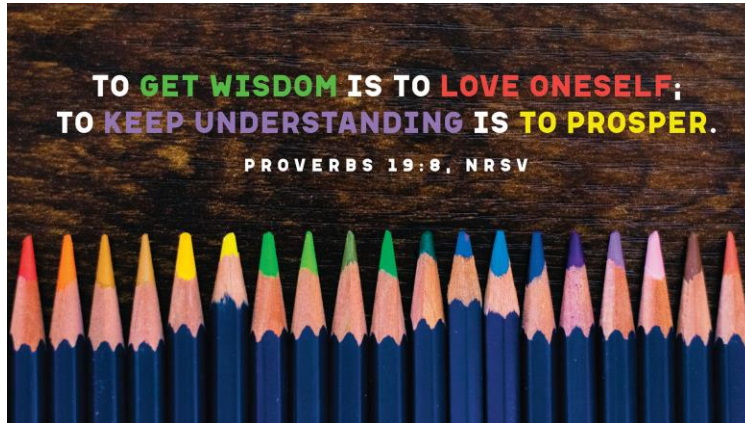


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* Newsletter articles are submitted to
Amy Powell at asburyumc@charter.net

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---|--|----------|--------|---|
|  | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Sunday Service w/Communion @ 10 AM | 7 | 8 Men's Breakfast @ Eagle Inn @ 8:30 AM | 9 Covenant Guild @ Eagle Inn @ 8 AM | 10 | 11 | 12 Jazz Band Practice @ 9 AM |
| 13 Sunday Service w/Special music performed by our Jazz Band @ 10 AM | 14 | 15 | 16 Faith In Stitches 3 - 6 PM | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Sunday Service @ 10 AM | 21 | 22 | 23 Memory Café @ 10 AM | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Sunday Service @ 10 AM | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |  |





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