

December 2023

Action at Asbury

Asbury United Methodist Church
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Pastor's Pondering

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."
(Luke 2: 10-11 KJV)

Bible passages like these, never grow old! For even when so much of the world has been challenged and changed, these beautiful verses from the King James translation of the Gospel of Luke remain a familiar comfort to our hearts and our minds and our souls.

They remind us that one thing remains constant in this ever-changing world - and that constant is Jesus Christ. He is there for us, born into our hearts once again. With the babe, we find Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love; four Blessings of Faith which we celebrate as we light the candles upon our Advent wreath.

This Christmas Eve (note a SINGLE service at 7PM) we will go back to the basics concerning the meaning of Christmas, taught to me as a child as I watched "A Charlie Brown Christmas" in front of my parent's black and white Zenith TV. We will answer the question, "What did Linus teach Charlie Brown about what Christmas is all about?" It may seem like a simple, child-like question, but that is the point. Christmas is meant to be a simple invitation to a little baby that would not only change the world, but would save it from its faults and sins.

Too often, we fall into the trap of making this special night into a grand festival which it never was meant to be. Instead, it was a simple night when a young couple - a very pregnant woman on not a mighty stallion, but instead on a humble donkey - sought a place to stay, only to come up with a smelly stable full of barnyard beasts.

Let's get back to the basics this year and discover the true meaning of Christmas - that is that God sent his Son into the world in the humblest fashion, and he did it that way so that we can relate to the wonder of his most important gift for each of us. He is one of us, yet he is our Lord.

Have a Merry (and Simple) Christmas.

Pastor Will



December Worship Schedule and Theme

December 3 First Sunday of Advent

10am Worship with Holy Communion

Scripture: Matthew 24: 36-44 & 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Sermon: "Watching and Waiting"

We begin Advent this day with the story of Christ's return in glory. Do we hear that story with hearts filled with joy or with fear? We will explore the emotions of Christ's second coming.

December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

10am Worship

Scripture: 2 Peter 3: 8-15a & Mark 1: 1-8

Sermon: "Welcoming a New Heaven and a New Earth"

The early church eagerly awaited the arrival of Jesus in the clouds of heaven. With his arrival would come the blessings of a new heaven and a new earth. Does this matter to us today in our current world and our current church, or is this something for many centuries past? We will examine this bit of ancient theology and its relevance for today.

December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

10am Worship

Scripture: John 1: 6-8, 19-28 & 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Sermon: "The Light is about to Shine"

John witnesses the Light of God coming into the world. This is Jesus Christ for whom we prepare during this season of Advent. As Christmas draws ever closer, are we preparing ourselves for its true meaning?

December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10am Worship

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38 & Luke 1: 46 - 55

Sermon: "I am the Lord's Servant"

Of course, Mary plays a pivotal role in the Christmas Story as she bears the Christ Child sent from God. What might it have been for her to be cast with this responsibility? We will imagine what the young Mary might have been facing.

December 24 Christmas Eve

7pm Worship Only

This will be our traditional Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion, Candle Lights, and Christmas Carols. Come and join your Asbury Church Family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

December 31 First Sunday after Christmas

10am Worship

Praise Band Sunday

Scripture: Luke 2: 22-40 & Galatians 4: 4-7

Sermon: "Meeting the Baby"

When Simeon and Anna met the baby Jesus, their lives were changed even in their elder years. Jesus changes lives for all who meet him, no matter if one is young or old. How and when did Jesus change your life? Might you meet him again?

Craft & Bake Sale



Thank You to Casey's
on West Court St.



We raised \$3,000 during this lovely
Craft and Bake Sale.

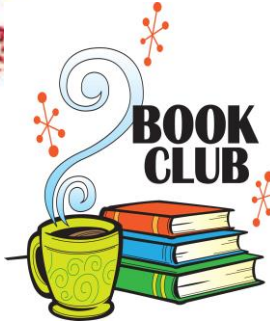
Thank you to everyone who helped set-
up, clean-up, and run it.



You may pick up your Poinsettias after Christmas Eve Service.
Thank you and enjoy their beauty.



Reading
by the
Brook



Asbury Book Club will meet for our December Book discussion on Tuesday, December 19th at Kathy Dahlke's house at 6:30 pm.

We will be discussing the book "The Christmas Train," by author David Badacci. "Disillusioned journalist Tom Langdon must get from Washington D.C. to L.A in time for Christmas. Forced to travel by train, he begins a journey of rude awakenings, thrilling adventures, and holiday magic. He has no idea that the locomotives pulling him across America will actually take him into the rugged terrain of his own heart, as he rediscovers people's essential goodness and someone very special, he believed he had lost."

Following our book discussion, we will watch the Hallmark movie of this book. Readers that are interested in joining us are welcome!

For more information contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623)
rkdahlke@yahoo.com

Memory Café

will meet on December 27
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.'



UMCOR – Global Ministries
would like to thank Asbury for
their donation of \$970.00 in
October 2023 to the Church
Project in Bolivia.

Thank you to Mark McKinney for
✚ Huge donation of yarn for our
prayer Shaw ministry.
✚ Outside Planters
✚ Thanksgiving Altar decorations.





Continuing Care List



Ardis Bender, Jerriann & Larry Burns, Harriet Christopherson, Dale Clark, Darlene and Richard Coulthard, Claude Eakins, LaVita Fanta, Robert Geisler, Carol and Don Isbell, Diana Jewson, Russ Kuykendall, Janet Luiting, Shirley Nelson, Hjordis Olson, Lucille Osborne, Arlette Walker, and Ione Watson.

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.

**Hat
And
Mitten
Tree**



Tennis Shoes for Lincoln School



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!



Hello all!!

We will have Holly & Brook's cards on display every Sunday and during office hours. If you would like to purchase some, please drop your money in the Card Corner money box.

Remember to keep checking in as the cards will change throughout the months.

You can read a bit about why Holly & Brook started doing their beautiful cards below.

Card Corner

The Sunday School has always made cards for Cedar Crest, or those who need them. When my sister and I first joined the church, the Sunday School used to make Valentine's Day cards every January-February. Fast forward to about 2016, the Sunday School was making cards for those who are/were homebound. Brooke and I noticed that, while the cards the children were making were beautiful, some of the messages inside weren't as nice as they could have been. The Sunday School class always promotes creativity, as long as the children are being creative and thoughtful, and taking the lessons that are taught and using them. Brooke and I decided that the best way to move forward with the cards was to make them ourselves.

From 2016 to now, we make cards as we have time. They no longer are only Valentine's Day cards. We create cards for almost every occasion: "Thinking of You", Birthdays, Christmas, Valentine's Day, "Get Well Soon." All the cards that are created are signed by the Sunday School and can be used by anyone who has a need for a card. It's the thought that counts, so we are hoping that the small cards we make really make a difference for those who receive them.

Thank You,

Holly & Brooke





Ministry Matters Moments: Thank you for your generous giving to our November's Ministry **Matters Moments** to help support UMC Global Board of Ministry. Our December focus will be on the **Parker HS Big Give** and the **Elementary schools of Lincoln, Jackson and Harrison, in need of warm winter mitten, hats and scarfs.**

RETHINK CHURCH -ASBURY UMC- MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Ministry Name: **THE PARKER HIGH SCHOOL BIG GIVE & ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS LINCOLN, JACKSON, HARRISON MITEEN TREE**

Ministry Location: Janesville WI

Ministry Start Date: The 16th Annual Parker High School BIG GIVE is underway. Does anyone at Asbury know how long the Asbury Mitten Tree has been in place? It is very well likely that it could be in service since the start of Asbury.

Ministry: Over 200 students at Parker High School are in the Parker Closet program. Many students of Lincoln, Jackson, and Harrison elementary seek winter warmth.

Ministry Needs: **The Lincoln, Jackson, and Harrison Elementary** students seek assistance for the cold winter weather providing warm clothing, hats, scarfs, and mittens.

Students of Parker Closet seek smaller items to donate:

- gift cards to Culver's, McDonalds, Dairy Queen, Taco Bell, Subway, Kwik Trip, etc.
- gift cards to Target, Walmart, Dicks, Woodman's, Walmart, Sentry, etc.
- Candy-Cabin Socks, Blankets. Grocery Gift Cards -Gas Cards



We will meet on Sunday, December 10th at 1-3 p.m. in the Narthex. Please, bring your ½ dz. Cookies to hand out during our caroling.



Faith-In-Stitches

Will **NOT** be meeting in the months of **December, January, and February.**

Bible Study

There will be **NO** Bible Study in the month of December.



Parker Big Give

Students



Students: #2 & #48 (siblings)

These two siblings are pretty much on their own. They do live with mom; however, mom is not home very much. They both, especially #2, take on a lot of adult responsibilities like cleaning, cooking, and taking care of the younger kids. Despite this, they both are involved in extracurriculars and do well in school.

#2 is a Female.

Sweaters, Joggers, leggings, Uggs, Dove toiletries, No show socks, Kitchen items, cleaning supplies.

Gift cards to: Rue 21, Nike, Ross, Panda Express, Culvers, Taco Bell, & Wing Stop.

(Shirt size: Medium, Pants size: 5/6, Shoe size: 6, Fav. colors: Pink, White, Black, & Hot Pink Fav. sport team – Packers, Likes: Dance).

#48 is a Male.

Deodorant, body wash, lotion, joggers, hoodies, white t-shirts (Hanes), Basketball, Nike Hoodie, Nike athletic socks, Nike dunks (white).

Gifts cards to: Amazon, Finish line and Hibbett Sports.

(Shirt Size: Medium, Pant Size: Medium, Shoe Size: 9, Fav. Colors: White & Black, Fav. Sport Teams: Bucks & Bulls, Likes: Basketball & Football).

Students: #49 & #50 (siblings)

These two siblings come from a really supportive home; however, mom is disabled and is unable to work. Both girls are so sweet, do well in school and also help mom out a lot. The little money that comes in goes to rent and food. Thus, leaving the girls unable to do “fun” things like movies, ice skating, travel, etc. They are always so grateful for the items they get. They are definitely “old souls.”

#49 is Female.

Winter boots, thick snow gloves, Bike repair kit (portable), Leggings, Reusable poncho/raincoat, Noise cancelling headphones (has autism), Canvas, Paint, Cup holder for bike, Lights for bike, Stationary kit, Popcorn maker, Sewing kit/patterns/supplies, Stainless steel water bottle w/straw, Life skills for teen book.

Gifts Cards: Movies 16, Roblox, Dollar Tree, Dairy Queen, Five Below.

(Shirt size: XL – t-shirt/ 1X – hoodies, Pant size: 18/20 or XL, Shoe size: 11, Fav. Colors: Purple, Blue, Red, Black, Yellow, Fav. Sport Team: Harry Potter Gryffindor, Likes: Books, Painting, Anime, Crafting, Sewing, Cooking, & Cats).

#50 is Female.

Hoodies, Zip up hoodies, Leggings, Mechanical Pencils, Reusable Poncho Umbrella, Ice Skates, Heart Stoppers book #4, Acrylic paint, Anything Scooby Doo, Crochet books & kits, Cup holder for bike.

Gift Cards: Great Clips, Taco Bell, Amazon, Five Below, Panda Express, Ice Arena, & Movie 16 (for a fun day out).

(Shirt size: Large t-shirt, Large or XL hoodie, Pant Size: Large or 16/18, Shoe Size: 9, Fav Colors: Black, Red, White, Blue, & Grey, Fav. Sport Team: Harry Potter Slytherin, Likes: Drawing, Painting, Cats, Anime, Crochet, & Gaming).





Parker Big Give

Students



Students: #58, #59, & #60 (siblings)

These three siblings have had to grow up quickly. Parents are divorced, yet neither parent can hold a job. Both parents prioritize partying over work and providing for their kids. Two of them recently got beds (donated from the school) after years of not having any. These kids work hard at school, even though academics don't come easy. They also play many sports and do very well. They are leaders both in their sports and in the school.

#58 is Male

XL-Twin sheet set for dorm, Towel set for dorm, PJ pants, Joggers, Hoodies, Hanes t-shirts (white/colored), Fishing gear.

N.O. Saints: Hoodie, T-shirt, Jersey

Dorm items: Fridge (4.3 cubic feet or smaller), Microwave, Fan, Microwaveable/reusable dishes

Gift Cards: Buffalo Wild Wings, Taco Bell, Walmart, and Target

(Shirt size: XL, Pant size: Large/ 34x36, Shoe size: 13 Fav. Colors: ALL, Fav. Sports Team: N.O. Saints, Likes: Football and Fishing)

#59 is Male

Sweatpants, Socks (athletic), Parker t-shirt, Hanes t-shirts (white and dark colors), Bodywash, Joggers, Nike joggers, Nike sweatpants, N.O. Saints: t-shirt and sweatshirt, Fishing gear.

Gift Cards: Amazon, Culvers, Walmart, and Dicks.

(Shirt size: Medium, Pant size: Medium, Shoe size: 11, Fav. Colors: Red and Black, Fav. Sports Teams: N.O. Saints, Likes: Football and Fishing).

#60 is Female

Leggins, Nike socks, Mielle hair products (for ethnic hair): Curl Cream and Shea Moisture, Hoodies, Lotion, Canvases, Paint, Brushes, Colleen Hoover books, Hair Straightener.

Gift Cards: Amazon, Shein, Subway, McDonalds, Ulta

(Shirt size: Med/Large, Pant size: L/XL or 7/8, Shoe size: 10, Fav. Colors: Green, Purple, and Pink, Fav. Sport Team: N.O. Saints, Likes: Reading and Painting).

Student: #17 (male)

This student is such an amazing young man. At the age of 16, he is the adult in the family. He has had a job since he was 15. His mom cannot hold a job for more than a week at a time. This kid is the primary source of income for himself and his family. Due to mom's inability to hold a job, they are very transient. He currently has 3 lockers at Parker just to house his things while they are homeless. Despite all this, this student is known at Parker for his positive attitude. He has goals of opening up his own restaurant and then becoming a philanthropist, giving back to the community.

#17 is Male.

Hanes boxers (6 pack), Socks, Joggers - Large (Nike), Zip up hoodie (Nike/Addidas), Collared Polo Shirt, Chicago Jacket, Chicago Bulls snap back hat, Sketch book, and Journal.

Gift cards: Grocery card, Gas card, Nike, Finish Line, Rue 21, Hibbett Sports, and Lids.

(Shirt size: Large, Pants size: 30x36, Shoe Size: 12, Fav. Colors: Blue, Red, Black, Purple, & Green, Fav. Sports Teams: Chicago Bulls, Likes: Clothes, Shoes, Music, & Writing.)





Parker Big Give

Students



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. Amy 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.





YOU CAN HELP



Current Needs:

- Hormel Compleats
- Barilla Ready Pasta
- Canned meat
- Cereal
- Rice
- Peanut Butter
- Diapers, size 5-6
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Laundry Soap
- Toothpaste
- Dish Soap

ECHO CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

From 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Free dinner is open to all!!

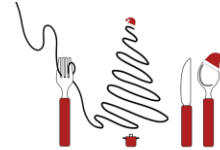
ECHO provides a free Christmas Dinner at St. Williams Church, 1820 Ravine Street, Janesville.

To schedule a delivery call 608-754-5333 through December 21 before 4pm.

To schedule a delivery after 4pm on December 21 call 608-921-5900 before noon on December 25.



Visit ECHO website at www.echojanesville.org to make an online donation.



Christmas Toy Distribution

This year, ECHO is requesting monetary donations or gift cards from Blain's Farm & Fleet and Target.

Parents will receive a gift card(s) to purchase presents along with a prepackaged goodie bag full of stocking stuffers and holiday cheer for children in need in our community.

2023
October

Service Snapshot



254,194 Meals Provided

441 Nights Provided at Motels



54 Homeless Outreach Contacts



37 Months of Rent Provided



- 17 Families Received Transportation Assistance
- 127 Pets Received Food



Thank you for helping ECHO's mission of meeting housing, food and other basic human needs and addressing the barriers to self-sufficiency.

A graphic with the words "Happy Birthday!" in a colorful, multi-colored font. The letters are in various colors like red, yellow, green, and blue. The background is white with a subtle shadow.

Happy Birthday!

2 Renee Hinkle

3 Steve Whitney

4 Ronda Cass

8 Linda Sailing

10 Sarah Nelson

11 Rogena Andrus

14 Carol Isbell

22 Brian Zeilinger

23 Ione Watson

24 Mark Bakken

24 Debra North

24 Georgia Oblak

26 Diana Jewson

26 Sherry Wilkerson

31 Winfred Bold

31 Katlyn Luepnitz

A graphic with the words "Happy Anniversary" in a colorful, multi-colored font. The letters are in various colors like red, yellow, green, and blue. The background is white with a subtle shadow.

Happy Anniversary

17 Brooke & Cody Thompson

18 Eudoris & Lloyd Peterson

24 Holly & Anthony Glass

26 Donna & Ronald Havens

28 Carol & Don Isbell

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



2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 3 8:30 - 9:30 AM Choir Practice 9-10AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Service & Communion	4 RTC @ 5:30 PM	5	6 Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 AM	7	1 8	2 Jazz Band Practice 9 AM Praise Band Practice 10 AM
10 8:30 - 9:30 AM Choir Practice 9-10AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Service	11	12 Men's Breakfast @ Eagle Inn @ 8:30 AM	13 Women's Covenant @ 8 AM @ Eagle Inn Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 AM	14	15	16 Jazz Band Practice 9 AM Praise Band Practice 10 AM
17 8:30 - 9:30 AM Choir Practice 9-10AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Service	18	19 Book Club @ Kathy's House @ 6:30PM	20 Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 AM	21	22	23
Christmas Caroling 24 8:30 - 9:30 AM Choir Practice 9-10AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Service 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 	26	27 Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 AM 10AM Memory Café "Year End Wrap Up"	28	29	30
31 8:30 - 9:30 AM Choir Practice 9-10AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Service						



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