

S P E T E M B E R 2 0 2 4

Action at Asbury



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

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Pastor's Pondering

Every morning when I come into the office, I look at the cross on the wall across from my desk. It was a gift that I was given by some dear friends who were my long-time co-workers at my previous job. Engraved on it are the following words from a sermon that I preached many years ago. It says this:

“Faith and Discipleship must inform our lives and must influence our day-to-day decisions. If they do not, we must ask ourselves if we truly have faith and whether we are truly a disciple.”

I try to keep those words in front of me at all times. I try to live by them. No, I don't always succeed, but I do always try. And when I don't succeed, I look to that cross again and receive the forgiveness it symbolizes and move ahead in another attempt to live a life of faith and discipleship.

To me, a life of faith and discipleship affects so much more than just our time together in worship or our times during the week when we tend to “church duties.” Faith and discipleship deal, just as importantly, with those things which we might think of as the details of life – the routine and the ordinary. What I mean by this is our day-to-day decisions. How we treat our families, our friends, our co-workers – even strangers. The attitude we carry around with us which shape our demeanor and “infect” those around us. Are you “infecting” people in a positive or negative way?

Living a life of faith and discipleship should inform us as to how we budget our time and budget our finances. Are we living as “Givers” or as “Takers?” I heard a quote many years ago by Marlo Thomas as she reflected on the life of her late father, Danny Thomas. Danny told his daughter that “There are two kinds of people in this world – “Givers and Takers.” Takers eat a little better, but Givers sleep better.”

The life of faith and discipleship calls us to be “Givers.”

Blessings,

Pastor Will

July Worship Schedule and Themes

- September 1** **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost** **10 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**
Scripture: Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 20-21a & James 1: 17-27
Sermon: "Religion Accepted by God"
The Pharisees and Jesus were often at odds and ultimately that led to his cross. What was the stumbling point between them? The Book of James helps us more fully understand what true religion is about.
- September 8** **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost** **10 a.m. Worship**
Scripture: Mark 7: 24-37 & James 2: 1-17
Sermon: "Faith Without Action is Dead"
Again, James gets to the point of a living faith - that is one that puts faith to work for the better of one's neighbor. Jesus went about people of all walks of life; Jews and foreigners. How might we do our part to put action into our faith?
- September 15** **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost** **10 a.m. Worship**
Scripture: Mark 8: 27-38 & James 3: 1-12
Sermon: "Sticks and Stones"
An old children's verse claimed the "Sticks and Stones can break my Bones, but Words will never hurt me." Clearly, that is a defense mechanism which parents taught to give courage to bullied children. But we know that words can hurt deeply. What might we learn from from Scripture about what we say about one another?
- September 22** **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost** **10 a.m. Worship**
Scripture: Mark 9: 30-37 & James 3: 13-18
Sermon: "The First Must be Last"
Jesus teaches his disciples the role of true humility in his example featuring children. But his message goes well beyond to all people of all ages. Are we willing to be last in order to fulfill the will of God?
- September 29** **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost** **10 a.m. Worship**
Scripture: Mark: 9: 38-50 & James 5: 13-20
Sermon: "The Value of Prayer"
Prayer is at the core of the Christian faith, yet it can be difficult to comprehend. Jesus prayed all the time. James teaches about the prayer of faith. How does prayer work? And how might we focus better on a life of prayer?





Continuing Care List

Ardis Bender, Winfred Bold, Jerriann & Larry Burns, Harriet Christopherson, Dale Clark, Lloyd & Debra Coulthard, 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.



Activities starting in September are...

- ➔ **Sunday School**. Sunday, September 8, 2024.
- ➔ **Stitching group** will go to every Wednesday again.



Thank you from Midwest Mission for Asbury's donations of a sewing machine and blankets to the ministry of Midwest Mission.

Be blessed,
Chantel Corrie – Executive Director



Thank you from ECHO for Asbury's August 12, 2024, donation of \$1,215.00.

Sincerely,
Jessica Locher – Executive Director

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Asbury UMC – Janesville, WI.
Thank you for your generous gifts!
May God bless you as together we work to show His love as the hands, feet, and heart of Christ.

In His service,
Midwest Mission Family

FINANCIAL REPORT



July saw income of \$8,322.05 and expenses of \$13,678.69
Unrestricted Net Assets is at \$39,740.10

Missions:
Northcott Neighborhood House \$635.00

Thank you for your generosity,
Julie Polzin, Asbury Bookkeeper

**Rev. Duane & Rogena Andrus
are in our
September Spotlight.**



Rev. Duane served as Pastor from 1990-2000 here at Asbury and when asked what he misses most his response was, “all the parishioners who died since he left in 2000.” Both of them enjoyed attending Asbury because of having so many friends from when he was a pastor here.

Rev. Duane wrote a very sweet reply that I will just place below for everyone to read.

Asbury was a growing and extremely active church, in our years here. Our church school was so large, we had to divide Fellowship Hall, with so many young families with children. Meli Vergeer was our most famous staff person, who had her Doctorate, and had written many books. We so enjoyed her many talents.

We always appreciated Asbury’s great interest in mission work and appreciated always leading the way in Janesville’s Crop Walk, always raising the most, we also supported many world, State and local mission projects every month.

In 1990, our first year at Asbury, I received the Harry Denman Award at the Annual Conference. It is the highest National award one can receive in the area of Evangelism. I obtained a Master's degree in Evangelism and Church Growth.

My teachers were leaders in the discipline, in the National United Methodist Church. I tried to apply my learning in that field at Asbury.

Rogena and I had (4) four major surgeries, while serving Asbury. We had much pain in those years, but deeply appreciated the support we received from the Asbury congregation. We both have many loving memories of serving a decade of Ministry with the Asbury Church.

Rogena was kind enough to send us three pictures.

1. Top right is Rev. Duane and Rogena's directory picture from 1994 .
2. Bottom left is Rev. Duane with his confirmation class from April 4, 1996,
3. Bottom right is a family photo Rogena shared.





Spotlight

“WHERE ARE THEY NOW”

Erin Osborne

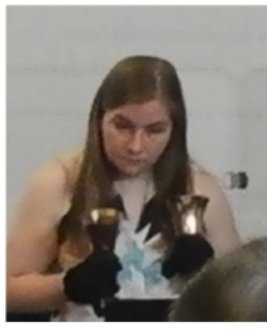
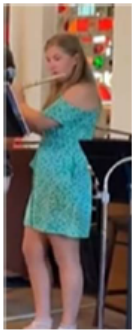
(Daughter of Troy and Julie Osborne)

Erin attended Sunday School and was confirmed here at Asbury.



She helped out with Sunday School and was involved in the youth group.

1. Youth Balloon Toss 2012
2. Christmas 2018
3. Crop Walk 2018 with her mom and Rhianna “Paige” Waite.



She played the flute in our *Jazz Band* for a couple of years and was also a part of the *Bell Choir* before heading off to college.

She attended *Parker High School* where she was inducted into the National Honor Society in May 2018.



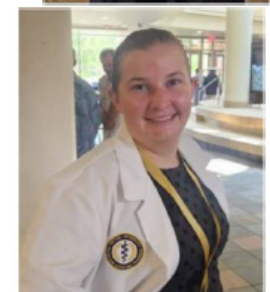
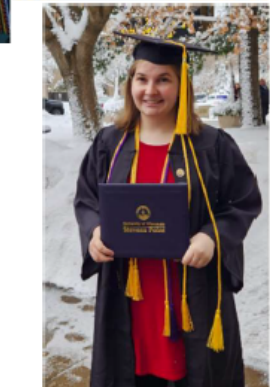
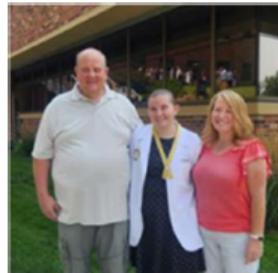
Erin graduated from *Parker High School* in 2019 and was the class valedictorian.

Erin then went off to college at the *University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point* where she received the “Distinguished Achievement Award” in both 2021 and 2022.

She graduated early from *UW-Stevens Point* in December 2022, “Summa Cum Laude”, with a degree in Biology.



After graduation from *UW-Stevens Point*, she started her Graduate degree in Physician Assistant studies at *Bethel University* in Arden Hills, MN in June 2023. She recently headed into her clinical rotations and her final year on Aug. 19.



Erin-What do you miss and enjoy at Asbury?

“I think it's hard to answer those questions separately, because my answer to both is essentially the same: community. I have always and still do feel so supported and loved by the congregation. I couldn't help but be involved as much as I could through youth group, helping with Sunday school, bells, and jazz because I wanted to spend more time with the people I've grown to know as my family.”

Congratulations Erin! Asbury is very proud of your achievements! We miss you!

Beloit™

SKYCARP GAME

Saturday, August 17, 2024

Theme was Star Wars



Cheryl & Mike at top row

Next Row Down is Vicki Jo and Peggy

Bottom Row is Larry, Mickey, Pastor Will and Joan



Vicki Jo and Peggy



Larry, Mickey and Heidi



Dave & Melissa with
Pat and Mike





We give thanks to everyone who gave their support in August to the Boys and Girls Club Capital & Endowment campaign.

In September
we will assist 'MMDC' Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Ministry Name: Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Ministry Location: Illinois **Location:** 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL

Ministry Phone: 217-483-7911

Ministry Website: www.midwestmission.org

Ministry Mission:

Bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

What they do:

We are a logistical conduit for Christ's ministry. We receive a request from trusted nonprofits, then prepare items we have and ask our supporters for items we need. Volunteers process, revitalize, and assemble the donated items. Then, donations are shipped to our trusted partners to distribute to those in crisis.

How they share hope:

In 2022, \$7.99 million of supplies were sent in 299 domestic and 48 international shipments. Supplies are prayed over multiple times while packed and prayer cards are in each kit. These resources give hope and empowerment to those they reach.

CURRENT TRUSTEES PROJECTS REPORT

Our two biggest projects in the past three months that have been overseen by the Asbury Trustees and have now been completed. Our church roof has been fully replaced by Adams Roofing and the new carport canopy was installed by VJS Construction.

Asbury Trustees are currently seeing new carpeting installed in the downstairs Sunday school room. We are thankful for our Asbury family's support during these projects.

ASBURY HISTORY THROUGH THE YEARS

In the coming months, a small group of Asbury women will be working on catching up with our church history since COVID prevented our gathering in person.

The Asbury History team consists of Kathy Dahlke, Jan Diers, Connie Nelson, and Deb North. If you have any Asbury history that you wish to donate or check out, please contact one of them. If you have history that is already scanned, please submit to asburyumchistory@gmail.com.

There are also many library shelves with books donated for your enjoyment reading as well. There is a sign-up sheet in the room. You can read a book and return it, or you can donate a book of yours in its place if you like.



Left	Right Top
Top to	to Bottom:
Bottom:	Larry A.
Bob B.	Bill D.
Pastor Will	Richard L.
Phil Z.	
Elnoe C.	



READING BY THE BROOK



Asbury Book Club will be returning in September with their reading discussion of "Hello Beautiful" by author Ann Napolitano.

"Like great jazz, Hello Beautiful takes a melody and transforms it. This is a richly woven story about family, but it's also a unique take on Little Women. There are no heroes or villains here, only people-flawed and loving and striving like the rest of us. Generosity is the word that comes to mind when I reflect on this gorgeous novel". -Allegra Goodman, New York Times Best Selling Author of The Cookbook Collector and Sam.

Readers that are interested in joining us are welcome!

Our meetings are held at 4:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at Kathy Dahlke's house.

Location: 2948 West Brookview Court, Janesville.

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



Agrace Offers Virtual Grief Support Group in September

In August, Agrace is offering "Bridges," a professionally led, virtual grief support group for adults who are grieving the death of any loved one.

Bridges meets Wednesday, September 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., via Zoom.

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.

Agrace Seeks Volunteers in Rock County

Agrace, a nonprofit community hospice serving Rock County, is seeking local volunteers. Volunteers are needed to assist customers, operate the cash register and sort donations at the Agrace Thrift Store on Humes Road in Janesville, or make companionship visits to local Agrace Hospice Care patients.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Agrace at (608) 327-7163 or visit Agrace.org/Volunteer.

Agrace Thrift Now Offers Pack Up Pick Up Service in Rock County

Agrace's Pack Up Pick Up service is now available in Rock County. It offers convenient pickup of secondhand home goods, including furniture, being donated to Agrace Thrift Stores.

The service collects gently used, resaleable items, including furniture, area rugs, wall art, large décor and more, which are packed in-home, if needed, and taken to Agrace's thrift stores for resale. The service is free to donors and inquiries can easily be made online or over the phone.

More information about the Agrace Pack Up Pick Up service, including hours and contact information, can be found at AgraceThrift.org.

New Carport Canopy Completed in August 2024





04 Mary Quaerna
 06 Raymond Stafford
 09 Tamara Kuehne
 13 Gloria Osborn
 15 Mike Diers
 15 Eugene Oleson
 17 Holly Glass
 18 Tim Schwenn
 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

09 Bob & Bunny Miller
 10 Dave & Melissa Hubbard
 14 Charles & Kari Campbell
 21 Cari & Ryan Croft
 25 Leigh-Ann & Patrick Waite
 29 Julie & Mark Polzin





2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Service w/communion @ 10 a.m.	2 	3	4 Stitching Group 9 - 10:30 a.m.	5	6	7
8 Service @ 10 a.m. 	9	10 Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall @ 8 a.m.	11 Covenant Guild @ Eagle Inn 8:30 a.m. Stitching Group 9 - 10:30 a.m.	12	13	14 9 a.m. Jazz Band Practice 10 a.m. Praise Band Practice
15 Service @ 10 a.m.	16	17	18 Stitching Group 9 - 10:30 a.m.	19	20	21
22 Service @ 10 a.m. 	23	24	25 Stitching Group 9 - 10:30 a.m.	26	27	28 9 a.m. Jazz Band Practice 10 a.m. Praise Band Practice
29 Service @ 10 a.m.	30					

* Newsletter articles need to be submitted by the 15th to Amy Powell at
asburyumc@charter.net



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