

December 2024

# Action at Asbury

Asbury United Methodist Church  
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## Pastor's Pondering

*"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."*

(The refrain from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" has always been one of my favorite Advent/Christmas hymns. From a musical perspective, I find its melody beautiful in a kind of haunting way. To me, it conveys a "feeling" that something "other-worldly" is about to happen. As a youngster, I remember singing it in church on many Christmas Eves, with lights turned low and candles dancing, all adding to the moment's sacred experience.

The hymn's message is a prayer for, and proclamation about, the coming of the Savior into our world. What a joyful and beautiful message it is!

While the baby Jesus was born to the virgin Mary over 2000 years ago, the message is one Christians herald each and every year, for it is our deepest desire to invite the Son of God to come to us yet again. It is our greatest need to welcome Emmanuel into our hearts.

While the Gospel of John does not record the story of Jesus' birth as does Matthew and Luke, it nevertheless, captures the wonder of God entering our world in a heavenly way. John tells us that "the true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" and "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

Jesus Christ is coming into our world yet again.

He is coming to bring us Hope, for we need hope to face our tomorrows.

He is coming to bring us Peace, for peace calms the nations, as well as our hearts and minds and souls.

He is coming to bring us Joy, for joy produces a happy home.

He is coming to bring us Love, for love is at the heart of everything Jesus taught and did.

May we all have a blessed Advent and Christmas season as we prepare our hearts to receive our Savior.

Pastor Will

# December Worship Schedule and Theme

## December 1 First Sunday of Advent

10 AM Holy Communion in the pews.

Scripture: Luke 21: 25-36 & Psalm 25: 1-10

Theme: Hope

Sermon: "Awaiting at Advent"

The season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Savior into our world. But it does so in two distinct ways. Of course, we are all familiar with the heralding of the birth of baby Jesus in the manger. However, there is another narrative not so well known – that is the second coming of Jesus. Are we welcoming him in this manner as well? We will explore this message.

## December 8 Second Sunday of Advent

10 AM Worship

Scripture: Luke 1: 57-79 & Luke 3: 1-6

Theme: Peace

Sermon: "Preparing the Way for the Lord"

Today we learn of the birth and mission of John the Baptist. Jesus is coming. On the second Sunday of Advent, we hear John's message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins even as we prepare ourselves to receive the Savior.

## December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

10 AM Worship

Scripture: Luke 3: 7-18 & Philippians 4: 4-7

Theme: Joy

Sermon: "What Should We Do?"

As John the Baptist preached his message of repentance, he is asked repeatedly, "What should we do?" Repentance requires reflection and change. What should each of us do as we prepare for the arrival of Jesus?

## December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10 AM Worship

Scripture: Luke 1: 39-45 & Luke 1: 47-55

Theme: Love

Sermon: "Mary's Song"

Obviously, Mary plays a major role in the story of Jesus. We will meet her today and try to grasp the many emotions she must have felt as one who was "blessed among women."

## December 24 Christmas Eve

Service at 7pm

Tonight, we will celebrate the birth of our Savior with singing, candles, Holy Communion, and more! O, come let us adore Him!

## December 29 First Sunday After Christmas

10 AM Worship

Scripture: Luke 2: 41-52 & Colossians 3: 12-17

Sermon: "The Wonder Child"

At the age of 12, Jesus is already teaching in the temple in Jerusalem. We know very little about Jesus' developmental years. What must it have been like to be in the presence of such a child?



October saw income of \$10,817.00 and expenses of \$13,207.18  
Unrestricted Net Assets is at \$22,051.67

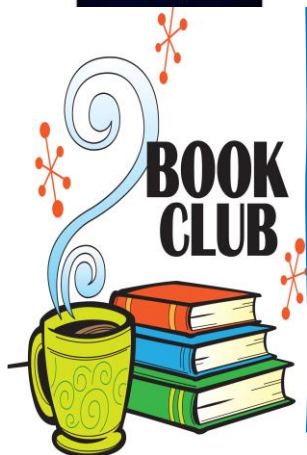
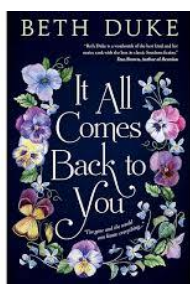
#### Missions

Midwest Mission Distribution Center \$580.00

The end of the year is fast approaching. Please remember that to have your contributions counted for the 2024 year they need to be received by Sunday, December 29.

Thank you for your generosity

## Reading by the Brook



**Asbury Book Club will meet for our December Book discussion on Tuesday, December 17th at Kathy Dahlke's house at 6:30 pm.**

The book for Dember is by Beth Duke  
and it is called,  
*It All Comes Back to You.*

**"It All Comes Back to You is one of those stories you need to savor. You want to put the book down so as to have more to read tomorrow, but you can't. It becomes attached to you, a part of you." - Dan Brown, Author of *Reunion***

In 2012, she's still beautiful, charming, and surrounded by admirers. Veronica "Ronni" Johnson, licensed practical nurse and aspiring writer, meets the captivating Violet in the assisted living facility where Violet requires no assistance, just lots of male attention. When she dies, she leaves Ronni a very generous bequest—only if Ronni completes a book about her life within one year.

**Alabama, 1947. War's over, cherry-print dresses, parking above the city lights, swing dancing. Beautiful, seventeen-year-old Violet lives in a perfect world. Everybody loves her.**

**Readers that are interested in joining us are welcome!**  
**For more information contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623)**  
**[rkdahlke@yahoo.com](mailto:rkdahlke@yahoo.com)**



# Giving List

Nov/Dec 2024



Donations can be dropped off at any time at our shelter  
1025 N Washington Street, Janesville, WI 53548

- Pre-made meals that can be frozen to feed 30
- Milk
- Cereal
- Shelf stable items to make meals
- Frozen pizzas/frozen burritos/frozen hamburgers/frozen lasagna
- Ground beef, Chicken breasts/wings, other meat/protein, tuna
- Coffee/ powdered coffee creamer
- Sugar
- Deodorant (full-size)
- Shampoo/conditioner (full-size)
- Washcloths
- Socks
- Hand warmers
- Laundry detergent/dryer sheets
- Quart-sized food containers (and other large sizes for freezing/storing food)
- 10, 13, 33, 55 & 60 gallon trash bags and tall kitchen bags
- Toilet paper
- Kleenex
- Napkins
- Boxers and briefs in men's sizes medium, large, and extra large
- Bus tokens/ Janesville to Beloit round-trip bus passes
- Grocery store gift cards (Janesville locations)
- Scan the QR code or click here to order from Amazon and have it shipped directly to the shelter:



THANK YOU!

**Gifts** men's shelter

## CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

PARTNER WITH GIFTS MEN'S SHELTER  
BY DONATING THESE NEW, UNWRAPPED  
ITEMS FOR THE 38 MEN ATTENDING  
GIFTS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

**\$5 & \$10 LOCAL GIFT CARDS  
WALLETS**

**UNDERWEAR (BOXER BRIEFS L, XL, 2X)  
REUSABLE RAZOR/SHAVING CREAM SETS  
HYGIENE GIFT SETS  
CANDY**

**DROP OFF MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-5PM  
1025 N.WASHINGTON ST, JANESVILLE  
(608) 728-4941  
BY FRIDAY DECEMBER 13**

## Agrace Offers Virtual Grief Support Group in December

In December, 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, December 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](http://Agrace.org/Volunteer). No health care experience is needed.**



### Continuing Care List

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

### ASBURY HISTORY TEAM

The next scheduled meeting will be after the holidays on Thursday, January 23 at 9:00 a.m.

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



GIFT Meal date will be Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.  
So, mark your calendar.



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





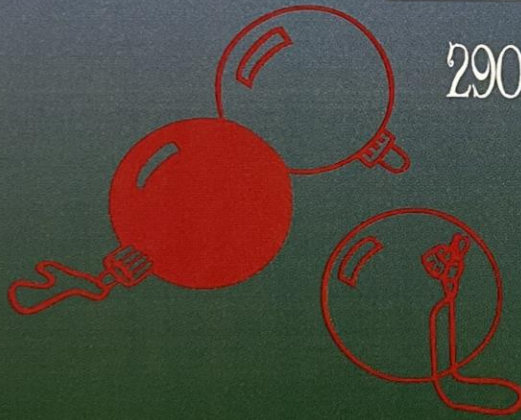
The URock Concert Band Presents...

# The 53rd Annual Holiday Concert!



University of Wisconsin  
**Whitewater**

Rock  
County



2909 Kellogg Avenue, Janesville WI

FREE ADMISSION

For more information,  
contact JEFF SUAREZ at  
[suarezj@uww.edu](mailto:suarezj@uww.edu)  
608/898-5082

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

7:30pm

Kirk Denmark Theatre

[uww.edu](http://uww.edu)

Three of Asbury's own will be performing. Wendy Anderson-Markow, Connie Nelson and Richard MacDonald. As well as Deb North's daughter-in-law Lindsay North.



**Ministry Matters Moments:** Thank you for your generous giving to our November's Ministry **Matters Moments** to help support Janesville's Shelters. 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, AND HARRISON MITEEN TREE**

**Ministry Location:** Janesville WI

**Ministry Start Date:** The 17th 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 15<sup>th</sup> at 1-3 p.m. in the Narthex. Please, bring your ½ dz. Cookies to hand out during our caroling.**







# Parker Big Give

## Students



### GIFT CARDS

#### For the Students:

##### # 40 FEMALE

Gift Cards: Target, Bath & Body, Visa, and Amazon

##### # 35 MALE

Dicks, Wal-Mart, Panda Express, Jesey Mikes, and Chick Fil-A

##### #60 FEMALE

Bath & Boday, Chick Fil-A, Panda Express, Target, and Ross

##### #92 MALE

Nike, Amazon, Auto Part stores, and Kwik Trip

##### #36 FEMALE

Ultra, Wal-Mart, Woodman's, Ross, Bath & Body, and Target

##### #37 MALE

Dunkin, Chick Fil-A, and Walmart

##### #61 FEMALE

Wal-Mart, 5 Below, Amazon, Taco Bell, Hobby Lobby, Panda Express, and Jimmy Johns

##### #62 FEMALE

Amazon, 5 Below, Dollar Tree, Subway, Panda Express, and Dollar General

**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**.





# Parker Big Give

## Students



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.





## Rock-N-Farm Toy Show

Benefitting ECHO

Hosted at the Holiday Inn Express 3100 Wellington Pl

Admission is \$5.00 (12 and under free) Free

Admission with the donation of 3 non-perishable food items.

**DATE: Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**

**TIME: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**



## CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

### Free dinner open to all

December 25 from 11AM to 1PM

St. William's Catholic Church, 1820 Ravine St., Janesville

Everyone's welcome! Please join us!

**BACK IN PERSON THIS YEAR!**

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.





2 Renee Hinkle

3 Steve Whitney

4 Ronda Cass

8 Linda Sailing

10 Sarah Nelson

11 Rogena Andrus

20 Nolan Dahlke

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



17 Brooke & Cody Thompson

18 Eudoris & Lloyd Peterson

24 Holly & Anthony Glass



26 Donna & Ronald Havens

*\* Newsletter articles are submitted to Amy Powell at [asburyumc@charter.net](mailto:asburyumc@charter.net)*



2024



| Sunday   | Monday                                | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday    | Saturday   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----------|-----------|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>10 AM Worship Service &amp; Communion</p>  <p>Advent</p>                                      | <p>2</p> <p>RTC Meeting @ 3:30 AM</p> | <p>3</p>  | <p>4</p> <p>Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 AM</p>   | <p>5</p>  | <p>6</p>  | <p>7</p> <p>Charge Conference @ 9 AM</p> <p>Jazz Band Practice @ 10 AM</p>   |
| <p>8</p> <p>10 AM Worship Service</p>  <p>Advent</p>  | <p>9</p>                              | <p>10</p> <p>Men's Breakfast @ Eagle Inn @ 8:30 AM</p>  | <p>11</p> <p>Women's Covenant @ 8 AM @ Eagle Inn</p> <p>Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 AM</p>                             | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Jazz Band Practice @ 10 AM</p>  |
| <p>15</p> <p>10 AM Worship Service</p> <p>1-3 PM CHRISTMAS CAROLING</p> <p>GIFTS MEAL</p>  <p>Advent</p> | <p>16</p>                             | <p>17</p> <p>Book Club @ 6:30 PM</p>  | <p>18</p> <p>Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 AM</p>  | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p>Jazz Band Practice @ 10 AM</p>  <p>Winter</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>10AM Worship Service</p>  <p>Advent</p>  | <p>23</p>                             | <p>24</p>  <p>7 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE Service</p> | <p>25</p>  <p>MERRY Christmas</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p>  |
| <p>29</p> <p>10AM Worship Service</p>  | <p>30</p>                             | <p>31</p>   |  <p>NEW YEAR New Beginnings</p>   |           |           |  |



O Lord, let my  
New Year's resolution  
be to  
follow you  
more closely  
and to  
trust in your  
loving guidance.



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