

J U L Y 2 0 2 5

Action at Asbury



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

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Deacon Blues and Psalms for the Heart of Ministry – “Moving Day” by Rev. Jill Nowlen

Have you ever made a collage of photos taken from different magazines or calendars? Do any of the above images remind you of situations described in Scripture? If so, which ones and why? Perhaps one of the images remind you of a time in your life of change or transition. Which create feelings of dread or despair, and which create feelings of expectancy and hope? Where in each photo is the source of light that illumines a focus or a theme that is pleasing, displeasing or neutral?

Using images that describe heartbreaking and joy-filled times on our faith-journey can sometimes be a source of comfort, healing and affirmation of what matters most in life and in death. The book of Psalms is a collage of songs & prayers that praise our divine Creator and lament the human condition in ways that impair our ability to be reconciled with God. Our own creations may be examples of these experiences, both divisive and unitive in our relationships with God, self and others.

To describe and lift up these experiences to the sacred and holy presence of God expands our capacity to receive and share the Grace of the Imago Dei...the Image of God through Christ Jesus. Pay attention to these examples. I invite you to share them with God and perhaps with each other: who embrace a desire to be formed in God's image. Pray for God's presence to fill you to capacity and beyond, so that we all might one day reflect the example of our Lord Jesus to the praise of God's glory! Amen.

P.S. I am looking forward to meeting you all soon! Please sign up to participate in one of the Cottage Meetings at a time and location that is convenient for you and your family members. Thank you for all of the hosts/hostesses who will provide the hospitality for each of you as friends and members of Asbury UMC of Janesville, WI. If you prefer to meet with me 1:1 instead of with a group, please let me know so a time can be arranged on my schedule through Amy, the Administrative Assistant at Asbury.

You are in my prayers as I prepare to serve you and the community in a life of faith as disciples of Jesus! Here are a few questions for you to prayerfully ponder as we discern together a vision of ministry in the next months and years ahead:

1. Tell me what you love the most about Asbury UMC
2. What is God calling our church to be?
3. What are the obstacles that need to be addressed before a new vision of ministry is realized?
4. What are you willing to do to help with what God is calling the church to do to reach that point?

Thank you!!! 😊

JULY Worship Schedule and Themes

July 6 –Communion Worship with Pastor Stan Curtis

July 13 –Worship with our New Pastor Jill Nowlen

July 20 – Worship with Pastor Jill Nowlen

July 27 – Worship with Peggy Eggen

May saw income of \$7,434.84 and expenses of \$11,289.62
Unrestricted Net Assets is at \$8,876.53

Missions

ECHO CROP Walk \$1530.74

Thank you for your generosity

Julie Polzin, Asbury Bookkeeper
asburybookkeeper@charter.net



Continuing Care List



Jerriann & Larry Burns, Harriet Christopherson, Dale Clark, Lloyd Coulthard, Darlene and Richard Coulthard, LaVita Fanta, Don Isbell, Russ Kuykendall, Janet Luiting, Shirley Martin, Hjordis Olson, Lucille Osborne, Arlette Walker, and Ione Watson.

GRACE Is Sufficient

This was the theme for the 2025 United Methodist Annual Conference.

Grace: the unearned Love of God is a gift offered to us every moment.

God loves, transforms and remakes us.

Faith is the courage to be.

Let GRACE do its work.

God will carry us.

Our Bible Study reflected on 2nd Corinthians 12:7b-10. Paul's invitation offers hope, trust, safe spaces, comfort, compassion, listening, sharing and strength.

We are not alone.

At General conference in 2024, four amendments to the UMC constitution were approved. To be ratified, all UMC conference voting members for 2025 need to vote with 2/3 support for each amendment. Once all conferences are over, the numerical total will be tallied by the council of bishops before becoming church law.

Amendment #1 **Regionalization**: Discontinue "Central Conference". This will enable regions to pass rules relevant to their own culture or area.

Amendment #2 **Inclusion In Membership**: Open to ALL God's children.

Amendment #3 **Racial Justice**: UMC commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism in every facet of life and society at large.

Amendment #4 **Educational Requirements** for Provisional Members or Licensed Local Pastors to vote for clergy delegates.

Further reading of these amendments may be found on the WI UMC conference web site or articles will be on our bulletin board outside of the office.

STATISTICS: 90 WI churches have 25 to 50 members. 20 churches have over 300 members. WI average church membership is 55. Since 2018 membership in the WI UMCs decreased by 36% (not all due to disaffiliation).

On any given Sunday 61% of UMC churches have 35 or less persons in attendance in worship. Discontinuance of 4 churches was approved.

Pulpit Supply

This year, WI lost four fulltime pastors in four weeks. 26 pastors retired this year, but will no doubt be called back into serving. Seven or so new individuals are beginning the process of becoming pastors. 25-30 churches were not yet supplied with a pastor. Some churches are being led by Lay Servants. Some pastors will have 3-5 churches. 50% of WI clergy were born outside of the USA.


Jill Nolen, our newly appointed pastor, was ordained as a deacon in the WI conference. She will supply Asbury and assist Plymouth as needed.

All minutes from 2025 Annual Conference will be on the Conference Web site within two weeks. Submitted to Asbury newsletter by Pat Spors. Peggy Eggen also attended this conference.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

The short Old Testament book of Lamentations is a set of communal laments (sorrowful songs) about the destruction in 587 B.C. of which city, by which people?

A. Babylon; the Assyrians
B. Jerusalem; the Babylonians
C. Rome; the Greeks
D. Caesarea Philippi; the Romans





Abbi Christman
And
Violet Rosburg
Graduated from Edison Middle
School.



COTTAGE MEETINGS with Pastor Jill

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who would like to attend one of the Cottage Meetings. These meetings will be around 2 hrs. in length. A small gathering of 6-8 people. (This includes the host.) May serve a small meal or a small snack.

If these dates do not work for you but you would like to hold a Cottage Meeting with Jill, please reach out to the church office to see what Jill might have available on a different date.

Tuesday, July 1, Peggy hosting from 3-5 p.m. at her house still has one spot open. (light snack and beverages will be served)

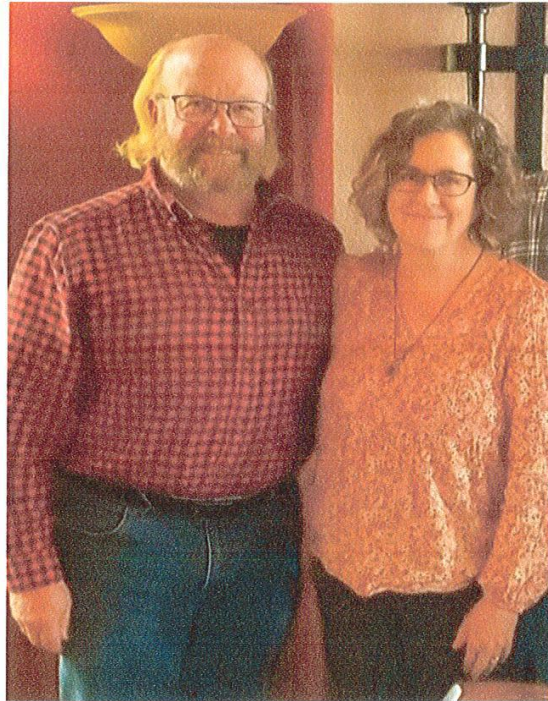
Monday, July 14, Melissa Hubbard's house from 5-7 p.m. and pizza will be served, **Full**

Tuesday, July 15, Peggy's house from 3-5 p.m., two spots open. (light snack and beverages will be served)

Wednesday, July 16, Pat's house from 2-4 p.m., **Full**

Monday, July 21, Open for a host and for people to attend.

Tuesday, July 22, Peggy will host from 3-5 p.m., open to attend for 4 people. (light snacks and beverages will be served)



Pastor Jill Nowlen and Cliff Sanderson

Pastor Jill and Cliff have been married for 9 years. Each have 2 children from previous marriages. They proudly own a 9-year-old Golden Doodle named “Norton!” Both are veterans: Jill served 8 years in the WI Army National Guard as a Behavior Health Officer and Cliff served 8 years in the US Navy as a Petty Officer 1st Class. Cliff retired in 2020 from Mayville Engineering Company as VP of Human Resources, and Jill graduated from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2019 after 30 years as a Clinical Social Worker in Mental Health. Their home is on the Fox River between Princeton and Montello. Hobbies include boating, golfing, fishing, kayaking, bicycling, gardening, and traveling.

Cliff will remain at their home and engage in membership at Trinity UMC in Montello, WI. He continues to care for his elderly parents who live in Valparaiso, IN, making visits on a monthly basis to care for their needs. Jill will live in the parsonage next to Asbury UMC in Janesville to serve full-time as an ordained Deacon. She has full sacramental authority, and will focus on healing and rebuilding the membership at Asbury with pastoral care, worship, and discipleship. She is looking forward to meeting the spiritual needs of members and re-establishing a strong connectional ministry with the community and the local church, as well as the local church with the Wisconsin Conference. In addition, she will serve Plymouth UMC as an extension of her appointment at Asbury UMC. Previous appointments include the 3-Point Charge of Elroy-Necedah-New Lisbon: Winding Rivers UMC, Wild Rose UMC, and Mayville UMC.



Save your receipts from Sentry with a "Funds for Friends" sticker on each one (ask for a sticker from the customer service counter)

Mail or deliver your receipts to ECHO at
65 S High St. Janesville, WI 53548
(Receipts must be within one year old)

ECHO will receive 1% back based on the purchase price



SENIOR "STOCKBOX" PROGRAM

Free Food for income-eligible seniors (60 & over)

Distribution at ECHO
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-4 pm

Box contents vary, but may include: cereal, pasta or rice, canned goods, canned meat, juice, and Wisconsin cheese.

Wisconsin ID Required - Please contact ECHO for more information, include the income limit 608-754-5333
Sponsored by the Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee

2025
May

Service Snapshot



185,330 Meals Provided

217 Nights Provided at Motels



21 Homeless Outreach Contacts

38 Months of Rent Provided



- 59 Homeless Personal Supply Boxes Provided
- 21 Baby Food and Formula



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



JULY 2025 NEEDS

**Peanut Butter & Jelly
Instant Potatoes
Pasta Sauce
Rice**

Personal Items
Deodorant
Bar Soap
Tampons/Pads
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Shampoo & Conditioner



- 2025 Calendar of Events**
- 7/11 Sky Carp Fundraiser
ABC Supply Stadium
 - 8/22 Mini Golf Championship
Traxler Park
 - 10/18 Empty Bowls
Woodman's Sports & Convention Center
 - 12/5 S'More and Cocoa
Downtown Janesville

More info on all these events can be found at www.echojanesville.org

School Supplies

And monetary donations are needed and can be dropped off at the ECHO Office
65 S. High St.,
Janesville, WI 53548
Mon.-Fri., 9am-12pm
Mon.-Thurs., 1pm-4pm
Visit the ECHO website at www.echojanesville.org for a list of school supplies.



Are you a friend of ECHO?
www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville



Summer Fund Raiser

Please make a donation that will help families in need.

Your donation can be given to your church, marked for ECHO or sent directly to ECHO, Inc., 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548
Donations can also be made safely on the ECHO website:
www.echojanesville.org



We give thanks to everyone who gave their support for our June Asbury UMC Highlight of **GIFTS**. Our July focus is on our local **ECHO**.

Ministry Name: ECHO **Ministry Location:** 65 S High St, Janesville, WI 53548 **Ministry Phone:** (608) 754-5333
Our Church Contact: Dave Figi

*Festival Foods is selling \$5 and \$10 Donation Cards for ECHO at their front-end registers that will help the food pantry at ECHO. *

From their newsletter: ECHO is also seeing growth in requests for services. Rents are going up along with everyday costs, which is affecting those we serve needing to come in for supportive services. Additional families are becoming homeless because they cannot afford the rising costs in housing. Many of our housing and homeless services are partially funded by government grants. We have heard that our funding sources may be cut due to the plans of the current federal administration.

We need your help to meet the basic housing needs of our neighbors in Rock County. Please continue advocating with your representatives that funding for housing and homeless services is needed in Rock County. Also, any donation is appreciated to help those in need here in our community. Remember we are Everyone Cooperating to Help Others - with your support we can continue to make a difference in Rock County!



01-Troy Osborne	17-Carolyn Schultz
02-Wendy Anderson-Markow	18-Theresa Luepnitz
Harriet Christopherson	Mike Woods
03-Richard Coulthard	21-Madolyn Rosburg
04-Ruth Polzin	22-Dennis Sailing
05-Barb Doubleday	23-Jan Diers
08-Patrick Waite	24-John Luepnitz
09-Stan Curtis	28-Robin Bent
Richard Lyth	Arlette Walker
Gaye White	31-Matthew Sly

01-Larry Markow & Wendy Anderson-Markow
02-Marj & Bob Banner
05-Artie & Phil Zumstein
10-Gaye & Mike White
23-Judy & Charlie Culb
27-Bobi & William Abraham
30- Jan & Mike Diers



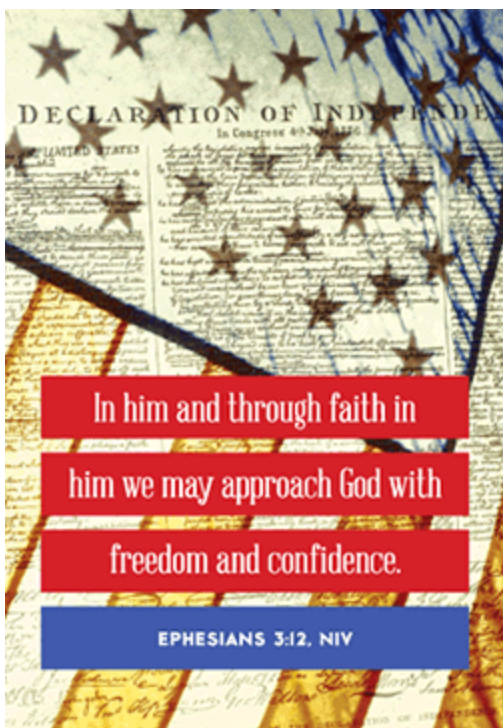
Milton United Women in Faith

Dear Collectors of Holy Socks,

Fantastic news was received from Vanessa Johnson, Development Director at Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. Their check arrived from TerraCycle with the earnings for all of the old socks you recycled with them for the period ending April 30, 2025. The amount of the check this time was \$1,453.25. Congratulations.

The GOLDTOE Sock Company covers the cost of the UPS shipping labels for sending the socks in so there is very little expense connected to this fundraiser. As always, we have the added bonus of keeping all of those socks out of landfills. If you have Holy socks or mismatch, give a bag full to Pat Spors to donate to the program.

Blessing,
Marilyn Eyster
Milton UMF



Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode Proverbs 27:1, NIV.

CLUES:
O = D, T = O

O

T

T

D

F

D

O

E

D

B

P

O

B

E

D

Y

O

T

O

O

O

O

O

O

O

O

O

O

D

U

D

H

H

D

L

Z

D

H

G

D

Y

O

T

O

O

T

O

T

D

F

D

O

N

F

D

L

L

R

B

O

B

T

B

G

U

B

G

E

H

A

F

M

Proverbs 27:1, NIV

Answer: Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Jill's Office Hours 9 AM to 3 PM	2 Jill's Office Hours 9 AM to 3 PM Stitching Group 9-10:30 AM	3 Jill is off	4  Church Office is Closed.	5
6 Communion Worship Service w/Pastor Stan Curtis 10 AM	7 RTC Meeting @ 3:30 PM	8 Men's Breakfast at Eagle Inn @ 8:30 AM SPRC Meeting @ 5 PM	9 Women's Covenant Guild at Eagle Inn @ 8 AM	10	11 Asbury 2-Go trip to FireSide.	12
13 Worship Service w/Pastor Jill Nowlen 10 AM	14	15	16 Stitching Group 9-10:30 AM	17	18	19 Jazz Band Practice 9 AM Praise Band Practice 10 AM
20 Worship Service w/Pastor Jill Nowlen 10 AM	21	22	23	24	25	26 Jazz Band Practice 9 AM Praise Band Practice 10 AM
27 Worship Service w/Peggy Eggen 10 AM	28	29	30	31		

Please submit newsletter articles by the 15th of every month to Amy Powell at asburyumc@charter.net
Thank you!



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July 2025