



Volume 3, Issue 117  
DECEMBER 2020

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Good News

**Asbury**  
United Methodist Church  
[JesusIsTheBridge.org](http://JesusIsTheBridge.org)

Our Mission ~ To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World



## Online Worship Time Change

Beginning on Sunday, November 29 the  
Online Worship starts at **10:30 AM**

Go to: [JesusIsTheBridge.org](http://JesusIsTheBridge.org) and click on the red "Live Worship" button.  
You may also use the website to view the recorded service later in the day or week.

**First Sunday of Each Month...Drive-Up Communion in the Parking Lot at 11:45 AM**  
December 6 Please bring your own Elements.

Due to COVID-19, all worship services will be conducted online only through the rest of December. Our church Council has authorized the team of our parish nurses, pastors and Church Council co-chairs to make the decisions regarding the church's response to the current pandemic.

They came to this decision based on guidelines from government authorities, our Iowa United Methodist Bishop and largely due to the critical strain on our healthcare system.

One thing that we can be sure of is that this pandemic is only temporary. Because this Advent and Christmas season will be unlike any other, we will have the unique opportunity to experience the deeper meaning of Christmas in a new way.

The good news that God has come to us in Jesus will take on new meaning this year. During Advent we will gain a deeper appreciation for the simple gifts of peace, hope, love, and joy. We will find that even a global pandemic cannot take these gifts away from us.

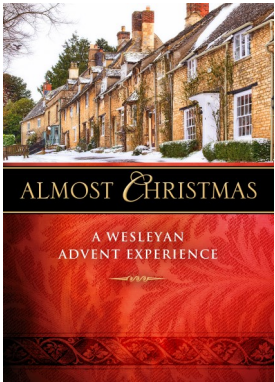


## Advent Sunday Sermon and Study Series

November 29 - December 20

In this time of change and challenges, we long for something—something that we can't quite put into words. Our Advent Sunday Sermon Series, entitled **ALMOST CHRISTMAS: A WESLEYAN ADVENT EXPERIENCE** explores how we can make a commitment to Christ during Advent using the traditional themes of Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy.

This is your opportunity to grow in your love for Jesus and others this Advent season. The relatable illustrations and practical applications make this study a superb guide for spiritual transformation. Please pick up the books or call the office and we'll see that you get the materials. The flyer enclosed lists the groups which will be participating in this study, so plan to join one so that you will see the DVD presentations as well!



It is bell ringing time again! Please sign-up to help ring the Salvation Army Bell at K & K Hardware from **Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> through December 24<sup>th</sup>**. You may sign up by going to our website [JesusIsTheBridge.org](http://JesusIsTheBridge.org) and clicking on the link, or call the church office at 355-5281. **Please sign up to help! Asbury is responsible for approximately 250 volunteer hours at K & K.** To give Asbury credit for your contribution to the Salvation Army please make your check to Davenport Salvation Army and leave it in the Kettle at K & K. **Thank You!**



**VOLUNTEER  
BELL RINGERS  
NEEDED!**

*Ring a bell...help change a life*



**2:00 Communion in Cars with Carols...Join us in our west parking lot on 18th Street**  
We'll sing carols together from our cars. Please bring your own Communion Elements.

**4:00 Christmas Presence...An online worship experience for the entire family**

**6:00 An Altogether Christmas...Online Christmas Eve Worship**

**8:00 Communion in Cars with Carols...Join us in our west parking lot on 18th Street**  
We'll sing carols together from our cars. Please bring your own Communion Elements.

Go to: [JesusIsTheBridge.org](http://JesusIsTheBridge.org) and click on the red "Live Worship" button.  
You may also use the website to view the recorded service later in the day or week



## Jr High & High School

**ALL Youth IN PERSON**

**Activities Are On**

due to covid19 concerns

**youth leaders will communicate changes as they are able**



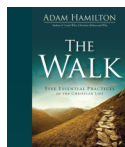
**Coming Soon!** Look for our Annual Report available online and through the church office. It will give a summary of the accomplishments of the past year and goals for the church looking to 2021.



### A Message from Your Parish Nurse Team

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Even though the way we celebrate this year will be very different, the reason we celebrate is still the same. Let's make it a joyous time!!

Sending our virtual hugs to everyone,  
Carol, Brenda and Cheryl



## Discover five spiritual practices to help you **WALK CLOSER WITH GOD**

WINGS will be hosting the 6-week study THE WALK by Adam Hamilton starting January 6, 2021. We will be meeting on ZOOM from 6:15 to 7:30 PM.

Jesus modeled the Christian spiritual life for us. How do we walk with Christ? The Walk explores the 5 essential spiritual practices of worship and prayer, study, serving, giving, and sharing our faith.

Each session will have a short video from Adam Hamilton followed by group discussion. The books are available in the church office. You may stop in and pick one up, or we can arrange to have a book delivered to you.

Please contact Heather Dennis at [rhdenfour@mchsi.com](mailto:rhdenfour@mchsi.com), or 563 340-1748, or Jean Black at [jeaniniowa60@gmail.com](mailto:jeaniniowa60@gmail.com), or 563 676-0120, for the ZOOM link.

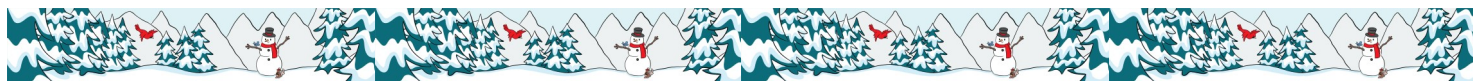


**Asbury's December Mission of the Month** is to collect items for the Bettendorf Food Pantry on Grant St. **Using the Reverse Advent Calendar enclosed**, collect items for 25 days to fill up a box or bags. Please deliver to the church the week after Christmas. *"And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"* Matt 25:40

**Friendly Thrift Center....** The Friendly Thrift Center will be closed the week of Nov. 23. We will be open from Dec. 2nd through Dec. 18. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 9:00 to noon. Stop by to do some Christmas shopping as there are many seasonal items and of course, good clothing choices too!! Donations **MAY NOT** be left outside of the building during the time we are closed. Please save those to be dropped off when we are open. Thank you for thinking of us. See you soon!



- **Praises and Requests for Prayer** may be submitted on our website [JesusIsTheBridge.org](http://JesusIsTheBridge.org) and clicking on the "Prayers & Praise" button. If you would like to be part of Asbury's Prayer Team please contact Pam & Pat Thornton, Pastor Tom or the Parish Nurse Team.
- **Our building is closed to outside groups while we wait out the pandemic.** We continue to have a small crew in the office Monday-Friday, 8:00-Noon. Please feel free to call or contact a staff member at home after hours if a need arises.
- **New Locks!....** The Trustees have changed the locks on the entrances to the church. If you need a replacement key please contact the church office.
- **Newsletter Deadline....** Articles for the next issue of Good News should be in the church office no later than **8:00 AM on Monday, December 21.**
- **Ladies in Fellowship Together...** Check the LIFT Facebook page for the latest news & words of inspiration.
- **Asbury Men's Group....** Contact Cliff Pim (563-340-2722), Phil Paulson (309-502-9236) or the church office (355-5218) for the next **ZOOM** meeting date, time and link. All men are welcome!
- **Thoughts of Sympathy....** Our prayers are with Dave Stedwell and Cheryl Ewert on the death of Dave's sister, Diane Stedwell, on November 9.
- **Welcome Team....** When we resume in-person worship, we will need volunteers to serve on our Welcome Team at the 8:00 and 10:30 AM worship services. Please contact Kurt Streicher at (563) 508-7614 or [vicstre@aol.com](mailto:vicstre@aol.com) if you are willing to help. Thank you!
- **Foundation Gift Recognitions....** Thank you to John Cramond and Donna Moore for their gifts to the Asbury Foundation in honor of their recent birthday. For information on how you can guarantee a strong future for the life and ministry of Asbury through a gift to the Foundation please contact John Rabine or the church office.
- **Stewards of Creation December Congregational Challenges**
  - Week 1**—Give a gift that supports Creation. Choose an organization that protects wildlife, the ocean, people affected by climate events, etc. Then, give a membership as a gift, participate or donate. Examples of organizations supporting Creation will be featured on Facebook @AsburyStewardsOfCreation.
  - Week 2**—Plan eco-friendly wrapping for your holiday gifts. Decorate and reuse paper bags or boxes, sew gift bags from material to be used again, use a basket or inside out chip bag. **More ideas on Facebook @AsburyStewardsOfCreation**
  - Week 3-4**—Share 3-5 ways you have supported Creation this year. Many will be shared on Facebook @AsburyStewardsOfCreation using your first name and last initial. Send to Sue Moseley's email [actionforothers@mediacommbb.net](mailto:actionforothers@mediacommbb.net) any time.



**THANK YOU....to everyone who has continued to faithfully give your tithes and offerings during the pandemic.**  
Gifts may be mailed to the church or go to our website [JesusIsTheBridge.org](http://JesusIsTheBridge.org) to give electronically.

	October	YTD 2020
Income	\$ 37,393	\$496,029
Expenses	\$ 53,708	\$454,149 *
Net	\$-16,315	\$41,879

\* Expenses YTD reflect a forgivable grant from the government, based on pandemic, amounting to \$84,012. Used to reduce payroll. Also, there are \$28,834 of Iowa Conference Apportionments to be paid, making YTD net actually \$13,045.

Thank you to all of you who have shared with the church their planned Estimate of Giving for 2021. We will face challenges in the coming year, but are confident that we will be able to meet those challenges.

We are close to meeting our financial obligations for this year, but it will require a good effort in the closing weeks of 2020. Thank you for your support in helping Asbury Church change lives with the message that **Jesus is the Bridge.**