



Volume 3, Issue 118
JANUARY 2021

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Good News



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

**Sunday Morning Worship will continue to be ONLINE
at 10:30AM through January**



Go to: 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.

January 3

First Sunday of Each Month

Drive-Up Communion in the Parking Lot at 11:45 AM

Please bring your own Elements.



**Everyone has an influence on others.
How do you use yours?**

Jesus gave us the prime example of how to influence people for God. He earned their trust, shared a vision of a positive future, and helped people change for the better. He then instructed his followers to do the same. But how do we do that in today's changing social media saturated world?

We need trusted leaders at every level of our society who are influencing the world in a positive way. You can be one of them. Join us for worship in January as we seek God's light to apply Jesus' timeless principles on influence to our current reality.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR ADULT GROUPS?

ADVENTURES IN FAITH and AGAPE will continue to meet together on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:15 AM via Zoom. They will begin a new study on January 3, 2021 entitled ALL THE PLACES TO GO by John Ortberg. Books are available for pick up from the office or call, and we'll deliver them to you.

Good news!! Realf Ottesen is now well enough to begin teaching EXPLORATIONS!! The first class via Zoom will be on Sunday, January 10 from 9:00-10:15 AM. Realf will be discussing THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOHN WESLEY. He will contact those of you who have attended in the past, but if you would like to participate, please contact Realf or the church office for the link to Zoom. There are no books needed for this class.

The THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY led by Chris Harvey will begin a three-session study entitled THE WESLEY CHALLENGE by Chris Folmsbee in January leading up to Lent. Books are available in the office or call, and we'll deliver them to you.

The flyer that was enclosed in the previous GOOD NEWS contains the needed information regarding the other Adult groups. If you have questions, please call the church office.

The next SUNDAY SERMON AND STUDY SERIES will be the Lenten one entitled PETER: A FLAWED BUT FAITHFUL DISCIPLE by Adam Hamilton beginning on February 21, 2021. More details later.

CHANGES ARE COMING TO ASBURY'S LIBRARY

Asbury is blessed to have a large comprehensive library. However, the time has come to "right-size" it, so our library's resources and our building will be better used. In a digital age, information access has moved out of only a room to a worldwide resource. Our adult and children's libraries now fill two rooms, neither of which has been well-used in recent years. To conduct this right-sizing project, a task force has been formed, comprised of the Adult Ministries Team, past library committee members, and staff.

The plan is to significantly reduce and reorganize both libraries, making them more useable and creating much-needed space for other uses. The remaining adult library books and materials will probably stay in part of their current room. The children's library will vacate its current room and will be moved downstairs to the TreeHouse children's area. The task force has begun to identify books and materials which are of low importance to Asbury's ministry and which can be removed. In the future, the removed items will be offered to the congregation and to others, especially as pandemic restrictions are relaxed.

Physical books and materials will continue to be important at Asbury. We will retain and add those which are relevant to our members and our ministry. This will be an ongoing project, and the input and involvement of interested people will be welcomed. More information will be available on Asbury's website, and updates will appear in future Good News newsletters.

Welcome Mike Brand as our Worship Technology Coordinator

Over the past several months we have learned that our need for quality technology that enables us to be online every week has exceeded what can reasonably be expected from a volunteer. Therefore, the Staff Parish Relations Committee is very pleased to announce that Mike Brand will become our Worship Technology Coordinator. The SPRC has created this part-time staff position with the primary responsibilities of maintaining the equipment, training a team of volunteers to run the system during worship and overseeing our internet broadcasts. Mike has been doing this type of work for several months as a volunteer and is already well known to many in the church. He is married to Angie and they have three children: Caleb, Grace and Jesse.



Jr High & High School

All Youth IN PERSON

Activities Are On PAUSE
due to covid19 concerns

youth leaders will communicate
changes as they are able

Roots Kids lesson highlights are shown during Asbury's online worship service. There are also additional supplemental activities/videos on their Facebook page. Be sure to LIKE ROOTSKIDS and turn on your notifications to stay in the loop of the latest fun!



Leadership Orientation and Training for ALL Leaders,
Committee and Team Members
Monday, January 11 at 6:30 PM

A Zoom link will be sent to you. The agenda will include:

- an expression of thanks to everyone willing to serve;
- a reminder of our overall church goals, vision and direction for the coming year;
- some practical information about how we work together (such as use of the building and communication channels);
- time in the various committees.

We'll spend about an hour as a large group and then the various committees will break out into their individual groups for their first time in the new year. Most committees already have a set time to meet each month, but since we are starting fresh, each group will be able to set a schedule that works best for them.



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, or 563 340-1748, or Jean Black at jeaniniowa60@gmail.com, or 563 676-0120, for the ZOOM link.

Greetings from your Parish Nurse Team

A blessing of the afghans was held in worship on December 6th. We send a huge thank you to our congregation who continues to support this special ministry! We are happy to share that this year 40 of the afghans were given to the children at Hope at the Brick House and 50 were donated to the homeless shelter in Davenport. (If you would like to know more please contact us at the church....We provide the yarn! If you do not knit or crochet, you can help by whip-stitching the afghan squares together. It's very easy and can be done at home.) This is an ongoing, year-round ministry. Thank you again for all your love and support of this much needed outreach ministry for our community!

In the busy-ness of the season, remember to take some time for yourself--sit down, take a deep breath and rest for a minute. It's okay to relax a little! Enjoy everything that Christmas means to you. Then, let's move forward and put 2020 in the rearview mirror!!



Stay safe. Be well. Virtual hugs to all of you!
Your Parish Nurse Team
Brenda, Carol and Cheryl



- **Upper Room**...The January/February Upper Room devotional books are available to pick up at church. If you would like a copy mailed to you please call the church office.
- **Praises and Requests for Prayer** may be submitted on our website 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 locks to the church have been changed. 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, January 25.**
- **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 the family & friends of Geri Robbins who passed away on November 27. Vickie and Jerry Finley on the death of Vickie's mother, Marilyn Henson, on November 27. The family & friends of Leona Gailbreath who passed away on December 5. Norma Hofmann and family on the death of her husband, Rich, on December 5. Linda Ashby on the death of her husband, Greg on December 14. Suzanne and Sandy Yoder on the death of Suzanne's mother, Shirley Knoll, on December 15.
- **Friendly thrift Center**....will be closed from December 24th through January 5th. Reopening will be January 6th, regular hours of 9:00 to noon Wednesday through Saturday. Stop by for some post-holiday bargains. **Reminder:** after the first of the year, we will not be taking donations of Christmas items (decorations, clothing, etc.) Please save them for next year. Thank you.
- **Foundation Gift Recognitions**....Thank you to Bob Gallagher, Ruth McMorran, Earl Oelerich, Darlene Roseleaf, and Howard & Denise Tyler 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 January Congregational Challenge**....**"Choose Your Own Challenge to Support Creation!"** (A list of past challenges is posted on our Facebook *Stewards of Creation* site to help everyone with some ideas. If you would like to share your "2021 Resolutions to Support Creation" you may do so in the comments of our *Stewards of Creation* Facebook page.)
- **Thank You**....The birthday surprise cards, calls, blessings and so much more arrived at my front door! My 91st birthday is definitely one to remember and my Asbury Family is one I'll never forget. Thank you so very much, Ruth McMorran

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 to give electronically.

	November	YTD 2020
Income	\$ 79,205	\$ 575,233
Expenses	\$ 43,151	\$495,756
Net	\$ 36,054	\$ 79,477

* Expenses YTD reflect a forgivable grant from the government, based on pandemic, amounting to \$84,012. Used to reduce payroll. Also, there are \$38,445 of Iowa Conference Apportionments to be paid, making YTD net actually \$41,017

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.

Thank you for your support in helping Asbury Church change lives with the message that *Jesus is the Bridge*.