



In-Person Worship Resumes!



The next step of our re-entry from the Coronavirus is providing the option of worshipping together in person in the church building. We will have two opportunities to be in the building on Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30AM.

The 10:30AM worship will continue to be livestreamed for people to participate online. Therefore, during this transition time the experience in the sanctuary at 10:30AM may feel a bit like a studio audience. Both services will be basically the same for the first few months. Masks and social distancing are required. Over time, we will begin to reintroduce live music and the two services will begin to take on different formats. We will also be exploring how to maintain an online presence that doesn't feel like a "studio audience" for people in the building. We are coming back to a changed world and we want to continue to adapt to be effective with all the new tools we've learned.

To worship online go to: JesusIsTheBridge.org and click either the blue "Facebook Live Worship" or the red "YouTube Live" button. You may also use the website to view the recorded service later in the day or week. As we plan for the future, we will continue to offer an Online Worship option.

We are ready to receive requests for church-related small groups to meet in the building. The church has purchased an Owl Camera System that allows meetings to include people in the room and others at home over Zoom. Please contact the church office if your church-related committee or group would like to meet in the building.



Greetings from Pastor Tom....

Linda and I were one of the host families for the Egg-palooza Drive-By Easter Egg Hunt. One of the families who stopped by our house said, "I didn't know you lived here!" They only lived a few blocks away. We lived in the same neighborhood and didn't even know it.

It is not uncommon for people to not know the other people living in their neighborhood. But neighborhoods are the most healthy when people know each other, care about each other, and help each other out in times of need.

That is why I'm pretty excited about **Neighborhood Bridge Builders**, a new way that Asbury Church will be trying to connect with neighbors. On March 29 about 25 people participated in an initial training to be Asbury Neighborhood Bridge Builder Captains. A team of people led by Cindy Bruhn has organized all the members of Asbury into about 25 geographic neighborhoods. The goal is to have two Neighborhood Bridge Builder Captains for each neighborhood.

Their first task will be to simply call on the other members of Asbury who live in their neighborhood. The next step will be to help Asbury folks know and connect with each other in their neighborhoods. Then our hope is that, as a team, Asbury neighbors will try to connect with and care for other people in their neighborhood.

Our goal is that every member of Asbury Church will receive a call by the end of May. It will be time for the Neighborhood Bridge Builder Captain to connect and introduce themselves. Where it goes from there will hopefully be a way to follow Jesus' instruction to Simon Peter when he told him to "tend his flock and care for others." (John 21:15-17)

We are still in need of a few more people to be Neighborhood Bridge Builder Captains. If God is leading you to build relations in your neighborhood, Cindy Bruhn or I would love to talk with you. Just call the church office to let us know.

In worship during May, our sermon series will look to the scripture for examples of how God was a part of relationships between neighbors. I'm looking forward to connecting with God and you.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom



Native American Ministries Sunday on April 18 is one of six churchwide Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences & across the United States and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans. Please find the envelope enclosed.

April 25th is Asbury Youth Sunday!



Asbury Youth will be leading portions of both our worship services on April 25. We can't wait to share the kids' gifts and talents with our congregation!

"Salute To Teens Week" ~ April 25th - May 1st

An Idea From Our Local Bethany Children and Families Organization



There is no doubt that the pandemic has been a difficult time for all of us. There is also no doubt that being a teenager and having your way of education flipped upside down, along with so much taken away from social life is not the most ideal way to spend your life as a teen. Teens are in the most critical years of their development and Asbury wants to do all we can to let them know we care and that their church family loves them.

Each day of Salute To Teens Week, we will feature Asbury youth on our social media platform. Parents of youth are encouraged to please send their child's information as soon as possible in response to their youth leaders' previous email so that we can have time to prepare all the individual media posts ahead of time.

As a congregation, this will be a good opportunity to share a word of encouragement for teens and be a beacon of light that says, "We are proud of you and you have accomplished great things!"



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 for the latest fun!



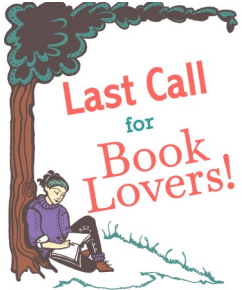


**Greetings from your Parish Nurse Team
The Foot Clinic is Back!!!**



We will host Amanda from Unity Point Health Services on **Monday, April 26th at Asbury**. The payment of \$30 will be made to Unity Point by check or in cash. The appointment times will be from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. in half hour slots. Amanda will spend 30 minutes making your feet feel pampered. First, your feet will soak in warm water. Then, Amanda will check to make sure your feet look healthy; clip your nails; and finish with a relaxing massage. **Please call Cheryl Ewert with questions or to make an appointment.** Pandemic protocols will be followed: masks required and we will social distance except when you are with Amanda—it would be tough to do this six feet apart!

Come on out and give it a try. Your feet will thank you!
Brenda, Carol and Cheryl



The Asbury Library Team has placed a large selection of books in Upper Fellowship Hall. They are **FREE TO ANYONE through April 30th**. People may come and take as many books as they wish following the church services or during office hours (8:00 AM-12:00 noon, Monday through Friday).

Donations of books to our library will no longer be normally accepted, except those used for all-church or small group studies. If someone has a book which they believe is important to have in our library, they should contact Linda Manning, our Adult Ministries Director. Carrie Meumann, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, will oversee the books and materials for children and youth. Asbury will continue to purchase and provide Sunday School materials, small group study books, and DVD's.

Mark Your Calendars NOW!!

Pinocchio, a Roots Kids Family Fun Event, is scheduled for June 5th at 1:00PM. This pop-up play, performed at Asbury by professional actors from the SpotLight Theatre, is sure to be a great time for kids of all ages!



High School Youth, led by Rebecca Erickson, are meeting once again. We are looking for more leaders to help with High School and Jr. High Youth. If interested, please contact Carrie Meumann at carriem@asbury-bett.org



Welcome Team....We are taking names of volunteers willing to serve on our Welcome Team to greet people as they arrive and to assist them in finding a seat at each service as we return to in-person worship. Please contact Kurt Streicher at (563) 508-7614 or vicstre@aol.com or Denise Tyler at (309)721-4563 or howdevette@gmail.com if you will help. **THANK YOU!**

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.

Congregational Giving Comparison YTD through March

The Asbury Finance Team feels it is important to keep the congregation informed of the financial implications of the Pandemic. One way is to compare congregational giving shown here.

	March Year to Date 2020	March Year to Date 2021	Change
Income	\$ 149,585	\$132,818	(\$16,767)

- **Upper Room...**The May/June 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 by 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.
- **Thoughts of Sympathy....**Our prayers are with Pat Reiser and family on the death of her husband, Ron, on March 29.
- **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.
- **Newsletter Deadline....**Articles for the next issue of Good News should be in the church office no later than **8:00 AM on Monday, April 26.**
- **Ladies in Fellowship Together...**Check out the LIFT and Asbury Facebook pages for information on our women’s small group and their upcoming events. All women are welcome. You may also contact Marian Paulson at marianedmund@yahoo.com We hope you will join us!
- **Asbury Men’s Group....**This group meets on the 2nd & 4th Saturday mornings at 8:00 AM. 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!
- **Congratulations** to Bob and Pam Duehr on the birth of a grandson, Thomas Craig Johns III (“Trey”), on February 11. Parents are Allie and Tommy Johns of New York City.
- **Stewards of Creation April Congregational Challenge...“Pick Up Litter While Walking”** 1. When you go for walks, bring a bag and pick up trash any day in April. Gloves suggested. 2. You are invited to sign up, individually, for any of the “Xstream Clean-Up” events offered in April and May. This link <https://www.xstreamcleanup.org/upcoming-events> will be shared on our Stewards of Creation Facebook Page. Let us know in the Facebook comments, if you plan to attend an event, so we can look for each other! Also, we are currently accepting Terracycle items. Please leave your items in the Terracycle wood chest at the **Mission Drop-Off-Site** located near the west coat room & elevator.