



Message from Pastor Tom...The Test Drive Continues

As we prepare for the fall “Back to School and Back to Church” season, we are continuing to seek the most effective ways to help people connect with God and other people on Sunday mornings. We are trying to take advantage of the incredible opportunity that we have as a church to become more effective. Instead of just “returning” to the way things were before the pandemic, we are trying to implement a “re-start.” That means we want to look at our current situation and ask, “What’s the most effective way to accomplish our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?” In other words, we have to shift from going back to “doing what we did before,” to: “what works now?”

In addition to our Sunday morning schedule, we are looking at our staffing, our committee organization, how we use our building and how we reach out to people in the community. It’s exciting and challenging all at the same time. But even as some things may change, our mission and our message that Jesus is the bridge who connects us to God and other people will remain rock solid.

Together we can help people seek God’s light and share God’s love so that we can do God’s will in this new world. What could be more exciting and rewarding than that?

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE TEST DRIVE

- **8:30** Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with adult small groups in other parts of the building
- **9:30** Fellowship in a Café Style atmosphere in the Fellowship Hall
- **10:00** Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary **and Online** with adult small groups in other parts of the building

How You Can Help:

1. Be open minded and offer your feedback. We want to try the main concept of having worship and small groups happening at the same time, but we may make some adjustments for the fall. Since we’ve never done it this way before, we are learning what works best.
2. Helpers will be needed to host the fellowship time after worship. If you would enjoy serving as a host, please contact the Church Office at 355-5218.
3. We will also be needing volunteers to help with our Children’s Ministry which will start up again in September. If you would enjoy shaping the lives of our children please contact Carrie Meumann at the number above or at carriem@asbury-bett.org.



Join Us for a Southeast Asia Presentation Wednesday, July 28th at 7:00 PM

Pastor Tom’s daughter, Katie & her husband, Jon and their family have spent the past 3 years in Southeast Asia.

Come and meet Katie and Jon to hear of their work in Southeast Asia learning the culture and sharing in the lives of the people there. It will be a fascinating insight into the everyday lives of people in that part of the world.

NEWCOMER’S GATHERING

If you have been visiting us and are interested in joining the Church, the first step is to attend our upcoming NEWCOMER’S GATHERING. It will be held on Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 11:00 AM in the Treehouse. The Treehouse is located in the lower hall of the church and can be accessed by the elevator. You will be given presentations about the ministries we offer and groups you may want to join. You’ll also receive a packet of materials which will provide further information. There will be time for fellowship, asking questions, and refreshments. Asbury has many opportunities to become involved, both inside and outside of the building, Join us on Sunday, July 25 at 11:00 AM!



VBS at Asbury - The Professor Donut Experience!
Thank you to all who helped. Everyone had a great time!





Upcoming Dates from Your Parish Nurse Team

Blood Drive—August 9—2:00PM-6:00PM

Foot Clinic—August 23—1:00PM-4:00 PM

Contacts for sign up will begin the week of July 26



• • • MASKS NO LONGER REQUIRED • • •

We are following the CDC guidelines that states persons who are vaccinated are not required to wear masks.

- For persons who are not vaccinated: Masks are encouraged to protect yourself and others who may not be vaccinated.
- Social distancing will be maintained in the east half of the sanctuary (closest to the office).
- Social distancing will not be required in the west half of the sanctuary (closest to the Fellowship Hall).

AIM Mission of the Month for July...The Asbury in Mission (AIM) Team has chosen **Hope at the Brick House** in Davenport as Asbury's **Mission of the Month for July**. Who doesn't love to see happy children? We can all be a part of making that happen! During July we will be collecting monetary donations (only) and they will purchase needed school supplies and snacks for the boys and girls. We have supported this ministry for a number of years and the staff and children are so grateful for our help. If you write a check, please make it out to Asbury UMC with "school supplies" on the memo line. Should you prefer to donate online, please go to JesusIsTheBridge.org, click on the "Give Plus" button, choose "Missions" and type Hope at the Brick House in the "Please Specify" box. You can find more information on Hope at the Brick House and their mission by going to hopeatthebrickhouse.org.

Summer Sunday Class for Adults and Older Youth



Adults and older youth are invited to our Summer Sunday Class on Sunday mornings from **10:00-11:00AM**. People may attend in person in classroom #302-303 or online (contact the church office to get the ZOOM link). The series uses studies from "The Bible Project" and does not require any outside reading. Coordinators are Phil Paulson, Marian Edmund-Paulson, and Don Mitchem.

Congregational Giving Comparison YTD through June

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.

	June Year to Date 2020	June Year to Date 2021	Change
Income	\$316,327	\$298,559	(\$17,768)

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.



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!**

- **Summer Office Hours....** Summer Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00-Noon. Please feel free to contact a staff member if you need assistance after hours.
- **Newsletter Deadline....** Articles for the next issue of Good News should be in the church office no later than **8:00 AM on Monday, July 26**.
- **Your Help is Needed!....** Friendly Thrift Center is in need of volunteers. Please call Cheryl Ewert if you are able to help!
- **Thoughts of Sympathy....** Our prayers are with Jo & Dennis Winegar and family on the death of Jo's mother, Deloris Nieman on June 27 and Jo's Aunt Janet on July 13. Our prayers are with Matt & Kae Mentzer and family on the death of Matt's father, Howard, on July 9.
- **Ladies in Fellowship Together....** Detail of dates and events can be found on our LIFT Facebook page. You may also contact Marian Paulson at marianedmund@yahoo.com. We invite all women to 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!
- **Stewards of Creation July Congregational Challenge...** Strive for sustainable fashion choices, clothing care and disposal. – Suggestions: Purchase durable, long lasting clothing. Choose fabrics made from natural fibers. Wash most clothes in full loads with cold water. When unneeded, repurpose or donate clothing to charity. (Fashion creates 8-10% of greenhouse gases and contributes to landfill waste.) *Terracycle* - For the month of July we will recycle any color unwearable denim jean pants/shirts (90% or more cotton). We continue to accept cereal, chip and salty snack bags. Please leave your items in the Terracycle wood chest at the Mission Drop-Off Site located near the elevator.
- **Foundation Gift Recognitions....** Thank you to Dianne Homann, Mike Reed and Carolyn Scheib, for their gifts to the Asbury Foundation in honor of their recent birthdays. 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.



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.

