

JesusIsTheBridge.org

Annual Report Celebrating 2022 Ministries



LIFE DAILY
CENTERED ON





Our Focus for Moving Forward

Who We Are:

The Asbury United Methodist Church is a group of people who are followers of Jesus and part of the United Methodist Church. The congregation was formally organized in Bettendorf, Iowa in 1950. It is named for the Rev. Francis Asbury, who served as one of the first Methodist bishops in America from 1784 to 1816. His example of traveling thousands of miles on horseback to connect people with God still inspires us today.

Our Mission:

Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This is also the mission of the United Methodist Church.

Our definition of a disciple: **A follower of Jesus in all areas of life.**

Our definition of discipleship: **Helping each other move toward a life daily centered on God.**

Our Method:



Seek God's Light



Share God's Love



Do God's Will

Our Message:

Jesus is the Bridge
who connects people with God and one another.



JesusIsTheBridge.org

Our Vision: (How we transform the world):

To passionately serve in the world because God so loved the world.



Rev. Tom Carver

Pastor's Annual Report

2022

This has been another year of putting into practice changes meant to improve our church. Our theme for 2022 has been ***The Future is Now*** and the updates that we have been implementing are intended to prepare our church for success in the future.

We've made some visible updates to our facilities such as grading the "backyard" to get it ready for future use. We've installed clear glass panels in our balcony to make it a safer space. We've been getting ready to make improvements next year in our fellowship hall and outside landscaping. The goal is to make our facilities more functional, flexible and inviting.

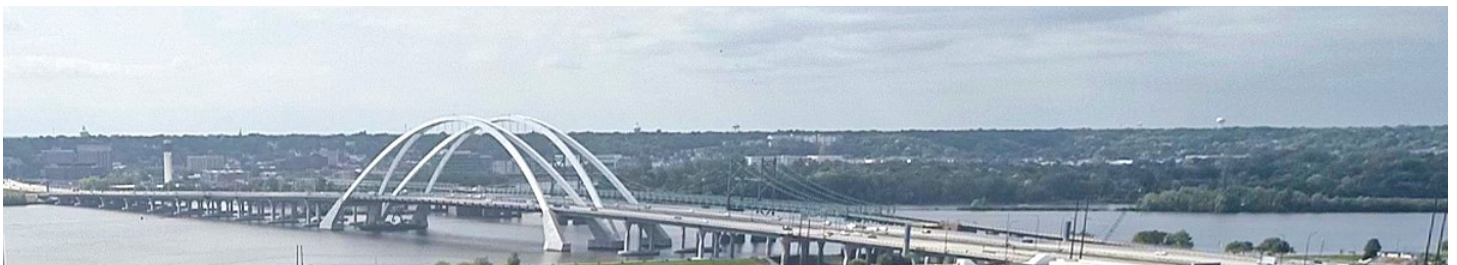
We've also been learning from the organizational changes we've made this year. Our Church Council moved to quarterly meetings and we're developing our new Leadership Team which is made up of two co-leaders for each of the five areas of ministry: Worship, Discipleship, Welcome and Care, Missions and Administrative support. The changes in our meeting schedules have been attempts to be more efficient in our use of time and energy. We've learned some things and will continue to make adjustments in the coming year. We are moving toward a mindset and practice of constantly developing leaders who can take their turn in service and then pass on the baton to another who will follow them. This year Marian Edmund-Paulson started as the new Director of Engagement to help this process. She is also working with our Neighborhood Bridge Builders and helping connect people to their next step of engagement in the church.

The reason we are making these organizational and structural improvements is so that we can make improvements in what really matters: our lives and our relationships. The heart of the Methodist movement is helping each other grow in our love for God and our neighbors. That means constant changes and improvements in our daily lives. Change best happens with the help of a trusted friend. Meeting with someone else and sharing with each other the condition of their relationship with God and what they are working to improve is the "method" of Methodism.

We will be doing more of this in 2023 as our theme for the year will be our definition of discipleship: *helping each other move toward a life that is **daily centered on God***. We'll be offering a "Discipleship Pathway" as a tool to use with someone else to identify behaviors and attitudes that we can work on together. The benefit of a life centered on God is peace, joy and an abundant life that is marked by the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

The pages that follow in this report are filled with pictures and examples of how the people of the Asbury Church are attempting to seek God's light, share God's love and do God's will. Just like the completion of the new I-74 bridge, there is much to celebrate in our church. There will also always be many ways in which we can improve in order to be more of a blessing to others. The good news is that Jesus is the bridge who connects us to God and each other and will help us to move toward an abundant life that is ***daily centered on God***.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom



GOALS for 2023



**LIFE DAILY
CENTERED ON**

GOD



Seek God's Light

- Formally launch and engage the Discipleship Pathway process throughout the church to provide support and accountability in the Methodist tradition to individuals on their Discipleship Pathway Journey.
- Continue to strengthen and expand our Children and Youth Ministries.



Share God's Love

- Fully integrate Neighborhood Bridge Builders as a way of life throughout the congregation.
- Complete planned Phase 1 Capital Project including Fellowship Hall renovation, landscaping and back-lot development.
- Continue to evaluate our organizational alignment changes and modify to continue to position Asbury for long term sustainability.
- Develop and implement a communications/marketing team to develop and execute an overall church communications plan.



Do God's Will

- Explore and develop partnerships with nearby schools in cooperation with the Bettendorf Faith Community to support children's needs within our community.
- Develop a supportive link and relationship with a global based ministry.
- Research, organize and conduct a church-sponsored domestic sponsored mission trip.
- Clarify and determine our church's unique mission in light of our congregation's denominational connection.



Marian Edmund Paulson
Director of Engagement

Director of Engagement

This past year has brought about many changes for Asbury UMC and for myself personally. In August I began a new career in the newly created position of Director of Engagement here at Asbury! A few of my responsibilities are to provide Asbury staff support to Pastor Tom, our Asbury Leadership Teams and to further grow and develop the Neighborhood Bridgebuilder program, with a key responsibility to help each Asbury member become more engaged with the life of Asbury, share their own unique story and match each individual member's skills/gifts with opportunities to use those gifts to serve the Lord and the Community in which we live.

As Asbury's Director of Engagement, I coordinate the Neighborhood Bridgebuilders program by recruiting, supporting, overseeing and encouraging the Captains of this program. In 2021 Asbury launched the Neighborhood Bridgebuilders program for the purpose of becoming better connected to the people in our neighborhoods including those who are already connected to Asbury, and to those who are new to Asbury. It is our focus to help folks establish a better relationship with each other, to Asbury and ultimately form a closer relationship to God. Asbury has 24 neighborhoods spread throughout the Iowa and Illinois Quad Cities area, each with Captains. My husband Phil and I have been members of Asbury for 6 years and are captains of Neighborhood #19 in LeClaire. As Captains, it is our hope to reach out to our individual neighborhoods throughout the year with communication on events in the church, the neighborhood or just a friendly "Hi, how are you doing?" or just to lend an ear if the individual just needs someone to talk to. The Captains regularly reach out to their neighborhoods via emails, mail and phone calls to share Asbury and Neighborhood news and events as well as to let their neighborhoods know that they are being thought of and prayed over. The "neighbors" are encouraged to share any needs or prayer requests if they feel comfortable doing so. If you would like to know more about the Neighborhood Bridgebuilders Program or becoming a Captain for your neighborhood, please feel free to reach out to me!

I am excited for 2023 and the opportunity to get to know each of you better and watch our Asbury Neighborhoods become more connected to each other and to God. I'm also very excited for the several updates to our worship offerings and our building that will make it easier to get and stay connected including a new Welcome Center!



NBB Captains Meeting at the Captains Table



Neighborhood BRIDGEBUILDERS



NBB Captains Meeting at Park Pavilion



ASBURY DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

The Mission of the Asbury Discipleship Team is:

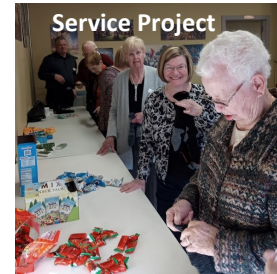
“To encourage personal and spiritual growth and to create a legacy by raising up disciples who raise up disciples.”

In addition to updating our mission statement, the Discipleship Team also updated and set separate goals for Asbury's Adult, Youth and Children's Ministry Teams. The team also utilized a variety of internal and external sources to create the Asbury Discipleship Pathway.



Small-Group Celebration

Adult Ministry Statistics Summary
September, 2021-May, 2022



While COVID presented problems and challenges, Asbury saw this time as an opportunity to asset programs and to see how to better serve both inside and outside our church. We broadcasted our second service online and made ZOOM available. Both helped us stay in contact with our members. Throughout this time, most adult small groups continued to meet during 2021-2022 with their focus on maintaining relationship with God and with others. They continued to offer studies which sparked conversation, feedback, fellowship, encouragement, and support. They held each other up in prayer and experienced personal discovery and spiritual growth which helped everyone cope with the challenges that the present-day world presented. As we began our Fall Sunday Sermon Study Series, the church was open and many were returning to services; however, many of our small group ministries continued to offer both inhouse and ZOOM participation.

From September, 2021-May, 2022 there were some 157 adults in a group either on Sunday or during the week. Some of these were inhouse while others joined the group via ZOOM from different locations. During that same time period, there was an average of 165 people (omitted Easter services) in worship either online or in person. (These stats are as accurate as they can be, but due to the challenges of getting people to sign in, etc. may not present an entirely true picture.) These stats show that there was an increase in both the number of people attending worship and the number of people in small groups and that the percentage number of people in an Adult Small Group was very high (95%).

The Summer Adult Sunday School Small Group studied FROM JESUS TO THE CHRIST: THE FIRST CHRISTIANS. This class ran for 13 weeks with 35 different people attending with an average of 18 people per Sunday either in person or via ZOOM each week.

Our Adult Small Groups continue to complete a wide variety of projects which improve life at Asbury or help to enrich the community. Some of the projects include:

- Cleaning Pastor Heather's House when she moved
- Picking and arranging flowers and then delivering them to several Asbury homebound members
- Money donations and donations of rolling luggage and blankets to Hiney Heroes Self Care
- Money Donations to Taste of Heaven Bread
- Providing, preparing, and serving a meal at The Center
- Delivering homebound Senior Meals following the Dinner at The Center
- Churchwide Cleanup
- Packed and distributed purses at The Center
- Worked a couple of Craft Tables at the One Starry Night Event
- Donated to the Mitten Tree for the Thrift Center
- Cleaned up at Camp Summit in New Windsor, IL
- Cleaned up after the destruction of the garage in the back of Asbury
- Prepared the outside and inside of Asbury for the Advent Season
- Helped with the setup of the Starry Night Event
- Provided, prepared, delivered, and served meals at Zion Lutheran Church for Churches United
- Removed bushes and cleaned up the outside of Asbury
- Helped with the planning and construction of the work shed for the Asbury Garden Ministry site
- Painted the existing work shed at the Asbury Garden Ministry site
- Helped with the care of Josh Dixon while his father, Ron Dixon, was hospitalized
- Helped with the Garden Ministry
- Monetary donations to Buffalo Bill Museum, Youth Camp Scholarships, Hope of the Brick House, and 180
- Made Harvest Treat Bags for Church Members
- Collected Kitchen items and toilet paper for 180's new women's apartments
- Paid for Youth Group's Holiday Party Treats
- Packed 30 Backpacks for Bettendorf Middle School
- Purchased 18 new pillows for 180 Women's Program
- Made Easter Tray Favors for three Care Center's Residents

The Adult Ministry Team continues to offer materials to groups that are meeting and to help people as they work toward the goal of being a follower of Jesus in all aspects of life and to help all of us to move toward a life that is daily centered on God. They are working to present a Discipleship Pathway to the congregation in 2023 with the hope that it will help Asbury move forward toward the goals of disciplining, educating, developing leaders, and reaching others.



2023 PARISH NURSE *Goals*

- † Provide future health programs for members of our congregation.
- † Evaluate and adjust the expectations of the program as new personnel are added.
- † Continue to work with our Asbury Congregational Prayer Team.

The Parish Nurse Program has concentrated on development of a wholeness-in-health ministry and bringing together one's spiritual and physical needs, which will enable one to experience the life God promised through Christ....to live life abundantly!



Brenda Sherrick
RN Parish Nurse
Retired November, 2022



Carol Jackson
RN Parish Nurse



Cheryl Ewert
Volunteer Health Care Advocate

Asbury Parish Nurse Program and Breakdown of Services

1. Contacts made by the nurses since January 2022 average 90-115 people each month.
2. Sympathy cards and one-year anniversary of death cards are mailed to our members.
3. We were asked to give the prayer for the Unity Point Hospital for Donor Celebration Day.
4. Guidelines for visits:
 - a. Hospital, hospice, notice of death visits (as needed)
 - b. Skilled Care- weekly visits
 - c. Memory Care Checks - monthly visits
 - d. Long-term Care - monthly visits
 - e. Assisted Living - monthly visits
 - f. Independent Living - quarterly visits
5. Host Blood Drives and Foot Clinics.
6. Hospital Visits - pastors and parish nurses take turns during the week to visit those in the hospital.
7. Submit health information for Good News publications.
8. Follow up with prayer requests.
9. Offer blood pressure checks to members upon request.
10. Help set up health programs and/or speakers for different classes throughout the year.
11. Newborn Ministry - Make a home visit and provide a gift basket with special gifts for the family.
12. Meet weekly with the pastors to update health related concerns of parishioner visits and keep each other informed.
13. Manage Angel Fund offering help to members when needed. Example: gas & grocery gift cards
14. Offer an all-church Afghan Ministry to the Bettendorf and Davenport community.
15. Coordinate and serve luncheons at funerals under the umbrella of the Hospitality Team. We are available at the funerals for family support.
16. Maintain and monitor first-aid kits throughout the church. Put together and maintain travel first-aid kits.
17. A nurse is present upon request for youth events and VBS.
18. Outreach Program to those in need (non-church members). Provide food baskets at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and food for the Bettendorf after-school program.
19. Make sure all staff have CPR provided to keep their status updated.
20. Monitor, maintain and educate staff on AED in the church. Offer education to congregation on use of AED upon request.
21. Provide monthly reports to Unity Point Parish Nurse Program Manager.
22. Maintain a library of health resources located in the parish nurse office.
23. Parish nurses attend classes on health issues around the area as provided and attend the monthly parish nurse meetings held by Unity Point.
24. Maintain confidentiality for all our members.
25. Represent Parish Nurse Program on the Church Leadership Team
26. We are available 24/7 and receive calls at all hours and days of the week.



We are Looking to Grow Asbury's Prayer Ministry

We would love to have you join us in this very rewarding ministry!

Contact Pam & Pat Thornton: psthornton@gmail.com

Asbury Prayer Ministry Team

- Jean Black
- Jean Bowrey
- Barb Brethauer
- Gayle Buxton
- Linda Carver
- Tom Carver
- Dot Crosby
- Lisa Delzell
- Heather Dennis
- Pam Duehr
- Rebecca Erickson
- Cheryl Ewert
- Rob Gagnon
- Carol Jackson
- Ann Lawson
- Rona Loweth
- Diana Mahoski
- Linda Manning
- Norma McKelvey
- Marian Paulson
- Sharon Phillips
- Michael Reese
- Vierlyn Roskens
- Brenda Sherrick
- Kurt Streicher
- Pat Tank
- Pam Thornton
- Pat Thornton

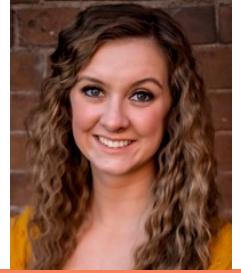
Asbury Prayer Ministry Team – 2022 Year-End

- The Prayer Ministry Team began April 28, 2020
- We have received **890** prayer requests in our 937 days of existence
- 27 requests are currently active and 863 are in our history file
- **212** different families have requested prayers
- Prayer requests have come from multiple sources
 - Facebook – 208
 - Worship Cards – 191
 - Website – 148
 - Caring Congregation Team – 128
 - Email – 71
 - Calls – 68
 - Sunday School Classes – 56
 - Other Groups – 20
- We have 28 active Prayer Ministry Team Members
 - 15 Prayer Servants – Praying for people
 - 3 Prayer Partners – Praying for and with people
 - 3 Parish Nurses – Nursing care, prayer and communication
 - 1 Pastor – Pastoral care, prayer and communication
 - 4 Ministry Leaders – Children, Youth, Adult and Worship
 - 2 Prayer Leaders – Prayer team leadership and communication
- Prayer Team Members are making a real difference for our families and friends in need.
- **We pray to grow our Prayer Ministry. God is hiring!!! Set your own hours!!! Joy & Overwhelming Rewards!!! Eternal Benefits!!! Please join God's team!**



2022 Youth Ministry

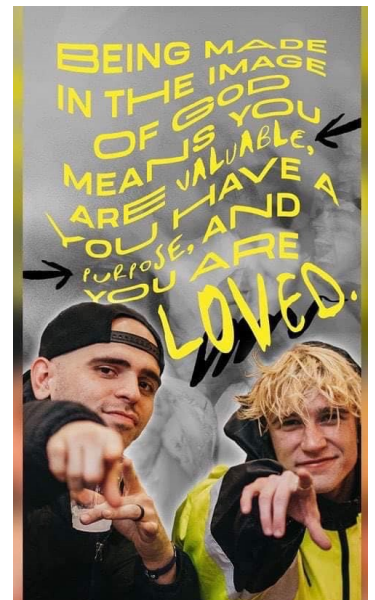
Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech & conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.
1 Timothy 4:12 NRSV

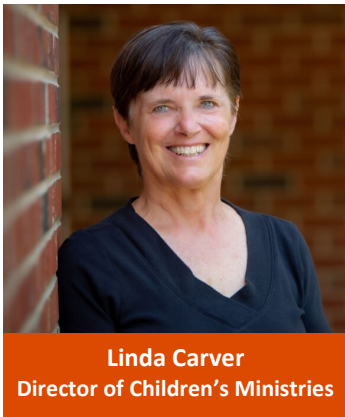


Becca Johnson
Director of Youth Ministries

- New Director of Youth Ministries, Becca Johnson, began in August
- Branded the Youth Ministry as Element 412
- Highest Attended Night had 18 Youth

Since Element 412 began in September we have strived to create a safe, fun, and friendly place for the youth of Asbury. We've already made many strides in this effort and look forward to what 2023 will bring. Many ideas are in motion and new ideas are continuing to grow and improve our youth group as we continue to move forward in this age of change.





Linda Carver
Director of Children's Ministries



2022 Children's Ministries



The Children's Ministry continues to grow in numbers and Bible knowledge. We continue to hold 8:30am and 10:30am Sunday sessions so children have the opportunity to attend Roots Kids while their parents attend church.

During the summer we celebrated VBS with Camp S'more, a 3-day event with 25 children learning about stories of the Bible. Later in summer we were part of a couple of community events including Praise on the River and Bettendorf's Zip Code Party with games for the children.

Rally Day brought a new school year for Roots Kids. Throughout this year the children have visited the Fruits of the Spirit, the Lord's Prayer, Heroes of the Bible, and Struggles we Face in our Lives.

In October we hosted our second Fall-o-ween for our community. We offered a Trunk-or-Treat, Fall Games, a Maze and food. Hundreds attended and many left happy with bags filled with sweets.

As the holidays approach we were excited to bring One Starry Night back for its third year. This is a community event, with stations of the journey to Bethlehem and involves our whole church family. The children are also busy practicing for the upcoming Christmas Children's Pageant this coming Sunday and are excited to show off their talents.

In addition to Roots Kids, our 4th and 5th Grade Kids Club meet every month throughout the year for fellowship and fun to get to know each other.

The Good news is that we see our attendance increasing. As we keep this as a top goal for our church, we will continue to grow!



Bettendorf
Zip Code
Party
5/27/22



Kids Club having fun with our Foam Machine!



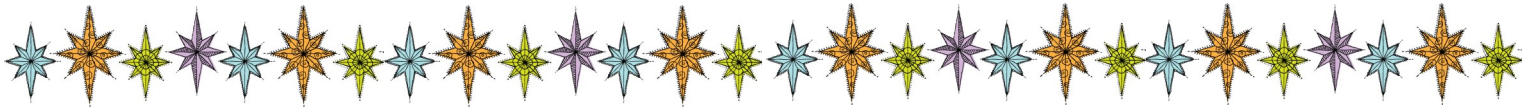
Kids & Youth having a blast ice skating!



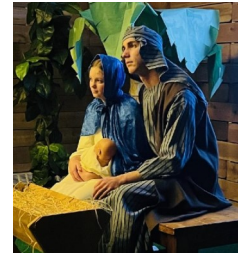
TRUNK OR TREAT



Fall-O-Ween!



One Starry Night
a Journey to Bethlehem
December 4, 2022



Worship

We are so thankful to have moved through the restrictions of the pandemic, and once again, gather as a church family, in-person, for worship services in 2022. We continue to offer two different worship experiences, an 8:30 Traditional Service and a 10:30 Praise Service. A live-stream of the Praise Service can be viewed on Facebook Live or YouTube, and can be accessed anytime.

Early in 2022, a Theme Team was formed. This team meets quarterly to generate ideas for sermon themes and ideas. The goal is to build a framework for a worship experience that touches the senses through music, visual arts, scripture, and word. The team members are Pastor Tom Carver; Carrie Meumann, Producer of Creative Worship and Media; Peggy Hamilton and Stephanie Pim, Worship Leadership Co-chairs; Rich Noble, Visual Arts; Kurt Streicher, Discipleship. We started the year with a sermon series titled *Emotional Energy*, using familiar emojis as visual reminders of how to use our emotions to power our actions in good ways. During Lent, we readied ourselves for the different departures in life. We then traveled to Rome to learn, from early Christians, how to live differently than the people around us. We even had Spider Man fly into our sermon series, *Super Ordinary Heroes*. We also debuted *Storytellers*, an occasional sermon series, that gives members an opportunity to share how God has made a difference in their lives.

Music has always been a big part of the Asbury Church. Thanks to the efforts of Gail Baldwin, we saw the return of the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir at Easter and an occasional worship service. We appreciate her leadership as we await a new choir director. The Praise Band saw the addition of an electric drum set. After much discussion and research it was determined this would be the best choice in controlling sound quality both in the sanctuary and online. Thank you to Gail Baldwin and Michael Reese for their continued leadership in music ministry.

The Welcome Team is thankful for the 25 members that volunteer each month. New team members are always welcome. Early in 2023, we look forward to adding a Welcome/Information Center to better serve our guests and members.

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. We continue to use prepackaged elements. The Worship Team is looking for several individuals to serve as Communion Chairs.

New in 2022 is the formation of the Liturgical Ministry Team. This is a group willing to share scripture and the Unison Prayer during the 8:30 worship service.

As we move into a new year, we look forward to sharing God's Word through a worship experience that speaks to a community of diverse ages, experiences, and needs so that we may be strengthened to carry the Good News to the world around us.



Super Ordinary Heroes
Sermon Series



Advent 2022
Sermon Series
Who Needs Christmas



2022 Confirmation Youth, Families & Sponsors



Asbury In Mission (AIM) Annual Report for 2022

(Doing God's Will by Embracing our Community)

Applying what we learn as we "seek God's light", we "share God's love" by "doing God's will" serving others our church family and in our community. That is the mission of AIM (Asbury in Mission). Below are just a few ways that Asburians have extended God's will during 2022.

Zion Meal Site – Working through Churches United, various Asbury small groups (Wings, LIFT, Men's Group, Agape, Rachel Circle, Hospitality, and office staff) rotated monthly to prepare and serve on the first Wednesday of each month between 50 and 100 meals to those less fortunate at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport.

Mission of the Month – Each month, the AIM steering team designated a "Mission of the Month" to promote and support through our service and donations. Missions of the Month in 2022 included Garden Ministry, Hope at the Brick House, 180 Program, Bettendorf School Partnership opportunities, Santa For Seniors, Stewards of Creation, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, CROP Walk, and The Center Holiday Meal.

Bettendorf Food Pantry – Once a month, Asbury members staff the food pantry at the Bettendorf Community center to provide food and household supplies to Bettendorf residents in need.

CROP Walk - In October, Fifteen Asbury family members walked in the annual CROP walk to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the US and abroad. Asbury members raised over \$1000 to support this cause.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing at K & K – Asbury is once again ringing the bells for Salvation Army Red Kettle donations from the last week of November through Christmas Eve day. In 2021, Asbury bell ringers collected **\$10,300** at our K & K Hardware site.

Santa for Seniors – Asburians once again are spreading some Christmas Cheer to seniors residing in a skilled nursing facility...this year at the Iowa Masonic Village skilled nursing unit. Church members are donating dollars for items to include in Christmas gift bags for these seniors.

Special Offerings/Donations – Asburians gave generously to support various local not-for-profits such as Hope at the Brick House, Friendly House, Churches United, UMCOR disaster relief efforts both nationally and globally i.e. hurricane and flood victims, Ukrainian refugees, and the United Methodist Church special offerings at several times throughout the year.

AIM Steering Committee

Jenny Bloomquist, Co-Leader
Steve Sorensen, Co-Leader
Robin James
Pam Duehr



Outreach/Mission Project Coordinators

- **Garden Ministry**: Dave Phillips & Kevin Jones
- **Stewards of Creation**: Sue Mosely
- **Churches United Meals Site at Zion Church**: Robin James
- **Bettendorf Food Pantry** (1st Friday of Month): Patti Sorensen & Diana Mahoski
- **CROP Walk**: Steve Sorensen, Jenny Bloomquist & Robin James
- **Santa for Seniors**: Patti Sorensen & Diana Mahoski
- **Salvation Army Bell ringing at K&K**: Dave & Dana Nichols
- **Christmas Dinner at the Center**: Men's Group (Cliff Pim) & Various Churchwide

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@JesusIsTheBridge.org

tap on this button

BELL RINGER

- Tap on the "Sign Up" button
- Type your name in the "Comments" section,
- Tap the "Submit and Sign Up" button below that.

Once registered, you should get an email reminder



2022 Year-End Finance Team Report

Finance Chair: Cliff Pim

Greetings Asbury!

As we close out the 2022 calendar year, the Finance Team is pleased to report that Asbury remains in a sound financial position. Full apportionments to the Iowa Conference will be paid and the overall expenses of the church are in alignment with donations received this year.

The Stewardship Campaign is in full swing and so far donations are slightly behind 2022, so we encourage everyone to share your estimate of giving so we can continue all the ministries within Asbury and build on the strong momentum we have within our church.

The Finance Team is working with SPRC as our staffing for 2023 is fluid due to the Retirement of Brenda, our Parish Nurse and passing of Dan Howell, our Custodian. We are in the process of collaborating with Leadership to budget for these changes in staff. Further, we also will continue the process of aligning the annual budget with previous years actual spending to make sure we are best serving the important ministries within Asbury.

Lastly, we thank you for your financial support of Asbury and wish your family a blessed Holiday Season.

Asbury Finance Team



During 2022 the Trustees have approved and made some upgrades to church facilities including:

1. Accomplishments

- *Grading and seeding of the back lot
- *installation of the new WI-FI and local area network
- *Installation of the safety railing in the balcony
- *Work begun on the new windows in the Fellowship hall
- *New entrance signs on outside of the building
- *New Landscaping has begun

2. Begin design of new Welcome Center in West Narthex

- *Portable welcome desk/reception fixture
- *Background panels that can hold brochures, handouts etc.
- *Remount a monitor on wall that can display ongoing events, announcements etc.

3. Ongoing work and Future enhancements

- *Accounting of costs so far and identification of available funding
- *New Marketing/Communications Team to integrate our brand into any new design and decorating activities
- *Move the UMC cross and flame fixture from the Mississippi side to the 18th St. side of the building
- *Complete the window installation and Fellowship Hall updates
- *Significant landscaping and exterior improvements around west end of the church
- *Possible installation of a fence around the back lot



Kevin Jones
Volunteer Facilities Manager



Balcony Safety Rail



Back Lot Grading



New Entrance Signs

Trustee Co-Chairs: Bob Gallagher and Tom Stelk

GARDEN MINISTRY

**Responding to God's call to "Feed the Hungry".
Isaiah 58:10**

Asbury Garden Ministry, located at 5520 Eastern Avenue, is an Ecumenical Garden that plants and harvests produce for anyone in need. 2022 is our Garden Ministry's 21st season! In 2022 we were truly blessed with a record harvest of over 60,100 lbs. of fresh vegetables that were distributed to over 20 organizations that included food pantries, meal sites, home shelters, and senior living apartment complexes. In addition, some produce was distributed to individual families. Since its beginning over 724,000 lbs. of fresh vegetables have been distributed. All volunteers have a great time and everyone is welcome to join them anytime!



Asbury's Men's Group built a storage shed for the Ministry. Kevin Jones and Vern Harvey coordinated the project.



Potato Harvest



Onion Harvest



To facilitate our gardening efforts, our Ministry purchased a John Deere subcompact tractor along with the following attachments: tiller; mower; cultipacker; and mulch layer.



One evening's harvest of tomatoes. Over 25,000 lbs. of tomatoes were harvested!!



Cucumber patch in the center; green peppers plants to the left; and cabbage plants to the right.

2022 HARVEST—60,113 LBS

Highlights of this season include a record harvest (over 60,000 lbs. of harvested vegetables distributed to over 20 organizations including food pantries, meal sites, home shelters, low-income senior living apartment complexes, and individual families); installation of drip lines in two of the three sections of the garden; purchase of a subcompact John Deere tractor, tiller, mower, cultipacker, & mulch layer to facilitate our gardening activities; a storage shed built by the Asbury Men's Group; and a good number of new volunteers. Sincere thanks to those volunteers whose involvement contributed to another successful gardening season and to those organizations and individuals who have made donations to help fund the above mentioned equipment.



Stewards of Creation



**We believe that caring for God's creation is an essential part of our Christian faith.
We honor God's Creation by protecting and preserving it for future generations.
Everyone is invited to take part in the Steward of Creation ministry
Please join us as we put our faith into action.**

2022 Goals and Actions

1. To inspire and encourage everyone to actively participate in creation care.

Monthly challenges -15 challenges in 2022. 45+ so far! Examples: New Year's resolution supporting creation, Observe life in the natural world, Dispose of expired medicine and bottles properly, Consider rechargeable batteries, Do a nature craft project, Support animals & habitats - Held **Asbury Animal/Habitat Art Exhibit** (35 art entries, 85 guests in person and 80+ on Facebook), Become familiar with recycling opportunities, Ride a bike or ride share, Plant to support birds & butterflies, Spend time outside and visit local attractions bringing awareness to God's creation, Buy local, Conserve water, Use less plastic & avoid plastic packaging, Show love to future generations by protecting the environment, Find wrapping paper alternatives and consider each purchase carefully.

Terracycle "drop off" inside Asbury Church - 1,969 this year with 4,051 total Chip/Snack and cereal bags collected! We also accepted pens, highlighters, markers, glue sticks, toothpaste tubes (caps on) & dental floss containers.

Notification of church, community and online events - Examples: X-stream clean-ups, Bird migration response, Bettendorf Conservation Committee's Milkweed event, The Lost Ladybug Project, Farmer's Market opportunities, Zero Waste Reserve's Souls4Souls shoe collection, The Wapsi and Putnam Pollinator Workshops, World Bicycle Day, ImpactLife /National Forest Foundation tree planting initiative, UMCOR response and UMC @ COP 27.

Offer sharing opportunities so others can be inspired by our actions - Examples: Sharing our resolutions for creation, ways we have met challenges and supported creation throughout the year on Facebook.

2. To promote awareness about creation's current needs and offer information about ways we can support creation.

Examples: "Monthly Challenge" support information about creation related organizations, books, movies, events and faith filled responses (on Facebook site). We provided opportunities to learn, seek hope and discover how to take meaningful action in our individual lives and together as a church community. In 2022 we began to co-ordinate creation efforts with committees, and vice versa, to serve as a hub for communication regarding creation care. Examples: Worship (Lent), youth (art) and newcomer info coordination.

3. Initiate ways to be a "Green Church" with sustainable and energy efficient practices. Examples: LED conversion, improving recycling habits, properly disposing of e-waste, plastic and paper reduction. Programmable thermostats set for maximum efficiency. The Garden Ministry reports 1st year for cover crop!

4. Seek to provide hope –Example: Share ways people are protecting and supporting creation. (Primarily on Facebook page). LIFT group reports sharing flowers with homebound. 2023 Possibility: Show Christ's love and give comfort to those affected by environmental and climate change in coordination with our Asbury in Mission team.



For more information "like" and "follow"
the Stewards of Creation Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/AsburyStewardsOfCreation>
The "Good News", Worship Service Announcements
or contact Chairperson Susan Moseley





The goal of the men's group is building Faith through Study, Service, and Fellowship. This is done by watching a short video, having group discussions, and studying the Word and how it relates to everyday life as a Christian man. Fellowship is built through some fun time at each meeting and through one-on-one prayer partners.

An "open chair" is always there to greet you,
so please join them!
They meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings
both in-person and on Zoom at 7:45 AM.
**Please contact Cliff Pim or Phil Paulson
for the link to Zoom.**



Phil Paulson & Cliff Pim



Asbury Garden Ministry Tool Shed Project 2022



Asbury Church Outside Cleanup 2022



Annual Christmas Dinner at The Center



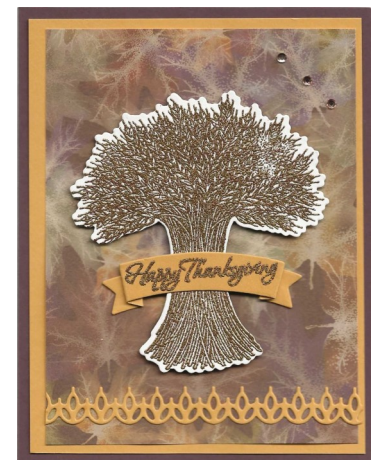
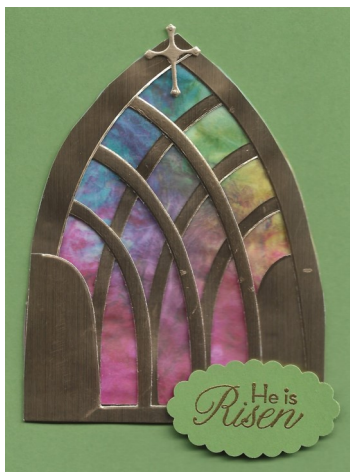
Setting up for One Starry Night at Asbury

Asbury Card Ministry

The Asbury Card Ministry was initiated in May 2009. Its mission is to send greeting cards to those in our congregation who need an encouraging word or just a reminder that someone is thinking of them!

We work with the Parish Nurses and office staff to obtain the names of these individuals. We make many kinds of cards including sympathy, birthday, thinking-of-you, new baby, holiday and others when the need arises, along with bookmarks for the Bibles given to Asbury students.

In this year alone, the Card Ministry has sent out nearly 370 cards. Shown here are examples of their beautiful creations!



Women in Ministry

Ladies' ARM Group

The Ladies ARM Group is a caring and sharing group of women whose primary focus is to create an atmosphere where group members affirm and encourage one another, build each other up in Christ, and help each other grow. This is accomplished through short-term Christian studies and occasional service projects. They meet every other Thursday from 7:00-9:00 PM via Zoom. In the past year, the following Sunday Sermon & Study Series books were used: SEVEN WORDS by Susan Robb during Lent, THE LORD'S PRAYER by Adam Hamilton in the fall, and WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS by Andy Stanley during Advent. All women are welcome! Contact Sharon Phillips for the link to Zoom.



Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle is a socially oriented group of ladies that meets on the second Tuesday of the month from September through May. Gatherings rotate between breakfast and lunch outings in the community to share joys and concerns, catch up on the latest news, and share milestones with one another. Anyone is welcome and should contact Donna Stradt for needed information.

LIFT: Ladies in Fellowship Together

This Ladies group has their own Facebook page. They meet at different locations or via Zoom for fellowship and service projects which vary each time. Connect with them on Facebook or by contacting Stephanie Pim, Jenny Bloomquist, Marian Paulson, or Julia Hensch.



Rachel Circle



Packing School Backpacks

Rachel Circle meets in a variety of locations and ways (sometimes on Zoom) on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Their goal is to support and encourage each other in their Christian journey. Members responsibilities as hostesses and plan programs that could include a speaker who presents information on a relevant topic. A service project is also included each month. Their mission is to form relationships with community agencies and assist them either with a monetary donation or with goods & service. Anyone is welcome to drop in and join the group at any time. Please contact Sue Gallagher, Katie Nelson or Jo Winegar for more information or for the link to Zoom



Through Christian fellowship, we will gather to support those in need, grow our relationships within and beyond Asbury's walls, and serve the community, spreading God's word and love.



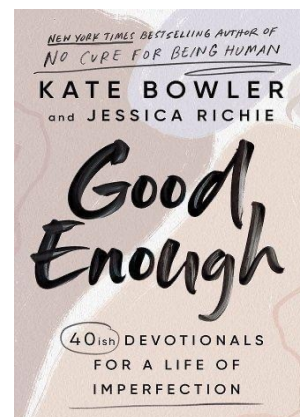
Knit for the Neighborhood



Potluck in the Park
Benefitting The Agape Center in Bettendorf



Zion Lutheran Church Meal Site Meal Prep



Online Pop-Up
Lenten Devotional Study



Green Bean Casseroles for
Christmas Meal at The Center



Small Groups,
Big Impact!



Hiney Heroes Period Supply Collection



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Our Vision: To Passionately serve in the world because God so Loved the World



Church Council

(Discipline Par. 252)

OFFICERS

Chairperson of Church Council Dave Stedwell
Secretary of Church Council Dot Crosby
Lay Member to Annual Conference 2022 Pat Thornton & Phil Paulson

MINISTRY AREA LAY LEADERS (These, along with Pastor Tom and the Council Chair are the Strategy Team)

The Mission of the Leadership Team is: “Discern & discuss God’s will for Asbury Church and coordinate implementation of church-wide actions.”

Worship Stephanie Pim & Peggy Hamilton
Discipleship Jean Black & Kurt Streicher
Welcome and Care Cheryl Ewert & Cindy Bruhn
Asbury in Mission Jenny Bloomquist & Steve Sorensen
Mission Support (Administration) Cliff Pim & Pat Thornton

OTHER CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Trustees Bob Gallagher & Tom Stelk
Youth Representative (open)

The proposal for 2023 is that the Council will meet once every quarter.

The Ministry Area Leaders, along with the Pastor and Council Chair, will also meet once every quarter as the Strategy Team. Their specific purpose will be to strategize future steps and new ministry directions.

Each committee and ministry team will have the opportunity to determine who needs to be on their teams and how they should function, including when and how often they will meet. The following pages list the members of the teams as we have them but they are still a work in progress.

WORSHIP

The Mission of the Worship Team is:

“Help all people seek God’s light through meaningful worship that touches the head through Biblical preaching with practical application, and the heart through the arts and music. “

Worship Theme Team Leaders: Peggy Hamilton & Stephanie Pim

Theme Team - Pastor Tom, Peggy Hamilton, Carrie Meumann, Rich Noble, Stephanie Pim, Kurt Streicher

Communion Stewards

Welcome Team

Worship Leaders

DISCIPLESHIP

The Mission of the Discipleship Team is:

“Encourage personal and spiritual growth and to create a legacy by raising up disciples who raise up disciples.”

Discipleship Team Leaders: Jean Black & Kurt Streicher

Secretary – _____

Discipleship Team Ex Officio: Representatives from Adult, Youth & Children’s Ministry Teams and Scouting

Adult Ministry Team – Chairperson – Pam Thornton; Staff Liaison – Linda Manning

Jean Black, Heather Dennis, Chris Harvey, Stephanie James, Bob Mattison, Marian & Phil Paulson, Pam & Pat Thornton

Children’s Ministry Team

Staff Liaison - Linda Carver

Youth Ministry Team

Staff Liaison – Becca Johnson

WELCOME AND CARE

The Mission of the Welcome & Care Team is:

“Create connections through conversation, health care, spiritual care and emotional support.”

Welcome & Care Team Leaders: Cindy Bruhn & Cheryl Ewert

Parish Nurse Team — Carol Jackson & Cheryl Ewert

Hospitality Team – Jo Winegar, Cheryl Ewert & Teri Bishop

Neighborhood Bridge Builders – Marian Edmund Paulson

Card Ministry - Alinda Littrel & Sharon Phillips

Prayer Ministry - Pat & Pam Thornton

ASBURY IN MISSION – AIM

The Mission of the AIM Team is:

“Engage our Asbury members by embracing and supporting mission and outreach opportunities to “Do God’s Will.”

AIM Team Leaders: Jenny Bloomquist & Steve Sorensen

Project Coordinators:

Garden Ministry: Dave Phillips & Kevin Jones

Stewards of Creation: Sue Mosely

Churches United Meals Site at Zion Church: Robin James

Bettendorf Food Pantry (1st Friday of Month): Patti Sorensen & Diana Mahoski

CROP Walk: Steve Sorensen, Jenny Bloomquist & Robin James

Santa for Seniors: Patti Sorensen & Diana Mahoski

Salvation Army Bell ringing at K&K: Dave & Dana Nichols

Christmas Dinner at the Center: Men's Group (Cliff Pim) & Various Churchwide Groups

Friendly Thrift Center: Gail Jackson, Julie Moran and Linda Miller

MISSION SUPPORT

The Mission of the Mission Support Team is:

“Provide and maintain the physical and staff resources that the Asbury Church needs to complete its mission.”

Finance & Stewardship – Co-Chairs – Cliff Pim & Phil Paulson

Term Ends 12/2023	Term Ends 12/2024	Term Ends 12/2025
John Cameron Marlene Corray Rick Oelerich	Dan Miller Rich Noble Phil Paulson	

Staff Liaison – Pastor Tom and Cheryl DeCap

Finance Ex Officio: Senior Pastor; Church Council Chair, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Lay Leader, Lay Members to Annual Conference, PPRC Representative, Trustee Representative

Leadership Development – Pastor Tom; Vice-Chair—Cheryl Ewert

Term Ends 12/2023	Term Ends 12/2024	Term Ends 12/2025
	Pat Thornton	Cheryl Ewert

Leadership Development Ex Officio: Lay Leader

Staff Parish Relations Chairperson - Pat Thornton

Term Ends 12/2023	Term Ends 12/2024	Term Ends 12/2025
Dot Crosby Tony Morales Pat Thornton	Jerry Finley Steve Gipple Chris Harvey	Kristi Berst

SPRC Ex Officio – Lay Leader, Lay Members to Annual Conference, Pastor

Trustees – Co-Chairs – Bob Gallagher & Tom Stelk; Staff Liaison – Pastor Tom

Term Ends 12/2023	Term Ends 12/2024	Term Ends 12/2025
Jerry Bishop Bob Gallagher Pam Thornton	Dan Brown Linda Noble Tom Stelk	Kevin Jones John Rabine

Building Hospitality Team Members: Pam Duehr & Stephanie Pim

Memorial Team Members: Alinda Littrel, Linda Dudgeon & Sharon Phillips

Foundation Board - Chairperson – John Rabine; Staff Liaison – Pastor Tom

Term Ends 12/2023	Term Ends 12/2024	Term Ends 12/2025
Kim Brenner Jim Spelhaug	Jerry Finley John Rabine	

Foundation Ex Officio: Finance Chair, Pastor, Trustee Chair