

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Traditional Service 8:30 am  
Adult Classes 9:30 am  
Praise Service 10:30 am  
RootsKids 8:30 or 10:30 am  
Element 412 6:30 pm  
Communion on December 3

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

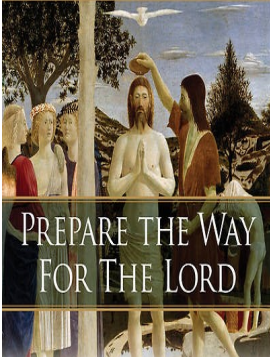
Good News

Our Mission:

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World



Volume 3, Issue 182  
NOVEMBER 29, 2023



ADVENT SUNDAY SERMON STUDY SERIES  
Prepare the Way for the Lord by Adam Hamilton

John the Baptist is the one person in the Bible who is most associated with the preparation for the coming of Jesus. John's life and message will be the focus of our sermon series and small group studies during Advent. The same message that John preached to prepare the world for the first coming of Jesus is still appropriate for us today as we prepare for Jesus' continual coming into our lives. Join us in worship and see how the traditional Advent themes can be viewed through the lens of John the Baptist.

It will be a great way for you to prepare for the coming of Jesus into your life!

December 3

**HOPE:** A Birth Announcement (Luke 1:5-13)

December 10

**8:30 - JOY:** A New Baby (Luke 1:57-66)

**10:30 -** Children's Christmas Program during worship

December 17

**PEACE:** John's Message (Mark 1:1-8)

December 24

**LOVE:** John's Mission (John 1:6-18)

**ONE Worship Service on Sunday Morning at 9:30am**

**Sunday, December 31 - ONE Worship Service at 9:30am**



Discipleship Pathway Moment....UPWARD

For the last several months we have been exploring the 7 areas of the Discipleship Pathway: Prayer, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness, Learn and Play. Our hope is that you are continuing to look at the Pathway, reflect on where you are on the path in each area and how you can continue to move UPWARD toward a life daily centered on God.

One tool that Asbury offers to help you along the Pathway is the study "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton. "The Walk" is a six week study that explores 5 spiritual practices related to our Discipleship Pathway. It offers easy ways to apply them to our daily lives. The study will be offered in January. Watch for more information in the next Good News.

Another tool is our **Spiritual Gifts Inventory**. Each of us has a unique set of gifts. This inventory will identify your gifts and Asbury will help you to find ways to use those gifts within our congregation. A link to the Spiritual Gifts Inventory can be found on our website or by using the QR code here. Please prayerfully consider taking the Spiritual Gifts Inventory and attending "The Walk" in January.

The Discipleship Team wishes you a blessed Advent season and a very Merry Christmas.

Jean Black and Vern Harvey Discipleship Team Leaders



SPIRITUAL  
GIFTS

All Church Conference.... A Time for our Congregation to Focus on What Unites Us

We will have an opportunity for that focus when we gather in Fellowship Hall for our **All Church Conference on Monday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m.** It will be a chance to celebrate the progress we have made this year and to cast our vision and goals for 2024. We will be determining the direction our church will take in striving for **A Life Centered Daily On God**.

We will examine and discuss our **method** of moving forward on our individual **Discipleship Pathways** with the support and power of small groups and mentor partners. We will also examine our **Leadership Pathways** and our **Spiritual Gifts** which are critical in establishing and maintaining Asbury as a lay-led church during a time of transition.

**The Conference will include 3 Specific Action Items:** 1) Election of additional officers for 2024, 2) Removal of inactive members, and 3) Authorize our Trustees to enter into negotiations with the owner of 1810 Brown St. for the purpose of purchase.

I encourage you to join us as we engage in discussion and discernment of God's plan for us, and the important opportunities and challenges for Asbury United Methodist Church in 2024 and beyond. Everyone is Welcome.

David Stedwell, Church Council Chair

United Methodist Student Day



United Methodist Student Day invites the church to support United Methodist students in achieving their goals as they pursue their dreams through higher education. 100% of the funds received award United Methodist scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. For more than 100 years your gifts have helped young people achieve their educational calling with more financial freedom. An envelope is enclosed or you may give online at [JesusIsTheBridge.org](https://JesusIsTheBridge.org) by choosing "Online Giving" and using the "Missions" tab.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing at K & K

Bell Ringing is in full swing at K & K Hardware!  
Sign-up for a time to ring on our Asbury website [JesusIsTheBridge.org](https://JesusIsTheBridge.org) by clicking on the red K & K Sign-Up Button or you may call the church office.  
Thank you!



There will be no  
Sunday Coffee Hour  
on Christmas Eve  
and New Year's Eve



HAVE A  
**Blessed Christmas!**  
Church Office Closed:  
December 25 & 26  
January 1



A word of caution regarding the differences between regular Medicare and Medicare Advantage. We have all been seeing and hearing the MANY ads for Medicare Advantage and how it is a less expensive option. However, there are many things to take into consideration. The chart here gives you a good look at the differences. Something to remember is that the Advantage programs are private, for-profit companies. You should make sure to ask questions of a trusted individual who does not have ties to any of those companies. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is an unbiased organization which you may contact at their website: [shiphelp.org](http://shiphelp.org)

We wish all of you a fabulous holiday season with many good times with family and friends.  
Be safe. Stay well. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS:	
MEDICARE	ADVANTAGE
Health Insurance for all Americans 65+ who worked & paid into the system	Humana, Aetna, Care Improvement Plus, Cigna-Health-Spring
YOU & YOUR DOCTOR choose your care	Your plan chooses your care—NOT YOU AND YOUR DOCTOR
No Referrals Needed, No Restrictions, No Lab Fees	Highly Restricted Referrals, Limited Specialist, MRI & Outpatient High Fees
No Pre-Authorizations, No Hidden Costs, Full Coverage	Upfront Copay on ER Visits, High Deductibles, Limited Coverage

AIM Mission of the Month for December—The Center Holiday Dinner & Meal Delivery

Several Asbury small groups (Upper Room Men’s Group, LIFT Women’s Ministry, WINGS, Adult Sunday classes including Agape, Explorations & Adventures in Faith, and the Element 412 youth group) are combining forces to provide a Holiday Meal and Arts & Crafts Experience for invited guests at The Center at 1411 North Brady Street, Davenport, IA on **Saturday, December 16th**. Also, meals will be prepared and delivered to some Asbury families on that same day. If you are willing to contribute to the effort by helping to serve at The Center, delivering meals or with a monetary donation, please contact Cliff Pim at (563)340-2722 [cpim@hhsales.net](mailto:cpim@hhsales.net) or Phil Paulson at (309)502-9236 [paulsonphil2@gmail.com](mailto:paulsonphil2@gmail.com).

- Office Hours**....Asbury Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00-Noon and afternoons by request. Please feel free to contact a staff member if you need assistance after hours. **The office will be closed December 25-26 and January 1.**
- Please Check Your Closet**....Someone picked up the wrong lady’s dark blue light-weight coat with striped lining on a recent Sunday. Please swap the coat you have with the similar one hanging in the coat room near the elevator. Thank you!
- Terracycle**....Throughout December we are accepting your broken strings of holiday lights. Please wind them and place them in the Asbury Terracycle bin near the elevator.
- Praises and Requests for Prayer**....may be submitted on our website 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 Jan Westercamp and family on the death of her husband, Dan, on November 13.
- Newsletter Deadline**....Items for the next Good News should be in the church office no later than **8:00 am on Monday, December 18.**
- Needed at Friendly Thrift Center**....The Friendly Thrift Center needs volunteers to sit with the cashier & help bag items purchased during our busy holiday season. No training needed and one-time volunteers are welcome! Please contact the Thrift Center at 324-2235 or Julie Moran at 563-210-3472. We are still in need of men’s coats, jeans & warm clothing. Also blankets, travel-size items and jewelry.
- Fun Opportunity!**....Your help is needed with **RootsKids** on Sundays at 10:30 am in the TreeHouse. Come once a month or more! Contact Linda Carver at [lcarver07@gmail.com](mailto:lcarver07@gmail.com) for more information.
- Hannah Circle**....All women are invited for fun & fellowship on the 2nd Tuesday of each month! **Next meeting is December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am.** Meet for lunch at Thunder Bay Grille, 6511 North Brady, Davenport. Please bring mittens for the Asbury Mitten Tree. Everyone is welcome! Contact Donna Stradt at [donna@jrs-realtor.com](mailto:donna@jrs-realtor.com) with any questions.
- Rachel Circle** ....We will meet at **6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** in Upper Fellowship Hall at Asbury. The presenter will be Linda Manders on “Brittany’s Gifts”, a program to help/honor individuals of the Handicapped Development Center. Please join us!
- Card Ministry**....meets at 6:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month in Room 118 at the church. **No Card Ministry in December. The next meeting is on January 10<sup>th</sup>.** To learn more about Card Ministry, go to their Facebook page, the Asbury website or contact Alinda Littrel or Linda Dudgeon. You can help support Card Ministry expenses by purchasing our beautiful cards in the church office!
- LIFT - Ladies In Fellowship Together**...On **December 16** we will provide Green Bean Casseroles and the Craft Table for the AIM Mission of the Month Dinner at the Center. Join us again on **December 17** for The Mary Program and Lunch at 11:30 at Asbury. Details of dates and events can be found on our LIFT Facebook page. You may also contact Jenny Bloomquist, Julia Hensch, Marian Edmund-Paulson or Stephanie Pim. All women are invited!
- Asbury Men’s Group**....**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE! In November and December meetings will be changed to 7:45 am on the first and third Saturdays** at the church. Contact Cliff Pim (563-340-2722), Phil Paulson (309-502-9236) or the church office (563-355-5218) for more information or the **ZOOM** link. All men are welcome! Regular schedule will resume in January.
- Foundation Gift Recognitions**....Thank you to John Cramond, Gary Hendershot, David Miller and Bev Reed for their recent gifts to the Foundation. 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. **This is a thoughtful way to honor your birthday or other occasions.**

Thank you to everyone who has made a financial Estimate of Giving for 2024. If you would like an Estimate of Giving card mailed to you please contact the church office. You may also submit your estimate online at [JesusIsTheBridge.org](http://JesusIsTheBridge.org).  
**Please remember that to receive tax credit in 2023 your contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2023.**