

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 January 7

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Good News

Our Mission:

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



Volume 3, Issue 182
DECEMBER 27, 2023

A NEW YEAR IS HERE!

The CAT Survey is the #1 thing you can do to prepare for a successful transition to a new pastor later this summer. The CAT instrument will provide valuable information for our leaders to make informed decisions about the future of our church. Our Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai along with our District Superintendent, Brian Oliver, will use information from the CAT to help match the Asbury Church with our next pastor. It will be a good way to gauge how we've changed since the last time we completed the CAT in 2018.



CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT TOOL

EVERYONE WHO IS A REGULAR PARTICIPANT IN OUR CONGREGATION IS ENCOURAGED TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY

There are 95 questions that cover a range of topics from critical issues to individual spiritual growth. All answers are strictly anonymous so you can freely share your perceptions, opinions and experience. If you need a paper copy, please contact the church office for one to be delivered to you. **Deadline to complete the survey is January 8.** Thank you!

WORSHIP IN JANUARY: HOW TO BUILD TRUST

Pastor Tom will be sharing a sermon series on the most important things he has learned in his 40 years of ministry.

January 7: Time Together

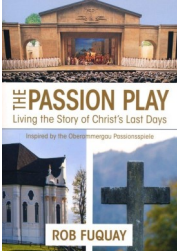
John 1:14-18

January 14: Listen

James 1:19-21

Newcomer's Gathering on January 28

Are you new to Asbury? Or maybe you've been attending for awhile and are wondering about activities and events in the congregation. Are you thinking about membership? If so, plan now to attend a **NEWCOMER'S GATHERING** on Sunday, January 28 between the services to learn more about Asbury. Watch for more details or call Linda Manning, Pam Thornton or the church office for more information.



Beginning in January, the Adult Small Groups will each offer a different study. Most will then join the Lenten Study, THE PASSION PLAY by Rob Fuquay which will begin after Ash Wednesday (February 14). Please take time to read the enclosed flyer and see which group you would like to join—one that will help you move along the Discipleship Pathway toward a deeper walk daily centered on God. The groups not only offer a study, but fun, fellowship, support, and encouragement. Deciding to join a group would be a great New Year's Resolution! Hope to see all of you involved in an Adult Small group in 2024!!



Discipleship Pathway Moment - THE WALK by Adam Hamilton

As 2024 approaches, the Discipleship Team hopes you have made progress in the area of the Discipleship Pathway that you chose to focus on for 2023. Now is the time to reflect on how far you have come and what area you want to focus on in 2024 so you may continue to move toward a life daily centered on God.

To help you learn more about the essential practices of the Discipleship Pathway, Asbury is offering the 6 week study THE WALK by Adam Hamilton. Many small groups at Asbury have done this study. Here are a few comments from our members on the study.

"I found that Adam Hamilton's THE WALK is an important study that helps all Christians focus on the five essential spiritual practices (worship, study, service, giving, sharing your life in Christ) because the practices are rooted in Jesus's own walk with God. I like how each of the practices can play a role in a Christian's everyday life and plays an essential part of the church growing together."
- Phil Paulson

"One comment that I heard repeatedly was that this information was common sense and practical. For example, easy to count the fingers on your hand as a reminder to pray five times a day."
- Kurt Streicher

THE WALK is a great foundational guide to help a Christian on their discipleship pathway. Adam Hamilton provides simple ways to help remember daily routines that will bring you closer to God and Jesus and help you share with others. I especially found the prayer chapter helpful and use the suggestions daily."
- Cindy B.

The study begins Sunday, January 7 at 9:30 am in room 304 and is facilitated by Pam Thornton and Marian Edmund-Paulson. We invite you to join Pam and Marian and bring a friend.

Wishing you a blessed 2024

Jean Black and Vern Harvey Discipleship Team Co-Leaders

JOB OPENING!



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Call us today @ 563-355-5218 to inquire!

JesusIsTheBridge.org

Asbury Merchandise Online Store

Once store closes merchandise will be created and then delivered to Asbury

Scan the QR Code



or go to
JesusIsTheBridge.org



Place Your Order By January 5th!

The Discipleship Team invites everyone to

Discover your Spiritual Gifts!

Scan the Code to begin the survey



or use the link @ JesusIsTheBridge.org

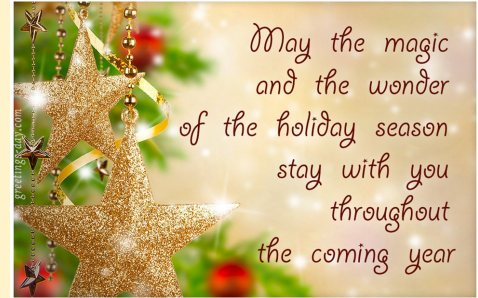


Upcoming Events:

- **FOOT CLINIC - December 29 •**
- **FOOT CLINIC - January 22 •**
- **BLOOD DRIVE - March 25 •**

Please contact Cheryl Ewert regarding any of the above.

Merry Christmas Everyone! Stay safe. Be well.



AIM (ASBURY IN MISSION) "DOING GOD'S WILL"

Mission of the Month in January: Mark Twain Elementary School Backpack Ministry

Prior to the pandemic, Asbury provided snack backpacks to students of families in need at Jefferson and Mark Twain schools. The pandemic put an abrupt end to this mission activity. An Asbury goal for the last 2 years was to reestablish our relationship with neighborhood schools. We are excited that Asbury is once again partnering with Mark Twain to provide backpacks filled with nutritious snacks for designated elementary students. With the help of Jo Winegar, who is purchasing the snack items, and a few volunteers who are filling and delivering the backpacks, we will be continuing to provide backpacks filled with snacks to 36 students monthly through the end of the school year in May. As we rekindle this outreach ministry, we are continuing to explore how to fund this on a monthly basis while also hoping to expand our Mark Twain partnership in other meaningful ways such as reading to students or listening to students read.



Thank You for Your Service!



Salvation Army Bell Ringing at K & K – Thank you to all the Asburians who signed up to ring the bell for Salvation Army Red Kettle donations this Holiday Season. A number of "Jerry's Jingers" signed up for numerous time slots of bell ringing once again this season. Special thanks to Dave and Dana Nichols for coordinating Asbury's efforts with this outreach ministry!

Santa for Seniors - On December 18th, Asbury "elves" delivered 75 gift bags stuffed with "goodies" to grateful seniors at the Iowa Masonic skilled nursing unit. Thanks to Patti Sorensen, Terri Bishop, and Diana Mahoski who purchased the gift bag items, filled, and delivered the gift bags to Iowa Masonic. Thanks also to the Asburians who donated dollars for this mission outreach project.

Christmas Meal at the Center - Thank you to the Asbury Men's Group and everyone who helped with the Annual Christmas Meal. We served 170 people a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings!

•**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.**

•**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 heartfelt prayers are with:

Janet Oelerich, Rick & Diane Oelerich and Jon & Jacque Oelerich and family on the death of Earl Oelerich on December 5.

Heather & Jeff Witters on the death of Heather's mother on December 6.

Kay & Tom Howard on the death of Kay's sister, Deeann, on December 7.

The family and friends of Joyce Bateman. Joyce passed away on December 7.

•**Newsletter Deadline**....Items for the next Good News should be in the church office no later than **8:00 am on Monday, January 8.**

•**Needed at Friendly Thrift Center**....The Friendly Thrift Center needs volunteers. 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. Blankets, travel-size items and jewelry are also welcome.

•**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 for more information.

•**Hannah Circle**....All women are invited for fun & fellowship on the 2nd Tuesday of each month! **Join us on January 9th at 11:30 am.** at Granite City for lunch. Everyone is welcome! Contact Donna Stradt at donna@jrs-realtor.com with any questions.

•**Rachel Circle**We will meet at **6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 9th** in Upper Fellowship Hall at Asbury. Our program will be presented by Karen Neder who is the director of the Regional Terracycle Program. Please join us to learn ways to be good stewards of our world!

•**Card Ministry**....meets at 6:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month in Room 118 at the church. **The next meeting is on January 10th.** 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**...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**....**Meets at 7:45 am on the second and fourth 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!

•**Foundation Gift Recognitions**....Thank you to Donald Culp and Carol Jackson 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**.

Please remember that to receive tax credit in 2023 your contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2023.