

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

Traditional Service 8:30am  
Adult Classes 9:30am  
Praise Service 10:30am  
RootsKids 8:30 or 10:30am  
Element 412 6:30pm  
Communion on April 7

**ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

# Good News

**Our Mission:**

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



JesusIsTheBridge.org

Volume 3, Issue 188  
MARCH 20, 2024



**Holy Week March 24-31**

Palm Sunday 3/24 @ 8:30am / 10:30am  
Maundy Thursday 3/28 @ 7pm  
Good Friday 3/29 @ 7pm (Office Closed)  
Easter 3/31 @ 6:30am - 8:30am - 10:30am  
Continental Breakfast from 7:15am - 10:30am

Through the season of Lent we have compared Jesus' short stories and images about the kingdom of heaven to postcards that people send from exotic places. The message on those postcards often is, "I wish you were here."

It's a way of saying that a place is so wonderful that you want others to experience it along with you. During Holy week we will see how this expression can also take on a whole different meaning. On the night in which Jesus was taken to be crucified, he prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. He was going through a terrible ordeal and he was calling out to God for relief in a prayer that could also be expressed as, "I wish you were here." There are times in life when we experience great difficulties and need comfort and strength from others in order to survive.

In the first situation, life is so good that a person can send a message that says, "I wish you were here" in order to share in the joy. In a similar way, when life is so hard that a person can barely survive, the same message of "I wish you were here" can express the need for the comfort and strength that comes from companionship.

As we experience the story of Holy Week this year, we can remember the good times and the bad times that we must walk through. The joy of Easter is hearing the response of God when our prayer of, "I wish you were here" is answered by God in Jesus with, "I am here."

I hope you'll join me during Holy Week as we relive the tragic and glorious story of Jesus' death and resurrection and what it means for us today. The Kingdom of God is at hand and Jesus is alive and here with us.

Grace and peace, Pastor Tom



**Our Special Easter Offering** will be divided between two efforts to do God's will. One is the Friendly House outreach in Davenport, an inner-city neighborhood program. They try to provide the basic needs of the families with programs for preschoolers through senior citizens. They also offer a food pantry and emergency services.

The second effort is to support our neighborhood families in the Mark Twain Elementary School Backpack Program. Each month our AIM Team fills 35 backpacks with nutritious food needed for the weekend.

An envelope is included in this mailing for you to use for your Easter offering. You can also go to [JesusIsTheBridge.org](https://JesusIsTheBridge.org) and click on the purple "V" Online Giving button. There you can make a regular donation to the church or you can make a special Easter offering for these projects by choosing "Missions" and designating "Easter" in the comment field. Thank you for supporting these important ministries.



**Discipleship Pathway Moment ... Let's Celebrate!!**

On April 10 at 5:30pm we will gather in Fellowship Hall to celebrate all who have taken the **Spiritual Gifts Inventory**. We will enjoy a meal together and have an opportunity to fellowship with others who share our same Gifts.



Please see the enclosed insert to find out "8 Reasons Every Christian Should Know His or Her Spiritual Gifts". If you haven't yet found out what your gifts are, go to our website or scan the QR code to take the inventory. Please remember to register your email so Asbury will get the list of your top 3 Gifts. Take the inventory by April 5th, then let's all Celebrate on April 10!

Jean Black and Vern Harvey, Discipleship Team Leaders

## HELP WANTED!



Are you trying to figure out where to use your Spiritual Gifts at Asbury? Help is needed in the following areas:  
**WORSHIP • FINANCE • TRUSTEES  
FOUNDATION BOARD**

Contact Cheryl Ewert at 563-505-1477 for more information.

Stewards of Creation is sponsoring a Digital Art Show  
**"Rejoice in Creation"**

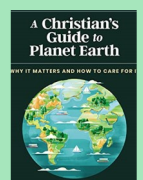


Everyone in the congregation, all ages, are invited to submit their original artwork to **Sue Moseley by April 1st**. Digital artwork will be on display **Sunday, April 14th and 21st Fellowship Hall 9:30-10:30am**

For More Info: contact Sue or Stewards of Creation Facebook page



Drawing on science and Scripture, **A CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE TO PLANET EARTH** offers a hope-filled, reader-friendly guide to help navigate questions about caring for God's world. This book is now available in both entry ways for those of you who would like to explore doable ways to help with climate change, food shortages, pollution, deforestation and ways to help recover God's beauty in creation.



Pastor Tom will be addressing this issue in April. If this topic is of interest to you, please pick up a book and enjoy reading it and share it with others. We purchased a small quantity of these, so if you are interested and don't find the book, please let Linda Manning know, and another order will be placed!

**Support AIM's Stewards of Creation by Participating in Downtown Bettendorf Xstream Clean-up Event!**

You are invited to participate in this "hands on" experience, putting our faith into action, as well as a time of fellowship, **Wednesday, April 10th 11:30-3:00**. Meet at City Hall Plaza for a free lunch together, material dispersion, and directions.

For more info and sign-up go to <https://xstreamcleanup.org/upcoming-events>




## Bits and Pieces from Your Parish Nurse Team



**Reminder:** Please let us know if you or a family member is in the hospital. We want to follow up with you there. The hospital may ask about a religious affiliation when you are admitted but that doesn't mean they will let us know you are there.

Watch this space for announcements of programs that we are developing. We will host a Grief Share group beginning in May. The development of a Caregiver Support Group is in the works. We have a program which we will use to guide us. We will also provide a space for the persons for whom you are caring so that you may attend this group. We realize that being a caregiver is challenging and we want to help each of you care for yourself as well!

 **THE NEXT BLOOD DRIVE IS MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> from 2:00-6:00.** There are appointment times available or you can walk in that day to donate. Please call Cheryl with questions.

 **THE NEXT FOOT CLINIC WITH OPENINGS IS APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>.** Notify Cheryl if you want to schedule a time.

 **from Carol and Cheryl**

### **Missions**

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



#### **AIM - March Mission of the Month GLOBAL MISSIONS**

#### **UMCOR and Fishers of Men**

**Donations can be made online  
at [JesusIsTheBridge.org](http://JesusIsTheBridge.org)  
/Online Giving/Missions  
(specify your choice of mission)**

or by check: payable to Asbury UMC

**\*specify UMCOR or Fishers Of Men**



 **FOM Ministries**  
Donations support  
**Vincent Mutati Kimanzi**  
who lives in Africa  
and is sponsored by  
Asbury/RootsKids

Donations will  
**PROVIDE** RELIEF & RECOVERY  
AROUND THE WORLD

### **Asbury Doing God's Will....Thank You for Your Service!**

Thank you to Bev Reed, Dave & Paulette Dow, Dave Stedwell, Cheryl Ewert and Nancy Ommen for serving the Churches United meal at Zion Church in March.

Thank you for your very generous response to LIFT'S Hiney Heroes Diaper Drive. We will continue to collect diapers through March 24.

**Spring is Here!** Asbury Garden Ministry will be the AIM Mission of the Month in June; however, the Garden Season will be starting soon. Please get in touch with Dave Phillips at 563-340-6594 or [phillips363@mchsi.com](mailto:phillips363@mchsi.com) to find out how you can help!

- **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 on Good Friday, March 29.
- **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 Mary Fanning & family on the death of her sister, Emma Lee Matherly, on March 2.
- **Newsletter Deadline**....Items for the next Good News should be in the church office no later than **8:00am on Monday, April 1.**
- **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 563-324-2235 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 10:30am in the TreeHouse. Come once a month or more! Contact Rebecca Erickson at [becka.erickson@gmail.com](mailto:becka.erickson@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Hannah Circle**....All women are invited for fun & fellowship on the 2nd Tuesday of each month! **Join us at 11:30am on April 9<sup>th</sup> for lunch at the Treehouse, 2239 Kimberly Rd., Bettendorf.** Everyone is welcome! Please join us for fun and conversation!
- **Rachel Circle** ....We will meet at **6:30pm on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall Please join us for an informational meeting and a time of discussion. Everyone is welcome!
- **Card Ministry**....meets at 6:30pm on the second Wednesday of the month in Room 118 at the church. 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 7:45am 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**....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.**