



Annual Report Celebrating 2024 Ministries



Confirmation Sunday
May 19, 2024
Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Guest Pastor



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.



OUR VISION (how we transform the world):

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



Pastor's Annual Report 2024

A Year of Transition and Opportunity

As your new pastor, this will be my first annual report with the Asbury Church family. This has been an eventful year of careful planning and transition. In 2023, Pastor Tom Carver shared with you that he felt led to retire after serving with Asbury UMC for the past six years. Following this announcement the SPRC and leadership of the church worked with our District Superintendent, Brian Oliver, to find your next pastor.

As part of that pastoral process, you discussed the needs of Asbury; you made transition plans and had discussions, and you took a CAT survey (Congregational Assessment Tool) to help you describe the work and ministry of Asbury UMC. All this led to our conference Bishop and Cabinet to appoint me as the Pastor of Asbury!

After being appointed to Asbury, I had opportunity to plan for the transition with help of the SPRC, Church Council, Trustees and other leaders. Michelle and I purchased a house here in Bettendorf and made plans to move.

As part of the move, I have seen Asbury do some of the most careful and thoughtful transition planning of any church I've pastored. Michelle and I have felt tremendously welcomed by the people of Asbury! And I can honestly say I have been having a blast getting to know you and stepping into the pastoral role at this great church.

In the first few weeks, I worked at getting to understand the flow of worship, getting to know staff, and beginning to know you in the congregation. Your Parish Nurse Team and Prayer Team began to apprise me of the care needs within the congregation. **Carol Jackson and I spent several weeks visiting through our entire shut-in list so I could meet all the fine people who cannot always get to church on Sunday.** I have continued to make visits with members at home and in the hospital in consultation with our care team so that each of us is connecting as we should.

I've been blessed over the weeks to get to know the members of the staff. **You have an excellent and hard-working staff here at Asbury!** They are skilled and supportive leaders who each contribute to the overall ministry of the church.

As part of worship in the past couple of months, we have added streaming of our 8:30am worship. We have seen the choir grow and fill the loft. We've re-introduced communion with loaves of bread and individual cups. These are all changes which have been requested by congregants and I believe enhance our worship.

This fall, I have coordinated preaching with the staff and with the Adult Ministry Team, matching some of my preaching to the series you are studying in Bible study and small groups. The Leadership Team and I have worked on church-wide goals for the coming year. **One of the most exciting things is that we are planning for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of Asbury UMC in 2025!** I have been a part of the planning of several congregational anniversaries. This is a great opportunity to celebrate our church and share with our community! **This celebration will be on Sunday, May 4, 2025.** This will be two weeks after Easter Sunday and a week after our celebration of Confirmation. Mark your calendars!

As I have become involved in the church, I have been deeply impressed by Asbury's commitment to the needs of the Quad Cities community. We do this through Asbury in Mission, and through ministries like the Asbury Garden Ministry, the Friendly Thrift Center, the Zion Meal Site, MarkTwain School Backpack Program, missions giving and so much more!

This past week we celebrated our annual "One Starry Night" event. We had a big crowd with many children enjoying the event. I'm thankful for everyone who worked so hard to pull off this amazing holiday celebration!

As I wind down this report, we are all putting last touches on preparations for Christmas. **We have two Christmas Eve worship opportunities at 5pm and 7pm this year.** I honestly cannot wait to light Christmas candles with you all this year.

My first months at Asbury have been a joyful adventure in connecting with Asbury UMC. I am grateful to be a part of the many wonderful ministries that you are doing as a congregation of God's people who love and care for each other and others in the name of Jesus Christ!

In Christ's Service Together,
Pastor Tim





2025 Church-Wide Goals

On Sunday, October 20, 2024 the Leadership Team, consisting of the co-leaders for each of the 5 ministry areas of the church, held an afternoon retreat to assess the current reality of the church and to look ahead to the future. It was led by Steve Sorenson, who provided his experience in organizational planning to address several key strategic and tactical agenda items:

- 2025 Church-wide Goals
- Asbury's Wedding Policy reflecting changes in the Book of Discipline, General Conference guidelines, and Iowa Conference guidelines
- Leadership Development—Developing The Next Generation of Leaders
- Asbury's Membership Growth
- Asbury's 75th Anniversary

The 2025 Goals and the Asbury Wedding Policy were shared with the congregation during the December Quarterly Church Council meeting.

Members of the Leadership Team: Vern Harvey and Jean Black (Discipleship), Stephanie Pim and Jill Vogt (Worship), Steve Sorensen and Jenny Bloomquist (Asbury in Mission), Cheryl Ewert and Cindy Bruhn (Welcome and Care), Cliff Pim and Pat Thornton (Administration), Kurt Streicher (Treasurer), Dave Stedwell (Council Chair) and Pastor Tim Bonney.

2025 ASBURY GOALS

1. Continue to strengthen and expand our Children and Youth ministries by engaging our youth in Church activities and promoting our children and youth programs.
2. Engage current members in 35 to 60 age range to help develop and implement strategies for church membership growth within that target demographic group.
3. Evaluate our annual pledge-based giving approach to consider other committed and intentional giving options.
4. Revise, implement, and communicate a "Safe Sanctuary" policy.
5. Explore options to reconfigure the Chancel space to be more effective and convenient to use.
6. Plan and execute a successful 75th Anniversary year of events, including Celebration Sunday on May 4, 2025. (Establish Steering Committee by end of 2024.)
7. Strengthen our leadership development programming for the next generation of Asbury leaders.



1. In preparation for welcoming Tim Bonney, the SPRC, Church Leadership Team, and congregation engaged in numerous meetings and a variety of activities.
 - We had a celebration of the service of Pastor Tom Carver with a variety of activities.
 - A church-wide CAT survey provided a valuable profile for the selection of a new pastor by the District and Bishop.
 - Small groups and congregational meetings focused on what we were looking for in a new pastor.
 - SPRC developed a profile of desired gifts a new pastor might bring to Asbury.
 - SPRC met with the Bishop's selection of our new pastor.
 - Once the selection of a new pastor was final, the District provided guidance with an "Onboarding" meeting where the staff, congregation and Pastor Tim had a chance to get to know each other.
 - Asbury provided assistance to Pastor Tim and Michelle in securing a home.
 - The Asbury faith community has welcomed Pastor Tim and Michelle at various events since their arrival.
2. The issue of denominational change was addressed through small group, Church Council, and a special "tabletop discussion" meeting.
 - The Church Leadership team spent considerable time in prayerful discussion.
 - Finally, during an all-church Church Council meeting, with opportunities for questions and discussion, it was decided we would remain Asbury United Methodist Church.
3. Strengthening and expanding our ministry with children and youth is an ongoing goal.
 - The addition of Rebecca Erickson as our new Director of Children's Ministry has been a valuable addition to this area following the departure of Linda Carver.
 - Children and Youth ministries continue to expand programming and develop relationships with groups outside of Asbury.
4. We now have a well-defined Communication Plan for within and outside our church. The plan has been distributed to groups within the church and is updated as needed.
5. Strategies for church growth and development is an ongoing goal. We continue to explore new ideas and take a hard look at our demographics to provide for sustainability and growth.

Director of Engagement



Marian Edmund-Paulson
Director of Engagement

As Director of Engagement, I have had the honor of working with the various ministries and the leadership team of Asbury, but most importantly, with the individuals who attend Asbury, to connect them with our ministries to help them find a place to serve and grow their faith. I oversee the Neighborhood BridgeBuilder Program in a supportive role of the Captains of each of our 25 Neighborhoods. The Asbury households without a Captain receive a monthly letter, email or call from me, similar to the emails which the Captains receive (and can share with their Neighborhoods if they wish). These letters/emails share information on upcoming events at Asbury, the Volunteer Ministry Focus of the Month (focusing on Asbury Ministries who have an immediate need for volunteers) and encourage Non-Captain Neighborhood members to consider becoming a Neighborhood BridgeBuilder Captain for their Neighborhood. Other functions of the Director of Engagement position included the following over the past year:

Attend Newcomers and Next Step gatherings to discuss Neighborhood BridgeBuilders program and function of the Director of Engagement with our guests in regard to their connection to our Asbury Ministries.

Coordinate the church-wide Asbury Ministry Expo to help showcase our ministries, provide awareness of all of Asbury's Ministries and their functions, and allow representatives of each to discuss involvement and volunteer opportunities with our members and guests. The Asbury Ministry Expo was held on Sunday, September 8th in the Connections Cafe. All Asbury ministries are represented. All ministries are provided with a list of individuals interested in involvement in their ministry following the event.

Coordinate *One Starry Night, A Journey to Bethlehem*, Asbury UMC's Christmas gift to our Quad City Community.

Coordinate with Patty, on behalf of the Leadership Development Team, to update our current Church Windows database and provide a system to track and report our guests/members skills and interests to Asbury ministry leaders in need of volunteers and committee members.

Coordinate with the Visual Identity Team on development and function of our new Welcome Center and ongoing projects within the church.

Staff the Welcome Center for both services on Sunday mornings providing information to both guests and members.





One Starry Night

a journey to bethlehem

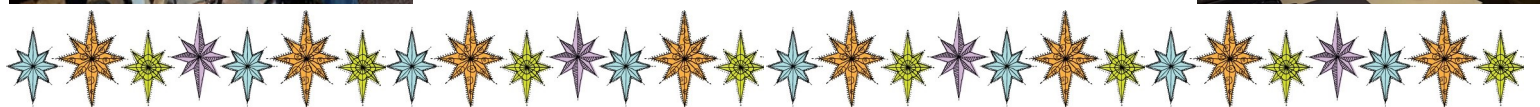
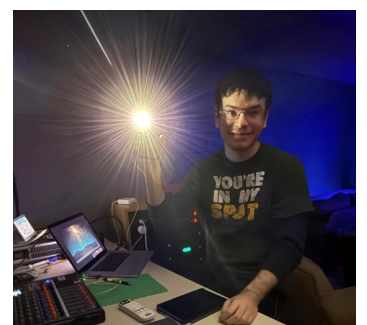
Sunday, December 8 from 3-5pm

Tour guides escort you upon arrival to multiple scenes where live actors tell the story of the Savior's birth!

Tours take approx 30 mins to complete.

Live animals inside!

scan to learn more



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.”

The focus of the Discipleship Team for 2024 was Spiritual Gifts. We encourage every member of Asbury to take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory. To date 44 people have taken the inventory. In April we had a Celebration for all who completed the inventory and offered an opportunity for members to talk with others who share their gifts. It was a fun and successful evening. The Spiritual Gifts inventory is still available on the church website. We will continue to support everyone at Asbury as you move forward on the Discipleship Pathway.

Jean Black and Vern Harvey
Discipleship Team Leaders



September, 2023-May, 2024

Asbury has continued to make Adult Small Group Settings available in person or via ZOOM. We continue to broadcast our second service as well. (We hope to be able to air the first service soon.) Our adult small groups have continued to meet and participate in many and varied service projects. Many of these were outside the church as Asbury seeks to better serve our community.

From September, 2023 thru May, 2024, there were 157 adults in a small group either on Sunday or during the week. (This was up from 147 during this same time period last year.)

During this same time period, there was an average of 190 people (omitted the Easter Services) attending worship either online or in person. That means that approximately 83% of adults were in a small group!! (That number does NOT include the members of our musical groups such as choir, praise band, singers, etc.)

Running from June thru August, 2024, the Summer Adult Small Group (Facilitated by the Paulson's) presented a five week study on "The Meaning of Methodist" using video material by Magrey deVega. This was followed by a documentary series by historian Matthew Larsen entitled "Nobody Liked Paul". This class had 34 different people attending with an average of 12 people per Sunday either in person or via ZOOM.

Asbury also supports small groups meeting in two facilities: The Summit has 8-10 people led by Realf Ottesen. He has also started a second group! The Quartet has 13-15 people led by Pat Tank.

The Adult Small Groups also participate in a wide variety of service projects of their choosing throughout the year which touch the lives of people both inside Asbury and within our community. A list of some of these projects include:

Meals at Churches United Meal site at Zion Lutheran Church
Christmas meal at The Center
Christmas meals to homebound members of Asbury
Provided socks stuffed with "necessities" to The Center
Removed trees and bushes in the back of Asbury
Landscape brick and replacement of mulch in front and back of Asbury
Helped with the setting up of the Nativity Scene outside Asbury
Helped with the decorations inside Asbury
Delivered cookies to Clarissa Cook Hospice House
Donations of clothing to Friendly Thrift Center
Provided toiletries and cleaning supplies to Tapestry Farms
Hiney Heroes Project—diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products
Provided Easter favors for Bettendorf/PV nursing homes
Donated gently used books, magazines, puzzles for the Bettendorf Library Resale
Provided toiletries and cleaning supplies for World Relief
Monetary donations to CCF (Clinton County Conservation Foundation)
Monetary donations to Hiney Heroes
Monetary donations to One Eighty

Monetary donations to World Relief
Monetary donations to Riverbend Food Bank
Potluck in the Park—Donated food/toiletries to Agape Center
Pantry in Bettendorf
Decorated car trunk/wore costumes/donated candy and participated in candy distribution Falloween
Knit for the Neighborhood—knitted scarves for people in need
Coffee @ 392 Caffe/Knit for Neighborhood with distribution of 31 scarves
Earth Day Cleanup Event with breakfast and cleanup of approximately 15 neighborhood blocks
World's largest Diaper Drive in conjunction with Hiney Heroes: collected 2,630 diapers—diapers for 52 babies for one month
Ongoing LIFT Facebook page with participation of approximately 45 people on the page
Helped with crafts at One Starry Night
Helped with the Garden Ministry
Mitten Project

Parish Nurse Program



Carol Jackson



Cheryl Ewert

Volunteer Health Care Advocate

This program concentrates on the development of a wholeness-in-health ministry. It strives to bring together one's spiritual and physical needs which will enable one to experience the life God promised through Christ...to live life abundantly!

Our goal is to provide spiritual and emotional support through programming in a variety of ways. We serve on the Prayer Team by following up personally on requests. We visit individuals in their homes and in senior living facilities. We make hospital visits to members who are ill or following surgeries. We support other caring ministries including the card ministry, hospitality and funeral luncheons. This year we distributed 40 afghans that had been lovingly made by church members.

Spiritual and emotional support are also provided through quarterly anointing services (and when individually requested), leading grief share groups, taking communion into homes and sending sympathy cards. We provide educational programs presented by health care professionals on topics of interest.

Physical support is provided through four blood drives each year, monthly foot clinics and training of Hands Only CPR and the use of the AED. We have monies available to assist those in need of food, shelter and travel aide.

We welcome our new Asbury babies to our church family with a meal and gift basket of surprises for the family.



Afghan Ministry
Blessing of the Afghans



We have Medical Supplies & Equipment
available for your use at no charge.



Quarterly Anointing
Service in the Chapel

Coffee Hour



A very small, but dedicated, team puts on Coffee Hour every Sunday throughout the entire year. Many Asbury members and visitors enjoy coffee, tea, hot cocoa, lemonade, and various delicious snacks on Sunday mornings following the 8:30am church service until 10:30am. We also welcome Neighborhood BridgeBuilder Captains and their neighbors to gather at this time. It makes for an easy way to get a Neighborhood together! Occasionally, the wonderful Hospitality Team plans and serves on special event Sundays in addition to their many other duties. Please contact Cindy Bruhn at 563-650-7963, if you would like more information about Coffee Hour!

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

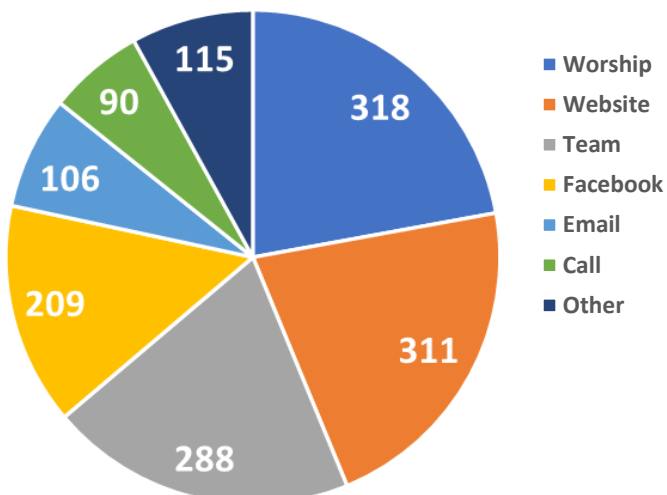
Marilyn Birmingham	Rebecca Erickson	Norma McKelvey
Teri Bishop	Cheryl Ewert	Carrie Meumann
Jean Black	Rob Gagnon*	Marian Paulson
Tim Bonney	Carol George*	Sharon Phillips
Jean Bowrey	Mitch Hill	Pamela Rathe
Barb Brethauer	Carol Jackson	Michael Reese
Gayle Buxton	Scott James	Brenda Sherrick
Dot Crosby	Nancy Kintz*	Kurt Streicher
April Crowder	Ann Lawson	Pat Tank
Lisa Delzell	Rona Loweth	Pam Thornton
Heather Dennis	Diana Mahoski	Pat Thornton
Pam Duehr	Linda Manning	Jill Vogt



Asbury Prayer Ministry Team 2024 Year-end Report December 13, 2024

- The Prayer Ministry Team began **April 28, 2020**
- We have received **1,437** prayer requests since we began 4 years and 8 months ago
- **49** requests are currently active and **1,388** are in our inactive file
- **274 different families** have requested prayers
- Prayer requests have come from **multiple sources**

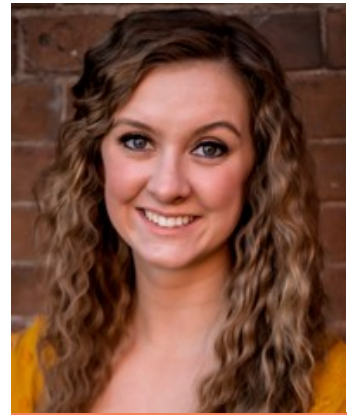
- We have **36** active Prayer Ministry Team Members
 - 21 Prayer Servants – Praying for people
 - 6 Ministry Leaders – Children, Adult, Engagement, Worship & Card Ministry
 - 4 Prayer Partners – Praying for and with people
 - 2 Parish Nurses – Nursing care, prayer and communication
 - 1 Pastor – Pastoral care, prayer and communication
 - 2 Prayer Leaders – Prayer team leadership and communication
- Prayer Team Members receive a weekly prayer list and regular updates for new and existing requests
- **Interested? We'd love to tell you more about the Asbury Prayer Ministry Team!**





2024 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

Element 412 Continues to Meet Most Sunday Evenings from 6:00-7:30pm

This year, we joined Allied Youth of the QC for our second annual fall retreat. We were able to go Christmas caroling just before Thanksgiving for the residents at The Villas. We had several kids assist in Fall-o-ween and Starry Night.

We have 3 heavily involved seniors this year. We are hoping to have a senior project created with them as a service project, and finish it in the spring. We are looking to do a blessing box/pantry that would assist the public with necessities at their leisure. Next year, we are looking forward to monthly socials ramping back up as well.

Element 412 has joined the ReFuel service on the first of every month as a way to incorporate worship with their family and each other.

We look forward to what 2025 will bring for the Youth of Asbury!





Rebecca Erickson
Director of
Children's Ministries

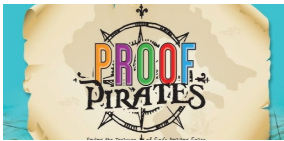


2024 Children's Ministries



RootsKids, Asbury Children's Ministry, continues to grow in numbers and learning the bible. We are continuing to meet at 8:30am and 10:30am on the 1st three/four Sundays of the month.

The last Sunday of each month (Family Sunday) we meet at 9:30-10:20am so children and staff have the opportunity to attend church together with their families.



Last June, we celebrated VBS with Proof Pirates. We had a 3-day event with 39 children learning about God's grace, love and acceptance.

In August, we started the new school year by giving bibles to 3-year-olds and 3rd graders at Asbury. This fall, we split the group of children into two age groups for age appropriate lessons. The two groups are 3-year-olds through 1st Grade and 2nd through 5th Grade. They do different activities and crafts to help them engage with the lessons.

This year the children have studied the 7 Days of Creation, Adam and Eve, and understanding who God's Family is through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We have begun Advent and this will lead into the Christmas story.



Bible Presentation Sunday



Fall-O-Ween 2024

This fall we have been excited to team up with Element 412 for multiple events including; Falloween Trunk or Treat, an environmental activity, and Christmas Caroling at the Vistas Nursing Facility. We look forward to more events together.



Caroling with Element 412 at
The Vistas of Bettendorf Care Center



As the holidays approach we are excited to have our Christmas Program on Sunday, December 22nd.



Next Spring we will be offering P.R.A.Y. - A lesson session in collaboration with the Scouts of America.

The Good news is that our numbers are growing! And, as we keep RootsKids as a top goal for Asbury our ministry will continue to grow!

Worshiping at Asbury

As we reflect back on Worship during 2024, many memorable moments come to mind. We said goodbye to Pastor Tom & Linda Carver, and welcomed Pastor Tim & Michelle Bonney.

On May 19, we had the honor of hosting Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, in a joint worship service with the Korean United Methodist Church of the Quad Cities. We had the privilege of hearing scripture and music, both in English and Korean.

In July, we celebrated the ordination of Patrick Mulloy. Patrick was our guest Pastor on July 14, bringing the message and serving his first communion as an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.

We celebrated the move away from pre-packaged communion elements, began providing the 8:30 am service on YouTube, and added a worshipful Sunday night gathering, ReFuel.

The ReFuel Band, led by Dave Meumann, shared Christmas music and hymns on the evening of December 1. We extend appreciation to all the musicians, and to Dave for his leadership.

Carrie Meumann, Director of Creative Worship and Media, lends her imagination and creativity to the pastor's sermon themes, such as Pastor Tim's, Dr. Henry Jones. Carrie's drama skit added to Pastor Tim's stewardship sermon theme, *The Next Adventure*. Thank you to Avenue Meumann and Cliff Pim for their portrayals of Indiana Jones, and to Pastor Tim for bringing some fun to stewardship!

As we look at the present, we are thankful for the addition of Rese & Izzy Bailey and Stephanie James to the Tech Team, to all the volunteers that serve on the Welcome Team, Liturgical Team, and in Communion Ministry. We recognize the commitment of those that participate in choir, the Praise Team musicians and vocalist, and all those that lend their talents to providing meaningful music to our worship services. We are grateful for the leadership of the Asbury Music Team: Paul D'Camp, Michael Reese, and Gail Baldwin.

Looking forward, the Asbury Leadership Team will evaluate options to reconfigure the Chancel space to be more effective and convenient to use. We hope to encourage more members to volunteer in the different Sunday morning ministries, and to grow and expand ReFuel to those within and outside the church.

The highlight of 2025 will be celebrating 75 years of Asbury. A special worship celebration will be held on May 4, 2025.

Submitted by Stephanie Pim



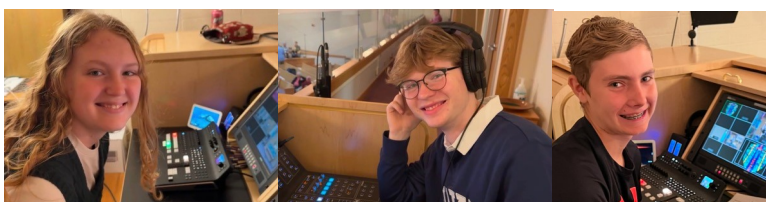
Young & Old Indiana Jones
AKA Avenue Meumann and Cliff Pim



Dr. Henry Jones
AKA Pastor Tim



Communion Sunday



Sunday Tech & Sound Youth Volunteers
Izzy Bailey, Rese Bailey, Tyler Musal



Hanging of the Greens
Stephanie Pim
Craig Windmiller

Doing God's Will by Embracing our COMMUNITY

Asbury In Mission (AIM) Annual Report for 2024

Applying what we learn as we "Seek God's Light", we "Share God's Love" by "Doing God's Will" when we serve others in 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 to others during 2024.

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 2024 included Zion Meal, Garden Ministry, Fishers of Men Ministries, Hope at the Brick House School supplies, Domestic Violence & Hospice Care, Friendly Thrift Center, Food & Monetary Donations to Bettendorf Food Pantry, Santa for Seniors, Stewards of Creation, "Love Thy Neighbor" supply drive, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, CROP Walk, and The Christmas Dinner at the Center.

Zion Meal Site – "Teams" of 5 to 7 Asbury volunteers prepared and served the Zion Lutheran Church Davenport Meal Site meal on the first Wednesday of each Month. Working through Churches United, Asbury members prepare and serve a standard meal menu for 50-70 less fortunate people.

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. We are excited that Asbury is once again partnering with Mark Twain to provide backpacks filled with nutritious snacks for designated elementary students. Each month through the school year (September through May), we purchase snack items and then fill and deliver backpacks for 36 students whose families qualify for this additional monthly food program.

Bettendorf Food Pantry – In addition to collecting food items year-round, once each month Asbury volunteers staff the Food Pantry at the Bettendorf Community Center to provide food and household supplies to Bettendorf residents in need.

CROP Walk - In November, over 20 Asbury family members walked in the annual CROP Walk to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. and abroad. Asbury members contributed over \$800 to support this cause.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing at K & K – Asbury is once again ringing the bells at K & K Hardware for Salvation Army Red Kettle donations from the last week of November through Christmas Eve day. Asbury has consistently raised the highest amounts of donations at a volunteer-run site!

Santa for Seniors – Asburians once again are spreading some Christmas Cheer to seniors residing at the Vistas skilled nursing unit (formally Iowa Masonic Health Facility). Church members are donating dollars for items to include in Christmas gift bags for over 70 seniors at Vistas plus gift bags to Asbury members who are unable to attend Sunday services on a regular basis.

Special Offerings/Donations – Asburians gave generously to support various local not-for-profits such as Hope at the Brick House, Friendly House, Churches United, National and Global Relief (through UMCOR) for victims of disasters such as hurricanes & floods, and the United Methodist Conference Special Offerings held several times throughout the year.



Jenny Bloomquist, Co-Leader
Steve Sorensen, Co-Leader
Pam Duehr
Sharon Johnson
Lorelei Pfautz
Pastor Tim Bonney

Role of the Steering Committee Includes:

- Provide Mission/Outreach leadership, direction, and coordination.
- Provide support for all Church Outreach projects/missions, as needed.
- Schedule, communicate, and promote AIM Mission of the Month throughout the year.
- Help identify and match new and existing church members to outreach/mission focus.
- Church-wide communication link for Mission/Outreach efforts at Asbury.



2024 Year-End Finance Team Report

Finance Co-Chair: Cliff Pim & Phil Paulson

Holiday Greetings Asbury UMC,

Once again, thank you for your generosity in 2024! Overall, giving is down slightly (4%) from 2023 and our expenses for the year have increased 5-10%. All our obligations and apportionments will be paid up for the year. The difference is being absorbed by reserves saved up from previous budgets along with many years of market gains in our investment accounts.

The final touches on the building, landscape and painting are completed and we are blessed with a beautiful structure (Inside and Out) with nice upgrades for the future. Special thanks to the team that has worked so hard the last two years to complete this project-**Asbury appreciates all your efforts! Also, special thanks to the Foundation who agreed to fund the upgrades.**

Going into 2024, the Finance team worked on a few items for Continuous Improvement:

1. Streamline finance reporting and enter 2025 with a clear budget for each Ministry to better track expenditures and give clarity in reporting.
2. Establish Policy and Procedures and document how the Finance Team operates.

We are happy to report that #1 is completed and we have started #2 with the plan to complete it in 2025.

As we approach 2025, our initial expense budget numbers are coming in higher than 2024, impacted by an increase in apportionments and Insurance along with other inflationary items.

If you have already turned in your pledge/committed giving amount THANK YOU! Our goals are big for 2025, and we ask for your help in achieving those.

"Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights; with Him there is no variation or shadow cast by turning." James 1:17

Thank you for your support of Asbury UMC to help make disciples of the world!
Asbury Finance Team

Asbury United Methodist Church Foundation

Our church continues to be blessed by the work of the Asbury United Methodist Church Foundation which was established several years ago. Its purpose is to receive and administer funds given to the church for the following intentions:

1. To support activities of Asbury that, but for the existence of The Foundation, may not be funded.
2. Not for the operating expenses of Asbury, which are an ongoing obligation of the then current membership.
3. For capital improvements and equipment to Asbury facilities with the hope that capital fund drives for the church may not be necessary in the future.
4. As a one-time contribution or as seed money contributions to support missions of Asbury.
5. As deemed necessary to support any special projects of Asbury.

The generosity shown in these funds has allowed the church to fund the various building improvements of the past year.

Asbury Foundation Team
John Rabine, Chairman



During 2024 the Trustees have approved and made some upgrades to church facilities including:

1. Maintenance & Repairs

- a. A couple of repairs to HVAC
- b. Replaced spotlights over stained glass window in Sanctuary
- c. Fixed a 30-year-old leak in roof over east narthex
- d. Fixed roof leak over music room caused by ice jams last winter
- d. Corrected persistent elevator problem
- e. Signed contracts for new providers for snow removal, mowing & landscaping and custodial services

2. Security

- a. Added security lighting in back of building
- b. Had City of Bettendorf add some safety warning pylons over retaining wall of parking lot

3. Improvements to Fellowship Hall

- a. Finished contrast paint and stained woodwork to match big pillars
- b. Reversed and added locking handle to West door
- c. Installed hideaway shades to west window
- d. Cleaned Carpet
- e. Installed updated sound system
- f. Converted kitchen lights to LED
- g. Renamed room to 'Connections Cafe'

4. Improvements to Sanctuary

- a. Installed sound enhancements for choir
- b. Installed TV monitor on Balcony so choir could see and hear service

5. Improvements to Hallway Areas

- a. Cleaned carpet on west end
- b. Began process of converting Can lights to LED

6. Outside Improvements

- a. Added Accent lighting to front of building
- b. Finished painting areas left over from previous year
- c. Additional landscaping in front and east end
- d. Arranged for replacement of several defective windows on east end of building
- e. Installed drip lines in front of church

Trustee Co-Chairs: Bob Gallagher and Tom Stelk



**Connections Cafe
June 30, 2024**



**Kevin Jones
Volunteer Facilities Manager**



2024 Year-End Update

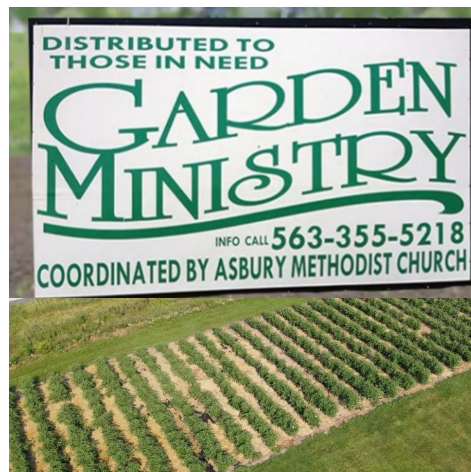
- A staff luncheon catered by Olive Garden was held in late December, 2023 in the Connections Café. Gift cards were presented to all staff members as a thank you for their dedicated service to Asbury.
- Prior SPRC members Dot Cosby and Tony Morales were welcomed back to SPRC service in 2024 to fill openings on the committee.
- A Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Survey was ordered for Asbury UMC in December, 2023 to assist with the search for Asbury's next pastor. Asbury church member input to the CAT Survey was completed on January 8. The CAT Survey also helps churches measure the level of satisfaction and energy in the congregation, identifies the critical success factors for improving organizational climate, pinpoints the strengths of the congregation's culture, discovers where members would like to go in the future, gauges readiness for change, and uncovers potential resources that may be missing.
- CAT Survey results were reviewed with members of church leadership on January 22 by Ryan Christopher of the Iowa Annual Conference.
- SPRC recruited applicants and conducted interviews for the position of Director of Children's Ministry. Rebecca Erickson was the successful candidate and began her new position on February 1.
- SPRC members had an extensive get-to-know-you meeting on February 15 with District Superintendent Brian Oliver and Pastor Tim Bonney, the candidate selected to fill our Senior Pastor position.
- Pastor Tim Bonney was appointed by the Bishop and Appointive Cabinet of the Iowa General Conference on February 17 to fill the position of Senior Pastor at Asbury UMC effective July 1.
- SPRC worked closely with Pastor Tim and District Superintendent Brian Oliver to assist Pastor Tim and his wife, Michelle, with the purchase of a home in Bettendorf utilizing resources and expertise from Finance, Trustees and SPRC committees and individual church members. Pastor Tim and Michelle were able to complete the purchase of their home and moved in in May.
- A retirement celebration for Pastor Tom Carver, and his wife Linda, was held June 23 at Veteran's Memorial Park in Bettendorf. Many of Pastor Tom and Linda's family were able to attend the event. It was also well attended by Asbury members. SPRC arranged for church members to contribute to the Thomas L. Carver Scholarship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, which supports students pursuing advanced degrees in ministry.
- A very successful on-boarding session for Pastor Tim Bonney was organized and held on June 29 with Asbury staff members and lay leadership. The meeting was facilitated by Rev. Jaye Johnson of the Iowa Annual Conference. This process helps transform feelings of anxiety to excitement and clarity for the new leader and their organization and helps teams proactively share information from team to senior pastor and from senior pastor to team.
- Jean Black accepted the position of Finance and Office Assistant beginning July 1. Jean continued her current role supporting Patty Schwegler and began performing bookkeeping activities for the church. Prior to July, this work was done by a contract worker. This new arrangement provides more hours of finance support each month than were available previously.
- An all-church reception for Pastor Tim and his wife, Michelle, was organized and held in the Connections Café between services on July 14.
- The annual Appointment Advisory Consultation 2025 for Asbury UMC Bettendorf was created, reviewed, approved and submitted to our District Superintendent in August.
- Introductory documents were created for Asbury SPRC, Finance and Trustee Committees and used in the 2024 Ministry Expo on September 8 to provide an overview for church members of the duties and responsibilities of each committee.
- The Pastoral Support Form, Resolution on Clergy Owned Housing Form and Resolution on Accountable Reimbursement Plan for 2025 were created, reviewed and approved by SPRC. These forms were reviewed and approved by voting members of the Church Council at the October 6 Charge Conference.
- The 2025 Iowa Annual Conference Workers' Compensation Input Form was completed and submitted October 22.
- The 2025 SPRC budget proposal was created, submitted and received preliminary approval from the Finance Committee and Treasurer on October 22.

Respectfully submitted December 13, 2024,
Kay Parch & Pat Thornton, Asbury SPRC Co-Chairpersons

GARDEN MINISTRY

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

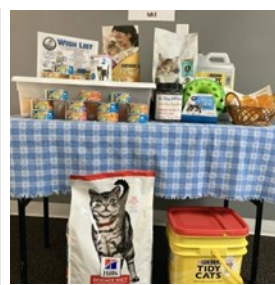
The Asbury Garden Ministry gardens a 1.2 acre plot graciously donated for our use by the Grace Evangelical Free Church located at 5520 Eastern Avenue in Davenport. The Ministry was initiated in the spring of 2002 with the following mission statement: "Provide fresh vegetables to those who would otherwise not have access to them". Harvested vegetables are distributed to over 20 organizations which includes food pantries, meal sites, home shelters, senior living apartment complexes, and individual families. The Ministry had a harvest of over 49,000 lbs. this growing season. Since its inception, over 829,000 lbs. of fresh vegetables have been distributed. All volunteers have a great time "playing in the dirt"; and, it's good exercise. Everyone is welcome! Our youngest volunteer is age 8; and our oldest volunteer is age 90!



2024 HARVEST—49,293 LBS

Our Garden Ministry completed its 23rd year with a harvest total of close to 50,000 lbs. of fresh vegetables distributed to local food pantries, meal sites, home shelters, low-income senior living complexes, and individual families. One of the highlights of this gardening season was partnering with our host church, Grace Evangelical Free, to construct a 30' x 50' building to accommodate storage needs. We sincerely thank all of our volunteers and financial supporters! Our Ministry always welcomes new volunteers; there are many opportunities to get involved in addition to physically working in the garden. For those interested in helping to take "a bite out of hunger" in our local community, please contact Dave Phillips, (cell) 340-6594; email: phillips363@mchsi.com

Praise the Lord for his continual blessing of our Ministry as we answer his call in Isaiah 58:10 to "Feed my Hungry".



***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 Stewards of Creation ministry.***

Stewards of Creation 2024 Year End Report Goals and Actions

Inspire and encourage everyone to actively participate in creation care

Asbury Stewards of Creation Event - "Rejoice in Creation" Digital Art Show. (April 14 & April 21-24) 135 creation themed art and photography images were submitted. A YouTube video presentation is still available.

Terracycle "drop off" at Asbury - 2,311 in 2024, plus 9,044 total Chip/Snack & cereal bags collected! New items accepted include: broken crayons, coffee bags and wine corks. Four new volunteers helped collect and deliver.

Notification of church, community and online events - X-stream clean-up, QC Environmental Film Series, Clinton Co. Conservation Wildness Art Project, National Faith + Climate Forum at St. Paul Lutheran Church and UMCOR.

Offer sharing opportunities to inspire others by our actions - (Stewards of Creation Facebook page)

Updated Stewards of Creation Pamphlet - Available at Asbury Ministry Fair and on information entry walls.

Offer awareness, information and support for creation

AIM May Mission of the Month - Stewards of Creation

1. City of Bettendorf Xstream clean-up Event 4/10/24

2. King's Harvest No Kill Pet Shelter - \$246 and many food items were collected and delivered in April.

Adult Ministry book "A Christian's Guide to Planet Earth" (offered to the congregation)

Asbury Ministry Expo - Stewards of Creation provided brochures and group activity suggestion lists. Forty three "unpaper towel" gifts were given to promote paper conservation.

Initiate ways to be a "Green Church" with sustainable and energy efficient practices

Asbury continued recycling. Downstairs double door weather stripped in November. Stewards of Creation budget \$200 designated for LED main lighting in the Connections Café (1/2 completed by December.) Peripheral lighting in Café changed to LED smart lights. The large window installed in the Connections Café is Energy Star certified.

Seek to provide hope - Sharing ways people are protecting and supporting creation. (Facebook page)

Serve as a "Hub" for stewardship action and documentation

1. The WINGS group visited the Zero Waste Reserve in Bettendorf discovering ways to use less plastic. 1/6/24

2. Asbury's Rachel Circle - Karen Neder gave a presentation about recycling and the Terracycle program. 2/13/24

A monetary donation of \$100 to the QC Terracycle program was given.

3. The Garden Ministry - A winter cover crop to add nutrients; rotation of plants; drip lines to conserve water; raised beds to prevent soil erosion; flowers planted for pollination; a bat and bee house are on the garden site.

4. Members of the men's group helped at the garden ministry.

5. The Ladies ARM Group - attended the Xstream cleanup, selected pollinator friendly flowers for their yards and purchased 125 sapling trees to be planted in forests in need, through the Arbor Day Foundation.

6. Children/youth group made bird feeders. 10/27/24



**For more information "like" and "follow"
the Stewards of Creation Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/AsburyStewardsOfCreation>**

**• Good News • Worship Service Announcements •
or contact a member of the Stewards of Creation Planning Team**

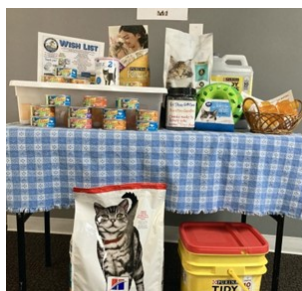




Stewards of Creation



Ongoing Collection



AIM Mission
Pet Shelter Donations

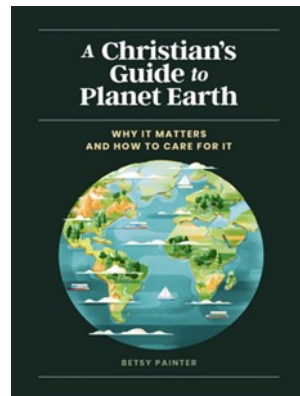


PLANT TREES TODAY

You can help take on the challenges of a changing world through the power of reforestation. Every dollar plants a tree.



AIM Mission
Xstream Cleanup



Adult Ministry Book



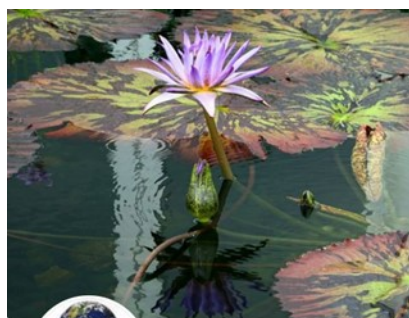
Rachel Circle
Terracycle Speaker & Donation



WINGS Visit Zero Waste Store



New Window
Energy Star Certified



Stewards of Creation

86 likes • 94 followers



Garden Ministry
Pollinator Support



Art Show
Created by Asbury Congregation

Asbury Men's Group 2024

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 at 7:45am on the second and fourth Saturday mornings of the month both in-person at Asbury and via Zoom .

Please contact Cliff Pim or Phil Paulson for the link to Zoom.



Phil Paulson & Cliff Pim



Annual Christmas Dinner at The Center



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!

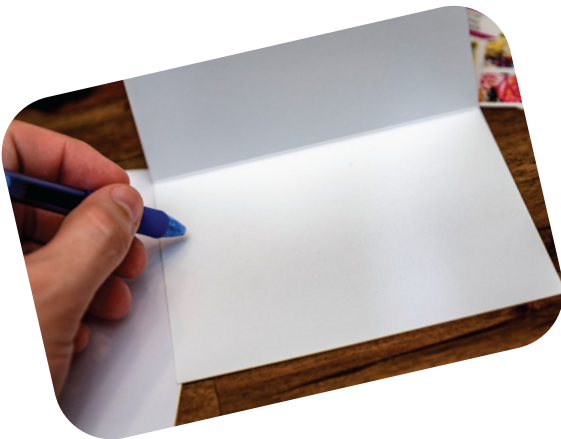
The Asbury Card Ministry was initiated in May, 2009 and has flourished under the leadership of Alinda Littrel, Linda Dudgeon and Sharon Phillips, with the help of a talented and devoted group of volunteers. Its mission is to send cards to those in our congregation who need an encouraging word or just a reminder that someone is thinking of them. The numbers are mind-boggling. During the past 15 years, over 7500 hand-crafted greeting cards featuring 240 unique designs have been fashioned using stamping techniques. Over 1200 Asbury members have been touched through this ministry! Residents of care facilities receive cards celebrating birthdays and holidays such as Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day. Sympathy, thinking-of-you, baby, and baptism cards are mailed. Graduates, confirmands, instructional leaders, and new members also receive cards. **A variety of cards are available for purchase in the office; the proceeds are used to fund this ministry.**

In 2024 the Card Ministry made 553 cards.

Please check out Card Ministry's Facebook page to view every card we have made.

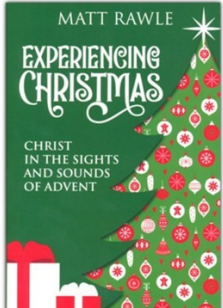


Card Ministry is a team effort. Shown here are examples of their beautiful creations!



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. They are participating in the Advent Sunday Sermon Study Series, EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS by Matt Rawle. That will be followed by another study yet to be determined.

All women are welcome! Contact Sharon Phillips for the link to Zoom.

Hannah Circle

***"Friendship is God's special way of loving us through someone else."** - Proverbs 17:17*

Hannah Circle is a socially oriented group of ladies that meets on the second Tuesday of each month throughout the year. Their meetings are at 9:30 AM for brunch or at 11:30 AM for lunch at a local restaurant selected by the group the prior month. They gather to share joys and concerns, catch up on the latest family news, and share milestones with one another while supporting each other with prayers and positive encouragement. All women are welcome! They love new faces!!

See announcements in Good News or contact Donna Stradt for more information.



Rachel Circle



Rachel Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at Asbury. One of their goals is to support and encourage each other in their Christian journey. Members rotate responsibilities as hostesses and plan programs that could include a speaker who presents information on a relevant topic. Because their mission is to form relationships with community agencies and assist them either with a monetary donation or with goods and services, a service project is also included each month.

**Everyone is welcome to drop in and join the group at any time.
Please contact Pam Duehr or Katie Nelson for more information.**



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.

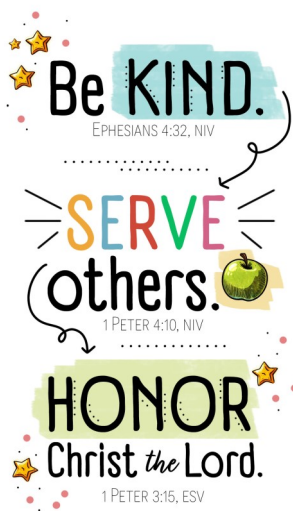
This Ladies group has their own Facebook page. They meet at different locations or via Zoom for fellowship and service projects which vary each time. Connect with them on Facebook or by contacting Stephanie Pim, Jenny Bloomquist, Marian Edmund-Paulson, or Julia Hensch.



Knit for the Neighborhood



Hiney Heroes
Diaper Drive



Green Bean Casseroles for
Christmas Meal at The Center

