

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Traditional Service 8:30am
Adult Classes 9:30am
Praise Service 10:30am
Communion on January 5

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Good News

Our Mission:

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



Volume 3, Issue 204
DECEMBER 4, 2024

EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS

CHRIST IN THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF ADVENT



Experience the Four Sundays of Advent through our Sunday Sermon Study Series
December 1 - 22, 2024

Son of God and Son of Humanity

We are in the midst of the Advent Season as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. One of the reasons we celebrate this season is to remind ourselves of the mystery of Jesus' incarnation.

As Christians we believe that Jesus was both human, the child of Mary, but also that Jesus is the divine son of God. Why does this matter? Because Jesus was human he experienced all the joy, stresses and sorrows of life. He was born into a family that had to work hard to survive. He grew up knowing that life was not easy. So Jesus understands us and what we go through day by day.

But also Jesus is divine. Jesus, as the son of God, can offer God's forgiveness and pardon. He can offer God's grace and love. He offers his very self as a victory over sin and death bringing to all of us eternal life.

If Jesus was only human, he could be a prophet but not our savior. If he were only divine, he could never have sacrificed his life for us.

When we think about Jesus born in a manger we think about the joy of new life. But, even from the beginning, Mary was told that Jesus was going to be the Messiah, the leader of his people. So, even from his birth, she was pondering in her heart the sacrifices he and his family would make in the years to come.

So, in Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, not just a beautiful child, but also the redeemer of the whole world!

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Pastor Tim

✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ Church Council meets on Monday, December 16 at 6:30pm. Everyone is Welcome ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝



tis the season for
Jerry's Jinglers

Sign up today!

Scan the QR Code

or go to

JesusIsTheBridge.org



Bell Ringers for Asbury are stationed at K&K Hardware

Salvation Army Bell Ringing at K & K

Asbury will once again be ringing the bell for Salvation Army Red Kettle donations Thanksgiving Friday through Christmas Eve day. Last year, our ever-growing list of "Jerry's Jinglers" plus other Asbury family and friends collected nearly **\$10,000** at our K & K hardware site (one of the largest volunteer staffed Kettle sites in all of the QC.) Dave and Dana Nichols are once again coordinating our Church's efforts. **Sign up is online. Contact the Nichols or the Church Office for assistance if needed.**

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

ROOTS *plus* **Christmas**
Sunday, December 22nd
at 10:30am Worship

Please Join Us!
CHRISTMAS EVE
 DECEMBER 24TH
 PRAISE WORSHIP - 5PM / TRADITIONAL WORSHIP - 7PM
 (CANDLELIGHT AT BOTH)
ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 9:30AM
 ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
ALL MUSIC SERVICE

all are invited to
REFUEL *your soul*
1st Sunday each month
6:00pm-7:30pm
in the Connections Cafe
 Bring a dish to share Invite your friends
Food, Fellowship & LIVE Worship Music

Join us on our Next Adventure as we worship and serve in 2025!

Estimate of Giving cards are available at the west entrance wall or by contacting the church office.



Bits and Pieces from Your Parish Nurse Team



Just a short note today:

Let's give ourselves and each other
permission to
spend less, do less, and stress less
throughout the holidays
so we can enjoy
the real gifts of the season.

Courtney Carver

Be Well Everyone! Carol and Cheryl



Communion Stewards' Training will be held on **Saturday, January 4, 2025 from 9:00-10:00am in Asbury Connections Café Kitchen**. This is open to all who have volunteered to be a part of the Communion Ministry Team and for those who would like to learn more about this ministry. We will take you through the process of Communion, from preparing the elements to serving and clean-up. Questions? Please contact Jill Vogt, Cheryl Ewert or Stephanie Pim.

Missions

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

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

Several Asbury church groups (Men's Group, LIFT Women's Ministry, WINGS, and Agape & Explorations Adult Sunday Classes) are combining efforts to provide a **HOLIDAY MEAL AND ARTS & CRAFT EXPERIENCE** for invited guests at The Center at 1411 North Brady Street in Davenport on **Saturday December 14th between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm**. You can help with this well received and appreciated community event by attending the event or with a financial gift for meal expenses. Please contact Cliff Pim at 563-340-2722 or by email at cpim@hhsales.net **THANK YOU!**

Thank You for Your Service! † Asbury Doing God's Will!

Thank you to our Parish Nurse Team and all Asbury Afghan Ministry Volunteers!

Thirty afghans were blessed in worship on November 24 and have been taken to indoor shelters in our community for those in need of a warm blanket. If you would like to join this important ministry contact Carol Jackson or the church office for more information. Simply knit or crochet 7-inch squares at your own pace in your own home. (No time commitment or meetings!) All yarn is provided.

- **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.
- **RootsKids**....RootsKids Children's Ministry for 3-Year-Olds through 5th Grade meets on Sundays at both 8:30 and 10:30am. Contact Rebecca Erickson at rebecca@asbury-bett.org for more information. **Adult volunteers are needed.**
- **Element 412 Youth Ministry**...for youth in 6th-12th Grade on Sundays at 6:00pm. Contact Becca Johnson at beccaannejohnson94@gmail.com to receive a schedule, emails and updates! **Adult volunteers are needed.**
- **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 Tim or the Parish Nurse Team.
- **Thoughts of Sympathy**....Our prayers are with Kurt and Amanda Mueller & family on the death of his father and Betty Houston on the death of her son-in-law, Charles Lee, on November 17.
- **Newsletter Deadline**....Items for the next Good News should be in the church office no later than **8:00am on Monday, December 16.**
- **Bettendorf Food Pantry**....The Food Pantry always appreciates your non-perishable food and/or cash donations! There is a basket at the office door and a bin near the elevator at Asbury where you may leave donations. **Thank you!**
- **Friendly Thrift Center**....**DON'T MISS THE BIG SALE DECEMBER 16-18! The Thrift Center will be CLOSED December 19-January 6 for painting. Can not accept donations December 14 –January 5.** They are currently in need of men's clothing (especially hats & gloves), children's coats, clothing & coats for infants and towels & wash cloths. **Thank you!**
- **Hannah Circle**....All women are invited on the second Tuesday of each month! Next meeting is a **Christmas Potluck Brunch at 9:30am on December 10 at Suzanne Yoder's home**, 5692 Butterfield Ct., Bettendorf. We will be collecting donations of mittens, scarves and men's underwear for the Friendly Thrift Center. Please join us for fun holiday fellowship. Everyone is welcome!
- **Rachel Circle** Next meeting is **December 10th at 6:30pm** in the Asbury Connections Café. We will complete our gift drive for the family we have adopted from The Friendly House this Christmas. Please join us!
- **Card Ministry**....**Will NOT meet in December.** Next meeting is **January 8th**. 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 their beautiful cards in the church office!
- **LIFT - Ladies In Fellowship Together**...Details of dates and events can be found on their 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**....Join us on Saturday mornings at **7:45am on December 7 & 14**. 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! **Mark your calendar to reserve December 14 for The Center Meal.**
- **Foundation Gift Recognitions**....Thank you to Mitch Hill for his recent gift to the Asbury 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.**



Two Items of Interest

Two items of interest will be presented at the Asbury Church Council meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 6:30pm. I encourage everyone to attend the meeting to ask questions and to engage in discussion. This is not a congregational vote, but the Church Council members will vote to finalize the items at the meeting.

Dave Stedwell, Church Council Chair

Asbury United Methodist Church– 2025 Goals

These goal statements were drafted during the October Leadership Retreat and represent months of reviewing our progress toward our 2024 goals and then developing statements to guide Asbury's way forward for the coming year.

- 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 the 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 4th, 2025. (Establish Steering Committee by end of 2024.)*
- 7. Strengthen our leadership development programming for the next generation of Asbury leaders.*

Asbury United Methodist Church Marriage Policy

This statement follows more than a year of discussions with the Asbury congregation, analysis of a CAT survey, and prayerful discussion within the Leadership Team. In keeping with recent changes to the Book of Discipline and Iowa Annual Conference guidelines, the role of church leadership is to determine the use of the church property. All decisions about marriage and the marriage ceremony rest with the pastor.

Recognizing any UMC Pastor's individual discretion to perform any legal marriage ceremony, and also recognizing that Bettendorf Asbury United Methodist Church has always been and will continue to be a welcoming and inclusive faith community -- The Asbury Church Council affirms that Pastors may conduct any marriage ceremony in the sanctuary or on the Asbury property.