

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Traditional Service 8:30am
RootsKids 8:30 & 10:30am
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 205
DECEMBER 18, 2025

December 22—Week Four of Our Sunday Sermon Study Series Experiencing Christmas...Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent

The Basics of Our Faith



Following the holidays, as we begin a new year, I'm going to be preaching a six week sermon series from the **Apostles' Creed**. The Apostles' Creed is one of the most basic and simple statements of the Christian faith. You can find the Apostles' Creed in our hymnal on page 882.

Christians around the world and of all different churches and denominations share this creed. When someone asks me what the essentials of the Christian faith are, I often point to this simple faith statement.

While churches and Christians differ on many beliefs, nearly every mainstream Christian can look at this little creed and nod their heads in agreement.

I believe Christians really ought to focus most on the commonalities rather than our differences. For many years I've work in ecumenical settings, and I've found that while we might differ on small things and maybe some controversial things, we all can agree on the basics of the faith and of the need to love others in the name of Jesus.

One motto I've always preferred as we describe our faith is "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity." While that is not an official statement of the UMC, I think it captures the attitude of United Methodist Christians in most things. When we focus on the essentials of loving God and loving our neighbor and on the basic bedrock beliefs of the Church throughout the ages, we will not go far wrong!

In Christ's Service Together, Pastor Tim

Discipleship Team Looking Forward to 2025

The Discipleship Team's goal is to help everyone move along Asbury's Discipleship Pathway to a life daily centered on God. In 2025, we will be offering supplemental reading/devotional material for some of Pastor Tim's sermon series. Our hope is that the additional material will help you reflect on the sermon topics throughout your week.

Beginning January, 2025, Pastor Tim will be preaching on the Apostles Creed. The Discipleship Team is offering a daily devotional booklet with a brief scripture and prayer related to the Apostles Creed. The booklets will be available by December 29.

We hope this will be an inspirational way to begin the new year!

Discipleship Pathway Moment....PLAY

Asbury's Discipleship Pathway has 7 areas that follow our membership vows and this month we will explore **PLAY**.



What do you think about when you hear the word PLAY? Is it something only children do? Definitely not! Adults and children need to play! Playing with others is something we learn at a young age and is necessary to building strong relationships all through life. Playing connects us, so let's get to know each other better at Asbury through PLAY.

What are some ways to PLAY at Asbury? Enjoy a Sunday evening at ReFuel. Have a social outing with your small group. Get involved with an event such as Fall-o-ween or One Starry Night. Join the Garden Ministry and PLAY in the dirt with others from church. Can you think of an event or fun activity that others would also like? Do you like to plan events? What fun and PLAYful event would you suggest for Asbury? If you want to share an idea contact Jean or Vern.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Even PLAYing!!

Jean Black and Vern Harvey, Discipleship Team Leaders



'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 is once again 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.**



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.

Christmas is forever,
not for just one day.
It's for loving,
for sharing, for giving...
not to be put away
like bells and lights and tinsel...
The good you do for others
is the good you do for yourself.

Noreen Wesley Brooken



In a world where you
can be anything... Be Kind.

Be Well and Merry Christmas!
Your Parish Nurse Team
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"

Salvation Army Bell Ringing at K & K – Thank you to all the Asburians who are helping ring the bell this Holiday Season! Special thanks to Dave and Dana Nichols for coordinating Asbury's efforts with this outreach ministry once again!

Santa for Seniors – On December 16th, Asbury "elves" delivered 70 gift bags stuffed with "goodies" to grateful seniors at the Vistas skilled nursing unit (formerly Iowa Masonic.) Thanks to Patti Sorensen, Terri Bishop & Diana Mahoski who purchased the gift bag goodies and filled the bags and also to Pam Duehr & Linda Helms who helped deliver them. Gift bags were also prepared and delivered to Asbury members who are unable to attend regular Sunday services. Thanks also to everyone who donated dollars for this mission outreach project!

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

Thank you to all our great Asbury volunteers who made The Center Holiday Meal a very special event for everyone attending!
Thank you to Stephanie & Cliff Pim, Judy & Greg Gackle and Kristi & Matt Berst for preparing & serving the Zion Meal in December.

- **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 December 25 & 26 and January 1.
- **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 the family and friends of Gladys Bodnar. Gladys died on December 14. Our prayers are with the family and friends of Jack Fahl. Jack died in Brookfield, Wisconsin on December 15.
- **Newsletter Deadline**....Items for the next Good News should be in the church office no later than **8:00am on Monday, December 30.**
- **Bettendorf Food Pantry**....The Food Pantry always appreciates your non-perishable food and/or cash donations! There is a basket by the office door and a bin near the elevator at Asbury where you may leave donations. **Thank you!**
- **Friendly Thrift Center**....**The Thrift Center will be CLOSED December 19-January 6 for painting. They can not accept donations December 14 –January 5.** After January 5, they are in need of men's clothing (especially hats & gloves), children's coats, clothing & coats for infants and towels & wash cloths. **Thank you!**
- **Thank You**....To Asbury Garden Ministry: I want to reach out to thank you personally. I work in development, but more importantly, I live in the neighborhood near Friendly House. There are so many of my neighbors who rely on our Food Pantry, but look forward to the fresh produce you donate. We all know how expensive healthy food is, so, THANK YOU! Cassandra, Friendly House Resource Development.
- **Hannah Circle**....All women are invited on the second Tuesday of each month! Next meeting is **January 14th**. Details will be in the next Good News. Please join us for fun holiday fellowship. Everyone is welcome!
- **Rachel Circle** Next meeting is **January 14th at 6:30pm** in the Asbury Connections Café. Watch this space for upcoming details!
- **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 the second and fourth Saturday mornings of the month at **7:45am** 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 Don Culp, Bob Gallagher, Dave Phillips and Carol Jackson for their recent gifts 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.**