



Asbury Church Council Agenda

6:30 p.m., December 16, 2024

Mission

*The Mission of Asbury United Methodist Church is to
make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Vision

To passionately serve in the world because Christ so loved the world. (John 3:16)

Church-wide Goals 2024

•See Attached

We will be meeting in the Connections Cafe

1. Church Council called to order.
2. Joys & Concerns & God-sightings followed by prayer.
3. Agenda Review for Changes & Additions
4. Minutes from the previous meeting (Attached to Agenda)
5. Leadership Reports (Attached to Agenda)
 - Finance update
 - Estimate of Giving Report
 - Trustees
 - SPRC
 - Worship
 - AIM highlights:
 - Discipleship
 - Nominating and Leadership Development
 - Committee Appointment Terms of Service
 - Visual Identity Team
 - Reports and Updates From Other Leadership Areas (Attached to Agenda)
6. Church-Wide Items
 - Asbury Church-wide Goals for 2025
 - Asbury United Methodist Church Marriage Policy
 - 75th Anniversary–April Celebration Planning
 - Volunteers needed for planning and events
 - May 4, 2025 selected for the main celebration
 - Pastor Tim Reflections
 - Other

Next Meeting: Church Council, 6:30 p.m., Monday March 17, 2025

2024 Church-wide Goals

1. Establish a transition plan to assure we have in place our leadership structure (staff and volunteers) for our new Pastor arrival.
2. Clarify and determine our church's unique mission in light of our congregation's denominational change decision. Establish a process for congregational discussion and eventual decision on issues of human sexuality.
3. Continue to strengthen and expand our ministry with Children and Youth.
4. Develop and implement a Strategic Communication Plan for within and outside our church. This will build on the lay and staff communications and marketing committee that was established in 2023.
5. Explore multiple strategies for church growth and development.

2025 Church-wide 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.

Asbury Church Council
September 16, 2024

Attendance: Tim Bonney, Stephanie Pim, Jean Black, Tom Stelk, Linda Manning, Ann Lawson, Sharon Phillips, Kay Hendershot, Phil Paulson, John Pfautz, Dave Lefever, Vern Harvey, Cliff Pim, Cindy Bruhn, Dave Stedwell, Jenny Bloomquist, Kurt Streicher, Pat Thornton, Rick Reed, Cheryl Ewert

Meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 6:31 by Dave Stedwell.

Dave Lefever shared a joy relating to healing from a major health issue 22 years ago. He is so grateful for all who helped him get through it, Brenda Sherrick in particular.

Dave Stedwell's joy is that we can all be together for this meeting.

Pastor Tim is happy to be attending his first Council meeting at Asbury.

Cliff Pim moved that the minutes of the June 17, 2024 Council meeting be approved as presented. Tom Stelk second. All voted in favor.

Finance and Stewardship

Cliff presented the Finance Report (attached). It might look a bit unsettling because the income is not where we would like for it to be. The budgeting is challenging because the unpledged income varies month to month. We budget based on pledged giving, so when that lags it appears that we did not budget correctly. Everyone can help in this process by making sure their pledge payments are up to date. Kurt Streicher will be visiting with all groups to determine what they have spent this year and what their budget request is for next year.

Pastor Tim talked about pledging and the stewardship campaign. He describes a "pledge" as your best prayerful estimate for each year. These pledges make it easier for the Finance Team to make a realistic budget. He will be using stewardship as the worship theme for three Sundays in November.

Trustees

Tom Stelk went over the minutes of their last meeting (attached).

SPRC

Pat Thornton reported that they completed and submitted the appointment advisory form required by the district. Marlene Corray resigned from SPRC. Dot Crosby agreed to continue on SPRC. They have a full team.

Worship

Stephanie Pim referred everyone to the attached report. She emphasized that there is still a need for more helpers on Communion Sundays.

AIM

Jenny Bloomquist said they are hoping to add some new members to the AIM Team. CROP Walk is October 6. There is a sign-up table in the narthex. Cheryl Ewert mentioned that she and Cindy Bruhn had been approached about resurrecting the Cookie Walk. If there is a group that would like to take on this project as a fundraiser they should contact Cheryl. The Cookie Walk was previously a joint project of Church and Society and the Youth Group.

Discipleship

Jean Black and Vern Harvey continue to encourage all to get involved in small groups. See attached report.

Nominating and Leadership Development

Jill Vogt has agreed to be the co-chair of the Worship Team with Stephanie Pim. Cliff Pim moved to accept this nomination. Stephanie Pim second. Unanimous approval. She will begin participating at the Leadership Team Retreat in October.

Church Wide Items

Pat Thornton wanted the Council and congregation to know how grateful Community Bible Study is to Asbury for hosting their meetings. There are 200 adults and 47 children attending every Thursday. This is a great use of our building.

Church Wide Goals will be examined at the October 20 Leadership Team Retreat. Input is needed from everyone. We will encourage individuals to talk with anyone on the Leadership Team prior to October 20 to share thoughts/suggestions. This will be announced during worship, on the webpage and in the Good News. These discussions will also include development of the church policy regarding whether or not same-sex marriages may be performed in the building. Pastor Tim went over the changes in the Book of Discipline regarding the LGBTQ information.

There was discussion about how to make the giving of our offering a part of worship. Following the pandemic we have gotten away from passing the plate. We want to remember that this is one of the ways we worship God. Ideas should be shared with Pastor Tim.

Asbury's 75th Anniversary is in April. Stephanie Pim and Marian Edmund-Paulson are looking at historical information and items to display. There is also an invitation for those interested in helping plan the celebration to contact them.

The Cluster Charge Conference is on October 6 at 2:30pm at St. John's United Methodist Church in Davenport.

Pastor Tim closed the meeting with prayer at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Ewert
Serving as Secretary for Dot Crosby

Next Church Council Meeting: Monday, December 16, 2024 at 6:30pm

December Ministry Reports

Discipleship Team Report

December 16, 2024

Discipleship Team: We are finishing up our Good News articles about the various areas of the Discipleship Pathway. For 2025 we will be offering supplemental reading material/devotions that will align with some of Pastor Tim's sermon series.

Adult Ministry Team: Newcomers met October 27, 6 people (3 couples) attended and all seem interested in joining Asbury. Five new members joined Asbury on October 27. The Lent Study will be Adam Hamilton's "24 Hours that Changed the World". It is a 6 week study to begin on March 9, 2025. The next Newcomers gathering will be January 26, 2025

Element 412: Four new youth joined the group in October. The youth attended the 2nd Annual Allied Youth Retreat November 8 & 9 at Camp Milan. Element 412 and Roots Kids joined together on November 24 to carol at The Vistas followed by cookie decorating and a movie back in the Connections Cafe.

Roots Kids: The children are working on the Christmas Program to be presented at the 10:30 service on December 22.

Jean Black and Vern Harvey-Discipleship Team Leaders

WELCOME AND CARE REPORT

December Council Meeting

CARD MINISTRY

This group did more of their awesome work in putting together the Thanksgiving and Christmas cards for those in senior living facilities. These cards were mailed to those individuals. Please make sure to stop in the church office to find some cards that you would like to use. You may leave a donation in the office. The group is not meeting in December but will resume in January.

PRAYER TEAM

We continue our weekly reviews of the requests and updates. We hear so many positive comments about how much those individuals on the list appreciate all the prayers by the church members who are on the prayer team. We would like to emphasize that if you have a need for prayers that you please go to the website and complete the form there or contact Pat or Pam Thornton, Pastor Tim or Carol Jackson or Cheryl Ewert.

PARISH NURSE

Carol continues to call on those in senior living facilities—each at least once a month. Cheryl does make some visits as well. There are more frequent visits as needed to those with more immediate concerns of course. The parish nurse team does their best to stay in touch with as many individuals as possible.

We hosted a Grief Share Group for 12 weeks with 7 participants. We presented a grief share opportunity in November entitled "Surviving the Holidays". There were 5 participants.

We assisted with the anointing service in November. We promoted the Afghan Blessing Sunday. We are so grateful for all of the "knitters" in our church who make such beautiful afghans. We hosted the Parish Nurse

Christmas Brunch. There were 18 in attendance. We always hear from these visitors that we have a beautiful church!

The Foot Clinics continue to be filled; they are always the fourth Monday of each month. We hosted a blood drive on November 11; we collected 16 units and had several walk-ins and one first time donor. The next blood drive will be in March.

One final note: we want to remind everyone that the hospitals **do not** notify us if/when you or a family member is admitted. Please let us know of hospital stays so that you will receive a visit from one of us and/or Pastor Tim.

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGEBUILDERS

Neighborhood BridgeBuilders currently have 20 Neighborhoods with Captains, with 5 Neighborhoods still to be represented. The Asbury households without a Captain receive a monthly letter 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 UMC, the **Volunteer 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.

- **Neighborhood BridgeBuilder** flyer is available for all to provide detailed information on the **NBB** program. It is also included in the Guest Cookie bags and the Newcomers folders.
- **Neighborhood BridgeBuilder** Captains' Quarterly Meeting was held Tuesday, October 29th with 9 Neighborhoods represented. The Captains discussed their interactions with members of their Neighborhoods.

Director of Engagement:

- Attend Newcomers and Next Step gatherings to discuss **Neighborhood BridgeBuilders** program and function of the **Director of Engagement** with regard to our guests' connection to Asbury and our Asbury Ministries.
- Organized One Starry Night Event for December 8th, 2024. Approximately 250 attended and I will be sending Christmas Eve Worship information to those who provided an email or home address inviting them to join us.
- Investigating 2 new areas to reach new residents of the QC community to hopefully begin in January 2025. (Checking into a couple of resources for referral for Asbury as either part of a welcome packet or a list of contacts for new residents to QC.)

Respectfully,

Marian Edmund-Paulson, Director of Engagement

Coffee Hour:

- We are emailing potential volunteers to schedule servers.
- Time commitment is approximately 2 hours on Sunday morning (8:30am-10:30am).
- Cindy makes sure we have fresh food and lemonade.
- Goodies are provided and/or can be reimbursed from the Coffee Hour budget, if a volunteer wants to contribute food.
- Cheryl makes sure we have coffee, plates, napkins, etc.
- Teams of two work well for the simple Coffee Hour tasks. With two people, one could set-up and make coffee and the other could take over later for replenishing food and beverages and cleaning up. This would result in about 1 hour of work for each person.

Cindy Bruhn

Worship Report for Council Meeting

December 2024

Worship

During the last quarter of 2024, Asbury participated in World Communion Sunday, Reformation Sunday, and honored those from our Church that have passed in 2024, on All Saints Sunday. We enjoyed the creative efforts of Carrie Meumann and Pastor Tim Bonnie, as they collaborated to bring us Dr. Henry Jones in the Stewardship Sermon Series, *The Next Adventure*.

Welcome Team

Pastor Tim has laid out a consistent format for lighting the candles during the Worship services. Stephanie Pim put together a step-by-step guide for the Welcome Team, and shared via email with members. There is a laminated copy, in the cabinet, in the back of the sanctuary.

Communion

A communion training will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2025 for those interested in serving on the Communion Team. All are welcome!

ReFuel

ReFuel Christmas hosted a Christmas concert on December 1. Thank you to Dave Meumann for his leadership and assembling such a talented group of musicians. The evening was well attended, with its biggest crowd to date.

Tech Team

The Tech Team has added Reese and Izzie Bailey and Stephanie James to the list of volunteers.

Music

We continue to be blessed with musical talent at Asbury, the Asbury Choir, The Praise Band, and our organist/pianist, Gail Baldwin. We look forward to the special music to be shared at our Christmas Eve Services.

Thank you

An exceptional team of volunteers helped with Hanging of the Greens on November, 24th. We have so much appreciation for those volunteers that climb the ladders to place the garland at that height, and to all those that fluff and prep the greens for hanging.

Thank you to all the members of Asbury who purchased the 50 poinsettias that decorate the railing. The sanctuary looks beautiful.

As we enter the third week of Advent, we would like to say thank you to those that have volunteered to share an Advent reading and light the Advent candles.

Submitted by Stephanie Pim

Trustee Report

Trustees did not meet in December. Following is an overview of 2024 activity.

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

Finance Report

The Finance Team is meeting on December 13 and will have a report prepared for the Monday Council meeting.

Cliff Pim

AIM - December 2024

Mission of the Month for October: Friendly Thrift Center

Mission of the Month for November: Santa for Seniors and Salvation Army Bell Ringing

December is Christmas Meal at The Center

Christmas Offering is ½ Mark Twain Backpacks and ½ UMCOR Hurricane Relief

Salvation Army Bell Ringing at K & K – Thank you to all the Asburians who signed up to ring the bells 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 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, and Linda Helms who helped to deliver the gift bags to the Vistas nursing home. Gift bags were also prepared and delivered to Asbury members who are unable to attend regular Sunday services. Thanks also to the Asburians who donated dollars for this mission outreach project.

Rotary Blanket Drive – Asbury, along with several other Bettendorf Churches are participating in The Bettendorf Rotary club’s annual blanket drive. A Rotary blanket drive collection box will be at the Church from Wednesday, January 8th through Monday, January 20th. You can bring new or “gently used” blankets to Asbury during that time and they will be distributed during the remaining winter period to various social agencies in the Quad Cities.

Also, thanks to all who helped to make the beautiful afghan blankets that were blessed in our sanctuary in November. These 30 blankets were distributed to several social service agencies including The Center, St. Anthony’s, and YouthHope in Moline.

Thank you to the Pim’s, the Gackle’s and the Berst’s for preparing and serving the Zion meal in December.

Asbury Communications Plan

(A working document, as of 6-23-23)

Proposed objective: Assist ministry leaders of the church communicate with their intended audiences in an effective and coordinated manner using our various options and current technologies.

Suggested Announcement Criteria – a baseline for which announcements will be made going forward. The more we announce, the less they pay attention/absorb so we must keep it short for greatest impact and retention.

Sunday Morning

Verbal – 3 or less

Criteria to submit:

- Event taking place in the church/ministry
(submit early so we can advertise 1 and 2 weeks out from event)
- Help Needed for event
- Thank you for Volunteers that helped in recent event
- Big news from district or church leadership

Sunday Slideshow – 5 or less

Criteria to submit:

- Same time sensitive and major news as in Verbal with the addition of upcoming ministry Events with call to action / Volunteers needed for specific event

Any Day of the Week

Facebook – Occasional from various ministries

Criteria to submit:

- Same as Verbal/Slideshow but the main focus will be to showcase our Ministry in action.

Ministry leaders upon completion of tasks can submit 1 to 2 photos that best showcase their team members doing various tasks or results of their efforts.

Photos and content should be emailed to Carriem@asbury-bett.org. We will strive to use as much as we can however, do reserve the right to use or not.

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Submit to pattys@asbury-bett.org

Criteria to submit:

- Articles & News submitted by church staff and leadership team
- Upcoming Activity Dates & Details submitted by group leaders – limited to 2-3 lines
- Any Announcement submitted by members not involving a ministry group is at the discretion of staff (based on content and space available)

Deadline (Monday morning of the week mailed) is posted in each newsletter for the upcoming issue and is also on the church website calendar.

Note: *Ministries should never rely on the verbal or slideshow or church FB page announcements to be their way of communicating what is going on in their particular area of ministry. The few seconds that are spoken or shown on screen have little impact compared to a leader who is well connected with their area of ministry team. Ministry leaders should be in frequent communication with the specific group members who are part of their team. Although the verbal, slideshow and church FB page are good ways for major Asbury events to be communicated, it is truly the individual ministry leaders' personal conversations, and phone calls that have the greatest reach and impact for those interested in a particular area of ministry.*