



# JANUARY

## INSPIRATIONS 2021

Greetings: *Pastor's Page*

Happy New Year 2021! We made it! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy start to this new year. This last year has had its challenges but also its victories. Perhaps you have been pondering these as I have. When I look back on 2020 it is with a sense of relief but we know that things are not yet back to normal. Church will continue to be online up through January 10th and then God willing – we will be back to meeting again in person. This would still mean wearing a mask and social distancing but hopefully we will be back on track to being able to be fully present in worship soon.

Know that I have missed being able to see all of you and while doing online services have been a constant system of trial and error, I hope you have been able to be a part of our corporate worship. Even though we have not been face to face, I want you to know that I have been thinking of you and mentioning you in my prayers. I appreciate the prayer requests and I invite you to keep me apprised of what is going on in your life.

Here are a few of the things I am looking forward to in 2021. I will be completing my last semester of seminary and graduating on May 1st with my Masters of Divinity degree. Hannah will be graduating from Central Springs in May and my parents are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in June. We plan to have a big combined family celebration when we will all be together. What are the things you are looking forward to this year? Keep those close to your heart and when it feels like hope is in short supply – let those be a reminder of what you have to look forward to.

Let's use these words from Philippians 4:8-9 to start this year off right.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Blessings and a Happy New Year.

Pastor Rob

**Food for Thought –  
None for January  
Hoping to start  
again some-  
time in 2021**



# January 2021 Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Julie Ritter Sawyer Schipper Brad Grotewold Michelle Paulsen	2 Parker Rogstad Hallie Erdahl Drew Wilder Amanda Low
3 Kelli Lair Gail Creco Andy Grunhovd Shari Sietsema	4 Chloe Ostrander Tiffany Tiedemann Michael Steiff	5 Brett Peterson Tim Akemann Bradley Christianson	6 Tracy Doyle Mick Tiedman Joyce Arnold	7 Bruce Burdick Kayla Hanna Jessica Grotewold	8 Paul Heitland Trent Tiedeman Jan Wright	9 Ryan Mary Teresa Halvorsen-Bjork
10 Scott Nelson Carol Yocum Matthew Heitland	11 Mona Levorson Amy Christenson Lillian Smith	12 Bridgett Burdick Raven Budach Fran Lawhorn	13 Trace Christenson Quinn Cole Christianson	14 Jenny Thompson Toni Erdahl Toni Roberts	15 Aidan Benny Jackie Imler Thomas Burdick	16 Sara Nelson Rebecca Dahn Hengesteg Myra Greve
17 Neal Skellenger Larry Wright Cassie Johnson	18 Joyce Sherman Michael Bode Carl Jaspers Jr	19 David Imler Lavonne Hartman Patrick Mathahs	20 Robin Fredericks Marge Barber Sarah Madson	21 Tracie Walser Harvey Patterson Terry Steinmetz	22 Taylor Kramer Craig Slattum Lindsey Meland Ariah Bode	23 Bill Skellenger Eric Redinger Liberty Paulsen Kale Bode
24 Graham Redinger Betty Chapin	25 Ruth Hermanson David Olson Deb Wagner Mary	26 Vicki Eden Betty Angel Chad Stucky Nathan Wilder	27 Kaylene Erdfahl Wayne Mannes Penny Robb Karen Hove	28 Jerry Robertson Jessi Mary Marge Low	29 Lance Fridley Josua Walker Jean Arrett Patricia Smith	30 Wendi Skellenger Les Mammen Jeannie Vorland
31 Ben Mannes Sue Ostrander Hannah Slattum						

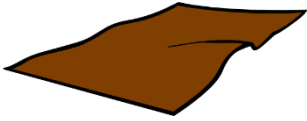


**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021** (The Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday) Across the United Methodist connection we come together to help bridge the gap between church and community by participating in an offering set aside for Human Relations Day. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: all of God's children are important.

In recognizing Human Relations Day, we are called to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.

With your special offering celebrating Human Relations Day, you join with United Methodists around the world, remembering that the size of the table of divine love is unlimited.

This special offering will be received on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> along with our regular offering, *however*, if of our church remains closed, due to COVID-19, we will receive this offering via the US Mail. Enclosed in your newsletter is a Human Relations Day offering envelope. The Asbury Mission Committee invites you to enclose your gift for this offering in the offering envelope enclosed and mail in a regular envelope to Asbury United Methodist



### Asbury UMC – January Noisy Offering

Church World Service has distributed thousands of blankets around the world. Our congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2021. We will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more. Share blankets, warmth and comfort with our neighbors by giving generously each Sunday in January through our children's Noisy Offering.

### LAKE MILLS CHRISTMAS MISSION GIVING 2020

If you took the opportunity to give to one or more of the mission opportunities in the month of December which included such mission projects as: Toys for Tots, Operation Clothes for Kids, LM School Special Needs Fund, Share the Joy Christmas Food Baskets, etc. **And, if you wish to have Asbury given credit for mission giving, please give the value amount of your gift to Rev. Jerry who will add it to Asbury's Mission Together report for the year. Only the amount will be recorded. INDIVIDUALLY RECORDED GIFTS DUE BY JANUARY 10.**

Bishop Laurie Haller's Epiphany Message  
for the Iowa Annual Conference  
January 4, 2021 7:00PM

Bishop Laurie Haller is preparing an Epiphany message of hope for the 2021 year for all the churches and extension ministries of the Iowa Conference.

The message will be presented live on Zoom Webinar on Monday, January 4 beginning at 7 pm. More information, including the login link, will be sent later.

The message and a time for questions and answers is planned for 60 minutes. The live message and Q&A be recorded and made available on the Conference website iaumc.org. Please save the date and time: Monday, January 4, 7 pm



# Steps for using our Social Distancing Media

WORSHIP SERVICE WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ONLINE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

here will be a link to the worship service on Sunday morning.

Asbury: <https://www.facebook.com/asburylakemills>

Northwood: <https://www.facebook.com/northwoodiowaumc>

Youtube:

Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for our Youtube channel: Asbury - Northwood United Methodist Church. There you can view past services anytime and if you click on the **subscribe** button and create an account then you will be notified whenever something new is posted.

Church website:

[www.asbury-northwoodumc.com](http://www.asbury-northwoodumc.com)

Click on the Recorded Sermons tab and click on the button to view that week's service.



## Asbury UMC Christmas Lights

*~ Our Church shines as we celebrate Christ's birth ~*

### Blue Lights burn In Honor of ...

Morgan Young  
Olivia Madson  
Joy Ball  
Pastor Rob and Family  
Richard Hagedorn

Joe Young  
Brad Grotewold  
Lynn Lair  
Char Hanson

Lily Young  
Jeannie Grotewold  
Kelli Lair  
Carole Yocum

### Gold Lights burn In Memory of ...

Jack Dietz  
Gertrude Young  
Doris Grotewold  
Don & Doris Grotewold  
David & Diane Vold  
Brian Marshall Yocom

May Dietz  
Carol Skellenger  
Rev. Don Ball  
Vernon Vold  
Esther & Jens Hyland  
Bettye Bradbury  
Lael & Pat Taft

William H Young  
Don Grotewold  
Pearl & Bussey Lair  
Mabel & Ole Vold  
Jax Calcote  
Franklin Dahn MaryAnn Wagner  
Jay Hagedorn



Dear Asbury UMC

We received your organization's contribution of \$263.26 to Women at the Well UMC. We are humbled by the generous support of organizations like yours who give to keep this ministry going.

We are a mission congregation. The women inside the prison will never be able to fund the costs of this ministry. With less than 25% of our annual budget being supported by various grants, many of which are diminishing during these difficult economic times, we depend on organizations like yours to make this ministry possible. Thank you so very much!

Rev. Beth Harbaugh

Pastor, Women at the Well UMC







**Parish Health Notes...**  
**from Betty C., Parish Health Coordinator**

With the new year, we think of "new beginnings". I feel that most of you reading this have few problems with this thing called FORGIVENESS, but maybe there is someone you know who does have some issues with this at times. Possibly this article will give insight into a problem we all face at one time or another.

**DECIDE TO FORGIVE...**

For resentment is negative, resentment is poisonous, resentment diminishes and devours the self.

**BE THE FIRST TO FORGIVE**, to smile and to take the first step and you will see happiness bloom on the face of your human brother or sister.

**BE ALWAYS THE FIRST**. Do not wait for others to forgive for by forgiving, YOU become the master of fate, the fashioner of life, a doer of miracles.

To FORGIVE is the highest, most beautiful form of LOVE. In return you will

receive untold peace and happiness. So here is a program for a truly forgiving heart:

**Sunday:** Forgive yourself.

**Monday:** Forgive your family.

**Tuesday:** Forgive your friends and associates.

**Wednesday:** Forgive across economic lines within your own nation.

**Thursday:** Forgive across cultural lines within your own nation.

**Friday:** Forgive across political lines within your own nation.

**Saturday:** Forgive other nations.

Only the brave know how to forgive. A coward never forgives. It is not in his nature.



**Congratulations!!!**

Laurel and Isaac Willig are the parents of a boy, Saul Arther, born October 5, 2020. Terry and Joanne Steinmetz are the grandparents.

Chris and Joy Low are parents of a girl, Alita, born November 20, 2020. June Low is the grandmother



**Thank you to the congregation,  
UMW and all who thought of me at  
Christmas. The gifts are much  
appreciated and I am very blessed  
to have a job I enjoy doing. Merry  
Christmas and Happy New Year!**

**Ona VanHeiden**



**Thank all of you, congregation  
& UMW for the gifts at  
Christmas.**

**Karen Hove**

**Year End Paperwork**

It is that time again, we have year end statistics requiring membership numbers for the congregation, Sunday School and UMW. We need income and expenses. Forms will be sent to chairs to assist the office in completing these reports.

Please turn all required paperwork for auditing into the Auditors or church office by Jan 15th. You will need to submit only the following items :

Bank Statements, Checkbook or savings book

The auditor does not need any other paperwork. Thank you



# Northwood United Methodist Church

## Council Minutes

(Unapproved) **Thursday, November 19th at 10 am via Zoom**

Present: Pastor Rob Lanphere, Terry Steinmetz, Nancy Mathahs, LeAnn Steiff, Sandy Olson, Dean Mueller, Bobbi Hooks, and Joanne Steinmetz

Interim secretary: Joanne Steinmetz

Agenda: Use the one from October

Minutes from October read. Nancy motioned for approval and LeAnn seconded. Minute approved.

Treasurer's report by Nancy: balance \$11,981.57. Nancy recommended 2 months apportionment payments to be paid. Sandy seconded. Approved. Also paid 2 months in October.

SPRC: Bobbi said meeting scheduled. No current report.

Missions: LeAnn and Glenn took mission boxes to the InGathering November 7. Share Shoppe closed until December 1 when opening will be reviewed. List of kits in October newsletter.

NOW: Bobbi reported Karen Arhart recovering, Karen Abrahams had knee surgery, and Jon Phillip added to prayer list.

Pastor's report: No in-person meetings til January 10, 2021. This is directive from conference. Please inform him of any prayer request. The services will be recorded. Advent and Christmas Eve services in planning stages. Sandy suggested resending links; will send email. Contact Tom Martin about Neighbor to Neighbor fund article for newsletter.

UMW: Meetings cancelled

Health: Soup ministry suspended

Men: No report

Trustees: Pat Mathahs has gone to bank to be added to their account. He will be in charge of their checkbook when Sandy is in Texas. Dale Arhart, Karen Hove and Larsen's to get together about furnace operation. Bequest account sitting safe and gathering interest. If we meet in winter, watch treacherous sidewalks.

Old business: Bill Nicholson looking at renovating existing building. Estimate came in on new building. Tabled further discussion til spring. Sandy chairs committee; Terry doing leg work.

New business: Pastor asked to leave the meeting. Christmas gifts for Rob, Ona and Karen discussed. Sandy moved and Bobbi seconded. Gift approved. Nancy had to leave meeting, so Terry will give her info. Sandy commended Nancy and Margie Barber on their many hours of work for the church family. Fran Lawhorn is moving to Indianola.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2021 at 10 am

Adjourned at 10:45 am

Secretary Pro tem-Joanne Steinmetz

# WELCOME TO THE BIBLE CHALLENGE!

The Challenge is to read the entire Bible over the course of a year.

Below are the verses to read and in

ONE year you will have read the whole Bible!

Dedicate about 15 minutes each day to spend time in God's Word.

Remember 7 days without God makes one weak!



## Reading Plan - Chronological

Read the Bible in the order that the events happened.

1-Jan	- Proverbs 1-3	16-Jan	- Proverbs 27-29
2-Jan	- Proverbs 4-6	17-Jan	- Ecclesiastes 1-6
3-Jan	- Proverbs 7-9	18-Jan	- Ecclesiastes 7-12
4-Jan	- Proverbs 10-12	19-Jan	- 1 Kings 10-11; 2 Chronicles 9
5-Jan	- Proverbs 13-15	20-Jan	- Proverbs 30-31
6-Jan	- Proverbs 16-18	21-Jan	- 1 Kings 12-14
7-Jan	- Proverbs 19-21	22-Jan	- 2 Chronicles 10-12
8-Jan	- Proverbs 22-24	23-Jan	- 1 Kings 15:1-24; 2 Chronicles 13-16
9-Jan	- 1 Kings 5-6; 2 Chronicles 2-3	24-Jan	- 1 Kings 15:25-34; 1 Kings 16:1-34; 2 Chronicles 17
10-Jan	- 1 Kings 7; 2 Chronicles 4	25-Jan	- 1 Kings 17-19
11-Jan	- 1 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 5	26-Jan	- 1 Kings 20-21
12-Jan	- 2 Chronicles 6-7; Psalm 136	27-Jan	- 1 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 18
13-Jan	- Psalm 134, 146-150	28-Jan	- 2 Chronicles 19-23
14-Jan	- 1 Kings 9; 2 Chronicles 8	29-Jan	- Obadiah; Psalm 82-83
15-Jan	- Proverbs 25-26	30-Jan	- 2 Kings 1-4
		31-Jan	- 2 Kings 5-8



**lease pray for these:** Jon Phillips (covid-nephew of Bobbi Hooks) Marianne Sandberg, Valinda Imus (car accident), Rachelle Hooks, Joan Kvale Christian, Shelly Skellenger, Carole Yocom, our military and their loving families, the unemployed, Iowa UMC Cabinet and Bishop.

### In Our Thoughts...

#### Lake Mills Care Center...

Carol Griffiths

#### Lutheran Retirement Home in Northwood...

George Kesler  
Norma Kay Martinson  
Nancy Whitesell  
Jane McMullen

Sandy Nitcher  
Wanda Citurs  
Rick Low

*(any names added to the prayer list will be kept on for 3 weeks unless the office is contacted with updated information to keep on for an addition amount of time. Thank you. NorthwoodUMC@msn.com)*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## STAFF PARISH PASTOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

If you have concerns or compliments regarding the church, please talk to Pastor Rob first. If you talk to Pastor Rob and still have a concern, please contact a SPRC member.

### ASBURY UMC

2020

Betty Robertson  
Joyce Sherman  
David Taft  
Richard Schwarm

### NORTHWOOD UMC

2020

Mike Bode  
Bobbi Hooks  
Dean Mueller  
John Greve  
Nancy Mathahs

### Church Attendance

Worship   N     A  

***If you have any compliments about your church,  
share them with everyone!***



## Asbury

- 1 Brad Grotewold
- 3 Gail Creco
- 7 Kayla Hanna
- 8 Trent Tiedeman
- 10 Carol Yocum
- 14 Jenny Thompson
- 15 Jackie Imler
- 16 Rebecca Dahn  
Hengesteg
- 18 Joyce Sherman
- 21 Theodore Holtan
- 23 Sue Ostrander
- 26 Vicki Eden
- 27 Betty Angel
- 27 Jessi Mary
- 30 Wendi Skellenger
- 31 Hannah Slattum

## Northwood

- 1 Michelle Paulsen
- 3 Shari Sietsema
- 4 Michael Steiff
- 5 Tim Akemann
- 8 Jan Wright
- 10 Gabrielle Fridley
- 16 Gregg Olson
- 18 Carl Jaspers, Jr.
- 20 Sarah Madson
- 21 Shana Brunsvold
- 22 Harvey Patterson
- 23 Terry Steinmetz
- 24 Betty Chapin
- 25 Mary Christianson
- 27 Lance Fridley
- 29 Joshua Walker
- 30 Jean Arrett



## ASBURY MEMORIAL ACCOUNT

As of 11-30-2020

*Joyce Imler Account	\$2,013.00
* Don Grotewold Account	3,755.00
(kitchenette)	
* Doris Grotewold Account	2,265.00
(kitchenette)	\$40.00
*Undesignated Account	2,125.81
November Int	.41
Total	\$2,126.22
Grand Total	\$10,159.22



RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS  
15th of the Month**



The Newsletter Team  
**WANTS YOU!**

call the office at

**641.324.1557**

*We appreciate receiving  
your articles for  
upcoming church events!*

If you have material that you would like included in the newsletters or bulletins or any corrections to information, please contact us in one of these ways:

send the information via email  
**northwoodUMC@msn.com**

or mail to

**Northwood UMC ATTN Newsletter  
PO Box 104, Northwood IA 50459**

***Northwood and Asbury United Methodist Churches***

PO Box 104  
1000 1st Avenue North  
Northwood IA 50459-0104

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Northwood IA  
50459  
Permit No, 46

Return Service  
Requested

OUR HOPE IS NOT  
IN THE NEW YEAR  
BUT IN THE ONE  
WHO MAKES

*all things new*



# INSPIRATIONS-2021

Asbury United Methodist Church

107 East Main

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Northwood United Methodist Church

1000 1st Avenue North

PO Box 104

Northwood IA 50459

Phone 641.324.1557 (N)

NorthwoodUMC@msn.com

**THE MISSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:  
TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.**

**OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.**

**THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.**