



INSPIRATIONS 2020

Pastor's Page



Greetings:

This month I will be starting my fifth year as the pastor of Asbury and Northwood. It has been a wonderful experience but also had its share of challenges – none like the one we are currently in the middle of. Last month we decided to come back together in worship and this was a decision that was not made lightly. There are still health and safety concerns with in-person worship and in order to address them, services at both Asbury and Northwood are now being held outside. It has been wonderful! God has blessed us with beautiful weather these past Sundays and it is a wonderful dynamic to worship outdoors in the midst of creation.

July is a month we celebrate our freedom and I am thankful we live in a country where we have the freedom to worship God however we choose. Where religious liberties are protected and those who fought to keep those freedoms are remembered. My great grandfather fought in WWI, both of my grandfathers in WWII, my father-in-law in Vietnam and had 20 years in the Army and my cousin spent three tours in Afghanistan. Freedom isn't free! And in light of recent events there is still a war going on over these freedoms. Please continue to be in prayer for this nation, our churches, and our leaders.

I know some of you have joined us for in-person worship and others are not quite ready – that is okay. I will continue to have a mid-week lesson "The In-Between" and a recording of my Sunday's sermon on our YouTube page – Asbury-Northwood United Methodist Church. This way if you are able to join us Sunday morning great or you can catch us anytime throughout the week. I will also be having drive-up communion again this month. Wednesday July 8th at Asbury and Thursday July 9th in Northwood – both days are from 5 to 7pm.

God bless and I hope you are doing well.

Pastor Rob



Food for Thought

**Postponed until
further
notice**



July 2020 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 Schipper	8 Paul Heitland Trent Tiedeman Jan Wright	9 Ryan Mary Teresa Halvorsen- Bjork John Greve	10 Scott Nelson Carol Yocum Matthew Heitland Gabrielle Frid- ley	11 Mona Levorson Amy Christenson Lillian Smith Dan Low
12 Bridgett Burdick Raven Budach Fran Lawhorn	13 Trace Christenson Quinn Cole Christianson Tavi Christianson	14 Jenny Thompson Toni Erdahl Toni Roberts	15 Aidan Benny Jackie Imler Thomas Burdick	16 Sara Nelson Rebecca Dahn Hengesteg Myra Greve Gregg Olson	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 Ariaah Bode	23 Bill Skellenger Eric Redinger Liberty Paulsen Kale Bode	24 Graham Redinger Dale Jones Betty Chapin	25 Ruth Hermanson David Olson Deb Wagner Mary Christianson
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 Hannah Slattum	29 Lance Fridley Josua Walker Jean Arrett Patricia Smith	30 Wendi Skellenger Les Mammen	31 Jeannie Vorland Ben Mannes Sue Ostrander	



Dear Members of Asbury United Methodist Church

Thank you so much for your financial gift to the Wesley Foundation of Collegiate United Methodist Church of Ames through the North Central District Askings. We want you to know your gift is making a difference in the ministry we provide for the students of Iowa State University.

As with your church family, we just continue to provide ministry to our students with our prayers, support, encouragement and guidance through our faithful witness in Jesus Christ. Your gift will help us remain committed to staying in touch with our students through these troubling times.

Our prayers are for your congregation as you navigate these challenging times. May you continue to be Christ to one another and the world.

Again, thank you for your financial support.

In Christ, Rev. Steve Williams, Wesley Foundation Board Chair, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa



JULY NOISY OFFERING – Hygiene (Health) Kits

This month (July), if families are unable to gather for worship and give to our “Noisy Offering” like the previous months, families can receive the offering at home. Even now that we have reopened our churches for worship, the way congregations will receive may not be the familiar method of sending children through the congregation. Nevertheless, COVID-19 has given families a great opportunity to eat meals together or to have family time. Even if you don’t have children at home, you can still receive the Noisy Offering each week. Recycle a tin can, remove the label if possible and place a piece of construction paper or typing paper cut to size with the words: NOISY OFFERING. Or, Asbury has some unused “Advent offering boxes families can use.

They are placed at the entrances to the sanctuary. Then at one of your family meals or a time set aside for family each week take time to receive a noisy offering in your offering box/can. Once you’ve received the offering, shake the container to determine the amount you’ve received. The more noise the more you’ve received over a period of time. If you wish to have a lesson and prayer around the Noisy Offering family time a good lesson from the Bible this month might be the story of Jesus’ family leaving their home in Nazareth and traveling to Egypt shortly after Jesus’ birth. This can be a “Christmas in July” moment. You might use the lesson from https://sermons4kids.com/angels_watching.htm. There are some activities that go along with this lesson for children. Children also might want to watch the YouTube video on Jesus’ escape to Egypt with his parents <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5ptO1NKZfl>. As a follow up you might ask: How would your children feel if they had to move to a new town or country? What kind of questions might they ask about the move? What might they need to take with them if they were going to move? Could Jesus’ parents have used a hygiene kit on their travels? (See list of what a kit includes below.)

Providing basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Hygiene kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition and cooking classes. Kit Value: \$40 + \$2 shipping per kit. Kits include: One hand towel, one washcloth, one comb, one toenail or fingernail clipper, bath-size soap, one adult toothbrush, 10 adhesive bandages, one one-gallon size re-sealable bag

Drive-up Communion

Asbury Wednesday
July 8th from 5-7pm
Northwood Thursday
July 9th from 5-7 pm



ASBURY – WHERE HAS THE MEMORIAL MONEY BEEN DESIGNATED?

- * Imler Account \$2,013.00
- * Don Grotewold Account \$3,755.00
(\$100 kitchenette)
- * Undesignated Account \$2,103.19
- Interest .58 (.33 May & .25 April)
- Total \$2,103.77
- *GRAND TOTAL \$7,871.77





Dear Asbury UMC Friends,

Your generous donation to the Church World Service Blankets program tells people in crisis

"You're not alone. Someone cares."

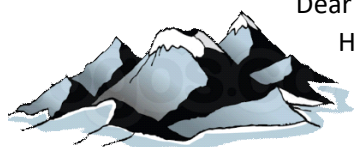
On behalf of all the people who feel more hopeful and less alone because of your generosity, we thank you. Please accept the Blankets Certificate (placed on the bulletin board in the north hallway of the church) honoring your vital partnership with CWS in building a world where there is enough for all.

Sincerely

Rev. John L. McCullough

President & CEO

Church World Service



Dear Friends at Asbury UMC, Greetings from the top of the world in the country home of the

Himalayas. I am grateful for your support of my work with the people of Nepal, even as I am

working from my parent's house in California while Nepal is on lockdown. Despite the

closed borders and limited movement, COVID is on the rise in Nepal as migrants stranded at the India boarder are finally being allowed in to return home. With UMW and UMCOR

support, we (United Mission to Nepal) are reaching out to equip health facilities because maternal and child mortality is on the rise due to limited vaccine campaigns and fear to seek treatment. Email me at kparker@umcmision.org if you would like to join by Zoom for more updates. Peace Katherine Parker.



Dear Asbury UMC, **Thank you** for supporting the Evangelical Free Church of America through your gifts to Frederick & Cynthia Cressman and the EFCA Partnership Fund. We hope and pray you and your loved ones are healthy and safe as we all adjust to new routines and patterns of life amid COVID-19. Your continued support of both your local church and the EFCA is immensely appreciated.

Serving our Savior together,

Kevin Kompelien, EFCA President

Iowa United Methodist Camps presents... **Backyard Camp!** A virtual camp experience for ages 6-15



Hello Friends! We can't wait to connect with you this summer through the Iowa United Methodist Backyard Camp! Don't let summer pass by without joining us for some amazing activities, faith building, and fun! Whether it is devotional time, Bible studies with family, interactive activities, or planned family time, the caring staff at Wesley Woods and Lake Okoboji are logged on and ready to connect! We have a road map to an unforgettable Summer Camp experience! Register and Reconnect today! For more information about dates and weekly

themes and to see a preview of a day of Backyard Camp, view the Backyard Camp flyer and register at <https://www.iaumc.org/camps>.

THANK YOU!

Because of Asbury UMC's support of Iowa United Methodist Camping
our First Annual Campaign raised a total of:

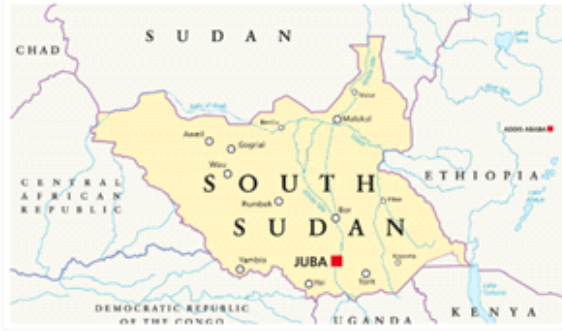
\$165,365

These funds will directly support the lake Okoboji and Wesley Woods United Methodist Camps as we encourage youth and young adults to grow and thrive in the name of Jesus Christ

BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 UM CAMP REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN FOR 2021

Visit: <https://www.iaumc.org/camps>.

SOUTH SUDAN -MABAAN FLOOD RELIEF



More than 420,000 people have been internally displaced, hundreds of livestock have been killed, and tens of thousands of acres of crops were destroyed. Even worse, all of the fresh water became contaminated. The lack of clean water, food, and sanitation has the potential to cause diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, and respiratory infections. According to the United Nations, 85% of South Sudan's population (7 million people) is also at risk for starvation, and \$61 million is needed to respond adequately to flood victims.

Iowa has a sizeable population of immigrants from South Sudan, especially in Des Moines, Storm Lake, and the Omaha, Nebraska area. A new Mabaan congregation was formed by Pastor Aaron Limmo in July 2015 and began a partnership with First UMC, Des Moines in September, 2018. Mabaan is a tribe, a language, a geographical area (Upper Nile State near Ethiopia), and also a community of United Methodists affiliated with the East Africa Central Conference of The United Methodist Church.

God has called United Methodists in Iowa to help our Mabaan sisters and brothers during this time of great crisis. We have set a goal of \$200,000 to be raised in 2020 for Mabaan flood relief. As Iowa United Methodists, we understand what it is like for our farms in Iowa to be flooded over the past several years because of intense rain and overflowing rivers. Likewise, some of our United Methodist churches know what it is like to have flooded basements. Flooding affects our state in many ways. Now we are called to reach out to the Mabaan with our assistance.

Many of the Iowa Mabaans have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 losing their jobs, being laid off and getting the virus. This has hampered their efforts to financially help their family and friends back in Mabaan County. Prayers are needed not only for the Mabaans but for all of us affected by this pandemic.

Not only has COVID-19 affected our lives here in the U.S., but it also has dealt another blow to South Sudanese where they have experienced the pandemic.

Bishop Laurie announced a conference-wide fundraiser for Mabaan Flood Relief earlier this year. Since then and COVID-19 the Iowa Conference agreed to continue with the Mabaan fundraising, but will put this project on the back burner until when we reopen our churches and restart Iowa Annual Conference activities.

NEVERTHELESS, Church members who wish to contribute to Mabaan Flood Relief should make checks payable to their church (Asbury or Northwood) and in the memo line write Mabaan Flood Relief. This assures that both the member and their church will receive credit for the gift. **Please note #53321 on the memo line.**

Northwood United Methodist Church

Council Minutes

(Unapproved) **Thursday, May 28 at 7 pm & June 4, 2020 at 10 am**

Thursday, May 28, 2020 7:00 P.M.

The Northwood United Methodist Church Council met by Zoom Chat on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 7PM. Those participating: Betty Chapin; Leann Steiff; Karen Abrahams; Bobbi Bendickson; Pastor Rob; Sandy Olson; Joanne Steinmetz; Nancy Mathahs and Mary Christenson.

Bobbi, council chair, led the discussion on the reopening of our church during this Covid-19 Pandemic. Consensus of members was we need more specific guidelines to follow before having service in church, which would begin on Sunday, May 31, 2020 at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Rob asked for a comprise due to the weather report for Sunday we could hold an outdoor service for those wanting to attend. Ona will call/email members with this information and are asked to wear masks; gloves and bring a lawn chair. The church will not be open for use of the restrooms or office. Also, the month of June there will be outdoor services, weather permitting.

The council will meet by Zoom Chat on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Sandy made the motion to adjourn at 8:05; 2nd by Leann. Motion carried.

Karen Abrahams, Council Secretary

Thursday, June 4, 2020 10:00 a.m.

The Northwood United Methodist Church Council met by zoom chat on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 10 a.m. Those participating: Pastor Rob; Bobbi Bendickson; Karen Abrahams; Nancy Mathahs; Dean Mueller; LeAnn Steiff; Sandy Olson; Joanne Steinmetz and Betty Chapin.

Bobbi, Council Chair, called the meeting to order.

May 28, 2020 council minutes were approved with a minor change to read Service in Church not in service church. Motion by LeAnn 2nd by Sandy; motion carried.

Current Treasurer's balance of \$17,315.38. Motion by Sandy; 2nd by LeAnn to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried. Motion by LeAnn; 2nd by Dean to pay apportionments through May. Motion carried. Motion by LeAnn; 2nd by Joanne to table the re-opening of the church to the end of June. Motion carried. Pastor's comments on last Sunday's outdoor service went well. Communion elements will be offered by Pastor Rob by drive by on the west side of the church on Thursday, June 11 from 5-7 p.m. for those wishing to partake.

Discussion was held on having outdoor services all summer will be discussed again the end of June. Sandy will write a newspaper article to be published in next week's anchor about our outdoor services in the month of June and the offering of communion elements by drive by on June 11 by Pastor Rob.

Appointment of a new council chair will be done by the nominating committee.

Discussion was held on the replacement of some windows in the educational unit.

Motion by Dean; 2nd by Betty to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Karen Abrahams, Council Secretary



IOWA CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church

A Conversation on **RACE**

Bishop Laurie hosted a conversation with members of our United Methodist family in the Iowa Connection on Monday, June 15. Speakers included Rev. LaTonya Calderon, Rev. Abraham Funchess, Grace Kiboko, Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula, and Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson who each shared in this

time of listening and learning.

This conversation was the first in a series of events intended to help all of us to see, listen, and learn from our Black brothers and sisters in Christ. These conversations are intended to elevate and hear from voices that continue to be silenced.

It is the hope of the Bishop and the Conference Cabinet that by attending these events Iowa United Methodist's will gain a new understanding of the injustices experienced by the Black community and gain further understanding of how to create a more equitable world.

"We pray these conversations," says Bishop Laurie, "will begin a new process of learning, justice, and healing." The first conversation can be accessed on the Iowa United Methodist website face page: iaumc.org. Future conversations will be broadcast will broadcast on the Iowa UMC Church Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IowaUMChurch/live>.



Our Sympathies To...

The family and friends of Doris Grotewold on her passing on May 20, 2020

our military and their loving families, the unemployed, Iowa UMC Cabinet and Bishop.

Joan Kvale Christian
Shelly Skellenger
Ed Monson
Carole Yocum

.....

In Our Thoughts...

Lake Mills Care Center...

Carol Griffiths

Good Shepard Mason City...

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)

Northwood Sunday Schedule

10:45 am Worship Service-N

**Asbury Sunday Schedule**

9:00 am Worship -A

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

Donna Lair

Richard Schwarm

NORTHWOOD UMC**2020**

Bobbi Bendickson

Mary Christianson

Mike Bode

Dean Mueller

John Greve

Church Attendance

Worship	<u>N</u>	<u>A</u>
31-May		19
7-Jun		11
14-Jun		18
21-Jun		

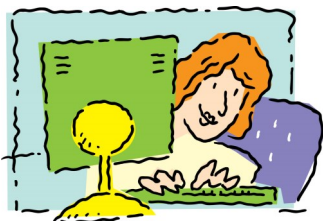
***If you have any compliments about your church,
share them with everyone!***

Asbury

2 Julie Ritter
2 Parker Rogstad
3 Kelli Jo Lair
6 Tracy Doyle
11 Mona Levorson
15 Aidan Benny
17 Neal Skellenger
19 David Imler
22 Taylor Kramer
25 Ruth Hermanson
24 Graham Redinger
27 Kaylene Erdahl
31 Ben Mannes

Northwood

11 Dan Low
17 Myra Greve
17 Larry Wright
18 Duane Carlson
18 Ann Low
19 Patrick Mathahs
22 Lindsey Meland
23 Liberty Paulsen
26 David Olson
26 Chad Stucky
28 Penny Robb
28 Rev Shirley Hoffmann Will
29 Patricia Smith
30 Les Mammen



The Newsletter Team
WANTS YOU!

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

If you have material that you would like included in the newsletters or bulle-

send the information via
email

call the office at

time to
UPDATE



**Have you disconnected a land line in favor
of your cell phone?**

Do you have a new address?

**Has your email changed
or do you have a new one?**

Please let the office know!

We are finding many of the numbers listed in our directory are no longer in use and most address changes are because your newsletter was returned with a new forwarding address. When you are informing others of your updated info, unfortunately we are left out. Please don't forget your church when letting others know your new contact information. Thank you!

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**

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

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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Northwood IA
50459
Permit No, 46

Return Service
Requested

Life is not about waiting
for the storm to pass..

It's about learning to..

Dance in the Rain

INSPIRATIONS-2020

Asbury United Methodist Church

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Lake Mills IA 50450

Phone 641.592.1106 (A)

Northwood United Methodist Church

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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.