



# FEBRUARY

## INSPIRATIONS 2021

Greetings: *Pastor's Page*

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. It is easy to get the winter "blahs" and add Covid to the mix - the winter blues become even more "blue". I am one who tries to see the good in every situation. One who see the glass as "half-full" or tries to find the silver lining in every situation. Hope is on the horizon! We are able to return to in person worship on Sunday mornings. Vaccines are starting to roll out and have a high success rate. Most of our members have been able to stay healthy and even those who have contracted Covid were able to make a full recovery. There is yet more work to be done and we are not out of the woods yet, but hope is on the horizon. I want you to know that you are constantly in my prayers and I appreciate the prayer requests that have been sent my way. Prayer works! If I did not believe in the power of prayer than I would be in a different line of work. I am thankful that God has brought us through safely thus far and will continue to see us through to the end.

This month we celebrate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. There will be no Agape Meal this year, instead there will be a service of Compline with the institution of ashes. Compline is an evening prayer service with Scripture readings and songs. The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise. If there is an address, or business to be done, it should come first. If the service is in church, those present depart in silence; if at home, they go quietly to bed. This is a regular prayer service in Episcopal Churches and different monastic orders who pray the hours pray 7 times a day: dawn, early morning, morning, mid-day, mid-afternoon, vespers or evening, and Compline. Through the seminary I have participated in many Compline prayer services and think this would be a meaningful time of reflection and prayer for Ash Wednesday.

Make plans to join us on Wednesday, February 17th at 7pm at Asbury UMC. This service of Compline will take place in the fellowship hall. Also, there will also be a Lenten study on Adam Hamilton's book, "Final Words From the Cross." This study was started last year but then was put on hold because of Covid. In order to make the study accessible to as many people as possible it will be done via Zoom. Joyce Sherman will be leading the study and you can participate from the comfort of your living room. If you are interested please contact Ona to register and this study will start on Sunday, February 21st. The nice thing about Zoom is that if you are unable to make one of the sessions, it will be available for viewing on the church's Youtube channel.

Make plans to join us for Sunday worship and these other two opportunities. May God continue to watch over us and keep us safe from any harmful thing that would try to come against us.

Pastor Rob

# February 2021 Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Larry Eden Richard Low Jim Hyde	2 Kennedy Mannes Jane Christianson	3 Sue Slattum Geneva Patterson Roger Wagner	4 Neil Schrieber Carol Tiedman Deb Reuvers Mark Hove	5 Carrie Fritz Ron Reuvers Brock Mathahs Barbara Walser	6 Leann Dahn June Low Bill Young Christopher Low
7 Tim Hauge Sandy Nitcher Ivan Fredericks Ashley Carlson	8 Kim Mary Drake Tiedemann Caryl Dahn	9 Owen Mary Michelle Skellenger Jane Podgorniak	10 Domonic Greco Sheila Anderson Cheri Groe	11 Betty Robertson Delaney Imler Christopher Bakken	12 Mark Enderson Megan Peterson Nancy Whitesell	13 Jason Tiedemann Darla Beighley Collin Jaspers
14 Eileen Redinger Tracy Young Troy Low Dean Mueller	15 Brad Mary Diane Burdick Joanne Steinmetz	16 Shana Rogstad Thomas Low Cody Fredericks	17 NormaKay Martinson Payton Wilder	18 Kelly Grunhovd Kerby Christianson Tori Low Jane McMullen	19 Andrew Grunhovd Kylee Mannes LeAnn Steiff	20 Kate Budach Karissa Heath Ashley Fredericks
21 Ramon Erdahl Jon Skellenger Jordyn Hove Marty Mueller	22 Richard Schwarm Joe Young Jeff Steiff Kristie Steinkamp	23 Sharon Matthes Dennis Castle Brenda Meland Katy Jaspers Dorothy Prizler	24 Carson Christianson RG Schwarm Duane Abrahams	25 Donna Lair Joyce Hauge Bobbi Hooks Jack Barber Robyn Wilder	26 Michael Walker Alex Citurs Sarah Barringer Kaylea Mary Allen Jaspers	27 Morgan Young Josh Imler Laurel Willig Gerry Arnold Seth Wilkins
28 Brian Young Scott Stucky Pearl Podgorniak Tom Vorland						



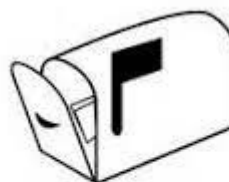
Northwood UMW unit with everyone's help will be hosting World Day of Prayer on March 5th. Study is based on Country of Vanuatu with some foods native to this country— Time 1:30 pm. A planning meeting will be held on February 2nd at 1 pm at church. Please Join us to prepare.

**We also invite area churches to the March 5th World Day of Prayer at 1:30 pm.**

Northwood UMW President Karen Hove



Betty Langpap  
154th Ave SE  
Buffalo Center, IA 50424  
641-562-2052



NOTE!  
ADDRESS CHANGE



**El Porvenir**  
Clean Water, Healthy Nicaraguans

Dear Friends,

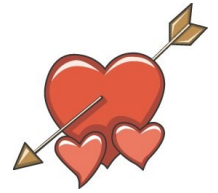
Your support over the years has meant very much to us, so as we conclude our 30<sup>th</sup> year of serving the people of rural Nicaragua, we would like to say thank you so much for being such a vital part of El Porvenir's success. We could not do it without partners like you. We wish you and your entire church family the merriest of Christmases, and wish 2021 to be better brighter, and blessed.

Feliz Navida

Roger Winstead

Clean Water, Healthy Nicaraguans

*Asbury's Annual VALENTINESPAGHETTI MEAL*



*Due to Covid Concerns the annual meal will not be held this year. The meal is to raise funds for camperships. If persons would still like to contribute to the campership fund two options exist. One is to contribute to the February noisy offering which is designated each year for camperships, the other is to make a personal donation to the campership fund of Asbury United Methodist Church by sending a check to Asbury's Financial Secretary: Jill Nelson indicating on the check memo line that the amount of the check is to be used for Asbury camperships.*



**ASBURY UMC – FEBURARY NOISY OFFERING**

The February 2021 Noisy offering will be used for camperships to United Methodist Camps. This is a good time for children and youth of the church to begin planning for summer camp. The 2021 Iowa United Methodist camp catalog can be downloaded online at <https://www.iaumc.org/camps/#iac> . You may also contact your camp ambassador – Rev. Jerry

**Ten Iowa Hunger Agencies were awarded grants by the Iowa United Methodist Foundation for 2021. Asbury UMC who partners with area churches in fighting hunger was awarded a grant for the LM Food Shelf.**

**The 2020 Carma Mohler Grant winners are...**

- Hand of Luke – New Hope UMC, Des Moines
- Greene County Christian Action Resource Center
- Food at First – Nevada First UMC
- SPUM Garden – Sheridan Park UMC, Des Moines
- Fredericksburg Food Bank – Fredericksburg UMC
- Meat & More – Musserville UMC
- Grace's Table – Correctionville Grace UMC
- **Lake Mills Area Food Shelf – Lake Mills Ministerial Association**
- Orient Mobile Food Pantry – Orient UMC

Fairfield Food Bank – Fairfield First UMC

The IUMF extends congratulations to these organizations! We are so grateful for groups like these who do amazing things for others.

## In Mission Together: 2019 Asbury UMC Report

In Mission Together encourages United Methodist Churches to support United Mission on local, conference, national and international levels, through giving and sharing in relationship, to fulfill Matthew 25 ("Whatever you did to the least of these you did for me") And Matthew 28 ("Go into all the world and make disciples.")

### Required giving: (\*)

Did your church pay apportionments? Yes. Did your church take special offerings? Yes

Did your church pay district askings? Yes. Did your church contribute to United Methodist Missionaries? Yes

### FINANCIAL GIVING:

Suggested giving goal is \$3/member for local, conference, national and international categories for a total of \$12/member.

*Asbury UMC has 149 members for a total goal of \$447 per category or a total of \$1,788.*

#### Local Giving: [Goal \$447.00]

Toys for Tots = \$67.61

LMAMA=\$1,000.00

LMCS Crisis Needs Fund=\$1,050.00

LM Food Shelf= \$1,300.00

LM Operation Christmas Clothes=\$129.00

Forest City Elementary Giving Tree=\$48.94

Asbury UMC Mitten/Cap Tree=\$451.00

**Total Local Giving= \$4,046.55**

#### Conference Giving [Goal\$447.00]

Women at the Well=263.26

Ames Korean UMC=\$288.00

Inglesia Vida Nueva=\$288.00

Ames Collegiate UMC Wesley Foundation  
\$144.00

Neighbor Helping Neighbor=\$90.00

IA Conference Camp Fund \$1,200.00

**Total Conference Giving=\$2,273.26**

#### National Giving [Goal \$447.00]

Tree of Life Ministries=\$510.00

Midwest Mission Personal Dignity

Kits=\$450.00

Midwest Mission Student Kits=\$1,932.00

Midwest Mission Layette Kits=\$720.00

Shipping Costs=\$370.00

U.S. Disaster (#901670)=\$950.00

**Total National Giving=\$4,932.00**

#### International Giving [Goal \$447.00]

Heifer Proj. International=\$188.00

Mobility Worldwide (P.E.T.) =\$100.00

Self Help Intern'l = \$131.00

Katherine Parker UM Missionary  
(Nepal)=\$145.00

CWS Blankets=\$142.00

Porvenir Clean Water Nicaraguans=\$327.39

Kids Against Hunger=\$289.00

Cressman's Local Missionary-Africa) =\$400.00

Maaban Flood Relief (#53321) \$400.00

**Total International Giving=\$2,113.39**

**Total membership goal = \$1,788.00**

**Total financial giving all categories=  
\$13,365.20**

### \*SERVING IN

#### RELATIONSHIPS/PARTNERING

Relationship building is sharing time, talent and presence in outreach ministries through local, conference, national and international projects.

#### Local Serving in Relationships/Partnering:

Name Projects & Amount of Time Served & People Served

LM Food Shelf 500 hrs. 3,500 people served.

Summer Lunch Program 252 hrs. 1,092 people served. Community Thanksgiving Meal 127 hrs. 353 people served. KSMR Radio Reading 2hrs broadcast area; Reading Buddies 95 hrs.

65people served Meals on Wheels 46 hrs. 460 people served; Painting home interior 16hrs 2 people served; Elder Care chauffer 22hrs 6 people served

**Total hrs.=1,060 total people served 5,478**

#### Conference Serving in

#### Relationships/Partnering:

None

#### National Serving in Relationships/Partnering:

None

#### International Serving in

#### Relationships/Partnering:

None

## Glory Be to God for

**Asbury's faithfulness to the mission of Jesus Christ!!!**



Greetings from the sunny Southwest. I think of you all often and hope you are all staying well during this crazy pandemic time.

A church nearby where we have been attending in person services had the following article in their newsletter that is so pertinent to our times today. I received permission from the pastor who wrote it to share it in my hoe church newsletter.



Victory Church Crismon Campus  
10115 E University Dr, Mesa, AZ 85207

<https://victorycrismon.com/>

### *Alone With Him* by Pastor Jeremy Walloch

Sometimes it is nice to be alone— to get away from noise and expectations, to hear the refrigerator run, to put your feet up on the furniture, and to exhale.

Other times being alone feels lonely, especially when unable to gather with others.

In scripture God makes it clear that we are actually never alone:

- “For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you.” (Deuteronomy 4:31)
- “The Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)
- “The Lord Your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)
- “Fear not, for I am with you.” (Isaiah 41:10)
- “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)
- “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:18)

Simply put, even when we look alone, even when we seem alone, and even when we feel alone, we are not actually alone.

Amidst this pandemic, when disappointment, despair, and loneliness are at an all-time high, we need to remember that even when family and friends are far, God is near.

So instead of leaving the news on just to hear someone else’s voice, or playing music to fill the otherwise-silent air, what if instead we actually talked to the other Person in the room?

It would be weird to have a roommate and only speak with them one hour a week. Instead, talk with God, right now, openly share with Him where you are right now, and wait in silence for Him to speak to you. For even when you feel alone, you are actually alone with Him, and challenges ahead of you do not compare to the power of the One beside you.



• MAKE ALL WHO ARE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST FAITHFUL IN OUR CALLING TO BE YOUR CHILDREN •



### **Baptism for Chloe Merle Hengesteg-**

Chloe Merle Hengesteg was baptized during worship on , January 24, 2021 at the Asbury Methodist Church. She is the daughter of Matt & Rebecca Hemgesteg. Godparents are Courtney & Brad Moretz. Her grandparents are Caryl Dahn of Lake Mills and Sue & David Hegesteg of Northwood.



## **Lenten Bible Study Online**

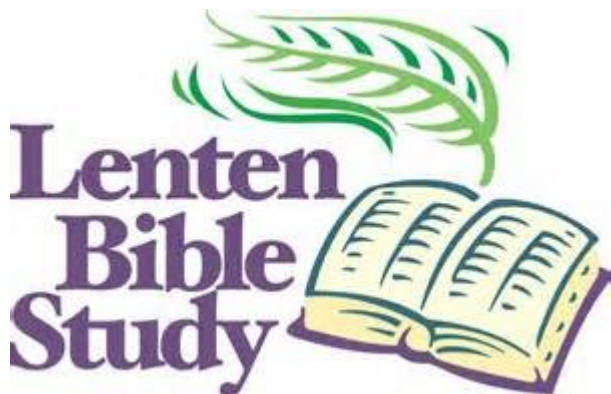
Starting the Sunday after Ash Wednesday, February 21st at 6pm and will continue every Sunday during Lent. The title of the Study is:

### ***Final Words From the Cross***

Please let the office know if you would like to participate and please make sure that we have your email address so the link can be sent to you.

Hope to see you online!

[northwoodumc@msn.com](mailto:northwoodumc@msn.com)



# Northwood United Methodist Church

## Council Minutes

(Unapproved) **Thursday, January 14th at 10 am**

The Northwood United Methodist Church Council met on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.  
Present: Pastor Rob Lanphere; Terry Steinmetz; Joanne Steinmetz; Karen Hove; Karen Abrahams; Nancy Mathahs; and Dean Mueller. On zoom – Bobbi Hooks; telephone – Sandy Olson.  
Chairman Terry called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.  
Devotions by Bobbi Hooks from the Jesus Calling Devotional Booklet.  
Motion by Nancy Mathahs; 2nd by Karen Hove to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2020 meeting as read by Karen Abrahams. Motion carried.  
Treasurer's Report by Nancy Mathahs: Balance of \$11,329.41. All apportionments are paid for 2020. The apportionment amount per month went down by \$327 for the 2021 year.  
The audit of the church books will be done in January by Karen Abrahams and LeAnn Steiff.  
Motion by Karen Hove; 2nd by Joanne to acknowledge the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.  
SPPRC report by Bobbi Hooks our local lay leader. No need to appoint an alternate delegate from Northwood for the Annual Conference.  
No Mission Report.  
NOW report by Bobbi Hooks: Her daughter who works in a nursing home in northwest Iowa was diagnosed with COVID. She is better now.  
Trustees Report: Balance of \$12,196.36. A lightweight scaffolding system was purchased for \$700 to be used in the church. Larsen's bill for a pump for \$576.31. The west entrance door has been repaired. Bill Nicholson will be giving the council an estimate on downsizing the church building to meet the needs of our congregation.  
Pastor's Report: There will be in person church with communion on Sunday, January 17 at 10:45 a.m. in Wesley Hall.  
May is a busy month with graduation for Pastor Rob from the seminary and Hannah a senior at Central Springs. And for his parents 50th Wedding Anniversary. He will take his vacation Sundays on May 1, May 17 and the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend.  
United Methodist Women will host the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 5, 2021 with invitations to area churches. The Program is on the country of Vanuatu.  
No Health Report.  
No Men's Report.  
Discussed the Neighbor Helping Neighbor organization. It has ample funds to take care of anyone in need of assistance.  
Need new brass candle holders for the altar to be paid from the Memorial Fund.  
Nancy is still working on the Emergency Management Plan. She should have a draft at our next meeting with emergency exits and a call list.  
Next meeting will be March 11, 2021 at 10:0 a.m.  
Motion by Nancy; 2nd by Dean to adjourn at 11:10 a.m.  
Karen Abrahams, Church Council Secretary



# 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-Feb	- 2 Kings 9-11	15-Feb	- Isaiah 23-27
2-Feb	- 2 Kings 12-13; 2 Chronicles 24	16-Feb	- 2 Kings 18:1-8; 2 Chronicles 29-31; Psalm 48
3-Feb	- 2 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 25	17-Feb	- Hosea 1-7
4-Feb	- Jonah 1-4	18-Feb	- Hosea 8-14
5-Feb	- 2 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 26	19-Feb	- Isaiah 28-30
6-Feb	- Isaiah 1-4	20-Feb	- Isaiah 31-34
7-Feb	- Isaiah 5-8	21-Feb	- Isaiah 35-36
8-Feb	- Amos 1-5	22-Feb	- Isaiah 37-39; Psalm 76
9-Feb	- Amos 6-9	23-Feb	- Isaiah 40-43
10-Feb	- 2 Chronicles 27; Isaiah 9-12	24-Feb	- Isaiah 44-48
11-Feb	- Micah 1-7	25-Feb	- 2 Kings 18:9-37; 2 Kings 19:1-37; Psalm 46, 80, 135
12-Feb	- 2 Chronicles 28; 2 Kings 16-17	26-Feb	- Isaiah 49-53
13-Feb	- Isaiah 13-17	27-Feb	- Isaiah 54-58
14-Feb	- Isaiah 18-22	28-Feb	- Isaiah 59-63



**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 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	18	19	20
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 						

## 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

2021

Betty Robertson  
Joyce Sherman  
David Taft  
Richard Schwarm

### NORTHWOOD UMC

2021

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

5 Carol Tiedman  
7 Bradley Holtan  
12 Sheila Enderson  
12 Megan Peterson  
14 Tracy Young  
20 Kate Budach  
22 Ramon Erdahl  
23 Sharon Matthes  
24 R.G. Schwarm  
26 Morgan Young

## Northwood

1 Richard Low  
2 Michael Walker  
4 Deb Reuvers  
4 Ron Reuvers  
6 June Low  
6 Ivan Fredericks  
7 Jane Podgorniak  
12 Collin Jaspers  
13 Shirley Vorland  
14 Troy Low  
18 Jane McMullen  
19 LeAnn Steiff  
20 Kim Nitcher  
21 Marty Mueller  
25 Bobbi Hooks  
25 Alex Citurs

## 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)  
\*Undesignated Account 2,126.22  
November Int .43  
Total \$2,126.65  
Grand Total \$10,159.65

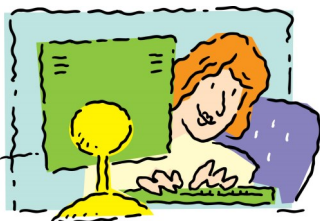


RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**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



# INSPIRATIONS-2021

Asbury United Methodist Church  
107 East Main  
PO Box 4  
Lake Mills IA 50450

Phone 641.592.1106 (A)

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.**