



JANUARY

INSPIRATIONS 2021

Greetings: *Pastor's Page*

Happy 2022! I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a happy start to this New Year. Before I start writing my letter for the newsletter I always look at the previous years' to see what was happening and look back on what took place in the previous year. Last year we were not able to meet in person and our Christmas Eve service was virtual. At the time I wrote the letter it was uncertain if we would be able to meet again in person in January. A lot has changed but much still remains the same – uncertainty.

Last month Melinda, Hannah and I went shopping in Rochester and started downtown. After driving around we decided to park in one of the garages. When I pulled up there was a mechanical arm stopping me and the machine said to pay with your debit or credit card. So I tried to stick my debit card in the slot but then the machine kicked it back out with such force that it flew out of my hand and down on the ground between my truck and the machine. I tried to open my door but there was no room. At this time other cars are starting to pull up behind us and I am starting to get panicky because I can see my debit card lying on the ground but I have no way of reaching it. I yell back to Hannah in the backseat, "Get out and grab my card!" She frantically leaps out of the truck and runs around to my side and picks up my card. As she hands it to me she reads the sign on the machine, "Dad it says to pay with your debit or credit card at the end!" "Oh, so how do I get the arm to come up?" I said. Then I noticed a button below the slot on the machine. I pushed the button and a parking stub came out of the slot. I took it, the arm lifted and we proceeded to find a parking spot.

Now in my defense, when we usually park downtown it is in a different parking garage that is near Victoria's (an excellent Italian restaurant) and at that garage you insert your debit card to enter and insert it again when you leave as that is how it charges you. Not the case with this garage and as I quickly read the sign I only saw part of it and assumed it was like the other. We all know what happens when you assume! We all do that though don't we – assume. We assume that this next year will be better. We assume that the church will go on as usual. We assume that it will be there and the people who have sat in the same pew for years will be in the same spot when I come on Sunday morning. Then we had to close our doors in 2020 and 2021.

I hope and pray that we do not have to do that again this year. I do not know what the future holds but I do know that God is in control and God has brought us through safely thus far and will continue to do it again. It is my prayer that all of us have a safe and healthy 2022. If you would like prayer for any reason I am happy to pray with you. Or if you just want to talk – join me at the Swallow or the brewery or even for lunch somewhere. Know that I am available (641) 525-0871 or rob.lanphere@gmail.com

Thank you everyone for the birthday greetings and Christmas cards and gifts. I am truly blessed

Blessings,
Pastor Rob



Join the Pastor on **Wednesdays** from 10-noon at Swallow Coffeehouse in Lake Mills every week **OR** the **2nd and 4th Thursdays** of the month for Pub Theology at 7pm at the Worth Brewing if you would care to join him for a bit of fellowship and conversation.



January 2022 Prayer Calendar

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

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

Our Sympathies to the Family and friends of Fran Lawhorn who passed away on December 13th



Please pray for these: Bailee Johnson (guidance and wisdom), Char Hanson, Steve Smith (heart operation), Jane Christianson, Jerry Robertson, 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...

Wanda Citurs
Rick Low

Norma Kay Martinson
Nancy Whitesell
Jane McMullen

(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)



Asbury UMC Christmas Lights
~ Our Church shines as we celebrate Christ's birth ~
Blue Lights burn In Honor of ...

Kris Gudmonson
Morgan Young
Olivia Madson
Jeannie Grotewold
Brooke Hartman
Nathan White
Drew
Jens
Ira
McKenzie
Char Hanson

Sue Mannes
Joe Young
Richard Hagedorn
Craig Hartman
Karla White
Evan White
Judah
Caleb
Emma
Eve

Joan Christian
Lily Young
Brad Grotewold
Lauren Hartman
Scott White
Weston
Piper
Lila
Asa
Carter

Gold Lights burn In Memory of ...

Franklin Merle Dahn
Blanche Dahn
Jack Dietz
Lael & Pat Taft
Don Grotewold
Adolph & Nellie Hartman
Vernon Vold
Jax Vernon Calcote

Mary Ann Wagner
Sidney Kvale
Gertrude Young
Kay Hagedorn
Doris Grotewold
Dianna Kramersmeier
David & Marble Vold

Arthur Dahn
Mae Dietz
Wm. Young
Carol Skellenger
Albert & Laura Kramersmeier
Roger K Mermanson
Esther & Jens Hyland



To Asbury United Methodist Church - Lake Mills
Thank you for the beautiful Prayer Shawl I received Dec. 14th. It is so soft, warm and comforting. I feel hugged by God's healing strength as I use it. Thank you all for your healing prayers.
Eileen Redinger

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





The Sunday School kids presented music December 19th. Thank you to [Kristin Lunning Mannes](#) and [Molly Holtan](#) for sharing your talents with the kids so that they could share with us.

Asbury UMC - LM December Mission Opportunities

There is still time for persons or families who donated to any one of the December Local Mission Opportunities [Toys for Tots, Operation Christmas Clothes, LM School Special Needs Fund, Hat & Mittens Tree] at Asbury UMC and who would like the church to receive credit for the value of the gift(s) donated on the churches giving to mission report may give the monetary value amount of the gift(s) to Rev. Jerry Robertson by **January 10th**.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 16TH

WHAT IS HUMAN RELATIONS DAY?

We are all family. When we walk past our neighbor who is hiding in plain sight, we limit the gifts and graces that our sisters and brothers in Christ bring to the table. We limit the experiences, the voices and the beloved community that take place through mutual sharing of gifts. With a special offering celebrating Human Relations Day, we join with United Methodists around the world, remembering that the size of the table of divine love is unlimited.

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 the Sunday before the national observance of Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday. 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. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.

*The special offering envelope for **United Methodist Human Relations Day** will be provided in the bulletin on Sunday morning, **January 16th**. However, **members have also received a United Methodist Human Relations Day offering envelope in this issue of the church newsletter**. If you are unable to be in worship on Sunday, January 16th the Asbury Mission Committee invites you to enclose your gift for this offering in the offering envelope and mail in a regular envelope to Asbury United Methodist. **Let's make a Worldwide difference, together on United Methodist Human Relations Day, Sunday, January 16th**.*

Asbury UMC – January Noisy Offering

Floods. Freezing temperatures. Drought. Earthquakes. Tornados. Hurricanes. A month where the finances just don't add up. It doesn't take much for our normal lives to totally derailed. Church World Service (CWS) blankets help family's get back on track when they need it the most. Through your gifts to the January noisy offering, you stand alongside someone who may be facing some of their darkest hours to provide warmth, comfort and critical housing.



Dear Pastor Rob,

Way too many Nicaraguans drink unsafe water. Your gifts bring clean water, safe sanitation, dignity, and more to rural families. We at El Porvenir are most grateful for the support of Asbury UMC. In gratitude, Jenna Saldana, Director of US Operations.

*Thank
You*

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Asbury UMC-lake Mills, IA,

Thank you for your generous donation of Student Kits, Personal Dignity Kits and Layette Kits. It is due to your generosity and partnership with Midwest Mission that we can touch so many lives for Christ around the world and around the corner. Thank you so much for blessing others through the ministry of Midwest Mission!

Yours in Christ, Chantel Corrie Executive Director



Asbury UMC Choir Robes Traveling to the Philippines. Asbury UMC choir robes were donated to Midwest Missions at the 2021 Ingathering at the Webster City Site on November 6th. They were in turn donated to District Superintendent Rev. Moody Colorado who will be finding a home for them in a church in the Philippines when he travels to the Philippines in the New Year.

UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery

Advance # 901670 Country United States



Dozens of tornadoes recently created destruction throughout the United States, with catastrophic devastation in Kentucky. If you wish to contribute to the “response & recovery efforts of The United Methodist Church through UMCOR gifts can be directed through your church. Make checks payable to your church: Asbury UMC or Northwood UMC and on the memo line write in the Advance number above & country. Mail to your church or place in the Sunday worship offering.



Church Camp

REGISTRATION FOR IOWA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS IS NOW OPEN

The 2022 Iowa United Methodist Camp registration is now open and programming has been developed to offer a summer of friendships, faith building at Lake Okoboji and Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Centers. Visit our Conference website (<https://www.iaumc.org/camps/#iac>) to view the catalog

and register online. Or if you love flipping through that hard copy catalog, copies will be arriving at Asbury, shortly. If you have questions: contact Asbury’s Camp ambassador Sara Nelson or Pastor Rob. Plan now for this summer and an Adventure of a Lifetime. You won’t be disappointed!

**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
YOU**

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

Karen Hove

Ugly Sweater Day at Asbury



Asbury Ingathering mission had another wonderful year thanks to all who so generously donated to noisy offering or personally gave in any way. Our gratitude goes out to each of you. We also are very grateful to the Thrivent donation that helped us make possible 20 layette kits. Our cash total for Ingathering was \$4,214.89. This included 25 personal dignity kits, 112 complete school kits, 10 school kits without bags, and 20 layette kits. Also included were \$237.96 for self help international feeding project, \$300.56 for PET project, \$135.37 for blankets, and \$90.00 for the personal dignity and layette additional items. Shipping of the kits cost \$334.00. We were so blessed and thankful to have so many contributions and many hands to put it all together. A special thanks to all the sewers and knitters who did school bags and baby blankets and jackets. It was a great group effort to make another great year for our Ingathering Mission.

The Ingathering Committee

Attention all



**Don't forget to
contact the office as to when you
will be flying away for the winter.
Let Ona in the office know when
you want to receive the newsletter
at your new destination, or if you
would prefer to receive it as an
email.**

Northwood United Methodist Church

Council Minutes

(Unapproved) **Thursday, November 11th at 9:30 am**

The Northwood United Methodist Church Council met on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Terry Steinmetz; Joanne Steinmetz; Pastor Rob Lanphere; Nancy Mathahs; LeAnn Steiff; Karen Hove; Sandy Olson; Dean Mueller and Karen Abrahams.

Terry, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Devotions given by Pastor Rob.

Motion by Sandy; 2nd by LeAnn to approve the October 14th Minutes as read by Karen Abrahams; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Nancy with a balance of \$18,440.49. Apportionments are paid through the end of the year. Motion by Dean; 2nd by Joanne for acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: 4 sessions are planned for an Advent Study. Advent begins on November 28th. Discussed Christmas Eve Service Time. Sunday, November 21st Bible Sunday; "Kid First" with small groups during worship time. Church decorating for Christmas will be Saturday, November 27th beginning at 10:00 a.m. Location time for worship service will be in the Sanctuary through December. Then worship will be in Wesley Hall beginning January 2nd. Palm Sunday, April 10th worship will begin in the Sanctuary for the rest of the year.

Joanne, UMW President, thanked all who helped with the Geneva Patterson Funeral on November 2nd. UMW Christmas Luncheon will be at Bean and Bistro at 11 a.m. on December 1st.

Mission Report by LeAnn: 27 boxes were delivered to the Ingathering. A donation was given of \$450.00 for a hand driven cart. Our church's total giving was \$5,105.00. A soup mission dinner is being planned for February. A sign-up sheet will be available for Adopt a Month to make coffee for fellowship following the worship service. Discussed cell phone notification to members in case of church cancellation and other items of interest.

Trustees report by Sandy: Balance of \$26,079.98. The Sound System from Sim Sound Video has been approved in the amount of \$36,901.74. This will be paid from the Wilma Groe Bequest Fund. Save all your old pens for recycle and bring to the church to be sent.

Laptops for the Treasurer and Financial Secretary have been purchased.

A church request use was approved.

No meeting in December.

Motion to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. by Joanne; 2nd by Dean with the next meeting to be held January 20, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Karen Abrahams, Church Council Secretary.

Northwood Sunday Schedule

10:45 am Worship Service-N
11:45 am Fellowship

**Asbury Sunday Schedule**

9:00 am Worship -A
10 am Fellowship

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 Regular Schedule	3	4	5 10 am Swallow Coffee House LM	6	7	8
9 Regular Schedule	10	11	12 10 am Swallow Coffee House LM	13 7pm Pub Theology	14	15
16 Regular Schedule	17	18	19 10 am Swallow Coffee House LM	20	21	22
23 Regular Schedule	24	25	26 10 am Swallow Coffee House LM	27 7pm Pub Theology	28	29
30 Regular Schedule	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**2022**

Betty Robertson
Joyce Sherman
David Taft
Richard Schwarm

NORTHWOOD UMC**2022**

Mike Bode
Bobbi Hooks
Dean Mueller
John Greve
Nancy Mathahs

Church Attendance

Worship	<u>N</u>	<u>A</u>
28-Nov	31	41
5-Dec	20	36
12-Dec	24	47
19-Dec	27	
26-Dec		

***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 10/31/2021

*Joyce Imler Account	\$2,013.00
* Don Grotewold Account (kitchenette)	3,755.00
* Doris Grotewold Account (kitchenette)	2,265.00
*Undesignated Account	2,255.90
November Interest	.42
Total	2,256.32
GRAND TOTAL	\$10,289.32

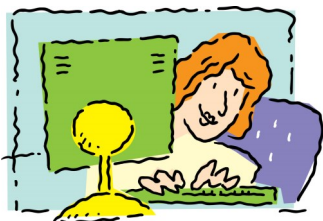


RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**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

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

all things new

JANUARY INSPIRATIONS-2022

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**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.