

As I am writing this letter, plans are being made for the start

of Advent and looking ahead to Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve services are my favorite of the year because the churches always look so beautifully decorated and people are dressed so nice for worship. This year though will be different as Bishop Laurie Haller is asking all churches in lowa to refrain from in-person worship until January 10th. That means that all worship services until then will be online. We can look at this one of two ways: be disappointed or we have a chance to experience something new. I choose the latter and am looking for your help and participation.

I am looking for special music and scripture readers for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve. If you would like to volunteer, all I need is a video of you either playing, singing, reading, or all three (though not at the same time). If interested, let me know and we can coordinate which service you will be volunteering for.

Hopefully, you have been able to view the church services – if not, instructions are included in the newsletter for accessing technology. If you do not have internet, the videos can be put onto a DVD for you to watch. If you would like a DVD, please let Ona know.

As we are making our preparations for Advent it is difficult because we know that we all cannot be together. I was pondering Jesus' last words to his disciples in the Gospel of John.

"Some of Jesus' disciples said to each other, "What does he mean: 'Soon you won't see me, and soon after that you will see me' and 'Because I'm going to the Father'? 18 What does he mean by 'soon'? We don't understand what he's talking about." 19 Jesus knew they wanted to ask him, so he said, "Are you trying to find out from each other what I meant when I said, 'Soon you won't see me, and soon after that you will see me'? 20 I assure you that you will cry and lament, and the world will be happy. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. 21 When a woman gives birth, she has pain because her time has come. But when the child is born, she no longer remembers her distress because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. 22 In the same way, you have sorrow now; but I will see you again, and you will be overjoyed. No one takes away your joy." John 16:17-22

Don't let Covid take your joy! This sorrow is only temporary and soon we will all be able to be together again and what a time of rejoicing it will be. May the peace of Christ be with you now and always and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Pastor Rob

# December 2020 Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Le Hear	D ord, r Our ayer	1 Tyler Gasper Andrea Ostrander Sandy Stucky Bryan Christianson	2 Faith Christianson Sue Mannes Vivian Kvale Becky Johnson	3 Kaisen Mary Daryl Sherman Charise Schwarm Wade Fridley	4 Tate Grotewold Sshipper Emma Taft Kaylee Taft Michael Godfrey	5 Melissa Taft Glenn Steiff Tyce Skellenger Aaron Mannes
6 Anna Budach Mya Peterson Kyle Stucky Ben Peterson Deb Mueller	7 Michael McColloch Royce Peterson Rylan Heath Cody McClanahan	8 Haley Slattum Ryan Skellenger Harriet Young Grace Skelleng- er	9 Char Hanson Paula Harris Jason Slattum Vernon Angel	10 Chad Tiedeman Avery Grun- hovd Carol Jones Sandy Rainey Cohen Bode	11 Jeanie Grotewold Alyssa Slattum Ian Podgorniak Gary Heimdal	12 Drae Love Samuel Erdahl Ryan Williamson Harlan Leverson
13 Pearl Imler Edward Schwarm Foster Hartman	14 Winona Hennigar Chris Heitland Jeremy Ostrander	15 Eric Christianson August Madson Sarah Heath Rhonda Fridley	16 Breanna Mary Chris Rogstad Dennis Walser Karen Abrahams Cole Christianson	17 Finley Rogstad Anna Mae Taylor Sonja Tiedman Ashten Love Warren Jones	18 Noah Irons Daryl Groe Sherrylee Gasper Ben Irons	19 JJ Grotewold Schipper Lyla Rogstad John Budach Hudson Ostrander
20 Marilyn Castle Sandy Hyde Betty Vold Wanda Citurs Logan Ostrander	21 Becky Jacks Roger Hermanson Rock Bridges Jeff Greve	22 Jackson Grunhovd Margie Barber Jill Nelson Dominic Williamson	23 Lynn Lair Nora Mammen Nancy Mathahs Jean Heitland Gary Thompson	24 Jeff Christenson George Kesler Dae Haskins Lillian Young Kim Bode	25 Josh Tiedman Ryan Mueller Casey Tiedman Bradley Jaspers	26 Kathy Christianson Sue Bridges Jim Meland
27 Anne Skellenger Alex Tiedeman CK Christianson Dan Tiedman- Cory Stucky	28 David Hooks David Taft Kenneth Nitcher Richard Patterson	29 Gabriel Rogstad Jill Stucky Betty Langpap Blake Grotewold	30 Shirley Higbee Bryan Arnold Ruth Robb Carol Griffiths Mary Arrett- Brandstad			RAYER is the key that ocks all OORS





# Asbury Thanksgiving Tradition Carries On Thru Covid! (with a few changes)

The Annual Community Thanksgiving Meal at Asbury UMC brought in 12 years ago by Dave & Joyce Imler and Carol Bergland has continued and adapted to the changes Covid has put on our communities with a drive up and take home meal this year. Original estimates as to how many meals were need were quickly surpassed and more food had to be purchased with the final count of around 360 meals (doubling last years meal count). Thank you to all the generous volunteers that help to keep this tradition alive!



4

# Steps for using our Social Distancing Media

here will be a link to the worship service on Sunday morning. Asbury: <u>https://www.facebook.com/asburylakemills</u> Northwood: <u>https://www.facebook.com/northwoodiowaumc</u>

#### Youtube:

Go to <u>www.youtube.com</u> 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

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

# **Report on Asbury's Yearly Budget**

As treasurer, I can report with gratitude to members of Asbury United Methodist Church that we are meeting our budget obligations. You have been faithful in your tithing and mailing your offering in a timely manner. Thanks! It is a pleasure to report that Conference Apportionments are paid through November. The checking account has a balance that will likely get us through December and the end of 2020. These are all good things.

As you know, the annual Harvest Fest had to be canceled for this year due to COVID, and it has been a substantial asset to meet each end-of-year budget, but more importantly, to start the new fiscal year with adequate finances. January is a month of some large invoices, including

property and liability insurance, workman's comp insurance, and snow removal. In March, the parsonage property taxes come due. This December, please keep Asbury's financial health in your budget planning and contributions. Your gifts support our local church, our North Central Conference, the needs of the Iowa Conference, which is the main artery to our broader world.

Respectfully submitted,

Daryl Sherman, treasurer, Asbury U.M.C.



# Asbury Ingathering

# Mission

The Mission committee would like to thank everyone for making Ingathering such a success this year!

A special thanks goes to the Thrivent donors. Their generous donations enabled us to have OUR BEST YEAR YET—despite the unusual year it has been. So many great things came together for us. We had several volunteers

sewing school bags, baby blankets and baby sleepers. And the school supply donations were wonderful. We ended up with 117 school kits with cloth bags, 6 school kits without cloth bags, (Betty Vold was top school bag seamstress!) 30 personal dignity kits, and 16 layettes. Praise God for working in wonderful ways! We are so Blessed!



WORSHIP SERVICE WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ONLINE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!



## ASBURY UMC CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN MEMORY(GOLD LIGHT) and IN HONOR(BLUE LIGHT)

Provide a Christmas light in memory or in honor of family members and friends. Make our church shine as we celebrate Christ's birth. All proceeds will go to a mission project. Mail or bring this form with your check payable to Asbury UMC and marked for "Christmas Lights." Each light costs \$5.00. **Mail to Asbury UMC, 107 East Main, Lake Mills, IA 50450-1106**. Names will be listed in the bulle-tin on December 20th.

### YOUR NAME

A GOLD Light will burn IN MEMORY of your family members or friends who are deceased. Print name clearly. Please include \$5.00 for each name. A BLUE Light will burn in HONOR of your family members or friends who you choose. Print name clearly. Please include \$5.00 for each name.

1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4

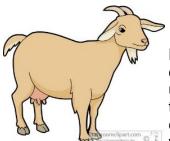
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4	4



#### ASBURY UMC DECEMBER NOISY OFFERING -HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

Ruwaida and Salehe Abdul's family received a goat from Heifer. The gift of a goat has changed their lives forever. Goats are known for providing delicious milk, which can be used to create cheese that can be sold for income, in turn providing a family's children the opportunity to go to school. Goat milk is more easily digestible, and one animal can produce up to four gallons a day. Goats are ideal for zero grazing, which means very little land is needed to raise them. Their natural curiosity and intelligence also

makes them great pets for families with children. Asbury's December Noisy offering goes to help families like Ruwaida's and Salehe's to have animals like goats, bees, ducks, cows, etc.

### LAKE MILLS CHRISTMAS MISSION GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Every December the Lake Mills community provides mission opportunities for members of Asbury to contribute to community projects. These include such mission projects as: Toys for Tots, Operation Clothes for Kids, LM School Special Needs Fund, Share the Joy Christmas Food Baskets, etc. Additional details on these projects are listed below. However, if you wish to have an acknowledgment of your gift on your giving record for the year and 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.

A Toys for Tots collection box has been set out in the upstairs hallway to collect toy donations. **Toys will be picked up** by Lake Mills "Toys for Tots" representatives **December 14th.** Because of COVID there will be no "Toys for Tots" Christmas Party this year. **Distribution of the toys** will be done at Mason City Salvation Army 747 Village Green Dr (across from Menards) **by appointment only** the week of December 14-18. Applications for appointments can be made by calling the Mason City Salvation Army at 641-424-4031 or 1-800-725- 2769.





## LM OPERATION CLOTHES FOR KIDS

Asbury will have a Christmas tree in the North hallway near the elevator where persons can pick up a Christmas tag. This year both electronic and physical tags will be available starting Saturday, November 21st. For electronic sign-up go to: tinyurl.com/LMClothesForKids

Just in time for all those Black Friday deals! This year each child's requests have been divided into two tags. One for clothing and other for shoes and socks. This is an effort to keep cost affordable for the givers and be able to provide for the child's needs. Purchase the items on the child's tag, wrap in one box, attach the original tag to the gift, and deliver/return to Asbury UMC. **Gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.** Feel free to join together in order to share the cost of a tag(s). Cash donations are accepted at the banks or send to the LMCS Nurse's Office, 102 S 4th Avenue E, Lake Mills, IA 50450. Gifts to Operation Clothes for Kids by Asbury counts as local mission giving.



## SHARE THE JOY CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Each Christmas the Lake Mills Area Ministerial Association with the help of an area 4H chapter pack Christmas Food Baskets for area families who are food insecure. The baskets include foods every family can use during the holiday season. If you wish to donate to the Christmas Food Basket program, you may mail a check made out to the LM Food Shelf and on the memo line "Share the Joy". Gifts may be sent through your church or directly to the LM Food Shelf treasurer. Address envelopes: c/o Rev. Jerry E.

Robertson, 506 N. Washington St. Lake Mills, IA 50450

The Lake Mills Food Shelf will be distributing free the annual Christmas Food Baskets on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 2 – 5 pm at the Food Shelf in the basement of the LM Senior Center.

## LM SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS FUND

Some Asbury members have wished to contribute to the LM School Special Needs Fund. The Fund meets a variety of special needs by LM students, such as new clothes, lodging, doctor's visit, etc. This fund is operated by the Lake Mills School nurse, Joan Krull and managed by the Lake Mills Area Ministerial Association (LMAMA). The best way to handle gifts from church members is for the member to make the check payable to Asbury UMC and on the memo line put LM School Special Needs Fund. Since Daryl Sherman is the treasurer for both Asbury and LMAMA, he will transfer the money from one account to another and both the gift giver and the church will be given credit for the gift.

## HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES, ETC FOR CHRISTMAS

Each Christmas the Asbury United Methodist Women sponsor a "Hat & Glove" Tree in the upstairs hallway of the church. Members are invited to contribute warm winter ware for LM School children. The winter ware is given to Joan Krull the school nurse to distribute throughout the winter months to children as the need arises. Members can place there gifts of hats, gloves, scarves, etc. on the Christmas tree throughout the month of December.



## How many persons does it take to make a difference?

Only one...YOU!!! You can make a difference in your community. The Lake Mills Food Shelf, a program of the Lake Mills Area Ministerial Association, is searching for persons, like you, to make a difference as a



volunteer in our community once a month to bag groceries ordered by our shoppers at the Food Shelf each Monday, from 2-5 p.m. We also need volunteers with strong arms and backs to help us unload the delivery of food by the Food Bank of Iowa on the first Tuesday of each month usually for approximately 40 minutes between the hours of 10:30am – 12pm. If you wish to make a difference in persons lives as a volunteer at the LM Food Shelf, please phone Rev. Jerry Robertson 641-592-4484 or email: jrobrtsn@wctatel.net



### UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

One of the special Sundays authorized by the General Conference to be observed with an offering on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The purpose of United Methodist Student Day is to call upon the denomination to support United Methodist students as they prepare for life by adding knowledge to their faith. The funds received from the offering go into the United Methodist Student Loan Fund to underwrite scholarships for United Methodist students.

The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Your gifts on this Special Sunday go toward scholarship funds to help build leaders for tomorrow's church.

This special offering was to be received on November 29th, however with the closure of our church, due to COVID-19, our church was unable to receive this vital offering for college student loans and grants through our United Methodist Church. Enclosed in your bulletin is a United Methodist Student Day Sunday offering envelope. The Asbury Mission Committee invites you to enclose your gift forum Student Day Sunday in this envelope and mail in a regular envelope to Asbury United Methodist Church, 107 E. Main St., Lake Mills, IA 50450.

#### OUR 2020 - 2021 ASBURY UMC COLLEGE STUDENTS\*

Raven Budach NIACC – Mason City, IA Gabe Irons Bethel University – St. Paul, MN Ashten Love Iowa State University - Ames, Iowa Drae Love

NIACC – Mason City, IA Nick Raaen Iowa Lake Community college – Estherville, IA Parker Rogstad

NIACC - Mason City, IA

Breanne Marv

Kavlea Marv

Iowa Lake Community College – Estherville, IA University of Northern Iowa – Cedar Falls, IA \*The above students are currently enrolled in the college listed under their name. If you know of others, please contact Kathy Christianson or Rev. Jerry.

Rev. Joan Audrey. (Lent) Skyrme, 88, of Belmond, passed away on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at the Rehabilitation Center. Rev. Skyrme served four years with the Lake Mills and Thompson United Methodist Churches, from 1988-1992

# Parish Health Notes...

### Merry Christmas from Betty C., Parish Health Coordinator

In preparing for my winter trip away, I have been trying to de-clutter a some places, drawers of things in my life, and ran across this beautiful printed piece that was sent to me from a friend in a neighboring Public Health office, long years ago. I think many of you will enjoy the thoughts, and will easily see why I have kept it.

WHAT IS A GRANDMOTHER? (written by a Third Grader) A Grandmother is a lady who has no little children of her own. She likes other peoples'. A Grandfather is a man Grandmother. Grandmothers don't have to do anything except be there. They are old, so they shouldn't play hard or run. It is enough if they drive us to the market and have lots of dimes ready. When they take us for walks, they slow down past pretty things like leaves and butterflies. They never say "hurry up." Usually Grandmothers are fat; but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out. Grandmothers don't have to be smart, only answer questions like "Why isn't God married? and how come dogs chase cats ?" When they read to us, they don't skip pages, or

mind if we ask for the same story over again. Everybody should try to have a Grandmother, especially if vou don't have TV.

Because they are the only grownups who have time. 8





# 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!



2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21-

# Reading Plan - Chronological Read the Bible in the order that the events happened.

1-Dec Psalm 106-107	11-Dec 2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Chronicles 20	21-Dec 22-Dec	22; Psalm 30 Psalm 108-110
2 Samuel 5:11-25; 2 Samuel 2-Dec 6:1-23; 1 Chronicles 13-16	12-Dec Psalm 32, 51, 86, 122	23-Dec	1 Chronicles 23-25
3-Dec Psalm 1-2, 15, 22-24, 47, 68	13-Dec 2 Samuel 13-15	24-Dec	Psalm 131, 138-139, 143-145
Psalm 89, 96, 100, 101, 105,	14-Dec Psalm 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55		1 Chronicles 26-29; Psalm
4-Dec 132	15-Dec 2 Samuel 16-18	25-Dec	127
5-Dec 2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17	16 Dec Decky 26, 40, 50, 64, 62, 64	26-Dec	Psalm 111-118
6-Dec Psalm 25, 29, 33, 36, 39	16-Dec Psalm 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64	27-Dec	1 Kings 1-2; Psalm 37, 71, 94
7-Dec 2 Samuel 8-9; 1 Chronicles 18	17-Dec 2 Samuel 19-21	28-Dec	Psalm 119:1-88
8-Dec Psalm 50, 53, 60, 75	18-Dec Psalm 5, 38, 41-42		1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chronicles 1;
2 Sam10; 1 Chronicles 19;	19-Dec 2 Samuel 22-23; Psalm 57	29-Dec	Psalm 72
9-Dec Psalm 20		30-Dec	Psalm 119:89-176
10-Dec Psalm 65-67, 69-70	20-Dec Psalm 95, 97-99	31-Dec	Song of Solomon 1-8



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 Nancv 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?



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	Christmas Eve Norship 31	- * Mersy * Christmas	

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
<u>2020</u>
Betty Robertson
Joyce Sherman
David Taft
Donna Lair
Richard Schwarm

### NORTHWOOD UMC

<u>2020</u> Mary Christianson Mike Bode Dean Mueller John Greve Bobbi Hooks

Church Attendance					
Worship	<u>N</u>	A			

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



# Asbury

- 3 Sue Mannes
- 4 Daryl Sherman
- 4 Emma Grace Taft
- 4 Kaylee Ann Taft
- 5 Royce Peterson
- 5 Mya Peterson
- 6 Ryan Skellenger
- 10 Avery Grunhovd
- 13 Frederick Holtan
- 14 Pastor Rob
- 16 Christopher Rogstad
- 17 Finley Rogstad
- 21 Marilyn Castle
- 22 Roger Hermanson
- 22 Jackson Grunhovd
- 23 Lynn Lair
- Northwood 1 Bryan Christianson 1 Trent Akemann 9 Paula Harris 16 August Madson 16 **Dennis Walser** Anna Mae Taylor 17 20 Sandy Hyde 23 Nancy Mathahs 25 **Ryan Mueller** 28 **David Hooks** 29 Jill Stucky 29 Bryan Arnold 31 Ruth Robb

ASBURY MEMORIAL ACCOUNT As of 10-31-2020

Joyce Imler Accoount \$2,013.00 Donald Grotewold Acccount 3,755.00 (kitchenette) Doris Grotewold Account 2,225.00 (kitchenette) Undesignated Account 2,105.38 20.00 Rob's GF .43 Oct Int. Total 2,125.81 GRAND TOTAL \$10,118.81

United Methodist Women FAITH-HOPE-LOVE IN ACTION

Northwood UMW Christmas Gathering

Tuesday, December 1st

Cancelled due to Covid restrictions

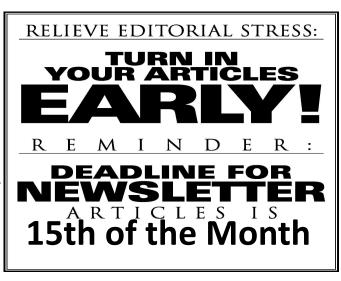




call the office at

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

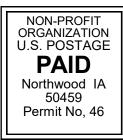
or mail to
Northwood UMC ATTN Newsletter

PO Box 104, Northwood IA 50459

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#### Northwood and Asbury United Methodist Churches

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



Return Service Requested



Each of us is an *Innkeeper* who decides if there is room for <u>Jesus</u> .Neal A Maxwel



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.