

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 6

Action at Asbury



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Pastor's Pondering



Epiphany is a time of new beginnings in the Light of Christ. As disciples of Christ, we are called to reflect that light in all that we do and in who we are in this world. Different from mainstream fads, fashions, and falsehoods, we are to recognize the Immanuel, "God with us" as the constant source of renewal. John Wesley called this sanctifying relationship with Grace the last stage of spiritual development. I invite you to learn more about our Methodist roots by participating in the Wesleyan study on Fridays at 12:30 pm on January 9, 16, and 23 for a lively discussion!

One practical and essential way to stay in the Light of Christ and to remain in Christ is to pray without ceasing. You are invited to participate in the weekly Zoom Video-conferencing Prayer Group on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. Stay in the comfort of your home to interact with siblings of Jesus to pray for Asbury, the community, the nation, and all people on Earth. If you need help to learn how to use Zoom on your phone, laptop or computer, please let me know. It's simple and very accessible for anyone to participate!

May you and yours soak in the light of Christ this new year. Reflect the mercy and grace of our Savior in ways that help you and others to grow in God's sacred gift of Love. In Christ's Love, Pastor Jill

"All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it."

John 1:3-5



January Worship Schedule and Themes

Sunday, January 4, 2026: [Epiphany](#)

“The Light of the World”

Sunday, January 11, 2026

“Being Worthy in Christ”

Sunday, January 18, 2026

“God’s Glory Among Us”

Sunday, January 25, 2026

“Called to Bear Light”

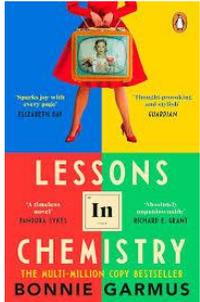


Youth Group Sunday, Dec. 7

We had a small but fun group for the 5 - 8 and High School youth group meetings. The groups spent time getting to know each other, answering "favorite" Christmas related questions. The High School group also made graham cracker houses, lots of creativity! Looking forward to our future meetings and activities!



Reading by the Brook



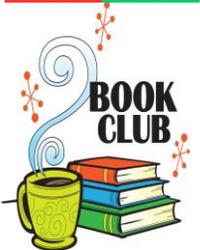
Asbury Book Club will be reading:
Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

We will meet for our January book discussion on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 4:30 pm at Asbury.

The Asbury Book Club will be discussing Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Lessons in Chemistry is a story about Elizabeth Zott, a brilliant chemist in the 1960s, who becomes a reluctant star of a popular cooking show after being fired from her lab. A blend of historical fiction and humor, the book follows Zott as she uses her scientific approach to cooking to empower housewives and challenge the status quo. The book was adapted into a miniseries for Apple TV in 2023.

Readers who are interested in joining us are welcome!

For more information contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) rkdahlke@yahoo.com

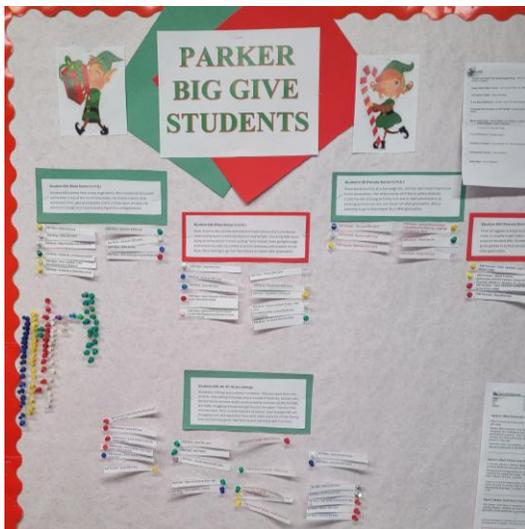


Ministry Matters Moments: Thank you for your generous giving to our December focus on the **Parker HS Big Give** and the **Elementary schools of Lincoln, Jackson, and Harrison**, in need of warm winter mittens and hats. Our January Ministry Matters will focus on **The Bucket Challenge**. **You can read more about this on page 9**

ECHO Community Dinner Wrap-Up: On Saturday, November 29, there was a snowstorm that swept across the state of Wisconsin. As a result, the ECHO Community Dinner was cancelled. At 9:15 am when news reached Asbury UMC liaison, Dave Figi, the ReThink Church Team (with the help of Mike & Jan Diers, and Abbi) had to think fast! What do we do with all the donations?! The team quickly decided how to utilize the offerings.

The cookies were set aside for Christmas Caroling to a total of 15 trays of cookies to distribute to the Homebound members of Asbury UMC. Some of the cookies were also given to support the GIFTS Men’s Shelter, (Jeff Quarna did special deliveries!) along with the leftover salad and rolls donated by Texas Roadhouse of Janesville. The rest of the salad, buns, and cookies were sold to friends and members of Asbury UMC on Sunday morning: \$170 for ECHO!

The leftover spaghetti noodles and sauce will be used for a fundraiser in February, sponsored by the now rebranded “Ministry Matters” to support the needs of the general fund, and to collect donations of diapers for the Pregnancy Resource Center of Janesville. Stay tuned for more information...it has something to do with LUVS & HUGS. Praise God for awesome stewardship and generosity of Asbury UMC! I am grateful to serve a well-oiled mission ministry! Blessings in Jesus, Pastor Jill 😊



Tacks on the left side of the picture in rows are all the gifts that our generous members filled.

GIFTS

Jeff will be hosting the GIFTS dinner on Sunday, January 18, and on Monday, January 19.

Jeff also signed up for Feb. 19, March 19, and April 19, 2026.



Days: Wednesday
Evenings
Time: 5:30 PM
Starting Jan. 7, 2026



DATE: January 1 thru March 31, 2026

PRICE: FREE Event

TIME: During working hours

LOCATION: Hedberg Library

January will showcase:

Watercolor & Acrylic by Rhonda Dorn

Model Train Display by WIS-ILL Modular Train Group

February will showcase:

Mixed Media by the School District of Janesville Art Students

March will showcase:

Watercolors by Teresa Nguyen

Acrylics & Colored Pencil by Aaliyah Hatcher

Oils & Acrylics by Devin Schuyler

DATE: January 3

PRICE: FREE Event

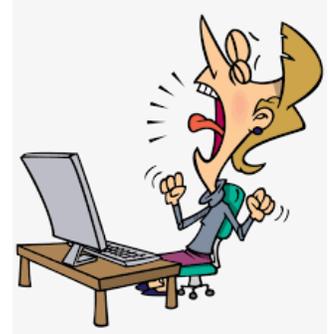
TIME: 9-11 AM

LOCATION: Hedberg Library

Are you into wood carving? Then swing by the Hedberg Library to watch a free Wood Carving Demo.

Today's Technology Hints for the Wise:

Social media got you in a bad mood? Has cell phone switching got you stumped. Is Internet access too scary? Are you having difficulty texting photos from your cell phone? Stay tuned for a class to be offered at Asbury UMC to help those looking for less frustration using a cell phone, a tablet or computer/laptop!



CPR/First Aid Training:

As part of Asbury's policy and procedures for Safe Sanctuary, we need several volunteers from the congregation to train for and be available as needed in a life-threatening medical emergency during church-sponsored events. Bill Ruchti has set up a resource for us to train as a group from Asbury UMC. Please sign up if you are willing and able to train/retrain in CPR, use an AED, and first aid. The cost is \$70 but let Pastor Jill know if you need help to cover the cost. Once we have a group ready to train, we will choose a time and date. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please contact Bill or Pastor Jill for additional questions. Thank you!



HealthNet of Rock County

On November 24, 2025, HealthNet received \$1,165.79 in donations from Asbury UMC. Your support brings health & hope to our community. Thank you,

Kerry Swanson
Chief Executive Officer
Healthnet of Rock Co. Inc.

THANK YOU
FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

ECHO Community Meal Team

We would like to send a big Thank You out to all those who helped bake cookies for us.

November saw income of \$19,998.81 and expenses of \$13,272.73
Unrestricted Net Assets is at (\$12,509.49)

Missions
HealthNet \$1165.79

Thank you for your generosity

Julie Polzin, Asbury Bookkeeper
asburybookkeeper@charter.net



Peggy found Moses!!

Moses has been hidden again so good luck in your search.
Remember to send the church or Amy a picture of you finding Moses before you move him for the next lucky person. 😊

Our hat and mitten tree with The Parker Big Give during 2025!
Our mitten, socks, and hat donations go to Lincoln & Jackson Elementary Schools.





Yoga---in a chair?? YES!!

Whether or not you have made a New Year's resolution to improve your health, then Chair Yoga could be for you.

Chair Yoga is a gentle exercise for anyone, male or female, done with a chair for sitting, and standing beside it or behind it while holding onto it, depending on the exercise. While doing this, you work at your own pace and only do what your body is telling you that you are capable of doing.

By doing the core work, your balance will improve, which helps overall health.

We have a Yoga instructor willing to come to Asbury on a weekly basis beginning in February, to work with anyone willing to improve in these areas. You will have fun and maybe make new friends in the process. The cost is free if you are a member of Silver Sneakers, or a mere \$3 per week on Tuesday afternoons, from 12:30 – 1:30 PM. Don't forget to bring your water bottle, weights and strap/belt.

Please let Diane Bundy, Pat Spors or Pastor Jill know if you are interested in learning something new. We would love to have you join in the fun.



There is a huge blood shortage in the US. Please consider completing the blood drive survey for the **American Red Cross** in order that Asbury may at some point in the future host a blood drive for the community and congregation making it more convenient to do so. Even if you have never donated before, but are considering the possibility, please complete the survey. Thank you for considering helping to save lives.

Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/r/A0v5THMGc6>



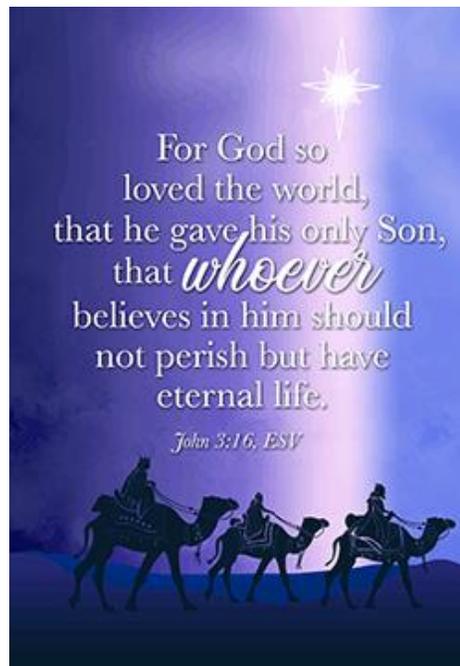
Card Making from November 2025.
11 gals worked on cards.
Bless their hearts.



Stitching Group had
Cookies & fudge while stitching today
12/17/25.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

December 12, 2025
Woodman's Janesville Location
1 Door covered & 8 Volunteers





The Ministry Matters Moments has been a time during worship set aside to share the ways we do mission and outreach for any given month. Asbury has been blessed by the support of your giving to the ministries chosen by the Rethink Church Team. To better understand what Rethink Church is about, we decided to change our title to **Ministry Matters** starting in January.

God calls us to be in mission and ministries reaching out to others. We will continue to choose charities to donate to both locally, statewide, through the conference, and nationally.

The Rainbow Covenant (now renamed (The Mosaic) has been awarded to Asbury for their giving above and beyond their local pledge.

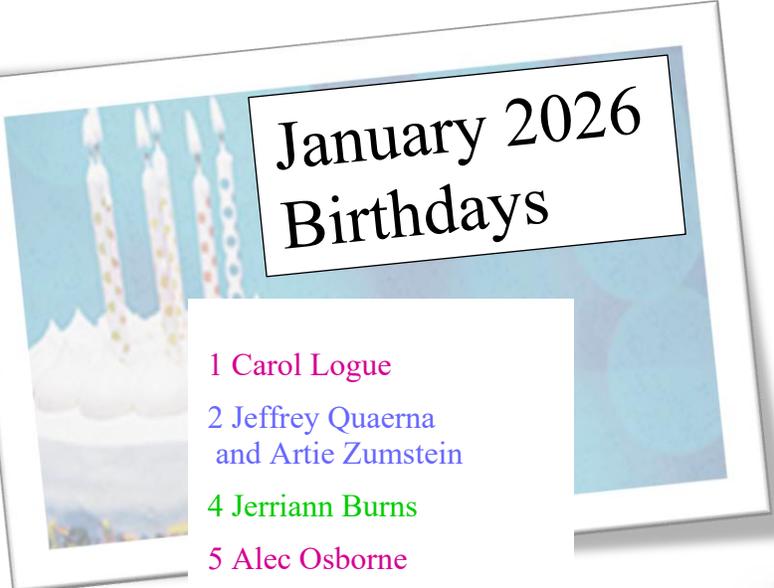
The Mosaic now includes much more than monetary donations. If you are a part of a local community or volunteer for activities such as Kiwanis, Salvation Army, Echo, etc., or if you make items to be given in mission (sewing, knitting, baking, etc.), please share those activities with a Ministry Matters team member as these will support our giving for the Mosaic.

The Ministry Matters for January is a Bucket Challenge

Weather around the world has devastated so many communities. UMCOR and Midwest Mission send Flood Buckets, the most recent being to support the Milwaukee flooding in September. Their storage areas are depleted, so a request has been made for churches to donate items to fill flood buckets. We will have two buckets, one on either side of the sanctuary to be filled by the members seated on each side. We are challenging each side to be the first to fill their bucket with the necessary items by removing a slip with the necessary request, purchase the item and return it to fill your bucket.

Thank you for your ongoing support “to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, welcome the stranger, and visit the prisoner.” **You are** what makes Ministry Matter!





January 2026 Birthdays

- 1 Carol Logue
- 2 Jeffrey Quaerna and Artie Zumstein
- 4 Jerriann Burns
- 5 Alec Osborne
- 6 Terry Penniston
- 9 Mike Wilkerson
- 12 Russ Kuykendall and Sue Bent
- 13 Mark Wheaton
- 14 Lois McKinney
- 15 Donna Havens
- 18 Eudoris Peterson
- 29 Russ Dalhke
- 30 John Quisenberry



happy ANNIVERSARY

28 Bill & Carrie Ruchti



Pat & Mike Spors, Deb North, Carolyn Schultz, and Pastor Jill went Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. Janet Luiting looks to be enjoying the visit.



Continuing Care List

Bob & Marj Banner, Eugene Bostian, Jerriann & Larry Burns, Dale Clark, Betty Jo Clough, Lloyd Coulthard, Darlene Coulthard, La Vita Fanta, Don Isbell, Russ Kuykendall, Janet Luiting, Shirley Martin, Lois McKinney, Hjordis Olson, Eudoris & Lloyd Peterson, Alice Sprecher, Linda Stevenson, Arlette Walker, Ione Watson, Slyvia Wepking, Loni Jo Wolfram, and Phil & Artie Zumstein.



2026

JANUARY

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ministry Matters for January:</u> Bucket Challenge</p>				<p>1</p> 	2	3
<p>4 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Communion Worship</p>	<p>5 3 PM Ministry Matters</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>7 PM Zoom Prayer Group</p>	<p>7 9-10:30 AM Stitching group 5: 30 PM Bible Study</p>	8	<p>9 12:30 PM Wesleyan/ New Member class includes lunch</p>	<p>10 9 AM Jazz Band Practice 10 AM Praise Band Practice</p>
<p>11 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship After worship Education Meeting</p>	<p>12 10 AM Care Ministry Meeting 2:30 PM Finance Committee</p>	<p>13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast - Eagle Inn 6 PM Trustee Meeting 7 PM Zoom Prayer Group</p>	<p>14 8 AM Women's Covenant - Eagle Inn 9-10:30 AM Stitching group 5:30 PM Bible Study</p>	15	<p>16 12:30 PM Wesleyan/ New Member Class includes lunch</p>	17
<p>18 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship GIFTS Dinner</p>	<p>19 6 PM Church Council with D.S. Amanda Stein GIFTS Dinner</p>	<p>20 4:30 PM Book Club at Asbury 7 PM Zoom Prayer Group</p>	<p>21 9-10:30 AM Stitching group 3 PM Worship Committee 5: 30 PM Bible Study</p>	22	<p>23 12:30 PM Wesleyan/ New Member class includes lunch</p>	<p>24 9 AM Jazz Band Practice 10 AM Praise Band Practice</p>
<p>25 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship</p>	<p>26 6 PM Emergency Prep. Sub. Committee</p>	<p>27 7 PM Zoom Prayer Group</p>	<p>28 9-10:30 AM Stitching group 5: 30 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>29 9 AM History Team</p>	30	31

* Newsletter articles are submitted to Amy Powell by the 15th of each month at asburyumc@charter.net





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