

The
Asbury
Connection



Sept 2020

Deadline to submit info for the next Asbury newsletter is **Sept 25**

To my church family:
You are amazing!
Thank you for all your birthday wishes.
You made my 90th birthday special!



Ruth Seiser Poland

Learning Center hopes to start tutoring on Oct 6. There will be some changes for safety but we will be taking registrations for students. Papers will be sent home at school or you can pick up in the church office. Questions call/text Cathi 515-573-0630

goodbye, august
hello, september

Dear Friends;

As we begin September, we have much to remember, and for which to look forward in the future.

First, when Covid hit Iowa in March, and most things went on hold, we thought it would be for two or three weeks. Then, two, maybe three months. But so much is still on hold. We are having outdoor worship services. We are having some meetings begin. We have begun the process with the ReEntry Task Force to discern when we may begin worship in the Sanctuary. Coming up late this month, Nominations and Lay Leadership will be starting their process to discern those God may be calling to help lead this congregation in its vital work of planning and service.

There will be updates as we have them going out in email, and in Newsletters. And please, if you know someone who doesn't get email, call them and keep them up to speed with what you receive from the church in emails. And if you don't get email, please call someone you know who does, and ask them to keep you up to date with what the emails say.

For now, we are seeing when we can do more, like indoor worship, which is still on hold. We are on hold for that, but the grace of God isn't on hold. The mercy and salvation and love that is in Christ Jesus isn't on hold. The testimony of the Holy Spirit that bears witness that we are not alone, God is with us, isn't on hold. We are, in fact, being held by the One Who created, saves, and sustains us.

This is good news, continue to pray for all you hear who need prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Phil Webb



Watch Worship Online:

1. Go to www.asburywc.org
2. Put your cursor on "Resources" (red bar at top)
3. A list will appear. Move your cursor down to the words "Video Library" & click once.
4. From the list of dates, click once on the date you want to watch.
5. A box with a triangle will appear. Click the triangle. The video will load, then begin playing.



Prayers & comfort to: Mike & Rosalie Hames (passing of son, Brad); Kathleen Hemmen (passing of brother, Richard Philbrook); loved ones of Don Bottorff

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1:** Connie Haidle, Christine Moss, Dan Sharar, Trenton Hoffmann
- 2:** Don Anderson, Sharon Newman, Jennifer Rossing, Kyzer Stanley
- 3:** Kent Larson, **Ellen & Mel Timm**
- 5:** Stephanie Christian
- 6:** Nick Erritt, **Dwain & Mary Noffke**
- 7:** Colleen Luiken, Darcy Swon, John Hembry
- 8:** **Randy & Michelle Chalfant, George & Kathryn Gourley**
- 9:** Danielle Bernard, Marie Cue, Cody Seiser, Matt Ehn
- 11:** Butch Klaver, **Jolene & Mike Christensen**
- 12:** Amy Widick, Craig Lovelace
- 13:** Alicia Crouthamel, Ethan Elliott, Kyle Swon
- 14:** Thomas Austin, Taylor Hejlik
- 15:** Cindy Johnson
- 16:** Wade Johnson, Leo Lambi, Parker Rossing
- 17:** Peggy Anderson, Carl Day, Diana Hill, Landry Howard
- 18:** LaVerne Crim, Tony Tempel
- 19:** Lacy Mortenson, **Brett & Kristi Ahrens**
- 20:** Kathy Hildebrand, Sarah Lindstrom, Cindy Jessen; **William & Kristi Nelson**
- 21:** Gene Gourley, Kathy Janson
- 22:** Taylor Schnathorst, Ty Schnathorst
- 23:** **Ray & Christine Hutchison**
- 25:** Georgianna Gourley, Mavis Nedved, Jean Nicklasson, **Rod & Linda Bowers, Todd & Tiffany Bingham**
- 26:** Kreg Kantak
- 27:** Jody Klaver
- 30:** Bill Olson

Wow! We had an amazing first worship service out at Briggs Woods yesterday morning! It was wonderful to see so many of you whom I have not seen since March. Even though it was a warm day I cannot think of any better way to begin the week. And man did I love having the lake as a backdrop!

I feel like this next part of my newsletter is echoing so many of my articles since March. As we look ahead to our ministries this fall we just don't really know what they are going to look like just yet. As someone who really likes control this is so incredibly difficult for me to say. I like knowing a date when Sunday School is going to begin. Or youth group. And right now, I just don't know. (Jen's article continues on back page)

From Midwest Mission: *We can not thank you enough! Our third shipment for this week left Aug 6 to help those in need in El Salvador. On this shipment we disbursed school desks, educational materials, and thousands of Midwest Mission Student Kits. Midwest Mission is blessed to have the ability to bless others with the humanitarian relief they need to survive and thrive. Thank you for being a part of this shipment!*

Women on the Walk (WOW): What would you like to see happen this September? Jennifer has four ideas: 1) Wait until "normal" meetings can happen; 2) Do a study via Zoom; 3) Choose a study to do on your own; 4) Choose a book to read and meet in the church parking lot/a local park to discuss. Let her know what you'd prefer! (new attendees welcome, no matter what format!)

Bishop Laurie and Pastor Catie Disaster Update (August 13): As United Methodists, our mission is to extend the love of Jesus Christ in tangible ways to our neighbors... I am deeply grateful to Catie Newman for organizing the relief effort & who will also be sharing ways in which you can help. ***Dear God, we are in awe of the power of nature to change our lives in a moment's notice. We thank you that human injuries from the derecho were limited, but we mourn our losses: damaged homes, flattened cornfields, lost income, and uncertainty about the future. Grant us the resources and strength to rebuild, direct us to those who need our help, and give us hope for the future.*** Blessings, Bishop Laurie

We want to "be a caring Christian Presence amid Disaster" & not make situations worse. Considerations:

- Do not take pictures of people's items, homes, OR CHILDREN without permission. This is a direct request from storm survivors [&] a terrible invasion of privacy.
- Please do not go to just drive around & look.
- Please do not donate things that are not asked for, it just makes more "things".
- PRAY - It is in prayer that we unleash God's power for one another.
- VOLUNTEER - Check with the community in which you wish to volunteer for those details.
- CONTACT – If you know someone who has been impacted, be God's hands & heart and reach out.
- FINANCIAL DONATIONS can be given thru the United Methodist Church [Advance Special #223](#). ALL donations are used for supporting & helping lowans affected by these storms.
- DONATE ITEMS - (Contact the Asbury office for a full list of items). **Desperate needs** (not in stock anywhere): Bar & chain oil for chainsaws; Heavy extension cords for generators; Batteries, specifically "D" size; Gas cans; Generators

Physical Donations can be left at: Trinity UMC, 838 North 25th Street, Fort Dodge, IA; Monday thru Friday 9 am – noon. Contact Pastor Jena Finch-Manchester 712-840-1834 with drop off questions. Blessings, Pastor Catie Newman, IAUMC Disaster Response Coordinator Disaster.response@iaumc.org, 712-899-4067 phone or text

Midwest Mission Kits for InGathering InGathering will be different this year. All kits will be collected at Asbury on Nov 7th for our district. More on that later. There will be no partial kits this year to take home and complete. Please purchase items you would usually donate and place them in the tote provided inside the **center doors at church**, or at the open air church service at Briggs Woods on Sundays. Now is the time to look for greatly reduced school supplies. Also do not forget much needed personal dignity kits (below). These are distributed in the United States as well as internationally.

School Cloth Bags

We are in great need of cloth school bag sewers!!! We have filled all we have, and need many more to fill. Instructions, material and thread are available for the asking, as are sets of material cut out and ready to sew. Contact Pat at 832-2470 for questions or to receive supplies.



www.asburywc.org

Personal Dignity Kit:

- 1 hand towel (no kitchen)
- 1 bath washcloth (no kitchen)
- 1 comb—sturdy; no picks
- 1 razor with guard
- 1 nail clipper
- 1 adult toothbrush
- 1 toothpaste—2.5oz or larger
- 1 bar soap—3-4oz
- 1 shampoo—15-18oz
- 1 deodorant—2-3oz
- 10 band-aids—3/4" by 3"

Student Kit:

- 1 12" ruler with metric
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 pencil eraser—2" or larger
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 pair of student scissors
- 3 notebooks: 1 subject, spiral, 8x10.5"
- 6 pencils (unsharpened)

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(Jen, cont) What I do know is that we will be following the same guidance as our task force is for worship. And I do know that we will continue to do ministry in whatever shape or form we are able.

So, with all of that being the case, you will see that our September newsletter does not have the same information in it as years past. You will not see dates and times. Instead you are going to see—keep your eye on Facebook and email. Because our plans may change as quickly as the conditions in our county change.

Here is what I can tell you for certain will be happening:

- I will be working on putting together things for kids to do at their seat during our outdoor worship services. This will not be the same as our amazing busy bags we have for in-house worship (here is where we should all pause to thank Tom and Pat Rittscher for their work on these). Instead it will be things like a scavenger hunt for what they can see from their seats. Any activities will be placed in a gallon-sized baggie and everything within that baggie will be his/hers to keep.
- Before our outdoor worship services we will have a short time for kids to do as close to a Sunday School as we can figure out. This will begin at 9:40 AM. All ages will be together and we will still be practicing physical distancing. Your child(ren) will still need the chair or a blanket they will be using for worship!
- Beginning on what would normally be our Rally Sunday (September 13) I will again be putting together things for kids to do at home for Sunday School. This includes a video about the story and activities for all ages. If you are interested in these items again please contact Jennifer.

We will continue to work on finding ways to safely do all of our ministries in weeks to come so please keep your eyes on those places I listed above for more info. ~Jennifer