

Asbury Connection

Pastor Jeff Flagg

April 2017



It's tough being human! I have been excited about going on vacation and seeing my grandkids. Its been a year since our last visit so grandpa is ready. Sadly in the midst of my vacation plans

Jack Spratt died. I had great admiration for Jack and the ministry he did in the area. From prison ministry to caring for the people in the world, Jack was a special person. His passing has reminded me that even as a pastor who always tries to remain strong, I'm human too. So for a while I allowed myself to be human and grieve. For a pastor, every time someone in the church dies a little bit of us dies too. Then God steps in to heal and remind us how blessed we have been to know that person and be part of a church family.

Asbury continues to work in the community trying to fill the needs of the people. My latest endeavor has been working with the medical entities on the subject of adult daycare. At this point Fort Dodge is the only option but maybe it can be part

of the long term goals of Webster City.

One of the conversations at the Ministerial meeting is what would the church do if someone requested sanctuary from deportation. That could happen in this melting pot of culture in Webster City. Each church represented talked about what percentage of their people might support and how many would be against giving aid to others. Think about it!

It's an interesting time here at Asbury. It's been nice to see young children and young adults in worship. There are two baptisms lined up for April 2nd. The trustees are thinking of signage for advertising our church considering the future growth of Webster City, and I'm doing a study on what a Multi-Ethnic Church might look like considering the demographics of the area.

We are all blessed to be part of this church. Things are positive and we are united in a quest to serve our Lord and Savior. Thanks for all you do!

Love you all, Pastor Jeff



As we pass the halfway point of Lent, this past week has served as a brilliant reminder of how we are each to approach our faith. This past Sunday I was down by the nursery as one of the families in our faith community came in. One of the girls had been sick the week before so I asked how she was feeling. She said she still wasn't feeling great. Her mom said when they had woke up that morning the young girl was still feeling very worn down but insisted that the family still attend church. The young family sat in worship with the young girl laying with her head in her mom's lap for most of the service. But, even in her worn down state, she knew that being here worshipping God was important.

Flash forward to yesterday (Wednesday). I was subbing in the TNT class for Awana where we discussed the story of Saul's conversion. The faces on the youth were priceless when they realized that Saul became Paul who is responsible for writing most of the New Testament! They then wanted to know which books, so we walked through each of the books of the New Testament and talked about who the authors are believed to be. Enthralled with what they were learning at one point they asked if they had to go to games or if they could stay and keep learning. If you have been around the youth, when it comes to games you will doubly understand the enormity of that question.

All of this has me thinking of what Jesus tells us in Matthew chapter 13 verse 8, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." There are times this verse seems distant to me. But this week it rings loud and clear.

When was the last time that you were willing to put aside something that you love to do so that you could spend more time learning about our Creator? (continued on page 2)

Around ASBURY

United Methodist Women

Philippians 4: 4-5 "Be glad in the Lord! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near!"

<(<> Continue to attend Lenten lunches at Trinity Lutheran.

<(<> April 13th—Lenten Breakfast. Plan to attend: 9:15am

Pres. Colleen Rotschafer.

After-Worship Fellowship Servers

April

- 2—Patty Bjerke,
Bonnie Kitterman
- 9—Kathy Theobald,
Mary Tjaden
- 16—Crystal Gordon,
Billie Smid
- 23—Roberta Knutson,
Carla Johnson
- 30—Sharon Hassebrock
Jan Faint

May

- 7—Lynne Flagg,
Colleen Luiken
- 14—Kathy Janson,
Marilyn Grubbe
- 21—Susan Griffith,
Kathy Kolbeck
- 28—Jennifer Bernard,
Georgianna Gourley

Our condolences to family & friends of John "Jack" Spratt, who went home to Heaven on March 14.

(from page 1) Or when you shook off those tired, worn out feelings and came to church even when everyone would have given you a free pass?

I have had the pleasure of leading our Lenten study Restored. Each week we have had nearly twenty adults come together on Tuesdays to learn and grow with one another. And as discussion begins I can see a group of "grown ups" approaching faith like children. The amount of growth I have experienced while leading this group cannot be measured. And I know we have other groups of adults learning and growing in study with one another at other times as well. But I know, as a church, that we have room to grow.

A question I have been asked often in my years of ministry is why youth fall off the radar after either confirmation or graduation. There is no simple answer to these questions. Obviously different circumstances come in to play in each situation. But I have truly come to believe that one of the major factors is that our young in faith do not see enough adults engaged in faith formation. We often talk about how the young watch the adults for guidance. What kind of example are we setting about this thing we call faith being a lifelong journey? Or are we, as the author of Restored says making it look more like a short hike?

And I am not only thinking of Asbury when I speak of this. Or of the church where I worked previously. I see this as being true in the church universal. But I do think we are at a point where we here at Asbury can do something about it. In coming months we will be looking at ways to engage more adults in small group ministry. And I would love input from all of you!!!

So, as we finish this Lenten season and prepare for the celebration of our risen Lord, please prayerfully consider how we can continue to create opportunities for people of all ages to grow in relationship with our loving God. ~Jennifer

Attention Fellowship Servers:

We are trying something new. To make it easier for our Fellowship Servers, we have purchased a few items to be used for our coffee time after church on Sundays.

The following items are available: mini cinnamon cream cheese coffee cakes, apple strudel, and brown sugar oatmeal cookies. These are in the freezer on the north wall of the kitchen. They are all together in a clear plastic bag with a note that says Fellowship Coffee.

We know that everyone is busy and sometimes (especially in bad weather) it is hard to carry those pans of homemade treats down to the kitchen. So you could bake one pan of bars and use some of the purchased goodies, just use the purchased items, or bake a couple pans of bars and not use any of the purchased items.

A big thank you to all of the Fellowship Servers. Let's give this a try and see what happens. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Cindy Farley at 832-1333. Fellowship Committee

Bulletin Delivery (April):

Terry & Marilyn Bottonff

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday & Wednesday schedules below 2 Baptism during worship	3	Each Tuesday: Tutoring, 4-7pm 4 *Last Lenten Lunch, 11:45a *Lenten study, 10a & 7p	5	6 Missions, 6:30pm	7 Wedding rehearsal, 5:30pm	April 1 *Jack Spratt funeral, 11am *Worship, 6pm
9 Palm Sunday	10 Trustees, 6:30pm	11 *Pastor@ Crestview, 9:15a *Last Lenten study, 10a & 7p	12	13 *UMW Lenten Breakfast, 9:15am *Care Team, 11am *SPPRC, 6:30pm	14 Good Friday	15 *Kid's Day Out *Worship, 6pm
16 Easter services: at sunrise & 10am	17 Offices Closed	18 Finance, 7pm	19	20 *Alzheimer support, 4pm *Ad Board, 6:30pm	21 Newsletter info due b4 noon	22 *AUMC hosting piano recital, 1pm *Worship, 6pm
23/30 Senior Breakfast (Apr 30), 8:30am	24	25 *Pastor @ Southfield, 9:30a **"Faith & Funerals," 6pm	26 Newsletter mailed	27 *Care Team, 11am *Parent Café, 4:30pm	28	29 Worship, 6pm

Each Sunday:
Kid's Cereal Bar, 8:30am; Sun. School for all ages, 9am; Worship, 10am; Fellowship for all, 11am; Confirmation, 11:15am

Each Wednesday: Man to Man, quarter to 7am; **Women on the Walk, 9:30am; Middle School youth group, 3:30-5pm; Meal, 5-6pm; AWANA, 5:30-7pm; Choir practice, 6pm; High School youth group, 6-8pm; Praise Team practice, 6:45pm**

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

1: Glenn Cue, Troy Draeger, Darice Fowler, Thomas Fowler, Madison Schaa
2: Bette Blue, Jerry Hadley, Paige Highland, Chris White
4: Carlee Yates
5: Madison Lovelace
6: Emily Elm, Kenady Highland, Donna Longhenry, John Kidney, Janine Sharar
7: Rachel Anderson, Rosalie Hames
8: Don Bottorff, Norma Lake
9: Ashley Hisler
10: Tammy Greenfield, Dylan Ryder, Kamey Stanley
11: Teresa Dickinson
12: Caitlyn Hassebrock, Samantha Kantak, Trent Sinn
13: Tim Anderson, Roberta Knutson
14: Alexander Dickinson, Kelly Yates
15: Dave Louk

16: Jan Faint, Ryan Park, Mike Christensen
17: Fern Nelson, Linda Roosa, Ben Wescott
18: Kathleen Ambrose, Matthew Lovelace, Sally Trueblood, Nathan Griswold
19: Darle Elkin, Bradley Tate
20: Gen Carroll, Casandra Deimerly, Jean Kayser
21: Cameron Chamberlin
22: Patty Bjerke, Brenda Branca, Mackenzie Burney, Terry Gourley, Nicholas Hassebrock
23: Kaci Daniels, Kathy Gibbs, Dawn Scholtens, Sarah Godfredsen
24: Jacob Ahrens, Brandon Black, Seth Crouthamel, Danny Evans, Allie Ruppel, April Smith, Marguerite Staley, Sara Trueblood, Parker Lutgen
25: Jordan Bjerke, Bertha Takle

26: Trudy Anderson, Marty Johnson, Janice Malmstrom, Shirley Moen, Jessi Olmstead, Amy Lindstrom, Jennifer Peterson
27: Nicole Chamness, Bev Frazer, Tim Jondal
28: Mary Hassebrock, Will Mourlam, Lee Ayers, Jim Chalfant, Dawn Doerr-Johnson
29: Barbara Anderson, Emily Lovelace, Teah Marchman
30: Beth Bottorff, Dean Carden, Barb Widick

April 2—Tom & Pat Rittscher
April 3—Jim & Mary Chalfant
April 4—Bob & Cindy Farley
April 8—Rod & Diana Patterson
April 22—Lewis & Sharon Hassebrock
April 27—Dean & Adele Bowden
April 30—Gary & Georgianna Gourley

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★ Information for the May 2017 Newsletter must be received before noon on **April 21.**
The newsletter will mail on April 26. ★

Easter Flower Time



Easter Lilies, Tulips, or Hyacinths? Now is the time to order your Easter flowers. Order forms can be found in the church narthex; the cost is \$13 per plant. Please pay when you turn in your order. Make checks out to “Asbury UMC,” & in the memo line, write that it is for “Easter flowers.”



Heifer International Update:

Our collection continues to grow as we strive to purchase an Ark for Heifer International! Your donations—big & small—are all so appreciated! What animal will “board” the Ark next?

See the display
in the narthex
for the latest!

