

REFLECTING THE PULSE OF THE PARISH

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30 AM Quilters 11:00 AM Staff Mtg	3 7:30 PM-Choir	4	5	6 4 - 8 PM IFFM
7 8 AM - Bible Study 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM IFFM	8	9 9:30 AM Quilters 11:00 AM Staff Mtg	10 6-7:20 PM Kids Club/YG 7:30 PM-Choir	11	12	13 4 - 8 PM IFFM
14 8 AM - Bible Study 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:45 am POTLUCK 10:45 AM Blood Pressure Clinic 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM IFFM	15 Martin Luther King Day	16 9:30 AM Quilters 11:00 AM Staff Mtg	17 6-7:20 PM Kids Club/YG 7:30 PM-Choir	18	19	20 4 - 8 PM IFFM
21 8 AM - Bible Study 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM IFFM	22	23 9:30 AM Quilters 11:00 AM Staff Mtg	24 6-7:20 PM Kids Club/YG 7:30 PM-Choir	25	26	27 9 PM - 1 AM IFFM
28 8 AM - Bible Study 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM IFFM	29	30 9:30 AM Quilters 11:00 AM Staff Mtg	31 6:30 PM Leadership Team 7:30 PM-Choir			

THE PARISH PULSE

ASBURY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
350 27th Avenue SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa
319-364-3188 December 2018



6 Jesus said to him,
"I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6 NKJV

Dear Friends,

Christmas is over for another year. The decorations are (almost?) put away. (When is the latest acceptable date to display Christmas decorations???)

Next on the church-year calendar is Epiphany when we celebrate the visit of the Wise Men who followed the star to find Jesus. Then it seems that we kind of just mark time until Lent and Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

This year, I am going to use the time from Epiphany to Easter to explore the Bible passages that tell us who Jesus is. As I was choosing the texts for the upcoming sermons, it was really hard to narrow the list of passages that I want us to focus on. There are so many! In another part of this newsletter, you'll find the list of sermon texts for the next few weeks. I encourage you to take the time to read them ahead of time. Join me in learning more about the Promised Messiah, to deepen our understanding that Jesus is real and to know that the Bible is true.

Serving Him with you,
Pastor Diane

Sermon texts for January
January 7 - Matthew 2:1-12
January 14 - Matthew 2:13-21
January 21 - Luke 2:41-52
January 28 - Mark 1:1-8

A note from Finance

Asbury collected \$2060 from the **Christmas Giving Tree** which will help your church meet year end and year start commitments. The 2017 income looks like it will cover our expenses which were helped by coming in 3% less than the budget predicted. For 2018 the budget is 2.6% higher and pledged total is lower. Please continue to pray that collectively we enjoy another generous philanthropic year and that pledging members continue to exceed their pledge goals and that non-pledged income continues to support Asbury.

A big **THANK YOU** to the **Asbury UMW** who shared a generous portion of their profits from the activities they conducted in 2017.

Banking Notice: Starting on December 1st 2017 the old Guaranty Bank was merged with Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust. Therefore the church now has Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust as our banking institution. If you have any questions on this please contact one of the Finance Team members.

(Note that budget numbers are preliminary as the books have not been officially calculated for the end of December as of press time.)

Christmas Angel Project:

Thanks to all who participated in our Christmas Angel projects by donating money, buying gifts, or giving your time. We were able to give 2-3 presents of toys and clothing to each to 10 children from 4 families in need and grocery gift cards to the families. There were also gift baskets given to 14 Asbury members who were not able to join us in worship.

A special thanks to Kim Ties, Peggy Johnson, Beth and Bob Manchester, and Terry Blackburn. Kim and Peggy put together the wonderful gift baskets for the shut ins. Beth, Bob and Terry delivered the wrapped presents and gift cards to the 4 families. Their efforts were very much appreciated.

The gift baskets were delivered by many different church members this year, which worked well. Thanks again for your participation.

Mary Johnson and Diane Benhart

Grant School Collection:

Thank you so much for your quick and generous response to the collection of underwear and sweatpants for Grant School. A large bag full of sweatpants and underwear was delivered to them before Christmas along with a bag of mittens, gloves and hats that were also generously donated. The school was surprised and delighted to receive these items.

Weather closings:

Please watch channel 9 (KCRG) and the church website (asburymethodistcr.com) for information regarding church closings due to inclement weather.

The church will be closed when there are school closings.

Pastor Diane and Sharon have Mondays off.

If you have a question, you may call

Pastor Diane at 551-3648

January Birthdays

5 Heather Day
14 Valorie Bowman
16 Scott Day
20 Randy Rieck
24 Bob Brown
28 Leland Fry
30 Rick Pike
Teri Reedich

Rev. Diane Townsley
319-551-3648 Cell

International French
Ministry

Rev. Patrick Munyakazi
431-8319

Business Administrator

Sharon Busch

364-3188

Office hours:

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Choir Director

Alice Lindsey

Custodian

Nicole Day

Nursery Attendant

Laura Booth



**United
Methodist
Women News**

No meetings in
January

Another exciting year of favor

I always wonder if people understand the meaning of a new year? It is a custom to send postcards, write e-mails, and make phone calls, and giving hugs during the holidays and New Year celebration. Merriam Webster has several definitions of the word new: being other than the former or old, made or become fresh, different from one of the same category that has existed previously, of dissimilar origin and usually of superior quality, and unfamiliar. From all these definitions, I will ask my readers to try to give a new meaning to this New Year 2018. For me, 2018 is an exciting year of fresh, good and better things than 2017.

There are two scriptures in the Bible that come to mind, when I think about the word new.

Luke 4: 18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."(NIV). Favor is defined as an approval, support, or liking for someone or something. It is an act of kindness beyond what is due or usual (Merriam Webster).

Here, Our Lord Jesus Christ started his ministry by proclaiming a new era of God's blessings, kindness, and support for people.

Philippians 3;13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJ). Here, Paul is encouraging us to always look forward to the future and not to let the past to slow us down. It is impossible to reach our dreams if you keep dwelling on the past.

At the beginning of every year, people make resolutions. People have joy, hope, momentum, life, and energy but a few weeks later many lose the energy, and many dreams are never fulfilled. I do believe that our approach, attitude, our faith in God for 2018 will determine its outcomes. Let enter this New Year with a better attitude of hope and expectation of God's support toward us. It's a new year and will be better than 2017.

Happy New Year , Pastor Patrick