



Asbury United Methodist
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
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February 2011

Valentine's Day Boxes: This year we have 16 college students:

- * Nicole Adams
- * Megan Adams (studying abroad)
- * Lyndsay Adams
- * Zach Bailey
- * Blake Bean
- * Kayla Hobbs
- * Chelsey Kinneer
- * Jessica Kinneer
- * Jeremy Kral
- * Amanda Miller
- * Eric Parrott
- * Jodee Seward
- * Aaron Smit
- * Maggy Smit
- * Julie Schwartzendruber



We would like to send them a little something for Valentine's Day. If we have missed someone, please let the church know at 646-2417 or asburyumc@netins.net. Any donations would be appreciated, including food, pens, highlighters, quarters for laundry. Notes of encouragement would also be good. Please bring in your items by Sunday, February 5th. We will be mailing the boxes on Monday, February 6th. Let's remind the students that Asbury holds them in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks for your help.

Early Out:

The next Mid-Prairie Elementary Early Out is Wednesday, February 1st.

Lenten Season

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and ends on Holy Saturday. Asbury will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM. Ash Wednesday is the invitation into a season of preparation. It is a time for repentance and reconciliation.

Lent is a journey of preparation as we prepare to live more deeply in our relationship with God.

Lenten Study

Asbury will have a Lenten study entitled "Final Words" by Rev. Adam Hamilton. In this book, Hamilton explores Jesus' final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. The study will begin on Thursday, February 16 and Tuesday, February 21. The study will last for seven weeks. Please sign up in church as the sign up sheet is passed or let the church office know you'd like to attend.

Conference Board of Church & Society Essay Contest

The Board of Church & Society of the Iowa Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is conducting an essay contest and will award three \$500 scholarships. The essay contest is open to students who are high school juniors or seniors during the current school year (2011-2012) and who live in Iowa or attend an Iowa high school. Students need not be members of a United Methodist church nor any other religious body. *The Road to Peace Between Israelis and Palestinians* is the topic for this year's essay contest. Essays must be less than 1,000 words, and the deadline is March 21, 2012. Please email essays on or before that date to Paul Linn (linnchurchandsociety@gmail.com), and include a brief summary of activities in which you have participated in your school or community, including efforts for social justice. Awards will be presented during the Iowa Annual Conference in June of 2012.

Thank You Note

The Trustees and Church Council of Asbury wishes to THANK the anonymous persons who provided the funds to purchase two new furnaces. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Another Thank You Note!

This THANK YOU is long overdue. I want to thank everyone who remembered by 62nd birthday by giving a gift of \$165 in my name to Heifer International. Heifer helps impoverished families acquire and raise animals and then pass along the gift of their new skills and the animals' offspring to neighbors in need. Gifts include heifers, sheep, goats, ducks, pigs, trees, honeybees and more. Thank you...THANK YOU! This is a neat gift and honor!

Pastor Rich

Confirmation Class

The Confirmation class will be leading worship on Sunday, February 5th.

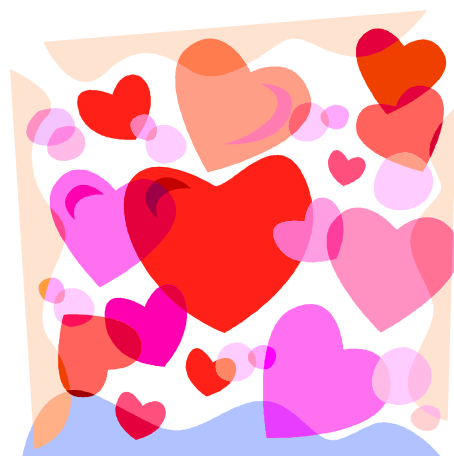
The class and several mentors visited St. Mary's Catholic church in Riverside and then met with the priest and Derrick Cranston after the service.

The class will visit a Jewish synagogue in Iowa City on Friday, February 24th. Everyone is invited to attend the service. We will meet with the Rabbi at 7:00 PM.

Confirmation Sunday will be April 22

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES!!!

- 1 Caleb Debler
- 2 Diane Pippert, Peyton Greiner
- 3 Ryan Swartzendruber
- 4 Amanda Miller
- 5 Verl Davisson, Tracy McVey, Ben Roush, Bob Swartzendruber
- 6 Harold Murphy, Kevin Cortum
- 7 Melanie Stutzman
- 8 Randy Jirsa
- 9 Barb Henderson, Betty Kempf
- 14 Jim Goodrich
- 16 Blake Albright
- 17 Brandon Edgington
- 18 Leo Hall, Becca Droll
- 19 T.J. Powell, Michael Humble, Tom Moss, Jeff Bean
- 25 Linda Kempf
- 28 Genea Bean
- 29 Don & Colette Ferguson



Pastor's Note : Connectionalism

If you have been in church recently, you have heard us say we paid all our bills for 2011. I do not like the term bills because I believe supporting ministry, missions and programs is NOT paying a bill. It is rather helping to Change the World and the lives of people around the world!

When we join Asbury UMC, we are becoming "a part of an active, worldwide group of interconnected communities; a connection of people who believe we should spend our days making the love of Christ real in our actions."

There are more than 11 million members and 41,000 local churches around the world in this connection. Through this connection "we do more than any single individual, church, district, or annual conference could ever do by itself. We are together."

I am reminded of our last Stewardship campaign. One of the scriptures was "They even exceeded our expectations, because they gave themselves to the Lord first and to us, consistent with God's will...Be the best in the work of grace in the same way that you are the best in every thing, such as faith, speech, knowledge, total commitment, and the love we inspired in you." (II Corinthians 9:5,7, CEB).

I want to highlight some of the major points of the Income and Budget of the Conference. There are 3 major income resources:

- * Direct Billing: The Church's share for the pastors' health insurance and pensions are directly billed to the local church.
- * District Askings: Funds received for the district for a particular ministry or mission project within the district.
- * Apportionments: Each church is given their fair portion of our shared confer-

ence, national, jurisdiction, and world ministries. These are assigned through a formula. Iowa's formula is a four year average on selected income of the local church. Note that **our apportionments are not based on membership or expenses**. Apportionments are considered our first mile of giving.

Apportionments are divided into three sections:

- * Conference Ministries: Funds in this area support enlistment, recruiting, and education of clergy; maintenance and care of assets of the conference; the work of the districts; recruitment, appointment and the moving of clergy from one appointment to another; provides for the work of the Bishop; provides for care and counseling of the clergy and their families; and the whole of the conference.
- * Conference Missions: Funds in this area support camps and retreats; programs on issues confronting the church; Christian education; stewardship; worship; the ministry of the four Wesley Foundations on the four major universities and the four United Methodist colleges in Iowa; the work of the laity; and persons affected with disabilities.
- * General Church Apportionments: Provides funds for building new churches; provides denominational work to youth; provides a university on the continent of Africa; provides commitment to recruit and educate quality pastoral leadership; supports the ministry of the Black Colleges including Rust College; communicates and dialogues with other faith traditions; provides funds for Bishops' salaries, travel, and office.

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Pastor's Note (continued...)

Asbury's District Askings,

Direct Billing, and Apportionments:

District Askings:

2011: \$619 2012: \$612

The funds are \$2.40 per member and support Justice for Our Neighbors, St. Paul's Hispanic Worship Center, Emerging Ministries, Iowa Wesleyan College, Mobile United Methodist Ministries, Southeast District Latino Task Force.

Direct Billing:

2011: \$21,703 2012: \$21,049

Apportionments:

Conference Ministries

2011: \$13,973 2012: \$12,444

Conference Missions

2011: \$4,333 2012: \$4,476

General Church

2011: \$3,702 2012: \$3,721

TOTAL

2011: \$22,008 2012: \$20,641

Our apportionments help support:

- * 309 Hospitals, clinics and health centers (4 in Iowa)
- * 100 Colleges and universities (4 in Iowa)
- * 13 Seminaries
- * Retirement homes: 11 in Iowa (1 in Washington)
- * Camps: 3 in Iowa
- * Special Services such as Bidwell Riverside in Des Moines, Hillcrest Family Ser-

vices (Dubuque), Hope Missions - Door of Faith (Des Moines), Shesler Hall (Sioux City), Goodwill in Sioux City, and more

- * Missionaries: more than 900 missionaries are supported and are located in more than 100 countries. Iowa has 2 missionaries serving in Iowa, 13 missionaries serving in the US, and 6 missionaries serving internationally.

YOUR DOLLAR AT WORK

Each dollar you give to the church is broken down as follows:

- Local Church.....90 cents
- Jurisdiction, Annual Conference & District8 cents
- Program Agencies.....1 cent
- Other General Funds.....1 cent

THANK YOU!!!

THANK YOU to everyone in helping us pay our first mile of giving which supports missions, ministries, programs, and missionaries in our conference, country and all around the world! Your support reaches not only Wellman but all throughout the world.

