



Asbury United Methodist Church

Vision: To Make Disciples and Share God's Love

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Moody Colorado, Pastor

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Adult School 8:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m.

December 2018

Christmas Season Schedule

- **Holiday Craft Bazaar & Cookie Walk:** Saturday, December 8th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year's event will feature a make it—take it craft station for kids. A luncheon will be served to benefit the General Fund. Deliveries can be made upon request.
- **Christmas Vespers Program:** The annual Christmas Vespers program is Sunday, December 9th at 4:00 p.m. at Wellman Baptist Church.
- **Children's Christmas Program:** On Sunday, December 16th, the Sunday School children will give a special Christmas presentation during worship.
- **Christmas Eve Service:** Join us at 6:30 PM for a Christmas Eve Candle-light service. The offering for this service will be designated as a "Birthday Gift to Jesus" and will be used toward local outreach needs (helping with utility bills, etc).

Christmas Food Pantry:



Some Christmas elves stopped by to help plate up cookies to share at the December 1 food pantry distribution. Thanks to Emma, Lucy, and Maddie for picking out cookies and putting on bows!

Thanks to everyone who contributed cookies and candies...this gift was very much

appreciated by the 53 guests who came through that day. A special thanks to Brenneman Pork, who provided vouchers for each guest to purchase \$10 in pork at Freeman Foods this month.

Asbury Christmas Caroling: Asbury would like to do some good old fashioned caroling this year! Please join us on December 19 at 7:00 p.m. We'll meet & start at Parkview, & continue wherever the spirit moves us. Listen in church for more details.



Finance Summary

General Budget and Conference Claims

YTD Needs	100,418.00
YTD Gifts	96,001.00
Overall YTD shortfall	(4,417.00)

THANK YOU, Asbury UMC members and friends for your support to the ministries of the church. We have paid fully our apportionment to the Annual Conference. The connectional giving embodies our participation in the denominational mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. Being connected with all the rest of the churches in Iowa is a partnership that accomplishes various kinds of missions both in the state and around the world.

Household Goods Needed: A family in Wellman is helping a friend, Alex, who lost his home in Vinton in a gas explosion. He is recovering from burn injuries and will eventually need to move into an apartment of his own. He lost everything in the fire, so the

family is looking for donations of gently-used household items: pots and pans, small appliances, utensils, linens...basically anything that would be needed for Alex to start over. As you clean out closets this month, please consider setting aside items that can be passed along to Alex. Please contact Shauna D-J if you have items to contribute. Thanks!

Birthday Gift to Jesus: In view of Asbury's accomplishment in stewardship, the Church Council has designated the Christmas Eve Birthday Gift to Jesus offering for local missions. This means that your offering on December 24th will be used specifically to help people in Wellman. In previous years, these gifts have been distributed to families who had difficulty paying for their utility bills. These families were identified through cooperation of the Missions Committee and Wellman City Hall. The offering is not publicized and the identities of the recipients is never announced. This offering has also been used toward individuals who stop by the church requesting help paying for gas. On another occasion, this offering was used to assist a new resident to hook up utilities in their new apartment. It is a glorious experience for us to be able to channel the Birthday Gift to Jesus for the needy because we have met our budgetary requirements for the year.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2	Nathan Bauwens	17	Ruth Palmer
3	Sandra Schauf, Emily Righter	19	Kelsey McVey
5	Richard Pippert, Alex Greiner	22	Dan & Chris Jirsa
7	Taylor Powell	24	George & Harriet Kisner, Tom Slockett,
9	Zach Murphy	25	Don Randol
10	Donna Palmer, Bob Grigsby, Loris Marston	26	Dennis Hulseberg
12	Betty Johnston	27	Jim & Donna Goodrich, Deb Seward
13	Maria Jebens	28	Vi Young
14	Jill Pippert	29	Peyton Thiele, Colette Yoder
15	Kevin Kral, Kurt Briscoe	30	Danielle Williams

Pastor's Note

The King of Hearts

Revelation 1:4b-6—*Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Our Thanksgiving Sunday Service was canceled due to a Snow Storm. We had eleven inches in our area. We missed the Thanksgiving Sunday Service and the Final Sunday of the Christian Calendar, the proclamation that Christ is King. The first Sunday of December, First Sunday of Advent, is the beginning of Year C of the Christian three year cycle.

I thought I had an important lesson to share for the final Sunday, so, here's the summary. Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth as in heaven." The Book of Revelation announces that Jesus Christ's Kingdom has come.

Life on earth is temporary. This is not only religiously true but also scientific. We will all die because our life on earth is temporary. So, how is the rule of Christ happening in this world? It's an Interim Kingdom through the Holy Spirit. The pouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost birthed the church. Therefore the interim kingdom of Christ today is the church.

The interim Kingdom of Christ on earth today is not the buildings of churches or steeples. The kingdom of Christ is the hearts of men and women who have accepted the call to love God with all heart, mind, soul and strength.

The kingdom of Jesus Christ is governed by the law of love. The God in the kingdom of Christ is known as "God is love." The laws of the Kingdom are written in the hearts and obeyed through love.

Blessed are the hearts that God rules in this temporal life for they shall be ruled by the God of love in eternity.

Amen.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY / POTLUCK We had a wonderful Fellowship Sunday on November 11. Relationship grows through the number of contacts. And that's what fellowship games, singing and potluck does. There were lots of laughs during the games and singing. There was good visitation and dining. There were faces we have never seen before in church.

Our next Fellowship Sunday will be January 20th. Please reserve the date and plan to bring food and a guest. Not only will you enjoy fellowshiping with each other, you are giving a window of evangelism since this is an opportunity for you to invite someone to church. The Potluck is the Lord's Banquet. Jesus told us to invite to His banquet everyone in the streets. We have a one minute window for reciting John 3:16 and the The Lord's Prayer and we let the Holy Spirit do the rest. Its interesting that there are faces that we did not intend to invite into the worship but they come. That must be the Holy Spirit at work.