

2011

# The Circuit Rider



December

The Word Advent means "coming" or "arrival". The symbolism of the advent wreath, made of various evergreens, formed into a circle signifies God's endless mercy, with no beginning or end. The four candles represent the four weeks of advent which leads to the arrival of Jesus, the light of the world!

May you be filled with Hope, Love, Joy, peace and the light of Jesus this advent and Christmas season!

**The third candle represents: Joy**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**



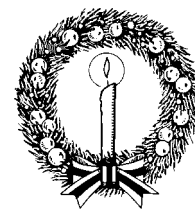
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**The second candle represents: Love**



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**The fourth candle represents: Peace**



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**The first candle represents: Hope**



*All are Welcome to come  
celebrate the Peace of the season!!*

*Christmas Eve Services: December 24th-  
6:00 pm and 11:00 pm  
Candlelight, Carols, Communion*

## Pastor's Corner

*Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. Hebrew 6:1-2*

A "Family Circus" comic showed the family all sitting on the pew at church as the offering is being collected. Dolly turns to her father as he puts in his offering in the basket and says, "Remember Daddy, you don't hafta pay for Jeffy or P.J. Children 3 and under get in free."

When we think of Christmas, don't we think of free gifts, children and of course THE Babe in THE manager? It's a time of year with awe and wonder, of fanciful decorations and parties, of newness and brightness. It's a time of fantasy and make-believe. It's a time where we all like to imagine we are all under three years of age and free. It's not a bad place to be when we are new to the faith and are infants to Christianity.

Sadly some Christians are content to live their whole life as if they were little children. They are happy to go over and over the simple truths of the Scriptures picking out "feel good" passages. By not sinking their teeth, or as Eugene Peterson's book title states to Eat This Book, they don't move beyond the basics of the gospel and grow into maturity. By not sinking their teeth into deeper truths and more difficult Bible passages, they lack biblical understanding and convictions to make right choices. (Hebrews 5:13). They may have been Christians for many years, but their spiritual abilities remain underdeveloped. They keep THE babe in the manager and remain children themselves. They don't know how to make good decisions and live in righteousness. They are what some people might refer to as C&E Christians because they only come to Church and hear the Scriptures read on Christmas and Easter.

Asbury United Methodist, like other churches around us, has an inspiring time planned for the Advent and Christmas Season. Our church will get adorned with holiday cheer, new members will join and parties will be celebrated. However, we will continue to have Bible Study and Adult Sunday School Class like we do year round. We will learn from Adam Hamilton what The Journey to Bethlehem was truly about. The challenge for you this season will be to grow up through your faith as well. As believers, we need to take on the responsibility to feed ourselves on solid spiritual food, to make a commitment to make the church part of your life attending Worship and getting involved in a small fellowship group. To fail to do this is to remain spiritually weak and undernourished. When you have mature Christian believers living out their faith year round, you have strong churches as well.

You can roughly tell the physical age of people by how they look. Their spiritual age is revealed by their ability to distinguish between right and wrong by their personal character that's shown day by day. Is this spiritual discernment evident in your life? Or are you still 3 and under? Children and babies should be given time to live in wonder and awe. It's the mature Christian's responsibility to learn about their faith so they truly can live it, not only on Christmas and Easter, but all the other days of the year. That is my wish for each one of you this season.

A blessed Advent and Christmas season to you all,

*Pastor Jackie*



**Requests for Re-imbursement of Expenses**

As noted in Church on Nov 6, we have a new Treasurer. Shelly Lewke is joining the Outreach committee as Vice-Chair. Our new Treasurer is Cheryl Glose. Her email address is [Cheryl.Glose@CostSegregationPartners.com](mailto:Cheryl.Glose@CostSegregationPartners.com) or [clg994@gmail.com](mailto:clg994@gmail.com). (See her bio page 8.)

Please leave all requests for re-imbursement in the Treasurer’s mail slot. Cheryl will not be as visible as Shelly was at church activities. As always please complete the required re-imbursement form and place it in the Treasurer’s mail slot along with your receipt. Please be sure to have the form filled out correctly; including necessary signatures, so as not to delay your check.

To ensure no delay in re-imbursement, if you have any questions about the form, please email Cheryl or contact me or anyone else on the Finance committee.

If you want to provide Cheryl with any other information, or you want to give her a “heads up”, please email her at the address above.

Thanks for your co-operation.

*Stan Polaske*, Finance ChairPerson



**December Budget for Asbury**

Each month the Finance committee will provide details on what our anticipated expenses and income will be for the upcoming month.

If you have any questions, please contact anyone on the Finance committee.

Anticipated budgeted expenses

Salaries/benefits for Staff:	\$6,900
Mortgage	\$2,795
Utilities	\$621
Shared Giving/conference	\$1,178
Other items	\$1407

Total \$12,900

Anticipated Income

Pledge Giving	\$9,250
Plate	\$300
Interest	\$30
Christmas Giving	700

Total \$ 10,280



December  
Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 3 Richard Long
- 5 Robert Liebel
- 6 \*Doug & Barb DuBois (1975)
- 9 Karen Kirwan
- 9 Shelly Lewke
- 11 Hilary Spriesch
- 12 Robin Ailinger
- 16 Frances Holoman
- 17 Colleen Liebel
- 18 Merrill Arthur
- 19 Maxine Tanner
- 21 Sandra Hoos
- 24 Peggy Lockwood
- 26 Penny Wittlinger
- 27 Charles Syms



*If you or someone you know from church are missed, please call the church office.*

*Thank you.*



The following changes have been made to the directory:

**Eugene Vogel**  
**186 Golden Pheasant Dr**  
**Getzville, NY 14068**  
**716-689-8988**

*If your directory information has changed or you would like something corrected, please either call the church office or e-mail me at [asburyamherst@juno.com](mailto:asburyamherst@juno.com). Thank you.*

*Bonnie- Office Secretary*



Welcome Eugene Vogel !!!



**United Methodist  
Men=U.M.M.**



**Saturday,  
December 10th,  
at 9:00 am.  
Outing to:  
Bob Evans**



**Worship Welcoming Team**

Thank you for the following greeters who are part of the Welcoming Team.

**December**

Christopher & Kaye Lynn Gresham  
 Mabel Houghton  
 Ray Wedekindt

Dear Friends at Asbury,

In anticipation of all the people sharing their talents for the Holiday Season. I appreciate all your hard work.

Merry Christmas!!!

Love, *Nancy Morris*- Music Director

689-0864 or [morrissns143@roadrunner.com](mailto:morrisns143@roadrunner.com).





Asbury UMC has \$10, \$20, \$50, & \$100 Tops gift cards available for purchase. **See Merrill Arthur** after service, **or contact him @ 688-9425**. Cash for Causes helps the church to earn FREE money from Tops, just by doing your grocery or gas purchases. For every \$100 (You receive full face value of the card) in Gift Cards you buy, Asbury UMC earns \$5.00 from Tops!! *Even though the back of the card show logos for Stop N Shop, Martins & Giant, the cards can only be used at Tops stores in NY & PA.*

**Thank you,** for your participation in this ministry.  
**Tops Cards may also be bought during office hours.**



**Christmas Concert news**

As a member of the Lockport Chorale, I wanted you and the church to know we are having our Christmas Concert at Emmanuel United Methodist Church on Sunday, **December 4th at 3:00 PM. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for seniors.** We have been working very hard on the songs for some time now. Especially beautiful is the version of Silent Night we are singing. I have never heard it done like this before. Anyone that is interested, please let me know.

*Mike Wittlinger*



**Offering Envelopes** Will be available for pickup in the church fellowship hall beginning Sunday, **2012 December 11<sup>th</sup>**



**2012**

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**



**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY December 4th**

Collections are for the New Beginnings Food Pantry located in the Amherst Baptist Church on Willow Ridge Drive.

We don't know what the food bank will be providing us with for Christmas, so the Food Pantry needs are basically the same; Gift cards to Tops in any amount are wonderful (\$10 is good). *(buy cards from Asbury and the church gets 5%, so it helps Asbury too; See Merrill Arthur or church office)* Any type of canned beans, soups which have some type of meat or chicken in it plus cans of ravioli with beef or things of that nature are always good. We are very low on personal product items especially shampoo, conditioners, toothpaste and deodorants. Also, there is a need for paper towels, toilet paper, and kleenex.

Thanks again for being such a loving and caring congregation.

*Items can be placed in the basket in the Fellowship Hall.*

*Nancy Moore 688-6255*





### Financial Planning Workshops at Christ United Methodist Church

A series of 6 financial planning workshops will be held at Christ Church during January 2012. Lead by **Patrick Allaire**, President/CEO of Allaire Financial Strategies, and his associate **Keith Schottman**.

These workshops will address 6 steps to planning and implementing financial strategies based on wants and personal life goals. Each workshop is offered daytime and evening for your convenience. Topics include:

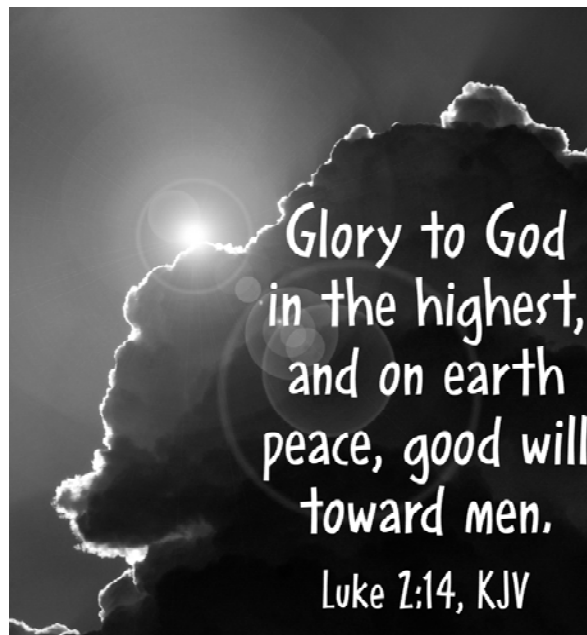
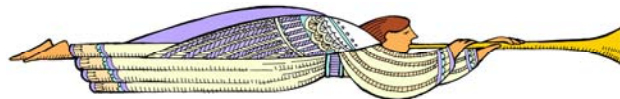
- ☆ What is Financial Planning?
  - How is it different from what you are doing?
  - Wednesday, January 11 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- ☆ Basic Budgeting
  - Cash flow strategies.
  - Wednesday, January 18 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- ☆ Accumulation Strategies
  - Monday, January 23 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- ☆ Distribution Strategies
  - How not to run out of money before you run out of life in retirement.
  - Wednesday, January 25 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- ☆ Charitable Gifting
  - Sunday, January 29 1 p.m.
- ☆ Retirement Planning
  - Monday, January 30 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.

All workshops are **free** of charge and open to the public.

Our thanks to Patrick Allaire and Keith Schottman, local businessmen in the Harlem-Kensington-Cleveland Community for partnering with Christ Church to make these workshops possible.

To reserve your place call the church office, 839-2460.

Rev. Dr. B.J. Norrix | 350 Saratoga Rd. Snyder, NY 14226  
[cumc350@gmail.com](mailto:cumc350@gmail.com) | [www.ChristChurchAmherst.org](http://www.ChristChurchAmherst.org)



### Next Scrapbooking Scheduled: Saturday, December 17th, 9:00 am to 12Noon



Our Winter Scrapbooking sessions include instruction provided by *Close to My Heart* consultant Susan Fogle, followed by open time to work on individual or group projects. We meet in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome whether you are a beginner or a veteran paper crafter! RSVP to the Church office two weeks prior so materials can be ordered. Suggested donation is \$5.00.



### United Methodist Youth Fellowship=UMYF

The Youth are busy fundraising for the 2012 Mission Trip! The Wreath sale was a success and wreaths will be delivered to the church the first week of December. We will call you all when they have arrived. **The 2012 God's Creation calendars are still available for \$6.00** – they are a must have for yourself and make a great gift for friends and family.

The youth helped out at the St Vincent de Paul soup kitchen in November and plan on helping out at the Dinner with Santa event on December 13<sup>th</sup>!!

Thank you all who supported our wreath and calendar sale! And keep your bottle and cans coming to our box in the kitchen—those nickels add up!!



**United Methodist Women=UMW News**

Our unit's annual Christmas Dinner will be **Monday December 12th, 6 PM** at my home, 157 Evergreen Drive, Tonawanda. Please sign up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board if you will be attending our **Italian Feast**, we will have a \$10 gift exchange.

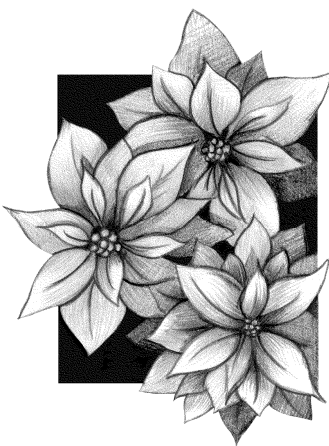
Need a gift for someone? Something chocolate and nutty? We have what you need. Our unit's annual Fundraising Project is under way.....those famous Schermer Pecans are available for purchase. The price is \$10 for a 12 oz. foil gift bag of chocolate covered pecans. You can help support UMW mission work for women and children around the world and here in Western New York by buying a bag of pecans. We appreciate you participating in this program!

Thank you to everyone who gave generously to Seneca Street UMC's winter coat collection and gifts for their *Children's Christmas Shoppe*. Our giving does make a difference to those in need.

*Vergie Oettinger*  
President, Asbury UMW



**Poinsettia Order**  
(Please place orders by 12/11/11)



Red	6 inch multibloom	\$7.25		X # _____ = _____
White	6 inch multibloom	\$7.25		X # _____ = _____
Pink	6 inch multibloom	\$7.25		X # _____ = _____
Red	7 1/2 inch multibloom	\$10.25	2 plants	X # _____ = _____
White	7 1/2 inch multibloom	\$10.25	2 Plants	X # _____ = _____
Pink	7 1/2 inch multibloom	\$10.25	2 plants	X # _____ = _____
Red	10 inch multibloom	\$19.00	4 plants	X # _____ = _____
White	10 inch multibloom	\$19.00	4 plants	X # _____ = _____
Pink	10 inch multibloom	\$19.00	4 plants	X # _____ = _____

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total**      **\$** \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Asbury UMC,

I would like to take a moment and introduce myself. My name is Cheryl Glose and I'm your new Treasurer. I want to thank you for the chance to work with you on the exciting ministry that's happening here at Asbury.

I live in Lancaster with my mother, a retired 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher who loves to quilt and has made going out to lunch her second career. I'm very impressed by that.

I work for Freed Maxick & Battaglia, CPA, PC (accountants; not lawyers despite the name) in downtown Buffalo. I've been there for almost 3 years working in their Cost Segregation department.

For the past 21 summers, I've been the Technical Director for the Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau's Summer Theater Workshop. I do 2 – 3 shows per summer with approximately 200 children between the ages of 10 – 21. I work on and teach set, lighting, and sound design in live theater.

I recently became a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Erie County. I also serve on their Board of Advisors as Secretary. Through this program, I work with abused and neglected children that are in the Erie County Foster Care System. I am assigned to a child rather than their parent and represent the "best interests" of that child throughout his/her time spent in foster care. While a very emotional journey, it's one of the most rewarding things I've ever been blessed to do.

I "met" Asbury UMC while working at the Western New York Conference of the UMC several years ago. I spent a little over 6 years working at the Conference. While there, I was lucky enough to meet Pastor Jackie who was our Camping Coordinator at the time. When she left the Conference to join Asbury, I was sad for me as I knew I would miss her, yet happy for you. Asbury was much smaller at the time and I admit that I realized I had a soft spot in my heart for Asbury and tried to help the church where I could. When the opportunity presented itself to become your Treasurer I jumped at the chance as that "soft spot" is still there and I want to see this church shine.

I am always happy to meet with any committee upon their request to talk about any concerns you may have. You are always welcome to contact me at: [clg994@gmail.com](mailto:clg994@gmail.com) or by leaving me a note in my mail slot at church.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity and I look forward to meeting and working with you while we let Western New York know what a warm and loving place Asbury UMC is!



### Asbury Angels


An unwrapped Asbury Angel gifts can be put into gift bags and tissue paper **with the tag on the outside of the gift**. Please bring to church by **December 18th**. A "cap" of \$30 per gift is being suggested to be fair to all.

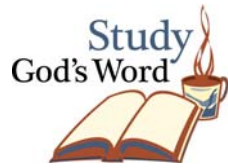
See Outreach article page 11.



\*\*\*\*Dates & Times are subject to change.

# 2011 December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Sunday Worship Schedule:</b> 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>Winter Office Hours:</b> Tues. & Thurs. 12:30-4:30pm Wed. 9:00-4:00pm	**See Holiday Office hours below		10:00 am Bible Study 11:00-1:00 pm Knitting Circle 7:00 pm Finance Meeting No Trustee Mtg.	No Peppertree  1:30 pm Peppertree	1:30pm Asbury Pointe  9:00 am Men's Breakfast Outing
<b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> 3:00 pm Lockport Chorale @ Emmanuel UMC			10:00 am Bible Study 11:00-1:00 pm Knitting Circle 5:30 pm SPPRC	1:30 pm Peppertree 7:00 pm Outreach		9:00am-Noon Scrapbooking
11 Poinsettia orders due	12 6:00 pm UMW Christmas Dinner	13 3:30 pm Choir Practice 5:00 -8:00 pm Dinner with Santa No Church Council	14 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00-1:00 pm Knitting Circle 5:30 pm SPPRC	15 <i>Jan. Articles Due</i> 1:30 pm Peppertree 7:00 pm Outreach	16 9:00 am-11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	17
18	19 **Office hours: 9:00 am -2:00 pm	20 **Office hours: 9:00 am -2:00 pm	21 **Office hours: 9:00 am -2:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00-1:00 pm Knitting Circle	22 **Office hours: 9:00 am -2:00 pm	23 6:00 pm & 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	24
25 <b>No Christmas Day Service</b> 	26	27 **Office hours: 9:00 am -2:00 pm	28 **Office Closed 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00-1:00 pm Knitting Circle	29 **Office hours: 9:00 am -2:00 pm 1:30 pm Peppertree	30 **Office hours: 9:00 am -2:00 pm	31



**Come join in one of our December Bible Studies:**

**For Advent, all the Bible Studies** will be using the curriculum called, The Journey where we will be retracing Mary and Joseph's steps from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Author, Adam Hamilton will be using a video to show and discuss the actual sites where the Holy family traveled. He will discuss the culture of the time in which Jesus was born to also give us a better understanding.

Groups meet as followed:

Asbury Pointe on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 1:30pm located at: 50 Stahl Rd, Getzville

Asbury UMC Adult Sunday School Class– Meet in adult room at 9:15am

Asbury UMC meet Wednesdays, at 10:00am

Peppertree Towers meet Thursdays, at 1:30pm located at: Peppertree Heights Community Room,  
285 Peppertree Dr., Amherst.

All are Welcome!!!!

*Any questions contact the church office or Nancy Moore, Bible Study Leader*



**Message from the SPPRC chair**

Lovett Weems, of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC, says; "Leaders don't need answers. Leaders must have the right questions."

Our new District Superintendent, Rev. Wayne Butler has provided your church leadership with some questions for us to ponder and discuss. Rev. Butler has invited us spend some time discussing these questions and to send him a brief summary of our discussions. Rev. Butler has asked that we provide our responses back to him within four months.

The Church Council and the SPPRC are reviewing and discussing the questions in our meetings. The questions that we have selected for discussion from the list provided are:

- What energizes you about your church?
- What concerns you about your church?
- What excites you about the future of your church?

The SPPRC would like to challenge the congregation to also take part in this discussion exercise and is looking for your feedback. I would like to ask that any group of church members that gathers consider these questions. Groups such as the United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Youth, the knitting circle or dinner groups, etc., are all invited to participate.

I believe we may gain some valuable insights from this exercise which may help your church leadership as we move forward in the New Year. Once we have the results I will share what we have learned with the congregation. Please have the summary of your discussions back to me by the end of January. I thank you in advance for your participation and look forward to your responses.

Have a Blessed Christmas

Yours in Christ

*John Havrilla*

SPPRC Chair



## News from the Outreach Team

First of all - A warm **welcome to Shelly Lewke** - our new Co-Chair of Outreach! We are all very excited to have her help, ideas, and suggestions and look forward to working with her.

Outreach had a very busy and successful fall - we were able to Spread God's Love in many ways! We had a wonderful trip on October 29 to a family in Aurora who needed our help with outdoor work. We raked leaves and cleaned their whole outside porch and deck to make it safer for their son - Sam, who is developmentally disabled. Thanks to the Moore's for bringing their 2 super dogs for some Pet Therapy for Sam - it brought a lot of joy to the family. We had a fun lunch with the family and missed most of the rain!

We went to the St Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen on November 12 and helped out with kitchen work and serving their clients. Everyone who went felt this was a wonderful way to be out in the community being God's hands; we are planning to return to the Soup Kitchen in March 2012.

We did a Bulk Mailing to 3 Rural Routes in Getzville; we picked the routes with the youngest families and those geographically close to the church. Bonnie was a God-send as always and the mailing was almost too easy!! The Post Office was a great help and they were able to give us a good rate as we printed the postcards at the church on cardstock and the weight was perfect for a lower charge - we mailed 1600 pieces for only \$100.00. We hope to see some new faces at the church this holiday season!!

We are excited to be doing the **Angel Tree** Ministry again this year!! Each member of the church family can pick a name of a child who needs clothes or toys for the holiday season and we get to be Santa!! We have children from Dodge Elementary School - right in our area and also from the Heritage Education Program (HEP) located on Delaware Road, in Kenmore. I had the pleasure of working with staff at HEP when I was a social worker for Heritage and was so impressed with the staff and the love and caring they showed these children. All the children are developmentally disabled and have many needs - some have Down Syndrome or Autism, many do not walk or need walkers or wheelchairs. Many have physical challenges. Sadly, some of the families are low income and are not equipped to deal with their child's additional needs. The social worker at HEP was thrilled when we asked if we could help her out with present for the holidays. Each child has a list of needed items and then suggestions for presents . We will be having 2 Angels per child from HEP as they have many needs; you can chose to pick 1 or 2 Angels for each child from HEP. We are asking that all gifts be returned to the church by **Sunday Dec 18** - unwrapped and if possible in a gift bag. This is what Christmas is all about!! Any questions - please call Viv Parker or Don McQuiston.

We are doing **Dinner with Santa on Tuesday December 13 from 5 - 8 p.m.** This is a free program for parents - they can drop off their children ages 3 - 10 for dinner, crafts, face painting, singing and of course a visit from Santa. We had lots of fun last year and had 26 children participating. Amherst YES has graciously agreed to come over again and help us out, along with our youth. We would love to have a few more volunteers so please call me if you would like to help!!

Looking ahead to 2012, we are talking to Beechwood to see how our church can do programming with them on a regular basis. We will be doing Valentines for Veterans again during Jan and early Feb and also collecting blankets and throws to donate to the VA. We are planning another game night as everyone has a great time when we get together!! Lots to look forward to in 2012.

As always, thanks for your support and enthusiasm. We ARE spreading God's love in very concrete ways and we ARE making a difference to others! Go Church!!

*Betsy Arthur-Outreach Committee*



## Asbury United Methodist Church

Rev. Jackie Ann Rose Kraft,  
Pastor

Bonnie Boudreault,  
Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Nancy Morris, Music Director

Puneet Jacob, Music Asst.

Charles Syms, Lay Leader

Sunday School @ 9:15 am

**Worship at 10:30 am**

Church Telephone: 688-8677

E-mail: [asburyamherst@juno.com](mailto:asburyamherst@juno.com)

[www.asburyamherstumc.org](http://www.asburyamherstumc.org)

**Winter** Office hours:

Tues., Thurs.

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Wed. 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

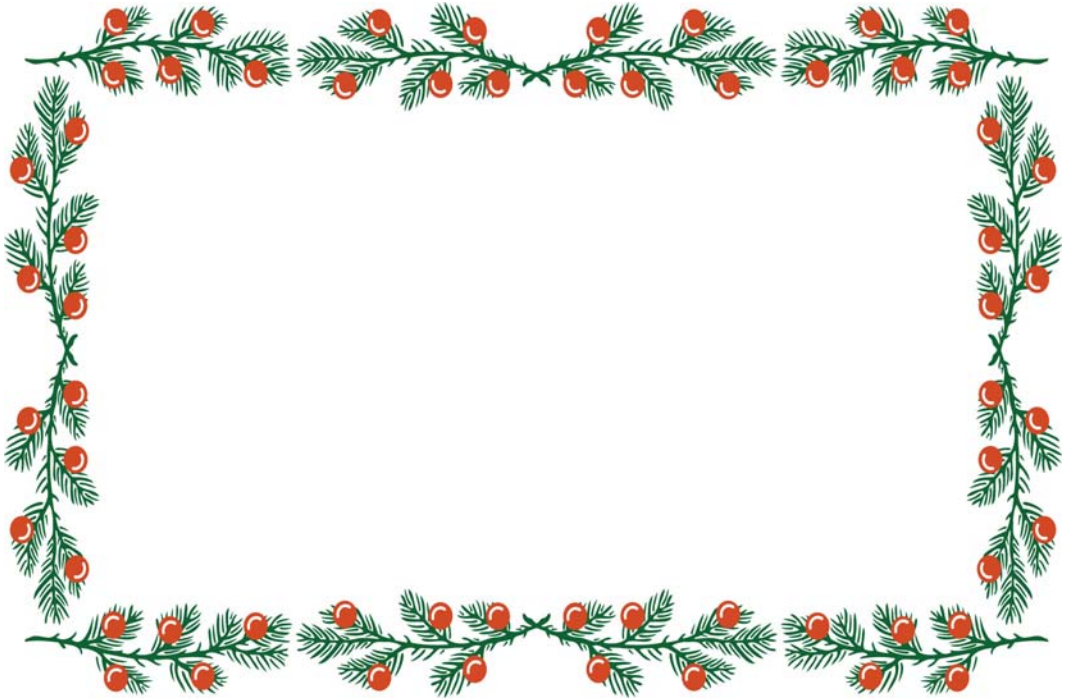
Monday & Friday closed

Asbury United Methodist Church

PO Box 743

850 Dodge Road

Getzville, NY 14068



# DECEMBER



**December 13th 5:00-8:00 pm: Free to children ages 3-10 years-Dinner, crafts, games music and Santa!!! See Outreach article page 11, for more information.**



**Christmas Eve Services: December 24th-**

**6:00 pm and 11:00 pm Candlelight, Carols, Communion**



### Lectionary Readings

*These readings are provided for you to use in your daily devotions. May God speak to you through them.*

December 4th      Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

December 11th     Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

December 18th     2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Luke 1: 47-55; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38

December 25th     Isaiah 52: 7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1: 1-4; John 1: 1-14