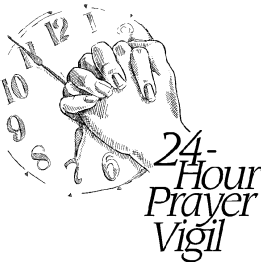


2012

The Circuit Rider



24 Hour Prayer Vigil

Starting Friday, January 6th at 8:00pm – Saturday, January 7th, 8:00pm, we will be having a 24 Prayer Vigil. That's where you come in! We need people who are willing to pray! There will be a sign-up chart available for you to volunteer to pray for just one hour. What are we praying about? We are asking what God would have us do in 2012. Bibles and devotions, even spiritual music will be available through various "prayer centers" in the sanctuary. Listen for God's voice. The church will be open and secure through-out the 24 hours. If you need a key, let the office know. You can sign up to pray at home, and snowbirds are invited also. However, there's something special about being in a quiet sanctuary listening to the Lord. Let's **ASK/PRAY, SEEK, FIND & KNOCK** together so God's door for the 2012 future of the church will be revealed and glorify His Name.



Luke 11:9-10

⁹ "So I say to you: **Ask** and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will **find**; **knock** and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

ASK &
it will be given to you;
SEEK &
you will find;
KNOCK &
the door will be opened to you.

M a t t h e w 7 : 7

“Talking Turkey”-Pastor’s Report and Challenge for 2012

It’s the beginning of the second year we have been in our new church. “How are we doing?” I’ve been asked. That’s a fair question. As I write with just about a couple of weeks before the end of 2011, I pray about and I see the following:

We had 12 new members join us in 2011. We also lost 1 member; Dick Hadsel died, whom we all miss dearly. Two out-of-state members, the Kings, transferred to their new church home. The end of 2011 leaves us with a net increase in membership of 10% over our 2011 count of 95 members. Our Worship attendance has also increased by about 9%. Our pledged giving has increased from last year from \$91,460 to \$99,664 which is just over a 9% increase. We have other pledges of \$1,500 towards our Outreach budget and money specifically allocated for mulch next year.

Our Finance Secretary has estimated the families, that do not pledge but give on a regular schedule, continue to give at the same rate. It is an additional \$10,500. So that brings us to approximately \$110,164 towards our 2012 giving.

(This is great news of increases and great giving!)

However, our finance team said we needed a total goal of \$120,000 to meet all the expenses for our ministry next year. The total budget to do ministry from our church has been estimated to be \$172,770. Our finance team has used money from the Church Extension Grant, our Health Insurance Grant, potential building usage, Fund Raiser Events, Special offerings from Christmas and Easter to help balance the budget. But, the truth is, we are still behind what is needed. After a couple of years our grant money will no longer be there for us to augment our budget.

It is a wonderful opportunity God presented us with this new church facility. Talking turkey...the truth is, it costs more money to maintain this facility. We haven’t grown into it yet. We have more maintenance, larger utilities, and more muscle work needed to keep everything up. We have a mortgage of approximately \$330,000 for a church building and property that is worth approximately \$2,500,000. We aren’t being frivolous with our building or with our budget. The finance team and I are looking at ways we can cut back; while at the same time, maintain the level of ministry we have been privileged to be involved.

Talking Turkey...we need to keep growing. I say this...not for us to reach our budget. But to continue our ministries...our responsibility...to invite people to know Jesus Christ as their own Lord and Savior. When we, as God’s blessed children, do this fully, all else will fall into place. I believe to find out God’s will for our church...we need to start out by listening to God. We need to “talk turkey” with God and listen fully for His response. I ask our Church to participate in a **24 Hour Prayer Vigil on Friday, January 6th starting at 8:00pm going through Saturday, January 7th at 8:00pm.** January 6th is Epiphany of the Lord. Let’s start the New Year out praying for God’s understanding of how God wants each of us to respond to our personal and church’s faith journeys. There will be a sign-up chart available in the Fellowship Hall for you to volunteer to pray for an hour. Bibles and devotionals will be available for you to read as you “listen for God’s voice” through your prayer time. Yes, the church will be securely open throughout the night. If you need a key for the church, let me know. You may also pray from home. (Snow birds included!) However, there is something special about being in a quiet sanctuary of the Lord and away from your home surroundings.

Continued on next page.....

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Why support Asbury? What difference do we make? Talking turkey again....here are some of the Outreach ministries Asbury is involved in (You may have your own favorite): The New Beginnings Food Pantry; Central City Café; Seneca Street UMC; St. Vincent De' Paul, Gateway Longview Children's Home; Asbury Angels to: The Heritage Educational Program and Dodge Elementary Children in need; Asbury Pointe and Peppertree Towers; The Erie County Home. We give to World Wide Ministries through our connectional shared giving (apportionments) to things like UMCOR. We also go on mission with Appalachian Service Project (ASP). One of the leading questions that our District Superintendent, Rev. Wayne Butler asked us to think about is: "If your church closed tomorrow – other than your members – who would miss it?" When you support Asbury, you support all these missions. If our church was closed, these ministries and the lives they touch could fall by the way side.

Yes....folks...I'm talking Turkey. You asked for it. Listen to God and ask how God is asking you and our church to respond in 2012. As your pastor, I believe together we are going to do well in 2012. Keep talking....and listening to the Lord. The following are a few leaders in the church you can also "talk turkey" with: myself, our new Lay Leader, Chris Holoman, Stan Polaske, our Finance Chairperson, Charles Syms and Dick Casseri from our Trustees, John Havrilla, our SPPRC Chairperson, Betsy Arthur and Shelly Lewke from Outreach; Laurie Syms and Merrill Arthur our Youth Group Leaders, Vergie Oettinger, our Church Council and United Methodist Women Chairperson, Barbara Hadsell our Worship Chairperson, Karen Kirwan our Church School Elementary Superintendent or Nancy Moore our Church School Superintendent for Adult Christian Education. Kaye Lynn Gresham and Cheryl Glose are there to also "crunch numbers" for us. We have to be wise stewards. The main thing is to talk to the leadership. Ask the hard questions out loud and in person, so we can organize and plan for our church's future as the mature Christian caretakers we are called to be.

Our Mission: Everyone praying/Asking, Seeking, Finding, and together Knocking. – *Pastor Jackie*

January Budget for Asbury

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

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

Anticipated Budgeted Expenses		Anticipated Budgeted Income	
Salaries/benefits for Staff:	\$7,114	Pledge Giving	\$10,000
Mortgage	\$2,795	Plate	\$230
Utilities	\$580	Interest	\$10
Shared Giving/conference	\$1,206	Peppertree	\$50
Other items	\$1,004	Conference grant	\$400
Total	\$12,699	Total	\$ 10,690



January Birthdays

- 2 Eugene Vogel
- 3 Bill Pierson
- 4 Matt Feifel
- 9 Vergie Oettinger
- 13 Dick Casseri
- 13 Harriet Geiger
- 15 Sally Hoolahan
- 19 Christopher Arthur
- 29 Audrey Stahl
- 31 Michael Rizzacasa

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

Thank you.



Worship Welcoming Team

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

January 2012

Doris Callahan, Nancy Ott
Vivien Parker, George Miner

February 2012

Barbara Hadsell, Don Jurewicz
Mabel Houghton, Jack Saia



United Methodist Men=U.M.M.



**Saturday, January 7th,
at 9:00 am at Church.
Hosted by: Dick Casseri**

Dear Friends at Asbury,

The Chimers will be playing once more, Jan. 8th in honor of Three Kings Day.

Choir practice is scheduled for Jan. 10th & 24th at 3:30 pm.

Everyone has some musical ability. Don't be shy, join us for musical fun.

All are welcome!!

Love, *Nancy Morris*- Music Director

472-3877 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.



**FOOD PANTRY
SUNDAY
January 1st**

Collections are for the New Beginnings Food Pan-
try located in the Amherst Baptist Church on Wil-
low Ridge Drive.

Pantry needs are the same for January. 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)* This way the director of the Pan-
try can purchase what is needed most for the
month. They are still looking to receive 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. Personal
product items especially shampoo, conditioners,
toothpaste and deodorants are always needed.
Also, there is a need for paper towels, toilet paper,
and kleenex.

Thanks again for being such a loving and caring
congregation.

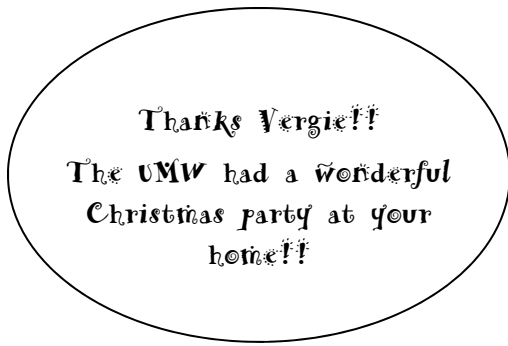
*Items can be placed in the basket in the Fellowship
Hall.*

Nancy Moore 688-6255

United Methodist Women=UMW News

We will not be meeting in January.

Vergie Oettinger
President, Asbury UMW



Thanks Vergie!!
The UMW had a wonderful
Christmas party at your
home!!





Next Scrapbooking Scheduled: Saturday, January 21st , 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.



Church Leadership

Thank you to all our church leaders who served in 2011!!

A special thanks goes to Charles Syms for all his years of service as our Lay Leader. Charles will now be involved with Asbury's Trustees and the Upper New York Conference Committee on Sexual Ethics. Please read below and congratulate him for his willingness to serve in the conference:

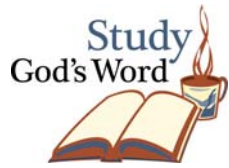
Charles has been appointed to the new Upper New York Conference Committee on Sexual Ethics. This committee has three primary responsibilities. The first is to assist the churches in the conference as they move toward instituting "Safe Sanctuaries" adopted at the 2010 Annual Conference. A second responsibility of the committee is to take a lead role in the development of policy and procedures, as well as training and other necessary resources, for responders, churches, charges, clergy and/or laity to respond to crises. The final charge of the committee is to provide educational resources and training support on the subject of sexual ethics for clergy and laity.

Congratulations

Welcome and Congratulations to our new Lay Leader Chris Holoman!

He has served in various leadership positions in the church including Lay Member to the Annual Conference for a number of years. Currently he teaches the Adult Sunday School Class. He has also served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and as the Chairperson of the Niagara Frontier District Council on Ministry. Presently he serves on the Niagara Frontier District Superintendency Committee. Chris is the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Hilbert College. Chris and Connie reside in Amherst, with their two new kittens. Their daughter, Allie recently was married this past summer to Jamie Fritz. Their daughter Fran is teaching school with the Teach for America Program, teaching 2nd grade. Connie and Chris dearly love their Asbury United Methodist Church family! We thank God for their commitment and dedication!





Come join in one of our January Bible Studies:

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

Coming in January for Wednesdays and Peppertree: "First Persons"-Looking at stories in the New Testament through the eyes of ordinary people.

Coming in February for Asbury Point: "Christianity and World Religions" by Adam Hamilton. Hamilton's study compares and contrasts Christianity with:- Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam.

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



United Methodist Youth Fellowship=UMYF



A HUGE thank you to all who supported our wreath sale fundraiser-we made \$500 for our 2012 Mission trip!! You all are AWESOME!!!

We still have 2012 calendars available for \$6.00 – another one of our fundraisers.

The Youth helped out with the Dinner with Santa on December 13th, which was enjoyed by 23 children. A great time was had by all!!!

Our **annual lock-in** will be happening **Friday, January 6th starting at 7:00 pm**. This will be the same day as the 24 hour prayer vigil that begins at 8:00 pm.

Watch the bulletin for any changes.

And, as always, keep those cans and bottles coming!!



Catch the Spirit

Saturday, January 28, 2012 @ 8:00 am

***This form must be received by
January 8, 2012***

Name _____
Address _____

Phone (area code) _____

Home Church _____

E-Mail _____

Amount enclosed _____

Make check payable to

UNY Annual Conference

It must be included with registration.

Workshop selection

Enter the number of the workshop you have selected along with a second choice.

Only one person per registration form please.

FULL DAY # _____

Alternate choice # _____

TWO HALF DAY WORKSHOPS

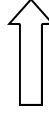
AM workshop # _____

Alternate choice # _____

PM workshop # _____

Alternate choice # _____

(For full workshop descriptions, brochures available at Asbury)



8:00 am to 3:30 pm

Clarence United Methodist Church

10205 Greiner Rd., Clarence, NY

Registration Deadline

January 8, 2012

Make check payable to

UNY Annual Conference

Send check &

registration form to

Jessica White

175 Main St Apt #3

Attica NY 14011

1-716-536-1820

Cost is \$22.00 if paid by

January 8, 2012

Cost is \$25.00 if paid after

January 8, 2012

Price includes workshops, lunch, and worship

No discount is given for only a

single 1/2 day workshop

Full Day Workshops

Select one and one alternative

- 1-Basic Lay Speaking Ministry Presented by Barb Brewer
- 2-Advanced Lay Speaking Ministry Presented by Rev. Cheryl Brown
- 3-What does it mean to United Methodist Presented by Jim McMill
- 4-Empowering Lay Ministry through the UNY Lay Ministry Kit
- 5-Charles Wesley Presented by Rev. Dr. Duane Priset
- 6-What's Up With the 3 P's? Youth Praying, Praising, & Playing!
- 7-Christianity & World Religions Presented by Rev. Dr. Greg Van Dussen
- 7a-Living Water, Sanitation, Hygiene Presented by John Harbison

Half Day Workshops AM or PM

- 8-Methodist Prison Ministry-Bringing Back Our Roots! Presented by Karen Tanner
- 9-Praying the Lord's Prayer Presented by Rev. Karen Grinnell
- 10-The Connection and the Finances of the Local Church Presented by Sherri L. Mackey
- 11-Safe Sanctuary Guidelines for our Churches Presented by Judy Toone
- 12-Local Church Trustees/Energy Savings Presented by Rev. Dr. Don Weaver
- MORNING ONLY WORKSHOPS**
- 13-S/PPRC Training 101 Presented by Rev. Wayne Butler, District Superintendent
- 14-God Provides: Using God's Resources Responsibly, Stewardship for Adults, Youth and Children Presented by Sheila Rader
- 15-Use of Visuals in Worship Presented by Rev. Beth J. Kottmann
- 16-Vacation Bible School Presented by Deb Coatsworth
- 17-How to Deal with Difficult People Presented by Rev. Larry Eastlack

2012 January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>	2	3	4 10:00 am Bible Study 10:00-Noon Knitting Circle 5:30 pm SPPRC 7:00 pm Trustees & Finance Meetings	5 1:30 pm Peppertree Practice 6:00 pm Chime Practice	6 <i>Epiphany-Three Kings Day</i> 8:00 pm: "24 Hour" Prayer Vigil	7 9:00 am Men's Breakfast Vigil till 8:00 pm
8	9	10 3:30 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm Church Council	11 10:00 am Bible Study 10:00-Noon Knitting Circle	12 1:30 pm Peppertree 6:30 pm Outreach- Dinner Meeting @ Sue Korosecz	13 1:30 pm Asbury Point	14
15	16 <i>Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday</i>	17	18 10:00 am Bible Study 10:00-Noon Knitting Circle	19 1:30 pm Peppertree	20 <i>Newsletter Articles Due for February</i>	21 9:00 am-Noon Scrap booking
22	23	24 3:30 pm Choir Practice	25 10:00 am Bible Study 10:00-Noon Knitting Circle	26 1:30 pm Peppertree	27 1:30 pm Asbury Point	28 8:00 am-3:30 pm "Catch The Spirit" @ Clarence UMC
29	30	31		***Dates and Times are subject to change.	<u>Sunday Worship</u> Schedule: 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Worship Service	<u>Winter Office</u> Schedule: Days & Hours: Tues., Thurs. 12:30-4:30 pm Wed. 9:00 am-4 pm



News from the Outreach Team

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and has great plans for a happy and healthy new year!!

Outreach had a busy and successful month. Dinner with Santa was on December 13 and we had a busy but fun night! We served 23 children and some of their families dinner and then had lots of great crafts, face painting and singing with Puneet!! Santa looked wonderful and had a perfect "Ho, Ho, Ho" this year after much practice! This was a good outreach and many families who came last year, came this year and said they had been looking forward to the evening. We hope to make this a yearly tradition and continue to grow and to be seen in the community as a caring church. Thanks to all our amazing helpers as it takes lots of hands! Thanks also to Amherst YES who came with 4 high school girls who helped with everything!!

The Angel Tree was also a great success. Our church family adopted 26 children from Dodge and 15 special needs children from Heritage Education Program - each of whom required 2 angels as they had many needs. The bags were absolutely beautiful and were very appreciated by staff at both schools. Thanks also to Shannon Graziano's Girl Scout troop for their amazing donation of a huge box of additional toys. We hope to carry on this tradition and grow it next year as there are many needs right in our own neighborhoods. What a super way to spread God's Love!

Looking ahead, I had a visit with the Chaplain at Beechwood, and she is interested in having our church adopt a neighborhood at Beechwood. This would be wonderful, but we need to have the whole congregation "on board" as we would be expected to do an activity a month. This can be as simple as going in for an evening and reading a book or playing a game. If each group in the church took one month a year it would be super easy!! I have invited Karen Dickinson from Calvary Episcopal Church to come and speak at church for just a few minutes - sharing how she and her church have been doing their own neighborhood at Beechwood. We are waiting to hear the definite date but we are planning for

January 8 or 15. We will update everyone in the bulletin as soon as we know.

We will be starting **Valentines for Veterans in January** and also collecting throws/blankets for the residents of the VA. This will be going on the whole month of January. The VA was so appreciated and touched by our gifts last year. We will have all the supplies to make Valentine's available after church starting on **January 8, 2012.** If everyone could just take a minute and make a simple card thanking the Veteran for their service and sacrifice it would be perfect. You can also make more than one! We had great cards last year!! We will have a box to donate the throws/blankets. I will be delivering the items to the VA in early February so all our service men and women will have them by Valentines Day. This is another great way to "Spread God's Love"!!

Game Night is coming again!! We have set the date for **February 25th.** Mark your calendars as this is always a great time. Bring your favorite games and some snacks and we'll be all set. We will get more details to you as this date gets closer.....Look for the sing-up sheet in February.

Next Outreach Meeting: January 12th -6:30 pm. We will be meeting at Sue Korosecz's for a dinner/meeting. Outreach members, please let us know if you can attend.

Thanks to everyone for all your support and enthusiasm. For a small church, we have accomplished many wonderful Ministries and are continuing to reach out and help others, which is the purest way to "Spread God's Love."

God Bless and have a wonderful month.

Betsy Arthur and Shelly Lewke

Co-Chairs-Outreach Team



Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." Revelations 21:5

At Christmas, we often receive new clothes as gifts. When we go to put our new clothes in our closet or in our drawers, we realize we need to let go of something old to make room for the new. But it is hard to decide what not to keep. Is it the worn out outfit that my Dad especially picked out for me, when he was alive? What about the pair of jeans that is a size too small? I AM determined to get rid of that extra weight!

There is a book I invite you to read called, Necessary Endings by Dr. Henry Cloud. Dr. Cloud is the bestselling author also of Boundaries and Integrity. Necessary Endings is about our need to let go of things that are holding us in a past that is not part of our future. Sometimes in our lives, we hold on to things that need to end. However, it is hard to let go. We may need to let go of the old way of doing things in our work, or our relationships, or our home. We have emotional attachments to things and people that were a good part of our past, but they don't move us into the future. They hold us in the past, and don't allow us to be all that we can be.

When we look into our future six months, or even six years...do we want to be doing the same things we are doing now? If the answer is no, we need to let go of something, or even someone if we want to move into that future. But, that's hard to do. We become attached, and we tend to say, "Maybe, I will deal with that tomorrow." But tomorrow doesn't come, and neither does the future we desire. Sometimes we just have to make the decision, the necessary ending, and move forward.

Not all things need to end. There are relationships and activities and things that move with us through life. Some traditions keep us grounded instead of "stuck." They change and adjust and support us in what we are becoming. Many things from the past can move with us through our whole life. We can tell what they are: They are supportive and transformational. They bring us joy and hope, and we welcome them every time we experience them. But some things need to change and need to end. It is the way of God. Things are born, they grow, they die, and then they are replaced by new things.

It's the beginning of a new year, 2012. It's the perfect opportunity to let go of things in that past that don't engage the future. Let's make a commitment within ourselves to put a stop to things that have been getting in our way for a long time, and be transformed to God's leaders and followers needed for today. Together, may we be known as a Transformational Church for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Being Transformed With You,
Pastor Jackie





Asbury United Methodist Church

Rev. Jackie Ann Rose Kraft,
Pastor

Bonnie Boudreault,
Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Nancy Morris, Music Director
Puneet Jacob, Music Asst.

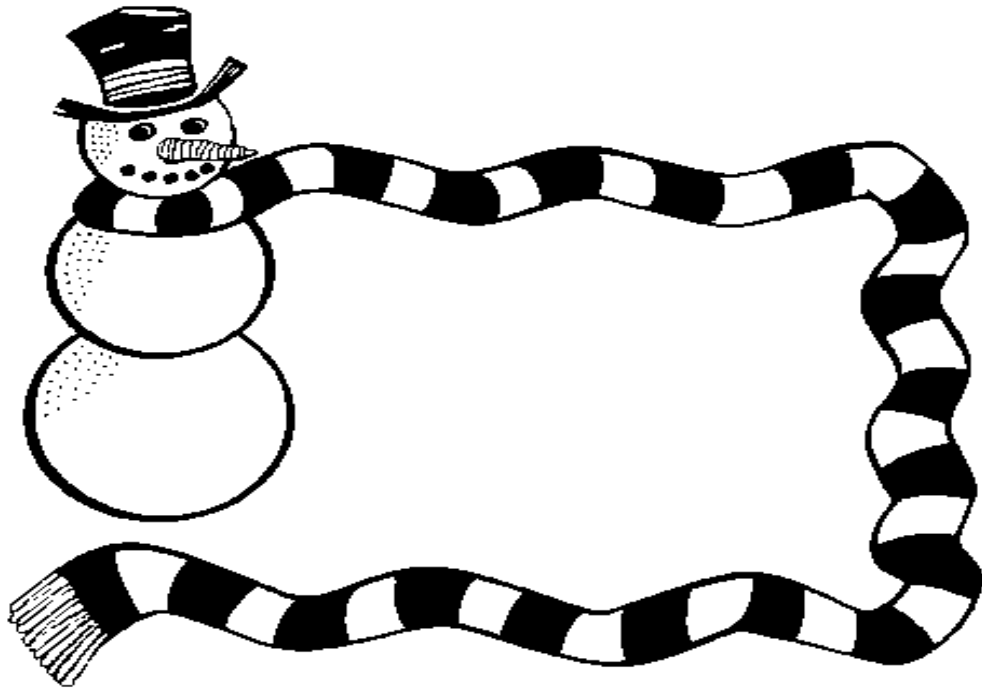
Charles Syms, Lay Leader

Sunday School @ 9:15 am
Worship at 10:30 am

Church Telephone: 688-8677
E-mail: asburyamherst@juno.com
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



January



Lectionary Readings

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

January 1st Isaiah 61: 10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 22-40
January 8th Genesis 1: 1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19: 1-7; Mark 1: 4-11
January 15th 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20; John 1: 43-51
January 22nd Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; Psalm 62: 5-12; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20
January 29th Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13; Mark 1: 21-28

