

2010

The Circuit Rider



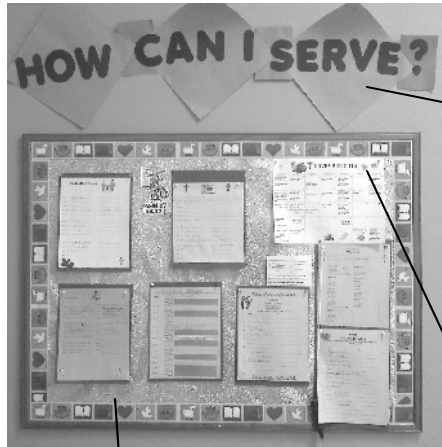
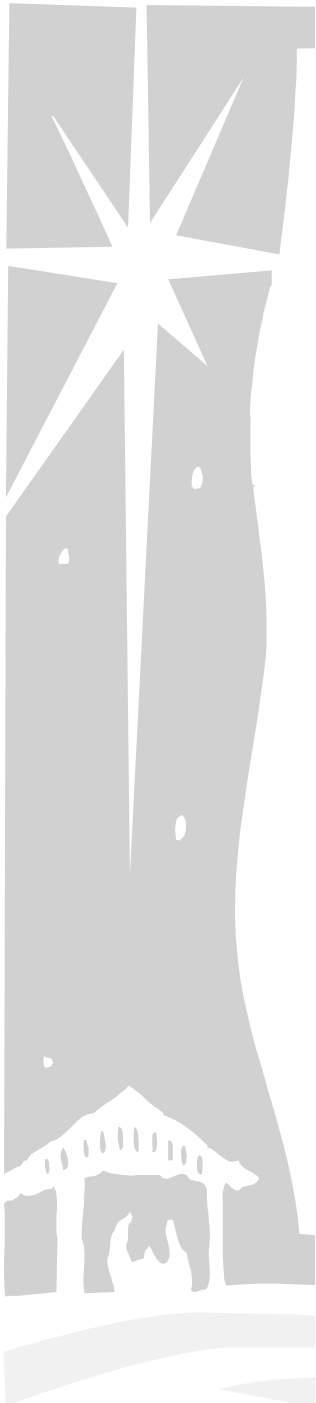
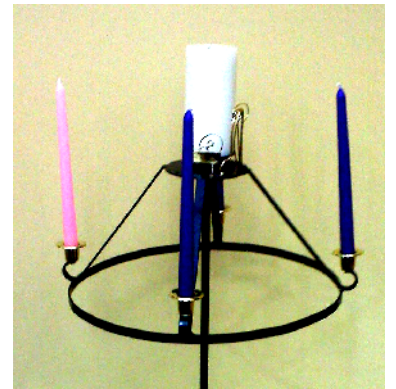
December

RECEIVING NEW BEGINNINGS.....



There's always room in the Inn, because the Church isn't a place it's a people!

ADVENT



ANGEL TREE



Pastor's Corner



At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke 1: 39-41

Advent marks the beginning of the New Year for Christians. It's a time of preparation not only for the Christ child to be born again in our hearts, but for the new year ahead, something we Christians call the liturgical calendar.

When things are important we prepare for them. Think about how we prepare for vacation. We enjoy the excitement as we schedule our calendars and plan the agenda. Years ago, when our daughter was little, and my parents lived in Florida, we would plan our Christmas vacation with them. My Mom and Dad used to get so excited when Tom, Autumn and I would come to visit them, they would almost jump out of their skin as we greeted one another. I could feel the love and joy in the air before we even hugged. However, it was so wonderful to be close to them, to reach out and physically to touch and embrace them. I think back to that time with thanksgiving for I still feel the blessing of being loved today.

That same kind of love permeated the air when Mary greeted her cousin Elizabeth. That love was so prevalent that the child Elizabeth was carrying inside herself leapt with joy. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit declaring the new life that was taking place in Mary's womb. New life was being created, not just inside of Mary's womb with the formation of the Christ child, but for all of creation. God was doing something new.

God is knitting together new life for Asbury United Methodist as well and doing something new in us. This is the first Advent and Christmas Season in our new church. You can feel the excitement in the air. Physically and spiritual, we are preparing for the new year ahead, and for our future. Physically and spiritual we have been meeting, planning and decorating. We have been making our church a welcoming place of hospitality for old and new alike. We have been preparing our hearts to leap for joy as we greet new folks who visit us. New folks even exclaim they can feel the love of God.

God is doing something new. Some times we think that the Bible is just the Old Testament and the New Testament. There is one more Testament...Your Testament ...your witness of Christ present in the world through your love. **(Please see the Outreach article page 3)** Like Elizabeth we need to proclaim with joy how Christ is present in the world. Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother (and sister) and offer them your hand." The Joy of Christmas is filling the air...and it is just the beginning. I look forward with expectation and joy in the year ahead as we prepare and plan to continue to greet new people in Christ.

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Pastor Jackie



How about Being an Asbury Angel?



The "Asbury Angels" tree is in the Fellowship Hall and we hope you will help make this Christmas a bit happier for these children. They are from Dodge Elementary School right in our neighborhood. Angel tags with a child's first name, their age and the size of clothing item needed, are on the tree. The unwrapped gift (a gift bag would work well) with the tag on the outside of the gift needs to be at the church by December 12th.

A "cap" of \$20 per gift is being suggested to be fair to all. Please sign the "Asbury Angels" sheet - match the number on your Angel with the number on the sheet, so we can keep track of our "angels".

May the community we live in feel the true meaning of Christmas through the giving of our Asbury Angels.

Any questions? See Don McQuiston or Viv Parker.



Poinsettias

Red, Pink and White

6 inch - multi-bloom	\$6.75 - 1 plant
7 1/2 inch - multi-bloom	\$9.75 - 2 plants
10 inch - multi-blooms	\$18.50 - 4 plants

Rose/Red, Pink, White

Cyclamens

7 1/2 - Pot	\$9..25
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Plant order needs to be in by **Sunday, December 12th**. To order: fill out envelopes located on the table in the back of the sanctuary and place in offering plate. *You can make your checks payable to AsburyUMC.*

Thank you.



News from the Outreach Team

The Outreach Team has planned a number of wonderful activities of our church family. First, we are doing the Angel Tree again this year. Please take an angel from the tree in Fellowship Hall and make Christmas special for needy children in our area. Gifts need to be returned-unwrapped, in a gift bag if possible, **by December 12**. Don McQuiston and Viv Parker have been working diligently on this project!

On Wednesday Dec. 15 from 5-8 pm, we are having dinner and a visit with Santa for neighborhood children. Families can drop off their children for dinner, crafts, movies and games and of course a visit from Santa. Thank you to Kaye Lynn for this great idea! Please call Betsy Arthur 688-9425 if you would be able to help or wish to drop off any children.

In **January** we are planning a trip to St. Vincent de Paul to help in their soup kitchen and store. As soon as the date is set it will be announced.

February 6 we are having a Pre-Super Bowl Party/Chili Cook Off after church. Regardless of who is playing this year it will be a great time. We are also doing Valentines for Veterans to cheer up our brave troops in the VA.

Looking ahead to **April 3, 2011** when it is time to "Be the church" we are looking at going together to the Erie County Home to spend some time with the residents. As this is firmed up we'll keep everyone posted.

We are excited to be able to reach our and spread God's love in our community!

Betsy Arthur, Outreach Team Chairperson

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER 2010

- 5 Robert Liebel
- 6 *Doug & Barb DuBois (1975)
- 8 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

Offering Envelopes



2011

Will be available for pickup in the church fellowship hall beginning Sunday, December 12th

Church directories are now available.

Please see an Usher/Greeter for a copy.

Please Note: As people look over the new directory there is bound to be errors. Please let me know, and I will make the correction and list them in the newsletters as directory updates.

Thank you,

Bonnie-Secretary

Please make the following updates to your directory.

Karen Polaske e-mail kpolaske@aol.com

Vergie Oettinger e-mail vao@buffalo.edu



Church Logo Sweatshirts

There has been some inquiries about the sweatshirt sale. If you didn't buy a sweatshirt and would like to, the prices are as follows:

QUANTITY	PRICE
One sweatshirt	\$26.00 a piece
Two-Twelve sweatshirts	\$19.00 a piece
Twelve-Twenty Three	\$15.00 a piece

Note: Depending on how many people are ordering, will determine the amount of the sweatshirt. See Nancy Ott if you are interested.

Mom's Morning Out Calling all child care givers:



Do you, or someone you know, need a break for a few hours to get things done?

Spread the word, Asbury can help

Monday mornings in December, 9:30-noon

Colleen & Doris welcome children ages 2 to 4.

Donation of \$5.00 gratefully accepted to help defray the cost.

Please pre-register your child/children, by contacting the church office at 688-8677.





Cash For Causes, The Simple Solution to Community Fundraising, is the Tops Gift Card program that Asbury UMC has been involved with for several years now. This is a great opportunity to raise money for our Building Fund.

Asbury UMC has \$10, \$20, \$50, & \$100 gift cards available for purchase. See Merrill Arthur after service, he has cards with him (or contact him @ 688-9425). Cash for Causes helps the church to earn FREE money from Tops, just by doing your grocery shopping. For every \$100 in Gift Cards you buy, Asbury UMC earns \$5.00!!Think Christmas...and that hard to buy for person. They can use it for anything in the store and at the gas pump too. What a great gift for someone, and you will be giving a gift to the church too. See Food Pantry article next to this article. They are in need of Tops cards.

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.



Music

Dear Friends,

Chimers are still being welcomed. We will be playing December 19th during Worship. A short practice will be after Worship on December 12th.

This year again for Christmas Eve, we are planning to sing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. All are welcomed informally to sing.

Look for more music to come in the New Year!

Love in Christ,
Nancy Morris, Music Director



December 5th Food Pantry Sunday

Collections for the New Beginnings Food Pantry located in the Amherst Baptist Church on Willow Ridge Drive. **In December we will be collecting donations of tissues, paper towels, shampoo, conditioners, toilet paper and healthy snack items. Also Tops gift cards of \$10.00 or \$20.00 denominations are always in need. They can be purchased by Merrill Arthur and placed in the designated Food Pantry Tops gift card container located at the back of the Sanctuary. (The purchase of the Tops cards will also help Asbury. The church will receive 5% of the sales and it will help the food pantry too.)**

Please place your food donations in the basket located in the Church Fellowship Hall on or before Dec. 5th Food Pantry Sunday.

If you have questions, please speak to Nancy Moore (688-6255). Thank you for your faithful support of this community ministry!



Confirmation Classes

Starting in **January 2011**, any youth interested in Confirmation Classes, speak to Pastor Jackie. Classes will be held Sunday following Worship.



Advent Bible Study Lessons (Starting December 1st)

Wednesday Morning Bible Study's

For December at 10:00am

Location: Church Conference Room

Topic: "The Life of Mary"

What do we do when our plans falls apart, and we don't know what comes next? Come study "The Life of Mary" communicated to a 21st Century Audience.

Week 1: What do we do when the unexpected happens?

Week 2: What do we do when our plans fall apart, and we don't know what comes next?

Week 3: How is God present in the unfamiliar ways in our lives?

Week 4: How can your life be unfulfilled or fulfilled?



Thursday Peppertree Bible Study's

For December at 1:30 pm

Everyone is Welcome to join us. The topic will be: Same as above "The Life of Mary"



Adult Sunday School News



The Adult Sunday School Class recently studied the issues around homelessness. We learned how easy it is for people to slip into this situation and reflected on how many things are lost when our brothers and sisters lose their homes.

One of those things is warmth. We decided to ask our Asbury family to help us provide some basic articles of warm clothing. So as you are shopping over the next few weeks, if you see some warm socks or gloves, pick up a pair--maybe even a sweater or sweatshirt if you run across a good sale. We'll collect them and dedicate them on **Dec. 19th, the last Sunday before National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on Dec. 21, the first day of Winter.**

Thank you!

Chris Holoman



UMYF NEWS



Thank you to all who ordered our Holiday Wreaths! We are expecting our wreath shipment between **December 3-7**. We will call you all as soon as we know our definite delivery date. Extra wreaths were ordered if you forgot to order one or thought of someone who you would like to give one to as a holiday gift. Let Laurie Syms know by calling 832-3191 or emailing her at laks53@gmail.com or emailing the church at asburyamherst@juno.com.

The Youth will be helping out at Kids Night Out on December 15th.

We will also be continuing our study of Thinking Theologically about money on

Sunday, December 5th at 9:15AM

Thanks for your cans, plastic and glass bottles! Keep 'em coming!!

Worship Welcoming Team for December and January

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

December

Mabel Houghton
Ray Wedekindt
Kaye Lynn Gresham
Chris Gresham



January

Viv Parker
George Miner
Nancy Ott
Doris Callahan



**December 4th
at 9:00 am**

All men encouraged to attend. Please register on the sign-up bulletin board in the fellowship hall, so we can gauge how much food to make.

We have some church projects planned, so come dressed to do some work.

The Host this month is:
Merrill Arthur



Scrapbooking & Greeting Cards –

December 18th

9:00 am to Noon

Our fall Scrapbooking sessions include instruction provided by *Close to My Heart* consultant Susan Fogle, followed by open time to work on individual or group projects.

Our Greeting Card designing is instructed by Holly Julicher, create one of a kind cards for friends and loved ones.

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.



UMW News

Our unit's annual Christmas Dinner will be **Monday December 13th, 6 PM** at my home, 157 Evergreen Drive, Tonawanda. Please sign up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board if you will be attending, we will have a \$9 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 \$9 per bag for the 1 lb. bag of mammoth pecan halves and the 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!

Thanks 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

Asbury United Methodist Church

Rev. Jackie Ann Rose Kraft,
Pastor

Bonnie Boudreault,
Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Nancy Morris & Puneet Jacob
Music Director

Mr. 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

Fall Office days & hours are:

Tues. & Thurs.

12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Wed. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

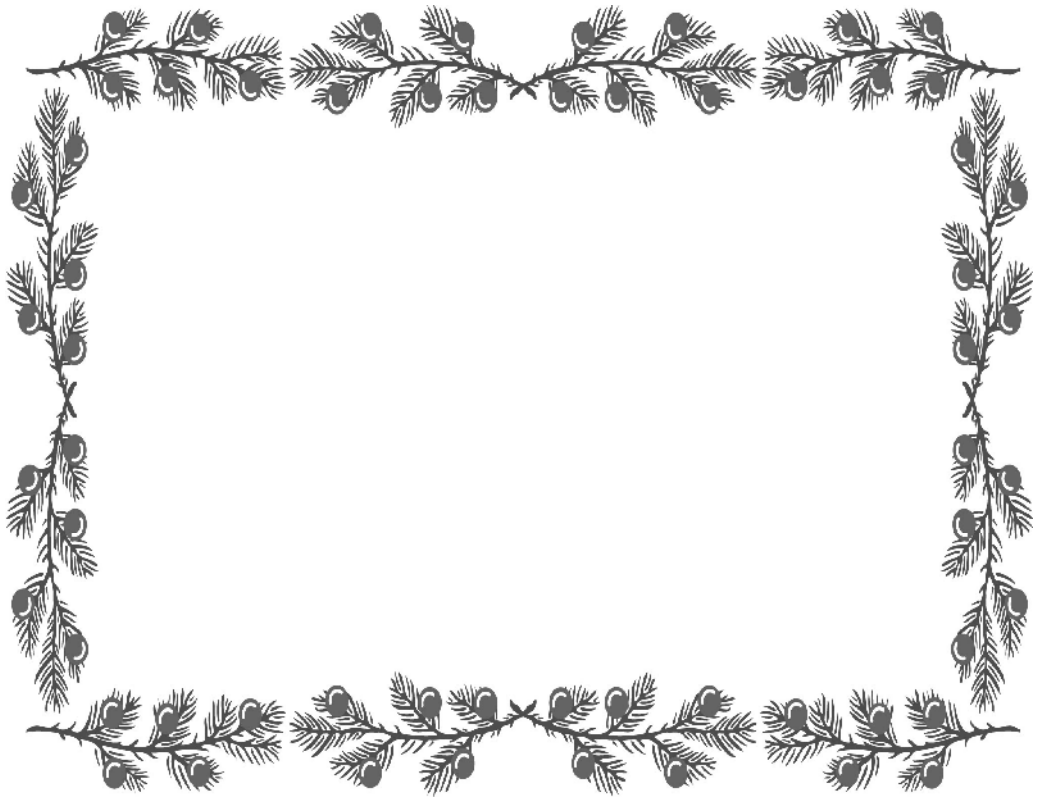
Monday & Friday closed

Asbury United Methodist Church

PO Box 743

850 Dodge Road

Getzville, NY 14068



NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR



On **Wednesday Dec. 15 from 5-8 pm**, we are having a free dinner and a visit with Santa for neighborhood children. Families can drop off their children for dinner, crafts, movies and games and of course a visit from Santa!!

Lectionary Readings

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

December 5th Isaiah 11: 1-10; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19; Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12
December 12th Isaiah 35: 1-10; Luke 1: 47-55; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11
December 19th Isaiah 7: 10-16; Psalm 80: 107; 17-19; Romans 1: 107; Matthew 1: 18-25
December 26th Isaiah 63: 7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2: 10-18; Matthew 2: 13-23



NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR