

NOVEMBER 23, 2025



**ASBURY**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1950 <sup>Years</sup> **75** 2025

# Report to the ALL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

## **Asbury United Methodist Church**

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**Ministers** Entire Congregation

**Pastor** Kip Roozen

**Associate Pastor**

Matt Morrison

**Director of Children's Ministries**

**Director of Next Generation  
Ministries**

Emily Lawrence

**Office Manager** Roxie Pogany

**Treasurer** Greg Richards

**Bishop** Lanette Plambeck

**District Superintendent** Brandon  
Vetter

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**Asbury Leadership Team Letter to the Congregation**

**Leadership Team**—Nathan Grau, Chairperson

Dear Members and Friends of Asbury United Methodist Church,

Happy 75th Anniversary! This year has been a time to celebrate and a time to reflect. We also look forward to the future to continue to be led by God’s divine hand, even as it will be a time of change.

The Leadership Team continued to learn and function in our new structure. As a reminder, the Leadership Team serves as the single team that oversees Stewardship and Finance, Trustees, and Staff-Parish Relations. I am deeply grateful to all of the members of the Leadership Team: Rogene Brown, Carly Ellsworth, Jim Gray, Mike Nesheim, Rennae Petersen, Bonnie Shinn, Anna Suckow, and June Witte. They bring a breadth of knowledge and experience to the many and varied topics that we need to cover.

In 2025, we welcomed Jim Gray and June Witte as they began their first three-year term. We oversaw the renovation of the Nursery and the month-long 75th anniversary celebration. We also continued to shepherd the initiatives of the strategic plan. Those include creating new structures within the Next Generation Ministry, creating a Care Team, and pushing toward a model of discipleship.

Even as we celebrate things moving forward, we recognize the significant change that has occurred and will continue into 2026. After Pastor Matt’s ordination, the Lead Team began plans for the possibility that we would not be appointed two pastors. That possibility became reality during the summer when First United Methodist Church’s associate pastor was appointed to a different church and the Bishop did not appoint anyone to backfill that role. We realized that it was very unlikely that two pastors would be appointed to Asbury in 2026. Before Kip announced his plan to retire and before the Director of Children’s Ministry resigned, we started to focus more on what a single-pastor at Asbury would look like.

We anticipate 2026 will be a year of change; and, with change comes opportunity. I know the entire Lead Team is committed to working alongside the congregation as we navigate these changes and will be ready to snatch opportunities that God presents.

In Christ,  
Nathan Grau

### **Asbury Leadership Team Report**

The Leadership Team began the year in prayer and conversation about Asbury's direction, seeking clarity on the most important goals for the season ahead. Early in the year, the team named several priorities that would shape its work: finalizing a facility improvement plan, discerning whether and how to begin a capital campaign, strengthening our overall ministry planning, and creating new volunteer engagement strategies. These goals provided a foundation for the team's work as they stepped into a year of transition, growth, and significant ministry opportunities.

The sub-groups for the 2025 Leadership Team were established as follows:

Finance Sub-Group: Rogene Brown, Nathan Grau, Bonnie Shinn

Trustees Sub-Group: Carly Ellsworth, Jim Gray, Mike Nesheim

Staff Parish Relations Sub-Group: Rennae Petersen, Anna Suckow, June Witte

One of the first major shifts involved the church's financial systems. As longtime Financial Secretary Sarah Wagenaar prepared to step back from her role, the team approved a transition to Limestone Inc. for bookkeeping services. This required careful planning to ensure smooth workflows, clarity about timecard and credit card procedures, and updated policies to support a new paperless reimbursement process. Throughout the transition, the Finance Sub-Group monitored Asbury's financial health closely. Income and expenses remained near budgeted levels through much of the year, though a fairly significant gap began to appear late in the year. We have had to use reserve funds to keep up with ministry needs and the Leadership Team continues to evaluate next steps as the Finance Sub-Group reports our current status each month. Based on past giving trends, we are hopeful that we will see additional funds come in by the end of 2025. Whether they will be enough to balance this year's budget remains to be seen.

While financial processes were being updated, the team also continued to explore possibilities for a future capital campaign. The idea of a "Miracle Sunday" on Palm Sunday 2026 began to take shape, with plans to introduce the campaign during Asbury's 75th Anniversary celebrations in 2025. The Trustees Sub-Group worked to refine a list of facility needs, ranking project by priority, recognizing that some projects may also be too urgent to wait for a campaign. Several walkthroughs with contractors were scheduled to provide updated

estimates, and the conversation increasingly pointed toward forming a task force to lead campaign planning.

Facilities work became a major theme throughout the year. Trustees oversaw a wide range of improvements, including a full nursery renovation funded by a 2024 bequest. The project was carefully staged through the summer and remained within its \$35,000 budget. Volunteers invested more than 250 hours replacing ceiling tiles throughout the building, using reclaimed tiles from Conlin's Furniture. Lighting improvements were made in the Fellowship Hall, Chapel, Kitchen, and other spaces. Meanwhile, significant roof issues emerged, revealing leaks and construction flaws that would likely require a complete replacement of the flat-roof section. Landscaping challenges on the south side of the property and safety concerns around the playground also required attention. Through each of these projects, the Trustees Sub-Group balanced urgency, stewardship, and long-range planning.

The Leadership Team also gave significant attention to leadership structure and staffing needs. The Staff-Parish Relations Sub-Group (SPR) continued to clarify personnel policies, including procedures for credit card use, timecard approval, staff driving for ministry events, and the creation of a centralized digital policy archive.

A major staffing development came with the decision to realign Asbury's age-level ministries, providing unified oversight for Children, Youth, and Next Generation Ministries. Emily Lawrence assumed this supervisory role in June. The team also approved a search for a new full-time Children's Ministry Director after Michelle Baird stepped down in early October. Looking ahead, the team began reviewing Asbury's overall staffing model in anticipation of a pastoral transition. Pastor Kip announced his intention to retire in 2026, and the team recognized that shifting to a one-pastor model may be necessary depending on the Dakotas Conference's appointment decisions. This prompted conversation around potential new roles: operations, digital ministry, and expanded children's ministry. The SPR Sub-Group conducted compensation studies to support 2026 budget planning.

Throughout the year, ministry vitality remained an encouraging theme. Worship attendance continued to grow, posting the strongest numbers since before the pandemic. Youth Ministry saw remarkable growth- rising from an average of 18 students in 2023 to 35+ in 2025. Children's Ministry participation remained steady, and new efforts such as the Midweek Meals ministry gained traction. The church celebrated significant mission engagement as well: more than \$16,000 raised for Tree of Life during Lent and a large turnout for the United By Hope service in August where Asbury joined the five other Sioux Falls United Methodist Churches for a time of worship at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance building.

At the same time, the Leadership Team remained attentive to spiritual formation and discipleship development. As part of the Strategic Plan, the team supported the expansion of

ministry teams and planned a Ministry Fair to connect people with serving opportunities. A new Asbury Care Team was formed with a commissioning taking place during worship on October 19. Preliminary work also began toward forming a dedicated task force to design a comprehensive discipleship model for adults.

A major highlight of the year was the planning for Asbury's 75th Anniversary celebration. A task force was organized to design weekly themes, food offerings, music, mission collections, and children's activities for the month-long celebration. Supported by the annual distribution from Asbury's endowment, the celebration remained on budget and on schedule, symbolizing the church's gratitude for its past and hope for its future.

In all of these conversations (financial, facilities-related, spiritual, and organizational) the Leadership Team consistently returned to its central purpose of guiding Asbury United Methodist Church with faith, wisdom, and a commitment to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. The year has been one of growth, transition, and promise, as the church positions itself for the future and responds faithfully to the opportunities and challenges of ministry in this moment.

All Asbury Leadership Team documentation, financial reports, and meeting notes can be found at [sfasbury.org/about-us/asbury-leadership-team](https://sfasbury.org/about-us/asbury-leadership-team).

### MEMORIAL TEAM

Giving a memorial is a wonderful and meaningful way to memorialize and remember our loved ones. The Memorial Team seeks to honor the desires of the contributors or the family in how the funds are used and distributed. The Team informs families as to who gave memorials in memory of the family's loved one and the total amount given. We continue to recognize and send a thank you to those who gave in memory of someone.

We disperse funds where needed that offer experiences to enhance the mission of Asbury.

The Team also maintains the Memorial Tree as a "remembering space"; a visual remembrance of our loved ones who have gone before us. We continue to add leaves to the Memorial Tree.

To have a leaf on the Memorial Tree, one of the following guidelines must be met:

- Were/are one of the fourteen founding members of Asbury.
- Is currently a member of Asbury.
- Is a minor of a parent(s) who are members of Asbury.
- Are regular attendees at Asbury who actively participate and support the church financially but are not members of Asbury.
- Was a pastor or spouse at Asbury at some point and desires to have name on leaf of memorial tree.

Those who would not qualify to be included on the memorial tree:

- Are members in a church other than Asbury.
- Have no church affiliation.
- Are part of the extended family of current Asbury members.

**Gifts received from November 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 were in memory of the following members and friends of Asbury:**

Dick Campbell

Joy Boyer

Tom Olsen

Howard Maxwell

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Dave Theophilus

Bunnie Wirt

**Memorial Checking Account:**

Balance on September 30, 2024	\$2,864.88
Deposits	1,555.99
Funds transferred out 09/30/2024 to 09/30/2025 (for designated memorials and supplies)	<u>0.00</u>
Balance on September 30, 2025	\$4,420.87

**MISSIONS TEAM**—Cindy Nelson, Chairperson

Many thanks to the following members for their faithful service on the Asbury Missions Team: Jayne Anderson, Ladene Bachtell, Ron Dorsman, Nathan Grau, Tina Hawkins, Al Herrboldt, Judy Hines, Carole Hurley, Linda Maxwell, Lloyd Petersen, Rennae Petersen, Nancy Rasmussen, Scott Roberts, Lyle Schmidt, Terri Schmidt, Charlie Stoneback and Marlys Vant Hul.

**Laura Wilder Elementary, Our Signature Ministry:**

Our partnership with Laura Wilder continues to thrive. Our 2024 Advent/Christmas project provided requested items for the school office including boxes of tissues, sweatpants, underwear, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer. We organized meals for the staff during spring and fall conferences and Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week. In February every student received a Valentine's Day bookmark and pencil. In May we wrote a Thank You note to every staff person and provided volunteers for Family Bingo Night. We remembered the administrative staff with notes of appreciation and gift cards.

In August we assembled 500 Open House folders, conducted a prayer walk around the school and provided greeters and traffic directors for Open House night. Two scooters were also donated for an Open House drawing. The staff enjoyed a pizza lunch during in-service, and we welcomed all new staff with a note and gift card. Twenty-five teachers responded to our Adopt a Teacher/Classroom project. Asbury volunteers have been matched with each teacher; they will provide encouragement and support throughout the school year.

**Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC):**

We continue to expand our partnership with MMDC. In February we collected items for cleaning kits and in May we accepted donations for layette kits. We also sent 7 volunteers to Jefferson, IA in June and 4 members volunteered in October. Members of our congregation sewed 200 cloth bags for our Student Kits which were packed by children on Wednesday night. Youth group members assembled our Personal Dignity Kits during their Serving Weekend in August. In September we hosted a MMDC Rice and Soy Blessing Bag Packing event. We packed 1200 bags which will feed 7200 hungry people. Along with the rice meals, we loaded the MMDC trailer with 92 Personal Dignity kits, 200 Student kits, and lots of donations including handmade quilts, fabric, sewing notions, tools, medical equipment and bicycles. We also sent a check for \$1000 to help with the purchase of the MMDC building in Jefferson, IA.

As a MMDC Permanent Collection Site, we make our space available for collecting and storing donations from other churches. We've also helped other congregations in the area, and through United Women of Faith, got involved in making kits and weaving mats. At Annual Conference MMDC brought a trailer to collect donations and Lloyd/Rennae Petersen and Cindy Nelson answered questions at the information table.

**Community Connections:**

Locally we continue our efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty through supporting the Banquet and Nightwatch. Volunteers served at Banquet West four times and prepared meals for Nightwatch six times. We continued our annual tradition of providing Christmas gifts for the residents of Cayman Court. Our weaving group finished 24 sleeping mats (made from plastic bags) and delivered them locally to Midwest Street Medicine.

**Special Offerings and Disbursements:**

Beyond Sioux Falls, we supported the United Methodist Church Special Offerings and the Dakotas Annual Conference Miracle Offering and Thanksgiving Offering. Our annual fundraising efforts for Tree of Life in Mission, SD topped a record \$17,000+. We also provided opportunities for mission giving through our Christmas Giving Catalog, which lists 21 international, regional and local nonprofits. The annual Christmas Eve offering was divided between our Banquet West and Nightwatch accounts. From our HyVee gift card account we were able to support the Asbury Camping Fund and send donations to Solar Oven Partners and to Catrina (Standifer) Van Otterloo (former youth director) whose home in Rock Valley, IA was damaged during flooding.

**Other Activities:**

Judy Hines is heading up a new knitting group to make hats and scarves for Midwest Street Medicine. During our 75th Anniversary celebration we collected donations for local nonprofits including 51 bath towels for Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, 58 cans of soup for Feeding SD, 131 combs and brushes for Union Gospel Mission and 1605 brown paper lunch bags for St Francis House.

**Our 2026 Goals:**

- Deepen our connection with the staff, students and families at Laura Wilder Elementary, our signature ministry.
- Engage volunteers in ministering to those in need in Sioux Falls.
- Build on our partnership with MMDC by maintaining our Permanent Collection Site and offering opportunities for our congregation to serve our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Promote awareness of regional, national and international mission projects through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and other nonprofits.
- Engage children and youth in hands-on mission activities and projects here in Sioux Falls and beyond.

As a Missions Team and as a congregation, we pray that God will continue to lead us in service to our brothers and sisters locally and globally. As Matthew 5:16 reminds us, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

In Christ’s service,

Cindy Nelson

Missions Team Chair

**Mission Contributions**  
**Cash Contributions October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025**

	<b>Money Received</b>	<b>Money Paid Out</b>
<b>Mission Projects—Special Giving</b>		
Banquet	\$ 4,540.58	\$ 2,758.91
Camp Scholarships	\$ 6,111.45	\$ 4.22
Christmas Giving Center	\$ 1,235.00	\$ 1,235.00
Christmas Projects	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.00
Fellowship In Action	\$ 776.85	\$ 1,500.00
Food Ministries	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00
Hunger Projects Christmas Eve	\$ 2,709.18	\$ 4,409.18
Laura Wilder Mission Project	\$ 1,478.35	\$ 982.44
Midwest Mission—Unspecified	\$ 13,634.00	\$ 10,884.00
Mission Other	\$ 1,060.41	\$ 1,333.48
MMDC—Personal Dignity Kits	\$ 590.42	\$ 836.61
MMDC—Rice Meals	\$ 2,667.53	\$ 3,587.75
MMDC—Student Kits	\$ 417.14	\$ 594.00
Necessity for Neighbors	\$ 59.90	\$ 59.90
Nightwatch Canteen	\$ 3,499.59	\$ 1,562.70
Tree of Life	\$ 1,510.00	\$ 1000.00
		\$
<b>Total Mission Projects—Special Giving</b>	<b>\$ 40,800.40</b>	<b>\$ 30,998.19</b>

**Mission Contributions**  
**Cash Contributions October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025**

	<b>Money Received</b>	<b>Money Paid Out</b>
<b>Mission Projects—Budget</b>		
Community Outreach	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00
Laura Wilder Signature Ministry	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 352.35
Tree of Life—Meal Program	\$ 16,781.61	\$ 16,781.61
<b>Total Mission Projects—Budget</b>	<b>\$ 19,781.61</b>	<b>\$ 17,133.96</b>
 <b>Conference Projects</b>		
2025 Annual Conference Miracle		
Offering	\$ 715.00	\$ 715.50
2024 Thanksgiving Offering	\$ 1,997.80	\$ 1,997.80
Human Relations Sunday	\$ 364.00	\$ 374.28
Native American Sunday	\$ 1,284.16	\$ 3,312.41
Peace with Justice Sunday	\$ 265.00	\$ 0.00
Solar Ovens	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Student Day	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00
UMCOR	\$ 300.00	\$ 450.00
UMCOR Asylum Project	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
UMCOR Sunday	\$ 1,001.49	\$ 905.44
UMCOR Texas Flood	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00
UMCOR Ukraine Relief	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
World Communion Sunday	\$ 330.00	\$ 330.00
<b>Total Conference Projects</b>	<b>\$ 6,922.45</b>	<b>\$ 8,650.43</b>
 <b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 67,504.46</b>	<b>\$ 56,782.58</b>

**ENDOWMENT TEAM**—Jeff Rodman, Chairperson

A resolution by the Asbury United Methodist Church (UMC) Charge Conference on December 5, 2005, established an Endowment Fund (“the Fund”). The Fund’s principal objectives are “the promotion and development of religious, charitable and educational activities, capital improvements, and for other non-recurring purposes not regularly budgeted by Asbury.”

The Endowment Team was authorized in the 2005 resolution but not appointed until the 2019 Charge Conference. This is the fifth report to the Asbury Charge Conference.

Duties of the team include:

- A. Receive and accept (or reject) gifts designated for the endowment fund.
- B. Maintain a record of all gifts and provide for the safety and investment of the endowment fund.
- C. Arrange for an annual transfer from the Fund to Asbury based on the formula prescribed in the Resolution calculated as 5% of the twelve previous quarters average fund balance.
- D. Thank donors and communicate with them regarding any special provisions or restrictions relating to their gift.
- E. Promote and advertise the Endowment Fund throughout Asbury and its membership. Encourage estate planning by members and serve as a resource in their efforts.
- F. Report to the Leadership Team and the Charge Conference annually.

As of September 30, 2025, the Endowment Fund had a balance of \$154,542.49. The fund balance on the same date last year was \$143,879.04.

The Fund is held in two separate accounts maintained under custody agreements with Dakotas/Minnesota United Methodist Foundation (with a balance of \$98,661.24) and the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation (with a balance of \$55,881.25).

The Charge Conference Resolution establishing the Foundation includes a formula that directs an annual 5% distribution of the average of the endowment Fund’s trailing twelve quarters as of December 31 of each year. That formula serves to smooth the highs and lows of investment markets in the calculation of the annual distribution.

Using this formula, the committee recommended the distributions of \$4,198 in 2020, \$4,917 in 2021, \$5,694 in 2022, \$4,017 in 2023, and \$6,499 in 2024. The distribution calculated and

recommended for 2025 is \$6,584 for a combined total of \$31,909 for the current and previous years.

It is my understanding that these funds have supported various improvements to the Asbury building, including a significant amount to the remodeling of the youth facilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Rodman, Chair, Asbury UMC Endowment Team

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH—Linda Maxwell and Bobbie Nesheim, Co-Presidents**

We thank the Lord that we are able to meet in fellowship each month at 12:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. If you have never joined us, please come and join us for devotions, a study or speaker, and a delicious dessert or potluck, which we have twice a year. Our attendance has grown to about 20+ for each meeting this past year.

Throughout the year we have had speakers and programs from our program book called *Carrying Our Faith Forward*. In June, our annual Skip Day was held when we toured the Union Gospel Mission.

We have paid our Pledge to Missions of \$1,200 to Dakotas Conference, and paid Gifts in Memory for our deceased members this past year. We have also collected money in our World Bank offerings. We gave Special Recognition Pins to Barb Jacobson, Jeff Easter and Rennae Petersen to honor them for the many hours they have given to United Women In Faith projects, and many other projects at Asbury.

Our local missions project is Union Gospel Mission (UGM). We take an offering at each meeting to give to the LampLighters Auxiliary of UGM. We also collect a love offering of needed items each month.

We have provided cakes for and served several funerals this past year. We have helped with serving at other occasions at the church.

Comforters completed many blankets for the Tree of Life Ministry.

**We look forward to these goals for 2026:**

- Reach out to more women in the church to join us.
- Have a pledge service to meet our Pledge to Missions and other programs.
- Provide programs of interest to all our members.
- Continue to serve our members at funeral services and other occasions at the church.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES****Sunday Morning Children's Church:**

The Children's Message takes the sermon topic or theme and tailors it to the developmental level of the kids. Children's Church begins after the Children's Message at the 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Children explore the Children's Message in more depth through various activities such as stories, crafts, and games.

**Wednesday Nights for Kids at Asbury (September-May):**

**Joysingers Choir:** Kids in Kindergarten–5th Grade rehearse Wednesday evenings from 6:00-6:45 p.m. Joysingers sing at the 9:15 a.m. worship one Sunday a month.

**sprouts and SpArK!:** Each week we watch an engaging video about the weekly Bible story; have group discussion and play a game or have a group activity that illustrates our monthly theme. The kids build relationships with each other and with God. In the fall we joined with the Missions Team to pack school kits for Midwest Mission Distribution Center. We had a Camp Night to get children excited about the upcoming camping season. We hosted a Level Up night for kids transitioning to the next age group to get a preview of next fall. We like to party and celebrated with an End of the Year Party on the Lawn, Halloween Bash, and Christmas Jingle Jam.

- **sprouts:** Kids from Kindergarten-2nd Grade meet from 6:45-7:30 p.m.
- **SpArK!:** Kids from 3rd-5th Grade meet from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

**After Care:** Kids Kindergarten–5th Grade have free time to play games, read books or visit with their friends. After care is available from 7:30-8:15 p.m. It helps families navigate the multigenerational schedules of Wednesday night at Asbury, for example parents volunteering for youth group, or kids with an older sibling in youth group.

**Nursery Care:**

Infants-5 years old are offered faith-based activities to foster their growing relationship with God as well as their relationship with one another. The nursery was remodeled this year. It was financed by a gift from the Sarah Jean Paulson estate designated for building use. Thank you, Asbury, for your support in creating a beautiful space for our children.

The nursery is open Wednesdays 5:45-8:30 p.m. and Sundays 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Vacation Bible School:**

We were excited to have over 28 people join us for True North Vacation Bible School this summer. During True North, children journeyed through the Book of Matthew to discover how Jesus is their guiding light, offering unwavering faithfulness throughout life's challenges. It was a week of stories, games, experiments, friendship and more!

**Third Grade Bibles:**

Every year third grade students receive a Bible from Asbury. It is a memorable milestone in their faith journey. This year we gifted seven Bibles.

**Special Events:**

The Children's Ministry Team hosted these family events in 2025: Family Game Night; Palm Sunday Donkey Parade; Mother's Day Celebration; Father's Day Celebration; and Vacation Bible School.

Thank you to our weekly volunteers who connect and build relationships with our Asbury kids. Thank you to the Children's Ministry Team for helping and supporting our Children's Ministry program. Thank you to our dedicated nursery staff for caring for our youngest kids.

The Asbury mission statement is "To provide life-changing experiences with Christ by loving and accepting all, nurturing discipleship, and serving others." Breaking the mission statement down to the simplest language, we are teaching the kids to love, grow, and serve.

**DIRECTOR OF NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES**—Emily Lawrence

The mission of Next Generation Ministries at Asbury is “to equip the next generation to be a community of love, growth, and service as disciples of Jesus.” This leans into the broader themes of Asbury’s mission to “love and accept all, nurture discipleship, and serve others,” with the added focus on mentorship in our youngest disciples.

A big shift in how we live into this mission has been in adopting a Next Generation Ministry model for children, youth, and families. This is a future-minded approach that actively considers all age groups and their families together. Within this framework, the ministry is always considering what’s next. From preparing babies to be toddlers, fifth graders to start middle school, and high school seniors to life as an emerging adult; the faith formation of young people is considered across all areas of development with a clear view of what’s ahead. With this shift, and as I started a new role as the new Director of Next Generation Ministries in June, we have begun the administrative work of bringing all family-focused programs under one umbrella.

Asbury’s Youth Ministries continues to enjoy a season of renewal. Strong support for families, and relational connections between students and adult mentors have fostered growth in all areas of the ministry. Additionally, small groups and confirmation classes have allowed for vital faith conversations, and service opportunities provide pathways for students to step into the church and community as the hands and feet of Christ.

Nine students were confirmed, and one student baptism was celebrated in April 2025.

In collaboration with First United Methodist Church and Sunnycrest United Methodist Church, Asbury Youth hosted Youth Night, a night of connection and discipleship for area youth, with over 90 students and adults attending.

Asbury Youth hosted its first Serve Sioux Falls weekend, in which 20 students stayed at the church for a weekend, engaging in service activities in the church and community. Students served at The Banquet West, packed personal dignity kits for Midwest Mission Distribution Center, and assisted with mat weaving in collaboration with Asbury’s Missions Team. The group then conducted a riverwalk cleanup on the bike trails in downtown Sioux Falls. At the end of the weekend, Asbury Youth prepared and served breakfast for the congregation on Sunday morning.

In early 2024, I participated in a TENx10 relational discipleship cohort run by Ministry Architects. During this time, I worked with a coach to develop principles that re-centered ministry on the truth that if faith is going to last for youth, it must be grounded in holistic relational discipleship radically focused on Jesus. That coaching relationship led to interviews

with the TENx10 team, which ultimately decided to feature Asbury's growing youth ministry in a short film for a nationwide conference in Atlanta, Georgia in October 2025.

Throughout the year, amid changes and growth, Next Generation Ministries and Youth Ministries have been engaging with students, their families, and volunteers, living into Asbury's Mission to provide life-changing experiences with Christ by loving and accepting all, nurturing discipleship, and serving others.

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR—Matt Morrison**

In 2025, we continued to build on the prescriptions from Asbury's Commit Campaign Strategic Plan that was passed in the summer of 2023. This work was guided by Asbury's Leadership Team with periodic conversations about the progress being made on implementing the remaining prescriptions from the strategic plan. One prescription that was completed was the forming of a new Asbury Care Team that is focused on the areas of hospital visitation, shut-in/nursing home visitation, and prayer ministry. A team was recruited over the summer and commissioned in October. The team is still being developed as we create our systems and equip our volunteers. Another prescription that I have been working on is the development of a discipleship framework. A team is being put together for this project in the hope that we will begin implementation in the Fall of 2026.

I continued in my role as Secretary within the Leadership Team which includes note-taking in meetings and writing meeting recap pieces for the newsletter and website to keep the congregation informed of the work the Leadership Team is doing. These meeting recaps and all other Leadership Team documentation can be found online at [sfasbury.org/about-us/asbury-leadership-team](https://sfasbury.org/about-us/asbury-leadership-team).

As the discipleship framework continues to be developed, Asbury's Adult Discipleship Ministries continued to offer in-person small groups. The Caring Connections group met during their spring and fall sessions, led by Judy Hines, Mary Millikan, Dawn Rice, Barb Roozen and Bonnie Shinn. The Room 106 Adult Group, led by Lloyd Petersen, did book studies that included *Half Truths, Why?- Making Sense of God's Will* and *Final Words from the Cross* all by Adam Hamilton. We also had one group on Monday mornings, led by Cindy Nelson, that included the studies *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell, *Parables* by Josh Scott, a study of *The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church*, and *Taste and See* by Margaret Feinberg. A group also met on Wednesday nights using *The Upper Room Disciplines* as a resource, led by Paul Zeeb.

The Lenten season saw us joining together on Wednesday nights for the study *The Third Day* by Tom Berlin with video reflections and discussion questions provided by the Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences of the United Methodist Church. We also had spring and fall sessions of Financial Peace University led by Bonnie Shinn.

I also helped coordinate a "Courageous Conversation" on March 25 in the Sanctuary around amnesty and immigration. This conversation was done in partnership with Dakota Wesleyan University using Braver Angels debate protocol. Rev. Dr. Joel Allen of Dakota Wesleyan served as the moderator for the event and helped those in attendance navigate a conversation that promoted discourse rather than discord, and created space for people of diverse opinions

to share their perspectives through respectful dialogue to help bridge divides. The event was attended by over 50 people with a good number coming from the Sioux Falls community to join Asbury members and constituents.

The work of our Worship Ministries continued to be driven by our Creative Planning Team as they helped plan message series that were meant to educate, challenge, and encourage us to continue to pursue transformative relationships with Jesus. We were encouraged to grow through our “Little & Often” and “Sermon On the Mound” series, find new rhythms with God through our “Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms” and “Promises > Problems” series, and to grow in our understanding of Scripture through our “Only Murders in the Bible,” and “Meltdowns” series. I continue to preach twice a month (on average) as Pastor Kip and I share responsibility for Asbury’s weekend messages.

Our choirs and Worship Team continued to serve on a regular basis with the Adult, Children’s, and Handbell Choirs all serving Asbury’s Traditional Services. The Non-Traditional Worship Team led worship for the Non-Traditional Service. For online worship, we continued pre-producing recorded services in order to present the best possible “at home” worship experience, also using recorded choir elements throughout the week on the Asbury Facebook Campus.

I worked to steer Asbury’s Digital Ministries as we continued to manage Asbury’s online ministries. This included overseeing Asbury’s online worship services and the ongoing cultivation of the Asbury Facebook Campus (which has 539 members at the time of this writing). Other ministry tasks that I continued to engage in included leading worship for the Non-Traditional Service, sharing in congregational care with Pastor Kip, writing pieces for the newsletter and bulletin, and meeting with various teams for planning and ministry coordination.

In addition to my responsibilities with Asbury, I served the Dakotas Conference in a variety of ways: I began to serve as the chairperson for the Missional Congregations Link, served as a clergy mentor as a part of the Clergy Leadership Academy team, was a part of the Merit Scholarship Committee, and joined the Higher Ground Advisory Council.

2025 was a year of continued investment in Asbury’s mission and vision and an opportunity for us to expand a “big-picture” approach to ministry planning. As we begin to dream about the future and grow in our awareness of the opportunities that are in front of us as a congregation, I am excited to see how 2026 continues to help us live into our vision to be a community that is experiencing life change and growth because of Jesus.

Grace and peace,

Matt

**PASTOR**—Rev. Kip Roozen

**“For all that has been, THANKS, for all that is to be, YES!”** – Dag Hammarskjöld

In 1961, Swedish diplomat and second Secretary General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld died at the age of 56 in an airplane crash as he travelled to a warring region of Africa. Hammarskjöld had brought his deep faith to his work of peace-making.

After his death, Hammarskjöld’s daily journal was published. He saw his journal as his own “negotiations” with himself and God. His first entry when elected to serve at the United Nations expressed the faith and conviction which he held. He wrote, “For all that has been, THANKS, for all that is to be, YES!”

I echo that prayer of affirmation and hope as I reflect on Asbury’s 75th Birthday celebration in September of this year. Seventy-five years of loving and serving God and our neighbors in the name of Jesus! We looked back with gratitude. We looked forward with hope. And I lift the same prayer as I reflect on sharing over eighteen years of ministry at Asbury – and anticipate retirement at the end of June 2026. I look back with gratitude. I look forward with hope.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” – Colossian 3:17

**Our Purpose: To experience the life-changing love and grace of Jesus Christ.** That is our “Why?” Why does Asbury exist? We exist to experience the transforming, life-changing love and grace of Jesus.

**Our Vision: To be a community that is experiencing life change and growth because of Jesus.** That is our “Where?” Where are we heading? What do we see in the distance that we are traveling toward? We will be a community that is experiencing life change and growth because of Jesus.

**Our Mission: To provide life-changing experiences with Christ by loving and accepting all, nurturing discipleship, and serving others.** That is our “How?” How will we provide life-changing experiences with Christ? We will love and accept all. We will nurture discipleship. We will serve others.

Following are the four goals of our Strategic Plan – and a few comments. You can read the Strategic Plan in full on Asbury’s webpage under the “About Us” tab. Also, read the Leadership Team report from Nathan Grau (chairperson) and Pastor Matt Morrison’s Charge Conference report for more information.

**GOAL 1 – Multi-generational: Enhance our Ministry for children, youth, and families.** Some of the objectives included: Hiring a full-time Director of Youth and Next-Generations Ministries in 2024. We made the move to a full-time position at the start of 2024. It was possible by generous giving, significant impact gifts by a couple families, and a funding reserve. It was a step of faith.

In the fall of 2023, we shifted our discipleship focus for Children from Sunday mornings to Wednesday nights. Attendance numbers indicate this move was positive for sprouts and SpArk! In the fall of 2023, our Wednesday children's ministry was averaging 19 children – with an average of 22 at the Joysingers children's choir. Last fall (2024), we averaged 21 children on Wednesdays – with an average of 20 in Joysingers. So far in 2025, we have averaged 18 children on Wednesdays – with an average of 17 in Joysingers. By comparison, we had an average of 11 children when we held traditional Sunday School (January-May 2023).

This year, we remodeled the Nursery. The approximately \$30,000 project was possible due to a generous bequest from Sarah Jean Paulson's estate designated for building use. The total bequest was \$65,549.30. The same gift enabled the remodel of the Children's Wing in 2024.

Our Youth Groups have seen amazing growth. We were averaging 19 youth on Wednesdays in the fall of 2023 plus 6 adult leaders. We saw a significant increase in the fall of 2024 – averaging 31 youth plus 10 adults. This fall (2025), we have 53 active youth – averaging over 38 youth every Wednesday night, with 15 adults pouring into our youth.

An organization called TENx10 was so impressed with Asbury's investment in the youth – and the growth of the youth under the leadership of Emily Lawrence – that they sent a film crew to capture Asbury's story. A 7-minute film of what God is doing through Asbury's Youth Ministry was featured at a national Youth Summit in Atlanta, Georgia in October 2025. Emily and I were invited to the Summit as guests of TENx10.

Thank you for investing in the faith of the next generation!

**GOAL 2 – Worship: Enhance worship experiences on Sunday mornings.** Some of our objectives include changing our Sunday morning schedule to facilitate improved hospitality, building and parking lot flow, and worship engagement. We shifted worship times to 8:00, 9:15, and 11:00 a.m. to provide a hospitable space between services. We continue to provide Children's Church as an option for kids during the second Traditional Service and the Non-Traditional Service with dismissal after the Children's Message. The attendance numbers have averaged 13 per Sunday – two more than the former Sunday School average of 11. We are working to maintain a fully staffed nursery during all services and to recruit and train volunteers to host all online services. We presently have two adult groups at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays – Caring Connections and Room 106 group.

**GOAL 3 – Discipleship: Enhance leadership development and team building.** Our objectives include changing Asbury’s governance structure to a simplified accountability model. Leadership development and volunteer engagement was a recurring theme as we discussed current challenges faced in our ministry at Asbury. We want to do a better job recruiting, training, and supporting leaders and volunteers. We want people empowered and valued in ways that lead to deeper engagement and ministry. We transitioned to a nine person Leadership Team in 2024. Mike Nesheim’s term on Leadership Team ends this year. We thank Mike for his leadership and service. I am grateful for our leaders!

**GOAL 4 – Serve: Enhance service opportunities to our neighborhood, community, and beyond.** Our objectives include developing outreach strategies to connect with the Asbury neighborhood, to involve Children’s and Youth Ministries in Asbury Missions, and develop our partnership with Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Missions and outreach is one of Asbury’s strengths. It is a core value that helps us fulfill our mission to provide life-changing experiences with Jesus as we serve others. Our Missions Team has done an excellent job of establishing and growing our partnership with Laura Wilder Elementary (Asbury’s signature ministry). Note the Missions Team report with exciting details of generosity and service. We also recognize that there is room for us to grow in the ways that we engage our neighborhood and make disciples through our missional attitude.

The needs of our neighborhood are varied with a rapidly rising percentage of single-parent households. In 2010, 43% of the neighborhood was single-parent households. In 2022, it rose to 54.7%. The average age in our neighborhood is trending younger than the state of South Dakota. 58.3% of the population is made up of Millennials (27-42) and Generation Z (11-26) – that is, people ages 11 through 42.

The data from the 2021 American Beliefs Study also shows that those in our neighborhood have a high value for community involvement and social justice advocacy. That means we have an opportunity to connect those in our neighborhood with our core value of mission and outreach, if we can develop relationships with them.

These recommendations are designed to help Asbury move with strategic intention as we seek to fulfill Asbury’s vision. In this process, existing ministries are invited to prioritize their work around the strategic plan as new ministries are developed to address current gaps and opportunities that Asbury has in front of us as we invest in the future of the church.

Our strategic plan is a working document as Asbury’s new Leadership Team continues to evaluate and adapt it to address changing needs and circumstances. This strategic plan provides practical and spiritual direction for us as a church over the next 2-4 years.

I am excited for what it will mean for us as a church as we continue to put it into practice. Our hope is that we are seeing a glimpse of God's future – and have a plan to move in that direction.

**Worship.** Our in-person worship attendance is growing. We returned to in-person Sunday worship during Lent on Sunday, February 21, 2021, following the pandemic. We had not met in-person for Sunday worship since March 22, 2020.

We use the sfasbury.online.church platform as well as our Facebook page, Facebook Campus, and Worship by Phone (605-221-1769) for online worship. We continue to prerecord services to gain better production quality and greater reliability than streaming. We have considered live-streaming one of the in-person services, but at this time lack needed volunteers. Traditional Worship – 8:00 a.m.; Traditional Worship – 9:15 a.m.; Non-Traditional – 11:00 a.m.

I am grateful for the faithfulness, commitment, outreach and dedication of those that worship. I give thanks for the dedicated leaders, servants, choirs, directors, musicians, liturgists, soloists, AV technicians, Worship Design Team, and many, many others who have been involved with online and in-person services.

**Worship Attendance.** In June 2019, we started streaming our 9:00 a.m. traditional service and our non-traditional service. We did not really advertise the online service in 2019 as we were developing our tech team and working out the kinks. We averaged about 12 persons (or devices) checking in per Sunday from June through mid-November. Our highest number of check-ins was 24 and our lowest was 6. Through October 2020 we averaged 141 persons (or devices) each Sunday. That represented an increase online of over 1000%. In 2021, our average online attendance by devices was 79. In 2021, our average Facebook Live views were 216. In 2023, our online attendance averaged 44 persons (or devices), with average Facebook views at 241 through October. In 2024, we averaged about 32, with Facebook views at 257. In comparison, our online attendance this year through November 2024 has averaged 35, with average Facebook views at 243. We average one call a week on Worship by Phone (605-221-1769) in 2025. I praise God for people being reached.



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan.	0	100	142	177	197
Feb.	40	131	150	168	178
Mar.	58	142	191	207	177
Apr.	79	240	224	182	249
May	87	151	86	174	173
June	97	114	135	147	137
July	91	124	127	138	155
Aug.	105	127	127	139	159
Sept.	113	139	180	172	216
Oct.	145	179	175	177	178
Nov.	158	172	170	212	186
Dec.	195	189	227	202	181
YTD Ave.	113	154	168	171	181

Our average in-person worship attendance was 113 per Sunday in 2021. In 2022, we averaged 154 per Sunday. In 2023, we averaged 168. In 2024, we averaged 171. Through the first three Sundays of November 2025, we have averaged 181 per Sunday. Our 8:00 a.m. service averages 34. Our 9:15 a.m. service averages 92. Our 11:00 a.m. service averages 56. I estimate our average attendance for 2025 will be around 184 – an 8% increase over 2024. Our highest Sunday attendance this year was 306 (319-2024) on Easter, April 20. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight services were attended by 373 people. The trend over the last few months: July averaged 155. August averaged 159. September averaged 216. October averaged 178. November has averaged 187 (November 2, 9, 16). Pre-pandemic our average in-person worship was close to 300. The commitment of our adult choir, bell choir, band, along with the children's choir, make a direct impact on in-person worship attendance. Thank you to those who lead and serve.

I preached about twice a month – and have preached twice at Trail Ridge.

It has been great to work with our Worship Design Team on themes such as:

“Prayer” (November 10, 17, 24, 2024); “Star of Hope” – Barb Roozen (December 4); “The Original Christmas Playlist” (Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2024); “The Awe-fullness of Christmas” – DS Dan Bader (video – December 29); “Only Murders in the Bible” (January 12, 19, 26, February 2); “Meltdowns” (February 9, 16, 23, March 2); Ash Wednesday (March 5); “The Third Day” (Lent Wednesdays – March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9); Good Friday (April 18); “Pause: Spending Time with the Psalms” (Lent/Palm Sunday/Easter – March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20); “At His Name” – Cantata (April 13); “Working on Commission” (Confirmation – April 27); “Little and Often” (May 4, 11, 18, 25); “Called to the Vocation of Love” – Bishop Lanette Plambeck (video – June 8); “Sermon on the Mound” (June 1, 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13); “Asbury Film Festival” – “Brother Bear,” “Past Lives,” “Lost on a Mountain in Maine” (Director – Andrew Kightlinger), “Cheaper by the Dozen (1950),” “The Wild Robot” (July 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17); “United by Hope” (United Methodists Community Worship – August 24); “Stronger than the Storm” (August 31); “Celebrating 75 Years: Asbury: Found, Formed, Faithful, Forward” (September 7, 14, 21, 28); “StewardSHIP” (October 5, 12 – Generosity Sunday); “Ubuntu” – Nick Jackson (October 19); “Promised>Problems” (October 26, November 2, 9, 16) – All Saints Day (November 2); “Mental Health According to Paul” – Joel Allen (November 23); “Signs of the Season” (Advent/ Christmas 2025).

**Nurturing Discipleship.** During the season of Lent, our Wednesday nights included a meal served by various teams with worship and study around tables. We used the Dakotas Conferences resource based on Tom Berline's book *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*. Including Ash Wednesday we averaged about 85 people each evening for the meals and 44 for the worship and study.

Caring Connections, a fellowship group for women of all ages, led by Judy Hines, Mary Millikan, Dawn Rice, Barb Roozen, and Bonnie Shinn meets weekly Sunday mornings. A Bible Study led by Lloyd Petersen meets on Sundays in Room 106. The By My Works Men's Group and United Women in Faith are active and the Coffee Fellowship meets weekly. Cindy Nelson leads a Small Group on Monday mornings. Paul Zeeb leads a Wednesday night small group using *Upper Room Disciplines*.

Asbury hosted a Courageous Conversation on March 17 led by Rev. Dr. Joel Allen from Dakota Wesleyan University (DWU). The goal was to foster respect and understanding through moderated discussion. The topic was Immigration and Amnesty.

Pastor Matt Morrison, Anna Suckow, and I led a New Member Class on Sunday, June 29, with five people attending.

Bonnie Shinn has led two group through Financial Peace University – Sundays, January 26-March 23 and Sundays, September 28-November 23.

Ministry Fairs were held on Sundays, March 30 and October 5 as a way to inform people about opportunities to serve and grow in discipleship.

Amy Caselli, Mary Johnson, Rennae Petersen, Donna Roberts, and Barb Roozen hosted a Saturday morning Women's Retreat at Asbury on Saturday, October 11.

Our Digital Ministry Team, led by Pastor Matt, continues to develop Asbury's Facebook Campus. The group has 540 members at this time – an increase of 4% since last year (518). Asbury's Facebook Campus is our primary hub for online ministry. The site includes Staff Check-In each weekday at 10:00 a.m. Staff members share announcements and a brief devotion. There are opportunities to share prayer requests, offer connection and encouragement. Sunday worship can be found on our Facebook Campus as well.

Our Mission Team has kept the needs of the community and world in the forefront of our mission to serve others. I am grateful to serve a church that remains generous and faithful.

**Children and Youth.** Our Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry meet on Wednesday evenings for nurturing discipleship. Michelle Baird served as the Director of Children's Ministries (20 hours per week) until her resignation this fall. Carly Ellsworth is volunteering as a Coordinator of Children's Ministries while a new Director of Children's Ministries is sought. Emily Lawrence serves as Director of Next Generation Ministries full-time.

**Serving Others.** Asbury has remained active in our partnership with Laura Wilder Elementary School – our signature ministry. We have supported the school with a Wednesday night Prayer Walk, adoption of twenty-five teachers/classrooms, gift cards to new teachers,

hand-written Thank You notes to teachers/staff, meals for teachers and staff, serving at Open House, and more. Asbury is a host site for Cub Scout Pack 155. We provide office space for Project CAR. Those are a few examples.

I encourage you to read the Missions Team Report. Asbury has been very generous in responding to a variety of needs with continuing generosity. We continue to support Tree of Life Ministries, Mission, SD (\$16,780); UMCOR (\$1,400+); The Banquet West; Nightwatch Canteen; Midwest Street Medicine, and many other missions. We collected over \$67,504 for a variety of missions.

We continue to deepen our relationship with Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC). As an example, through MMDC we packed 1,200 rice meal packets (7,200 meals) on a Sunday morning this fall. We assembled over 92 Personal Dignity Kits, 200 Student Kits, and lots of donations including handmade quilts, fabric, sewing notions, tools, medical equipment and bicycles. Asbury sent two Mission Teams to MMDC – June 22-24 and October 5-7, 2025. We also gave \$1,000 to help with the purchase of the MMDC building in Jefferson, IA. Asbury is also a collection site for areas churches.

Asbury has a vital prayer ministry due to the leadership of Linda Van Loh. Linda has stepped down after serving 27 years. She averaged 445 prayer requests annually, faithfully lifting each one to God with compassion and care. The prayer ministry will be coordinated by the Care Team in the future. For now, prayer requests can be sent to Pastor Matt and me. Thank you for your faithful service, Linda. Linda is one example of numerous teams and individuals who serve Christ.

**Membership.** Our current membership is 476. We have welcomed thirteen new members to our church family this year – all by Profession of Faith (nine confirmands). This past year we removed 13 members from our rolls – six by request and seven by death.

We have grieved the death of seven members. Our congregation was involved with the funerals/ memorial services of nine who were buried through the ministry of Asbury since our last Conference. We remembered twelve people on All Saints Sunday. I officiated at nine of the funeral services. I give thanks to Jesus Christ for the precious gift of life and life eternal.

I officiated at one wedding this year.

Asbury celebrated two baptisms in 2025 – one infant and one youth.

**Stewardship.** Asbury's 2025 Generosity Emphasis was held October 5 and 12. Our theme was "StewardSHIP." On Generosity Sunday, October 12, we invited our members and friends to complete 2025 Estimate of Giving cards as an act of worship and commitment to Christ.

As of this writing, a total of 99 cards have been returned. Forty-eight cards indicate an intent to increase giving. Fifty-four of the individuals plan to give electronically. The total pledged is \$399,605.15. \$253,633.51 of that total will be given electronically. We also expect about \$113,000 based on those who have a history of giving, but did not complete a card. We expect another \$3,000 from other sources. Therefore, we estimate our 2025 income to be \$515,605.51. We celebrate that generosity!

Our Leadership Team uses these figures to help develop a 2026 budget. Currently, they are wrestling with a proposed budget because we feel like God is calling us beyond our expected resources again. And so, we are in a balancing act. What is responsible? What is faithful?

In 2024, we approved a budget of about \$610,000. We did not expect to receive enough offerings to cover that amount, but we stepped out in faith. As part of our Commit Campaign Strategic Plan, we felt called to invest in our Youth Ministry by moving the Youth Director position from half time to full time. So, even though we did not expect enough offerings to cover all our expenses, plus increase the position, we stepped out in faith. We had a few significant special gifts to help bridge some of the gap. We had a healthy reserve fund. We anticipated that during 2024 we would spend down that reserve in order to carry out our plans, plus invest in our Youth Ministry and Next Generation – Young Adults. As expected, that reserve was gone by the end of the year. But, people responded to a special appeal with such generosity that we finished 2024 in the black, with a surplus. We were able to move into 2025 on a positive financial note.

We have done well through most of 2025. People have been incredibly faithful with their giving – our pledges are pretty much on track. But, we accepted a deficit budget this year, trusting that God – and God’s people – would provide. This fall, things are tight. Our expenses are outpacing our income that past couple months. We still have a balance in savings of about \$12,000, but things are tight. So, as we move through December, I have invited the congregation to consider an extra year-end gift to help close the gap. Every bit makes a difference. And we are seeing God at work as a result of the generosity.

Our Youth Group grew from 19 youth with 6 adult leaders on Wednesdays in 2023 to 31 youth with 10 adults in 2024. This fall, we have 53 active youth – averaging 38 youth every Wednesday night with 15 adults nurturing discipleship in our young people. We give thanks to God for a fruitful harvest!

Thank you for your faithful giving and generosity that supports our vision to be a community that is experiencing life change and growth because of Jesus.

**Dakotas Conference.** I currently serve on the Southeast District Board of Ordained Ministry. I am one of two clergy representatives on the Dakota Wesleyan University Board of Trustees

and started serving in the fall of 2021. I was also part of a Higher Ground clergy cohort in 2024 – a wellness initiative of the Dakotas Conference. A follow-up to Higher Ground includes an online meeting with a health coach every three weeks. I participate in a Lead Pastor Cohort that meets online each month,

**Thank You.** Thank you for the opportunity to serve in ministry together. Barb and I are grateful to be appointed to Asbury. I am thankful for Barb's support and partnership in ministry.

After much prayer and reflection, we have decided to retire at the end of June 2026.

Serving as your pastor since 2007 has been a great privilege and blessing in my life. Together we have shared so many sacred moments – worship, service, baptisms, weddings, funerals, laughter, tears, and countless stories of God's grace at work. Barb and I are deeply grateful for the love, faith, and generosity that define Asbury.

And while retirement is on the horizon, I do not intend to coast to the finish line. There is important ministry to do, and my desire and prayer is to finish well. God is doing great things among us – our growing next generation ministry, our strong outreach and mission partnerships, our generous giving and inclusive worship. Asbury's mission remains vital: to provide life-changing experiences with Christ as we love and accept all, nurture discipleship, and serve others.

I trust that God's Spirit will continue to lead Asbury into a bright future. I look forward to walking with you into 2026 – celebrating all that God has done and preparing together for what God will do next.

**Thank You.** Asbury is blessed with a congregation full of ministers seeking to serve Christ in a variety of ways. Thank you to all the individuals and team members who have served. Thank you to all the leaders and volunteers who continue to serve in so many ways. Asbury is fortunate to have dedicated, committed, competent staff. Thank You to Pastor Matt Morrison for sharing in pastoral ministry. Thank you to: Office Manager – Roxie Pogany; Director of Next Generation Ministries – Emily Lawrence; Organist – Julie Ostroot; Choir Director – Julie LeVan; Handbell Choir Director – Jolayne Hanson; Children's Choir Director – Julie Ashworth; Children's Pianist – Nick Jackson; Nursery – Dawn Bain, Elise Chap, Nikki Grau, Emily Steinhouse. Sarah Wagenaar stepped down as our Financial Secretary at the end of 2024. We thank Sarah for her faithful dedication and service. Limestone, Inc. is now handling Asbury's bookkeeping. Michelle Baird resigned as Director of Children's Ministries. We thank Michelle for her deep love and care for Asbury's children over the years. Carly Ellsworth has volunteered to coordinate the Children's Ministry as we search for a Director of Children's Ministries.

This is certainly a challenging, and yet exciting, time to be the Church. While we do not know what the future holds, we know who holds the future. And we press forward seeking to provide life-changing experiences with Christ by loving and accepting all, nurturing discipleship, and serving others. Thanks for your part in Christ's mission! It is an exciting time to be Asbury United Methodist Church!

"For all that has been, THANKS, for all that is to be, YES!"

In Ministry Together,

Kip Roozen

## MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

### For Charge Conference Action

#### Deceased Members

Joy Boyer  
Sharon Eaton  
Corrine Maske  
Barb Remillard  
Jeanne Richards  
Esther Sayler  
Bunnie Wirt

#### Funerals

Joy Boyer  
Catherine Griffith  
Dan Griffith  
Corrine Maske  
Marnie Mitchell  
Thomas Olsen  
Barb Remillard  
Jeanne Richards  
Bunnie Wirt

#### Weddings Performed

Dylan Vaughan and Lindsey (Flannery)  
Vaughan  
Matthew Wagenaar and Jasmine (Jensen)  
Jensen-Wagenaar

#### Children Baptized

Liam Isaac Caselli  
Casen Carter Husher

#### Adults Baptized

#### Received by Profession of Faith

Thomas Buck\*  
Liam Caselli\*  
Payson Karpinen\*  
Josephine Lawrence\*  
Marilyn Lofflin

Elsa Nesheim\*

Brad Rufer  
Cherie Rufer  
Khloe Solum\*  
Dylan Vaughan  
Lindsey Vaughan  
Maddilyn Wagenaar\*  
Asher Wilcox-Broekemeier\*  
\*Confirmed on 04/27/25

### Received by UMC Transfer

### Received Other Transfer

### Reinstated

### UMC Transfer Out

### Other Denomination Transfer Out

### Withdrawn by Request

Don Baird  
Trudy Baird  
Jeff Jorgensen  
Melissa McManus  
Barbara Schlenker  
Keith Schlenker

### Removal by Charge Conference

11/24/2024-11/23/2025

**MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY**

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	November 24, 2024	476
<b>ADDITIONS</b>	1. Profession of Faith	13
	2. Transfer from Other Denominations	0
	3. Transfer from Other UMC	0
	4. Reinstated membership	0
	5. Membership Audit	0
	<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>	1. Withdrawn by Request	6
	2. Transfer to Other Denominations	0
	3. Transfer to Other UMC	0
	4. Deceased	7
	5. Removal by Charge Conference	0
	6. Removed by Conference Appointment	0
	7. Membership Audit	0
	<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	November 23, 2025	<b>476</b>

**OTHER ACTIVITY**

<b>CHILDREN BAPTIZED</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ADULTS BAPTIZED</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NUMBER OF FUNERALS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>WEDDINGS PERFORMED</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>AVERAGE CHURCH ATTENDANCE</b>	181
Sundays (January 1, 2025-November 16, 2025)	
<b>AVERAGE ONLINE CHURCH ATTENDANCE BY DEVICES</b>	39
Sundays (January 1, 2025-November 16, 2025)	
<b>AVERAGE FACEBOOK LIVE VIEWS</b>	243
Sundays (January 1, 2025-November 16, 2025)	
<b>AVERAGE CHILDREN'S CHURCH ATTENDANCE</b>	
(January 1, 2025-November 16, 2025)	
Children	13
Adult Leaders	4
<b>AVERAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</b>	
(January 1, 2025-November 16, 2025)	
Adults	22
<b>AVERAGE WEDNESDAY EVENING ATTENDANCE</b>	
(January 1, 2025-November 12, 2025)	
Joysingers Choir	17
Children (sprouts and SpArK!)	18
Youth	34
Adult Leaders	18

## **CHARGE CONFERENCE MINUTES**

Asbury United Methodist Church

November 24, 2024

Asbury's All-Church Conference, led by District Superintendent Brandon Vetter, was held on Sunday, November 24, 2024 at Asbury United Methodist Church.

### **Opening:**

Kip started the Charge Conference by introducing Brandon Vetter, the new superintendent of our district. Brandon then spent time introducing himself to the attendees.

Brandon led us in the devotion asking the question "Where has God been at work in your church?" The answers that were shouted out were youth, a full-time youth director, children's ministry, Caring Connections, Laura Wilder, every Sunday, our Pastors, and music ministry. Brandon then read through Isaiah 43:1-3a twice. Brandon had us reflect on what phrase or word spoke to us.

Brandon closed the time of devotion with a prayer.

### **Business moments:**

#### **Leadership Team:**

Nominations for the year 2025 were discussed, Pastor Kip spoke on the nominations for Leadership Team, nominating and suggesting the positions possible.

Nathan Grau – agreed to serve again

Anna Suckow – agreed to one more year

Jeff Easter – stepped down

Kip suggested to approve Anna and Nathan, motion was made and seconded. Both Anna and Nathan were approved for continuation on the Leadership Team. Jeff's desire to step down from leadership was affirmed.

#### **Clergy Compensation:**

Pastor compensation for both Kip and Matt were granted.

Kip's salary was suggested for increase to \$70,572 and a 3% increase in housing totaling \$19,436. The motion was moved and seconded. Kip's salary and housing were approved.

Matt's salary was suggested for increase to \$51,730, and a 3% increase in housing totaling \$19,436. The motion was moved and seconded. Matt's salary and housing were approved.

**Budget:**

Steve Mix discussed our budget and the fact that we will hit our budget for the year 2024, unlike last year's when we hit about 90% of our budget. The purposed budget for 2025 was motioned, seconded and approved.

**Trustee update:**

Jeff Easter spoke for the trustees on the transformation of the children's wing. He also spoke about the hopes of the north and south wings of the building. We thanked Jeff for his years of service to the team.

**Pastor's Reports:**

Brandon turned it over to Matt and Kip for their updates about the last year.

Matt spoke how we approved the strategic plan, and how the shift into the Leadership Team has allowed us to be more strategic than a reporting body. Matt spoke how there is a lot of growth slowly happening for spiritual journeys, looking at adding a care team and much more.

Kip spoke on celebrating the growth of children, youth, and families and the change that we have moved programming to Wednesdays instead of Sundays. The average attendance in both children's and youth has almost doubled. Kip shared about the generous donation to remodel the children's wing this past year. The goal is to continue to reach out to our neighbors through continued events and our work with Laura Wilder. While the attendance for in-person services is going up, online services seem to have decreased. Kip thanked the staff and the congregation for their service and support throughout the year.

**Dakotas Conference Updates:**

Brandon moved to discuss the handouts, one being from the Board of Pensions. Asbury will

receive a bonus from the Board of Pensions in December. He also mentioned there are some other bonuses due to extra funds. There was another document that touched on things happening with the conference body, like money raised by the annual conference, events that happened like DakYouth, and Camps, and Fresh Expressions. It stated that Annual Conference will meet in June at Dakota Wesleyan and Downtown First in Mitchell, SD.

**Other Comments:**

Carly Ellsworth took some time to thank those in attendance for their contributions to the youth and how that has grown and shaped 40 youth lives.

Jim Gray asked what was the total loss in the disaffiliation, and Brandon spoke on how in our conference and globally it was about 25% of churches that were disaffiliated. Alongside of the estimate of conference and global disaffiliation, it is roughly 7-14% membership loss overall.

**Closing:**

Brandon closed with a reading of the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Baird, Emily Lawrence, and Morgan Mundt

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. KRISTA J. DUCKER

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 23, 2025

In the past year, I have served as pastor of Ben Clare United Methodist Church (UMC) in Valley Springs, SD, and as a chaplain with Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center. At the end of June, I transitioned fully into chaplaincy ministry, and into occasional pulpit supply as a way to support my clergy colleagues. I have provided pulpit supply at Beresford UMC, Yankton UMC, and Montrose UMC, with future dates scheduled at the Abundance Parish, Brandon Celebration, and again at Montrose.

This year, by God's grace, I also achieved the professional milestone of Board Certification through the Association of Professional Chaplains—a process which also required denominational endorsement through the Global Board of Higher Education in Ministry and four completed units of Clinical Pastoral Education, along with a rigorous application and vetting process. I am grateful for this affirmation of my call and look forward to investing in the development of others and to supporting my chaplaincy team. As a chaplain, I mentor CPE students as they complete their clinical hours at our hospital, which gives me a great deal of joy and fulfillment.

I am also a Provisional Deacon in the Dakotas Conference and am preparing my ordination materials to submit next year for consideration at the 2027 annual conference. Regarding my spiritual development, I meet regularly with a spiritual director, enter into weekly prayer time with my chaplaincy colleagues, and daily prayer and scripture reading, in addition to participating in worship at our "home base," Asbury UMC.

Respectfully submitted,

*Krista J. Ducker*

Rev. Krista J. Ducker, M.Div., BCC

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. EMIL H. EBERHART

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 23, 2025

I continue to serve on the Boutwells Landing Religious Advisory Committee.

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. PENNY EBERHART

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 23, 2025

During this year I have conducted a Charge Conference at our local United Methodist Church in Stillwater, MN. I also served as an election judge, as well as volunteered in our retirement community, Boutwells Landing. Being able to gather with family and friends is a gift.

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. BILL GRAN

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Pastoral Acts: (to date---) which were also "SIGNIFICANT LIFE AND MINISTRY EVENTS"

Number of Marriages Performed: 1— Bethany Lange & John Schultz 07/12/25—  
Aberdeen, SD (Bethany is our great niece)

Baptisms Administered: 0

Funerals Officiated: 2—James Henry Oakland 05/09/25—George Boom  
Funeral Home (James was a longtime  
friend and Chaplain co-worker of mine)  
— Tristin Vandall 08/09/25—Glasgow, MT  
(Tristin was our great nephew, who died  
in a car accident at age 22)

I continue to find joy in and appreciate being "fully re-tired" for the past four years. I am also

grateful for the continued relationship with the Dakotas United Methodist Conference, which included opportunities to serve on the Higher Ground Advisory Council, providing additional input for the Higher Ground Retreat Track Leadership/Planning Team, meeting 2-3 times a month with retired UMC clergy, and providing Spiritual Direction.

Brenda and I are looking forward to attending a Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) Conference titled "ReVision 2025: What Do We Do With Christianity" in Albuquerque, NM October 24-26, as well as spending 3 days in Show Low, NM and then a week and a half visiting with Jen and Jed in Tucson and/or caring for their 11 year old rescue dog Maya.

We also appreciate the gift of time with each other and our kids and grandkids, including the preparing and providing of Sunday family meals, watching grandkids play or perform in their activities, supporting/encouraging our four oldest grandchildren in their "post high school careers", and being on a "chain of family texts" that include the joys, challenges, pictures and prayer requests that come with daily life. We also enjoyed our times in nature and with friends during our six camping trips this summer, and find fulfilling our regular "coffee times/get together's/meals" with friends, including regular times of support and meals with our "since college days" friends Hank and Bonnie Kor. I have gotten in almost a twice-a-week game of golf, enjoying both the beauty of being outdoors and time with friends.

Brenda continues to provide a few piano lessons (including for our granddaughter Mischa), and is part of a Monday Morning Bible study and prayer group, a monthly book club, and Asbury's United Women in Faith. We are also both enjoying being a part of Asbury's Adult Choir.

Recommended Reading/Listening: CAC.org website for a "Daily Meditation" and Podcasts "Learning How to See," "Everything Belongs," and "Turning to the Mystics." And books: "Do I Stay Christian" by Brian McLaren, "Freeing Jesus" by Diana Butler Bass, "The Tears of Things" by Richard Rohr, and "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHARGE CONFERENCE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
NOVEMBER 23, 2025

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. RONALD C JOHNSON

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Pastoral Acts: (to date---)

Number of Marriages Performed: 3

Baptisms Administered: 0

Funerals Officiated: 0

My wife, Marsha, and I have lived in Sioux Falls for five years. I continue to serve the conference by being a part of the ministry team that serves the Gayville/Volin UMC. I serve as a Clergy Advisor/Liaison for Clergy at the Keystone Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center in Canton, SD. I serve on the Southeast District Committee on Ministry. I am on the Executive Board for the Sunnycrest Retirement Village in Sioux Falls. I occasionally do pulpit supply for a United Methodist Church in Iowa.

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. RICK PITTENGER

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 24, 2024

Pastoral Acts: (to date---)

Number of Marriages Performed: 0

Baptisms Administered: 0

Funerals Officiated: 1

Preaching Opportunities: 2

I've preached twice and joined the choir at Grace United Methodist Church in Moorhead. Becky will transfer there after the first of the year. I'll probably transfer my home church to Grace UMC also next year. I officiated at Becky's brother Mark's funeral at the Harrisburg Funeral Home on November 20, 2025.

Rev. Rick Pittenger

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. GAIL SHLANTA PEASLEY

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 23, 2025

I remain fully retired as an Elder in the South Dakota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

My husband, John Peasley, and I reside at Trail Ridge Retirement Community which provides many services which we appreciate—not the least of which is the Tuesday morning worship service. We appreciate the fact that Pastor Kip is willing to preach here upon occasion. The residents thoroughly enjoy his messages.

Neither of us drives anymore, so we doubly appreciate being able to worship with the Asbury community by television. Thank you to all who make that possible.

Blessings to all who keep the ministry of this congregation so vital.

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. GERALD STOLP

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Pastoral Acts: (to date---)

Number of Marriages Performed: 0

Baptisms Administered: 0

Funerals Officiated: 0

Gerald A. Stolp