

January 2018 at Asbury UMC

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					Pastor Kip has Fridays off Pastor Matt has Fridays off Michelle has Fridays off	
	1 Office Closed 	2 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall 5:30 Women's AA, Rm 106	3 6:15 Worship, Chapel 7:00 Youth Leadership Team Mtg, Rm 006 7:00 Adult Choir, Sanctuary 7:00 Disciple: John, Library	4 6:30 Stephen Ministry - Supervision, Room 106 6:30 Jonah's Wail!, Sanctuary	5 11:30 a.m. Women's AA Group, Room 106	6
7 8:00 Worship 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School for all ages 11:15 Contemporary Worship	8 9:00 a.m. Prayer Time, Library 12:00 Joyful Journey, Rm 106 1:30 Staff Meeting, Library 5:30 Handbells, Sanctuary	9 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall 5:30 Women's AA, Rm 106 6:00 Friendslink Kitchen Circuit Rider Deadline	10 1:30 UMW Book Group 6:15 Worship, Chapel 6:15 Spark!, Room 128 6:15 Genesis Choir, Room 130 6:30-8:00 Youth Group (MS & HS) 7:00 Joysingers Choir, Room 130 7:00 Adult Choir, Sanctuary 7:00 Disciple: John, Library	11 6:30 Jonah's Wail!, Sanctuary	12 11:30 a.m. Women's AA Group, Room 106	13
14 8:00 Worship 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School for all ages 11:15 Contemporary Worship	15 9:00 a.m. Prayer Time, Library 12:00 Joyful Journey, Rm 106 1:30 Staff Meeting, Library 5:30 Handbells, Sanctuary 6:00 Trustees, Room 106 6:30 Men's Group, Fell Hall	16 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall 5:30 Women's AA, Rm 106 6:00 Friendslink Kitchen	17 6:15 Worship, Chapel 6:15 Spark!, Room 128 6:15 Genesis Choir, Room 130 6:30-8:00 Youth Group (MS & HS) 7:00 Joysingers Choir, Room 130 7:00 Adult Choir, Sanctuary 7:05 CMT Meeting, Room 129	18 12:30 UMW Circle Meeting, Hospitality Room 6:30 Stephen Ministry - Supervision, Room 106 6:30 Jonah's Wail!, Sanctuary	19 12:00 Union Gospel Mission Lunch, Fellowship Hall 12:30 Union Gospel Mission Program, Sanctuary 11:30 a.m. Women's AA Group, Room 106 1:00 Circuit Rider Mailing	20
21 8:00 Worship 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School for all ages 11:15 Contemporary Worship	22 9:00 a.m. Prayer Time, Library 12:00 Joyful Journey, Rm 106 1:30 Staff Meeting, Library 5:30 Handbells, Sanctuary	23 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall 5:30 Women's AA, Rm 106 6:00 Friendslink Kitchen	24 6:15 Worship, Chapel 6:15 Spark!, Room 128 6:15 Genesis Choir, Room 130 6:30-8:00 Youth Group (MS & HS) 7:00 Joysingers Choir, Room 130 7:00 Adult Choir, Sanctuary	25 6:30 Jonah's Wail!, Sanctuary	26 9:30 a.m. UMW Executive Board, Hospitality Room 11:30 a.m. Women's AA Group, Room 106	27
28 8:00 Worship 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School for all ages 11:15 Contemporary Worship	29 9:00 a.m. Prayer Time, Library 12:00 Joyful Journey, Rm 106 1:30 Staff Meeting, Library 5:30 Handbells, Sanctuary	30 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall 5:30 Women's AA, Rm 106	31 6:15 Worship, Chapel 6:15 Spark!, Room 128 6:15 Genesis Choir, Room 130 6:30-8:00 Youth Group (MS & HS) 7:00 Joysingers Choir, Room 130 7:00 Adult Choir, Sanctuary			

Body Life

Hospitals:

Joy Boyer, Lois Nelson, Larry Morse, Lorna Koch, Shirley Hillstrom, Bunnie Barnes, Shirlette Ljunggren

Sympathy:

- To Roger Kehm and family on the passing of his wife, Darlene, on November 19. Darlene was a member of Asbury. Her funeral was held at Asbury on November 25.
- To Bonnie Herzig on the passing of her brother on November 17.
- To Janice Stahl and family on the passing of her husband, Peter, on November 21.
- To Mike and Abby Wratz and family on the passing of his mother, Sheila Wratz, on December 10. Her memorial service was held at Asbury on December 15.
- To Linda and Don Marquardt on the passing of her brother-in-law, Bob Willis, on December 14.

New Joyful Journey Study

A new Joyful Journey Study begins on Monday, January 8. We will read the Gospel of John via DVD. This class meets from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in Room 106. All are welcome to join us. No fees. No prerequisites. Just come!



Prayer Requests and Prayer Chain

To submit a prayer request or to become part of the prayer chain, please fill out a blue prayer request card located in the pew or contact the office, 332-8861 or info@sfasbury.org, or Linda Van Loh at vanlohl@msn.com.

Longing for the Savior: A Christmas Message from Bishop Ough

Longing for the Savior

Bernard of Clairvaux, the great twelfth century abbot, once wrote about Christmas in his *Sermons on the Song of Songs*:

During my frequent ponderings on the burning desire with which the patriarchs longed for the incarnation of Christ, I am stung with sorrow and shame... Very soon now there will be great rejoicing as we celebrate the feast of Christ's birth. BUT HOW I WISH IT WERE INSPIRED BY HIS BIRTH! All the more, therefore, do I pray that the intense longing of those men and women of old, their heartfelt longing, may be enkindled in me.

Confronted with an increasingly secular and commercial celebration – a Christ-less Christmas, if you will – it would be easy to sigh along with Bernard of Clairvaux: “But how I wish it were inspired by his birth.” We have even turned this sigh into a common seasonal lament, and at times seasonal protest: Put Christ back into Christmas!

But, the key to putting Christ back into Christmas is to enkindle or re-ignite or fan our heartfelt longing for Jesus, our hunger for the Christ to be born within us. This hunger is God's gift to every human being. This longing paves the way for the second part of the incarnation mystery – Christ alive in our souls, our hearts, our inner beings.

The gift of Christmas can only be fully realized and joyfully received if we seek it.

- Simeon pleaded to stay alive long enough to see the Messiah.
- Mary opened herself completely to conceive Jesus.
- The shepherd said, “Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.”
- The Magi followed a star in search of the new king.

They each wanted the Savior. They each wanted to see and welcome Jesus. They each had a heartfelt longing for Christ in their lives and in the world.

Max Lucado, in his wonderful little book, *One Incredible Moment*, urges us to “Step away from puny pursuits of possessions and positions, and seek your king. Don't be

satisfied with angels. Don't be content with stars in the sky. Seek Jesus out as the shepherds did. Long for Jesus as Simeon did. Worship Jesus as the Wise Men did. Risk whatever it takes to see Christ.” (page 102).

Every vital, healthy, fruitful congregation I have been privileged to witness in the Dakotas-Minnesota Area displays an intense longing for the incarnation of Christ. They enkindle this Christmas longing within their members and communities. It is this spirit of longing for and seeking Christ that undergirds our mission of making and equipping disciples of Jesus. It is this spirit of longing for and seeking Jesus that calls us to kingdom life – the radical and transformative reality which was inaugurated by Jesus' birth.

Hebrews 11:6 reminds us that “God cares to respond to those who seek God.” Other translations read, “God rewards those who diligently seek God.”

This is the good news for us this Christmas. Be diligent in your search for Jesus. Be passionate in your quest for Jesus. Be ravenous in your hunger for Jesus. Be relentless in your journey to Bethlehem. Enkindle your longing for the birth of Christ in your life.

And, so I pray for each of us this Christmas:

Gracious and Holy God, the Giver of all good gifts; we seek but one reward – one gift – in this Christmas season.

Grant us hearts that will not rest until we rest in You.

Grant us hearts that long only for You.

Grant us hearts that seek only Your presence.

Grant us hearts that will settle for nothing less than Jesus.

May God bless you, your loved ones and your congregation with a joyous Christmas and abundant hope for the New Year!

Bishop Bruce R. Ough



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