

WELCOME

We extend a cordial welcome to each person worshipping with us today. If you need any assistance, please call on our ushers or greeters. They would be glad to help you. Following the service, please join us in the Social Hall for refreshments and fellowship. We hope you have a meaningful worship experience and will leave Asbury renewed, fulfilled, and challenged!

**The flowers for today's worship service are given
in honor of Connie Coleman's birthday and Dottie Lester Hart
by Cece Coleman.**



Mission Statement

Asbury Memorial UMC is a place where all people, individually and collectively, develop their spirituality, use their talents, and grow in faith as we become a living example of people who love, serve, and celebrate God, each other, and our community.

Our Tithes and Offerings

Weekly Budget Need - \$11,217.14

Given Last Sunday - \$7,738.09

Year-to-Date Budget Need - \$134,605.68

Year-to-date Received - \$136,945.30

Rev. Billy Hester, Senior Minister
Randy Canady, Church Administrator
Laura Angell, Youth Director
Detective Santana Willis, Security

Ray Ellis, Minister of Music
Claudette DeLong, Office Manager
Ashley Stroud, Children's Ministry
Kay Deffley, Organist/Pianist

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**Asbury Memorial
United Methodist Church**
April 2, 2017
11:15 A.M.



It's Never Too Late

5th Sunday in Lent

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE Asbury Musicians

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Fahey

CHIMES Preparing hearts and minds for worship

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: May the God of old graves and new life be with you!

All: And also with you.

One: People of God, lift up your hearts.

**All: We offer them to the One whose spirit is placed within us.
We sing to the One who offers us life and new beginnings.**

*HYMN *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* No. 383

LITANY FOR LENT

In the buds on the trees eager to burst;
in the flowers poking their heads out of the dirt;
in the children chalking spring on the sidewalks:
we see how you love us, God of steadfast love.
In the tears of a worried father over his son's illness;
in the weariness of a mother facing a long shift at work;
in the woman who anoints her grandbaby with talcum powder:
we see how you love us, our Resurrection and our Life.
In the touch of a wife on her husband's papery skin;
in the birds which rush into the sky before spiraling down;
in the words we are given to offer to the empty-hearted:
we see how you love us, Breath of our souls.

Silence is kept

Creator of life: **bring us light, we pray.**

Mourner of the dead: **take away our grief, we pray.**

Refresher of dry lives:

**bind us to God forever, we pray, as we say together,
(The Lord's Prayer)**

SKIT Conversations at Floyd's Barbershop

SCRIPTURE John 11:1-7, 17-20, 28-35, 38-39, 43-44

TITHES & OFFERINGS

We recognize and bless the gifts brought to the table and those given to support the mission of the church through automatic payment.

OFFERTORY *Spirit of the Living God* Asbury Choir

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**

SERMON **It's Never Too Late** Rev. Hester

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION see insert

HOLY COMMUNION

All people are welcomed at God's table. If you would like to receive Communion, please come forward using the center aisle as the ushers assist you. We will partake by intinction, by dipping the bread into the common cup. All of the bread is gluten free. After receiving the elements, please feel free to spend time at the altar in prayer. If you are unable to come forward, but would like to receive the elements, simply inform an usher. We will be glad to bring the elements to you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING see insert

*HYMN *God Be With You till We Meet Again* No. 672
(stanzas 1, 2, & 4)

*BENEDICTION Rev. Hester

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Here I Am, Lord* Congregation
The congregation is invited to "sign" and to "sing" the following:
*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*POSTLUDE Asbury Musicians

* Please stand as you are able.

**Children are invited to attend Children's Church (K-6th grades)

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

May the God of tears be with you.

And also with you.

Offer your hearts to the One who calls us out of death into life.

Unbound, we bring our hearts to our God of new mornings.

People of God, sing songs to the One in whom we hope.

We rejoice in God, who dwells in our souls.

In that first moment, God of wonder,
you cried out, 'Unbind creation and let her go!'
and flowers grew in the cracks of chaos,
blustery winds played talk through the forests,
lambs leapfrogged one another in the meadows.
Your hand came upon the dry dust of earth,
and your Spirit breathed life into us.
You longed for us to be with you,
but we allowed our shame and our ego
to lead us around by the nose.
You called to women and men,
'Prophesy!' urging them to call us back.
But we did not believe their words.
So you sent a certain man named Jesus,
to teach and show us a better way.

With those who have stood beside graves,
and those who wait for signs of hope,
we sing our praises to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of our shadowed valleys.

All creation hopes in you and waits.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who calls us to new life.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, Caresser of our souls,
and Jesus is our Child, our Friend.

Seeing that those he loved were sick, he brought us healing.
Finding us wandering in despair, he showed us that our hope
need never turn to dust.

When he was on the cross and in death's cold arms,
you stood at the door of the tomb,
crying out, 'unbind him, and let him go!'
and our Resurrection and our Life came forth for us.

Believing that he is the One who calls us to new life,
trusting that, by his tears, he takes away our pain,
we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

In the bread and the cup, you give life to us,
as the Spirit comes to dwell in every room of our souls.
You bless the bread, breaking it,
so it might heal and strengthen us
so we can say

to the barren, 'here is your life;'

to the despairing, 'here is your hope!'

As the grace-filled cup nourishes us
we would go into the world
to visit those who are sick,
to wait with the expectant,
to share tears with the broken.

And when you call us to your side, we will join Lazarus,
Mary, Martha, and all our sisters and brothers
in forever singing your praises,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, we give thanks for your eternal love and healing presence in our celebration of bread and cup. Bless this body of Christ that we may attend to our call to follow the way of Jesus and to love others here and throughout the world. Amen.