

WELCOME

We extend a cordial welcome to each person worshipping with us today. If you need any assistance, please call on our ushers. They would be glad to help you. We hope you will join us in the Social Hall after the service for our Coffee Hour. If you would like to know more about Asbury, please drop by our "Connection Corner" in the Social Hall. 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 those persons who have served on Asbury's committees, and who rotate off this year. Thanks for your service!



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 – Office was closed this week

Year-to-Date Budget Need - \$572,074.00

Year-to-date Received - Office was closed this week

Billy Hester, Senior Minister

Randy Canady, Church Administrator

Claudette DeLong, Office Manager

Candace Jenkins, Connectional Ministries

Christina Kincade, Asst. Youth Director

Ray Ellis, Minister of Music

Laura Angell, Youth Director

Ruthie Deffley, Family Ministries

Ashley Stroud, Children Ministries

Kay Deffley, Organist/Pianist

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church

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E-Mail: church@asburymemorial.org

Asbury Memorial
United Methodist Church
December 31, 2017
11:15 A.M.



*A Great Routine
for 2018!*

The 1st Sunday after Christmas Day
&
The Sunday before Epiphany

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE Asbury Musicians

ANNOUNCEMENTS Preston Hodges

CHIMES Preparing hearts and minds for worship

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the place.

All: The place where God is joyfully worshipped.

One: This is the time.

All: The time we know that God is with us in the coming year.

One: These are the friends.

**All: The friends who celebrate with us in times of joy
and stay with us during times of difficulty.**

One: This is the faith.

**All: The faith that proclaims, "Immanuel" –
that God is always with us!**

*HYMN *Joy to the World* No. 246

HYMN *We Three Kings* No. 254

& SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-23

PRAYER & SILENT REFLECTION

One: When we have seen the challenging star,
yet have failed to set out on the journey,

All: God of Hope, forgive us and give us strength!

One: When we have encountered the forces of evil,
and have compromised and gone along,

All: God of Conscience, forgive us and give us courage!

One: When we have known worth and goodness,
yet failed to give the support of our best gifts,

All: God of Love, forgive us and give us a generous spirit.

One: The God of Light, Love, and Peace be with you.

All: And also with you. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER No. 895

*HYMN *The First Noel* No. 245

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SERMON **A Great Routine for 2018!** Rev. Hester

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 *Go with the Wise Men* 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

One: We come before you, O God, with our gifts and with a petition:
As the year is fast ending, we seek a new beginning.

Gracefully grant us the gift of careful reflection.

Where we have harbored bitterness,

All: give us the ability to put into words our deepest feelings.

One: Where we have nursed grudges,

All: give us the strength to let them go.

One: Where we have lacked the courage of our convictions,

All: give us the ability to stand up and be counted.

One: As we let go of the past, O God, enable us to face the future
with confidence:

**All: ready to be open to new truths, ready to accept fresh
opportunities, ready to seek new friendships, ready to
broaden our horizons, ready to put aside old grudges,
ready to face new challenges, ready to renew our faith in
Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*HYMN *Go Tell It on the Mountain* No. 251

*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 (1st - 6th grades)