

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 those who served on the Church Council & Council On Ministries in 2016.



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

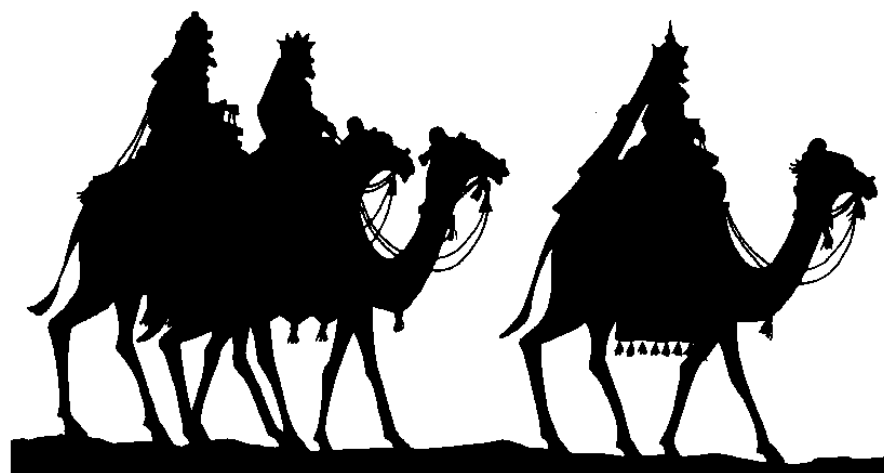
The church office was closed this week.
We will have all of the financial figures in
next Sunday's bulletin.

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
January 1, 2017
11:15 A.M.



The Way of the Wise

*Epiphany Sunday
& New Year's Day*

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE Asbury Musicians

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Fahey

CHIMES Preparing hearts and minds for worship

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: A star shining brightly in the east;

All: discovered by those who have eyes to see the unusual and the challenging.

One: A journey into unknown territory;

All: taken by those who have courage and curiosity.

One: The Holy One recognized in spite of humble origins;

All: worshiped by those who have wisdom and adventurous spirits.

*HYMN *We Three Kings* No. 254
(stanzas 2 – 4 will be solos)

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 Magi

One: For the Word of God in scripture and story,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,

All: we give thanks.

INVOCATION Magi

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 *Star-led and Wonder Bound* 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**

We praise you with our gifts and with our lives, Glorious God.

We share the joy of the Magi, for we too have seen the star and have known the joy of giving. Amen.

*HYMN *What Child is This* No. 219
Sarah Povie, cello & Sam Povie, piano

**

SERMON **The Way of the Wise** 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 side aisles as the ushers assist you. There will be three stations – the center station will have gluten free bread. After Communion, 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 happy to bring the elements to you. Any gifts left at the altar go to our fund to assist people in need. God bless you as we receive Holy Communion.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING see insert

*HYMN *The First Noel* No. 240

*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-3rd & 4th-6th grades)

Holy Communion

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

One: We give you thanks and praise, O God,
because you are forever working to draw us close to you.
In order to better connect with us,
You created a unique moment in time.
You used the stars of your creation and imagination
To mark the tiny village of Bethlehem
as the birthplace of a new relationship with us.
In the itchy straws of our humble reality,
You come to us in human form as a small, defenseless child.
And so, with all your people on earth and in heaven,
We praise your name and join their unending hymn;

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

One: Blessed is Jesus Christ, whom you have sent to us, O God.

The Magi followed his star to pay him homage.

The apostles heard his call and followed him.

The crowds ate his bread and received his healing.

Wise people everywhere live by his teachings.

On the night in which he gave himself up, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples,
and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;

This is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus,

We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and

living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died;

Christ has risen;

Christ will come again.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: We give thanks to God for the meal God has provided,
reminding us of God's love and faithfulness.

Now let us go from this church
as those who have seen the Bethlehem star.

**All: We will follow our most cherished dream
and bring it to reality.**

**We will give our most precious gifts
to advance the Way of Jesus Christ.**

**We will resist the Herod's of our time,
who seek to delay and to sabotage.**

One: In the light of the Bethlehem star, life changes:
the way ahead shines with opportunity,
choices appear,

and decisions are clear before us.

**All: We will let the light of the star
illumine our lifestyle,
flood our spirits,
and enliven our faith community.**

One: Return joyfully to your home
and proclaim by word and deed
that God is alive, God is present, and God cares.

All: Amen!

