

WELCOME

We extend a cordial welcome to each person worshiping 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 by Claire Knight
in memory of Jug Knight.**



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.

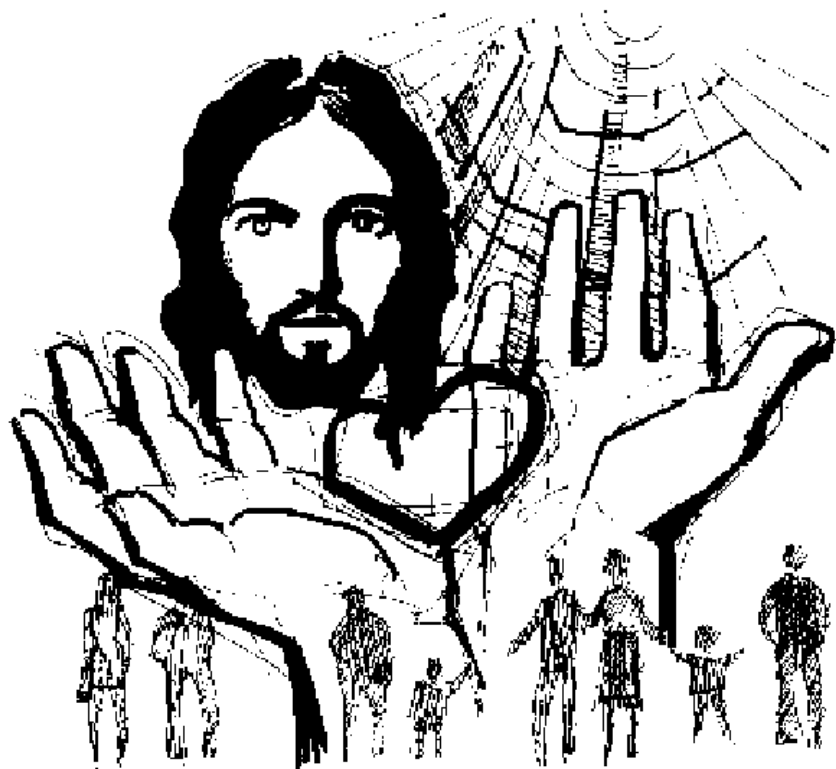
Our Tithes and Offerings

Weekly Budget Need - \$12,254.63
Given Last Sunday - \$11,241.00
Year-to-Date Budget Need - \$122,546.30
Year-to-date Received - \$117,300.70

Billy Hester, Senior Minister	Ray Ellis, Minister of Music
Randy Canady, Church Administrator	Laura Angell, Youth Director
Claudette DeLong, Office Manager	Ruthie Deffley, Family Ministries
Candace Jenkins, Connectional Ministries	Ashley Stroud, Children Ministries
Chris Kincade, Asst. Youth Director	Kay Deffley, Organist/Pianist

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Web Site: www.asburymemorial.org
E-Mail: church@asburymemorial.org

**Asbury Memorial
United Methodist Church
March 18, 2018
11:15 A.M.**



Why Did Jesus Die?

5th Sunday in Lent

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE Asbury Musicians

ANNOUNCEMENTS Kathy Hodges

CHIMES Preparing hearts and minds for worship

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Brothers and Sisters,
why have you come to worship this morning?

All: We come to celebrate the love of God.

One: This love reaches through the messiness of our lives to embrace us. Our challenge is to trust that love in the midst of our struggles.

**All: We come to celebrate the love of God,
who offers peace and acceptance,
not judgment and rejection.**

One: If only we will trust.

All: Help us, O God, to trust You and Your Love.

*HYMN *Christ Beside Me* see insert
This song is also known as *St. Patrick's Breastplate*.

ANTHEM *The Way of Faith* Asbury Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Susan Karlson

Silence & Reflection

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever.

Choral Amen

Asbury Choir

SCRIPTURE John 12:20-36

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.

*HYMN *The Better Way* see insert
**

SERMON **Why Did Jesus Die?** Rev. Jeanette Purvis

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 *Guide My Feet* Asbury Choir
Soloists: Sharon Page & Steve Reed

*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 Rev. Karlson

*HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* see insert

*BENEDICTION Rev. Purvis

*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

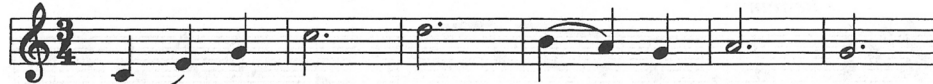
* Please stand as you are able.

** Children are invited to attend Children's Church (1st - 6th grades)

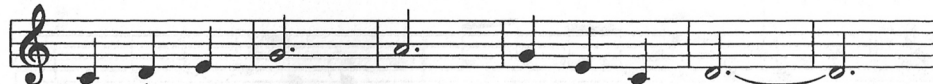
GRACE

2166

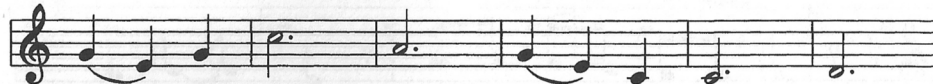
Christ Beside Me



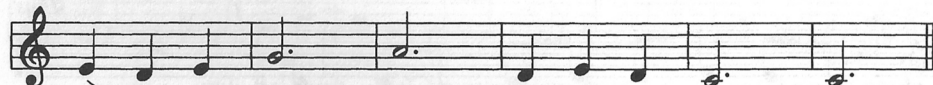
1., 3. Christ be - side me, Christ be - fore me,
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,



Christ be - hind me — King of my heart; _____
Christ all a - round me — shield in the strife; _____



Christ with - in me, Christ be - low me,
Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my sit - ting,



Christ a - bove me — nev - er to part. _____
Christ in my ris - ing — light of my life. _____

WORDS: *St. Patrick's Breastplate*; adapt. by James Quinn

MUSIC: Trad. Gaelic melody

BUNESSAN

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The Better Way (Based on 1 Corinthians 13) Tune, *Danny Boy*

If we could speak all tongues of earth and heaven
But have not love our prophecy is vain;
Though every mystery to us is open
All talk of love will be an empty claim.
But love is swift to clear misunderstanding,
Love is not proud, insisting on display
And love is rich in patient understanding:
Grant us, oh Lord of love to seek the better way.

If by our faith we make the mountains tremble
But have not love, then nothing do we win:
We are but noisy gongs or clanging cymbals
Condemned to sink to silence in the end.
But love is always faithful in rejoicing,
Lifts up a song of hope that never fails
Love is a choir of perfect blended voices
Grant us, oh Lord of love to choose the better way.

When we were young we fought for worldly glory,
But youthful ways in time all have to die.
We see in part as in a mirror darkly
And wait in hope for love's bright sun to rise.
Faith, hope and love, these three remain our story
But faith and hope will vanish in the day;
As we await love's triumph in the glory
Grant us, oh Lord of love to love the better way.