

December Birthdays

- 2 Bryn Linton
- 3 Ashelyn Carden Carol Chambers Wendy McQuade Brenda Steiner
- 5 James Hamrick Frank Ramsey
- 6 Bonnie Kaar
- 7 Sandra Barrett
 Natalie Munro
- 8 Carole Warfield

- 9 Beth Ballance Lilith Via Janet Wagner Ian Walker
- 10 Marty Coolidge Robert Crisp
- 11 Ruthie Deffley James Mullins
- 13 JoAnne Lanier
- 14 Harper Dalton Maggi Nicoletta
- 15 Annette Madsen

- 16 David Swanger
- 17 Payton Harn Lawrence Staab
- 19 Joni Taylor
- 20 Wanda Daniels Sullivan Jump
- 21 Holli Perry
- 22 Colin Stewart
- 23 Suzanne Devlin Savannah Karam Sierra Karam

- 24 Pat Andres
 David White
- 25 Roger Amerson Cheri Sheridan
- 26 Liz Stephens
- 27 Kristin Karam Barbara King Micki McNamara Gail Thomas
- 28 Kim Johnson Dave Thompson
- 30 Christy Crisp Lynn Lord

December Decymbers

1st Jim & Marsha Hargreaves

14th Cathy & Eddie Solomons

22th
Charlie &
Dian Ribbens

8th

Danny & Joseph

Edwards

15th Kathleen & Lew Leopard

24th Carol & James Anderson 9th Neal Saye & Robert Smith

19th Kay & Philip Barrett

27th Dottie & Jim Kluttz 9th Karl & Liz Stephens

19th Kathy & Preston Hodges

29th Greg & Linda Socks 12th Bob Walls & Carol Rabey

20th Jim & Lynn Drake

31st Anne Westbrook & Todd Baiad

DECEMBER 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | |
|---|--|---|-----|----------------------|-----|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| | 5:30p SING Rehearsal @ AMC 7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO | | | 7:00p Men's Group | | | |
| 9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial 5:00p SING @ Chippewa Square 6:00p 2nd Sunday Seekers | 5:30p SING Rehearsal @ AMC 7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO | 6:30p Ministry Round Table Meeting | 11 | 7:00p Men's Group | 13 | 12:00p Sing Holiday Tour of Homes 3:00p Spectra Choir Concert @AMC | |
| 9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial 6:00p Christmas Party @Asbury | 12:30p Wisdom Seekers 7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO | 17 | 18 | 7:00p Men's Group | 20 | 21 | |
| 9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial 1:00p Caroling 5:00p WO Christmas Party | 7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO | 5:00p Christmas Eve Service @ Wesley Oak 6:30p Christmas Eve Service @ Asbury | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |
| 9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Sunday AMC | 12:30p Wisdom Seekers 7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |



FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF JOY

A Couple of Gift Ideas

For both faithful Christians and our cousins, the cultural Christians, December is a special month because in December we celebrate the day when Christ was born as the baby Jesus. Christmas is a feast, of course: it's the time when we share special food and drinks, and we sing festive songs. It's a party, in a way. But Christmas is also a reminder of the truth that God's love includes sharing our lives, as Christ is incarnated, literally, "embodied in the human flesh." It's an affirmation of God's love. Christmas is a gift. And our response to God's gift to us all is to appreciate that gift by turning and offering gifts to others: family, friends, colleagues, co-workers, and neighbors. At Christmas, we find ourselves looking for gifts to give to all kinds of folks in our circle.

Maybe you've run out of gift ideas this season. Here's a thought: you could donate to a charity. And I can think of two special organizations that would use your contributions wisely: our church, Asbury Memorial, and UMCOR.

First, our church could really use your help this season. If you've noticed the financial report on the back page of our weekly worship bulletin, you know that as 2024 progressed, the church's income lagged further and further behind our budget. As I write this, on November 7, the church's income (from all sources) is a little over \$102,000 behind where we should be at this time in our support of budget. As a result, ministry staffing and programming costs have been deferred. Our lack of sufficient income has caused us to delay or eliminate important ministries.

Thanks to all who've contributed. If you've been waiting for a time when the church really needs your gift, the time is now. It's true that the church usually receives more financial support in December than any other month of the year. We pray that will be true this year. But even so, your gift this season, in support of our budget, will make a big difference.

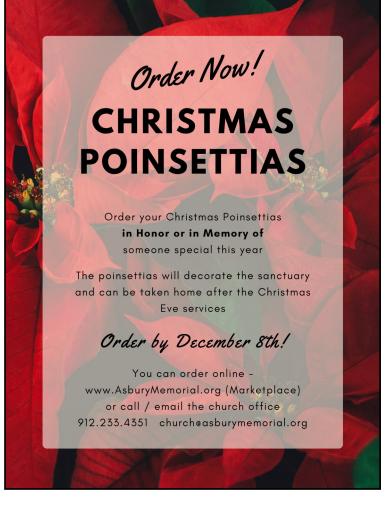
Second, I offer my suggestion of another special place for your special Christmas charitable gift: UMCOR. Maybe you already know that UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief. I know our church is no longer connected to the United Methodist denomination. But the work of UMCOR is not about supporting or promoting the denomination. It's only work is to help people rebuild their lives following a crisis. Because its overhead is paid by United Methodist churches in other ways, EVERY DOLLAR that you give to UMCOR goes directly to assist desperate people in life-threatening situations. For example, UMCOR works to help families and individuals recover from the effects of floods, hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, and other disasters. They go into communities and help people for months and years until they are back on their feet. For more information or to give a gift, you can go to this website:

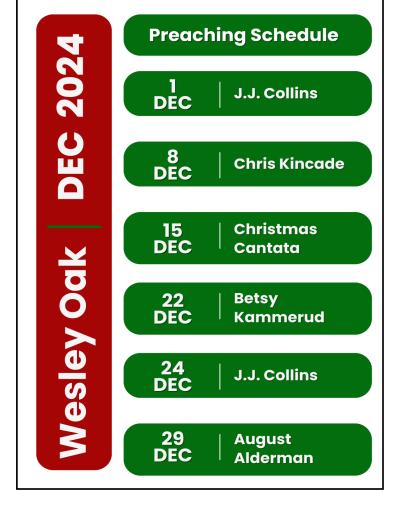
https://umcmission.org/advance-project/901670/

In this season, thanks for considering a gift that will make a difference. Christ is God's gift to us in this season. We will feel the joy of giving, when we sing "Joy to the World!"

~ Rev. Richard Allen Stewardship Committee Member







CHRISTMAS CANTATA

December 15th at 9:30am Wesley Oak

Our Christmas Cantata with the theme of
"Peace Has Come" by Mary MacDonald is a beautiful and
inspiring musical celebration of the birth of Christ. This
work blends scripture, narration, and stunning
arrangements to create a heartfelt worship experience.
With rich harmonies, memorable melodies, and thoughtful
lyrics, this cantata invites listeners to reflect on the
profound message of peace brought by the Savior's birth.



Wesley Oak Church 5:00p

Asbury Memorial
Church
6:30p





Advent: The Countdown to Christmas

Advent is here—a season of anticipation, preparation, and yes, a little excitement as we count down to Christmas! But Advent is so much more than opening daily chocolate doors on a calendar (though that's pretty great too). It's a time for us to pause and reflect on the greatest gift of all: the coming of Jesus Christ.

Think of Advent as the ultimate "pre-party" for Christmas. Each week, we light a candle representing hope, peace, joy, and love. It's like building a spiritual playlist that gets us ready for the big celebration!

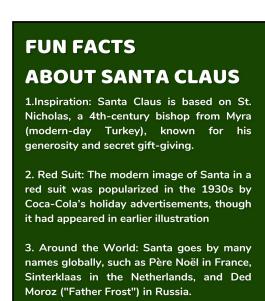
But Advent isn't just about waiting; it's about preparing. Just like we deck the halls, shop for gifts, and bake cookies, we're also invited to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Christ.

Maybe that means taking time to pray, showing kindness in unexpected ways, or simply slowing down in the holiday rush to savor the reason for the season.

And let's not forget the best part of Advent—it's a season we get to experience together. Whether it's singing carols, joining in worship, or enjoying the warm glow of the Advent wreath, there's something special about coming together as a church family to celebrate this holy time.

So, as we move through these weeks of anticipation, let's embrace the joy, reflect on the meaning, and share the love. After all, the journey to Christmas is just as magical as the day itself.

Happy Advent, and let the countdown begin!





4. Santa's Official Address: Kids can send letters to Santa at the North Pole! In the U.S., the address is often: Santa Claus, North Pole, Alaska. Canada even has a postal code for Santa: HOH OHO.

5. Rudolph's Late Arrival: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Santa's most famous reindeer, was introduced in 1939 as part of a marketing campaign by Montgomery Ward, a department store.

6. Santa's Sleigh Speed: To deliver presents to all the children worldwide, Santa's sleigh would need to travel around 1,800 miles per second—definitely magical!



NORAD Tracks Santa: The tradition of tracking Santa on Christmas Eve started in 1955 when a misprinted ad led kids to call NORAD, and they decided to play along.





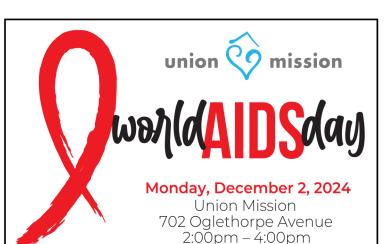




2025 STEWARDSHIP

It's time once again to search your heart & plan your gift

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY



Join Union Mission as we observe World AIDS Day to raise awareness and stand in solidarity for those affected by HIV/AIDS.



Learn how you can get involved in the Community FREE HIV Tests & Counseling Services Available Onsite help for medical questions & concerns

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Apollo Pharmacy, Augusta University, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Chatham Care, Core Response, Savannah Pride Center, The Department Of Public Health, The Blood Connection, Union Mission Counseling Services And Viiv Healthcare.



SAVANNAH **T**

(912) 238-2777 Ext. 1320 | amickle@unionmission.org

COASTAL INTERFAITH GREEN TEAM

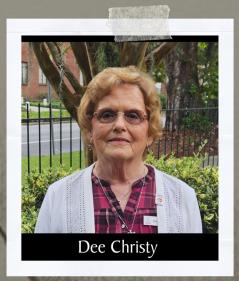
December 2024

The Coastal Interfaith Green Team joined other organizations on Saturday November 16th from 1:00 – 3:00 PM to plant trees with the Savannah Tree Foundation at Tricentennial Park near the Georgia State Railroad Museum.







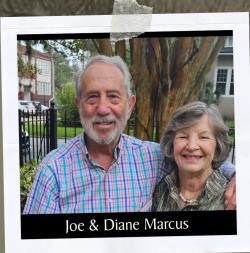




WELCOME HOME

We are thrilled to welcome our newest members to Asbury Memorial and Wesley Oak! Your presence is a blessing, and we look forward to growing together in faith, fellowship, and service.

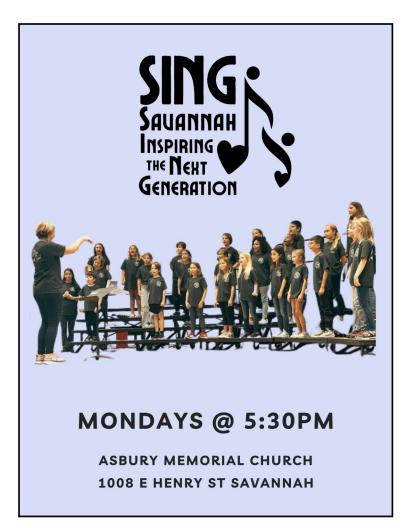
As part of our family, we hope you find encouragement, community, and opportunities to share your unique gifts.

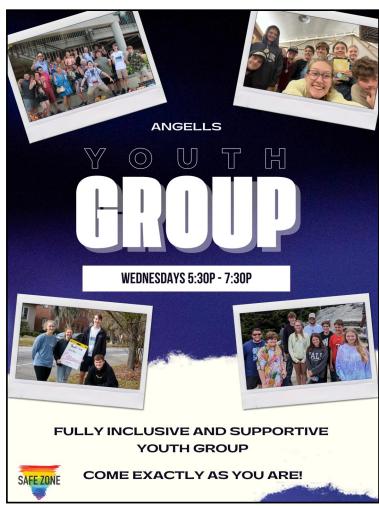






Leigh Ann Staden & Justin Lacher







Cook and Connect with Creativity

Joy Cottage at Wesley Oak

Every fourth Cottage! Sunday, we invite you to a Joy Cottage where food, friendship, and creativity come together!

As we gather to prepare and enjoy a delicious meal together, you'll have the chance to cook, mingle, and forge new friendships.

But the fun doesn't stop with dinner!

Join Us for Suppers at the At the end of each meal, we welcome a few brave souls to showcase their delightful evening at the talents. Whether you have a poem to recite, a song to sing, or a craft to display, we encourage you to share what you love to do with the group!

> Please come join us for an unforgettable evening of good food, even better company, and inspiring creativity. We can't wait to see you there!



SPOTTING SCAMMERS: HOW TO STAY SAFE FROM EMAIL AND TEXT FRAUD

In today's digital age, scammers are becoming more sophisticated in their attempts to steal personal information and money. Holidays bring higher rates of scamming attempts. However, with a few key tips, you can spot suspicious emails and texts and protect yourself from becoming a victim. Red Flags of Email and Text Scams

- Unfamiliar Senders If you don't recognize the sender, proceed with caution. Scammers often use generic email addresses or numbers that seem random or slightly misspelled versions of legitimate ones.
- Urgent or Threatening Language Scammers want you to act quickly, so they often use language like "Your account will be suspended!" or "Act now to avoid penalties!" Legitimate organizations rarely use fear tactics.
- Requests for Personal Information Be wary of messages asking for sensitive information like passwords, Social Security numbers, or bank account details. Reputable companies will never ask for this via email or text.
- Links and Attachments Hover over links to see
 where they lead. If the URL looks suspicious or
 doesn't match the company's official website,
 don't click. Attachments can also contain
 malware—open them only if you're certain
 they're safe.
- Too Good to Be True Offers Messages claiming you've won a large sum of money, a prize, or a free gift (when you didn't enter a contest) are almost always scams.
- Poor Grammar and Spelling Legitimate companies carefully proofread their communications. Errors in spelling, grammar, or formatting are common in scam emails and texts.



How to Protect Yourself

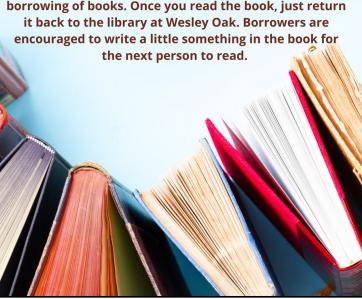
- Verify the Source: If the message appears to be from a company you know, contact them directly using official contact information (not the info provided in the email or text).
- Don't Click Links or Reply: Avoid clicking links or responding to suspicious messages. Doing so may expose you to further scams.
- Enable Spam Filters: Use email and text spam filters to block suspicious messages.
- Report Scams: Forward suspicious emails to [email address] and report texts to your carrier by texting them to 7726 (SPAM).

Staying vigilant is the best defense against all scammers. When in doubt, trust your instincts—if something feels off, it probably is. By staying informed and cautious, you can keep your information safe and avoid falling victim to fraud.

Stay safe and scam-free!

WESLEY OAK'S BOOK EXCHANGE

Wesley Oak has a book exchange!
Do you have a book you just loved? Did you read something that inspired you? Is there a book you think others would enjoy reading? Donate it!! Everyone is encouraged to participate in the donating and borrowing of books. Once you read the book, just return it back to the library at Wesley Oak. Borrowers are encouraged to write a little something in the book for the next person to read.



You don't have to deal with this by yourself...



A Stephen Minister is just a call away.

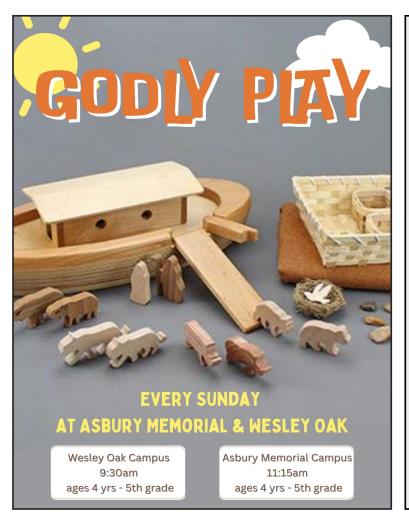
Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remains private.

Contact Candace Jenkins for more information:

912.233.4351

✓ cjenkins@asburymemorial.org





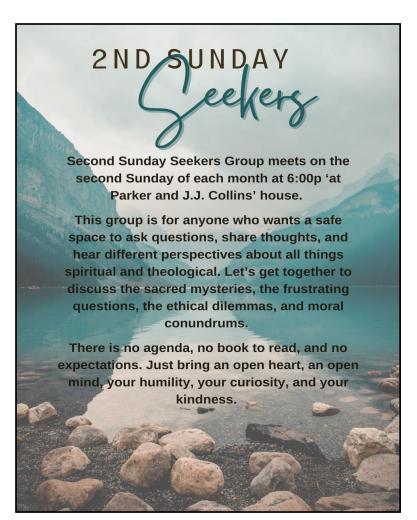


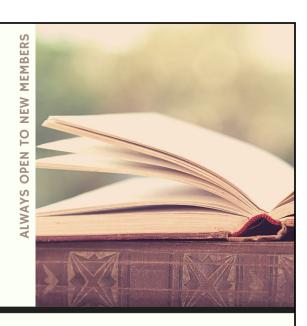
Dearest Church family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful arrangement. It was a wonderful uplifting surprise! I returned home from a long day at work and they greeted me at my door. They will now nourish my soul from my dining room table when I walk in my front door. You have gifted me with one of God's magnificent treasures.

With gratitude, love and blessings,

Angie Jenkins





SEEKERS

QUESTIONS?
Contact Trish Haverkamp at trish.haverkamp@gmail or 610.334.1981

Women's Book Club Meets 2x a month

2nd Monday of each month @ 12:30 via Zoom 4th Monday of each month @ 12:30, typically in person





Prayer Requests

Congregants of Asbury Memorial and Wesley Oak

DiAnne Amerson, Pat Andres, Wayne Bland, Marsha Bryan, Jim Burris, Sheri Coffey,
Diane Connor, Marty Coolidge, Gale Dick, Sam Durham, Deb Gibson, Gerry Harman,
Bubba Hughes, Rev. Marilyn Leigh, Lynn Lord, Marion Manigo, Robert McEwen, Brenda Mills,
Virginia Moryadas, James Mullins, Marie Parker, Frank Ramsey, Faustina Smith,
Sharon Tarlano, Kenn Waters, Judy Wilburn, Suzie Williams

Family Members and Friends

Marissa Barrentine, Barbara Coley, Anne Gooby, Becca Goosen, CT Harper,
Claude House, Roland Hill, Jackie Lewis, Shirley Long, Carolyn Martin,
Leonard Nicoletta, Alex Ormond, Fredia Peggs, Rev. John Ruehl, Carol Schwalbe,
Jim Skoronsky, Linda Southerland, Terry Town, Renah Tyson,
Sally Wilhelm, Christi Yunkunis



Wesley Oak Chancel Choir

COME & JOIN IN!

THE CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSES ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30 A.M. EACH WEEK. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THE MUSIC AT WESLEY OAK CHURCH, PLEASE CONNECT WITH J.J. COLLINS, DIRECTOR.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!

When Shadows Fall

The members of Asbury Memorial and Wesley Oak extend our love and sympathy to:

Mikki Lewis in the passing of her husband and Asburian,

Dave Lewis

Gregg and Jill Walther in the passing of Jill's father and Asburian, Jimmie Hilton

Gloria Stahle in the passing of her husband and Asburian,

Don Stahle

Mary Alice Garvin, Carmel Hearn, and Alex Swanger in the passing of family member James Meeks





1 in 4 children in South Georgia live in homes where having enough food is a struggle every day.

P.A.C.K. is committed to packing and delivering over 10,000 bags a month to children in Chatham county and the surrounding areas.

VOLUNTEER

Mondays & Thursdays

10am - 12pm

4 Mall Terrace Savannah

www.packsavannah.com





The Salvation Army has started the "Sage Brigade" a senior program of many activities. Top of the list is Sr. Fitness, using light weights and cardio for a 45-minute fitness class that incorporates music from the 50's, 60's, 70's up to the present. The format is a warmup w/o weights, followed by weights and cardio, and finishes off with a cool down. Great for everyone from beginners to advance. Weights are provided. No floor work. \$25 for the entire year. The fee includes other fun activities like crochet, line dancing, and much more. Registration is at the door when you come for your first class.

Senior Fitness Classes (no age requirement to attend classes)

Led by Asbury Member, Linda Socks

The Salvation Army - 3000 Bee Road, Savannah

Mondays & Wednesdays @ 11:45 am. Some holidays excluded.

Thank you Asbury Memorial Choir









Thank you

Reverend Billy Hester, Musical Director Ray Ellis, Randy Canady and all the amazing members of the choir for a great day in the park and the sheer joy of listening to your heavenly voices!!

Financial Health

General Budget as of October 2024

YTD Budget Goal

\$ 623,540

Actual YTD Expenses

\$ 538,304

Actual YTD Contributions

\$ 544,075

Actual Ahead / Behind if Budget Spent

\$ -47,508

Current Contributions to Expenses Ahead/Behind

\$ 5,771



SMART RECOVERY FOR INDIVIDUALS

Do you want to address an addiction problem or harmful habit? With our practical tools based on cognitive and motivational psychology and addiction research, SMART Recovery helps you make and sustain positive changes that lead to a balanced life.

Through our meetings, tools, and strategies, SMART can help you stop harmful habits and behaviors, including addiction to alcohol and other drugs, or negative behaviors related to relationships, sex, spending, gambling, eating and exercise disorders, and self-injury.

SMART Recovery is unique. Our science-based approach emphasizes self-reliance, self-resilience, and self-empowerment. With SMART, you are the expert on your recovery. You choose how to personalize your plan for successful change. There's no requirement to commit to a lifetime of SMART Recovery meetings. You decide when and if the time is right to move on.

SMART and Other Recovery Groups

SMART Recovery believes that people find their own paths to successful recovery. For some, that path may include 12-step programs or other support groups. Although SMART's approach differs from those of other organizations, it does not exclude them. We recognize and support the fact that many individuals benefit from participating in more than one support community.

Get Started

Ready to get started? SMART Recovery hosts online and face-to-face meetings around the world. Our online message board is an excellent forum to learn about SMART and get 24/7 support.

Learn More

Visit www.smartrecovery.org to search for local meetings and to join our online community.





LOCAL MEETING INFORMATION

Mondays 7:00-8:30pm

Wesley Oak Church 3124 E. Victory Drive Savannah, GA 31404

All are welcome!

LOCAL CONTACT

Ruthie Duran Deffley 912-312-0079 ruthie@healthymindga.com

CONFIRM MEETING DETAILS*

http://www.smartrecovery.org/meetings

*Meeting times, days, and locations are subject to change. Please confirm meeting details prior to attending.



WE HAVE MULTIPLE WAYS FOR YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT OF ASBURY MEMORIAL THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!



Mail:

Mail your contribution by check to:

Asbury Memorial Church 1008 East Henry Street Savannah, GA 31401



Website:

- Log on to our website: www.AsburyMemorial.org
- Click on the Give Now button
- Complete the form as directed.
- You can set it up to be a recurring donation!



Text Giving:

- From your mobile phone:
- Send your contribution amount to 912-307-3206
- Donate anytime, anywhere
- Use easy debit/credit card registration
- Make a one-time gift or set it up to be recurring

Asbury Memorial Church

1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401-7128
INT.ID 206896
Office 233-4351 Fax 233-5026
www.asburymemorial.org

Return Service Requested

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Supplying the flower arrangements for the worship service is a wonderful way to commemorate a date that is important to you or a loved one. Please check the Flower Chart in the narthex and sign up. The cost is \$70.

For more information call the church office at 233-4351.

Special Funds

One way to honor or to remember a loved one is with a memorial or an honorarium to some of our different funds such as the Properties Fund, General Fund, Piano/Organ Fund, Family and Children's Ministries Fund, Youth Ministry Fund, Laura Angell Scholarship Fund, Pet Memorial Fund or one of our Mission Funds.

Newsletter Information

If you have an announcement for "The Asbury Update," please email Chris Kincade at ckincade@asburymemorial.org.

Mission Statement

Asbury Memorial is a place where all people can develop their spirituality, use their talents, and grow in faith as we seek to love, serve, and celebrate God, each other, and our community.