

## 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!

**We thank the members and friends of Asbury for the beautiful poinsettias given this Sunday in memory and honor of Loved Ones.**



### 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 - \$10,778.85

Given Last Sunday - \$17,096.00

Year-to-Date Budget Need - \$538,942.50

Year-to-date Received - \$517,747.13

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

**Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church**  
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E-Mail: [church@asburymemorial.org](mailto:church@asburymemorial.org)

**Asbury Memorial  
United Methodist Church  
December 18, 2016  
11:15 A.M.**



***The Man  
without an Ego***

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

## WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE Asbury Musicians

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Fahey

CHIMES Preparing hearts and minds for worship

INTROIT *Come, Child of Light* Asbury Choir

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come to us, Emmanuel!

We have seen your light

and we gather here

awaiting the day of your coming.

**All: Let us open ourselves to the Spirit of life and new birth!**

**Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High* No. 238

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Youth Group  
Kiki Meraz, Ray Sears, Sarah Iocovozzi, Will Brantley

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE Youth Group  
Chloe Lynch, Jackson Brantley, Maddie Gratiyas, Ryan Heebner

RECOGNITION OF HOSPICE & WORKERS Rev. Hester

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Susan Karlson

Silence & Reflection

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Choral Amen

Asbury Choir

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25

\*HYMN *Love Came Down at Christmas* No. 242

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SERMON **The Man Without an Ego** 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 *Grown-Up Christmas List* Cheri Hester

\*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

### \*CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE

One: We are invited to come forward with our strip of cloth to place in the manger, symbolizing our intention to make a place for the Christ child in our hearts and in our lives.

Let us pray:

**All: Here is a place for you, Lord Jesus.**

**Our hands will make it ready.**

**May our hearts be ready to love and welcome you, too.**

**Be born again, not in a manger, but in us.**

**Make us your Bethlehem, where God is personal  
and all things and all people are made new. Amen.**

\*HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* 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-3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades)