

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. Please join us in the Social Hall after the service for our Coffee Hour. If you would like to know more about Asbury, drop by our "Connection Corner" in the Social Hall. We hope you have a meaningful worship experience and leave Asbury renewed, fulfilled, and challenged!

The flowers for today's service are given in memory of my parents, Sara & Bob Carlyle & brother, Rob Carlyle by Candace Jenkins & family.



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 - \$7,121.21
Year-to-Date Budget Need - \$637,240.76
Year-to-date Received - \$654,274.57

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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**Asbury Memorial
United Methodist Church**
January 6, 2019
11:15 A.M.



The Myrrh's the Thing

The Day of Epiphany

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 Rev. Bob Chvatal

PRAYER Rev. Jan Durham

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.

Silent Prayer & Reflection

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

All: And also with you. Amen.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Betelehemu* Asbury Choir

(Nigerian Christmas Song)

*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. Claire Marich

*HYMN *Love Came Down at Christmas* No. 242
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SERMON **The Myrrh's the Thing** 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 center aisle as the ushers assist you. We will partake by intinction, by dipping the bread into the common cup. All of the bread is gluten free. After receiving the elements, 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 glad to bring the elements to you.

THE SHARING OF ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING see insert

*HYMN *The First Noel* No. 245

*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 - 5th grades)

HOLY COMMUNION

- 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!**