



# WELCOME!

## Asbury United Methodist Church

*Open Doors with Loving Hearts*

*December 28, 2025*





# CENTERING SONG

**“SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT”**

**UMH 334**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CM7Iym4u9QY>







# WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS







# CALL TO WORSHIP



**Leader: Praise the God of mercy  
and love.**

**People: Praise God with angels in  
the highest heavens.**



**Leader: Praise Christ, who came as  
a child.**

**People: Praise Christ with all God's  
children, young and old alike.**



**Leader:** Praise the Holy Spirit, who  
calls us here.

**All:** Praise the Spirit from the  
depths of our souls.





# OPENING SONG

**“JESUS, O WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD”**

<https://share.google/aTn3gHfEHF3GA7Cx8>







# OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, we come into your presence with joy in this holiday season. But we also come with sorrow for a world struggling in pain. Bring hope to our weary world. Bring love to our hearts.**



**Bring joy to our lives, and help us  
bring hope, love, and joy, as we  
follow your Son, Christ Jesus.  
Amen.**





# ANTHEM

## “JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

<https://youtu.be/lvb3UccwVns?si=4Lv8hN-YXdnSoe3u>







# **PRAISING GOD WITH OUR GIFTS**

***OPEN DOORS WITH LOVING HEARTS***





# “DOXOLOGY”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**







# **“CHILDREN’S MESSAGE”**

Reflections: What we’ve been historically taught about the Christ Event.





# PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**





# SCRIPTURE

**“MATTHEW 2:13–23”**





13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of



Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” 16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.






17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: 18 “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” 19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and



go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." 21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,





23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled  what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.







**STUDY TOPIC:**

**“THE POWER OF DREAMS”**



# PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we yearn to be merciful and gracious, as you have been merciful and gracious to us. Grant us the mercy to redeem our lives and give us the strength to live as those who are redeemed. Help us resist the forces of evil and cruelty that kill our hope and



destroy our souls. Fill us with your  
light and love, that we may  
overflow with mercy, compassion,  
help, and hope for our world. In  
your holy name, we pray. Amen.





# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In love and mercy, God redeems us. In grace and joy, God lifts us. In strength and security, God carries us all the days of our lives. Amen.





# **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**



# **The 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**



**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 forever. Amen.**





**“I TRUST IN GOD”**

<https://youtu.be/QS04WbSnxok>





# BENEDICTION





In love and mercy, God  
sends us forth. In love and  
mercy, we go to serve. Let  
Christ lead the way. Amen.







# 564 Threefold Amen

Walter Henry Hall (1862-1935)

A-men, A-men, A - - - men.





# CARRYING OUR LIGHT INTO THE WORLD!

