

We joyfully welcome all who have come to celebrate God's best gift to all of humanity, Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Let every voice be lifted up in singing and praying as we focus upon the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World. And let every hand be extended in fellowship and good will as we greet and share with one another. "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

**WELCOME CENTER:** First time at Asbury? Stop by our welcome center if you have questions or if you would like a copy of our latest newsletter or other brochures!

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

**Liturgist:** Jane Eastham

**Organist:** Ghilyana Dordzhieva

**Coffee Hour:** Christmas Eve Cookies

**Acolytes:** Jaydon Ives, Olivia Lehman, Jaelah Liriano, Anthony Patrick, Abigail Patrick, Alexander Patrick, Michael Rudd and Ruzena Rudd

**Shepherds:** Bonnie Peck and Pam Quimby

**Ushers:** Lorraine Irwin

Frank Massa

Wayne Morris

Orie Phillips

Bill Plemons

James Rafferty

Dale Scott

Bill Smith

Lisa Smith

Glen Snell

Carol Stoodley

Darlene Town

Patrick Town

Leon VanWie

Dan Webb

### **LET US PRAY THIS WEEK FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:**

**Our home bound and nursing home residents:** Jane Alteri, Linda Bennett, Lois Berry, Ellie Cerow, David Heasley, Bill Lennon and Stevie Mider.

**Others:** Mike Hill



God came to earth in the Christmas birth of a tiny baby boy, whose life and death are redeeming us yet with blessings, grace and joy.

Our minds may know this history but stand in awe at mystery.

So, faith becomes the way to make our hearts like "manger hearts" where Christ can dwell and God imparts his wondrous love each day.



# Rejoice!



*For unto you is born this day in the city of David  
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*Luke 2:11*



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Pastor Michael Terrell is preaching.**

( 🌿 - Indicates please stand, if able, in posture or in spirit.)

GATHERING MUSIC: "Carols" Praise Band

PRELUDE: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" Praise Band

### 🌿 CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The night was dark.

**People: A baby lay in a manger.**

Leader: The night was still.

**People: Angels sang to shepherds.**

Leader: The night was expectant.

**People: God's glory shone brightly.**

Leader: On this night,

**People: let us rejoice in the gift of love.**

🌿 LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: Anthony Patrick

### 🌿 TIME OF GREETING

🌿 HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #234  
(v. 1 and 3)

### 🌿 OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, this is a holy night. We come longing to hear your story of new life and hope. Speak your words of truth and power. May the gift of your love be born anew among us. Cast out our fears, that we may rejoice in your power and your goodness. Amen.**

ASBURY SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS:

"Away in a Manger" John A. Murray

"Joy to the World" Lowell Mason

### CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHILDREN

THE WORD THROUGH MUSIC: "A Midnight Clear" Asbury Ringers

READING: Luke 1:26-38 - The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Jane Eastham

🌿 HYMN: "What Child Is This?" #219

READING: Matthew 1:18-25 – The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Rev. Toby Schilling

🌿 HYMN: "Away in a Manger" #217

READING: Luke 2: 1-7 – The Birth of Jesus Rev. David Simmons

🌿 HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230

READING: Luke 2: 8-20 – The Shepherds and the Angels

Rev. Leon VanWie

🌿 HYMN: "Angels We Have Heard on High" #238

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Love Came Down at Christmas" C. Rossetti/Carter

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: "What Not to Miss at Christmas"

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "O, Holy Night" Michelle Rudd

🌿 DOXOLOGY: (Tune: Infant Holy #229. 2003 by Brenda Heard. Use with permission.)

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in-One. Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart, as we glory in your Presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

🌿 PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy God, we are grateful for the incredible gift born in a stable in Bethlehem. The love and joy birthed by Jesus has touched and transformed our lives. We bring our gifts to you this night. We bring our gifts of money to continue your mission of peace. We bring our hearts, as we adore you and long to follow Jesus. Amen.**

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

🌿 HYMN: "Silent Night, Holy Night" #239

BLESSING

🌿 CLOSING HYMN: "Joy to the World" #246

POSTLUDE: "Christmas Joy" by St. Scott

## Christmas Greetings, Asbury!

The night of nights is here! Welcome to church as we welcome the Christ child into our hearts.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Gentle Christmas and to thank you for making my family feel right at home since moving to town. We are so pleased to be in ministry with you.

We often hear the words spoken or sung about being “home for Christmas.” These words can bring great comfort to the heart as so many of us think of Christmas gatherings with friends and loved ones that were a great blessing.

We live in a world that has become far more busy than necessary, especially in times like this when the focus should be on the Lord and His family! Unfortunately, just like our own families, there is no perfect church family. But we need one another!

Too many may have been hurt at some point by a relationship or even a situation at church. Yet, one of the most beautiful things we can do is forgive and move forward! Jesus came to this earth to restore a relationship between God and Humankind that had been broken in that perfect place called the Garden of Eden. Think of it. God created a beautiful home for God’s new creation, yet fellowship was broken even in that place's perfection. Jesus came to restore and forgive!

Most of you continue to attend your “Church Home,” but for others, perhaps you're just waiting for an invitation to join one. Here it is: Come Home for worship any time with us on

Sunday morning! Our morning Chapel Service is 8:15 a.m. and our main Sanctuary worship is 10:15 a.m. with Sunday School for children and youth.

Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV) 14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Have a Gentle Christmas,

Pastor Michael  
Willow & Noah

*Pastor Michael*



# 2023 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

## GIVEN BY

Rosemary G. Denesha

Mary A. DeYear

Jean and Al Gianfagna

Alvin J. Hasner

Jim and Krista Juczak

Sandra Johnson

Nathan, Sarah, and Olivia Lehman

Terry and Mary MacAdam, and

Willy and Darlene Welbourn

Bonnie Peck

Pamela Quimby

Frank and Joanne Rhode

Kathy Ruhm

Kathy and Jeff Sero

## IN MEMORY OF

Harold and Doris Geer

Francis Lunderman, SR

Our Loved Ones

Mrs. Carol Hasner

Mr. and Mrs. George Hasner

Brother George

Klaus Ebeling

Family and Friends

Duane Lehman

Leland Whitmore

Mary Lambert

Clarence and Muriel Booth

Dale Peck

Mary and Donald Bowman

Helen and William Quimby

Pam Shuman

Lena Stephens

Norman Sero

Twyla and George Charles

## 2023 MEMORIAL TREE ORNAMENTS

### GIVEN BY

Mary A. DeYear

Frances Goutremout, Jean Sayers, and

Mary Smith

Karen Granger

Ann Halback

Lorraine and Bruce Irwin

Sandra Johnson

Tamara Klock

Terry and Mary MacAdam, and

Willy and Darlene Welbourn

Barbara B. Orobona

and Kathryn Keenan

Sharon Potter

Pamela Quimby

Jim and Melanie Rafferty

Kathy Ruhm

Dale and Marianne Scott

Kathy and Jeff Sero

Bina and Miles West

### IN MEMORY OF

Francis Lunderman, SR.

Ruth Lunderman

Phyllis J. Sayers

Carole Foster

Dave Foster

John Granger

Earl Halback

Clarence Wilcox (Asbury member  
and organist 50+ years ago)

Anna J. Burger

Linda S. Hutt

Kimberly C. Sevier

Family and Friends

Dewitt W. Nichols

Mary Lambert

Father and Grandfather

Harry

Mary and Donald Bowman

Helen and William Quimby

Vincent and Flora Rafferty

Doug and Irene Stackel

Ruth Gyurko

Our Parents

Norman Sero

Twyla and George Charles

Doris and William West