

✿ 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.

✿ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer to you, O God, a portion of our wealth, a larger portion of our hands, a full portion of our hearts. Please receive these gifts and bless them. Put all to good use for the work of your kingdom. Amen.

✿ HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1 & 4) #230

BENEDICTION

Advent people, go now in the blessing of God to watch and wait, ready to receive the angels among us and to faithfully follow where God leads. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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!

WEEKLY INFORMATION:

Attendance Last Sunday: In Person: 104
Online: 52
Food Pantry Items Donated and Purchased Last Week: 713
2025 Year-to-Date Total: 19,249

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

Organist: Lynn Morgan
Chapel Service: Lindsay Webb

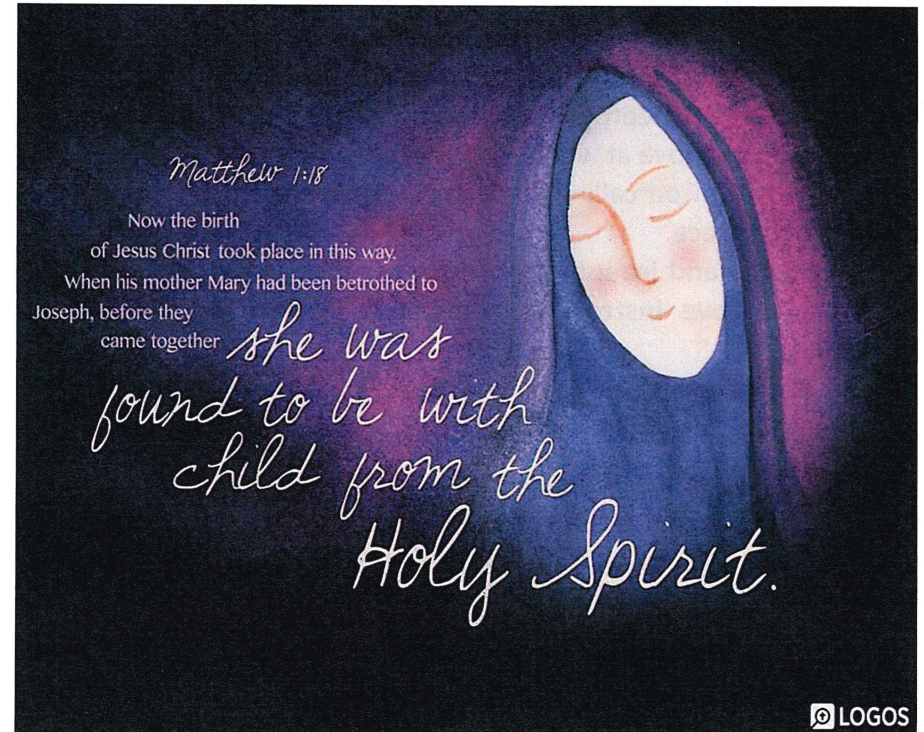
LET US PRAY THIS WEEK FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Our home bound and nursing home residents: Linda Bennett, Lois Berry, Shirley Berry, Ellie Cerow, Jim Coutu, and David Heasley.

Others: Theresa Bierman, Deb and Rick Brandt, Patty C., Tom Carlisle, Rev. Bruce and Marilyn Chapman, Connie Hewitt, Mike Hill, Colleen M., Keri Morris, Kathy Ruhm, Gerald Tucker, William Van Houten, and the family of Bill Lennon.

ASBURY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 21, 2025; 8:15 A.M.

To Form Disciples of Jesus Christ Who, Empowered by The Holy Spirit, Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously in Local Communities and Worldwide Connections.



MINISTERS: ALL the people
ADDRESS: 327 Franklin Street
Watertown, NY 13601

CONTACT US:

PHONE: 315-782-3240

WEBSITE: www.AsburyUMC.net

EMAIL: asburyumc.main@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: www.Facebook.com/Asbury13601

PASTOR: Michael H. Terrell


PASTOR'S PHONE: 315-854-4233

PASTOR'S EMAIL: asburywatertownpastor@gmail.com

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CCLI#: 1653199

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Lindsay Webb is preaching.

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

PRELUDE

Lynn Morgan, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS/GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE LAMP AND THE ADVENT CANDLES

Reader: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgement.

Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

 CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth is waiting for.

Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.


We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth is waiting for.

For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth is waiting for.

Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth is waiting for.

 HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1 & 3)

#234

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE (Unison)

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you do not ask us to believe what is easy; you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we sometimes doubt the ways you work. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our eyes, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the One who has come to set us all free – the One whose death on the cross paid for all our shortcomings, if we but receive His forgiveness, His gift of eternal life.

O Lord, we long for your coming. Hasten the day when your kingdom will come in all its glory, and suffering and pain and sickness and oppression and death will be overcome forever. Hasten the day when we will be resurrected as a great multicultural family and live in peace, harmony, joy, and love together in your kingdom. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1: 18-25

MESSAGE: "The Best Story of All Time!"

 HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1 & 2)

#211

SHARING OF OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER

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. 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.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

Memorial Tree

Given By

Dodie Bretsch
Ann Halback
Alvin Hasner & Bina West
Amy Langone
Terry & Mary MacAdam &
Willy & Darlene Welbourn
Susan Marino
Jean Tinney Marshall

Wanda Mills
Pamela Quimby

Dale & Marianne Scott
Randy & Cindy Sealing
Glen & Susan Snell
Jeannette Streeter

In Memory Of

Gerald (Jerry) Bretsch
Thomas and Marion McHugh
Joni P.
Eugene J. Langone, Jr.

Mary Lambert
Ken Palmer and Ray Gregory
Linda Johnston Tinney
J. Wilson Tinney, Sr.
Parents: Anita and Melven Mills
Donald and Mary Bowman
William and Helen Quimby
Parents of Dale and Marianne Scott
Brigitte Sealing and Donald Drew
Our Loved Ones and Friends
William (Bill) Hickox

Memorial Poinsettias

Given By

Lisa Coutu
The Gianfagna Family
Ann Halback
Alvin Hasner

Sandra Johnson
Amy Langone

Bonnie Peck
Pamela Quimby

Frank & Joanne Rhode
David Simmons
Glen & Susan Snell
Mark & Christine Sutton

Dan & Lindsay Webb

Bina & Miles West
Suzanne Wrenn
Ginger & Candy

Given By

Dan & Lindsay Webb
Ginger & Candy

In Memory Of

Michelle Coutu Sykes
Loved Ones

Mr. and Mrs. George Hanser
Brother George and wife Carol
Family and Friends
Eugene J. Langone, Jr.
Mary Patricia Fenner
Dale, Clarence, Muriel, and Rena
Donald and Mary Bowman
William and Helen Quimby
Pam Shuman
Mildred Simmons
Our Loved Ones
Kotz Family
Clyde and Mary Scott
Sons Fred and Tom Scott
Don and Mary Allnatt
Hollie Ruthberg and James P. Webb
Mr. and Mrs. Wm West
Michelle Coutu Sykes
Phyllis and Paul Sayers
Jean and Michael Sayers

In Honor Of

Linda Webb
Robert Syrotchen, Jr.



ASBURY UMC

Opportunities to Share Our Love
for God and Each Other



This Week: December 21 - December 28, 2025



Meetings

Asbury Staff Meeting @ Parlor
- Monday, December 22: 10:15 A.M.

Opportunities to Share

Advent Bible Study w/ Pastor @ Parlor
- TODAY, December 21: 6:30 P.M.

Asbury Ringers Rehearsal @ Sanctuary
- Monday, December 22: 6:15 P.M.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ Sanctuary
- Wednesday, December 24: 7:00 P.M.

Choir Warm-Up @ Choir Room
- Sunday, December 28: 9:30 A.M.

Scripture of the Week

“This is how we know that we love the children of God:
by loving God and carrying out His commands.”

- 1 John 5:2 -

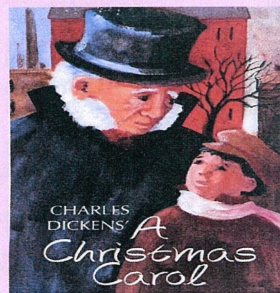
Let's Celebrate!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

December 21 Willow Terrell
December 21 Olivia Lehman
December 21 Amanda Marino
December 22 Andrew Van Houten
December 22 Mary Smith

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Bill and Lisa Smith
December 27, 1997



**ADVENT
BIBLE
STUDY**
Last Session
TODAY, 12/21
6:30 p.m. in Parlor.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!

Monday, January 5th

Please email articles and pictures to Sue Beaman at asburybeacon@gmail.com in WORD format or give them to Faith in the church office.

The Church Office Will Be Closed:

**Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Day) and
Thursday, January 1 (New Year's Day).**

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

Urgent Need for Coats, Boots, and Blankets!

The Spare Closet, a free thrift store, is in urgent need of coats, boots, and blankets of all sizes.

Donations may be new or used.

Located in the basement of First Presbyterian Church (403 Washington Street, Watertown).

ASBURY'S STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

FAITH KIRCH

BROADCAST MINISTRY

BOB KURTZ

CLEANING SERVICES

FRANCES GOUTREMOUT

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

PAMELA QUIMBY

DARLENE WELBOURN

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

DAN WEBB

TREASURER

FAITH KIRCH

MAINTENANCE

WILLIAM NOVISKI

MUSIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR

CATHERINE MOWERS

MUSIC PROGRAM STAFF

GHILYANA DORDZHIEVA

LYNN MORGAN

BOB MUNTZ

MICHELLE RUDD

LISA SMITH

LAURA WASHBURN

BINA WEST

PASTOR

MICHAEL H. TERRELL

Cell Phone: 315-854-4233

Email:

ASBURYWATERTOWNPASTOR

@GMAIL.COM

ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR

VISITATIONS

JANE EASTHAM

Cell Phone: 315-804-1350

Email:

urbanmissionjane@yahoo.com

BEACON/NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

SUE BEAMAN

Cell phone: 315-778-6359

Email:

asburybeacon@gmail.com



THE VISION OF ASBURY

*To Form Disciples of Jesus Christ
Who, Empowered by The Holy
Spirit, Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully,
and Lead Courageously in Local
Communities and Worldwide
Connections.*

THE MISSION OF ASBURY

*To Inspire People of All
Generations to Love, Learn,
and Lead Through Worship,
Education, and Service.*

THE ASBURY MOTTO

*No Matter Where You Are
on Life's Journey,
You Are Welcome Here!*

Join Us Next Sunday, December 28

Worship Services:

8:15 A.M. in the Chapel:

Jane Eastham will be preaching.

10:15 A.M. in the Sanctuary:

Pastor Michael Terrell will be preaching.

Scripture: John 1: 1-14



"Twas the night..." Those words are the beginning of a poem that we often hear during this time of year, as children anticipate the morning they gather around the Christmas tree to open gifts.

We are thrilled to once again host our

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Asbury UMC, 7:00 p.m.

The theme of this year's service is

"What Child Is This?"

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

Those of you who are parents most likely remember that exciting time when you welcomed a child into your own family. If you are like me, you want to do your best to get the word out as quickly as possible about the good news! It seems, though, nowadays the best way to get the news out quickly is to use Facebook or Instagram! Well, why not use these great tools to share the wonderful news of the Savior's birth and encourage people to attend with you!

During the service, there will be no question regarding the birth we are celebrating. Santa has his place in the lives of many people, but Santa won't be present at our Christmas Eve service. This evening is about Jesus Christ, and we will celebrate in song, word, and candlelight, together as families.

COME JOIN US!