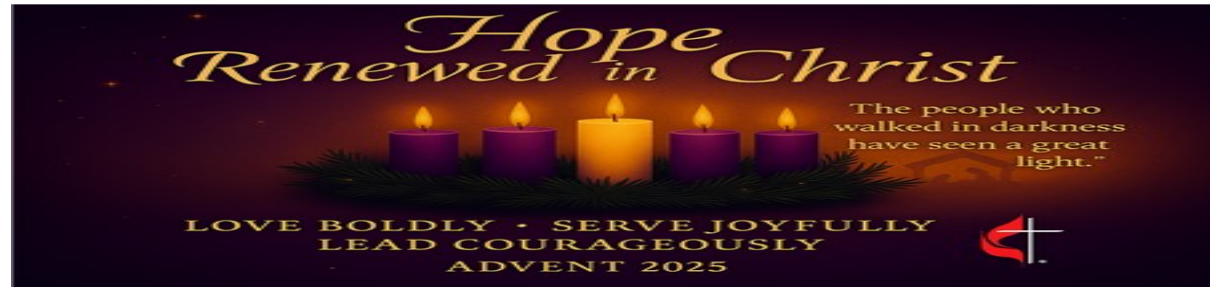


Advent Pastor Blessings



As we enter the sacred season of Advent, the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, urges all United Methodists to embrace our new **Vision** as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, who brings hope to a world full of despair.

The Holy Scriptures tells us that even in these times of despair, ***“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light”***(Isaiah 9:2) and it encourages us not to live in fear, for God proclaims, ***“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.*** (Luke 2:10-11)

Our Vision Statement serves as our guide reminding us that ***“The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.”***

Advent is a time of expectation and renewal—a season when we prepare for Christ’s coming as we live into our shared **Vision** in tangible ways as disciples of Jesus Christ.

- Love Boldly: As Christ’s love breaks into the world, we are called to extend grace and compassion to neighbors near and far.

- Serve Joyfully: Advent reminds us that service is a gift. Every act of kindness becomes a sign of God’s kingdom breaking into our communities.

Lead Courageously: In times of fear and despair, we lead with faith—proclaiming the good news that Christ comes to dwell among us.

So, as we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, let us embody these gifts in our homes, churches, and communities. Advent is not passive waiting; it is active preparation. It is living our vision so that the world may know Emmanuel—God with us.

May God empower us through the Holy Spirit to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously as we await Christ’s coming.

In grace and love,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE 14TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025

TEN THIRTY COMBINED SERVICE

201 SOUTH MAIN STREET . GREENEVILLE, TN 37743

WWW.ASBURLIFE.ORG . (423) 798-1050

MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 14, 2025

THE GATHERING

Prelude & Bringing In The Light

"Once He Came in Blessing"
J.S. Bach

Ed Logan

The Greeting

We welcome you, and we pray that this time together will be a blessing in your life.

† At the sound of the bells, please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Lifting Our Voices in Praise*

"God Rest Ye /
Star of Wonder

Praise Team

The Apostles Creed*

See Insert

UMH #881

Gloria Patri*

Glory be to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Passing Of The Peace*

† Afterward, the people may be seated.

The Children’s Message

Don Stansfield III

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

Call to Prayer

Music

Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Scott Spence

The Lord’s Prayer

See Insert

Rev. Scott Spence

*Please stand as you are able. Please silence cell phones and electronic devices in the Sanctuary.

Attendance for December 7th, 2025			
Sunday School	17	Livestream Views	345
Traditional Service	52	Children’s Church	3
Contemporary Service	13	Daycare Chapel	26
Morning Pointe Senior Center	13	Youth Wednesday Night	38
The Care Center Service	35		

Pastor's Blessing

May your eyes remain open to the wonder of Christmas. May the Light who was in the beginning illuminate your path this Advent season. May Christ, the Word made Flesh, warm your waiting hearts and fill your days with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Go in the steady light of Christ—a light the darkness cannot overcome.

Amen.

SCAN WITH YOUR PHONES CAMERA FOR MORE INFORMATION							
View Our Prayer List		View Our Coming Events		Give Online		Join our Live-stream	

An Advent Poem

Part 1

In the hush of waiting days,
a single flame is lifted high.
Hope trembles into brightness,
scattering the long night's sigh.
We lean toward promised dawn,
trusting light we cannot yet see.

Part 2

Love follows like a warm wind,
softening the edges of our fear.

It moves through ordinary moments,
making holy what is near.

In its glow we remember:
God draws close in humble ways.

To be Continued...

Author Unknown

MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 14, 2025

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The Scripture Lesson*	John 1: 1-5	Rev. Scott Spence
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The Message	Let There Be Light	Rev Scott Spence
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RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Giving Our Tithes & Offerings	† An offering is collected to support the mission of Asbury UMC to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Please register your attendance in the red folder, located in your pew. Let us know if you are visiting, would like to become a member, or are interested in more information.	
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Offertory Prayer		Rev. Scott Spence
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Anthem (Organ Offertory)	"In Bethlehem a Wonder" Hermann Schroeder	Ed Logan
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Doxology	See Insert	UMH #95
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Hymn of Invitation*	"Joy To The World"	UMH #246
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SENDING FORTH

Benediction*		Rev. Scott Spence
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Peace*	Minister: The Peace of Christ be always with you. People: An also with you.	
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Postlude*	" O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Alec Wyton	Ed Logan
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Childcare is available in the children's area , an usher can guide you.

Liturgy For Worship

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

**Universal

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above the heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Advent & Christmas at Asbury

- * Sanctuary Advent Study: “What Do I Want for Christmas?”

Saturdays, Nov 29-Dec 20 | 9:30-11:00 | Fellowship Hall
- * 3rd Sunday in Advent–December 14th

District Superintendent Rev. Scott Spence Special Speaker
- * 4th Sunday in Advent–December 21st

Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. Special Speaker
- * Blue Christmas Service 2:00pm | Tate Pruitt Hill UMC.

Rev. Bowers Special Speaker
- * Blue Christmas Service–6:00–7:00 pm | Chapel

Rev. Bowers Speaking
- * Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion (Traditional)

Dec 24 | 5:00pm | Sanctuary
- * Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion (Contemporary)

Dec 24 | 11:00pm | Fellowship Hall
- * Christmas Day | Dec 24–26 | (Office Closed) Best Wishes for Family & Friends
- * Year-End Worship & Testimony Service–December 28th

Small Group Gatherings

Children's Ministry

Wednesdays

5:15–7:00 p.m.

Asbury Fellowship Hall

3 Churches 1 Mission / Asbury-Pruitt Hill-Tate Chapel

Rotating Locations

Growing Kids in Christ Together

Community Outreach Initiative:

Morning Pointe Senior Center

Morning Glory: *Faith for the Journey*

Thursdays | 10-10:30 a.m. Come share scripture and encouragement with our beloved seniors.

Advent Study 2025

- **What Do I Want for Christmas? By James W. Moore**
Saturdays, Nov. 29 – Dec. 20 | 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 noon (light breakfast at 9:30)
Join us for a four-week Advent study based on James W. Moore's book as we explore the true gifts of the season—**Hope, Freedom, Christ, and Salvation**—through Scripture, reflection, and fellowship. This Study is in partnership with our parish

Bible Studies Coming In January

- ***Wrestling with Doubt: Finding Faith* by Adam Hamilton**
A small-group study that creates a safe space for the honest questions many Christians carry quietly, offering guidance for discovering a deeper and more resilient faith.
- ***Spiritual Practices for Soul Care* by Rev. Dr. Barbara L. Peacock**
For those longing for a richer experience of God, this study introduces forty practices that help integrate spiritual disciplines into everyday life.
- ***Pursued: God's Relentless Love for You* by Jennifer Cowart**
Explore the sweeping story of Scripture to see how God faithfully and lovingly pursues His people throughout biblical history—and continues to pursue us today.

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist:

In this holy season of waiting, remind us that the Light has come. You have brought us out of darkness into Your marvelous light.

Liturgist:

We confess that the shadows of worry, impatience, and doubt have settled in our hearts and created spaces and places of darkness.

Liturgist:

We confess that during this Christmas season, we often rush past Your presence and forget You are the Word made Flesh.

People:

Lord, open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts, and let Your light shine in us once again. Create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us.

People:

Lord, increase our faith and dispel our spiritual darkness now and in the future.

People:

Lord, forgive us and help us to turn our hearts toward Your light. Help us to receive You as the greatest gift we have ever been given.

All:

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Shine in us and around us, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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.

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM	
Preaching:	Rev. Scott Spence, Appalachian District Superintendent
Liturgist:	John Reviere
Children's Message:	Don Stansfield III
Organist/Pianist:	Ed Logan
Music:	Praise Team led by Abby Whitaker
Sounds/Livestream:	Christian Martin

ANNOUNCEMENTS
<p>Let us know you're here: Check in on the Church Center app, complete a connection card at www.asburylife.org, or sign the red registration pad in your pew. Everyone—visitors and members alike—are welcome to connect. Please let us know if you would like to become a member or learn more about our church. Visit our online church calendar at https://asburylife.org/coming-up-at-asbury .</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">We are truly blessed to have our District Superintendent, Rev. Scott Spence, joining us today, along with his wonderful wife, Diane. We are honored to welcome Rev. Spence as our special guest speaker—let us open our hearts to his message of inspiration and faith!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">All ladies are invited to this month's United Methodist Women's Luncheon, which will be held this Wednesday from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM at the home of Emily Bell, located at 301 Grapevine Trail, Greeneville, TN 37745. Come join us for a wonderful time of fellowship, food, and friendship!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">We are honored to welcome Bishop James E. Swanson, former Bishop of the Holston Conference, who will join us next Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. Please make plans to attend and share in what promises to be another inspiring and powerful worship experience. All are invited—come and be blessed!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This January, we are excited to launch several new Bible studies designed to deepen faith, encourage growth, and strengthen our walk with God: Check out the Small Group Gatherings in your bulletin for additional information.
PRAYER REQUESTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">We lift up Nancy Worley, as she recovers in the hospital from an illness.

District Superintendent
Rev. Scott Spence



Rev. Scott Spence, a Saltville, Virginia native, was raised on a five-generation family farm that shaped his values of hard work, teamwork, and perseverance. Effective July 1, 2025, he serves as the **District Superintendent of the Appalachian District** in the Holston Conference.

Scott previously pastored Reynolds Memorial UMC, where he helped lead the collaborative HUB ministry in Bristol, VA and authored *On the Cusp*, a book on the church's evolving mission. He has also served Beech Grove UMC and the North Keywood Circuit, guiding each congregation toward growth, unity, and strengthened ministry.

He holds degrees from **Emory & Henry College** and **Hood Theological Seminary**, where he received the **Tharrington Award for Outstanding Preaching**. A survivor of a life-altering industrial accident in 1993, Scott shares his story as a powerful testimony to God's healing grace.

Scott and his wife, **Diane**, have been married 37 years and have two daughters, Autumn (married to Bobby) and Dianna.