

An Invitation for Unity and Hope





Inspired by the Zacchaeus Project Class at First Presbyterian and the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, *“It’s better to light a candle than to curse the darkness,”* a group of friends and neighbors are taking a simple, positive step for unity and hope.

Each Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m., participants gather in the upper parking lot at Walter’s State and walk together along Main Street to Reformation Lutheran and back, carrying battery-powered candles. The walk lasts approximately 45 minutes, and candles are available for those who need one.

This weekly walk is open to all and serves as a peaceful witness for unity and hope, with the goal of encouraging understanding and changing hearts near and far.

If the weather is such that it would be unsafe, we will not be walking. Also, we have several folks driving along with us to assist anyone who feels that they need a ride rather than walking.

For additional information please contact Mr. Kidwell King at 423-620-0437

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



4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
THE 1ST DAY *of* FEBRUARY 2026

TEN O’CLOCK

201 SOUTH MAIN STREET . GREENEVILLE, TN 37743
WWW.ASBURLIFE.ORG . (423) 798-1050

MORNING WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

THE GATHERING

Prelude & Bringing In The Light

"From Heaven Above"
arr. Johann Pachelbel

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*

"Standing on the Promises"

UMH #374

The Apostles Creed*

See Insert

UMH #881

Passing Of The Peace*

† Afterward, the people may be seated.

The Children’s Message

Don Stansfield III

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

Call to Prayer

Sandra Fox

Prayer Hymn

"Seek Ye First"

UMH# 405
Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sharon Bowers

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The Scripture Lesson*

Acts 16:22-26

Sandra Fox

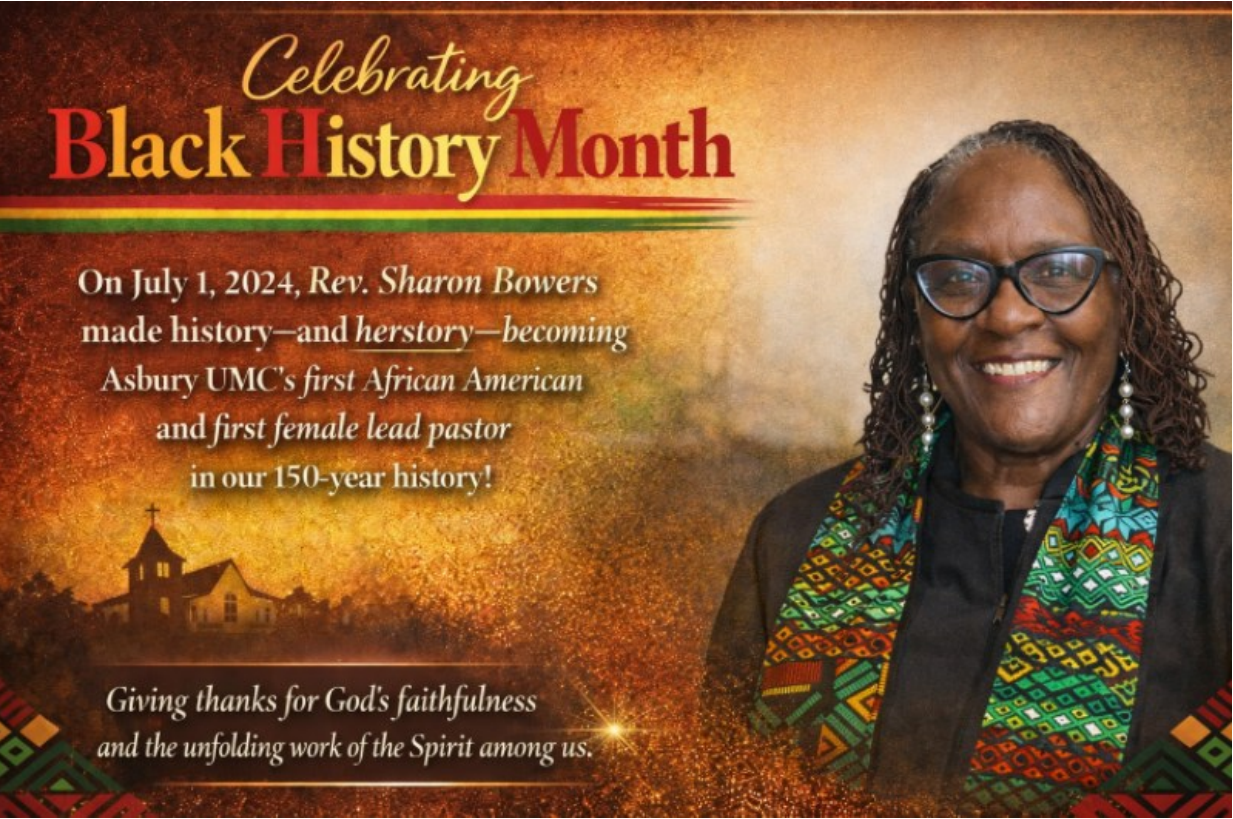
The Message

Midnight Joy

Rev. Sharon Bowers

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

Attendance for January 18, 2026			
Sunday School	15	Livestream Views	706
Traditional Service	54	Children’s Church	1
Contemporary Service	15	Daycare Chapel	Snow
Morning Pointe Senior Center	16	Resurrection 2026	30
Children’s Church & Youth Wednesday Night	30		



TODAY’S WORSHIP TEAM	
Preaching:	Rev. Sharon Bowers, Lead Pastor
Liturgist:	Sandra Fox
Children’s Message:	Don Stansfield, III
Organist/Pianist:	Ed Logan
Music:	Choir
Sounds/Livestream:	Christian Martin / Fletcher Sherrill / Zy Neal
<div>Children’s Ministry</div> <div>Wednesdays</div> <div>5:15–7:00 p.m.</div> <div>Asbury Fellowship Hall</div> <div>3 Churches 1 Mission / Asbury-Pruitt Hill-Tate Chapel</div>	
<div>Community Outreach Morning Pointe Senior Center</div> <div>Thursdays 10 a.m. Come share scripture and encouragement with our beloved seniors.</div>	
<div>Bible Studies Coming In January</div> <div><div><div>• <i>Wrestling with Doubt: Finding Faith</i> by Adam Hamilton</div><div>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.</div><div>Mondays Beginning January 12th 6:00 p.m. Contact John Reviere for additional information.</div></div><div><div>• <i>Spiritual Practices for Soul Care</i> by Rev. Dr. Barbara L. Peacock</div><div>For those longing for a richer experience of God, this study introduces forty practices that help integrate spiritual disciplines into everyday life.</div><div>Wednesdays Beginning January 28th 11:00 a.m. **</div></div><div><div>• <i>Pursued: God’s Relentless Love for You (Women’s Bible Study)</i> by Jennifer Cowart</div><div>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.</div><div>Mondays Beginning January 26th @ 6:00 p.m. **</div></div></div>	
** Contact Rev. Bowers or Kathy in the office if you have questions or are interested.	

MORNING WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

	† An offering is collected to support the mission of Asbury UMC to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.	
Giving Our Tithes & Offerings	Please register your attendance in the red folder in your pew, and let us know if you are visiting, would like to become a member, or are interested in more information.	
Offertory Prayer		Rev. Sharon Bowers
Anthem (Organ Offertory)	“The Son of God is Come” arr. Marcel Dupre	Ed Logan
Doxology	See Insert	UMH #95

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion	A Service of Word and Table	UMH #12
Giving of the Bread & Cup		UMH #12
Hymn of Invitation*	“Because He Lives”	UMH #364

SENDING FORTH

Benediction*		Rev. Sharon Bowers
Peace*	Minister: The Peace of Christ be always with you. People: An also with you.	
Postlude*	"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" arr. Alec Wyton	Ed Logan

Childcare is available under the Sanctuary. 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.

Committee Spotlight

Asbury Child Enrichment Center

The Asbury Child Enrichment Center (ACEC) is a vital ministry and community outreach of Asbury United Methodist Church, committed to nurturing children academically, socially, and spiritually in a safe and loving environment.

Under the leadership of Committee Chair Marcia Parsons, ACEC is guided by a clear and hopeful vision to reach full enrollment capacity within the next year, strengthening both its sustainability and its impact on families in the community.

This vision is supported by a dedicated staff under the Direction of Chassidy Inscore, who are encouraged, resourced, and valued as essential partners in the Center’s success.

Central to ACEC’s mission is weekly chapel, which provides age-appropriate spiritual formation, grounding children in faith, values, and a sense of God’s love from their earliest years.

Marcia Parsons marciakpp@yahoo.com	Sarah McMillan sgmteach@yahoo.com
Chassidy Inscore inscore@asburylife.org	Tom Smith smit1241@bellsouth.net
Kay Freer freer.sk2@gmail.com	McKayla Ramsey mckaylamyers@gmail.com
Maci Kelley brownma_2@comcast.net	Rebekah Taylor taylor109gcy@gmail.com
Don Fox dshepton@gmail.com	Rodney Bell rodneylbell62@gmail.com
Michelle Weller mweller89@outlook.com	Sharon Bowers revbowers@asburylife.org
John Reviere reviere@asburylife.org	

ANNOUNCEMENTS
<p>Let us know you’re here: Please take a moment to let us know you’re here by checking-in using the church center app, completing an online connection card at www.asburylife.org, or by signing the red registration pad in your pew.</p>
<p>See what’s coming up at Asbury: Visit our online church calendar at https://asburylife.org/coming-up-at-asbury.</p>
<p>Sunday School for Both Services Sister By Grace—Lead by: Marcia Parson @ 8:45 AM. LaRue Class—Lead by: Steve Parsons @ 9:00 AM. Family Enrichment- Lead by: Ryan McMillin & Abby Whitaker Martin @ 10:00 AM.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wheelchair-accessible seating is now available in the sanctuary near the narthex on both the left and right sides. Accessible parking is available in the ACEC lot with elevator access at the breezeway entrance, and a ramp is available at the main street entrance. No special request is needed.
PRAYER REQUESTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Please lift Tom Steele and family, following the death of his cherished wife Sue on January 17th.We extend our heartfelt condolences to Brian and Doris Allen and to Leslie and April Allen, in the passing of their beloved mother, Mrs. Mildred Allen, who transitioned from earth to glory on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Prayer of Confession	
<p>Liturgist: Merciful God, we come before You acknowledging that we are prone not to choose joy in difficult circumstances.</p>	<p>People: Forgiving God, help us make better choices. Give us a grateful heart.</p>
<p>Liturgist: We confess that when midnight comes, we often choose fear over faith, silence over praise, and despair over hope.</p>	<p>People: Forgive us, O God, for the times we let the sounds of midnight silence us and hear fear speak louder than Your promises.</p>
<p>Liturgist: Create in us clean hearts, O God. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation.</p>	<p>People: Teach us to choose joy. Teach us to choose praise. Teach us to trust You even when we cannot see our way clear.</p>
	<p>All: We place our hope in You, O God, for we will yet praise You – our Savior and our Deliverer. Amen.</p>



Appalachian District Lay Servant/Lay Speaker Training

February 28, 2026, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

This training will be IN PERSON

Asbury UMC, Greeneville, Tennessee

Please return the form with your check prior to the deadline. **Registration Fee: \$ 10.00***

Registration Deadline: February 25, 2026

Advanced Class: Worship

Instructor: Dr. Paul Humphrey

Book: "Worshiping with United Methodist" by Hoyt L. Hickman

YOU MUST PURCHASE YOUR OWN BOOK AT: Cokesbury.com or Amazon.com.

COURSES OFFERED BY ANY HOLSTON CONFERENCE DISTRICT ARE OPEN TO ALL HOLSTON CONFERENCE LAITY

REGISTRATION (Must be received by 2/25/26)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **ST:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone(s): (_____) _____ (_____) _____

E-Mail (please print clearly): _____

Church: _____ **District:** _____

Return completed form with a check for \$10 made to "Appalachian District" and mail to:

Lynn Mason

379 Springfield Drive

Bristol, TN 37620

**The registration fee is for instructor expenses.*

Questions: contact Mrs. Lynn Mason, Appalachian District Lay Servant Director, at:
hokevol20@yahoo.com or cell: 423-571-0912

Pastoral Blessing

Go now in the strength of **midnight joy**. May the God who meets you in the dark remind you that trouble don't last always.

When you feel like you are bound by chains of fear, doubt and regret, may you still choose praise.

When the daylight gives way to paths unclear and the hour grows late, may you still choose joy.

When chains feel heavy and hope feels thin, may you trust that God is already shaking foundations.

May the joy of the Lord be your strength, the peace of Christ guard your heart, and the power of the Holy Spirit carry you through every midnight until morning comes.

And may you go forth knowing:

About midnight... God still delivers.

