

ASBURY GATHERINGS
<p>Children’s & Youth Ministry Wednesdays 5:15 - 7:00 P.M. Asbury Fellowship Hall 3 Churches, 1 Mission / Asbury - Pruitt Hill - Tate Chapel</p>
<p>Tiny Seeds, Tuesdays 10:00 A.M., Chapel for 3-4 year olds - Day Care Students and Staff. Rev. Sharon Bowers and Sandra Fox leading.</p>
<p>The Valley (Contemporary Worship Service) @ Asbury Sunday 11:15 A.M. Asbury Fellowship Hall, Rev. Ronnie Wong, Preacher</p>
<p>Community Outreach Morning Pointe Senior Center, Thursdays 10 A.M. Come share scripture and encouragement with our beloved seniors. Our guest pianist is Rev. Rebecca Prenshaw (Nancy Worley’s daughter).</p>
<p>Bible Studies / Small Groups</p> <p>X'ianity: Christianity 101 Sundays, at 10:00 A.M. in the Asbury Library. Interested in attending the Contemporary Service and looking for a Sunday School class? Join this class, Christianity 101, a welcoming discussion of the foundations of the Christian faith. Whether you're new to Christianity, exploring your faith, or simply looking to connect with others, everyone is welcome.</p> <p>Foundations: A New Member Class Sunday at 6:00 P.M. in the Asbury Library. Join us for a 7-week study to explore our Methodist heritage, Wesleyan tradition, and what it means to be part of Asbury UMC. (Pastor Chase). Class will reconvene in early November when Pastor Chase returns from paternity leave.</p> <p>The Bible Told Them So Join Rev. Sharon Bowers for an 8-week study exploring faith, history, and our call to live as compassionate witnesses. The study meets Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the La Rue Room. Books are available in the church office, with four spots remaining. Please stop by the office to reserve your spot and pick up a book. All are welcome—there is a place for you! The study will also feature a special lecture by Dr. Jamal Hopkins, professor at Baylor University, on The Noahic Curse.</p> <p>New Bible Study: Forgiveness, Finding Peace Through Letting Go October 3 (6 weeks), Thursdays 6:00–7:30 P.M. Join us this fall as we explore forgiveness with Adam Hamilton and discover how letting go of grudges can open our hearts more fully to God's grace. **Bring a friend and join us for this meaningful study! ** Interested? Please sign up through Church Center. For more information, please contact John Reviere.</p>



22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE 25th DAY of OCTOBER 2026

TEN O’CLOCK

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

MORNING WORSHIP

October 25, 2026

THE GATHERING

Prelude & Bringing In The Light “Instrumental” Paula Johnson

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* “Lift High the Cross” UMH #159

The Apostles Creed* See Insert

† Afterward, the people may be seated.

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* Diane Whittenburg

The Children’s Message Don Stansfield III

Prayer of Confession Diane Whittenburg

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE Congregation:

Call to Prayer Diane Whittenburg

Prayer Hymn “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” UMH # 420 Chancel Choir & Congregation

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Sharon Bowers

The Lord’s Prayer Rev. Sharon Bowers

*Please stand in body or spirit, and silence cell phones and electronic devices in the Sanctuary.

Church Services and Attendance for October 18, 2026			
Sunday School	6	Livestream Views Traditional Service *Contemporary Service	(325) *82
Traditional Service 10 A.M.	29	Children’s Church	2
Contemporary Service 11:15 A.M.	17	Children’s Chapel	26
Books & Brew (Tuesdays)	4	Children’s Church & Youth	33
X’ianity 101	6	Van Dreal Covenant (Bi-Weekly - Wednesday)	5
Forgiveness	8	The Bible Told Them So	5
A Place of Grace Monthly - 1st Sunday	11/1/2026	Morning Pointe Senior Center (Thursdays)	23
Prayer Requests			
Please keep our military men and women in your prayers, especially Alex Whitaker (Air Force Pilot), Lincoln Taylor (Navy Pilot), and Jackson Renner (Army Reserve). Pray for God’s protection, wisdom, strength, and courage as they serve, and for their safe return home. Please also pray for their families.			
Healing and Recovery: Rebekah, undergoing chemo and radiation; John Cash, recovering from torn-retina surgery; Phyllis, continuing to recover; Lisa, completing her final rounds of radiation after finishing chemotherapy; and Betty Mathes, experiencing severe neck pain. Travelers and Family: Prayers for Kim and Ronnie as they settle into their new home; and Kim’s family as they await the arrival of a new great-grandbaby. Prayers for Ronnie’s mother, who is in hospice. Prayers for Grayce/Henry and her family. Comfort: Prayers for Trixie’s family and friends as they grieve their loss. Other Concerns: Prayers for ACEC staffing needs and for the safety of all athletes.			

TODAY’S WORSHIP TEAM	
Preaching:	Rev. Ronald Wong
Liturgist:	Diane Whittenburg
Children’s Message:	Don Stansfield III
Nursery Host:	Hostess
Music:	Paula Johnson
Sound / Livestream:	Christian Martin / Fletcher Sherrill / Zy Neal
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Our Annual Trunk or Treat is approaching quickly and we are in need of trunks and people to pass out candy. This year's event will be held on Wednesday, October 28, from 5:30 to 7:00. Please arrive by 5:00 if you are setting up a trunk. If you would like to donate candy, please put it in the fellowship hall labeled "trunk or treat." Sarah McMillan or Pastor Sharon can answer any questions you may have.	
We will be packing food kits for CANUP (Coalition Addressing the Needs of Unhoused People) on Wednesday, October 28, at 5:00 p.m. in the Wesley Room. Current needs include individual servings of peanut butter, short stacks of crackers, fruit cups, and peel-top, single-serve vegetable cups. Thanks to your generosity, we have already packed and delivered over 1,000 food kits in 2026 to support our neighbors experiencing homelessness or food insecurity in Greene County. Thank you for your continued support! For questions, please see Kevin James.	

MORNING WORSHIP

October 25, 2026

Proclaiming The Word

The Scripture Lesson*	John 4:3-9 (NASB)	Diane Whittenburg
The Message	This is the Way	Rev. Ronald Wong

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 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. Ronald Wong
Offertory Song	“Instrumental”	Paula Johnson
Doxology	See Insert	UMH# 95
Hymn of Invitation	“Just As I Am” v 1,2,3,6	UMH# 357

Sending Forth

Benediction*		Rev. Ronald Wong
Peace*	Minister: The Peace of Christ be always with you. People: And also with you.	
Postlude*	"Instrumental"	Paula Johnson

*Childcare is available under the Sanctuary, an usher can guide you.

Liturgy for Worship
<p>The Apostles Creed</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p>**Universal</p>
<p>Doxology</p> <p>Praise God from whom all blessings flow.</p> <p>Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host.</p> <p>Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.</p> <p>Amen</p>
<p>The Lord’s Prayer</p> <p>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.</p>

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon
<p>Liturgist: God of infinite love, you command us to love you with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind.</p> <p>People: Yet we confess that our devotion is often divided.</p> <p>Liturgist: We give our attention and loyalty to lesser things, letting worry, pride, and greed crowd you out.</p> <p>People: You command us to love our neighbors as ourselves.</p> <p>Liturgist: Yet we confess that we treat love as a limited resource.</p> <p>People: We overlook the vulnerable, ignore cries for justice, and choose convenience over community.</p> <p>All: Forgive us, Lord. Re-root our lives in your grace, and soften our hearts so that our love may mirror your own. Amen.</p>
Pastoral Blessing
<p>Love is not optional. It is the greatest commandment. Love God, love your neighbor and love yourself. May you love whole heartedly and take the name of Jesus with you every where you go. Love extravagant today, tomorrow and always. Remember if it isn’t love, what is it? May the all-loving God give you a heart of compassion so that you feel, see, and know REAL love. Amen</p>

Special Invitation



Guest Lecturer: Dr. Jamal-Dominique Hopkins

Dr. Jamal-Dominique Hopkins of Baylor University will be our guest lecturer on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. This session provides an important opportunity for us to examine critically how Scripture has been interpreted and used to foster segregated theology, reinforce racial divisions, and shape spiritual formation and Christian development across generations as outlined in *The Bible Told Them So*, by J. Russell Hawkins

You are also welcome to invite your friends to join us for this special Zoom lecture session! Please share this opportunity with others who are interested in biblical scholarship, theology, racial justice, and the influence of Scripture on contemporary Christian life.

This zoom lecture will explore the concept of segregated theology as outline in our small group book study. Please join us as we pay particular attention to the biblical passages historically used to justify racial hierarchy, enslavement, exclusion, and segregation within Christian communities. We will focus on how these interpretations developed, how they influenced the church’s understanding of race and Christian identity, and how their theological and spiritual effects continue to influence individuals and faith communities today.

Our discussion is not simply about what Scripture says, but also about how Scripture has been interpreted, taught, preached, and embodied—and how those shaped our understanding of God, ourselves, and our relationships with others.

Biography: Dr. Jamal-Dominique Hopkins

Dr. Jamal-Dominique Hopkins is an Associate Professor of Christian Scriptures at Baylor University’s George W. Truett Theological Seminary and Director of its Black Church Studies Program. He is a biblical scholar whose research encompasses early Judaism, biblical interpretation, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and Black Christian thought. As a scholar of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Qumran literature, Dr. Hopkins examines the religious beliefs, practices, and theological perspectives of ancient Jewish communities. His book, *Cultic Spiritualization: Religious Sacrifice in the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2022), explores how the Qumran community understood sacrifice, prayer, praise, and religious identity in relation to the Jerusalem Temple. His scholarship contributes to a deeper understanding of the historical and religious contexts in which biblical traditions developed.

Dr. Hopkins also investigates how biblical texts have been interpreted throughout history, including interpretations that have contributed to racial oppression. His chapter, “The Noahic Curse in Rabbinic Literature: Racialized Hermeneutics or Ethnocentric Exegesis” (2013), examines interpretations of Noah’s curse and the relationship between biblical interpretation and racialized thinking. This scholarship is particularly relevant to discussions of the so-called Curse of Ham, or Hamitic curse, which has historically been misused to justify slavery and racial hierarchy. Genesis 9 identifies Canaan, Ham’s son, as the recipient of Noah’s curse; the text does not explicitly curse Black people or identify dark skin as a sign of divine judgment. Later racialized interpretations attached meanings to the passage that were used to support systems of oppression.

Through his work in biblical scholarship and Black Church Studies, Dr. Hopkins contributes to critical conversations about how interpretations of Scripture shape theological understanding, Christian identity, and the life of the church. His expertise offers a valuable perspective for examining the relationship between biblical interpretation, segregated theology, and contemporary spiritual formation. Institutional reference: Baylor University, George W. Truett Theological Seminary — Dr. Jamal-Dominique Hopkins’s faculty profile: <https://truettseminary.baylor.edu/person/jamal-dominique-hopkins-phd>

Volunteer Signup Sheet

I am interested in volunteering to serve as an overnight monitor for the Winter Warming Shelter that will be operated between December 1 and March 1 at Asbury's Fellowship Hall.

The shelter will be open any night the temperature drops below 32 degrees. The volunteer monitors serve a 12-hour shift from 7:30pm to 7:30am. I am willing to serve one or possibly more nights.

I cannot be available on any of the following nights:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Thank you for considering being part of this much-needed outreach to our un-housed neighbors.

My Name: _____

Today's Date : _____

My Phone Number: _____

Winter Warming Shelter – Asbury UMC and CANUP

As Art Masker shared in last week's worship services, Asbury UMC and CANUP (Coalition Assisting the Needs of Unhoused People) have partnered in offering this year's Winter Warming Shelter (WWS). Asbury's fellowship hall will be the site of the shelter, CANUP will be coordinating and operating the shelter. The shelter will be open any night the temperature is 32 degrees or below from December 1 through March 1. The shelter opens at 7:30pm and closes at 7:30am.

The shelter is "staffed" each night by two adult volunteers – one male and one female. The volunteers "stand watch" for the twelve hours. These volunteers are being recruited from CANUP, Asbury, and many churches in our community. Volunteer Training will be on Thursday November 17th. Volunteers must participate in one of the two training sessions at 2:00-4:30 OR 5:30-8:00. A meal will be provided between the two sessions (4:30-5:30) and volunteers are encouraged to participate in the meal to get to know others participating in this ministry.

If you are interested in serving as a WWS volunteer monitor, please complete the form on the back of this sheet and place it in today's offering plate. You will receive a return phone call from one of the following: Art Masker (423-416-7400), Kevin James (423-470-2319), Jim Bare (CANUP Operation Manager: 423-578-0834).