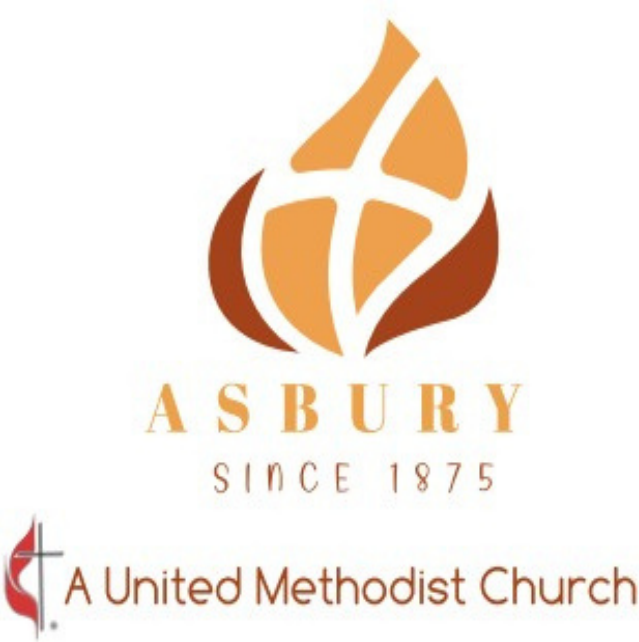


ASBURY GATHERINGS
Children’s & Youth Ministry Wednesdays 5:15 - 7:00 P.M. Asbury Fellowship Hall 3 Churches 1 Mission / Asbury - Pruitt Hill - Tate Chapel
Tiny Seeds, Tuesdays 10:00 A.M., Chapel for 3-4 year olds - Day Care Students and Staff. Rev. Sharon Bowers and Ms. Sandra Fox leading.
The Valley (Contemporary Worship Service) @ Asbury Sunday 11:15 A.M. Asbury Fellowship Hall, Rev. Ronnie Wong, Preacher
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).
Bible Studies / Small Groups 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. Foundations: A New Member Class Sundays, 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 early November when Pastor Chase returns from paternity leave. The Bible Told Them So Begins Tuesday, September 22, at 6:00 P.M. in the La Rue Room, Led by Rev. Bowers. Join us for an 8-week study exploring faith, history, and our call to live as compassionate witnesses. All are welcome! (Pastor Sharon). Books are available in the church office, and we currently have 4 spots available. To reserve a spot or pick up your book, please stop by the church office.



17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE 20th DAY of SEPTEMBER 2026

TEN O’CLOCK

MORNING WORSHIP

September 20, 2026

THE GATHERING

Prelude & Bringing In The Light “Instrumental” Paulette 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* "Pass it On" UMH# 572

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* Sherin Whitfield

The Children’s Message Don Stansfield III

Prayer of Confession Sherin Whitfield

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE Congregation:

Call to Prayer Sherin Whitfield

Prayer Hymn "Sweet Hour of Prayer" UMH #496 Chancel Choir

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 September 13, 2026			
Sunday School	19	Livestream Views Traditional Service *Contemporary Service	(295) *114
Traditional Service 10 A.M.	80	Children’s Church	5
Contemporary Service 11:15 A.M.	17	Children’s Chapel	24
Books & Brew (Tuesdays)	4	Children’s Church & Youth	37
		Van Dreal Covenant (Bi-Weekly - Wednesday)	9/16/2026
A Place of Grace Monthly - 1st Sunday	Oct 4th	Morning Pointe Senior Center (Thursdays)	18
Prayer Requests			
Pray for our military men and women. Please keep all those serving in our nation's armed forces in your prayers. Pray that God will surround them with His protection, grant them wisdom, strength, and courage, and bring them safely home to their loved ones. May the Lord also comfort and sustain their families. Alex Whitaker, Air Force pilot; Lincoln Taylor, Navy pilot; Jackson Renner, Army Reserve.			
Please keep Phyllis Bible in your prayers as she begins her recovery following knee surgery. Pray for healing, comfort, and strength during her recovery.			
Please lift these individuals in your prayers: Wayne & Linda Topper — Baltimore, MD. Robyn Tierney — Baltimore, MD; James S. Hebb IV — Baltimore, MD. Sydney L. Bell.			
Shianne King — Please pray for this young mother as she recovers from a recent car accident. Pray for healing, strength, and comfort for her and her family.			
Please pray for Jeff Shipley, who has a scheduled liver transplant. Please keep everyone involved in this process in your prayers.			

TODAY’S WORSHIP TEAM	
Preaching:	Rev. Sharon Bowers
Liturgist:	Sherin Whitfield
Children’s Message:	Don Stansfield III
Nursery Host:	Hostess
Music:	Paulette Johnson
Sound / Livestream:	Christian Martin / Fletcher Sherrill / Zy Neal
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
We are getting ready for our annual trip to Fenders Farm on September 30! If you would like to sponsor a child for this trip, we are asking for donations of \$7 per person. Would you like to join us? Let us know you are coming by RSVP to Sarah at sgmt teach@yahoo.com and meet us there at 5:30!	
Life in the Kingdom Sunday School Class will resume meeting on Sunday, September 27, at 9:00 A.M. with Steve Parsons in the LaRue Classroom. This term, we will study the Book of Psalms: The Believer’s Songbook. All are welcome!	
The Bible Told Them So Begins Tuesday, September 22, at 6:00 P.M. in the La Rue Room. Join us for an 8-week study exploring faith, history, and our call to live as compassionate witnesses. All are welcome! (Pastor Sharon). Books are available in the church office, and we currently have 4 spots available. To reserve a spot or pick up your book, please stop by the church office.	
New Bible Study: Forgiveness, Finding Peace Through Letting Go. 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. October 3rd (6 weeks), Thursdays 6:00–7:30 P.M. **Bring a friend and join us for this meaningful study! Interested? Please sign up through Church Center. For additional information, please get in touch with John Reviere.	

MORNING WORSHIP

September 20, 2026

Proclaiming The Word

The Scripture Lesson*	Jonah 4:1-11 NRSV	Sherin Whitfield
The Message	The Joy of Compassion	Rev. Sharon Bowers
Induction of New Members		Rev. Sharon Bowers

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. Sharon Bowers
Offertory Song	“Instrumental”	Paulette Johnson
Doxology	See Insert	UMH #95
Hymn of Invitation	"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"	UMH# 402

Sending Forth

Benediction*		Rev. Sharon Bowers
Peace*	Minister: The Peace of Christ be always with you. People: And also with you.	
Postlude*	"Instrumental"	Paulette Johnson

*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 ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon
Liturgist: All-loving and all- inclusive God, we have turned our eyes, our ears, and our hearts away from the grace of God. People: Forgive us when we have received Your grace for ourselves, and still struggle to extend it to others. Liturgist: We have been quick to pass judgment on others while ignoring our own shortcomings. People: Forgive us for judging others and failing to extend the welcome mat. Prick our hearts and afflict us in our comfort. Liturgist: We need you, God, to change our focus and teach us to keep our mind, body, and soul on you and your will for us. People: Give us a compassionate heart, willing hands, and eyes to see ALL of God's people. Liturgist: Teach us to show mercy and God's love because God has shown it to us. All: God, continue to remind us that Your mercy endures forever and You are not a respecter of persons. Teach us always to show others the same mercy that You have shown us. In Jesus' name, Amen.
Pastoral Blessing
As you leave this place, remember: God's mercy is new every morning. Know that you are loved, you are welcomed, and you belong. Now go and make room for somebody else. Go with eyes that see the beauty in others. Go with ears that hear the heartbeat of others. Go with hearts that have compassion to reach out to others. May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. And may you discover the joy that comes when compassion becomes love in action. In all that is Holy, we pray. Amen!

Commendation and Welcome

Brothers and sisters, siblings, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love. Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care, do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and protect them in love.

Congregation (in unison):

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and welcome you in Christian love. We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church and bid you welcome to this congregation of the **United Methodist Church**. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

Pastoral Blessing

Pastor: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you now and forevermore. We give thanks for all that God has already given you, and we welcome you in Christian love. May the God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

All: Amen.

Membership Covenant

Introduction

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, siblings in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Today, we present these persons for membership in The United Methodist Church and in this congregation.

We present: Susan and John Lester

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Pastor (to candidates): On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **Candidates: I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **Candidates: I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in His grace, and promise to serve Him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **Candidates: I do.**

According to the grace given to you, will you remain *faithful members* of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's *representatives* in the world? **Candidates: I will.**

Loyalty to The United Methodist Church

Pastor (to candidates): As members of Christ’s universal Church, will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

Candidates: I will.

Loyalty to the Local Congregation

Pastor (to candidates): As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Candidates: I will.

Congregational Response

Pastor (to congregation): Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

Will you nurture one another in Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

We do. With God’s help, we will proclaim the good news and live accordingly to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

The Pastor addresses all:

Pastor: Let us join together in professing in Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God, the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe 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, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.
*universal**

As members of the Christ Universal Church, will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? **All: I will**

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service? **All: I will**