



1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
THE 28TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025

TEN O'CLOCK

201 SOUTH MAIN STREET . GREENEVILLE, TN 37743  
[WWW.ASBURLIFE.ORG](http://WWW.ASBURLIFE.ORG) . (423) 798-1050

MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 28, 2025

THE GATHERING

Prelude & Bringing In The Light

"In Bethlehem's Low Stable" and  
"Shepherds Came, Their Praises  
Bringing"  
Ed Logan  
Helmut Walcha

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\*

"To God Be The Glory"

UMH #98

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

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

Call to Prayer

Music

Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sharon Bowers

The Lord’s Prayer

See Insert

Rev. Sharon Bowers

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



# Lay Leader’s Report to Church Council

Asbury’s health is measured not only by attendance, but by lives shaped through connection, service, and community. During this reporting period, we have seen steady and encouraging engagement across worship, small groups, service ministries, and digital outreach—affirming the shared vision our congregation has named.

As community need has grown, Asbury has responded faithfully. Benevolence, CANUP food kits, and the warming shelter continue to be powerful expressions of our mission and are strengthening relationships both within the church and beyond it.

Small groups remain our strongest pathway for connection and spiritual growth, with increased participation in the second half of the year and clear opportunities to expand reach. Worship attendance has stabilized, livestream worship continues to extend our welcome, and contemporary worship represents an important opportunity to reach younger adults and families.

While we face real demographic challenges, we are also seeing hopeful signs—especially through growing digital engagement and new community partnerships that introduce Asbury to people exploring faith and new residents in Greene County.

Volunteer leadership is one of Asbury’s greatest strengths. Faithful service has allowed us to expand ministry impact, and continued growth will come as we invite more people into leadership and shared responsibility.

Rooted in the United Methodist call to **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously**, Asbury is a church with a strong foundation, a clear direction, and a future filled with hope.

Asks of Church Council

Pray for our leaders and volunteers, lead visibly through worship and service, extend personal invitations, and keep engagement at the center of our decisions.

Notes from our Lay Leader—John Reviere, December 16, 2025

## MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 28, 2025

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The Scripture Lesson*	Nehemiah 6:15-16 NIV.	Liturgist
The Message	Holding Up Your Corner	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, located in your pew. 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)	"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" J.S. Bach	Ed Logan
Doxology	See Insert	UMH #95
Hymn of Invitation*	"Here I Am Lord"	UMH #593

### SENDING FORTH

Benediction*		Rev. Sharon Bowers
Peace*	Minister: The Peace of Christ be always with you.  People: <b>An also with you.</b>	
Postlude*	"Go Tell It on the Mountain" arr. Olive Nelson Russell	Ed Logan

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.

Attendance for December 21st, 2025			
Sunday School	21	Livestream Views	239
Combined Service	70	Children’s Church	4
Blue Christmas	14		

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

# 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.

## 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:

Faithful and Loving God, we come before You today acknowledging the opportunities that You have given us to hold up our corners, some successfully and some not so successfully.

## People:

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have ignored our responsibility, left stones unturned, or given in to fear and discouragement.

## Liturgist:

All-knowing and Sufficient God, forgive us for the moments we have doubted Your power, questioned Your provision, or allowed opposition from others to weaken our faith.

## People:

Restore in us a willing spirit and a joyful heart, O Lord, that we may faithfully build, repair, and hold up the corners of Asbury that You have entrusted us with.

## Liturgist:

Renew our strength to serve You and our neighbors with courage, diligence, and joy, trusting that even our smallest corners matter to Your kingdom.

## All:

We lay down our burdens, lift our hearts, and commit to holding our corners in faith now and in the future. 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. Sharon Bowers, Lead Pastor
Liturgist:	Speaker
Children's Message:	Don Stansfield III
Organist/Pianist:	Ed Logan
Music:	Choir
Sounds/Livestream:	Christian Martin / Fletcher Sherrill/ Zy Neal

ANNOUNCEMENTS
<p><b>Let us know you're here:</b> Check in on the Church Center app, complete a connection card at <a href="http://www.asburylife.org">www.asburylife.org</a>, 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 <a href="https://asburylife.org/coming-up-at-asbury">https://asburylife.org/coming-up-at-asbury</a> .</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
PRAYER REQUESTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please keep Marty Masker in your prayers. She is seeking healing as she faces heart issues and prepares for upcoming heart surgery.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emily Bell recovering at home following surgery.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please pray for Gloria, a friend who has terminal lung cancer. Pray that she may experience the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.</li></ul>

Pastor Blessings

May the same God who stood with Nehemiah stand with you as you do your part to fortify and strengthen Asbury and the surrounding community. May you hold up your corner now and in the future.

May the Lord bless the work of your hands, the faithfulness of your heart, and the steadfastness of your spirit.

May God’s presence go before you to illuminate your path, beside you to encourage you, and within you to lead and guide you to all truths.

And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust God for providence in the new year, resting in the fact that the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Go now, faithful builders, and hold up your corner—for God is with you, and your testimony matters; it matters most.

Amen.