



The Announcer

December 2018

*Our Vision is to be the church that displays the love of Christ and connects with people of all walks of life through our ministry, creative services, discipleship and outreach.
Our Mission is to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and share God's love with others.*

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Lectionary Readings

December 2, 2018 [Purple]

1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10 (UMH 756)
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 9, 2018 [Purple]

2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 16, 2018 [Purple]

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 23, 2018 [Purple]

4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

December 24, 2018 [White]

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96 (UMH 815)
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 30, 2018 [White]

1st Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

December 2018 Liturgists & Scripture Readers
(Tentative Schedule)

<i>December 2, 2018</i>	<i>John & Linda Keenan</i>
<i>December 9, 2018</i>	<i>Deb Kontra & Lygea Madison</i>
<i>December 16, 2018</i>	<i>Anne Taylor & Victoria Adjekipide</i>
<i>December 23, 2018</i>	<i>Kermit & Michelle Fitzgerald</i>
<i>December 24, 2018</i>	<i>Dennis & Eileen McCoy</i>
<i>December 30, 2018</i>	<i>Bill Gildea & Tedd Didden</i>



Fellowship Hour

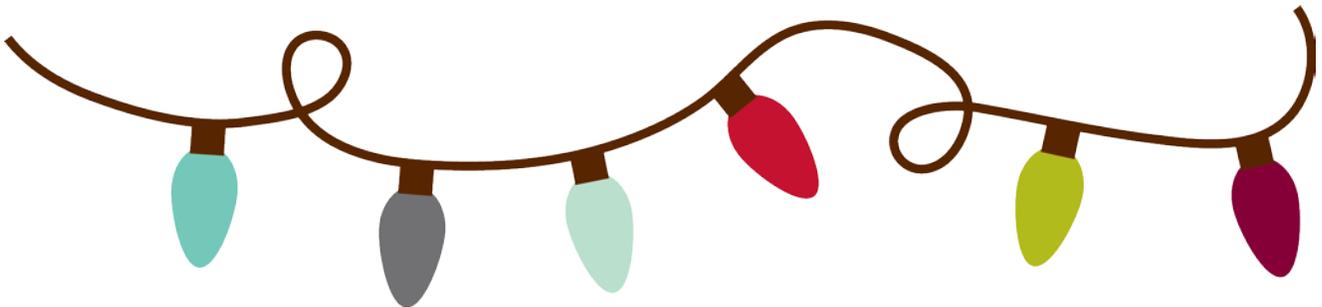
December 2, 2018	Church Council
January 6, 2019	Finance
February 3, 2019	Staff
March 3, 2019	Chancel Choir

Fellowship Hour is the first Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted. Please arrive before worship to set up, provide simple snacks and clean up after fellowship time.



December Birthdays

04	Ed Schulz
06	Laurie Gusovius
09	Faith Myers
11	James Hollinger
11	Susan Hollinger
21	Kimberly Curll
25	Mary Ann Swire
27	William Myers



Bible Study

The year: 1947. A Bedouin shepherd tracks one of his stray goats into a cave mouth above the shore of the Dead Sea at a desolate place named Qumran. Inside, he discovers a pair of tall, thin clay pots. And what he finds when he opens those pots will be nothing less than the greatest archaeological discovery of the 20th century: the Dead Sea Scrolls.

We've started our study of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The presenter for this series is Dr. Gary A. Rendsburg. Professor Rendsburg holds the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History in the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, where he also holds an appointment in the History Department.

Please consider joining our leader, Bill Gildea and the group at 8:30am for an interesting course.

Committee Meetings

The Trustees meet the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. Church Council meets the third Monday at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. If you have any questions, suggestions or building concerns, these are the meetings to address them. Both committee meetings are open to the congregation, although voting privileges are limited to committee members. **If there is a change in either schedule an announcement is usually made in church the preceding Sunday.**

Women's Group Meeting

The Womens Group will be having their annual Christmas luncheon on December 5 at 12:30 pm, the regular meeting day, at Spanky and Louches (formerly Dante's). Marilyn will need a count by December 2. All are welcome and consider bringing a friend.

Pajamas for the Salvation Army

The Women's Fellowship Group is collecting new unwrapped pajamas for the Salvation Army for boys & girls aged infant to twelve years. This project is a continuation of the community outreach started by Irma Brooks. The collection box is in the narthex. Please donate the PJ's by **December 9, 2018.**

The Shoe Box Journey

This was Asbury's fifth year supporting Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Sharing a shoebox filled with small gifts and the message of Jesus Christ brings joy, happiness, love and hope to children around the world. In 2014, the Womens Group was interested in finding an additional project. (We were already collecting food for the Salvation Army.)

Previously, I had filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child and felt that it was a project that our entire church community would embrace. Pastor Carlotta and the Women's Group supported the idea.

Over the years, Asbury has purchased the shoeboxes and our generous congregation has done the rest.

Members that don't want to fill a shoebox, donate to help with the shipping costs.

With the help of the Womens Group from Lansdale Methodist, I delivered 38 boxes (Asbury-25 & Lansdale-18) to the Valley Community Church in Trooper- the distribution center for this area.

Thanks to everyone who participated this year.

With Christian Love,
Ginny Williamson



Good News. Great Joy.

Just A Thought

The time draws near the birth of Christ,
The moon is hid, the night is still;
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist.

Alfred Tennyson



Operation Gratitude- Scarfs for the Troops

Since starting this project in November 2017, Asbury has sent **232** items for distribution to our Troops.

Thanks to all who made the scarves and to those who contributed the shipping costs.

Please consider knitting or crocheting for this project.

We will be sending another group of scarves in the Spring of 2019.

Violence: A Proposal for Prayer

Submitted by Dennis McCoy

In the past few months I have heard growing numbers of people express concern over the violence that is becoming increasingly prevalent in American society today, evidenced most recently in the form of mass attacks by single individuals like those that happened in Pittsburgh and in Thousand Oaks. When such tragic events take place we naturally turn to the Lord for comfort and we pray for the victims, their loved ones, and their communities. We ask God to heal them, strengthen them, and help them recover from the tragedy they have experienced. Some of us might also pray for peace.

I am particularly troubled by the increase of violent actions occurring among individuals as a first response to perceived slights or to incidents that should not become an issue, things like physical, even lethal, attacks in road rage situations, massive brawls among parents at children's sporting events, and the case of a teacher furiously punching out a student. I imagine each of you could offer an example of a violent act that especially alarms you. Each of these incidents are the work of individuals in conflict with other individuals. Let us as individual followers of Christ work together through prayer to bring about change. Jesus said "ask and you will receive" (Matthew 7:7) and "whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:19) As Christians we sing "Is there trouble anywhere? Take it to the Lord in prayer" (UMH, 526) and "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me" (UMH, 431). At the end of each worship service we share the peace of Christ with each other. I wish to suggest that we here at Asbury as sisters and brothers in Christ take our concerns about violence in our society to the Lord in prayer and to trust God to answer. This could be one way we can let peace begin with us.

We are entering the season of the Advent of the Prince of Peace, a time when people in general - even those who are not followers of Christ - often think and talk about peace and love of our fellow human beings. This would be a good time for each of us to raise the issue of violence when we go to God in prayer. Please consider praying about this. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your decision. Let us each ask in our own way, whether it be a simple request or an extended conversation with the Lord, emphasizing whatever form of violence especially troubles us. Let us "PUSH", that is "Pray Until Something Happens", and trust God to let us understand when we no longer need to bring these requests to him. And this does not have to be an Asbury-only initiative. We each could invite others who are not of our congregation to pray about this issue as well.

As an example, we could pray along the following lines:

"Father, we are troubled by the violence that is taking place in our country. We ask for a ceasing of violent acts on the part of our people. We pray that you will work in the hearts of individuals and empower them to resist the urge to respond violently to situations that stress them. Plant the seed of peace in all people and let the desire to treat others the same way that they themselves wish to be treated grow within them. We are not asking for a change in the way individuals view the world, but rather a change in the nature of the actions they choose to undertake. Then let the way be open to peacefully resolve the cause of each issue that troubles them. May this be for your glory and the spiritual growth of all. Amen."



A Biblical Christmas

C	Comfort	"I will never leave or forsake thee."	Hebrews 13:5
H	Hope	"Christ in you, the hope of glory"	Colossians 1:27
R	Redemption	"In whom we have redemption"	Ephesians 1:7
I	Inspiration	"All scripture is given by inspiration"	II Timothy 3:16
S	Salvation	"Now is the day of salvation"	II Corinthians 6:2
T	Truth	"I am the way, the truth"	John 14:6
M	Mercy	"The Lord is merciful"	Psalms 103
A	Assurance	"The effect of righteousness is assurance"	Isaiah 32:17
S	Satisfaction	"He satisfieth the longing soul"	Psalms 107:9

Just for fun

"Here's a king," announced the three year old as he unwrapped a figurine from the Nativity scene. "Here's a wise man and a donkey and a lamb," he said as he unwrapped each figure. When he unwrapped the infant, molded permanently in the manger, he held the figurine up and exclaimed "and here's baby Jesus in his car seat."



The Legend of the Fir Tree

Today, the Christmas tree is a center of our festivities. Topped with a star, and glittering with lights and ornaments it is a part of the beauty and meaning of the Christmas season.

How did the Christmas tree come to play such an important part in the observance of Christmas? There is a legend that comes down to us from the early days of Christianity in England. One of those helping to spread Christianity among the Druids was a monk named Wilfred (later Saint Wilfred). One day surrounded by a group of his converts, he struck down a huge oak tree which, in the Druid religion, was an object of worship. As the Oak tree fell to the earth, it split into four pieces, and from its center there grew a young Fir tree, pointing a green spire toward the sky. The crowd gazed in amazement.

Wilfred let his axe drop and turned to speak. "This little tree shall be your Holy Tree tonight. It is the wood of peace, for your houses are built of the fir. It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are evergreen. See how it points toward the heavens.

Let this be called the tree of the Christ Child. Gather about it, not in the wilderness, but in your homes. There it will be surrounded with of loving gifts and rites of kindness."

And to this day, that is why the Fir Tree is one of our loveliest symbols of Christmas.



Merry Christmas

Asbury's Community Outreach Projects



Paper for Puppies

We will no longer be collecting newspapers. Thanks to everyone who supported this project.

Forteniters Toiletries Collection

The "Toiletries Box" in the Pine Street vestibule is an adjunct to the annual dinner. There is an on-going need for grooming products which can be distributed to the group's members. These personal grooming items include: combs, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, shaving cream, shampoo, deodorant, emery boards, nail files and clippers, bobby pins, chap stick, bar soap, hand and body lotion, talcum powder, etc., (but no nail polish, that would require an acetone based remover.) **THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS THAT NONE OF THE PRODUCTS CONTAIN ALCOHOL.** If you have any questions as to whether a certain product is suitable or not, speak with Linda or John Keenan before you make the purchase.

The Salvation Army Choice Food Pantry Collection

Thanks to everyone who continues to donate to this ongoing outreach project. Please continue to help fill the "Choice Food Pantry" shelves. Deliveries are made on Mondays, as the pantry is open on Tuesday by appointment only. This outreach project was started by the Women's Group in November 2015.

Items Needed

Peanut Butter
Jelly
Canned Soup
Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
Recyclable shopping bags

Next Collection Date is December 30, 2018



Please contact Karen Gildea, if interested in contributing to or volunteering at "The Community Interfaith Food Pantry".
Please contact the McCoys, if interested in contributing to or volunteering at "Welcome" (Soup Kitchen at Calvary Baptist).

Keep knitting and crocheting for Operation Gratitude!

Next delivery- Spring 2019

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship Hanukkah Begins	3	4 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	5 Womens Group 12:30 pm	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8
9 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	10 Trustees 7:00 pm	11 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	12	13	14	15
16 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	17 Church Council 2:00 pm	18 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	19	20	21 Winter Begins	22
23 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa	27	28	29
30 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	31 New Year's Eve					

The deadline for the next Announcer is December 15, 2018

Email items to Florence at copyme124@hotmail.com or to Cynthia at cynthober@aol.com.

Please include "Announcer" in the subject line.

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