

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4th Sunday of Advent **December 18, 2016**

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
10:15 A.M.

PRELUDE “And the Glory of the Lord” Handel / Smith
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
CENTERING
CHORAL INTROIT “An Advent Introit” Tedd Didden

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Light has dawned and God’s promised restoration is at hand. Glory to God in the highest. God is with us.

People: **The prophet foretold it, the psalmist longed for it, Joseph dreamed of it, and Paul proclaimed it.**

Leader: God is come to us, to be with us, to restore us, to save us.

People: **Let us come in awe and wonder, to worship the God who makes it all so.**

Leader: Let us open ourselves to the wonder of it all, knowing that our savior comes to make all things right.

***HYMN** “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” #198, UMH

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we eagerly await the true light that is coming into the world, but we are easily distracted by the twinkly lights all around us. We planned to spend this season in study and prayer, cultivating our interior life with you, but we got distracted by the season’s social demands. Shake us from our complacency, that we might remember the reason for the

season – a child sent to bring us light and love, a child sent to save us. Amen.

ADVENT LITURGY

HYMN “We Light the Advent Candles” B. Ellingboe, arr.
*“We light the Advent candle against the winter night
To welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world’s true light
To welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world’s true light”*

Today we light the fourth candle in our Advent wreath, the candle reminding us of God's gift of love. Before we do that, let us remember the gifts of God symbolized by the other candles in the wreath: the light of hope, the light of peace, and the light of joy. The fourth candle helps us to remember that God is love.

[Light the fourth candle]

The Bible tells us that it is because God loved the world so much that Jesus came. The angel tells Joseph that the baby to be born will be called "Emmanuel", "God with us." Because God loves us and came into the world to be with us, we must love and care for others. Jesus came to show us how to live that love.

We are Jesus' disciples in the world today. Jesus wants us to love others as he loves us. This candle reminds us that God loves us, and that we must show that love by loving one another.

Let us pray: **God, thank you for loving us, and for sending us Jesus to teach us about your love. Help us to remember that your love will never come to an end. Strengthen us to love others as you love us. Amen.**

ALL: COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN.

*RESPONSIVE READING	Psalm 80 (Response No.1)	#801, UMH
*GLORIA		#71, UMH
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		#881, UMH

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16 OT #699
***THE GOSPEL READING** Matthew 1:18-25 NT #2

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Joseph’s Dream”
***HYMN** “He is Born” #228, UMH

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

ANTHEM “Advent Carol” Robert Powell

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Still, Still, Still” Paul Manz
***DOXOLOGY** #95, UMH

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Shepherd of Israel, you have led us like a flock into the pastures of your grace and mercy. In thankfulness and praise for the child born to us at Christmas, receive our gifts. Receive our hearts also, that we may share your love with the world. Amen.

***HYMN** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #224, UMH

BENEDICTION

Following the blessing you may be seated as the candles are extinguished.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

POSTLUDE “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” Wilbur Held

**Congregation stands as able*

WELCOME TO ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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.”

If you are visiting with us for the first time we thank you for worshipping with us and pray that this was a spiritually uplifting experience that will make a difference in the week to come.



In Honor of: Jim White’s Birthday and
In Memory of: Ethel K. White
Given by: Eileen and Dennis McCoy

WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Liturgist: John Keenan
Scripture Reader: Linda Keenan
Advent Readers: Sheridan Family
Organist: Tedd Didden

LAST WEEK

ATTENDANCE WEEK 37

Please remember to sign in each Sunday.

OFFERING WEEK:

Envelope (General)	\$3,380.00
Flowers	60.00
Ministries of Kindness	200.00
Plate	32.00
Christmas Special Offering	335.00
Miscellaneous	190.00
Total	\$4,197.00



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Given by...

Walter "Ben" Curll

Lisa, Aliza, Rebecca, &
Simon Davner

The Davner, Gildea, &
Haring Families

Tedd Didden

Bill & Marian Giangiulio

Dan, Liz, Matt, Wendy,
Sara, & Emily

Florence, Susan, &
James Hollinger

Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Harry B.
Irwin, III

Shirley Jefferis

John & Linda Keenan

Wendy, Sara, Emily, Dan,
Liz, & Matt

Deb Kontra

The Leddy & Hudson Family

Bea Lobb

Anthony & Catharine Maddonni

In Loving Memory of...

Beatrice Curll & Rocco Pilieri

Bill Davner

All of Our Loved Ones

Lynn W. Didden, Chas & Velma
Williams, Rev. Clarence & Grace
Didden

Our Family & Friends

Albert & Dottie Grayauskie

Loved Ones

Our Families

My Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Bill & Thelma Mc McCaughey

Loved Ones

Joseph & Judith Leddy

Don Lobb, Emily & Claude Tyson

Our Loved Ones

Dennis & Eileen Mc Coy	Our Loved Ones
Kaye Mervine	Loved Ones
Cynthia Oberholtzer	Loved Ones
The Royer Family	Loved Ones
Elaine Walla	Anton Walla



Given by...

In Honor of...

Walter “Ben” Curll	Dolores Curll
Bill & Karen Gildea	Our Granddaughters- Cora, Vivian, & Maeve
Shirley Jefferis	My Daughter, Grandsons, & Great Grandchildren
Deb Kontra	Children & Grandchildren
Pastor Carlotta Madison	Parents and Loved Ones
Eileen & Dennis Mc Coy	Our Children & Grandchildren

Merry Christmas & Prayers to All for a Safe & Healthy Christmas Season!

Please see Beth Sheridan at the end of today’s service to receive your plant(s). Thank you!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAFF GIFTS: At the end of your pews you will find the little brown envelopes which you can use to make a donation for staff gifts. The deadline for receiving donations is today. Thank you for taking part in this annual opportunity to show our appreciation to our staff.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: We will be celebrating the birth of our Savior once again on December 24th at 7:00 P.M. Please consider inviting family, friends, and/or neighbors to join us for this joyous occasion.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH: We will be worshipping at 10:15 A.M.

NAME BADGES: If you need one, please fill out the form in the Narthex or see Shirley Jefferis. Our goal is to place the order before the end of December.

UP-DATING OF PRAYERS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT & HEALING

LIST: January 8, 2017, the current prayer list will be purged. Please notify the office of those you wish to remain on the list as well as those who should be added.

UP-DATING OF PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED

SERVICES: January 8, 2017, the current prayer list will be purged. Please notify the office of those you wish to remain on the list as well as those who should be added.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Carol Gajewski, Silver Stream Center, 905 Penllyn Pike, Spring House, PA 19477; **Ed Miller**, Golden Living Center, 25 W 5th ST, Lansdale PA 19446; **Henry Schlotterer**, Arden Courts, 620 W Valley Forge RD, King of Prussia, PA 19406; **Thelma Smee**, Cokesbury Village, Healthcare Center, 726 Loveville RD, Hockessin, DE 19707; **Bill Swier**, Regina Nursing Home, RM 211, 550 E Fornance ST, Norristown, PA 19401; Elizabeth(**Betty**) **Wright**, Gwynedd Square Nursing Home, 773 Sunnyside Pike, Lansdale PA 19446 B32B

PRAYERS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT & HEALING: Edith Barbone, Lois & Tom Benning, Brooks Family, Robin Blattner & the Blattner Family, Stephen, Matt & Will Deering, Scotti DeMartinis & Jenny & Family, William Eliasson, Jessie Emerson, David Frees, Sue & Anthony Fuschetto, Cecelia Hampton-Fitzgerald, Mary Ann Keating, Sandy Killian, Roger Layne, Eileen Lenzi, Marilyn Lewis, Bill McCarron, Sherri Rinehart, Caroline Schwab, Sherbi Seerattan, Hazel Shanaman, Mason Shapiro, Henry Solis, Linda Swier, Jim Thompson, Earl Walter, and Wayne Wylie, Sr.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED SERVICES: Daniel Fineran, (Marine) and Brett Santai, (Navy)



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1441 Pine Street – Norristown, PA

Phone : 610/272-1233 – Fax : 610/279-0488

churchadmin@asbury-unitedmethodist.org

Web page:www.asbury-unitedmethodist.org

PASTOR: REV. CARLOTTA MADISON carlotta.madison@verizon.net
H – 215/248-0478 C – 267/760-6068

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR: TEDD DIDDEN tedlyndid@verizon.net
215/646-0294

YOUTH DIRECTOR: DEB KONTRA 484/571-8983

INTERIM SEXTON: SUSAN HOLLINGER 610/272-9710