

Asbury United Methodist Church

Loving...Serving...Transforming Lives

August 24, 2025 ~ 10:00 am (In-Person & Online Services)

“A Resilient Hope: What Are YOU Here For?”



Mission Statement

Love God and one another, serve our community, and transform lives.

Vision

A radically inclusive community, empowered to spread God’s love throughout the world.

Beliefs

We believe all are created in the image of God. We believe God loves everyone and through Christ saves-revives-renews the world. We believe God through the Holy Spirit changes lives. We believe the church is the body of Christ with a mission. We believe the Bible is the word of God. We believe that God has gifted everyone and the church for the purposes of God. We believe discipleship is a continuing journey.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

August 24, 2025 ~ 10:00 AM WORSHIP (In-Person & Online Worship Service)

†† = Those who are able may stand AAHH = African American Heritage Hymnal – Yellow Hymnal UMH = United Methodist Hymnal – Red Hymnal

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brenda Sanders

†GATHERING HYMN

Marching to Zion (733 UMH)

MORNING PRAYER

Bernice Harleston

PRAYER RESPONSE

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior (435 AAHH)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Brenda Sanders

Psalm 71

Brenda Sanders

Luke 13:10-17

Frances Neal

SERMONIC SELECTION

*Trust Me... Richard Smallwood
Dr. Andrew Smith, bass-baritone*

SERMON

“A Resilient Hope: What Are YOU Here For?”

Min. Christian Watkins

†INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

We’ve Come This Far By Faith (412 AAHH)

INVITATION TO GIVE

Randolph Scott

OFFERTORY SELECTION

*Guide My Feet... arr. by Jacqueline Hairston
Dr. Andrew Smith, bass-baritone*

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

†SENDING HYMN

Hold To God’s Unchanging Hand(404 AAHH vs 1-2, 4)

†BENEDICTION

Min. Christian Watkins

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Victoria Alma Castello, guest organist

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Minister of Music: Everett Williams

Guest Organist: Victoria Alma Castello

Music: Asbury Ensemble, Dr. Andrew Smith (soloist)

Liturgists: Brenda Sanders, Randolph Scott, Frances Neal, Bernice Harleston

Trustee On Duty: Canardo M. Richardson



Minister Christian Watkins

Min. Christian S. Watkins, M.Div. currently serves as the Government Relations Advocate for Criminal Legal Systems, Democracy Reform, and Reparatory Justice at NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, where he works to end racial disparities and advance transformative legislation on the federal level. He is also a Certified Candidate for ordained ministry in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC), serving and Minister of Social Justice through Asbury UMC in Washington, D.C.

A proud native of sunny South Dallas, Texas, Christian is an alumnus of St. Philip's and St. Anthony's Catholic schools. Born and baptized in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, he was raised United Methodist from age fifteen under the esteemed leadership of Rev. Dr. Zan W. Holmes, Jr., and other celebrated pastors at St. Luke "Community" UMC in East Dallas. After graduating from Jesuit College Preparatory in 2001, he earned his B.B.A. in Marketing from Loyola University New Orleans in 2005. At Loyola, Christian served as College of Business President in the Student Government Association, sat on its Executive Board, and spearheaded community outreach initiatives. As a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity's Louisiana Gamma Chapter, he served the Greek community as Interfraternity Council Chaplain and Vice President of Recruitment. He later worked as an Admissions Counselor for Loyola before and after Hurricane Katrina.

Following nearly a decade in the corporate sector, Christian's call to ordained ministry was powerfully reaffirmed. Committed to proclaiming and living the Gospel, he vows to serve as an Elder in The UMC through preaching, administering the sacraments, and leading social justice activism in and through the church—for the edification of individuals, the transformation of communities, and the glory of God. His ministry is deeply rooted in the liberation of those marginalized by racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic oppression.

Christian earned his Master of Divinity in May 2019 from Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, with a concentration in Urban Ministry focused on Social Justice. While at Perkins, he served as House Director for Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, held leadership roles in the Black Seminarians Association (Secretary, Vice Chair, and President), chaired the Justice in Action Committee of the Perkins Student Association, and actively participated in chapel worship and student recruitment.

His ministry and advocacy have extended beyond the academy. In the summers of 2016 and 2017, Christian served as House Pastor for Project Transformation North Texas, mentoring youth and young adult leaders. From 2015–2019, he organized for racial and economic justice with *Faith in Texas*, a multiracial, interfaith movement in the Dallas–Fort Worth area, and served as Secretary of the Community Bail Fund of North Texas Board of Directors. Upon relocating to Washington, D.C., he served in criminal justice and democracy reform advocacy with both the General Board of Church and Society of The UMC and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA before joining NETWORK.

Guided by the words of the Prophet Micah—*"to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God"*—Christian seeks to embody a faith that is both prophetic and pastoral, uniting the work of the church with the work of justice in the public square.

Asbury's Week At-A-Glance

Sunday, August 24, 2025

9:00 am—All-in-One Sunday School, Ages 4-12, 3rd floor, Room 208

10:00 am — Worship Service (in-person and online via Livestream, [Link](#)), Dial In: 301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 861 5564 3955, Passcode: 123456

Monday, August 25, 2025

3:00 pm — Asburian Deadline

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

11:00 am—Office Weekly Staff Meeting, via Zoom

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

12:00 pm - Prayer Ministry, Mid-Week Intercessory Prayer, Call: 1-717-908-1986, Access code: 933-092, submit prayer request to: prayer@asburyumcdc.org

7:00 pm—Church Council Meeting, via Zoom Link, Dial-In: 301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 814 6394 1055, Passcode: 665544

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Friday, August 29, 2025

Saturday, August 30, 2025



From The Senior Pastor's Desk August 2025

Word for the Month: CONTINUE

Scripture of the Month: John 21:1-19

Thought for the Month:

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., isolated himself from the demands of the civil rights movement, rented a house in Jamaica with no telephone, and labored over his final manuscript. In this prophetic work, he lays out his thoughts, plans, and dreams for America's future, including the need for better jobs, higher wages, decent housing, and quality education. With a universal message of hope that continues to resonate, King demanded an end to global suffering, asserting that humankind—for the first time—has the resources and technology to eradicate poverty.

Emphasis for the Month: SOCIAL JUSTICE

Pastor's Book of the Month: *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* (King Legacy) by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Asbury United Methodist Church is a Lighthouse Congregation of the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am — 3:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am — 1:00 pm (**Office Closed**)

Parking Instructions

Monday—Friday

Asburyans and guests, on church business, should park in the parking garage and bring the printed parking ticket with them to be validated in the church office. Park on levels P2 or P3 and take the elevator to the "G" level to exit the building (to the left toward 11th Street). Drivers will scan the front of the ticket (invoice) and then scan the back (the payment). Push the call button if you have any issues and the LAZ Garage Staff will assist you.

Saturday & Sunday

Parking is available on Saturday and Sunday until 4 pm (unless otherwise noted). Park on levels P2 or P3 and take the elevator to the "G" level to exit the building (to the left toward 11th Street). The church provides parking passes (half sheet paper passes) to use as you exit the garage. **You must give the parking attendant your printed ticket and the parking pass.**



JOIN US



ONLINE

LIVE
STREAMING HD

www.asburyumcdc.org
Click WATCH LIVESTREAM

You Tube

www.youtube.com/c/AsburyUMCDCNewChannel

f LIVE

www.facebook.com/asburyumcdc/

zoom

Dial-In: (301) 715-8592
Meeting ID: 861 5564 3955#
Password: 123456#



WAYS TO GIVE

you can conveniently give this week
in the following ways:



IN PERSON

use an envelope
or write a check



ONLINE

visit our website
www.asburyumcdc.org
Click GIVE button



TEXT

text "GIVE"
to (202)952-9309



MAIL

send check to
Asbury UMC
926 11th St NW
Washington, DC 20001



The Adult Sunday School is taking a hiatus for the remainder of the summer. We will resume our lessons on September 7th. Enjoy the summer!

For more information text/call Patrice Blackman 301-922-9020.

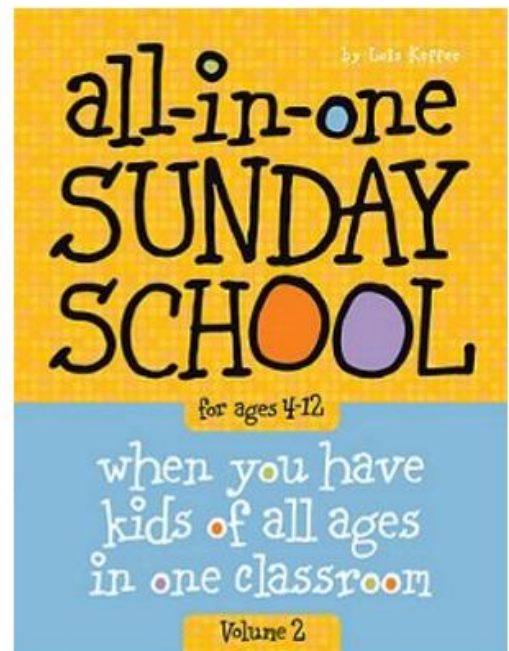
All-in-one Sunday School

Sunday Mornings

Ages 4-12

9:00-9:50 am

Located on 3rd floor, Room 208



MID-WEEK INTERCESSORY PRAYER

EVERY WEDNESDAY | 12 Noon

CALL: 1-717-908-1986

ACCESS CODE: 933-092

WWW.ASBURYUMCDC.ORG



Ushers Needed

Are you willing to serve?

Join the Asbury Ushers Ministry

Looking for a meaningful way to serve?

The Asbury Ushers Ministry is lovingly inviting both men and women to join us in the beautiful ministry of hospitality and service.

With hearts open and hands ready, we welcome you to become part of a dedicated team that helps set the tone for worship through warmth, order, and grace.

Our next gathering will take place on the third Saturday in September, and further details will be shared as the date approaches.

If you feel led to serve or would like to learn more, please reach out to Ruth Gadsden or Mary Simmons.

Come be a part of something special - we would be honored to serve with you.

Nina McEaddy
Asbury Women's Usher - President

BACK TO SCHOOL

BLESSING SUNDAY

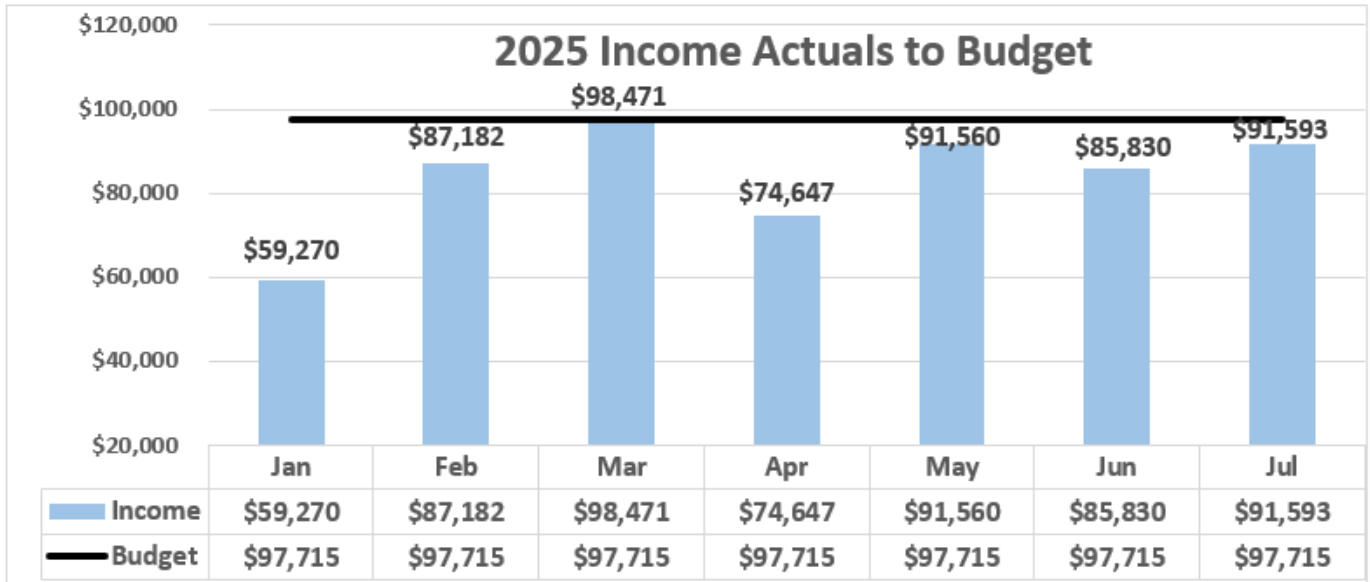
**Pizza &
Games After
Church!**

AUGUST 31, 2025

**Praying for and supporting students
& educators.**

**10:00am
926 11th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001**

THE STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING



Faithful Today, Impactful Forever: A Summer Giving Challenge

Dear Asbury Family,

As your Finance Chair and Stewardship Chair, we want to thank you for your ongoing generosity. Your giving makes our ministry possible week after week, month after month.

We are extending the online giving challenge through August! Whether you're traveling, enjoying summer break, or simply tuning in from home, we invite you to give generously—from the beach, the airport, or your couch.

As a reminder, **online viewership consistently exceeds in-person attendance on Sundays**. Yet only **about 33% of our giving** comes from online platforms. You don't have to be in the sanctuary to be a blessing. If you've been blessed by this ministry, help us grow and thrive by participating in this challenge.

Together, let's show what it means to be **Faithful Today, Impactful Forever**.

With gratitude,

Robert J. Corbitt, Jr.

Robert J. Corbitt, Jr.
Chairperson Committee on Finance

Darryl Wyles

Darryl Wyles
Stewardship Chairperson

Rev. Bell's Messages go out to members weekly via Constant Contact (emails) and are on the Church's Website. If you **do not have an email address**, or **do not have Constant Contact access**, please visit the **Resource Section** of the Asbury Website: www.asburyumcdc.org to read these weekly inspirations.



Thank You!



Updated Contact Information Needed

Calling on all Asbury members to provide updated contact information (phone numbers, emails, and addresses) especially if your information has changed recently. The Membership Committee is requesting these important updates for the Church Directory and to ensure all members receive Rev. Bell's Weekly message.

Please send all updated information to: **asburymail@asburyumcdc.org**

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt responses.



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

THE UPPER ROOM — DAILY READING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24
LUKE 15:11-24

MONDAY, AUGUST 25
PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26
PSALM 118:19-24

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27
MATTHEW 25:31-46

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28
PSALM 19:7-14

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29
ROMANS 7:14-25

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30
LUKE 13:6-9

GETTING AROUND

- ◆ There is an elevator in the Education Building that accesses all levels of the church—the sanctuary, the fellowship hall, and all the Sunday School rooms.
- ◆ Free parking is available Sundays in the garage adjacent to our 11th Street entrance. Pick up a parking pass from the 11th Street reception desk.
- ◆ Restrooms are on the lower level on either side of the narthex and on the 2nd and 3rd floors.

Asbury United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Ronald Bell, Jr., Lead Pastor

Everett P. Williams, Jr., Minister of Music

Tawana C. Jackson, Stephen Minister

Valentine Davies & Monica McEaddy, Lay Leaders

Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman, District Superintendent

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, Episcopal Leader of the Baltimore-Washington Conference

Visit asburyumcdc.org for information about our ministries. Find us on Facebook and Twitter.

926 11th St., NW, Washington, DC 20001 ~ 202-628-0009 ~ asburymail@asburyumcdc.org

Monday-Thursday ~ 8:00 am-3:00 pm / Friday ~ 8:00 am-1:00 pm Teleworking (The Office is Closed)