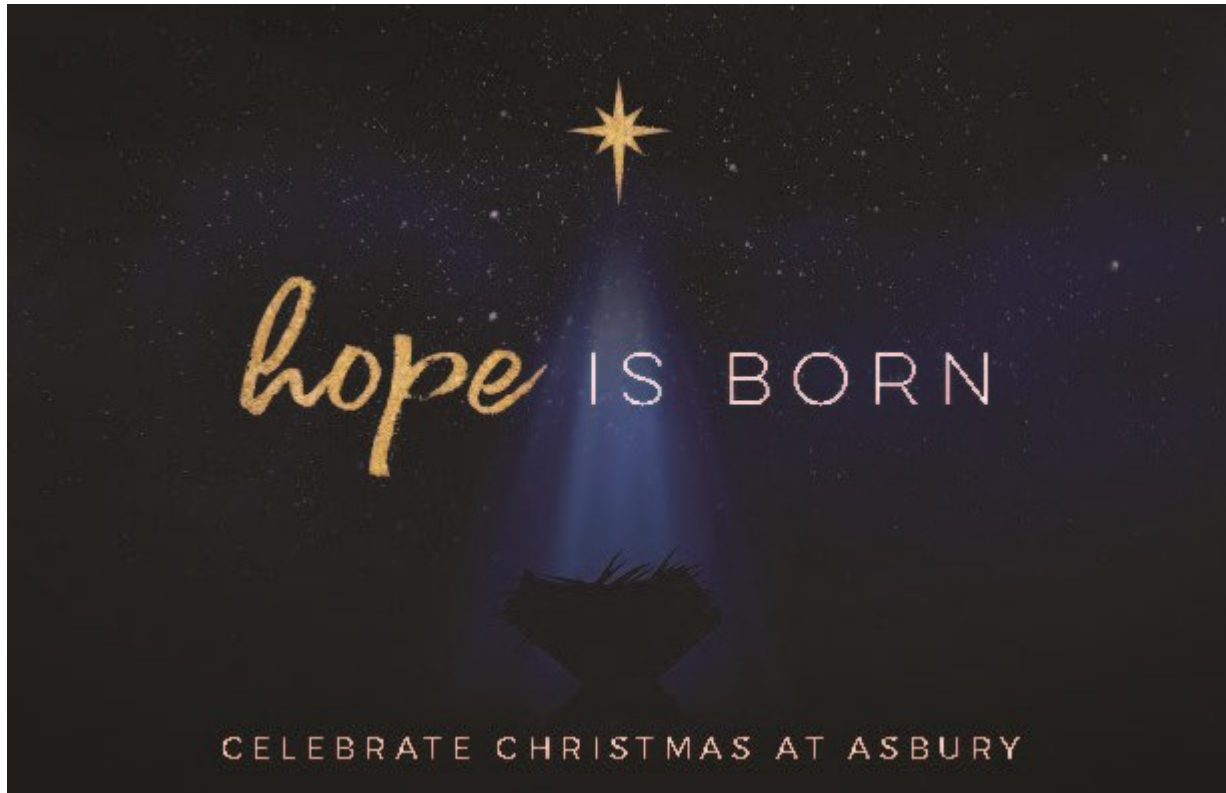


ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LOVING...SERVING...TRANSFORMING LIVES
DECEMBER 22, 2024 ~ 10:00 AM (IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICES)



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024 ~ 10:00 AM WORSHIP (IN-PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE)

†† = Those who are able may stand

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		Rev. Dr. Ianther Mills
†INTROIT		<i>The Angels Sang....Margaret Douroux</i>
†GATHERING HYMN		<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful (199 AAHH)</i>
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES		Huff Family
MORNING PRAYER		Robert Mallett
PRAYER RESPONSE		<i>All the Way from Heaven Down....arr. E. Williams Jr</i>
MINISTRY OF MUSIC		<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly....Sandra Zylstra</i> Asbury Handbell Choir
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Micah 5:2-5a	Duane Williams
†GOSPEL LESSON	Luke 1:39-55	Carol Travis
THE ANTHEM		<i>Hallelujah Chorus (from Messiah)....George F. Handel</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE ASBURY ENSEMBLE		Rev. Dr. Ianther Mills

I

“THE SCRIPTURE IN SONG”

Shout for Joy.... Dello Thedford

Ave Maria....Giulio Caccini /arr. Patrick Liebergen
Maria Luisa Rohde (flute)

Excerpts from Messiah....George F. Handel
Recitative for bass "Behold, I Tell You a Mystery"

Air for bass "The Trumpet Shall Sound"
Dr. VaShawn McIlwain-Lightfoot (baritone)
Kieron Irvine (trumpet)

The Lord Is My Light....Horatio Parker
Quartet: Josepha Hammond (soprano), Isabel Hernandez-Cata (alto),
Darnell Roulhac (tenor), and Kevin Green (bass)

II

“THE NEGRO SPRITUAL”

I Wanna Be Ready....arr. James Miller
Detra Battle Washington (soloist)

Behold the Star....William Dawson
Wayne Jennings (soloist)

III

“THE GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL)”

Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child....H. Carney
Dawn Robinson (soloist)

Now Behold The Lamb....Kirk Franklin
Andrew Smith (soloist)

Behold Your God....Kenneth Louis
Kathy Richburg (soloist)

†INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
STEWARDSHIP MOMENT & INVITATION TO GIVE
OFFERTORY SELECTION
†DOXOLOGY
†SENDING HYMN
†DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING
POSTLUDE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (206 UMH)
Brenda Reid-Sanders
Jesus, The Light of the World....George Elderkin
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Angels We Have Heard on High (206 AAHH)
Rev. Dr. Ianther Mills
Joy to the World....(From Collection of Tunes...T.Hawkes) arr. George F. Handel

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Minister of Music/Organist: Everett P. Williams Jr.
Guest Director: Ronald D. Johnson
Musicians: Jonathan Lewis (percussionist), Kieron Irvine (trumpet), Maria Luisa Rohde (flute)
Director of Asbury Handbell Choir: Randolph Scott
Liturgists: Brenda Reid-Sanders, Carol Travis, Duane Williams
Trustee on Duty: Willie Clark

Fourth Sunday of Advent Candle of Joy



Reader 1: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Joy. We will light it and the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and brings us everlasting hope, peace, and joy.

Reader 2: Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

(Say as you are lighting the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love candles!)

Reader 3: We, light the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE.



Asbury's Week At-A-Glance

Sunday, December 22, 2024

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

9:00 am—Adult Sunday School, Library

9:00 am—Asbury 4th Sunday Outreach, Fellowship Hall

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, December 23, 2024

3:00 pm — Asburyan Deadline

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

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

7:00 pm—Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols, (online via Livestream, [Link](#)), Dial In: 301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 861 5564 3955, Passcode: 123456

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

***Christmas Day* - Office is Closed**

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Friday, December 27, 2024

Saturday, December 28, 2024

9:00 am — Melodies of Faith Advent Study, Tawana Jackson and Rev. Clyde Nelson, (Zoom [Link](#)), Dial In: 301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 847 1226 5946, Passcode: 238841



From The Senior Pastor's Desk

December 2024

Word for the Month: HOPE

Scripture of the Month: Luke 1-2

Thought for the Month:

Join us as we read *Melodies of Faith: An Advent Devotional for African American Churches & Families*. *Melodies of Faith* is more than a devotional—it's a journey through the heart of the holiday seasons, designed to deepen your faith and bring your family closer together. Daily reflections from distinguished contributors guide you through the sacred seasons, offering hope, peace, joy, and love. Engage with scripture and music that celebrate the rich heritage and traditions of the African American church. Thought-provoking reflection questions encourage meaningful conversations at home and in church communities. Special litanies, prayers, and songs for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany enrich your worship experience. Join us in celebrating the miracles of Advent, the joy of Christmas, and the revelations of Epiphany with this beautifully crafted devotional.

Emphasis for the Month: ADVENT/
CHRISTMAS

Pastor's Book of the Month: *Melodies of Faith: An Advent Devotional for African American Churches & Families* - editors Charisse L. Gillett and Tanya J. Tyler



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



Adult Sunday School

Adult Members and Friends! Are you looking for a new avenue of spiritual enrichment, refocus or additional clarity? Come, join us at Asbury for Sunday School. We have just begun our 2024 Fall series and discussions have been enlightening and uplifting. We invite you to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the church library.

For more information, contact Patrice Blackman, patriceghb@gmail.com or 301-922-9020.

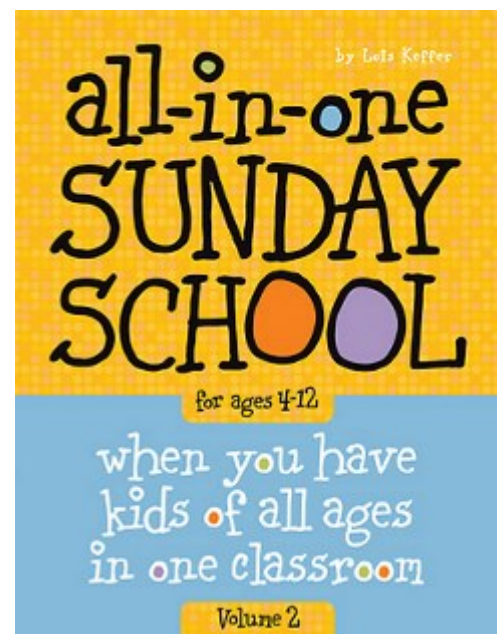
All-in-one Sunday School

Sunday Mornings

Ages 4-12

9:00-9:50 am

Located on 3rd floor, Room 208





hope IS BORN

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT ASBURY

JOIN US

EVERY SUNDAY IN DECEMBER
FOR A SPECIAL SERIES

Christmas Hope

~ 10:00 AM ~

LIVE NATIVITY

12/21 ~ 6:00 PM

MUSICAL CELEBRATION

12/22 ~ 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS & CAROLS

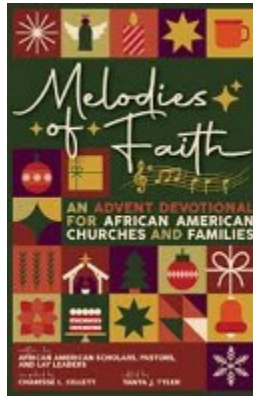
12/24 ~ 7:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

12/31 ~ 7:00 PM

Melodies of Faith

An Advent Study



Melodies of Faith: An Advent Devotional for African American Churches & Families is more than a devotional—it's a journey through the heart of the holiday seasons, designed to deepen your faith and bring your family closer together. Daily reflections from distinguished contributors guide you through the sacred seasons, offering hope, peace, joy, and love. Engage with scripture and music that celebrate the rich heritage and traditions of the African American church. Thought-provoking reflection questions encourage meaningful conversations at home and in church communities. Special litanies, prayers, and songs for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany enrich your worship experience. Join us in celebrating the miracles of Advent, the joy of Christmas, and the revelations of Epiphany with this beautifully crafted devotional.

Join a Study/Discussion Group

Dates: December 1-January 6

Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. (on Zoom) Carol Travis
Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. (on Zoom) Rev. Dr. Ianther Mills
Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. (on Zoom) Tawana Jackson & Rev. Clyde Nelson

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84712265946?pwd=S6vqTmyCiqTsgklxgvKUwaakbByN5A.1>

Meeting ID: 847 1226 5946

Passcode: 238841

Dial-in: (301) 715-8592

The devotional **Melodies of Faith** is available from Amazon, Christianbook.com, and Cokesbury.

THE STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

Financial Update: 2024 Year-to-Date Giving Summary

Grace and Peace Faithful Asburyans,

Thank you for your past and ongoing stewardship! Your gifts support Asbury’s operations and the impactful ministries that serve our community. The 2024 monthly budget **giving target is \$94,229** (see the solid line in the graph below). **Through November**, we have met this target in April, July, and September (December 31, 2023 was a Sunday, resulting in funds deposited in January). 2024’s lower giving levels has negatively impacted our ability to fully fund our ministries. We ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your December gifts, to enable ending 2024 in a healthy financial position.

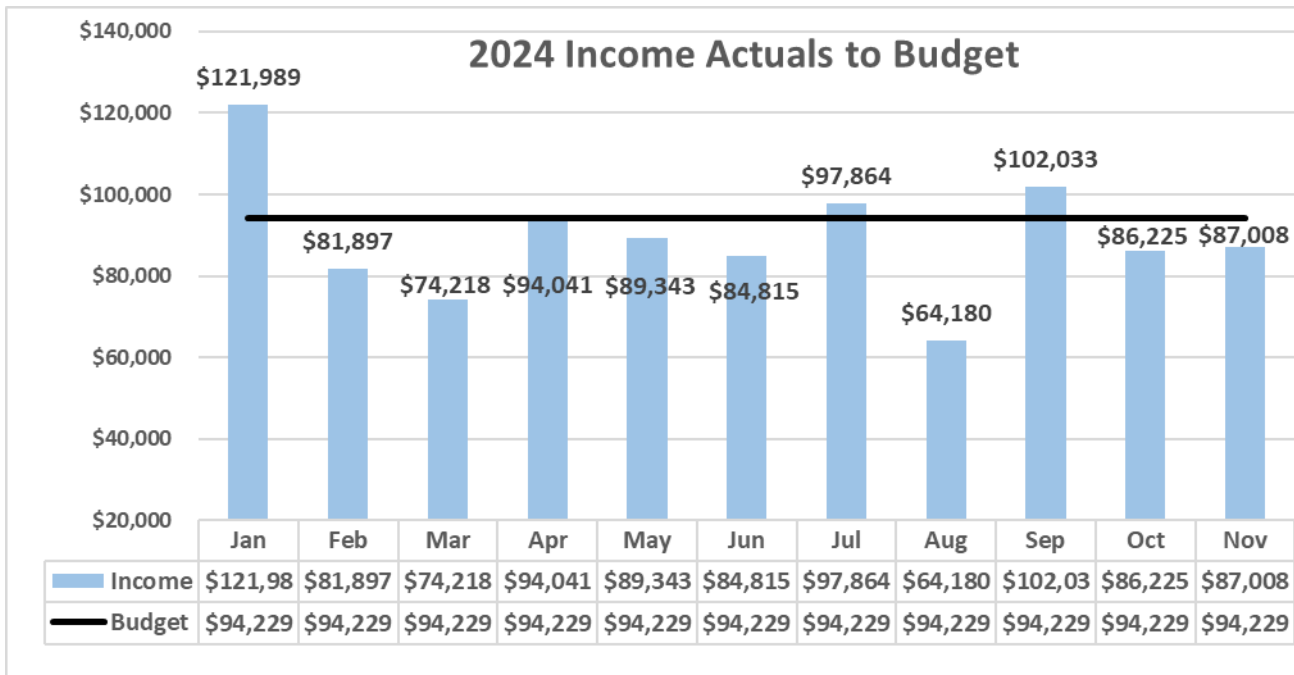
- **2 Corinthians 9: 6-8:** The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.
- **Luke 6:38:** Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Robert J. Corbitt

Robert J. Corbitt, Jr.
Chairperson, Committee on Finance

Darryl Wyles

Darryl Wyles
Stewardship Chair





Loving God and Others... Serving Our Community... Transforming Lives

December 4, 2024

Dear Asbury Church Family,

By the grace of God we have had another amazing year. These are a few highlights:

- We were blessed to offer a hybrid worship experience every Sunday and on special days.
- On Easter Sunday we reached over 1,200 people through our in-person services and livestreaming on YouTube and Facebook.
- We supported our community through the Nehemiah Fund, Food Pantry, Sunday Morning Outreach, and Dinner Church, partnering with organizations that include Downtown DCBID, Impact Fellowship Church, SHARE Network, Mulholland Foundation, and Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness for a broader outreach.
- We supported the following organizations that serve young people: Project Transformation, TraRon Center, Homeless Children's Playtime Project, and Thomson Elementary School.
- Our Sunday school has resumed classes in-person for children, youth, and adults.
- We continue to connect online with bible studies, small groups, workshops, panel discussions, fellowship opportunities, and administrative meetings.
- Our Music Ministry continues to inspire us with the Asbury Ensemble and gifted vocalists and instrumentalists from the Washington Metropolitan area.
- We have remained current and are committed to paying 100% apportionments in connectional responsibility to support Baltimore-Washington Conference and world missions.

Accomplishing these things has not been without financial challenges. It has required that we reduce staff and significantly tighten our ministry budget. At the same time, we are continuing to work hard at meeting the challenges of major repairs to our aging building. The repairs include the bell tower, the educational building roof, the elevator, plumbing, HVAC, and flooring. These necessary repairs are beyond our planned operating budget.

We invite you to help us finish the year strong with an end-of-year financial gift to Asbury. **As you review your giving and the many ways God has blessed you in 2024, prayerfully consider catching up on your pledge. And in this season of gifting, why not make a Christmas gift to Asbury?** You can donate by contributing online at www.asburyumcdc.org; giving through your banking institution; texting GIVE and the amount to (202) 952-9309; or mailing a check to the church office at Asbury United Methodist Church, 926 11th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. (Please note: In order for these gifts to be tax deductible for this calendar or tax year, they must be postmarked and/or given on or before December 31, 2024.)

Thank you for helping your Asbury church family accomplish the vision God has given us.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Dr. I. M. Mills
Rev. Dr. Ianther M. Mills
Lead Pastor

Beverly Allen
Beverly Allen
Trustees Chair

Robert Corbitt
Robert Corbitt
Finance Chair

Darryl Wyles
Darryl Wyles
Stewardship Chair

Saturday, January 25, 2025



*New
Members*
ORIENTATION

Saturday - Jan 25
10:00 -11:30 a.m.



ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/join>
MEETING ID: 832 1261 6077
PASSCODE: 178994

Facilitators:
Rev. Dr. Ianther Mills
Robert Mallett
Valentine Davies
Monica McEaddy
Carol Travis
Tawana Jackson

Asbury United Methodist Church
926 11th St. NW,
Washington, DC 20001

Coming Soon

January 2025

Membership Profile

As we embark on a new year filled with hope and renewed purpose, we are excited to announce an important initiative for our church community.

In 2025, we will be mailing out a Membership Profile to members of Asbury United Methodist Church.

Stay tuned for further information during the worship service each Sunday beginning in December or posted on our social media and website.

We encourage every member to participate.

Your Voice Matters!



Please fill out the profile and mail it back to the church in the return envelope. If you prefer, you can fill out the profile on our website.

Church Phone: (202) 628-0009
Website: asburymcdc.org



“JAF CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE”

**Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Alabama
From Atlanta, Georgia**

Congregations of

**John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church
Asbury United Methodist Church
Foundry United Methodist Church**

**June 16 – 21, 2025
[5 Nights / 6 Days]**

*“JAF is committed to challenging the unjust power structures
that support oppression and are working for equality in all
areas of life.”*



MARS Tours and Travel

“Southern Civil Rights Tour: Echoes of Justice”

Website/Registration Link: <https://takeafuntrip.wetravel.com/trips/southern-civil-rights-tour-echoes-of-justice-mars-tours-and-travel-50727806>

- ◇ Reservation Due by February 1, 2025 – No Deposit is Due at the Time of Online Registration
- ◇ First Deposit Due by April 17, 2025 - \$750.00
- ◇ Second Deposit Due by May 7, 2025 – Determined by the Room Occupancy Rate Category
- ◇ Final Deposit Due by June 2, 2025 – Determined by the Room Occupancy Rate Category



“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, DECEMBER 22

JOHN 8:12-18

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

ISAIAH 61:1-3

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

PSALM 139:7-12

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

MATTHEW 1:18-25

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

PSALM 42:1-11

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

JEREMIAH 17:5-8

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

LUKE 2:1-20

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. Ianther M. Mills, Lead Pastor

Everett P. Williams, Jr., Minister of Music

Tawana C. Jackson, Stephen Minister

Bishop Forrest Stith, Retired Bishop in Residence

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)