Worship · Serve · Grow

together.

ASBURY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BIRMINGHAM

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2026

A LETTER FROM MIKE

I was recently invited to serve as a mentor and speaker for new clergy in North Alabama at an upcoming retreat. It was an honor to be asked–not only because I care deeply about the future leaders our churches need, but also because it gave me an opportunity to play the same role others once played for me. When I began serving as a pastor twenty-two years ago, pastors and leaders throughout our area poured into Julie and me. Many of those mentors remain our friends today. They invested in us, helped us grow, and reminded us that ministry - and faith - were never meant to be experienced alone.

Albert Winseman, in his book *Growing an Engaged Church*, describes a pathway to church engagement. But first, what does "engagement" mean? Engagement happens when someone moves from spectator to participant - when the church stops being simply a place they attend and becomes a community where they belong and a mission in which they are personally invested. It isn't merely about attendance, filling positions, or counting participation. It is about people worshipping, serving, and growing because they know they belong and want to contribute to what God is doing.

The pathway begins with four important questions:

- **What do I get?** Are my spiritual needs being met by the church I attend?
- **What do I give?** Am I discovering opportunities to use my gifts and contribute in meaningful ways?
- **Do I belong?** Am I known, connected, and developing relationships with others?
- **How can we grow?** Am I fully invested in what the church is doing, where it is going, and how we can make a difference together?

This pathway is why we encourage everyone at Asbury to take three simple but powerful faith steps: worship, serve, and grow. These aren't boxes to check. They are ways we become more deeply connected to God, one another, and the mission we share.

Nearly forty years ago, Asbury UMC was launched on November 23, 1986. Since then, generations of people have invested their time, talents, resources, and gifts to build a church that exists to help people embody the Way of Jesus. They belonged. They were engaged. They served. Our part in that legacy is to continue what they began as we worship, serve, and grow - together!

Blessings,
Rev. Mike Holly, *Senior Pastor*

We're glad you're here!

ASBURY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Is Asbury beginning to feel like home?

We invite you to stop by our Next Steps area right after Sunday worship. One of our pastors would love to meet and talk with you about getting connected or becoming a member and what it means to be part of this faith family as we worship, serve, and grow together.

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Fall 2026

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SPECIAL EVENTS

calendar

Events subject to change.
Please confirm dates/times at asburybham.org.

October

01 **PUMPKIN PATCH BEGINS**
THURSDAY
10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
AUMC
Asbury is partnering with Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers to sell pumpkins every day in October to benefit RESET Students' mission efforts. The patch will be open 10–7 Monday–Saturday and 12–6 on Sunday.

HEART CONNECTION LUNCH @ JEFF STATE
THURSDAY
11:15 AM
JEFF STATE
Adults 60+ will be dining at Jeff State's Culinary Institute. We will depart from Asbury at 11:15 AM. Registration for this event is now closed.

03 **CHRISTMAS CHOIR RETREAT**
SATURDAY
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
AUMC
Want to sing with the Chancel Choir this Christmas? Join us for a music deep-dive during our annual Choir Retreat!

PUPS IN THE PATCH
SATURDAY
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
AUMC
Bring your furry friends and enjoy the pumpkin patch!

06 **DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CHAPEL SERVICE**
TUESDAY
1:30 – 2:00 PM
SANCTUARY
Participants can worship any way they want in this casual monthly service. First Tuesdays.

08 **BOOK CLUB**
THURSDAY
6:30 – 7:45 PM
RM 129
This month's book club read is *The Midnight Train* by Matt Haig.

09–12 **CONFIRMATION RETREAT**
OCT 9–12
FRIDAY–MONDAY
EPWORTH BY THE SEA
3-night retreat at Epworth by the Sea in beautiful St. Simons Island, Georgia.

10 **PUMPKIN PLAY DAY FOR KIDS**
SATURDAY
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
AUMC
Pumpkin painting, cornhole, sensory experiences & more!

16 **REST, RENEW, RECHARGE RETREAT**
FRIDAY
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM
CAMP HARGIS
Make time for yourself. Enjoy a day of rest and renewal at Camp Hargis with Asbury's Adult Ministry.

17 **PUMPKINS, PASTRIES & PICK-ME-UPS**
SATURDAY
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
AUMC
Enjoy cozy drinks and pastries in the patch.

18 **SURPRISE SUNDAY**
SUNDAY
9:45 – 10:45 AM
GYM
Asbury KiDS are in for a treat during the Sunday School hour! Every month we do a Surprise Sunday with a special fun activity! You don't want to miss it!

21 **WANDERING WEDNESDAY**
WEDNESDAY
6:30 – 7:15 PM
AUMC
For Asbury KiDS of all ages. We'll be having a bonfire on campus complete with s'mores!

24 **MAKERS MARKET AT THE PUMPKIN PATCH**
SATURDAY
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
AUMC
Shop local artisans and enjoy a morning in the patch.

November

25 **TRUNK OR TREAT**
SUNDAY
4:00 – 6:00 PM
AUMC
This year's event is **RAIN OR SHINE**. Expect dozens of decorated trunks, plenty of candy, inflatable games, a train ride, cake walk, ropes course, and FREE hot dogs. Prizes will be awarded for the best trunks!

27 **SERVE DINNER AT SHEPHERDS FOLD**
4th Tuesday
SHEPHERDS FOLD
Join Crossroads & Agape Sunday School classes to serve dinner at Shepherds Fold, a transitional home that meets the needs of men at risk of incarceration or recidivism. If you want to join, please get in touch with members of these Sunday School classes.

03 **DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CHAPEL SERVICE**
TUESDAY
1:30 – 2:00 PM
SANCTUARY
Participants can worship any way they want in this casual monthly service. First Tuesdays.

09 **UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEER PRACTICE BEGINS**
MONDAY
VARIOUS TIMES
GYM
Asbury's Recreation Ministry's Upward basketball and cheerleading practice begins this week!

11 **CHURCH CLOSED VETERANS DAY**
WEDNESDAY
CLOSED
AUMC
Church office, Anchor, and Wednesday night activities paused in observance of Veterans Day.

12 **BOOK CLUB**
THURSDAY
6:30 – 7:45 PM
RM 129
This month's book club read is *The Kamogawa Food Detectives* by Hisashi Kashiwai.

13–15 **SILENT RETREAT**
NOV 13–15
FRIDAY–SUNDAY
SACRED HEART MONASTERY
A weekend of reflection and intentional silence with the sisters at the Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, AL.

15 **COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING**
SUNDAY
4:00 PM
RM 142
Join us to learn more about our 2027 Costa Rica Mission Trip, an intergenerational experience for students, adults, and families. This year's theme is Pray Together, rooted in Acts 2:42 and the promise of Matthew 18:20: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

18 **WANDERING WEDNESDAY**
WEDNESDAY
6:30 – 7:15 PM
FREDDY'S
For Asbury KiDS 4th and 5th graders. We're headed to Freddy's for a treat and fellowship!

22 **ASBURY 40TH BDAY CELEBRATION**
SUNDAY
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
AUMC
Asbury UMC held its first worship service on Sunday, November 23, 1986. We have built a legacy of friendship, faith, and service over the last 40 years. Let's gather to celebrate what God has done and what God will do through our beloved church family! More info on pg. 17.

SURPRISE SUNDAY
SUNDAY
9:45 – 10:45 AM
RM 214
For this month's Surprise Sunday, we're doing Friendsgiving!

24–26 **ANCHOR CLOSED THANKSGIVING**
NOV 24–26
TUESDAY–THURSDAY
AUMC
No Anchor this week in observance of Thanksgiving.

25 **NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITES**
WEDNESDAY
ACTIVITES PAUSED
AUMC
No Wednesday night activities this week–it's Thanksgiving!

26–27 **CHURCH CLOSED THANKSGIVING**
NOV 26–27
THURSDAY–FRIDAY
AUMC
Church office and all activities closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

December

05 **UPWARD BASKETBALL GAMES BEGIN**
SATURDAY
VARIOUS TIMES
GYM
Asbury's Recreation Ministry's Upward Basketball games begin!

09 **GINGERBREAD BUILD-OFF**
WEDNESDAY
6:00 – 7:15 PM
WILLIAMS CHAPEL
Come one, come all! Bring your family and friends and join us for a Gingerbread Build-Off. Judges will determine Best Build of our confectionary competitors PLUS we'll have hot chocolate and sing carols while enjoying some friendly fun competition together! **This is the final Wednesday night of the year.**

10 **DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS SERVICE**
THURSDAY
1:15 – 2:00 PM
SANCTUARY
Participants can worship any way they want in this casual service!

BOOK CLUB
THURSDAY
6:30 – 7:45 PM
RM 129
This month's book club read is *Red Bird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg.

12 HEART CONNECTION HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

WEDNESDAY
1:15 PM DEPARTURE
RED MOUNTAIN THEATER
It's an annual celebration of everything we love about the season, from chaotic joy to quiet warmth, all tied up with a big sparkly bow. Seventy-five performers take the stage for classic carols and modern music.The cost (includes ticket and transportation) is $50. Registration now! RSVP by November 27.

13 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

SUNDAY
8:30 & 11:00 AM
SANCTUARY
We rejoice with singing about the birth of our newborn King! The annual Christmas Cantata presented by Asbury's Chancel Choir and Music Ministry is a treat for all who attend.

SERVICE OF LOSS AND LIGHT

SUNDAY
5:00 PM
WILLIAMS CHAPEL
A reflective, comforting worship service for people carrying grief, pain, or loneliness.

17-19 PAPA J'S CHRISTMAS SHOP

DEC 17-19
THURSDAY-SATURDAY
AUMC
December Mission of the Month: A free annual Christmas shop hosted by the Grace Klein Community for families on their waiting list who did not receive an individual holiday sponsor. Let us extend a warm Asbury welcome and support this wonderful partnership by volunteering for this awesome event!

20 ASBURY KiDS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SUNDAY
11:00 AM
WILLIAMS CHAPEL
Asbury KiDS presents their annual Christmas pageant during Modern Worship at 11 AM. Christmas Pageant practices will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 28. More info to come in Kids Newsletter. All kids welcome to participate. It is a "y'all come" event where kids get to choose to be angels, animals, wise people, or shepherds to help us bring the story to life.

24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

THURSDAY
VARIOUS TIMES
AUMC
Please join us for Christmas Eve at Asbury as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! We offer several services, detailed below.

4:00 PM: Modern Worship featuring contemporary carols and Asbury KiDS Choir
4:00 PM: Traditional Worship featuring Asbury KiDS Choir and the Chancel Choir
8:00 PM: Traditional Worship featuring a string quartet
11:00 PM: Traditional Worship featuring soloists

25 CHRISTMAS DAY

FRIDAY
Merry Christmas! Join us virtually for a Christmas Day celebration featuring a message from Rev. Michael Bowman and a special video from Asbury musicians and surprise guests!

27 SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY
ALTERED SCHEDULE
AUMC
There will be optional Sunday School for adults, no Sunday School for KiDS and students. No 8:30 worship, 11:00 AM worship in Modern and Traditional.

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY

CONNECTION CLASSES

JANUARY 10, 17, 24
9:45 AM
AUMC
What do we mean by "Worship," "Serve," and "Grow?" Join us for these informative sessions and find out! Come to all three sessions, or pick the ones you are interested in. Classes will meet at 9:45 AM in the annex room right outside the sanctuary.

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday nights offer a variety of opportunities for everyone to rest, grow, and learn.

TABLE FELLOWSHIP
5:00 – 6:00 PM | GYM
Join us for dinner before Wednesday night activities! Meals and registration will be shared closer to time.

LABYRINTH & SANCTUARY REST
6:00 – 7:15 PM
Do you need a place to rest and regroup? Asbury's Labyrinth Prayer Garden and Sanctuary are open and available for a time of quiet reflection.

FELLOWSHIP & GAMES
6:00 – 7:15 PM | WESLEY HALL
Love to play board games? Have a favorite card game? Join in the fun!

CRAFTING TABLE
6:00 – 7:15 PM | RM 136
Create, connect, and fellowship Wednesday nights from 6–7:15 p.m. with fellow hobbyists! Color, paint, crochet, craft, or bring your own project. Look for this group in Room 136.

SWEET SPIRIT
5:30 – 7:00 PM
Ongoing Bible study for women in their 20's–40's.
Facilitator: Melody DiClemente

GROWING IN GRACE
6:15 – 7:00 PM
Ongoing Bible study for women in their 30's & 40's.
Facilitator: Catherine Pair

DROP-IN SERMON DEEP DIVE
6:00 – 7:15 PM
On Wednesday nights, Asbury pastors will lead a deep-dive class on the current sermon series. First time? No big deal! This class is designed so you can drop in anytime!

ENGLISH CLASSES
5:30 PM
English classes are offered on Wednesdays. In addition to classes, we offer students support, a meal, and fellowship. Want to help? You don't have to have teaching experience–a welcoming presence is enough! Email Missions Coordinator Brooke Wolde (brooke.wolde@asburybham.org).

WALKING GROUP
6:15 PM
Fall is here – enjoy the cooler weather and expanse of Asbury's beautiful campus. Join Pastor Margaret Grubic for post-dinner walks weekly at 6:15. Move, breathe, pray.

SUNDAYS

WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00 AM

Asbury offers Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:30 and 11:00 AM and Modern Worship at 11:00 AM in Williams Chapel. Nursery care is available for infants through preschoolers. Children's Church is offered for kindergarten through second graders during 8:30 and 11:00 AM worship, except on first Sundays.

Worshiping online? 11:00 AM Traditional and Modern Worship services are live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook (@asburybham) every week.

VESPERS

SUNDAYS AT 4:00 PM | BEGINNING FEB. 21, 2027

On Sunday afternoons, Asbury will gather for Vespers, a new worship gathering centered around **Word and Table.**

Because Vespers happens at 4:00 PM, there is room for what comes next: sharing a meal, meeting new people, joining a Community Group, or simply lingering together.

Word. Table. Silence. Community.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45-10:45 AM

INFANTS & PRESCHOOL

Located across from Williams Chapel. Nursery care and Bible lesson is available for infants through preschoolers.

KIDS

Kindergarten through 5th grade kids meet in RM 214 for welcome, worship, and Bible lesson. Afterwards, they go to grade-specific classrooms for activities and small-group discussion.

STUDENTS

945

Students meet in the Student Worship Space, and will break out into Middle and High School classes for Bible studies and discussions.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

RMS 104-105. Confirmation is a year-long faith journey, typically for sixth graders. Confirmands meet weekly during the 9:45 AM Sunday School hour.

ADULTS

ADULT SINGLES

RM 129. Age: 55+. For those divorced, widowed, or blissfully unattached. Contact: Nicole Williams at nicole.williams@asburybham.org.

AGAPE

RM 126. Age: 50+. For adults with older children or who are empty nesters. Contact: Elan Feagin at epfeagin@gmail.com.

CHALLENGERS

RM 132. Age: 50+. This class is primarily adults embracing empty nest or retirement. Contact: Janet O'Neil at jhallnews@mac.com.

CROSSROADS

RM 128. Age: 40s and 50s. Couples and adults seeking a rich spiritual life are welcome! Contact: Angel McPhearson at mcphearsonangel@gmail.com.

FOUNDATIONS

RM 127. This class is for young adult couples looking to build their faith foundation together. Contact: Amy Courtney at amy.florine@gmail.com.

FRIENDSHIP

RM 142. Age: 70+. Married, single, or widowed seniors growing together. Contact: Myra Smith at nurse_mas@charter.net.

JOURNEYMEN

RM 144. Age: 60+. For men, women, couples, singles, empty nesters, and grandparents. Contact: Bob Gilbert at rmgilbertjr@aol.com.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

RM 120. Wives, grandmothers, empty nesters, and single women come together to study God's word. Contact: Ellen Thompson at thompson7835@bellsouth.net.

L.I.G.H.T.

RM 133. Age: 45+. Geared toward couples parenting teens to college-age kids. Contact: Melissa Franklin at mkaf0812@gmail.com.

REFLECTIONS

RM 136. This class is for those who love to read and is for all ages and stages in life. Contact: Nicole Williams at nicole.williams@asburybham.org.

SEEKERS

RM 122. Diverse class of empty nesters and retirees. Contact: Mike Northrup at miken@amfirst.org.

ASBURY KiDS

ASBURY KiDS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

WEDNESDAYS
6:00 – 7:15 PM
All children are invited to know and experience God's love through an engaging Bible lesson, and small groups on Wednesday nights. Plus, every month we do Wandering Wednesdays – special outings just for preteens (fourth and fifth graders). See more to the right.

WANDERING WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 21
6:30 – 7:15 PM | BONFIRE @ ASBURY
For Asbury KiDS of all ages. We'll be having a bonfire on campus complete with s'mores!

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 18
6:30 – 7:15 PM | FREDDY'S
For Asbury KiDS 4th and 5th graders. We're headed to Freddy's for a treat and fellowship!

SURPRISE SUNDAY

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 18
9:45 – 10:45 AM | GYM
Asbury KiDS Surprise Sundays have a special surprise theme for the day during the Sunday school hour.

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 22
9:45 – 10:45 AM | RM 214
November's Surprise Sunday is Friendsgiving! Invite a friend to come along with you to church!

GINGERBREAD BUILD-OFF

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 9
6:00 – 7:15 PM | WILLIAMS CHAPEL
Come one, come all! Bring your family and friends and join us for a Gingerbread Build-Off. Judges will determine Best Build of our confectionary compeitors PLUS we'll have hot chocolate and sing carols while enjoying some friendly fun competition together! **This is the final Wednesday night of the year.**

ASBURY KiDS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 20
11:00 AM | WILLIAMS CHAPEL
Asbury KiDS presents their annual Christmas pageant during Modern Worship at 11 AM. Christmas Pageant practices will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 28. More info to come in Kids Newsletter. **All kids welcome to participate.** It is a "y'all come" event where kids get to choose to be angels, animals, wise people, or shepherds to help us bring the story to life.

RESET STUDENTS

Asbury RESET exists to close the gap between life and faith by showing students how to Know God, Grow in faith, and Go share the Gospel.

945

9:45 - 10:45 AM | STUDENT WORSHIP SPACE

On Sunday mornings in Student Worship Space, we break into middle and high school classes for a lesson and discussion after a main group game. Middle Schoolers: you're in Room 113 with a discussion-driven class that pairs meaningful conversations about faith with interactive, hands-on activities. High Schoolers: you're working through an immersive, two-year Bible study that takes us through the entire story of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.

RESET SUNDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY NIGHTS | STUDENT WORSHIP SPACE

Each week, students eat, play games, and grow together in faith. Whether that's a student-led worship night like UNITED, a game night, a service night, or even a surprise night, this is a great way for all teenagers to grow in community and faith together. Any off-campus excursions will be communicated prior to the event.

LIFE GROUPS

VARIOUS TIMES | VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Life Groups are the heart of RESET. Life Groups are a place where students are reminded of who they are, whose they are, and that they never have to walk through life alone. God created us for genuine, life-giving relationships, and that's why we have Life Groups! There are age and gender-specific Life Groups for every phase of students' journeys. Middle School LGs meet in the Youth Space from 6-7:15 PM weekly. High School LG's meet off campus at various times.

CONFIRMATION

9:45 - 10:45 AM | RMS 104 - 105

Confirmation is a year-long journey designed to help students explore, deepen, and take ownership of their faith. Confirmands meet each Sunday at 9:45 AM in the RESET Student Space during the Sunday School hour. In addition to weekly gatherings, students participate in weekend retreats each fall and spring, creating opportunities to reflect on their beliefs, ask questions, and grow in their relationship with God. In May, students have the opportunity to become full members of The United Methodist Church and Asbury.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

OCTOBER 9 - 12 | EPWORTH BY THE SEA

We're heading to the coast! Get ready for an awesome weekend at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island, GA, where we'll grow closer to God, build lasting friendships, and have plenty of fun along the way!

To learn more about RESET Student Ministry, contact Director Rev. Austin Lerner-Gay or scan the QR code.

adults

BIBLE STUDIES & GROUPS

THE SEARCHERS
10:00 AM – NOON | RM 122
This men's Bible study meets each Thursday. Learn and know God more intimately through the study of His Holy Word. Facilitator: Larry Beaury.

BY FAITH
6:00 – 7:00 PM | RM 126
This women's Bible study meets the first and third Monday of each month for fellowship and study. Facilitator: Elan Feagin.

UMW NAOMI CIRCLE
9:30 – 11:30 AM | RM 128
United Methodist Women circle meets the first Tuesday of each month. Circle Leader: Lori Cheney.

UMW MARTHA CIRCLE
5:00 PM | RM 133
United Methodist Women circle meets the second Tuesday of each month. Circle Leader: Deborah Higgins.

UMW ESTHER CIRCLE
9:30 – 11:00 AM | RM 120
United Methodist Women circle meets the third Monday of each month. Circle Leader: Joan Chandler.

UMW CRAFT DAY
9:30 – 11:30 AM | RM 120
All three UMW circles meet the second Monday of each month for hands-on mission work.

LADIES OF LIGHT
1:00 – 2:30 PM | RM 144
This women's Bible study meets every Wednesday. Study God's word and mirror His character to keep our lights burning for others. Facilitator: Kim Nolen.

LOVING HANDS KNITTING
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | RM 120
This congregational care ministry meets every Friday to knit, crochet, and fellowship.

LESSLEY BIBLE STUDY
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | RM 128
This women's Bible study meets every Wednesday. Overcome obstacles and focus on being your best self with God's help. Facilitator: Kim Lessley.

ROOTED
7:00 – 8:00 AM | RM 136
This men's Bible study meets every Friday. Fellowship and study with scriptural roots that help us stay grounded. Facilitator: KC Nolen.

MEAT & GREET
6:00 – 8:00 PM | SCOUT HUT
This casual, relaxed men's fellowship meets every Thursday. Bring meat to grill. Facilitator: Dave Driscoll.

PICKUP BASKETBALL
6:30 – 8:00 PM | GYM
Guys (19+) are invited to play basketball on Monday nights in the gym. Ends Nov. 2 while Upward basketball in session.

PICKLEBALL
2:30 – 4:30 PM | GYM
For all ages. Play is every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday. Contact Nancy Hollaway at nhollaway54@gmail.com.

CHAIR YOGA
9:00 – 10:15 AM | SANCTUARY
Increase balance, flexibility, & agility with this therapeutic class that meets each Monday. Bring your own mat. Cost: $5.00 per class.

COMMUNITY GROUPS
VARIOUS TIMES & LOCATIONS
Community Groups are trusted spaces where people can bring their questions about God, the Bible, and their own lives. Some groups meet at Asbury, while others gather off-campus throughout the greater Birmingham area.

heart connection

UPCOMING OUTINGS

LUNCH @ JEFF STATE CULINARY INSTITUTE
OCTOBER 1 | 11:15 AM
Adults 60+ will be dining at Jeff State's Culinary Institute. We will depart from Asbury at 11:15 AM. Registration for this event is now closed.

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR
RED MOUNTAIN THEATRE
DECEMBER 12 | 1:15 PM DEPARTURE
It's an annual celebration of everything we love about the season, from chaotic joy to quiet warmth, all tied up with a big sparkly bow. Seventy-five performers take the stage for classic carols and modern music.The cost (includes ticket and transportation) is $50. Registration open now! RSVP by November 27.

ASBURY IS ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA

40TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Join us Sunday, Nov. 22 as we remember the great things God has done and celebrate the new things God is doing—baptizing us into a new season of commitment to Jesus as we embody His way, together!

BEFORE THE CELEBRATION:

Take a vial from the red resource table, fill it with water from your home or a sacred place, and bring it back to church on any Sunday in November. During 8:30 and 11:00 AM worship on Asbury's Birthday, Sunday, Nov. 22, we'll use the water as we remember our baptism together.

NEVER BEEN BAPTIZED AT ASBURY OR ANOTHER CHURCH?

We invite you to formally accept the grace that baptism proclaims in worship on Sunday, Nov. 22. To schedule your baptism, email info@asburybham.org by Nov. 15.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

Worship: Laity-led worship, special moments, and a baptism remembrance in Traditional at 8:30 and 11:00 AM and Modern Worship at 11:00 AM.

Fellowship: What's a birthday without cake? Join us in the gym for a come-and-go fellowship hour (and cake!) from 9:30-10:45 AM with Asbury charter members, and current and former pastors including Rev. Mitchell Williams and Rev. Greg Foust.

40 years together

Asbury is *always* a good idea.

Forty years ago, a good idea formed in Birmingham: a church where people could come together to worship, serve their neighbors, and grow in faith. On November 23, 1986 , Rev. Mitchell Williams and 148 founding members gathered around that good idea and began what would become Asbury United Methodist Church.

Through four decades, the faces and seasons have changed, but the heart of Asbury has remained: a welcoming community rooted in faith and a desire to serve others.

Asbury has become part of the fabric of countless lives. It has been a place where faith has been nurtured and friendships have grown, where families have celebrated life's most meaningful moments and found comfort during difficult ones. For many, memories of Asbury are woven into childhood Sundays, familiar voices in worship, conversations in the halls, and the simple joy of seeing a friend walk through the doors each week.

As we celebrate our 40th birthday, we remember with gratitude those who dreamed, built, served, taught, prayed, and loved Asbury into being, and we look ahead, trusting that the best chapters of this story are still being written.

Asbury always has been and will continue to be, a really good idea.

ANCHOR *COMMUNITY* RESPITE *MINISTRY*

Anchor Community Respite Ministry provides fellowship and stimulation to people who are living with memory loss. Anchor operates every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Asbury UMC.

The memory-loss program gives care partners a break each week to run errands, visit with friends, and rest. Care partners can participate in a monthly support group (which meets the first and third Thursday of each month) to share ideas and concerns with other care partners, as well as learn more from memory loss professionals. Care partners are invited to call and schedule a tour of the Respite Care Center prior to enrollment.

Volunteer opportunities: You don't need any special skills to volunteer at Anchor, just a willingness to love and be a friend!

SUPPORT *GROUPS*

Asbury offers several support groups for those dealing with grief, addiction, being a family member of someone struggling with substance abuse, being a caregiver, and more. Scan the QR code to learn about all of our offerings.

UNITED COUNSELING

United Counseling provides faith-based professional counseling for adults, couples, and families.

In-person sessions available at Asbury by appointment only.

Multiple counselors are available.

"HEALING HEARTS" SPOUSAL LOSS GRIEF SUPPORT

A 10-week support group for those who have recently lost a spouse. Meets each spring and fall.

Thursdays,
12:30 - 2:00 PM

Facilitator:
Community Grief Support

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP (ADDICTION)

Is a loved one struggling with Substance Use Disorder? Free trained support and education is available.

Mondays,
6:30 - 8:00 PM
Room 120

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

This ongoing group offers comfort and support for those caring for someone with memory loss due to dementia, Alzheimer's, or stroke.

1st & 3rd Thursdays,
1:00 - 2:00 PM
Room 132

Facilitator: Rev. Maggie Dunaway

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Alcoholics Anonymous is a global peer-led mutual aid fellowship dedicated to abstinence-based recovery from alcoholism through its spiritually-inclined twelve-step program.

Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays
6:30 - 7:30 PM
Room 120

music ministry

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
7:00 – 8:30 PM | WEDNESDAYS | RM 143
Experience the joy of singing and help the choir prepare for weekly performances in 11:00 AM Traditional Worship.

HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
6:00 – 7:00 PM | WEDNESDAYS | RM 141
Do you read music? Try your hand at ringing handbells. The Handbell Choir plays occasionally in Traditional Worship.

BEGINNER HANDBELL CHOIR
10:00 – 11:00 AM | THURSDAYS | RM 141
We are now offering a beginner handbell choir for those just starting out! Try something new!

ASBURY MUSIC CONSERVATORY
VARIED TIMES | MUSIC SUITE
Asbury offers voice and piano lessons for students of all ages.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR RETREAT
OCT 3 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Want to sing with the Chancel Choir this Christmas? Join us for a music deep-dive during our annual Choir Retreat!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
DEC 13 | 8:30 & 11:00 AM
We rejoice with singing about the birth of our newborn King! The annual Christmas Cantata is a treat for all who attend.

Contact: Nancy Beard
(nancy.beard@asburybham.org)

MODERN WORSHIP REHEARSAL
8:30 AM | SUNDAYS | WILLIAMS CHAPEL
Asbury's Modern Worship is open to anyone who is excited to serve. If you play an instrument, sing, or if you are interested in our live stream, there is a place for you! Rehearsals for those who are scheduled that week are at 8:30 AM before service at 11:00 AM.

Contact: Jeremiah Toole
(jeremiah.toole@asburybham.org)

ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL
10:10 AM | SUNDAYS | SANCTUARY
The Asbury Orchestra rehearses each Sunday morning at 10:10 AM and plays in Traditional Worship. **Do you play an instrument? Interested in joining our orchestra? Contact Nancy Beard (nancy.beard@asburybham.org) for more info!**

SAVE THE DATE:
DINNER THEATER

MARCH 5 & 6
Asbury's Dinner Theater is a two night event on March 5 & 6, 2027. Students and families attending the Costa Rica Missions Trip in 2027 (May 29–June 5) can be servers and earn money for their Youth Service Fund.

To learn more about Asbury's Music Ministry or how to get involved, contact Music Director Nancy Beard (nancy.beard@asburybham.org) or scan the QR code.

MISSIONS IN ACTION

When Asbury UMC was established in 1986, its founding members and clergy decided that on top of the 10% it gives to The United Methodist Church for ministries and outreach, Asbury would give 10% more to Birmingham and its community partners. Nearly 40 years later, Missions in Action, a church member-led committee at Asbury, identifies organizations that are serving as the hands and feet of Christ and allocates money you put in the offering plate each week in worship.

We urge you to learn more about the programs Asbury backs and choose one to support. Find out how you and your family can make a difference, whether by volunteering, making a financial contribution, or simply praying for the individuals affiliated with and impacted by each ministry.

To sign up for a specific mission event or for more information on Asbury Missions, contact Brooke Wolde (brooke.wolde@asburybham.org) or scan the QR code.

FOOD PANTRY & SHARING TABLE

Introducing Asbury's Sharing Table: a cool, air-conditioned space for our food pantry guests to fellowship, enjoy refreshments, and get clothing, household essentials, and more– free of charge.

The Food Pantry and Sharing Table are open every Wednesday from 2-3:30 PM and the first Saturday of each month from 12:30 to 2:00 PM to anyone facing food insecurity.

Since Asbury is a nonprofit organization, we can purchase food in bulk, tax free. The most effective way to help is to make a donation.

Food Donations: We also welcome nonperishable food donations like peanut butter and jelly, pasta, canned meats, and hearty soups. Please, no expired items. Plastic containers (not glass) are preferred.

Sharing Table Donations: No clothing donations are needed at this time, thank you! The biggest needs are blankets, comforters, sheets (sets not required, but please label size), towels, hand towels, and pillows. Please, no dirty or broken items.

Donations can be dropped off at the Donation Corner in our Adult Ministry Wing on Sundays or brought to the church office 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Thursday.

MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

OCT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Asbury is hosting a pumpkin patch! Every pumpkin you purchase helps a RESET student attend a mission trip or event.

Harvest Patch Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-7
Sunday 12-6

In addition, join us in Asbury's Pumpkin Patch every Saturday in October from 10-12 for family-friendly fun:

Oct. 3 – Pups in the Patch: Bring your furry friends and enjoy the pumpkin patch!

Oct. 10 – Pumpkin Play Day for Kids: Pumpkin painting, cornhole, sensory experiences & more!

Oct. 17 – Pumpkins, Pastries & Pick-Me-Ups: Enjoy cozy drinks and pastries in the patch.

Oct. 24 – Makers Market at the Pumpkin Patch: Shop local artisans and enjoy a morning in the patch.

Oct. 25 - Trunk or Treat: Rain or shine!

NOV

ANGEL TREE

This year, we are grateful for the opportunity to bless 60+ children in Shelby County with Christmas gifts! As in years past, individuals and groups may sponsor a child and shop for their gifts by selecting angels from Angel Trees outside worship. When families pick up their gifts on December 5th, we're inviting them to fellowship outside at our light "Christmas party" with refreshments and Christmas joy!

How to Adopt an Angel:

- Take a red/green angel from a tree, fill out the attached white angel and leave the white angel in the box on the table.
- Purchase suggested gift items. DO NOT WRAP.
- Place unwrapped gifts in a shopping bag and securely attach the red or green angel to the outside.Return gifts by Nov. 30.
- Sundays: Drop off items under the Angel Tree

DEC

PAPA J'S CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

Papa J's is a free Christmas shop that serves families on Grace Klein Community's Christmas waiting list, providing parents with the opportunity to select gifts for their children.

This Christmas, Grace Klein anticipates serving approximately 500–600 children. This meaningful outreach requires many caring hearts and willing hands to make it a success. Let us extend a warm Asbury welcome and support this wonderful partnership by volunteering to:

- Bring toy donations to Asbury during December for Papa J's Workshop
- Sort toy donations on December 17 after 2:00 p.m. and all day December 18
- Welcome families at the event on December 19 - Shop with families, pray with families, help replenish gifts and hospitality!

we are asbury
together