

NEWS, EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

December Donations

Asbury Food Cupboard: canned fruit; paper bags

Canton Calvary Mission: canned vegetables

Asbury Baby Box: You Choose!

Helping Hands is collecting **Acme Receipts, Aug 6 – Dec 26.** Drop in box at back of Sanctuary. The receipts can also be mailed to HHN, PO BOX 595, Waynesburg 44688

Dec 21: Look for the Bethlehem Star at 5:15 – 6pm

Dec 24: Christmas Eve service 6 pm

Dec 25: Christmas Day

Jan 11: Ad council 7pm

Please continue to be safe, follow the guidelines from medical professionals and our governor. Please continue to pray, stay in God's Word, check in on friends and neighbors. Be Blessed, Be Safe and remember you are loved and remain in our prayers.

Please share our Asbury web address or our Facebook Page. We have a unique opportunity to "Be the church" and make known the name of Jesus and his Message of Hope and Renewal in these worrisome times. Let's share His love and His wisdom far and wide! <http://www.asbury-ridgeave.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/Asbury-United-Methodist-of-East-Sparta-108275497482617>

OFFICE HOURS: 9 am – 12:30 pm. Tues-Thurs

Pastor Mike Contact Information

email: pastormike@outlook.com

Asbury 330-484-4500: asburyridgeaveumc@outlook.com

www.asbury-ridgeave.org

Pastor's Moment

The Star of Bethlehem. What do we know about this phenomenon? I know there is a beautiful song of a similar name. I know my Christmas is complete when I hear at least one rendition of this song. I prefer our Choir's version. I can hear it even now in my mind!

I also know of the story of the magi:
Matthew 2: 9b-11 (New Oxford Annotated)

...and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

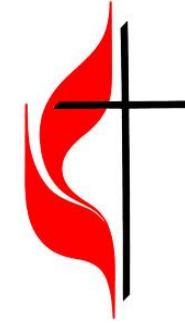
This year I have learned even more about this star. It is a rare occasion when Jupiter and Saturn align so close together. In fact, the last time was close to 800 years ago in 1226. The planets are actually over 400 million miles away from earth (the distance has never been actually measured) but will appear to be very close to earth. This year, 2020, The Star of Bethlehem will be visible between Dec 16 and Dec 25 on the horizon in the Southwestern sky. Look for it especially on December 21, the winter solstice, at 5:15 – 6:00 pm.

This year, 2020, God has chosen that this rare phenomenon will happen. Just in time to let us know who really is in charge. Just in time to bring Christians peace. Just in time to restore our faith. Just in time to let us know we are loved.

Dear Lord, Thank You.

Sharon

Merry Christmas



ASBURY

United Methodist Church
7344 Ridge Ave SE
East Sparta, Ohio 44626



Pastor Mike Bradford

December 20, 2020

*Asbury's mission is
to serve God, to make disciples,
and bring faith into the community.*

Order of Worship

Sunday, December 20, 2020

*Those who are able, please stand.

Greeting & Announcements

Please remember to maintain social distance and wear your face mask. Thank you

Prelude

Lighting of Advent Candle *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Call to Worship *Psalm 147:1-11*

Leader: Praise the LORD!

Congregation: How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

Leader: The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.

Congregation: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Leader: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

Congregation: Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

Leader: The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.

Congregation: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp.

Leader: He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.

Congregation: He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

Leader: His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man;

All: The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Children's Moment

Children will remain in their seats for today's video clip

Sharing of Praises & Concerns

There will be no microphone. Please stand up to address the congregation so that all may hear better. Thank you

Hymn *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Pastoral Prayer

Today's Video

Today's Message

John 1:1-14

"Celebration!: He Is Coming"

Sending Forth/Sending the Light

Hymn *Joy to the World*

Benediction

Prayer Requests

ASBURY,
Keith & Melanie B, Shelva G, Karlene R Family,
Gordon & Penny L, Greg & Nancy M family,
Joni N, Jami O, Theresa P, Lee R, Donna S, Stan T

*ASBURY FRIENDS

Jim & Cathy B, Jimmy B, Karen B, Chris Burwell & family,
Doyle C, Lisa C, David J, Peggy J, Joel R, Philip S,
Bob S, Miranda and Isaiah,
and our nation and our world.

HOMEBOUND & SKILLED CARE RESIDENTS

Barbara B, Chet B, Chuck F, Florence H,
Della J, Joan S, Anna T.

REMEMBER OUR TROOPS

Austin B, Ana R, Jacob R, Kyle R, Lloyd R,
Brian R, Joe S.

This week let us pray for everyone. As this pandemic goes on, our psyches are under attack. Our socialization is down. Our sense of togetherness is gone. We feel as if we are all alone. But we all know we are not alone. God is holding us in his arms through this storm. Lean on him and please, lean on each other. We need both.

*Attendance for December 13, 2020
Worship 29*

2020 ASBURY FINANCE UPDATE

Needed each week -- \$1,650

Collected last week -- \$1,367

