Mary is one of the greatest people in the Bible. We don't worship her, but let's not dismiss or ignore her, either. This young woman did not volunteer for such a major disruption to her life. The angelic announcement was shocking. She was not prepared to be the mother of the Messiah. She was "greatly troubled." She "tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be." The angel reassured her with what angels always tell people, "Do not be afraid." The angel's kind and favorable greeting helped her remain calm. Mary listened and asked, "How can this be?" After all, she was a virgin. The angel comforted her with the "Comforter," the Holy Spirit, "one called alongside to help."

Becoming a parent is disruptive. Having a baby, a calling or a major lifechange causes us to enter a discernment process. We must evaluate our choices. What used to be important may be less so now. Mary's relative, Elizabeth, experienced this too. Elizabeth's son, who became "John the Baptist," was Jesus' forerunner. Mary and Elizabeth became mothers for the first time, but even more so, they became vital to God's magnificent story.

An essentialist asks, "Where should I put my limited resources today?" Mary's response to the unbelievable news was one of faith and obedience. Verse 38 says it so well, "And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.'" The Lord used a host of people to make it possible for Jesus to become flesh and blood and move into the neighborhood. He needed a family to birth, nurture, teach, and provide for Him. As such, Mary had a unique relationship with Him, and an essential role in Jesus' life. Mothers are to do that for their children. Mary is an amazing model. Because she was willing to be used by God, she answered with her own unique response. The kingdom of God is made of people willing to serve and follow Him.

# APPLICATION:

What do you think God saw in Mary that He chose her to be the mother of Jesus? What can we learn from her willingness to serve God is such a radical way? What is God calling you to do? Are you willing to be used by God? What is your essential role to help others follow Jesus?

## MESSAGE
**Luke 1:26-38**

**Senior Pastor**
Tom Harrison

## SCRIPTURE READINGS:

**THE OVERLOOKED**

| | |
|---|---|
| **DEC. 6** | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| **DEC. 7** | Zechariah 4:1-10 |
| **DEC. 8** | Matthew 2:13-18 |
| **DEC. 9** | Matthew 2:19-23 |
| **DEC. 10** | Luke 2:1-7 |
| **DEC. 11** | Luke 4:16-30 |

# WAYS TO GIVE:

**Electronic Giving**
asburytulsa.org/give

**Online Bill Pay**
Name and address on the check

**Mobile:**
Text the word "asburygive" to 73256

**Cash or Check:**
Offering box or any time in the main office or the South Guest Services Desk.

# SUNDAY MORNING

**9:30 & 11 am**

**9:30 am**
Asbury Students Center

**8, 9:30 & 11 am**
Check **asburytulsa.org/communities** for full listing

## Christmas Candlelight Services

**Thursday, December 23 | 5 pm**

**Friday, December 24 | 3,5,7,9,11 pm**

# DECEMBER HOLIDAY EVENTS

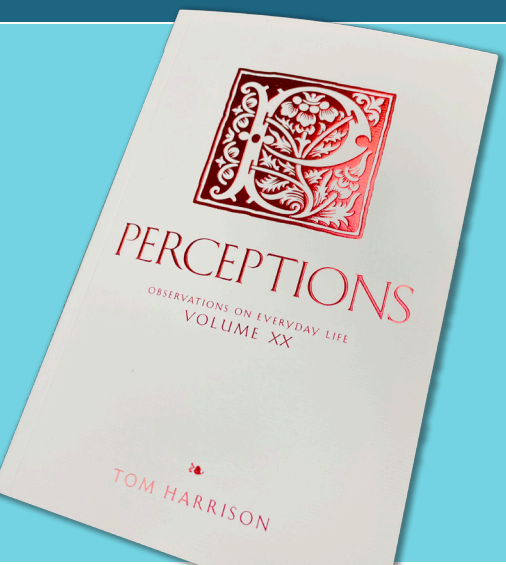
## Christmas Sing-along
TONIGHT!
6 pm | Sanctuary

## Service of Remembrance
Sunday, December 12
5 pm | Mason Chapel

## Rick Fraley Concert
Sunday, December 12
6 -7 pm | Sanctuary

## Christmas Family Bingo
Sunday, December 19
6 - 8 pm | CLC

# PICS AND PERCEPTIONS




## PERCEPTIONS BOOK SALES

*We saved the best for last…*

**Perceptions Vol. XX**
**Sundays:** CLC Gallery
**Weekdays:** Main Office
$10 each

# PHOTOS FOR CHURCH DIRECTORY

- We will be taking pictures on Sundays ONLY. (Photos will **NOT** be taken on Sunday, December 26 and Sunday, January 2)
- If you have questions, please contact Michelle Rafferty at 918.392.1122 or mrafferty@asburytulsa.org or visit **asburytulsa.org/photosignup** to sign up for an appointment. Photos will continue until Sunday, January 30, 2022.

# SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

ASBURY STUDENTS
SPRING BREAK MISSIONS

## SIGN UP TODAY!

***Last day to register!***

***asburytulsa.org/SBM***

ASBURY
2ND SATURDAY

**December 11 | 8:15 am**
**North Entrance**

**Register at**
**asburytulsa.org/2ndSatisBack**

## CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS

**Christmas Eve is one of the biggest nights of the year for Asbury and we need your help welcoming our guests!** Guest Services sign ups are located in the Family Room cafe or contact Lindi Collins at lcollins@asburytulsa.org for more information.

# CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP

## 50 YEARS

Jerry Brinkman
Ken and Beverly Capron

## 40 YEARS

Laura Keep
Lana Ortwein
Pat Powers
Bob Stone

## 30 YEARS

Emily Walton

## 20 YEARS

Jeff and Karen Davis
Frank Foreman
Rick Mickelson
Janiece Sawyer
Marland and Jennifer Thurman
Greg and Melissa Westbrook
Todd White