Dear Asbury Family,

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth." (Psalm 100:1)

This is my first Thanksgiving as your pastor, and my heart is full. Since July, you have welcomed me with open arms, and I have seen God's steadfast love all around Asbury -- in our worship, in our fellowship, and in the many ways you care for one another and for our neighbors. I am so grateful for each of you.

Thanksgiving gathers us around many different tables. Some will be crowded and noisy, and others small and quiet. Some of us come to this season full of joy, while others carry grief or worry. Wherever you are this Thanksgiving, please know that God's love meets you there, and so does the love of this church family. As we give thanks, let us also remember with gratitude the Indigenous peoples who first cared for this land.

Gratitude is at the heart of our faith. We do not give to earn God's love. We give out of gratitude, in response to God's amazing grace. In that spirit, I invite each of you to prayerfully consider a special Thanksgiving Offering this year. Think of it as a thank-you note to God for all the blessings of this year, both big and small. The Thanksgiving Offering envelop will be included in your bulletin this Sunday. Whatever you are able to give, it will be received with gratitude.

Thank you for the many ways you make Asbury a place of welcome and love. There is always room for one more at God's table, so please invite a friend to worship with us. May God's steadfast love fill your hearts and your homes with gratitude and joy, this Thanksgiving and always.

With gratitude,

Myung