Serving Others with Love

Stephen Ministers Commissioning
Sunday, May 19

We will commission our newly trained Stephen Ministers. Join us in worship, as we introduce and pray for these individuals who have been called to serve others.

Our Stephen Ministers have received 50 hours of training, and are ready to provide confidential care, based on listening and prayer. They walk alongside people who are going through times of transition, pain, or loss. To learn more, see Pastor Kim, Sharmyn Crawford, Jan Stevenson, or Dale Boercker.

Habitat for Humanity - Concord Rehab
May 4, 11, and 18, 2013

This is a fun, rewarding Habitat Project! We have started work on rehab a condo in Concord for a Habitat family. It needs a "touch up" like we have done for other Habitat homes. Our May workdays are May 4th, 11th and 18th. Join us if your schedule permits.

All skill levels welcome. For more information about what we are doing or to signup, contact Steve Elliott.
Most of the pastor’s columns in this newsletter and others have to do with “how to be the church,” “what it means to be a Christian,” “how to be more vital in your faith,” “what to do to be more relevant in our time,” etc.

As I consider what I might say about any of those subjects, I find my pen drying up. (That’s a metaphor because I’m actually typing on my laptop.)

In this season of Easter, when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, there are two events which taint the atmosphere of our nation and national character. They happened this week, and I would be remiss, as one of your pastors, not to share my deep sadness and anger about these issues.

We can consider our stances of faith as far removed from issues of national (or local politics), but we are deluding ourselves.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," said Martin Luther King, Jr. "No man is an island, entire of itself, we are all a piece of the continent, a part of main," wrote John Donne over three and a half centuries ago.

We feel pain for the father of little eight year Matthew, who died in the first blast at the Boston Marathon, whose wife and daughter are still dealing with grievous injuries. Little Matthew has been shown with a sign saying: "no more hurting people" (accompanied with a peace sign). He becomes everyone’s little boy and grandson, and brother.

We put forward the full resources of the local, state and federal governments to find the perpetrators. We hear Massachusetts Governor Duval Patrick talk about "accountability without vengeance" but our anger and fear won’t be easily assuaged. We want justice, and we want it swiftly. Some yellow journalistic newspapers and cable news networks rush to judgment and accuse men from Muslim countries. Eventually reason, we hope, will win out.

But. But, when we seek to deal with issues around the abuse of guns, the abuse of the second Amendment to allow the purchase of any firearm, at any time, ignoring the need for accountability and failure to attend to broad-based, common-sense, solutions to keep guns from the hands of criminals and the mentally impaired, we accept political cowardice and self-preservation by our political leaders.

90% of the American people wish to have background checks for gun purchases. But barely 50% of the elected Senators have the courage of their convictions. More willing to sacrifice our children (and they are your children, like Matthew is your child) than risk their political office they vote not to vote.

I'm tired of cowardice. I’d love to see more political courage. I’m sharing with you my moral outrage with those who are willing to put people at risk in order to keep power.

Does God approve of this kind of behavior? Does anyone who is a Christian think that an unfettered "right" and profiteering from producing tools that are designed to kill – animals or humans – is a greater value than the life of one innocent?

I'm not sure where you are on the issue of common-sense gun regulations, or other political issues. I acknowledge that there will not be complete agreement on these or other issues. However, this is what I think and feel and how I intend to spend some extra $$ and where I want to expend my influence with politicians (as meager as it might be). I won’t hide behind the moderation and parsing of ideas so common to pastors.

This is who I am: a follower of Jesus Christ, who believes that lack of action on issues of sensible gun solutions, ignoring the plight of the poor, acting like climate change is a joke, marginalizing people because of their sexual identity, making capitalism a god, is wrong. I will now, and I will in the years remaining in my life, do what I can to move society toward justice, equality and peace. I hope you’ll join me — in whatever ways you can.

As Christians we can't live in expectation and hope of an eternal future without an investment in our collective, temporal future. For Matthew, for Sandy Hook, for victims yet to be — God bring peace.

Grace and peace,
Chuck
Help Wanted

First Presbyterian Church, Livermore seeks a dynamic, detail-oriented individual for its Director of Church Operations.

This individual will serve in executive function to the Head of Staff/Senior Pastor as well as being responsible for the overall operation of the church office. The Director will have strong leadership, administrative and relational skills as team leader for our non-program staff. As the primary liaison with groups in the community and within the church, the Director will need excellent communication skills.

Other responsibilities include maintaining the calendar and overseeing the usage and maintenance of church building and grounds. Information Technology skills, church office experience and an active Christian faith are highly desired qualifications.

Please e-mail all resumes and inquiries to Steve Wilde, steve@fpcl.us.

A Church Divided

A Church Divided, a documentary produced by KQED, asks the question, “Is homosexuality compatible with Christian teaching?” The question is fiercely debated in the United Methodist Church.

This documentary interviews clergy and church participants in northern California, and follows them to General Conference. At General Conference, a world wide gathering of United Methodists, the debate continues.

We will watch this documentary and discuss it on Sunday, May 5, at 10:30 a.m., in Conference Room. The documentary is 30 minutes long, and will be followed by a discussion.

See Pastor Kim for more information. You can contact her at 925-447-1950, ext 102.

Prayer Partner

In June of 2012, Pastor Kim invited us to pray for our children’s and youth ministry. Each month we had a different focus. As we complete our year of prayer, let's give thanks for all the adults make these ministries possible: Staff members Yosh Nakajima and Tina Morris; Sunday School teachers, choir directors, parents, volunteers. You are a blessing!
Asbury Community Events

Tapestry: Vocal and Handbell Ensemble
Memorable Melodies from Beethoven to Rock

- **May 3, 2013**—Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, Walnut Creek. There will be a reception with homemade pie, cookies, and fruit after this performance.
- **May 4, 2013**—Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church, Clayton
- **May 11, 2013**—Faith Lutheran Church, Castro Valley

All performances are at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. The concerts are in support of The Alzheimer's Association. For more information, visit www.tapestryringersandsingers.org or call 925-398-8433.

"The Five Wishes" Workshop

**Sunday May 5, 2:00 p.m.**

End-of-life issues are challenging. Decisions about what level of treatment you wish; what you want your family to know; how you want to be cared for. These are important to consider and settle well ahead of time.

This workshop will last about 90 minutes and is going to utilize an excellent workbook to help you work through the issues. A video, the workbook and conversation will give you a great start at helping make your wishes known.

This isn't something just for seniors, but for younger people, for those who have parents that are aging: anybody who wishes to address issues that might arise down the road. And for many, these issues do arise and become very impactful. There is no cost, reservations aren't required—the time is 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 5 in the Fellowship Hall. Guests are welcome.

Senior and Retiree Luncheon

**Thursday, May 6, 2013, 12:00 p.m.**

For the cost of only a five dollar bill you can have a wonderful lunch, enjoy fellowship and good conversation, and hear the Heritage Estates Chorus sing show tunes and spring songs. Directed by Jean Braun and accompanied by Mary Burnham the Chorus will be our guest and will deliver a delightful program. Invite a friend—it's only $5.00!

All Church Pot Luck and Game Night

**Saturday, May 11, 2013, 6:00 p.m.**

Bring your favorite dish to share and have fun playing games with your fellow Asburyites. Fun for the whole family!

Eighth Annual Asbury Golf Tournament

**Saturday, June 1, 2013**

Hit the driving range! Gather your friends and family! Save the date! The 8th Annual Asbury Golf Tournament will be Saturday, June 1st at Las Positas Golf Course. Tee-time is 11:30 AM. A buffet dinner will follow at Beeb's Restaurant.

We will play a "scramble" format, so men, women, and youth of all skill levels are invited to join the fun. Entry fee will include 18 holes of golf with cart, range balls, dinner, and (because we all need them!) "score helpers". More information about cost and registration can be found in the Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Tony Gnecco.

Asbury Church Camp

**August 15-18, 2013**

Our annual Church Camp at Lake Tahoe is Thursday through Sunday August 15-18. LARPD's Camp Shelley is a wonderful location and we have the entire camp to ourselves for three nights, Thursday through Saturday. Campers can arrive on Thursday afternoon and stay through Sunday morning. Camp sites are large, there is a restroom with showers on site. Our activities are varied and voluntary. The Camp is about a mile away from the southwest side of the lake. Signups for empty sites begin on Sunday, April 28 during Coffee Fellowship. The cost is $125 per camp site. Once the 25 sites are all taken then campers can share their site with others and share the cost.
Personal Notes

In December, on the Sunday following the tragedy at Newtown, Connecticut, many, many Asbury folks took time to write short notes of condolence and offer prayers for that community. They were sent to the local UMC – this past week a card came back to you. Here it is in full:

To Asbury UMC, Rev. Chuck Johnstone:

In the midst of our tragedy in Sandy Hook, your thoughtfulness was truly appreciated. Your gift was a symbol of comfort to our community in the face of great loss. We ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers. You have already touched us profoundly.

With deep thanks in Christ,

The People and Staff of Newtown United Methodist Church

Thank you for being a faithful, and faith-filled community, centered in Jesus Christ.
Pastor Chuck

I wanted to express my deepest thanks to so many people at Asbury who have reached out to Joanne and me over the last year. Joanne has had five undiagnosed “events” since December 2011 through July last year, in a specific area in her brain which has caused a variety of problems from difficulty speaking, weakness, balance and paralysis. The doctors cannot figure out why it happened, and there doesn’t appear to be any effective treatment. It’s unknown how permanent it is. She continues to improve very slowly, and we’re thankful for every tiny improvement.

We are extremely grateful for all the love, prayers, support, visits, meals, calls, and cards from so many of you. Many have come over to walk with Joanne or help in her beloved garden, which has been such a gift to her.

We continue to push forward and I have been encouraging Joanne to walk, exercise, and not just give up hope. Your support, prayers and love have gotten us through an extremely difficult time and continue to help Joanne improve.

The photo is of us with Cindy, an 11 year old rescue dog that we adopted a week ago. She’s now a walking companion and company for Joanne during the day to help her continue on the path to improvement.

Tom Petty
Youth Ministry

Conference for Youth and Young Adults

Asbury is going to host a conference event for youth and young adults. A “Stop Hunger Now” event for youth and young adults will be held on the denomination's "Change the World Day" on Saturday, May 18, at Asbury United Methodist Church, Livermore, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with lunch provided. Groups that would like to participate need to collect pledges/donations to pay for meals. Cost for the meals are 25¢ each and the goal is for 10,000 meals.

To learn more about the program, log on to www.stophungernow.org. or see our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Yosh Nakajima.

Youth Events

- **May 18**—Conference work day at Asbury! Youth from around the conference will be here to do a day of work finishing with a youth led worship service! Don't miss it!
- **May 19**—Last day for Youth Group
- **June 2**—Home Groups at the Howe's!
- **June 9**—Field trip to Grace Cathedral in SF
- **June 22-26**—Urban High School Mission Camp
- **July 7-12**—Middle School and Elementary School Camp @ Monte Toyon near Santa Cruz
- **July 15-19**—VBS!
- **July 21-27**—SSP :)

Our Two Cents

Two brief updates on giving from the Finance Committee:

Thanks to many who have already paid their 2013 pledge in full already, donations for the first three months have exceeded expenses.

**January-March 2013**

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The remaining debt on the Fellowship Hall is down to approximately $250,000 as well!

Please continue to faithfully contribute toward your yearly pledges.

The Easter offering totaled just over $3100. Thank you for your generous support of the Asbury youth mission trips.

Tony Gnecco
Greetings, all. Parents, if you haven't put away all those plastic Easter eggs and have storage challenges, please feel free to bring them to room 7. We can store them and reuse them next year.

The next two big Items in Children's Ministries include preparations for Summer Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

We have a wonderful and dedicated cadre of volunteers that work with the kids each week during the school year. The best way to say thank you to them and to show your support for the kids at Asbury is to say, “Yes!” to volunteering for summer Sunday school, giving our regular group some time off.

This is such a rewarding experience. We use a rotation model in the summer months with the kids being divided up into fairly equal sized groups. They then rotate through stations such as Bible Stories, Games, Crafts, Music and such.

We are looking for 30 volunteers who will give one hour, one Sunday this summer to the kids. Please say, “Yes!” and look for the Asbury Kids information table in the Fellowship Hall after church. You may also contact me at 925-447-1950 ext. 105.

Vacation Bible School will take place July 15-19. We are blessed to already have all the station leaders secured, but are looking for volunteers to serve as age/grade level guides and to fill in spots at the different stations.

It would be helpful to also get a crew ready to provide the lunch on the last day, July 19. Our terrific group of youth really shine and do more than their fair share during VBS.

This is the first call to adults and youth. So, again, please look for the sign up table or contact me to help out.

Club 56 has service projects lined up for April 28 and May 5. On those two Sundays, we need the kids here at 5:00 p.m. sharp. We need the extra time to drive to our work site and get the work done. We will return to church in time for snack supper those nights.

Please have your kids dress for work those Sunday evenings.

Club 56 will not meet on Mother's Day, May 12, and our last get together will be a swim party and BBQ at my house on May 19. Kids should bring bathing suits, towels and dry clothes. We will stick to our regular time of 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Finally, we have employment opportunities for Nursery Workers. We especially need workers for Friday mornings. This is a paid position. Please note that we welcome applications for those interested in working each Friday or those who are willing to work an occasional Friday. Please see me or Susan Danan for an application.

I would like to publicly thank Caitlin Tripp for her tireless volunteerism with the kids at Asbury. Caitlin teaches every Sunday and also works in the nursery when her schedule allows. We are blessed to have Caitlin demonstrating her love for kids and her dedication to her church here at Asbury. If you see her, please thank her.

Thank you all for sharing your kids with me each week. They bring me great joy.

Peace,

Tina Morris
Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries

Tim and Nancy Ackerman
Rich and Jackie Bennett
Mark and Lesleyann Coker
Dan and Bernie Donovan
Charles and Emilie Runnels Fox
Peter and Deanna Frumenti
Steve and Sheryl Goodman
Karl and Rhonda Item
Chuck and Lou Johnstone
Mark Lee and Susan Edgar-Lee
Dave and Jackie Schlientz
Ray and Pam Spooner
Erik and Dayna Taylor
Michael and Janice Wakefield
Adam and Sarah Walker Cleaveland
Brian and Sunny Webb
Steve and Burlyne Wilson

Chelsea Allen
Linda Beach
Bob Berger
Brett Bernstein
Kevin Bernstein
Nikolas Campos
Ava Christensen
Stella Coler
Cory Coll
Atticus Cummings
Peter Danan
Susan Danan
Ashley Defenbaugh
Keith Donavan
Kelsey Dunn
Shannon Dunn
Becca Elliott
Gabe Elliott
Emilie Fox
Ruth France
Terri Gamble
Sharon Grant
Mackinna Hart
Emily Hewitt
Wilma Holbrook
Julia Item
Annalisa Juan
Rebecca Kohlmoos
Ken Lamb
Lisa LeVan
Anna Lim
Laurie Linden
Kayla Lindsay
Ron Logan
Lois Lyle
Mitchie McCammon
Marian Pine
Connor Runnels
Gretchen Rutherford
Pat Saltgaver
Karena Sanford
Alice Schell
Allen Schell
Andrea Schlientz
Caitlin Tripp
Allan Van Lehn
Zachary Wakefield
Sharon Walton
Glenda Warren
Lindy Webb
Hitomi Westfall
Rich Whipple
Kara Wiley
Burlyne Wilson
George Wilson

Birthdays

Sharon Walton
Glenda Warren
Lindy Webb
Hitomi Westfall
Rich Whipple
Kara Wiley
Burlyne Wilson
George Wilson
### Weekly Recurring Events

**Sundays**
- 9:00 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Butterfly Gardens is open
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Children and Youth Choirs, Rooms 6, 9, 10, and 12
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room
- 5:30 p.m. Club 56, Room 13
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, Room 15
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers, Rooms 11-12

**Mondays**
- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Little League, Room 10

**Tuesdays**
- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Worship Service, Rosewood Gardens
- 7:00 p.m. Alanon/Alateen, Rooms 13-15

**Wednesdays**
- 9:30 a.m. Mom’s Bible Study/Advent class, Fireside Room
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Choir, Sanctuary

**Thursdays**
- 7:45 a.m. Men’s Bible Stud/Advent class, Room 11
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Band, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

**Fridays**
- 9:00 a.m. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Modified Exercise Class, Chapel

**Saturdays**
- 8:00 a.m. Lawn Crew
- 9:00 a.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

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### May Calendar

**May 2, 2013 (Thursday)**
- 12:00 p.m. Senior Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

**May 4, 2013 (Saturday)**
- 11:00 a.m. DAR, Fellowship Hall

**May 5, 2013 (Sunday)**
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Fireside Room
- 10:30 a.m. A Church Divided Video, Conference Room

**May 11, 2013 (Saturday)**
- 6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner & Games, Fellowship Hall

**May 12, 2013 (Sunday)**
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 13
- 10:45 a.m. Finance, Conference Room
- NO Stephens Ministry Meeting

**May 14, 2013 (Tuesday)**
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Goodbye, Fireside Room

**May 18, 2013 (Friday)**
- 1:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall

**May 19, 2013 (Saturday)**
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

**May 20, 2013 (Monday)**
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, TBD

**May 26, 2013 (Sunday)**
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

**May 28, 2013 (Tuesday)**
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Goodbye, Fireside Room
Livermore Community Blood Drive
May 17, 1-7:00 p.m.
The Livermore community blood drive is now a monthly event, generally on the third Friday of the month. This makes it easier to get back on schedule if you’ve missed a date due to travel or other reasons.
Please call Tom Petty at home to have your questions answered. If you’re 17 or older (16 with parental consent), and generally in good health, you may be eligible to donate blood. Use ASBURY925 as the sponsor code at redcrossblood.org to sign up today.

www.AsburyLive.org

Church office hours are:
Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Closed for lunch.
The deadline for the next Asbury Articles is Thursday, May 23, 2013.