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Asbury Articles

Centered in Jesus Christ, we Grow in faith, Celebrate community and Serve others with love.

Christmas Events At Asbury

- December 8, 7:00 p.m.—Christmas Concert
- December 15, 5:30 p.m.—Children’s Pageant
- December 22, 3:30 p.m.—Christmas Caroling
- Christmas Eve Worship, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Concert

Come hear "the playing of the merry organ, and the sweet singing in the choir". Really! Literally! Our youth choirs will be singing "The Holly and the Ivy," which is where that lyric comes from. But more than that, all of Asbury’s children, youth and adult choirs, Asbury Ringers, First Watch, and the Asbury Band will come together to mark the season. Several of our talented instrumentalists will provide inspirational flute and organ arrangements of familiar Christmas carols.

The concert is free and open to the public. The free-will offering at the door will benefit the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which provides emergency aid to Livermore folks who need help with food, gas, rent or housing.

There will be a punch and HOMEMADE cookie reception immediately following in the Fellowship Hall. Please come and bask in the joy of the season.

Christmas Caroling

Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 3:30 p.m. to arrange carpooling and to divide into three different groups. Singers will leave at 3:45 p.m. to begin the first "gigs" at 4:00 p.m. We will be serenading folks who reside in single residences and in senior complexes. At 5:30 p.m., all groups will meet at Heritage Estates. The three groups will gather in the lobby of Building 900. We'll move into the dining room to perform a grand finale with ALL singers, while the residents enjoy their dinner. At 6:00 p.m. carolers return to Asbury's Fellowship Hall to hand in their music, and to feast on Togo's Sandwiches, fruit, and Christmas cookies.

This is a wonderful event for families to attend together, and for friends to do as a group. We will provide cookie packages to be left at each place carolers sing, so the memory of the visit will linger on. Bring any jingle bells you may have, or car keys to jingle for our rousing rendi-

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The Advent Light

I’ve never seen a lighthouse run around the coast, trying to locate every ship or vessel that might need its light. Have you? Light houses tend to stand still, and let the light shine out from within.

This Advent and Christmas season, I invite you to be like a lighthouse: a still and steady beacon of light. During the weeks ahead, it is so tempting to get caught up in the running around, trying to be everywhere, trying to be everything to everyone, trying to make the holidays perfect. Busy-ness and shopping can consume us.

This year, our theme for Advent is Wait Watchers. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we will find ways to be still and be light. As we prepare to welcome the Christ Presence into our lives in new and meaningful ways, we hope our Advent Devotional will enlighten you. Pick up your copy after worship on December 1, or at the church office during the week. The Advent Devotional offers a daily opportunity to pause, and be aware.

In worship, we’ll have a different focus each Sunday: Alert, Aware, Awake, Amazed and Announce! Join us each Sunday at 9am, for your favorite holiday music, prayer, and reflection on Scripture.

In this Holy Time, may we be Wait Watchers, filled with light.

Blessings,
Kim

Christmas Flowers

You’re invited to help provide the flowers that will decorate the sanctuary beginning Sunday, December 22. If you would like to contribute, please fill out the form below and return it to the Asbury office or the offering plate, along with your check for $10.00, by Monday December 17. Proceeds from these flowers will go to the flower fund. Make checks payable to Asbury, marked for Flower Fund #2355. If you can assist with deliveries after Christmas, please indicate below.

I/we would like to help provide Christmas flowers for the sanctuary. Attached is my check for $10.00.

I/we give these in memory of (Please print)

________________________________________________________________________

Or

I/we give these in celebration of (Please print)

________________________________________________________________________

Donor’s name___________________________________________________________ (Please print)

______YES, I will help deliver flowers to shut-ins after Christmas.

My phone number_______________________________________________________
Our Two Cents

Two quick updates from Finance Committee

Just two quick reminders from the Finance Committee.

As 2013 is coming to a close, please review your yearly pledges (both General Fund & Debt Retirement) to make sure you will be paying the pledges in full by the end of the year.

Please return your 2014 pledge cards as soon as possible. In order to create and approve a budget for next year, we need to know what our expected income will be based on your pledging.

Thank you all for your continuing financial support of the church.

Boy Scout Troop 900 Tree Lot

Asbury’s Boy Scout Troop 900 will open its annual Christmas Tree Lot on Saturday, November 30. The tree lot is located on the corner of Hillcrest Ave. and East Ave. in Livermore — just down the street from church.

Hours of Operation
• Monday-Friday from 4-9:00 p.m.
• Saturday & Sunday 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Tree selection (tax included in price)
• Douglas Fir $33
• Grand Fir $39
• Noble Fir $56

Other items for sale (tax included)
• Tree stand $25
• Mistletoe $3
• Tree green liquid $3
• Tree bags $3

Please come out this Christmas to support Troop 900 in their only fundraiser of the year.

Do You Have the Holiday Blues?

The joy of the Holiday Season can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders.

To inquire about a Stephen Minister, please contact our Stephen Minister Coordinator, Sharmyn Crawford or Pastor Kim Risedorph at the Asbury church office.
Celebrate Community

Senior/Retiree Luncheon

Thursday, December 5, 12:00 noon

Join us on Thursday, December 5 for the monthly senior/retiree luncheon. This month we will enjoy a festive ham/turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The cost is $5. We will celebrate a very special birthday. You may sign up in FH after worship or contact the office.

Women's Retreat 2014

Each year we gather to explore our faith, deepen our friendships, and enjoy some time away. The Women's Retreat this year will be back at Westminster Retreat Center in Alamo. (The proposed sale did not go through, so we get one more year there!) Save the dates, March 7-9.

Please contact Pastor Kim if you can help prepare for our Women's Retreat.

Auditions for Asbury Players

December 5, 7:00 p.m. or December 7, 10:00 a.m.

Anyone interested in performing in the Asbury Players March 2014 production is encouraged to audition for a part on either Thursday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. or Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m. Both auditions will be held in the Conference Room.

The play is "Murder's Bad, But Monday Can Kill You", a comedy by Pat Cook with parts for five women and five men. This is a wise-cracking whodunit about a Sam Spade wannabe trying to decide who the triple murderer is at the Restful Glen Psychiatric Annex. Naturally, the mystery won't be easy to solve, but it will be funny!

Performance dates will be two weekends in March, either March 7-9 and March 14-16 or March 14-16 and March 21-23, depending on the availability of the cast.

So check your March calendar for your availability and come to one of the auditions!

John McCutcheon Concert

January 12, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

Asbury is proud to have one of America's premier folk singers, song writers and story tellers, John McCutcheon. If it has strings, John can play it. With a fantastic repertoire of music written over three decades of performing and recording, John's performances are known for their passion, honesty, humor and humanity.

Join us for a Sunday afternoon: January 12 at 4:00 p.m.

Tickets are $15 for students, seniors and in advance. They will be $20 at the door. Ticket sales start November 17 after worship.

Worship Prayer Time During Advent

Praying together, and sharing our joys and concerns, is at the heart of worship. During the four weeks of Advent, we will try an approach that we hope deepens our worship experience. Special prayer cards will be available, and you are invited to fill one out. These cards will be collected and brought forward, and Pastor Chuck or Pastor Kim will read the joys and concerns. We welcome your feedback as we try this approach.
New Horizons in Haiti

The kids tumbling down the hill to greet us was a vivid, immediate reminder of why we serve our Haitian brothers and sisters. Warm hugs, a peck on the cheek and the gleeful laughter of the children fuel our enthusiasm on a hot, muggy day. We are blessed to be in this place.

Our fall mission to Haiti focused on pilot deployment of our newly conceived “school cart.” The goal was to bring electrical power, clean water and computers to two rural schools. Each cart includes solar energy power generation, a water purification system and four laptop computers.

Both pilot schools are in very primitive settings. Jean Claude’s elementary school sets on a barren, sunbaked hill above Thomas, Haiti. Funded by his own money and donations from friends, his Ecole de Lespoir (School of Hope) provides free education to 120 kids from the impoverished Village LaPaix. There is no electricity anywhere close and the nearest water is an irrigation ditch about a half mile away.

We provided Jean Claude and his staff instruction on how to operate the solar and water systems, including donation of a 300 gallon water storage tank. We introduced the laptops and related educational software to the school teachers, building on the prior preliminary training provided by our Haitian Program Manager, James Lazarre. James will also provide follow up sessions to help the teachers realize the potential of using computers in their instruction.

Our second deployment was to the Institution Mixte Foyerdivin on the outskirts of Arcahaie, a modestly sized town on National Highway One. Operated by the nearby Church of God, this school provides Grades K-6 for about 150 students in a wood framed, tarp walled, open classroom setting. We delivered the same configuration and training to an equally intrigued audience. We were quite touched by Pastor Sully’s gracious appreciation. “Thanks be to God, this is an answer to our prayers.” Our big realization was that both schools also need a reliable way to extend a noonday meal to the kids, similar to what we provide at the Methodist school we support in Thomas. The kids come to school hungry and they leave that way.

Other days were filled with many other tasks: building a third cart for deployment early in 2014; updates to the computers in the lab installed earlier this year at the Methodist Thomas School; minor plumbing and equipment repairs; and purchase/distribution of educational posters and other school supplies. It was rewarding to see the solar and water systems installed on our last trip working and how well our Haitian program team is doing. We are expectant that they will invest the time needed to move the slowly expanding schools initiative forward.

James has even launched a kids’ leadership development club and a budding scholarship program. Adult literacy and community computer classes are regularly held at the Thomas School.

Our Haitian friends feel empowered and well supported by our ongoing commitment to their success. Our role continues to evolve as one of providing thought leadership, enabling technologies, innovation, financial resources and a ministry of an encouraging presence. They do the rest.

On behalf of our program in Haiti, consider contacting anyone of us about how you might become involved. We welcome your interest.

Sincerely,
Warren McGuffin, San Ramon Valley UMC, Alamo
Doug Huey, Lynnewood UMC, Pleasanton
Zac Harris, Easter Hills UMC, Richmond
Steve Elliott, Asbury UMC, Livermore
Livermore Habitat for Humanity

We have started work on a home in Livermore on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. Our goal for December is finish preparations for reconstruction starting in January. Our upcoming workdays are December 7, 14 and 21. Time: 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Join us.

This house is the first of several rehabs planned for Livermore. The targeted recipient is a disabled veteran. Asbury is leading this fall work, so we would appreciate all the help we can get.

The address is 457 Andrews Street (just off Portola and North Livermore Avenue). Wear work clothes and closed toe shoes. Bring work gloves, lunch and water. We will supply the tools and supplies. For more information contact the church office.

Christmas Giving for Tri-Valley Haven

Our Asbury Congregation is hosting the shopping event and collecting gifts for the Tri-Valley Haven Holiday Program. TVH offers gift selection to hundreds of homeless and low income families. Clients have the opportunity to “shop” for their family from new donated gifts.

Any NEW toy, apparel or household gift, for any age, is welcome. However, our emphasis this year is on senior adults and teens. For seniors, we suggest new clothes (larger sizes are best), small value gift cards ($10 to $25) to Target, Kohls, Wal-Mart or like stores, small household appliances, bath or personal care items and hand tools.

For teens, we suggest sports equipment, sports team logo clothing, small value gift cards to Blockbuster, Jamba Juice, Old Navy or like stores, electronic games, music or video CD/DVD’s. Just bring your unwrapped give to the Giving Box in the Sanctuary or to the church office no later than Sunday, December 8th. Also, rolls of unopened wrapping paper are appreciate.

All Faiths Habitat Workday

Saturday, December 7

Join us on Saturday, December 7 for a workday at the Walnut Creek Habitat site. Our church is participating in an All Faiths Workday with a variety of other churches. Time: 8:30am to 4:00pm. This is new construction of a 10 home development near the Walnut Creek BART station.

Registration is required. Contact the church office for more information. Wear work clothes and closed toe shoes. Bring work gloves, lunch and water. All volunteers must be at least 16 years of age.

IS HOSPITALITY YOUR THING?

Please consider joining us in greeting folks on Sunday mornings as they approach the building. It can be a little bit daunting for those unfamiliar with the facility.

We would also love to invite you to host the Visitor Welcoming Table. This is a rewarding way to meet new people and answer questions about our church and community.
Intergenerational Service Project

A special thank you goes out to the 40 folks who participated in the Intergenerational service project at May Nissen Park on November 3rd. Besides some general clean-up, the crew prepped and painted six concrete table/benches that are not only used by the general public, but by the ESS kids from the local elementary school. They also painted the large metal play structure and sanded/painted the horse shoe pit. Thank you for living out our core value of serving others with love.

Participants:
- Rich, Chloe, Emily, Dylan Bennett
- Rebecca Bernstein
- Cory Coll
- Nancy Deis
- Terry & Amanda Hubner and Deja Farquhar
- Lauren, Kiara, Kiley Franklin with friends Emily and Mom
- Tony, Austin, Emily Gnecco
- Mary Ellen, Mark Olivia Howe
- Pastor Chuck Johnstone*
- Rebecca, Greta, Taber Kohlmoos
- Janet & CJ Malski
- Emma Hayes
- Tina Morris
- Tom, Joanne, Cindy Petty
- Rob, Susannah, Sarah Rudd
- Scott & LaNor Smith
- Wes Stark*
- Joyce Suter
- Burlyne Wilson
*Special thanks to Pastor Chuck and Wes for doing all the prep work on Saturday.

Thank You Letter

On behalf of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, I like to thank the Asbury United Methodist Church congregation members who volunteered their afternoon to do community service at the May Nissen Community Park on 11/3/13 Sunday. The cleaning and painting of the picnic tables, horse shoe pit area, and the large tot lot look great!

I very much like, what the young people created on the tables and how the art work presentation was done. Every time I visit the tables, I find something of interest. I have received many comments from the public and in-house staff, who appreciated what everyone had done. It is wonderful to see members of our community who help out in some way to make our quality of life a better place to live. Again, thank you and your congregation for your services to our park community.

Respectfully yours,

Stephen Boothe
Park Foreman (Pro Tem)
Parks Volunteer Coordinator
Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
What’s happening in December?

December is really busy, so Youth Groups will not meet again on Sunday nights until January.

- **December 1** – No Sunday School (communion). No youth group (recovering from eating & decorating).
- **December 8 at 9:00 a.m.** – Special Confirmation of high school/college students during worship. Please come to worship to support Caitee, Hanna, and Natalia as they are confirmed into the church.
- **December 8 at 7:00 p.m.** – Christmas Concert. If you are not in a choir, please come support your friends who are and enjoy some awesome Christmas music.
- **December 15 at 5:30 p.m.** – Christmas Pageant with dinner afterward. Please contact Tina Morris if you would like to have a part or help in any way. Lots of different ways to help.
- **December 22 at 3:30 p.m.** – Christmas Caroling. This is a great way to spread Christmas joy throughout Livermore to those who really need it. No singing talent required!
- **December ??** – Christmas Party! Chris has offered to host our Christmas Party/Gift Exchange again this year. Date to be determined. More info to come.
- **December ??** – Youth Missions meeting for parents and youth. Details to come shortly.

When and where is youth mission trip this summer?

We just found out that grades 8-12 will be serving at an SSP urban site in Stockton, CA from June 29-July 5. We will have a parent/student meeting in December to discuss the details and fundraising. More details to come.

New texting service

We have implemented a new texting service to push information/reminders out to youth and parents. You can subscribe to any of the following four different update services:

- **High School Youth** – send “@asburyhsy” to 424-273-8469
- **High School Parents** – send “@asburyhsp” to 424-273-8469
- **Middle School Youth** – send “@asburymsy” to 424-273-8469
- **Middle School Parents** – send “@asburymsp” to 424-273-8469

How can I help?

When youth groups start-up again in January, we will need volunteers to prepare & serve dinner for about 25 youth and adults at 6:30 on Sundays. Thanks to Jill Hornbeck, Ross & Kathleen Turk, Sonja Roter, Sandra Martinez, Leila & Patrick Epperson, and Rebecca Kohlmoos for providing awesome meals so far!

We are also looking for five volunteers to host Home Group dinners in 2014. We’d like to arrange one per month from January – May. Contact Tony Gnecco if you would like to help out in any way.

What's coming up?

**January 10-12** – FX West Youth Event in Santa Cruz. Save the dates! This should be a fun weekend! For more information, visit www.cnumc.org/ypmevents.
Children’s Ministry

Greetings to our Asbury Family. December is such a fun time to be involved in Children’s Ministry. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jeriah Warren and Caitlyn Biermann to the world, to our church family and to Asbury Kids!

On Sunday, November 3, we had a great turnout for the intergenerational service project at May Nissen Park. I would like to thank the following Asbury Kids for helping: Emily B, Dylan, Kiara, Kiley, Emily G, and Sarah.

The annual Christmas Pageant will take place on December 15 at 5:30 p.m. with a light soup and sandwich supper following. You won’t want to miss this event as the pageant this year features not only our young children, but also some of the youth. This year, the star of the show will be Jeriah Warren playing baby Jesus. Please plan now to attend. The pageant typically lasts about an hour which includes special prelude music played by our kids and youth. For those involved, the rehearsal schedule is available on the website. You can also pick up a hard copy in room 7 or send me an email and I will send you one. It is very important for all those involved to attend all rehearsals as they are limited in number and, therefore, critical to the success of the pageant.

Best Wishes to our friend

Susan Danan who has served as the Nursery Coordinator for the past ten years. Susan is resigning at the end of December. She plans to focus her church work as a Stephen Minister. Susan has been a faithful, dedicated, warm and loving caregiver to many infants and toddlers over the years. We will celebrate Susan’s contributions in December.

The Children’s Ministry Committee will be offering First Aid/CPR training in January. This is a 6 hour course with an hour break for lunch. The finance committee would like to completely fund this class ($100.00 per person), so please let me know if you are interested. The class will be held here at Asbury by a trainer from the American Red Cross. This opportunity is not limited to those working with children. It is appropriate for everyone. I highly encourage youth volunteers and mission workers to attend, as well.

Thank you for loaning us your kids for a little while each week. They bring great joy!

Peace and Joy,

Tina Morris

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**ASBURY UMC • LIVERMORE**

**Club 45**

**Beginning in January**, Club 45 will meet each Sunday evening at 5:30-7:00. We will enjoy games, conversation, prayer, service and end with a snack supper. We hope all 4th and 5th graders will join us—and bring a friend!

A special thank you to the Pomykal family for the popcorn machine!
Anniversaries

Tim and Patti Arnold
Bill and Frieda Cain
Darrell and Marci Christoff
Bob and Jackie Hoffman
Frank and Kris Raskauskas

Birthdays

Tim Ackerman
Cordelia Bate
Cassie Canfield
Jack Canfield
Judy Chagnon
Ethel Chong
Jim Cooper
Kirsten Cummings
Dave David
Jean Farmer
Kathy Faul
Peter Frumenti III
Maureen Gandara-Swinbank
Ashley Gibson
Christy Gibson
Stephanie Goodman
Steve Goodman
Betty Griswold
Jim Haugen
Regina Juan
Becky Kasyanov
Laura Mercier
John Muldoon
Tim Muldoon
Bertha Ng
Kathy Ng
Mary Ouellette
Joanne Petty
Kathryn Piscotty
Glynice Pomykal
Brianna Prine
Natalia Pyle
Rob Rudd
Susannah Rudd
Mariah Siebers
Colleen Sorem
Pam Tegge
Kami Teruya
Lance Tindell
Sam Tindell
Lynn Tripp
Barbara Weiss
Suzanna Whiteside
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
- 10:45 a.m. Children and Youth Choirs
- 5:30 p.m. Club 45
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers, Rooms 11-12

Mondays
- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

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. Disciple Bible Study, Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Alanon/Alateen, Rooms 13-15

Wednesdays
- 9:30 a.m. Mom’s Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Arthritis/Chronic Pain Group, Room 10
- 7:30 p.m. Faith Choir, Sanctuary

Thursdays
- 7:45 a.m. Men’s Bible Stud/Advent class, Room 11
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study, Heritage Estates
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Band, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

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

December Calendar

December 1, 2013 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Meet the Pastors, Fireside Room
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room

December 5, 2013 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Players Auditions, Conf. Room

December 7, 2013 (Saturday)
- 10:00 a.m. Asbury Players Auditions, Conf. Room

December 8, 2013 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 13
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Concert, Sanctuary

December 15, 2013 (Sunday)
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room
- 5:30 p.m. Children’s Pageant, Sanctuary

December 16, 2013 (Monday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Anita’s Mexican Restaurant, 2124 Railroad Avenue

December 20, 2013 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

December 22, 2013 (Sunday)
- 3:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling, meet in Fellowship Hall

December 24, 2013 (Tuesday)
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

Asbury UMC Staff
Pastor
Chuck Johnstone
Pastor
Kim Risedorph
Children’s Ministry Director
Tina Morris
Youth Director

Music Director
G. Allen Schell
Choir Coordinator
Jean Braun
Secretary
Terri Gamble
Nursery Coordinator
Susan Danan

www.AsburyLive.org

Church office hours are:
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Closed for lunch.

The deadline for the next Asbury Articles is
Thursday, November 21, 2013.