Season of Advent

Advent Schedule
- December 7, 7:00 p.m.: Advent Concert
- December 14, 5:30 p.m.: Christmas Pageant
- December 24, 7:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service
- December 24, 11:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service

Taste and See Advent Study
Come taste and see the familiar story of Christmas in a new way! Let's walk into the story together alongside Mary and Joseph and discover how these Christmas stories speak God's message of hope into our lives this Advent season.

Pastor Chelsea will lead an Advent study from 10:35-11:30 a.m. December 7, 14, and 21 in the high school youth room.

Candlelight and Prayer
Are you looking for a way to pause, refresh, and connect with God this Advent season? Come drop by the Sanctuary from 7-9:00 p.m. on Monday, December 22.

Pray through prayer stations, enjoy a hot beverage, and find yourself filled with God's everlasting presence, the best gift of the season.
“The busy-ness of the holiday season can overrun the sense of the sacred. The irony is that we push aside the Holy in order to create all the trappings of a season meant to celebrate the Holy! We will begin our Advent journey toward Christmas by emphasizing the gift of God in the 'right now'... the gift of sacred time we give to God, to family and friends and to those in need of help.”

Marcia McFee

It’s true, isn’t it?! We can get so busy, we put aside the Holy. This year, as we prepare for Christmas, I invite you to:

- Pick up an Advent Devotional book after worship or in the church office. Let Scripture and prayer be a part of your day.
- Join Pastor Chelsea and others for a class after worship and reflect on the meaning of the season: the arrival of the holy in our lives.
- Be in worship, pause and refresh, 9:00 a.m. on Sundays
- Attend the Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. Let music, laughter, and cookies soothe your spirit and nourish you.
- Take in the Children’s Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 17, 5:30 p.m., and hear the Christmas message in fresh (and adorable) ways.
- Take a moment for yourself, Monday, December 22, anytime between 7-9:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room.

There will be candles, prayer stations, and peaceful quiet. Stop by, pray, and welcome the holy into your life.
- Ease up on the craziness of shopping, and use our Alternative Christmas Gift Catalogue. Chose to give a gift that expresses your love, and blesses the world.

And everyday, take time to be grateful. There’s an ancient Christian practice, developed by St. Ignatius, that I try to do everyday. Sometimes I only get through part of it, and yet it always deepens my awareness of God:

1. Gratitude: recall anything from the day for which you are grateful.
2. Review: Recall the events of the day, from start to finish, noticing where you felt God's Presence, and where you accepted or turned away from any invitations to grow in love.
3. Sorrow: Recall any actions for which you are sorry.
4. Forgiveness: Ask for God's forgiveness. Decide whether you want to reconcile with anyone you have hurt.
5. Grace: Ask God for the grace you need for the next day, and the ability to see God's presence more clearly.

Merry Christmas! May your holiday be filled with the joy and peace.

Thank You for the “Amen”

On behalf of the Asbury musicians, I’d like to thank you for withholding applause after musical offerings, and substituting silence or a spoken "Amen". It makes a difference. It allows the last chord to drift and settle, for everyone to savor the moment. It makes worship a time for us all to honor God, the first priority of that hour on Sunday morning. Thank you for making this change.

In appreciation – Jean Braun
Asbury’s Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 7, 7:00 p.m.

Bells ringing, children singing, drums beating, cookies for eating will all be a part of the Asbury Christmas concert. It begins at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 7, in the Sanctuary. There will be sacred, secular, serious and silly songs. All of Asbury’s musical groups will be performing as well as several of our talented instrumentalists playing pipe organ and flute.

The concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering at the door will benefit Fertile Ground Works, the nonprofit that oversees Garden of Grace.

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.

Here We Come A’Carol ing

Sunday, December 21, 3:30 p.m.

This year, the All-Church Annual Christmas Caroling will happen on Sunday, December 21. We’ll meet in the Fellowship Hall at 3:30 p.m. to arrange carpooling and to divide into 3 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 in the lobby of Building 900 of Heritage Estates. 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, their jingle bells, 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 rendition of "Jingle Bells". Call Jean Braun for more information.

Looking for the Perfect Gift to Give?

Asbury’s Alternative Gift Catalogue, now available in Fellowship Hall after worship and in church office, as well as the church website (www.asburglive.org/news). Give a gift that makes a difference! Check out our Gift Catalogue, with all sorts of ways to give a donation in honor of a friend, neighbor, colleague or loved one.

Let's celebrate Christmas by making Christ’s Presence visible here on earth. Skip the mall, and give a gift that helps change the world.
Youth Happenings for December 2014

- **December 7**: No youth group, Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.
- **December 14**: No youth group, Christmas Pageant 5:30 p.m.
- **December 21**: No youth group
- **December 28**: No youth group
- **December 30**: Youth Christmas Party 5:30-7:30pm at the Gnecco's house (5921 Arlene Way)

**Youth Christmas Party**

It is that time of the year...time to wear silly sweaters, eat good food, and celebrate the birth of Jesus! Middle and High School youth are invited to the Gnecco's house (5921 Arlene Way) for a Christmas Party on December 30 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We will have a white elephant gift exchange so please bring a wrapped gift ($10 or less)!

**Faith eXtreme Winter Retreat 2015**

All middle and high school youth are invited to conference-wide winter youth retreat January 9-11 at Mt. Hermon.

This fast-paced, high-energy, action-packed weekend will consist of multimedia worship and music, inspiring speakers, sports, games and a service opportunity.

This year, The Committee on Young People’s Ministry, has decided to do this event "CA-NV Style" and will feature Rev. Kris Marshall as our speaker and The Point Pleasant UMC as our worship team. The is our awesome annual event providing opportunity to serve and grow with other youth in the Conference. It is NOT to be missed!

Please let me know by December 20 if you plan on attending! The cost of the retreat is $125, it covers all meals, lodging, and a t-shirt!

**Youth Spring Break Mission Trip to Haiti**

Want to spend your spring break going somewhere different and doing something awesome with some amazing people? Here is your chance! This March, youth from Asbury and youth from Lynnwood UMC in Pleasanton are invited to spend a week in mission to people in Haiti. Work will include school repair and maintenance, helping to deploy water filtration systems, distributing new clothes, and other tasks typical of our missions to Haiti. It will be an incredibly rewarding mission experience, we have a strong Haitian team in place to help host and coordinate the mission. The cost will be around $1,300-$1,500 depending on air fair.

**SSP 2015**

Good news! The youth requested the Smith River site as our first choice site for next summer, and we got it! The high school youth will go serve the community of Smith River with SSP June 28-July 4. More info will come, but for now make sure to put that week on your calendar, it is an wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the world!

**Ignite for Young Adults**

Come ignite your heart and soul this Advent season! Join us on December 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for dinner followed by a special service of song, prayer, Scripture, and community for young adults. Child care will be provided.
Greetings Asbury friends and families. Your Children’s Ministry Committee has been hard at work on several items.

- The Christmas Pageant Rehearsals have begun with the Pageant being held December 14 at 5:30 followed by a soup and sandwich supper. Please plan to attend and support our kids. Our Director, Chloe Bennett has proven to be capable, competent and full of great ideas. We are so lucky to have her in this leadership position.
- We have begun a discussion on how we, as a church, can help parents in dire need of childcare when school is not in session.
- Several talented Asburyites have volunteered to create our own VBS curriculum for the summer of 2015 so it will be brilliant. Barbara David is our lead creator.
- We are looking at ways to increase attendance at all church activities, especially VBS.
- Staffing the nursery continues to be a challenge. We have high standards and are searching for qualified, caring individuals to help in this area. Please spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested.
- While we are not yet at 100%, nearly all of our volunteers have completed the background check bringing us close to compliance with our new safety policy. Our goal is 100% by the end of the year.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your kids each week. They are delightful!

Peace and Joy,

Tina Morris
Discussion on welcoming everyone regardless of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Sunday, November 10, discussion regarding homosexuality. Your presence and prayers, energy and concern went a long way towards re-opening the discussion on welcoming everyone to our community of faith, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sunday night's gathering affirmed the interest and concerns around our being a welcoming and reconciling congregation. In small groups, almost all of those attending shared that they would like Asbury to seriously explore all aspects of what it means to be a reconciling congregation.

One participant shared a concern, wondering how being reconciling would potentially shape the congregation, especially for families.

One small group was concerned that we need to emphasize being welcoming to all, including going beyond the LGBTQ community.

Asbury's welcome statement (on our website and printed in last Sunday's bulletin) reads in part: "We are committed to treating everyone with respect and consideration without regard to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, cultural background, disability or age."

Most of those who attended wanted to know more about what it would mean for Asbury to become a reconciling congregation.

So, where do we go from here? Communicating, getting feedback and inviting more participation are all crucial to further efforts. Maintaining close connections with our pastors and with the Church Council is essential. Inviting speakers, who could help us to better understand what it means to be a reconciling congregation, seems appropriate. Certainly, we also need to encourage more members of our congregation to participate, especially as we contemplate the next steps.

Recognizing the need for further discussions within the United Methodist Church, a panel of six members of the UMC Council of Bishops have recently discussed how the church responds to issues related to human sexuality. During the second of a three-part video series, they have explored the book: "Finding Our Way: Love and Law in The United Methodist Church". (The series was hosted by The Connectional Table, Human Sexuality Taskforce.) They also listened and commented about four video stories on this topic that were submitted from UMC members.

One story that particularly caught their attention and concern was a mother's video:


It was submitted by a mother whose gay son committed suicide after facing condemnation within the United Methodist Church. This video sparked further discussion, and perhaps it will deepen our conversations as well.

Our gathering at Asbury on Sunday night, along with church-wide concerns expressed by the UMC Bishops and the stories of UMC members, illustrate the timeliness, urgency and need for continuing our discussions regarding homosexuality within the United Methodist Church.

From the thoughts, feelings and prayers shared, many of us realized the possibility of our church reaching out to be more inclusive, and truly being more open and welcoming to all persons, and not only to those who identify as LGBTQ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, many here at Asbury have already been working towards that goal. We thank God for all of these efforts and pray for God's guidance as we seek to resolve the issues that have been raised. We ask to be filled with God's grace as we move forward in following the loving and welcoming way that our Lord and Good Shepherd, Jesus, gathered all who would follow Him.
New Habitat for Humanity Project

Ground has been broken and work has started on the next major project in the East Bay by Habitat for Humanity. Twenty new affordable homes will be build on Muir Ridge in Martinez. This will be an exciting new project for our church. We plan to provide regular monthly teams on the Interfaith Workdays.

This follows our work in 2014 on rehabs in Livermore and the recently completed Walnut Creek project. Asbury has a long tradition of commitment to Habitat. And the new project in Martinez will be a focus for the next year.

Our first workday will be Saturday, December 20. Following that, we have scheduled January, March and April workdays. For more information or to sign up, stop by the Serving Others With Love Table during Fellowship after worship or contact the church office.

Changing Lives in Haiti


As suggested by these reflections, our work is making a difference in the lives of school children in Haiti. During our mission in November, we visited each of our existing program schools and found all very pleased. Each school has solar power, computers and a water purification system provided by our Thomas Food Program.

The computers are positively impacting student learning – particularly in math and science. The challenge is how to get more time for each student given the large size of the schools and the limited number of computers. The kids are so enthralled when they get to use a computer. It makes learning fun and engages students in a way that traditional teaching cannot.

Access to clean water is helping with improved hydration and a reduction in water borne illness. We have encouraged each school to offer water to the surrounding communities, as system capacity permits. We will continue to explore ways to deploy water filtration on a broader basis. In our homes in the U.S., we expect good water by just turning on the tap. Not so in Haiti. Water either comes from polluted ground water or impure government water. Few Haitians can afford to pay for commercially available clean water.

The solar carts are providing power to schools that had none before. Government provided electricity is so limited and is generally not available. Our entry level cart provides modest daily electricity – enough for a few computers, periodic water filtration and limited lighting. We are working on a couple of upgrade options to offer two or three times as much power – for more computers and other school uses.

Our most ambitious trip yet, our November outcomes included:

- Health checkups for a thousand school children
- Distribution of vitamins and medicines, such as deworming pills
- Introduction of solar, clean water and computers at our sixth school
- Training of teachers on use of computers and classroom lesson planning
- Electronics upgrades on all carts in service
- Maintenance of all school water filtration systems
- Introduction of additional educational software applications
- Deployment of additional classroom teaching aids
- Distribution of 200 new dresses made by Hands for Haiti
- Repairs of various school facilities
- Visiting additional schools for future inclusion in the program

Of special mention is that the health checkups were so valuable. Our mission doctor addressed a number of significant issues. Most common was that many kids had
In the month of November, we are grateful to have received more than 1/2 inch of rain so far; something to help our winter crops establish themselves. At the Garden of Grace we have been removing summer crop plants and preparing soil for cool season food crops and planting cover crops to enrich the soil with nitrogen and organic material. This past week we transplanted over 5,000 onion seedlings!

Our harvests for Open Heart Kitchen and food pantries consist mainly of broccoli, cabbage, kale, collards, lettuce and winter squash. Amazingly we are also still making sizeable deliveries of bell peppers, eggplant, and winter squash.

All of this work takes a dedicated volunteer effort and we are getting help from several different organizations. We are very grateful for our core group of about 12 experienced garden volunteers who come to the Garden each week to get much of the work done and help direct new volunteers in work and learning. New volunteers in November came from Boys Team Charity, National Charity League, Hitachi High Technology, Amador Valley Environment Club and Dougherty Valley Key Club.

By early 2015, we will have a laundry ministry at Asbury. When a person is living in their car or on the street, doing laundry is a significant challenge. And we noticed at our shower ministry, we were throwing away underwear each week, as there was not an easy way to clean clothes. Offering the chance to do laundry, seemed like the next right step for us. When we get a hot meal, take a shower, and have clean clothes, we feel ready to tackle other challenges in our lives.

The Trustees, Finance Committee and Church Council all approved this ministry. Thanks to a generous gift from the Unitarian Church in Livermore ($5000), we were able to move ahead. You’ll soon see gas and sewer lines being extended to a shed near the garden area. A washer and dryer are already there, thanks to Roger Everett who found a deal at the Tri Valley Haven Thrift Store.

Once up and running, clients will be responsible for doing their own laundry, and there will be a volunteer supervisor on site, making sure all runs smoothly. See Teri Lambert or Pastor Kim for ways you can volunteer or financially support this new endeavor.

(Continued from page 7)

wants to be working with a dedicated, effective staff in Haiti. They are doing great work for which we are most proud. They are grounded in a faith of giving, caring and sharing. We are so grateful for the support of the churches and individual donors who have helped make our program possible. You are changing lives!

More photos on the website: www.asburylive.org/news
Our Two Cents

With the changes to the staff (primarily no longer having a full time youth director), the 2014 general fund has accumulated some extra money in 2014. These excess funds have been used to address some needed problem areas in Asbury’s physical plant and ministry.

In particular, one key item was an upgrade to our computer internet access. The old system was so slow that staff frequently had multiple e-mails stack up in a queue, sometime waiting hours before the messages would go out.

A communal laptop has been purchased for the staff so they can have portable computer availability at various meetings. A high intensity projector has been purchased so that slides can be shown in the Fellowship Hall, even at mid-day.

New furniture has been purchased for the youth building, as well as for a new adult meeting space in room 10.

Finally, in the area of ministry, significant funds have been set aside to enable the development of a laundry ministry that can address a critical need of the homeless.

If you have any questions about these items, or on the 2014 budget, please speak with Dave Braun or Dave David, chairs of Finance and Church Council respectively.

Where Your Treasure Is

I would like to thank all those who have participated in our Stewardship program “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

I hope that your life is being enriched by daily devotions and prayer, whether from following the book "Treasure" by Jacob Armstrong, the daily e-mails, Asbury on Facebook, joining a small group, or several of these. My life has been further enriched, as I hope yours also has, by weekly attendance at worship where Pastors Kim and Chelsea explored applying Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount to our everyday lives and gave us exercises to help us consider our blessings and priorities during the following week. We were blessed through music, and we celebrated community as we shared experiences with one another.

My father used to say, "Don’t give until it hurts, give until it feels good." Kathy and I have tithed our income for many years. We have learned the truth of my father’s wisdom. We do feel good about our giving, and there has always been enough money left for our needs and some of our wants. If you haven’t yet tried tithing, I encourage you to give it a try by taking a step in that direction this year.

On behalf of the Stewardship Team, I thank those who have turned in a pledge card. If you haven’t already, we encourage you to prayerfully complete your commitment card. You can return it in the offering plate on Sunday, or mail or deliver it to the church office.

Thank you for all you do to further the mission and work of Asbury United Methodist Church. Sharing your treasure makes a difference in our community and the world.

Art Molvik, Chair of the Stewardship Team
Hospitality at Asbury

You are a kind and caring congregation. There a few practices we can employ that will make us even more welcoming:

- If you notice anyone alone during fellowship time please go say hello!
- Food and beverages are an important part of being a gracious host/hostess. We could use some help with beverage service as we have lost a few individuals. Please consider helping with this. The joy of serving only takes place about once per quarter. Contact Tina Morris if you are willing to help.

GREETERS: At the last meeting of the “Welcoming Congregations” group it was decided we would ask the greeters to do two things. First, one of the greeters will stand just outside the narthex (this prevents overcrowding/intimidation) while the other will walk back and forth between the two parking lots to greet people as they approach the sanctuary. This has been an easy and enjoyable task for the greeters who have tried it. Secondly, we ask the greeters to spend a few minutes, after worship, at the Visitor Welcoming Table. The greeters are already familiar to visitors making it more comfortable for them to approach and receive their gift and Asbury info. Greeters, thank you for helping in this ministry. You make a difference!

Thank you to everyone who makes it a point to welcome each other and visitors.

Christmas Flowers

You’re invited to help provide the flowers that will decorate the sanctuary beginning Sunday, December 21. 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 15. 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:

________________________________________________________________________

Donor’s name_________________________________________________

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

My phone number_______________________________________
Helping at the Holidays

Many families in our community will be challenged to do much gift giving at the holidays. We can help. Our Asbury congregation will be collecting and distributing gifts as part of the Tri-Valley Haven Holiday Program. This annual holiday event provides pre-registered low income families a place to "shop" for presents. Hundreds of families will be served.

GIFT GIVING – Any new toy, apparel or household gift, for any age, is welcome. In particular, we would like to assist with teens, the most difficult group to serve. Here are some suggestions:

- Adults: Any new clothes (larger sizes are best), gift cards to Target, Kohls, etc., small household appliances, bath or personal care items, hand tools.
- Teens: Sports equipment, sports team memorabilia, gift cards to Jamba Juice, Old Navy, etc., electronic games, clothing, music players, CDs.
- Children: Dolls, learning toys, arts and craft supplies, cars/trucks, board games, stuffed animals, bike helmets, sports equipment and clothing.
- Infants: Stimulating toys, musical toys, clothing, teething toys, bath or body care supplies, stuffed animals.

Just bring your unwrapped gift to the Sanctuary or the church office by no later than Sunday, December 7. Also, rolls of unopened wrapping paper are needed.

GIVE OF YOUR TIME – Can you spare a couple of hours to help? We will be providing volunteers to help sort and stock gifts and to staff the annual gift shopping event. Here are the dates:

Sorting and Stocking Gifts:
- Thursday, December 4, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or 1-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or 1-4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 10, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Gift Shopping:
- Thursday, December 11, 8:45-12:00 p.m., 2:45-6:00 p.m., 5:45-8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 13, 12-3:00 p.m., 2:45-5:00 p.m.

Asbury is hosting this event, so it is a convenient location to volunteer. To sign up, see Steve Elliott after worship or contact the office.

UMC #GivingTuesday

On December 2, United Methodists once again are invited to extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season by participating in UMC #GivingTuesday. And every gift made online through The Advance at www.umcmission.org/give on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 will be matched up to $1 million.

As you may remember, in 2013 on UMC #GivingTuesday, United Methodists collectively raised a record $6.5 million online. Through The Advance, 11,000 individuals and churches in 34 countries gave more than 16,300 gifts to mission and ministries they believe in.

Read more at: www.umcmission.org/giving-tuesday/Giving-Tuesday-Resources
Faith in Fiction

January 27, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Faith in Fiction: Does the Contemporary Novel Have a Prayer?

Ron Charles, editor of the book section in the Washington Post, will be speaking at San Ramon Valley UMC, January 27, 7:00 p.m. This event, sponsored by Asbury and other churches in our Circuit, is an opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to hear a noted speaker reflect on how God and religion are portrayed in contemporary fiction.

Ron and his wife Dawn have worshipped with us at Asbury, and found it delightful and meaningful. His talk will reflect on the meaning found in church and religion. Ron has been a book critic for several years; has won the National Book Critic Circle Award for best criticism; and recently served as a juror for the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. He will draw on fiction including "Gilead", "Home", and "Lila" by Marilynne Robinson. For a complete booklist of recommended titles, stop by the church office. Tickets are $5 at the door.

See you there, and bring a friend, or two, or the whole book club.

Boy Scout Tree Lot Open

Asbury’s Boy Scout Troop 900 opens its annual Christmas Tree Lot on Saturday, November 29. The tree lot is located on the corner of Hillcrest Avenue and East Avenue in Livermore—just down the street from church.

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

Tree selection (tax included in price)
- Noble Fir: $57
- Grand Fir: $41
- Douglas Fir: $35

Other items for sale (tax included)
- Tree stand: $25
- Mistletoe: $3
- Tree preservative: $3
- Tree bags: $3

Payment can be made by cash or check only. Credit cards are not accepted. Please come out this Christmas season to support Troop 900 in their only fundraiser of the year.
Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday December 2, 6:30 p.m.
Ladies of Asbury, let’s get together for an evening out at a local restaurant. This month, we’ll be going to the Clay Oven (www.clayovenlivermore.com), in Livermore. The restaurant is located at 2417 First Street. If you plan to attend, please RSVP with Nancy Grover so they can tell them how many to expect.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday December 4, 12:00 p.m.
If you’re a senior or a retiree, please come join us in the Fellowship Hall to have a delicious lunch and enjoy some fellowship. Cost is $5 per person.

Financial Peace University
Starting January 11, 2015
Financial Peace University will begin again at Asbury on January 11, 2015 – just in time for the after Christmas bills to arrive.
FPU will change your life forever, so that this year may be the last year you regret overspending at Christmas. FPU teaches each of us to identify our spending habits, make a budget, develop a timeline for debt repayments, finally stay out of debt and plan for our future.
Join us for this exciting and educational nine week course with your coordinators Ron Logan, Bill Warren and Glenda Warren. This year, you will register online and all the materials will be mailed to you directly, allowing you to review the material before the class begins.
The cost is $110.00 for the materials and the class. Classes this year will be offered right after church services beginning at 10:45 a.m. and will go until about 12:45 p.m.
Plan on joining about ten couples (or singles are more than welcome) and change your life. More info will be forthcoming after the stewardship campaign.
Last year Mitzi, The Tripps, The Gulleys, and The Johnstones were just a few who gained knowledge and changed their lives. If you feel that you would like to attend, but are concerned about the cost, please see Pastor Kim because there will be some scholarships available to students.
It's time to go back to school and learn new skills. Start off 2015 with a new resolution: to be DEBT FREE and experience life as it's designed to be lived.

Women’s Retreat 2015
February 6-8, 2015
Save the date! Our Women’s Retreat will be February 6-8, 2015 at the San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville. In this beautiful setting, we will gather to explore our faith and deepen our friendships. The retreat will be led by Pastors Kim and Chelsea. Invite friends, family and neighbors to join us! There are single and double occupancy rooms available. Stay tuned for more details. Sign ups will begin in January.

Asbury Players Community Theater

Surprised to discover you want to be part of Asbury Players? Don’t be! Community theater is always great fun, whether you’re an experienced actor or a curious beginner. We welcome new players from Asbury or all over the Tri-Valley, especially in early December, when we audition for parts in our spring production. If you’d like to play with us, either on stage or behind the scenes, please email Director Barbara David so you’ll be the first to know when we meet to audition, rehearse, build sets, make costumes or, most importantly, party! (Photo credit: © 2013 Ron Tripp)
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
Litza Bayless
Cassie Canfield
Jack Canfield
Judy Chagnon
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
Athena Mcpeake
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
December 2014 Calendar

Please visit the Asbury website calendar for the latest updates: http://www.asburylive.org/events

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
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group (no meetings this month)
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers, Rooms 11-12

Tuesdays
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 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
- 7:30 p.m. Faith Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursdays
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

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

December 2, 2014 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Clay Oven, 2417 First Street, Livermore

December 4, 2014 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

December 7, 2014 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Taste and See Advent Study, Room 13
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Concert, Sanctuary

December 9, 2014 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

December 13, 2014 (Saturday)
- 6:00 p.m. Ignite for Young Adults, FH

December 14, 2014 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Taste and See Advent Study, Room 13
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary

December 19, 2014 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

December 21, 2014 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Taste and See Advent Study, Room 13
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room
- 3:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling, FH

December 22, 2014 (Monday)
- 7:00 p.m. Prayer and Candlelight, Sanctuary

December 23, 2014 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

December 24, 2014 (Wednesday)
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary

December 28, 2014 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

December 30, 2014 (Tuesday)
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party, Gnecco House
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

Asbury UMC Staff

Pastor
Chelsea Constant
Pastor
Kim Risedorph
Children's Ministry Director
Tina Morris
Youth Director
Chelsea Constant
Music Director
G. Allen Schell
Choir Coordinator
Jean Braun
Secretary
Terri Gamble
Facilities Use Manager
Mitchie McCammon
Nursery Coordinator
Pam Tegge

Livermore Community Blood Drive

Friday, December 19, 1:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

We need you! If you’re 17 or older and in good health (or 16 with parental consent), please call Tom Petty for more information about donating blood, or sign up at redcrossblood.org and use sponsor Code: ASBURY925. Thank you for helping to save a life by giving blood!

Download the free app by going to http://3cu.be/blood!

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, December 18, 2014.