Bread, Bath and Beyond!

January’s Sermon Series

The new year brings opportunity to move beyond our limitations, to find new beginnings and to be better than we were before. In our sermon series, Bread, Bath and Beyond, we remember that the most basic transforming experiences of our faith are Communion (bread) and Baptism (bath). These sacraments are the starting points for live “beyond” our limitations. Let’s make this year one of transformation, for our lives, for our community, for our world!

January 4—Bread: Celebrate Epiphany and Communion

January 11—Bath: Christian baptism is rife with meaning. Paul invites early believers (Acts 19: 1-7) to go beyond the teaching of baptism into fullness of living in the Spirit of Christ available to them. On this day, we remember our baptism and affirm the Spirit that lives and moves and breathes through us—offering power and strength beyond what we think we have.

Contact Pastor Kim if you would like to be baptized or renew your baptismal vows.

January 18—Beyond Belief: As this season progresses, we will see people discovering this remarkable man named Jesus of Nazareth. The people had been waiting so long for a Messiah, it was hard to believe that the Savior had come out of a little town like Nazareth, much less the son of a common carpenter. How can we go beyond our own beliefs and assumptions about where God shows up? Can we move beyond these to open our eyes to the holy in unexpected places and people? (John 1: 43-51)

January 25—Beyond the Horizon: The Scripture today (Mark 1:14-20) tell of the calling of fisherman on the shores of the Sea of Galilee to leave their work and follow Jesus. He is calling them to work they probably never in a million years imagined themselves doing. For years they had sailed the sea, perhaps never thinking what was beyond the horizons, beyond the distant shores. Where is Jesus calling us that just might be beyond the horizons we now see for ourselves?

*Today we bless and commission all the people serving in leadership positions at Asbury, including chairs of our committees and ministries.*
I am not normally in the habit of making New Year’s Resolutions. It has always seemed silly to me to wait until the New Year to make a change, when we can do that any time of year.

But I do love the introspection and reflection present at this time of year. The natural draw to look back over the year, to examine what this year has brought for you and reflect on who you have been this year. This seems to me to be a deeply spiritual practice.

It is easy in the business of day to day life to forget to reflect, to take for granted that we are living how we want to live. So this season of resolutions and reflection offers us a chance to look seriously at ourselves, to look at how we spent our time and our money this past year, how we loved well and maybe did not love so well, how we looked outside of ourselves and how we had troubles seeing past our own concerns, how we offered ourselves in service to others and how we failed to do so.

And well, this type of introspective examination might not be comfortable, we remember things that we would rather forget—like that haunting time that we embarrassed ourselves in front of others—when we are deeply honest with ourselves we tend to get the most out of it.

When we allow ourselves to be deeply and painfully honest about who we are, we take the next step on the journey towards who we want to be. It is then that we can bring our real selves to God, the selves with bumps and bruises and chipped paint.

And this is, after all, who God wants. God doesn't want the perfect and pristine picture of ourselves that we sometimes show the world. God doesn't want only perfect people who have no dents or chips. Jesus says, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." (Mark 2:17).

So in this New Year’s time of reflection, may we acknowledge the good and the bad, the places where we have done God's will and the places where we have fallen short. And may we bring both those places to God, trusting that God's grace welcomes and heals those sick parts of ourselves.

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Thank You Asbury!

Each year, as we seek to serve others with love, Asbury makes donations to organizations in our community that we want to support. This year, our donations included Abode Services, Tri Valley Haven, and Habitat for Humanity: East Bay/Silicon Valley.

Each of these organizations sent us a thank you note, and are grateful for our support.
In The News: Points to Ponder

Keeping the Faith: Parents are the largest factor in whether youth remain religiously active as young adults, according to the National Study of Youth and Religion. When parents talked about faith at home, were active in their congregations, and attached great significance to their faith, 82% of their children were highly religious in their mid and to late twenties. Two thirds of young adults raised by black Protestants and one half of those with conservative Protestant parents had high or moderate levels of religious commitment as young adults. Seventy percent of young adults raised by mainline Protestants showed minimal or lower levels of religious commitment. (Huffington Post, October 29, 2014)

Ken Lamb Celebration of Life

Sunday, January 18, 2:00 p.m.

On Sunday, January 18, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, we will celebrate Ken Lamb's life. A reception will follow. The family requests that all attending wear colorful clothing.

Donations made in Ken's memory will go towards the ministries he loved: the music program, Open Heart Kitchen, the shower ministry or the laundry ministry. Checks can be made out to Asbury United Methodist Church, and donors can choose which ministry they would like to support by writing the name in the subject line.

Thank You from the Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 900 would like to thank the Asbury congregation for their generous support of the Christmas Tree Lot this December. It was great to see so many familiar faces stopping by to purchase their Christmas trees. We appreciate your business and hope to see you again next year.
Happy 2015. I hope you had a fulfilling Advent season.

There are many opportunities for kids at Asbury. As you consider your busy schedules, I hope you make attendance at church events a priority. Family values are the primary indicator for a child’s continued spiritual growth, according to author Vern Bengston in his book, *Families and Faith*. Thanks, Doug for a good read. Parents, consider bringing your child to:

- Sunday School
- Club 45
- Choir
- VBS
- Service Projects and Giving Projects

Contact Tina for more information.

As we begin a new year in spiritual formation of kids, I wonder if any of you feel called to work with kids. If God is giving you gentle nudges, let me know. Kids Ministry is important, rewarding and fun!

Club 45 resumes January 4. We meet on the first and third Sundays of the month. 5:30-7 with a snack supper included. Please join us and bring a friend.

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**Youth Happenings for January 2015**

- **January 4:** Middle and High School Youth Groups, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **January 9-11:** Faith eXtreme Retreat
- **January 11:** No Youth Group
- **January 18:** Middle & High School Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **January 25:** Middle & High School Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Children’s Ministry**

Mark your calendars for VBS 2015. The dates are July 20-24.

Peace and Joy,

*Tina Morris*

A prayer to say over your child(ren):

*Merciful God, thank you for this gift. This child. Give me the wisdom to teach my child to love you and show kindness to others. Amen*
One of the opportunities at Asbury is to live our faith through service to others. The invitation is to give of our time and talent as part of an active Christian faith. For 2015, consider ways that you might be the hands, feet and heart of Christ in our world.

Stop by the Serve Others with Love Table in the Fellowship Hall – Signups and information is available about upcoming outreach. This table will be available most Sundays during the year. There is a calendar of opportunities for the month and coming attractions.

Look into becoming a participant with one of our ongoing outreach programs – Information is available on what Asbury does and how to become involved. Consider: Open Heart Kitchen, Livermore Homeless Refuge, Tri-Valley Haven, Rooms of Hope, Habitat for Humanity, Fertile Groundworks, Shower Ministry, Alameda County Food Bank, Laundry Ministry and the Haiti Program.

All of these programs offer ways of periodic participation and various roles that might fit your interest and availability. Inquire when you have a chance!

For more information contact Steve Elliott or the church office.

Open Heart Kitchen – Consider the Possibilities
A hot meal. Fellowship. A pleasant respite from the challenges of homelessness, low income, the struggle of making it through each day. A hot shower. Maybe clean clothes. Open Heart Kitchen and Asbury UMC, in a collaborative relationship, offers all of these. Coming soon will be a laundry service.

As part of our focus on our outreach partners, Open Heart Kitchen is the featured Asbury relationship for January. Stop by the Serve Others With Love Table during the Fellowship Hour to learn more. In particular, we are interested in recruiting more volunteers to help prepare and serve meals or to serve as greeters on Tuesdays and Wednesdays when Asbury hosts OHK.

January Outreach Opportunities
Glasses for those who need help with their sight
During January, we are collecting glasses for the Lions in Sight (LIS) Foundation of California and Nevada. LIS provides no cost primary eye care and vision correction to low-income and disadvantaged people in the US and around the world. Exams and eyeglasses are provided by licensed ophthalmologists or optometrists through mission trips and at LIS sites in developing countries.

Please donate used prescription glasses, new or used reading glasses or sunglasses. We have collection boxes in the sanctuary and the church office. Cash donations can be made to Asbury UMC, "Lions in Sight" noted on the memo line. For more information, contact Steve Elliott.

Other Opportunities
As your interest and schedule permits, consider helping with the following outreach opportunities during January:

Monday, January 5-23 – Asbury hosts the Livermore Homeless Refuge. For more information or to volunteer contact Teri Lambert or Bill Groth.

Wednesday, January 7 – Asbury provides the staffing at Open Heart Kitchen from 9:30 to 2:00 p.m. Contact Bill Groth or Steve Elliott to help.

Sunday, January 11 – Serve Others With Love Leadership Team meeting, 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Steve Elliott.

Tuesday, January 13 – Homeless Count Training at Livermore Library, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Advance registration required. (Also, other East Bay training dates are available.) For more information, contact Steve Elliott.

Sunday, January 18 – Special Offering, Human Relations Day.

Saturday, January 24 – Habitat for Humanity Workday in Martinez, 8:30 to 4:00 p.m. To signup or for more information contact Bob Hoffman or Steve Elliott.

Thursday, January 29 – Alameda County Homeless Count, all day. Advance registration and training required. Volunteers are needed. For more information contact Steve Elliott.
The rains have returned, The soil is teeming with life and plants are growing with great exuberance. The last vestiges of summer crops hang on tenaciously awaiting the first hard frost. Pepper plants, eggplants and one lonely tomato plant stand as testament to a productive summer now gone and a summer that will come in its time within the cycles of life. For now they give us an unlikely treat in the Christmas season.

The crops that the Garden of Grace brings forth in abundance now are the kales, broccolis, cabbages, lettuces, chards and root crops. These are foods of great nutritive and medicinal value. There are other crops in the garden now; cover crops planted to add nutrients to the soil. Some scavenge minerals that can be used by future crops, some work with bacteria to turn atmospheric nitrogen into a form that can be used by the food crops that will follow. All play a role in a diverse community of organisms that together support each other in abundance.

A garden planted and tended in the wisdom of nature then provides us with the food of understanding community; how working together, all are blessed.

Speaking of next Summer’s tomatoes, peppers and more, please visit the Fertile Groundworks website at www.fertilegroundworks.org to find out how you can order your own vegetable plants from our first annual plant sale. Proceeds go to support the garden and its mission to feed the hungry and teach others about sustainable, organic gardening.
Thank You!

Thank you so much to many of our Asbury families for donating homemade soup, sandwiches and treats for the Children's Pageant on Sunday, December 7. Your contributions made it possible to serve over one hundred actors, pageants officials, and extended family members. A BIG thank you to the following families:

- Bauman
- Bennett
- Bierman
- Braun
- Campos
- Constant
- Faraldo
- Franklin
- Grover
- Lobao
- McClung
- Meyers
- Morris
- Rudd
- Schwartz

New Growing In Faith Class

Sundays, January 11-February 8, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

Jesus: the Light Who Banishes Darkness

Jim Culpepper will offer a five week class based on Ephesians. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and come explore the Bible! Sign up through the office or in the Fellowship Hall after service. Bring a friend too!

Have you invited anyone to church this month? If not, please consider doing so. A personal invitation is so important.
Christmas Caroling – Ringing and Singing!

Asbury Christmas carolers struck just the right chord, Sunday, December 21, when they visited 14 of our members and eight senior residences. Each of the three groups made seven stops and brought music, cookies and well-wishes on behalf of the Asbury family. A special treat was the addition of the Asbury Ringers at the final stop: Heritages Estates dining room in the 900 building. A total of 50 singers and seven ringers participated at our "finale" performance.

WELL DONE ALL! The seniors really enjoyed it and were most appreciative!

Jean Braun
Celebrate Community

Ladies' Night Out
Tuesday January 6, 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 Sauced (www.saucedbbqandspirits.com), in Livermore. The restaurant is located at 2300 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 January 8, 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
Sundays, Starting January 11, 2015, 10:45 a.m.
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. 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.

Register online at www.fpu.com 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.

Women’s Retreat 2015
February 6-8, 2015
This year the Women’s Retreat will be at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville (www.sandamiano.org).

Our topic: Touched By Love: Seeing with New Eyes
Based on the story of Bartimaeus (See Mark 10:46-52), we’ll explore what it means to answer Jesus' question: "What do you want me to do for you?"

Retreats are the ideal time to deepen friendships, establish new ones, and grow in faith. Join Pastors Kim and Chelsea, and invite a friend to join you. You'll love the home cooked meals, and beautiful setting of San Damiano, nestled in the hills surrounding Danville.

There are doubles, and some singles available at the Retreat Center. Sign-ups begin on January 11, after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Confidential scholarships available.

Author, Ron Charles to Speak
Tuesday, January 27, 7:00 p.m.
Ron Charles, book editor at the Washington Post, will speak on "Faith in Fiction: Does the Novel Have a Prayer?" This event, sponsored by Asbury and four other United Methodist churches in our area, will be held at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, located at 902 Danville Boulevard in Alamo, at 7:00 p.m.

Ron has received awards for his writing, and recently served as a juror for the Pulitzer Prize in fiction. You will most certainly enjoy this talk, where he explores how faith and religion are portrayed in fiction.

When Ron last worshipped at Asbury, on Easter of 2014, he posted how vibrant and meaningful he found the service to be. We asked him to speak, because we wanted to host an event that would attract people who do not normally go to church. Help us make that happen! Please invite friends, neighbors and colleagues to an event where we'll get to hear a nationally known speaker, who will explore current perceptions of faith, as found in novels. A reception will follow.

Tickets for the event are $5, and can be purchased at the door. Why not invite your friends, and buy a ticket for them?

If you can bring a plate of cookies or finger foods for the reception, please leave a message for Pastor Kim at 925-447-1950, ext. 102.
### Birthdays
- Steve Arnold
- Melody Bluck
- Lily Boercker
- Chelsea Bohling
- Bob Buckley
- Rich Buckley
- Becky Cain
- Bob Cowgill
- Dave Crozier
- Alexia Dawes
- Joanne Duncan
- Susan Edgar-Lee
- Patrick Epperson
- Kirby Fong
- Tony Gnecco
- Brian Henderson
- Valerie Henderson
- Stephanie Hepner
- Jackie Hoffman
- Marsha Howard
- Duane Jantzen
- Kay Jeakins
- Paul Jensen
- Bobbie Johnson

### Anniversaries
- Brian and Sharon Grant
- Louis and Pam Howell
- Virgil and Donna Koon
- Robert and Anna Lim
- Jim and Lois Lyle
- Otis and Sharon Walton
- Taber Kohlmoos
- Robyn Lakamsani
- Christa Lamb
- Gary Lamb
- Connaught Lindberg
- Robbi Loomis
- Kathy Molvik
- Louise Nelson
- Fiona Pomykal
- Katherine Riley
- Kim Risedorph
- Ivy Senge
- Zach Siebers
- Scott Smith
- Carl Sorem
- Dayna Taylor
- Alan Teruya
- Karlie Teruya
- Parker Turk
- John Van Scyoc
- Ruth Vince
- Amanda Wagoner
- Chris Weiss
- Beckie Wiley
- Jenna Wiley
January 2015 Calendar

Please visit the Asbury website calendar for the latest updates: [http://www.asburylive.org/events](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
- 10:30 a.m. Small Groups
- 10:45 a.m. Financial Peace University, Fireside Room (Starts 1/11)
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation, Room 10
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, Room 13
- 5:30 p.m. Club 45
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers, Rooms 11-12

Tuesdays
- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Alanon/Alateen, Rooms 13-15
- 7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

Thursdays
- 7:45 a.m. Men’s Group, Fireside Room
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Players Rehearsal, Sanctuary, FH (Starts 1/8)

Saturdays
- 8:00 a.m. Lawn Crew
- 9:00 a.m. AA, Rooms 11-12
- 9:00 a.m. Asbury Players Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

January 6, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Sauced, 2300 First Street, Livermore

January 8, 2015 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

January 11, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10

January 13, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

January 14, 2015 (Wednesday)
- 4:00 p.m. Interfaith Meeting, Fireside Room
- 6:30 p.m. Fertile Groundworks, Conference Room

January 16, 2015 (Friday)
- 1:7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

January 18, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Ken Lamb Celebration of Life, Sanctuary

January 20, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Team, Room 11/12

January 25, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

January 27, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room
Livermore Community Blood Drive
Friday, January 16, 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 red-crossblood.org and use sponsor Code: AS-BURY925. Thank you for helping to save a life by giving blood!
Download the free app by going to http://3cu.be/blood!

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

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, January 22, 2015.