May 20-25, 2015

Asbury UMC teams up with others to offer a hot meal, showers, laundry facilities and a safe place to sleep. I am so grateful for Asbury's commitment to living out the Bible’s instructions to care for the poor and needy.

And I know I'm not the only one that lives with the nagging question, “Do we keep folks dependent on the services we offer?”

When does helping, hurt?

We, along with other churches and agencies in the Tri-Valley are exploring a way to end poverty.

The General Conference and the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church is promoting Circles as a key future direction for churches to be engaged with the poor in their communities. Learn how this system works and how our congregation can introduce Circles into our community.

Circles is an approach for congregations to join with others in the community to walk with the poor in an effective journey out of poverty. Does this intrigue you? Is God calling you to be part of this initiative? Join Pastor Kim and others for an on-site orientation in Carson City.

Circles Orientation, Carson City, NV, May 20-21, 2015. See or email Kim for more information.
One of my favorite Easter stories comes from the Gospel of John. It takes place a few days after Easter, Jesus has appeared to the disciples twice now. And one day Peter and a few other disciples decide to go fishing. It seems like a perfectly normal thing to do, after all they have spent the majority of their adult lives fishing.

And so now that their time following Jesus around Galilee seems to have come to an end they return to fishing. But they were not very successful. They fished all night and they did not catch a single fish. They are discouraged and frustrated, and then just after dawn they hear a man standing on the beach asking them if they have no fish. When they honestly reply that they do not, he tells them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat because there they will find fish.

So, figuring it can’t hurt to try, they cast their nets to the other side. And they cannot even haul the nets into the boat because they were so full with fish. Immediately they recognize that this stranger on the beach is the risen Jesus and they quickly go to shore to meet him, build a fire, and feast on fish with him.

I love that the disciples, at a loss for what to do now that Christ has risen, return to something familiar. They return to what they know. But they find that it does not quite work out for them anymore. And here comes this man with a ridiculous suggestion that the problem is simply that they are fishing from the wrong side of the boat! The man tells them to cast their nets to the right side of the boat. Like all fishermen at the time, the disciples were fishing from the left side of the boat. This is because the steering apparatus was located on the right side of the boat and thus fishing from that side risked tangling the net with the steering apparatus when a full net of fish was raised into the boat. This meant fishing from the right side of the boat could result in damage to the boat or the net, something any fisherman would want to avoid. And yet the disciples find, when they allow the risen Jesus to change their old fishing habits they get an abundant catch.

We are so like those disciples returning to fishing. We celebrate this Easter season while going about our old habits, routines, and patterns of life. Like the disciples, we too return to what we know. Jesus does not admonish the disciples for returning to their old way of fishing. Instead he offers them a small but significant transformation, a twist on the old way that has huge results.

The risen Jesus offers us a twist on the old way, we are called to respond to Resurrection with fearless love that transforms even our smallest habits, routines, and ways of life.

What would it look like for you to fish on the other side? What would it look like for you to go about everyday life responding to the call of the risen Christ?

Cast your nets to the other side. Allow familiar ways to be transformed by resurrection love.
Are We There Yet?

**Sunday, May 17**

On May 17, Asbury’s Rainbow, Middle School and High School Choirs will present the first half of the musical *Are We There Yet?*

The Story of Moses and the Exodus written by Tom Long and Allen Pote. The musical will be performed during the service. This story will be told in word and song, to make the story come alive. You will see a burning bush, four of the ten plagues, the RED Sea, and Moses, stuttering, but leading the Israelites! Find out if the Israelites successfully escape bondage.

Please consider inviting friends and extended family to this lively and meaningful service.

New Members’ Class

Are you curious what it means to be a member of Asbury? Are you interested in exploring your commitment to discipleship and community here at Asbury? Do you crave deeper ways to connect with the Asbury community? Join us on **May 17 from 7-8:30 p.m. in Room 13.** Childcare provided. Contact Pastor Kim or Pastor Chelsea with any questions.

Update on Reconciling Ministry

Have you been contacted by a Core Team member for a one-on-one chat? As mentioned in the April newsletter the Core Team of Dale Boercker, Leila Epperson, Bill Groth, Makayla Gully, Chloe Molvik, Val Pace, Margot Platt and Larry Wiley is spending the next few months sitting down with the folks in the Asbury community with the main purpose of getting to know you better and listen with open hearts and minds to what you believe and why. We want to listen and hear everyone’s views.

During the conversations we have had so far we are getting a couple of common questions. First, many folks think we are already a reconciling church. We are not. A reconciling church is one that adopts a public statement, which, while inclusive of all families and individuals, specifically welcomes persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The statement is used publicly, for example, on the church website or newsletter. It is also shared with the Reconciling Ministries Network, a national grassroots organization of United Methodist individuals, churches, or affiliates working for full participation of all people in the life of the UMC. A reconciling church celebrates and openly publicly advertises the fact that all people are welcome especially those in the LGBTQ community.

As it stands if someone calls the church office and asks if we are reconciling church the answer has to be ‘no’ we are not but we try to welcome all people.

This leads to the second oft-heard question. Why are we singling out one specific group for inclusion? The short answer to this is because this is the only group singled out in the United Methodist book of Discipline. These statements were added in 1972 and there is a great deal of discussion on the national and international level about these statements.

Does someone from the LGBTQ community have a reasonable expectation of being welcomed openly and whole-heartedly at Asbury? I believe that we all hope so but how do they know if we don’t say so? How do they know they will be safe and comfortable here if we don’t say so? Folks in the LGBTQ community are not always able to be ‘who they are’ out in public. Shouldn’t the loving community of God be different? Shouldn’t we openly and whole-heartedly welcome any and all sacred humans into our community and treat them with love and respect?

We are looking forward to an open dialogue with each of you around building an inclusive church. Please feel free to contact any one of us on the Core Team if you would like to meet before we get to you.
Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and ate at the Pancake Breakfast April 19! We made over $900 towards the Youth SSP Trip this summer and fed over 100 people! This fundraiser takes so many people's support to work, so a big thank you goes out to everyone who helped.

Youth Happenings

Youth Happenings for May 2015
- May 3: Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- May 10: No Youth Groups, Mother's Day
- May 16: Resource Day Volunteering 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 12-3:00 p.m.
- May 17: No Youth Groups
- May 24: Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- May 31: Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Resource Day Volunteering for Youth
This May 16, Asbury is hosting the first ever Resource Day, a day for low-income and homeless folks to come to campus and access various much-needed resources such as dental care, eye checks, bike repair, veterinary services, and more!
Asbury Youth can be a part of this exciting chance to serve others with love by helping out with serving snacks!
There are two shifts, the first is from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and the second is from 12-3:00 p.m. We have space for about five youth to serve on each shift.
Please email Chelsea with any questions and to sign up by May 9.

Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday May 5, 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 Cravings (www.crazingspizzaandpasta.com), a new pizza/pasta restaurant downtown at 2062 First Street, where El Sacramonte used to be. If you plan to attend, please let Nancy Grover know so she can tell them how many to expect.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, May 7, 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.

Women’s Retreat 2016
April 22-24, 2016
Save the date! The 2016 Women's Retreat will be April 22-24, at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville. We'll gather in a beautiful setting to grow in faith and enjoy each other's company. See you there!
Serve Others With Love

Asbury To Host Homeless/Low Income Resource Day

On Saturday, May 16, Asbury UMC will be hosting a special day of resources and services to our local homeless and low income residents. It will include reference tables on healthcare, food stamps and other public services. We will be offering personal services such as dental exams, laundry, showers and more. We need volunteers to help with setup, serve as greeters, to host the showers and laundry and to help with take down and cleanup. The event is from 10:00-2:00 p.m. Volunteer shifts are 9:00-12:00 p.m. and 12-3:00 p.m. Stop by the Serve Others With Love Table in the Fellowship Hall for more information or to sign up.

Join Us for a Workday at the Food Bank

We are going to help sort, package, stock and bag food at the Food Bank warehouse on Saturday, May 30, from 9:00-12:00 p.m. You will find this a rewarding way to help with getting food to those who need it. This is a great outreach for a family to do together.

Located near the Oakland airport, registered participants can carpool from Asbury. Volunteers must be ten years old or older. We have slots for ten participants. Register at the Serve Others with Love Table after worship or by contacting John Van Scyoc.

Interfaith Workdays at Habitat for Humanity

Each month, Asbury provides a team to help build affordable housing with Habitat for Humanity. We join other faith communities at the new development in Martinez. Everyone is welcome, regardless of skills or experience. It is a wonderful way to make a difference. We often work with the families who will own the new homes.

Saturdays, May 16 and June 20 will be typical Habitat workdays. Work at the site starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends no later than 4:00 p.m. The June 6 Framing Blitz will be a special event like an old fashioned barn-raising, with 100 volunteers per day framing five homes in three days. Asbury will work on Saturday, June 6, the first day of the Blitz so we will be raising the first walls of these homes.

Youth, 16 and older, can work on construction and are encouraged to participate. We carpool from Asbury, leaving at 7:40 a.m. from the parking lot by the office building. For information or to sign up stop by the Serve Others with Love Table after worship or contact Bob Hoffmann.

Give it a try! Making and Serving Meals at Open Heart Kitchen

The first Saturday of each month, Asbury provides a kitchen and serving team at Open Heart Kitchen. May 6 is our next date. Give it a try sometime. Located in our Fellowship Hall, this outreach is convenient and rewarding in all respects. We prep and serve a hot meal to all who can use one. For more information or to sign up for a shift (9:30-11:30 a.m. or 11:30-2:00 p.m. ), stop by the Serve Others with Love Table or contact Bill Groth.

Resource Day, Saturday May 16 at Asbury

On Saturday, May 16, Asbury joins with other local churches and agencies to offer Resource Day for individuals and families who are often hungry or without a place to stay. We will host this event at Asbury from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Some of the resources available:

- A veterinarian will examine pets
- Bike repair available
- Haircuts available
- Eye exams offered
- A dentist will provide exam
- Axis Community Health will field questions
- Abode will provide housing information
- Prayer room available
- and more

If you would like to volunteer to help set up or clean up, contact Steve Elliott. To help provide snacks and food, contact Pastor Kim at 925-447-1950 x102.
## Anniversaries

- Tim and Nancy Ackerman
- Rich and Jackie Bennett
- Mark and Lesleyann Coker
- Charles Runnels and Emilie Fox
- Peter and Deanna Frumenti
- Steve and Sheryl Goodman
- Karl and Rhonda Item
- 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
- Steve and Burlyne Wilson

## Birthdays

- Chelsea Allen
- Linda Beach
- Bob Berger
- Brett Bernstein
- Kevin Bernstein
- Nikolas Campos
- Ava Christensen
- Cory Coll
- Atticus Cummings
- Peter Danan
- Susan Danan
- Ashley Defenbaugh
- Kelsey Dunn
- Shannon Dunn
- Becca Elliott
- Gabe Elliott
- Emilie Fox
- Terri Gamble
- Sharon Grant
- Mackinna Hart
- Emily Hewitt
- Wilma Holbrook
- Julia Item
- Annalisa Juan
- Rebecca Kohlmoos
- Lisa LeVan
- Anna Lim
- Laurie Linden
- Kayla Lindsay
- Ron Logan
- Lois Lyle
- Mitchie McCammon
- Connor Runnels
- Gretchen Rutherford
- Pat Saltgaver
- Karena Sanford
- Alice Schell
- Allen Schell
- Andrea Schlientz
- Alice Senge
- Caitlin Tripp
- Allan Van Lehn
- Zachary Wakefield
- Sharon Walton
- Glenda Warren
- Lindy Webb
- Hitomi Westfall
- Rich Whipple
- Kara Wiley
- Burlyne Wilson
- George Wilson
May 2015 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
- 10:30 a.m. Small Groups
- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Room 15
- 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
- 7:30 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

Fridays
- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Room 15

Saturdays
- 8:00 a.m. Lawn Crew
- 9:00 a.m. AA, Rooms 11-12
- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Room 15

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May 5, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Cravings, 2062 1st Street

May 7, 2015 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH
- 7:00 p.m. UMW Evening Circle

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

May 11, 2015 (Monday)
- 9:30 a.m. UMW Morning Glories, Fireside Room

May 12, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

May 15, 2015 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

May 17, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

May 19, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Team, Room 11/12

May 24, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

May 26, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

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Asbury UMC Staff

**Pastor**
Chelsea Constant

**Pastor**
Kim Risedorph

**Children's Ministry Director**
Tina Morris

**Youth Director**
Chelsea Constant

**Secretary**
Terri Gamble

**Facilities Use Manager**
Mitchie McCammon

**Music Director**
G. Allen Schell

**Choir Coordinator**
Jean Braun

**Nursery Coordinator**
Pam Tegge

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Livermore Community Blood Drive

**Friday, May 15, 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](http://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](http://3cu.be/blood)!

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www.AsburyLive.org

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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, May 21, 2015.