June Sermon Series

Summertime is here! Join us for worship in June. We’ve got some fun and interesting events and topics to be covered this month.

Have you invited a friend to come with you? Let them know about these dates, and bring them along!

- June 7—All music Sunday and Communion. All of our choirs and music groups will play a favorite piece. What a way to worship!
- June 14—New class of Stephen Ministers commissioned! Scripture is Mark 4:30-32 Asbury Band will play Lean on Me, and He’s My Brother
- June 21—Dads and Grads celebrated! Scripture Matthew 21: 13-16
- June 28—Still under construction! Our topic is: Sin, It’s More Than a Fattening Dessert!
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

These are the first words that open the story of Scripture. God creates light, sky, land, plants, sun, animals and humans.

The poetic story of Genesis tells of this creation in six days. It tells of how after six days, God is overwhelmingly delighted and pleased with creation, deeply in love with the birds and people and grass and water. So on the seventh day God rests.

Author Dorothy Bass writes that in resting "God declares as fully possible just how very good creation is. Resting, God takes pleasure in what has been made; God has no regrets, no need to go on to create a still better world or creature more wonderful than the man and woman. In the day of rest, God's free love toward humanity takes form as time shared with them."

This first Sabbath rest is an act of love, a choice to show love by spending quality time together. We should not be terribly surprised therefore that the Sabbath is one of the most important and often talked about commandments of God. God wants the people of God to rest, to nourish our souls with uninterrupted quality time spent with God.

Now this might not seem like good news for those of us who love productivity and check lists, for those of us who keep our plates so full with activities and responsibilities that spending one day a week resting sounds as likely as spending one day a week teaching pigs to fly.

We might respond to God's request saying we just don't have that kind of time! The world moves faster now!

And still to all this, God says: rest with me. You are not so important and in control that the world cannot get along without your work for one day in seven.

Sabbath is a relinquishing of pride, a relinquishing of the tempting siren song of overworked and over packed schedules. Our place and importance in the world are not determined by how much we do, volunteer for, or how many people depend on us. Instead they are determined by God's love for us. A love that invites us to set aside our business and spend some quality time with God.

What would it look like for you to join God in Sabbath this week? Sabbath is not a time when you sit still all day and try not to be bored, all that is relinquished is work and productivity, not fun or joy.

Instead, Sabbath is a day of worship, prayer, family time, long walks outside, naps, and good books. It is a time to spend with God and those you love, a time spent with the things that nourish your soul and breathe life into your heart.

Author Tony Jones writes, "Sabbath is yet another spiritual practice that at first blush seems to be about giving things up (one day a week to ‘get things done’), but in the end becomes a gift that is beyond price. In other words, it becomes an addition (of love, joy, hope, peace, etc.) rather than a subtraction."

Sabbath is counter-cultural. It is counter to many of our patterns of life. But it is life-giving and soul-filling.

How can you practice Sabbath this month? What day, half-day, or even couple of hours can you intentionally set aside for Sabbath?

Thank You Asbury!

Many of you wrote to Rev. Shelly Nichols, after she was mentioned in a recent sermon. Shelly is a pastor in West Virginia, and has cancer. Last week, she wrote to us, thanking us for our prayers and support: "I thank you all for reaching out to me. I thank God for all of you and join you all in praying that we all know God's steadfast love and care."

Please continue to keep Shelly in your prayers. Contact the church office if you need her home address.
Summer Job Opportunity

Are you looking for work, June-August, doing something that makes a difference in our community? We are looking for someone to work in the church office this summer. A friendly and welcoming personality, computer skills, and ability to take initiative and work on projects all needed. Salary to match experience and skills. Contact Pastor Kim or Larry Wiley, chair of our Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Director of Children’s Ministry

We have been blessed beyond measure by having Tina Morris as our Director of Children's Ministry. We will miss her! We will celebrate her ministry and thank her on Sunday, July 26, after worship.

We are looking for a new Director of Children's Ministry. This is a half-time position. Could you be called to this ministry? Qualifications include a strong ability and commitment to knowing and building relationships with children and families at Asbury. You would help provide an environment where children grow in faith and give service to God. You would recruit and support teachers. And, you'd be part of a wonderful staff team that works together to shape disciples of Jesus Christ, who transform the world. Want to learn more? Contact Pastor Kim (925-447-1950, ext. 102), or Larry Wiley, Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Watch Asbury Sermons On YouTube

Did you know that Asbury has a YouTube channel? You can see it here: www.youtube.com/c/AsburyliveOrg

We have been trying to record each of the sermons and post them on the YouTube channel, so you can watch them if you missed church or were traveling. Sometimes you may want to review a sermon to review the passage that was read and what the Pastors’ messages were around those passages. You can subscribe to the channel by clicking the red "Subscribe" button, and you'll be notified each time we upload a new video.

We also post the videos in two places when they go live so you’ll be sure to catch them:

• The Asbury Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AsburyUMC
• The Asbury News blog: www.asburylive.org/category/worship/sermons

On the Asbury website, there's a link at the bottom of the home page that will take you to the "Sermons" page, or from any other page, choose "Sermons" from the drop-down in the "Categories" on the right.

Do you find these videos useful? Please tell us by going to the article here and leave a comment! How and when have you watched the videos? Why do you like watching the sermons and how does it help you?

Please go here and tell us!
www.asburylive.org/news/asbury-umc-has-a-youtube-channel
**Celebrate Community**

**Ladies’ Night Out**

**Tuesday June 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 Anita’s Mexican Food (www.anitasmexicanfood.com) at 2124 Railroad Avenue. If you plan to attend, please let Nancy Grover know so she can tell them how many to expect.

**Senior/Retiree Luncheon**

**Thursday, June 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. This month it will be a picnic lunch with fried chicken, potato salad, chips and lemonade. Then we’ll have our first Seniors Cornhole Tournament, which is a bean bag toss game. Cost is $5 per person.

**Dine and Dawdle is Beginning Soon!**

**Thursdays This Summer, Starting June 18, 6:00 p.m.**

Join us starting June 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, every Thursday night through August 6 (except for July 2).

If you don’t want to cook or clean dishes, come and enjoy comfort food in the company of your Asbury friends for only $5 each or $20 per family! We have several fun activities planned along with the yummy dinner.

- **June 18**—Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.
- **June 25**—UMW hosting - Sloppy Joes ($6 adults, $5 children)
- **July 2**—No Dine and Dawdle, Happy Independence Day!
- **July 9**—Lion King shown after dinner, fun for all ages.
- **July 16**—Dessert Bake-off, bake your favorite dessert! Prizes!
- **July 23**—Snow White shown after dinner.
- **July 30**—Chili Cook-off! Hot dogs will also be served.
- **August 6**—Readers Theater presentation, dinner and a show!

**A Call to Listen Together: Sharing Diverse Voices and Perspectives on Race**

**June 14, 7:00 p.m.**

Come join us for a diverse panel and discussion on different perspectives and experiences of race and justice in our community. Some of the panel voices will include perspectives from the Livermore Police Department and from Sadhya Jha, the director of the Oakland Peace Center (www.oaklandpeacecenter.org). We seek to listen together remembering that we need all of our voices to build the beloved community of love and justice for everyone. The panel will take place in the Chapel on June 14 from 7-8:00 p.m. with a dessert reception to follow.

**Music Celebration Sunday**

**June 7, 2015, 9:00 a.m.**

During our 9:00 a.m. service on June 7, the Asbury community will be celebrating the gift of music. All of Asbury’s musical groups—that is children’s and youth choirs, adult choirs, bells and band—will be singing and playing in worship. This is the last Sunday the choirs will be together until after summer break.

We are grateful for the support of the Asbury community, financially, spiritually and emotionally. We are grateful for the time, talent and gracious spirit of singers and instrumentalists. We are grateful to God for the fact that music even exists, and the ability we have to share joys as well as sorrows through it.

Make a point of being in worship on Sunday, June 7 to be a part of our song of thankfulness and praise.

**Ruth Vince Celebration of Life**

**June 6, 10:00 a.m.**

A service for Ruth Vince will be on Saturday, June 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be a reception following the service.
Superstorm Sandy Is Still A Challenge

It is interesting how soon the world "forgets" about major disasters once they are out the news headlines. Yet, here we are, some two and a half years later, and there are still thousands of families in the Greater New York Area that need assistance recovering from Superstorm Sandy. At this point, some are desperate. Others have given up hope. And still others await our help.

Our April 2015 mission trip was to Staten Island, New York to give of our time towards the much needed recovery. Working for the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church, we were assigned several pressing needs to address. We tackled two major drywall projects. We finished off a couple of lingering electrical repairs and a few finish work needs, like installing doors.

When you work on missions like this one, it is a special blessing to provide encouragement to the people we serve. One of the homes, which needed to be totally rebuilt, is owned by a young family with a new baby. They had just finished remodeling their modest bungalow a few days before the storm hit. Another couple, George and Pat, have shared a relationship for several decades. Both of their homes, a few blocks apart, were severely damaged. George has totally focused on his home, doing as much work as he could, by himself. Now a mission team was installing siding with the interior rebuild to follow. Who knows when his home will get any attention. And so it goes.

We often wonder what keeps people going in the face of such challenges – disrupted lives for years on end. It takes patience, conviction that help will eventually come and much courage. The human spirit is a remarkable thing. It makes it easy for us to want to help.

The hardest part of us is that at the end of the week, we know we helped, but the work is still not finished when we leave. We just pray that the next team will come soon and pick-up where we left off.

A message we would like to leave with those of you who read this article is to consider joining us sometime. All skills are welcome. There is something for everyone to do. Besides the satisfaction of helping others in need, we enjoy the team comradery, sharing the details of our lives and the opportunity to see a new part of the world. Besides serving our deserving clients, this trip included staying at a historic Moravian Church, a very moving tour of the 9/11 Memorial Museum and a chance to see the interesting ethnic neighborhoods of Staten Island.

When it is all said and done, a mission trip like this is a multilayered opportunity to be the "hands and feet of Jesus" as a gift of our time and talent to our world.

Sincerely,


Join Us for Garden of Grace Workdays

The Garden of Grace, just behind the church, is an important outreach of Asbury UMC. Operated by Fertile Groundworks, the Garden was established by our congregation to be of service to our local community. It provides food for use by Open Heart Kitchen and to be given to local food banks.

During June, you have a chance to help with this outreach. We will be offering two workdays for our congregation – June 6 and 20, 9:00 a.m. to Noon. All ages are welcome. This is a great outreach for a family to do together. We will be working with the crops and doing other garden maintenance work. To sign up, contact Steve Elliott or stop by the Serve Others with Love Table after worship.

Volunteering in June 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.

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. Saturday, June 20

(Continued on page 8)
Curling!
June 6, 4:30 p.m.
Nancy Deis will share her passion for curling with the youth groups June 6! This is a fun opportunity to learn a new sport, have fun, and talk about how our passions can connect with our faith! Due to limited ice space we only have spots for eleven youth so if you are interested please sign up with Chelsea ASAP. We will meet at Asbury at 4:30 p.m. and return back around 9:00 p.m.

Children’s Ministry

Greetings Asbury Families. Your summer calendars are probably getting full already, but please consider adding the following:

Summer Camps for kids will take place July 6-11 and July 12-17 at Monte Toyon. Check out the website for more information; www.cnumc.org. Several kids and youth from Asbury have attended these camps and come back excited, invigorated and happy they attended. The “ropes” activities are always a favorite.

Vacation Bible School at Asbury July 20-24. Our theme this year is “Grow with God.” Sign up and invite some friends! Registration forms are available on our website, in the church office or in Room 7. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Barbara David.

Summer Sunday School runs from June 21-September 6. Please consider signing up to help lead stories, singing, crafts games or snacks. Our dedicated volunteers need a break. If you could volunteer just one Sunday this summer, it would make a difference. Materials will be provided. It’s easy and fun. See the Asbury Kids table in Fellowship Hall to sign up or contact Tina in the office.

Our giving project this school year has been to support the Shower Ministry here at Asbury. We have raised close to $200.00. There are still a few weeks left to show your support. The giving project not only provides support to a good cause, but is one way we teach our children the importance of sharing our gifts. Every penny counts, so let’s try to reach $250.00 by June 14.

Prayer to Say Over Your Child
God, I give you thanks for this precious gift. Please be ever present in his/her life and help him/her to show extreme kindness to others at every opportunity. Amen.

On a personal note
This is the metaphor I have shared with others. I feel like that seven year old child standing on the edge of the high dive. I can’t go back and am often frozen in fear with what I know I must do next. Jumping off this board is the scariest thing I have ever done. My friend and pastor added that I could picture God’s hands as the water, ready to catch me and keep me safe.

It has been an honor to spend time with the kids and families at Asbury. You truly are my church family and I love you all. It was with deep sadness that I submitted my letter of resignation effective August 1. We still have plenty of time to explore our faith together, so I hope to have great attendance on Sundays!

Thank you for the opportunity to get to know you all and for sharing your kids with me.

With Love,

Tina Morris
The Garden of Grace is taking on an even more drought tolerant shape this year. We are experimenting with several different methods of fallowing the ground without leaving it uncovered and vulnerable to sun and wind. We are also paying attention to not overwatering the crops. This is challenging because we have no way of measuring soil moisture other than to watch the crops’ performance.

We are looking into acquiring a soil moisture sensor so that we can fine-tune our capabilities. We planted windrows of sunflowers that provide food for pollinators, beneficial insects and birds in addition to sheltering crops and providing beauty. As with the Garden of Grace, Fertile GroundWorks is striving to bolster soil fertility and save water at all of our partner gardens.

We are excited to especially welcome Asbury members to join us on Asbury Volunteer Days in the Garden of Grace June 6 and June 20! Come and see first-hand what we are doing and enjoy a morning of garden fellowship!

Fertile GroundWorks Annual Fundraiser
July 22, 6:00 p.m.

Please also mark your calendars for our annual fundraiser, this year being held at the beautiful Rios-Lovell Winery (www.rioslovellwinery.com) July 22. Please visit the FGW website for details (www.fertilegroundworks.org) and to order tickets.
The Reconciling Committee continues to meet with individual members of the Asbury community, for one-on-one conversations about building a more inclusive church and the reconciling process. We are delighted that Sandy Alderson, Jean Braun and Del Miles have offered to help us with these one-on-one encounters. During our conversations, several folks have raised questions about the reconciling process in relation to the United Methodist Book of Discipline. Consequently, we asked Pastor Chelsea to our most recent meeting to help us understand better the Book of Discipline. Here is a brief summary of a few ideas we discussed. For more information, you may access the most recent version of the Book of Discipline (2012) at this website:

www.cokesbury.com/forms/DynamicContent.aspx?id=87&pageid=920

What does the Book of Discipline say? The most frequently cited portion (added in 1972) says “The UMC does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching” (Paragraph 161 of Article 4). It goes on to state “Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not certified to be candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in the UMC” (Paragraph 304.3).

What ELSE does the Book of Discipline say? In the very same paragraph cited above, it says “all persons are of sacred worth” and that “God’s grace is available to all.

Clearly, there is much more to learn and discuss and we will continue to do so, especially in light of two upcoming events: the 2015 California-Nevada Conference in Burlingame and the 2016 General Conference in Portland. There the subject will again be discussed, debated, and prayed about.

The above is a just taste of what we are working on, in addition to our important one-on-one conversations. We welcome your prayers.


Serve Others With Love (cont’d)

(Continued from page 5)

will be a typical Habitat workday. Work at the site starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends no later than 4:00 p.m.

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 Hoffman at home.

Join the Serve Others with Love Leadership Team

Asbury offers a rewarding and impactful program of mission and outreach opportunities. This program is led by a small leadership team. Would you be interested in considering joining that team? Or at least look into it? It is a great way to give of your time to Asbury UMC. Contact Steve Elliott at home or stop by the Serve Others Table after worship for more information.

Interfaith Backpack Project Special Offering

Each year Asbury UMC participates in an important interfaith initiative to provide a backpack and school supplies to kids who would not afford to purchase otherwise. It is a wonderful way to make a difference in the life of a child. This year, Asbury has committed to provide 100 backpacks. Our special offering on June 28 kicks off this effort. In addition, we will be collecting supplies, stuffing and distributing the backpacks in July and August.
Asbury was written up in the Contra Costa Times. Read the entire article here:

Excerpt:
A special first-time collaboration turned the meeting hall at Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore into a mini-Main Street last weekend, enabling needy residents to get their eyes and teeth examined, receive free legal advice and connect with a range of services normally difficult for them to access. The Homeless Resource Day was a project of CANDLE, a collaborative organization made up of faith and secular groups working to solve problems of hunger and homelessness in the Tri-Valley. The day brought together homeless and needy with service providers anxious to help them.

Providers at the event included a dentist and optometrist who provided screenings; two attorneys; two bicycle repairmen; and representatives from the Veterans Home of California, Yountville. Also on hand were representatives from area homeless assistance agencies. All provided immediate advice and suggestions on how to access necessary future care.

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Anniversaries

Bob and Kathy Berger
Dave and Dee Bing
Dave and Jean Braun
Rich and Jan Buckley
Cory and Anne Coll
Dick and Sharmyn Crawford
Eric and Kirsten Cummings
Peter and Susan Danan
Steve Elliott and Kim Risedorph
Roger and Jane Everett
Duane and Delaine Jantzen
Joe and Maris Medeiros
Donald and Gabe Meeker
Hal and Marlys Miller
Tom and Karen Nelson
Eric and Sue Ellen Schell
Dan Swinbank and Maureen Gandara-Swinbank
Steve and Sheila Taber
Bill and Glenda Warren
Rich and Laura Whipple
Steve and Sue Worth

Birthdays

Karen Bauman
Jennifer Bernstein
Chris Bing
Molly Bing
John Bluck
Kevin Boercker
Cassie Braun
Mikel Campos
Beverly Cavin
Shannon David
Glen Dawes
Lynnea Dawes
Steve Elliott
Nick Evans
Jane Everett
Kelly Galicia-Thomas
Kelsey Gamble
Joelle Goodman
Emma Grisham
Kelly Gully
Makayla Gully
Chris Hain
Elaine Hancock
Louis Howell
Karl Item
Katie Johnson
Sue King
Hansa Lakamsani
Vamsee Lakamsani
Dwight LeVan
Lorraine Magee
Janet Malski
June Martin
Paula McClendon
Victoria McPeake
Marisa Medeiros Hooper
Cole Meyers
Karl Meyers
Maggie Muldoon
Diana Nathan
Karen Nelson
Tom Nelson
Tom Petty
Elizabeth Piscotty
Glenn Pomykal
Sean Pomykal
Javon Rahmaan

Frank Raskauskas
Sarah Reggiardo
Matthew Schlientz
Ron Schwartz
Annakate Siebers
Joyce Spence
Ray Spooner
Joy Stewart
Rebecca Stewart
Don Sveen
Pat Van Lehn
John Van Scyoc III
Karen Webb
Lena Wilson
Leanne Worth
June 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. Small Groups
- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Room 15
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, Room 13
- 5:30 p.m. Club 45

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

June 2, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Anita’s Mexican Food, 2124 Railroad Avenue

June 4, 2015 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

June 6, 2015 (Saturday)
- 10:00 a.m. Celebration of Life for Ruth Vince, Sanctuary. Reception to follow

June 8, 2015 (Monday)
- 9:30 a.m. UMW Morning Glories, Fireside Room

June 9, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

June 14, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10

June 16, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Team, Room 11/12

June 19, 2015 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

June 21, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

June 23, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

June 28, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room
Livermore Community Blood Drive
Friday, June 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). The summertime is always a slow time for blood donation, so please call Tom Petty at home 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!

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, May 21, 2015.

Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

Asbury UMC Staff
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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
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