November 1: On All Saints Day we remember those loved ones who have passed and celebrate God's promise that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God.

November 8: We will explore how Elijah discovered God in the midst of hopelessness and frustration in 1 Kings 19:9-15. How do we discover God in our lives? Sometimes when things are really tough it can be difficult to see or believe that God is present. Elijah’s story reminds us that sometimes we hear God most profoundly in the silence.

November 15: How is God calling us? We will hear the story of the prophet Samuel receiving a call from God one night as a young boy in 1 Samuel 4:2-11. Often times we focus on speaking when we pray to God, but what happens when we stop talking and like Samuel say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

November 22: We celebrate Thanksgiving together as we worship God, the source of all good things.

November 29: On this first Sunday of Advent we will look at how Matthew tells the story of Jesus' coming in a way that invites us to slow down, turn our lives around, and make a strait path for Jesus to come in our midst.
Pastors’ Ponderings

As we move into Thanksgiving season, I invite us all to live with this truth: "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."
—Meister Eckhart

What's to stop us from praying all the time. Why not say "thank you" throughout the day?

This prayer of saying "thank you" does not mean we ignore the needs, the pain, the suffering in our world. It does mean that we increase our awareness that God is at work, in the midst of all we encounter.

I remember clearly when I was in graduate school in St. Louis. My days were busy, balancing classes, homework, and work. One day, I felt overwhelmed by all that was supposed to fit into that day. It didn't seem possible to get everything done. By the grace of God, in the midst of my panic, I realized I had much to be grateful for. I had a car that was running well, and I had reliable transportation between school, work, and home. I was grateful that I had work. I was thankful for the chance to go to graduate school. I was grateful for my landlady, Rosemary Schwarz, who gave me a great deal on renting a room. I was grateful for....well, the more I thought about it, the more I found to be thankful for. This approach transformed me, and my approach to the day.

Thirty years later, that day in St. Louis continues to guide me. When I face illness or challenges, when I hear of suffering or lack or pain in the community or in our world, I know that those needs are to be addressed, not ignored. And one way to go forward in addressing the needs around us, is to be on the look-out for God-sittings. For when we become aware of God-here-with-us, we can then discern the next right thing to do. One way to become aware of God, the Divine Power present in our world, is to pray. And, "if the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."

I am thankful for you!

Happy Thanks-Giving,
Pastor Kim

Facilities Manager Position Is Open

Mitchie McCammon has been an outstanding facilities manager, yet she is ready to move on to other things. Thank you, Mitchie, for doing an amazing job!

The ten hour a week job is now open. The facilities manager is the liaison between the Board of Trustees and any contracts for facilities use, custodial service, and facilities maintenance. Applicant needs to be familiar with Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher. Interested? It's a great place to work! Email Pastor Kim for the job description.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

Does shopping for Christmas gifts wear you out? Make you wonder what Christmas is all about? We've got the perfect solution: Asbury Alternative Gift Catalogue. Pick yours up at worship or in the office after November 22.

Give a gift that makes a difference, by making a donation in someone's honor to a local or international project that makes a difference in our world. We supply gift cards. Merry Christmas!
Serve Others With Love

Interfaith Build Day at Habitat for Humanity

On Saturday, November 21, Asbury will join other faith communities at the new Habitat construction in Martinez. Everyone is welcome, regardless of skills or experience. If you have never tried Habitat, come this time! We often work with the families who will own the new homes. Work at the site starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends by 4:00 p.m. We carpool from Asbury, leaving at 7:40 a.m. from the parking lot by the office building. For information or to sign up come to the Serve Others with Love Table after worship.

Volunteer for Thanksgiving and Holiday Outreach

Asbury UMC will again be hosting the Thanksgiving and Holiday Programs sponsored by Tri-Valley Haven. Each year, TVH provides food at Thanksgiving and a Holiday Gift Event for homeless and low income families. It is a wonderful way to help those families that might be challenged to have a Thanksgiving Dinner or have gifts for their families at the holidays.

Our first task will be to help register families for these events at the Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, 418 Junction Avenue, Livermore on November 3 and 5. The second thing we have is the actual distribution of the food bags for Thanksgiving. This involves handing out bags of food to families who have preregistered to receive one. This will be at Asbury on Monday, November 23. And third, we will sort gifts in early December and staff the Holiday Gift Event at Asbury on Thursday, December 10 and Saturday, December 12.

You will be working with other volunteers and TVH staff at our church. Stop by the Serve Others Table to see what specific shifts we need help staffing. or contact Steve Elliott at home.

November Workday in Garden of Grace

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. Join us for a workday for our congregation – Saturday, November 7, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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. No signup necessary. Just show up! Stop by the Serve Others with Love Table for more information.

Thanksgiving Offering

Our Thanksgiving Offering this fall will go to the Alameda County Community Food Bank. The Food Bank is the food lifeline for one in five Alameda County residents. Its’ network of 240 member agencies include Open Heart Kitchen, the TVH Food Pantry and other area agencies. The Food Bank is amazingly effective – delivering $6 of quality food for every $1 donated. Consider joining us in this opportunity to help others with much needed access to food.

Meet Shana Peete, Director for Circles for Change

Circles for Change is a poverty alleviation approach that we are starting in the Livermore area. Shana Peete is the half time director of our local initiative and in her own words: "I have a passion for social justice that was ignited by my parents, who always stressed its importance and my responsibility to work for it. I studied business at Fresno State and law at the University of Tennessee and have struggled to find a way to put what I have learned to good use and uses for good. Circles for Change represents a way to better our Livermore Community while bettering ourselves, maybe in ways we cannot even foresee. From what I have seen in other cities, the effects will be strong and long-lasting. I am raring to go!"
Sunday School News

Parables, parables, and more parables. The Pre-K through fifth grade children have journeyed through some of Jesus' parables in meaningful and exciting ways. Our exceptionally creative teachers have guided our enthusiastic to learn children through “The Servant & the Gold Coins”, “The Sower”, “The Prodigal Son and His Brother”, “Houses Built on Rock & Sand”, “The Vine and The Branches”, “A Speck in your Brother's Eye”, and “The Poor Widow's Offering”.

In Sunday school, we spend time reflecting on our lives, seeing where we have experienced God and assess our need for prayer(s) to God, we share as well as listen to one another's stories, and carry them in our hearts as a loving community. We then dive into a mystifyingly metaphorical parable story Jesus told to the people who listened to him. This leads us into an exploration of the story through Legos, tower building, food tasting, painting, drawing, skits, music, dancing, cooperative games, mind blowing science, brainstorming sessions on how to apply what we have learned to our own lives, as well as lively conversations.

We look forward to exploring the parables of “The Two Sons”, “The Unforgiving Servant”, and “The Rich Farmer” together before taking off to VeggieTale Land until the New Year, when we will continue our hike on our parable journey.

At the end of November through December, VeggieTales will lead us through a four week lesson series on Thankfulness with Madame Blueberry. This will include a special time of reflection on our thankfulness for the birth of Jesus while spending time exploring this life changing incredible event.

Sunday, December 13

Please save the date Sunday, December 13 for our Community Christmas Pop Up Pageant with music. Our own creative and most entertaining Barbara David is writing a miraculous script and Nancy Deis, one of our very accomplished actresses, is coordinating our theatrical assembly.

Who can be in the pageant? All of God's children of all ages are welcome to come and participate in the story of Jesus's birth, there will be no rehearsals. Yes that means you, and your neighbor, and your friend, and your co-worker, and the family you talk to on the playground at school while dropping off and/or picking up your child (ren), but not your dog, and especially not your cat.

How would one participate in a Christmas Pop Up Pageant? You just show up, pick your part upon arrival, get a prop of some kind, and go up on stage when you are directed to by our rehearsed Youth Narrators.

We will be singing Christmas songs together as a community throughout the program.

Schedule for the evening

- 4:30-5:00 p.m.: Children’s Choice Christmas Music Program, children will play a piece of Christmas music of their choice on their chosen instrument. Children who would like to perform need to pre-register by Saturday, December 5 with Jackie Bennett or email her
- 5:00-5:30 p.m.: parts for pageant will be arranged with guests already in attendance and with those arriving simply to just participate in the Christmas Pop Up Pageant Program
- 5:30 p.m.: Community Christmas Pop Up Pageant Program
- Following the Pageant Program: Soup and Sandwich Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall, please sign up with Jackie Bennett or email her to bring soup and/or sandwiches.

Come to all or part of the evening to celebrate our community together as we are centered on Jesus Christ during this joyous and blessed time of year.

Nursery care will be provided.

Thank you all so much for making Asbury a wonderful place for our children to experience God and the love he has for all of us.

Blessings and love,
Jackie Bennett
Youth Ministries

Youth Events, November 2015

- **November 1**: Family Movie Night 5:15-7:00 p.m.
- **November 8**: Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **November 15**: Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **November 22**: No Youth Groups
- **November 29**: Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Building an Inclusive Church

What Happened October 11?

"We are here because we love Asbury."

So began Rev. Dick Ernst, former pastor of Asbury, when he spoke at the panel discussion on October 11 sponsored by the Reconciling Committee.

About 60 people attended this event, including the five panelists. The panel began by describing how and why their churches (in Walnut Creek, Brentwood, and Loomis) had become "Reconciling Congregations," and why that was important to them personally.

Not surprisingly, their stories were as varied as the individuals who told them: Bonnie wasn't particularly looking for a church nor missing one, but when she needed one she went to Walnut Creek UMC because they were a reconciling church.

Shari missed the warm community of church that she had known in her youth, but as a lesbian felt she was not welcome in church.

Dennis was fearful of the LGBT community in the 1980s because he was afraid of AIDS but has changed his mind and now welcomes them into full participation in the congregation.

Mel's church found it easy to make the change because “everyone” knew and liked the five or so gay members of the congregation.

Rev. Ernst said the Loomis church had known a long history of discrimination as Japanese Americans so felt called to defend another group being discriminated against.

During a time of questions and answers, several ideas, concerns, and hopes were raised: making decisions and reaching consensus; including the whole congregation in the decision; choosing an acceptable symbol of reconciliation should we decide to become reconciling (i.e. a rainbow flag vs. some other symbol); the needs of our youth, etc.

The lively and grace-filled conversation continued over refreshments shared afterwards, and will of course continue in the months ahead.

These are just a few of the many highlights from the evening. The Reconciling Committee thanks each of you who attended and asks for the continued prayers of the entire congregation. We look forward to planning our next congregation-wide event, whatever and whenever it might be.

Margot Platt for the Reconciling Committee (Larry Wiley Carol Perry, Val Pace, Bill Groth, Leila Epperson, Dale Boercker)
New Members Gathering
Sunday, November 1
Are you new to Asbury? Meet with the pastors after worship on Sunday, November 1, in Room 10. We'll be there to get to know you, to answer any questions, and to provide a snapshot of our faith community—where it's been and where it's going. See you there!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 22, 4:30 p.m.
Join in an interfaith Thanksgiving Worship service on Sunday, November 22, 4:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 5th Street, Livermore. Our theme is Finding Refuge, and there will be music, prayers, and readings from a rich variety of faith traditions. A reception will follow.

Annual Church Conference
Sunday, December 6, 10:45 a.m.
Our annual church conference will be on Sunday, December 6, right after worship, in the Chapel. Reverend Dick Ernst will preside. At these yearly gatherings we gather to review the business of the church. The main event this year will be getting feedback from you on our proposed five year plan. Church leaders have been meeting with consultant Janet Cooke to design a five year plan. Your input is needed as we go forward! Why do we exist as a church, and how will we live into that identity? See you on December 6.

Asbury Trivia
Monday, November 2, 2015, is the 130th anniversary of Asbury's incorporation date. It's the day we became a legal entity in the state of California.
And there's more: Asbury began as a church 20 years earlier, in 1867. That means in 2017, we will celebrate our 150th anniversary as a church!

The Joy of Giving
This year, in our Stewardship Season, we explored John Wesley's advice on handling money: earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can. The daily devotions, the worship services, the Stewardship Hour video clips—all were designed to explore how we might earn, save and give.
Now is the time when we ask each participant at Asbury to consider how you will support Asbury with a financial donation. We ask that you to "find the will of God about this business of giving."
God doesn't need our money. God does need us to practice giving, so that we can now the joy that comes from giving. Pledge cards were mailed, and there are extras in the church office and pews. Thank you, for all the ways you give. For in giving, we discover God and experience meaning, purpose and joy. May it be so for all of us!
Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, November 3, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be enjoying Vietnamese food at Sai-gon Cafe located at 2011 Second Street, which is near the Wells Fargo Bank. All ladies of Asbury are invited. Please let Nancy Grover know if you plan to attend so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, November 5, 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/person.

BSA Troop 900 News

Congratulations to a pair of Asbury youth on their latest achievements as part of Asbury’s Boy Scout Troop 900. At the troop Court of Honor on September 28 in the Chapel, both Ralph Miller and Austin Gnecco achieved the rank of "Life" scout. This is the second highest rank that can be achieved ("Eagle" is the highest). One week later, the troop held its annual elections and selected Ralph to be the Senior Patrol Leader (the highest leadership position in the troop) for the next 12 months. If you see Ralph or Austin at Asbury, please congratulate them on their achievements.
Fertile Groundworks Update

With the nights dipping down into the low 50s and even high 40s in the Garden of Grace this past week, the summer vegetables and fruit crops are bidding their annual farewell. The warm Fall resulted in above average fruiting for peppers, eggplant and tomatoes. Cucumbers also have been producing large sweet fruit up till now. We will continue to take smaller, dwindling harvests of summer fruits for a few more weeks. In the meantime our cool season crops are already up and producing!

We are grateful for the generous support from the Asbury Community. Land and water for growing food is precious! Thank you for your support at our Sunday Love Offerings!

We work joyfully to provide the proverbial "fish" to those in their hour of need and to teach an increasing number of folks how to "fish" so that they can feed themselves well for a lifetime.

Camp Lodestar Mission Trip Report

Mission trips to Camp Lodestar are a wonderful blend of hard work, lively comradery and meaningful reflection in a beautiful setting. Our October 2015 trip was true to form. Always a joint mission between the Asbury and Lynnewood Methodist Churches, it is a chance to reconnect with longtime friends. What better way to live our faith in service!

On this trip, we addressed several pressing camp needs – replacing two dorm decks, rebuilding all of the recreation area picnic benches, replacing toilets, mirrors and light fixtures in one of the main lodges and painting one restroom. We accomplished way more than we expected. Despite the reputation church camp food has, the staff at Lodestar provides excellent meals. We are always happy with the food there. And, of course, as is our tradition, our meals are supplemented by fun snacks. It is impressive how many popsicles and bags of popcorn we go through in one week.

After dinner each night we shared a reflection time. This year, our discussion focused on the book, The Road to Character by David Brooks. Themes of the book include the "Big ME", "The Age of the Selfie" and other challenging characteristics of today's society and how they need to be addressed to build a modern model of strong character. Each evening we considered different observations by the author along with provocative questions. The dis-

(Continued on page 9)
Discussions were spirited and at times, personal. Our evening devotions are a sacred experience which bonds the teams' purpose of living our faith and enhances our spiritual walk.

Thursday morning began with a bang of thunder and a lightning bolt that awoke us all. This was our predawn "announcement" of our first ever mission trip mountain thunderstorm. We first thought that this might result in a day off. Au contraire...breakfast was served at the regular time and working in the rain all day was interesting. Some of the team became fashion statements in their trash bag rain garments. The rain poured down while the saws buzzed, the drills purred, and the pounding continued. With the horrific fire damage only five miles away from the camp, the rain was welcomed to drown out any smoldering ashes and to clear the air.

Prior to installing the stairs to the second deck, the ladies from Lynnewood took great delight in preparing the concrete and pouring it into the frames for the stairs landing. It was one of many especially enjoyable moments during the week. Laughter abounded when Dick, one mighty fine carpenter, hung a post upside down or when stories of previous goofs on other trips were shared.

We thank the Asbury and Lynnewood churches for their support. Consider joining in one of our 2016 mission trips. You will be rewarded with a meaningful experience of faith in action.

Your friends in faith,
Steve Elliott, Roger Everett, Coleman Johnson, Bob Hoffman, Dick Crawford, Doug Huey, Cynthia DeLand, Beth Okurowski, Wendy Kenley, Karen Fletcher, and Mary Ellen Huey.
Anniversaries
Paul and Karen Bauman
Alan and Mary Burnham
Dave and Barbara David
Patrick and Leila Epperson
Michael and Rebecca Kohlmoos
Roy and Susan Lambaren
Tom and Marilyn Miller
Art and Kathy Molvik
Bobb and Carolee Smith
Marc and Joy Stewart
Jeff and Susan Wagoner
Hesa and Gloria Yano

Birthdays
Suzy Almeida
Dorothy Beatty
Henry Bell
Rich Bennett
Katie Bing
Dave Boercker
Aubrey Bonetti
Dave Braun
Frieda Cain
Josef Campos
Morgan Ebbitt
Laura Evans
Doug Fedder
Carol Gordon
Brian Grant
Herb Guidry
Jocelyn Hart
Renee Haugen
Melanie Henderson
Scott Henderson
Matthew Hewitt
Katie Hinz
Coleman Johnson
Mikeileen Jones
Felicia Juan
Sara Lakamsani
Teri Lambert
Kayla LeVan
Jackie Loyd
P.J. Malski
Suzie McClung
Joe Medeiros
Gabe Meeker
Tom Miller
Kathleen Mitchell
Carole Nakanishi
Vera Niley
Jonas Pauliukonis
John Pettis
Joanna Raskauskas
Kris Raskauskas
Vicky Ringleb
Michele Rudd
Larry Sanford
Jackie Schlientz
Darrin Schrader
Dennis Siebers
Wes Stark
Herb Thomas
Madeline Turk
Patrick Wagoner
Shawn Wagoner
Matt Warren
Sheri Warren
Philip Weiss
Emily Yu
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
- 10:30 a.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 6
- 10:30 a.m. Rainbow Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Room 9
- 7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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
- 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
- 10:00 a.m. Crafting for a Cause, Room 10

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

November 1, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Small Group, Room 14
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room

November 3, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Saigon Café, 2011 Second Street

November 5, 2015 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

November 8, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10

November 10, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

November 15, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room
- 10:30 a.m. Small Group, Room 14
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room

November 17, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Team, Room 11/12

November 20, 2015 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

November 22, 2015 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

November 24, 2015 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

November 26, 2015 (Thursday)
- 9:30 a.m. Sewing/Quilting Group, Room 11/12
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

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 Friday, November 20, 2015.

Asbury UMC Staff
Pastor
Chelsea Constant
Pastor
Kim Risedorph
Children’s Ministry Director
Jackie Bennett
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

Livermore Community Blood Drive
Friday, November 20, 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 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