In April, a survey question was sent out the Asbury community asking: "Should Asbury UMC become a Reconciling Congregation and join the Reconciling Ministries Network?"

Thank you to all who participated.

As of Sunday April 24, 202 people completed the survey.

- 164 people (81.19%) answered “Yes”
- 29 people (14.36%) answered “No”
- 9 people (4.46%) responded "I'm not sure"

Given these results, Church Council voted to proceed with a vote, asking the same question as the survey. This ballot will be sent as an email vote on Survey Monkey, May 8-22. Hard copies of the ballot will also be available after worship and in the church office during this time period for those not voting via email. Each person can vote one time.

If more that 75% of our community vote "yes," Asbury will then become a reconciling congregation. Both members and active participants will be eligible to vote. Active participants are those who regularly engage in worship, financially support the church, and serve on committees and in outreach to the community. We have 486 members and approximately 50 active participants, all of whom are eligible to vote.

Joining the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN): The RMN exists to remove the language in the Methodist Book of Discipline that excludes any in the LGBTQ community from full participation in the church. The only requirement of joining RMN is to make public that we are a reconciling church and explicitly welcome all LGBTQ persons to our church. Every church does this differently. (See below for what would change at Asbury.)

Neither Asbury, nor our pastors, would be penalized for becoming a reconciling congregation. Our Conference voted to become a Reconciling Conference.

What would change at Asbury? Following the vote, if we do become a reconciling congregation, a re-organized and expanded Reconciling Committee would include those interested in shaping how we live into being a reconciling congregation. This committee would be on-

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going. Every congregation publicizes their status as reconciling in their own way. Some put it on the church website, some on the front of the worship bulletin, some on the church sign in the parking lot. These details would be recommended by the Reconciling Committee and brought to Church Council for approval. Other changes and new activities could be proposed by this committee.

As we go forward, we are called to be a church that keeps listening to God, the Divine Presence ever with us, that always tells us the next right thing to do. That is our prayer, and our world’s greatest need.

which marks the sixtieth anniversary of the ordination of female pastors in the UMC.

But it also is a time of struggle and challenge as we once again discuss questions of deep disagreement, like the United Methodist Church’s position on welcoming and including LGBTQ people. Please join us in praying for the Holy Spirit to move and be felt at this General Conference.

Second, if you are interested in learning more about the proposed major legislative issues you can read more about it at http://bit.ly/1W0XVmH.

There are several proposals that would directly affect the local church.

Finally, General Conference reminds us of our shared mission as United Methodists, to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” How are being called to grow in faith and be agents of God’s transformation here in Livermore?
Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to Strings Italian Café ([www.stringslivermore.com](http://www.stringslivermore.com)) located at 2205 Las Positas Road. 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, May 5, 12:00 p.m.
All seniors and retirees are invited to attend the luncheon on May 5 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is $5 per person. Please sign up after worship or call the church office at 925-447-1950. For more information, please contact Mitchie McCammon at home.

Thanks for supporting Troop 900
Thank you to the many families from Asbury that supported Troop 900 on March 28 by dining at Patxi’s in downtown Livermore. It was great to see so many familiar faces during dinner time that night.
The troop received a $409 donation from Patxi’s “52 Weeks of Giving” program. Those funds will be used to make improvements to their Christmas tree lot. Thanks again for supporting the Boy Scouts!!

Tapestry Handbell & Vocal Ensemble
Saturday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.
Tapestry will be performing “The Brilliance of Broadway” at Asbury UMC in the Sanctuary. Come enjoy a performance of combined handbells and voice.

Giving Through Online Banking

We’ve been using our bank’s Bill Pay to pay most of our bills and our pledge to Asbury, for a number of years. It is more convenient for us than writing a check each month, and provides more reliable income for Asbury when we are traveling. However, Bill Pay sends a check to Asbury, rather than doing an electronic transfer as they do to our credit card companies.

To achieve an electronic fund transfer to Asbury and reduce the workload for our Financial Secretary, we recently tried using Pay-Other-People, or Popmoney. The money transferred to Asbury. However it contained nothing to identify us as the givers.

I tried again, and this time I clicked on the inconspicuous “Add a note to this transaction” at the bottom of the form, selected category (Gifts) was the most appropriate choice, and filled in the 50 character “Description” with our name, and how this donation splits between whichever fund you want it to go to. Anything beyond your name is optional of course.

This information accompanied the bank transfer, so the Asbury Financial Secretary now can tell who the donation was from. And she can provide you with a quarterly receipt for our good friends at IRS!

Setting this up is more complex than writing a check, but after a few months of no further effort, you have saved time. In subsequent years, editing whatever changes you make is easy.

Your online banking system instructions may vary, but you can often make these payments set up without much effort.

If you have questions, please talk to Art Molvik at home.
Our Children’s Ministry program has begun a new journey into a Joyful Path Curriculum series where we will all be blessed by exploring who God is, Jesus showing us the way to God, finding God in nature, within ourselves and all around us.

Our sacred ministry is blessed with the most amazing and dedicated Sunday School Teachers. If you see one of them please thank them for sharing their wonderful gifts with our community: Edie Lamb, Kent McCammon, Suzie & Mike McClung, Cliff & Becky Biemann, Renee Haugen, Val Pace, Nora Hart, Jeannie Lobao, Bill Groth, Marsha Howard, Jennifer Bernstein, Hannah Borjon, Rich & Emily Bennett, and our newest teacher Sharon VanNoy Gach. Please join us in welcoming Abigail Crawford, Isabella Hendricks, and Christy Sloan to our compassionate nursery care staff.

**Wanted: Summer Sunday School Teachers**

We are looking for Summer Sunday School Youth and Adult Teachers to add to our regular teachers, so we all have opportunities to enjoy summertime worship services and activities. Please contact Jackie Bennett if you would like to serve others in this life changing sacred ministry.

**Vacation Bible School**

Preparations are under way for Asbury’s VBS Monday, July 25-29 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., with a lunch following our closing program on Friday.

This experience is designed for children entering Kindergarten through sixth grade.

We will be exploring the theme “Christmas in July” with a variety of meaningful experiences of God through fellowship, arts and crafts, science, food, recreation, bible stories, music, and serving others with love.

This will be our second year creating our own VBS “outside of the box” experience led by our imaginative team duo Barbara David and Nancy Deis. Last year we had a wonderful time experiencing Holy Spirit led created curriculum as it radiated a unique excitement throughout the entire week, while building beautiful lifetime memories and relationships with each other and God.

Please contact Jackie Bennett through the church office if you are a youth or an adult interested in volunteering to let the light of Christ shine through you to make this an incredible experience of God for the children of our loving community.

Nursery care will be provided for volunteers with children under the age of four. Registration forms for campers and volunteers are available online on our website and in our church office.

**United Methodist Summer Camps:** Grades 3 and up:

- Lodestar, July 17-23: Super Kid, Lodestar L.I.T, Super Camp

Camp registration opened February 2016 at www.cnumc.org/youthministries.

Peace and Blessings,
Jackie Bennett
Director of Children’s Ministry
Youth Ministries

Youth Events, May 2016

- **May 1**: Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **May 8**: No Youth Groups (Mother’s Day)
- **May 15**: Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m. (Tony Gnecco and Nancy Deis leading)
- **May 21**: Broomball at TriValley Ice 5:15-7:00 p.m.
- **May 22**: No Youth Groups
- **May 29**: No Youth Groups (Memorial Day Weekend)

Broomball

**May 21, 2016**

Come have some fun playing broomball with the youth groups on May 21 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at TriValley Ice! We will meet at TriValley Ice at 5:15, play for an hour, and then have pizza. Pick up is at TriValley Ice at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a filled out waiver, a helmet, comfortable clothes, tennis shoes, and $10. See you there!

Youth Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

This past week was Teacher Appreciation Week in the Livermore schools, and in that spirit I hope everyone will join in thanking our Middle and High School Sunday School teachers! They are the folks who dedicate their time, energy, and love to walk with our youth on their faith journeys. The way they serve our congregation is such an important part of how we nurture the youth in faith, so please if you see any of our teachers this month take the time to thank them!

High School Sunday School Teachers:

- Dave David
- Tony Gnecco
- Jackie Schlientz

Middle School Sunday School Teachers:

- Nick Constnat
- Nancy Deis
- Rob Rudd
- Kathleen Turk
- Ross Turk

"Are We There Yet?" - Part II

**May 15, 2016**

We know you have been waiting patiently for a whole year to see how the musical "Are We There Yet?" ends. Rainbow Choir and Youth Choir last May told the story of how Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, and safely crossed the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army chasing after them. All that action occurred in just the first half of the play.

So you are probably asking yourselves, "Did Moses and the Israelites make it to the Promised Land? Did God show them the way? Did they listen?"

Well, you will see and hear the answers to ALL those questions and more on May 15 during worship. The choirs have teamed up once again to tell the second part of the story in word and song. Please come - and bring a friend!
Asbury to Help with Resettlement of Family from Yemen

We are pleased to announce our first refugee resettlement. It is a mother and two young boys, 9 and 12 years of age. They are originally from Yemen, but have been living at a refugee camp in Turkey for several years. More information to follow when we have it. But for now, we are told they arrive Oakland Airport the evening of Monday, May 9. They will most likely settle in Oakland, especially since there are schools options that would fit the kids.

Each church, Asbury, Lynnewood and SRVUMC, is sharing the tasks, costs and needed donations. The initial list for Asbury includes:

- One or two people to help with the airport welcome.
- One of the volunteers to assist with Apartment readiness (cleaning and setup).
- Two volunteers to assist our team with Apartment paint/fix preparations.
- One volunteer to assist with hauling household goods and furniture to the apartment.
- One of several volunteers to do initial grocery shopping and stocking of pantry.
- Providing the following furniture: sofa (Chelsea), coffee table (Steve).
- Someone to go buy the following kitchen supplies: cooking utensils, measuring cups, can opener, glasses and cups, cutting board, cutting knives and dish rack. We can reimburse you. Prefer thrift store purchase.

Volunteer at Open Heart Kitchen

May 4, 2016

One of the most rewarding things we do is offer a nice “home cooked” meal to those who need one. Volunteers are needed at Asbury every Tuesday and Wednesday.

An Asbury team covers two shifts, 9:30am to 11:30am and 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., on the first Wednesday each month. Our next date is Wednesday, May 4. For more information stop by the Serve Others with Love table or contact Bill Groth.

Workday at Garden of Grace

May 14, 2016

Our next workday in the Garden of Grace is May 14, 9:00 -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 sign-up needed. Just show up.

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.

Habitat All Faiths Workday

May 21, 2016

Each month we join other faith communities to build Habitat homes in Martinez. Our next Saturday workday is May 21. No experience is necessary. Youth 16 and older can work on construction and are encouraged to participate. The first half of the 20 house project is in the final stage of completion.

Work at the site starts at 8:30 and ends by 4:00. We carpool from Asbury, leaving at 7:40am. To sign up, come to the Serve Others with Love Table, or contact Bob Hoffman.

Thirtieth Anniversary Habitat for Humanity Build-A-Thon

June 17-21, 2016

Expected to be an amazing couple of days, the goal of this year’s Build-A-Thon is to completely frame 6 homes in 5 days! The dates are June 17-21, 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. each day. Hundreds of volunteers will gather each day to pound nails. No previous building experience needed! Come for one or two days to share in providing affordable housing for families that need it desperately.

The fundraising goal is $300 per person, per day. While most participants will find that friends and family will support them, we also have scholarships available at Asbury. Stop by the Serving Others Table or contact Bob Hoffman for more information or how to register.

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Serve Others With Love

(Continued from page 6)

Contact Steve Elliott or stop by the Serve Others Table after worship if you can help with any of these initial tasks. Your questions are welcome, as well. I realize we lack a lot of details here as to time, place and effort, but we will fill that in as we get organized. There will be many other ways to help as this resettlement unfolds. Just let Steve know of your interest.

Learn More About Our Mission Partnership with Fertile Groundworks

Fertile Groundworks is our feature mission this month. Stop by Serve Others Table in the Fellowship Hall to learn more about this outstanding Asbury partnership.

Easter Offering – What a Blessing!

Asbury generously donated over $8,000 to our Easter Offering and when matched, that total of nearly $17,000 will fund over 100 wheelchairs! Amazing. What a way to live our faith!

Now two quick updates. If you donated $150 or more you can receive a personalized certificate and photo of wheelchair recipient(s). Just stop by the Serve Others With Love Table and provide some info for us.

Second, we will be planning a mission trip to help distribute our wheelchairs, if you think you might be interested in this, please let Steve Elliott know. We will be looking for a date in late 2016 or early 2017 once we select a country for our donation.

Circles for Change Update

May 3, 2016

On Tuesday, May 3, 2016, Circles for Change is excited to participate in East Bay Gives, a 24-hour online fundraising effort hosted by the East Bay Community Foundation that will bring 501 local nonprofit organizations together with hundreds of donors who want to help fund their vital work in our communities. Last year, from midnight to midnight, East Bay Gives raised more than $649,000 for 360 nonprofit organizations, and we’re excited to do our part to make it even more successful this year.

You can participate by going online and making a tax-deductible donation of at least $20.00 to Circles for Change on May 3 using this link: http://bit.ly/1TnxsZV

For those unable to participate online, checks may be made out to Asbury United Methodist Church with Circles for Change in the memo line.

Though welcome at any time, they must be received by May 30 to be included in the East Bay Gives event. So far, we have been offered $1000 of matching funds as an incentive to do our best. Please help us to meet and exceed that goal!
Anniversaries
Tim and Nancy Ackerman
Jackie and Rich Bennett
Mark and Lesleyann Coker
Peter and Deanna Frumenti
Steve and Sheryl Goodman
Karl and Rhonda Item
Mark Lee and Susan Edgar-Lee
Charles Runnels and Emilie Fox
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
Linda Beach
Bob Berger
Brett Bernstein
Kevin Bernstein
Nikolas Campos
Thomas Cayton
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
Kayley Strait
Caitlin Tripp
Allan Van Lehn
Zachary Wakefield
Sharon Walton
Glenda Warren
Lindy Webb
Hitomi Westfall
Rich Whipple
Kara Wiley
Burlyne Wilson
George Wilson
May 2016 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. 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
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room (first and third Sundays only)
- 7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Room 10

Mondays
- 11:00 a.m. Crafting for a Cause, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. Fertile Groundworks, Conference Room (second and fourth Mondays only)
- 7:30 p.m. Reconciling Ministries, Room 10 (first and third Mondays only)

Tuesdays
- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room (second and fourth Tuesdays only)
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Small Group, Fireside Room (second and fourth Tuesdays only)
- 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

Other Events

May 1, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10

May 2, 2016 (Monday)
- 7:30 p.m. Reconciling Ministries, Room 10

May 3, 2016 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Strings Italian Cafe

May 5, 2016 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

May 8, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

May 15, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

May 17, 2016 (Tuesday)
- 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Team, Rooms 11-12

May 19, 2016 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Interfaith Interconnect, Fireside Room

May 20, 2016 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

May 21, 2016 (Saturday)
- 11:00 a.m. Fertile GroundWorks, Room 11/12

May 22, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

Asbury UMC Staff
Pastors
 Chelsea Constant
 Kim Risedorph
Children’s Ministry Director
 Jackie Bennett
Youth Director
 Chelsea Constant
Secretary
 Terri Gamble
Facilities Use Manager
 Teri Lambert
Music Director
 G. Allen Schell
Choir Coordinator
 Jean Braun
Nursery Coordinator
 Pam Tegge
Lay Leader
 Martie Muldoon

www.AsburyLive.org

Livermore Community Blood Drive
Friday, May 20, 1:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Every single day, Bay Area hospitals need over 300 units of blood to help sick and injured people live. If you’re 17 or older and in good health (or 16 with parental consent) help save a life by giving blood! Go to redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: ASBURY925. Call Tom Petty at home for more information. Thank you for helping to save a life by giving blood!

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, May 20, 2016