In the recent five-year planning exercise, the number one comment heard from Asbury members was that we needed new office space. As a first step toward this goal, we looked back over the past year to see how all of our building space was being used. The survey showed that there are a number of rooms on site that are used infrequently, and some even rarely used. As a result, the question arose whether it was feasible to place new office space somewhere in our existing buildings through a remodel. Construction of a new building would cost upwards of $700k, while the cost of a remodel might be in the $200k range, for a substantial savings.

At its last meeting the Church Council voted to establish a task force to evaluate the possibility of fitting new, remodeled office space into our existing buildings. It is important to state that no proposal currently exists. The work of the task force will be to:

1. Evaluate each building on site to see if it could be remodeled for new office space
2. Then for each building’s option, evaluate the impact on other church programs as pros and cons
3. Finally, report on the 2-3 best options

The congregation would hopefully then get to choose between a remodeling option and the construction of a new building. Clearly that choice will come down to a balance of the remodel’s negative aspects versus the cost savings.

If you are interested in joining this task force, please contact either Pastor Kim or Dave Braun.
Our worship attendance at Asbury is lower than it has been, and that’s certainly gotten my attention and my prayers!

I’ve appreciated Rebekah Simon-Peter’s reflections on how we measure a church’s health:

“We have a love/hate relationship with data. Even as big data shapes almost all our online experiences, we’re not so sure how we feel about data in the life of the church. Yes, we count worship services, offerings, worship attendance, small group ministries, baptisms and confirmations. But deep down inside, we resist measuring ourselves. I suspect it’s because we fear we don’t measure up.

“I get it. Measuring ourselves is hard. I experience that every time I step on the scale. If my weight is high, I’m bummed. Paradoxically, my response is to want to eat more. On the other hand, if it’s low, I take it as license to indulge. I’m stuck either way. Data shmata.

“Jesus said, ‘You shall know me by my fruits.’ What fruits are we as a church producing? In the United Methodist Church, we proclaim that we are making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. There’s only one way to know if we are accomplishing our vision or not. We have to measure ourselves.

“I know what you’re thinking: data shmata. Who cares about the numbers? You can’t measure what churches do. You can’t measure the growth of a soul or the impact of a sermon.

“I say if we’re not willing to measure ourselves, we’re not serious about our vision.

“For instance, can you imagine Michael Phelps practicing without a timer? Or Simone Biles executing moves without a judge? Is it even conceivable that Usain Bolt would, well, bolt, without clocking his speed? They count on that information to guide their performance.

“There’s only one way to know if we’re actually making disciples or transforming the world, folks. And that’s to count. It starts with counting the right stuff.

“Counting the right stuff.

“Imagine if Olympic athletes measured their effectiveness by the numbers of medals won, records broken and milliseconds shaved off. She doesn’t care how many programs are sold. It’s irrelevant to her performance.

“We need to adopt the same attitude. Too often we are dazzled by the irrelevant.

“So what should we count?”

There’s more to this article rebekahsimonpeter.com

For me, one of the most exciting parts about being a pastor in this era is asking these questions: In a time of shrinking worship attendance, what is our response? What should we count? And the critical question that we are asking is: why are we here? At Asbury we are here to discover God and find meaning, purpose and joy. We move forward on this journey towards God by being centered in Jesus Christ, growing in faith, celebrating community and serving others with love.

If you, like me, are energized by these questions and topics, join in on our next leadership meeting that is setting our goals for 2017: Thursday, November 3, 1-2pm in the Conference Room.

Rebekah Simon-Peter concludes her article with these insights:

"Instead of counting small groups, maybe we need to count what those small groups do. Like the number of prayers offered, kind things done, suicides averted, hospital rooms visited or courageous words spoken.

“Or, instead of counting people who attend worship, maybe we need to count the number of people in and beyond the church who actually emulate Jesus. Like people who act courageously, live sacrificially, call us to a new humanity and put God’s will above all else.

“No doubt, the UMC, like most religious groups, is headed toward a leaner future. Our current statistics show that. But that doesn’t mean our spiritual footprint need be smaller. Quite the opposite. Jesus turned the world upside down with a very small following. The truth is, I expect our impact can be greater than it’s ever been. But we have to truly embrace our vision, be clear about what it means, then design measures to connect us to it. Finally, we need to be willing to collect and crunch data that tells us how we’re actually doing.

“Data shmata? No way. It’s time to love the numbers.”

What do you think of Rebekah’s approach? I always appreciate hearing from you.

Pastor Kim
Interfaith Gratitude Gathering

Saturday, October 8, 9:00 a.m.

Interfaith Interconnect invites you to attend a special program:

Gratitude Gathering
Saturday, October 8, 2016
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue, Livermore

Come and experience some ways that gratitude is expressed in various faith traditions and other spiritual practices.

Attendees may attend all or part of the morning. The program is free and everyone is welcome. No RSVP or registration is required.

- 9:00 a.m.: Check-in, Courtyard
- 9:30 a.m.: Dedication of the Morning, Sanctuary: Feraidoon Mojadedi and Don Lewis
- 10:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Concurrent sessions at various locations on church grounds.

Topics: Zhikr, Various forms of prayer and chant in Catholic, Hindu and Jewish traditions, Mindfulness meditation, Walking the labyrinth, Sacred drumming, Gratitude collage, Sacred music.

Presenters include Zaheer Mohammad, Br. Mike Minton, Shanta & Indira Bulkin, Emma Root, Marcella McCormick, Judy Hughes, Fariba Mizban, Linda Culpepper, plus choir members from the LDS church.

Is It Time to Join Asbury?

Sunday, November 13, 10:30 a.m.

Newcomers to Asbury are invited to meet the pastors and other new comers; learn about Asbury's past, present and future; and consider joining the church. This gathering will be on Sunday, November 13, at 10:30 in the Fireside Room.

Please contact Pastor Kim or Pastor Chelsea or call the church office at 925-447-1950, with questions or to sign up. We look forward to getting to know you a bit better!

Annual Church Conference

Sunday, November 27, 12:00 p.m.

Each year, we gather as a church community to remember the highlights of the year, and to plan for the future.

On Sunday, November 27, at 12:00 p.m., we will have our annual church conference. Reverend Heather Hammer will preside.

Our agenda includes considering a new welcome statement for our church and voting on officially starting our own endowment fund. Plan to be there, and add your voice. All church members have a vote in these matters.
Children’s Ministries

During October our “A Joyful Path” curriculum series, for the pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, children and their Sunday school teachers, will take us on a journey to explore:

- Filling our minds with goodness as we choose to fill our hearts and minds with God’s goodness.
- Opening our hearts in prayer as we affirm our hearts are connected to God through prayer.
- Accessing God’s guidance as we feel for inner guidance from God before we act.
- Infinite possibilities are in each moment.
- Expanding our awareness of God as we affirm we are a part of all creation.

Sunday, October 30 is “Bring a Friend to Sunday School Day”. But of course you may bring a friend to Sunday School any Sunday.

Children’s Ministry’s Offering Collection will be going to the Alameda County Food Bank. Our goal is to raise $300 by May 2017.

A huge thank you to Sharon Grant for training our new nursery care staff in CPR and First Aid for a second time this year.

Peace and Love,
Jackie Bennett
Director of Children’s Ministry

Youth Ministries

October Youth Happenings

- October 2, 9 and 16
  ◊ 4:30-5:30 p.m.: Confirmation
  ◊ 5:30-7:00 p.m.: Youth Groups
- October 23
  ◊ 4:30-5:30 p.m.: Confirmation
  ◊ 5:30-8:00 p.m.: Corn Maze Trip
- October 30
  ◊ 4:30-5:30 p.m.: Confirmation
  ◊ 5:30-8:00 p.m.: Youth Groups—Halloween Costume Contest!

Corn Maze Trip

Sunday, October 23, 5:30 p.m.

Join us for an a-maze-ing youth trip to the corn maze and haunted house at Dell’Osso Family Farm! Meet at Asbury at 5:30 p.m. and pick up at 8:00 p.m. on October 23. Please bring a jacket and $20. Sign up by October 16 with Chelsea.

Young Adult News

Young Adult Lunch

Sunday, October 2, 10:30 a.m.

This October we kick off a Young Adult Lunch out on the first Sunday of the month after worship. Join us October 2 at 10:30 a.m., we will meet outside the Fellowship Hall and pick a restaurant.

Bible Study

Thursday, October 13 & 26, 7:30 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets October 13 and 26 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Pastor Chelsea’s house (890 Jefferson Avenue).

All are welcome to come delve into Scripture together! If you have any questions please contact Chelsea.
Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, October 4, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to Posada Contemporary Southwestern (www.posadarestaurant.com) located at 988 Murrieta Boulevard. 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, October 6, 12:00 p.m.
All seniors and retirees are invited to attend the luncheon on 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.

Memorial Bricks
We will again be celebrating the life of those who have passed on with the use of engraved bricks in the Memorial Garden. If you would like to honor someone in this way, please provide first name, middle initial, last name, year of birth and year of death to either the church secretary or Dick Crawford. Please make out a check to Asbury for $30 for each brick.

Book Discussion
Sunday October 30, 7-8:30 p.m.
Are you concerned about violence in our nation, especially the violence between our police and African American young men? You are not alone. Jim Wallis' book, America’s Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America, explores the topic with faith, clarity, and concrete suggestions.
Please read the book, available in paperback and on kindle, and join in a discussion on Sunday, October 30, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.
Please also invite a friend, neighbor or colleague to this event. Together, we can find the bridge to a New America.
See you there!

A Support Group for Those in Grief
Wednesdays, October 19-December 21
The death of a loved one can leave us feeling alone, confused and isolated. Finding ways to explore our grief, how it may be affecting you and learning effective coping strategies can help. Hope Hospice offers an eight-week support group, at no cost, to those grieving the death of someone important to them.
The next group starts Wednesday night, October 19-December 21 (off on November 9 and 23).
Before participating in our grief support services, Hospice asks that you talk with a Grief Support Provider. Call 925-829-8770 to learn more.

Asbury Follies
Saturday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.
It's that time again! Time for an evening of music, laughter, and fellowship, and you can be a part of it. Please join us in the audience. Admission is free to all, but donations to APPLAUSE will be dramatically accepted.
For more information, contact Barbara David or the church office.
Distribute Wheelchairs in Guatemala

At Easter, Asbury and San Ramon Valley UMC collected enough money to purchase 100 wheelchairs. We will be going to Guatemala to help distribute those wheelchairs in Antigua and Guatemala City. There are many people in this country who cannot afford a wheelchair. We will be teaming with the Rotary Club there to select and equip individuals who need one.

The travel dates are January 23-29, 2017. In addition to the distribution days, we will take time to visit some of the highlights of the country. The preliminary cost estimate is $1,600 to $1,800 per person for airfare, hotels, meals and other related expenses. Partial scholarships are available.

Registration is now and will conclude October 23. But the sooner you decide, the better. We only have 12 slots available. See Steve Elliott for more information.

Habitat for Humanity in October

Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.

Our next Habitat for Humanity Workday is October 15 in Martinez, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Bob Hoffman or stop by the Serve Others with Love Table.

Volunteer for the Livermore Homeless Refuge

The mission of the Livermore Homeless Refuge is to provide a clean, dry, warm and safe place to stay overnight during cold or rainy weather. It is a joint program of Asbury UMC, Vineyard Christian Fellowship, First Presbyterian Church and Holy Cross Lutheran. When operations start in November, the hosting role rotates between each church.

Volunteers work shifts to host clients for the night and help with other tasks. Stop by the Serve Others with Love Table to learn more about this important way to live our faith in the community.

Tri-Valley Haven Thanksgiving and Holiday Programs

Each year Asbury helps Tri-Valley Haven staff their Thanksgiving Food Distribution and Holiday Gift Programs for low income and homeless residents of our area. Registration for these two programs begins in early November.

We need volunteers for two hour shifts at the registration table on November 1, 3 and 10. Located at the Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, shift times are 12:45-2:45 p.m., 2:45-4:45 p.m. and 4:30-6:15 p.m. Stop by the Serve Others with Love Table to sign up.

Help Us Provide UMCOR Relief Kits

One of the major programs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is to distribute various types of kits to help respond to worldwide disasters or to support mission work around the world. The seven standard kits include such supplies as flood buckets (flood cleaning supplies), birthing kits and others.

During October, our goal at Asbury is to collect health, school and layette kits to take with our team that will be working at the UMCOR Depot in early November. Each of these kits has a standard inventory of contents and packaging. If you would like to help provide a kit or part of the contents of a kit, just stop by the Serve Others with Love Table to pick up an information sheet for the kit of interest. There will also be information sheets in the Narthex of the Sanctuary and the church office. Leave your donation in the collection box by October 30.
Dear Asbury,

Margot Platt offers prayers of gratitude to God for healing, to the medical profession for successful surgery and radiation, and to the community of Asbury for support and love throughout it all.

Thank you
## Anniversaries

- Chris and Suzy Almeida
- John and Sheryl Bluck
- Brian Defenbaugh and Erik Swenson
- Gary and Nancy Deis
- Tim and Linda Evans
- Paul and Mikeileen Jones
- Dwight and Lisa LeVan
- Dennis and Louise Nelson
- Tom and Joanne Petty
- Mark and Elizabeth Piscotty
- John and Barbara Sharry
- Bernie and Dottie Sherman

## Birthdays

- Joanne Abey
- Chris Almeida
- Pat Baker
- Spencer Bayless
- Caitlin Beach
- Rex Beach
- Kathy Berger
- Madison Bernstein
- Dave Bing
- Jessica Bohling
- Elaine Bosserman
- Alan Burnham
- Elizabeth Cassidy
- Kathy Chase
- Elaine Clary
- Edison Cummings
- Kathy Defenbaugh
- Leila Epperson
- Linda Evans
- Don Faul
- Nancy Grover
- Ruth Hawley
- Donna Koon
- Wyatt Koon
- C.J. Malski
- Holly McCammon
- Jim McCarty
- Nicholas McClendon
- Patti Mehser-Paiso
- Caitylene Miller
- Chloe Molvik
- Priya Nathan
- Dennis Nelson
- Kristina Ormond
- Tanner Paiso
- James Pettis
- Peg Pettis
- Joseph Pyle
- Anya Runnels
- Ceit Sanders
- Eric Schell
- Hailey Schultz
- Jonathan Senge
- Carolee Smith
- Lillian Speckenhuer
- Erica Squires
- Jan Stevenson
- Marc Stewart
- Jeff Wagoner
- Michael Wakefield
- Larry Wiley
- Carol Wilson
- Philip Woolworth
- Sue Worth
- Cody Zabriskie
October 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. Small Group, Room 13 (first and third Sundays only)
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room (first and third Sundays only)
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Mondays
- 11:00 a.m. Crafting for a Cause, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. Fertile Groundworks, Conference Room (second and fourth 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
- 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. Small Group, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

Saturdays
- 8:00 a.m. Lawn Crew
- 9:00 a.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

Other Events

October 4, 2016 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Posada Contemporary Southwestern

October 6, 2016 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

October 8, 2016 (Saturday)
- 9:00 a.m. Interfaith Gratitude Gathering, Sanctuary

October 9, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

October 15, 2016 (Saturday)
- 11:00 a.m. Fertile GroundWorks, Room 11/12
- 7:30 p.m. Asbury Follies, Sanctuary

October 16, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

October 21, 2016 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

October 23, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

October 30, 2016 (Sunday)
- 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion, Fireside Room
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

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

Livermore Community Blood Drive
Friday, October 21, 1:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

The Red Cross has been on appeal for more blood donors, and we need you! 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!

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 Friday, October 21, 2016