Several years ago, a group at Asbury spent time discussing the reconciling movement and its potential at Asbury. Although we didn't pursue becoming a reconciling congregation at that time, a Welcome Statement was developed to show our desire to include all in our community. In the years since, there have been requests to expand that statement to more fully represent Asbury. The process of becoming a Reconciling Congregation this year seemed like an excellent opportunity to re-examine our current welcome statement, and Church Council asked the Reconciling Team to recommend an updated statement. That statement, along with our current statement, are printed below.

This statement will be voted on at our Church Conference in November. Thanks to Bill Groth, Burlyne Wilson, and Marsha Howard for carefully crafting this statement.

Asbury UMC Proposed Welcome Statement

ALL people are children of God and are of sacred worth. Asbury United Methodist Church affirms Christ’s example of unconditional love and publicly affirms a commitment to spiritual diversity and individual integrity. Therefore, we welcome all, including those who have not always been accepted because of race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, cultural background, social or economic status, family make-up, physical abilities, or age. Our community embraces you and celebrates God’s love with you. We receive you with open arms, joy and the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Asbury’s Current Welcome Statement

Asbury UMC welcomes everyone to our campus and community of faith. We are committed to treating everyone with respect and consideration without regard to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, cultural background, disability or age.

What are YOU Thankful For?

Asbury United Methodist Church • 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 • 925-447-1950 • www.AsburyLive.org
"Gratitude goes beyond the 'mine' and the 'thine' and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy."  Henri Nouwen

November is a month when we take the time to notice and celebrate gratitude. Although there has been a long history of celebrating a festival of Thanksgiving in the month of November, it wasn't until 1863, during the middle of the Civil War, that Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national holiday of Thanksgiving.

We often mark our thanksgiving by what we have, by the things in our lives for which we are grateful. We might consider ourselves blessed that we have loving family, or plenty of food, clean water, so many things that we know we often take for granted that others around the world often live without.

But while it is important to recognize the good things in our lives and to remember our sisters and brothers who might not have those things, is this gratitude of comparison really the heart of blessing or thanksgiving?

The bold beginning of Thanksgiving as a national holiday in the midst of the Civil War reminds us that we can live gratitude even in the midst of difficulty, that we can find blessing even in the midst of pain. Perhaps our blessings have less to do with the list of all the things we have and more to do with the very gift of life, the gift of love, and the gift of God’s loving presence with us.

Mary embodies this spirit, when she sings in thanksgiving for her blessings in the midst of dealing with all the fallout of her pregnancy with Jesus: a fiancé who isn’t sure if he can trust her and stay with her, a community judging her harshly as an unwed teenage mother in a time when that was considered unacceptable.

All that is true, and yet she sings: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed." (Luke 1:46-48). Her spirit rejoices and she boldly claims herself as blessed in the midst of it all because she trusts that God is with her and doing something amazing.

How can we cultivate this practice of gratitude not through comparisons but through the awareness of God with us this Thanksgiving season?

As you reflect back over the year or perhaps over your life, where have you seen and noticed God’s presence with you? May we sing with Mary this Thanksgiving season, aware and grateful for the ways God is present and at work in all of our lives.

VIM Butte Fire Recovery Report

September, 2016

In late September, a team from Asbury UMC and Lynnewood UMC made the short trip to the Sierra Nevada’s to work on a house being rebuilt from the devastating Butte Fire of 2015. Our trip was managed by Calaveras Recovers (CR) [www.calaverasrecovers.org](http://www.calaverasrecovers.org), and we worked on one of two homes currently under construction.

CR’s short term goal is to assist with 14 homes, working mostly with un- or underinsured folks who could not rebuild without volunteer help. Asbury and Lynnewood each put up $1000 which goes towards the $70-80K that CR estimates will be needed per house for materials and supplies.

The homeowners, Jacki and Ken, had lost the house they had built 30+ years ago. Their son Chris works for Sender’s Hardware. Allen Sender volunteers as the board chairman of CR and is a major player in making all the CR reconstruction activities happen.

As much as Jacki, Ken, and their family missed their old house, they were so very grateful for the work we accomplished in four days: interior framing, siding prep, shingling, deck framing and installation of window and door trim.

November Religious Chat

Wednesday, November 9, 5-6:00 p.m.

Would you like to learn more about other faith practices? Once a month, Interfaith Interconnect hosts a gathering. The November Religious Chat will be held on Wednesday, November 9 at the Muslim Community Center, 6724 West Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton. The time is 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., with the center opening at 4:30 p.m. and closing at 6:30 p.m. (Please enter from the school side of the building, Suite 100.)

The topic will be, “What myths would you like to dispel about your religion or religious practice? What are frequent misconceptions?”

The speakers will be Imam Tahir Anwar of the Muslim Community Center and Robin Wood, Jewish Educator.

New to Asbury? Asbury 101 Gatherings

Sunday, November 20 or December 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

If you are new to Asbury, want to meet others, or wonder how you can join our community, you are invited to attend one of the following gatherings: Sunday, November 20, 10:30-11:30 or Sunday December 6, 10:30-11:30, both in the Fireside Room.

Pastors Kim and Chelsea will lead these gatherings (both are identical). You will have the chance to meet others and learn of ways to grow in faith.

If you decide to join Asbury, new members will take membership vows on Sunday, December 11, in worship. Please call the church office at 925-447-1950 for more information.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 27, 5:30 p.m.,
St Bart’s Episcopal Church

Searching for hope in the midst of our differences? Our annual interfaith Thanksgiving Service celebrates our shared yearning for peace, civility, and respect. Through music, prayer, and holy readings we will focus on our common humanity. You and your friends are invited to participate on Sunday, November 20, 5:30 p.m. at St Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. A reception will follow the worship service.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day Worship

Sunday, December 25 and January 1, 11:00 a.m.

This year, Christmas and New Year’s Day fall on a Sunday. On December 25 and January 1, we will worship at 11:00 a.m. Sleep in, enjoy your family rituals, and then we get to celebrate the day with worship!

Upcoming Holiday Events

- 12/4 Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 12/11 Christmas Pageant 5:30 p.m.
- 12/18 Christmas Caroling 3:30 p.m.
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Services 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.
- 12/25 Christmas Day Service (Sunday) will be at 11:00 a.m. (PJ's are OK!)
- New Year's Day Service (Sunday) will be at 11:00 a.m.

Annual Church Conference

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

Members of Asbury! Please add your voice and vote to our annual church conference on Sunday, November 12, 12noon, in the Chapel. This year we will vote on our new and improved welcome statement; on officially starting an endowment fund; and on regular church business items. Reverend Heather Hammer will preside, the company will be great, and the food will as well. See you there!
As we begin our journey into November and reflect on gratitude, as we prepare to celebrate a season of Thanksgiving, I look back over 2016 and I am overwhelmed with a deep sense of gratitude for each and every child, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School volunteer, and the support Children's Ministry receives from our entire Asbury community.

Thank you so much everyone for shining the light of Christ through you to each and every child and each other. What a wonderful blessing you all are!

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

- Letting Go – Living Joyfully with God in the Moment.
  As we focus on Matthew 6:25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

- Expressing Gratitude. As we focus on 1 Timothy 4:4 “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving.”

Then we will be joining our church community in its exploration of Mike Slaughter’s “The Hopes & Fears of All the Years Down to Earth Are Met in Thee Tonight” series. We will journey through the following topics throughout the advent season:

- Love
- Being Humble
- Serving
- Being Grateful

The Children's Ministry Committee will be hosting two Pop-Up Christmas Pageants on Sunday, December 11. One will be during Sunday School in the Chapel and the second will be that evening in the Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. followed by a potluck soup and sandwich dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Sunday School offering will be going to the Alameda County Food Bank. Our goal is to raise $300.00 by May of 2017.

Peace, Love & Gratitude,
Jackie Bennett
Children’s Ministry Director

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**Youth Ministries**

**November Youth Happenings**

- November 6: Confirmation 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- November 13: Confirmation 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- November 20: No Confirmation or Youth Groups!
- November 27: Confirmation 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Sierra Service Project 2017**

Grades 8-12, save the date now for our Sierra Service Project mission trip in 2017! We will be going up to Spokane, Washington from August 5 through August 13, 2017. More information about the trip, our site, and how to sign up will come in January, but for now save the dates on your calendar!
Ladies’ Night Out

Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to Cravings Stone Fired Pizza and Pasta (www.cravingspizzaandpasta.com) located at 2062 First Street. 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 3, 12:00 p.m.
Join us for the Senior and Retiree Luncheon Thursday, November 3 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The cost for lunch is $5.00 per person. Sign up after worship or call the church office at 925-447-1950.

Boy Scout Tree Lot Opens

Saturday, November 26
Asbury’s Boy Scout Troop 900 opens its annual Christmas Tree Lot on Saturday, November 26. The tree lot is located on the corner of Hillcrest Ave. and East Ave. in Livermore—just down the street from church. (map)

Hours of Operation
- Monday-Friday – 4:00-9:00 p.m.
- Saturday & Sunday – 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Our selection includes fresh 6-7’ Noble Fir, Grand Fir, and Douglas Fir trees from Oregon. Other items for sale: tree stands, mistletoe, tree preservative, and tree bags.

Payment can be made by cash, check, or credit/debit cards.

Please come out this Christmas season to support Troop 900 in their only fundraiser of the year.

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.

Decoration Team Forming

Are you looking for a way to use your artistic and decorating talents? Do you enjoy sharing ideas, making decorations or drawing and painting? We need you and your talents to make banners, posters and decorations to enhance the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for the holidays. Want more information? Contact Karen at the church office at 925-447-1950.

Asbury Follies Recording

Did you miss the Follies this year? We have it available for you to watch, watch again, or if you were part of the Follies, share with your family and friends so they can see your amazing talents.

Visit Asbury’s Vimeo channel: vimeo.com/asburylive and under the “More” menu, click on “Albums”. Click the “Full Length Service Videos” and enter the password Asbury4743. There you’ll the Follies video and all the past full-service recordings.
Serve Others With Love

Circles for Change
Circles, now Partners for Change continues to help improve the lives of motivated members of our community. As we have added new Change Leaders to our program, we are excited to offer another mentorship opportunity to those of you looking for a chance to serve. If you have 4-8 hours a month to walk alongside participants committed to achieving financial stability and making positive life changes, please join us. There are additional opportunities to volunteer in our childcare and tutoring programs.

Lastly, one of our participants has found new employment and is looking for a fresh start with a new living arrangement for her family of five. The budget is between $2000 and $3000. If you have a unit for rent or information about availabilities, it would be such a blessing.

We are on the lookout for a job for the 18-year old son of a Change Leader in our program. He is open to many fields but has a love for cooking. Leads are welcome.

Shana Peete, J.D.
Director

Donation Mailing Address
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Thanksgiving Offering: Partners for Change
Launched last year, Partners for Change is a poverty alleviation program designed to measurably reduce poverty. It is a hand up, not a hand out. A community based effort (along with other faith communities, social agencies, and local governments), Asbury began Partners for Change to empower people to chart their own course out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency. Join us in our support of this strategic Asbury outreach by participating in our Thanksgiving Offering as part of the Program’s funding.

November Outreach: Open Heart Kitchen
One of our long-standing outreach commitments is Open Heart Kitchen. Hosted by Asbury on Tuesday and Wednesday, OHK offers a hot, well rounded meal to anyone who needs one. Hundreds of meals are served each day.

In addition to Asbury, Open Heart serves meals at other Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin churches and senior centers each week. The box lunch program helps children take home something for the weekend.

Stop by the Serve Others Table at Fellowship Hour to learn more about OHK and how you might volunteer on an Asbury shift or at other location.
Fertile GroundWorks Update

Autumn is here, the days have shortened and cooled, and the summer annual crops in the Garden of Grace and other Fertile GroundWorks Gardens are fading away. In their place new cool season seedlings have been transplanted and are growing as fast as they can before the weather turns cold. Harvests from cool season greens and root vegetables aren’t as abundant as summer fruiting vegetables, however they are more nutrient dense and are important for good nutrition in the winter. We also grow most of our soil-renewing cover crops during the cool rainy weather.

Harvests from the Garden of Grace continue 2 to 3 times a week throughout the winter providing nutritious green vegetables to patrons of OHK, Tri-Valley Haven and Interfaith food pantries, and (new this year) to the Jackson and Marilyn Avenue Elementary School food pantries.

Elementary, middle and high school gardens made possible or improved through Fertile GroundWorks partnerships have all been planted in Winter crops with the participation of hundreds of enthused students. Seeds are sown to enable the upcoming generations to provide highly nutritious food for themselves and others in their own communities in an environment-friendly and renewing way.

We give thanks for Nature’s bounties and we are delighted with the rain!

Edna Chance Crowned Honorary Homecoming Queen At Livermore High

From horse and buggy to Rosie the Riveter, to fully engaged in the new millennium, Edna Chance has experienced local history.

She rode to school in a horse and buggy and graduated from Livermore High School in 1935. Edna Chance, 99 years young, is from one of the original families to settle in Livermore, and now she is also a queen.

The Livermore High School Alumni Board invited Chance, who is one of the oldest living Livermore High alumni, to participate in the homecoming celebration of the 125th anniversary of the school and crown her honorary homecoming queen.

Wearing a green corsage and sash, Chance took to the field to pin the official school homecoming queen, while many of her family members, who also attended school in Livermore, watched.

“It was a fun, special event for us all,” Timothy Buckley, Chance’s grandson, told Patch.

See the full article at: http://bit.ly/2epkTzO and another article on Huffington Post at: http://huff.to/2fqwPUs.

(Photo credit, Chance/Buckley family, via Patch.com)
## Birthdays

- Suzy Almeida
- 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
- Dorothy Leonard Beatty

## 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
- Susan and Jeff Wagoner
- Hesa and Gloria Yano

- Kayla LeVan
- Jackie Loyd
- P.J. Malski
- Suzie McClung
- Joe Medeiros
- Gabe Meeker
- Tom Miller
- Kathleen Mitchell
- Carole Nakanishi
- Vera Nisley
- Jonas Pauliukonis
- John Pettis
- 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 Watkins
- 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. Cherub, Rainbow and Youth Choir rehearsals
- 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
- 10:00 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. 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

November 1, 2016 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Cravings Pizza and Pasta

November 3, 2016 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

November 5, 2016 (Saturday)
- 2:00 p.m. Wilma Holbrook’s Memorial Service (Sanctuary)

November 9, 2016 (Wednesday)
- 5:00 p.m. Interfaith Religious Chat

November 13, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

November 18, 2016 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

November 19, 2016 (Saturday)
- 11:00 a.m. Fertile GroundWorks, Room 11/12

November 20, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room
- 10:30 a.m. Asbury 101, Fireside Room

November 26, 2016 (Saturday)
- 9:00 a.m. Boy Scout Christmas Tree Lot Opens

November 27, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room
- 12:00 p.m. Church Conference, Chapel
- 5:30 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, St. Bart’s
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, November 18, 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, November 18, 2016