Asbury Celebrates Our 150th!

In 2017, Asbury United Methodist Church will be 150 years old! On Sunday, February 5, we will formally begin the celebration in worship. Come hear the choir sing a hymn commissioned for this occasion!

Every month, we will run a mystery photo, for you to identify. At the end of 2017, whomever has correctly guessed the most photos, will receive a special prize.

Email your answers to Pastor Kim.

Here’s this month’s photo. Who do you see? (You can see a larger version on the website in the “News” section.)

In anticipation of celebrating our 150th anniversary as a church in 2017, please be on the look for pictures, household items, memorabilia and any other historical items. If you’d be willing to loan them to the church, they will become an integral part of our celebration. These items can come from any period in our church history. Happy Anniversary, Asbury!
Donate Bus Tickets to Livermore’s Homeless

Getting around town to get a meal at Open Heart Kitchen, to Livermore Homeless Refuge to get a warm night’s sleep or even to a job when you’re struggling financially, can be a challenge. A round trip ticket just to get a free meal is $4.

Last year, Jackie Poulsen, a volunteer with Partners for Change, collected enough money to donate about 500 bus tickets. This year, she’s asking the Livermore community to donate money for bus tickets so people can get around during the colder winter months. The tickets will be given out to those who need them at Open Heart Kitchen when they serve meals.

If you want to donate, you can send any amount. Make a check to Asbury United Methodist Church and make sure you put “Bus Tickets” on the memo line.

Send your checks to:
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Interfaith Build Day – Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, January 21, 8:30 a.m.

On Saturday, January 21, Asbury will join other faith communities at the Habitat construction in Martinez. Everyone is welcome, regardless of skills or experience. We often work with the families who will own the homes. Work at the site starts at 8:30 and ends by 4:00. We carpool from Asbury, leaving at 7:40 from the parking lot by the office building. To sign up, come by the Serve Others with Love Table after worship.

Stop Hunger Now

Saturday, January 21, 9:00 a.m.

One of the ongoing challenges of our world is how to feed those people who go to bed hungry each night or those people suffering a humanitarian crisis or natural disaster who need a meal to survive the day.

On Saturday, January 21, Asbury is going to try to help.

One of the most ambitious one-day events we have ever attempted, we will be packaging 10,000 meals for use by Stop Hunger Now, an international food distribution program. Yes, 10,000!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. We need 40 to 50 people! All ages are welcome. There is work for everyone, young and old. Bring your whole family. We will be taking bulk ingredients and assembling high protein, vitamin rich meals.

In addition to meal packaging, we will need a setup crew, registration table and refreshment help. Stop by the Serve Others with Love Table in the Fellowship Hall after worship for more information or to sign up.

Special Offering: Human Relations Day

January 15, 2017

Our Special Offering on January 15 is Human Relations Day, an opportunity to support United Methodist Church programs to help those marginalized in our society, help at risk youth and others.

Alameda County Homeless Census and Survey

Tuesday, January 31

On Tuesday, January 31, Alameda County will conduct its 2017 Point-In-Time Count to understand the number of homeless individuals living in the County. Volunteers are needed to work alongside currently or previously homeless guides. There will be a 1-hour training the week before to prepare you for the count.

You do not need any prior experience with homelessness, just a willingness to help do this survey. Survey locations will be across Alameda County. Total commitment is 5 to 6 hours. For more details or to signup go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017AlamedaPIT

Baton Rouge Flood Recovery Mission Trip

April 1-8, 2017

In August, 2016, Baton Rouge and the surrounding communities suffered catastrophic flooding, the worst US natural disaster since Hurricane Sandy. The week of April 1-8, 2017, we will be going to assist with the rebuilding. Consider joining us.

(Continued on page 3)
Sustainable soil fertility practices truly pay off. After 6½ years of growing food, paying attention to the health and fertility of the soil, we have witnessed an increase in harvest per unit area of bed space each successive year. New and experienced visitors marvel at the beauty, earthy fragrance and abundant life of the soils as we retire one crop, gently prep the beds and plant another. The bio-intensive, in-ground raised-bed method that we use resulted in a yield of over 20,200 lbs. of fresh produce as of December 16, 2016. A rough (back of the seed packet) calculation shows that we achieved an approximate yield of 2.4 lbs. per square foot of bed! That also includes from 2 to 6 months of fallow/cover-cropping per bed per year where no yield is accounted for.

Looking forward, we will redouble our efforts to build a sustainable financial and business foundation in order to project the vital services and community resources of Fertile GroundWorks into the future many years. We look forward to another great year of partnership, organic gardening and growing community in 2017!

Serve Others With Love (cont’ed)

(Continued from page 2)

We will be flying into New Orleans and driving to Baton Rouge. We will be staying at a United Methodist Church. The Church has sleeping rooms, a kitchen and showers. The cost of the trip will be $200 plus about $500 airfare. Scholarships are available. For more information stop by the Serve Others with Love Table after worship or contact the Church Office. Registrations are due by Sunday, March 5, 2017.
I hope you all had a meaningful Advent and Christmas season and were able to participate in some of the many activities Asbury had to offer. Our Second Annual Community Pop-Up Christmas Pageant was a fantastic evening for all of those who attended. As we concluded our story of Jesus’ birth, we had 98% of the audience participating in the story. What a wonderful sight to see so many engaged in the reason for the season.

The pageant couldn’t have happened without so many helpful angels who organized costumes, packed and distributed paper bags to surprise each guest with their part, put up the manger and took it down all in the same day, decorated, made announcements, hosted, wrote the script, narrated, played music, made programs and slides, worked the audio/visuals, set up, made food, cleaned up, and acted out a part of the story.

Thank you all so very much for making the pageant such a meaningful experience of God’s love for each of us to carry in our hearts forever.

In Sunday School we will begin our New Year spending time in an extended study of advent using our “A Joyful Path” curriculum where we will explore together experiencing God as light, joy, and love. We will end the month of January with a study of forgiveness and healing.

**Dates to Remember**

**Sunday, January 15, 10:30 a.m.**
Pre-K through fifth grade Sunday school teacher staff meeting will be on Sunday, January 15 in Room 13 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, March 12, 5:30 p.m.**
Everyone is invited to our Second Annual Youth and Children’s Performing Arts Showcase and Community Potluck Dinner Sunday, March 12 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Youth and Children can sign up with Jackie Bennett in person or via email or with Pastor Chelsea to participate.

Performing Art Acts need to be two minutes or less and will be performed in the Sanctuary. The showcase will be followed by a Community Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

**Summer 2017 Opportunities**

**July 9-14, 2017**
United Methodist Summer Camps for third grade and up: Monte Toyon in Aptos, CA (near Santa Cruz). Many Asbury children and youth have attended this camp and have loved it. Former Asburyite Jenna Stark is the Camp Director.

**July 16-22, 2017**
Lodestar: Camp Registration can be found at: [bit.ly/2hDrVmg](bit.ly/2hDrVmg)

**July 24-28, 2017**
Asbury UMC’s 2017 Vacation Bible School “Super Heroes of the Bible” will be July 24-28.

Peace and love,
Jackie Bennett
Children’s Ministry Director
Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, January 3, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to Lanna Thai Restaurant (www.lannathailivermore.com) located at 2270 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, January 5, 12:00 p.m.
Join us for the Senior and Retiree Luncheon Thursday, January 5 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.

Thank You!

Dear Asbury Christmas Carolers:
Thank you to the 33 Asbury-ites who Christmas caroled to senior members and Asbury friends on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016 for our All-Church Christmas Caroling Event.

I am attaching a picture of each of the three groups. (Those not pictured: Shana Peete and Johnny Verive and children Elijah & Noah.) Each group made six stops between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m., singing at a total of seven single family homes and seven senior residences. All groups met up at Building 900 of Heritage Estates to sing a grand finale for the residents as they ate dinner.

I am so grateful for adult and youth choir members who provided strong musical leadership. Each group really sounded good! The children and youth who came along put a sparkle in the eyes of our seniors. Such a wonderful gift!

Also, a shout out to the Asbury cookie bakers! They provided enough HOME MADE Christmas cookies for our Christmas Concert, that we could freeze some to give to the folks we visited.

Special appreciation goes to our caroling-event photographer – Tony Gnecco. I am particularly indebted to Dave Braun for making the Togos run, setting up dinner, and cleaning up afterwards. His never-failing attention to detail always makes everything run smoothly. XXOOXX

Well done all! Thank you for your beautiful voices, gracious spirits and festive garb. Way to bring the “Merry” to Christmas!

With gratitude - Jean Braun
Anniversaries

Brian and Sharon Grant
Louis and Pam Howell
Virgil and Donna Koon
Robert and Anna Lim
Jim and Lois Lyle
Otis and Sharon Walton

Birthdays

Steve Arnold
Melody Bluck
Chelsea Bohling
Bob Buckley
Rich Buckley
Becky Cain
Bob Cowgill
Dave Crozier
Alexia Dawes
Susan Edgar-Lee
Patrick Epperson
Kirby Fong
Tony Gnecco
Brian Henderson
Valerie Henderson
Jackie Hoffman
Marsha Howard
Duane Jantzen
Bobbie Johnson
Taber Kohlmoos
Robyn Lakamsani
Connaught Lindberg
Robbi Loomis
Kathy Molvik
Louise Nelson
Fiona Pomykal
Katherine Riley
Kim Risedorph
Ivy Senge
Zach Siebers
Scott Smith
Carl Sorem
Kyle Strait
Dayna Taylor
Alan Teruya
Karlie Teruya
Parker Turk
John Van Scyoc IV
Amanda Wagoner
Chris Weiss
Beckie Wiley
January 2017 Calendar

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

January 3, 2016 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Lanna Thai Restaurant

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

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

January 15, 2016 (Sunday)
- 2:00 p.m. Dan Swinbank’s Memorial Service

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

January 22, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Bess Platt Memorial Service

January 29, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

Please visit the Asbury website calendar for the latest updates: http://www.asburylive.org/events
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, January 20, 1:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Every day, bay area hospitals need over 300 units of blood. If you’re 17 or older and in good health (or 16 with parental consent) help save a life of someone who needs more time with their family 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, January 20, 2017