Testify to Love

Christmas offers us the gift of entering into this New Year with the fresh reminder of God’s presence with us and a renewed awareness of our call to be shaped by that awareness. It takes intentional choices—the choice to pause, the choice to pray, the choice to worship, the choice to serve others—for us to allow ourselves to be shaped by Emmanuel, God-with-us.

This New Year, our Bishop Minerva Carcaño invites us to make the choice to join her and our conference in prayer.

For the first week of this year, from December 31, 2017 to January 6, 2018, our conference will be in intentional prayer seeking God’s guidance for the year ahead. This week of prayer is part of an initiative the Council of Bishops has organized called Praying Our Way Forward. All the Methodist conferences around the world will take part in intentional prayer together.

The aim of Praying Our Way Forward is "to ask and listen for God's leadership at this critical time in the life of our church" and to encourage “individuals to join the initiative by praying daily and fasting weekly for our church, mission, and future."

As our denomination continues to disagree on human sexuality and especially the role of LGBTQA persons in the church, this prayer week invites us to recognize God’s presence with us all—even in the midst of disagreement—and to listen for God's guidance on how to move forward with love.

We ask you to carve out time to be in prayer for our church from December 31 to January 6 (and beyond),

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praying for guidance and for hearts to be led by God's love. You can find morning, afternoon, and evening devotions or virtual prayer rooms for each day by going to cnumc.org/prayourwayforward. You can sign up to pray by going to cnumc.org/signuptopray, and you can write a prayer on our conference's prayer wall by going to cnumc.org/prayerwall.

We have the opportunity to live with the awareness of God with us; we have the opportunity to testify to love. Join us for a week of prayer as we do just that, opening ourselves and our denomination up to be shaped and reshaped by God's love that is real and alive for all people. We trust that God is with us as we walk the path ahead.

Pastor Chelsea

Thank You Carolers!

Dear Asbury Christmas Carolers:
Thank you to the 36 singers who came out on Sunday, December 17, 2017 to carol to senior members and Asbury friends for our Community Christmas Caroling Event. I am attaching a picture of each of the three groups. Each group made six stops between 4-5:30 p.m. The groups sang at a combined total of six single-family homes and eight 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 homemade 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, Doug Webb. 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.

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
Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, January 9, 6:00 p.m. (new date!)
This month we will be going to BJ’s Restaurant and Brewhouse in Dublin (www.bjsrestaurants.com) located at 3620 Fallon 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 Returns!
Thursday, January 11, 12:00 p.m. (new date!)
Seniors and their friends are invited to the monthly Senior Lunch on Thursday, January 11, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch is $5 per person. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall following worship or contact the church office at 925-447-1950.

Join the Beverage Team!
The beverage team needs you to help in extending a warm welcome to all! The coffee, tea, water, and lemonade we serve during the Fellowship time after worship is an important way we make everyone—visitors and regular participants alike—feel welcome at Asbury.
We are looking for more folks to join the beverage service team and help make that welcome happen. As a part of the beverage service team, you would make the coffee before worship, set up the beverages, and clean up once every couple of months. Please email Chelsea if you are interested in serving in this important way.

White Elephant and Potluck Dinner
Saturday, February 3, 2018 (new date!)
Did you receive the perfect gift this Christmas — for somebody else? Or do you still have one from 1978 stashed in your closet just waiting for the right moment to re-gift it? If so, you can bring it, attractively re-wrapped, to the PHPDWEGE (Post-Holiday Potluck Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange) in the Fellowship Hall, Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., along with a delicious entrée, side dish or dessert to share. After dinner, we’ll vie with each other to see who takes home the coveted (?) white elephant.
Look for the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday.
Family Workday at Tri-Valley Haven Thrift Store

January 13, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We have a longstanding commitment to support Tri-Valley Haven. Perfect for all ages, we will be going on Saturday, January 13, to help clean the Thrift Store. We will be there from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The address is 116 N. L Street, at the corner of L and Railroad.

For more information or to sign up, please stop by the Serve Others Table after worship or contact Steve Elliott.

Baton Rouge Flood Recovery Mission Trip

April 7-14, 2018

In August, 2016, Baton Rouge and the surrounding communities suffered catastrophic flooding. We went in 2017 to help with the recovery. On April 7-14, 2018, we will be returning to assist with the rebuilding. Consider joining us.

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 airfare. Scholarships are available.

For more information please stop by the Serve Others with Love Table after worship or contact Steve Elliott.

Registrations are due no later than Sunday, March 4.

Human Relations Day Special Offering

January 14, 2018

This special offering is an opportunity to support United Methodist Church programs that help those marginalized in our society, help at risk youth and others.

Featured Outreach: Open Heart Kitchen

One of our ongoing outreach commitments is Open Heart Kitchen. Hosted by Asbury on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, OHK offers a hot meal to anyone who needs one, no questions asked. Hundreds of meals are served each day.

In addition to Asbury, Open Heart Kitchen serves meals at other Tri-Valley 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 in 2018.

Food Packaging Event

February 10, 2018, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.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, February 10, Asbury is going to help. A repeat of our very successful 2017 event, we will be packaging 10,000 meals for use by Rise Against Hunger, an international food distribution program.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 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.

Stop by the Serve Others with Love Table for more information or to sign up. We will also need help with setup, registration table and refreshments.

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Partners for Change

Partners for Change is looking for a Childcare Volunteer Coordinator. This is a volunteer position that organizes the childcare providers for our weekly meetings. The time commitment is 2-3 hours a month.

Please contact Shana Peete for more information at 925-583-1635.

Thanks!

Shana Peete, J.D.
Executive Director

Partners for Change (formerly Circles for Change)
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
pfctv.org
I hope you all had a meaningful Advent and Christmas season and could participate in some of the many activities Asbury had to offer.

Our Third 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, hosted, wrote the script, narrated, played music, put together slides, acted out a part of the story, set up the Fellowship Hall, made food, and stayed to cleaned up.

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.

January Sunday School
Pre-K through fifth grade Sunday school for the month of January will finish exploring "An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation" curriculum series.

Fertile GroundWorks Collection
Our Sunday school classes have set a goal to work together to collect at least $150 by the end of May 2018 through their Sunday school offerings to earn a pizza party. We have raised $51.10 so far.

The $150+ will go to Fertile Groundworks, a garden behind our church which provides produce to feed those in need through the Open Heart Kitchen program, offered on our campus three days a week, and teaches others to garden as well.

More information about Fertile Groundworks is available in brochures located in each classroom and their website, fertilegroundworks.org.

Summer 2018 Opportunities
United Methodist Summer Camps for third grade and up: Monte Toyon in Aptos, CA (near Santa Cruz): Sunday, July 8 to Saturday, July 14. Many Asbury children and youth have attend this camp and have loved it.

More information and Camp Registration can be found at: calnevypm.org.

Asbury UMC's 2018 Vacation Bible School will be Monday, July 16 to Friday, July 20.

Happy New Year with love,
Jackie Bennett
Children's Ministry Director

Young Adults
Young Adult January Activities
- January 4, 7:30 p.m.: Bible study at Pastor Chelsea's
- January 7, 11:30 a.m.: Lunch Out after Worship
- January 18, 7:30 p.m.: Bible study at Pastor Chelsea's
Youth Ministries

Youth Happenings for January 2018
- January 2, 7-9:00 p.m.: SSP Team Dinner
- January 7, 5:30-7:00 p.m.: Youth Groups
- January 12-14: SSP Weekend of Service
- January 14: No Youth Groups
- January 21, 5:30-7:00 p.m.: Youth Groups
- January 28, 5:30-7:00 p.m.: Youth Groups
- January 28, 7-7:30 p.m.: SSP Informational Meeting
- February 2-3: Winter Lock-in

Winter Youth Lock-in
Save the date for the winter lock-in, February 2-3. We will have lots of fun, games, food, and pajama prom!

SSP Info Meeting
January 28, 7-7:30 p.m.
All youth in eighth grade or higher and their parents are invited to an informational meeting about our SSP 2018 youth mission trip on January 28 from 7-7:30 p.m. We will meet in Room 15 and discuss where we are going, important information to know for this trip, and fundraising opportunities!
Our SSP mission trip will take place July 29-August 4 in Smith River this year!
Dear Friends at Asbury,

It has been a great year of service at Fertile GroundWorks. The garden has yielded abundantly and many in need have benefited from our nutritious produce. The Garden of Grace has welcomed many visitors from schools, youth groups and businesses.

In 2018 we will be revising our business plan and our Board will be expanding to help us become more effective and sustainable in our Mission summarized as “Teach, Grow, Give”.

We are very grateful for our partnership with Asbury UMC as we work to accomplish our mission objectives of compassion, community building, empowerment, knowhow and education.

Best wishes for a year of increased connection with the Oneness that we are all part of!

Sincerely,
Bruce Campbell
Executive Director
Fertile GroundWorks
www.fertilegroundworks.org
Hello Kitchen Volunteers!!

Everyone who eats at Asbury appreciates your service, and we are so grateful for your help!

As we strive to make the kitchen a cleaner and neater space for all users, please remember the following guidelines.

Any food left in refrigerator or freezer must be labeled with:
- Date stored
- Item enclosed
- Group
- Use by (2 weeks max., except for Fellowship bagels)

If food is not used within two weeks it will be redistributed.

Forms and pens will be in the drawer near the handwashing sink.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sharon Gach, Facilities Manager, 925-447-1950, x106.

Recycling at Asbury

Are you sometimes as confused as I am about ‘what recycling goes where’? Well, we are trying to help with that with new signage in the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and other places on campus. Over the years we have done better and better with our recycling, and there are always more things to learn.

Below are a few “ah-ha’s” that I had when learning more about recycling these days, perhaps you will find some of this interesting too!

**Blue Recycling Containers:** Clean and pristine paper, and #1-6 recycling triangle items, including RINSED cans that had food in them. We are not supposed to put dirty, food–touched paper plates, cups, foil, etc. in the recycling.

**Green Organics Containers:** Paper goods touched by food or cleaning products, any food scraps, non-crinkly plastic, any #1-6 recycling triangle items that have been touched by food. As you can see many items can be placed in the Green Organics containers!

**Black Trash Containers:** items without #1-6 recycling symbol on the bottom, food-touched foil, plastic utensils, crinkly plastic (like a small "Donettes" wrapper).

And, as always, just let Sharon Gach know when you have questions about certain materials and which bin they go in. If she doesn't know she’ll find out for you!

The #1-6 Triangle recycling symbols look like this (below), and are on the bottom of plastics.

Sharon Gach
Asbury UMC Facilities Manager
925-447-1950, x106
Anniversaries

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

Birthdays

Steve Arnold
Melody Bluck
Chelsea Bohling
Bob Buckley
Rich Buckley
Becky Cain
Bob Cowgill
Dave Crozier
Alexia Dawes
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
Scott Smith
Carl Sorem
Kyle Strait
Dayna Taylor
Alan Teruya
Karlie Teruya
Parker Turk
John Van Scyoc IV
Amanda Wagoner
Chris Weiss
Beckie Wiley
Theresa Woodfolk
January 2018 Calendar

Please visit the Asbury website calendar for the latest updates: https://www.asburylive.org/events

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Butterfly Gardens is open
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Children’s and Youth Choir rehearsals
- 11:30 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
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Partners for Change, Fireside Room
- 7:30 p.m. Faith Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursdays
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit, Fireside Room
- 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 and Meetings

January 9, 2018 (Tuesday)
- 6:00 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, BJ’s Restaurant (Dublin)

January 11, 2018 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

January 12, 2018 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall

January 14, 2018 (Sunday)
- 8:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 11:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

January 27, 2018 (Saturday)
- 11:00 a.m. Dennis Nelson’s Memorial, Sanctuary

January 28, 2018 (Sunday)
- 11:30 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
Karen Bauman

Facilities Use Manager
Sharon Gach

Music Director
G. Allen Schell

Choir Coordinator
Jean Braun

Nursery Coordinator
Pam Tegge

Lay Leader
Martie Muldoon

Livermore Community Blood Drive

Friday, January 12, 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 in need 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 19, 2018