As we enter into October and the Fall, we enter into our Stewardship Season, a time when we reflect on how we use our money and our resources and how God is inviting us to be people who practice gratitude and generosity in all the parts of our lives.

I know it’s tempting to stop reading once you see the words Stewardship and money. It can be an uncomfortable topic, it’s one of those topics we have been taught as polite people to politely ignore. But it’s not a topic Jesus ignored; it’s one he talked about again and again and again almost more than any other.

I think he talked about it so often not because it was his favorite subject, but because Jesus knew that it is hard. That navigating our financial resources wisely and faithfully is hard. It’s hard to do when many of us carry debt. It’s hard to do when many of us are planning for retirement, college funds, on fixed incomes, or facing any of the other financial challenges many of us experience. So know that if this is hard or uncomfortable we are in this together.

This summer I took the youth on a trip down to Disneyland. It was something they had been asking to do for a long time. As we talked and planned this trip we all agreed that just going down to Disneyland wouldn’t be enough. Sure it would be fun, but we as a youth group are about more than just having fun. We are about being centered in Jesus Christ, growing in faith, celebrating...
Pastors’ Ponderings (cont’d)

(Continued from page 1)

community, and serving others with love.

And so I challenged the youth that each day when we were in Disneyland each group roving around the park and having fun had to come up with a way they were intentionally living into each one of our core values each day. I loved hearing the stories at the end of each day, from impromptu bible studies while waiting in line, to youth praying out loud who were not used to it, to youth letting others go ahead of them in line and sharing what they had. It was a moving and powerful experience to hear how the youth rose to meet that challenge, using their time and resources, including in one case money, to live out their core values.

We saw in new ways what it meant to live those core values outside of church, in parts of our lives that maybe normally don’t intersect with our awareness of God and living our faith. If God can show up in the middle of Disneyland, God can show up anywhere. And if we can allow our faith to shape how we live in the middle of Disneyland, we can allow our faith to shape us anywhere and in all parts of our life.

So this is the same challenge your Stewardship Committee is extending to each one of us throughout the month of October: to live intentionally into our core values.

This Stewardship season, we will explore together how our core values shape how we live and the decisions we make about how to use our resources. How do you center yourself in Jesus Christ each day? How do you grow in faith in your daily life? How do you celebrate community with every person you meet? And how do you practice serving others with love?

We will explore one value each week both in worship and then in one way we can engage that value together in the weeks ahead. You can find more details about the weekly engagement in the “Stewardship Activities” part of this newsletter. I hope that you will join us in wrestling with this topic in the month ahead. The journey of following Jesus is one that asks us to learn and grow, that is the journey we are on together. I am so grateful for each of you as companions on this journey, and so grateful that we do not walk alone.

-Pastor Chelsea

Stewardship Activities

This year as we explore our Stewardship theme of living into our core values together, we will have an activity each week to engage in a different core value together.

**Week 1, October 7**: Celebrating Community—October 12, 6:00 p.m., Dinner and Game Night. Bring a game to share. Dinner will be provided by the Fellowship Team.

**Week 2, October 14**: Growing in Faith—think through your own faith story. Who is one person (maybe a friend, a relative, a stranger, a pastor, someone at Asbury, etc.) with whom you can share it?

**Week 3, October 21**: Centered in Jesus—we will try some time-tested methods to check in with God and put Jesus at the center of our day.

**Week 4, October 28**: Serve Others with Love—at our celebration brunch after worship, we will have different ways to serve others including collecting non-perishable goods for the Thanksgiving food drive, writing cards to people in our community who can’t physically be here, and signing up for other hands-on activities.
Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, October 2, 6:00 p.m.
All women of Asbury are invited to Ladies’ Night Out in which we meet at a local restaurant for dinner. This month, we’ll be going to Casa Mexico (casamexicorestaurant.com) located at 4076 East Avenue. RSVP to Nancy Grover so she can notify the restaurant how many to expect.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, October 11, 12:00 p.m.
Seniors are invited to join us for an enchantingly good time at the October Senior lunch. Meet us in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, October 11, at noon. Lunch and activity is sure to be a treat! Wear your costume if you dare! The cost is $5 per person. Sign up after worship or contact the church office at 925-447-1950 for more information.

Celebrating Community Dinner and Game Night
Friday, October 12, 6:00 p.m.
Please take a moment to sign up either online here or in the Fellowship Hall after worship so the Fellowship Team can plan the dinner.
This year, our stewardship focus will be living into our core values of Centered in Jesus Christ, we Grow in Faith, Celebrate Community, and Serve Others with love. We will have different ways each week to live into our core values together.
On Friday, October 12, we will live into our core value of celebrating community with a dinner hosted by the Fellowship Team (no need to bring food, thank you Fellowship Team!) and game night! Bring yourself and your favorite game and join in a night of enjoying and celebrating our community.

Asbury Follies is Coming!
Saturday, October 20, 7:00 p.m.
Join us for a night of music, laughter, and plenty of silliness as we celebrate the many talents and gifts of this congregation. The Asbury Follies are our annual show of music performed by our very own Asburyites. You will laugh, you may cry, and it is always a whole lot of fun.

Famous Pianist to Give Piano Recital
Saturday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.
Dr. Taicheng Chen, former professor at Taipei National University of the Arts, will give a free recital of many Chopin pieces on Saturday, October 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This concert is the first on his tour which ends in Taipei in the national 2,000 seat theater.
All are welcome! Free admission, appreciation donations accepted.
Visit his website: taichengchen.com
About Dr. Chen
As Professor of Music, Dr. Chen has inspired generations of students, many of whom have gone on to win national and international competitions. Dr. Chen resides in Dublin, California. In addition to training his students for competitions and exams, he performs internationally and judges at competitions.
He welcomes all to come and enjoy.
Undie Sunday
A big thank you to all who donated socks and undies to the shower ministry.

Over the Counter Medical Supplies for Salud y Paz Clinic in Guatemala
Sunday, October 28, 2018
As part of the VIM Trip to Guatemala in January, the team will volunteer at a clinic in Antigua and will take basic medical supplies that the clinic can give to patients. On Sunday, October 28, we will collect the supplies. The needed items are listed below.

Note that, while example brand names are noted, generic or drug chain house brands are perfectly fine and are often more economical.

- Antidiarrheal medicine (Kaopectate, PeptoBismol)
- Nausea medicine (Dramamine, Gravol)
- Stomach medicine (Prilosec)
- Pain reliever (Tylenol 200 or 500 mg adult, 160 mg children)
- Pain reliever (Aleve, Advil, Motrin)
- Antihistamine (Zyrtec)
- Antacids (Tums)
- Hemorrhoid Treatment (Preparation H)
- Earwax Removal Ear Drops (Debrox)
- Antifungal cream (Micatin, Tinactin, Monistat)
- Lubricating Eye Drops
- Kids Vitamins (No Gummies!)
- Prenatal Vitamins
- Ziploc bags: any size
- Exam gloves: any size

Habitat for Humanity Workday in Fremont
Saturday, October 20, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Progress continues on the first 11 homes at Central Commons, with a hopeful completion by year end. Anyone at least 16 years old can volunteer. No experience is necessary. Work is from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

To sign up, visit the Serve Others with Love Table after worship or contact Bob Hoffman.

Asbury Volunteers Helping with Recovery from Hurricane Harvey
The Week of October 15, 2018
A Methodist VIM team with many volunteers from Asbury will be working the week of October 15 in the Corpus Christi Area rebuilding homes damaged in the 2017 hurricane.

Wildfire Recovery in Lake County, California
November 11-17, 2018
Methodist VIM volunteers are going to assist with rebuilding homes for families that are challenged to do so on their own. We will carpool on Sunday, November 11 and return on Saturday, November 17. Registration deadline is October 13.

For more information or to receive a registration packet, contact Steve Elliott or stop by the Serving Others with Love Table.

Guatemala Mission Trip
January 19-26, 2019
Tri-Valley United Methodist churches have raised funds for wheelchairs to be delivered to needy people in Guatemala. The VIM team will help distribute wheelchairs and also volunteer at a clinic and long term care home in Antigua. For more information or a registration packet, contact Steve Elliott or stop by the Serving Others with Love Table.

Other Planned Mission Trips
February 15-23, 2019 - Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery
New Stephen Minister Class

What Does It Take to Become a Stephen Minister (and What Do You Receive in Return)?

Okay, admit it. Stephen Ministry has crossed your mind a few times. You might even have picked up a brochure or talked with your pastor about it. But now you want to take a closer look at the idea of becoming a Stephen Minister. You’re wondering: Is this right for me? Following are some guidelines that might help you in your decision making.

Gifts
A Stephen Minister is a person with the gift of mercy, who shows compassion and gives encouragement to and intercedes for those he or she cares for. Many Stephen Ministers say that they receive much more from the caring relationship with their care receiver than they give.

Commitment
A Stephen Minister devotes time, energy, and resources to this ministry. In return, a Stephen Minister has the chance to participate in a meaningful ministry, make a major difference in another person’s life, and grow as a joyous child of God.

Training
A Stephen Minister completes 50 hours of training before ever meeting with a care receiver. He or she learns about listening, assertiveness, confidentiality, and many other aspects of caregiving. After completing the initial training, he or she engages in continuing education. Stephen Ministers find that their relationships become richer and deeper at home, church and work, and with friends.

Dedicated Service
A Stephen Minister serves whole-heartedly. This isn't a casual ministry. It involves prayer, thought, consideration, study, and commitment. In return, the Stephen Minister receives grateful thanks from his or her care receiver, our Stephen Leaders, the congregation, and our Lord.

Accountability
A Stephen Minister is accountable to God, the congregation, the Stephen Leaders, the other Stephen Ministers, and the care receiver. In return, he or she receives support, encouragement, and guidance in Small Group Peer Supervision.

Continuous Learning
A Stephen Minister is open to adjusting and adapting his or her caregiving to fit the needs of the care receiver. He or she learns more about caregiving at each meeting and with a care receiver and at each supervision session. Stephen Ministry is an experience of continuous learning, growth, and joy.

Asbury’s new training class for Stephen Ministers is starting January 6, 2019. The Holy Spirit may be calling you to the joy, commitment, growth, meaning, training, service, and care of being a Stephen Minister. Pray for God’s guidance as you consider this opportunity.

Informational Meeting
Sunday, October 7, 11:30 a.m.
Join us for an Informational Meeting Sunday, October 7, at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel, speak with Pastor Kathy La Point-Collup (925-447-1950 ext. 102) or Pastor Chelsea Constant (925-447-1950 ext. 101), or to any of our Stephen Leaders.

You may pick up a Stephen Ministry Application in the church office. Please return it to the office by October 21.
Pre-K through fifth grade Sunday school will continue with the “An Invitation: Joining God at Work in the World” curriculum series.

**Friday, October 12 at 6:00 p.m.**
Celebrate Community with a FREE DINNER made by the Fellowship Team and fun game night lead by our youth in the Fellowship Hall.
Bring your favorite game too and enjoy time with current and new friends of all ages.
Sign up to attend in the Fellowship Hall following worship service, [online here](#), or by emailing the church office by Wednesday, October 10.

**Friday, November 2, 6:00 p.m.**
Childcare will be provided at the church for parents to attend an organized group dinner night out, so we can all get to know each other better and invite friends who would enjoy an evening out too.

Children can be dropped off in the church nursery at 5:45 p.m. and will need to bring a lunchbox dinner. At 6:00 p.m., parents will dine at Terra Mia located at 4040 East Avenue. Children will need to be picked up by 8:30 p.m. Required pre-registration deadline is October 28. Sign up in room 6 before or after church service or with Jackie Bennett through the church office or [email her online](#).

**Sunday, November 18, 11:30 a.m.**
Beginning in October, the Asbury community will begin to welcome our third through fifth grade Sunday school class in worship the first Sunday of each month. Worship time is a learned art and as a community together, we need to guide children in connecting with our worship service.
When we participate as a community in the baptism of children, we all make a commitment to nurture them in the Christian faith and life, including them in our care. Together we can help children connect to worship for a lifetime.
This may be a bumpy transition with some resistance. The Pastors and I are working together to make this a successful experience and will offer a "Let's Learn to be in Worship Together with Children" class Sunday, November 18 in room 13 at 11:30 a.m.

We take the time to ensure our children eat healthy, even though they may not want to, but developing lifetime healthy habits helps them to make choices in the future to develop in healthy and meaningful ways. What an amazing opportunity we have to share God's presence in our community at large with our children.

Gratefully,
Jackie Bennett
Children's Ministry Director

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**October Youth Happenings**
- **October 6**: Mount Diablo Hike 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- **October 7**: No Youth Groups
- **October 12**: Celebrate Community and Game Night 6:00 p.m.
- **October 14**: Confirmation Starts, 4-5:00 p.m., Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **October 21**: Corn Maze Trip, 4:30-8:00 p.m.
- **October 28**: Youth Groups and Costume Contest 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Youth Corn Maze Trip**
**Sunday, October 21, 4:30 p.m.**
We will meet at on October 21 at 4:30 p.m. sharp at Asbury for our annual youth trip to Dell'Osso farm's corn maze. We will have a few hours to explore the corn maze, the haunted house (if you're brave enough), and have dinner at the corn maze.
Please bring $15 for dinner, comfortable shoes, and a jacket in case it gets cold. We will meet at 4:30 p.m. and return at 8:00 p.m.. RSVP to Chelsea by October 14.
Facility Updates

Cooler weather means heaters are in use! To save money, please double-check that all heaters, lights and overhead fans are off before locking up and double-checking the room you've used.

Also, master key holders, when you can, please turn door knobs as you pass and re-lock any unlocked doors. Then email Sharon Gach to let her know if one is found unlocked, or call the office at 925-447-1950. This will really help a lot!

Grow In Faith

October Sermon Series

October 7: Pastor Chelsea will preach on Matthew 14:31-21 as we start our Stewardship season and explore: how does celebrating community shape our lives and how we use our resources. We will also celebrate World Communion Sunday.

October 14: Pastor Chelsea will preach on Mark 10:17-27 as we ponder together: why do we talk about Stewardship every year? How does our stewardship of our resources impact how we grow in faith and vice versa?

October 21: Pastor Kathy will preach on Matthew 13:1-9 as we look at Stewardship through the lens of being centered in Jesus Christ. How does starting from that center impact how we live and make the basic day to day decisions that make up our lives?

October 28: Pastor Kathy will preach on Acts 4:32-35 as we end our Stewardship Season reminded that we are called to serve others with love in all that we do, with our lives, with how we use our time, our money, our gifts, our resources. We will celebrate our Stewardship season with a brunch together after worship.

October Young Adult Activities

- October 7: Young Adult Lunch Out after Worship
- October 18: Young Adult Bible Study
- October 31: 6:30-9:00 p.m. Young Adult Halloween Party
Anniversaries

Chris and Suzy Almeida
John and Sheryl Bluck
Steve Collup and Kathy Lapoint-Collup
Gary and Nancy Deis
Tim and Linda Evans
Paul and Mikeileen Jones
Dwight and Lisa Levan
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
Sharon Gach
W. Benjamin Garst
Nancy Grover
Ruth Hawley
Donna Koon
Wyatt Koon
Mick Lamb

C.J. Malski
Holly McCammon
Nicholas McClendon
Caitlyne Miller
Chloe Molvik
Priya Nathan
Kristina Ormond
Tanner Piao
Lemuel Perez
James Pettis
Peg Pettis
Joseph Pyle
Anya Runnels
Caiti Sanders
Eric Schell
Hailey Schultz
Jonathan Senge
Carolee Smith
Lillian Speckenheuer
Erica Squires
Jan Stevenson
Marc Stewart
Jeff Wagoner
Michael Wakefield
Larry Wiley
Carol Wilson
Philip Woolworth
October 2018 Calendar

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

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Small Group, Room 13 (first and third Sundays only)
- 11:30 a.m. Childrens’ and Youth Choirs
- 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, 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. Alanon/Alateen, Rooms 13-15

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

October 2, 2018 (Tuesday)
- 6:00 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Casa Mexico

October 7, 2018 (Sunday)
- 11:30 a.m. Stephen Ministries Class Informational Meeting, Chapel

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

October 12, 2018 (Friday)
- 6:00 p.m. Celebrate Community Dinner and Game Night (Fellowship Hall)

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

October 19, 2018 (Friday)
- 12-6:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall

October 20, 2018 (Saturday)
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Follies, Sanctuary

October 21, 2018 (Sunday)
- 9:00 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

October 23, 2018 (Sunday)
- 11:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

October 27, 2018 (Saturday)
- 7:30 p.m. Dr. Chen Piano Recital, Sanctuary

October 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
  Kathy La Point-Collup
  Chelsea Constant

Children's Ministry Director
  Jackie Bennett

Youth Director
  Chelsea Constant

Office Support
  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, October 19, 12:00-6:00 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, October 19, 2018