It's January, so it's check-in time with how we are doing with visitors and newcomers. I want to take this opportunity to remind us all of some of the things we do in order to live out God's call on us to be an inclusive and welcoming church. It doesn't happen by accident. It takes intentional behavior on the part of everyone sitting in the pews and serving in our mission and ministry for newcomers to feel welcome.

I've listed some actions below that help us to be a welcoming church. If you are saying to yourself, “Oh I don't need to do this because I feel awkward or uncomfortable or other people are better at this,” please re-think your response.

If you are the person sitting next to someone new and you don't take the opportunity to greet and talk with that new person for at least a minute or two, that new person will perceive our church as unwelcoming and unfriendly.

This really is one of those things that we all need to engage in—even if we just say one or two things to the new person and then take them over to someone who enjoys meeting new people!

So here are some suggestions:

Talk to anyone you don't know before or after the worship service. Give them the opportunity to share a little about themselves and avoid overwhelming them with church "stuff".

**The Rule of 3**: During the worship service identify people you do not know and make a determined effort to
talk to them within three minutes of conclusion of the service. Many newcomers try to slip out quickly, but if we can connect with them, they will have a greater sense of welcome. This is an important outreach effort that must have priority over greeting friends. Ideally, every member of the congregation serves in this capacity.

The Circle of 10 Rule: talk to and learn the names of everyone you don’t know who is within a radius of ten feet from where you are sitting.

If you’re not sure if someone is new, you might say, “Hi, I’m ___. I haven’t had the opportunity to meet you before.” And then ask them if they are new to the church, and if they are, if they are new to the community. You can ask them about hobbies, movies, what they are looking for in a church, family, most interesting place they have lived, first memory of God, etc.

Please wear your name tag. The feedback I have received from some newcomers is that they wonder if the existing congregation wants them present because we are not wearing our name tags and it makes it difficult for newcomers to know who people are.

Okay, let’s be honest, those of us who have been around for a while could also use the help name tags provide. I thought one way to resolve this would be to call everyone Horatio or Hortense but alas, some folks thought that might not be a good idea. So please wear your name tag.

Do you want to learn more ideas about how to greet new people? Shadow someone who enjoys doing it (I would be glad to give you some suggestions).

Here are some suggestions for integrating newcomers into the life of our community:

- Invite them over to the fellowship time and engage them in deeper conversation
- Get their contact info and invite them to the movies, your favorite restaurant or over to your home for dinner or lunch.
- Having a picnic? Invite some newcomers
- Invite a newcomer to join a small group with you.
- Having a party or gathering? Invite some newcomers
- Offer to pick up a newcomer for the next Fellowship Event—we have some really cool events.
- Invite a newcomer to go bike riding or walking or bowling or skating or ?

Make a new year’s resolution to invite a friend or family member who does not have a faith community to worship or to one of our events. Pick them up, sit with them at worship or the event, and introduce them around. Research shows that the great majority of people (86%) first come to a church because they were invited to do so by a family member or friend.

Let’s not underestimate the power that a personal connection has with a newcomer searching for a place in God’s family—you may be that connection!

As always, I am happy to talk with you about these or any other issues or concerns.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Kathy
Celebrate Community

Epiphany Photo Scavenger Hunt
Friday, January 4, 6:00 p.m.
Every year without fail this is one of our most fun activities we do with the Youth Group. This year, we decided, “Why let the youth have all the fun?” Everyone of all ages is invited to join in the fun!

How the scavenger hunt works is we break into teams, and then each team has an hour to travel around Livermore and take pictures of the different items (like an out-of-state license plate, a team member walking a stranger’s dog, a sign with Jesus on it, etc.). Each item is worth points and at the end, the team with the most points wins!

We’ll head back to church for a potluck soup, sandwich, and salad dinner to share our photos and tally points. You won’t want to miss out on this fun night! We will meet at Asbury at 6:00 p.m. and be done around 8:30 p.m. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall after service or room 6 to bring a dish. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join in the fun.

Friday Fun Night—Bowling at Granada Bowl
Friday, February 8, 6-8:00 p.m.
Come join in bowling night. This is for all ages. Cost is $15 per a bowler or $30 per a family (includes shoes and a ball). Sign up to attend in the Fellowship Hall or room 6. Call Granada Bowl the week prior to pre-order food if you’d like to dine there as well. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join in the fun.

Men’s Friday Fun Night Out
Friday, March 1, 7:00 p.m.
Go karting at UMIGO GoKart Racing and brews and food at the First Street Ale House. More details coming soon.

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, January 8, 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 Petra Middle Eastern Cuisine (www.petra-livermore.com) located at 4524 Las Positas Road in the Target shopping center. RSVP to Nancy Grover so she can notify the restaurant how many to expect.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, January 10, 12:00 p.m.
Seniors are invited to join us at the Senior lunch on Thursday, January 10, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is $5 per person. Sign up following worship or call the church office at 925-447-1950.

Men’s Friday Fun Night Out
Friday, March 1, 7:00 p.m.
Go karting at UMIGO GoKart Racing and brews and food at the First Street Ale House. More details coming soon.

Youth and Children’s Fourth Annual Performing Arts Showcase & Community Potluck Dinner
Sunday, March 3, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Youth and children, start planning what your two minutes or less church-appropriate performing arts showcase act will be. You can play an instrument, sing, read a poem, dance, tell jokes, put on a skit, etc. The showcase will take place in the Sanctuary and will be followed by a Community Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. The deadline to sign up will be Sunday, February 17. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join in the fun.

Five Languages of Love Workshop Series
Starting Sunday, January 27, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Discover your love language and the love language of those you love. Childcare will be provided for children not in choir practice. Contact Jackie Bennett for more info.
Embracing the New Multicultural Reality

Saturday, January 26, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

In 2013 I had the opportunity to take a workshop focused on how do we sift through the tangled web of cultural and racial differences, differences of life-experience and personal story, and systemic racism to love one another well across cultures and races.

As you can imagine, it was not necessarily an easy workshop. We all have our own stories and our own perspectives. But it helped me tremendously in learning how to be a presence of love in the world with all people, not just people I feel comfortable with or people who have similar backgrounds to me. It helped me to learn some of the ways that unintentionally I was perhaps not being as helpful or as loving as I could be.

I am so grateful for that workshop, because I know it helped me to grow as a person and as a follower of Christ.

Racial and cultural experiences and differences are sometimes an uncomfortable topic for us to talk about, we worry that we will feel guilty, that we will say something wrong, or that we will be judged. But given our multicultural community not just in the USA but in Livermore, it is always an important topic for us to delve into without shame or guilt but with open curiosity.

There are always ways we can grow and learn from one another. Pastor Kathy and I are thrilled that the two presenters of that workshop I went to in 2013, Pastors Sun Hee Kim and Dale Weatherspoon will offer a workshop at Asbury on embracing the new multi-cultural reality. We encourage everyone to attend, take the risk with us as we all seek to learn something new.

The workshop will take place on January 26 from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Contact the church office for more information.

We hope you will join us.

-Pastor Chelsea

From the presenters Pastors Sun Hee Kim and Dale Weatherspoon:

"In light of rapidly changing communities along with the recent heightened talks surrounding issues of race, it is important for the church to actively and pro-actively create environments and communities where fruitful and safe conversations can take place. As followers of Christ, we need to empower and equip ourselves to be change makers and to be an intentional and active presence in society.

The workshop goals are:

- Offer a safe and respectful space to engage in conversation that leads to listening deeply and sharing freely.
- Provide tools and exercises that help participants become ‘systematically aware’ and to understand why it is important to be more mindful.
- Provide a conversation starter that assist in moving the conversation forward at the community level
- Build a common understanding and language, brain-storm strategy, and build bridges to working together despite the challenging issues of systemic racism
- Lay ground for a follow-up worship on bridging cultural difference."

Partners for Change Fundraising Goal

Partners for Change has launched a campaign to raise $75,000 to fund ongoing operations and establish a strong foundation for future growth. Strengthening the foundation of this unique non-profit in the Tri-Valley will enable us to build a long-term, supportive environment for people transitioning out of poverty and into self-reliance. To donate and help us achieve our goal, please visit pfctv.org.

(Continued on page 8)
Stephen Ministry—where did it all begin? It dates back to 1974 when Kenneth C. Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, was pastor of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Fresh out of seminary, his strengths and heart were in caregiving ministry, and he was looking forward to making a positive impact on his congregation and community by providing pastoral care to all those experiencing divorce, grief, hospitalization, discouragement, and other life difficulties.

Very quickly, though, he found that the needs for care by far exceeded that which he alone could provide. He faced one of a pastor’s greatest frustrations: seeing people slipping through the cracks because their urgent needs were going unmet. In November of 1974, he discussed the situation with two seminary friends over a cup of coffee. The conversation turned to Ephesians 4 and “equipping the saints for the work of ministry.” Haugk realized that God didn’t intend for pastors to monopolize ministry. Rather, God gave all his people gifts for ministry and one of his roles as pastor was to equip others to use their gifts in ministry.

Haugk returned to St. Stephens with a plan. In the coming months he recruited nine lay people who had the gifts and heart to do caring ministry. He then used his combined backgrounds in theology and psychology to develop a training program in Christian caregiving. By March 1975 the nine were commissioned as "Stephen Ministers." Their first care receivers included a widower, a blind person, a young woman with cancer, a truck driver forced to retire early, and an inactive member struggling with faith issues.

The impact was immediate. People began receiving the focused Christian care they needed. Fewer people were slipping through the cracks, and Haugk found he had more time to perform his other pastoral duties. The Stephen Ministers were surprised by their own spiritual growth as they saw God working through them to bring love and healing to others.

The story would have ended there, had not two of the Stephen Ministers cornered Haugk on a hot May morning after worship services. "This is good stuff," they said to him. "We're not going to let you go until you promise to bring that this ministry to other churches!" Still wearing his vestments and perspiring from the heat, Haugk gave in and agreed to find a way to bring Stephen Ministry to other churches.

In November 1975 Haugk and his wife, Joan, founded the not-for-profit Stephen Ministries organization and began bringing Stephen Ministry to other congregations. It spread like wildfire. Asbury is one of more than 13,000 congregations from more than 170 Christian denominations that now have Stephen Ministry. More than 600,000 people have been trained as Stephen Ministers, a number that grows each year. More than one-and-a-half million people across all 50 of the United States, 10 provinces of Canada, and 30 other countries have been touched by God's love through a Stephen Minister. The Story of Stephen Ministry is now over a million stories of caring ministry, many from right here at Asbury.

If you'd like to learn more about Stephen Ministry or would like to explore having a Stephen Minister assigned to you, please contact Pastor Kathy La Point-Collup (925-447-1950 ext. 102) or Pastor Chelsea Constant (925-447-1950 ext. 101), or any of our other Stephen Leaders at Asbury.

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Grades Pre-K to 5 Sunday School Offerings

The second through fifth grade classes brainstormed ideas of who they would like to raise money for this year, a goal of how much to raise by May 2019 and what we would do to celebrate if we reached our goal and then voted. We are raising money this school year for UMCOR to support those affected by the California wildfires and if we raise $200 before the end of May 2019 we will have a movie and root beer float party.

Last school year, the children raised $238.50 for Fertile Groundworks and our “Camp Asbury” VBS program raised $1,100 for the Taylor Family Foundation. Both organizations wrote the children very moving thank you notes which are posted on the bulletin boards in the children's wing outside of rooms 4 and 6.

Keep an eye on our goal raising chart in the children's wing to see how our fundraising is going this year, so far we have raised almost $20.

Pre-K through fifth grade Sunday school are journeying through the “Kid's Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit” curriculum series.

Asbury’s “To Mars and Beyond” VBS Program

Wednesday, July 17-19, and Sunday, July 21

Please mark your calendars for Asbury's “To Mars and Beyond” four-day VBS program in July!

NEW: We will have our VBS performing arts showcase, waterslide and lunch on Sunday, July 21 together as a community.

We currently need leaders to help plan so we can have a VBS program. Please contact Jackie Bennett through the church office if you can help shape this wonderful program.

Registration for children to attend and volunteers will open in the spring.

Please note we have modified our VBS program to better suit the needs of our volunteers and working parents. Children can be signed in and out of our program on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Sunday will not be a drop off your child program day and is intended for families to celebrate the program within our Asbury community on Sunday.

Gratefully,
Jackie Bennett
Children’s Ministry Director

Youth Ministries

January Youth Happenings

- **January 6**: Youth Group 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **January 13**: Youth Group 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **January 20**: No Youth Groups, SSP Weekend of Service
- **January 27**: Escape Room, 5:30 p.m. meet at Asbury, return at 8:00 p.m.

Escape Room Youth Trip

Do you have what it takes to escape? We'll find out on January 27 as we work in two teams to unlock two escape rooms. We will meet at Asbury at 5:30 p.m. to carpool over and the return at 8:00 p.m. We will eat dinner together at El Pollo Loco after the escape room. The cost is $15, please RSVP to Chelsea by January 6!
January Young Adult Activities

- **January 6**: Young Adult Lunch Out, 11:30 a.m.
- **January 11**: Young Adult Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.
- **January 22**: At The Table Worship, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- **January 25**: Young Adult Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.

Grow In Faith

**2019 Women’s Retreat**

**March 8-10, 2019**

Asbury’s Women’s Retreat is March 8-10, 2019 at San Damiano Retreat Center. Our theme: Knowing Me, God and You. We will use the Myers Briggs Type Indicator and Jung’s Theory of Personality types to learn and practice a variety of spiritual disciplines. We will discover why some spiritual disciplines are meaningful to us; why others are not and why something we just love doesn’t work for someone else or why something we don’t like is so meaningful to another. We will also have the opportunity to work on developing our shadow side. Pastor Kathy will be the Resource Leader. The retreat format is Friday night dinner through 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. There’ll be free time on Saturday for walks/hikes, meditation, making new friends, physical activities, spiritual direction, learning how to play handbells, arts and crafts, and possible massages will be available. Registration forms will be available in January. All women are encouraged to attend.

Download the registration form here.

**Asbury's Prayer Chain**

Praying for others is one of the many things Christians do for each other and for the world, as we seek to be God’s hearts and hands in our communities. Asbury has a prayer chain to aid us in our prayer ministry.

If you would like to be a member of the prayer chain so that you can be one of many who prays when we have a request, please let Pastors Chelsea or Kathy know or the church office and we will put you on the prayer chain.

During the week you will receive email requests to pray! Please note membership on the prayer chain is for those who are willing to pray. You are not automatically added to the prayer chain, it is by request only.

If you have a prayer request, please let Pastors Chelsea or Kathy know or the church office or send it directly from the website.

If you are telling us a prayer request on a Sunday or when we are at a meeting and do not have the ability to write down what we are being told, we ask that you either leave a voice mail or send an e-mail with the information. When prayer requests involve a person known in our community, we ask that you have their permission to put their situation on the prayer chain. Thank you!
Guatemala Mission Trip
January 19-26
Joanne Abey and Carol Perry from Asbury are going to Guatemala with other Tri-Valley Methodist volunteers to deliver 100 wheel chairs, take the medical supplies you donated in October and volunteer in a medical clinic and long term care facility in Antigua. Ask them about their experience when they return.

Habitat for Humanity Dedication of 11 Homes in Fremont
Saturday, January 12
At the end of our December 15 Habitat workday, there was still some work to be done to complete the 11 homes at Central Commons in Fremont (photo below). But the celebration of the 500 hours of sweat equity each family has put into theirs and their neighbors' homes will take place Saturday January 12. If you would like to attend the dedication and have not received an invitation from Habitat, contact Bob Hoffman.

The next phase of construction for the final 19 homes at Central Commons will start after some additional site prep. Whether there will be an All Faiths workday at Central Commons in January is uncertain, but there could be some other Habitat activity. Look for information in the Sunday bulletin, stop by the Serving Others with Love table after worship or contact Bob Hoffman.

Thanks for Helping Make the Tri-Valley Haven Holiday Program a Success
The gifts you provided and help with the sorting and guest "shopping" made Christmas a happier time for nearly 700 families in the Tri-Valley. Families were able to select one item per person and also received a bag of food.

Camp Fire Response
Thank you Asbury for your generous contributions that allowed us to purchase supplies for 30 fire kits for safely cleaning the area of a burned home. The tools in the kit also allow people to search for and clean any personal items that survived the fire. After worship on December 16, Asbury folks efficiently worked the assembly line for filling the fire kit buckets with supplies. The kits were delivered to Chico on December 17 for distribution to fire victims.

Recovery from the fire will take years, and UMCOR will be there. Cleanup and organizing for rebuilding will take some months. Stay tuned for how you can help.
Update from Pastor Chelsea:
This December I received some very exciting news. I was accepted to be a part of our conference’s very first Church Planting Academy. The academy will run from January-December 2019, and it will consist mostly of conference call trainings every month with three in-person retreats.

It will offer a wide variety of training and reflection around how to start new ministries for new people, whether that takes the form of an entirely new church, new worship services within an existing church, or something else entirely!

I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this academy. It is training that I have been hoping to receive for a while, as I believe it is vital for churches to reach out to new people and imagine new and creative ways of following Jesus together.

What I have learned as I have shared this news is that for many the term “church planting” is a new and slightly confusing one. Church planting simply refers to the process of starting a new church.

151 years ago a group of people "planted" Asbury UMC.

There are many different reasons for planting a new church, like trying to reach a geographic area or trying to reach a new demographic currently unreached. But every reason is grounded in one basic motivation: to follow Jesus in growing the Kingdom of God here on earth.

A few questions I have received are:
“Does this mean you are starting a new church in Livermore?” No! This is training both that I can apply here at Asbury as we reach out to our Livermore community and that I will take with me for whenever and wherever my next appointment is.

“Are new churches planted United Methodist?” Yes! This training is specifically through our California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our conference takes seriously the need to plant new United Methodist Churches across our areas of California and Nevada.

If you have any other questions I would love to talk to you about them. I have greatly appreciated Asbury's support as I grow and learn in ministry, and I am excited about this next phase of growing and learning!

Pastor Chelsea
Anniversaries

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

Birthdays

Steve Arnold
Chelsea Bohling
Bob Buckley
Rich Buckley
Becky Cain
Bob Cowgill
Dave Crozier
Patrick Epperson
Kirby Fong
Tony Gnecco
Brian Henderson
Valerie Henderson
Jackie Hoffman
Marsha Howard
Bobbie Johnson
Taber Kohlmoos
Robyn Lakamsani
Connaught Lindberg
Robbi Loomis
Kathy Molvik
Louise Nelson
Fiona Pomykal
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 2019 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. Children’s 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

January 4, 2019 (Friday)
- 6:00 p.m. Photo Scavenger Hunt and Pot Luck Dinner, Fellowship Hall

January 8, 2019 (Tuesday)
- 6:00 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Petra Middle Eastern Cuisine

January 10, 2019 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

January 13, 2019 (Sunday)
- 8:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 11:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

January 18, 2019 (Friday)
- 12-6:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall

January 20, 2019 (Sunday)
- 9:00 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

January 26, 2019 (Saturday)
- 9:30 a.m. Embracing the New Multi-cultural Reality

January 27, 2019 (Sunday)
- 11:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m. Five Languages of Love Workshop Series
Livermore Community Blood Drive

Friday, January 18, 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!

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

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 25, 2019