Last month, 39 Asburyites spent a Saturday gathered together in the Fellowship Hall learning about how we can grow! It turns out times are changing, and the strategies to attract new members that worked in the past just don’t work anymore. So we learned about some exciting new ideas that we can do to reach out to new people.

But before we get into that, let’s back up a step. Asbury is a healthy and thriving community: every time Pastor Kathy and I get to talk to our District Superintendent or Bishop they comment about how wonderful a church Asbury is! There is amazing ministry happening here that makes a real difference not just for ourselves, but for the whole Livermore community. You are a church who supports each other in love and reaches out in love to those in need around us because you are a church who knows at your core that God is love. And isn’t that a wonderful thing to share with others!

I cannot remember a time when I was not a part of a church. Some of my earliest memories are in the church nursery, and many of the most impactful moments of my childhood and youth are somehow related to the church.

When I look back at what being a part of church community has meant for me it is so clear that my life is much richer, more purposeful, and more joyful because of the love, support, and challenge of growing in faith together with others.

What has church meant in your life? I think that question helps us understand why this work we are committing to

(Continued on page 2)
of trying to grow is so important. When we remember the impact growing in God’s love through a church community has in our lives we understand that it is simply something too good for us to keep to ourselves.

I, like many of you, am sometimes uncomfortable with this idea of evangelism. We are not in the business of telling other people that they are wrong, that they are bad, or trying to convert them. That is not what the love of Jesus looks like. But what we learned from our Coach in April is that reaching out to others does not have to look like that. People need community; loneliness is an epidemic in our society. And while you can find community almost anywhere, what we have at Asbury is a community that is centered around grace—the unearned, unending, unconditional love of God. And that is something special.

So in the months ahead we are committing to figuring out how to share our grace-filled community with others. That will look like your pastors spending more time out in the community (we are working up to spending 8 hours a week in the Livermore community—look for us at coffee shops and community gatherings). It will look like some church meetings and gatherings moving from our campus out into restaurants, coffee shops, and others spots in Livermore. It will look like Asbury being more present at the places our Livermore community gathers together, like maybe the Rodeo Parade, farmers markets, and other festivals. And it will look like member-guest events. These are special events members do with a few other friends from church. The goal is to find something you like doing together (like bocce ball, wine tasting, a painting class, etc.) and for everyone to invite one friend to join.

All of these different pieces add up to help us reach our goal: to connect with more people in Livermore, showing them that we are normal people who are committed to a community of grace. As our Coach reminded us, people fall in love with the community of Jesus before they fall in love with Jesus. And Asbury, you are so very lovable.

We hope everyone will join us on this journey and try these different ways for us to reach out in love to our neighbors. It’s an exciting road ahead for Asbury and for Livermore, and I can’t wait to see what God is doing through this work!

-Pastor Chelsea

Asbury Wedding Policy

Asbury’s Core Values “CENTERED in Jesus Christ, we GROW in faith, CELEBRATE community and SERVE others with love” are immensely helpful in helping us discern what is a part of our mission and what is a distraction from fulfilling our mission.

After a great deal of discussion with Trustees, our Wedding Coordinator, our Facilities Manager, and the Pastors, the Trustees have decided to no longer allow our facilities to be used for weddings for persons who have no relationship with Asbury.

We have discovered that these weddings take a great deal of staff time and the persons involved want to rent a “wedding chapel and hall” and have no interest in developing a relationship with Asbury. In addition, there are many, many venues in Livermore that are available for these weddings.

We will, of course, continue to make our facilities available for people related to the Asbury community to be wed in and for people who want to forge a relationship with Asbury through their wedding will be invited to do so provided that one of Asbury’s pastors officiates. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the Trustees or one of the pastors. Thank you.
Celebrate Community

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
Saturday, May 4, 6:00 p.m.
Everyone is invited for Cinco de Mayo celebration in the Fellowship Hall. The cost will be $5 per person or $20 per family.

Livermore Community Service Day
Saturday, May 4, 8:00 a.m.
Volunteers from faith groups, schools, and neighborhoods are coming together to serve our community. We will be painting picnic tables in city parks, spreading mulch in school playgrounds, cleaning up the creek, working at the rodeo grounds, and more. Free breakfast, fun projects, free lunch and live entertainment. Bring your whole family to Carnegie Park in downtown Livermore to receive assignments.

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, May 7, 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 located at 4076 East Avenue in Livermore. RSVP to Nancy Grover so she can notify the restaurant how many to expect.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, May 9, 12:00 p.m.
All seniors are invited to join us for the May luncheon on Thursday, May 9, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is $5 per person. To sign up, call the church office at 925-447-1950. See you there!

Asbury Orchestra Sign-ups
Love seeing all the music groups at Asbury? Have you ever wanted to perform on stage with a group of talented musicians? If your answer is yes, then sign up for the Asbury Orchestra! We need all kinds of instruments to make a full orchestra: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. All are invited to participate. If you have questions contact Thomas Cayton.

UMW Turns 150
Sunday, May 12, after worship
Come to the Fellowship Hall after worship. You are invited to celebrate 150 years of United Methodist Women.

Grow In Faith

Interfaith Interconnect May Religion Chat
Wednesday, May 8, 5:00-6:15 p.m.
This month’s topic is, “What Does Your Faith Do To Make the World a Better Place?” Speakers this month are from the Church of Scientology and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. to encourage attendees to visit with each other. The talk will be at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 3574 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton. All are welcome!
Food Packaging Day
Saturday, May 11, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Repeating our very successful 2017 and 2018 events, we will be packaging 10,000 meals for use by Rise Against Hunger, an international food distribution program. In a few hours 40-50 Asbury volunteers working in assembly line fashion can turn bulk ingredients into packaged, non-perishable, nutritious food for people who would otherwise go hungry. Each package will feed six people. There are tasks for everyone-including children 5 or older. For more information, visit the Serving Others with Love table, or contact John Van Scyoc at home.

Habitat Women’s Build in Fremont
Friday, May 17, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Women will start the framing for homes in the second phase of Fremont’s Central Commons development. No experience is necessary—just willingness to learn and work as part of a team. There is a required fundraising minimum of $250 to participate, and a personal fundraising webpage is available for each participant. The event is from 7:30-4:30 and a light breakfast and lunch are provided. Questions or want to register? Please contact Karen Hernandez, Faith and Community Partnerships Manager, at khernandez@habitatebsv.org.

Faith Groups Restart at Habitat in Fremont
Habitat for Humanity East Bay’s Central Commons development in Fremont is preparing infrastructure for the second phase of 19 homes, and there will not be a volunteer workday in May. A regular faith group monthly workday will begin again in July—probably on a regular schedule of the first Saturday of each month. Since the first Saturday in July is during the July 4 holiday weekend, our workday that month may be the second Saturday.

Wheelchair Mission Fundraising
Starting in May Asbury will begin raising funds to purchase wheelchairs to be delivered to people who would otherwise be immobile. The ability to move oneself or be easily transported by a family member is life changing for the wheelchair recipients and their families.

For the past two years, Asbury has joined Lynnewood and San Ramon Valley UMCs to raise funds to purchase the wheelchairs. Volunteers from the churches then went to Guatemala to assemble and deliver the wheelchairs. Volunteers from the churches then went to Guatemala to assemble and deliver the wheelchairs to recipients. This year the volunteers also worked in clinics and delivered over-the-counter medical supplies that church members donated.

Wheelchairs are purchased through the Wheelchair Foundation program, which this year requires a delivery to be a full ship container—about 250 wheelchairs. The wheelchairs are shipped to an organization (often Rotary) that is responsible for identifying recipients and organizing delivery dates. The larger minimum shipment requirement increases the cost of the project to about $42,000. A matching grant of $21,000 has already been made, and the three churches are responsible for the remainder. Wheelchairs purchased this year will be given to recipients in either Guatemala or Mexico.
The class of twelve Stephen Ministers at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo is nearing completion with only five class sessions and a training retreat left before the members of the class are commissioned in June 2019.

Two of the members of this class are our very own Jon Hart and Mick Lamb, who have been traveling to San Ramon UMC every Sunday since January to complete their 50 hours of Stephen Minister training. Jon and Mick have worked extremely hard and their dedication is paying off. The course has involved preclass reading assignments and in-class lecture, discussion, and role playing. Our trainees are showing some real growth in knowledge and skills.

The skill practicing is one of the most valuable components. It takes what trainees are learning and turns it into skills they can apply. It can be very challenging to role play, for instance, that you are ministering to a young mother whose husband has just died. The role play stirs real emotions, and it is extremely helpful because it prepares trainees for actual caregiving situations.

During the skill practicing there has been real ministry going on too. When trainees learn and discuss grief, genuine issues may surface from their own life. When this happens, trainees find themselves ministering to one another. All of that will help them to be better caregivers.

A recurring emphasis of Stephen Minister training has been confidentiality. What a care receiver says to his or her Stephen Minister is held strictly confidential. Even the identity of the care receiver is kept confidential from other Stephen Ministers—and everyone else. The emphasis on confidentiality is important for potential care receivers. Most people are reluctant to share their problems and situations because they’re afraid of others finding out. The confidentiality of Stephen Ministry lets people know they can discuss difficult concerns with their Stephen Minister and trust that what they share will be kept confidential.

Among the remaining training topics are:
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Losses Related to Aging
- Peer Supervision
- Providing Spiritual Care
- Ministering to the Dying and Their Family and Friends

When those training sessions are completed, the trainees will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers and they’ll be ready to receive their first caregiving assignments. But even then, their training is far from over.

Continuing education is an important component of Stephen Ministry training. Our new Stephen Ministers will meet for continuing education with Asbury’s current Stephen Ministers twice a month, even after they begin meeting with their care receivers. The goal is for all of our Stephen Ministers to continually enhance their skills and learn new ways to care. Stephen Ministers want to provide the best care possible for their care receivers.

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.
United Methodist Church Camp

**Sunday, July 7 - Saturday, July 13**

United Methodist Church Camp at Monte Toyon in Aptos, CA. Grades three through nine attend as campers and grades ten through twelve can attend as Leaders in Training. We have had many children and youth attend this wonderful camp. Jenna Stark, a former Asburyite, is the Camp Director and is super awesome. For more information and to register go to [www.calnevypm.org](http://www.calnevypm.org).

Nursery Staff Needed

Do you enjoy spending quality time with the youngest members of our community and supporting their parents’ spiritual development? If the answer is yes, then come join the nursery care staff who are paid to work rotating Sundays and special events. Contact Pam Tegge or Jackie Bennett through the church office for more information.

Pre-K through Fifth Grade Sunday School

We are journeying through “A Joyful Path” curriculum series.

“To Mars and Beyond?” VBS program

**Wednesday, July 17-Friday, July 19, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

Our VBS performing arts showcase, waterslide and community lunch is Sunday, July 21. Registration forms for children entering kindergarten in fall 2019 through sixth grade, and for volunteers are available on our website, at the church office, Fellowship Hall, and room 6. If you have questions, please contact Jackie here.

Celebrating our Promoting Fifth Graders in Sunday school with their class in room 4 Sunday, June 2.

Sunday School Offering Collection Update – the children have collected over $224 for UMCOR to support those affected by the 2018 California fires. We will celebrate exceeding our goal to raise $200 by the end of May 2019 Sunday, May 26 during Sunday school in room 6 with a movie, popcorn & root beer floats.

May Youth Happenings

- **May 5:** Nick Constant leading Youth Groups, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **May 12:** No Youth Groups, Mother’s Day
- **May 19:** Youth Groups, 5:30-7:00 p.m., fifth graders invited to join
- **May 26:** No Youth Groups, Memorial Day

May Young Adult Activities

- **May 5:** Lunch Out after worship
- **May 9:** Bible Study, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- **May 19:** Praying Without Words Workshop, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
- **May 23:** Bible Study, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- **May 31:** Bowling, 8:00-9:00 p.m.
Fertile GroundWorks Update

As I walk through the garden with the plant sale done and my taxes posted, I realize how time has flown by this past month and how lucky I am to have worked with so many wonderful people like you all. So much gratitude to share, thanks to all you regulars who have helped welcome teams from Asbury and Lynnewood UMC's Young Adult and Youth Groups; families from National Charity League, Boy's Team Charity and Young Men's Service League; troops of Girl and Boy Scouts; students from Tzu Chi, Las Positas College, Mendenhall Middle School, and Granada, Livermore, Mission San Jose, Dublin, Foothill, Amador Valley and Dougherty Valley High Schools; and employees from WorkDay, State Compensation Insurance Fund, Apple, and Blackberry. Thanks to all of you!

Since my last note in March, you all started, potted up, and cared for 8,510 seedlings for the plant sale and Fertile GroundWorks' and school gardens.

The plant sale was a great success. We made enough to cover the cost of the of the seedlings we gave to the school gardens and buy a mower for the tractor. The mower arrived in April and we have already put it to use. Steve got our garden expansion mowed plus a bit of the back pasture to make a fire break and took the time to give me my first tractor driving lessons. There is no way we could have pulled the plant sale off without the help of so many of you. Thank you!

On top of caring for all those seedlings, we have worked in all kinds of weather to harvest 1,124 pounds of fresh veg to share and transplanted 1,116 new plants out in the garden. These seedlings include those that allowed succession plantings for continued harvests and our first four beds of tomatoes! Yeah summer! We also have two beds prepped and ready for more summer crops. Many thanks to Republic Services and Pleasanton Trucking for donating and delivering 50 cubic yards of compost for us to use in all our gardens. We used some of the 395 pounds of fertilizer you all batched up with this compost to amend the summer beds. Richard, Rick, Patrick, and Jeff for running the weed whacker and mower that kept 4,700 square feet of the weeds in the areas surrounding the garden and hoophouse from going to seed and Bruce for running the old mower around the pasture to make the first breaks. Thanks guys!

Thanks to Jeff and Antonio of TriValley Landscaping for donating the materials and labor for creating a beautiful new pad under the picnic table weighing station and paths that actually make the accessible beds accessible from the parking lot.

The kittens are doing great, enjoying life outside the cage. Baby Bella, the tortoise shell one, is getting used to seeing many people and comes out to watch us work. Fluffy is a bit more secretive and is only seen scampering to his various hiding spots when we first arrive in the mornings or evenings.

As always, I send you all my sincere gratitude. Fertile GroundWorks could not do all we do without wonderful volunteers like you. You are all truly amazing human beings. THANK YOU!!! for enabling us to TEACH, GROW, and GIVE.

I do hope that you all will be able to come back and see how your efforts helped the garden to grow and change with the seasons.

Until next we meet, please do take care of yourselves.

Happy gardening everyone.

Brenda Kusler
Executive Director
Anniversaries

Tim and Nancy Ackerman
Rich and Jackie Bennett
Mark and Lesleyann Coker
Charles Runnels and Emilie Fox
Peter and Deanna Frumenti
Ben and Starla Garst
Steve and Sheryl Goodman
Karl and Rhonda Item
Dave and Jackie Schlientz
Ray and Pam Spooner
Erik and Dayna Taylor
Michael and Janice Wakefield
Steve and Burlyne Wilson

Birthdays

Linda Beach
Bob Berger
Brett Bernstein
Kevin Bernstein
Nikolas Campos
Thomas Cayton
Ava Christensen
Cory Coll
Atticus Cummings
Peter Danan
Susan Danan
Ashley Defenbaugh
Becca Elliott
Gabe Elliott
Emilie Fox
Terri Gamble
Sharon Grant
Mackinna Hart
Emily Hewitt
Julia Item
Annalisa Juan
Rebecca Kohlmoos

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Allen Larson
Lisa Levan
Anna Lim
Jim Lobao
Ron Logan
Mitchie McCammon
Connor Runnels
Gretchen Rutherford
Karena Sanford
Alice Schell
Allen Schell
Andrea Schlientz
Alice Senge
Kayley Strait
Caitlin Tripp
Zachary Wakefield
Sharon Walton
Glenda Warren
Lindy Webb
Hitomi Westfall
Burlyne Wilson
May 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. 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
- 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
- 10:30 a.m. Caregivers’ Support Group, Fireside Room (second Saturday only)

Other Events and Meetings

May 7, 2019 (Tuesday)
- 6:00 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Casa Mexico

May 9, 2019 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

May 12, 2019 (Sunday)
- 11:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 11:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

May 17, 2019 (Friday)
- 12-6:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall

May 19, 2019 (Sunday)
- 9:00 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

May 26, 2019 (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, May 17, 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 the 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, May 24, 2019