



Asbury Articles

ASBURY TECH UPDATES

New Newsletter System!

We are testing out a new e-mail newsletter system and we need YOUR help!

If you received this issue of the Asbury Articles to more than one email address, please contact the [church office](#) and let them know which email address you would like us to use for future contact!

UPCOMING ASBURY EVENTS

Asbury Christmas Concert

THIS Sunday, December 11 | 7pm

The annual Asbury Christmas Concert is coming up!

The concert will be THIS Sunday December 11 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. The concert will feature the Asbury bell choir, children's choirs, adult choir, band, as well as offerings from several of Asbury's individual instrumentalists. The concert will also be live-streamed from our [website](#) for those who wish to watch virtually - you can even be a part of the live chat! There will be a Homemade Cookie reception after the concert in the Fellowship Hall.

The concert is free! Open Heart Kitchen has been named as the beneficiary of any donations that are given. If you have questions, contact the [church office](#).

Find the Angels Among Us!

Asbury's Advent Game!

Join in the fun of Asbury's Advent Game: Find the Angels Among Us!

Print the [game card](#) and follow the directions on the card. All ages are welcome to participate! Remember to turn in your completed card by Christmas Eve. Winners will be announced at the Christmas Day worship!

Many thanks to Rebecca Kohlmoos and Lori Day for creating the game and to Kelli Walter for her assistance in setting it up!

Christmas Eve at Asbury!

Saturday, December 24 | 4:30pm, 7pm, or 11pm

We have three opportunities for you to worship with us for Christmas Eve on Saturday, December 24th! We will have a photo booth and hot chocolate bar after each service.

- 4:30 p.m. Family Candlelight service: An interactive telling of the Christmas story - be an angel, a shepherd, a wise guy/star follower, or a sheep!
 - 7:00 p.m. Candlelight service: Special Christmas Music, Christmas Scripture and a Christmas Message
 - 11:00 p.m. Candlelight service: Choir Ensemble, special Christmas music, Communion, and Christmas scripture
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Community Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 18th | 3:30pm - 7:00pm

Calling all Christmas carolers! Let's go caroling!

We'll be meeting at the Asbury Fellowship Hall at 3:30pm to carpool around Livermore caroling at various locations, including our friends at Heritage Estates! When we finish caroling, we'll all return to the Fellowship Hall for dinner and be finished by 7pm.

This is open to anyone who wants to come - not only those within Asbury. Please spread the word to any friends or family who would enjoy singing Christmas songs around our community!

Summer 2023 Service Trip to Alabama

July 15-22, 2023

Join us this summer for an intergenerational service trip to Tuskegee, Alabama! The date for the trip is July 15-22, and it is open to all ages in the church. We will be working with a United Methodist organization called Alabama Rural Ministry while in Tuskegee and will be serving through home repair while also offering a day camp for the community. This trip will also be a culturally immersive experience with added experiences like visiting the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the Legacy Muesum in Montgomery, and Tuskegee Airmen National Site.

There will be many fundraisers throughout the year with the hope to have the cost as low as possible. For now, we expect each youth to pay \$150-500 and around \$1000 for everyone else. This could come down much more though. Also, scholarships are available.

Click on this [link](#) to sign up for the trip.

We will have an informational meeting over Zoom soon. By committing to this trip, you commit to an openness to learning and openness to difference. You also commit to the necessary meetings, trainings, and fundraisers leading up to the trip. If you have any questions, reach out to [Pastor Brad](#).

Tiny Homes: Update & Save the Date

Sunday, January 8th

SAVE THE DATE

The Tiny Homes Task Force has begun planning their third educational event, scheduled for **after worship on Sunday, January 8** in the Fellowship Hall (with a light meal served and child care provided). As before, the event will share with the congregation and Church Council what the group has been learning, with the focus this time being on the buildings themselves and the financing involved to build and operate them (at no cost to Asbury). What might the homes look like, how might they be paid for? Rev. Jake Medcalf will be the guest preacher in worship that day and then will speak at the educational event about his experience with providing tiny homes for the unsheltered. He most recently served as the lead pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Hayward; he now serves as the founder and principal for [Firm Foundation Community Housing](#). Please plan to attend for these updates on the possibility of tiny homes at Asbury.

ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATIONS

In the meantime, if you would like to talk with a member of the task force in person, one-on-one, call the church office and such a meeting can be arranged. Your questions, comments, and concerns are welcome.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Housing in Livermore: Separating Fact from Fiction

TODAY, December 7th | 7-8pm | First Presbyterian Church Livermore

There will be a presentation today at 7pm at First Presbyterian Church on the how/why/what of housing in Livermore, given by the Staff of the City of Livermore. This will not be a forum or discussion, nor will it be focused on the topic of homelessness. Rather this will be an opportunity to hear the facts about housing in Livermore, and to separate those truths from fiction.

Habitat Work Day

Saturday, December 17th | 8:30am - 4:00pm

Volunteers needed for Habitat Work Day in Walnut Creek on Saturday December 17. Work is from 8:30 am- 4:00 pm.

Register and find additional details [here](#). To carpool from Asbury or to get additional information about what work to expect, contact [Bob Hoffman](#).

ASBURY COMMUNITY

Asbury Christmas Flowers

Orders due: Thursday, December 15th | Suggested donation: \$10 each

You're invited to help provide the flowers that will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!

If you would like to contribute, please fill out the form **by Thursday, December 15th** in one of two ways:

- Download/print the [PDF](#) of the form, fill it out, and return it to the Asbury office, mailbox, or the offering plate
- Complete and submit the [online form](#)

Proceeds from these flowers will go to the flower fund. To donate, you can:

- Submit cash or check to the Asbury office, mailbox, or offering plate (checks made payable to Asbury, marked Flower Fund #2100 in the memo line)

- [Donate online](#)

Midweek Music Has Begun Again!

Spread holiday cheer on your own social media!

Midweek Music was such a hit during the Advent and Christmas season last year that we decided to do it again!

For the next four weeks, beginning today, we will be sharing to social media videos of Christmas music performed by none other than YOU, our Asbury community! Be sure to share them to your own personal profile pages to spread Christmas joy!

You can find this week's video [here](#), but to stay up-to-date on all weekly videos and other announcements, be sure to "Like" our [Facebook page](#)!

Asbury's Alternative Gift Catalog

Two Gifts in One

As we grow and become wise givers, we learn that giving is not just about filling a box with more stuff. The best gift is one that is treasured long after the occasion has passed.

How To Use This [Catalog](#)

We are offering several ministries that represent mission opportunities locally. You decide which ministries you would like to support. Complete the order form at the end of this [catalog](#), total your donations, and write one check payable to Asbury UMC. Asbury will send your donations to the ministries of your choice.

How to Give

You may give by check, cash, bank transfer, or through our online giving platform. For each organization below, there will be a link and QR code that will take you to a page where you can give to that specific organization through Asbury's online giving platform.

Endowing Asbury's Future

As you may know, an "Endowment" is a fund set up to provide long-term financial support for a nonprofit organization. Asbury UMC established an Endowment Fund in 2016 to provide increased support for Asbury's programs and missions, above and beyond our annual donations. As we have benefited from the foresight of previous generations that established our current facilities,

so we want to pay forward to aid our descendants in expanding ministries to benefit areas of need locally and world-wide. The Fund has grown to about \$220,000 by November, 2022. It is invested in mutual funds that will grow over the long term, which include U.S. and foreign stocks and bonds. This year, we moved the Fund from Fidelity to the Methodist investment organization, Wespath Institutional Investments. It invests according to Methodist social values towards creating and supporting a sustainable global economy. In short, we put our money where our values are.

The Charter for the Endowment Fund states that the “principal,” defined as the value of donations to the fund, cannot be spent, only the investment “gains” or “earnings” can be spent. We have set an interim goal of one million dollars for the Fund, at which point we will begin to use the gains of the fund to augment our ministries, as determined by the Church Council.

If you would like more details on the Endowment Fund, please talk to [Art Molvik](#). Contributions can be made by check, Bill Pay or other bank transfers (contact [Gail Bryan](#)), or through Asbury’s [website](#) (which involves a small fee). Just remember to write “Endowment Fund” on the memo line.

Do You Shop on Amazon?

If you shop on Amazon, there is an EASY way to turn that into extra money for Asbury!

By signing up on [AmazonSmile](#), and choosing Asbury United Methodist Church as your charity, Asbury will receive 0.5% of the value of your eligible Amazon purchases, or 50¢ for every \$100. It’s not a lot, but it does add up.

Content and prices on AmazonSmile are identical to Amazon and use the same ID and password. You can check the AmazonSmile [About page](#) for program details and how to use it on your particular device. Consider doing this before you start your Christmas shopping.

For additional information, talk to Jim Hammer, Dick Crawford, or Jean Braun.

Asbury Masking Policy

Alameda County is following the CDC guidelines for masking. When community transmission is low, masking indoors may be optional. When community transmission is medium or high, masking indoors is strongly recommended. Asbury will follow the CDC guidelines, and we support and encourage mask wearing indoors, especially for those with underlying health conditions or who are not fully vaccinated and boosted.

Sunday Prayer Requests

Please pray for the [requests](#) that were made during prayer time on Sunday.

If you would like to be on the email prayer chain, please contact the [church office](#).

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

RECURRING EVENTS

- **Sundays; 10am:** Asbury worship service
- **Sundays; 11:30am:** Cherub Choir rehearsal
- **Sundays; 11:30am:** Rainbow Choir rehearsal
- **Sundays; 11:30am:** Youth Choir rehearsal
- **Thursdays; 7:30pm:** Faith Choir rehearsal

OPEN SMALL GROUPS

- **Every Sunday; 8:15am:** Meditation Circle on Zoom (Contact [the office](#))
- **1st and 3rd Monday; 6:30pm:** Monday Night Small Group (Contact [Ruth](#))
- **Thursdays; 7:45am:** Men's Bible Study on Zoom (Contact [Art](#))
- **Saturdays; 10am:** Craft and Chat [Zoom](#) gathering
- **3rd Saturdays; 10:30am:** Caregivers' Support Group on [Zoom](#)

DECEMBER

- **Sun, Dec 11; 7pm:** Christmas Concert
- **Sat, Dec 17; 8:30am-4pm:** Habitat Work Day
- **Sun, Dec 18; 3:30pm:** Community Christmas Caroling
- **Sat, Dec 24:** Christmas Eve services (4:30pm, 7pm, 11pm)

JANUARY

- **Sun, Jan 8; after worship:** Tiny Homes Informational Event

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Have questions?

Reply to this email or call the office at 925-447-1950.

Have an article, announcement, or event to submit?

Send them to the [Alaina Harrison](#), our Communications Specialist, **by 3pm on**

Tuesdays.

Miss a newsletter or need to go back and re-read?

Check out the [newsletter archive!](#)

Asbury United Methodist Church

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