

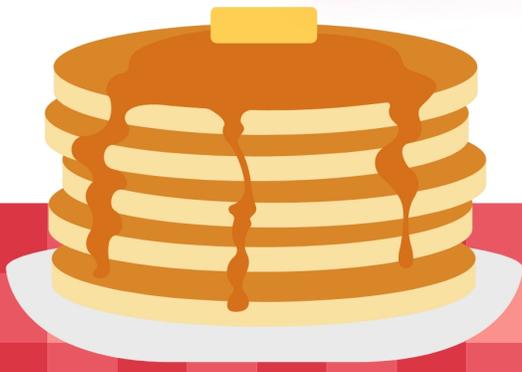
Asbury Articles

UPCOMING ASBURY EVENTS

Church Office Closed

The church office **will be closed January 2 (Monday)** so that our wonderful office staff can enjoy the holidays!

NEW YEARS DAY WORSHIP



Sunday, January 1 | 10am

Bring in the New Year with
pancake Communion!

New Years' Day at Asbury

Sunday, January 1 | 10am

Join us for a unique service celebrating the new year together!

We will begin worship at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary with a song or two, prayers, and the blessing of our pancake communion. Following the blessing, we will proceed to the Fellowship Hall for a pancake breakfast, which will be our communion. All are welcome!

Un-deck the Halls!

THIS Sunday after worship

We need your help! THIS Sunday after worship we will be removing all the Christmas Holiday decorations and lights in the sanctuary and outside to put them away ready for next year. If it is raining, we will remove only the decorations inside and postpone removing the outside lights to the following Sunday.

Many hands make light and quick work to make this happen. There will be jobs for all ages. We will have donuts for all that help. If you have questions contact Karen Bauman in the church office or if you are available during the week.

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

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, December 29 & Thursday, January 26

Thursday, December 29

Thursday, January 26

11am – 5pm

Asbury UMC Fellowship Hall

Share your good health by giving blood or platelets. Donating blood could save a life. To schedule your appointment, log on to redcrossblood.org, enter Sponsor Code: ASBURY925 or call 800-733-2767. If you have questions regarding your eligibility to donate blood, please call 1-866-236-3276. Photo Identification is required. Please sign up to donate today.

Volunteers Needed: Livermore Warming Center

The Livermore Warming Center is now open and needs volunteers to help operate it!

The Warming Center is open from 6 p.m. - 8 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building (522 S. L Street) in Livermore for the Tri-Valley unhoused residents. COVID screening will be administered on site.

Volunteer duties include helping with check-in, dinner, and breakfast service as well as presence and assistance during the hours of operation. Volunteer Training will be provided.

The organizers are hoping to recruit 80 volunteers total as outlined below:

- **Shift 1: 5:30 PM to 9 PM; 4 volunteers/night** – Help with entry process, dinner service, and other assignments including monitoring outside smoking area and safety monitoring. The Warming Center Director, Kim White, and/or long-time warming center manager, Donna McKenzie will also be present during this shift. This shift will overlap with a paid staff person working 5:45 to 12:15 AM.
- **Shift 2: 8:45 PM to 12:15 AM; 3 volunteers/night** – Help quiet guests with lights out at 10 PM, smoking monitoring until 10 PM, and safety monitoring and any other needed assignments. A paid staff person and/or the Warming Center Director and/or long-time warming center manager will be present.
- **Shift 3: 6 AM to 8:15 AM; 4 volunteers/day** – Help with wake up, monitoring use of bathrooms, breakfast service and morning clean up.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact [Kim White](#), Livermore Warming Center Director at 510-224-3755.

Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chat: January

Wednesday, January 11 | 5-6pm, 6-6:30pm

Virtual religion chat: 5:00–6:00 p.m.

Optional breakout discussion groups 6-6:30pm

[Zoom](#) room opens at 4:45pm

Topic: Choose a particular holiday, holy day, feast, or other celebration that you observe in your faith or culture. What is its significance to you and how do you celebrate it?

Instead of our usual 2-speaker format, any participants who wish to share a brief response (under 3 minutes) to the topic may do so. All are welcome!

In case you missed our Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in November, here is the [link](#).

We at Interfaith Interconnect wish you joyful holidays and a happy, healthy new year. We look forward to having you join us for Religion Chat in 2023!

Interfaith Interconnect Leadership Committee



ASBURY COMMUNITY

Message from Tim Ackerman

I don't need a "game card" to find the angels at Asbury! It's every one of you - from the Pastors to every member. You embrace everyone you meet and make their lives better! Here's wishing you all a very merry Christmas and great things for the new year!

With much love,
Tim Ackerman

Men's Bible Study returns in January

The Thursday morning virtual Men's Bible Study will not meet the next two weeks.

The next video meeting is Thursday, January at 7:45 am, when we will begin a new study.

Shetland Mist Book Talk and Book Group

***Shetland Mist* Book Talk and Reception**

Friday, January 6 from 7-9pm
Lynnewood UMC
4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton

There will be an opportunity to purchase the book for \$20 and get it signed!

***Shetland Mist* Book Group led by Rev. Heather**

Mondays from 11 am - 12noon
January 9 - February 20
Fireside Room, Asbury UMC

This is a chance to read *Shetland Mist* and talk about it with the author, our own Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer. Books will be available to purchase for \$20 at the first session. No reading is required until January 16. Invite your friends! Come when you can. (It's ok to miss a week or two...)

Final Week of Midweek Music!

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!

We have been 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!

Make sure you "Like" our [Facebook page](#) to see the video and stay up-to-date!

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](#)

JANUARY

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

- **Wed, Jan 11; 5pm:** Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chat



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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