

Asbury Articles: December 20, 2023



As many of you know, I am scheduled for knee replacement surgery on December 26 (having been postponed from an earlier date). I am told by the surgeon to plan to be gone from work for about 6 weeks. I anticipate being able to join you on worship via livestream! So, some notes about how to talk with a pastor while I'm recuperating:

- **From December 26-January 5, please call Rev. Heather Hammer 925-321-4298.** Heather will also handle messages from the church office December 26-January 1 as the office is closed.

- **From January 6 on, please call our Assistant Minister, Jordan Sylar, 423-790-6183. Jordan will call on others as needed.**

Heather and Jordan will preach and lead worship Sunday mornings. In addition, we have three excellent guest preachers and I know you will want to hear and support them:

- **January 21, Kim Montenegro is our guest preacher.**

- Bio: Reverend Kimberly Montenegro is the Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at University of the Pacific, in Stockton California. She is an ordained elder and served previously churches throughout the Central Valley of California both as Lead Pastor and a youth director.

- **January 28, Michael Yoshii is our guest preacher.**

- Bio: Rev. Michael Yoshii is a retired clergy in the Cal-Nevada Annual Conference. Prior to retirement in 2020 he served as Co-Chair of the Order of Elders with Rev. Kathy La Point Collup and was also the Co-Chair for the Conference Advocacy & Justice Committee. He served on the General Board of Global Ministries from 2008-2012 and the National Community Development Program Advisory Board of GBGM for over a decade. In retirement, Rev Yoshii has resumed his role as the Co-Chair of the Friends of Wadi Foquin, a partnership with the West Bank Palestinian village of Wadi Foquin started in 2009. In October 2023, Rev. Yoshii received a California Legislature "Life Time Achievement Award" Assemblywoman Mia Bonta in the 18th District. He and his wife, Suzanne, have two daughters and four grandchildren who make sure they stay actively awake (most of the day) to enjoy life and family.

- **February 4, Randall Miller is our guest preacher.**

- A longtime advocate for LGBT equality, Dr. Randall Miller is a former Assistant Professor of United Methodist Studies & Ethics at Pacific School of Religion and currently serves as the Chief of Staff at Borealis Philanthropy, a national grant making organization supporting grassroots organizations focused on achieving social justice and racial equity. As a board member of the UM General Board of Church & Society, Randall served on the writing team that produced the revised UM Social Principles.



Meals for a Growing Family!

We have a new baby at Asbury! New Asbury members Richard and Heather Lemmer will welcome their addition on December 23. Let's show them some love and hospitality by taking them meals while they adjust to their new situation. If you would like to support the Lemmers this way, Michele Rudd has set up a meal schedule [online](#) (password Asbury):

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michele at 925-337-4204. Thanks for considering helping Richard and Heather.

Celebrating Generosity: Poinsettias Adorn Our Sanctuary, Thanks to Your Kindness

As the holiday season unfolded, our community came together in a beautiful display of generosity, illuminating our Sanctuary with the vibrant colors of poinsettias. This stunning sight was made possible by the heartfelt contributions to our Flower Fund, a testament to the love and remembrance cherished by each donor.

We extend our deepest gratitude to every individual whose kindness transformed our space into a festive haven. Your donations were not merely financial support; they were acts of love, celebrating and honoring those who hold special places in our hearts.

In celebration of cherished moments and in loving memory of those who have left indelible imprints on our lives, we'd like to share the names of those honored through your thoughtful donations:



Christmas Flowers donated by

- **Cassie Braun** in celebration of her nephews, Finley & Bennet Sherburne and her parents, Dave & Jean Braun
- **Martie Muldoon** in celebration of Cici & Jasper Muldoon and John Baker-Muldoon
- **David & Jackie Schlientz** in celebration of Evan Schlientz and Isla Avanzino
- **Carl Rosenkilde** in memory of his parents, Rev. & Mrs. Elmer Rosenkilde
- **Wendy M. Ellison** in memory of her parents, Winifred & Vincent Ellison
- **Heather & Jim Hammer** in memory of Eric Hammer
- **Darcy Horne** in memory of her mother, Barbara Marden
- **Sharon Grant** in memory of Mary Jessup
- **Martie Muldoon** in memory of John Muldoon
- **Lobao Family** in memory of Sylvia Lobao; John & Bea Arnold
- **Joyce & Larry Suter** in memory of Lee & Joan Cornish;
- George & Katherine Suter
- **Bennet Family** in memory of Preston & Betty Ackley
- **David & Jackie Schlientz** in memory of Donald Hogan
- **Bill Rose** in memory of Mack & Irelle Rose
- **Sandra Noble** in memory of Virgil, Hayden & David Booth;
- Mark Morris
- **Tim & Patti Arnold** in memory of Jack Wetzler;
- John & Bea Arnold
- **Bob Jr., Janet, Katia & Jonah Johnson** in memory of Hal & Ruth Brehe; Robert Sr & Anna Johnson
- **Donna & Edwin Lim** in memory of their parents, Antoinette & Donald Donofrio; Fermin & Wandsey Limhanchiong
- **Kirby Fong** in memory of his parents, Edward & Amy Fong
- **Tony & Keri Gnecco** in memory of Mike & Felice Gnecco
- **Lawrence & Karena Lee Sanford** in memory of Joyce H. Sanford



Christmas Alternative Gift Catalog

As we embrace the season of giving, let us celebrate the joy found in sharing gifts and supporting our local ministries. Each gift given is a reflection of our generosity and compassion, spreading warmth and hope to those around us. Asbury's support for local ministries not only strengthens our community but also nurtures a spirit of togetherness and solidarity. Let's remember that our contributions, whether big or small, make a significant impact and create a ripple effect of positivity. This holiday season, let's continue to spread love and support, knowing that our efforts truly make a difference in the lives of others.

Our [Christmas Alternative Gift Catalog](#) introduces several ministries that represent mission opportunities locally. You decide which ministries you would like to support. Click on the name of the ministry to find out more. Complete [the order form](#), total your donations, and make payment payable to Asbury UMC. Asbury will send your donations to the ministries of your choice. We will also provide you with gift cards and envelopes that you may send to those whom you honor with your donations.

Printed copies will be available on Sunday in the sanctuary.

Downloads and attachments

[2023 AGC digital.pdf](#) [AGC form.docx](#)

UPCOMING ASBURY EVENTS



Longest Night Worship

Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Our **Longest Night or Blue Christmas worship** will be Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. The service will include a time for prayer, singing, and reflection. The service is designed to address the sadness that many of us feel this time of year due to the loss of loved ones as well as other losses in our lives. All are welcome.

Sunday School: Christmas Edition

December 17th

Tony Gnecco will be leading a special lesson this Sunday, December 17th during worship. Youth and Youth Alumni are invited to come take the dreaded "Christmas Quiz" and enjoy some goodies. We will cover what is and is *not* a part of the Christmas story, and have a blast along the way!



Christmas Eve at Asbury

December 24, 2023

We would love to invite you to come celebrate Christmas Eve with us! This year we are hosting three special events on Christmas Eve. Join us for games and fellowship time in the morning, interactive telling of the Christmas story in the afternoon and/or traditional candlelight service at 11 PM.

There will be a photo booth and hot chocolate after each event!

10 AM - Celebration of Christmas | Fellowship Hall

Let's enjoy fellowship time with donuts, bagels, our special hot chocolate, coffee and of course, something for people who can't have sugar. We will sing carols, play Christmas games and share.

4:30 PM - Family Christmas Eve Service | Sanctuary

Let your inner angel, shepherd or Wise Guy have some fun at Asbury! Special service with the interactive telling of the Christmas story, candlelight, Christmas carols and Christmas music.

11 PM - Traditional Candlelight Service | Sanctuary

Traditional candlelight service will include music by Faith Choir Ensemble and the singing of carols. Following the worship service, we will have a hot chocolate bar after.

[More info](#)

Ladies Night Out

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16TH | 6 PM

LANNA THAI

2270 LAS POSITAS ROAD, LIVERMORE, CA 94550

PLEASE RSVP TO KELLI WALTER (KELLIWALT@GMAIL.COM) BY FRIDAY, 1/12

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING CASH! WE HOPE YOU ARE ABLE TO JOIN US!



ASBURY COMMUNITY



Point in Time Count

January 25, 2024, from 5 am – 10 am

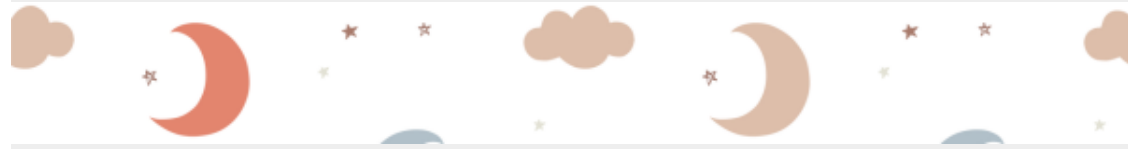
Asbury has been asked to help with the Point in Time (PIT) count again this year. On the PIT, we go out into Alameda County and count the number of homeless in a 5-hour time period. This count helps the county to understand how it is doing on ending homelessness and is also used for getting federal and state grants.

PIT is January 25, 2024, from 5 am – 10 am. There will be training, and we will go out in pairs often with a guide from someone who works with unsheltered folks. We had a good contingent from Asbury help in 2023 we hope to have a good turn out this year.

To register please [click here](#) or use the QR code. **Be sure to mark that you want to count in Livermore.** And let [Jordan](#) know if you are going to join the PIT so we

can let the city know how many from Asbury are involved. Invite you friends to join you! Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Grandchild Announcement

Beckie and Larry Wiley are proud to announce that their granddaughter, Alana Rose Todd, was born on December 1, 2023 in Portland, OR. Welcome, Alana!

Proud parents: Jenna Wiley and Jonathan Todd

Super proud grandparents: Beckie and Larry Wiley

FREE MATTRESS



Do you, or someone you know, need a mattress?

- **Queen Sealy Posturepedic Plus Hybrid Highpoint Firm Mattress**

Bought new in May 2023. Being replaced due to personal preference, nothing wrong with the mattress ("It's too soft for me and I don't like the memory foam. I'm heavy and sink down into it too much, but someone else might like it.").

Needs to be picked up before Christmas.

Please contact the [church office](#) if you are interested or need more info. Thanks!



Landscape Crew Volunteers Needed!

Do you like the great outdoors? Would you like to work with a like-minded group of people? Do you want to help Asbury be welcoming to all the people who use our campus?

If so, we are looking for additional volunteers to work on the Landscape Crews. Crews work for about 2 hours on Saturday mornings. Most of the year, each crew is scheduled for every 8th week. In the Fall during leaf season it is every 4th week. Cleanup, pruning, and weeding are the major tasks.

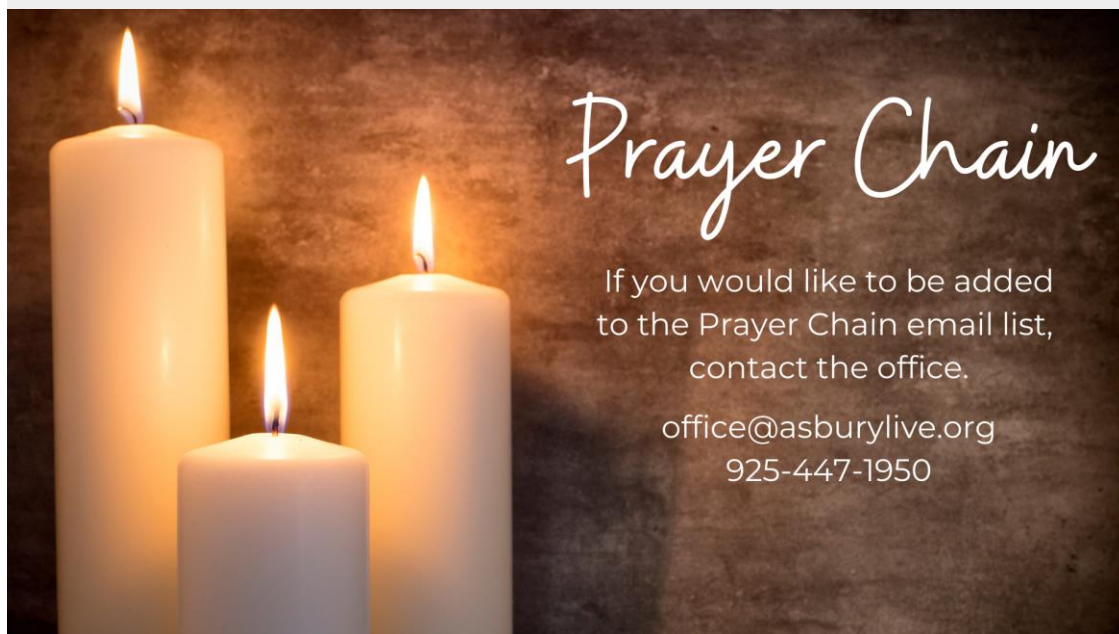
If interested, please contact [Debbie Larder](#) and I will get you on one of the work crews! Thanks!

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.





EVENTS AT A GLANCE

RECURRING EVENTS

- **Sundays; 10am:** Asbury worship service

CHOIRS

- **Faith Choir** - Thursdays at 7:30pm: Sanctuary
- **Cherub Choir** - Sundays at 11:30am: Room 5
- **Rainbow Choir** - Sundays at 11:30am: Sanctuary
- **Youth Choir** - Sundays at 11:30am: Chapel
- **Asbury Ringers** - Sundays at 7pm: Sanctuary

OPEN SMALL GROUPS

- **1st and 3rd Monday; 6pm:** Monday Night Small Group (Contact [Ruth](#))
- **Thursdays; 7:45am:** Men's Bible Study on Zoom (Contact [Art](#))
- **Thursdays; 5-7pm:** Family Small Group
- **Last Thursdays; 1pm:** Sew-In (contact the Office)
- **Saturdays; 8:30am:** B-MEN (Contact [Dick Ernst](#))
- **Saturdays; 10am:** Craft and Chat [Zoom](#) gathering

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Have questions?

Contact the church office via [email](#) or phone, 925-447-1950.

Have an article, announcement, or event to submit?

Send them to the [Martina](#), our Office and Communications Manager, **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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