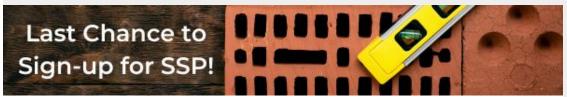




Asbury Articles: November 22, 2023



It is time to sign up for our second intergenerational SSP trip! We're excited to serve as a multi-generational group from Asbury again next summer, and the trip is open to youth (incoming 6th graders), young adults, and adults. The dates are July 14-20, 2024, and Asbury needs each person that plans to attend to <u>sign up using this form</u> by Wednesday, November 22nd. If you have any questions, please contact <u>Tony Gnecco</u> or <u>Pastor Jordan</u>.



Keep the stars coming!

Decorating Christmas stars to adorn church sanctuary pews is a cherished tradition that brings warmth and festivity to the heart of the holiday season. As our congregation gathers to celebrate the joyous occasion of Christmas, the careful placement of these stars becomes a symbol of hope, unity, and faith. We are amazed by the creativity of those that turned in their stars and encourage others to join the fun! The deadline to decorate Christmas paper stars for sanctuary was extended to Sunday, November 26. You are welcome to pick up yours in the office and there will also be a crafts station after the worship on Sunday to create one on the spot.



November 26, 2023

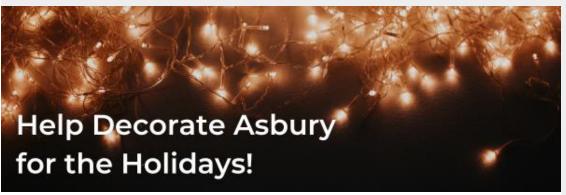
HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY?

United Methodists have been investing in our students for more than 100 years. United Methodist Student Day invites the church to support United Methodist students in achieving their educational goals. The funds received award United Methodist scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. Your gifts help young people achieve their educational calling with

more financial freedom.

Please consider donating to this cause. Following options are available:

- 1. Give online via website or app
- 2. Give in person via Offering Box
- 3. Mail or bring check to the church office
- 4. Direct deposit via your bank



On Sunday, November 26, please stick around after worship to decorate Asbury's campus with lights and Christmas decorations - both inside and outside. As well as putting trees up in the Fellowship Hall and wreaths in the Hall and Sanctuary. All ages are invited to participate. Many hands make light work for all. Join us as we prepare the campus to celebrate the Joy of Christmas! Please see Bob Johnson for more information. Thank you.



Asbury Anti-Racism Ministry

Join us for a book study to learn about The United Methodist Church and racism through our history. We will read *Our Hearts were Strangely Lukewarm* by John Elford and discuss it in two sessions, November 28 (chapters 1-4) and January 23 (chapters 5-8) at 7:00 pm. The meetings will be on **Zoom**. The Anti-Racism Group invites anyone in the church and community to participate in one or both sessions.

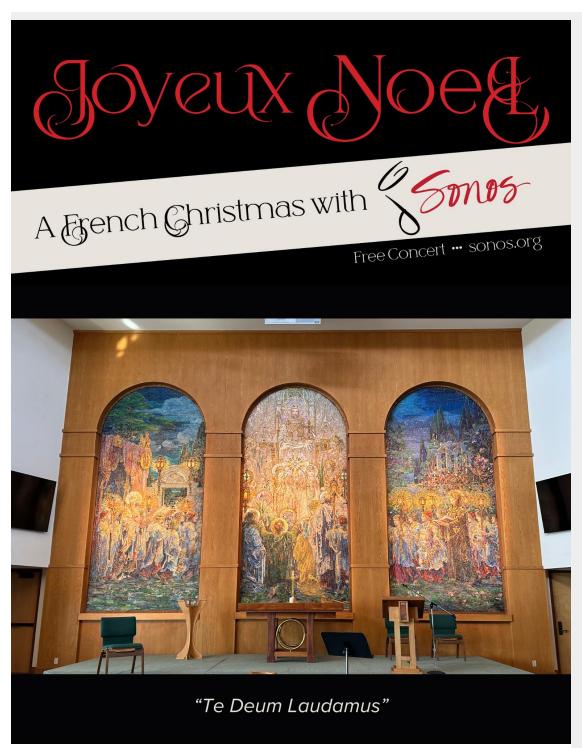
Michele Rudd and Heather Hammer will facilitate.

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 862 4164 9173

Passcode: 429537

Our Hearts were Strangely Lukewarm is available on <u>amazon.com</u> for \$23.30 (Prime and Kindle also) and at <u>progressivechristianity.org</u> for \$9.99 and <u>christianbook.com</u> for \$14.85. Get the book now and begin reading. Then bring comments to our discussions. The title comes from John Wesley's famous quote, "My heart was strangely warmed.



Dear Asburyites,

As a member of the Sonos Handbell Ensemble, I invite you to our concert at Lake Merritt United Methodist Church **this Sunday (11/26) at 2:00pm**. The program consists of many familiar Christmastime favorites—a great way to kick off the holiday season!

About the program: "Artistic Director James Meredith has designed a new holiday program, Joyeux Noel, a Merry Christmas celebration in French songs and carols...The program is

inspired by the Louis B. Comfort Tiffany mosaic triptych, *Te Deum Laudamus* [pictured above]. These three panels, 17 feet tall and 8 feet wide weighing more than a ton each, are made of over two million pieces of iridescent favrile glass influenced by the French Art Nouveau movement. These incomparable art treasures are the centerpiece of the sanctuary at Lake Merritt United Methodist Church. **The concert is free, and no reservations are required.** An opportunity will be given to donate to Sonos. There will be a pre-concert talk at 1:15 on the history and design of the Tiffany *Te Deum Laudamus* panels by historian Barbara Ganitch." (Source: sonostemp.org)

Parking is available but limited. **If you want to be included in a carpool,** contact <u>Beckie Wiley</u> for more information.

Hope to see you there!

Fernanda Van Atta



As you are aware, Asbury is now in the middle its annual stewardship campaign, where we assess what will be possible in 2024, based upon the pledges made to the general budget.

Asbury offers its members opportunities to connect, make friendships and grow spiritually through in-person and on-line worship, small groups, Sunday brunches, Asbury Players, choirs, Stephen Ministry, Youth and Young Adults Ministries, Sunday School for all ages, nursery care and support and fellowship for parents.

Our reserves have been dwindling, and several top donors have moved away. To keep up its work, Asbury needs generous support. We are asking for a 10% increase over last year's pledge. We are also asking for more folks to step up to pledging.

We recognize that not everyone has the financial resources to increase a pledge or to make one at this time. But for those who do, we ask that you prayerfully consider making an investment in Asbury, and in the community, leaving a legacy of love by tithing (donating 10% of income) or working towards that goal.

Please return the <u>Estimate of Giving</u> or send an email to our <u>financial secretary</u>, even if you are unable to pledge this year, by November 26. Thank you for your serious consideration. God bless you and Asbury's ministry.



Calling all actors, come join the fun with Asbury Players spring production, which will be performed in March!

Auditions will be held Wednesday Dec. 6 at 7 pm, and Saturday Dec 9 at 10 am, in the Conference room (Asbury office building). You only need to attend one audition session, although you're welcome to attend both.

Auditions will consist of reading scenes from the play (TBD). Anyone high school and older is invited to audition, and we welcome all to come try out!

Rehearsals will begin in January, rehearsal schedule will be set depending on actors availability.

Questions? Reach out to Martie Muldoon.



Christmas

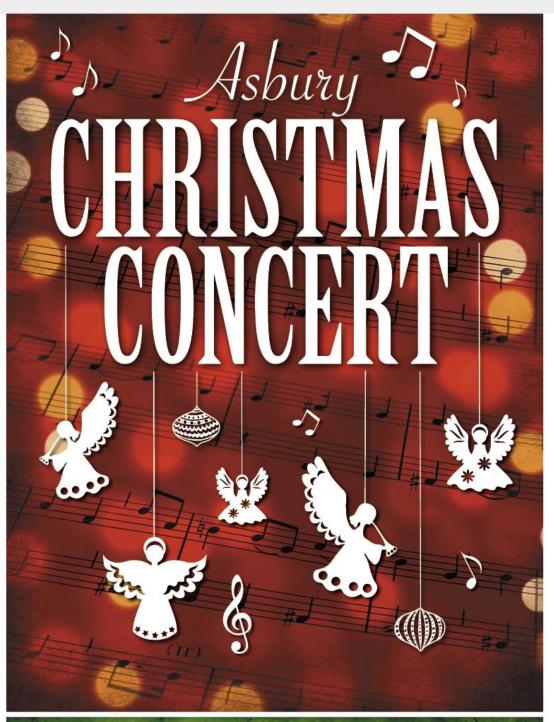
PARADE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 6 PM

We need folks to ride on the float, or walk beside, and also bannercarriers. We will all be 'angels', and halos will be provided!

We also need artistic help in decorating the float that week, and any and all ideas and suggestions are welcome!

Please contact Martie Muldoon at martiemtm55@gmail.com if you'd like to help, or have suggestions or questions



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023
7:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

OR WATCH ONLINE AT asburylive.org



Asbury UMC budget giving through Oct. 31, 2023

For a complete monthly budget update, please request one from the church office.

Income	\$501,525		
Expense	\$509,832		
Net	-\$8,307		
Expense detail			
Apportionments	\$50,153	9.8%	
Program	\$26,907	5.3%	
Office & Finance	\$8,660	1.7%	
Operational	\$92,837	18.2%	
Salaries	\$331,277	65.0%	
October benevolence giving			
Pastors fund	\$400		
Backpacks	\$250		
Shower & Laundry	\$950		
UMCOR Hawaii	\$200		
World Communion	\$300		
Partners for Change	\$525		
Fertile Groundworks	\$1,400		
Habitat for Humanity	\$100		
Open Heart Kitchen	\$100		
Tri-Valley Haven	\$1,300		
Livermore Homeless Refuge	\$27		
Total	\$5,552		

Benevolence from budget

Total	\$4,000
Partners for Change	\$1,000
Tri-Valley Haven Holiday program	\$500
Tri-Valley Haven Senior bags	\$500
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000
Hope Crises Response Network	\$1,000



<u>Shepherd's Gate</u> is looking for volunteers for some of their holiday activities. Shepherd's Gate's mission is to meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of women and children suffering from homelessness, addiction, and domestic violence through the love of Jesus Christ. They have facilities in Livermore and Brentwood.

2023 Holiday Volunteer opportunities can be viewed <u>here</u>. If you prefer to donate gifts to their residents you can see what is suggested at <u>this link</u>.

Shepherd's Gate has been in operation since 1983 and been a 501c3 non-profit since 1984. They have helped over 13,000 women and children since then. Please consider helping them with their mission.



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



The Friends of Wadi Foquin

The Friends of Wadi Foquin is now providing by email a *Special Weekly Update* every Thursday that includes news from the village and the region. If you would like to be added to

the distribution list please send an email to friendsofwadifoquin@gmail.com indicating that you want to receive the update. Also include your name and that you are a part of Asbury.



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

4743 East Avenue | Livermore, CA 94550

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Unsubscribe from all emails

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