



# Asbury Articles: December 6, 2023



# **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 <u>Christmas Alternative Gift Catalog</u> 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 <u>the order form</u>, 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



### **Tiny Homes Update**

After nearly two years of research, meetings, and prayers, Asbury UMC has submitted a General Planning Application for a tiny-home community. It will be called Garden **Vista**, since it would overlook Fertile Groundworks.

The Tiny Homes Task Force is asking you as part of Asbury's Congregation to write letters of support to City Council Members and the Mayor. If possible, we suggest both email and mail (1052 South Livermore Ave., Livermore, CA 94550) but only one is helpful, too.

We still have a long process ahead, including a vote by the members of the congregation once we have the final details. Another way to help is by attending the City Council meetings in person (second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Meeting Hall, City Council Chambers located at 1016 S. Livermore Avenue), where you can speak during the public comment section. When you arrive, complete a speaker card to get your name on the speaker list.

#### TIPS FOR LETTER WRITING:

- Keep it short and genuine
- Let people know what you feel and why
- Please write as a member of the community and a part of Asbury
- Stress the need for housing the unsheltered
- Mention we are making the land available at no cost
- Discuss that it is part of Asbury's mission to care for those who are less fortunate
- Please remain positive in your comments
- This is a healing ministry because we will have wrap around services

 Please note you don't need to include all of the above in your letter—we are just giving you some ideas

<u>Here are some sample letters to get the creative juices flowing</u>. If you would like to talk with someone on the Task Force, please <u>let the church office</u> know.

Yours with deep gratitude, the Tiny Homes Task Force



### **Christmas Flowers for Sanctuary**

Christmas Flowers for Sanctuary are due Monday, December 11. 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 <u>form</u> and email or bring it to the <u>Asbury office</u> or the offering box, along with your check for \$10.00, by Monday, December 11. Proceeds from these flowers will go to the flower fund. Please make checks payable to Asbury, note on all donations **Flower Fund - #2100**. If you would like to help deliver flowers after Christmas to those in need of some cheer, please mark the form or contact <u>Karen Bauman</u> or the <u>church</u> office.

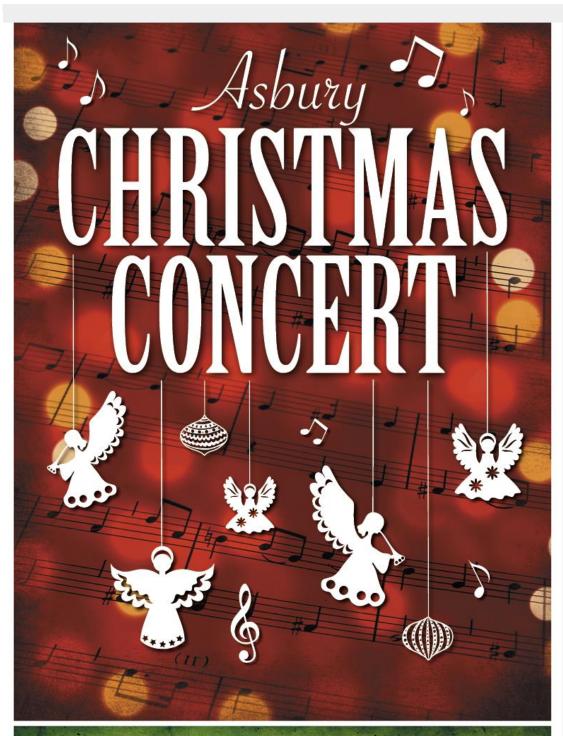
# **UPCOMING ASBURY EVENTS**



# Asbury Players production RESCHEDULED!

Asbury Players production RESCHEDULED! Breaking with tradition, Asbury Players will produce their play in August, rather than March! So, this week's auditions have been cancelled and will be rescheduled in spring 2024. We hope to see lots of you there!

Questions? Reach out to Martie Muldoon.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023



OR WATCH ONLINE AT asburylive.org







6:00PM - 9:00PM





# **Drop Off**

Your Children Age 6 weeks - 12 year old in a

🧡 Loving 🧡 **Environment!** 



Friday, December 15, 2023



Asbury ⊍MC

We're excited to invite you to another Parents' Night Out event! Leave the kids with us for a fun-filled evening while you enjoy a well-deserved break! Snacks provided. Email or call to RSVP by 12/10/2023.

Theme: MOVIE NIGHT

**Contact Us** 



office@asburylive.org 
925-447-1950







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.



### **Community Christmas Caroling**

Sunday, December 17 at 3:30 PM

Community Christmas Caroling will happen on Sunday, December 17. All are welcome to attend. We will meet at 3:30 PM in the fellowship hall to arrange for carpools. We will be dividing into three groups, with each group having their first gig at

4 PM. Each group will visit Asbury friends for an hour and 15 minutes. Then everyone will meet at 5:30 PM at the 900 building of Heritage Estates to sing as a mass choir outside of their dining room. We will return to Asbury by 6 PM to return Christmas Carol book and jingle bells and to share a light meal of Togos sandwiches.







### 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 <u>click here</u> or use the QR code. **Be sure to mark that you want to count in Livermore.** And let <u>Jordan</u> 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**



### 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.

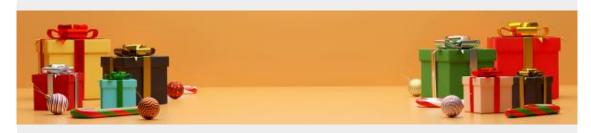
If interested, please contact <u>Debbie Larder</u> and I will get you on one of the work crews! Thanks!

### **Donating Stocks to Asbury**

If you are interested in donating stocks or ETF's as part of your givings (pledged or otherwise) or for special projects you wish to support, please contact me or Gail Bryan. Such assets can be contributed directly to Asbury so as not to incur capital gains on the asset's appreciation.

### Update especially for past donors of stock:

Charles Schwab acquired TD Ameritrade and Asbury's account transitioned to Schwab in September. A new Letter of Instruction is available by emailing me.



### **Christmas Gift Distribution**

Tri-Valley Haven is looking for volunteers to help with the Christmas gift distribution.

- December 12th/13th/14th: we will need volunteers at 3663 Pacific Ave Livermore, to help us with sorting and organizing gifts.
- On Saturday December 16th at Asbury. There are 3 shifts available: 8am noon, 11:45am - 3pm, 2:45 - 6pm

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Nabanita Borua or call 925-667-2711 if you are able to help!

Asbury UMC budget giving through Nov. 30, 2023

If you'd like to have a complete monthly budget update, please request one from the church office.		
Income	\$591,037	
Expense	\$565,581	
Net	\$25,456	
Expense detail		
Apportionments	\$59,104	10.5%
Program	\$28,399	5.0%
Office & Finance	\$10,386	1.8%
Operational	\$103,550	18.3%
Salaries	\$364,143	64.4%
November benevolence giving		
Pastors fund	\$100	
Shower & Laundry	\$167	
UMCOR	\$500	
Student Day	\$525	
Thanksgiving	\$2,738	
Christmas	\$200	
Open Heart Kitchen	\$100	
Alameda County Food Bank	\$1,300	
Livermore Homeless Refuge	\$27	
Total	\$5,657	



Shepherd's Gate 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.

# **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 <u>Dick Ernst</u>)
- 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 <u>newsletter archive!</u>

### **Asbury United Methodist Church**

4743 East Avenue | Livermore, CA 94550

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Unsubscribe from all emails

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