

Asbury Articles: March 1, 2023

UPCOMING ASBURY EVENTS

"The Savannah Sipping Society" Opens This Weekend!

March 4-12

Asbury Players performance of "The Savannah Sipping Society" begins THIS weekend!

Pre-Show Dinner on March 11th

Join us for dinner before the show! On Saturday, March 11 at 5:30pm, Asbury's Fellowship Team is preparing a delicious chicken dinner, complete with beverages and dessert, for only \$15! Advance tickets are required, and can be purchased online via the link below or during fellowship time at church.

Come see 'The Savannah Sipping Society', March 4-12 and join us for dinner on March 11th! Tickets for the show and dinner are found online via the link below.

[Buy tickets here!](#)

Lenten Taize service at San Damiano

Wednesday, March 15

Our worship theme for the Sundays of Easter will be *Lessons Learned From Taize*. In preparation for this time, Pastor Kathy, Rev. Heather, and Pastor Brad

will be attending one of the Lenten Taize services at San Damiano on Wednesday, March 15.

We invite you to join us! The service is from 7-8pm and we will meet in the church parking lot at 6pm to carpool. If you would like to carpool, please let [Pastor Kathy](#) know.

For more information about the services, go to San Damiano's [website](#).

UMCOR Sunday: March 19

On UMCOR Sunday, we join with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support The United Methodist Committee on Relief, an organization that acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. This allows for 100% of gifts given in response to disasters to assist with the disaster.

UMCOR can do this because the funds given on UMCOR Sunday join with those of millions of other United Methodists to help cover the costs of doing business. From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly when disaster strikes.

You can give to UMCOR through Asbury by specifying that you want your gift to go toward the UMCOR Sunday special offering!

VIM Trip to Paradise coming in June!

Our first VIM trip of 2023 to Paradise to work with HCRN is scheduled for the week of June 4th. Volunteers from Asbury, Lynnewood UMC, and SRVUMC are invited to put this on their calendars. A signup message will come out closer to the event, maybe around April.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Alabama Service Trip Pancake Breakfast

March 12th | 9-9:45 a.m. & 11-11:45 a.m

The Alabama Service Trip Pancake Breakfast is around the corner! This will be our March service project, and we will need all the help we can get. Even if you aren't planning to go on the Alabama Service Trip, we want you to still serve and participate.

We will be asking all Youth and team members to be there at 8:00 a.m. to start working and getting ready for the serving at 9:00 a.m.

There will be a sign up going out soon for items that we will need for the fundraiser.

Please let Brad know if you plan to help and attend!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Dinner & Axe Throwing

Friday, March 10 | 6:30pm dinner; 8pm axe throwing

For our first "First time for Everything" Gathering, we will be trying our hands at Axe Throwing. On Friday March 10th, this gathering will be at Limitless Axes & Ales in Pleasanton, but we will plan to meet up at 6:30pm and grab dinner somewhere nearby. If you are coming just for the axe throwing, we will plan to start that around 8:00pm.

For now, we need folks to register for the axe throwing, the cost is \$20 per person, and you can pay in this registration link. Once you are registered, Pastor Brad will be sure to keep you posted on up to date information like where dinner will be. Dinner and drinks are to be covered by each person. If cost is a barrier, let Brad know because you can still come!

If you have any questions, email [Brad](#)!

Please register by clicking the button below or by reaching out to Pastor Brad.

Axe Throwing Registration

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sunday, March 5: Rolling Road Closures

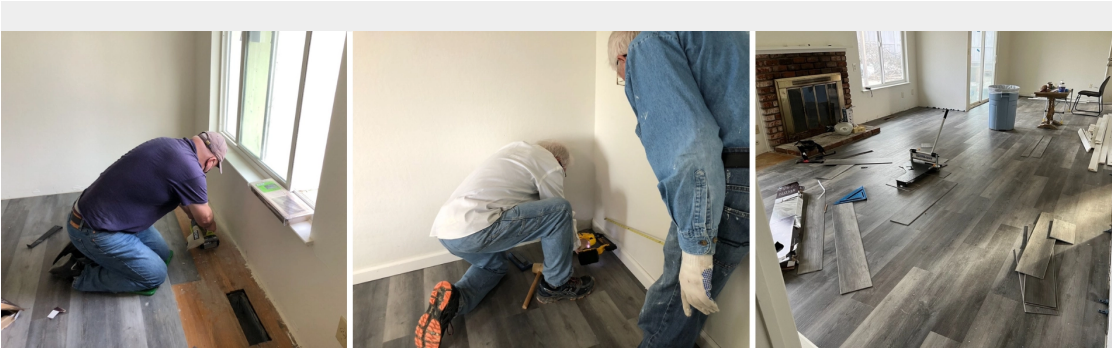
There will be a Half Marathon in Livermore on Sunday, March 5 and involves rolling street closures. We realize that this will affect folks from the west side of Livermore coming to church on that day and wanted to make sure to spread the word so that if this applies to you, you may make adjustments as needed!

The race will begin and end the intersection of First Street and South Livermore Avenue at 7:30 a.m., and last around three hours.

Rolling closures will occur March 5, according to the Livermore Police Department:

- First St between S L St and S Livermore, 2:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- First St between S Livermore and McLeod, 5 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- S Livermore between First St and Second St, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

- McLeod St between First St and Second St, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Second St between McLeod St and S L St, 7:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- S L St between First St and College Ave, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Arroyo Rd (southbound only) between College Ave and Concannon Blvd, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Arroyo Rd (southbound only) between Concannon Blvd and Wetmore Rd, 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
- Arroyo Rd (northbound only) between Sycamore Grove Park and Wetmore Rd, 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- Concannon Blvd (eastbound bike lane only) between Arroyo Rd and Wente St, 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.



Pittsburg UMC Parsonage Renovation Date Change

Our next workdays are Saturday March 4 and **11**. The March 11 date is a change as Asbury is holding a Cleanup Day on the 18th. We will continue to meet at Asbury near the office building at 8:00am to car pool. We should be back by 5:00pm. Please email Dick Crawford, or call 925 413-4116 if you plan to participate. If you have questions please call Dick Crawford.

The work these next two Saturdays will involve mainly installing vinyl plank flooring in the kitchen, installing baseboard, and installing window coverings. The new kitchen cabinets should have arrived before March 11 and will need installation. All tools will be provided, but if you have some favorites, mark them if you bring them along. Also bring gloves, knee pads, lunch and water.

If you choose to drive yourself (about 45 - 50 minutes) the address is 3345 Crestview.

We could use monetary donations toward this effort which is costing about \$20,000. If you choose to donate please direct to account 3100-02 Pittsburg Parsonage Renovation.

Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chat

March 8 | 5pm - 6:30pm | Zoom | Meeting ID: 817 7005 2038

5pm – 6pm: Religion Chat

6pm – 6:30pm: Optional breakout discussion groups

Zoom room opens at 4:45pm

Topic: How does your religion adapt itself to reflect changing times?

Speakers: Rev. Steve Wilde, First Presbyterian Church, Livermore;
Hosai Mojaddidi, Muslim Community Center East Bay, Pleasanton

All are welcome!

Faith, Food, and Farms Conference

Wednesday, March 8 | 3pm – 7:30pm

Wednesday, March 8 | 3pm – 7:30pm

Niles Hall at Preservation Park | Oakland, CA

Pre-Conference Tours: 11:30am - 2:30pm

Opening Plenary: 3:00pm - 3:45pm

Breakout Session One: 3:45pm - 4:35pm

World Cafe: 4:45pm - 5:20pm

Breakout Session Two: 5:30pm - 6:20pm

Closing Plenary: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Lay leaders and clergy leading projects faith community projects to support access to food, and food system advocacy: *This Conference is For You!*

Be inspired by peers from diverse backgrounds working for food justice and a more sustainable agricultural system. The interactive format includes interactive discussions; and panels highlighting successful local and national projects.

Register [here!](#)

UMCOR Response to Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey at 4:17 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, the most powerful earthquake recorded since 1939. In the hours that followed, at least 78 aftershocks were reported, followed by a second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude.

The earthquake and aftershocks also impacted northwest Syria, where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance. Syrian communities, many of them women and children, are simultaneously facing an ongoing cholera outbreak and extreme winter weather, including heavy rain and snow.

Thousands have been killed in both countries, and deaths continue to rise as rescue crews seek survivors in collapsed buildings. The humanitarian response is struggling to ramp up to meet the need among the devastation and winter weather.

UMCOR is actively working to help those in need from the earthquakes. You can donate to UMCOR through Asbury via our [Giving page](#).

ASBURY COMMUNITY

Endowment and Parsonage Funds Progress During 2022

Asbury United Methodist Church established an Endowment Fund in the fall of 2016 to provide long-term financial support. The gains can be withdrawn to help support Asbury's ministries or left to grow further. In 2021, the Church Council decided to grow the fund to an interim goal of \$1,000,000 before beginning withdrawals. Then, the fund will be sufficient to support significant additional ministries.

As you know, 2022 was a bad year for both stock and bond investments. Experience has shown that it is best to stay on the "investment roller-coaster" and ride it down then back up on the other side. In fact, when it is down is a good time to buy stocks "on sale," so we are grateful for generous donations of \$40,761 in December 2022, which were invested the first week of January 2023 when the S&P 500 was 19% below its peak.

This year, after extensive discussions with the Finance Committee and Trustees, the Church Council approved moving the Endowment Fund investments 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.

Since inception, total market gains reached \$31,889 as of the end of 2022. Together with continuing donations, the Endowment Fund has reached \$253,778, plus \$10,047 in an associated Parsonage Fund.

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. We want to encourage everyone to consider donations to the endowment fund as part of their estate plan – this was the source of the recent much-appreciated \$40,000 donation.

Join the Landscaping Team!

Do you like working outdoors? Would you or your family like to be help in in the upkeep of our campus grounds? It doesn't take much time - only about 2 hours or so every other month. As you all know, many hands make light work – and chores are always more fun when you have help.

If you're interested, please contact [Lorraine Magee](#) (925-443-7913) as she will be updating the Landscape Detail soon.

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](#)

MARCH

- **March 4-12:** Asbury Players, "The Savannah Sipping Society"

- **Fri, March 10; 6:30pm:** Young Adult Dinner & Axe Throwing
- **Sat, March 11; 5:30pm:** Pre-Show Dinner
- **Sun, March 12, before and after worship:** Youth Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
- **Wed, March 15; 7-8pm:** Lenten Taize service at San Damiano (carpool at 6pm)

APRIL

- **Thurs, April 6; 7pm:** Maundy Thursday service (**virtual only**)
- **Fri, April 7; 8pm:** Good Friday service
- **Sun, April 9; 6:15am:** Easter Sunrise service
- **Sun, April 9; 10am:** Easter Sunday service
- **Sun, April 9; 11am:** Easter Egg-stravaganza

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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