

Asbury's Alternative

Gift Catalog

Christmas 2021



Asbury United Methodist Church   4743 East Avenue   Livermore CA 94550



## **DUE TO COVID-19**

The programs and services listed in  
this catalog need your support  
NOW more than ever!

# **Alternative Christmas Catalog**

## **Two Gifts in One**

As we grow and become wise givers, we learn that giving is not just about filling a box with more stuff. The best gift is one that is treasured long after the occasion has passed.

A gift from this catalog shows your love for the recipient. At the same time you will be making a difference in our community.

### **How to use this Catalog**

We are offering several ministries that represent mission opportunities locally. You decide which ministries you would like to support.

Complete the order form at the end of this catalog, total your donations, and write one check payable to Asbury UMC. Asbury will send your donations to the ministries of your choice.

### **Electronic Transfers Made Easy**

It is now possible to make electronic money transfers directly to Asbury using the app "Zelle."

Please use the destination "[finance@asburylive.org](mailto:finance@asburylive.org)," and remember to put a note in the memo line telling us which programs you have selected to benefit from your donation (e.g. Open Heart Kitchen, Pastor's fund, Fertile Groundworks, etc.).

**We will provide you with gift cards and envelopes that you may send to those whom you honor with your donations.**

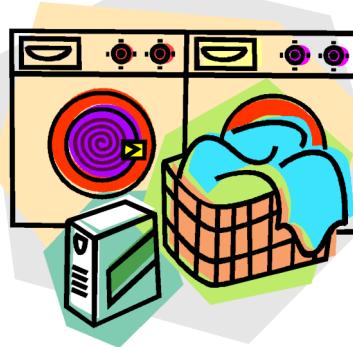
# Shower/Laundry Ministry

Asbury continues to operate this ministry three days a week. This is an Asbury outreach to the unsheltered and the less fortunate of our area.

Currently we are averaging 40–50 showers a week and 10–15 loads of laundry. We have 2 coordinators, Johnny Dela Rosa and Rachael Supnet who help run the program. Their attention to detail, understanding the clients and working together with all of our volunteers somehow manages to ensure that everyone who wants a shower and clean clothes gets it!

Your donation to the Shower/Laundry Ministry is used to purchase supplies like laundry soap, dryer sheets, shampoo & conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, T-shirts, underwear, socks and the list goes on.

This ministry reaches people in so many ways, it's not just about getting clean. People feel welcome when they come, they participate and feel needed. Please come by and visit anytime!





## **Mission Trip**

Youth Mission trips are a powerful way our youth live out their faith in service to others. This year as COVID-19 canceled our traditional Sierra Service Project mission trip for a second year in a row, youth service days became the go to substitute.

Our youth have participated in 4 in person service days from July through December, building a pump cover for Fertile Groundworks, building skateboards for foster youth, painting a Gazebo at Tr-Valley Haven, and assembling bags for Tri-Valley Haven to distribute to seniors during their holiday program. Each of these activities was done outside, socially distanced, wearing masks. In a time when youth have experienced a tremendous amount of loss around what they can do, offering safe opportunities for them to make a difference, connect with each other, and connect with God has make a tremendous impact in their lives.

In 2022 we plan to continue youth service days as a safe way to empower youth to continue to make a difference in their world and we look forward to participating in Sierra Service Project at Smith River in July.

We appreciate your support in helping us continue this important ministry with the youth at Asbury. Being able to serve others leaves a lasting impact and helps empower our youth to deepen their faith and how they live out God's love in their everyday life. Your gift will go to purchase supplies for our projects, food for the youth to fill them to do good and help with Sierra Service Project fees! Please consider including Youth Mission Trips on your Christmas list this year!



## Who We Are/What We Do

People in the Tri-Valley are going hungry today. There is an assumption in the Tri-Valley that poverty and hunger don't exist, but that's simply not the case. Thousands of our neighbors in the Tri-Valley are going hungry today, and aren't sure where their next meal will come from. They are forced to choose between paying for food, and paying for essentials such as housing, medicine, and utilities. This includes populations like the underemployed, low-income seniors, and children of families struggling to get by.

Open Heart Kitchen provides prepared meals through three main programs: Hot Meals, Senior Meals, and Street Outreach. Our Hot Meal Program welcomes anyone in need. Anyone who is struggling to make ends meet can rely on OHK for a source of nutrition throughout the week for their families. Our other two programs focus on specific groups. The Street Outreach Program delivers food to the unhoused six days a week at various locations throughout the Tri-Valley, and the Senior Meal Program serves "senior friendly" meals at various senior centers promoting both social interaction and healthy eating. Our mission is to serve prepared, nutritious meals free of charge to the hungry people of the Tri-Valley area.

In 2022, Open Heart Kitchen is projected to serve more than 2 million meals to people from all walks of life, including the unhoused, underemployed, veterans, seniors, and children and families. For more information, please visit [openheartkitchen.org](http://openheartkitchen.org).

## Fertile Groundworks

With your support Fertile GroundWorks has continued to be able to teach, grow and give healthy fresh vegetables to help feed our community for eleven years. Through all kinds of weather and daily turmoils like droughts, pandemics, and tractor repairs Asbury members have been there for us. It is always heartening to see so many Asbury members names on the 'sponsored by' labels of beds and trees while working in the garden. Thank you.

With a lot of help and guidance from Asbury members, we erected a new hoop house this year. It is doubling as a barn to park the tractor and a place to house some of the 10,000 seedlings. Last year we had seedlings everywhere in the old hoop house, we could barely walk through it to tend them. We will also be installing a rain catchment system to collect the rain water off the hoop houses. If we continue to get rain into 2022 we should be able to collect about 8,000 gallons of water that we can use to irrigate the orchard and some of the garden in the summer of 2022.

Also, this year we have started erecting a fence around the Southern orchard to keep our furry neighbors out of the trees. They have enjoyed nibbling on 26 of the trees to death. We have ordered replacement trees and will be planting them in early 2022 after the fence is completed.

So far this year Fertile GroundWorks has hosted 913 volunteers of all ages and capabilities and helped four schools restart their gardens and a fifth start planning their new garden. With our volunteers help, we have been able to grow and harvest 22. 400 pounds of fresh produce to give to our local food pantries and community kitchens to share with our neighbors in need.

As always please know that Fertile GroundWorks couldn't do any of this without your support. THANK YOU!!! for enabling us to TEACH, GROW, and GIVE.

May your holidays be filled with kindness, love, good company and great food.

Brenda





## Partners for Change

Asbury along with other faith communities and social agencies began Partners for Change. This poverty alleviation strategy is a movement to measurably reduce poverty at its core. It is a hand up, not a hand out. Partners for Change is a community based effort to empower people to chart their own course out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency.

This model for change starts with individuals (called Change Leaders) who are committed to moving out of poverty. We begin by re-thinking poverty in a 14 week class. Each week we gather for a meal together, and then attend an interactive class which emphasizes self awareness, resources, finances, the role of trauma, and accountability. While the adults are in this transformational class, childcare is provided for family members. At the end of the class, Change Leaders set their own goals. And for the next 18-24 months, they work towards those goals.

Community Allies are another key piece of this approach. Community Allies are trained to be a supportive community around the Change Leaders. Allies are financially stable individuals who encourage, hold accountable, and walk alongside change leaders. Allies are discouraged from giving money, but are encouraged instead to give their time and knowledge to support change leaders to accomplish their goals.

Our local chapter of Partners for Change is part of a national program called NETworX: Securing Well Being Together. All involved (Change Leaders and Community Allies) are transformed by this process. Your donation will go towards the weekly meetings, curriculum costs for our Transformational curriculum, and salary support for our Director, Sara Subbiondo.

Thank you for all of your support!

Sara

# The Pastors Fund

The Pastors fund are dollars that are spent at the direction of Pastors Kathy and Brad, providing a unique opportunity to help others in our community in tough times. Many in the Livermore community, Asbury members and non-members, come to the church in times of need. It is because of the generosity of people donating to the Pastors Fund that we have been able to help. The church is often the last resort when people have nowhere else to turn, and no matter who you are or what you are asking for, it's hard and it's not something that is done lightly. Thankfully this fund allows the pastors to respond not only with compassion and kindness but also with financial support as needed. The pastors never give money out, but they use this fund to pay for what helps people in need that they cannot afford.

## **Some of the many ways the funds were spent in 2021:**

Car Repairs	Bus Tickets	Gas for families living in their car
Rent	Medications	Motel rooms for people in crisis
PGE Bills	Medical Bills	Tents/sleeping bags for the homeless

The recipients come from all walks of life, but what they have in common is that they need a little help. It could be any of us at some point in our lives. The pastors have a defined process for how the distribute money from the Pastors Fund. The pastors consult with each other, record each transaction, and while they want to say yes to each need, they do not always respond with funding for each request. They recognize that this money has been given by people who want to help others and so they use the funds with a focus on how we can have the biggest impact in helping to improve people's situations. Thank you for supporting this fund, it makes a big difference in our ability to be God's love with hands in our community.

People Helping People



# Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley (HFH EB/SV) works with volunteers to build affordable homes for low-income families in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara counties. The impact on families is much more than just having affordable shelter. Habitat has a simple mission statement: "Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope." The homes are affordable to low-income families because of the financial donations that cover most of the cost of building and the work that volunteers do building the homes.

Habitat works with partner families to provide a hand-up to home ownership, not a hand -out. Partner families are selected based on their ability to pay a 30 year mortgage, their need for housing, and willingness to partner. Partnering with Habitat includes a commitment from the family to do 500 hours of sweat equity in lieu of a down payment on their new home. The selling price of the home is based on the family's income (about 30% of income), not the market value. If a partner family sells the home, the deed has a sales restriction that the home must be sold as affordable to a low-income family. In practice, the home is sold back to Habitat, with the partner family receiving much of the mortgage they have paid as their equity. And the house is then sold to another Habitat partner family.

The major HFH EB/SV project currently is a 42 home development in Walnut Creek. Before COVID, Asbury volunteers worked with Habitat one Saturday every month and expect to start again in Walnut Creek.

**Before COVID,  
Asbury volunteers work there one Saturday every month.**



## **African American Community Service Agency**

The African American Community Service Agency (AACSA), founded in 1978, is one of the only African American cultural centers in the Silicon Valley. Our mission: providing quality educational, cultural, social and recreational programs, services and activities in order to perpetuate and strengthen African American identity, culture, values, traditions, knowledge and family life, is at the heart of all programs. AACSA's membership is open to everyone, regardless of race, religion, age or disability. The Agency's diverse activities and services offer a natural gateway to African American life.



## Livermore American Indian Center



The Indian Education Act of 1972 provides for the educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian students. In 1973, the Society of American Indians was founded in Livermore by a group of American Indian parents and community members. This is a non-profit organization established to:

- ◆ provide educational opportunities to the families of American Indians
- ◆ promote the culture and traditions of the American Indian
- ◆ provide scholarships for American Indian students in the Tri-Valley area.

Forms are available at the American Indian Center.

The American Indian Center is open to the public. At the Center, one can find many American Indian artifacts and crafts as well as a library with over 500 books available for check-out. Teachers are invited to bring their students to the Center for educational and cultural programs.

Technology is a valuable learning tool at the Center and plays an important role in our tutorial project. Computers are available for student use to reinforce skills and learn new skills. A great deal of educational software, including word processing and keyboarding instruction is also available. We provide academic assistance in the form of individual, teacher supervised academic tutoring to ensure that all Title VII students meet or exceed grade level standards in the core content areas.

In order to foster an appreciation for and create pride in American Indian culture, the Center offers classes in crafts such as bead-work, as well as cooking, dance, and drumming. Outside activities provide enrichment for students at the Center. Trips are taken to museums, historical sites, and special American Indian events such as powwows.

Volunteerism is an integral part of the Center. Opportunities vary according to the current activities. Anyone interested in being a volunteer should contact the Center.

# Thank you for supporting Asbury's Alternative Gift Giving Catalog.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry	Amount of Donation
<i>Shower/Laundry Ministry</i>	
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	
<i>Open Heart Kitchen</i>	
<i>Fertile Groundworks</i>	
<i>Partners for Change</i>	
<i>Pastors Fund</i>	
<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>	
<i>African American Community Service Agency (AACSA)</i>	
<i>Livermore American Indian Center</i>	
<b>Total</b>	

How many gift cards do you need? \_\_\_\_\_

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