

# THE ASBURY TRUMPETER



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## Home Coming!

November is the season of abundance and thanksgiving. Also, Thanksgiving is the season of traveling and homecoming. Young college students will return home for Thanksgiving break, and family members will gather around the dinner table, enjoy a delicious turkey, cranberry sauce, and mashed potatoes and share their life stories. There is nothing better than home sweet home!

Asbury UMC, your spiritual home, also plans to host a thanksgiving homecoming party this year. For the past 2 years, many of us could not gather together due to health concerns and many other issues. But we are entering into the endemic and society has returned to a new-normal. So I hope that we can gather at the church and celebrate our season of gratitude together and give thanks to God. Do you remember what we did in 2019 on Thanksgiving Sunday?



Judith Anderson shared her gratitude for Asbury UMC. Patricia led children's time about Thanksgiving and our kids collected hats, socks, and mittens that our Asbury family brought to our neighbors. I still remember the joyful laughter and warmth that filled the sanctuary. We are planning to re-create those blessed moments this year.

Please plan to come to the Thanksgiving Sunday worship service on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Bring mittens, hats, and socks for our neighbors in need. Bring your smile, joys and concerns as well. Share them with your family in Christ and rejoice together! Come and see what God has done for your wonderful church!

From Rev. Yohan Go



## Finance Committee November 2022 Newsletter article

Hello Folks,

I hope you're enjoying the cooler Fall weather and the colorful leaves that are part of our New England landscape. Becky and I enjoyed the summer but it's good to be home and to worship with our beloved Asbury family in-person!

The Finance Committee has been busy leading into this new month. We requested an extension to our Mission Shares relief from the New England Conference and have just put the finishing touches on a grant application for Equitable Compensation to help support our Pastor financially. We prepared the required documents for inclusion with the annual Church Conference booklet, with the Zoom conference open to all Asbury folks and set for Sunday, November 20 at 7:00 PM. We interacted with the Permanent Investment Fund Committee whose Chair, Bob Hanke, let us know that our investment values took a hit like everyone else's portfolio this year, but we still fared better than the S&P 500; having said that, a 20% drop in value is concerning when we rely on invested funds to cover our gap between income and expenses. We presented a draft 2023 budget to the Church Council in late October and, with their approval, will present that proposed budget at the Church Conference. We are still waiting to hear from the New England Conference about Mission Shares relief, Equitable Compensation status, and figures for health insurance, the Pastor's pension, and property insurance figures for next year; once we have that information we will adjust the draft budget accordingly.

If you had a chance to stop in at church recently you would have been treated to the wonderful aroma of freshly baked breads! If bread is baked, can the Bazaar be far behind?!! You're in luck; the Christmas Bazaar happens at Asbury on Saturday, November 5 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Don't miss it! I've seen things coming together at the church for this event and can report that there is a lot more to be found than the delicious breads! Please help us by supporting this, our largest fundraiser of the year.

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving this month, and we have a lot to be thankful for. (To my English major friends I know that should read "a lot for which to be thankful;" just checking to make sure you are reading this carefully 😊). I am thankful to all of you for supporting Asbury as best you can and for pledging to support Asbury in the New Year. I am thankful to Andrea Dunn who posted live news on Facebook about Pledge Sunday, the Soup for the Soul effort to feed neighbors who are food-insecure, and our Bazaar. I am thankful to Pastor Yohan for his sermons, emails and letter about pledging. I am thankful to Deb Rose and Trish Disu for sharing their thoughts about pledging and support during Sunday worship. I have much more to say about my thankfulness to all of you in our Church Conference booklet, and will share that message at the Zoom conference on November 20 at 7 PM.

One of my favorite catch phrases is "none of us is as smart as all of us." That axiom comes to life at our committee and Council meetings, and I am grateful to everyone who contributes their time, their talents, their prayers, and their money to help make all of this work.

Blessings,

Lee Arnold, Finance Chair