

Asbury Articles

Centered in Jesus Christ, we **Grow** in faith, **Celebrate** community and **Serve** others with love.

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Welcome to Pastor Chelsea Constant

With joy and gratitude, we celebrate the appointment of Pastor Chelsea Constant to Asbury, as our full time Pastor of Christian Discipleship. Chelsea and her husband Nick will join us on July 1.

Chelsea will be responsible for leading youth and young adult programs, as well as preaching and pastoral care.

Here, in Chelsea's own words is a more thorough introduction:

"I am a native of the Bay Area, raised in Cupertino. While in high school, two life changing events took place.

First, while on a youth group trip to Australia, I felt called by God to ordained ministry. Although this was far from the life I had imagined for myself, I was overcome with awe at the love and graciousness of God, and agreed to follow God's call to ministry.

The second life changing event was meeting my future



husband Nick, in a high school business class.

After graduating high school, I went off to college at Tulane University in New Orleans. I felt a strong call while there to serve the homeless and low income populations that were particularly hurt by Hurricane Katrina. My time in that city which is so formed by deep sorrow and deep joy was soul deepening. I graduated in 2011 with a BA in Religious Studies, French, and International Development.

After graduation I packed my car and moved off to Durham North Carolina, to start my next adventure at Duke Divinity School. I have loved and have been deeply formed by my time at seminary. Especially meaningful to me have been the internship opportunities. In particular, working as a chaplain at a hospital was im-

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Pastor Chelsea Constant (cont'd)

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mensely formative, beautiful and challenging. In this position, I led spirituality groups for out patients with Substance Abuse Disorder and with Schizophrenia and provided pastoral care on the psychiatric ward, medical care unit, and Hospice. This experience put skin and muscle to the skeleton of theology I formed at Duke.

I believe in a God that is ever and truly present in every moment of our lives, even our suffering and death. I believe that God is Emmanuel, God with us, and that this divine presence is wonderful, terrifying, wild, and perhaps more than anything else, filled with Grace. I believe in a God that deeply loves all parts of God's creation, even those parts that seem unloveable and worthless. I believe that love is a fundamental part of the human identity, that we are all beloved children of God regardless of mental illness, age, addiction, race, gender, sexuality, class, or whatever else we humans often use to separate ourselves and others from divine love. I believe that love is a fundamental part of our Christian identity, and

so we are called to view and interact with others with eyes full of this radical and transformative divine love.

Nick, our dog Lily, and I are excited to move to Livermore and to embark on this journey of ministry with this faith community. Alongside ministry I am passionate about baking cupcakes, reading, and playing with my dog. As we begin this journey together, I can't help but think of John Wesley's words: "And best of all God is with us." These words are engraved on my heart. They speak to my passion and excitement for ministry, for living with and serving God's people. Best of all, God is with us. Best of all is remembering and living I response to this divine presence. Best of all is falling in love, and fighting with, and falling in love again with this our ever present God. Best of all is living in a way that testifies to God's presence with us and with the world. I cannot wait to live in this 'best of all' with you, to live, to share, to wonder, and to grow into this mystery where God has given Godself to us."

Children's Ministry

Greetings Asbury families. Asbury Kids continue to read scripture, learn about Jesus, make friends, serve others and have fun. As summer approaches quickly, I sincerely ask you to consider signing up to be a story teller, craft leader or game host for one or two Sundays over the summer. Our regular volunteers need and deserve some time off. If everyone would pitch in, this would be an easy schedule to fill. Please visit us at the Asbury Kids table in the FH after worship. Thank you. Other items to note include:

- Thank you to Renee Haugen and Becky Biermann for a fun packed Easter Egg hunt. Our youth did a great job hiding eggs. I'm still finding them!
- Our Nursery Open House was a huge success. Thank you to Pam Tegge and the nursery attendants for preparing the nursery and sponsoring a nice event. Special thanks to our photographer and caterer-Ron and Lynn Tripp.
- Club 45 and the youth groups will have a swim party at the Robert Livermore Community Center on Sunday May 4, 4:30-6:00. We will walk back to the church for a snack supper and finish by 7:00.

- VBS takes place July 21-25. Registration forms are available online or in the church office.
- There are many weeklong summer camps for those kids and youth going into third grade on up. See our website for more information.
- About half of our children and youth volunteers have cleared background checks and safety training. Hopefully we will be 100% cleared by mid-May. Please take care of this ASAP and save Terri her sanity. It's important for our kids and youth.
- **May 18 will be "Chat with Pastor Chuck"** during Sunday school (for the kids). You won't want your child to miss this opportunity. We will prepare questions the week before, so I hope all kids can be present each Sunday, but especially those two.

Thank you all for your continued support for kids at Asbury.

Peace,

Tina Morris

Garden of Grace Update

What's for harvest in the Garden of Grace these days? How about fresh strawberries, Oregon giant snow peas, broccoli, lettuce, beets, cabbage, and an assortment of Asian greens. *(See pictures on the website.)* Yum!

Fertile GroundWorks shows volunteers how to grow the nutritious fruits and vegetables that are cultivated and harvested at the Garden of Grace. We encourage everyone to grow a little of what they eat. Not everyone has a large yard for a large garden but there's almost always an opportunity to grow a little of something. Even a planter or pot of herbs in a sunny spot on a porch or windowsill can create an important connection with nature and bring a little home-grown goodness to a meal.

But, what about the drought? We are in the middle of the worst drought we've had in a long time. Not only that, but there are a lot more of us sharing the water than there were during the last significant drought. One of our main goals (one which we have been pursuing since the founding of the Garden of Grace) will be to use our water resource as efficiently and effectively as we can. Some measures can be taken to reduce water use immediately, other are learned over time from experimentation and patient observation. Here are some examples of both that we are doing and will be doing as we set out to grow as much food as we can given the water use restrictions:

- Grow vegetables in the fall, winter and spring when temperatures are lower and the plants will be able to utilize the precipitation that does fall.
- Let part of the garden lay fallow; cover the garden

beds with a deep layer of compost /mulch or combination of cardboard, plastic film and mulch that will keep the soil from drying out,

- Choose crop types and varieties that use relatively less water to grow to maturity, (e.g., plants with deep roots vs. plants with shallow roots), Some plants like the soil to dry out a bit between waterings,
- Water longer – deeper and less frequently to encourage plants to grow roots into deeper soil where surface evaporation has less impact,
- Incorporate organic material (compost) and grow cover crops to increase root mass in soil during cold/wet seasons to increase the water retention qualities of your soil (works for both sandy and clay-loam soils),
- Apply generous covers of mulch around plants to reduce evaporation,
- Use shading to reduce evapotranspiration:
 - * Plant crops so that taller, sun-loving plants such as tomatoes provide afternoon shade for plants that tolerate or even prefer some shade such as kale, lettuce, chard, or peppers,
 - * Use shade cloth or row cover to lower soil and plant temperatures,

Drop by, visit us ask questions and or share your food gardening experience at the Garden of Grace Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9-12:00 noon, Fridays 3-6:00 p.m. and/or the first, second and third Saturdays from 9-12:00 noon.

Youth Happenings

What's happening in May?

Youth Activities – May 2014

- **May 3** – Spaghetti Bingo Night! Pasta, bingo, & prizes! Only \$5 per person. Bring your friends and family to the Fellowship Hall. The fun starts at 6:00 p.m.
- **May 4** – Pool time! Youth Groups will join Club 45 at Robert Livermore Community Center pool from 4:30-6:00 p.m. with dinner to follow.

- **May 11 & 18** – Body Parts will be sold after worship to raise funds for Youth Missions.
- **May 11** – Mother's Day! Enjoy family time with Mom – no youth group meetings.
- **May 18** – Home Group dinner at Barb David's house from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **May 25** – Memorial Day weekend. No youth group meetings.

Celebrate Community

Senior/Retiree Luncheon

May 1, 2014, 12:00 noon

If you're a senior or a retiree, come have a delicious lunch and enjoy some fellowship. Cost is \$5 per person.

Ladies' Night Out

Tuesday May 20, 6:30 p.m.—DIFFERENT NIGHT!

Ladies of Asbury, let's get together for an evening out at a local restaurant. This month, we'll be going to Piccola Casa. The restaurant is located at 945 Bluebell Drive, in Springtown. They're closed on Monday, so we're going on Tuesday instead. Please RSVP with Nancy Grover if you plan to come, so we can tell them how many to expect.

Book Drive for Stockton Schools

Mendenhall Middle School is holding a book drive to donate books to schools in Stockton, where resources are limited. The only reading material they have is their textbooks, and want to have new books to read. Please consider donating your new or lightly used books, in English or Spanish, in the kindergarten through eighth grade level. The drive continues through June 12. Books can be dropped off at the church office or in the Fellowship Hall.

Please contact Olivia Howell with any questions. Thank you for your support!

Asbury Photo Album Is Coming!

It's time to do the photo album again, since it's been several years. The photographers will be here in June.

Each family will receive a FREE 8x10" photo, and you can do a family photo, pics with kids, with your pet, music instruments, etc.

The dates and times to sign up to have your photo session are:

- Tuesday, June 3, 1-8:50 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 4, 1-8:50 p.m.
- Thursday, June 12, 1-8:50 p.m.
- Friday, June 13, 1-8:50 p.m.
- Saturday, June 14, 10:00 a.m.-5:50 p.m.

You can sign up online by going to:

<http://bit.ly/asbury2014album>

Terri Gamble is also looking for several volunteers to help with check in, creative layout of the album, and other things. Please contact her directly at the church office if you can help out in any way.

To my many friends at Asbury

I wish to send you all my deep appreciation and thanks for the many kind and lovely cards and notes you have sent me. They are truly appreciated! I think of you all often and wish I could be with you, but it is not to be.
God be with you all and thank you again.

June Weiss

Serve Others With Love

Body Parts for Sale!

Wouldn't you like to help send our youth on mission trips? Here is your opportunity. You can sponsor part or all of a participant. It's easy. On May 11 and 18 you will have the chance to choose how much of a "body" you want to sponsor. Each part will cost \$25. Hands, feet, arms, legs, stomachs and hearts will all be available. You can even sponsor a whole youth for \$250. Find us after church in Fellowship Hall and check out the gallery of heads needing your assistance.

All Church Mission to Camp Lodestar This Summer!

We are pleased to announce that registration is now available for our 2014 Asbury All Church mission trip! Open to all ages, we will be going to Camp Lodestar to help with camp maintenance. The dates: Thursday, July 31 through Sunday, August 3, 2014. Arrive mid to late morning on Thursday and depart around noon on Sunday.

Camp Lodestar is in the Sierra foothills, about a 2½ hour drive from Livermore. It is one of the main camps used by our church conference. The camp has lodges, cabins, a dining hall, swimming pool and a variety of other facilities. We will be staying in two of the lodges.

Our work will be to do camp upkeep and small repair projects. There will be work for all ages and abilities. Children, age 9 or older, can participate in the work. Child-care and recreational activities will be provided for age 8 and younger.

We will start work after lunch on July 31. Adults and older youth work most of the day, Friday and Saturday. Children and younger youth would work mornings and enjoy recreation in the afternoons. Sunday morning is worship, a short hike and cleanup.

Cost is \$115 per person for adults/older youth and \$85 per child (11 years or under). Cost only includes meals, snacks and incidentals. Housing charge waived in return for our work.

Please contact Steve Elliott or the church office you would like more information or to register.

Report from Oklahoma Mission Trip

(See photos and longer report on the website.)

Imagine, if you will, a tornado two miles wide with winds of 300 miles per hour bearing down on you. It is carrying torrential rains and softball size hail. And you have no place to hide. What would you do? Well that was the tragic nightmare of May, 2013 in Central Oklahoma. The storms killed 24 people, injured hundreds more and caused billions of dollars in property damage. Yet, the courageous people of the area endured and are on the road to recovery.

We were pleased to provide a mission team in April, 2014 to help with the recovery. Our team of twelve was composed of participants from three Tri-Valley churches. We worked a week in El Reno, Oklahoma, a thriving farming community near Oklahoma City. We marveled at the resolve to recover and rebuild. We enjoyed the warm-hearted hospitality of our host church, the recovery organization and the community we served.

Our main focus for the week was Donna's home. A tree had fallen through her modest, two bedroom home. Our goal was to rebuild the second bedroom. Emotionally spent from the trauma in her life, Donna is essentially disabled from when her bipolar husband tried to kill her and from a car accident after the storm. Gracious and grateful in all respects, Donna was so appreciative of our help.

Aside from the work, what else? Well, we laughed a lot at stories told. We shared meaningful devotional moments in our evening group time. We made many new friends at our host church in Yukon. We enjoyed the BBQ! We were especially happy to give one of the prayer quilts to Donna. She was a quilter at one time and lost all of hers in the storm. These beautiful quilts are handmade by women at church.

We got much of the rebuild done and the next team or two will finish it off. As Donna said in her thank you note – "I see the glow of the Lord in each of you. You have been such a blessing to my family. You have given me hope once again. I believe in you. Keep up God's work!"

Well, that about sums it up, living our faith matters in this world.

Sincerely, the Oklahoma Mission Team

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries

Tim and Nancy Ackerman
Rich and Jackie Bennett
Mark and Lesleyann Coker
Emilie and Charles Runnels Fox
Peter and Deanna Frument
Steve and Sheryl Goodman
Karl and Rhonda Item
Chuck and Lou Johnstone
Mark Lee and Susan Edgar-Lee
Dave and Jackie Schlientz
Ray and Pam Spooner
Erik and Dayna Taylor
Michael and Janice Wakefield
Adam and Sarah Walker Cleveland
Brian and Sunny Webb
Steve and Burlyne Wilson

Birthdays

Linda Beach
Brett Bernstein
Kevin Bernstein
Nikolas Campos
Ava Christensen
Cory Coll
Atticus Cummings
Peter Danan
Susan Danan
Ashley Defenbaugh
Kelsey Dunn
Shannon Dunn
Becca Elliott
Gabe Elliott
Emilie Fox
Ruth France
Terri Gamble
Sharon Grant
Mackinna Hart
Emily Hewitt
Wilma Holbrook
Julia Item
Annalisa Juan
Rebecca Kohlmoos
Ken Lamb
Lisa LeVan
Anna Lim
Laurie Linden
Kayla Lindsay
Lois Lyle
Mitchie McCammon
Marian Pine
Connor Runnels
Gretchen Rutherford
Pat Saltgaver
Karena Sanford
Alice Schell
Allen Schell
Andrea Schlientz
Caitlin Tripp
Allan Van Lehn
Zachary Wakefield
Sharon Walton
Glenda Warren
Lindy Webb

Hitomi Westfall
Rich Whipple
Kara Wiley
Burlyne Wilson
George Wilson

May Calendar

Please visit the Asbury website calendar for the latest updates: <http://www.asburylive.org/events>

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays

- 9:00 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Butterfly Gardens is open
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. GIFT, Fireside Room
- 10:45 a.m. Children and Youth Choirs
- 10:45 a.m. The Gifts of Imperfection, Fireside Room
- 3:00 p.m. Financial Peace University
- 5:30 p.m. Club 45
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers, Rooms 11-12

Mondays

- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays

- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Worship Service, Rosewood Gardens
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Alanon/Alateen, Rooms 13-15

Wednesdays

- 9:30 a.m. Mom's Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Arthritis/Chronic Pain Group, Room 10
- 7:30 p.m. Faith Choir, Sanctuary

Thursdays

- 7:45 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Room 11
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study, Heritage Estates
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit
- 7:00 p.m. SGG, Room 6
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Band, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

Saturdays

- 8:00 a.m. Lawn Crew
- 9:00 a.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

May 1, 2014 (Thursday)

- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
- 8:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Room 8

May 5, 2014 (Monday)

- 12:30 p.m. Chronic Pain Support, Room 10

May 6, 2014 (Tuesday)

- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

May 8, 2014 (Thursday)

- 8:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Room 8

May 11, 2014 (Sunday)

- 10:30 a.m. Finance Committee, Conference Room
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 11/12
- 11:30 a.m. Choir Leader Summit, Room 9

May 12, 2014 (Monday)

- 9:30 a.m. UMW Tea/Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

May 13, 2014 (Tuesday)

- 1:00 p.m. Praying Our Good-byes, Fireside Room

May 15, 2014 (Thursday)

- 9:00 a.m. Ecumenical Peace Institute, Room 11/12

May 16, 2014 (Friday)

- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

May 17, 2014 (Saturday)

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Musical Rehearsal

May 18, 2014 (Sunday)

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Musical
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room

May 19, 2014 (Monday)

- 12:30 p.m. Chronic Pain Support, Room 10

May 20, 2014 (Tuesday)

- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Night Out, Piccola Casa

May 22, 2014 (Thursday)

- 9:30 a.m. Sewing/Quilting Group, Room 11/12

May 25, 2014 (Sunday)

- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested



Asbury UMC Staff

Pastor

Chuck Johnstone

Pastor

Kim Risedorph

Children's Ministry Director

Tina Morris

Interim Youth Director

Tony Gnecco

Music Director

G. Allen Schell

Choir Coordinator

Jean Braun

Secretary

Terri Gamble

Facilities Use Manager

Mitchie McCammon

Nursery Coordinator

Pam Tegge

Livermore Community Blood Drive

Friday, May 16, 1:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

In the Bay Area only 3% of eligible donors ever give blood. Bay Area hospitals need over 300 units of blood every day, 7 days a week, to keep up with demand. With the harsh winter, hundreds of blood drives have been cancelled across the country. Please call Tom Petty at home for more info, or sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org Sponsor Code: **ASBURY925**



www.AsburyLive.org

Church office hours are:
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Closed for lunch.

The deadline for the next Asbury Articles is
Thursday, May 23, 2014.