Sunday, February 5, 2017

On Sunday February 5, we will begin our celebration of Asbury’s 150th anniversary as a church in Livermore. Join in the festivities, which include a new hymn commissioned for our 150th. We are poised to remember the past and rock the future!

Every month, we will run a mystery photo, for you to identify. At the end of 2017, whoever has correctly guessed the most photos, will receive a special prize.

Email your answers to Pastor Kim.

Here’s this month’s photo. Who do you see? (You can see a larger version on the website in the “News” section.)
He had told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

The prophet Micah asks, what does God require of us? He asks this question in a time of dishonesty, corruption, and injustice. A time when the leaders and the people had gotten so far off track that they were completely lost.

Had Micah posed this question to the people, the answer probably would be something along the lines of sacrifice, showing up for worship, giving offerings.

But instead, Micah asks this question and then answers it from God's point of view. And the answer should never cease to shock and surprise us, to make us uncomfortable as we wonder: am I really doing that?

God doesn't require the things we have come to expect like showing up for worship, knowing the Bible frontwards and backwards, having all the right beliefs. Instead God requires that we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. These actions are not optional for a life of faith.

So often we think of faith in terms of what we believe and how certain we are about those beliefs. But Micah wants us to think of faith in terms of what we are inspired to do, how does our belief in God change how we live our lives.

And Micah is not the only voice in Scripture asking this question, in the New Testament we hear "faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." And we hear Jesus summarizing a life of faith as loving God with our whole being and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Faith is not a feeling but a verb, it is the way we live out our lives with the kind of love that humbly walks with God, seeks out justice, and extends kindness to all. This is what God requires.

Micah reminds us of this not to shame us, because the truth is we all miss the mark. None of us are perfect and we all struggle with this. But although we might not be perfect, we can still try. And with God's grace we can grow to love more deeply so that justice, kindness, and a humble walk with God become more and more how we live.

So how today, or this week, or this month will you live your faith? How will you seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God? Faith is about what we do with what we believe.

Pastor Chelsea Constant

Rally for Love Event

Sunday, February 12, 2017, 12-1:30 p.m.

Join us in a "Rally for Love" to demonstrate and celebrate the wonderful diversity we enjoy in the Tri-Valley and beyond! This is a peaceful, positive, family-friendly, non-partisan gathering to bring our communities together:

- To demonstrate solidarity with those among us who feel vulnerable.
- To establish new relationships that can make our communities more connected, safe, and loving.
- To celebrate people of every race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, cultural background, legal/social/economic status, family make-up, physical ability, age.
- For the comfort of knowing that there is a lot of love in our communities!

And let everyone know if you're going!

More Details
You can see the Facebook information page, register your attendance and invite your friends to join us!

Please wear red for Love!
February Religious Chat

On the second Wednesday of each month, Interfaith Interconnect hosts a religious chat, as a way for us to learn more about each others' religions.

The February Religious Chat will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. The time is 5-6:00 p.m., with the church opening at 4:30 p.m. and closing at 6:30 p.m. to give people a chance to visit.

Our topic will be: What myths would you like to dispel about your religion or religious practice? What are frequent misconceptions?

The speakers will be Ms. Karen Miller, Associate at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore and Rev. Lucas Hergert, the Pastor at Unitarian Universalist Church of Livermore.

The event is free of charge, and open to all.

Living Truthfully, Sermon Series in February

We now have a new adjective: post-truth. The editors of the Oxford English Dictionary picked post-truth as the 2016 word of the year, defining it as "relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotional and personal belief."

Yet, telling the truth is more than an intellectual exercise or having access to reliable information. It is also a matter of being a certain kind of person. The virtue of truth telling is intertwined with our spiritual journey. Truth telling requires humility. In particular, having the humility to be corrected and the humility to join in the current discussion and debate.

Key to truth telling is a fundamental openness to a world bigger than ourselves, our perspectives, our opinions. Truth telling requires us to listen to others and respect others. It might also involve letting go of judgement, and blaming others. Only then do we have the perspective we need to make sound decisions. Dietrich Bonhoeffe put it this way, "to speak truthfully, one's gaze and one's thought must be directed toward the way the real exists in God and through God and for God." In worship, February 12-26, our topic is Living Truthfully. See you in worship!

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

During Lent, the forty days leading up to Easter, we are invited by God in a deeply personal way. "Come back to me, with all of your heart," Christ Jesus beckons. During Lent, we offer ourselves to this Love of God that transforms our lives, and our world.

Our Lenten Journey begins on Wednesday, March 1, with Ash Wednesday.

Join us in the chapel, 7-7:30 p.m., for a worship service which includes the imposition of ashes.

Asbury Women's Retreat, April 21-23

Women of Asbury! It's time for our annual Women's Retreat. Join us at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, CA, for a weekend of laughter, inspiration, and relaxation. Sign up after worship, or in the church office.

Invite a friend, sister, daughter of neighbor to come with you.

This year our theme is "Thresholds to the Holy." Opening to the holy in prayer happens in ways both unique and universal. At different times our lives present us with new "thresholds" to a deeper relationship with the Divine. In this retreat we will engage with ancient and ever-new forms of prayer. We will reflect on and nurture our own prayer experience as women of faith. A contemplative approach will open possibilities for prayer through images, nature, scripture, poetry and silence.

Our retreat leader this year is Clare Ronzani. Clare is an educator, retreat leader and spiritual director. She teaches courses in spirituality at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. She has also served as the director of Spiritual Formation at the Franciscan School of Theology and coordinator of the spiritual direction team at San Damiano retreat. Her interests include women's spirituality and the integration of arts and justice with the practice of spirituality.

Retreat costs include room, 5 meals, and the retreat program:

- Double Room: $195 per person
- Single Room: $240
- Scholarships are available

See Pastor Kim (925-447-1950, ext. 102)
Family Workday At Tri-Valley Haven Thrift Store
February 11, 2017
We have a longstanding commitment to support Tri-Valley Haven. They could use our help with processing and organizing the many donations they receive at their Thrift Store. Perfect for all ages, we will be going next Saturday, February 11. Pick from one of two shifts – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 1-3:00 p.m. It will be like organizing a garage sale! Fun and helpful! For information to signup stop by the Serve Others Table after worship or see Steve Elliott.

Interfaith Build Day at Habitat for Humanity
February 18, 2017
On Saturday, February 18, Asbury will join other faith communities at the Habitat construction in Martinez. Everyone is welcome, regardless of skills or experience. We often work with the families who will own the homes. We are nearing completion of this current phase of homes. Join us for the final push.

Work at the site is from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. We carpool from Asbury, leaving at 7:40 a.m. from the parking lot by the office building. To sign up, come by the Serve Others with Love Table after worship, or contact Bob Hoffman.

Finance Update
The Finance Committee would like to offer this summary of the past year’s spending, hoping that it will give people an overview of how Asbury has used the money it received in 2016.

First some explanation is in order. We distinguish between money that a donor gives to Asbury for a specified purpose, and money that is given “with no strings attached”. The former is called restricted funds and can only be used for the purpose that the donor has designated. Examples include the various special offerings, UMCOR and the New Building Fund. Funds that Asbury receive which do not have a specific purpose (for example: loose plate offering, most pledged income and corporate matching funds) is termed General Funds and goes to pay the various line items in our general budget.

You can read the entire report on the Asbury website by going to:
Celebrate Community

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, February 2, 12:00 p.m.
Join us for the Senior and Retiree Luncheon Thursday, February 2 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The cost for lunch is $5.00 per person. Sign up after worship or call the church office at 925-447-1950.

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, February 7, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to Demitris Taverna (www.demitristavernalivermore.com) located at 2235 First Street. All ladies of Asbury are invited. Please let Nancy Grover know if you plan to attend so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

Speech Contest for High School Students
Sunday, February 19, 1:00 p.m.
Attention all high school students! This announcement is for you.
WHAT: Speech Contest, sponsored by Livermore Lions Club.
WHEN: Sunday, February 19, 1:00 p.m.
WHERE: Livermore Library, main branch.
HOW MUCH: $25 to each participant and more to the winner.
WHO: Contact Ben Barrientos for application call (925) 449-9974.

Crab Feed
Saturday, February 25, 5:30 p.m.
All-You-Can-Eat Crab Feed! Here in the Fellowship Hall, on Saturday, February 25, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
Event sponsored by Livermore Lions Club, a non-profit foundation. Call Ben or Ann at 925-449-9974 for tickets $45.
For more information go to: http://bit.ly/2ksKMpt
Children’s Ministries

In Sunday School during the month of February we will be exploring the following topics with our “A Joyful Path” curriculum:

- Security
- Perseverance
- Truthfulness
- Willingness

Youth and Children’s Performing Arts Showcase

March 12, 2017, 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to our second annual Youth and Children’s Performing Arts Showcase and Community Potluck Dinner Sunday, March 12 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Youth and children can sign up with Jackie Bennett via email or with Pastor Chelsea or on a clipboard located in the Fellowship Hall after worship, room 6, room 13, or room 15 to participate.

Performing Art Acts need to be two minutes or less and church appropriate. Wondering what kind of act you would like to do? You can play an instrument, sing, read a poem, dance, tell jokes, or put on a skit.

The showcase will take place in the Sanctuary and will be followed by a Community Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 26.

Summer 2017 Opportunities

July 9-14, 2017

United Methodist Summer Camps for third grade and up: Monte Toyon in Aptos, CA (near Santa Cruz). Many Asbury children and youth have attended this camp and have loved it. Former Asburyite Jenna Stark is the Camp Director.

July 16-22, 2017

Lodestar: Camp Registration can be found at: bit.ly/2hDrVmg

July 24-28, 2017

Asbury UMC’s 2017 Vacation Bible School “Super Heroes of the Bible” will be July 24-28.

In faith and peace,
Jackie Bennett
Children’s Ministry Director

Thank you Asbury

Dear Friends at Asbury,

How blessed that Joe and I have been with your prayers, cards, e-mails, devoted pastors, as well as delicious food. Joe’s open heart surgery, which turned out to be quadruple by-pass, certainly came as a complete shock to him and our family since he had no basic symptoms. Fortunately, Joe had a surgeon at Kaiser, Santa Clara with 44 years of experience which was very comforting and was happy with Joe’s outcome.

We had no idea that the food ministry, headed by Michele Rudd, would be such a blessing. I was thrilled and very grateful when the meals arrived. Then to help make our Christmas more joyful, since we could not attend church, was Jean Braun organizing marvelous carolers to come to our home—just wonderful and made tears come to Joe’s eyes.

We are also very, very blessed to have for several years, an adopted Asbury family member who went beyond the call of duty to help in SOO many ways and continues to do so.

Yes! Kindness Does Matter.

Blessings to each of you for this coming year for your love shown in many ways,

Maris and Joe Medeiros
Youth Ministries

Youth Happenings

- February 5: No Youth Groups and No Confirmation
- February 12: Confirmation 4:30-5:30 p.m., Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- February 19: Confirmation 4:30-5:30 p.m., Youth Groups 5:30-7 p.m.
- February 25: Youth Groups Hike in Muir Woods 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- February 26: Pancake Breakfast 10:00 a.m., Confirmation 4:30-5:30 p.m., No Youth Groups

SSP Pancake Breakfast

Head to the Fellowship Hall after worship on February 26 to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast and support the youth Sierra Service Project mission trip this year! Tickets are only $7 a person or $25 a family, they will be on sale in the Fellowship Hall after worship February 5 and 12 and available to purchase the day of the breakfast. We appreciate your support!

SSP 2017 Youth Mission Trip

August 6-12, 2017

All students grades 8-12 are invited to come on the youth mission trip this Summer! We will go to Spokane, WA and serve with Sierra Service Project doing light construction like building decks, painting, and repairing roofs.

SSP is a fun and meaningful way to serve others with love and deepen relationships with friends and with God! The mission trip will be August 6-12. Please sign up with Chelsea by February 26. The cost of the trip is a non-refundable $150 deposit and scholarships are available if needed.

Youth Winter Retreat

March 3-5, 2017

Save the date for the youth winter retreat to the snow this March 3-5! All youth are invited to join us on the winter retreat. We will leave in the evening of Friday March 3 and head up to the Hornbeck’s cabin in Arnold. We will return Sunday afternoon. There will be fun in the snow, time to play games, and time to connect more deeply with each other and God!

Please sign up for the retreat with Chelsea by February 19! The cost of the retreat is $45.

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Please sign up for the retreat with Chelsea by February 19! The cost of the retreat is $45.

Thank you for Supporting Troop 900!

Boy Scout Troop 900 would like to thank the Asbury congregation for their generous support of the Christmas Tree Lot this past December. It was great to see so many familiar faces stopping by to purchase their Christmas trees. Our primary fundraiser was again a big success! We appreciate your business and hope to see you again next year.
Anniversaries

Spencer and Litza Bayless
Rex and Linda Beach
Chuk and Kellie Campos
Glen and Theresa Dawes
Dean and Regina Juan
James and Kelly Pettis
Jan and John Stevenson
Ron and Lynn Tripp

Birthdays

Patti Arnold
Harry Bate
Sara Bayless
Dylan Bennett
Ashleigh Bohling
Laurie Cano
Anne Coll
Linda Culpepper
Christopher Danan
Barbara David
Theresa Dawes
Nancy Deis
Barbara Ernst
Beth Giannotti
Joe Giannotti
Keri Gibson
Andy Grant
Leslie Hammer
Betty Holdener
Pam Howell
Nickolaus Item
Delaine Jantzen
Janet Johnson
Alec Kenward
Lori Kenward

Warren King
Virgil Koon
Susan Lambaren
Kathy Lee
Lyle Lee
Maris Medeiros
Jeff Molvik
Tina Morris
Ruby Mueller
Carolyn Norton
Kelly Pettis
Kelsey Pettis
Andy Pomykal
Margaret Price
Rick Rood
Charles Runnels
John Sharry
Joel Spooner
Laurence Suter
Brady Taylor
Kimberly Wakefield
Otis Walton
Kayla Webber
Laura Whipple
Cathy Yung
February 2017 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. Cherub, Rainbow and Youth Choir rehearsals
- 10:30 a.m. Small Group, Room 13 (first and third Sundays only)
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room (first and third Sundays only)
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Mondays
- 11:00 a.m. Crafting for a Cause, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. Fertile Groundworks, Conference Room (second and fourth Mondays only)

Tuesdays
- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room (second and fourth Tuesdays only)
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Small Group, Fireside Room (second and fourth Tuesdays only)
- 7:00 p.m. Alanon/Alateen, Rooms 13-15
- 7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesdays
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Faith Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursdays
- 7:45 a.m. Men’s Group, Fireside Room
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit
- 7:00 p.m. Small Group, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

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

Other Events

February 2, 2016 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

February 7, 2016 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Demitris Taverna

February 12, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room
- 12:00 p.m. Rally for Love, Bankhead Theater

February 17, 2016 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

February 19, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

February 25, 2016 (Saturday)
- 5:30 p.m. Lions Club Crab Feed, FH

February 26, 2016 (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

Pastors
  Chelsea Constant
  Kim Risedorph

Children's Ministry Director
  Jackie Bennett

Youth Director
  Chelsea Constant

Secretary
  Terri Gamble

Facilities Use Manager
  Teri Lambert

Music Director
  G. Allen Schell

Choir Coordinator
  Jean Braun

Nursery Coordinator
  Pam Tegge

Lay Leader
  Martie Muldoon

Livermore Community Blood Drive

Friday, February 17, 1:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Every day, bay area hospitals need over 300 units of blood. If you’re 17 or older and in good health (or 16 with parental consent) help save a life of someone who needs more time with their family by giving blood! Go to redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: ASBURY925. Call Tom Petty at home for more information. Thank you for helping to save a life by giving blood!

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 Friday, February 17, 2017