Greetings! The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 1, with the Ash Wednesday service at 7-7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

"Sanctuary" is our theme for Lent. We will explore the Scriptures and experiment with finding places of peace and refuge in the midst of our lives. Most likely, we'll also sing that hymn:

"Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary…
And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for you."

To be a "living sanctuary" for God's Presence: that image always touches me. How to be a living sanctuary?

I've found some answers in Terry Hershey's book, Sanctuary: Creating a Space for Grace in Your Life. The author reminds us, "sanctuary, like anything else that's truly important, involves making certain choices

- To be open
- To be available
- To be curious
- To be alive
- To be willing to be surprised by joy

All those are great Lenten practices! To pick one per day, and live being open, available, curious, alive, surprised by joy. That'll get us ready for Easter morning, for sure.

**Sunday Service Announcement**

I have another announcement I hope surprises you with joy: our worship services, starting on Sunday June 11, will begin at 10:00 a.m. Here's what led to that decision:

When we developed our Five Year Plan, we sent out a survey to all in the congregation, and hosted three community gatherings to hear what was important to you. One of the topics that emerged in all our gatherings was the 9:00 a.m. start time for worship on Sunday mornings. You all asked us to consider a later worship time. The leadership team that meets every month to implement our five year plan continues to hear from folks who find the 9:00 a.m. start time difficult. It's too early for many of our senior citizens, and too rushed for many of...
our families. When potential visitors call to learn about our church, some have told us that 9:00 a.m. is too early. We have heard your voices. We have prayed. We realize this change asks something of us. We realize that moving to a 10:00 a.m. start time means choir practices will run later. And a later worship time might mean Sunday committee meetings will move to a different time. As we pondered all the ramifications, what our leadership team all agreed on was this: the primary purpose for Sunday morning is worship. Worship is the centerpiece. We believe that moving to a later time will allow more people to join us and experience Sabbath.

I want to thank the Leadership Team that took months to consider, and pray, and consider some more. The decision was made over a five-month period, and was made with every intention to listen to God and to bless the Livermore community. Starting Sunday, June 11, 2017, our morning worship will start at 10:00 a.m. Please let your friends and neighbors know!

If you would like to be part of planning this transition, join our Leadership Meeting on Thursday, March 30, 1-2:00 p.m., in the Conference Room. Or, email me your thoughts.

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.

Scout Sunday

March 19, 2017 9:00 a.m.

Scout Sunday will be celebrated this coming March 19 during 9:00 a.m. worship. All past and present Scouts are encouraged to come to worship in uniform. We are looking for Scouts who would like to assist in the service as any of the following:

- Greeters
- Acolytes
- Liturgist

Please contact Tony Gnecco or Suzie McClung by March 12 if your Scout would like to assist in the service.

When have you felt welcomed?

As we explore Sanctuary throughout Lent, we remember that one element of Sanctuary is feeling welcomed, loved, and safe. When is a time that you have felt welcomed? What is it that makes you feel welcome here at Asbury or anywhere? We will have whiteboards in the Fellowship Hall after worship March 12-April 9 for you to share when you feel welcomed and take a picture. The pictures will be used as part of worship on Easter as we celebrate the Sanctuary and welcome we find in God’s love.

Lent Small Groups

If you are interested in deepening your faith in community with others this Lenten season we invite you to join one of the many wonderful Small Groups at Asbury. Many of our Small Groups are open for new folks to join, and our Small Groups study an array of books and topics and meet at many different days and times so there is a Small Group fit for everyone! Please contact Pastor Chelsea to learn more about joining a Small Group.

(Continued on page 3)
Asbury Women's Retreat, April 21-23

April 21-23, 2017

How does this sound? A weekend without chores, in a beautiful place, with tasty home cooked meals (cooked by retreat staff), wonderful people and an inspiring message. It can all be yours at the Asbury Women’s Retreat, April 21-23.

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.

Join us at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, CA. Sign up after worship, or in the church office. Invite a friend, sister, daughter of neighbor to come with you.

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

- Double Room: $195 per person
- Single Room: $240

Scholarships available. See Pastor Kim (925-447-1950, ext. 102)

Muslim Community Center Hosts 3 Events

The Muslim Community Center of the East Bay invites you to these events:

Islam 101, Saturday March 4, 2017

Introducing Islam in this questions-encouraged, non-judgemental circle.

Sign up here: http://bit.ly/2mHCJT5

Meet A Muslim Sunday March 5, 2017 2:00 p.m.

Engage in discussion with an observant woman about her beliefs at the Castro Valley Library (3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley).

Muslim Neighbors—March 18, 12:00 p.m.

Five observant Muslims will provide you with a varied and broad understanding of Islam and the American Muslim experience.

Join us for lunch and a panel discussion with your Muslim neighbors at Pleasanton's Muslim Community Center

- 12-1:00 p.m.-Lunch in the Banquet Hall
- 1-2:00 p.m.-Panel discussion
- 2:00 p.m.-Break
- 2:05-2:45 p.m.-Q&A

The event is free, and registration required here: http://bit.ly/2m9VfHq

(Continued from page 2)

Bruce Feiler to Speak at Lynnewood United Methodist Church,

April 4, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Bruce Feiler, author of bestseller, Walking the Bible, will speak on his latest book, The First Love Story:Adam, Eve and Us, April 4, 2017 at 7:00pm at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton.

Feiler travels from the Garden of Eden in Iraq to the Sistine Chapel in Rome, looking at the relationship of Adam and Eve in a new way. Although history blames this first couple for bringing sin, deceit, and death into the world, Feiler shows how their relationship can be viewed through the lens of unity, forgiveness, and love.

The First Love Story will be available for purchase in the last week of March and at the free book talk/signing.
March Habitat for Humanity Workday

March 18, 2017, 8:30 a.m.

Each month Asbury volunteers are needed to join other faith communities to build Habitat homes in Martinez. Our next Saturday workday is March 18. No experience is necessary. The on-the-job training is great. Youth 16 and older can work on construction and are encouraged to participate. This phase of work is nearing final stage of completion.

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.

For information or to sign up come to the Serve Others with Love Table after worship, or contact Bob Hoffman.

Sort Food at Alameda County Comm. Food Bank

March 17, 2017 12:30 p.m.

The Food Bank relies on volunteers to process all the donated food they receive. We will be going to help. On Friday, March 17, we will travel the Oakland warehouse (near airport) to staff the 12:30-3:30 p.m. shift.

Stop by the Serve Others with Love table for more information or to sign up.

UMCOR Special Offering

March 26, 2017

One of the most important special offerings of the year, UMCOR Sunday on March 26 provides the funding to operate the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The money received through this offering covers UMCOR’s cost of doing business. This offering makes it possible for UMCOR to direct 100% of all other contributions to the disasters and projects our donors specify.

Refugee Family Update

Our refugee family has successfully settled in a home in Antioch. They live near their US sponsor and other Afghan families. They are happy to be there.

We have furnished their home, got them a car donation and continue with many supportive tasks like English lessons, help with medical/dental and other things. The kids are enrolling in a nearby school.

The Admadzai Family: Sanaullah (father), Shazia (mother), kids — Salahuddin (8), Talha (7), Elham (6), Rehan (4) and Farhan (1).

Lenten Food Drive

March 1- April 16, 2017

Help us feed those in need by donating non-perishable food to the Alameda County Community Food Bank. This is a challenging time of year for donations and we want to help.

Donation barrels will be in the Sanctuary and church office. Suggested donations include: canned vegetables, fruits or meats, pasta, tomato sauce, beans, rice, peanut butter, cereal/oatmeal or powered milk.
Celebrate Community

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, March 2, 12:00 p.m.
Join us for the Senior and Retiree Luncheon Thursday, March 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.

Celebrating Asbury’s 150th!
September 30, 2017
Save the date: Saturday, September 30, 2017. You are invited to attend a formal dinner, with many of our former pastors joining us. The evening will also include a special edition of Asbury Follies. You won’t want to miss the fun.

October 1, 2017
On Sunday, October 1, at 10:00 a.m., Bishop Carcano will lead worship, as we continue to give thanks for 150 years of being a church in our community.

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to China Villa located at 4022 East Avenue. 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.

Beverage Fellowship Captain Needed
Do you enjoy interacting with people? We are looking for someone to schedule people to make coffee, tea and set up the cups, etc. on Sunday mornings. We also need additional people to prepare the beverages on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, call the church office or contact Pastor Chelsea. Thank you in advance for your interest in this very important volunteer opportunity.
In Sunday School during the month of March we will be exploring the following topics with “A Joyful Path” curriculum series:

- Inclusion: The Spirit within me is God who lives in all
- Who or what is God?: God is everywhere, within me and around me
- Who was Jesus?: Jesus is a teacher of the way
- The Stories of our Tradition: The Bible and How We Use it

You are ALL lovingly invited Sunday, March 12 to our second Annual Youth and Children's Performing Arts Showcase in the Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Community Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

Summer 2017 Opportunities

United Methodist Summer Camps for grades 3 and up:

**Monte Toyon in Aptos, CA (near Santa Cruz): July 9-14**
Many Asbury children and youth have attended this camp and have loved it. Former Asburyite Jenna Stark is the Camp Director.

**Lodestar: July 16-22**
Camp Registration info is here: [http://bit.ly/2hDrVmg](http://bit.ly/2hDrVmg)

Asbury UMC's 2017 Vacation Bible School

“The Super Heroes of the Bible” will be July 24-28.

The Conscious Parent

Dear parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles and Sunday school teachers of all children,

I have almost finished reading The Conscious Parent: Transforming Ourselves, Empowering our Children by Dr. Shefali Tsabary. As a parent of a 16-year-old, 13-year-old, and 9-year-old and as a Sunday school teacher, I have found great value in this book as it stresses the importance of being presence with children and helping them find their authentic selves God has woven into each of them.

I am so impressed with this book I will be ordering copies of it and two of her other books: The Awakened Family: A Revolution in Parenting and Out of Control: Why Disciplining Your Child Doesn't Work and What Will to add to our Room 7 Parent Center library to borrow if you are interested. The writing seems so in alignment with many of the wonderful sermon messages I have heard from both Pastor Kim and Pastor Chelsea.

In faith, peace and love,

Jackie Bennett
Children's Ministry Director

March Mystery Photo

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. Here's this month's photo. Who do you see? Email your answers to Pastor Kim.

You can see a larger version of the photo on the website here: [http://bit.ly/2lla45o](http://bit.ly/2lla45o)
Youth Ministries

Youth Happenings

- **March 3-5**: Winter Retreat
- **March 5**: No Confirmation, No Youth Groups
- **March 12**: 4:30-5:30 p.m. Confirmation, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Preforming Arts Showcase
- **March 17-18**: Confirmation Retreat
- **March 19**: Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m. (No Confirmation)
- **March 26**: Confirmation 4:30-5:30 p.m., Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.

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!

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, paining, 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.

Thank You!

The Asbury Youth would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast on February 26. We were able to raise just over $1200 to put toward our summer mission trip to Spokane, WA. We had fun serving you, and we hope you enjoyed your meal.

We are very blessed by your generosity!
Anniversaries

Dave and Christie Crozier
Don and Kathy Faul
Bob and Jean Bob Howe
John and Laurie Linden
George and Carol Wilson

Birthdays

Kathryn Atkinson
Paul Bauman
Rebecca Bernstein
Kim Braun
Peter Buckley
Aaron Burnham
Alex Cano
Preston Carter
Kim Christensen
Larry Clary
Jennifer Danan
Sue Ellen Schell
Paul Epperson
Tim Evans
Roger Everett
Josh Fedder
Laurel Fedder
Martha Fields
Britney Gamble
Austin Gnecco
Emily Gnecco
David Grant
Alexa Hart
Spencer Haugen
Daniel Howell
Noelle Item
Kelli Kenward

Travis Koon
Diane Larder
John Lindberg
Kyle Lindsay
Jim Lyle
Joe Malski
Marilyn Miller
Aine Molvik
Art Molvik
Keith Nakanishi
Barbara North
Val Pace
Cameron Paiso
Nancy Pauliukonis
Alex Piscotty
Amber Rice
Emily Rice
Robert Roorke Mills
Sarah Rudd
Maclaren Schell
Aaron Siegel
Aidan Taylor
Erik Taylor
Laura Ullrich
Michelle Ullrich
June Weiss
Mike Whipple
Steve Worth
March 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
- 10:00 a.m. Mom’s Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 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, Fireside Room
- 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

March 1, 2016 (Wednesday)
- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Chapel

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

March 3-5, 2016 (Friday-Sunday)
- Youth Retreat

March 7, 2016 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, China Villa

March 12, 2016 (Sunday)
- 9:00 a.m. Communion Sunday, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Youth and Children’s Performing Arts Showcase, Sanctuary

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

March 19, 2016 (Sunday)
- 9:00 a.m. Scout Sunday, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

March 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, March 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, March 24, 2017