Holy Week Worship Experiences, April 9-16

Please join us for the following service times:

**Sunday, April 9, 9:00 a.m.**, Palm Sunday worship

**Thursday, April 13, 6:00 p.m. Holy Thursday**—We will gather together for a meal and worship as we remember Jesus’ last meal with his disciples before his death. We remember how out of love Jesus gave himself to us, and how we are transformed by that holy love.

**Friday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday**—Our Good Friday service will be an ecumenical service, including our Asbury Ringers and Faith Choir ensemble. The service will be hosted at St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way in Livermore. The theme will be “7 Last Words of Christ”, with various faith leaders responding to each. Music will be interspersed, including a congregational hymn from Episcopalian hymnal.

**Sunday, April 16, Easter**

- Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m.
- Easter Worship Services at 9:00 and 11:00 in the Sanctuary
Pastors’ Ponderings

The blossoms sit on the trees, bringing the promise of life and beauty in what has seemed for so long seemed asleep and lifeless. The sun and the rain join together bringing the promise of what is to come: warmth and lush greenery. This is the time when we welcome in spring. And this is the season when we welcome Easter.

I love this time of year, it’s like we can hear the earth joining our cries of hallelujah on Easter. After death comes life, out of darkness comes light, out of hopelessness comes hope. We see this truth played out in the earth around us as we prepare to hear the holy stories once again.

N.T. Wright reminds us that Easter is always something that plays out in the earth around us, not in some other distant world or in some far-removed heaven. He writes, “Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord’s Prayer is about.”

At Easter we don’t just celebrate our hope for life after death, we celebrate our hope for life now, for new life filled with the hope and love of heaven now. We celebrate our hope for change and transformation. At Easter we are surprised by hope, surprised by God’s insistence that nothing, not even death itself, can quash our hope for newness and for tastes of heaven here and now. Every time we pray “thy kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven” we voice that Easter hope for touching heaven and changing earth.

Where do you need some hope? What feels like a tomb in your life, like a tree in winter seemingly lifeless and asleep? We lift those places up to God with prayers that remember God’s faithfulness.

Where do you see hope? Where do you see signs of God’s newness, signs of love, signs of heaven here and now? We hold those places in our heart as we prepare for Holy Week, for the cross and the empty tomb.

Pastor Chelsea

Spread the Word!

Help us spread the news that starting on Sunday, June 11, worship services at Asbury begin at 10:00 a.m.!
Growing in Faith

Bruce Feiler to Speak at Lynnewood UMC
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.

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.

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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 pro-

gram:
• Double Room: $195 per person
• Single Room: $240

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

Youth Musical
Sunday, May 21

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.

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Youth Musical
Sunday, May 21

Did you ever wonder how Asbury United Methodist got started in Livermore 150 years ago? What were the people like, and what inspired them to start a church?

Well, those kinds of questions will be answered in the original play written by Asbury’s own Barbara David. The Rainbow and Youth choirs will tell the story in a musical, using songs of that time period, as well as some contemporary music. The short musical will be presented to the congregation during the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 21. Come see how those early Livermore residents created a place to worship God, celebrate community and serve others with love!

Growing In Faith Team—We Need You

Are you passionate about growing in faith? Have you been a part of a small group, class, or another growing in faith opportunity that has made a difference in your life? We are looking to reassemble a Growing in Faith team at Asbury! This group will help support and grow small groups, as well as classes and other ways to help our community intentionally grow in faith. If you are interested please contact Pastor Chelsea for more information or to join.
Livermore Community Action Day

On April 22, Asbury will participate in this year’s Livermore Community Action Day. We will be at the Livermore Library doing cleaning and upkeep. This is an excellent outreach opportunity for the entire family! Work is from 9:30-11:30 a.m. followed by an optional community picnic. Stop by the Serve Others with Love Table after worship to sign up or for more information.

April Workday – Habitat for Humanity

Each month Asbury volunteers are needed to join other faith communities to build Habitat homes. We are currently assisting with repair of homes for low income and seniors. Our next workday is April 29th. No experience is necessary.

Work 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, visit the Serve Others with Love Table after worship.

Asbury Packaged Meals Fed Syrian Refugees

We are pleased to report that the 10,000 meals we packed in January for Stop Hunger Now (now known at Rise Against Hunger) went to Turkey to help feed Syrian refugees through the Syrian Urban Refugee Aid Program. This Program helps meet basic needs through the distribution of food aid, dignity kits, and supplies such as coal, wood, and other materials. The meals will be incorporated in Ramadan Care Packages and distributed to nearly 8,000 families.

Troop 900 fundraiser at Patxi’s

April 17, 2017

Do you like eating pizza? Do you like helping Asbury’s Boy Scout Troop 900? On Monday, April 17 you can do both at Patxi’s Pizza (2470 First Street) in downtown Livermore. As part of Patxi’s “52 Weeks of Giving” program, Troop 900 will receive 10% of the day’s sales as a donation to the troop. Take out, dine-in, and delivery order’s are included, and no flyer is required! Please consider supporting Troop 900 by eating at Patxi’s anytime on Monday, April 17 (open 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.). The proceeds will help the troop invest in new camping equipment and perform maintenance on the troop trailer.

Lenten Food Drive Continues Through Easter

Our Lenten Food Drive continues through Easter, April 16. 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 can make a difference.

Donation barrels are 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.

Partners for Change

Partners for Change is a community-based program that alleviates poverty. Many poor hard working families are leaving poverty behind with the help of training and the encouragement and friendship of “allies.”

All of us involved in Partners for Change are not just doing “for” the poor, but walking “with” the poor. The key difference is that all of us are transformed and changed in this process.

Our next Partners for Change class will begin on Wednesday, May 30. If you would like to volunteer, or if you know someone who would be a candidate for this program, please contact Executive Director, Shana Peete, director@pfctv.org.

We welcome your participation and prayers!

Superheroes Needed to Help Save the Day!

Do you like to help people and save lives?

Be a Superhero!

As an American Red Cross Blood Donor Ambassador, you help to provide excellent and professional customer service in a medical setting to enhance the donor experience.

(Continued on page 9)
Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, April 4, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to The Rock House Sports Pub and Grill ([rockhousesportspubandgrill.com](rockhousesportspubandgrill.com)) located at 1840 Portola 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.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, April 6, 12:00 p.m.
Seniors/Retiree Luncheon—You are invited to the monthly luncheon on Thursday, April 6 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This month we are having ham, potatoes, salad, dessert. The cost is $5 per person. Please sign-up after worship or call the church office at 925-447-1950.

All Church Clean Up Day
Saturday, April 8, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Lunch will be served.
All are invited to come help our Trustees do spring cleaning of our campus. Come for all or part of the day. Youth are needed to help as well. We have lots of small jobs that anyone can do. Come help our campus look nice for Easter Season.
Please see Dave David to sign up in the Fellowship Hall so we know how much food for lunch to prepare or sign up online here: [http://bit.ly/2ouHHra](http://bit.ly/2ouHHra)

Memorial Bricks
Would you like to honor and remember someone by providing funds for a laser engraved brick for the Memorial Garden? If so, please write a check for $30 to account 2400 and attach it to a note giving the name (typically First, Middle initial and Last, but can be flexible), the year of birth and the year of death.

April 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/2oCCWck](http://bit.ly/2oCCWck)

A special thank you to Nancy Grover’s reception team that does so much for so many people, quietly and efficiently and with love: Jean Braun, Edie Lamb, Evelyn Schwartz, Nancy Deis, Barbara David, Louise Nelson, Karen Faraldo, Karen Bauman, and Diane Larder just to name a few.

Janet Buckley
In Sunday School during the month of April we will be exploring the following topics with “A Joyful Path” curriculum series:

- Palm Sunday – Standing Tall: I find my true self in God when I put others first.
- The Easter Story: My true self is ever new. I am God’s eternal light, love, and joy.
- Discovering Divine Energy: God’s Divine Energy flows through me.
- God in Nature: All of nature holds the beauty and presence of God.

Celebrate Easter

April 16, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

- Nursery Care will be provided during the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship services.
- 9:00 a.m. service Sunday School for pre-K through fifth grade will be in the Chapel.
- Following the 9:00 a.m. service, we will have an Easter Egg hunt with the bags the Children will have decorated during Sunday school. Easter eggs will be provided by Children’s Ministry.
- 11:00 a.m. service Sunday School will be in Room 6.

Children’s moment worship service speakers’ training for new and current volunteers with Keri Gnecco in Room 8 on Sunday, April 30 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Please prayerfully consider inspiring future generations with your light of Christ by becoming a children’s moment speaker during worship service.

Sunday school teacher assistants needed to assist lead teachers in the third through fifth grade class once a month. Please email Jackie Bennett or call the church office at 925-447-1950 if you are interested.

Parent Center in Room 7 News: “The Awakened Family: A Revolution in Parenting”, “Out of Control: Why Disciplining Your Child Doesn’t Work and What Will”, and “The Conscious Parent: Transforming Ourselves, Empowering our Children” all by Dr. Shefali Tsabary have arrived and are ready for you to borrow if you are interested.

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 attend this camp and have loved it. Former Asburyite Jenna Stark is the Camp Director.

- Lodestar: July 16-22

Asbury UMC’s 2017 Vacation Bible School “Super Heroes of the Bible” will be July 24-28. Registration forms for children and volunteers are available online, in the Fellowship Hall following worship service, and in the Church Office.

In faith, peace and love,
Jackie Bennett
Children’s Ministry Director
Office Space Update

Update on the Search for New Office Space

During last year’s five-year planning exercise, one of the most frequent comments heard was of the need to upgrade our current office space. Before committing to the construction of an entirely new building, it was thought wise to at least look at the option of remodeling some of our existing, under-used rooms for new office space.

A task force was assembled to look at that possibility. After a number of meetings, the members concluded that two options had the potential worth pursuing: parts of the chapel building centered about the old choir room, and the lower elementary building (rooms 7, 8 and 9). These were chosen because 1) they are currently our most under-used space, 2) both buildings are over 50 years old and could use the upgrades, and 3) these options preserve our other buildings and rooms for flexible use.

Before the decision can be made on whether to pursue one of these options, or whether to construct a new building, a number of questions must be addressed about what the city would require in any remodels. As a result, the Church Council has approved hiring an architect for a limited “feasibility study”, that would include dialogue with the city. Hopefully, this study will provide the necessary answers so that we can wisely make the decision between remodel versus new construction.

If you have any questions on the process please contact one of the members of the task force: Tim Arnold, Jackie Bennett, Dave Braun, Chuk Campos, Terri Gamble, Keri Gnecco, Kim Risedorph or Scott Smith.

Growing in Faith Team

Confirmation Sunday

April 30, 2017

On April 30 our Confirmations will decide if they want to be confirmed and join the church. We celebrate all the hard work, thought, and care they have put into this very personal and very important decision. Please mark your calendars to be in worship on April 30 to support our confirmands, to hear what their journey has been like, and to receive them with love and care.

Laser Tag Youth Group Trip

April 30, 4:30 p.m.

Come have some fun playing laser tag! We will meet at Asbury at 4:30 p.m. and carpool over to Zone Lazer in Dublin for an hour of laser tag. We will meet back at Asbury at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP with Chelsea in by April 23. We will not be eating dinner, the cost is $20.

Youth Happenings

- April 2: No Confirmation, No Youth Groups (Spring Break)
- April 9: Confirmation 4:30-5:30 p.m., Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- April 16: No Confirmation, No Youth Groups (Easter)
- April 23: Confirmation 4:30-5:30 p.m., Youth Groups 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- April 30: Confirmation Sunday, Laser Tag Youth Group Trip 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Fertile GroundWorks contributions to Tri-valley communities and beyond increase and diversify. During the past twelve months at Fertile GroundWorks (FGW):

- Food production at the Garden of Grace for the area’s needy has increased over 40% compared to average of the previous 3-years.
- Three new schools in Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) were added to the growing list FGW is assisting with the creation, planning and operation of School Food and Science Gardens (now 11 schools)
- Over 500 volunteers provided more than 7,000 hours of service while learning more about sustainable gardening;
- Has carefully prepared grant proposals for over $300,000 of grants;
- Held two successful fundraising events ("Taste for Giving" and our Annual Plant Sale)

We are working hard to carry FGW mission forward and we need your help. As good as we have been at implementing excellent programs we have had challenges meeting our funding needs. The next few months will be critical for us. We have redoubled our grant writing efforts and plan to add several additional experienced and capable board members. In the last two months we added two new members to our Board (Mr. Chee Chu and Mr. Tony Gnecco). The two bring with them new capabilities and great new energy. We have also been fortunate that several very capable new volunteers have joined us and are availing their skills to help us get the word out about our mission and service opportunities.

We are grateful for the positive impacts we have on our communities and are enthused as we see Fertile GroundWorks develop a stronger business footing and gain local recognition. The original Vision of the Asbury “Garden of Grace” continues as we serve those in need and it evolves in wonderful ways, bringing sustainable, organic gardening education and opportunities to our growing community of participants and followers.
Easter Offering: Fertile GroundWorks

Our Easter Offering on Sunday, April 16 will go to support Fertile GroundWorks.

A few years ago, Asbury launched the Garden of Grace. It has now become the remarkably successful Fertile GroundWorks. The vision of FGW is to feed the hungry and inspire our community to grow food sustainably. About 15,000 pounds of food is produced each year and donated to Open Heart Kitchen and several Livermore food pantries. In addition, FGW assists with operation of twelve school gardens.

Join us in fostering the important mission of this valuable Tri-Valley organization that Asbury helped start and continues to host on our campus.

Serve Others With Love (cont’d)

(Continued from page 4)

Donor Ambassadors:

- Manage the reception process by ensuring each donor is warmly greeted and assisted with initial intake according to the appointment priority system.
- Manage the hospitality experience by offering refreshments to donors, thanking them for their contribution, and alerting staff immediately if a donor shows signs of feeling unwell.
- Exhibit five key courtesies: respect, compassion, communication, collaboration, competence

Minimum requirements:

- One 4-6 hour shift per month for six months
- Professional, clear and diplomatic communication skills
- Comfortable approaching people you do not know
- Ability to demonstrate customer service values

If you are interested in learning more or applying, please contact Julie Mucilli at 510-421-4527 or visit the Red Cross volunteer website and select Blood Services.

Haiti – Sixth Year and Going Strong

By Steve Elliott

As I return from my eighth trip to Haiti, it is a blessing to reflect on how far things have come. Now in our sixth year, the Thomas Haiti Program has hit its stride. We operate at six schools with church sponsors for five of them. Twice a year, for about a week at a time, teams from across the country come to work at their schools. Sponsorships include clean water systems, computers, solar power, classroom work, construction (classrooms, playground and other), teacher training, healthcare and special projects.

Asbury has been a core sponsor for the entire duration of our efforts. Thank you! Your prayers, participation and financial support has been integral to our ongoing work. This most recent trip included installation of additional community clean water systems (we now have about 50 installed), setup of three new computer servers (with electronic books, Wikipedia and educational videos in Creole, French and English), bible and Holy Land history classes and selected home repairs for our Haitian Program personnel.

So...what is next? Fall of 2017 and early 2018 includes the start of constructing new classrooms at one school, expanded rain catch and kitchen construction at another school, additional computer servers and potentially a new water pumping system at a third school. We envision preliminary work on a solar powered bakery for late 2018 contingent on raising the fundi

We are grateful for the expanded, evolving and continuous support of so many wonderful Christians living their faith through serving the people of Haiti.
Anniversaries

- Preston and Nancy Carter
- Larry and Kathy Chase
- Herb and Judy Guidry
- Dennis and Melanie Henderson
- Warren and Sue King
- Rick and April Rood
- Larry and Karena Sanford
- Scott and LaNor Smith

Birthdays

- Tim Arnold
- Chloe Bennett
- Ty Bothwell-Miltitsky
- Zoey Bothwell-Miltitsky
- Edwin Cassidy
- Tova Christensen
- Lesleyann Coker
- Nick Constant
- Danielle Cowgill
- Christie Crozier
- Christine Cummings
- Eric Cummings
- Cameron David
- Tucker Dawes
- Shelby Deis
- Jill Edgar
- Dave Gamble
- Laura Giannotti
- Bob Hoffman
- Rhonda Item
- Dean Juan
- Greta Kohlmoos
- Jean Lerche
- Laura Linden
- Peggy Loomis
- Kent McCammon
- Gabrielle McClung
- Hal Miller
- Martie Muldoon
- Allen Northrop
- Adam Paiso
- Justin Pettis
- Mark Piscotty
- Christina Pomykal
- Riley Rood
- Amelia Schell
- LaNor Smith
- Ron Tripp
- Jennifer Wakefield
- Adam Walker Cleaveland
- Pam Wilson
- Steve Wilson
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, 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**

**April 1, 2016 (Saturday)**
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner before the play, FH
- 8:00 p.m. Asbury Players, “The Matchmaker”

**April 2, 2016 (Sunday)**
- 2:00 p.m. Asbury Players, “The Matchmaker”

**April 4, 2016 (Tuesday)**
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Rock House Grill

**April 6, 2016 (Thursday)**
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

**April 8, 2016 (Saturday)**
- 9:00 a.m. All Church Clean-up Day

**April 9, 2016 (Sunday)**
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

**April 21, 2016 (Friday)**
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

**April 23, 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
Peter Robinson

Music Director
G. Allen Schell

Choir Coordinator
Jean Braun

Nursery Coordinator
Pam Tegge

Lay Leader
Martie Muldoon

Livermore Community Blood Drive
Friday, April 21, 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, April 21, 2017