We are called to live out our lives in faithful community with one another, Jesus says when one or two are gathered in his name, the Christ presence is there too. Community is an essential part of our faith lives, it is in loving one another, supporting one another, serving one another, worshiping together, and learning together that we grow in our faith journeys. Jesus calls us to love one another as he loves us. But being community together is not always easy, whether it is in our own local church or in our global United Methodist Church. This week was a reminder of the struggles we have sometimes in being Christian community together, but it was also a reminder of our call to love and serve one another through the midst of life.

The Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church ruled on April 28 on challenges to the election and consecration of Bishop Karen Oliveto, the first openly gay bishop in our denomination. The ruling is long, complicated, and reaffirms that we are not of one mind concerning the inclusion of LGBTQ people in the life of the church. In summary, the council ruled that Bishop Oliveto’s episcopal consecration violates church law. The council did not however remove Bishop Karen Oliveto as bishop, recognizing that the due process for reviewing her qualifications for ministry lies in the disciplinary review process handled by the Western Jurisdiction college of bishops. Bishop Oliveto therefore is still serving as Bishop of the Mountain Sky Area Annual Conferences, pending the results of that disciplinary review process. 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Pastors’ Ponderings

(Continued from page 1)

The Judicial Council has ruled that her consecration as bishop violated church law, our church’s leadership, especially the Western Jurisdiction college of bishops continue to be in discernment about how God is calling us to respond to this question. We pray for wisdom, compassion, and clarity as they discern how to move forward with this important matter.

So what does that mean for us at Asbury? It means that our denomination continues to struggle with this topic that has long been divisive, hurtful, and frustrating for many. It means that we continue to discern what it means in our own local context to be welcoming and affirming of God’s unconditional love for all, especially for LGBTQ folks, in a denomination that continues to exclude specifically LGBTQ people from some areas of church life.

I know we hear the news of this Judicial Council ruling with many different feelings, some may feel sadness, some anger, some disappointment, some relief, some confusion. But Christian community has never meant agreeing completely on all matters of faith and life. Instead Christian community means being united in one important common ground: our commitment to following Jesus and the two commandments he gave: love God and love neighbor. We take the time to feel whatever it is we feel in light of this ruling, acknowledging those emotions as valid and important. But we also can take this as an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the kind of love that does not fail when things get hard but endures, the kind of love that sees life and hope even in the darkness and tomb, the kind of love that in the end prevails and brings healing and justice.

One thing we take away from this decision is that we will continue to wrestle faithfully around this topic in community together as a denomination. May we do so guided by the compassion, love, and justice that Jesus Christ showed and taught. We pray for a day when all people are welcomed into the United Methodist Church with nothing less than God’s abundant love. The road ahead is long, bumpy, and hazy but we do not walk it alone. We walk it with our sisters and brothers in Christ, with community of faithful people standing up for love and justice. And we walk it with God. We remember that best of all God is with us, even now.

- Pastors Chelsea

Just Keep On Swimming!

THAT LOOK YOU GET WHEN

SERVICE STARTS AT 10:00 A.M. ON JUNE 11!
Planning For the Future at Asbury

What will Asbury look like in two years? Five years? Ten years?

Two years ago, Asbury Church leaders worked with a consultant to develop a long range plan. Our goal in developing a strategic plan was to do more than react to whatever event or idea or challenge came our way. Together as a community, we asked, “What are our strengths at Asbury? What is God calling us to be and do now and in the future? What are the boldest goals we might work towards?”

Drawing on congregational feedback from Survey Monkey and community gatherings, we identified cutting-edge goals for ourselves. Since then, we have been working towards those cutting-edge goals. A Leadership Team meets once a month to report on our progress and take steps towards our goals.

Three cutting-edge goals are:

- Welcoming all to Asbury UMC
- Improving our communication with current and future members
- Developing more partner ministries with faith communities in Livermore

Updates

Hospitality – we have mystery greeters in worship, making sure all feel welcomed. We will be working with trustees to put more signs on campus, so that visitors know where to go for Sunday School and worship. And we are brainstorming on how to follow up with visitors. Email Pastor Chelsea if you want to be part of the hospitality team.

Communications – With the help of a consultant, we now have list for improving our electronic and print communications. Each time you think we did a good job letting you know what’s happening at Asbury, please let the church office know! Right now we need your help in letting friends, neighbors, and colleagues know that starting on June 11, our worship service and Sunday School begins at 10:00 a.m.

New Members Joining May 21

We will have an opportunity for new members to join Asbury UMC on May 21 during worship. Anyone who has taken the New Member’s class is invited to join. If you would like to join or if you haven’t taken the class but want to join please contact Chelsea.

Sesquicentennial Celebration Continues

Sunday, May 21, 9:00 a.m. Service

Join us in worship when our youth perform an original musical called “Sesqui-Who? (A History of Asbury Methodist Church on the Occasion of Our 150th Anniversary)”. Learn how our congregation began (sort of!) and hear some new music and some favorite hymns of the 19th century.

Afterwards enjoy an old-fashioned treat (homemade pie with ice cream!) and some old-fashioned fun for the kids. You can play, too, by bringing your favorite pie or helping to lead one of the old-fashioned activities.

To get involved, or for more information, contact Barbara David at home.

Interfaith Interconnect Discussion

Wednesday, May 10, 5-6:00 p.m.

The discussion topic will be: Choose a particular holiday, holy day, feast or other celebration that you observe in your faith. What is its significance, and how do you celebrate it?

We will have a speaker from the Bahai’ faith and one from the Hindu faith.
Habitat for Humanity and Asbury’s 20th Anniversary

Sunday, May 7, 2017

It has been an amazing commitment to creation of affordable housing! So, on Sunday, May 7, we will celebrate in worship, our 20th year of donating time and money to building homes with Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley. We will have a guest speaker, display a special Habitat quilt to be raffled as a fundraiser, and reflect on our history with this important outreach.

Garden of Grace Workday

Saturday, May 13, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

What better way to enjoy a nice spring day than working in the Garden! Join us for a morning in the Garden of Grace at the church. We will be out there from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, helping with the produce beds and engaging first hand in the mission of Fertile Groundworks. This is a great family activity, perfect for all ages. Tools provided. Just wear work clothes. No sign up is required, just show up.

Special Wheelchair Offering

Sunday, May 14, 2017

We would like to continue our commitment to serving the people of Guatemala by funding and delivering another 100 wheelchairs. It is life changing for the recipient and their family!

On Sunday, May 14, we are taking a special offering to start raising money for this goal. Teamed with San Ramon Valley UMC and Lynnewood UMC we plan to raise about $15,000 within the next month or two with the intent of delivering them in January 2018.

Habitat Home Dedication

Saturday, May 20, 10:00 a.m.

Consider joining us for the dedication of the homes we have been working on at Muir Ridge in Martinez at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 20. We will carpool from Asbury. For more information contact Bob Hoffman or stop by the Serving Others Table after worship.

Partners for Change: Addressing Poverty’s Core

Partners for Change (previously known as Circles for Change) is a community-based effort to empower people to chart their own course out of poverty and towards self-sufficiency. Now in its second year, the program is having success. What a blessing! Transformation happens.

The next group of participants start in late May. We are looking to recruit new allies (volunteers who serve as a supportive circle) to share in this exciting journey with the new class. For more information, stop by the Serve Others Table after worship or contact Shana Peete, Director or Pastor Kim.

Rebuilding Lives in Baton Rouge

Close your eyes and picture this…murky, swirling flood water three feet deep in every home and business, as far as you can see. Your rescue boat sputters from place to place picking up people, pets and precious family keepsakes. As the water recedes in a week and the roads made passable, you return to a home filled with mud and debris. The dank smell makes you gag. The thought of starting over brings tears yet again.

The stories are sad, but hope springs eternal. And that is where we come in. Our mission team worked the first week of April 2017 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It was composed of participants from Asbury, Lynnewood and San Ramon Valley UMC, plus our loyal cook from Minnesota, Ruth.

The massive flood of August 2016 still a raw memory, our project was to gut and repurpose a church and most of the adjacent building into the Louisiana Disaster Response Center. While the small remaining congregation will continue to worship in the Fellowship Hall, the rest of the facilities will be converted into mission team housing, offices and storage, a desperately needed recovery resource.

Each day we worked feverishly on deconstruction and the start of building the new design. It was challenging and exhausting, but so rewarding. We enjoyed meeting church members, hearing their stories and sharing team comradery. Our evenings included great home cooked meals, lots of laughter and a devotional time. We slept in the gymnasium and Sunday School rooms of another nearby UMC Church, sharing the space with a UMC work (Continued on page 9)
Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, May 2, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to Cattlemens Steakhouse (www.cattlemens.com) located at 2882 Kitty Hawk Road. 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, May 4, 12:00 p.m.
Seniors/Retiree Luncheon—You are invited to the monthly luncheon on Thursday, May 4 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.

Memorial Service of Jim Cooper
Saturday, May 13, 10:00 a.m., St. Charles Church
Asbury member Jim Cooper passed away earlier this year. His funeral mass will be at St Charles Church on Saturday May 13, at 10:00 a.m. A reception will follow. All are welcome to attend. Jim served on the lawn crew here at Asbury, and as a church treasurer. His last few years were challenging with dementia and other physical challenges. Condolences can be sent to his wife, Pat, at 3942 Pestana Way, Livermore CA 94550

Forum on Alzheimer’s
Friday, May 5, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Are you wondering if you or a loved one might have Alzheimer’s? Often, learning more can reduce anxiety and misinformation. You are invited to an upcoming event: The Early Stage Forum is a wonderful educational and empowering program for individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer’s or another dementia and their care partners. The Forum will be held Friday, May 5, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in Lafayette. For more information or to pre-register, please contact Lan Trinh at ltrinh@alz.org or 925-284-7942 x1231.

Asbury Family Camp
Thursday, June 15-Sunday June 18, 2017
Once again it will be at South Lake Tahoe at LARPD’s own Camp Shelly. This year we only have ten campsites, but each campsite can accommodate up to eight campers. Sign up after worship on May 7. Here are the details:

- Price per campsite is $170 (includes meat and treats for Saturday night BBQ/potluck)
- Provide a dish to share for Saturday night BBQ
- Check in Thursday 2:00 p.m. or later
Contact Scott Smith at home.

"Surviving the Silence: Love and Impossible Choices"
Friday, May 26, 2017, 7-8:30 p.m. Asbury Chapel
Col. Pat Thompson and her wife, Barbara Brass will share their amazing life adventure, a 33-year story of sacrifice and commitment - to each other and to our country. Pat, born and raised in North Carolina, became a Registered Nurse, and served 37+ years in the military. Barb, a building contractor and artist, was raised in Santa Clara, California. She is the daughter of Holocaust survivors, her parents having spent the war years in a Jewish ghetto in Shanghai, China.

Both Pat and Barb each have their own "coming out" story; Barb in her early adult years, and Pat much later in life due to the potential risks to her military career. Their life journey together is the subject of a yet-to-be released film documentary.

They are jointly writing their memoirs. In their retirement years, Pat and Barb are devoting their energies to working, educating and speaking on behalf of justice and equality for all, especially the LGBTQ community. They have been Hospice volunteers for 20 years and long-time members of PFLAG of Greater Placer County (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and special friends of Dick and Barbara Ernst. Pat and Barb are currently deeply involved activists in the Resistance Movement.

Sponsors for this presentation are Asbury’s Reconciling Committee and Embracing Diversity Interfaith Group.
In Sunday School during the month of May we will be exploring the following topics with “A Joyful Path” and “An Illustrated Compassion” curriculum series:

- Remembering God’s Presence: I will remember God is within me and all others.
- Concentrating Our God Given Energy: I give full attention to everything I do.
- Compassion in the Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis 18:1-8 Abraham & Sarah’s Guests

I would like to thank each one of our Sunday School Teachers. Thank you so much for shining the light of Christ through you to show each child God loves them. You are the foundation which we build Asbury UMC’s future 150 years on. What a wonderful blessing you all are to our community.

Children’s Moment Worship Service Speakers Training
for new and current volunteers with Keri Gnceco in Room 8 on Sunday, June 11 from 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (a new date and time), following our new 10:00 a.m. service time. Please prayerfully consider inspiring future generations with your light of Christ by becoming a Children’s Moment speaker during worship service. Sign up to attend in the church office during the week or in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday.

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

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
Camp Registration info is here: http://bit.ly/2oYJH80

Parent Center in Room 7 News: “Parenting with Love and Logic” books for Parents of toddlers, school agers and teens and “How to Talk So Kids Will Listen” have arrived and are ready for you to borrow if you are interested.

In love & faith,
Jackie Bennett
Children’s Ministry Director
Youth Ministries

Youth Happenings for May 2017

- **May 7**: 5:30 p.m. Youth Groups
- **May 14**: No Youth Groups (Mother’s Day)
- **May 21**: 5-7:00 p.m. Youth Groups Movie Night—Moana
- **May 28**: No Youth Groups (Memorial Day)

Youth Group Movie Night May 21

Come relax and watch Moana for youth group on May 21! We will watch this fun story about identity and finding your way and enjoy some pizza and popcorn. We will start the movie at 5:00 p.m. so we have enough time to watch the whole thing, so make sure you are there at 5:00! We will end as usual at 7:00 p.m. Moana is rated PG.

May 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.

Thank You to All for Easter Worship

Many thanks to the singers, ringers, ushers, worship slide preparers and office staff who put in many extra hours to prepare for Easter worship. Your time, talent and creativity are so appreciated.

Growing up, we sang a favorite hymn each Easter. I still remember the opening stanza: “Let us sing of Easter gladness, that rejoices every day. Sing of hope and faith uplifted, Love has rolled the stone away.” Your help in preparing for Easter, made Love visible on Easter morning.

May our celebration of Resurrection continue to fill our hearts with hope and faith. God is here!

Thank You from Open Heart Kitchen

Hi Pastor Kim,

On behalf of all the OHK staff, I wanted to say how extremely grateful we are to you and the whole Asbury community for graciously extending your doors to OHK after the fire at Vineyard Christian Fellowship. Thanks to your kindness, we did not skip a single day of service.

Today will be our last day that we need to serve at Asbury on Thursdays and Fridays. Next week we move to St Barts.

Thank you for being so patient while we found a new "home."

Diana will be bringing the classroom key to the Asbury office today after service.

Take Care,

Clare Gomes
Operations Director
Open Heart Kitchen
team from Illinois.

Every mission trip has a distinctive feel and some unusual moments. Among them on this trip – Ruth slept the first few nights in storage room of the Church-operated Thrift Store. One morning while she was in the kitchen, a store volunteer gathered up all of Ruth’s possessions, slapped prices on them and moved them to the Store to be sold! We were entertained as Ruth told us about scrambling through the Store trying to retrieve all her stuff.

We paid special attention to rebuilding the congregation’s worship space in the Fellowship Hall and were quite touched by the heartfelt thank you from the congregants who had suffered so much. The handmade quilt from the Asbury Quilting Group will hang proudly as a remembrance of our work.

We are all grateful to have been of service to our new friends in Baton Rouge. We expect to return next year to continue rebuilding lives.

In Mission Together,

Steve Elliott, Roger Everett, Mary Ellen Huey, Doug Huey, Cynthia DeLand, Dick Crawford, Tim Evans, Bob Hoffman, Ruth Coffing, Steve Wilson, Burt Rodgers and Ron Logan
Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries
- Tim and Nancy Ackerman
- Jackie and Rich Bennett
- Mark and Lesleyann Coker
- Emilie and Charles Runnels Fox
- Deanna and Peter Frumenti
- Steve and Sheryl Goodman
- Karl and Rhonda Item
- 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 Cleaveland
- Steve and Burlyne Wilson

Birthdays
- Linda Beach
- Bob Berger
- Brett Bernstein
- Kevin Bernstein
- Nikolas Campos
- Thomas Cayton
- Ava Christensen
- Cory Coll
- Atticus Cummings
- Susan Danan
- Peter Danan
- Ashley Defenbaugh
- Kelsey Dunn
- Gabe Elliott
- Becca Elliott
- Emilie Fox
- Terri Gamble
- Sharon Grant
- Mackinna Hart
- Emily Hewitt
- Julia Item
- Annalisa Juan
- Rebecca Kohlmoos
- Lisa LeVan
- Anna Lim
- Laurie Linden
- Kayla Lindsay
- Ron Logan
- Lois Lyle
- Mitchie McAmmon
- Connor Runnels
- Gretchen Rutherford
- Pat Saltgaver
- Karena Sanford
- Alice Schell
- Allen Schell
- Andrea Schlientz
- Alice Senge
- Kayley Strait
- Caitlin Tripp
- Allan Van Lehn
- Zachary Wakefield
- Sharon Walton
- Glenda Warren
- Lindy Webb
- Hitomi Westfall
- Rich Whipple
- Burlyne Wilson
- George Wilson
May 2017 Calendar

Please visit the Asbury website calendar for the latest updates: [http://www.asburylive.org/events](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**

**May 2, 2017 (Tuesday)**
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Cattlemens Steakhouse

**May 4, 2017 (Thursday)**
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

**May 10, 2017 (Wednesday)**
- 5:00 p.m. Interfaith Interconnect Discussion, Chapel

**May 13, 2017 (Saturday)**
- 9:00 a.m. Volunteer Workday, Garden of Grace

**May 14, 2017 (Sunday)**
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

**May 21, 2017 (Sunday)**
- 9:00 a.m. Sesquicentennial Musical (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

**May 26, 2017 (Friday)**
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH
- 7:00 p.m. Surviving the Silence: Love and Impossible Choices, Chapel

**May 28, 2017 (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, May 26, 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, May 26, 2017