Reverend Chelsea Constant Ordained

The highlight of Annual Conference 2017 was the ordination of Reverend Chelsea Constant. In a worship service on Friday June 23, Chelsea took the vows of an elder in the United Methodist Church.

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño and colleagues laid hands on her, and the Bishop prayed: "Almighty God, pour upon Chelsea Temple Constant your Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an elder." Chelsea then placed her hands on the Bible in front of her, and the Bishop continued, "Chelsea, take authority as an elder to preach the Word of God, and to administer the Holy Sacraments, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

We are so grateful for Chelsea’s call to ministry. What a blessing she and Nick are to Asbury!
The Best GPS Ever

When you are driving, and don’t know the way, what do you do? A GPS (global positioning system) is often our go-to source of help. The Good News is that we also have a God Positioning System... a way of finding our way when we are confused, unsure, seeking direction or hope.

There are so many ways to “turn on” our God Positioning System. There are so many ways to stay aware of God’s Presence in our lives. One of them is memorizing Scripture. The story below offers a powerful reminder of how relevant Scripture is. Craig Barnes is now president of Princeton Theological Seminary, and he wrote this reflection, called Finding God at the Bottom.

"My father was a preacher who believed it was important to memorize verses of the Bible. On Mondays he’d give my older brother and me a verse written out on a little white card. We were expected to recite it from memory by dinner at the end of the week when our father would point to one of us and say something like "Romans 8:28." If we didn’t start chirping away with ‘For all things work together for good for those who love God,’ we’d have to leave the table.

By the time I was a teenager I had memorized a lot of the Bible, not out of love for the sacred text but because I didn’t want to be dismissed from Saturday evening dinner. I never paid attention to the words. But they were still in me.

When I was not quite 17, my parents' marriage broke apart. My mother left our home on Long Island and went to live with her sister in Dallas. My father left the church he had started and just disappeared. My big brother dropped out of college, got a construction job, and helped me finish high school. I got an after-school job at a gas station. Together we got by.

Oddly, my brother and I didn’t talk about how our world had crumbled. This wasn’t just because we weren’t good at sharing our feelings. Mostly it was because we couldn’t afford emotion. We were too worried about the next meal and a place to stay.

The following Christmas my brother and I decided we would go to Dallas to visit my mother. We didn’t have the money for a plane or bus ticket, so we did what young people sometimes do when they’re not thinking clearly. We decided to hitchhike from Long Island to Dallas.

By the end of the first day we were somewhere in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia on Interstate 81. It was snowing hard, the sun was long gone, and we stood on the entrance ramp with our thumbs sticking out. As the snow got heavier, there were fewer and fewer cars. After two hours, we finally saw a pair of headlights pull over in front of us. It was a Virginia state trooper. We were expecting a lecture about how dangerous, not to mention illegal, it was to hitchhike. Instead he told us that the highway had been closed for two hours and that after attending to an accident up the road he would come back for us and take us to a diner that was still open.

We stayed put on the side of the dark highway in the blizzard. After months of hustling our way through the immediate issues of making life work, my brother and I were finally forced to talk to each other. We took a stab at describing our situation, but it didn’t go very well after I mentioned that we were basically disposable to the people who were supposed to love us. We tried to pass the time by quizzing each other on sports statistics. Neither of us had ever been very good at that.

Then my brother pointed to me and said, ‘Romans 8:28.’ We spent much of that night asking each other to recite the verses of the Bible we had memorized but never truly heard. At one point I found myself saying the precious lines of Isaiah 43: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.’ By the time I finished reciting those words, I was crying.

That night, when a passage about the sustaining love of God cast out fear that was too deep for me to even acknowledge, became the turning point in my life. And at the bottom, I found the relentless love of God who was with me and always will be, no matter how deep the waters."

The Holy Scriptures are one way God speaks to us. In worship every Sunday, we explore a Scriptural passage. See you at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays, as we plug into our God Positioning System, and find our way into the very heart of God. Let me know what one of your favorite Scriptural passages is, and why it means so much to you. I will prepare a worship service that includes it.
Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to Casa Orozco Mexican Restaurant ([www.casaorozco.com](http://www.casaorozco.com)) located at 325 South L 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.

Note that we’re skipping the first Tuesday of the month due to the July 4 holiday.

Growing in Faith

2018 Asbury Women’s Retreat
April 20-22, 2018
Mark your calendars, and invite your friends. The 2018 Asbury Women’s Retreat at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville will be April 20-22, 2018.

Welcome Summer Intern Rebecca Bernstein
Rebecca Bernstein, who is starting her senior year in college, will be our summer intern at Asbury. During the first two weeks of July, she’ll be working with both pastors, and other staff members, as she explores a call to ministry. On Sunday, July 9, she will deliver her first sermon, here, at her home church. You won’t want to miss it!

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
There will be no senior/retiree luncheon during the summer, and we’ll resume in September.

Recognizing our Grads!
We want to recognize all who have graduated or finished degrees this year. Please send the name of your grad (and the degree) to our church office. Even if you think we already know, please do send us the information. We don't want to leave anybody out!

Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chat, July 12
You are invited to attend the July 12 Religion Chat which will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, in Livermore, on July 12, 5-6:00 p.m. Please enter off of K Street as we will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall. The facilities will open at 4:30 p.m. and close at 6:30 p.m. so that attendees have a chance to make new friends and visit. This event is free of charge and open to all.

The discussion topic will be WHAT DOES YOUR FAITH TEACH ABOUT THE ACCEPTANCE OF OTHER RELIGIONS? HAS IT CHANGED OVER TIME? Rev. Steve Wilde of the First Presbyterian Church will give us the Presbyterian perspective, and Karen Miller, Pastoral Associate at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church will speak about the Catholic point of view.
Partners for Change Needs You

Partners for Change started Session 3 on May 31. We are in great need of mentors for our anti-poverty movement. If you or someone you care about is interested in dedicating 4-12 hours a month to aid people who have committed to achieving financial stability and changing their lives, you are invited to join us. We also welcome people interested in volunteering in our childcare and transportation efforts for the program. Help in these positions for 1 hour every other month would be a HUGE help to the program. Contact Shana Peete for more details. Stay up to date on our progress and how to get involved by liking our Facebook page.

Fall Mission Trip Available for Registration

September 9-16, 2017

We will be returning to Weed, California (near Mount Shasta) to help rebuild from the 2014 fire. The so called "Boles Fire" destroyed half of the town and much of the surrounding area.

The California Nevada Conference is sponsoring a long-term recovery effort. We will be helping to build homes with Habitat for Humanity. We will carpool to the area on Saturday, September 9 and return on Saturday, September 16. It is roughly a five hour drive. We will be preparing our own meals and staying at the Mount Shasta United Methodist Church. The church has sleeping rooms, a kitchen, gathering areas and showers. The cost of the trip will be $150 to $200. Scholarships are available. For more information contact the office or stop by the Serve Others Table after worship.

Sponsor a School Backpack

Livermore's Interfaith Backpack Project is in its thirty-fifth year of providing school backpacks, filled with educational supplies, to children from families who are unable to afford many of the expenses that come with starting school. The recipients are chosen based on recommendations from teachers or other individuals, such as pastors.

Asbury, a founding member of this project, is one of 11 congregations that distribute over 900 backpacks each year to Livermore school children. Asbury's 2017 commitment is for 120 middle/high-school backpacks! These will be funded through a special offering on July 9 or by making a donation anytime during July. Just designate your donation to "Backpacks." This year's backpacks cost $43 each and include a $20 shoe certificate.

On Thursday, July 27 we'll be stuffing the backpacks with school supplies after Dine and Dawdle. The backpacks will be distributed the morning of Saturday, August 12. Members of the congregation, over 18 years of age, are invited to help with stuffing and the distribution.

American Red Cross Appeal

The following message is from Gail McGovern, President and CEO of the American Red Cross:

Hello everyone,

I wanted to reach out with a note to let you know that on July 5, the American Red Cross will issue an emergency need for blood and platelet donors of all blood types to schedule an appointment in response to a critical blood shortage.

As you know, summer is often a difficult time to collect blood and platelets - yet the need remains constant. Unfortunately, blood donations are currently being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in, and more donations are needed now to replenish our blood supply. It is crucial that the Red Cross has a sufficient blood supply on hand to meet the needs of patients every day and to be prepared for emergencies that require significant volumes of donated blood products.

Hospital patients are counting on us and the Red Cross must deliver. With the upcoming launch of the appeal, we're making every effort to combat this shortage and get blood products back on the shelves of our hospital partners.

Our next Livermore Community blood drive is Friday, July 14 from 1-7:00 p.m. and we need you! Please sign up at redcrossblood.org and use ASBURY925 as the sponsor code. You must be 17 years old or older (16 with parental consent) and in good health. Please bring a friend or family member with you!

If you have questions, call Tom Petty at home.
Thank You from Pastor Chelsea

A big and joyful thank you to everyone at Asbury UMC for your support, prayers, encouragement, and love throughout the ordination process!

When I was 16 and first heard God calling me to ministry I was frightened and even a little dismayed by that call. I could not imagine my life in ministry and was frightened by that unknown. I said, “Yes” to the call because of the astounding abundance of God’s love even in the midst of fear and uncertainty. What I knew for certain was that the love of God would support, strengthen, inspire, challenge, and uphold me.

Over the past 12 years, as I have pursued my calling towards ordained ministry, I have experienced that truth. What was unknown and frightening has become joyous and life-giving because of God’s faithful love.

I want to tell you that you at Asbury have embodied that love of God for me over these past three years. You have loved me, supported me, challenged me, and accepted me in ways that have helped me to grow not just as a pastor but as a follower of Jesus. I am so grateful that we get to join in ministry together, so grateful for the ways that we have and will continue to grow and follow God together.

From the bottom of my heart I love you and cherish getting to serve as your Pastor of Discipleship. No matter where my ministry takes me in the future, Asbury will hold a special place in my heart for being an important part of this ordination journey. Thank you!

(Photos by Nick Constant, Art Molvik, and Jackie Bennett)
Children’s Ministries

Vacation Bible School
July 24-28, 2017, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School “Superheroes of the Bible” will be Monday, July 24-Friday, July 28 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration forms for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade in the fall of 2017 and volunteers are available online at www.asburylive.org, in the Fellowship Hall following worship service, and in the church office. Registration forms must be turned in no later than July 9. Don't miss out on the fun! Space is limited so register now!

Please Help Get Our Campus Ready for VBS!
Please help get our campus ready for Vacation Bible School Sunday, July 23 following our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Many hands make light work and brings joy to so many, as we all deepen our relationship with God and each other.

Vacation Bible School Volunteer Training
What a wonderful blessing it is to have so many adult and youth volunteers for our Vacation Bible School program this year. Thank you so much!!!

Sunday, July 16 Adult VBS Volunteers can pick up their information packets after our 10:00 a.m. worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday, July 20 youth VBS volunteers will have a training in Room 4, following our 6:00 p.m. Dine and Dawdle dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

Methodist Summer Camp
It's not too late to give your children the summer experience of a life time! Toyon Camp is still taking registration for children entering grades 3-9, as well as our Leader in Training program for youth going into grades 10-12.

CAMP IS JULY 9-14! It is a 5 night sleep away camp where children get to do ropes courses, a rock wall, arts and crafts, archery, hike, enjoy a day at the beach, participate in our famous talent show/dance party, make new friends, eat delicious food, and most importantly learn more about Jesus and grow deeper in their faith.

Camp is truly an experience that changes lives. Not only will your child gain independence, but they will also make friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

Please feel free to contact Asburyite Camp Director Jenna Stark through the link below or Jackie Bennett through the church office if you have any questions about camp!

Below is the link to learn more about camp and sign you child up today!

Camp Registration can be found at: http://www.calnevypm.org

You’re Invited!
Friday, July 28, 12:00 p.m.

Hear the VBS children sing, enjoy lunch, and un-VBS-ing of our campus.

On Friday, July 28, come see the children sing their Vacation Bible School songs at 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Stay for lunch afterwards in the Fellowship Hall, and we would sincerely welcome your help to un-VBS our campus.

Pre-K-Fifth Grade Summer Sunday School
For the month of July, our pre-K through fifth grade summer Sunday school class will be journeying through “An Illustrated Compassion: Learning to Love like God” curriculum series created by Adam Walker-Cleveland and his creative and talented colleagues.
Youth Ministries

Youth Happenings for July 2017

- **July 7**: Six Flags Trip
- **July 12**: 6-9:00 p.m. Pizza & Game Night
- **July 21-22**: Youth Lock-in, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 a.m.
- **July 30**: Youth lunch out after worship, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Summer Youth Lock-in

Come for a night of fun, games, bowling, and more! Drop off at Asbury at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 21 and pick up at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 22. Make sure you bring a pair of socks for bowling and a sleeping bag!

Youth Lunch Out

After worship on July 30, the youth will go out to lunch together at Cravings. We will meet at Asbury at 11:30 a.m. and return at 1:30 p.m. Please bring money for lunch!

July 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 by clicking on the photo on the website here: [http://bit.ly/2sWF0QF](http://bit.ly/2sWF0QF).
Anniversaries

Henry and Maureen Bell
Kenneth and Jennifer Bernstein
Tim and Megan Buckley
Dick and Barbara Ernst
Brett and Christy Gibson
Tony and Keri Gnecco
Vamsee and Robyn Lakamsani
John and Martie Muldoon
Keith and Carole Nakanishi
Bill and Mary Ouellette
Glenn and Glynice Pomykal
Rob and Michele Rudd
Ron and Pat Saltgaver
Ron and Evelynne Schwartz
Larry and Joyce Suter

Birthdays

Nancy Ackerman
Dee Bing
Juliette Breazeal
Gail Bryan
Mary Burnham
Lauren Cano
Todd Cayton
Chelsea Constant
Jim Culpepper
Brian Defenbaugh
Zack Edgar
Dick Ernst
Karen Faraldo
Steve Fedder
Julian Galicia-Thomas
Ken Giannotti
Brett Gibson
Mitchell Haugen
Jean Howe
Bob Howe
Bob Johnson
Mike Lambaren, Jr.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

John Linden
Mark Linden
Alexandria Lobao
Joyce Logan
Jewels McCafferty
Kayla McClendon
Michael Norton
Brandon Norton
Dave Seberger
Erin Senge
Dottie Sherman
Grant Siebers
Bobb Smith
Clay Smith
Robbie Teruya
Thomas Thournir
Karen Ullrich
Susan Wagoner
Bob Whiteside
Debbie Whiteside
Cal Wood
Gloria Yano
July 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
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Butterfly Gardens is open
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 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

Mondays
- 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

Thursdays
- 6:00 p.m. Dine and Dawdle, Fellowship Hall
- 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 and Meetings

July 9, 2017 (Sunday)
- 8:45 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 11:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

July 11, 2017 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Casa Orozco

July 13, 2017 (Thursday)
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit, Fireside Room

July 14, 2017 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

July 23, 2017 (Sunday)
- 11:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

July 24-28, 2017 (Monday-Friday)
- 9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School
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, July 14, 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, July 21, 2017