



Asbury Articles: May 24, 2023



The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is season and a time for every matter under heaven. In the United Methodist Church, pastors tend to think of January through June as appointment season, a time when our Bishop and District Superintendents meet to assess the needs of the churches and the pastors. These meetings are based on written input from the churches through the Staff Parish Relations Committee and from the pastors as well as in-person meetings with these same people.

Some appointments are kept the same, others shift, some pastors retire, some pastors take leave, some pastors step outside of the appointment system, etc. When pastors are licensed and later ordained in our denomination, we agree to be itinerate and express our willingness to be appointed where the Bishop and Superintendents decide. All pastoral appointments are for a year at a time. Normally, we stay longer than a year, but I've seen some appointments that were only a year. This coming year there is a shortage of pastors. Many people have been brought in from other Annual Conferences to pastor and very few churches have associates.

I know many are surprised, disappointed, or even shocked that Pastor Brad has not been reappointed to Asbury. It's important that we take time to appreciate Brad's time among us, that we thank him, and let him know what he has meant to

us. As we work through the transition, please feel free to ask me your questions, share your concerns, and get help on projects with which you are engaged.

I ask that you keep Pastor Brad and the Staff Parish Relations Committee in your prayers as we go through this time of transition.

Blessings,
Pastor Kathy

UPCOMING ASBURY EVENTS

Pentecost is THIS Sunday!

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, where we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Oftentimes this event is visualized with fire. Because of this, we invite you to wear fiery colors (red, orange, yellow) to church on Sunday!

Options for the Future of Youth Choir

Sunday, May 28 | Noon in the Chapel

Jessica Warren, our very dedicated and talented Youth Choir director for the last 12 years is retiring from that role.

Pastor Kathy and Jean Braun would like to have a meeting with existing Youth Choir singers and parents as well as incoming middle school singers and their parents to discuss options for next year.

The meeting will be in the Chapel at noon on May 28 after Youth Choir and Rainbow Choir have rehearsed for 1/2 hour. It will be followed by lunch in the fellowship hall for all those attending.

Please come with feedback on Youth Choir experiences and what musical opportunities singers would want to participate in this next year.

Letting Jean know if you will be at this meeting would be most helpful in determining what will be served for lunch!

Ballpark with Brad

Wednesday, May 31 | 10:30am

After lots of enjoyment last summer, there will be one ballpark with Brad opportunity this summer on Wednesday, May 31st. We will be meeting at the church at 10:30 a.m. to carpool to BART to head up to the Coliseum to see the A's play the Atlanta Braves. Bring money for your BART ticket and food at the

park, but tickets for the game will be covered. Please let Pastor Brad know by [email](#) if you plan to attend. We expect to be back before 4 p.m.



Music Celebration Sunday

Sunday, June 4

Music Celebration Sunday is almost here! On **Sunday, June 4**, we will hear music from Asbury's various choirs and musical groups. We will also celebrate Jessica Warren's retirement from directing the Youth Choir and express our appreciation of her hard work in that role.

Note for our musical groups: After Music Celebration Sunday on June 4, choir groups will not meet again until after Labor Day in September. Enjoy your summer break!



Graduation is Coming!

Sunday, June 4 | Deadline to be included: May 31

Graduation is just around the corner for those in high school, college, vocational schools, and special degree programs, and we at Asbury want to celebrate them on Sunday, June 4th!

If you are graduating or are related to someone graduating that is connected with Asbury, please reach out to [Pastor Brad](#) by **May 31** to get on the list. He will be putting together a graduation video where each graduate will be featured, and he will respond to you with needed related items for that video.



The Grill Team is Back!

Saturday, June 10 | 10am

Asbury's award winning Grill Team is back, and you can be part of it!

Want to have a great time representing Asbury in the Rodeo Parade? Please join the Grill Team! What's a 'Grill Team'?? It's like a drill team, but with mini BBQ grills!

The Livermore Rodeo Parade is Saturday, June 10 at 10 am. Asbury's Grill Team will march in the parade, with our mini-grills, and perform simple routines to our own band's clever songs (previous songs include 'You Ain't Nothing but a Hot Dog', 'My Grill', and 'Combo #5').

No experience required, and all equipment will be provided. The only requirement is the willingness to have fun! Rehearsals will be Saturday mornings and/or Sundays after church, to be arranged according to team member's schedules. Rehearsals will start in May.

To sign up, or to get more information, please contact [Martie Muldoon](#).



Join us for a Retirement Celebration honoring Terri Gamble

Sunday, June 11

Following worship | Fellowship Hall
Hawaiian attire encouraged!

HELP US CELEBRATE TERRI & KAREN!

GiFTS

Ellen will be in the worship hall after Sunday worship through June 4. Cash may be donated or checks made out to "Terri Gamble" / "Karen Bauman"

CARDS

We will have index cards available in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship through June 4 for you to write well wishes or a memory for Terri and Karen.



Summerfest is coming!

Saturday, August 5 - Sunday, August 6

Write it in your calendars now. We will be asking for your help to volunteer with set up, meals, activities and fun.

Think: swimming, waterslide, slip-n-slide, drumming, chimes, Biffer (fun game!), Fertile Groundworks, eating, campfire, camping, and lots more!

Save the Date!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

United Women in Faith: Mission u

Women of Asbury:

Summer is coming and so is Mission u, an opportunity to meet other women and fellowship and study together. There are 3 United Women in Faith weekends to choose from:

- June 2-4 at Monte Toyon Campground (Aptos) with Heather Hammer, pastor and study leader
- July 28-30 at ECCO Conference Center (Oakhurst) with Katherine Parker, missionary and study leader
- August 25-27 at Centennial UMC (Sacramento) with Lee Neish, pastor and study leader

All sessions also offer youth and children's groups. This year's theme is "Living the Kin-dom," a study of The Lord's Prayer.

[Registration](#) is open for the June 2-4 weekend. If you've never been to Monte Toyon, visit their [site](#) in the trees, by the ocean.

Invite a friend and make this a meaningful experience of your summer!

Stories of the Civil Rights Movement: From Selma to Today

Sunday, June 4 | 4pm - 8pm

Spend an evening listening to the stories of the Civil Rights Movement from those who were a part of it!

We will begin by watching the 2014 movie Selma in the sanctuary. After the movie ends, we will move to the Fellowship Hall for dinner, followed by a panel discussion from Ellen Peete, Rev. Dick Ernst, and Rev. Theon Johnson. Suggested \$20 donation for dinner per person

This event is a fundraiser event for the Asbury group going to serve in Alabama this summer!

[Register Here](#)

Retirement Celebration for Pastor Kim Risedorph

Thursday, June 22 | 6pm

Thursday, June 22 | 6pm
San Ramon Valley UMC
902 Danville Blvd, Alamo, CA
Suggested donation: \$15-25 per family
RSVP to [Patsy Kyles](#)

All are invited to attend a retirement barbecue celebration for Pastor Kim Risedorph, former pastor at Asbury, at San Ramon Valley UMC. There will be vegetarian options available as well.

SRVUMC is preparing a scrapbook for Pastor Kim. Cards, letters, and mementoes are welcome. Please send any contributions for the scrapbook to [Terry Bailey](#).



ASBURY COMMUNITY

To Clap, Not Clap, Dance, Not Dance, Amen or Not Amen

Here at Asbury, we have a welcome statement that we seek to live into:
At Asbury United Methodist Church, ALL people are children of God and are of sacred worth. Asbury United Methodist Church affirms Christ's example of unconditional love and publicly affirms a commitment to spiritual diversity and individual integrity. Therefore, we welcome all, including those who have not always been accepted because of race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, cultural background, social or economic status, family make-up, physical abilities, or age. Our community embraces you and celebrates God's love with you. We receive you with open arms, joy and the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As I reflect on this statement, I want to suggest that a part of welcoming people with joy and grace is being open to various worship styles including music and people's response to it. Some of us like to dance in the aisles to some of the music; some of us affirm the offering of music by saying *Amen*. Others are moved to clap and show their appreciation to God through the act of clapping. While others like to sit and take it all in. And there are probably some responses I haven't mentioned. These are all wonderful ways to praise God and participate in worship. For a season or two, Asbury has discouraged clapping and encouraged the use of *Amen*. While this has created a worshipful environment for some, for others it has not. And there have been times when visitors broke into

spontaneous applause and many heads in the congregation turned and looked. I daresay some even glared. This is not a welcoming experience for our visitors.

As Marcia McFee of Worship Design Studio has written, “To clap or not to clap?” is NOT the question. The question is “what is required in this moment as a response that is authentically bubbling up in us?”

And so, the worship staff wants to invite Asbury into a new season of worship. A season where clapping, saying *Amen*, sitting silently and taking in and dancing in the aisles are all appropriate ways to praise God and participate in worship. I invite you to read this [blog](#) from Marcia McFee’s Worship Design Studio about clapping worship.

As always, I am happy to talk with you about this or any other matter.

Blessings,
Pastor Kathy

New Church Office Hours!

Taking effect June 1

Beginning June 1, the Asbury church office hours will change slightly.

The new office hours will be:

Monday - Thursday: 10am - 4pm

Friday - Sunday: closed

Meet Asbury's New Office Manager!

Welcome, Martina!

Staff Parish Relations Committee has interviewed applicants for the Office Manager position and is pleased to announce that Martina Monroe has been selected. Martina will spend time during the remainder of May working with Terri and Karen in training and then officially starts on June 1. We asked Martina to write short introduction to the congregation:

I am so excited to start my journey with Asbury Church! I was drawn to Asbury because of the commitment to community development and welcoming people of all backgrounds.

I recently moved to Livermore from Washington state with my family and we love the people and sunshine.

I have a degree in marketing from University of Worcester in England where I met my husband. We have a son who turns three in a few months and recently we welcomed a

little black puppy named Chilly into our home. Our family loves spending time exploring parks and eating good food.

I can't wait to get started!

Thank You!

Thanks to the volunteers (50+!!!!) who helped pack 10,152 meals in the Fellowship Hall on May 13th for Rise Against Hunger! And thanks to the congregation for the portion of the special Easter offering used to fund this project! A good time was had by all and we look forward to your support in the future!

10,152 meals is enough to feed 47 kids for an entire school year! These meals are very likely to be sent to Southeast Asia.

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food and other aid to people in developing nations. More information about the Rise Against Hunger organization can be found at their [website](#).

Thanks,
SOWL Committee

Memorial Bricks Available

We are preparing to order more memorial bricks to be installed in the Memorial Garden north of the Chapel. If you would like to order one for a relative or friend, please provide the following information:

Name as you would wish to have it appear on the brick

Year of birth

Year of death

Please provide this information to the church office and provide a check for \$30 each. If you need more information please contact [Dick Crawford](#).

Hey God, it's me...

Prayer Board

There is a prayer conversation board in the Fellowship Hall where the children and congregation can write conversations with God. The children will focus on a different type of prayer each week with them being posted in the Hall. Please feel

free to join in on having a conversation with God and please encourage others to do so.

Asbury Masking Policy

Alameda County is following the CDC guidelines for masking. When community transmission is low, masking indoors may be optional. When community transmission is medium or high, masking indoors is strongly recommended. Asbury will follow the CDC guidelines, and we support and encourage mask wearing indoors, especially for those with underlying health conditions or who are not fully vaccinated and boosted.

Sunday Prayer Requests

Please pray for the requests that were made during prayer time on Sunday.

If you would like to be on the email prayer chain, please contact the [church office](#).

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

RECURRING EVENTS

- **Sundays; 10am:** Asbury worship service
- **Sundays; 11:30am:** Cherub Choir rehearsal
- **Sundays; 11:30am:** Rainbow Choir rehearsal
- **Sundays; 11:30am:** Youth Choir rehearsal
- **Thursdays; 7:30pm:** Faith Choir rehearsal

OPEN SMALL GROUPS

- **Every Sunday; 8:15am:** Meditation Circle on Zoom (Contact [the office](#))
- **1st and 3rd Monday; 6pm:** Monday Night Small Group (Contact [Ruth](#))
- **Thursdays; 7:45am:** Men's Bible Study on Zoom (Contact [Art](#))
- **Saturdays; 10am:** Craft and Chat [Zoom](#) gathering
- **3rd Saturdays; 10:30am:** Caregivers' Support Group on [Zoom](#)

MAY

- **Sun, May 28; after worship:** Meeting about future of Youth Choir

- **Wed, May 31; 10:30am:** Ballpark with Brad

JUNE

- **Sun, June 4:** Graduation Video during worship
- **Sun, June 4:** Music Celebration Sunday
- **Sun, June 4; 4pm:** Stories of the Civil Rights Movement: From Selma to Today
- **Sun, June 11; after worship:** Retirement Celebration for Terri Gamble
- **Thurs, June 22; 6pm:** Retirement Barbecue for Pastor Kim Risedorph

AUGUST

- **Sat, Aug. 5 - Sun, Aug. 6:** Summerfest



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Have questions?

Reply to this email or call the office at 925-447-1950.

Have an article, announcement, or event to submit?

Send them to the [Alaina Harrison](#), our Communications Specialist, **by 3pm on Tuesdays.**

Miss a newsletter or need to go back and re-read?

Check out the [newsletter archive!](#)

Asbury United Methodist Church

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