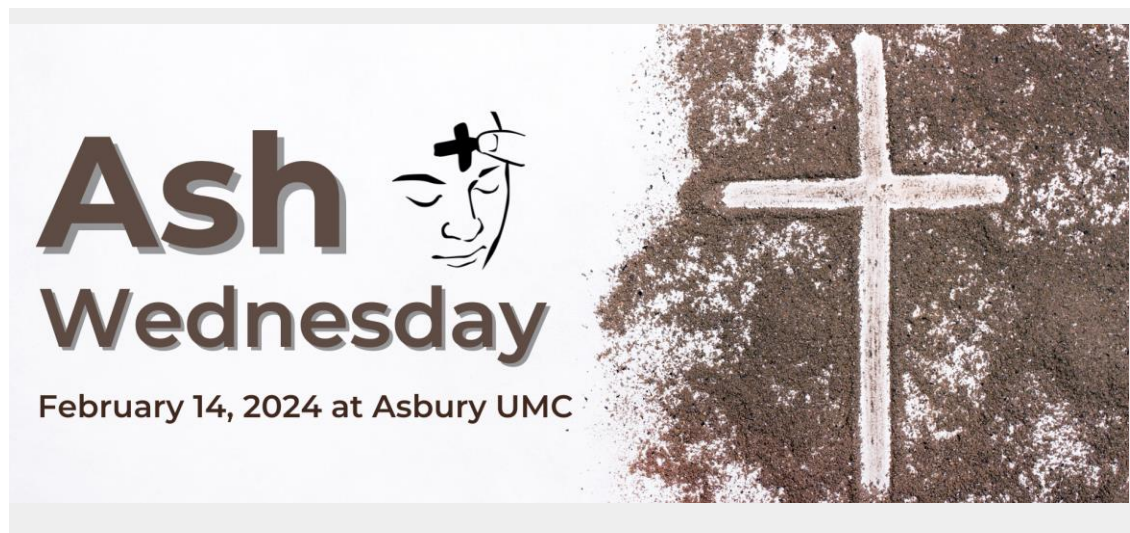


Asbury Articles: February 7, 2024



Cupid and ashes collide this year on our calendar!

February 14

Ash Wednesday, February 14, will be commemorated by 2 events this year. In the morning from 7:30-9 am we will have **drive thru ashes and coffee and donuts** available on Asbury's East driveway(the double driveway). This way you can receive ashes on your way to work or school.

We will also have a brief **worship service** in the chapel at 7 pm which will include prayers, reflection stations and the imposition of ashes. You are welcome to attend one or both.



Bless the Lent We Actually Have

Our Lenten worship theme is “**Bless the Lent We Actually Have**” based on the writings of Kate Bowler. There is also a **40-day Lenten Devotional** which you can download [here](#) for your personal use (if you need help with the download, please see Jordan or Pastor Kathy). If you'd like to receive a printed copy, please respond to this email or write your name on a form in the sanctuary.

We encourage you to consider using this devotional as a part of your Lenten practice. In addition, there is a small group discussion guide which can be found [here](#) (you need to scroll down to the bottom of the page). If you'd like a printed copy, please respond to this email or write your name on a form in the sanctuary.

Our themes for each week of Lent are printed below and we invite you to read the scripture reading in advance of each Sunday:

Sunday February 18, 2024: First Sunday in Lent

Title: Blessed are the Imperfect

Theme: Our culture tries to convince us that perfection is possible if we just try a *little* harder. At its core, the vain labor of perfectionism is an attempt to manage our pain, shame, and fear. The temptation of perfectionism is similar to the temptation that Jesus encountered in the desert. God did not leave his beloved child to figure it out on his own—God sent angels to comfort and care for Jesus. And did you notice the most important part of this test was that once Jesus overcame the temptation, Jesus accepted God's love and help. Maybe we can

learn to do this too in this way we allow God to bless us through our imperfection.

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday February 25, 2024: Second Sunday in Lent

Title: Blessed Are The Curious

Theme: As children, we are naturally curious and poke or bite everything we can get our hands on in order to learn more about the things we do not understand. But something about adulthood—its certainty, knowledge, experience, or maybe even access to Google at our fingertips—seems to stifle our curiosity. What is lost when we lose the ability to wonder? To ask questions without easy answers?

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Sunday, March 3, 2024: Third Sunday in Lent

Title: Blessed are those who Suffer

Theme: The grand paradox is that a life of faith is not free of pain and suffering. But present too are joy, peace, and love. Our problems do not mean we are outside of God's love... just that we are human, again today. Even if you do all the right things, and work really hard, suffering is a painful part of everyone's story. Even Jesus suffered brokenness, grief, hunger, anxiousness, and pain—and still suffers alongside us.

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-14

Sunday, March 10, 2024: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Title: Blessed are Those who Feel Alone

Theme: Loneliness is epidemic in our society. Asbury's core value of celebrating community helps us address this epidemic and churches are uniquely equipped to respond to loneliness, one just has to say yes.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Sunday, March 17, 2024: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Title: Blessed are Those Who Mourn

Theme: As Jesus teaches us in Matthew 5:4, "blessed are those who mourn." Yet who would choose that kind of blessing? There are so many ways that we might mourn. Dreams that may never become a reality. Children we will never have. Perhaps a childhood that was so traumatic that we never got to be a kid... The story of Lazarus in John chapter 11 is a story for those who mourn, those who are left behind to pick up the pieces of unexpected grief.

Scripture: John 11:1-45 (possibly shortened)

Sunday, March 24, 2024: Sixth Sunday in Lent

Title: Blessed are the Rejected

Theme: Jesus understood this sting of rejection too. On Palm Sunday, he enters Jerusalem like a king. "Hosanna!" the crowd cries. Yet these shouts of praise will soon turn into jeers of unbelief. The same people will cry out just days later, "Crucify him!"

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11



Lost and Found

Sunday, February 11

Have you misplaced a favorite water bottle/beverage container? A sweatshirt? Bunny ears? Bike helmet? These and other lost and found items will be on a table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday Feb 11; please stop by to see if anything found is yours!

UPCOMING ASBURY EVENTS



Asbury is starting an LGBTQ group! We want to welcome those who have traditionally been excluded from church spaces. The group will spend time together sharing food, doing Bible studies, and having conversations about sexuality and faith. If you are interested in joining or supporting the group, please contact [Jordan](#) (423-790-6183).

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



Young Adult Gathering

February 9th at 6:00pm

All young adults are welcome to join for a casual dinner and conversation at 6:00pm. Contact [Jordan Sylar](#) or Rebecca Bernstein for more information.

ASBURY COMMUNITY



Looking for Volunteers

The Asbury community is putting together a list of people who are willing to drive other Asburyites to appointments or other commitments. If you feel this is a need you can fill occasionally, please contact the [office](#).



presents a

Virtual Religion Chat

Wed., February 14, 2024

5:00-6:00 pm* via Zoom

**The Zoom room will open at 4:45 pm ♦ All are welcome*

Optional breakout discussion groups 6-6:30 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82295909602>

Topic:

***Nearly all religions have a version of
"Thou Shalt Not Kill." How does your
religion/congregation deal with
the reality of war?***

Speakers:

Rabbi Dr. Laurence Milder

Congregation Beth Emek, Pleasanton

Br. Omar Naisan

Muslim Community Center East Bay, Pleasanton

Our Mission: To enrich, inform, and educate ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our Valley.

Interfaith Interconnect is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID # 87-4206222

Find us on: <http://interfaithinterconnect.weebly.com> and:

<https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect/>

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.



Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain email list, contact the office.

office@asburylive.org
925-447-1950



EVENTS AT A GLANCE

RECURRING EVENTS

- **Sundays; 10am:** Asbury worship service

CHOIRS

- **Faith Choir** - Thursdays at 7:30pm: Sanctuary
- **Cherub Choir** - Sundays at 11:30am: Room 5
- **Rainbow Choir** - Sundays at 11:30am: Sanctuary

- **Youth Choir** - Sundays at 11:30am: Chapel
- **Asbury Ringers** - Sundays at 7pm: Sanctuary

OPEN SMALL GROUPS

- **Thursdays; 7:45am:** Men's Bible Study on Zoom (Contact [Art](#))
- **Thursdays; 5-7pm:** Family Small Group
- **Last Thursdays; 1pm:** Sew-In (contact the Office)
- **Saturdays; 8:30am:** B-MEN (Contact [Dick Ernst](#))
- **Saturdays; 10am:** Craft and Chat [Zoom](#) gathering

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Have questions?

Contact the church office via [email](#) or phone, 925-447-1950.

Have an article, announcement, or event to submit?

Send them to the [Martina](#), our Office and Communications Manager, **by 3pm on Tuesdays.**

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

Check out the [newsletter archive](#)!

Asbury United Methodist Church

4743 East Avenue | Livermore, CA 94550

[Unsubscribe from 'Asbury News'.](#)

[Unsubscribe from all emails](#)

[Sent with Subsplash](#)