

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

MARCH 2024

asburyfirst.org

You're invited! Join us for upcoming
worship, fellowship, and fun.

585-271-1050

HOLY WEEK



SUNDAY,
MARCH 24

9 am* SERVICE —
Traditional service celebrating Palm
Sunday

11 am* SERVICE LS —
Traditional service celebrating Palm
Sunday

**Childcare is available at
these services*

LS services will be livestreamed



THURSDAY,
MARCH 28

7 pm* — Silent meditation

7:30 pm* SERVICE LS —
Worship begins with communion
and a candlelight re-enactment
of Christ's last night, ending with
the placement of the cross on the
East Avenue lawn by our
Christ-figure.



FRIDAY,
MARCH 29

12 pm* SERVICE LS *Envisioning
the Passion* — Holy Week- themed
art and choral music.

**5 – 6:30 pm Good Friday Family
Night** — A come-when-you-wish
child-friendly event.



SUNDAY,
MARCH 31

8 am SERVICE — in the
Community Garden

9 am* SERVICE — Traditional service
celebrating Easter Sunday

11 am* SERVICE LS — Traditional
service celebrating Easter Sunday



9 am Service in the Sanctuary

The **9 am Sunday Worship Service** will now meet in the **Sanctuary** instead of the Gathering Center. This change will extend to the foreseeable future.

Church is wherever God's people are, no matter how high the ceiling, how soft the seats, how dazzling the stained glass, we're just glad to share in worship with you. Thank you for living, loving, and serving with us!



Later this year we will break ground on Asbury First's Columbarium project — a sacred consecrated outdoor space built into the southeastern outer wall of the church, designed to provide a final resting place for the remains of our loved ones. Instead of buying a plot in a cemetery, one can reserve a niche for a pair of funerary urns that will be built into the garden-like Columbarium.

These niches are available to all, but **space is limited** so *reserve yours now*.

Contact **Kathy Thiel** with any questions at **(585) 271-1050 x106**



Lectio Divina is a method of reading scripture that invites us to deepen into the words we hear and use our imagination to take us to the time of the scripture. A scripture is read, and then two minutes of silence is observed, the scripture is read again, and silence is observed, and then a time of sharing takes place. Sharing includes anything one feels moved to share about how the scripture and ensuing silence has touched them in this moment. During Holy Week, we will be offering Lectio Divina via Zoom Monday through Friday from 8:30am-9:00am. Please join us for all five days or just one day. All are welcome.

Contact **Kathy Thiel** with any questions by calling **(585) 271-1050 x106**

Easter Altar Flower Donations

If you would like to purchase altar flowers in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one, **CLICK HERE** to visit our website. Credit, Debit, or Check are all acceptable forms of payment.

If you would prefer to pay offline, forms will be available at the Welcome Desk. Checks should be made payable to Asbury First United Methodist Church Altar Guild and delivered to the church office, attention of Beverly Schuman.



Spring Campus Clean-up

Saturday, March 16, 9 am lend us your hands for our annual cleaning of the Asbury First campus grounds! We will meet to pick up twigs, rake leaves, and clear away the detritus of winter. Meet from 9 am to 1 pm. No green thumbs required!

Contact **David Strong** with questions at **dstrong@asburyfirst.org**



1010 Tuesdays – April 9, 8 am

Have you wondered what goes on at the newly renovated Community Outreach Center? Here's your chance to **See For Yourself!**

Monthly, every 2nd Tuesday, join us for what we call 1010 TUESDAYS! Meet us at **1010 East Ave at 8 am** for a simple breakfast, a brief tour of the facility, and stories about these life-changing services. Bring a friend or colleague, and help us spread the word about the Community Outreach Center.

RSVP today! Visit asburyfirst.org/1010tuesdays or call (585) 271-1050 x117



Pie For Pi Day

March 14 is Pi Day (3.14...) and in honor of this numerical coincidence, our youth will be selling Pies following our worship services on Sunday, March 10 in the Welcoming Hall. This year, we will have a focus on pizza pies, but we still plan to have a selection of dessert pies available for purchase as well.

Pizza pies are \$10 - \$12

Dessert pies are \$15

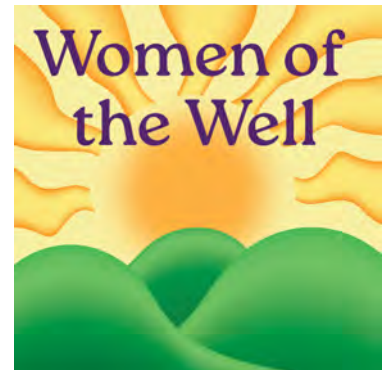
100% of proceeds support our youth missions



Women of the Well Date Change

April 12, we will welcome Women of the Well for their unique and profound prayer-filled storytelling. More information to come. *This is a change from their previously announced March date.*

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Bullock-Smith at dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x117.



Asbury Orchestra Needs You!

Join the Asbury Orchestra as we prepare to play in the April 21st worship service. All band and orchestra instrumentalists are welcome. At least two years of playing experience is recommended. Rehearsals started today, March 17, but feel free to join us on the following dates:

March 24 9:30-10:30 am

April 7 9:30-10:30 am, Wesley Hall

April 14 9:30-10:30 am, Wesley Hall

April 21: Play in the service, Gather at 10 am in the sanctuary to rehearse.

Contact Laurie Kennedy with any questions at cellokennedy@frontiernet.net

Asbury First Library and Bibliocart

Do you love perusing books? Do you love cozy places to sit? Would you love a quiet place to catch up with a friend after the service?

The Asbury First library is a perfect place for all three of these activities, located just around the corner from the Gathering Center in the Education Wing.

Our library collection database is also all online!



Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Asbury First is part of the **Harvest Home Coalition** that sponsors local home construction with **Habitat for Humanity**. We are planning an Asbury First work day at a Rochester construction site sometime this spring. If you might be interested in participating, please email **Dave Kennedy** at DAKennedy@Frontiernet.net so we can gauge the level of interest. Specify whether you would be able to work on a **Friday** or a **Saturday**. Work sessions run from **9:00 - 3:00 pm**.

No experience is necessary. Everyone 16 or older is welcome to participate. We will make plans based upon your responses.



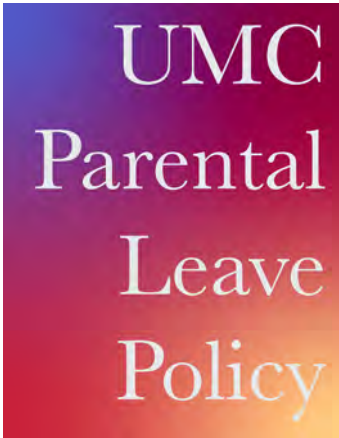
An evening with the Internationally Acclaimed
SPELMAN COLLEGE
GLEE CLUB
IN *Concert*

WEDNESDAY
March 13, 6:30 PM



Tickets are
on sale now!
\$25 Adult
\$10 Students





Invitation to Sign Resolution to Create United Methodists of Upper New York Parental Leave Policy

One of our church's members, Ian Urriola, has been working with a group of United Methodists from around the country to advocate for more just parental leave policies across our denomination. He and a group of other United Methodists from our Upper New York Annual Conference have drafted legislation to submit to the 2024 Session of Annual Conference in late May. The legislation they have drafted would guarantee thirteen weeks of paid parental leave for all pastors and church workers within the Annual Conference whose families are expanding due to birth, adoption, or foster placement. Ian is inviting any member of Asbury First who supports this work to be a co-signer of the resolution by filling out this form:

<https://forms.gle/8wmzRGpBM6AWJGZJ6>

Scan the QR code to the right to read the entire resolution:

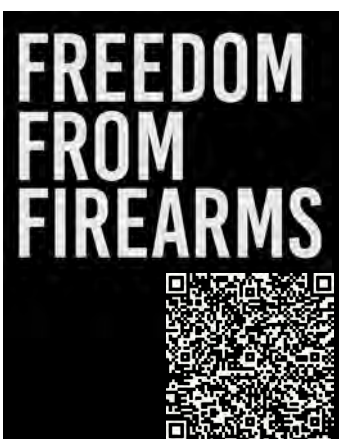
This form also contains links to both the text of the resolution.



Witness for Peace in Israel and Palestine

UMCJustice.org recently published a thought-provoking article on The United Methodist Church's response to the violence in the Middle East as viewed through the lens of the Holy Season of Lent. If you're looking for ways to engage personally in the call for peace, the end of the article lists four powerful ways to promote a ceasefire and de-escalation in this conflict.

Scan the QR code to the right to read the entire article:



READ THE RESOLUTION: Freedom from Firearms

One of the central tenets of United Methodism is holy conferencing. Each year, clergy and laity from all of our Upper New York churches gather together in Syracuse to fellowship and to make decisions for the church. All members of The United Methodist Church are invited to submit petitions and resolutions to this annual conference. This year, a team of members from Asbury First have put together a resolution to prohibit firearms from church property. Below is a link where you can read the resolution; and, if you would like, you may add your name as a supporter of the resolution.

Scan the QR code to the left to read the resolution

Director of Property Care Stepping Down

It is with very mixed emotions that we announce that **Lori Young**, our Director of Property Care, is stepping down from her full-time position to concentrate on her career in landscape architecture. Lori has been presented with an opportunity to build a full-time landscaping business, *Sacred Breadth*, where she will specialize in creating beautiful gardens and sacred spaces for healing, contemplation and prayer, which is a return to her academic and experiential background and passion.

We are sad to see her go, but excited to see the wonderful work this new venture will stimulate. Lori will continue with us on a part-time basis as Property Administrator so she can oversee and supervise the work and training of staff, fully implement automated applications, and serve as liaison to Monday Morning crew, Property Stewardship Committee, Garden Team, and Community Garden Team, among others. Recruitment efforts to fill the full-time position of Property Care Director is in process.



Community Outreach Center Social Worker Stepping Down

Robin Manley, our Community Outreach Center Social Worker, will be leaving her position at Asbury First in order to begin a new position.

Robin will continue to serve our Rochester community as she transitions to offering counseling and therapy services in her new role.

We congratulate and are excited for Robin! Her departure is also, of course, a huge loss for Asbury First. Robin has made immeasurable contributions to the mission and work of the Community Outreach Center.



Rochester Oratorio Society presents The Road

Friday, March 15 at 7:30 PM, Asbury First Sanctuary

ROS's glorious, rich sonority is showcased in this program of great choral works by Aaron Copland, R. Nathaniel Dett, Randall Thompson, Jean Ford, and Norman Dello Joio with keyboard accompaniment. Opera choruses, psalms, spirituals, and a jubilant Walt Whitman setting written in the year and month of ROS's founding, make for an unforgettable evening of music. Please visit rossings.org/road for more information.



Some photos
from this year's
Winter VBS!



Snow Painting!



Face Painting!





This year's
Pretzel Sunday
was a blast!



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

As The Spirit Moves Us

Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am, Room LL03 and Zoom (zoom.us/j/6174865464 PW Disciple)

As The Spirit Moves is a class founded on forming a welcoming community to study Biblical events through scripture as well as Christian-based literature. All are welcome, and every voice is heard as we become better together.

On Sunday, September 10, our class began by exploring the resurrection of Christ Jesus and the ways we can live a life leading us to resurrection. From there we will let the Spirit move us to continue to follow The Way. For more information about this class, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105.



UPCOMING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us every Sunday at 9:45 am in Fellowship Hall for informal conversations on a variety of subjects! Grab a coffee and join us in **Fellowship Hall** every Sunday at **9:45 am**.

Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am, 1040 Fellowship Hall and Zoom zoom.us/j/8347173468 Password: 200

March 17 - David Strong to discuss his role as Church Administrator and Assistant Organist

March 24 - Ann Marie Stephen, CEO of Rochester Childfirst Network

March 31 - No Class (Happy Easter!)

April 7 - The Rev. Kathy Thiel on Death and Dying

April 14 - The Rev. Dr. John Tyson to discuss his book *Born in Crisis and Shaped by Controversy* Volume 1

April 21 - The Rev. Dr. John Tyson to discuss his book *Born in Crisis and Shaped by Controversy* Volume 2

All are welcome, contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org for more information.

Exploring Faith Communities in Rochester:

A Lenten Series with Guest Speakers from Other Religious Communities

Join us for this lively and engaging opportunity to learn a little about another religious community, right here in Rochester! Speakers will share about their community, give some background, and entertain your questions.

Wednesday Evenings at 6 pm in Wesley Hall (March 13) and Fellowship Hall (March 21)
(both rooms are in 1040, lower level).

February 21 – Assisi Institute – Craig Bullock, Fellowship Hall

February 28 – Spiritus Christi – Celie Katovitch, Fellowship Hall

March 6 – Rochester Zen Center – Truman Taylor, Fellowship Hall

March 13 – Rochester Baha'i Center – Cheryl Jones-Richter, Wesley Chapel

March 20 – Psychic Medium and Shamanism – Vicki Snyder-Young, Fellowship Hall

Contact Kathy Thiel for more info at kthiel@asburyfirst.org



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

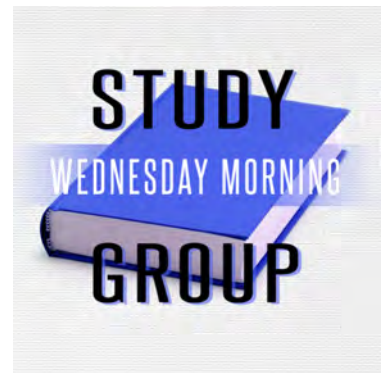
Wednesday Morning Study Group

Wednesdays, 10–11:30 am , 1010 Red Room and Zoom (zoom.us/j/6174865464 PW Disciple)

All are invited to join this book discussion group as we meet in-person and on Zoom on Wednesday mornings. Some have been a part of this group for years, while others come and go depending on availability and the books that we are reading. This year, we will be reading: *A Pilgrimage to Eternity*; *Poverty, By America*; *The Gift of Years*; *The Flag, The Cross, and The Station Wagon*; and we will finish up with a few documentary films on *Discover Islam*.

Through the fall to Advent, we will read *A Pilgrimage to Eternity*. This book highlights a pilgrimage from Canterbury to Rome, and will invite us to consider our own pilgrimages of faith that we have encountered throughout our lives. We will begin our next book, *Poverty, By America*, at the start of Advent.

For more information, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org.



Lectio Divina

Tuesdays, 8:30–9 am, Zoom (zoom.us/j/8347173468 PW 200)

Lectio Divina is a contemplative practice on reading scripture. A passage of scripture is read, then there is silent meditation, then the passage is read again, then more silence, and then discussion. The silence is an opportunity to reflect upon what you experienced in the scripture. This half hour opens and closes with prayer. All are welcome. For more information please contact Rev. Kathy Thiel at kthiel@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x106.



Tuesday Women's Fellowship

Tuesdays, 9:30–10:30 am, Zoom (zoom.us/j/8347173468 PW 200)

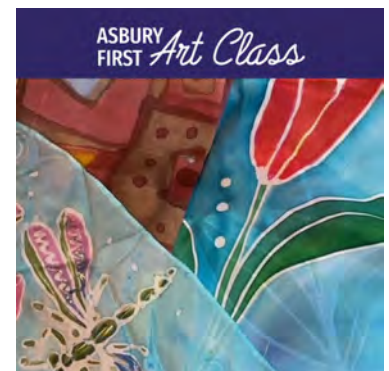
Looking for a way to stay connected to your Asbury First friends during the week? Want to meet new Asbury First friends? All women, all ages, are welcome to join the Tuesday Women's Fellowship via Zoom, 9:30–10:30 am each week. Bring your coffee or tea, and perhaps a treat, zoom in and enjoy an hour of devotion, sharing, and connection. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Elizabeth Church, coordinator, at emchurch418@gmail.com. Hope to see you soon!



Asbury Art Class – Silk Painting

Tuesdays, 12:30–3 pm, 1040 Room 205

The Asbury Art Class will begin a new project starting on September 5. We are going to paint on silk scarves. This means the scarves will be stretched on frames and painted with your design. All materials — stretcher frames, silk scarves, paints, brushes, and designs will be provided. Cost will be assessed after class size is determined. Please email Linda Clemow at soulsourcstudio1@gmail.com for more information and to register.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

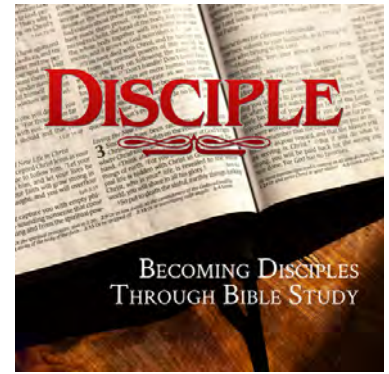
Disciple III Bible Studies

Tuesdays, 2-3:30 pm, Zoom (zoom.us/j/6174865464 PW Disciple)

Fridays, 9:30-10:30 am, Zoom (zoom.us/j/6174865464 PW Disciple)

The Disciple Bible Study series encourages participants to read portions of the Bible everyday, and offers a study guide to help focus our thoughts and questions. We gather together in community to share, reflect, and learn from one another on the readings from the week. This fall, we have two Disciple Bible Study groups that will both be meeting on Zoom.

Friday mornings will be led by Mike Mullin, and will be starting the second half of Disciple III which focuses on the Pauline Epistles. Tuesday afternoons will be led by Ruthellen Hoyle, and will be starting at the beginning of Disciple III, which focuses on the Old Testament prophets. Both groups are open to all. Please contact Mike Mullin with questions or for more information at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105.



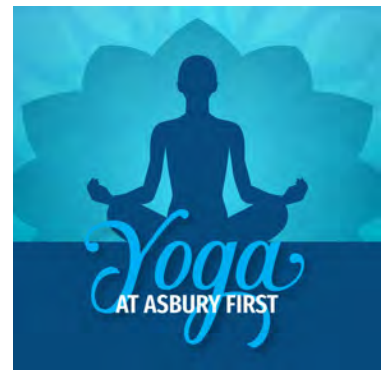
Yoga at Asbury First

Tuesdays, 3 pm, Gathering Center, \$10 pay at the door

Thursdays, 4 pm, Gathering Center, \$10 pay at the door

Gentle Yoga has returned to Asbury First each Tuesday at 3 pm and now Thursday at 4 pm. Each session will be gentle in nature, beginner-friendly, and inclusive to those in need of different supports. Join us for an hour of breathing, movement, and awareness, with meditation. Please wear loose-fitting clothing that is comfortable for a wide range of movement. A limited number of yoga mats and props (blocks, straps, etc.) will be available, but you are encouraged to bring your own.

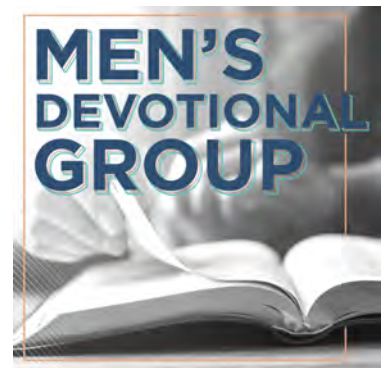
The sessions will be run by Kelly Noyes, who is certified from the Kripalu School of Yoga and Health and is registered with Yoga Alliance (RYT 200). For more information, please contact Kelly at knoyes710@aol.com.



Men's Devotional Group

Wednesdays, 7 am, Zoom (zoom.us/j/8347173468 PW 200)

Men of all ages are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings via Zoom as we discuss topics of faith, life, and more. Each week, a different member of the group leads us in a devotion for our time together. These can be instructional, reflective, conversational, etc. This is a wonderful group to make and build connections, and we hope that you will drop in to join us!



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Prayer Shawl Ministry

4th Wednesday of the Month, 3–4:30 pm, Library

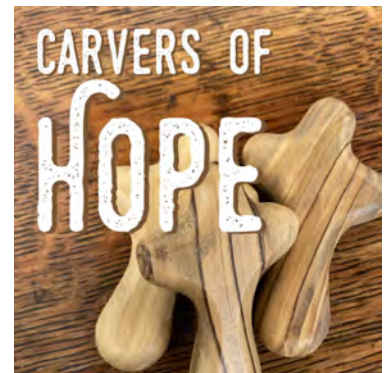
A prayer shawl is a simple shawl or a lap blanket knitted by members of our group. It is symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. The knitting itself is very simple and we have “experts” on hand to help you if you are a beginner. The group meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday. Clergy and lay members of our church identify those who may benefit from our ministry and a shawl, and they're delivered by ministers or congregation members. Questions? Contact Meredith Pixley at meredithpixley@gmail.com.



Carvers of Hope

4th Wednesday of the Month, 6:30–8 pm, Education Wing

Carvers of Hope is a wood carving ministry that helps people who find themselves in the very difficult places of life. Its members carve handmade crosses as a reminder of the hope Jesus brought to us through the cross. All materials, wood, and carving tools are provided, as well as carving lessons. No prior skill is needed to carve crosses with this group. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact John Smalt at jhsmalt@gmail.com.



LGBTQ+ Advocacy Meeting

3rd Sunday of the Month, Beginning October 15, 9:45 am, 1040 Youth Room (lower level)

Asbury First's LGBTQ+ Advocacy Group will be holding its first meeting of the season on Sunday, October 15 in the Youth Room (in the lower level of the church), as our church community celebrates National Coming Out Day. Anyone affiliated with LGBTQ+ community and allies are welcome to attend. We will be setting our agenda for the year, planning for events, outreach, and educational opportunities in our community. Youth and adults are welcome! For more information, please contact Deb Bullock-Smith at 585-271-1050 x117 or at dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org.





Dining & Caring Center

Open for hot meals, and shower and hair care services. Laundry services by appointment.

Hours:

- Breakfast served: Wednesday–Friday, 7–9 am; Lunch served Sunday only, 12–1pm
- Hair Care services available the third Sunday of the month from noon to 1 pm
- Shower services available Wednesday–Thursday from 7–9 am on a first-come, first-serve basis
- Laundry services available Wednesday–Thursday from 7–9 am by appointment (Appointments are made in-person the prior week and are on a first-come, first-served basis)

Bike Repair Ministry

- *R Community Bikes* will provide basic bicycle repair and tune-ups on a first-come, first-served basis at the garage behind the COC and playground.
- **Hours:** Returns in May 2024

Evarts UR Well Clinic

- **Hours:** Thursday evening from 6–8:30 pm
- **Appointments:** Schedule by calling the church office at 585-271-1050 or online at bit.ly/URWell-Appointment

Storehouse

- **Hours:** Monday–Thursday from 9 am–3 pm, as well as the third and fourth Saturday of the month from 9 am–12 pm.
- **Donations:** We are accepting donations in our new donation building (small brick building) located next to the COC at 1010 East Ave.

Grocery Bag Ministry

- The *Grocery Bag Ministry* has transitioned fully to operating in the *Community Outreach Center*. Join us on Saturday, March 16 at 8 am in the COC to help us pack groceries for people in need.

Community Garden

- The Community Garden has provided bountiful amounts of fresh vegetables this Summer to food ministries such as the DCC, Grocery Bag Ministry, and AME Zion's food deliveries. All produce goes for this purpose, and is not available for individual harvesting. With Fall's approach, the garden is slowing down and will be put to bed over the Winter with first frosts. We welcome volunteers to help us over the Winter plan for next season.

If you are interested in volunteering in the Center you can do so by visiting asburyfirst.org/coc or by calling the Rev. Pat Dupont at (585) 271-1050 x136.

Help Us Read Tutors Needed

School is open and we are looking for tutors for the Help Me Read program at School 17 grades K-4. New Tutor Training/Orientation is scheduled for October 10 and 17 from 10–11:30 am. If you are interested in tutoring please contact John Smalt at jhsmalt@gmail.com or at 585-924-8624.

RETURNING TUTORS: Please call Ms. Linda at (585) 766-8440 to schedule your start date. Thanks for your support!



Storehouse Items Needed

The Storehouse is in need of the following items for our neighbors:

- **Bed-sized blankets (Twin, Full/Queen & King sizes)**
- **Bath & hand towels**

We'd like to be able to give each family that shops with us, if needed, one blanket and one towel set. We serve 200-250 families/month. Your donations can be dropped off in the brick donation building outside of the Community Outreach Center (COC) or brought to the 1st floor reception desk in the COC Mon.-Thurs. from 9am-3pm and Fridays from 9am-12. Thanks for your ongoing generosity.



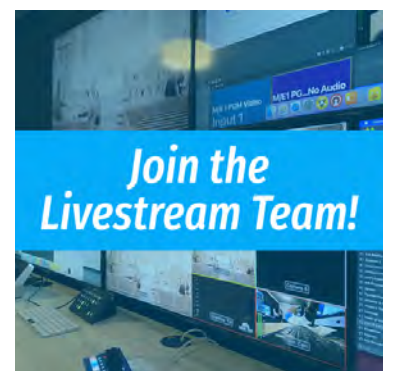
Acolytes and Crucifers Needed

Have you ever wanted to participate in worship – but without having to speak in front of people? You may have noticed that some weeks we have an acolyte, crucifer, and Christ candle that all help to lead our procession into worship and our recession out into the world. Each of these roles help to remind us that Christ goes before us—both in this space and beyond. We would love to have each of these roles fulfilled at every service. If you would like to volunteer to be an acolyte (the ones that light the candles), the crucifer (the one that carries the cross), or to carry our Christ candle, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org. We would love to have you join our team as we help spread and share the light of Christ!



Join the Livestream Team!

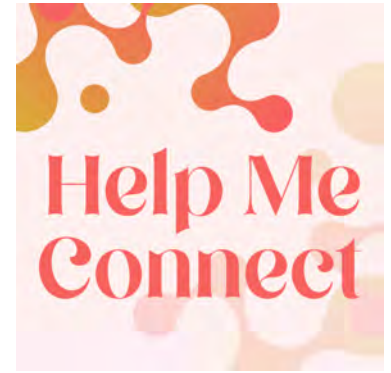
Are you interested in joining Asbury First's live streaming team? You will learn how to use our professional broadcast equipment and video production techniques. More importantly, you will support the digital ministry that helps us *Do More Good* in Rochester and around the world. Youth and adults are welcome. There will be training opportunities soon. Please contact David Berg at bergdm@gmail.com to learn more.



Help Me Connect

Are you interested in taking the next step in your faith journey, finding your place in the life of Asbury First, or are just in need of a deeper connection? There is a place for you!

Scan the QR code, visit asburyfirst.org/help-me-connect, or call the office at 585-271-1050 to connect.



CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altars are given to the glory of God and in gratitude of past and present church members.

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please contact Jeanne Ristau at 585-223-4356, preferably two weeks ahead of requested date.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

We offer our prayers and concerns for all those who are ill at home, hospitalized, or in hospice care.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the friends and family of Jean Cook, who died on January 8. A memorial service to celebrate her life was held on February 3.

We offer our prayers and concerns for Cindy Malone after the death of her mother, Gail Gould, on January 8.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the friends and family of P.R. Anderson, who died on January 10. A memorial service will be held at Asbury First on Saturday, February 17 at 3 pm.

We offer our prayers and concerns for Susan and Matt Guffey after the death of Susan's father, Jon Patterson on January 11.

We offer our prayers and concerns for Claudia Nolan, whose grandfather, Bob Walker, died on January 15.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the family and friends of Helen (Betty) Galante, who died on January 24.

We offer our prayers and concerns for Timothy Johnson, after the death of his twin brother, Theodore Johnson, who died on February 4.

We offer our prayers and concerns for Chuck, Cara, and Emily Hanrahan following the death of Chuck's mother on February 28.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the friends and family of Daniel Koon, who died on February 29. A memorial service to celebrate his life was held on Saturday, March 9.

Stay up-to-date with events, links, and information with our online calendar, or call 585-271-1050.

asburyfirst.org/events

DEADLINE FOR APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, March 25

To submit an announcement, email communication@asburyfirst.org, call the church office at 585-271-1050, or fill out the online form at asburyfirst.org/bulletin-announcement. If you'd like to receive regular paper communications, please call the church office at 585-271-1050.