

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

JANUARY 2022

asburyfirst.org

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

585-271-1050

Methodism 101

Wednesdays in January, 6-7 pm, 1040 Wesley Hall

What's up with the name "Methodist?" Why do our ministers move around so much? Why do we use grape juice during communion? Whether you've been a United Methodist all of your life, or have just heard of us, this class is for you! The Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady will lead this four-week discussion about the history, structure, beliefs, and challenges of The United Methodist Church. For more information, contact Rev. Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or call (585) 271-1050 x105.



The Joy of Christmas Giving

During the Christmas season, our attention is drawn to the abundance in our lives. As Christian disciples, we believe that abundance should be shared. As we exchange gifts with loved ones at Christmas, let us also consider gifts that we can offer to those who need them most. The Outreach Ministries of Asbury First assist people in accessing:

- Food
- Housing
- Education
- Childcare
- Healthcare
- Clothing
- Essential Items

To give, please fill out the form online by [clicking here](#), or send a check with "Joy of Christmas Giving" in the memo line to the church office at 1050 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607. With your help we can continue to support those of need in our community. Thank you for your generosity!



End-of-Year Gift for Asbury First

We are writing to ask if you would prayerfully consider making a special end-of-year gift to support the mission and ministry of Asbury First and put us on more solid footing for 2023. Additionally, if you have not yet had a chance to pledge for 2022, this would be an excellent way to help us plan for the new creation ahead!

If you are able, you may do so by:

- [clicking here](#)
- going to asburyfirst.org/give
- mailing a check
- placing your gift in the offering plate
- transferring stock or making a distribution from a retirement account (please contact the financial office at 585-271-1050 x108 with questions)



Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute

We are thrilled to be hosting the Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute (GRPLTI) on our campus from October 2022 through April 2023.

The GRPLTI is a local organization that seeks to “build bridges and advocacy skills to support parents becoming leading advocates for children.” Through 21 weeks of programming for cohorts of both parents and children, the GRPLTI offers leadership development, education and empowerment that leads to greater community engagement of families at the neighborhood, city, regional and state levels.

“PLTI differentiates itself by embracing a cross-race, cross-class, and parent-informed, pro-social educational approach.” We see the mission and approach of the GRPLTI as closely aligned with many values of the Methodist movement and are excited to offer our space to be used for this holy work!

For more information:

Visit www.greaterrochesterplti.org

Email grocplti@gmail.com

Call 585-469-2521



Annual Church Conference 2023

Sunday, January 29, 12 pm, 1040 Sanctuary

Join us for our Annual Church Conference on January 29, 2023 immediately following the 11am service. In addition to the traditional business of the Conference (passing the budget, approving the nomination report, etc.), we will formally approve the previous business of the “unofficial” conferences that took place during the two pandemic years. While we will have a livestream option available, we are still awaiting word on whether we can officially count virtual votes at this official Church Conference. Regardless of whether they can be “official”, we plan to offer a virtual voting option as a mechanism for virtual members to participate. Please contact the church office with any questions.



Valentine's Dinner Dance

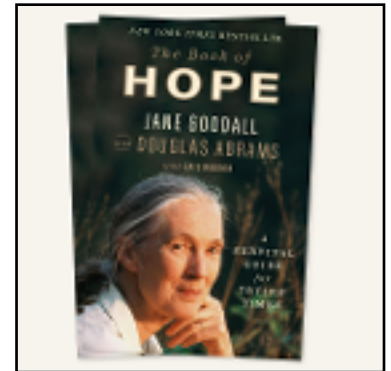
SAVE THE DATE— Friday, February 10, 6 pm, 1040 Fellowship Hall

Come and dine and dance for a cause. In the spirit of Love for those we know and those we can help—let's eat, dance and be merry! We will have a good will offering and the proceeds will go to our new Community Outreach Center. Live music will be provided by the 10 piece band called Different Every Time. The bass player for this band is a member of Asbury First, John Messenger. For those with little ones we will have a party for your children upstairs that will include dinner and fun. Contact Paula Dugan with any questions at pdugan@asburyfirst.org or (585) 271-1050 x111.



Long Term WOW Group Holds Celebratory Lunch

Thirty-four years and 110 books later, Asbury's Women on Wednesday (WOW) group met for lunch on December 14 to mark an ending to the long-term reading/discussion group. The group formed in 1989 under the guidance of former Asbury minister Margie Mayson and met Wednesdays at noon for 34 years. The goal of this long-standing group has been to share opinions and understandings of the materials read. It provided for the sharing of ideas and viewpoints, served as a warm and caring support group, and helped in the appreciation and understanding of other people, cultures, and beliefs. To date, the group has read and discussed as a group 110 books. Books were chosen with a special emphasis on women in religion or the Bible. Some of our favorite authors have been: Marcus Borg, John Shelby Spong, Joan Chittister, Richard Losch, Bob Edgar, and Mary Rose O'Reilley.



The traditional WOW Christmas Red and Green luncheon held on December 14 gathered many past readers. Although the group does not plan to meet on a weekly basis, they will meet on occasion to review and update member's activities and stay in touch through e-mail and occasional get-togethers.

Asbury First Musical—The Sound of Music

Auditions: Sunday, January 15, 12:30-5 pm, 1040 Wesley Hall

Shows:

- **Friday, May 5, 7 pm,**
- **Saturday, May 6, 7 pm,**
- **Sunday, May 7, 2 pm**

The Sound of Music is open to all ages. Children under 12 must be supervised to be in the show. Child care will be provided for auditions and rehearsals upon request. Rehearsals are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Not all cast members will be required to be at all rehearsals. Schedule pending review of conflict sheets. Plenty of opportunities for non-performing participants.

For more information, please contact our Director of Theater Larry Dugan at ldugan@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050.



Board Saturday Night

Saturday, January 28, 5 pm, 1040 Fellowship Hall

Have a favorite game that you want to share with your Asbury friends? You are invited to our family game night Saturday, January 28 at 5 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will have a pizza dinner, and have tons of fun playing our favorite games. Contact Paula Dugan with any questions at pdugan@asburyfirst.org or (585) 271-1050 x111.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Queerfully and Wonderfully Made

Open to all LGBTQ+ Youth and Youth Allies
Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am, Youth Room

Psalm 139:14 says that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. This has been used to highlight how we are each made in the image of God—and that we are created good! This fall, we encourage all youth—those who are out, those who are questioning, and those who are affirming of their peers—to join us on Sunday mornings as we consider the connections of the LGBTQ+ community and our faith. In addition to checking out Bible stories, characters, and traditions that promote inclusion, we will also take time each week to check in and support one another. This group will be facilitated by Evann Hasenauer, our CRCDS supervised ministry student who has a passion for bringing faithful LGBTQ+ inclusion and representation to the forefront in youth and young-adult spaces. Questions? Contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105



When Kids Ask Hard Questions

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am, Room 204

What are some of the hard questions your kids have asked? “Are they a boy or a girl?” “Why am I nervous all the time?” “Are we brothers?” “Why is our peace broken?” This group is intended for parents of kids from birth through age 10, but is open to parents of all ages. We will be part support group, part commiseration and celebration circle, and part constructive collaborators. We will gather each week with a particular topic to focus our conversation. There will be brief readings available for those that are interested in some background, but they are not required for participation. Just as we have the opportunity to learn from the experts, we also have the opportunity to learn from the vast experiences of one another. We look forward to grappling with these questions in community, and living out what it means to be the church while raising a family. Questions? Contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105.



As the Spirit Moves Us

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am, 1050 Teak Room

For years, Asbury First has been blessed with a Sunday morning study led by The Rev. David Lubba. While Rev. Lubba is taking a step back from this leadership role, this historic class will continue to meet on Sunday mornings with the name, “As the Spirit Moves Us.” In that spirit, we welcome new faces and friends as we gather together to share our joys and concerns and decide what to study this coming year. All ideas will be considered, and we look forward to having you join us on Sunday mornings! Questions? Contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Monday Morning Crew

Mondays, 9 am–12 pm, 1040 Workshop

The Monday Morning Crew is a group that works on odd jobs, fixes, and other needed projects in support of the Sextons around the Asbury First campus. They recently worked over 700 hours changing out the light fixtures in 1040 and 1050 to a more energy-efficient LED lights. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Dave Kennedy at 585-787-0422.



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 – Polymer Clay Creations

Tuesdays, 12-3 pm, Room 205 (Bell Room), \$20 per person

The Asbury Art Class will begin working on projects with polymer clay! (Think Sculpey – although there are other brands). We will explore the properties of polymer clay to develop milleflora techniques as well as for practical uses for in-the-home items. Class will begin on Tuesday, September 13 at noon. Bring a lunch. At 12:30 pm each class I will present a PowerPoint program on the "Elements and Principles" of art. At 1 pm we will begin working with the polymer clay. Class runs from noon until 3 pm every Tuesday. There will be general materials supplied as part of the \$20 per-person cost for the class. Please call or email Linda Clemow to register at soulsourcestudio1@gmail.com or 607-434-0500.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Disciple II Bible Studies Returns for the Fall

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

Fridays, 10–11 am, Zoom (zoom.us/j/6174865464 PW Disciple)

Have you ever wondered what the Bible really says—and if it truly has any meaning for us in modern times? If so, then you're not alone. Most Christians have never really read the Bible, and many wonder if its antiquated teachings truly transcend time. If you would like to grapple with these questions, then you are encouraged to sign up for a Disciple Bible Study.

On Tuesdays, the Disciple II class will continue its journey through Exodus this fall as it prepares to transition to the New Testament books of Luke and Acts. On Friday mornings, the Disciple II class will be focusing in on the books of Luke and Acts.

Please contact Mike Mullin, mmullin@asburyfirst.org, with any questions, and use this link to sign-up for a Disciple Bible Study!



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.



Men's Devotional Group

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

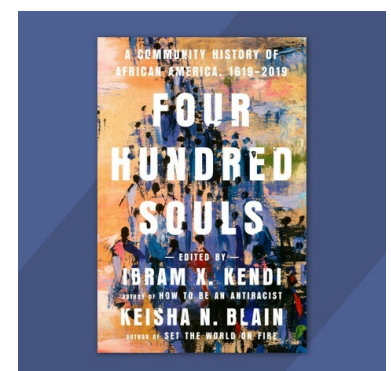
Men of all ages are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings via Zoom as we discuss topics of faith, life, and more. Each week, a different member of the group leads us in a devotion for our time together. These can be instructional, reflective, conversational, etc. This is a wonderful group to make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



Four Hundred Souls Discussion

Wednesdays, January 4, February 1, and March 1, 5 pm, Room 203 and Zoom (zoom.us/j/85385379148)

Join us for an ongoing discussion of this year's church-wide read, *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619–2019* on the 4th Wednesday each month from 5–6 pm. We will be meeting over Zoom to make sure as many people as would like have access to the conversation. You don't have to have read the entire book to come, and can join at any time. All are welcome!



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

The Soul of America

Wednesdays, 10–11:30 am, Butler's Pantry (lower level, next door to Fellowship Hall Kitchen) and Zoom (zoom.us/j/8347173468 PW 200)

Asbury First's Wednesday morning study group has chosen a number of good reads for the coming year. We will begin in September with *The Soul of America*. As we prepare for mid-term elections, we will learn from the divisions of our past to find paths of hope and healing in our present. Questions? Contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105.



Carvers of Hope

4th Wednesday of the Month, 6:30–8 pm, 1050 Porch

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. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact John Smalt at jhsmalt@gmail.com.



Children's Music Going Forward

Children's Music going forward is on Wednesdays, at the following times:

- 5-5:30 pm Hallelujah Kids, Music Fundamentals for ages 4 through 1st grade
- 6-7 pm Wesley Singers & Ringers, Vocal & Handbell Choir for 2nd-5th grades

Both groups meet on the second floor in Room 201. There is a community dinner offered at 5:30 pm in the Gathering Center to make the night a little easier for all who attend any Wednesday night events at Asbury. For more information, contact Holly Temming at htemming@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x114.



Wednesday Night Community Dinner

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, Gathering Center, \$5 good-will donation

Remember the family-style meals we had on Wednesday nights? Well, they're back! We are excited to announce that we will begin the Community Meal again this Fall. What a great way to join in communion with others before enriching your spirit with classes, groups, or events, on a Wednesday night. We hope you will join us as we return to this wonderful tradition of family, faith, and community. There will be a \$5 good-will donation per person each week. For more information, contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x111.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Sanctuary Choir and Asbury Ringers

Sanctuary Choir – Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, Wesley Hall

Asbury Ringers – Wednesdays, 6:35 pm, Bell Room (Room 205)

Sanctuary Choir's fall season is well underway, but new members are always welcome! Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 pm in Wesley Hall on the lower level of the Education Wing. Contact our Director of Music Ministries Dr. Carl Johengen, cjohengen@asburyfirst.org, for more information.

The Asbury Ringers hold rehearsals on Wednesdays, starting at 6:35 pm in the Bell Room, #205 in the Education Wing. Likewise, new members are warmly encouraged to join; contact Elizabeth Church at echurch@asburyfirst.org.



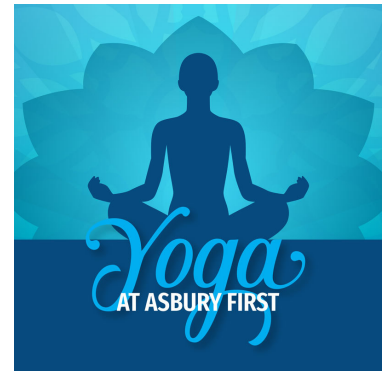
Yoga at Asbury First—New Class on Thursdays!

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

Thursdays, 4 pm, Starting November 10, 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.



Outreach Ministries Announcement

Construction on our renovation is wrapping up and our on-campus outreach programs are preparing to move into their new space! In order to accommodate the relocation, some of our ministries will be suspending operations in various ways throughout November and December:

- The Dining & Caring Center and Storehouse are temporarily closed.
- The UR Well Clinic will be closed for the month of December.
- The Grocery Bag Ministry will continue to meet on the third Saturday of the month.
- The Community Garden has been put to bed for the winter.

We look forward to restarting our programs over the coming months!



NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

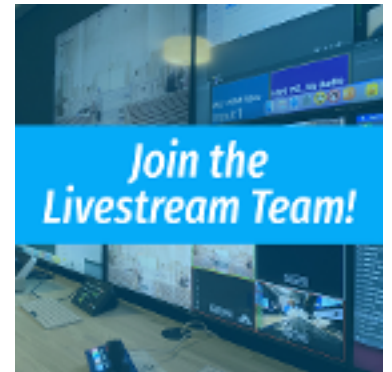
Grocery Bag Ministry

The Grocery Bag Ministry distributes bags of groceries equivalent to about 1,000 meals per month. To make food donations please email grocery@asburyfirst.org. Cash donations can be made by sending a check, designated for the Grocery Bag Ministry (GBM), to the Church Office or online by clicking [here](#) and choosing "Other Gifts" as the fund and typing GBM under the description.



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. Please contact David Berg at bergdm@gmail.com to learn more.



Outreach Ministries Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in volunteering? Volunteer with one of our outreach ministries to help support the launch of our new Community Outreach Center.

Scan the QR code, visit asburyfirst.org/outreach-volunteer, or call the office at 585-271-1050 to sign up to volunteer.

Outreach Ministries:

- Grocery Bag Ministry
- UR Well Clinic
- Community Garden
- Dining and Caring Center
- Storehouse



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

asburyfirst.org/events

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, January 23

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.