

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

FEBRUARY 2022

asburyfirst.org

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

585-271-1050

New Family Class: Bluey

Starting Sunday, January 29, 9:45 am, 1040 Room 201

Starting Sunday 29th, we have a new class for families! We will watch an episode together and then parents will break for a discussion on parenting based on the episode while the kids will learn and play lessons that tie our faith with the values that are taught to us by Bluey. Come join us on January 29 at 9:45 in room 201.

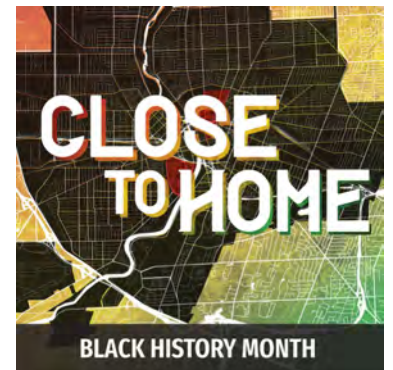
Questions? Email Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org.



Close to Home: Black History Month Sermon Series

Join us in February as we focus on Rochester Black History. Using scripture lessons from the book of Jonah — which is about someone not wanting to look at their own city (Nineveh) and what happens when we fail to do so — we will delve into a deep look at our own city's Black history. The first week will be about the great migration to Rochester and the challenges that came with it. The following weeks will continue to tell stories too often forgotten.

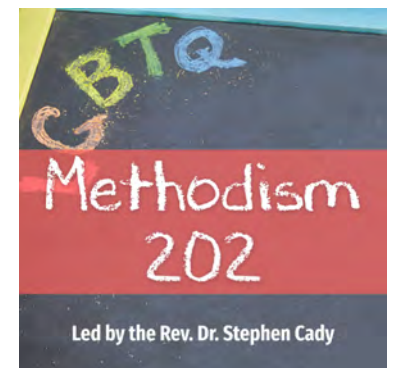
Bulletin cover features: Each week we will highlight a local Black artist or their work to showcase the incredible talent in our city, curated by Rashaad Parker of the Flower City Arts Center. Check out the inside, back page to learn more about each artist and their impact on the city and art scene.



Methodism 202

Wednesdays in February, 6-7 pm in Fellowship Hall and Zoom (zoom.us/j/8347173468 PW 200)

Led by The Rev. Stephen M. Cady II, Ph.D. You may have heard some of the rumblings about The United Methodist Church splitting—or more aptly, splintering. You may know that this stems from decades of debate concerning the full inclusion of our LGBTQ+ siblings in Christ. And perhaps you would like to feel a bit more informed on this topic, as it continues to be news-worthy—even outside the context of United Methodism. All are invited to join us for the first three Wednesdays in February as we highlight some of the conflicts and challenges facing The United Methodist Church today. We will spend one week looking at the history of what brought us to this point, one week highlighting what is actually happening right now, and one week thinking about what The United Methodist Church might look like in the future. We hope you will join us for these compelling conversations. You may reach out to Mike Mullin, mmullin@asburyfirst.org with any questions and comments.



NEW!!! Asbury First Library BIBLIOCART**1st Sunday of the Month, Gathering Center near piano, Bibliocart**

Look for the newly added Library Bibliocart the first Sunday of every month in the Gathering Space by the piano. Books featured here are new purchases, the event or topic of the month, and staff recommended books. They can be checked out right at the Bibliocart staffed by Library committee members.

Or, stop by the Church Library for a visit. It is just off the Gathering space at the entrance to the Education Wing! The library is free and open for your use when the church is open.

ASBURY FIRST LIBRARY

**2022 High School Mission Trip Presentation****Sunday, February 12, 9:45-10:45 in Fellowship Hall**

Led by the youth and adult mission trip participants. 2022 marked the first time in three years that our high school youth were able to embark on a summer mission trip. We spent a week working in Northeastern Kentucky helping to repair homes, and learning more about the Appalachia region. We are looking forward to sharing our experiences with Asbury First, and hope that you will join us in Fellowship Hall on February 12.

Please contact Mike Mullin, mmullin@asburyfirst.org with any comments or questions.

**Souper Bowl Sunday—Youth Fundraiser****Sunday, February 12, 9:45-10:45 in Fellowship Hall**

The Youth of Asbury First will once again be selling soup on Super Bowl Sunday to raise money for their 2023 summer mission trips. This year, our high school youth will be traveling to Tucson, Arizona to have an immersive service-learning experience on our country's southern border. Our middle school will once again be volunteering with our Vacation Bible School program, and with other local mission agencies. Following their week of service, our middle school youth will travel to Niagara Falls, Canada for an overnight of fun and fellowship. To help defray the costs of these trips, our youth have made soup to sell to our congregation. **You can show your support—and enjoy a delicious meal—by purchasing a quart of soup for \$10 from our youth on Sunday, February 12.** Please contact Mike Mullin, mmullin@asburyfirst.org with any comments or questions.

**Older Adult Visitation Re-ignites****Initial Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 3 pm, 1040 Library**

As we continue to reengage post-lockdown and following the COVID concerns of the past three years, Asbury First is looking to reach out with visitation of our older adults and those unable to come to church. In conjunction with our Older Adult Council, we will be identifying those who may want a visit, and are asking for persons willing to make some visits. For those interested, we will be having an initial meeting on Tuesday, February 21 at 3 pm in the church library. The Rev. Kathy Thiel will lead us in discussing how we envision re-igniting this important ministry. There will also be time for questions and clarifications.

Please contact either Judy Messenger, at 585-473-1048 or messenger5@aol.com, or Elizabeth Church, at 585-978-0007 or emchurch418@gmail.com, with your interest and intention to attend the meeting. We look forward to connecting with our members and bringing a piece of Asbury First Fellowship to their homes!



Ash Wednesday Pan-Methodist Service

Wednesday, February 22, 7 pm, In-Person and Livestream

Join us as we begin the holy season of Lent together with our pan-Methodist siblings from around Rochester. We are delighted to hold this service in person again and look forward to worshipping with Baber African Methodist Episcopal Church, Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and New Bethel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.



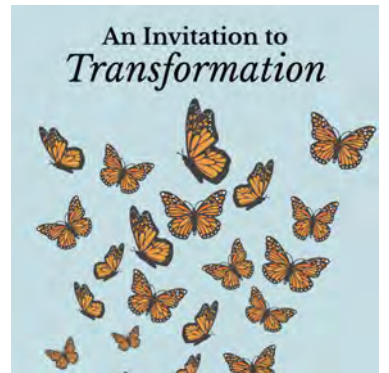
An Invitation to Transformation

Wednesdays in March, 6-7 pm in Fellowship Hall

Led by The Rev. Frederick David Carr, Ph.D.

This March, we invite you on a Lenten journey of Transformation as we consider some of the letters of Paul from our New Testament. This class was inspired by Dr. Carr's new book, *Being and Becoming: Human Transformation in the Letters of Paul*, which is available in our church library. Dr. Carr is an Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Northeastern Seminary, and he joined the Asbury First community when his family relocated to Rochester in 2019. We are excited to have the opportunity to highlight David's work, and we hope that you will join us in March as we consider how Paul's words may continue to invite us to transform our lives today.

Questions and comments may be directed to Mike Mullin, mmullin@asburyfirst.org



The Columbarium

For those who don't already know what a columbarium is, here is a brief explanation:

"A columbarium is a sacred, consecrated location where urns of cremated remains are placed, completing the circle of life"

Asbury First is a place of worship, community and celebration of life from baptism to confirmation, marriage and memorial services. Members of the congregation have expressed an interest in having a columbarium at Asbury First for many years. Learn how Asbury First can be your final resting place. For more information, please call 585-271-1050 or email columbarium@asburyfirst.org.



Choral Scholar Kayla Sconiers Receives a Major Scholarship Award

Congratulations to our own Kayla Sconiers, who was awarded the prestigious William Warfield Scholarship from the Eastman School of Music! Kayla is in her junior year at Eastman, and received the award at a benefit concert on Sunday, January 22 in Kilbourn Hall.

"Being the recipient of the William Warfield Scholarship is an immense privilege and self-confidence boost for me as an African American performer in the arts," says Kayla.

You can support the WWSF by donating here: williamwarfield.org/contribute.



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



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.



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.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

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

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 soulsourcstudio1@gmail.com or 607-434-0500.



Disciple II Bible Studies

Disciple II Bible Studies Returns for the Fall

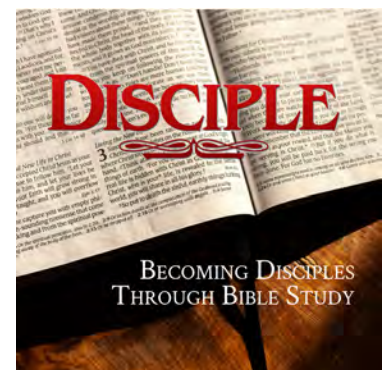
Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 pm, Zoom (zoom.us/j/6174865464 PW Disciple)

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!



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.



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

Last Wednesday of the Month, 5–6 pm, Zoom (zoom.us/j/8347173468) and In person, Room 203 (1040, 2nd floor education wing)

March 1 - Reading assignment: "Part 10" (this will be our last meeting)

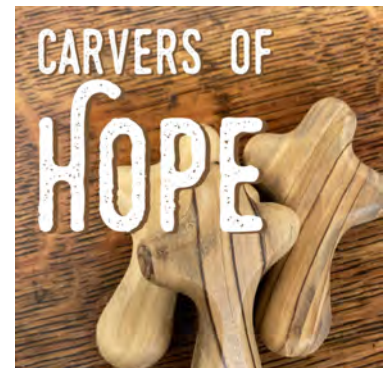
Join us for an ongoing discussion of this year's church-wide read, *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019* on the 4th Wednesday each month from 5-6 pm. We will be meeting over Zoom to make sure as many people as would like have access to the conversation. You don't have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



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.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

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.



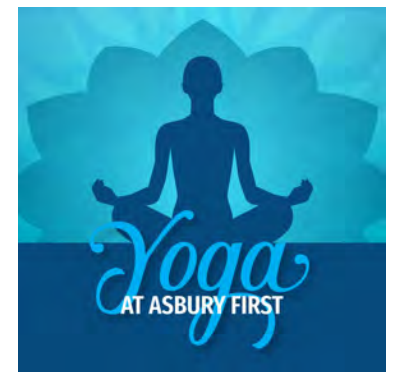
Yoga at Asbury First

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.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

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



Community Outreach Center Update

Construction on our renovation is wrapping up and our on-campus outreach programs are preparing to move into their new space! Here is an update on the progress we are making towards fully opening the Community Outreach Center at Asbury First:

- Our **UR Well Clinic** is up and running! The past two Thursday evenings we have seen patients in our new space. Appointments can be made by calling 585-271-1050.
- Our **Storehouse** has made amazing progress moving from their old space in the basement of 1050 East Avenue into their new space in 1010 East Avenue. Clothing, shoes and toys are displayed on the shopping floor, the sorting rooms are decked out with shelving and work tables, and volunteers have started to return to their weekly shifts to complete the sorting of our backlog of donations. We are a few weeks out from beginning to receive donations again before opening up for in-person shoppers.
- Two of our food programs – the **Dining & Caring Center** and **Grocery Bag Ministry** – have experienced some delays in our moving process. The contractors are finishing up some work in the kitchen area. However, all of our furniture and supplies are in the space and we believe we will be able to begin getting the pantry, kitchen and dining spaces organized as early as the end of this week! We are also taking steps towards stocking our new hair-care area and purchasing brand new washers and dryers for the community's use.
- Our **Community Garden** is in its off season, but the leadership team has already begun to meet to make preparations for the coming year.

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

For any other needs call our full-time social worker, Robin Manley at 585-271-1050 x138.



Red Cross Blood Drive at Asbury First

Saturday, February 18, 8:30 am -1 pm, 1040 Gathering Center

Please call Ed Ristau at 223-4356 or call 1-800-RED CROSS or www.redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment. Please bring ID!!

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Community Outreach Center 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



Volunteers Needed for Meals on Wheels

Meals On Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals to residents in the City of Rochester! Partner with your friend, spouse, family member or neighbor and volunteer to deliver meals together!

Information on how you can get started volunteering for Meals On Wheels can be found on our website at www.homecare.urmc.edu under the Service and Specialties Programs tab or by calling the Volunteer Services office at 274-4385.

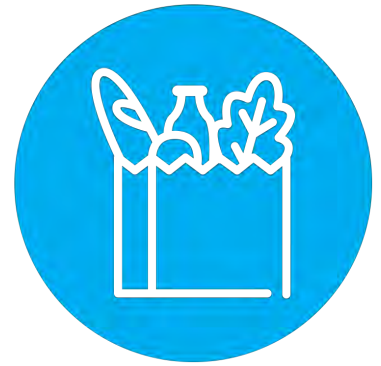
We need you to help us bring hot meals, warm smiles, independence, and peace of mind to those in need!

Contact Julie Cunningham at 274-4376 or julie_cunningham@URMC.rochester.edu if you have any questions.



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.



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.



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

asburyfirst.org/events

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, February 20

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.