

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

MAY 2023

asburyfirst.org

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

585-271-1050

Asbury First Community Theater Presents: *The Sound of Music*

PERFORMANCES:

Friday, May 5, 7 pm,

Saturday, May 6, 7 pm,

Sunday, May 7, 2 pm

Get ready for Asbury First's production of *The Sound of Music*! Based on the true story of the Von Trapp Family Singers, this play captures a personal tale of growth and hope amidst the horrors of World War II. Our multi-generational cast is working hard to bring this stellar musical to life.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

If you or anyone you know is interested in helping to volunteer with the front of house (ticketing, ushering, selling concessions, etc.) for our production of *The Sound of Music*, please click here to sign-up for a slot. If you cannot volunteer your time, but are able to purchase snack options for our concessions booth (such as bottles of water, snack-size bags of chips, candy, etc.), please contact Amy Allen at ajppa@yahoo.com. Please help us spread the word!

TICKETS ON SALE:

Tickets are now on sale for Asbury First's production of *The Sound of Music*! Visit asburyfirst.org/som to purchase tickets.

We hope to see you there!



Asbury First
Community
Theatre

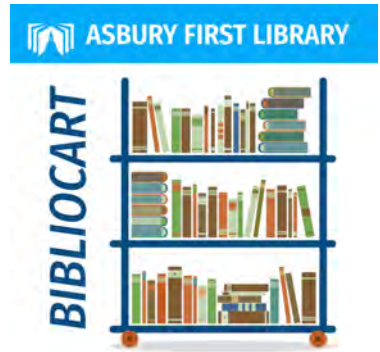


Watch for us May 7—The Library Bibliocart!

Sunday, May 7, after the 11 am service, 1040 Gathering Center

The first Sunday of each month after the 11 am service the church library bibliocart will meet you in the church Gathering Space with a full selection of new library purchases and the theme of the month.

This month (May 7) the focus is on Memorial Day and Mother's Day with numerous books on these topics. This month is also Mental Health Awareness month and Be Kind to Animals month, so we will have books on these topics as well. You can check out the books—for free—right there at the bibliocart—just in front of the piano. Stop by and check us out on this first Sunday in May—May 7.



Interfaith Climate Action Summit

Time for Action: Greening Our Congregations

Sunday, May 7, 1–4:30 pm, Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Avenue

The Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA) Annual Summit is returning to connect with others in the Rochester Area Community, share best practices, get support and connect with local resources and experts. This summit will help congregations and individuals navigate the new world of sustainable choices. The summit will commence with words of inspiration given by Muhammed Rashid, Reverend Myra Brown and Rabbi Peter Stein. A keynote address will be given by Abigail McHugh-Grifa of the Climate Solutions Accelerator.



Workshops will cover solar panels, geothermal heating and cooling installations, congregational and household composting, energy audits, sustainable landscaping, youth action, and climate justice advocacy. In addition, there will be representatives of a myriad of environmental organizations and services. Our faiths direct us to protect our environment. Now is the time to take action. To learn more and to register, visit www.raica.net/events.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 21, 11 am, 1040 Sanctuary

In addition to celebrating our confirmands, this is a Sunday that invites each of us to think more critically about our faith. At Asbury First, we recognize that while we strive to do more good, the Church is not always perfect. With some of the challenges facing The United Methodist Church today, it is no small task for our teenagers to stand up in front of a congregation and profess their faith and commitment to Asbury First, United Methodism, and Christianity.

Thankfully, these teenagers have spent the past several months learning more about what this commitment means. Confirming ones faith does not mean that we must agree with everything as it stands; it means that we are committing to help work to make our church a more open and welcoming space for all. We are excited that our confirmands are committing to journey with us in faith as we seek to love God and neighbor, live fully, serve all, and repeat. And we hope that you will join us in reaffirming your commitment to this community as well.



Youth Sunday

Sunday, June 4, 11 am, 1040 Sanctuary

Our 6th-12th grade youth will lead us in worship on this special day. The youth have worked to help put together all aspects of the service—from choosing hymns, to writing prayers, to preparing sermons. Sundays like these help remind us that the youth are not simply our future, they are our present. The youth have a voice and a message for us today that is prophetic and inspirational. On June 4, we will bear witness to the talents and offerings of these young people as we are led in worship together.

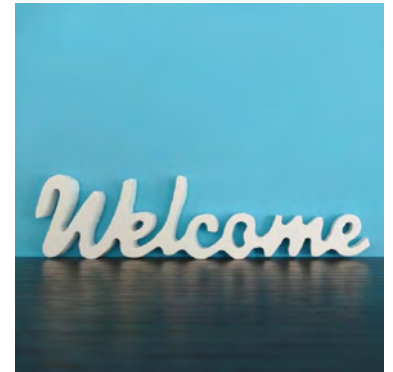


New Members Class (Hybrid)

**Hybrid: Wednesday, May 3, 6 pm, 1050, Stephen's Office and Zoom
(zoom.us/j/82498934913)**

Are you interested in joining Asbury First? We are pleased to be offering the next round of New Members Classes for any and all interested in joining Asbury First. Our hope is to have everyone join on Sunday, May 7.

You need not register to attend, but if you know that you will be there, we'd love to know! Simply email Deb Bullock-Smith at dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org or call 585-271-1050.



In This Moment: Revolution, Reckoning Reparation

Wednesday, May 10 and 17, 6-7 pm, Gathering Center

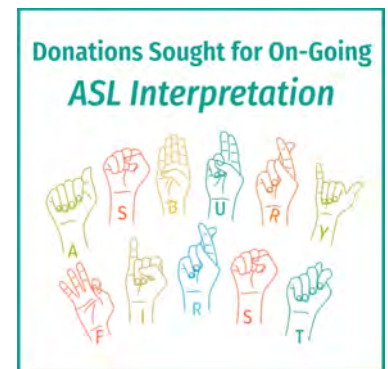
"In This Moment" is a project that brings together teams of black leaders, writers, and photographers as they put together a chapbook—a short book that showcases the talents of each of the three individuals on the team. Each week will offer a panel presentation and conversation about the work of each individual, as well as some reflections on what it was like to come together as a team for this project.

You can learn more about the teams by visiting asburyfirst.org/news.



Donations Sought for On-Going ASL Interpretation

You may have noticed that we have begun to have an ASL—American Sign Language—interpreter with us in the Meditation Chapel during the 11am service. This is to fulfill our value of being open to all and it has made it possible for us to worship with deaf members of our community. We would like to maintain this service moving forward and need some financial support to make it possible. If you are willing to support this ongoing ministry, please consider a special donation with the note "ASL." Thank you in advance for your generosity.

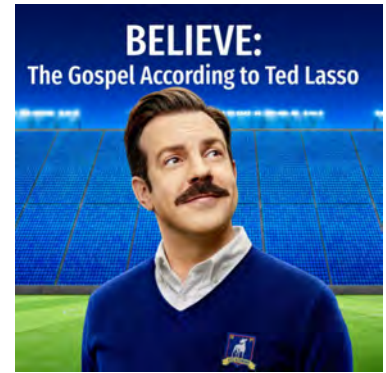


New Class Upcoming: BELIEVE—The Gospel According to Ted Lasso

Wednesdays, June 7, 14, & 21, 6 pm, location TBD

Led by Emily and Stephen Cady

Do you BELIEVE? Like an American Football coach who somehow finds himself managing a British football (soccer) team, sometimes the gospel shows up in the strangest places. Join us as we explore the rich gospel themes of the award-winning show Ted Lasso (available on Apple TV+) and have some fun doing it. The class will begin June 7 at 6 pm, location TBD and is open to all adults. If you are interested in joining us, please email Deb Bullock-Smith at dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org or call the church office. Go Richmond!



Inclusive Weddings

Saturday, June 10, at Asbury First

As a means of celebrating all of those who missed the opportunity to marry their beloved before God and neighbor in the church that they love, we are hoping to hold a special renewal of vows ceremony specifically for LGBTQ+ couples on Saturday, June 10.

If you'd like to participate in the ceremony, please email weddings@asburyfirst.org or call the church office at 585-271-1050.



Church-wide Carnival and Talent Show

Sunday, June 4, Following 11 am Worship Service

Join us for our churchwide carnival and talent show immediately following the 11 am service on Youth Sunday, June 12! It's the perfect way to start the Summer with hot dogs, inflatable bounce house, talent show and more. The carnival is free to all.

Contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org to participate in the talent show.

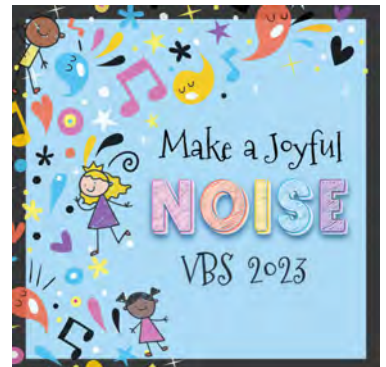


Save the Date: Summer VBS!

August 7-10, 9 am-12 pm, at Asbury First

Children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited to join us this summer for our Vacation Bible School themed Make A Joyful Noise, August 7-10, from 9 am - noon each day. We will learn how music is an essential part of life and draws us closer to God. We will explore music through song, dance, bells, games, art and stories. We will end the week with a family night of food, fun and music underneath the tent.

For more information, contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org. Visit asburyfirst.org/news to register.



Churches For Change

Mothers In Need of Others (MINO) is starting a new campaign called "Churches for Change". They are asking all area churches to partner with them in hosting two donation drives for us within a one year period for just one item from our supply list each drive. This will help them to greatly reduce their costs for supplies and drastically increase the number of families they can provide for through the programs they serve!

If your group, class, or ministry would like to sign up for a drive to support MINO, please scan the QR code below or visit asburyfirst.org/news. The only way we are going to reduce the number of families in poverty here in Rochester, is by working TOGETHER!



CHURCHES FOR CHANGE PRODUCT PARTNERS!

We are partnering with churches who will commit to helping supply a specific product to MINO twice a year.

Baby Care Items

Cleaning Supplies

Personal Care Items

CAN YOUR CHURCH HELP?

(905) 344-4300
mothersinneedofothers@ymca.com

Mothers In Need of Others
A Project Urge Ministry

Music Ministry Thank-Yous; Summer Choir

As we enter the month of May, it's already time to look ahead to summer. Rehearsals for our musical groups will be winding down soon, but before they do, we want to offer enthusiastic thanks to all our volunteer musicians of all ages! We are so blessed by each member of our Sanctuary Choir, Asbury Ringers, Youth and Children's Choirs, and Asbury Orchestra.

Summer Choir will commence on June 11. Anyone who has a desire to sing is invited to join with no commitment! Simply show up in Wesley Hall at 9:55 any Sunday morning between June 11 and September 3. Together we will prepare fun and meaningful music for that morning's worship. If you have any questions, please contact Director of Music Ministry Carl Johengen at cjohengen@asburyfirst.org.



My Queer Faith

Sunday, May 21, 4 pm, 1040 Sanctuary

("This concert is open to adults and mature teens with parental discretion as this event contains sensitive topics relating to physical and mental health")

Kimayo opens up about her life, personal struggles, and overcoming hardships. From coming to terms with and celebrating her sexuality, to wrestling with her faith, she offers her experience with humility and vulnerability. Through poignant songs and narrative, Kimayo invites us all to welcome, affirm, and love unconditionally.

Artist Bio: Kimayo is a folk-pop artist, performing in New England since 2019. Her authentic and personal songs are relatable and vulnerable. Coming out as queer in Spring of 2021, her new music explores self-discovery with an adult contemporary sound. Her engaging performances even led to winning Best of the Lakes Region: Music (Solo) in 2022. Through her music, Kimayo seeks to cultivate connection, solidarity, and hope for each of her listeners.



Summer Worship Begins Sunday, June 11

Warmer days are ahead, and we are looking forward to our outdoor Summer Worship! Sundays May 28 (Outreach Sunday) and June 4 (Youth Sunday) will have only one service at 11 am. So, outdoor summer worship will begin on Sunday, June 11 and will finish up Sunday, September 3.

Summer Worship June 4–September 11

- 9 am service – *In-person outside (weather permitting)*
- 11 am service – *In-person and Livestream*



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

As the Spirit Moves Us

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

On Sunday, February 12, this class began a new study based on the book, *The Women of Easter* by Liz Curtis Higgs. All are invited to join us on a six-week journey of discovery into the lives of some of our faith's original female pastors. In a very personal way, Ms. Higgs takes the reader on Christ's journey through the experiences of Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene. All three women are transformed by the Savior, and we will share in their faith journeys. For more information, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105.



Hybrid Adult Sunday School

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am, 1040 Butler's Pantry or Zoom (zoom.us/j/8347173468 PW 200)

We will have faithful discussions covering myriad topics, and would love to have your voice be a part of our community! For more information about the Hybrid Adult Sunday School group, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or by calling 585-271-1050 x105. Here is a tentative schedule for the group:

May 7 — Mary Lynn — *Enchantment: Awakening Wonder in an Anxious Age* by Katherine May **May 21** — Mike and Nadia Mullen's trip to Japan and China

May 14 — Year evaluation and ideas for next year/summer get together? **May 28** — No Class for Summer



Queerfully and Wonderfully Made

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

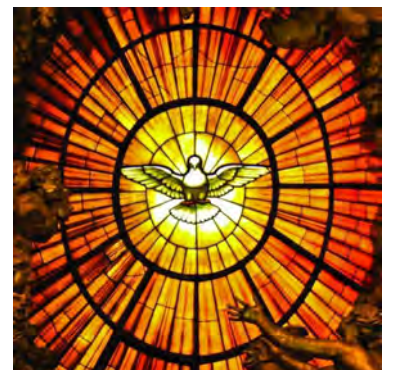
Psalm 139:4 says that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. This has been used to highlight how we are each made in the image of God—and that we are created good! We encourage all youth—those who are out, those who are questioning, and those who are affirming of their peers—to join us on Sunday mornings 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.



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)

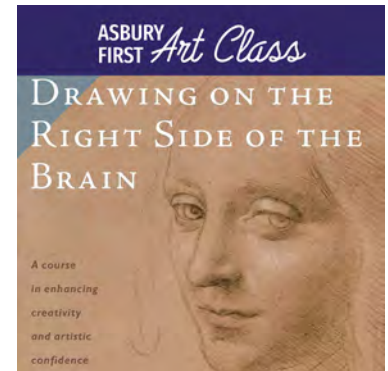
Looking for a way to stay connected to your Asbury First friends during the week? Want to meet new Asbury First friends? All women, all ages, are welcome to join the Tuesday Women's Fellowship via Zoom, 9:30-10:30 am each week. Bring your coffee or tea, and perhaps a treat, zoom in and enjoy an hour 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), Contact Linda Clemow for cost

The Asbury Art Class will begin working on a drawing class on Tuesday afternoons. It is based loosely on the book *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*. This course is offered in a safe and nonjudgmental environment. You need not have any prior experience in drawing, although we also welcome those who wish hone their drawing skills. All materials will be supplied! The cost will depend on the number of participants. Class starts on Tuesday, April 18, 12:30-3 pm. Please email Linda Clemow to register at soulsourcestudio1@gmail.com or call the church office.

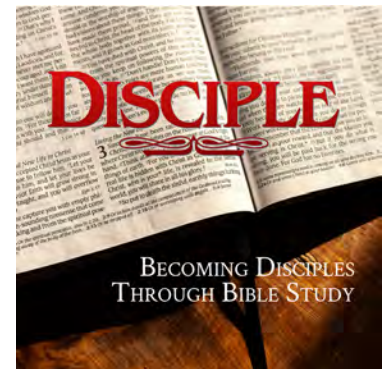


Disciple II Bible Studies

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 III 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.

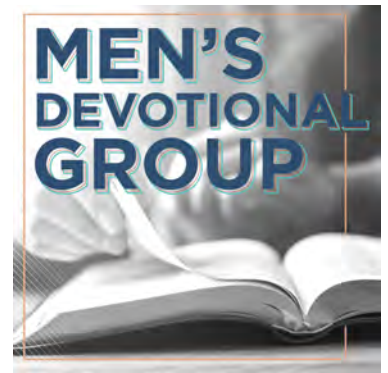


CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

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!



Wednesday Night Community Dinner (Summer Break Update)

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

Last day: May 17

It's your last chance to enjoy a warm meal before our Wednesday night family-style meals will be starting its "summer break" on May 17, and will resume in the 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 in this wonderful tradition of family, faith, and community. There will be a \$5 good-will donation per person each week.

We look forward to the Community Dinner returning in the fall!

For more information, contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x111.



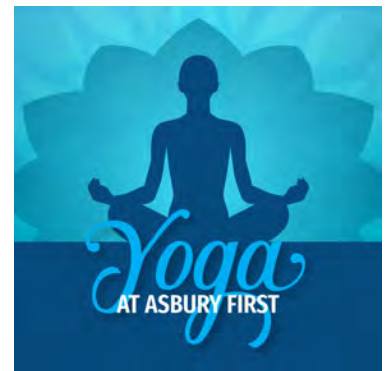
Yoga at Asbury First

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

Thursdays, 4 pm, 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.



Older Adult Visitation

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. The Rev. Kathy Thiel will lead us in discussing how we envision re-igniting this important ministry. Please contact either Judy Messenger, at messenger5@aol.com, or Elizabeth Church, at emchurch418@gmail.com.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Radio and Phone Connection Update

RADIO:

Our radio broadcast partner WRFZ 106.3 Rochester Free Radio was in the process of moving offices and is now back up and running.

PHONE:

We have also recently had an update with our livestream broadcast over the phone. The service has implemented a change to avoid calls from spammers/bots. When you dial our toll-free number (1-833-829-1050), you will be asked to press '5' to continue to the broadcast.

(Please share these updates with anyone who might benefit from these additional ways to connect).



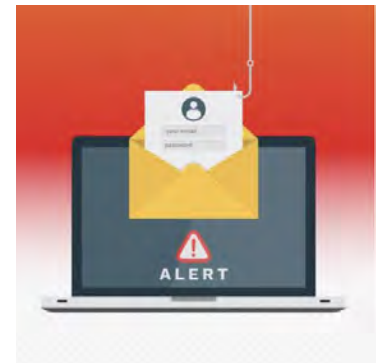
Warning: Scam/Phishing Emails or Texts

It has come to our attention that some of our staff and members have been receiving text messages or emails from Stephen with odd requests, usually asking for money or gift cards. Please ignore these requests. The Asbury First staff will never ask you to send cash immediately or to give your personal information over an open email.

Here are a few guidelines to recognize scam/phishing emails or texts:

- Be suspicious of urgent demands for information. Often spoofed e-mails will make some form of urgent request.
- Look for misspelled words or grammatical errors in the message and/or hyperlink.
- Avoid e-mailing personal and financial information.
- Be watchful of general greetings.
- Contact Asbury First directly to verify the request before responding.

Another way to avoid them is to check the email address and make sure it has @asburyfirst.org at the end. If it does not, immediately delete the email before opening it as the staff will only contact you using official email addresses. For more information, please contact David Strong at dstrong@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x110.



Reaching the Property Care Team

If you need to reach someone from our property care team to access the building or for other assistance, please call 271-1050, ext. 139 (the 455-6974 number is no longer in use). This will reach whoever is on duty at the time. Generally, the team is available between 8 am and 10 pm.





Community Outreach Center Update

Dining & Caring Center

- Opening for hot meals on Sunday, April 9 at 12 pm
- **Hours:** Breakfast served Wednesday–Friday, 7–9 am; Lunch served Sunday only, 12–1 pm

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 GBM has transitioned fully to operating in the Community Outreach Center. Join us on Saturday, May 20 at 8 am to help us pack groceries for those in need.

Community Garden

- The Community Garden Team is has begun preparing the garden for planting. The Youth recently helped fill the beds with mulch.

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.

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

NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

June Blood Drive

Saturday, June 3, 8:30 am - 1 pm, 1040 Gathering Center

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.

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

Visit asburyfirst.org/news for more information.



Monday Morning Crew

Mondays, 9 am-12 pm, 1040 Welcome Hall or lower level shop

Monday Morning Crew (MMC) meets weekly to assist in the care and maintenance of the Asbury campus. We fix things. We are actively interested in adding several people to our roster for regular or occasional service. Join us any Monday between 9 am and 12 pm in the Welcome Hall or lower level shop.

For information, contact Dave Kennedy at DAKennedy@Frontiernet.net or 585-787-0422.



Family Promise of Greater Rochester Fundraiser

Wednesday, May 3, 1:30 am - 9 pm, Bennuci's Italian Restaurant —3349 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY

Benucci's Italian Restaurant will donate 20% of the entire day's proceeds to support families at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Located at the Pittsford Plaza location. Take-out included. Reservations for dine-in are recommended—call 264-1300.

Visit asburyfirst.org/news to learn more.



NEW Needed Items for the Storehouse

The Storehouse has been fully operational for a few weeks now and we are happily settling into our new location. We are thrilled to offer a fully-accessible shopping experience for our clients and a more streamlined sorting area for our volunteers. This is all possible from the generosity of our members and the community.

Now that we are back in business, we have a new need for the following:

- Gently used children's shoes/sneakers size 13 and under
- New school supplies (ie pencils, crayons, erasers, pencil sharpeners etc.)
- Lightweight wind/rain jackets for men, women and children - all sizes
- King size blankets

To drop off donations, you can deposit them in the small brick building in front of the main entrance. Thank you for your continued support!



NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

Help Needed: 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 their website at www.homecare.urmc.edu under the Service and Specialties Programs tab or by calling the Volunteer Services office at 585-274-4385.

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

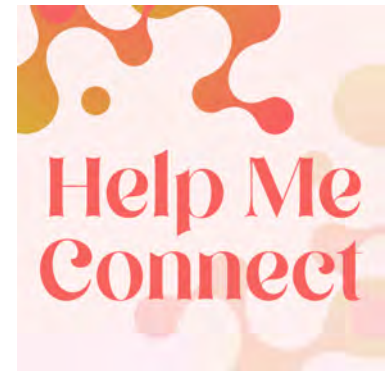
Visit asburyfirst.org/news for more information.



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 MAY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, May 22

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.