

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

JUNE 2023

asburyfirst.org

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

585-271-1050

"In This Moment 2: Revolution Reckoning Reparation" Book Launch

Thursday, June 1, 6:30 pm, Gathering Center

Join us for the "In This Moment 2: Revolution Reckoning Reparation" Book Launch and Community Discussion. This event continues the kickoff of the Second Series with the launch of chapbooks featuring:

- **Ian J. Wilson, M.D.** – Founder/Co-curator of WALL/THERAPY
Essay by Erica Bryant
Photographs by Quajay Donnell
- **Rev. Myra Brown** – Pastor, Spiritus Christi Church
Essay by Chris Thompson
Photographs by Jackie McGriff

The purpose of the "In This Moment: Revolution Reckoning Reparation" chapbook series is to elevate and celebrate the revolutionary work of local Black leaders, writers and photographers. The project is curated by Amanda Chestnut and produced by Visual Studies Workshop (VSW).

VSW Assistant Curator, Hernease Davis, will moderate a discussion with artists involved in the project. All guests will receive a complimentary copy of the newly released chapbooks at the event. This event is FREE and open to the public, but registration is encouraged. Learn more about "In This Moment" at asburyfirst.org/news. ASL Interpretation will be provided at the event.

In This Moment
REVOLUTION RECKONING REPARATION
VISUAL STUDIES
WORKSHOP



Ordination of the Rev. Patrick Dupont

**Friday, June 2, 7:30 pm, SRC Arena Onondaga Community College
4585 West Seneca Turnpike Syracuse, NY 13215**

We are pleased to announce that the Rev. Patrick Dupont will be ordained as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church during the Service of Commissioning and Ordination of the Upper New York Annual Conference on Friday, June 2, 2023. The service will take place at 7:30 pm in the SRC arena in Syracuse. All are invited to attend!

If you are not able to attend the Service of Commissioning and Ordination for Rev. Dupont, we will be celebrating his ordination during the 11 am worship service on Sunday, June 11.

In the United Methodist Church, there are two ordination tracks—Elder and Deacon. Elders see their call to ministry as ordering the life of the Church through word and sacrament. Deacons are called to connect the Church to the world through word, service, compassion, and justice. As our Minister for Outreach and the Director of the Community Outreach Center, Rev. Dupont has embodied the order of the deacons and we celebrate this joyous moment in his life and ministry.



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.



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 4! 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.



Watch for us June 4—The Library Bibliocart!

Sunday, June 4, after the 11 am service, 1040 Gathering Center

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

This month (June 4) the focus is on Father's Day, Pride Month, Juneteenth, and Gun Violence Awareness Month with numerous books on these topics for all ages. You can check out the books—for free—right there at the Bibliocart—just in front of the piano in the Gathering Center. Stop by and check us out on this first Sunday in June—June 4.

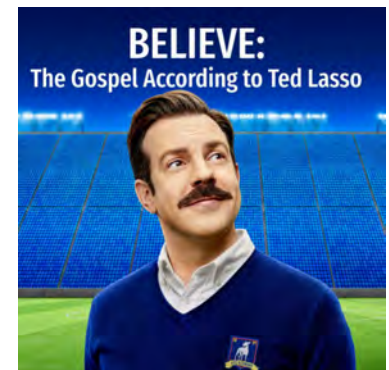


New Class: BELIEVE—The Gospel According to Ted Lasso

Wednesdays, June 7, 14, & 21, 6 pm, 1040 Gathering Center

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 in the Gathering Center 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!



University of Buffalo Choirs Presents: “Contemporary Voices”

Friday, June 9, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

The University of Buffalo Choir and Chamber Singers will present a concert called “Contemporary Voices” on Friday, June 9, at Asbury First. The concert will begin at 7:30 pm, and is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken.

The eclectic program will feature choral music from the 17th and 19th centuries, as well as recently composed pieces by Eric Whitacre, Carrie Magin, Roland Martin, Eriks Esenvalds, John Taverner, Jonathan Quick, Shawn Kirchner, and Kim Andre Arnesen.

The UB Choirs will present this concert in Buffalo, Pittsburgh, and Syracuse in addition to here in Rochester. They are conducted by Claudia Brown, Assistant Professor of Voice and Choral Music.



Come Celebrate God’s Inclusive Love – Inclusive Weddings

Saturday, June 10, 2 pm, Sanctuary

On Saturday, June 10, we will be blessing the marriages of several LGBTQ couples who missed the opportunity to be married in the church they love. Come and help us celebrate and affirm their love with your presence. All are welcome and rainbow attire is encouraged. Further, if you are willing to help with the reception following the ceremony, please reach out to weddings@asburyfirst.org.



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 11–September 3

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



Older Adult Spring Luncheon

Monday, June 19, 11 am, Sanctuary

Please join us for the Asbury First Older Adult Spring worship and luncheon! We will start with a worship service of holy communion and lots of your favorite hymns, followed by lunch and fellowship: lots of fellowship! Worship will be followed by lunch in the Gathering Space at about 11:45 am. RSVP by Sunday, June 11 to Barbara Eltinge at (585) 737-8775 or beltinge@icloud.com. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Kathy Thiel at (585) 271-1050 x106 or kthiel@asburyfirst.org. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will be able to join us on June 19th.



Welcome Our New Director of Property Care

Please join us in welcoming Lori Young, our new Director of Property. Lori brings to us the skills, experience, and professional demeanor that is required for this new senior-level position. She was the enthusiastic and unanimous choice of the search.

Lori can be contacted at lyoung@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x122.



Historic Sunday Morning Classes

During our renovations of 1010, we heard many wonderful stories about the educational and social programs and events that took place in that building. One of those formative programs were the adult Sunday school classes. Many of these participants have remained connected to Asbury First for decades as a result of the connections made during these gatherings. Recently, there have been conversations about how we might renew this offering in the fall. As we look forward to opening the Red Room on Sunday mornings for Adult Education, we would love to put together a team of adults to help think through and organize these gatherings. If you would like to be on this planning team, please reach out to Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or (585) 271-1050 x105. The plan will be to meet together a few times in the next two months to put together a plan for the fall. Whether you have been a part of these classes in the past, or are looking forward to participating for the first time, you are invited to help us envision our future together!



Children and Youth Ministry Feedback Survey

As we wrap up another year of ministry in a post-pandemic world, we recognize that the ever-changing world of children, youth, and family ministries has only continued to rapidly evolve. While we recognize that church is still a vibrant and integral part of life for many of us, the way we "do" church has also shifted for many of us. With this in mind, we would love to get your feedback so that we can plan ahead for a fall that continues to reflect the mission and vision of Asbury First, while simultaneously ensuring that we are meeting the needs of our families.



All children, youth, parents/guardians, and counselors are encouraged to participate in the survey. Visit asburyfirst.org/news, or scan the QR code to fill out the form.



NOTA Farmers Market Returns

Mondays, beginning June 19, 4-7 pm, Granger Lawn

Summer is back and so is the NOTA Farmers Market! Opening night is Monday, June 19 at 4 pm on Granger Lawn, and we hope you have it on your calendar as we don't think you will want to miss it! The vendor line up is still being finalized, but there will be THREE produce vendors, plenty of sweet treats, dog friendly products, books, and so much more.

The NOTA Farmers Market is great way for Asbury First to support and be a part of the community around us. Make it a part of your week and stop by on Monday evenings from 4-7 pm for some local treats and community fellowship.



DeCycles Group Stopping at Asbury First

Monday, June 26

Help us welcome the deCycles group on Monday, June 26. The *deCycles* — a cross country cycling youth group based in Bloomington, Indiana — will pedal their bicycles 1500-miles in 23-days from Bloomington, Indiana to the Atlantic Coast in Maine. Most of the riders are new to cycling and have trained diligently to prepare for this trip. They will cycle 600-miles through Indiana, Ohio, and New York along the shorelines of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River. The remaining 900-miles will be through New England, Vermont, New Hampshire and all the way to the Atlantic coastline of Maine.



Join Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) for Cohort 11

Be a part of a powerful network of parents making change across the country. The Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) is a civics and leadership training program for parents in Monroe County. Started in Rochester in 2012. Nearly 200 alumni have effected change in local schools and governments since PLTI began.



Cohort 11 begins in October of 2023. PLTI embraces a cross-race, cross-class, parent-informed, pro-social educational approach. For more information, or to apply, scan the QR code, call 585-260-2692, or email tiannajohson.plti@gmail.com.

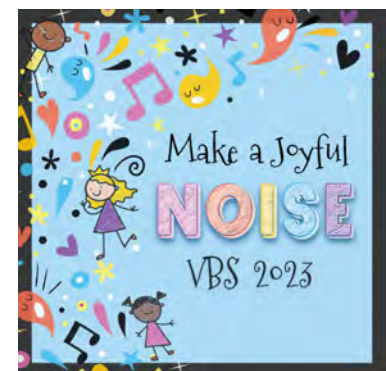


Save the Date: Summer VBS!

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.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Classes Will Return in the Fall

We hope you have enjoyed the following classes and groups. If so, check back after Labor Day (September 3) for the beginning of the next programmatic year. Have a great summer! Sundays: Children's Sunday school, Queerfully and Wonderfully Made, Hybrid Adult Sunday school; Wednesdays: Wednesday Morning Study Group; Fridays: Disciple III Bible Study.



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!



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Asbury Art Class

Tuesdays, 12-3 pm, Room 205 (Bell Room)

The Asbury Art Class will begin working on a new watercolor class on Tuesday afternoons. This course is offered in a safe and nonjudgmental environment. You need not have any prior experience in watercolor, although we also welcome those who wish hone their skills. Participants must supply their own materials. There is a free will donation for the program facilitator. Classes are from 12:30-3 pm. Please email Linda Clemow to register at soulsourcestudio1@gmail.com or call the church office.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

4th Wednesday of the month, 3-4:30 pm, Library

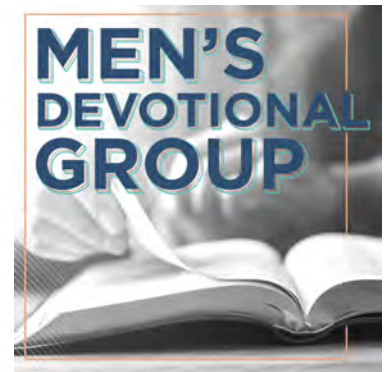
A prayer shawl is a simple shawl or a lap blanket knitted by members of our group. It is symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. The knitting itself is very simple and we have "experts" on hand to help you if you are a beginner. The group meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday. Clergy and 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!

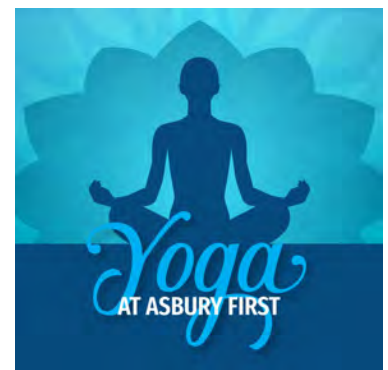


Yoga at Asbury First

Tuesdays, 3 pm, Gathering Center, \$10 pay at the door
Thursdays, 4 pm, Gathering Center, \$10 pay at the door
NO CLASS from June 9-22.

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.





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, June 17 at 8 am to help us pack groceries for those in need.

Community Garden

- The Community Garden Team has begun planting and recently finished up the tresses. They also have added two bee hives on the church roof to help with pollination.

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.



Drive-Thru Food Drive

Saturday, June 17, 9 am-12 pm, 1010 Community Outreach Center

Inflation, supply chain issues, and more continue to make things difficult for people to get food and nutrition in a post-pandemic world. We need your help to support the Dining & Caring Center and the Grocery Bag Ministry! As you do your own shopping in the coming days, please consider collecting items for donation that would be useful for these amazing ministries and those in need.

Dining & Caring Center:

- Granola bars
- Hot chocolate
- Paper towels
- Napkins
- Coffee
- Sugar

Hygiene Items:

- Toilet paper
- Tooth brushes
- Tooth paste
- Shampoos

Grocery Bag Ministry:

- Peanut butter (plain)
- Jelly (grape, strawberry)
- Pasta (spaghetti or macaroni)
- Pasta Sauce (plastic jar preferred)
- Tuna
- Soup (chicken noodle or Tomato)
- Canned Vegetables (green beans, corn)
- Canned Fruit (peaches, cocktail)
- Mac-n-Cheese



Youth Mission Prayer Partners

This summer, we will have about 50 youth and adults participating in our middle school and high school summer mission trips. Our high school youth will be headed to Tucson, Arizona for a border immersion trip in July, and our middle school youth will be helping out with Vacation Bible School and various local agencies in August.

We would like at least one congregation member to commit to be in prayer for each one of our missionaries (both youth and adult) while they are on their trips. In addition to committing to prayer, we would also like you to write a note of encouragement to the missionary, which they will receive midway through their week.

If you sign up to be a prayer partner, you will be assigned a youth or adult to pray for, and you will be sent a brief bio to help you learn a bit more about the individual.

To sign up, please contact Mike Mullin (mmullin@asburyfirst.org or 585-271-1050 x105) and let him know if you would like to be a prayer partner for the high school trip, the middle school trip—or both! If you have a particular missionary you would like to be paired with, you may share that with Mike as well.



Shop for a Cause to Support Asbury Storehouse

June 6–10, Deborah Jean & Co., Park Berkley Plaza, 626 Park Avenue
Reception on Thursday, June 8, 5–8 pm

Deborah Jean & Co — "Serving neighbors with clothing and care" — is sponsoring a "Shop for a Cause" event to support the Asbury First Storehouse from June 6–10. There will also be a reception on Thursday, June 8 from 5–8 pm with light refreshments served. So head over to support a local business and our Community Outreach Center!

For more information, email asburystorehouse@asburyfirst.org or call Deborah Jean & Co at 585-622-9007.



Library in Need of Gently Used Books

For the past few summers, the Asbury First library has been participating in the Neighborhood of the Arts (NOTA) Farmer's Market that takes place on the Asbury First lawn. We have been selling gently used books at greatly reduced prices to earn money for the purchase of new books for our church library. We are in need of gently used books to sell this summer. In particular, we need books for children, tweens, and teens. Please drop off donations in the church library with a note that includes your name and phone number or email address. If you need help transporting your books, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or (585) 271-1050 x105.



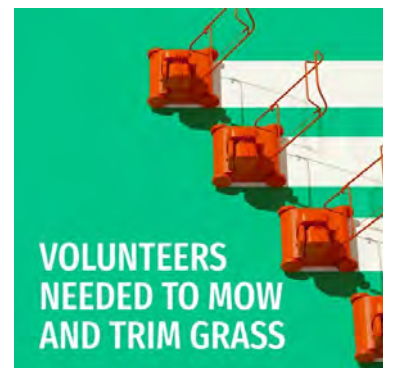
Donations Sought for On-Going ASL Interpretation

You may have noticed that we have begun to have an ASL—American Sign Language—interpreter with us in the Meditation Chapel during the 11 am 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.



Volunteers Needed: Mow and Trim Grass

The spring weather is in full swing, and that means the grass lawns around our campus are greening and growing. There is quite a lot of lawn to be cut and trimmed each week and it quickly becomes overgrown. We need your help to keep our campus clean and welcoming. If you are interested in mowing or trimming grass, please contact David Strong at dstrong@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x110.



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!



Production Suite Volunteers

The Production Coordinators team is looking for volunteers who would like to learn the ropes in the Production Suite. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Dave Berg at bergdm@gmail.com by June 20. Training sessions will be scheduled during July and/or August.



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.



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!

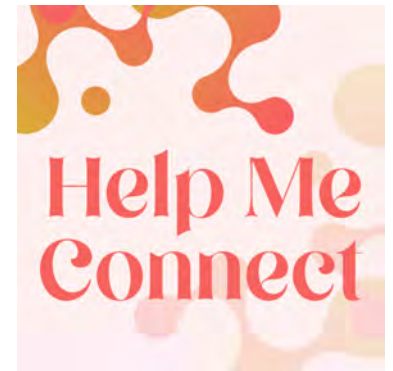
Visit asburyfirst.org/news for more information.



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, June 26

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.