

# Asbury First NEWS SHEET

**JULY 2023**

[asburyfirst.org](http://asburyfirst.org)

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

585-271-1050

## Summer Worship

Warmer days are here, and we are grateful to have our outdoor Summer Worship! Outdoor worship began on Sunday, June 11 and will finish up Sunday, September 3.

### Summer Worship June 11–September 3

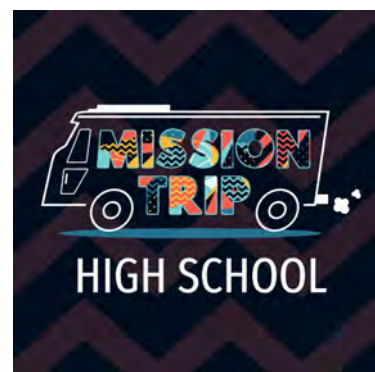
- **9 am service** – *In-person outside*  
(In inclement weather, the service will be moved inside)
- **11 am service** – *In-person and Livestream*



## Youth Mission Trip – High School

### July 2–8, Tuscon, Arizona

Our high schoolers will once again be immersing themselves in a new environment as they travel to Tuscon, Arizona to work with Be the Neighbor. We are excited to send these youth and adults to engage in this life-changing ministry the week of July 2-8. For more information, contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or 585-271-1050 x105.



## Happy Independence Day!

### Asbury First Campus closed July 3–4

We wish you all a safe and happy Independence Day weekend. Please note that the campus will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, July 3–4 for the holiday.



Theatre

## Rochester Pride Parade

**Saturday, July 15, 12:30 pm, Park Ave and Berkeley**

The LGBTQ Advocacy group and other local Reconciling UMCs will meet and watch the Pride Parade together this year (we are not marching). Please meet us at 12:30 pm at the corner of Park Avenue and Berkeley to cheer on the parade. Wear your pride gear and bring your chair!



## Roblox and Slime – Youth Event

**Sunday, July 16, 3-5 pm at Asbury First**

This event is open to all youth and parents (because who doesn't love an opportunity to slime a beloved adult [or kid] in their life). We will have fully washable slime and water soakers, and will recreate some classic Roblox games like Bedwars and Rainbow Friends.

The slime is non-toxic, kid (and pet) friendly, gluten free, and hypoallergenic. We will also have a hose on hand so youth can wash off at any time. The more the merrier for this event, so mark your calendars and invite a friend. And for those adventurous parents that choose to join in the fun, we will have special roles for you to fulfill as well! For more information, contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or 585-271-1050 x105.



## 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](https://asburyfirst.org/news), or scan the QR code to fill out the form.



## "Food for Thought" KOP Fundraiser

**Thursday, July 27, 6-8 pm, 1040 Gathering Center**

Asbury First is proud to host a "Food for Thought" fundraiser dinner to benefit Keeping Our Promise (KOP), a local organization focused on resettling individuals and families who served U.S. interests in Afghanistan. We hope you will join us on Thursday, July 27 at 6 pm for a casual meal with KOP resettled Special Immigrant Visa holders and Executive Director, Ellen Smith.

The cost is \$60 per-person. To register, visit [asburyfirst.org/news](https://asburyfirst.org/news) or call the church office at 585-271-1050. To learn more about Keeping Our Promise, visit [keepingourpromise.org](https://keepingourpromise.org).



## Tent Sunday

**Sunday, August 6, 11 am, Front Lawn Tent (No 9 am service this Sunday)**

Tent Sunday at Asbury First aims to give people a great experience of the church, as well as welcome those living nearby who may be curious about our community. We'd love to see you at 11 am, August 6, outside under the tent!

We will have a special Summer Choir for this service. We will have one service only this day (no 9 am service) which will be live-streamed as always. We hope to see you there!

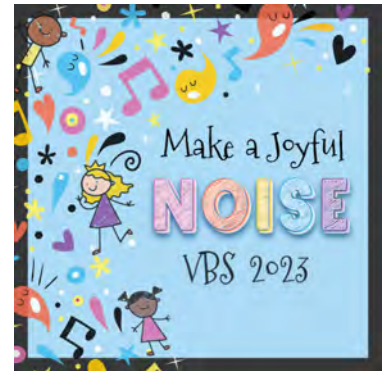


## VBS 2023 – Make a Joyful Noise

**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](mailto:pdugan@asburyfirst.org). Visit [asburyfirst.org/news](http://asburyfirst.org/news) to register.



## 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](mailto: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!



## New Notice for Deaths in the Asbury First Family

The Communications Team and the Pastoral Staff have launched a new email segment in an effort to keep you informed as to the deaths in our community. If you do not want to receive this new email segment, please let us know at [communication@asburyfirst.org](mailto:communication@asburyfirst.org) (if you click unsubscribe, it will remove you from ALL Asbury First email lists).



## Youth Mission Trip – Middle School

**August 7–12, Rochester and Niagara Falls, Canada**

August 7–12, our middle school youth will once again be helping out as counselors for Vacation Bible School in the morning, and volunteering with different local agencies in the afternoon. Some of our connections may include Food Link, The Gandhi Institute, and the Iroquois White Corn Project. Then, on Friday and Saturday, our youth will have the opportunity to head to Niagara Falls, Canada for a fun overnight at Clifton Hill. For more information, contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or 585-271-1050 x105.



## Save the Date: Older Adult Ice-Cream Social

**Wednesday, August 16, 2:30–4 pm, 1040 Gathering Center**

What better way to escape the summer heat than with ice-cream! We hope you'll join us for the Older Adults Ice-Cream Social in August. Keep an eye out for more details and an invitation!



## Sign Up Now for the Columbarium

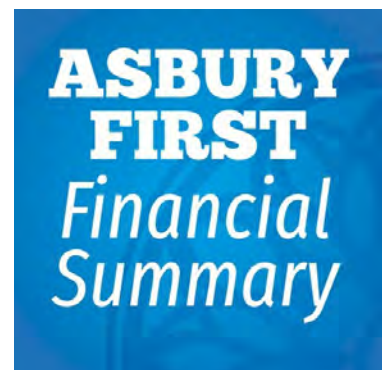
Now that the Columbarium was approved at the Special Church Conference on June 11, we are excited to begin securing niches\*. The Columbarium will be located on the church campus along the southeast exterior wall of the Sanctuary. Initially, there will be 136 niches with provision to expand to a total of 328 niches. To learn more about the Columbarium and to fill out an interest form, visit [asburyfirst.org/columbarium](http://asburyfirst.org/columbarium), or contact the church office at 585-271-1050.

*\*A niche is a recessed compartment in which urns (containers) of cremated human remains are placed. Each niche can hold up to two urns.*



## Financial Summary – Income and Expense Statement

The Finance Committee is pleased to present the attached Financial Overview for Asbury First UMC through April 30, 2023. Due to your continued generosity, we witnessed a strong four months of individual giving ahead of budget by 13%. To date we have been approved for approximately \$68,000 in grant funding and received over \$62,000 in-hand to support the Community Outreach Center already ahead of what was budgeted year-to-date. We are experiencing unfavorable variances caused by unplanned plumbing expenses and costs of contracted custodial services during a brief staffing shortage, as well as sporadic utility expenses based on estimated billing. Despite these concerns our financial position remains primarily positive overall going into the summer months.



To read the report, visit [asburyfirst.org/news](http://asburyfirst.org/news) or call the church office for more information at 585-271-1050.

## CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

### NOTA Farmers Market

**Mondays, 4–7 pm, Granger Lawn**

Summer is back and so is the NOTA Farmers Market! The market is every Monday 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 includes multiple 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.



### Lectio Divina

**Tuesdays 8:30–9 am, Zoom ([zoom.us/j/8347173468](https://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](mailto:kthiel@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x106.



### Tuesday Women's Fellowship

**Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 am, Zoom ([zoom.us/j/8347173468](https://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](mailto:emchurch418@gmail.com). Hope to see you soon!



### 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 [soulsourcstudio1@gmail.com](mailto:soulsourcstudio1@gmail.com) or call the church office.



## CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

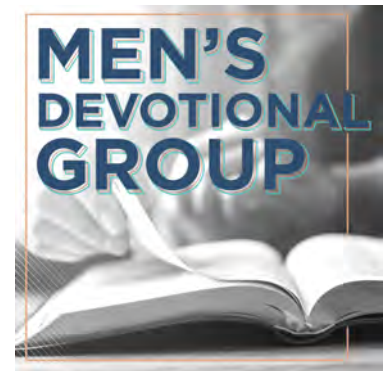
A prayer shawl is a simple shawl or a lap blanket knitted by members of our group. It is symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. The knitting itself is very simple and we have “experts” on hand to help you if you are a beginner. The group meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday. Clergy and 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](mailto:meredithpixley@gmail.com).



### Men's Devotional Group

**Wednesdays, 7 am, Zoom ([zoom.us/j/8347173468](https://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

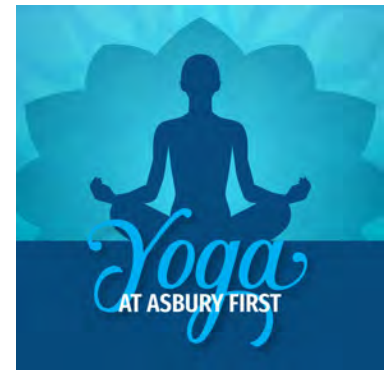
**Tuesdays, 3 pm, Gathering Center, \$10 pay at the door**

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

**NO CLASS on July 4**

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](mailto:knoyes710@aol.com).



### 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.



## Community Outreach Center Update

### Dining & Caring Center

- Opening for hot meals. Laundry services by appointment. Hair care services last Sunday of the month.
- **Hours:** Breakfast served Wednesday–Friday, 7–9 am; Lunch served Sunday only, 12–1 pm

### Bike Repair Ministry

- R Community Bikes will provide basic bicycle repair and tune-ups on a first-come, first-serve basis at the garage behind the COC and playground.
- **Hours:** Thursdays, May–September, 7:30–11:30 am

### 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](http://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, July 15 at 8 am to help us pack groceries for those in need.

### Community Garden

- The Community Garden Team is tending the garden, and their results are starting to sprout! They also have added two bee hives on the church roof to help with pollination, as well as a bird bath that also allows tired bees to stop for a drink of water

*If you are interested in volunteering in the Center you can do so by visiting [asburyfirst.org/coc](http://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

### Cookies Urgently Needed!

Asbury First hospitality is in need of cookies! If you are a baker, please consider making a couple of dozen and dropping them off at the church office. They will be frozen until needed. This will help us give our marvelous hospitality team a break over the summer, but still ensure we have yummy treats after the Sunday worship service.

Thanks in advance, we truly appreciate your sweet treats. For more information, please contact Paula Dugan at 585-271-1050 x111 or at [pdugan@asburyfirst.org](mailto:pdugan@asburyfirst.org).

Calling all bakers:



Cookies Needed!

### 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](mailto: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.

Donations Sought for On-Going  
ASL Interpretation



### KOP Needs Caring Circle Volunteers

Keeping Our Promise (KOP) has had a phenomenal start to 2023 — having ALREADY met their minimum resettlement goal for the whole of 2023! They are still committed to assist each of these arrivals according to the same standards and vision as always, and to uphold the motto that is the ultimate litmus test in our decision-making, which is; "What we do for one, we do for all." In order to continue to provide each arriving SIV with the support they deserve, we ask our community once again for assistance.

These families need "Caring Circles," a network of first friends and advocates. People who will show them how to do things that we take for granted: like how to use the bus, or how to write a check! For someone to have tea with a time or two a month, or lend a friendly, sympathetic ear! With family being so far away, our volunteers fill an incredibly important void.

If you, your friend(s), family, company, or club can help out, please contact [info@keepingourpromise.org](mailto:info@keepingourpromise.org) to indicate your interest in joining a Caring Circle. All new members will receive training and support provided by KOP staff.

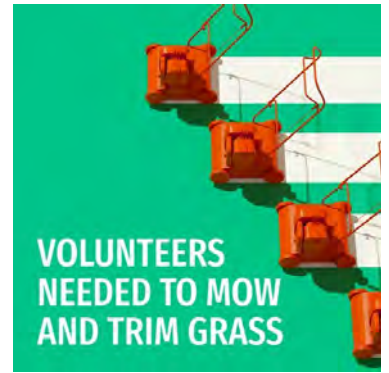




## NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

### 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](mailto:dstrong@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x110.



### 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.

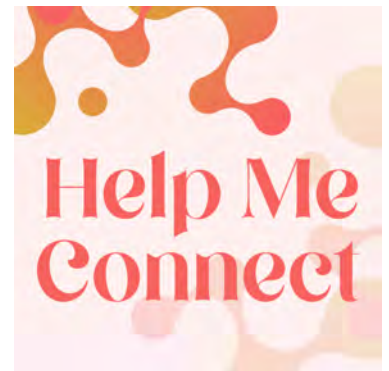
For information, contact Dave Kennedy at [DAKennedy@Frontiernet.net](mailto:DAKennedy@Frontiernet.net) or 585-787-0422.



### 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](https://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](https://asburyfirst.org/events)

### DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, July 17

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