

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

AUGUST 2023

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*



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.

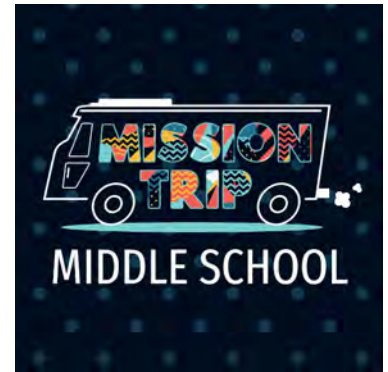
For more information, contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org.
Visit asburyfirst.org/news to register.



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 or 585-271-1050 x105.



Live Music Under the Tent

Thursday, August 10, 6:30 pm, Front Lawn Under the Tent

- 6:30 pm – Children's Music
- 7 pm – 11 Piece Cover Band

Join us Thursday, August 10 under the Tent for a **FREE**, family-friendly night of live music. All are welcome and invited! Featuring **John Dady** (of Dady Bros. Music) and the **Different Every Time Band** (11-piece cover band). You won't want to miss out on this fun evening! Learn more at asburyfirst.org/news. Join us as we celebrate the end of VBS – *Make a Joyful Noise*. For more information, contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050.



Spam/Phishing Warning

We have reports of a new scam going around claiming to be Stephen. This new scam even uses Stephen's image to seem more legitimate. Please hover over the email to make sure it is from an @asburyfirst.org email account. 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.

For more information, please contact David Strong at dstrong@asburyfirst.org.



Deadline Approaching for Columbarium!

Now that the Columbarium was approved at the Special Church Conference on June 11, we are excited to begin securing niches. The deadline for the pre-construction price is fast approaching. Secure your spot for the introductory price by September 1. 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, or contact the church office at 585-271-1050.



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. No RSVP necessary. There will be vegan and sugar-free options. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Thiel at 585-271-1050 x106.



New Tie-Dye T-Shirts!!

We have a new Asbury First T-Shirt! Purchase yours for \$15 to wear to the Red Wings game or to show your love for Asbury First! Shirts will be on sale Sunday mornings, or by contacting the church office at 585-271-1050.



Red Wings Game

Friday, August 25, 6:45 pm, Frontier Field

Join us at the Red Wings vs. Worcester Red Sox game. We have reserved 100 seats, so tickets will be \$10. Our hope is to have a good sized group represent Asbury First. You can also Get a Tie-Dye T-Shirt for \$15 to wear to the game! For more information, contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org, or call the church office at 585-271-1050.

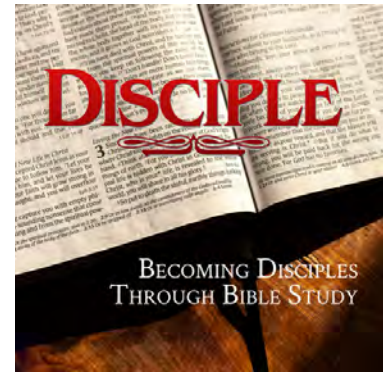


Disciple III Bible Studies Returns September 12

Tuesdays, 2:30–3:30 pm, 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 III class will continue its journey this fall. Anyone can join the class, even if you have not participated in Disciple I or II. Please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org with any questions!



New Fall Course — Let Freedom Read!

Wednesdays, September 13, 20, 27, 6-7 pm, Room and on Zoom

Did you know that the *Bible* has been banned? What about *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and even *Goodnight Moon*? In 2022, there were 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources, up almost double from 2021, and nearly ten times from 2020. Of those, 90% were attempts to censor multiple books, targeting a record number of 2,571 unique titles. The majority were written by or about members of the LGBTQIA+ community or by and about Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color. What does it mean for a book to be censored or banned? Is this something we, as Christians, should care about? And if so, what could we even do? Come to our class in September, led by our newly formed Banned Book Team to find out. For more information, contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org.

- **Sept. 13** — Why should we care about challenged and banned books?
- **Sept. 20** — What are some books that have been challenged or banned?
- **Sept. 27** — Where do we go from here?



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 PW 200)

Lectio Divina is a contemplative practice on reading scripture. A passage of scripture is read, then there is silent meditation, then the passage is read again, then more silence, and then discussion. The silence is an opportunity to reflect upon what you experienced in the scripture. This half hour opens and closes with prayer. All are welcome. For more information please contact Rev. Kathy Thiel at kthiel@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x106.



Tuesday Women's Fellowship

Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 am, Zoom (zoom.us/j/8347173468 PW 200)

Looking for a way to stay connected to your Asbury First friends during the week? Want to meet new Asbury First friends? All women, all ages, are welcome to join the Tuesday Women's Fellowship via Zoom, 9:30–10:30 am each week. Bring your coffee or tea, and perhaps a treat, zoom in and enjoy an hour of devotion, sharing, and connection. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Elizabeth Church, coordinator, at emchurch418@gmail.com. Hope to see you soon!



Asbury Art Class

Returns Tuesday, September 5

The Asbury Art Class will take a short break during August, and return on Tuesday, September 5. Keep an eye out for the next project/class description! Please email Linda Clemow for more information at soulsourcstudio1@gmail.com or call the church office.

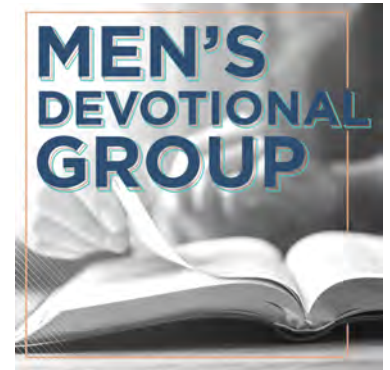


CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

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!



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.



Carvers of Hope

4th Wednesday of the Month, 6:30-8 pm, Education Wing

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. All materials, wood, and carving tools are provided, as well as carving lessons. No prior skill is needed to carve crosses with this group. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact John Smalt at jhsmalt@gmail.com.

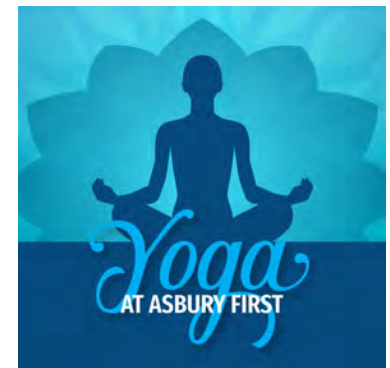


Yoga at Asbury First

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.



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

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, August 19 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 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 Still 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.

Calling all bakers:



Cookies Needed!

Library Volunteers Needed

The Asbury First Library is so grateful for the outpouring of used book donations, but we now have MORE than enough and cannot accept any more!

However, we are looking for some bibliophiles (or even market enthusiasts) to help sell books at the NOTA Farmers Market on Mondays from 4–7 pm. For more information or to volunteer, contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or (585) 271-1050 x105.



Asbury Ringers Wanted

The Asbury Ringers have a few openings for ringers, starting this fall. We are looking for enthusiastic musicians who can read music, are open to learning bell techniques (or know bell technique from previous experiences) and can commit to our rehearsal and playing schedule. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7–8:30 pm. If you are interested and can make this commitment, please contact Elizabeth Church at echurch@asburyfirst.org or by calling the church office at 585-271-1050 and we'll have you come visit to see if the choir is a fit for you!



School Supply Drive for Schools 17 & 45

Drop off supplies Sundays from August 27–September 24.

When you are out and about shopping in the next few weeks, think about picking up some school supplies for our supply drive that supports Schools 17 & 45.

Items needed include: backpacks, 24-count pencils, colored pencils, erasers and eraser tops, ink pens (blue, black, and red), crayons, color-safe markers, highlighters, child-safe scissors, glue sticks, pencil boxes or pouches, index cards, sticky notes, solid-color folders with pockets, three-ring binders, composition books, graph paper, hand sanitizer, and tissues.

Many thanks to YOU for your support! For more information, please contact John Smalt at (585) 924-8624, or at jhsmalt@gmail.com.



NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

Have any extra veggies?

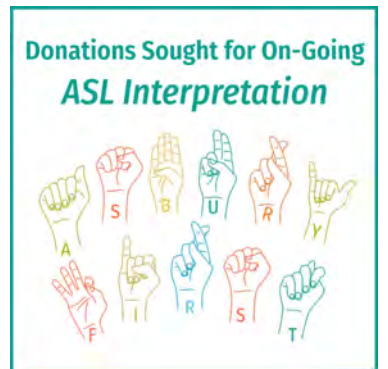
Our Asbury Community Garden is starting to burst with veggies! We've already started delivering produce to the Asbury First Dining & Caring Center, and made a monthly contribution to Keeping Our Promise neighbors. Next we will contribute to AME Zion's lunch program on Wednesdays. If you are a gardener and find yourself awash with more veggies than you can handle, we will be glad to take your extras and distribute them.

Just drop off donations to the garden behind 1010 before 10 am on Wednesdays only. If you don't find a gardener harvesting in the garden at that time, please leave your produce on the shady side of the big tan bin. It's at the edge of the garden closest to the playground. Thank you for your help!



Donations Sought for On-Going ASL Interpretation

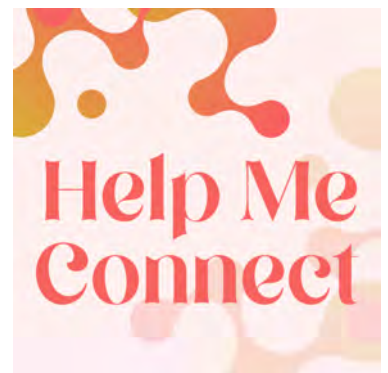
You may have noticed that we have begun to have an ASL—American Sign Language—interpreter with us in the Meditation Chapel during the 11 am service. This is to fulfill our value of being open to all and it has made it possible for us to worship with deaf members of our community. We would like to maintain 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.



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 SEPTEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, August 21

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.