

A stylized, stepped silhouette of a church steeple, colored with a gradient from dark purple at the base to bright red at the top. It features a cross on top and two arched windows in the middle section.

You're invited

TO UNITE IN FAITH
TO DO MORE GOOD
TO JOIN A COMMUNITY
TO MAKE CHANGE
TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

TO WORSHIP WITH US

AUGUST 22, 2021 • 11 AM

A circular logo featuring a stylized, symmetrical floral or leaf-like pattern.

ASBURY FIRST
— UNITED METHODIST CHURCH —

Welcome to Asbury First



COVID-19 GUIDELINES Following the updated guidance from the CDC and NYS Health Department and monitoring the Delta variant in our community, face masks are required. Out of an abundance of caution, we will require that everyone attending service and activities **wear a mask at all times. This includes both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.** To learn more about the new policy or to read our FAQs, visit www.asburyfirst.org/news/2021/7/covid-update-delta-variant/.



FIRST TIME HERE We are so glad you are joining us! If you're out there watching, check in through the website or take a picture and post it on social media using [#asburyfirstathome](https://twitter.com/asburyfirstathome). Our hope is to get to know you better and help you find your place within our community. Additionally, drop us an email at info@asburyfirst.org and we will answer any questions you may have.



NEED PRAYER? We invite you to share with us how we can be praying for you by emailing prayers@asburyfirst.org. All prayer requests are prayed over by our Ministers and Intercessory Prayer Group.



CHILDREN We believe children are a sacred gift, and they are welcome in our worship. During the summer, the 9 am outdoor service will include Children's Time. If there is a way our Children's Ministry can be more welcoming to you and your child, please contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org.



RECONCILING STATEMENT We are a reconciling congregation and seek to be a fully inclusive church, believing that all people are God's children. We encourage full participation in our community for all, regardless of age, race, origin, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, marital status, family structure, education/economic background, and physical/mental ability. We recognize that we hold a variety of opinions. We do not seek to erase our differences, but to journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect. We believe that reconciliation to God and to one another is central to our mission and ministry.



GIVE TO ASBURY FIRST There are three ways to make a gift to Asbury First. Each gift supports the everyday ministries and operations of this church, allowing us to live into our vision to Do More Good.
Cash/Check—We welcome you to send a gift of cash/check in the mail.
Text to Give—You may give a gift with a debit/credit card by texting the dollar amount to **206-222-1050**.
Online—Online giving is available on our website at www.asburyfirst.org/give.



WATCH AND LISTEN Tune into the live video stream of the 11 am service at www.asburyfirst.org/worship/live. To listen to the service tune into **WRFZ 106.3 FM Rochester Free Radio**, or call our toll-free number at **833-829-1050**. A video archive of past services is also available at www.asburyfirst.org/worship/video-archive. You can also view all sermons on our YouTube channel.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

As the community gathers, may the music of the prelude draw your hearts and minds to God.

PRELUDE

Three Hymn Preludes — arr. Lloyd Larson

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON PSALM 84)

All are invited to read the bold-faced type; the lay reader will read the unbolded type.

How beautiful is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

Our souls long to be within its courts.

Our hearts sing for joy to the living God.

Happy are those who live within your house, ever singing your praise!

A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

May we keep watch at the doors of your house all our days.

#374 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (vv. 1, 3, 4; sung to *Hyfrydol*)

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747; Tune: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Pritchard, 1844

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus, if it were easy to follow you, we would not need to ask for forgiveness.

But saying 'yes' to you is challenging.

Whatever we do, you love us enough to forgive us.

Bless us with vision to face the tough choices with your wisdom.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Today, we are set free to be God's people, to serve God's people, and to sing God's praises.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

GLORIA

HYMNAL #102, VS. 3 (ALT.)

**All glory be to God, all praise and thanks be given;
Whose Son and Spirit reign as one in highest Heaven;
Our one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

TO CELEBRATE BAPTISM

**PRESENTATION, VOWS,
AND BAPTISM**

Wren Ogden Chan, child of Prescott Ogden and Caitlin Chan

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Will you, with God's help, so order your lives after the example of Christ, that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal?

We will.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

TO HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

JOSHUA 24:1-2A, 14-18

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

ANTHEM

"Lead Me, Lord" — Samuel Wesley; words from Psalms 4 and 5

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children of all ages are invited to join us in this special moment.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN

#465 "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine", vv 1-3

1. Ho - ly Spir - it, Truth di - vine, dawn up -
 2. Ho - ly Spir - it, Love di - vine, glow with -
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, Power di - vine, fill and

on this soul of mine; Word of God and
 in this heart of mine; kin - dle ev - ery
 nerve this will of mine; grant that I may

in - ward light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
 high de - sire; per - ish self in thy pure fire.
 strong - ly live, brave - ly bear, and no - bly strive.

Words: Samuel Longfellow, 1864; Tune: *Canterbury*, adapt. from Orlando Gibbons, 1623

SERMON

Total Commitment

CALL TO PRAYER

We lift our prayers to you, in the name of Christ our Lord.
 (music by Tom Fettke)

PASTORAL PRAYER

TO RENEW COMMITMENT

**INTRODUCTION TO
DISCIPLESHIP,
MEMBERSHIP,
AND COMMITMENT**

*Our Creative God endows us with the gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Within this bulletin you will find invitations to enrich your faith journey and enhance your commitment. We invite you to prayerfully consider these opportunities. If you're out there watching, check in through the website or take a picture and post it on social media using **#asburyfirstathome**. You may give a gift with a debit/credit card or by e-check by texting the dollar amount to **206-222-1050**. Online giving is available on our website at **www.asburyfirst.org/give**.*

**OFFERTORY
JORDAN BACHMANN, BARITONE**

"Love Bade Me Welcome" - Ralph Vaughan Williams; words by George Herbert

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lack'd anything.
A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?
Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.

**DOXOLOGY
HYMNAL #95**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take our gifts, gracious God, and use them to spread healing in a world so in need of your love.

May we embody the gospel to everyone we meet, in Jesus' name. Amen

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION**CLOSING HYMN**

#672 "God Be with You till We Meet Again" (vv. 1, 2)

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; by his
 2. God be with you till we meet a - gain; neath his

coun-sels guide, up - hold you, with his sheep se - cure - ly
 wings se - cure - ly hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro-

fold you;
 vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain
 Till we meet, (till we meet, till we meet, till we
 (till we meet, till we meet a - gain)

meet at Je - sus' feet; (till we meet) till we meet, (till we meet,
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain) God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Words: Jeremiah Rankin, 1880; Tune: *God Be With You*, William Tomer, 1880

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in D Major” — Christian Heinrich Rinck

**PARTICIPANTS
IN THE SERVICE**

Preacher: Rev. Jackie Nelson
 Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, Mike Mullin
 Director of Children's Ministry: Paula Dugan
 Organist: Carl Johengen
 Soloists: Bess Phillips, Brenda Nitsch, Dan McInerney, Jordan Bachmann
 Members of Asbury Ringers, Elizabeth Church, Director
 Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Carl Johengen
 Audio Operator: Rick Church
 Video Operator: Kenny Bailey
 Graphics Operator: Connor Nelson
 Technology Support Team: Deb Bullock-Smith, Carolyn Curran, Ted Skomsky
 Technical Consultant: Justin Ocello

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 Some of the liturgical elements have been adapted from the 2021 Abingdon Worship Annual.

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VIRTUAL MEETINGS



Check out our online Zoom meetings! There are plenty of different groups and meetings still going as we make our way back together. For a full list of events with links, visit our online calendar at www.asburyfirst.org/events.

Asbury First's Values

Our values represent a description of our guiding principles.
These statements are standards of behavior, which are inherent in all we do.

OPEN TO ALL

We believe we are all equal in God's eyes and are all one in Christ. We extend hospitality and encourage full participation for all regardless of any perceived defining characteristic.

WORSHIP

We believe we are at our best when we connect to God together through preaching, prayer, and song. We strive for excellence in all we do, especially in our worship experience.

COMMUNITY

We believe we are better together; fellowship and care are keys to love and life.

OUTREACH

We believe everyone deserves hope and fullness of life. We endeavor to practice mercy and work for justice in our local and extended community.

DISCIPLESHIP

We believe we—adults, youth, and children alike—are called to grow in our faith both as a community and as individuals through education, regular worship, meaningful fellowship, a commitment to service, and celebrating rites of passage together.

GENEROSITY

We believe what we have is a gift from God. We share our gifts with an open heart to help meet needs at Asbury First, the Rochester community, and throughout the world.

STEWARDSHIP

We believe we must care for the human, physical, and financial resources with which we have been entrusted.

SAVE THE DATE!



The Discipleship Project

**What has
GOD
done in
your life?**

***Submit your sentence by
Sunday, August 22***

We want to hear from you!

***What new thing has God done in your
life since March of 2020?***

This invitation is to participate in a video litany for our Together in Ministry service. To participate, please send a one sentence response to the question, "What new things has God done in your life since March of 2020?" to Rev. Rachel Ann Dupont at rdupont@asburyfirst.org by Sunday, August 22.

We will work with you to record your sentence to include in our worship service on September 12.

**GIVE ONLINE AT WWW.ASBURYFIRST.ORG/GIVE, TEXT TO GIVE AT 206-222-1050,
OR MAIL IN YOUR CHECKS TO 1050 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, NY 14607**