

# Asbury First NEWS SHEET

**JANUARY 2024**

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

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

585-271-1050

## Only One Service on January 21 (at 11 am)

January 21, we will have only **one service** at 11 am (*no 9 am service*) as this will be the Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady's final service with Asbury First before he relocates to Fort Worth, Texas, where Stephen will begin his role as President of Brite Divinity School. To learn more about this transition period, please visit [asburyfirst.org](http://asburyfirst.org).

Please plan to join us after the service in the Gathering Center to celebrate the start of a new chapter for the Cady family.

*Save the date for June 1st and 2nd for a more formal celebration of the Cady family's ministry among us.*



## Dream On

Your dreams for Asbury First are more important than ever!

Join us as we celebrate what God has accomplished through us and begin to dream together again about who God is calling us to be in the years ahead. Look below for the different ways to share YOUR dreams for Asbury First.

### 1. Share a dream on our Dream Boards around campus.

There will be a large board in the Gathering Center as well as a board in the Education Wing and at the Community Outreach Center with clouds, pens, and pushpins or tape to add your dream.

### 2. Share a dream on our Online Dream Board.

Visit [asburyfirst.org/dream-on](http://asburyfirst.org/dream-on) to add a note with your dreams for Asbury First from anywhere around the world!

### 3. Call the church office to add your dreams!

Call us at 585-271-1050 x100 and we will take down your dreams and add them to the dream board.

### 4. Mail your dreams to the church office!

Address your envelope to 1050 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607



## 2024 Pledge Drive

Your gift brings our dreams for Asbury First to life.  
Make your pledge to the 2024 Annual Budget today.  
With your help, we can **Do More Good** each and every day.



### Pledge Now!

- [asburyfirst.org/pledge-online](https://asburyfirst.org/pledge-online)
- Scan the QR code to the left
- [give@asburyfirst.org](mailto:give@asburyfirst.org)
- (585) 271-1050
- Mail your pledge to us:  
Asbury First United Methodist Church  
1050 East Avenue  
Rochester, NY  
14607



## Building Diversity: You, Your Church, and Your Community

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, and 24 — Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 31 and February 7 — Sanctuary

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm, January 3-February 7 for engaging and educational conversation. These vital conversations will help us take steps toward diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in our individual, congregational, and community lives. All are welcome! We encourage you to come to all of the conversations, but if you can't make it to all, you can still benefit from attending when you can. This program is designed and led by Rev. Rachel Dupont and members of the Racial Equity leadership team. For more information, please contact Rachel at [rdupont@asburyfirst.org](mailto:rdupont@asburyfirst.org).

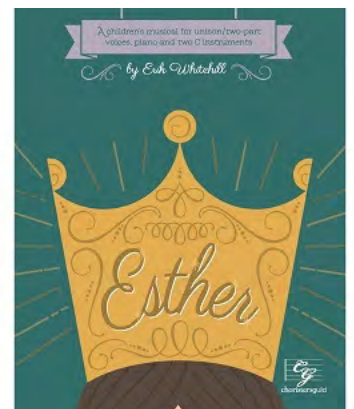


## Rehearsals begin for Children's Musical, Esther

Wednesdays, from 6-7 pm, Room 201

All children, grades 2nd - 5th, are invited to participate in our children's musical, Esther. Esther was an orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai and was chosen to be the new queen of Persia. She saved the Jewish people from being killed even knowing it may cost her life. Purim, a Jewish holiday which commemorates Esther's saving of the Jewish people, is still celebrated today.

Rehearsals are Wednesdays, from 6 pm to 7 pm during the Wesley Singers & Ringers rehearsal time, in Room 201. The musical will be presented during the 11 am service on Sunday, April 28.



## Asbury First's First Same-Sex Wedding

*Saturday, January 13, 4pm, Sanctuary*

We celebrate the upcoming wedding of Christopher Gold and Cory Tylenda on Saturday, January 13, at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. This important milestone will be Asbury First's first same-sex wedding! It's truly an accomplishment due to the continued support and resolve of inclusiveness on behalf of the members of Asbury First. Chris and Cory welcome all members of Asbury First to attend the ceremony and a cookie reception in the Gathering Center.



## Asbury First Community Theatre presents: Barefoot in the Park

Join us as we follow a conservative young lawyer and his off-the-wall bride from marital harmony to comical discord in Neil Simon's hit play "Barefoot in the Park". Follow the link below to purchase tickets for either the regular show or the dinner theater performance, both of which are held in the Fellowship Hall, below the nave.

Purchase Tickets by visit our website: [asburyfirst.org/barefoot-park/](https://asburyfirst.org/barefoot-park/)

### Shows:

- Friday, February 9 – Performance – 7 pm
- Saturday, February 10 – Dinner Theater Performance – 6 pm



## "Bored" Saturday Night

*January 27, 5 pm, Gathering Center and Fellowship Hall*

A fun night of pizza, board games and, new this year, a Euchre tournament for all those that love to play! Meet us in the Gathering Center and the Fellowship Hall, ready to have a good time!

Any questions please contact Paula Dugan at [pdugan@asburyfirst.org](mailto:pdugan@asburyfirst.org) or call (585) 271-1050 x111.



## Bluey Winter Mini-VBS

*February 20-22 9 am-noon*

*Let's go on a "Curry Quest," or play in the "Rain", or make a "Duck Cake"...*

If you are familiar with the great Australian cartoon about a family of dogs, you will understand what we're talking about! If not, come and find out all about what makes Bluey, the six-year-old Blue Heeler puppy so special!

Join us in the Education Wing (connected to the Gathering Center) on the 2nd floor.

All are welcome, and feel free to invite a friend!





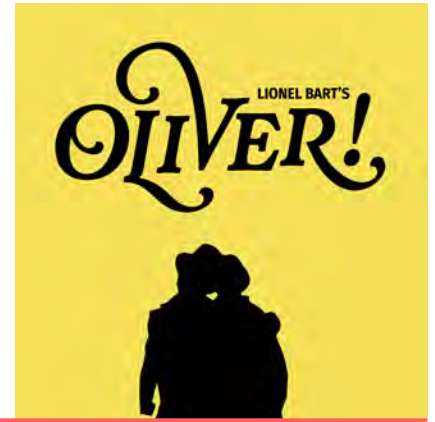
## Asbury First Community Theatre presents: Oliver!

Auditions for this Spring's production of Oliver! are taking place at the following times:

- *Tuesday, January 30 at 6 pm*
- *Thursday, February 1 at 6 pm*

Call Backs are Saturday February 3 at 1 pm.

For questions, please contact Larry Dugan at [ldugan@asburyfirst.org](mailto:ldugan@asburyfirst.org)



## Ring With Us!

The Asbury Ringers, Asbury First's adult handbell choir, is beginning rehearsals for spring and Easter, and we'd love to add you to our ranks! If you're **able to read music**, and are either new to handbells or a seasoned ringer, join us for weekly rehearsals, Wednesdays 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Please contact Elizabeth Church for more information at [emchurch418@gmail.com](mailto:emchurch418@gmail.com) or 585-978-0007.



## Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady will be on WXXI's Connections with Evan Dawson

Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady will be on WXXI's Connections with Evan Dawson next Wednesday, January 10 from 1 pm to 2 pm. Tune in to WXXI AM 1370 and WXXI FM 105.9 or online at [wxxinews.org](http://wxxinews.org) to listen to Dawson's daily talk show. You're invited to call into the show or write in to share your thoughts and well wishes for Stephen.

Here are the ways to reach out:

Call during the live broadcast: 585-263-9994 or 844-295-8255

Email: [mmack@wxxi.org](mailto:mmack@wxxi.org)

**wxxi**  
**CONNECTIONS**  
with Evan Dawson



## Red Cross Blood Drive at Asbury First!

Once again we have the opportunity to support a vital community service. Current blood donors, and those of you wishing to donate for the first time, are asked to register for the drive in the Gathering Center on **Saturday, February 17, from 8:30 am to 1 pm**. You can do so at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), or by calling **1-800-Red-Cross**. If you have any other questions, feel free to call Ed Ristau, at 585-223-4356.

If you're unable to donate this time around, our next blood drive opportunity will be Saturday June 1, 2024

Please remember to bring your ID with you to your appointment.



SCRAPBOOK | LATE DECEMBER 2023

A collection of photos from the last couple weeks at Asbury First!

*Advent Weeks 2 and 3 Services*



*Baptism of Angelo Vito Zhushma,  
child of Caitlin and George Zhushma*



Our Wonderful Children's Christmas Pageant!







Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



Our bulletin board is filling up with photo memories of our beloved Stephen and the entire Cady family!



January 21, we will celebrate Stephen and the Cady family after our 11 am service.



## CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

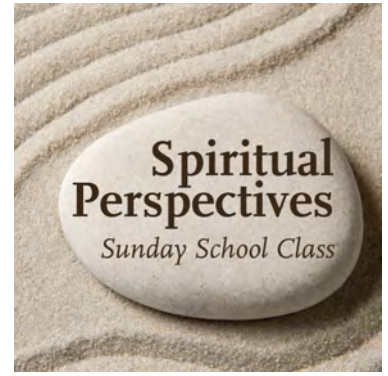
### Spiritual Perspectives Class

**Sundays, Beginning October 1, 9–10:15 am, 1050 Teak Room**

On Sunday, October 1, you are invited to join a new Sunday School class. We will meet in the Teak Room in the 1050 church office building from 9–10:15 am with a format focusing on weekly conversation about connections. Each week a different person will present a brief devotion, and through dialogue about the topic, we will discover the places we connect through sharing ideas and experiences.

While we recognize that there is always room for grace, and that life happens, we hope that you will commit to a three-month period of attending this class. This ensures some continuity and builds community and trust, and helps us get to know each other a little better.

If you have any questions, please contact the Rev. Kathy Thiel at 585-271-1050 x106, or [kthiel@asburyfirst.org](mailto:kthiel@asburyfirst.org).



### As The Spirit Moves Us

**Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am, Room LL03 and Zoom ([zoom.us/j/6174865464](https://zoom.us/j/6174865464) PW Disciple)**

As The Spirit Moves is a class founded on forming a welcoming community to study Biblical events through scripture as well as Christian-based literature. All are welcome, and every voice is heard as we become better together.

On Sunday, September 10, our class began by exploring the resurrection of Christ Jesus and the ways we can live a life leading us to resurrection. From there we will let the Spirit move us to continue to follow The Way. For more information about this class, please contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x105.



### Adult Sunday School Class

**Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am, 1040 Fellowship Hall and Zoom ([zoom.us/j/8347173468](https://zoom.us/j/8347173468) PW 200)**

- **January 7** - The Rev. Kathy Thiel discusses her role as Minister for Congregational Care
- **January 14** - Bill Wynne, author of *Understanding and Combating Racism* tells his personal story of social and racial justice advocacy.
- **January 21** - Bill Wynne helps us react and respond to our own stories of social and racial justice advocacy.
- **January 28** - Lori Young discusses her role as Director of Property Care

All are welcome, contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) for more information.



### LGBTQ+ Advocacy Meeting

**3rd Sunday of the Month, Beginning October 15, 9:45 am, 1040 Youth Room (lower level)**

Asbury First's LGBTQ+ Advocacy Group will be holding its first meeting of the season on Sunday, October 15 in the Youth Room (in the lower level of the church), as our church community celebrates National Coming Out Day. Anyone affiliated with LGBTQ+ community and allies are welcome to attend. We will be setting our agenda for the year, planning for events, outreach, and educational opportunities in our community. Youth and adults are welcome! For more information, please contact Deb Bullock-Smith at 585-271-1050 x117 or at [dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org](mailto:dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org).





## CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

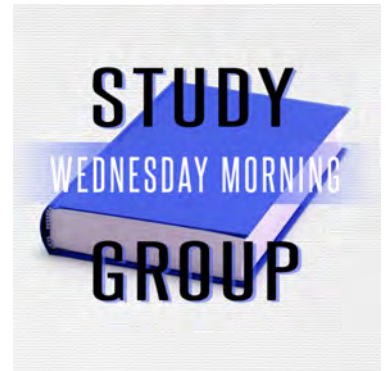
### Wednesday Morning Study Group

**Wednesdays, 10–11:30 am , 1010 Red Room and Zoom ([zoom.us/j/6174865464](https://zoom.us/j/6174865464) PW Disciple)**

All are invited to join this book discussion group as we meet in-person and on Zoom on Wednesday mornings. Some have been a part of this group for years, while others come and go depending on availability and the books that we are reading. This year, we will be reading: *A Pilgrimage to Eternity*; *Poverty, By America*; *The Gift of Years*; *The Flag, The Cross, and The Station Wagon*; and we will finish up with a few documentary films on *Discover Islam*.

Through the fall to Advent, we will read *A Pilgrimage to Eternity*. This book highlights a pilgrimage from Canterbury to Rome, and will invite us to consider our own pilgrimages of faith that we have encountered throughout our lives. We will begin our next book, *Poverty, By America*, at the start of Advent.

For more information, please contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org).



### 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)**

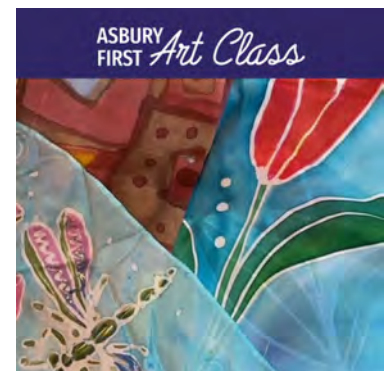
Looking for a way to stay connected to your Asbury First friends during the week? Want to meet new Asbury First friends? All women, all ages, are welcome to join the Tuesday Women's Fellowship via Zoom, 9:30–10:30 am each week. Bring your coffee or tea, and perhaps a treat, zoom in and enjoy an hour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

**Tuesdays, 12:30–3 pm, 1040 Room 205**

The Asbury Art Class will begin a new project starting on September 5. We are going to paint on silk scarves. This means the scarves will be stretched on frames and painted with your design. All materials — stretcher frames, silk scarves, paints, brushes, and designs will be provided. Cost will be assessed after class size is determined. Please email Linda Clemow at [soulsourcstudio1@gmail.com](mailto:soulsourcstudio1@gmail.com) for more information and to register.





## CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

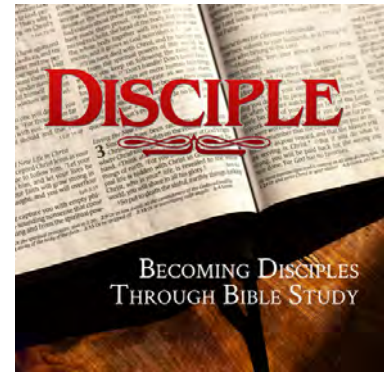
### Disciple III Bible Studies

*Tuesdays, 2-3:30 pm, Zoom ([zoom.us/j/6174865464](https://zoom.us/j/6174865464) PW Disciple)*

*Fridays, 9:30-10:30 am, Zoom ([zoom.us/j/6174865464](https://zoom.us/j/6174865464) PW Disciple)*

The Disciple Bible Study series encourages participants to read portions of the Bible everyday, and offers a study guide to help focus our thoughts and questions. We gather together in community to share, reflect, and learn from one another on the readings from the week. This fall, we have two Disciple Bible Study groups that will both be meeting on Zoom.

Friday mornings will be led by Mike Mullin, and will be starting the second half of Disciple III which focuses on the Pauline Epistles. Tuesday afternoons will be led by Ruthellen Hoyle, and will be starting at the beginning of Disciple III, which focuses on the Old Testament prophets. Both groups are open to all. Please contact Mike Mullin with questions or for more information at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x105.



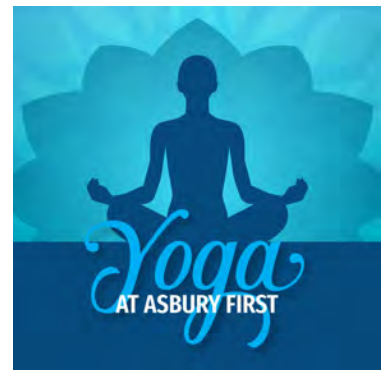
### Yoga at Asbury First

*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.

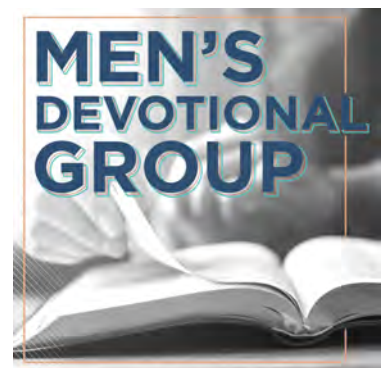
The sessions will be run by Kelly Noyes, who is certified from the Kripalu School of Yoga and Health and is registered with Yoga Alliance (RYT 200). For more information, please contact Kelly at [knoyes710@aol.com](mailto:knoyes710@aol.com).



### 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!





## CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

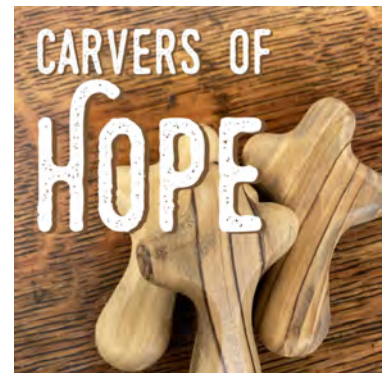
A prayer shawl is a simple shawl or a lap blanket knitted by members of our group. It is symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. The knitting itself is very simple and we have “experts” on hand to help you if you are a beginner. The group meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday. Clergy and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



### 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](mailto:jhsmalt@gmail.com).



### New Members Class of Fall 2023

We're celebrating eleven new members of the Asbury First congregation! New Member Orientation classes happen usually twice a year (once in spring, and again in the fall). This class helps explain what it means to be a United Methodist in general, and a member of Asbury First in particular. This season's new members are named below.



*Left to Right: Dick and Cindy Wallace, Laura and Skyler Mitchell, Eileen Blakely, Taylor Spinning, AJ Wynn, Karyn Morris, Sharon Flanagan, and the Caprariello Family.*



## Dining & Caring Center

Open for hot meals, and shower and hair care services. Laundry services by appointment.

### Hours:

- Breakfast served: Wednesday–Friday, 7–9 am; Lunch served Sunday only, 12–1pm
- Hair Care services available the last Sunday of the month from 12–1 pm
- Shower services available Wednesday–Thursday from 7–9 am on a first-come, first-serve basis
- Laundry services available Wednesday–Thursday from 7–9 am by appointment (Appointments are made in-person the prior week and are on a first-come, first-served basis)

## Bike Repair Ministry

- *R Community Bikes* will provide basic bicycle repair and tune-ups on a first-come, first-served basis at the garage behind the COC and playground.
- **Hours:** Returns in May 2024

## 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](https://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 *Grocery Bag Ministry* has transitioned fully to operating in the *Community Outreach Center*. Join us on Saturday, October 21 at 8 am to help us pack groceries for those in need.

## Community Garden

- The Community Garden has provided bountiful amounts of fresh vegetables this Summer to food ministries such as the DCC, Grocery Bag Ministry, and AME Zion's food deliveries. All produce goes for this purpose, and is not available for individual harvesting. With Fall's approach, the garden is slowing down and will be put to bed over the Winter with first frosts. We welcome volunteers to help us over the Winter plan for next season.

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

## Help Us Read Tutors Needed

School is open and we are looking for tutors for the Help Me Read program at School 17 grades K-4. New Tutor Training/Orientation is scheduled for October 10 and 17 from 10–11:30 am. If you are interested in tutoring please contact John Smalt at [jhsmalt@gmail.com](mailto:jhsmalt@gmail.com) or at 585-924-8624.

RETURNING TUTORS: Please call Ms. Linda at 585-766-8440 to schedule your start date. Thanks for your support!



## Storehouse Items Needed

The Storehouse is in need of the following items for our neighbors:

- **Bed-sized blankets (Twin, Full/Queen & King sizes)**
- **Bath & hand towels**

We'd like to be able to give each family that shops with us, if needed, one blanket and one towel set. We serve 200-250 families/month. Your donations can be dropped off in the brick donation building outside of the Community Outreach Center (COC) or brought to the 1st floor reception desk in the COC Mon.-Thurs. from 9am-3pm and Fridays from 9am-12. Thanks for your ongoing generosity.



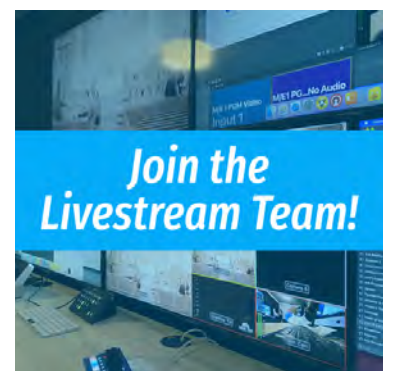
## Acolytes and Crucifers Needed

Have you ever wanted to participate in worship – but without having to speak in front of people? You may have noticed that some weeks we have an acolyte, crucifer, and Christ candle that all help to lead our procession into worship and our recession out into the world. Each of these roles help to remind us that Christ goes before us—both in this space and beyond. We would love to have each of these roles fulfilled at every service. If you would like to volunteer to be an acolyte (the ones that light the candles), the crucifer (the one that carries the cross), or to carry our Christ candle, please contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org). We would love to have you join our team as we help spread and share the light of Christ!



## Join the Livestream Team!

Are you interested in joining Asbury First's live streaming team? You will learn how to use our professional broadcast equipment and video production techniques. More importantly, you will support the digital ministry that helps us *Do More Good* in Rochester and around the world. Youth and adults are welcome. There will be training opportunities soon. Please contact David Berg at [bergdm@gmail.com](mailto:bergdm@gmail.com) to learn more.

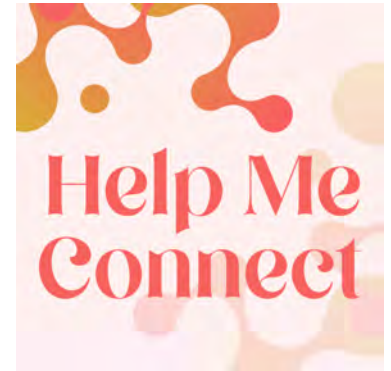


# NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

## 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.



## CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

### ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altars are given to the glory of God and in gratitude of past and present church members.

*If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please contact Jeanne Ristau at 585-223-4356, preferably two weeks ahead of requested date.*

### PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

We offer our prayers and concerns for all those who are ill at home, hospitalized, or in hospice care.

We offer our prayers and concerns for Claudia Nolan, whose grandfather, Bob Walker, is entering hospice care.

We offer our prayers and concerns to Mary Scahill on the death of her sister, Karen Wykoff in Ithaca, NY.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the friends and family of Ronald Wilson, who died recently.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the family and friends of Laura Brown who died on December 20. A memorial service was held on January 5.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the friends and family of Donna Rice, Dave Rice's mother, who died on December 22. A memorial service to celebrate Donna's life will be held 1 pm, Saturday, April 6, 2024 at Aldersgate UMC, 4115 Dewey Ave., Rochester, NY 14616.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the friends and family of Wayne Turnblom, who died on December 27. A memorial service will be held in the spring.

We offer our prayers and concerns for Corinne Sandholzer, whose mother, Gail Frank, died on January 1. A memorial service to celebrate Gail's life was held on Saturday, January 6.

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 NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, January 15

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.