

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

JANUARY 2025

asburyfirst.org

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

(585) 271-1050

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW.
CALL (585) 271-1050 TO
RESERVE YOUR SEAT!



Asbury First Community Theatre presents:

Arsenic & Old Lace

Join us this February for comedy and calamity and share a meal with friends old and new! Presented by our very own theater company, Asbury First Community Theatre.

Friday, February 7 – dinner at 6 pm, show starts at 7 pm
Saturday, February 8 – dinner at 6 pm, show starts at 7 pm
Sunday, February 9 – lunch at 1 pm, show starts at 2 pm

Red Cross Blood Drive at Asbury First

Sign up or just show up to give blood **Saturday, February 15** from **8:30 am to 1 pm** at Asbury First's Gathering Center. Please call Ed Ristau at (585) 223-4356 or call **1-800-RED-CROSS** or visit redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Please remember to bring your ID.

Saturday February 15 2025

Red Cross

BLOOD DRIVE

at Asbury First

January 19, 2025

Compassion & Justice

Christians are called to ministries of compassion and justice: offering care to individuals and working for equity across communities. How do we balance the two? How are they different? Do they overlap?

January 26, 2025

GUEST REV. RACHEL DUPONT:

Elders & Deacons

There are two orders of ordained clergy in the United Methodist Church: the Order of Elders and the Order of Deacons. Why? What are the differences? Does it matter? Join Revs. Rachel & Pat Dupont in discussing their respective orders and how they partner in ordained leadership.

New Year's Resolutions and Reflections with Rev. Pat

Between the 9 am and 11 am worship services, join us at 9:45 am for **Adult Sunday School** downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

Throughout January, these classes will be hosted by Rev. Pat Dupont, Minister for Outreach at Asbury First.

From La to Mi: Josquin and the Art of Renaissance Solfege

Sunday January 26 at 3 pm, Asbury First is happy to welcome *Musica Spei*, Rochester's sacred Renaissance choral ensemble, for a concert of rarely performed music.

Musica Spei and Dr. Bonnie Choi, harpsichordist, invite you to experience a unique performance of 15th and 16th century music considered groundbreaking and innovative at the time. These musical works weave together intricate counterpoint, creating a complex, luminous soundscape. This concert features Josquin des Prez's (ca.1450-1521) *Missa La Sol Fa Re Mi* along with other choral, solo, and instrumental works that employ this compositional technique.

A freewill offering will be collected.



LGBT Advocacy: Becoming Savvy Allies

Wednesdays in January and February 6 – 7 pm, Wesley Hall

Join us in January as we ground our understanding of everything from LGBTQ+ terms to an inclusive gospel ethic. On February 5, Jeannie Gainsburg, author of *The Savvy Ally*, will share her personal journey as an ally along with some of her favorite tips for creating an LGBTQ+ welcoming, safe, and inclusive faith community. For more info, contact Mike Mullin at (585) 271-1050 x105.

LGBTQ ADVOCACY: BECOMING SAVVY ALLIES

Asbury First Keys

Now that our fob and pin system is implemented and our need for exterior keys is eliminated, we have begun the process of re-keying the exterior doors. If you have an exterior key to the church, please return it to the welcome desk. If you still need access to the building, please contact Deb Bullock-Smith at (585) 271-1050, x117



Banned Book Club

*Monday, January 20, 7 - 8 pm
in the Red Room or by Zoom*

The Banned Book Club will be discussing Maya Angelou's classic autobiographical novel "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" at their next meeting. Join us for an evening of deep discussion in the Community Outreach Center's Red Room (next door at 1010 East Ave). For more information contact the church office at (585) 271-1050.



Euchre Tournament!

Saturday, January 25 at 5 pm in the Gathering Center

Join us for an evening of games for kids, pizza, and a thrilling Euchre Tournament!

For more information, contact Paula at (585) 271-1050 x111.



Relationship Breakup Support Group

Saturday, January 25, at 10 am in the Teak Room (1050)

Join us Saturday, January 25, at 10 am in the Teak Room (1050) for discussions about grief as it pertains to a relationship loss, the importance of forgiveness, and how to improve and develop healthy relationships. We will be using three books for this group, the first of which we be provided at no cost. The other two books can be borrowed from us or from the library.

We will continue to meet on Saturdays, January through May, from 10 am to noon in the Teak Room (1050 East Ave).

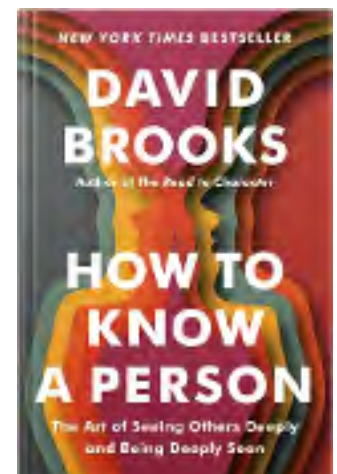
For more information, contact Anne Marie at annemarie.strivings@gmail.com.



How to Know a Person

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:30 am in the Red Room

The Wednesday morning study group began a new book on January 8, **How to Know a Person**, by *David Brooks*. We have completed discussions of chapters one through four, but all are welcome to drop in and join the conversation at any time. Contact Mike Mullin at (585) 271-1050, x105 for more info.



Winter VBS: Cooking Up Faith!

Winter VBS - February 18 – 20, 2025, 9 am – 12 pm Children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited to join us this winter break for Winter VBS: Cooking Up Faith! From 9 am to noon, we will cook up a storm learning recipes for friendship, family, and fun while using ingredients like kindness, service, and love. Just add a dollop of prayer and let it simmer for a lifetime! For questions, please reach out to Paula Dugan, Director of Children's Ministry at (585) 271-1050 x111.



Help Me Read Tutors

School tutors are needed for the Help Me Read program at School 17, grades K - 4.

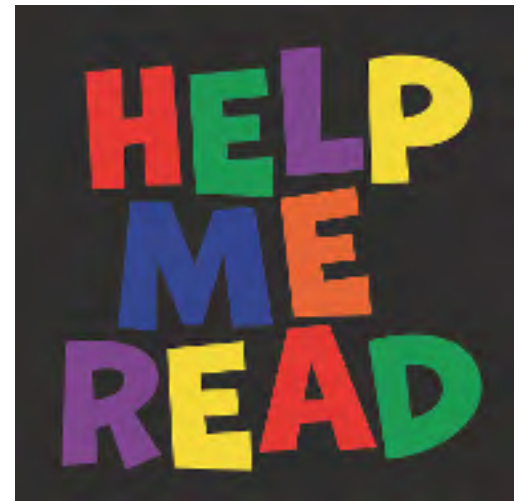
New Tutor Training/Orientation:

Tuesday, January 21, at 9 am - 10:30 am

Monday, February 3, at 9 am - 10:30 am

All orientations are held at 1000 North Winton Rd, Rochester NY, 14609. Call Ms. Linda at School 17 to register (585) 766-8440.

If you are interested in tutoring please contact John Smalt at jhsmalt@gmail.com or at (585) 924-8624.



Monthly/Weekly Giving Envelopes

If you would like monthly or weekly giving envelopes for your pledge, please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Welcome Hall.

Questions? Contact Deb Bullock-Smith at dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org or at (585) 271-1050, x117.





Some highlights from last month's activities! Christmas cookies brought lots of smiles...



...and a well-attended Older Adult Christmas Lunch was full of joy!





The Asbury First Orchestra treated the congregation to a carol sing...



...and the Community Outreach Center held a very special Christmas service with the Freedom Church of the Poor.



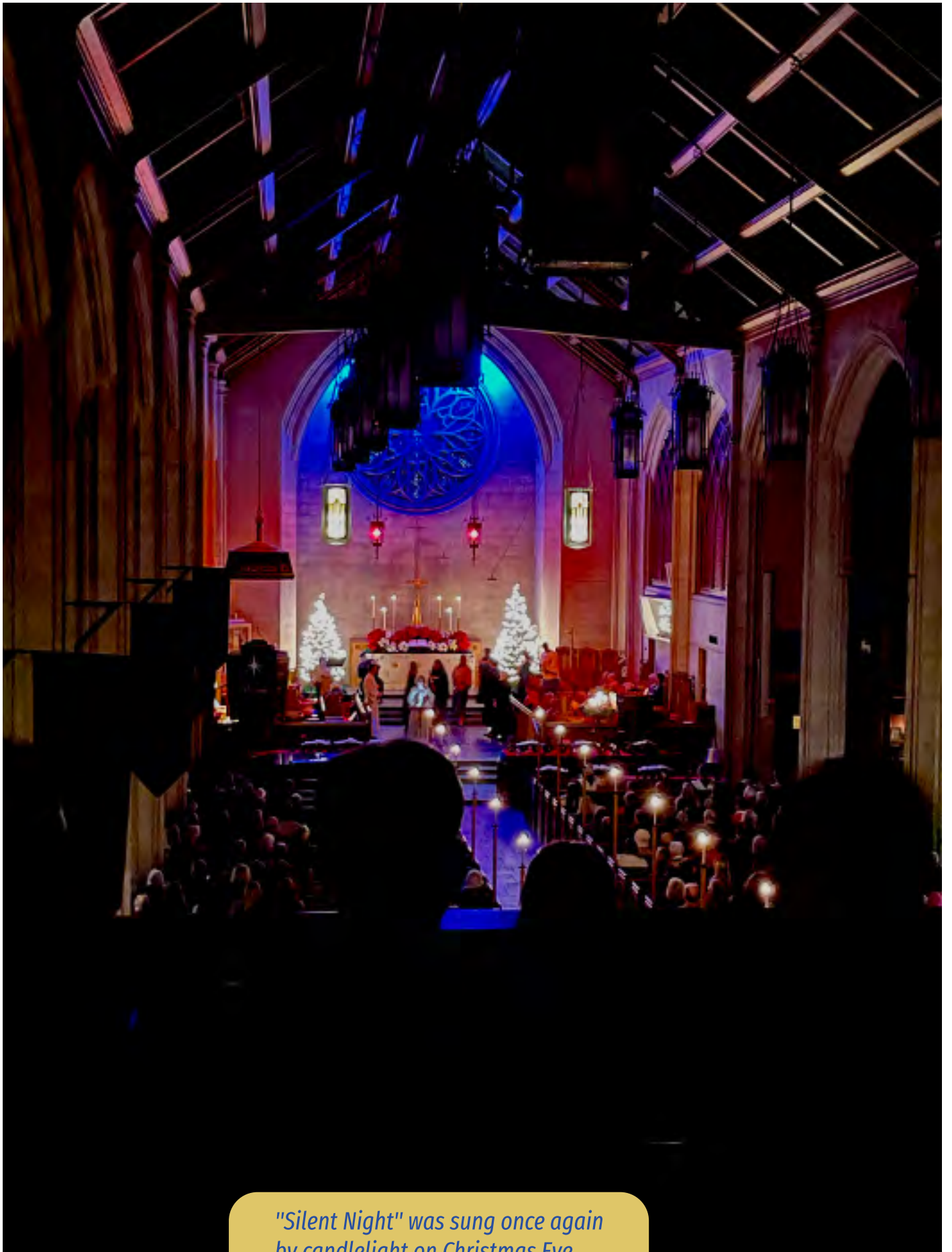


Children rehearsed for the Christmas pageant, an Asbury First tradition...



...and the performance delivered equal parts charm and poignance.





*"Silent Night" was sung once again
by candlelight on Christmas Eve.*

CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Wednesday Morning Study Group

Wednesdays, 10–11:30 am , 1010 Red Room and Zoom (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*.

For more information, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org.



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 — Watercolor Painting

(On Hiatus for the Summer but returning in the Fall)

Fridays, 12:30–3 pm, 1040 Room 205 (upper level, bell choir room)

Now meeting on Friday afternoons, the Asbury Art Class is exploring watercolor and card-making. Watercolor is a terrific medium for capturing the form and surprise of the natural world. Please email Linda Clemow at soulsourcstudio1@gmail.com for more information and to register.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

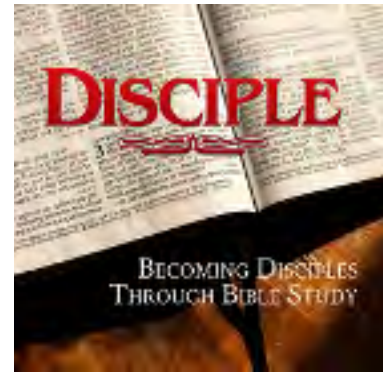
Disciple III and IV Bible Studies

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

Fridays, 9:30-10:30 am, Zoom (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 or at (585) 271-1050 x105.

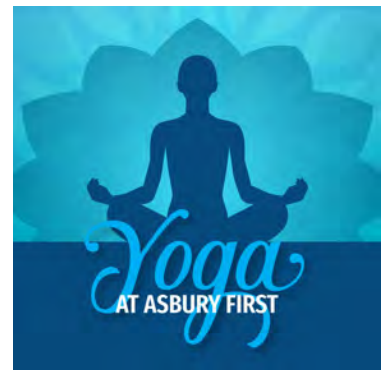


Yoga at Asbury First

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

Join us for our weekly sessions of Gentle Yoga. This gentle attention can help both to bring inner awareness to your body, as well as clarity and peace to the mind!

Classes are an hour long and open to participants at any level. \$10 at the door, you're encouraged to wear comfortable loose-fitting clothes, and to bring a towel and water with you.



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!



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.



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.



LGBTQ+ Advocacy Meeting

3rd Sunday of the Month, at 9:45 am, 1040 Youth Room (lower level)

Asbury First's LGBTQ+ Advocacy Group continues to hold meetings seeking new ways to support the LGBTQ community. Meetings are held in the Youth Room (in the lower level of the church). Anyone affiliated with LGBTQ+ community and allies are welcome to attend. We will be 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.



As The Spirit Moves Us

Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am, Room LL03 and Zoom (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.

For more information about this class, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105.





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 Thursdays 7-9 am, and on the third Sunday of the month 12 to 1 pm
- Showers and laundry are now available 3 days each week: Wednesday through Friday, 7-9 am (*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. Contact Simon Barnett at sjbarnett3@gmail.com for more information. ***Bike repairs will resume in the Spring.***

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 currently not accepting Donations, but check back again soon!

Grocery Bag Ministry

- The *Grocery Bag Ministry* has transitioned fully to operating in the *Community Outreach Center*. Join us on the third Saturday of each month at 8 am in the COC to help us pack groceries for people in need.

Community Garden

- The Community Garden has provided bountiful amounts of fresh vegetables this year 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. The garden is closed until spring, but we welcome volunteers to help us over the Winter to plan for next season.

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.

Stay up-to-date with events, links, and information with our online calendar, or call (585) 271-1050.

asburyfirst.org/events

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.