

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

FEBRUARY 2025

asburyfirst.org

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

(585) 271-1050

The Social Principles: A Lenten Study

Sundays, March 9 - April 13, 9:45-10:45 am in Fellowship Hall

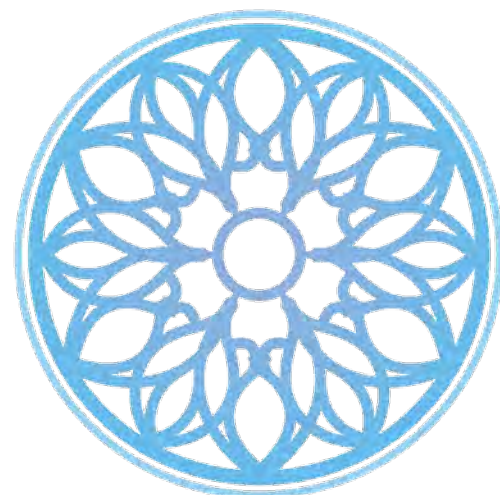
Join us throughout Lent as we review and reflect upon the United Methodist Social Principles, which were completely updated after the 2024 General Conference.

From creation, to economics, to social issues, to politics, the Social Principles offer us a guide to just about everything! We hope you will join us on Sundays for these inclusive conversations.



Morning Prayer

Our pastoral staff has sensed a call from God during these tumultuous times to help our community stay spiritually centered. In response to rapidly shifting headlines and unpredictable and unsettling political action, we hope gathering for regular prayer can help us remain grounded in the presence, solidarity, compassion and love of God. Beginning February 27, all are invited to a simple service of **Morning Prayer every Thursday from 9:30 to 10 am in the Meditation Chapel (part of the Sanctuary)**. Come as you are, as frequently or infrequently as you are able.



Pie for Pi Day!

Each year, our youth get together to make pies for Pi Day (March 14). This year, we are excited to be bringing back more dessert pies. We will have pies available for sale on **Sunday, March 9**. All proceeds support our Youth Missions!



Cultural Awareness: Privilege and Implicit Bias

Sunday, February 23 and March 2, 9:45-10:45 am in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

Guest Speaker, Ted Adams, will be leading two sessions on Cultural Awareness. As he articulates, "we don't see things as they are, we see things as we are." For two weeks, we will engage with and seek to expand our own worldview; with a particular focus on what privilege and implicit bias looks like for us.



My Fair Lady Auditions

Itching for your time in the spotlight? Audition for My Fair Lady! In this widely beloved musical, Professor Henry Higgins wagers with Colonel Pickering that he can transform street flower girl Eliza Doolittle into a duchess in six months. Can this diamond in the rough be polished to a shine, or will the professor lose this wild bet?

**Auditions will be held in Fellowship Hall:
Saturday, February 22, 2 pm
Sunday February 23, 2 pm**



1010 Tuesday – February 11 at 8 am

We're spreading the word about the good work being done at the Community Outreach Center (COC), and we could use your help. Invite a friend, colleague, business owner, or relative to join us for **1010 Tuesdays** – a monthly guided tour of the facilities, a light breakfast in the Dining & Caring Center, and an open Q&A session. We want to tell more people about the COC, and we want to learn new ways we can be effective in the community. Join us **Tuesday, February 11 at 8 am at the COC**. Space is limited so reserve your spot today!

Visit asburyfirst.org/1010tuesdays or call the office at (585) 271-1050 x117.



C.O.C. Chapel Challenge

Throughout 2025 we are going to pair worship with action in a new way!

Each month we will collect different needed supplies for the ministries of the Community Outreach Center. This February, you are invited to bring to worship donations of **Hats, Gloves & Handwarmers**. Please drop them off near the rail in the front of the Children's Chapel before or after services.

Thank you for caring for our neighbors!



Housing Equity Guest Speaker Series

Sunday February 16, 9:45 – 10:45 am, Fellowship Hall and Zoom

Join us for a Sunday school hour presentation on our community's housing crisis and how we can work towards solutions.

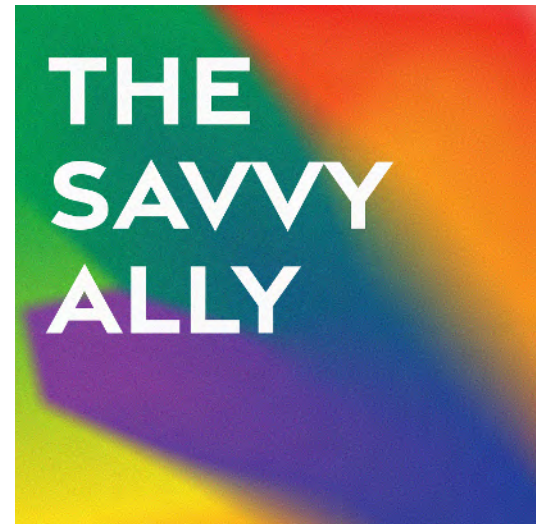
February 16: "Smart Growth: Zoning and the Benefits of Housing Options" Presented by Bill Price, Landscape Architect and Urban Planner



SAVVY ALLY

If you are looking for more ways to help be an ally – particularly in these moments when our Trans and non-binary siblings are particularly at risk – we hope you will join us each Wednesday in February as we discuss The Savvy Ally and consider how we each may become more savvy, and more impactful.

Join us in-person in Wesley Hall (lower level of 1040 East Avenue) or on Zoom

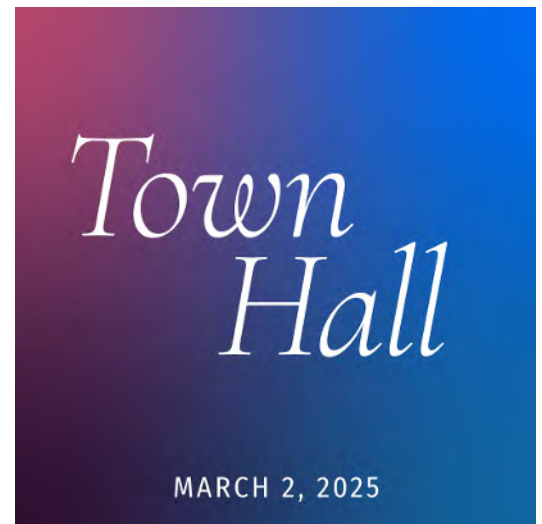


Town Hall – March 2, 2025

Sunday, March 2 after the 11 am service

Asbury First's Governing Board conducts Town Hall meetings throughout the year, inviting the congregation to weigh-in on a variety of important topics. The next of the sessions will be March 2. Mark your calendar!

Join us in the Sanctuary, or via livestream, after the 11 am service for updates on topics important to the daily operation of Asbury First.



Morehouse College Glee Club returns to Asbury First

The world-renowned Morehouse College Glee Club will again fill the Asbury First sanctuary with powerful and expressive choral music on Wednesday, March 12. Doors will open at 6 pm. This fundraising performance is sponsored by the Gamma Iota Boule Foundation, Inc.

Tickets are \$25. Concert starts at 6:30 pm. You can purchase your ticket [HERE](#).

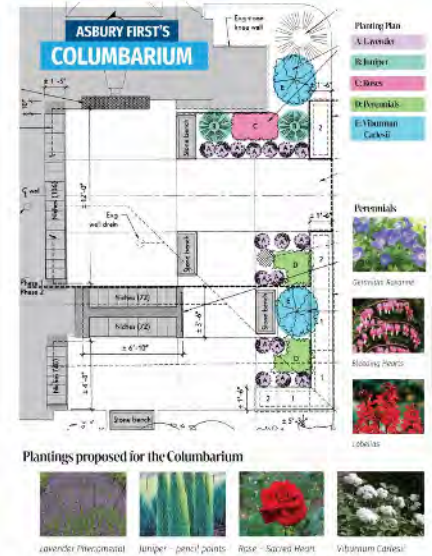


Asbury First's Columbarium and Memorial Garden

Construction begins this spring!

Asbury First's Columbarium and Memorial Garden will begin to take shape this spring after years of planning. The Memorial Garden will be a sacred place to pray, reflect and meditate. Niches can be bought for yourself, a loved one, or can be reserved for those who may be unable to secure a spot in the future.

To learn more, please visit asburyfirst.org/columbarium or call



Asbury First Keys

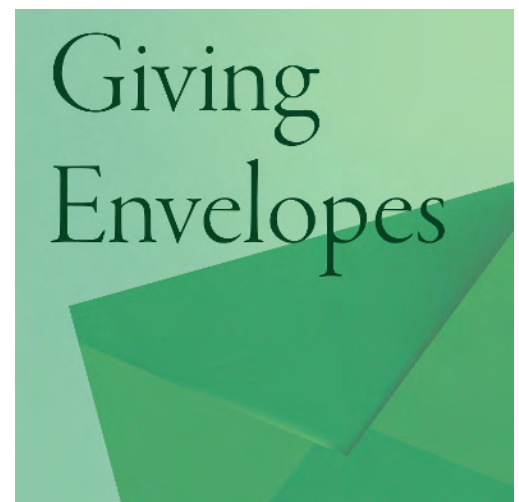
Now that our fob and pin system is implemented and our need for exterior keys is eliminated, we have begun the process of re-keying the exterior doors. If you have an exterior key to the church, please return it to the welcome desk. If you still need access to the building, please contact Deb Bullock-Smith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



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.



Asbury First's Euchre Tournament!



Pizza, fellowship, and some cunning card play. Folks had a blast and want to do it again soon!

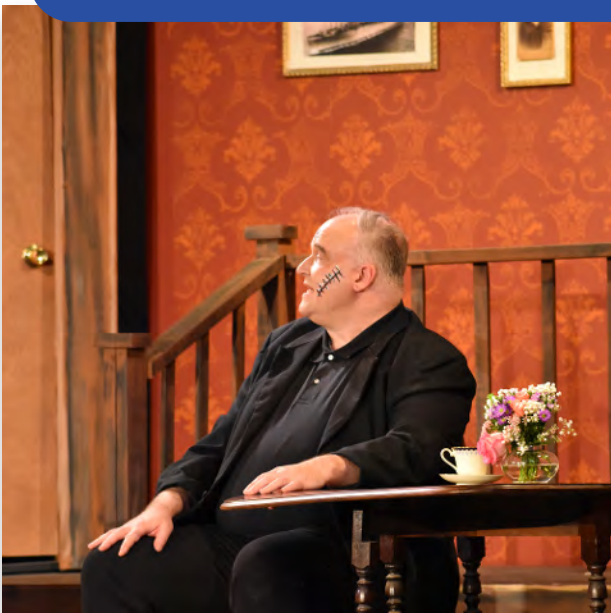




Arsenic & Old Lace, the latest production by Asbury First Community Theatre featured both seasoned actors and some who were new to the stage...

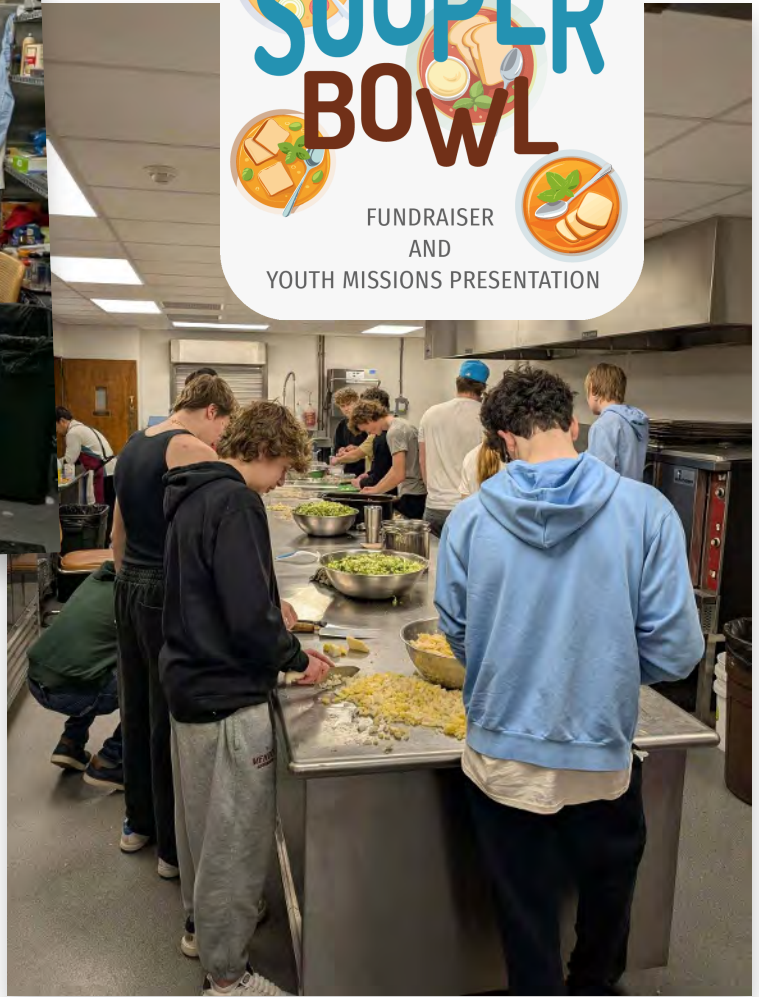


...and half of the cast was over the age of 70!





An Asbury First tradition, the youth prepared soup to sell as a fundraiser for youth missions.

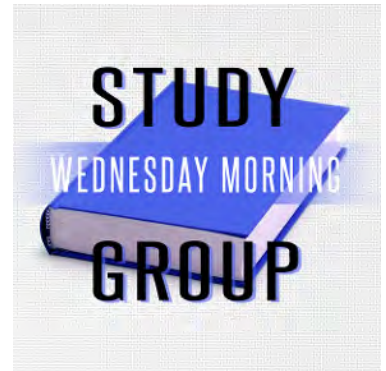


CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

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. We will begin our next book on **March 5**, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee. 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!

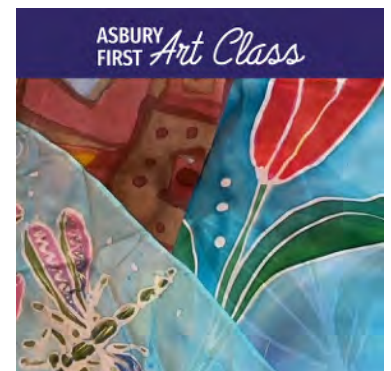


Asbury Art Class — Watercolor Painting

(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 soulsourcestudio1@gmail.com for more information and to register.



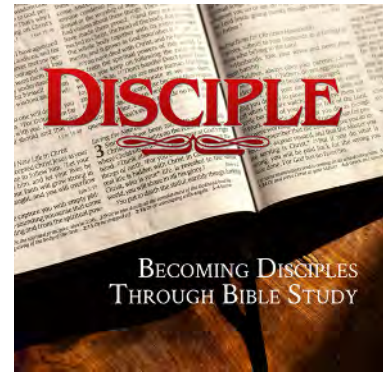
CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Disciple IV Bible Study

Tuesdays, 2:15 - 3:15 pm, Zoom (zoom.us/j/8347173468 PW 200)

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 it's antiquated teachings truly transcend time. If you would like to grapple with these questions, then you are encouraged to join in the Disciple Bible Study.

Disciple IV spends the first half the year looking at the *Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament*, and the second half of the year focused on the Gospel of John and Revelation. The Disciple IV Bible study will be starting later this spring. Please contact Mike Mullin for more information or to sign-up contact mmullin@asburyfirst.org

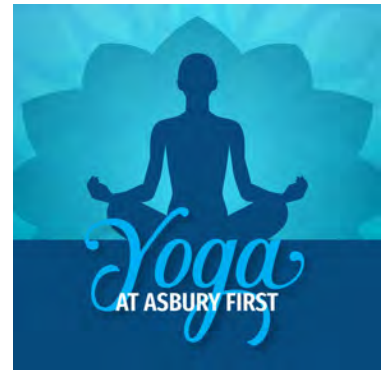


Yoga at Asbury First

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!

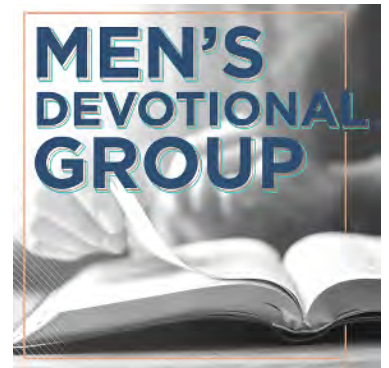
Classes are an hour long and open to participants at any level. \$10 at the door, you're encouraged to wear comfortable loose-fitting clothes, and to bring a towel and water with you.



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, and more. This is a wonderful group to make and build connections, and we hope that you will drop in to join us! or more information, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org.



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.





CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altars are given with joy and gratitude for the Jan. 8, 2025 birth of Sofie Anne Patterson, daughter of Emily and Travis Patterson by her grandparents Dave and Beth Rice.

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.

Our hearts and prayers are with the family of Joyce Rotach, who died on January 10. A memorial service celebrating her life will be held on Saturday, January 25, at 12 pm.

Our hearts and prayers are with the family of Joan Phillips who died on January 21. A service to celebrate her life will be held this spring.

Our hearts and prayers are with Ed and Jeanne Ristau whose daughter-in-law, Lisa Ristau, died on January 18.

Our hearts and prayers are with Diana and Angelo Nole as they grieve the loss of Diana's mother, Elaine Ivah Zinnecker, who died on January 16.

Our hearts and prayers are with Violet Trumbore, whose husband Fred Trumbore died on February 4 2025. A memorial service will take place in Marysville, Ohio on February 22.

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.