

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

MARCH 2023

asburyfirst.org

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

585-271-1050

Pick up your Lenten Devotional!

During the season of Lent, we remember Jesus' story from Ash Wednesday to His Resurrection. And this year as we explore our theme, **Rooted in Christ**, we will consider what was foundational and what sustained Him as he trusted His very self unto God. At the same time, we will look into our own faith story and explore our rootedness, a generous gift from God. Together, let us examine our roots.

Pick up a copy in the Welcome Hall, or visit asburyfirst.org/lent for an online version.



Pretzel Sunday

Sunday, March 19, 9 am – 12 pm, 1040 Fellowship Hall

It's pretzel time!

One of the Asbury First Lenten traditions is Pretzel Sunday. From 1977 to now kids have enjoyed making pretzels at Asbury First and learning about their connection to faith and prayer. Join us on Sunday, March 19 from 10 am–12 pm in Fellowship Hall for fun, fellowship and all things pretzels. For more information contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org.



Scan the QR code to view the pretzel dough recipe.



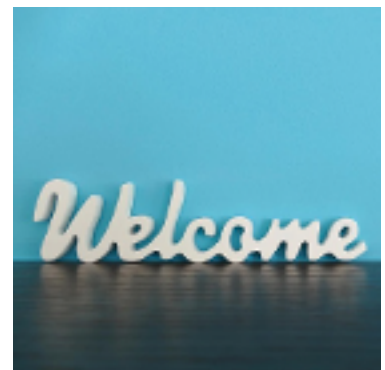
New Members Class

In-Person: Sunday, March 5, 12:30 pm, 1050 Dining Room, Lunch served.

Hybrid: Wednesday, March 8, 7 pm, Zoom (zoom.us/j/82498934913)

Are you interested in joining Asbury First? We are pleased to be offering the next round of New Members Classes for any and all interested in joining Asbury First. Our hope is to have everyone join on Sunday, March 12.

You need not register to attend, but if you know that you will be there, we'd love to know! Simply email Deb Bullock-Smith at dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org or call 585-271-1050.

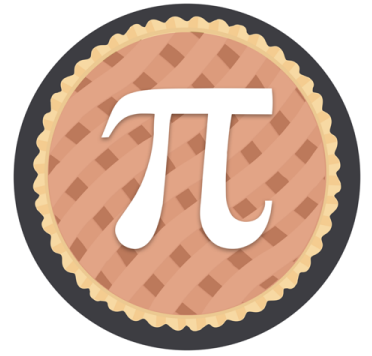


Pie for Pi Day Fundraiser

Pie Pick up Dates: Sunday, March 5 from 3-4 pm and Sunday, March 12, 1040 Welcome Hall

The Asbury First Youth Group's annual pie fundraiser pie is coming up! This is a huge event for the youth and the proceeds go directly to help defray the cost of our youth mission trips. This year they will have both our traditional apple crumb and lemon ice box pies available for \$15 each. **Click here** to pre-order your pies. As mentioned above, you can pick them up on Sunday, March 5 from 3-4 pm or on Sunday, March 12 in the Welcome Hall.

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



Music, Meditation, and Imagination Group

Tuesdays, February 28–April 4, 6 pm, 1040 Room 201

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything” — Plato.

Join us for our Music, Meditation, and Imagination group to deepen your spiritual awareness through music. Each week the group will explore a Bible passage or spiritual text through meditation, music listening, and drawing/journaling for reflection. Bring a yoga mat, a blanket, and a pillow (although not required to participate.) Drawing materials will be provided. This hour-long group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 6 pm in Room 201 from February 28 – April 4.

For more information, please contact Chris Gold at goldcreativeartstherapy@gmail.com.



Morehouse College Glee Club Concert

Tuesday, March 14, 7 pm, 1050 East Ave

We are delighted to announce the return of the internationally acclaimed Morehouse College Glee Club. Don't miss out on this incredible musical group!

Click here or contact the church office at 585-271-1050 to purchase tickets.

(Note: Zeffy automatically puts a 20% donation on your order. To cancel this out, once you place your ticket order, click the drop down menu for “Support the 100% platform” and choose “Other”. You can then contribute \$0 or however much you like)



COC Volunteer Orientation

Join us for orientation at the COC:

Wednesday, March 8, 6:30-8:00 pm

Saturday, March 18, 10:00-11:30 am

Are you as excited for the Community Outreach Center to fully open up as we are? Then register for Volunteer Orientation!

Each session at 1010 East Ave. will last about 90 minutes and will include important information relevant to volunteering in any capacity within the Center. We are encouraging all volunteers, past, present, and future, to attend a session! Visit asburyfirst.org/news to register for a March session.



Older Adults Lenten Communion Services

Please join us for a time of Lenten worship and fellowship at one or more of the following times and locations:

- ***Wednesday, March 8 at 2 pm at St Johns Meadows***
1 Johnsarbor Drive (off of Elmwood Avenue) In the Briarwood Building, Multipurpose Room
- ***Thursday, March 9 at 2 PM at The Highlands at Pittsford***
100 Hahnemann Trail in the Music Room
- ***Monday, March 20 at 2 PM at Linden Knoll***
81 Linden Avenue in the lower dining room

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Please RSVP for one or more times when you plan to attend (including date and location) to Barbara Eltinge at either 585-737-8775 or beltinge@icloud.com.



Donations Needed for The Sound of Music

Rehearsal and work for the church-wide production of The Sound of Music is underway! Donations for any of the following are greatly appreciated:

- Black or white sheets — any size
- Military jackets — any size
- Suit-coats or jackets that can be made into military uniforms
- Prom dresses — floor length; any size or style
- Wooden cross necklaces —at least three inches tall
- Rosaries

Contact Robyn Gage at 585-752-9070 or robynegage@gmail.com.



Radio and Phone Connection Update

RADIO:

The last few weeks, our radio broadcast partner WRFZ 106.3 Rochester Free Radio has been in the process of moving offices. Due to the move, the radio broadcast is currently down. You can access the broadcast on their website at www.rochesterfreeradio.com. We understand this is inconvenient and ask for patience as we wait for this broadcast to return.

PHONE:

We have also recently had an update with our livestream broadcast over the phone. The service has implemented a change to avoid calls from spammers/ bots. When you dial our toll-free number (1-833-829-1050), you will be asked to press '5' to continue to the broadcast.

(Please share these updates with anyone who might benefit from these additional ways to connect).



Thank You!

The blood drive on Saturday was very successful, with 30 units donated. The Red Cross reports that we have had 646 donations over the years, an impressive figure that reveals the strength of our outreach to a community in need. Thanks for your effective publicity and cooperation which led to the success of this event. Our next drive is on the schedule for Saturday, June 3, according to the Red Cross.



Looking ahead to April...

Holy Week Services (April 2023)

**Childcare is available at these services | LS services will be livestreamed*

- **Palm Sunday**

Sunday, April 2

11 am ***SERVICE LS** — Traditional service celebrating Palm Sunday; New Members will join the church

- **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 6

7 pm* — Silent meditation

7:30 pm* **SERVICE LS** — Worship begins with communion and a candlelight re-enactment of Christ's last night, ending with the placement of the cross on the East Avenue lawn by our Christ-figure.

- **Good Friday**

Friday, April 7

12 pm* **SERVICE LS *Envisioning the Passion*** — Holy Week- themed art and choral music. A beloved Asbury First tradition.

5:30–7:30 pm **Good Friday Family Night** — A come-when-you-wish child-friendly event with communion, a labyrinth walk, and prayer stations.

- **Easter Sunday**

Sunday, April 9

7 am **SERVICE** — Sunrise service held on the East Avenue front lawn

7:30 am — Easter Breakfast for our D&CC guests and congregation

9 am* **SERVICE** — Traditional service celebrating Easter Sunday (tentative)

11 am* **SERVICE LS** — Traditional service celebrating Easter Sunday



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

NEW!!! Asbury First Library *BIBLIOCART*

1st Sunday of the Month, Gathering Center near piano, Bibliocart

Look for the newly added Library Bibliocart the first Sunday of every month in the Gathering Space by the piano. Books featured here are new purchases, the event or topic of the month, and staff recommended books. They can be checked out right at the Bibliocart staffed by Library committee members.

Or, stop by the Church Library for a visit. It is just off the Gathering space at the entrance to the Education Wing! The library is free and open for your use when the church is open.

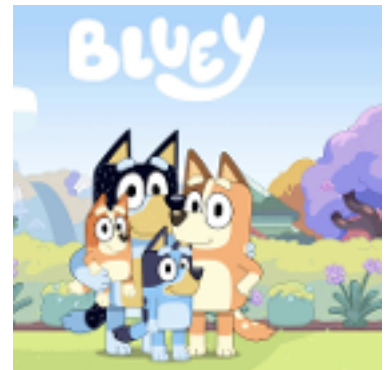


Bluey: Family Class

Sundays, 9:45 am, 1040 Room 201

Starting Sunday 29th, we have a new class for families! We will watch an episode together and then parents will break for a discussion on parenting based on the episode while the kids will learn and play lessons that tie our faith with the values that are taught to us by Bluey. Come join us on January 29 at 9:45 in room 201.

Questions? Email Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org.



As the Spirit Moves Us New Study

New Study Began February 12

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am, 1050 Teak Room

On Sunday, February 12, this class will begin a new study based on the book, *The Women of Easter* by Liz Curtis Higgs. All are invited to join us on a six-week journey of discovery into the lives of some of our faith's original female pastors. In a very personal way, Ms. Higgs takes the reader on Christ's journey through the experiences of Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene. All three women are transformed by the Savior, and we will share in their faith journeys. For more information, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105.



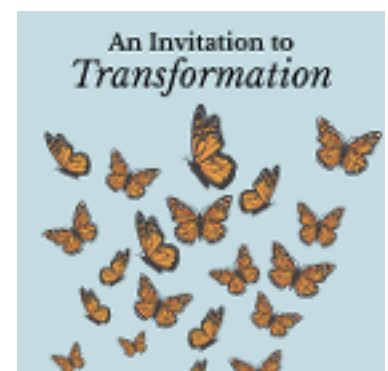
An Invitation to Transformation

Wednesdays in March, 6-7 pm in Fellowship Hall

Led by The Rev. Frederick David Carr, Ph.D.

This March, we invite you on a Lenten journey of Transformation as we consider some of the letters of Paul from our New Testament. This class was inspired by Dr. Carr's new book, *Being and Becoming: Human Transformation in the Letters of Paul*, which is available in our church library. Dr. Carr is an Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Northeastern Seminary, and he joined the Asbury First community when his family relocated to Rochester in 2019. We are excited to have the opportunity to highlight David's work, and we hope that you will join us in March as we consider how Paul's words may continue to invite us to transform our lives today.

Questions and comments may be directed to Mike Mullin, mmullin@asburyfirst.org



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Queerfully and Wonderfully Made

Open to all LGBTQ+ Youth and Youth Allies
Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am, Youth Room

Psalms 139:4 says that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. This has been used to highlight how we are each made in the image of God—and that we are created good! This fall, we encourage all youth—those who are out, those who are questioning, and those who are affirming of their peers—to join us on Sunday mornings as we consider the connections of the LGBTQ+ community and our faith. In addition to checking out Bible stories, characters, and traditions that promote inclusion, we will also take time each week to check in and support one another. This group will be facilitated by Evann Hasenauer, our CRCDS supervised ministry student who has a passion for bringing faithful LGBTQ+ inclusion and representation to the forefront in youth and young-adult spaces. Questions? Contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105



Monday Morning Crew

Mondays, 9 am–12 pm, 1040 Workshop

The Monday Morning Crew is a group that works on odd jobs, fixes, and other needed projects in support of the Sextons around the Asbury First campus. They recently worked over 700 hours changing out the light fixtures in 1040 and 1050 to a more energy-efficient LED lights. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Dave Kennedy at 585-787-0422.



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!



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Asbury Art Class

Tuesdays, 12-3 pm, Room 205 (Bell Room), \$20 per person

The Asbury Art Class will begin working on projects with polymer clay! (Think Sculpey – although there are other brands). We will explore the properties of polymer clay to develop milleflora techniques as well as for practical uses for in-the-home items. Class will begin on Tuesday, September 13 at noon. Bring a lunch. At 12:30 pm each class I will present a PowerPoint program on the "Elements and Principles" of art. At 1 pm we will begin working with the polymer clay. Class runs from noon until 3 pm every Tuesday. There will be general materials supplied as part of the \$20 per-person cost for the class. Please call or email Linda Clemow to register at soulsourcstudio1@gmail.com or 607-434-0500.



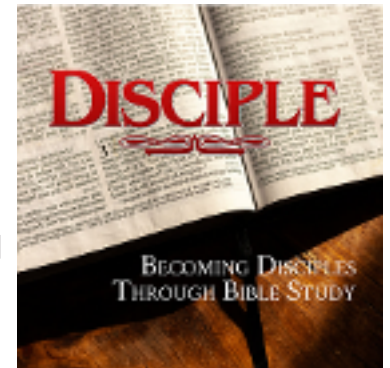
Disciple II Bible Studies

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

Fridays, 10–11 am, 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 II class will continue its journey through Exodus this fall as it prepares to transition to the New Testament books of Luke and Acts. On Friday mornings, the Disciple II class will be focusing in on the books of Luke and Acts. Please contact Mike Mullin, mmullin@asburyfirst.org, with any questions, and use this link to sign-up for a Disciple Bible Study!



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.



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!



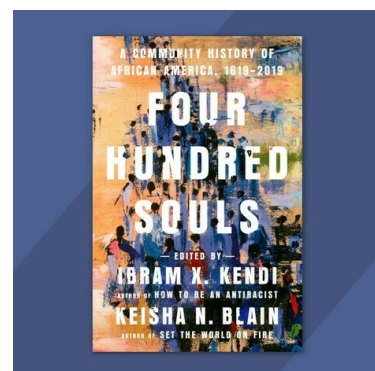
CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Last Four Hundred Souls Meeting—March 1

Last Wednesday of the Month, 5–6 pm, Zoom (zoom.us/j/8347173468 PW 200)
and In person, Room 203 (1040, 2nd floor education wing)

March 1 — Reading assignment: “Part 10” (this will be our last meeting)

Join us for an ongoing discussion of this year’s church-wide read, *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619–2019* on the 4th Wednesday each month from 5–6 pm. We will be meeting over Zoom to make sure as many people as would like have access to the conversation. You don’t have to have read the entire book to come, and can join at any time. All are welcome!



Wednesday Night Community Dinner

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, Gathering Center, \$5 good-will donation

Remember the family-style meals we had on Wednesday nights? Well, they're back! We are excited to announce that we will begin the Community Meal again this Fall. What a great way to join in communion with others before enriching your spirit with classes, groups, or events, on a Wednesday night. We hope you will join us as we return to this wonderful tradition of family, faith, and community. There will be a \$5 good-will donation per person each week. For more information, contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x111.



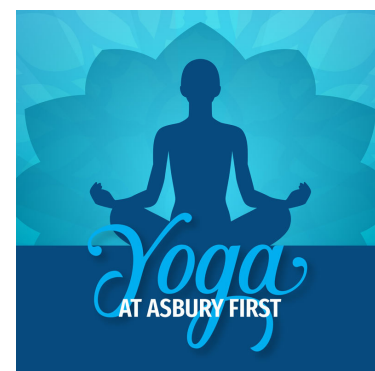
Yoga at Asbury First

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

Thursdays, 4 pm, Starting November 10, 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.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

Older Adult Visitation Re-ignites

As we continue to reengage post-lockdown and following the COVID concerns of the past three years, Asbury First is looking to reach out with visitation of our older adults and those unable to come to church. In conjunction with our Older Adult Council, we will be identifying those who may want a visit, and are asking for persons willing to make some visits. For those interested, we will be having an initial meeting on Tuesday, February 21 at 3 pm in the church library. The Rev. Kathy Thiel will lead us in discussing how we envision re-igniting this important ministry. There will also be time for questions and clarifications.

Please contact either Judy Messenger, at 585-473-1048 or messenger5@aol.com, or Elizabeth Church, at 585-978-0007 or emchurch418@gmail.com, with your interest and intention to attend the meeting. We look forward to connecting with our members and bringing a piece of Asbury First Fellowship to their homes!



The Columbarium

For those who don't already know what a columbarium is, here is a brief explanation:

"A columbarium is a sacred, consecrated location where urns of cremated remains are placed, completing the circle of life"

Asbury First is a place of worship, community and celebration of life from baptism to confirmation, marriage and memorial services. Members of the congregation have expressed an interest in having a columbarium at Asbury First for many years. Learn how Asbury First can be your final resting place.

For more information, please call 585-271-1050 or email columbarium@asburyfirst.org.



Community Outreach Center Update

Our on-campus outreach programs are working hard to fully open in our new space! Here is an update on the progress we are making towards fully opening the Community Outreach Center at Asbury First:

- Our **UR Well Clinic** is up and running! We are now seeing patients in our new space at 1010 East Ave. If you or someone you is in need of seeing a doctor for a physical exam or a medical problem, appointments can be made by calling 585-271-1050 or visit bit.ly/URWell_Appointment to make an appointment online.
- Our **Storehouse** has finished moving into their new space and beginning this month is back to "normal" operations, are now open to donations in the donation building, and are making shopping appointments for guests (by referral).
- Two of our food programs — the **Dining & Caring Center** and **Grocery Bag Ministry** — have experienced some delays in our moving process. The contractors are finishing up some work in the kitchen area. However, all of our furniture and supplies are in the space and we believe we will be able to begin getting the pantry, kitchen and dining spaces organized as early as the end of this week! We are also taking steps towards stocking our new hair-care area and purchasing brand new washers and dryers for the community's use.
- Our **Community Garden** is in its off season, but the leadership team has already begun to meet to make preparations for the coming year.



We look forward to restarting all of our programs!

For any other needs call our full-time social worker, Robin Manley at 585-271-1050 x138.

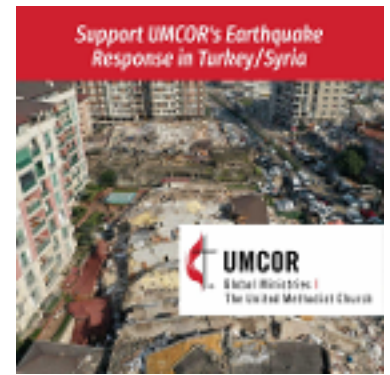
NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

Support UMCOR's Earthquake Response in Turkey/Syria

UMCOR has an International branch that addresses the devastating natural disasters, including what is happening in Turkey and Syria. UMCOR has released an initial solidarity grant to a longstanding humanitarian partner, International Blue Crescent (IBC), which has offices in Turkey. The grant will provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready to eat meals and basic first aid kits.

Financial contributions make the biggest impact, especially when dealing with international disasters. Support UMCOR with donations to the International Disaster Fund.

Click here or call the church office at (585) 271-1050 to donate to UMCOR.



KOP: Urgent Need for Caring Circle Members

We have need for TEN CARING CIRCLES to help support eight recently arrived families, and two more arriving on soon. There are single men, couples, and families in need. We still need seasoned volunteers who can get new volunteers and families off on the right foot. Even if you only have a few days a month that you can assist, we can really use your support.

Caring Circle members are a support network and friendly face to help Afghans acclimate to the Rochester area. Duties range from weekly home visits, outings to explore all that Rochester has to offer, occasional rides for appointments and to get groceries, and familiarizing Afghans with common daily practices like paying bills, obtaining a library card, and more. Caring Circles can expect their support role to last approximately six months, though friendships are formed that last a lifetime.

Please email Kristen at kristen@keepingourpromise.org if you would like to be assigned to a Caring Circle, even if your ability/availability is limited. We cannot support these individuals and families without each of you!



Needed: UR Well Clinic PPD Test Readers

The UR Well Clinic is in need of additional TB test (PPD) readers on Sunday mornings for about one hour. You would be meeting with patients in our new Outreach Center with a greeter to assist you. You will be oriented to Asbury First's process and you would not be needed any more than once a month or possibly less.

Certification will be available at MCDH TB Clinic or if you are certified to read PPDs at your place of work you will qualify. If you are a licensed medical professional, active or retired, we welcome you to join our team.

For more information please contact Lin Vanderstyne RN, Reading Coordinator, at ljv@frontier.com.



NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

Help Me Read New Tutors

New Tutor Orientation / training for persons interested in tutoring has been scheduled: Tuesday March 7th and Tuesday March 14th at 10 am, 1,000 North Winton Rd. Rochester, NY 14609

If you are interested in tutoring at School 17 and have not been to orientation contact John Smalt at jhsmalt@gmail.com or call 585-924-8624 Thanks!!



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 APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, March 20

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.