

# Asbury First NEWS SHEET

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

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

## **Heresy & Me: A History of Heresy and Its Impact on Our Faith**

***Wednesdays, September 7-28, 6-7 pm, Room 204***

We are welcoming back our Wednesday evening meals and programming with a September dive into historic heresies of the church and their continued impact on our life and faith today. Join Mike Mullin and Dr. Jeff Brubaker on a four-week pilgrimage as we seek to better understand the lives and teachings of those considered heretical throughout Christian history. From the person of Jesus, to modern mystics, to the "it's complicated" relationship of science and faith, there is plenty of material to consider. We hope you will join us on Wednesday evenings in September—and come early to partake in a community meal at 5:30 (beginning with a pizza night on September 7). Questions? Contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x105.



## **Sanctuary Choir and Asbury Ringers Return!**

***Sanctuary Choir — Wednesdays, Starting September 7, 7:30 pm, Wesley Hall***

***Asbury Ringers — Wednesdays, Starting September 14, 6:35 pm, Bell Room (Room 205)***

As we enter September, we look forward to the return of our musical ensembles to Sunday worship, and of course that means rehearsals resume. The first rehearsal for Sanctuary Choir will be Wednesday, September 7, 7:30-9:00 pm in Wesley Hall on the lower level of the Education Wing. New members are always welcome! If you are interested, please contact our Director of Music Ministries Dr. Carl Johengen, [cjohengen@asburyfirst.org](mailto:cjohengen@asburyfirst.org).



The Asbury Ringers will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 14, starting at 6:35 pm in the Bell Room, #205 in the Education Wing. Likewise, new members are warmly encouraged to join; contact Elizabeth Church at [echurch@asburyfirst.org](mailto:echurch@asburyfirst.org).

## **Together in Ministry Sunday, September 11**

***Help kick off the Fall season by joining us for Together in Ministry service at 11 am on Sunday, September 11.***

You'll have a chance to learn more about the many volunteer opportunities as Asbury First, and get more information on the build up to opening our new Outreach Center. We are thrilled to be so close to completing this project and now look toward the many ways we can help our community. We hope to see you there! For more information, please contact Deb Bullock-Smith at [dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org](mailto:dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x117.



## Bess Phillips Retiring

After many years of faithful service to Asbury First's music program, Bess Phillips has stepped down as our Soprano Soloist/Section Leader. Bess' final Sunday was August 28. Her lovely voice has graced countless services in our Sanctuary, and we are so grateful for her professionalism and dedication. Bess has promised to be available as a substitute when needed, so we look forward to remaining in touch. Godspeed, Bess!



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## Welcome Our New Soprano Soloist Sipra Kolar!

Sunday, September 4, we welcome our new Soprano Section Leader/Soloist Sipra Agrawal Kolar. A native of the Rochester area, Sipra holds the Master of Music degree from New England Conservatory and a Bachelor of Music from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam (where she first became acquainted with Carl Johengen!). She lives in Brighton with her husband, two children, and their dog. Sipra enjoys singing with the Voices chamber choir, spending time with friends and family, exploring new places, and reading anytime or anywhere.

Sipra has served as soloist at Downtown United Presbyterian Church, and has subbed at Asbury First on occasion. We are excited to have Sipra join Asbury First's musical staff!



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## Called to Community

**Sundays, September 11-October 16, 9:45-10:45 am, Location TBD**

Join Rev. Rachel Ann Dupont for a conversation over six weeks about the role of the church in community. Guided by theological and pastoral minds like Walter Brueggemann, Richard Rohr, and Rachel Held Evans, we'll engage in a reflective discussion about the past, present, and future of our community. No additional preparation is necessary — we'll watch a brief video and be led in discussion as we reflect on our own experiences and context. Bring yourself as you are, with an open mind, an open heart, (and maybe a friend or two). For more information, contact Rev. Rachel Ann Dupont at [rdupont@asburyfirst.org](mailto:rdupont@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x113.



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## As the Spirit Moves Us

**Sundays, Beginning September 11, 9:45-10:45 am, 1050 Teak Room**

For years, Asbury First has been blessed with a Sunday morning study led by The Rev. David Lubba. While Rev. Lubba is taking a step back from this leadership role, this historic class will continue to meet on Sunday mornings with the name, "As the Spirit Moves Us." In that spirit, we welcome new faces and friends as we gather together to share our joys and concerns and decide what to study this coming year. All ideas will be considered, and we look forward to having you join us on Sunday mornings! Questions? Contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x105.





## Queerfully and Wonderfully Made

**Open to all LGBTQ+ Youth and Youth Allies**

**Sundays, Starting September 11, 9:45-10:45 am, Youth Room**

Psalm 139:14 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](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x105



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## Children's Ministry Open House

**Sunday, September 11, 10 am, Education Wing**

Children's Ministry will kick off the Fall with an Open House on September 11 at 10 am. Come visit us on the second floor and see what's happening for children this school year. You can register your child for Sunday School, tour our classrooms and children's music room, and hopefully get to know some other parents. We will have a brochure and flyers with more detailed information. After touring our Open House you can take your children to a bounce house outside on the lawn. For more information, contact Paula Dugan at [pdugan@asburyfirst.org](mailto:pdugan@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x111. We hope to see you there!



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## Announcing the Youth Musical: Snoopy!!!

**Auditions: Sunday, September 11, 1 pm, Fellowship Hall**

**Rehearsals: Wednesdays at 6 pm and Sundays at 1 pm, September 14-November 2, Fellowship Hall**

**Shows: November 4-6**

Auditions are coming up for this year's Youth Musical. Join us on Sunday, September 11 at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall for auditions and the first rehearsal! After that, rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 6 pm and Sundays at 1 pm from Based on the beloved Peanuts comic strip by Charles Schulz, Snoopy!!!, sparkles with wit and warmth as it depicts life as seen through the eyes of Schulz's unforgettable characters. Snoopy is the follow up show to You're a Good man Charlie Brown. For more information, please contact our Director of Youth Theater Larry Dugan at [ldugan@asburyfirst.org](mailto:ldugan@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050.



## Asbury Art Class – Polymer Clay Creations

**Tuesdays, Beginning September 13, 12-3 pm, Room 205 (Bell Room), \$20 per person**

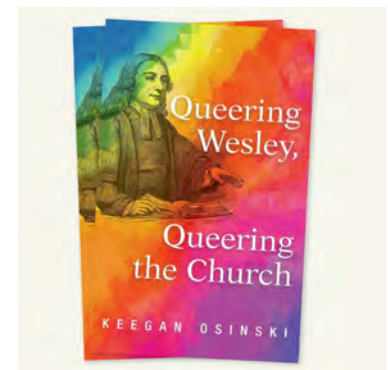
The Asbury Art Class will begin working on projects with polymer clay! (Think Sculpey – although there are other brands). We will explore the properties of polymer clay to develop milleflora techniques as well as for practical uses for in-the-home items. Class will begin on Tuesday, September 13 at noon. 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](mailto:soulsourcstudio1@gmail.com) or 607-434-0500.



## Queering Wesley, Queering the Church

**Tuesdays, September 13-November 29, 7-8 pm, Zoom ([zoom.us/j/8347173468](https://zoom.us/j/8347173468) PW 200)**

*Queering Wesley, Queering the Church*, by Keegan Osinski, may be the best book I have read this year; so, I am excited to partner with CRCDS student, Evann Hasenauer, to facilitate this book study. This book offers an interpretation of ten of John Wesley's sermons through a queer lens. All are welcome to join us on this journey of discovery and discernment as we consider how our foundation as United Methodists may positively speak towards queer inclusion today. Questions? Contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x105.



## The Soul of America

**Wednesdays, Starting September 14, 10-11:30 am, Butler's Pantry (lower level, next door to Fellowship Hall Kitchen) and Zoom ([zoom.us/j/8347173468](https://zoom.us/j/8347173468) PW 200)**

Asbury First's Wednesday morning study group has chosen a number of good reads for the coming year. We will begin in September with *The Soul of America*. As we prepare for mid-term elections, we will learn from the divisions of our past to find paths of hope and healing in our present. Questions? Contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x105.



## Wednesday Night Community Dinner RETURNS!

**Wednesdays, Beginning September 14, 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](mailto:pdugan@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x111.





## Children's Music begins September 14

*Children's Music begins Wednesday, September 14 at the following times:*

- 5-5:30 pm Hallelujah Kids, Music Fundamentals for ages 4 through 1st grade
- 6-7 pm Wesley Singers & Ringers, Vocal & Handbell Choir for 2nd-5th grades

Both groups meet on the second floor in Room 201. There is a community dinner offered at 5:30 pm in the Gathering Center to make the night a little easier for all who attend any Wednesday night events at Asbury. For more information, contact Holly Temming at [htemming@asburyfirst.org](mailto:htemming@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x114.



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## Women of the Well Presents: Blessed are the Givers of Life

**Saturday, September 17, 9:30 am–3 pm. Advance registration required for lunch – \$10 per person, register online and learn more at [asburyfirst.org/giversoflife](https://asburyfirst.org/giversoflife)**

On September 17, men and women are invited to a daylong sharing of story telling and discussions about women from ancient to the present time who embody "Life Givers" by their faith. The interdenominational program will begin at 9:30 am in the Gathering Center and will end mid-afternoon. Seating is limited to 100 participants, so make your plans early. Lunch will be provided at the cost of \$10 per person, and there will also be a free-will offering to support the Women of the Well. We look forward to a day of sharing and communing. If you have any questions or want to register, please contact Deb Bullock-Smith at [dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org](mailto:dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x117.



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## When Kids Ask Hard Questions

**Sundays, Starting September 18, 9:45-10:45, Location TBD**

What are some of the hard questions your kids have asked? "Are they a boy or a girl?" "Why am I nervous all the time?" "Are we brothers?" "Why is our peace broken?" This group is intended for parents of kids from birth through age 10, but is open to parents of all ages. We will be part support group, part commiseration and celebration circle, and part constructive collaborators. We will gather each week with a particular topic to focus our conversation. There will be brief readings available for those that are interested in some background, but they are not required for participation. Just as we have the opportunity to learn from the experts, we also have the opportunity to learn from the vast experiences of one another. We look forward to grappling with these questions in community, and living out what it means to be the church while raising a family. Questions? Contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x105.



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## Laying of the Cornerstone – Outreach Center

**Sunday, September 18, 12 pm, 1010 Outreach Center**

On Sunday, September 18 we will be concluding worship outdoors as we place the beautiful "2022" cornerstone in the expanded entrance to 1010 East Avenue. We have been collectively working toward this goal for so long — from countless meetings and ideas, to fundraising campaigns and construction. We are overjoyed to share this momentous occasion with all who made this possible. Visit [asburyfirst.org/bettertogether](https://asburyfirst.org/bettertogether) for more information about the new Outreach Center and to watch the construction livestream or building update videos.



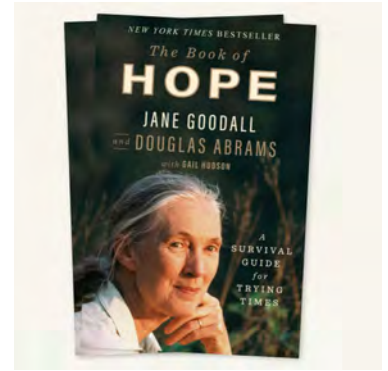
## Women On Wednesday (WOW) embraces Hope on September 28

**Wednesdays, Starting September 28, 12:15 pm, Zoom ([zoom.us/j/8347173468](https://zoom.us/j/8347173468) PW 200)**

*The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams is WOW's next reading journey. Published in October 2021, it is timely and reassuring. In a world that seems so troubled, how do we hold on to Hope? Jane focuses on her "Four Reasons for Hope" including the Resilience of Nature and the Power of Young People.

Women on Wednesday (WOW) is an ever-changing group of readers that meets weekly from September to June to explore books of current and thoughtful interest. All women readers are welcome. There are no Asbury First or any other membership requirements — just bring your curiosity and interest in the world of reading and sharing ideas.

For questions or more information contact Mary Lynn Vickers at [mvicker1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mvicker1@rochester.rr.com).



## CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

### 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](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!

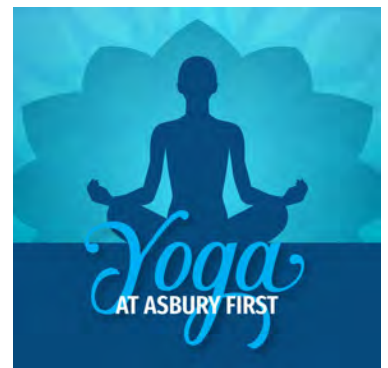


### Yoga at Asbury First

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

Gentle Yoga has returned to Asbury First each Tuesday at 3 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).





## CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

### 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!



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Wednesday, August 24, 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).



### Four Hundred Souls Discussion

**Returns Wednesday, September 28, 5 pm, Zoom**

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!



### Carvers of Hope

**4th Wednesday of the Month, 6:30-8 pm, 1050 Porch**

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. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact John Smalt at [jhsmalt@gmail.com](mailto:jhsmalt@gmail.com).

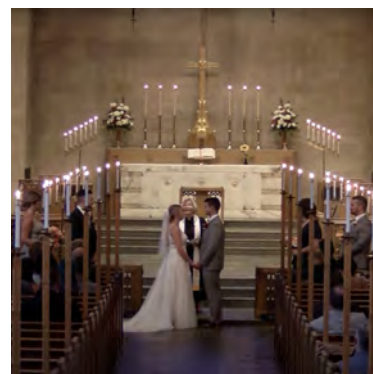




## NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

### Help Wanted: Wedding Coordinators for Asbury First

Did you know that Asbury First United Methodist Church in all its grandeur is a popular church for wedding ceremonies? In keeping with our vision of inclusion we are open to sharing its beauty for weddings of members and non members alike. We currently have two wedding coordinators from the congregation, but could use at least two more interested people. You can choose dates that are convenient for you and there is a stipend for your time and effort. If interested, please contact Deb Bullock-Smith at [dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org](mailto:dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org) or at 585-271-1050 x117.



### School Supplies Needed for Schools 17 & 45

**Drop off supplies Sundays from August 28–September 25.**

**Items needed include:** backpacks, 24-count pencils, colored pencils, erasers and eraser tops, ink pens (blue, black, and red), crayons, color-safe markers, highlighters, child-safe scissors, glue sticks, pencil boxes or pouches, index cards, sticky notes, solid-color folders with pockets, three-ring binders, composition books, graph paper, hand sanitizer, and tissues.

Many thanks to YOU for your support! For more information, please contact John Smalt at (585) 924-8624, or at [jhsmalt@gmail.com](mailto:jhsmalt@gmail.com).



### Food Preservation Volunteers Needed for Community Garden

Do you love to dabble in dilly beans, put up pickled peppers, or pack away pesto for future use? The Asbury Community Garden Committee is hoping to recruit a small team of people who are experienced in food preservation. Our garden is bursting with vegetable bounty, and we'd like to keep some of it for the Dining and Caring Center's off-season use. We're now providing produce weekly to the dining center and to two off-campus feeding programs, but will still have enough to also put some aside. If you'd like to be involved in this short-term project, please contact us: [DianaLouiseCarter@gmail.com](mailto:DianaLouiseCarter@gmail.com), or [rfeather@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rfeather@rochester.rr.com). In coming years we may also look at making jams or canning applesauce.



*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 OCTOBER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, September 26**

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).