

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

MARCH 2025

asburyfirst.org

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

(585) 271-1050

HOLY WEEK 2025

We invite you during this Holy Week to
join any or all of these livestream and
in-person worship experiences!

Join us for a series of much-beloved
services beginning on Palm Sunday,
including a remembrance of Christ's
last night and a unique Good Friday
“Envisioning the Passion,” along with a
special Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
in the Asbury First Community Garden.



PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13

9 am Service*

Traditional service observing Palm/Passion Sunday

LS 11 am Service*

Traditional service observing Palm/Passion Sunday



MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 17

7 pm*

Silent meditation

7:30 pm Service* LS

Worship centers on the last night of Jesus' life, with communion and a candlelit meditation, ending with the procession of the cross to the East Avenue lawn.



GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 18

LS 12 pm Service Envisioning the Passion*

Holy Week-themed art and choral music.

5 - 7 pm Good Friday Family Night

A come-when-you-wish child-friendly event.



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 20

8 am Service in the Community Garden
(Freedom Church of the Poor)

9 am Service*

Traditional service celebrating Easter Sunday

11 am Service* LS

Traditional service celebrating Easter Sunday



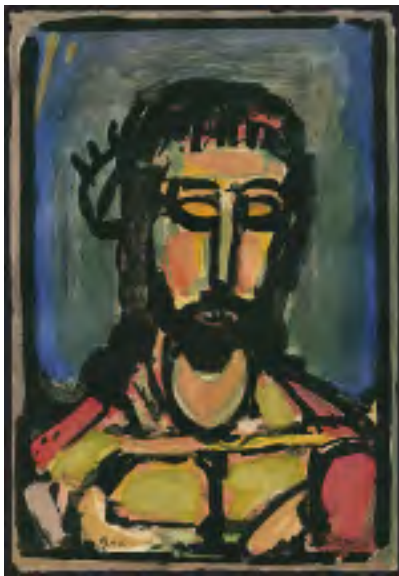
* Childcare will be available
LS Service will be livestreamed

Visitation and Pastoral Prayer

We want to be able to visit and pray with those who are in the hospital. If you know someone who is in the hospital and would like a pastoral call, or if you yourself are in the hospital or have a date for surgery, please call Rev. Kathy Thiel who will be most glad to be with you in that moment. Call Kathy at (585) 271-1050 x106.



Sunday
March 30
7 PM
Asbury First
Sanctuary



ASBURY FIRST PRESENTS

Marcel Dupré's monumental

"Stations of the Cross", op. 29 for organ

A unique musical and visual experience for the Lenten season accompanied by projected artworks and the poetry of Paul Claudel.

Organist **Michael Messina, D.M.A.**

Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Church in Indianapolis

Artistic Coordinator **Lucy Winters Durkin**

Long-time collaborator on Asbury First's "Envisioning the Passion"

Good Friday programs

Poetry read by **Judy Messenger**

Free | Open to the public | Free-will offering taken

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Social Principles: A Lenten Study

MARCH 16 – The Economic Community

MARCH 23 – The Social Community
(The Nurturing Community)

MARCH 30 – The Social Community
(Other Social Issues)

APRIL 6 – The Political Community
(Governmental Responsibilities)

APRIL 13 – The Political Community
(Basic Rights and Freedoms)

Sundays through April 13
9:45 - 10:45 am
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, social issues to politics, *The Social Principles* offers us a guide to just about everything! We hope you will join us on Sundays for these inclusive conversations.

Contact Mike Mullin for more info: (585) 271-1050x105

Welcome to Lent 2025

Lent invites us to remember our humanity, to acknowledge our need for God's grace, and to step forward in faith, trusting that God's mercy is always greater than our shortcomings. This is a season of repentance, turning around and reorienting. It is also a season of honesty, self-reflection, and opening ourselves once more to grace. Come as you are. Bring your burdens, your hopes, your weariness, your longing. There is room for all of it here. Let us walk this road together, trusting that even in the wilderness, new life is waiting to rise as we root ourselves once again in the way of the Christ.

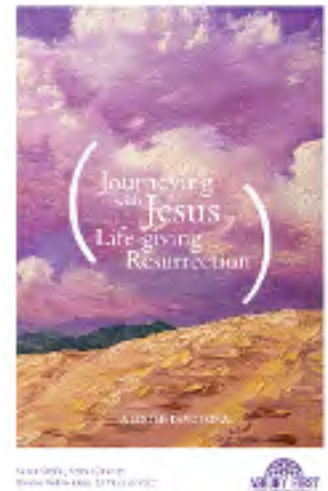


Devotionals for Lent 2025 are now available!

Lent is here!

Each week this devotional will serve as your guide. Commit to some intentional time to pray, meditate, reflect on whatever resonates with you, and then respond in love as your roots deepen. This practice may become your Lenten practice.

Pick up a copy in Welcome Hall.



Older Adult Communion

Please join us at one, two or three gatherings for a time of holy communion, and stick around for cookies and catching-up with friends.

ST JOHNS MEADOWS – Monday, March 24, 2 pm

LINDEN KNOLL – Monday, March 31, 2 pm

THE HIGHLANDS – Tuesday, April 8, 2 pm

If you have any questions, contact Barbara Eltinge
at (585) 737-8775



Lectio Divina

Tuesdays 8:30 - 9 am on ZOOM

(M-F during Holy Week, Sun, Apr 13 – Sun, Apr 20)

Lectio Divina will be offered on each weekday of Holy Week.

Lectio Divina is a way to use contemplative prayer with one scripture. Setting aside this time to deepen into scripture helps us strengthen our relationship with God and Christ. There will be a different scripture every day, leading us through this week in spiritual reflection together. All are welcome, and you need not attend every day in order to participate. Bring your heart and we will journey together.



Easter Altar Flower Donations

If you would like to purchase altar flowers in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one, please call the church office at the number below. **Orders will be accepted until April 7.** If you would prefer to pay by check, forms are available at the Welcome Desk.

Checks should be made payable to Asbury First United Methodist Church Altar Guild and delivered to the church office, attention Beverly Schuman.

Call the Church Office at (585) 271-1050 for more information.



Spring Campus Clean-Up

Saturday, April 5, at 9 am, we will meet to pick up twigs, rake leaves, and clear away the detritus of winter. Meet from 9 am to 1 pm. No green thumbs required!

In case of rain, the new date will be April 12.

Contact David Strong with questions at (585) 271-1050 x110



WEDNESDAYS THROUGH MAY 14

6 – 7 pm in Wesley Hall

Join us each Wednesday in Lent for a special series of classes ranging from the history of your favorite hymn, to the problem of "truth", to writing your own obituary! Wednesdays, 6 - 7 pm, Wesley Hall (Lower Level of 1040)

Tentative Schedule:

March 26 - "What is Truth?" with John Messenger

April 2 - Stories from the congregation

April 9 - Write Your Own Obituary with Rev. Kathy Thiel

April 16 - Lectio Divina with Rev. Kathy Thiel

April 23, 30 – Hymnology

May 7, 14 – TBD



Rochester Refugee Support: Keeping Our Promise

Keeping Our Promise, an Asbury First adopted off-campus outreach program, is doing powerful refugee resettlement work in Rochester despite a dramatic downturn in support at the federal level. As a congregation, we are helping to support this organization through this crisis moment: our Grocery Bag Ministry provides refugee families with groceries and we have made a contribution out of our discretionary outreach fund. Donations and volunteers continue to be needed and there are many ways you can help! Apartment setups, sorting in-kind donations, ride to appointments, driving to grocery stores, setting up internet or HEAP. Reach out to Cindy Malone (585) 645-4060 with questions or reach out on the Keeping Our Promise Website to become a volunteer or to make a donation at keepingourpromise.org



Lenten Labyrinth Walks

Join us for weekly Labyrinth Walks through Lent, beginning Tuesday, **March 19, at 7 pm**, and continuing **each Wednesday through Holy Week**.

Walking the labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice—a moving meditation that invites reflection, prayer, and renewal. Our 11-course labyrinth, modeled after the famed design at Chartres Cathedral, offers a sacred space to journey inward, release burdens, and listen for God's presence. Whether you walk in silence or with intention, all are welcome to experience this contemplative path as we prepare our hearts for Easter.



Banned Book Club: A Conversation with author Alex Sanchez

Monday, April 7, 7–8 pm
1010 East Avenue,
Red Room

Come join a conversation with Alex Sanchez, Mexican-American author of 10 award-winning books for young people, all of which have been challenged or banned for their LGBTQ+ characters and themes.



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. **For the March C.O.C. Chapel Challenge, we will collect men's sweatpants (all sizes) and bath towels.** 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!



1010 Tuesdays – April 8, 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, April 8 at 8 am at the COC. Space is limited so reserve your spot today!

Call the Church Office at (585) 271-1050 x117.



Morning Prayer

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.

Gathering for regular prayer can help us remain grounded in the presence, solidarity, compassion and love of God, in the midst of this unpredictable social climate.



The Red Cross Blood Drive Thanks You!

To those who helped make the most recent Red Cross Blood Drive a success, thank you! A note from the Red Cross on the results of our efforts "We collected 22 units, enough to impact 66 lives! Our staff was very appreciative of your help in calling donors to ensure they were coming."

The next Blood Drive at Asbury First will be Saturday, June 21, 8:30 am - 1 pm.



Lenten Read: The Sum of Us

Wednesdays 10 - 11:30 am in the Red Room and on Zoom

For the season of Lent, Asbury First's Wednesday Morning Study Group is reading *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee. We will read and discuss one or two chapters each week.

For a complete schedule, or for more information, please reach out to Mike Mullin, (585) 271-1050 x105



Easter "Bonnet" Making and High Tea Party

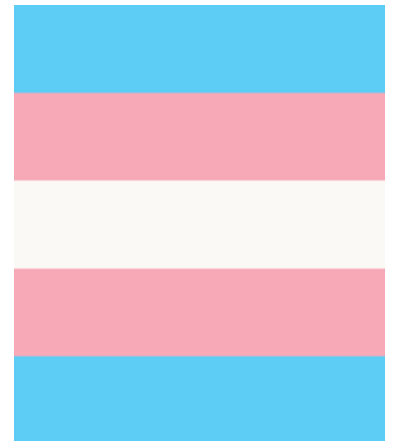
All are invited **Sunday, April 6 at 12:30**, in the Red Room (COC) to make fascinators to wear on Easter. This is an easy craft and all the supplies will be provided. Make one for yourself or as a gift for someone else! The cost is \$10 per hat and comes with a special high tea luncheon!

Please RSVP by April 1 to Christina Kirivong at Kay_christina@hotmail.com



Trans Day of Remembrance

On **Monday, March 31**, we will observe **Transgender Day of Remembrance**, a time to honor the lives lost to violence and discrimination in the transgender community. We stand in solidarity with our transgender siblings, offering support, love, and remembrance. To help create a more inclusive and welcoming environment, we have pronoun stickers available at the welcome desk. Additionally, a new progress pride flag has been raised on the flagpole outside, symbolizing our commitment to equality and acceptance for all. Let us continue to foster a community where everyone is celebrated and valued.



Through the **Asbury First Knitting Group**, aka *Prayer Shawl Ministry*, many shawls have been created and distributed over the years to comfort, encourage, and uplift others. Every piece they knit is imbued with the love and warmth generated in this room.



Asbury First Knitting Group





Asbury First celebrated the **48th annual Pretzel Sunday** and it was SO MUCH FUN! Games, stories, and a chance to roll up our sleeves and make some yummy pretzels.



48th Annual
Pretzel Sunday!





Christian Goddard, Cynthia Goddard, Lisa Wilson, Michael D'Arcangelo, Nate Trost, Alice Trost, Betsy Dommreis, Deborah Chase, Leia Jones.

New Members

Join us in welcoming NINE new members of Asbury First! Each brings unique experiences, perspectives, and talents that will undoubtedly enrich our community. We are thrilled to have them on this faith journey with us and can't wait to see the amazing things they will accomplish!



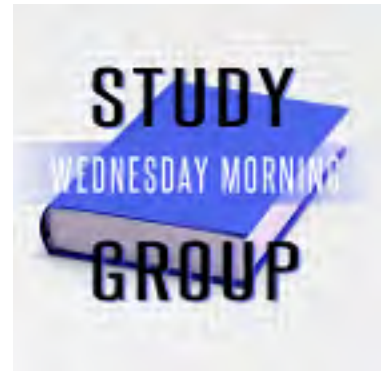
The March 9 Worship Service featured the return of our beloved bell choir, the Asbury Ringers. This photo was taken during worship service by Dr. Carl Johengen, director of the Sanctuary Choir, grateful for the generous gifts of music in this congregation.

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.



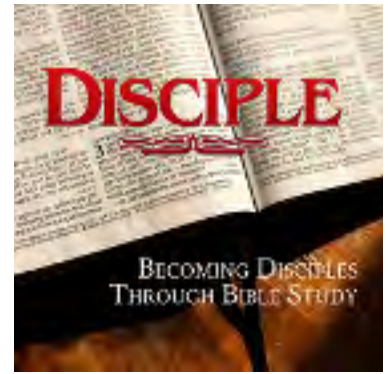
CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

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

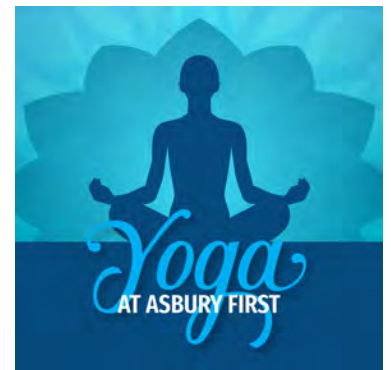


Yoga at Asbury First

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 jhsfalt@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 to the glory of God and in gratitude for 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.

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.

Our hearts and prayers are with Lisa and Paul Campell and their family as they grieve the loss of Lisa's father, Erwin Gifford, who died on February 13 in Florida.

Our hearts and prayers are with the family of Edward Knaak who died on March 5. A memorial service will be held at Asbury First on Saturday, March 29 at 11 am.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Joan Phillips, who died on January 21 will be held on Friday, May 16 at 2 pm.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Enid Graham-Raad, who died on November 7 will be held on Sunday, June 8 at 3 pm.

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.