

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

JUNE 2024

asburyfirst.org

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

(585) 271-1050

SOME IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| JUNE 23: | Rev. Rachel Dupont gives her farewell sermon |
| JUNE 30: | We say Goodbye to our Interim Senior Minister, Rev. Ted Anderson |
| JULY 1: | Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost officially joins the Asbury Family |
| JULY 21: | Our new Senior Minister, Michelle, preaches at Asbury for the first time! |

REV. RACHEL DUPONT'S SENDOFF



Sunday, June 23, the Rev. Rachel Dupont, our Minister for Christian Formation and Director of the Discipleship Project, will end her time at Asbury with a farewell sermon. As you know, the decision to reduce the size of our pastoral staff was heartbreaking. Rachel has been an essential leader, both in discerning and living out God's unique call for Asbury First, and as a delegate to General Conference this past Spring. She has helped to shape the future of both Asbury First *and* the United Methodist Church. We are forever grateful.

On June 23, we hope you will stay after the service to celebrate her time here with coffee and gluten-free baked goods in the Gathering Center.

Save the Date: June 27, 7 pm

Matsiko World Orphan Choir returns to Asbury First



The Matsiko World Orphan Choir makes a return appearance at Asbury First, presenting a concert on **Thursday, June 27 at 7 pm**. Since 2008, the Matsiko World Orphan Choir has used the unifying power of music to uplift every child, bring joy to all who listen, and to inspire generosity that provides a complete education for vulnerable children. Brought together from Matsiko's in-country learning centers in Nepal, Peru, Liberia, and India, the Choir has performed at the White House, Disneyland, Disney World, the Rose Bowl, and many other sports stadiums around the country. Their high-energy performances bring much-needed attention to the plight of vulnerable children around the world. For more

information, visit matsiko.org/world-orphan-choir or contact Carl Johengen at cjohengen@asburyfirst.org

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED: We will be housing the choir and chaperones overnight after the performance, so we are seeking host families who can provide sleeping arrangements for one adult and up to three children. Children can share a double bed or larger, and any guest can sleep on an air mattress, sofa or sleeping bag. If you are able to help or have questions, please contact Judy Messenger at jumesseng@gmail.com or call (585) 473-1048



WELCOME TO PRIDE MONTH AT ASBURY FIRST!

June is Pride Month nation-wide, but this year we have a little extra to celebrate! With the removal of harmful language from the United Methodist Book of Discipline, as well as lifted bans on LGBTQ clergy and same-sex weddings, we now celebrate the opportunity for full participation of all LGBTQIA+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church. This month, our services will hold a space for a "Moment of Pride" to explore the ways that by advocating for the vastness of human experience, we're also advocating for the incredible vastness of God's love.

The Rochester Pride parade will be held on July 20 at 11 am (Mark your calendar!) and Asbury First WILL be marching (and float-ing). If you'd like to be involved, the LGBTQ+ Advocacy team is always looking for more members.



Rochester Pride Parade: July 20, 11 am, Scientific Parkway

Summer Choir

June 2 – August 4

Sunday's 11 am service features this season's final appearance of the Sanctuary Choir. We offer our sincere thanks for their expressive enhancements to our worship, Sunday after Sunday! Sanctuary Choir will resume in early September.

This summer, you're invited to take part in **Summer Choir**. No need to be a member of Sanctuary Choir – all you need is basic singing skill and a desire to learn! Come as you're able. Summer Choir gathers at 10 am in Wesley Hall and prepares accessible music for that morning's 11 am service. If you have any questions, please contact Carl Johengen at cjohengen@asburyfirst.org.

Summer
Choir

JUNE 2 – AUGUST 4

New Members Class!

June 10 and 17, 6:30 - 8 pm, Red Room (1010, Community Outreach Center)

For those interested in joining Asbury First, this class in two parts will introduce the tenets and history of United Methodism, and give a deep dive into the many ways one can become more involved in Asbury First's ministries.

Light snacks and beverages will be provided, but feel free to bring your own bag dinner if you prefer. Our hope is to have everyone present for recognition of new membership at the 11 am service on June 23. No need to register, but let us know if you plan to attend! Contact Deb Bullock-Smith at (585) 271-1050 x117 or email her at dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org

JUNE 10 AND 17

New
Members
Class



Summer VBS is coming!

Children ages 4 through 11, join us August 5 through 8 for an Olympic-sized VBS! We will meet each morning from 9 am til noon to learn about teamwork, play Olympic-themed games, and explore what the Bible has to say about working together!

Register now!
Visit asburyfirst.org/vbs

East Ave Community Market Days

The East Ave Community Market returns to Asbury's Granger lawn! Wednesdays, 4 to 7 pm, running from now until the end of August, we'll be hosting this celebration of small local makers and growers for the whole neighborhood.

The market features free activities for kids, organic produce, craft baked goods, sourdough bread, pantry staples, and more!



School 17 says THANKS!

Schools Out For the Summer!! A tremendous thank you to all the Help Me Read Tutors this year. What an AWESOME year we had and we are looking forward to next year being even better! The plan is to start our tutoring the last week of September and we hope you all will be returning for the fun. We will be recruiting new tutors for next year and orientation will be scheduled for the end of August and early September.

Questions or suggestions contact jhsmalt@gmail.com See You In September!!



Asbury Storehouse Holiday Craft Bazaar

SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date! We know Christmas is still a ways off, but if you're interested in being a vendor at this year's Holiday Craft Bazaar, please reserve a spot soon! Contact chrissmithburton@gmail.com for more information.

November 1, 2024, set-up 5 - 7 pm

November 2, 2024, 10 - 4 pm

November 3, 2024, 10 - 2 pm



1010
TUESDAYS



1010 Tuesday, 8 am, July 9

Last Chance until Fall!

Help us spread the word about the good work of our Community Outreach Center — Invite a friend, a co-worker, a local business owner, even your dentist or your financial planner! We're building up our teams of volunteers, donors, and funders to help maintain the momentum of the last few years of life-changing outreach.

You and your guest will meet us at 1010 East Ave on **Tuesday, July 9, at 8 am** for a simple breakfast, a brief tour, and stories about these life-changing services.

Reservations are requested by Friday, July 5.

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

De-Escalation Training

We are planning to offer another session of de-escalation training led by the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence. We hosted a session in October that was very well-received by those in attendance. Representatives of the Institute will share with us best practices and skills when working with people experiencing trauma and/or crisis.

If you would like to attend please sign up call (585) 271-1050 so that we can gauge interest and keep you informed when the event is scheduled.



M.K. Gandhi Institute
for Nonviolence

COC Stewards Orientation

June 22, 9:30am

COC, Lower Level

Participation in a Stewardship Orientation is required for all COC volunteers. If you are interested in beginning to volunteer, or if you are already volunteering but have never been to an orientation, please join us! We will cover important information about our outreach mission and philosophy as well as practical information about best practices and safety. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

Grocery Bag packing @ 8:00-9:00am • Volunteer Orientation @ 9:30-10:30am

COMMUNITY Outreach CENTER
AT ASBURY FIRST
Stewards Orientation

Join the Vistation Team!

If you are interested in visiting people in our congregation on a regular basis, please contact Rev. Kathy Thiel at (585) 271-1050 x106 or email her at kthiel@asburyfirst.org



Time to Train! Get yourself ready for the East Ave Grocery Run

Each year, we participate in the East Ave Grocery Run as a fundraiser for the Community Outreach Center's food programs. If you think you might want to walk or run the race, the time to start training is right around the corner!

This year the race is on **November 2**, but the registration is open for people to sign up. To join our team, contact Pat Dupont at (585) 271-1050 x136



Volunteer with the Community Garden!

Asbury Community Garden is in need of new volunteers! Whether you'd like to put in a single afternoon of service or join us for the entire season, we could use your help.

Gardening expertise is welcome, but not required. Planting began in May and from then until October we'll need help with watering. Harvesting begins in June. Most volunteers work on a team that serves every few weeks to water, weed, and harvest.

Let us know if you're willing to help just one time or all season by reaching out to Diana Carter at dianalouisecarter@gmail.com or by calling (585) 732-7224



Flower beds were built...



...and are now growing big and tall!



Miracle Garden Electronic Recycling

We are once again accepting electronic recycling items for Miracle Garden!

Following the 2004 Tsunami in south east India, Miracle Garden was established to provide a home and education for the orphans from that event.

In conjunction with Imagine It Recycling, we're collecting your old electronic devices, cell phones, toner cartridges and more for recycling. The money raised will go to help the Miracle Garden continue its good work! Look for the donation box near the Main entrance of the Welcoming Hall. More more info about what items are accepted at asburyfirst.org/news/

Questions, please contact Elizabeth Church at (585) 978-0007



Electronics

Including all cords, batteries, cases, headphones, charging ports, and anything else that goes with your device.

- Cameras & Camcorders
- iPads & Tablets
- Satellite Radios
- E-Books
- GPS Devices
- USB Devices
- MP3 Players
- Gaming Devices
- 3D Glasses

Cell Phone & PDAs

Including all cords, batteries, accessories, and anything else that goes with your device.

- Cell phones
- Smartphones
- PDA's
- Charging ports
- Batteries
- Cords

Printer Cartridges

Everything that goes into or is taken out of the printer, copier, or fax machine.

- Ink cartridges
- Toner laser cartridges
- Drums and imaging units
- Fuser and maintenance kits
- Transfer units and transfer belts

Spam/Phishing Warning

We have reports of a new scam going around claiming to be Ted. Please hover over the email to make sure it is from an @asburyfirst.org email account. The Asbury First staff will never ask you to send cash immediately or to give your personal information over an open email.

Here are a few guidelines to recognize scam/phishing emails or texts:

- **Be suspicious of urgent demands for information**
- Often spoofed e-mails will make some form of urgent request.
- **Look for misspelled words or grammatical errors in the message or link**
- **Avoid e-mailing personal or financial information**
- **Be watchful of general greetings**
- **Contact Asbury First directly to verify the request before responding.**



Staff will only contact you using official email addresses. For more information, please contact David Strong at dstrong@asburyfirst.org



CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altars are given to the glory of God and in loving memory, honor, and gratitude for Sandra's parents, Ray and Marilyn Waring, by Sandra and David Holloway.

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.

We offer our prayers and concerns for Ida Mae Hickman, Angie Burch and Jermaine Hickman on the death of Patrick Hickman on June 4.

We offer our condolences and prayers to Morgan and Sean Cox on the death of Morgan's grandfather, William Lynch, who died on Saturday, June 8.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the family and friends of Peggy Epping, who died on April 13. A Memorial Service will be held on June 28 at 6 pm at the Northgate Bible Chapel, 240 McGuire Rd in Rochester.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the family of Cathy Blakey who died on Thursday, June 13.



SEEKING STEWARDS



As you know, we're Better Together! If you've got an itch to get involved, maybe we've got a scratch for you – below are a few roles currently available at Asbury.

GREETER COORDINATOR

Evarts UR Well Clinic is in need of a Greeter Coordinator to assist with scheduling and supporting greeters at our Outreach Center. Contact Mary Scahill at (585) 705-6112 or mscahill404@gmail.com

GARDENER

The Gardening team is looking for help with weeding and light trimming every week or two. Contact Bonnie Gregory at bonniegregory126@gmail.com for more information.

COOKIE BAKERS

Help keep our **Sunday cookie** spread yummy! Folks interested in assisting with the baking of some cookies for Sunday, please contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org for more information.

SUMMER GUITARIST

If you play the guitar and/or enjoy leading singing, please contact Carl Johengen at cjohengen@asburyfirst.org about lending a hand with the **Summer Outdoor** 9 am Service.

LANDSCAPER

Please consider joining the **Community Outreach Center Landscaping Team** - flexible hours and seasonal! If interested in learning more, please contact Bob Schuman at robert@schumanonline.net.

ALTAR GUILD

Ever wonder how our beautiful Sanctuary is prepared for Sunday worship? Consider joining the **Altar Guild**. Minimal hours required. Please contact Martha Tuke at mwtuke@gmail.com for more information.

The Cady Celebration was full of laughter, tears, and a reminder of so many profound moments in Asbury First's recent history.



The Cady kids continue to grow!





After a delicious meal, the Cadys received loving tributes in the form of speeches, songs, gifts, gags, and even a congregation-wide yo-yo!



Youth Sunday!
Our youth led a fun
and enriching service.





Rev. David Lubba is presented with the Congregational Cane

Sunday, June 16, long-time Asbury First member, Rev. David Lubba, received the honorary Conference Cane — a cherished symbol within the Upper New York Conference of the Methodist Church held by the longest continuously serving clergy member. Crafted from timber salvaged from Michigan's first Methodist Episcopal Church which burned in 1841, the cane carries a rich history dating back to the pioneering days of Methodism, when the Genessee conference extended west from Quebec City to Detroit, and south to northcentral Pennsylvania.

Rev. Lubba's journey to this moment began in South Attica, where at just thirteen years old, he felt called to ministry while working the fields. His path led him to serve faithfully not only in Upper New York but

also for nine impactful years as a missionary in the Republic of the Philippines.

The Cane was presented to Rev. Lubba on Sunday by Rev. Rachel Dupont during the 11 am service. He attributes his journey to God's guidance and is thankful for the love and support of the Asbury First congregation.

The Cane was previously held by Rev. Norman Parsons, who passed away in September, 2023. As David holds the cane, he becomes part of a legacy that connects him to the early days of the Methodist church — a reminder of faith, service, and the enduring power of God's love.

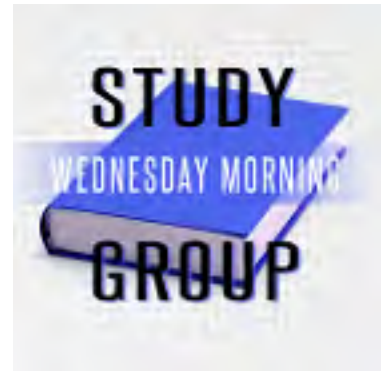
CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

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

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 soulsourcemstudio1@gmail.com for more information and to register.



CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

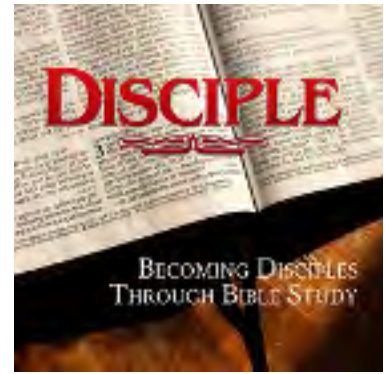
Disciple III and IV Bible Studies

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.

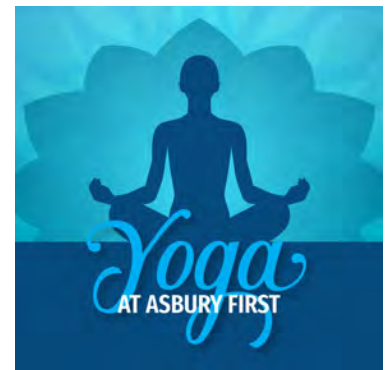


Yoga at Asbury First

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

Join us for our summer sessions of Gentle Yoga. During the summer months, this gentle attention can help both to bring inner awareness to your body, as well as giving shape to your free-flowing summer day!

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 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 will be holding its first meeting of the season on Sunday, October 15 in the Youth Room (in the lower level of the church), as our church community celebrates National Coming Out Day. Anyone affiliated with LGBTQ+ community and allies are welcome to attend. We will be setting our agenda for the year, 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.

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 accepting donations in our new donation building (small brick building) located next to the COC at 1010 East Ave.

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 Summer 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. With Fall's approach, the garden is slowing down and will be put to bed over the Winter with first frosts. We welcome volunteers to help us over the Winter 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.

NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

Storehouse Items Needed

Our inventory is low on the items listed below. If you have any of these to donate, please either drop them off in the brick donation building outside of the Community Outreach Center (COC) or bring donations to the 1st floor reception desk in the COC Mon -Thurs from 9 am - 3 pm and Fridays from 12 - 3 pm.

- Children's and Men's gently used sneakers, sandals and summer shoes
- Men's jeans
- Queen sized bed sheets
- Standard sized pillow cases
- Bath & hand towels
- Drinking glasses
- Pots and fry pans (used or new)

Thank you for your ongoing generosity!



Youth Ministry Opportunities for Adults!

The Youth Ministries of Asbury First have always been a highlight of our congregation, and we are thankful for all of the encouragement and support we receive! Each year, we seek to expand our team of adult volunteers that act as mentors and facilitators with our youth. If this is a ministry that you have ever wondered about joining, Mike Mullin would love to connect with you.

In addition, as we work out our summer schedule, if you have any familiarity with disc golf or rock climbing, we would love to be in touch about how you might share your passions with our youth for a couple of events this summer.

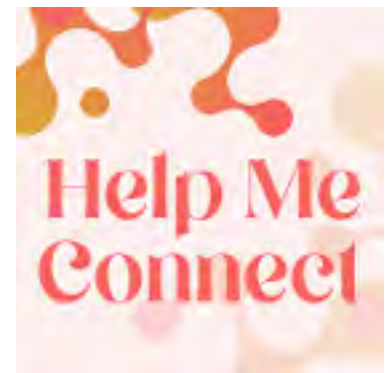
For more information, please contact Mike Mullin, mmullin@asburyfirst.org

YOUTH
MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ADULTS!

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 JULY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, July 1

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.