

Asbury First NEWS SHEET

JUNE 2025

asburyfirst.org

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

(585) 271-1050

STAFFING UPDATE



Deb Bullock-Smith to become Director of Operations

We are pleased to share some exciting news about upcoming staff transitions at Asbury First!

After many years of faithful service, **David Strong** has announced that he will be moving up his retirement date from the Church Administrator Position to **June 30**. We are deeply grateful for David's steady leadership and dedication, and we look forward to his continuing role as Duane Prill's Assistant Organist. Stepping into David's role—now titled **Director of Operations**—is our very own **Deb Bullock-Smith**, whose exceptional service and commitment to Asbury First are already well known to many. We are thrilled to welcome her into this new role.

As Deb transitions, **Holly Temming** will step into Deb's previous position, now called **Operations Manager**, while continuing her work in Children's Music Ministry. Holly has already brought energy and excellence to our team, and we're excited to see her thrive in this new capacity.

Both Deb and Holly will begin their new roles on **July 1**.

Please join us in congratulating **David, Deb, and Holly** on these important milestones and transitions. We are blessed by their leadership and look forward to what's ahead!



*Holly Temming to become Operations Manager, while
continuing her work with Children's Music Ministry.*

Town Hall – June 22

Mark your calendars! Join Asbury First's next Town Hall meeting on June 22 after the 11 am service. Our Governing Board wants to hear from you on important topics affecting the church's daily operations. Attend in person in the Sanctuary or join via livestream.

Your voice matters in shaping our community's future!



East Avenue Music Festival

Join Asbury First for the inaugural East Avenue Music Festival on Sunday, June 22! This **FREE** afternoon event features 30-minute concerts at five historic churches along East Avenue, with food and strolling between stops.

- **Third Presbyterian Church:** 12 - 12:30 pm (*concert + food trucks*)
- **Incarnate Word Lutheran Church:** 1 - 1:30 pm (*concert + food*)
- **St. Paul's Episcopal Church:** 2 - 2:30 pm (*concert + food*)
- **Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church:** 3 - 3:30 pm (*concert + food*)
- **Asbury First United Methodist Church:** 4 - 4:30 pm (*concert with massed choral finale + food & ice cream*)

Attend all or part of this community celebration.

Free and open to the public!



Dance Your Way to Fitness and Fun!

Join certified Zumba instructor Katy Rebholz (choreographer for our "My Fair Lady" production) for weekly classes starting Thursday, **June 12 at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Center**. No prior Zumba or dance experience needed—all fitness levels welcome! A suggested donation of \$10 is paid directly to Katy.

Come move, groove, and get fit with us!



Pride Parade: Saturday, July 19

Get ready to celebrate Pride in Rochester with Asbury First this summer! The Rochester area United Methodist Church Reconciling Ministries will be marching in the annual Pride parade starting at **11 am on July 19 on South Ave**, from Science Parkway to Highland Park (which is the same route as last year).



Collaborative Makers MONTHLY Gathering

The Collaborative Makers Gathering was a great success, and we're excited to continue meeting **monthly on second Saturdays** in **Fellowship Hall from 1 to 4 pm**. Bring a project to work on, sewing or knitting items to share, and an empty bag to take home treasures from other makers. We hope you'll join us **Saturday, July 12!**

Contact Rev. Kathy Thiel at (585) 271-1050 x106 or Deb Bullock-Smith at (585) 271-1050 x117 for more information.



Community Market Days are Back!

Wednesdays, from 4 to 7:30 pm on the Granger Lawn, drop by for a host of local vendors, games for kids, and a special food truck. This week's food truck will be "Mad Potatoes!" featuring deep fried potatoes stuffed with various deliciousness.

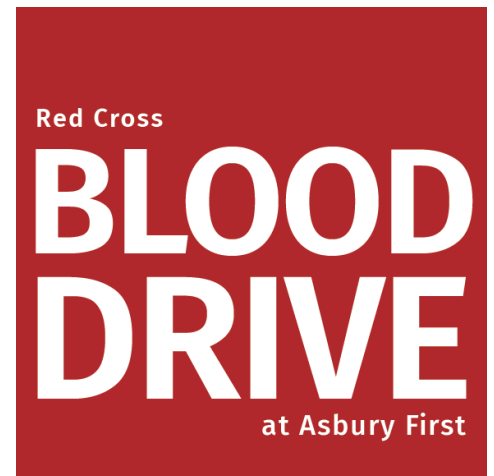
The Market will be here at Asbury First every Wednesday through the end of August! Contact Paula Dugan for more information or if you'd like to help out at the Asbury First table during market hours: (585) 271-1050 x111



Blood Drive – Saturday, June 21, 8:30 am – 1 pm

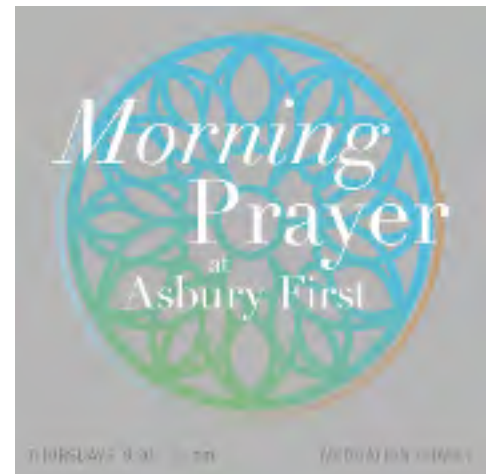
Sign up or just show up to give blood on **Saturday, June 21 from 8:30 am to 1 pm in Asbury First's Gathering Center**. Please call Ed Ristau at (585) 223-4356 or call **1-800-RED-CROSS** to schedule your appointment.

Please remember to bring your ID.



Morning Prayer at Asbury First

In these turbulent times of shifting headlines and unsettling political events, our pastoral staff feels called to help our community maintain spiritual grounding. We invite you to join us for Morning Prayer every **Thursday, 9:30 - 10 am in the Meditation Chapel** (within the Sanctuary). This simple service offers a space to center ourselves in God's presence, solidarity, compassion, and love. No special preparation needed—come as you are, whenever you can join us.



Sing This Summer! No Commitment!

Join the choir for the whole summer or for any individual Sunday! Summer Choir gathers at **10 am in Wesley Hall** to rehearse accessible music that will be sung at the 11 am service. No need to be a member of Sanctuary Choir, but basic choral singing experience is recommended. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Director of Music Ministry, Carl Johengen at (585) 271-1050 x134.



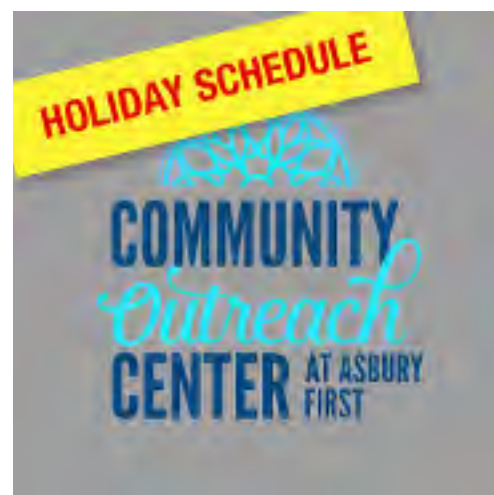
Postcards to Voters

Join members of the Asbury First Civics Team (an initiative of the Social Concerns Committee) in writing postcards to voters. Bring your best penmanship, a pen and lots of enthusiasm to **the Red Room (1010, COC) Wednesdays from 10 am - noon.**



COC Closed June 30 through July 6 for Holiday

The Community Outreach Center (including the Dining & Caring Center, the UR Well Clinic and the Storehouse) will be closed **Monday, June 30 through Sunday, July 6.** In order to give our volunteers a much-needed respite, there will be no meals served or shopping appointments during that time.



Columbarium and Memorial Garden

Construction has begun!

Asbury First's Columbarium and Memorial Garden is taking shape after years of planning. The Memorial Garden will be a sacred place to pray, reflect and meditate. Niches can be reserved for yourself, a loved one or for those who may not be able to secure a spot in the future.

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



Summer VBS 'B Camp'

Half and Full Day Options

August 4-7, 9 am - 12 pm (or 4 pm)

Join the buzz at "B Camp" this summer! All Kids (PreK-5th grade) will have a blast August 4 - 7 exploring the B's: being, beatitudes, and bees! NEW this year: Choose our exciting all-day adventure (9am - 4pm, lunch needed) or the morning option. Don't miss out on this hive of fun and learning! ***Asbury First members and VBS alumni can register from May 25 to June 13***, at which time spots will become open to everyone. Questions? Buzz Paula Dugan at (585) 271-1050 x111.



Cookies Wanted!

Bakers needed! Please consider baking cookies for Asbury First hospitality. Drop them at the church office to be frozen until needed, helping our hospitality team over the summer while ensuring treats after Sunday worship.

Contact Paula Dugan: **(585) 271-1050 x111**.



June COC Chapel Challenge

Each month we collect different needed supplies for the ministries of the Community Outreach Center. For the June COC Chapel Challenge, we will collect **HE (high efficiency) Tide Pods, Toothpaste and Toothbrushes, and Bed Pillows**. A list of other specific items is available at asburyfirst.org/coc. 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!



PENTECOST 2025

BY REV. PAT DUPONT

Yesterday, June 8, was the 50th and final day of the Easter season: Pentecost Sunday. On Pentecost we celebrated the activity of the Holy Spirit in our world, communities, and lives.

The assigned scripture reading for the day commemorates what is often called, ‘the birth of the Church’ and tells the possibly familiar story of rushing wind, tongues of fire and miraculous understanding across language barriers.

Just after this reading, the scriptural account goes on to say:

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts..."

In the Pentecost story, the Holy Spirit shows up in a very dramatic way. **The Spirit stirred hearts and the Church was born as early disciples committed themselves to community care.**

The same Spirit that moved amongst those early believers is moving in the world today. Hearts are being stirred, lives are being devoted to community care, the Church is being constantly reborn.

The work we do in the Community Outreach Center and in partnership with other organizations serving Rochester and the world is one example of this activity. Speaking truth to power in advocacy efforts as/alongside vulnerable people is another. People of faith are currently rallying against policies that threaten to increase the suffering of our most marginalized neighbors:



Groups of clergy and faith leaders have faced arrest on three different occasions in recent weeks for praying for the poor in the Capitol Rotunda. Drawing attention to the harm that will be done by the tax and spending bill currently being considered in Congress, the Rev. Dr. William Barber III points out that “Congress starts each day with its own prayers to the Almighty even while preying on the poor.” He and his colleagues have been repeatedly gathering outside the Supreme Court and marching on the Capitol – and their numbers are growing.

Many Christian organizations are sponsoring a vigil and processional titled “A Pentecost Witness for a Moral Budget” in Washington on June 10th. Our own United Methodist General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, Bishop Julius C. Trimble, recently encouraged United Methodists to attend.

The Spirit is stirring. People of Faith are being swept up in its movement. As servants. As neighbors. As advocates. As activists. In a quiet moment this week (maybe during our Thursday Morning Prayer gathering) I invite you to listen and reflect:

***Where is the Pentecost Spirit leading you?
How are you being empowered and driven
to community care?***

OFF-MONROE PLAYERS TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER



Mark your calendars for next Sunday, **June 15 at 2 pm** and join us in the **Gathering Center** for an afternoon of entertainment that supports a wonderful cause. The Community Outreach Center is hosting a special benefit featuring a delightful performance by the beloved Off-Monroe Players. This is your chance to enjoy exceptional local theater while helping support the vital work of the Community Outreach Center.

The Off-Monroe Players will bring their signature charm and energy to the stage, performing selections from their repertoire of Gilbert & Sullivan productions. Known for their infectious enthusiasm and commitment to having fun on stage, OMP promises an afternoon filled with beautiful music, clever wit, and the kind of spirited performance that has kept audiences coming back for three decades.

What makes the Off-Monroe Players truly special is their approach to theater. For over 30 years, this remarkable group has focused on one simple goal: having fun while bringing Gilbert & Sullivan's timeless works to life. They have been performing the same 13 (plus) shows over and over for more than 30 years, accepting any and all who wish to join. But instead of getting tired of a show, they keep coming back to what they characterize as a "little extended family".

Don't miss this opportunity to support the Community Outreach Center while experiencing the magic that has made the Off-Monroe Players a treasured part of the Rochester community for three decades. Admission is "pay-what-you-can" and all proceeds will be donated to the Community Outreach Center.

AN UPDATE ON OUR MINISTRY IN NICARAGUA

Since 2008, Asbury First has supported the people of Nicaragua with prayers, visits, sponsorships and more. That relationship, while still a blessing, became much more challenging in 2022 when the Ortega regime closed thousands of non-profits including Project Chacocente. Thankfully, the families who previously lived in the Managua city dump and started a new life at Chacocente retained their homes and farmland on the Chacocente campus. But the government claimed all other property on the campus, including the well and Chacocente Christian School.

We are grateful that the beautiful school campus—built over the years by the Chacocente Families alongside hundreds of North American visitors (including dozens from Asbury First)—now operates solely under the Ministry of Education, still enrolling children from not only Chacocente but also the surrounding neighborhood. The community well continues to provide safe drinking water for the school and the Families.



Because Project Chacocente remains a 501(c)3 in the United States, we continue to support eight Nicaraguan students through our Chacocente Scholars Program. Currently, the program provides tuition assistance for one high school student and seven in university programs. Areas of study include nursing, civil engineering, medicine, graphic design, computer science, and marketing. Education will provide them with the best means for obtaining meaningful employment and a better way of life.

God calls us to "Make disciples of all nations," and the board of directors of Project Chacocente hopes to continue serving not only the people of Nicaragua but also others living in Central America seeking relief from poverty.

If you would like more information, please contact Robyn Gage at robynegage@gmail.com or Larry Gage at lgage2@icloud.com.

New Members at Asbury First!

Sunday, June 15, we welcomed six new members to the Asbury First family. Please welcome Bruce Butler, Pamela Dayton, Chris Haag, Lucinda Haag, Nancy Mitchell, and June White!



Tyshaun Cauldwell Award Recipients!

On Friday, May 23, four outstanding sixth-grade students received scholarships honoring Tyshaun Cauldwell's legacy. These awards recognize students who shine in character, academics, sportsmanship, and the arts.

We're proud that Asbury First has been a longtime sponsor of this meaningful program, now in its 10th year! Special thanks to our own **Rand Warner** for representing us at the ceremony.

Congratulations to these remarkable young scholars!



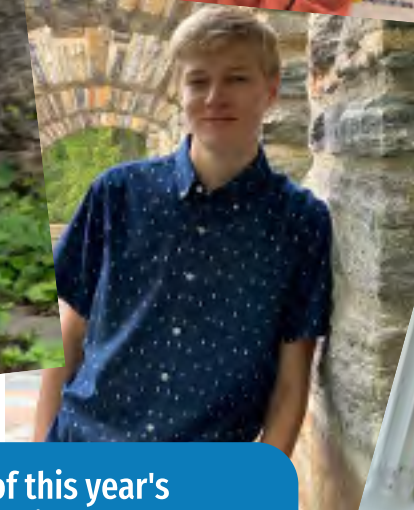
The Community Market returns to the Granger Lawn at Asbury First!



Featuring lots of local vendors selling ice cream, honey, veggies and vinegars...



...and also providing a nice place to spend some one-on-one time with a loved one in the shade.



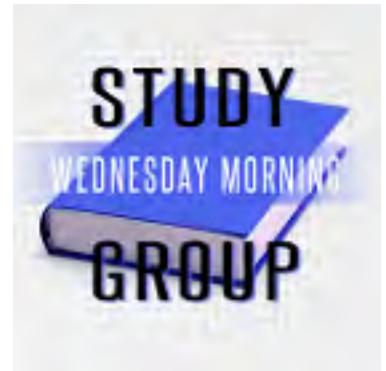
We're so proud of this year's graduates, and excited to see where they go next!

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 First Women's 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.



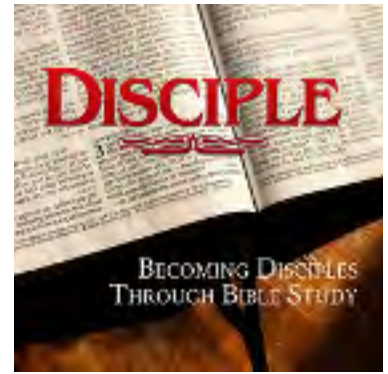
CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

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

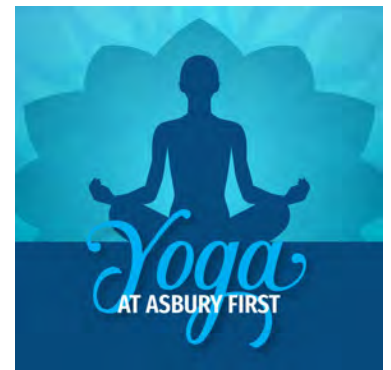


Yoga at Asbury First

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 altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John E. Clarke and in honor of servicemen and women who have served or are serving our country by Dawn Riedy, David Berg & family and in loving memory of Michael Graney, nephew of Annette and Jim Farrington, on the 10th anniversary of his passing.

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 Mike and Pam McMindes whose son, Thomas Jonathan McMindes, died on May 22.

Our hearts and prayers are with Dick and Nancy Adamus. Dick's sister, Phyllis Johnson, died May 26.

Our hearts and prayers are with the family of Larry Betler who died on May 30.

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. (585) 271-1050 x106.

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.