

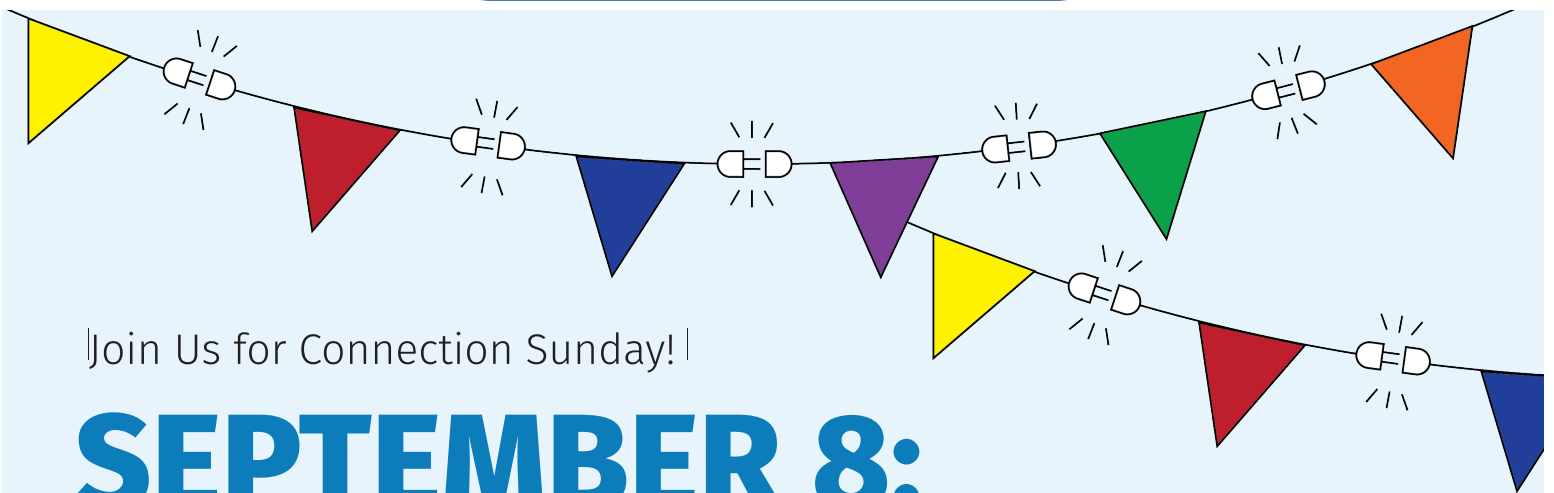
# Asbury First NEWS SHEET

AUGUST 2024

asburyfirst.org

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

(585) 271-1050



Join Us for Connection Sunday!

## SEPTEMBER 8: CONNECTION SUNDAY!

### DATE

September 8

### TIME

Following the 9am  
Service until 1 pm

### LOCATION

The Gathering Center

Get ready for an exciting and impactful day at our Mission Fair! This is your chance to connect with the heart and soul of Asbury First, and discover how you can be a part of something bigger. Meet some other amazing people and learn how we can work together to **Do More Good**.

Whether you're passionate about...

**Outreach / Worship & Arts / Congregational Care / Discipleship & Youth  
Property Care / Communications / Technology / Hospitality**

...there's a place for you to get involved! We believe that we are *Better Together*, and your unique gifts and interests can make a real difference.

Come join us in the Gathering Center to explore opportunities and find your place in this vibrant community. See you there!

## Youth Musical Auditions

**AUDITIONS:** Saturday, September 7 at 1 pm

**CALLBACKS:** Sunday, September 8 at 2 pm

*(both auditions and callbacks will be held in Fellowship Hall, 1040)*

Our Youth Musical this Fall is Newsies! Auditions begin in September with show dates of **November 22, 23 and 24**. We're excited to put together another incredible musical experience! For more information, please contact Larry Dugan at [ldugan@asburyfirst.org](mailto:ldugan@asburyfirst.org) or call the church office at (585) 271-1050.



## Pastor Michelle on WXXI's Connections

In case you missed it, our very own Pastor Michelle was interviewed by Evan Dawson for his talk show 'Connections' this past Monday on WXXI. The hour-long interview is archived and can be listened to any time by visiting the show's page on [wxxinews.org](http://wxxinews.org).



## Children's Music Ministry

Children's Music at Asbury First begins Wednesday, September 11 and we'd love to see your children for some musical fun and fellowship! We offer a community dinner at 5:30 on Wednesdays in the Gathering Center to make the night a little easier for parents. We also have great adult classes throughout the year from 6-7 pm if you'd like to drop your child off for music and then enjoy one of the classes. For more information contact Holly Temming at [htemming@asburyfirst.org](mailto:htemming@asburyfirst.org) or call (585) 271-1050 x114.

**Hallelujah Kids (Room 201, 1040),**

*Wednesdays, 5-5:30 pm*

Music fundamentals class for ages 4 through 1st grade.

**Wesley Singers & Ringers (Room 201, 1040),**

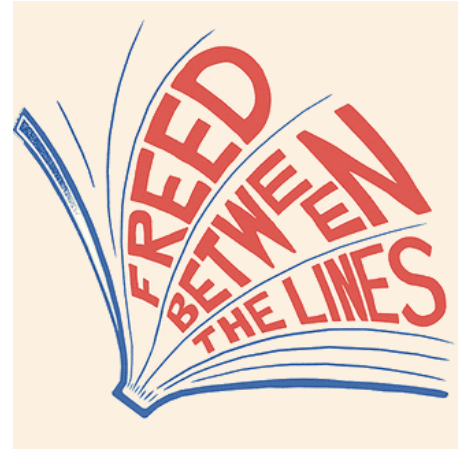
*Wednesdays, 6-7 pm*

Vocal & Handbell Choir for children in 2nd - 5th grades.



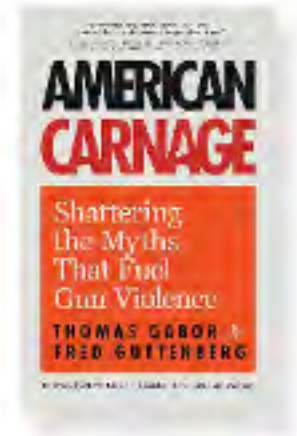
## Freed Between the Lines

Join the Asbury First Banned Book Team for Sunday school on **September 22 and 29, 9:45-10:45 am, in Fellowship Hall** for a discussion on the current state of censorship in America in support of the American Library Association Banned Book Week, which runs from September 22-28. Our first session will focus on censorship at the national level. At the second session, September 29, Adrienne Pettinelli, Director of the Henrietta Public Library, will facilitate discussion on what is happening at the local level and how we can be advocates for the freedom to read in our schools and local libraries. Class will be held in person and on Zoom. Contact Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or call (585) 271-1050 x105 for details.



## Uncover the Truth Behind Gun Violence

Join us for a compelling discussion on *American Carnage: Shattering the Myths that Fuel Gun Violence* by criminologist Thomas Gabor and Parkland father Fred Guttenberg. This weekly series runs **every Wednesday in October from 6-7 pm in the Red Room, (1010)**. Whether you've read the book or not, you're welcome to participate. Come early for dinner at 5:30 pm and stay for this powerful conversation. Books are available for purchase in the Welcome Hall starting in September.



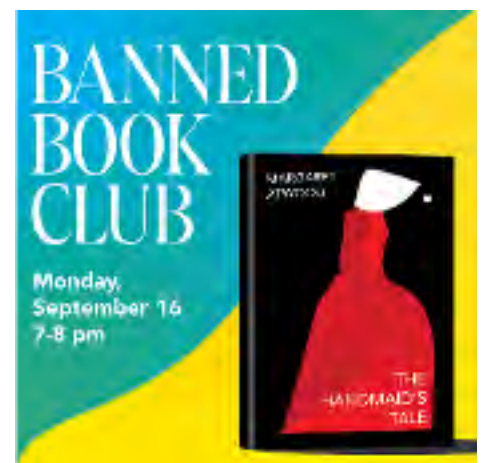
## Banned Book Club

**Monday, September 16, 7-8 pm**  
**Red Room (1010, COC) or by Zoom**

To register for Zoom, call Mike Mullin at **(585) 271-1050 x105**

Future Dates: Nov. 18, Jan. 20, Mar. 17, and May 19

Books to be chosen by participants



## September 1: Backpack Blessing!

For students of all ages entering the new academic year, this Sunday, September 1, we will mark this new beginning with a blessing! Whether you're young or mature, student or teacher, working in administration or in support of an institution of learning, we want to celebrate this important time with you! Bring a backpack, a course book, a favorite pen, or anything that represents school to you, join us during Children's Time at the 9 and 11 am services, and we'll send you forth with a blessing.



## Upcoming New Member Classes

If you are interested in joining Asbury First, we will be having four New Members classes in the next several months. These classes take place over two consecutive Monday evenings, and will teach about the history of Asbury First and United Methodism, while also providing an opportunity to meet other new members of Asbury First. The first pair of classes are September 30 and October 7. If you are interested, please contact Deb Bullock-Smith at [dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org](mailto:dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org) or by calling the office at (585) 271-1050.



## Bereavement Support Group

We are each born of God, and when we die, we return to God. Death is a part of our earthly lives, and yet it is not our favorite part. When someone we love dies, our lives change forever. We grieve and we question and we suffer. Asbury First is offering bereavement support in the form of group meetings beginning this October. If someone in your life has died and you would like to be part of a loving and supportive group of others who are grieving the death of a loved one, please contact Rev. Kathy Thiel about joining a bereavement support group. Please call **(585) 271-1050 x106**. God Bless You.



## Prayer Squares from the Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is praying for you. Do you need prayer for health issues, parenting struggles, financial needs, issues with your job or any other reason? We have you covered in prayer and want you to have a Prayer Square to remind you that you are not alone. You can pick up a prayer square for yourself or someone else you know who needs to know they are being prayed for at the Welcome Desk.



## 1010 TUESDAYS ARE BACK!

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month, join us for 1010 TUESDAYS, a tour of our one-year-old Community Outreach Center concluding with a light breakfast and a question-and-answer session. Bring a friend or colleague, and help us spread the word. Fall dates for 1010 Tuesdays tours are September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10.

Space is limited so reserve your spot today by calling (585) 271-1050 x117.



## Asbury First's Columbarium

Asbury First's Columbarium project is moving ahead! Join us Sunday, September 22, directly following the 11 am service, at the location of the future Columbarium for a ground breaking ceremony, rain or shine.

To learn more about the Columbarium or to inquire about securing a spot for you or a loved one, call the office at (585) 271-1050.



## Thank You Asbury First!!

A BIG thanks to everyone who donated school supplies. Asbury First continues to show us time and time again how generous they are and we could not be more grateful for your support. Thanks to you, your generosity will make a difference to the students at School 17!! There is still time for you to join the **Help Me Read Tutors**. To sign up please contact John Smalt at 924 -8624.

**RETURNING TUTORS:** Please call Ms. Linda at 766-8440 to schedule your start date.



## Spam/Phishing Warning

We have reports of a new scam going around claiming to be Michelle. 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](mailto:dstrong@asburyfirst.org)



give

This Fall, there will be a variety of opportunities to support the *Community Outreach Center*:

COC PLEDGE DRIVE • DINING IN FOR OUTREACH • EAST AVE GROCERY RUN  
STOREHOUSE HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE • THANKSGIVING INGATHERING

Thank you to those who have immediately responded with donations to cover the financial gap at our new **Community Outreach Center at Asbury First**. Asbury First has a heart for Outreach and we're appealing to that heart now to meet this need. The \$70,000 gap is shrinking, but there's more work to be done to close this gap by year's end.

When you consider making a donation to the COC, remember that for every **\$1** donated to Asbury First Outreach, **\$2** comes out in the form of goods and services. Going forward, our annual pledge drive will offer the option to designate a portion of your annual pledge to Outreach. Whether you donate online, by Venmo or by check, please indicate in a memo line or comment box if you would like a portion of your donation to specifically support the COC. Thank you for helping us to **Do More Good**.

*If currently employed, your company may have a matching gift program for which your gift to Outreach programs at Asbury would qualify. If you need to make a Required Minimum Distribution from your investments at year's end, please consider the COC as a recipient.*

TO GIVE, VISIT  
[ASBURYFIRST.ORG](http://ASBURYFIRST.ORG)

OR SCAN THE  
QR CODE BELOW  
AND CHOOSE  
'SUB FUND'  
COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH CENTER



## Are you interested in serving as a Reader at the 9 or 11 am service?

We are expanding the roster of readers, and whether you are new to this ministry or have served in the past, we'd love to hear from you! Our hope is to set up a schedule several months in advance, to allow for flexibility. Training is available! Please contact Rev. Kathy Thiel, [kthiel@asburyfirst.org](mailto:kthiel@asburyfirst.org) or (585) 271-1050 x106. Let us know if you're interested in the 9 or 11 am service, or both.

This invitation is also extended to those who are connected via the livestream! Contact Kathy and she will help to make arrangements.



## 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](mailto:dianalouisecarter@gmail.com) or by calling (585) 732-7224



*Flower beds were built...*



*...and are now growing big and tall!*



## Start Shopping for our annual School Supply Drive

We will be collecting school supplies again this year for students at School 17. This is a Pre-K -6th grade school. We will be collecting August 18 thru Sept. 8 in the Welcoming Hall. Just leave your donation at the table.

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

Many thanks to YOU for your continued support!

For more information, please contact John Smalt at **585-924-8624**



## 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/](http://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





## CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

### ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altars are given to the glory of God and in gratitude of 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 the family of Carolyn DiStasio who died on July 22.

Our hearts and prayers are with Jim Reed and his family. Jim's sister, Nancy Reed, died on July 22.

Our hearts and prayers are with Danyelle and Eric Hildreth and their children Mallory and Ethan on the death of Danyelle's father, Carl "Doc" Dockstader on July 22.

Our hearts and prayers are with Linda Betstadt whose mother, Ethel F. Mackwirth, died on August 7.

Our hearts and prayers are with Johanna Mahan and her family on the death of her mother, Marjorie Stevens, who died August 12.

Our hearts and prayers are with Robyn Gage and her family on the death of her brother, Tim Kachelmeyer, on August 22.

Our hearts and prayers are with June Walters and her family on the death of her husband, Gene Walters, on August 24.

## Are you interested in joining one of Asbury First's *music ministries*?

Asbury First's music groups will resume **weekly rehearsals** in **September**, and new members are always warmly welcome! If you have an interest in joining one of them, reach out to our team of Music Ministry leaders:

**Sanctuary Choir** — Dr. Carl Johengen ([cjohengen@asburyfirst.org](mailto:cjohengen@asburyfirst.org)) — first rehearsal of the new season is Wednesday, September 4, 7:30 - 9:00 pm in Wesley Hall.

**Asbury Ringers** — Elizabeth Church ([echurch@asburyfirst.org](mailto:echurch@asburyfirst.org)) — rehearsals resume on Wednesday, September 11, 6:30 - 8:00 pm in Room 205 in the Education Wing.

**Asbury Orchestra** — Laurie Kennedy ([lkennedy@asburyfirst.org](mailto:lkennedy@asburyfirst.org)) — rehearsals for fall begin on Sunday, October 6.

**Youth Music** — Carol Lamica ([clamica@asburyfirst.org](mailto:clamica@asburyfirst.org)) — Auditions for the Youth Musical "Newsies" are on Saturday, September 7. *See ad on page 13 for more details.*

**Children's Music** — Holly Temming ([htemming@asburyfirst.org](mailto:htemming@asburyfirst.org)) — Hallelujah Kids (5–5:30 pm) and Wesley Singers and Ringers (6–7 pm) resume in Room 201 (1040, upper level), Wednesday, September 11.

*VBS was so much FUN!*



*The theme this year was "Olympic-sized VBS"*

The kids played games, and learned what the Bible has to say about *teamwork*.



So many fond memories made in just a few days!



Asbury First was visited by the Cousins' Lobster Roll Truck



The line was long, but folks loved the Lobster rolls!



For staff and volunteers, this was a chance to spread joy, meet new people, and let folks know about Asbury First



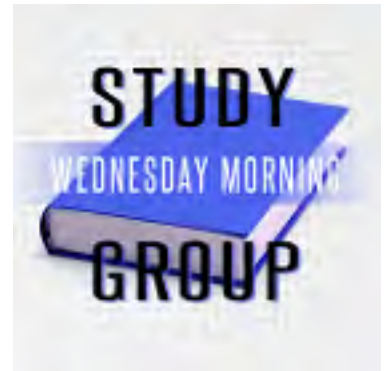
## CONTINUING CLASSES, GROUPS, AND EVENTS

### Wednesday Morning Study Group

*Wednesdays, 10–11:30 am , 1010 Red Room and Zoom ([zoom.us/j/6174865464](https://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](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org).



### 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!



### 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](mailto:soulsourcestudio1@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](https://zoom.us/j/6174865464) PW Disciple)*

*Fridays, 9:30-10:30 am, Zoom ([zoom.us/j/6174865464](https://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](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org) or at (585) 271-1050 x105.

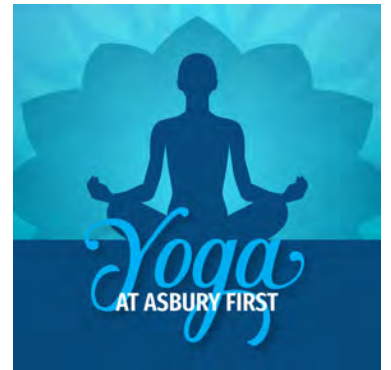


### Yoga at Asbury First

*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](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!



## 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](mailto: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 [jhsmalt@gmail.com](mailto:jhsmalt@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](mailto:dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org).



### As The Spirit Moves Us

**Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am, Room LL03 and Zoom ([zoom.us/j/6174865464](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 currently not accepting Donations, but check back again soon!

## 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](http://asburyfirst.org/coc) or by calling the Rev. Pat Dupont at (585) 271-1050 x136.*

**Stay up-to-date with events, links, and information with our online calendar, or call (585) 271-1050.**

[asburyfirst.org/events](http://asburyfirst.org/events)

## DEADLINE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS: FRIDAY, September 27

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](http://asburyfirst.org/bulletin-announcement).  
If you'd like to receive regular paper communications, please call the church office at (585) 271-1050.