



1 October 2026

Dear Members and Friends of Asbury First United Methodist Church,

The faithfulness of this congregation is evident in countless ways, both seen and unseen. It lives in the generosity of those who give, the dedication of those who serve, the prayers of those who care, and the ways we show up for one another and for our neighbors.

This year, we have celebrated baptisms and welcomed new members, fed our neighbors, comforted one another through loss, marked important milestones, and continued to seek justice and mercy, even as we have navigated seasons of change and challenge. Through it all, your faithfulness has sustained the life and ministry of Asbury First. We are deeply grateful for each one of you.

As we look toward another year of ministry, we have adopted a simple stewardship theme: **Faithfully Together**. Asbury First's story has been written by generations of people who believe God uses ordinary acts of faithfulness to accomplish extraordinary things. That story continues in the lives changed through this congregation, in children growing in faith, in the welcome extended to our neighbors, in the music that lifts our spirits, and in the friendships and ministries through which we encounter Christ.

This ministry belongs to all of us. As we prepare for 2027, we invite you to prayerfully consider your annual giving and how God is calling you to support our shared work. Your pledge is an investment in a community that bears witness to God's love in Rochester and beyond. It is also a statement of hope that helps Asbury First plan responsibly for the coming year and steward the resources entrusted to us.

Our 2027 pledge goals are **\$1.5 million for the church's General Budget and \$320,000 for the Community Outreach Center (COC) budget**. You may pledge to the General Budget, directly to the COC budget, or to both. Together, these commitments sustain the breadth of our ministry, from our worshipping life to our service in the wider community.

Whether you have pledged before, given without pledging, or are considering a first financial commitment, we invite you to participate. You may return the enclosed commitment card by mail, pledge online through our website, or call the church office for assistance. We ask that pledges be submitted by **December 15** so the Finance Committee can adjust and finalize both budgets.

Throughout this generosity season, you'll hear stories of lives touched and hope shared through Asbury First. We hope you will also reflect on your own story here and the many ways you are part of this community. Thank you for considering your commitment for the coming year and for all that you already contribute. We look forward to seeing what God continues to do through us as we move into 2027 **Faithfully Together**.

Grace and peace to you,

Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost
Senior Minister

And the members of the Generosity Team:
Bob Stevenson, Joe Stankaitis, Kristin Parkes, Ruth Phinney, John Messenger