

asburyfirst.org

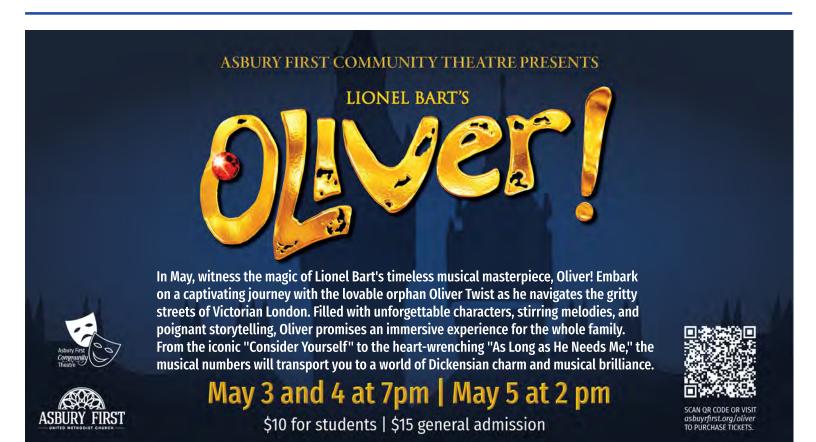
You're invited! Join us for upcoming worship, fellowship, and fun.

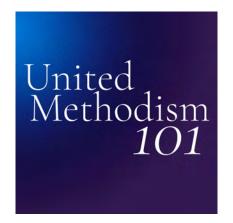
585-271-1050

Town APRIL 21

Asbury First's Governing Board will conduct Town Hall meetings periodically throughout the year, inviting the congregation to weigh-in on a variety of important topics. The first of the sessions will be April 21. Mark your calendar!

Join us in the Sanctuary, or via livestream, after the 11 am service for updates on the Senior Minister Search, our Outreach efforts, Asbury's financial landscape, and updates from the Dream Team on new ways we're envisioning the future of Asbury First.





United Methodism 101 with Rachel and Ted 6 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall (1040, lower level) and Zoom

The United Methodist Church General Conference is quickly approaching, a crucial junction in the history of the church at which the lessons of the last few decades will be crafted into guidelines for the decades ahead. Please join us for what promises to be an exciting 7-week course on the history of the United Methodist Church and what makes this General Conference so important for Asbury First!

April 17 – Rachel teaches about the General Conference (2024 broad strokes legislation overview)

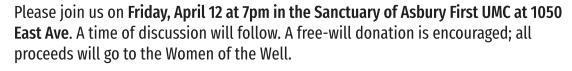
April 24 & May 1 – Ted provides more UMC background, and Rachel reports back from the center of the action, Charlotte, NC

May 8 - Rachel returns from the General Conference and will recap key motions

May 15 – Ted will lead a Q and A, wrapping up the 7-week course

Women of the Well

The Women of the Well will be presenting a program on the lives of Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel, Maura Clarke, and Jean Donovan, four US church women who were assaulted and killed in El Salvador in 1980. By attending this presentation and hearing the stories of Ita, Dorothy, Maura, and Jean, you will be helping to continue to promote the cause of peace, the hope for a world of non-violence, and the compassionate pursuit of justice for all who live in this world.





Just 2 Hours per Month!

Would you consider volunteering just 2 HOURS per month to the odds-n-ends work of Asbury First? With spring upon us, the community garden is looking for help constructing four new raised beds, as well as help planting and harvesting in the coming months. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays we have need for help with event and meeting set-up, cleaning, and other minor projects. If you're looking to spend a little extra time working alongside other Asbury folks, please contact us at volunteering@asburyfirst.org

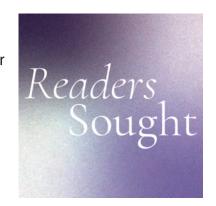
note: Thank You to those who shared suggestions like these during our Annual Church Conference in January. We are truly better together!



Readers Sought

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 or (585) 271-1050 x106. Let us know if you're interested in the 9 or 11 am service, or both.



VBS Olympic Teamwork Camp!

MONDAY, AUGUST 5 — THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 9 am — 12 pm

Children ages 4 through 5th grade, join us August 5 through 8 for Olympic-sized fun at VBS Olympic Teamwork Camp! 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.

If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to Paula Dugan, Director of Children's Ministry at **pdugan@asburyfirst.org**



Pastoral Search Update

From Jim Quinn, Governing Board Chair and Beth Wilkens, PPRC Chair:

Many of you are understandably eager for news about the search for our new senior pastor. We continue to be in regular communication with the Bishop and District Superintendent. It is clear to us that they have been actively pursuing the search process which includes many possible candidates from around the country, some of whom were referred through us. We are reassured that the Bishop and District Superintendent understand Asbury First and our needs. They remain as committed as we are to finding the right person for us. We will continue to report to you as we move toward the next chapter for our Church.



Asbury First Bicycle Ministry

The Asbury Bicycle Ministry is gearing up for the 2024 season. We repair bikes in the garage on the Asbury campus, **Thursday mornings**, **May through September**. If you are interested in participating, please contact Simon Barnett at **sjbarnett3@gmail.com**



Asbury First Library and Bibliocart

Do you love perusing books? Do you love a cozy place to sit? Would you love a quiet place to catch up with a friend after the service?

The Asbury First library is a perfect place for all these activities, located just around the corner from the Gathering Center in the Education Wing.

This week the bibliocart will focus on Earth Day and the wonder of nature around us.



Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Have you ever wondered what it is like to help build our community? Literally? Learn, do and serve, all a the same time, with others from Asbury as we join with Habitat for Humanity for two days of construction at a site off Culver Road in Rochester. We have a few more slots available on both May 4 (Sat) and May 17 (Fri). To learn more or sign up, send an email to DAKennedy@frontiernet.net and type I want to work on the subject line. Dave will will send you information including the URL and password to register online directly with Flower City Habitat for Humanity. Everyone 16 and older is eligible to volunteer. Each session runs from 8:45 am to 4 pm. No experience or tools are necessary.



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**. This year, we're expanding the garden by adding four raised beds, to be constructed in April or May, and putting down cardboard and mulch around the beds once they're constructed. Planting will begin 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



Locksmith Wanted!

Infrequent needs for rekeying or repairing interior locks on campus. Contact us if you are able to share your talents!



David Strong at dstrong@asburyfirst.org

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



Asbury Storehouse Holiday Bazaar

Fellowship Hall

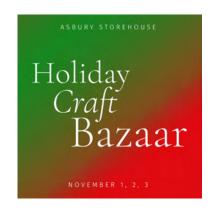
November 1, 2024, set-up 5-7pm

November 2, 2024,10-4pm

November 3, 2024, 10-2pm

Shoppers please mark your calendars

Vendors, for more information, please contact chrissmithburton@gmail.com



Storehouse Geranium Sale

Make your gardens beautiful while supporting the Storehouse! Purchase Geraniums in a rainbow of colors by scanning the QR code or visiting **asburyfirst.org/news**. We'll have 4 1/2" pots of red, white, purple sizzle, strawberry sizzle, and salmon geraniums, along with hanging baskets with mixed colors of geraniums.

Orders must be received by **Sunday**, **May 5**. Pick up your geraniums on **Saturday**, **May 18 from 9:30 am to 12 pm** at Asbury First's Community Outreach Center (1010 East Ave).

If you have any questions, please email **giving@asburyfirst.org**, or call Deb Bullock-Smith at 585-271-1050 x117



FAITH, FRIENDS, FOOD and FUN

Join us for the next **Older Adult Spring** gathering on;

Saturday, May 11, 2024

11 AM — Worship in the sanctuary

Noon — Lunch followed by fellowship in Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP by Saturday, May 4 to Barbara Eltinge at either 737-8775 or beltinge@icloud.com. Please include any dietary restrictions (such as dairy-free, gluten-free, nut-free, vegan, vegetarian, etc.)

FAITH, FRIENDS FOOD & FUN

Save the Date!

Our next event will be the Ice Cream Social, the afternoon of Saturday, July 27. Invitations will come out shortly after July 4.

Asbury First Kickball and Softball League!

Sign up Today!

Every Sunday night in June, beginning June 9, join us from 5 to 8 pm at the Ellison Park softball fields to play both softball and kickball.

All skill levels and ages are included so make sure to bring the whole family! Come share in a night of fellowship and fun!

Sign ups are due by May 19, so don't wait! Scan the QR code to access the sign-up form, or contact Mike Mullen for more information at mmullen@asburyfirst.org



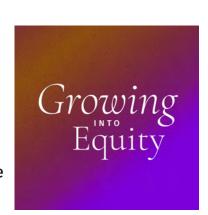
Growing INTO Equity

To continue the conversation begun earlier this year in our Building Diversity sessions, the Racial Equity Team is launching a series of monthly sessions called *Growing into Equity*. These sessions will be focused small and large group discussions around topics and current events related to equity. We hope that you will join us!

The first session will take place on Sunday April 28 at 12:30 pm, in the Red Room (located in the Community Outreach Center, 1010)

A pizza lunch will be provided.

Please email David Berg by Saturday April 27 to RSVP bergdm@gmail.com



Children's Sunday!

11 am Service, April 28 (Next Week!)

Next week, THE CHILDREN ARE RUNNING THE SHOW!!

(Not really. But we got your attention, right?)

During the 11 am service, the children will present a musical entitled "Esther" which tells the story of how Queen Esther risked her life to save the Jewish people from a massacre during the Persian Empire. This story is retold during Purim, a Biblical Jewish festival known for extravagant costumes, joyous performances and feasts.



Join us for this very special service!

Traffic Advisory

Traffic Advisory for April 28 from 7:45 am to 9 am

East Ave will be closed around Asbury First for use as the route for **The Flower City Challenge**, a half-marathon and 5K event showcasing the historical sights of Rochester. **Please be advised that during the race**, **our two East Ave driveways will be inaccessible**. Please enter our parking lot from University Ave, either via the Granger Street entrance, or the Gleason Lot entrance.



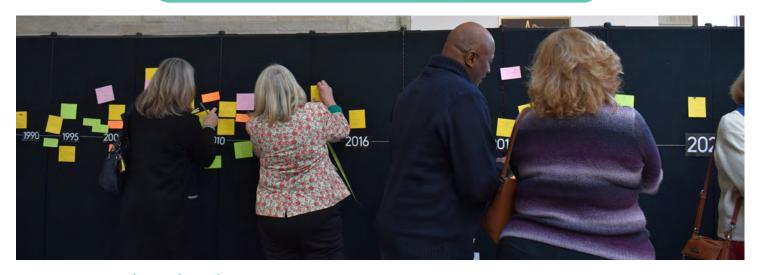
SCRAPBOOK | MARCH 2024



SCRAPBOOK | MARCH 2024 More photos from the Older Adult Lenten **Communion Services**



SCRAPBOOK | MARCH 2024



The Asbury First Timeline

Over the last few weeks, we all took a moment or two to recall a significant memory from our time at Asbury First and added them to a physical timeline constructed in the Gathering Center.



SCRAPBOOK | MARCH 2024

Palm Sunday!



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.

On Sunday, September 10, our class began by exploring the resurrection of Christ Jesus and the ways we can live a life leading us to resurrection. From there we will let the Spirit move us to continue to follow The Way. For more information about this class, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org or at 585-271-1050 x105.





UPCOMING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS

SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us every Sunday at 9:45 am in Fellowship Hall for informal conversations on a variety of subjects! Grab a coffee and join us in **Fellowship Hall** every Sunday at **9:45 am**.

Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am, 1040 Fellowship Hall and Zoom zoom.us/j/8347173468 Password: 200

April 14 - The Rev. Dr. John Tyson to discuss his book Born in Crisis and Shaped by Controversy Volume 1

April 21 - The Rev. Dr. John Tyson to discuss his book Born in Crisis and Shaped by Controversy Volume 2

April 28 - Elizabeth Church and her role as Director of Bell Choirs

May 5 - Highlights from The United Methodist Church General Conference

May 12 - Mother's Day and its birth in Methodism

May 19 - Pentecost

May 26 - No more class as our summer services begin this week

All are welcome, contact Mike Mullin at **mmullin@asburyfirst.org** for more information.

Welcome our New Members

What a blessing to add these individuals to our community. If you see them around or on Zoom, make sure they feel welcome!

In order of this photo (left to right):

Keith Proulx, Bill Stata, Susan Eckhardt, Randy Davis, Jane Stata, Georgianne Becker, Elissa Orlando

(**Myla Strawderman** was not present for the photo)



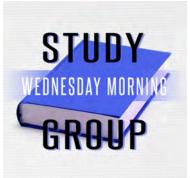
Wednesday Morning Study Group

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.

Through the fall to Advent, we will read A Pilgrimage to Eternity. This book highlights a pilgrimage from Canterbury to Rome, and will invite us to consider our own pilgrimages of faith that we have encountered throughout our lives. We will begin our next book, Poverty, By America, at the start of Advent.

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 — Silk Painting

Tuesdays, 12:30-3 pm, 1040 Room 205

The Asbury Art Class will begin a new project starting on September 5. We are going to paint on silk scarves. This means the scarves will be stretched on frames and painted with your design. All materials — stretcher frames, silk scarves, paints, brushes, and designs will be provided. Cost will be assessed after class size is determined. Please email Linda Clemow at soulsourcestudio1@gmail.com for more information and to register.

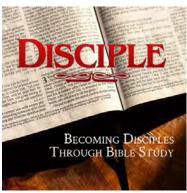


Disciple III Bible Studies

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.

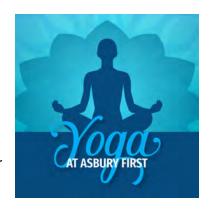
Friday mornings will be led by Mike Mullin, and will be starting the second half of Disciple III which focuses on the Pauline Epistles. Tuesday afternoons will be led by Ruthellen Hoyle, and will be starting at the beginning of Disciple III, which focuses on the Old Testament prophets. Both groups are 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 Thursdays, 4 pm, Gathering Center, \$10 pay at the door

Gentle Yoga has returned to Asbury First each Tuesday at 3 pm and now Thursday at 4 pm. Each session will be gentle in nature, beginner-friendly, and inclusive to those in need of different supports. Join us for an hour of breathing, movement, and awareness, with meditation. Please wear loose-fitting clothing that is comfortable for a wide range of movement. A limited number of yoga mats and props (blocks, straps, etc.) will be available, but you are encouraged to bring your own.

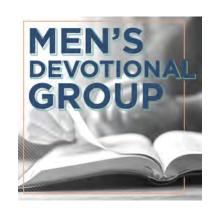


The sessions will be run by Kelly Noyes, who is certified from the Kripalu School of Yoga and Health and is registered with Yoga Alliance (RYT 200). For more information, please contact Kelly at knoyes710@aol.com.

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!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

4th Wednesday of the Month, 3-4:30 pm, Library

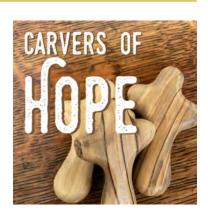
A prayer shawl is a simple shawl or a lap blanket knitted by members of our group. It is symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. The knitting itself is very simple and we have "experts" on hand to help you if you are a beginner. The group meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday. Clergy and 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 jhsmalt@gmail.com.



LGBTQ+ Advocacy Meeting

3rd Sunday of the Month, Beginning October 15, 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.



COMMUNITY Outreach CENTER AT ASBURY FIRST











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 the third Sunday of the month from noon to 1 pm
- Shower services available Wednesday-Thursday from 7–9 am on a first-come, first-serve basis
- Laundry services available Wednesday-Thursday from 7-9 am by appointment (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.
- Hours: Returns in May 2024

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 Saturday, March 16 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

Help Us Read Tutors Needed

School is open and we are looking for tutors for the Help Me Read program at School 17 grades K-4. New Tutor Training/Orientation is scheduled for October 10 and 17 from 10–11:30 am. If you are interested in tutoring please contact John Smalt at jhsmalt@gmail.com or at 585-924-8624.

RETURNING TUTORS: Please call Ms. Linda at (585) 766-8440 to schedule your start date. Thanks for your support!



Storehouse Items Needed

The Storehouse is in need of the following items for our neighbors:

- Bed-sized blankets (Twin, Full/Queen & King sizes)
- Bath & hand towels

We'd like to be able to give each family that shops with us, if needed, one blanket and one towel set. We serve 200-250 families/month. Your donations can be dropped off in the brick donation building outside of the Community Outreach Center (COC) or brought to the 1st floor reception desk in the COC Mon.-Thurs. from 9am-3pm and Fridays from 9am-12. Thanks for your ongoing generosity.



Acolytes and Crucifers Needed

Have you ever wanted to participate in worship — but without having to speak in front of people? You may have noticed that some weeks we have an acolyte, crucifer, and Christ candle that all help to lead our procession into worship and our recession out into the world. Each of these roles help to remind us that Christ goes before us—both in this space and beyond. We would love to have each of these roles fulfilled at every service. If you would like to volunteer to be an acolyte (the ones that light the candles), the crucifer (the one that carries the cross), or to carry our Christ candle, please contact Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org.

We would love to have you join our team as we help spread and share the light of Christ!



Join the Livestream Team!

Are you interested in joining Asbury First's live streaming team? You will learn how to use our professional broadcast equipment and video production techniques. More importantly, you will support the digital ministry that helps us *Do More Good* in Rochester and around the world. Youth and adults are welcome. There will be training opportunities soon. Please contact David Berg at bergdm@gmail.com to learn more.



NEEDED ITEMS, SERVICES, AND FUNDRAISERS

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.





ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altars are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Harry S. & Elizabeth B. Powell, Bette Ann Powell Sneed and Elaine Hoyle by Ruthellen & Gary Hoyle, Noelle & Owen Lennon, and Chad & Denni Lennon.

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 Donna Harrington following the death of her mother on March 24.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the family and friends of Lucille "Lucy" Reeder, who died on April 6.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the family and friends of Peggy Epping, who died on April 13.

We offer our prayers and concerns for the family and friends of Joan Codd who died on April 17th.

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

asburyfirst.org/events

DEADLINE FOR APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday, April 23

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.