Welcome to Asbury First

**FIRST TIME HERE** We are so glad you are joining us! If you’re out there watching, check in through the website or take a picture and post it on social media using #asburyfirstathome. Our hope is to get to know you better and help you find your place within our community. Additionally, drop us an email at info@asburyfirst.org and we will answer any questions you may have.

**NEED PRAYER?** We invite you to share with us how we can be praying for you by emailing prayers@asburyfirst.org. All prayer requests are prayed over by our Ministers and Intercessory Prayer Group.

**CHILDREN** We believe children are a sacred gift. We will have a segment during our live stream for Children’s Time. We will also be holding a special Zoom meeting (https://zoom.us/j/8347173468) with Paula and Holly on Wednesdays at 11:30 am to keep connected. If there is a way our children’s ministry can be more welcoming to you and your child, please contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org.

**RECONCILING STATEMENT** We are a reconciling congregation and seek to be a fully inclusive church, believing that all people are God’s children. We encourage full participation in our community for all, regardless of age, race, origin, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, marital status, family structure, education/economic background, and physical/mental ability. We recognize that we hold a variety of opinions. We do not seek to erase our differences, but to journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect. We believe that reconciliation to God and to one another is central to our mission and ministry.

**GIVE TO ASBURY FIRST** There are three ways to make a gift to Asbury First. Each gift supports the everyday ministries and operations of this church, allowing us to live into our vision to Do More Good.
- **Cash/Check**—We welcome you to send a gift of cash/check in the mail.
- **Text to Give**—You may give a gift with a debit/credit card by texting the dollar amount to 206-222-1050.
- **Online**—Online giving is available on our website at www.asburyfirst.org/give

**WATCH AND LISTEN** Tune into the live video stream of the 11 am service at www.asburyfirst.org/worship/live. To listen to the service, call 833-829-1050. A video archive of past services is also available at www.asburyfirst.org/worship/video-archive. You can also view all sermons on our YouTube channel.
THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

As the community gathers, may the music of the prelude draw your hearts and minds to God.

Prelude

“Prelude and Fugue in D Minor” BWV 554 — J.S. Bach
“Prelude and Fugue in A Minor” BWV 559 — J.S. Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

All are invited to read the bold-faced type; the lay reader will read the unbolded type.

God is the sower, and we are the seed.

God’s word is being sown in our lives this day and every day.

God is the lover, and we are the beloved.

God’s love blossoms in our lives this day and every day.

God is the healer, and we have been healed.

God’s healing flows through us this day and every day.

Come, let us worship the One who sows us in fields of love.

Let us praise the One who daily reawakens us to life.
#182 “Word of God, Come Down on Earth” (vv. 1–2, 4)

1. Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heaven descending; touch our hearts and give to birth faith and hope and love unending.

2. Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation, Word that came from heaven to die, crucified for our salvation, saving Word, the God the Spirit, with us dwelling, Word of truth, to we reverence you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

4. Word that speaks your Father’s love, one with God below.

Words: James Quinn, 1969; Tune: Liebster Jesu, Johann Ahle, 1664
**PRAYER OF CONFESSON**

Creating God, cast us like seeds upon the winds of your mercy.

Help us to grow in fertile ground.

Keep us from the stony pathways of stubbornness and division.

Protect us from thorny places where worry and fear block out your Spirit.

Help us to bloom where we are planted, that peace may flower in our lives.

Nurture us with grace and mercy, that we may blossom into full flower.

**SILENT CONFESSION**

Beloved friends, those who abide in the Spirit are set free, and those who reside in Christ find no condemnation.

Rejoice that we have been planted in the fertile ground of God’s love and mercy.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

**GLORIA**

_Hymnal #102, Tune: “Now Thank We All Our God”_

All glory be to God, all praise and thanks be given;
Whose Son and Spirit reign as one in highest Heaven;
Our one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

**TO HEAR THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE**

_Matthew 13:1–9; 18–23_

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying:

“Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

(continued on next page)
“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

**Anthem**

“The Best of Rooms” — Charles Wood (1866-1926); words by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Christ, He requires still, wheresoe’er He comes to feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms: Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part Of all the house: the best of all’s the heart.

**Children’s Time**

Children of all ages are invited to join us in this special moment.

**Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.
#565 “Father, We Thank You, For You Planted”

1. Father, we thank you, for you planted your holy name within our hearts. Knowledge and faith and life immortal evil, guard it still; perfect it in your love, unite it,

2. Watch o’er your church, O Lord, in mercy, save it from Jesus your Son to us imparts. Lord, you have made all for your cleansed and conformed unto your will. As grain, once scattered on the pleasure, and given us food for all our days, giving in hill-sides, was in the broken bread made one, so from all Christ the bread eternal; yours is the power, be yours the praise. lands your church be gathered into your kingdom by your Son.

Words: Greek, 2nd cent., trans. F. Bland Tucker; Tune: Rendez a Dieu, attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Sermon

Reckless Faith
Our Creative God endows us with the gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Within this bulletin you will find invitations to enrich your faith journey and enhance your commitment. We invite you to prayerfully consider these opportunities. If you’re out there watching, check in through the website or take a picture and post it on social media using #asburyfirstathome. You may give a gift with a debit/credit card or by e-check by texting the dollar amount to 206-222-1050. Online giving is available on our website at www.asburyfirst.org/give.

“Glory Be to God on High” — William Boyce (1711-1779)

Glory be to God on high, And on earth peace, goodwill towards men.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Great sower of the seed, may we bear much fruit through our giving.
Bless our gifts and our ministries,
that the world may reap a rich harvest of generosity and love. Amen.
TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

CLOSING HYMN

#672 “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” (vv. 1-2)

Words: Jeremiah Rankin, 1880; tune: God Be With You, William Tomer, 1880
**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Prelude and Fugue in B Flat Major” BWV 560 — J.S. Bach

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**Participants in the Service**

- Preacher: Rev. Jackie Nelson
- Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady
- Lay Reader: Frances Bryniarski
- Director of Children’s Ministry: Paula Dugan
- Organist: Duane Prill
- Soloists: Susan Huppé, Dan McInerney, Jordan Bachmann
- Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Carl Johengen
- Audio Operator: Carolyn Curran
- Video Operator: Jake Schwartz
- Technical Consultant: Justin Ocello

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Some of the liturgical elements have been adapted from the 2020 Abingdon Worship Annual.

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**MEETINGS & REHEARSALS**

**JULY 12–18**

**SUNDAY**
- 9:45 am  Parables of Parenting—Zoom 742600309
- 10 am  Zoom with Paula and Holly—Zoom 8685710891
- 11 am  Live Stream Worship Service
- 12 pm  Fellowship (Half) Hour—Zoom 8347173468
- 1:30 pm  Bicentennial Bible Challenge Meeting—Zoom 8347173468

**MONDAY**
- 5 pm  Bicentennial Bible Challenge Meeting—Zoom 8347173468
- 7:30 pm  Guided Meditation—Zoom 8347173468

**TUESDAY**
- 9 pm  A Minister and a Rabbi Walk into...Your House—Zoom 8347173468

**WEDNESDAY**
- 7 am  Men’s Fellowship Group—Zoom 8347173468
- 10 am  Wednesday Morning Study Group—Zoom 8347173468
- 11:30 am  Zoom with Paula and Holly—Zoom 8347173468
- 12:30 am  Women on Wednesdays—Zoom 8347173468
- 3 pm  Guided Meditation—Zoom 8347173468
- 6:30 pm  Asbury Ringers—Zoom
- 7:30 pm  Choir Fellowship—Zoom

**THURSDAY**
- 7 pm  Bicentennial Bible Challenge Meeting—Zoom 8347173468

**BICENTENNIAL TRIVIA**

*Weekly Questions and Answers supplied by Jim Farrington, head of the church Archive Project*

**Question:** In the 19th century, what was the highest membership number?

**From last week:** In the 19th Century, First ME Church helped the founding of how many other Methodist congregations in Rochester?  
A. Four other Methodist churches in Rochester sprang from First ME in the 19th century: Asbury, Corn Hill, Franks Street, and Grace ME.

**HOW TO JOIN A ZOOM MEETING**

Follow the link: [https://zoom.us/j/8347173468](https://zoom.us/j/8347173468) for the main meetings, and [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/338565981](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/338565981) for “Changing Weighs,” and [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8685710891?pwd=aHF4TEppZERJSXZoZmFxUHgQ1hjd09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8685710891?pwd=aHF4TEppZERJSXZoZmFxUHgQ1hjd09) for the Sunday morning Zoom with Paula and Holly. You can visit our website for a direct link to the meetings at [www.asburyfirst.org/events](http://www.asburyfirst.org/events).

When you open the link, you should get some pop-ups asking questions like:  
1. Do you want to open and run the program Zoom?  
2. Do you want to connect with your computer audio?  
3. Do you want to connect with your computer video?

Click yes to any and all of these prompts. Once you have clicked through these prompts, you should be able to see yourself on your computer screen, and you should be able to see the rest of the group that is also logged on.

If any group would like to utilize our discipleship Zoom account to take their meetings online, please contact Rev. Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org.
#ASBURYFIRSTATHOME

If you’re watching at home, make sure to take a picture and post it with the tag #asburyfirstathome. Here are a few more posts and submitted pictures from July 5.

We are connected more than we think!

Here are some numbers from July 5 that show our global reach.

**DEVICES WATCHING:**

593

Which equals approximately:

1,250

PEOPLE WATCHING TOGETHER

127

CITIES REACHED GLOBALLY INCLUDING ROCHESTER

26

STATES REACHED NATIONALLY INCLUDING NEW YORK

24

CALLERS LISTENING LIVE ON OUR TOLL-FREE NUMBER

**21 COUNTRIES REACHED GLOBALLY SINCE MARCH 15 INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES**

- Austria
- Barbados
- Belgium
- Canada
- Ecuador
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- India
- Ireland
- Japan
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Russia
- Singapore
- South Korea
- United Kingdom

GIVE ONLINE AT WWW.ASBURYFIRST.ORG/GIVE, TEXT TO GIVE AT 206-222-1050, OR MAIL IN YOUR CHECKS TO 1050 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, NY 14620