



Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 8:30 & 11 am

# WELCOME

to *Asbury First United Methodist Church*

We are a *caring*,  
Christ-centered *community*;  
Our hearts and doors are *open to all*.

We invite you to join us in *worship*,  
in learning about *faith*,  
and in loving our *neighbor*.

*We are Asbury First,*  
*and we are glad you're here.*

## AN INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Welcome visitors! We invite you to sign the ritual of friendship pad during the service. Please complete a visitor card, found in the pews, and take it to the welcome desk in the Welcoming Hall, where we have a small gift for you. Informational brochures are available in the Welcoming Hall. If you're interested in becoming a part of our community, please check the appropriate column on the ritual of friendship pad, or contact any pastor. Again, a deep WELCOME!

**Worship Aids:** Large-print bulletins, Bibles, and hymnals are available from the ushers. Braille hymnals and ASL interpreters are available with one week's advance notice to the church office, (585) 271-1050, x103. A hearing loop in the sanctuary is available for those who have hearing aids with T switches; you may also request earphones from the ushers that will aid you in hearing the service if needed. CDs of our Sunday morning services or just the sermon may be borrowed or purchased; call or stop by the office and speak with the receptionist during the week.

**Prayer Request Cards** are in the pew racks. We invite you to place prayer requests in the offering plates, so that our pastors and the Intercessory Prayer Group may pray for you. Your prayer request is confidential.

**Coffee Fellowship:** You are invited to enjoy coffee, tea, or cocoa and conversation every Sunday, 9:30 am to 11:30 am, at Heavenly Grounds in the Gathering Center. Treats may also be available.

**Giving to Asbury First:** Donations to Asbury First may be made during the service by placing your gift (cash or check) in the offering plate when it is passed. You may also give online at [www.asburyfirst.org](http://www.asburyfirst.org). Questions? Contact David Strong at (585) 271-1050 x110 or [dstrong@asburyfirst.org](mailto:dstrong@asburyfirst.org).

**As a community of faith**, we believe that children are sacred gifts and they are welcome in our worship. We recognize that children can become restless during worship. Excellent nursery and childcare is offered. Children's bulletins are available. Please see an usher for more information.

**After the service** we welcome you to sit in the chancel choir pews to meditate and listen to the organ postlude.

**We kindly ask** that as you enter the Sanctuary you turn off your cell phone.

**Worship on Radio:** Each Sunday morning from 11 am–noon you can tune your radio to WYSL 1040 AM or 92.1 FM to hear today's worship service. You may also go to [www.WYSL1040.com](http://www.WYSL1040.com) and hear audio of the service.

**LIVE & Archived Worship on your Computer:** We offer live video streaming of the 11 am service on our website at [www.asburyfirst.org](http://www.asburyfirst.org). A video archive of past services is also available. We welcome your suggestions on how we may improve these offerings.

**Reconciliation Statement:** Asbury First United Methodist Church prayerfully strives to live in its community with open hearts, open minds and open doors. Affirming that each person is of sacred worth, we seek to be a fully inclusive church, believing that all people are God's children, created in God's image, loved and blessed equally by God. It is our purpose to be a Reconciling Congregation. This means extending hospitality and encouraging full participation of all, regardless of age, race, national origin, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status or family structure, education or economic background, and physical or 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.

### Our Mission Statement

Love God and neighbor.  
Live fully.  
Serve all.  
Repeat.

### Sound Bite

Love. Live. Serve. Repeat.

# WORSHIP SERVICE

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent • 8:30 and 11 am • December 16, 2018

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

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## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

PRELUDE "Savior of the Nations, Come" BWV 659—J. S. Bach  
"Sleepers Awake!" BWV 645—J. S. Bach

INTROIT "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"—J. S. Bach

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *All are invited to read the **bold-faced** type; the lay reader will read the unbolded type.*

Love and truth have met in this place.  
**Righteousness and peace have gathered.**  
God is speaking words of hope.  
**Christ is calling us into God's flock.**  
The glory of God shines all around us.  
**Come! Let us worship.**

\*PROCESSIONAL #203 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"  
HYMN

\*GREETING &  
PASSING OF THE  
PEACE

\*GREETING HYMN #221 "In the Bleak Midwinter" (v. 1)

LIGHTING OF THE We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another.  
ADVENT CANDLE For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness, and renews us in love. God exults  
over us with singing and turns our shame to praise.

*(the candles are lighted)*

May the joyful promise of God's presence make us rejoice!

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

\* *please stand, in body or  
in spirit*

\*GLORIA #238 Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

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## TO WITNESS THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(11 am service)

PRESENTATION

BAPTISMAL VOWS

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE **With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

\*HYMN #611 "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" (v. 1)  
*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

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## TO HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LUKE 1:26-33 *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'*

CHILDREN'S TIME *All children are invited forward at this time and may bring their prayer requests and offerings.*

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.

\*HYMN

#218 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (vv. 1, 2)

*During the singing of this hymn at the 11 am worship service, children four years old through fifth grade are invited to exit for Enrichment Time.*

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## TO RENEW COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO  
DISCIPLESHIP,  
MEMBERSHIP,  
AND COMMITMENT

*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. We ask that you sign and pass the ritual of friendship pad from the center aisle down the pew. Prayer request cards are available in the pew racks and may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed, or they may be placed in the wooden boxes located in the Narthex and Welcoming Hall.*

OFFERTORY

"Noël with Variations"—Robert Bedell

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## THE WORD IN SONG

AN ADVENT  
CANTATA

Cantata: "Ceremony of Carols", Opus 28—Benjamin Britten

*On March 16, 1942, after a very successful three-year performing tour in America, Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears boarded a Swedish cargo vessel, the Axel Johnson, for their return to Britain. It was a long and boring journey that took nearly a month. During the voyage they berthed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where Britten came across a book of medieval poems (The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems, edited by Gerald Bullett) and some of these he set to music during the voyage. Some time later, he decided to combine them into one larger work, as the "Ceremony of Carols", adding the processional and recessional, as well as the harp solo interlude which is based on the same Gregorian chant tune. The piece was originally composed for three-part treble voices (boys or women); it became so popular that Britten's publisher convinced him to authorize an arrangement for mixed choir (men and women) by composer Julius Harrison.*

1. Procession	<p>Hodie Christus natus est:          hodie Salvator apparuit:          hodie in terra canunt angeli:          laetantur archangeli:          hodie exsultant iusti dicentes:          Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia!          Alleluia!</p>	<p>Today Christ is born;          Today the Savior has appeared;          Today the angels sing,          The archangels rejoice;          Today the righteous rejoice, saying,          Glory to God in the highest, Alleluia!          Alleluia!</p>
2. Wolcum Yole! (Welcome Yule!)	<p>Wolcum be thou hevenè king,          Wolcum, born in one morning,          Wolcum for whom we sall sing!          Wolcum be ye, Stevene and Jon,          Wolcum, Innocentes every one,          Wolcum, Thomas marter one,          Wolcum be ye, good Newe Yere,          Wolcum, Twelfth Day both in fere,          Wolcum, seintes lefe and dere,          Wolcum Yole, Wolcum Yole, Wolcum!          Candelmesse, Quene of bliss,          Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.          Wolcum be ye that are here,          Wolcum alle and make good cheer,          Wolcum alle another yere,          Wolcum Yole, Wolcum!</p>	<p>Welcome to You, our heavenly King.          Welcome, you who was born one morning,          Welcome, for You, shall we sing!          Welcome to you, Steven and John,          Welcome, all the Holy Innocents,          Welcome, Thomas, the martyred one,          Welcome, good New Year's Day,          Welcome Twelfth Day, both in awe.          Welcome Saints, departed and remaining.          Welcome Yule, welcome!          Candlemas Day, Queen of bliss,          Welcome both to high and lowly.          Welcome, you that are here,          Welcome all and make good cheer.          Welcome all another year.          Welcome Yule, welcome!</p>
3. There is no Rose	<p>There is no rose of such vertu          as is the rose that bare Jesu.          Alleluia, alleluia.</p> <p>For in this rose containèd was          heaven and earth in litel space,          Res miranda, res miranda.</p> <p>By that rose we may well see          there be one God in persons three,          Pares forma, pares forma,</p>	<p>There is no rose of such virtue          As is the rose that bore Jesus.          Alleluia, alleluia.</p> <p>For inside the Rose (called Mary)          Were heaven and earth in a little space.          Miraculous thing.</p> <p>By that rose, we now may see,          There be one God in three persons.          Created in the Parent's image.</p>

The aungels sungen the shepherds to:  
Gloria in excelsis, Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gaudeamus, gaudeamus.

The angels sang to the shepherds:  
Glory to God in the highest!  
We rejoice.

Leave we all this werldly mirth,  
and follow we this joyful birth.  
Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus.

Let us leave aside this worldly mirth,  
And follow this joyful birth.  
We cross over to Christ's world.

4a. That Yongë Childe  
(That Young Child)

That yonge child when it gan weep  
with song she lulled him asleep:  
That was so sweet a melody  
it passèd alle minstrelsy.

When that young child began to weep  
With song, she lulled him to sleep  
It was such a sweet melody,  
It surpassed all other singing.

The nightingalë sang also:  
Her song is hoarse and nought thereto:  
Whoso attendeth to her song  
and leaveth the first, then doth he wrong.

The nightingale sang also,  
Her song is hoarse, it cannot compare:  
Whoever listens to the nightingale's song  
Instead of Mary's, does wrong.

4b. Balulalow

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweet,  
Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,  
And I sall rock thee to my hert,  
And never mair from thee depart.

O love of my heart, young Jesus sweet,  
Prepare your cradle in my spirit,  
And I shall rock you to my heart,  
And nevermore depart from you.

But I sall praise thee evermoir  
With sanges sweet unto thy gloir;  
The knees of my hert sall I bow,  
And sing that richt Balulalow.

Instead I shall praise you forever,  
With sweet songs of your glory  
The knees of my heart shall I bow  
And sing a proper "Lullaby."

5. As dew in Aprille  
(As dew in April)

I sing of a maiden that is makèles:  
King of all kings to her son she ches  
He came also stille there his moder was,  
As dew in Aprille that falleth on the grass.  
He came also stille to his moder's bour,  
As dew in Aprille that falleth on the flour.  
He came also stille there his moder lay,  
As dew in Aprille that falleth on the spray.  
Moder and mayden was never none but she:  
Well may such a lady Goddes moder be.

I sing of a maiden that is matchless,  
Her son was the King of all Kings.  
He came so quietly from his mother,  
As dew in April that falls on the grass.  
He came so quietly to his mother,  
As dew in April that falls on the flowers.  
He came so quietly where his mother lay,  
As dew in April that falls on the branches.  
Never has there been such a mother and maiden;  
How fitting it is that this be God's mother!



The inns are full; no man will yield  
This little pilgrim bed.  
But forced he is with silly beasts  
in crib to shroud his head.

The inns are full; no man will yield  
A bed to this little pilgrim.  
Instead he is forced with silly beasts  
In a crib to shroud his head.

This stable is a Prince's court,  
this crib his chair of State;  
The beasts are parcel of his pomp,  
the wooden dish his plate.

This stable is a Prince's court,  
This crib his chair of State;  
The beasts are part of his pomp,  
The wooden dish his plate.

The persons in that poor attire  
His royal liveries wear;  
The Prince himself is come from heaven;  
This pomp is prized there.

The bystanders in poor attire  
Wear his royal uniform;  
The Prince himself is come from heaven;  
This kind of pomp is prized there.

With joy approach, O Christian wight,  
Do homage to thy King,  
And highly praise his humble pomp,  
wich he from Heaven doth bring.

With joy approach, O Christian being,  
Do homage to your King,  
And highly praise his humble pomp,  
which he brings from heaven.

9. Spring Carol

Pleasure it is to hear iwis, the Birdes sing,  
The deer in the dale, the sheep in the vale,  
the corn springing.

It is always a pleasure to hear the birds sing,  
To see the deer in the dale, the sheep in the  
vale, the corn springing from the earth.

God's purveyance for sustenance,  
It is for man.  
Then we always to give him praise,  
And thank him than.

God supplies sustenance  
For humanity.  
Then we should always give him praise  
And thanks.

10. Deo Gracias  
(Give Thanks to God)

Deo gracias! Deo gracias!  
Adam lay ibounden, bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter thought he not to long.

Give thanks to God!  
Adam was bound in sin for four thousand  
years, although he thought this not too long.

Deo gracias! Deo gracias!  
And all was for an appil, an appil that he tok,  
As clerkes finden written in their book.

Give thanks to God!  
It was all for an apple that he took,  
As clerics find written in their books.

Deo gracias! Deo gracias!	Give thanks to God!
Ne had the appil take ben, the appil take ben,	Had the apple never been taken,
Ne hadde never our lady a ben hevene quene.	Then our Lady would not be heavenly queen.

Blessed be the time that appil take was.	Blessed be the time the apple was taken.
Therefore we moun singen	Therefore we must sing
Deo gracias! Deo gracias!	Thanks be to God!

11. Recessional	Hodie Christus natus est:	Today Christ is born;
	hodie Salvator apparuit:	Today the Saviour has appeared;
	hodie in terra canunt angeli:	Today the angels sing,
	laetantur archangeli:	The archangels rejoice;
	hodie exsultant justi dicentes:	Today the righteous rejoice, saying,
	Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia!	Glory to God in the highest, Alleluia!

### TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

\*RECESSIONAL #224 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"  
HYMN

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION  
RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "What Child Is This?"—David Schwoebel

*Permissions: "Ceremony of Carols" ©1943 Boosey & Hawkes.*

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE** Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, Rev. Kathy Thiel, Rev. Mike Mullin, Rev. Jacqueline Nelson  
 Lay Reader: Jim Carter (8:30 am); Sherry Bennett (11 am)  
 Advent Candle Lighters: Kate Cross and Lyssa LaCount (8:30 am); David, Maya, Asha, and Roshan Temperley (11 am)  
 Organist: Duane Prill  
 Soloists: Bess Phillips, Susan Huppé, Dan MacInerney and Jordan Bachmann  
 Harpist: Grace Wong  
 Director, Asbury Festival Choir: Dr. Carl Johengen  
 Audio Operator: Connor Nelson (11 am)  
 Video Operator: Carolyn Curran (11 am)  
 Head Ushers: Dick and Nancy Adamus (8:30 am); Brian White and Tim Lamica (11 am)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

**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.*

**We offer our prayers and concern for** all those who are ill at home, hospitalized, or in hospice care.

*If you are aware of anyone who is ill and in need of a pastoral visit, please call the church office at (585) 271-1050.*

**We offer our prayers and sympathy** to Barb Denigris on the death of her son, Brian Denigris, on December 8 in Hawaii.

**We celebrate the baptism this morning at the 11 am worship service** of Yannik Christian von Hörsten, son of Hendrik von Hörsten and Stacey Featherstone, born on June 24, 2018. Bob and Wendy Featherstone are the proud grandparents.

**We invite you to pray** for members of our church families known to be serving in the military:  
**US Air Force:** SSgt Charles Key; Amn Patrick “Rick” Smith.

**US Army:** SGT Christopher M. Birdsall; CPT Nathan Lubba; MAJ Matthew Ristau; PV2 Kevin Keehn; SGT Christian T. Dahl; CPT Scott Moncrief.

**US Marine Corps:** LT Craig R. Waldman; Lcpl John Lyons.

**US Navy:** IS2 Philip Anderson; LT Adam Kreutter; CAPT Jeffrey A. Ward; PO2 Jacob Staples.

**US Army Reserves:** SGT Wesley Regnier\*; SGT Michael DiPaola.

\*deployed

*If you would like to add the name of a member or friend to our military listing, or if you know someone on this list who is no longer serving in the military, please email [communications@asburyfirst.org](mailto:communications@asburyfirst.org), or call (585) 271-1050, x109.*

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

### **Children's Activity Bags**

We invite the children to take activity bags as they enter the Sanctuary. There are two bags: one for children ages 3–6, and another for 7 and up. Please return bags after the service.

### **Is Children's Ministry Meeting Your Child's Special Needs?**

As a part of our commitment to be open to all, we want to make sure we are making as many accommodations as possible in our children's ministry. Please contact Paula Dugan at (585) 271-1050 x111 or [pdugan@asburyfirst.org](mailto:pdugan@asburyfirst.org) if there is any way our children's ministry can be more welcoming to you and your child.

### **Calling all Snowbirds!**

Children's ministry would like to start a pen pal program where children exchange letters with members of our congregation that leave the area for the winter months. If you would like to participate, please contact Paula Dugan at [pdugan@asburyfirst.org](mailto:pdugan@asburyfirst.org) or call (585) 271-1050, x111.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Progress on the Boiler Replacement**

As you are probably aware, our boiler that services the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall is failing, and we are doing an emergency replacement. Asbestos abatement and demolition has been completed in the boiler room, and a new concrete pad has been poured for the new boiler. The hot water has been turned back on, and the organ is able to be used again today. Our goal is to have the new boilers installed and running in time for Christmas. If you have questions, please contact Chuck Hanrahan at [chuck.hanrahan@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.hanrahan@gmail.com) or David Strong at [dstrong@asburyfirst.org](mailto:dstrong@asburyfirst.org) or (585) 271-1050 x110.

### **2018 Charitable Gifts of Stock!**

Please consider making a charitable gift of stock/

tradeable securities to Asbury First in the 2018 tax year! Please contact Dick Moncrief at [rmoncrief@asburyfirst.org](mailto:rmoncrief@asburyfirst.org) or 585-271-1050, x108 by December 5th so we can process the transaction in a timely manner. Be sure to notify Dick in advance of any stock transfers so he is able to correctly process the transactions.

### **Update on stewardship campaign:**

We've reached 89% of our pledge goal. Please help us get to the finish line! If you have not submitted your pledge, you can find a pledge card in the Welcome Pads in the pews, in the information rack in the Welcoming Hall or online at [www.asburyfirst.org/BetterTogether](http://www.asburyfirst.org/BetterTogether). Thank you!

### **Pledge Fulfillment for 2018**

The last part of December is full of much financial activity. It would be helpful if contributions to fulfill your 2018 pledges could be made by December 30 or sooner. Thank you for your generosity! If you have questions, please contact Dick Moncrief at [rmoncrief@asburyfirst.org](mailto:rmoncrief@asburyfirst.org) or 585-271-1050, x108.

### **Joy of Christmas Giving**

The Joy of Christmas Giving Program is an opportunity for us to fulfill Christ's instructions in Matthew 25:37-40. With our Christmas sharing, we can support a project of our choice, and also, if we wish, give a gift in honor or memory of someone dear to us. Simply pick up a JOCG sheet at the Ministry Corner of the Gathering Space throughout Advent or contact Rev. Jackie Nelson at [jnelson@asburyfirst.org](mailto:jnelson@asburyfirst.org) or (585) 271-1050, x-104. Make your check payable to Asbury First UMC and enclose your gift in an envelope with your selection(s) noted on the form on the back of the Joy of Christmas Giving brochurs. Place it in the weekly offering plate or send it to the church (attention: Dick Moncrief) in December.

## **Join us for a Christmas Eve Meal**

We invite everyone, especially people participating in the Christmas Eve services, to a special Christmas Eve turkey dinner from 5:30-6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Melody Guadagnino at [mguadagnino@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mguadagnino@asburyfirst.org) or (585)271-1050, x-103. Everyone is welcome!

## **Welcoming Visitors this Season**

This season, and on Christmas Eve, Asbury First will welcome many new faces through our doors. We pride ourselves on being a warm and welcoming congregation, and this is a time when we can let our individual hospitality shine, remembering the strangers among us.

## **Service of Contemplative Worship**

You are invited to a new experience at Asbury First. On Wednesday, December 19th, our Contemplative Service of Worship, which usually takes place in the chancel during Advent, will be held downstairs in Fellowship Hall, and will be slightly different. It will be in conjunction with the Labyrinth walk, from 5 - 7 pm and there will be an opportunity to walk the Labyrinth, sit quietly and meditate on the live harp music, and take communion. All are welcome to this meditative time, to leave your burdens aside for a bit, focus on the ways God is working in your life, and remember the community of saints surrounding us in all ways, silently awaiting the celebration of hope in the birth of the baby Jesus. All are welcome to receive communion; you do not have to be a member of Asbury First or of any other faith community. We ask only that you come with your heart open to the presence of God.

## **Changing Weighs**

Are the holidays and calories sneaking up on you? Join our common-sense weight loss group, Changing Weighs, in the Asbury First library on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-6:30. All are welcome. Contact Jane Beamish at [jbwwtod@gmail.com](mailto:jbwwtod@gmail.com) or just come to a meeting!

## **How to Submit an Announcement for the Bulletin**

Do you have Asbury First news you'd like us to include in an upcoming Sunday worship bulletin? We now have an online form! We request that all announcement submissions are sent via this form, which you can find at <http://bit.ly/SubmitAnAnnouncement>. All content is subject to editing for qualities such as clarity and brevity. Have questions about the weekly bulletin or announcements? Contact [communications@asburyfirst.org](mailto:communications@asburyfirst.org).

## **Submit a Hidden Figure**

This year, once a month, we are trying to highlight the "hidden figures" of our world—those who made a difference, but did not necessarily get the spotlight. They could be historical figures or political figures or community figures or personal figures. They could have been known in their day, but forgotten now. They could have lived here in Rochester or on the other side of the world. All submissions are welcome. We are looking for people who have lived the ideals of our faith, even if they never expressed them in that way. If you have a person that you would like to lift up, please send it to [hiddenfigures@asburyfirst.org](mailto:hiddenfigures@asburyfirst.org) and tell us why you think they would be good and where we might find out something else about them. While we cannot use every submission in a sermon, we will look for other ways of sharing these important stories.

## **Visit the Ministry Corner**

Each week, we feature a group or two in the Ministry Corner (near the piano in the Gathering Center). If your group is interested in signing up, please contact Deb Bullock-Smith at [dbullock-smith@asburyfirst.org](mailto:dbullock-smith@asburyfirst.org) or at (585) 271-1050 x117.

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

### **Pick Up Your Advent Devotional Today**

Advent devotionals are available for you as you prepare for Jesus' Coming. Each day of Advent, you will find a personal devotion written by members of

our community. You may pick up your copy in the brochure rack in the Welcome Hall at any time during Advent. You may also view the devotional online at [asburyfirst.org](http://asburyfirst.org).

### **Won't You Be My Neighbor?**

Fred Rogers inspired many of us as children and adults—but did you know that he was also an ordained Presbyterian minister? One of his catch-phrases, “I like you just the way you are,” is a timeless encouragement and reminder for all of us. In this season of advent, we invite all of our neighbors to join us for the last of 3 sessions on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 6 - 7 pm in Building 1040, Room 201 (2nd floor of the Education Wing) as we watch 30 minutes of the documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* and then continue with 30 minutes of conversation about the prophetic voice of Mr. Rogers. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Mike Mullin at [mmullin@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mmullin@asburyfirst.org). Won't you join us, neighbor?

### **Enjoy Christmas Music today!**

While are hosting our RAIHN guests in 1010 this week, the Doublers will host a Christmas Music Concert, for everyone, including all Sunday School classes. Join us today at 9:45 am in Fellowship Hall to enjoy beautiful music performed by Elizabeth Church, Kristi Phillips, Karen Webster and Annette Farrington. All are welcome!

### **January Class - *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson**

As we continue our class discussions on Mercy and Justice, this January we are going to engage in a book discussion on *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, written by Bryan Stevenson. This four week class is intended to continue to call our attention to systems and structures, and to hear one man's testimony of why advocating for the vulnerable is both necessary and rewarding. If you are interested in joining this discussion and would like to order a book,

please contact Rev. Jacqueline Nelson at [jnelson@asburyfirst.org](mailto:jnelson@asburyfirst.org).

### **Holiday Reading and Videos at the Asbury First Library**

Please visit the library's Christmas corner, in the reading room, off of the main library. Come and see what you may borrow. Some of the available items include the Fourth Wise Man (DVD), which is the story of a Magi whose search for the Messiah lasts for 33 years. Also look for *What Child is This*, a young adult book that explores just how big our hope can be during the Christmas season.

### **MUSIC & ARTS**

#### **Christmas Music today**

Today at the 8:30 and 11 am worship services, the combined choirs of Asbury First will present Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* for four-part chorus. This story of the nativity is paired with Britten's colorful and expressive musical language.

This afternoon, at 3 pm, The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus will present "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." This annual holiday concert includes repertoire ranging from classical chestnuts to contemporary carols, and everything in between! Tickets are available at the door or in advance at [www.thergmc.org](http://www.thergmc.org) or (585) 423-0650.

### **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

#### **Have a Care Request? Let Us Know!**

Bidden or unbidden, God is present. Here at Asbury First, we feel and know this to be true, and we rejoice in this good news! We work to share the presence of God with others, during the good times and during the bad times. Often, during the challenging times in our lives, we need a little help. Our caring ministries are here to support you as we are able to meet your needs. Do you—or someone you know—need some extra care and attention due to illness, bereavement,

injury, or another pressing need? Care Request forms are available at the Welcome Desk in the Welcoming Hall. For more information, please contact Rev. Kathy Thiel at [kthiel@asburyfirst.org](mailto:kthiel@asburyfirst.org) or (585) 271-1050 x106.

## **OUTREACH**

### **Barbers and Hair Cutters Needed**

The Dining and Caring Center is in need of licensed hairdressers and/or barber stylists to volunteer on Sundays from 12 - 2 pm to cut men and women's hair. Please talk to the person that cuts your hair and share with them the great things our Dining and Caring Center does. For more information on this ministry, please call Cathy Bracht at (585) 421-3836 and leave a message. Volunteers do not need to be members of Asbury or any other church.

### **Two Ways to Support Project Chacocente**

Despite the political unrest in Nicaragua, Project Chacocente continues to feed, clothe, and educate our friends in Masaya. You can help support this mission by purchasing a 2019 calendar or sponsoring a child's school graduation. The wall calendar, called "Prayers for Chacocente," is filled with color photos of the people of Chacocente and is available for \$20. Sponsoring a student's graduation at Chacocente Christian School will provide them with a cap and gown, diploma, school flag (a tradition in Nicaragua), and a snack. Each sponsorship is \$40. To learn more, to purchase a calendar, or to sponsor a student, please email Robyn Gage at [robynegage@gmail.com](mailto:robynegage@gmail.com).

### **The Grocery Bag Ministry Needs Your Support**

To serve our neighbors in need across the city, we need your donations of foods including:

- ✦ jams
- ✦ peanut butter
- ✦ pasta sauce
- ✦ pasta
- ✦ canned fruits and vegetables
- ✦ soups
- ✦ tuna fish

**We will also be collecting plastic grocery bags for use in delivering the food.** Any donations may be dropped off in the wooden box near the coat racks in the Welcome Hall. We thank everyone who makes a donation to ease hunger. Together we can make a real difference and help this essential outreach ministry continue. For more information, please contact Jim Carter at [jimc4mail@gmail.com](mailto:jimc4mail@gmail.com).

### **Warm Winter Clothing Needed**

The Asbury First Storehouse is in need of brand new and gently used warm winter clothing for our shoppers as the change of weather begins. Items needed include ski jackets, parkas, coats, and snow pants for children, men, and women. All sizes are gratefully accepted! Please bring all donations to the Storehouse or leave them in the donation box in the Welcome Hall. If you have questions or would like more information, please call Judy Cohen at (585) 755-3376.

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## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

*Classes are 9:45–10:45 am. All are welcome!*

### **Growing Spirits/Living Edge, Doublers**

#### **50+ Fellowship**

#### **Christmas Music Program—church-wide event in Fellowship Hall**

*Music will be provided by Elizabeth Church, Kristi Phillips, Karen Webster and Annette Farrington.*

*These classes will NOT be meeting in 1010 (due to hosting our RAIHN guests). Please join us to hear the special Christmas music program being held in Fellowship Hall. All are invited.*

### **Adult Bible Study**

*For anyone interested in taking a closer look at the Bible*

*Where: 1050, Teak Room*

### **Parables of Parenting**

*Fellowship for parents of all ages*

*Where: 1040, Room 203*

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

### SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Tuesday, December 25 at 10 am**

*Joint Service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 25 Westminster Rd.  
Rochester*

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30**

**One service at 10 am**

#### **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**Monday, December 31**

*A service of meditation and reflection  
from 5 - 6 pm in the chancel*

## MEETINGS & REHEARSALS

*December 16—December 22*

### SUNDAY

- 9:45 am Sunday Morning Youth Groups—1040  
9:45 am 6-12th grade Guitar and Ukelele  
Club—1040  
9:45 am Children's Sunday School—1040  
9:45 am Adult Sunday School Classes  
—See Schedule  
9:45 am Christmas Music Program—1040  
12:30 pm Finance In-Depth Subteam—1050  
3 pm Rochester Gay Men's Chorus  
Concert—1040  
6 pm 6-12th Grade Youth Meal—1040  
6:30 pm 6-8th Grade Youth Group—1040  
6:30 pm 9-12th Grade Youth Group—1040

### TUESDAY

- 9:30 am Women's Fellowship Group—1040  
12 pm Blood Drive—1040

### WEDNESDAY

- 6 am Men's Devotional Group—1040  
10 am Adult Bible Study—1010  
12 pm Women on Wednesday—1010  
4 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry—1010  
5 pm Hallelujah Kids Choir—1040  
5 pm Labyrinth—1040  
5:30 pm Community Dinner—1040  
5:30 Changing Weights—1040  
6 pm Won't You Be My Neighbor?—1040  
6:15 pm Contemplative Service of  
Worship—1040  
6 pm Youth Choir—1040  
6 pm Wesley Singers & Ringers—1040  
6:30 pm Youth Bells—1040  
7 pm Asbury Ringers—1040  
7 pm Carols and Cocoa—outside 1040  
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir—1040

### THURSDAY

- 6 pm UR Well Clinic—1040

### SATURDAY

- 2 pm Longest Night Service—1040

## LEADERSHIP STAFF

**Rev. Stephen Cady II, PhD, Senior Minister,**  
scady@asburyfirst.org

**Rev. Kathy Thiel,**  
*Minister for Congregational Care,*  
kthiel@asburyfirst.org

**Rev. Mike Mullin, Minister for Youth and Discipleship,**  
mmullin@asburyfirst.org

**Rev. Jacqueline J. Nelson, Minister for Outreach,**  
jnelson@asburyfirst.org

**Paula Dugan,**  
*Director of Children's Ministry,*  
pdugan@asburyfirst.org

**Holly Temming,**  
*Children's Ministry Assistant; Director of Children's Music,*  
htemming@asburyfirst.org

**Melody Guadagnino, Administrative Assistant,**  
mguadagnino@asburyfirst.org

**Summer Sattora,**  
*Youth Ministry Assistant,*  
ssattora@asburyfirst.org

**Morgan Dornsife, Director of Development and Communications,**  
mdornsife@asburyfirst.org

**Michele Cooley,**  
*Director of Dining and Caring Center,*  
mcooley@asburyfirst.org

**Richard Moncrief,**  
*Financial Administrator,*  
rmoncrief@asburyfirst.org

**David Strong,**  
*Church Administrator; Assistant Organist,*  
dstrong@asburyfirst.org

**Deb Bullock-Smith,**  
*Administrative Assistant,*  
dbullocksmith@asburyfirst.org

**Maria Hackett,**  
*Outreach Intern,*  
mhackett@asburyfirst.org

**Geri Judd,**  
*Ministry Intern,*  
gjudd@asburyfirst.org

**James Flack,**  
*Property Caretaker,*  
jflack@asburyfirst.org

**Carl Johengen, DMA, Interim Director of Sanctuary Choir,**  
cjohengen@asburyfirst.org

**Duane Prill,**  
*Organist,*  
dprill@asburyfirst.org

**Carol Lamica,**  
*Director of Youth Music,*  
clamica@asburyfirst.org

**Brian Bohrer,**  
*Director of Asbury Singers,*  
bbohrer@asburyfirst.org

**Elizabeth Church,**  
*Director of Asbury Ringers,*  
echurch@asburyfirst.org

**Lawrence Dugan, DM,**  
*Director of Youth Theater,*  
ldugan@asburyfirst.org

**Church Office:**  
(585) 271-1050

**Church Website:**  
asburyfirst.org

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT ASBURY FIRST!  
FIND OUT MORE AT ASBURYFIRST.ORG

## The Joy of Christmas Giving

*Support the Outreach project (or projects) of your choice this Christmas! Brochures are available at the Ministry Corner table, and in the brochure racks in the Narthex and the Welcome Hall.*



## Carols & Cocoa Around the Christmas Tree

*Wednesday  
December 19  
On the Front Lawn  
7 pm*

*Attend The Longest  
Night Service On  
December 22 at 2 pm*

This reflective moment of worship is sacred space for those who may feel loneliness or the loss of a loved one around the holidays.

Please join us on  
Saturday, December 22 at 2 pm  
for this unique and meaningful service.



Blood Drive at Asbury First  
Tuesday, December 18  
from 12 - 5 pm

# Christmas Eve

SERVICES OF LESSONS, CAROLS, AND CANDLELIGHT

- 12 PM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
- 4 PM FAMILY SERVICE WITH PAGEANT
- 7 PM TRADITIONAL SERVICE
- 9 PM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
- 11 PM TRADITIONAL SERVICE



Would you like to become a member of Asbury First? Please join us for the next New Member Orientations: Sunday mornings from 9:45 - 10:45 am (January 20, 27, February 3, joining on February 10) or Wednesdays from 6 - 7:30 pm (January 23, 30, joining on February 10). For more information, or if you have questions, please contact Melody Guadagnino at (585) 271-1050 x103 or [mguadagnino@asburyfirst.org](mailto:mguadagnino@asburyfirst.org).