

# Circuit Rider

*The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church*

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Jean Evans, Editor      Lena Cheng, Mailing Coordinator



## CIRCUIT RIDER JUNE 2016

### Pastor's Message

"I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" Joel 2:28

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During General Conference a 14 year old young woman named Hannah Foust from Indiana stood in front of the thousands of people gathered and shared how God gave her a vision to fund wells in Burkina Faso, one of the world's poorest countries. She took odd jobs and saved enough money to dig three wells. Moved by her passion others began to do the same and funded another 13 wells.

Thanks to Hannah's vision, more than 13,000 people now have access to clean water – this allows girls to go to school because they don't have to spend the day collecting water, it prevents water borne illness and death, and it allows people in a country full of desperation to know that they are seen and that their children's dreams have a chance to be realized.

Hannah said it was the church that taught her compassion. It was the church that taught her that no matter how young or old she is she can make a difference. It is the church that helps her know that there is no limit to the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your youth will see visions."  
(Acts 2:17 paraphrased)

I'm so excited and impressed with how we embrace and value the children of Asbury. We encourage their curiosity and nurture their passion for living as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. How can we work with them and their families to hear their prophecies and support their visions?

This month, we will spend time honoring each of the children, learning a little more about them, and thanking them for the gift they bring to our church community. Over the summer, we will be developing a plan for family ministry that will celebrate and support these faithful families. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of this exciting next step. How can we best encourage children and youth to grow into spiritual maturity, and what can we learn from them in the process?

Peace, Pastor Melissa

“Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me . . . For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.” Luke 9:47

**THIS JUNE**

**CELEBRATE ASBURY'S CHILDREN!**

The final Sunday school class for children is May 22 (Childcare will continue to be available for children through 3rd grade). Throughout June we will celebrate each of the children in worship for a unique gift that they bring to our community. Please take a moment and thank the children for their presence and participation in the life of Asbury.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF EACH CHILD IN WORSHIP BY CLASS:

JUNE 5	Pre K - First Grade
JUNE 12	Second - Fourth Grade
JUNE 19	Fifth - Seventh Grade
JUNE 26	Church school led worship with celebration reception after church.



**ACOHUMMFA**

JUNE 2016 meeting dates: Saturdays June 4, 11, 18, 25  
8:00 a.m. BREAKFAST (OPTIONAL)  
8:30 a.m. MEETING BEGINS - 10:00 a.m. MEETING OVER

WESLEY HOUSE 19 Old Post Road So Croton on Hudson

**Monthly Topics: The Holy Spirit, Under the Influence**

**ACTIVITIES:**

**June 8-11 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Go In Jesus' Name; The Spirit Sends US!**  
**June 5: CROTON SUMMERFEST AWESOME HOT DOG SALE 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.**  
**June 19: FATHERS DAY SERVICE**  
**TBD: Croton Trail Walks**  
**June 14: Flag Day**  
**June 28, 1703: John Wesley's Birthday**

**Weekly Readings (IT'S JUST 15 min/day, WHOLE BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR, YOU CAN DO IT!) for personal devotions**

**1) 11K14-1C5 2) 1C6-1C26 3) 1C27-11C20 4) J36-P35**

**(WARNING: THIS MIGHT BE A CHALLENGE YOU WILL NEED HELP WITH. ASK PASTOR OR ACOHUMMFA MEMBER)**

**Intercessory Prayers:**

**1) Asbury Prayer Chain**

**2) Asbury COH Church Families: K-L**

More info: Stu Colby call or text 914-330-4104 or [ACOHUMMFA@aol.com](mailto:ACOHUMMFA@aol.com)

**NOTE: ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE, CALL / CONTACT ABOVE TO CONFIRM**

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This month is John Wesley's birthday, a time to reflect on his thoughts on the Methodist community.

"Nothing can be more simple, nothing more rational, than the Methodist discipline: it is entirely founded on common sense, particularly applying the general rules of Scripture. Any person determined to save his soul may be united (this is the only condition required) with them. But this desire must be evidenced by three marks: avoiding all known sin, doing good after his power, and attending all the ordinances of God."

This is a community in which all who join do so voluntarily. No one has ever been forced to come to this vineyard. But if they do come, they must earnestly commit to these three commitments: avoid sin, do good according to the grace given, and use the means of grace God provides in prayer, Scripture reading and church attendance.

In Wesley's societies those who joined were "placed in a class" once a week and reviewed quarterly. Wesley wrote, "If nothing is objected to him he is admitted into the Society" and continues as long as he "walks according to his Profession. If not, "either the offense or the offender (is) removed in time." Those who refused or neglected correction were not continued in the societies. Every quarter each member of the society would be reviewed and given a validation (sometimes called a "ticket") that entitled them to remain in the fellowship. Morning prayer was observed at 5:00 a.m. The Lord's Supper was provided on Sunday. Wesley explained, "On Sunday evening the Society meets, but care is taken to dismiss them early, that all the heads of families may have time to instruct their several households."

The Methodist Societies were an evangelical revival movement within the Church of England. At that time they were harassed by mobs, rioters and hooligans until civil order was restored. Wesley writes that "God stirred up the heart of our late gracious Sovereign George II, to order that the persecution be quelled." In response to the appeal by the elder William Pitt, the king declared in open court: "I tell you, while I sit on the throne, no man shall be persecuted for conscience' sake." From that time forward, the Methodists were largely "permitted to worship God according to their own conscience."

(Excerpts from Volume 3 Pastoral Theology John Wesley's Teachings by Thomas C. Oden)

## UMW SUMMERFEST BOOTH

—Barbara Whipple

For your summer enjoyment and culinary delight, the United Methodist Women will offer a variety of herbs and flowering plants in their ASBURY IN THE GARDEN booth at Summerfest on June 5 from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. When you choose your vigorous plants also look for gardening books and gently used garden implements.

### Call to a Special Charge Conference

Asbury United Methodist Church of Croton-on-Hudson, NY will hold a special charge conference on Sunday, June 12 at 11:15 a.m. following the worship service. Members of the charge conference are asked to meet in the music room for the election of lay leader, associate lay leader, stewardship chair, and new Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee members. Rev. Denise Smartt Sears, Metropolitan District Superintendent has assigned Rev. Melissa Hinnen to conduct the conference.

### A MESSAGE & INVITATION FROM PASTOR MELISSA

Last month, 15 United Methodist clergy in the New York Annual Conference came out as LGBTQ. Following their lead, more than 120 United Methodist clergy have come out. The Book of Discipline outlines that it is a chargeable offense to be a “self-avowed practicing homosexual.” In support of them (independently from Asbury), **I have signed a letter** along with more than 1500 other United Methodist pastors standing in solidarity with my courageous colleagues. The letter can be found online here: <http://tinyurl.com/htnh8ar>

On June 12, after the coffee hour, I hope you will join me for an important conversation about what is happening in the **United Methodist Church** regarding human sexuality. The Asbury community is invited to discuss the implications, ask questions, and begin setting a direction for an inclusive welcoming statement (based on the following that was written in the fall). Because this is a statement about YOUR church community, it is important that you are part of the conversation.

*In accordance with Christ's example we celebrate the diversity of our community welcoming people of every race, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic circumstance, and ability. We support each other in our individual faith journeys and give each other the freedom to be who God is creating us to be. Our welcome knows no boundaries.*

### JUNE UMW TRIP TO VALKILL

—Barbara Whipple

Eleanor Roosevelt's home, Valkill, will be the destination of a UMW trip to Hyde Park on Saturday, June 18. We will depart from Asbury's parking lot at 9:00 a.m. The Valkill site is administered by the Federal Park Service. Please call Barbara Whipple (271-5095) or Cynthia Plater (271-3178) if you plan to join the excursion so that carpooling can be arranged.

## Donate Now

—Adam Bovone

Asbury is very pleased to introduce our new online donation system. Just go to our website at <http://asburycroton.umcchurches.org/> and click on any of the pictures to learn more about Asbury. You will be taken to a page where you will see this large green icon:



Simply click on the icon and follow the instructions to make a donation. You even get to choose the specific program to which you would like to donate. Maybe you would like to help Asbury meet its day to day operations, or perhaps there is a special mission you would like to support. The choice is entirely up to you. There is also the option to establish a donation schedule. If you would like to make your monthly or weekly donation online, our new system allows you to do so. Please take a look. From anywhere in the world with Internet access, making a donation to Asbury is now only a click away. Thank you and God bless!

## NOTICE

No Trustees meeting will be held in June. The next meeting is July 13.

## SUMMER BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

—Barbara Whipple

The adult church school class will continue meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays until the last Sunday in July. Class suspends for vacation in August through Labor Day weekend and then resumes on Sunday, September 11. A light breakfast will be available, Sunday's Bible readings reviewed, and the lessons related to personal and present day life.

## The Return Of The Bard

Our annual trip to The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival at Boscobel Restoration in Garrison, NY will be on Friday, July 1. This year's offering is *Measure for Measure* and the discounted group rate is \$38.00 per ticket. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. and the grounds open for picnicking at 5:30 p.m.

We will once again have a potluck picnic for those who would like to do so, and if it rains, the picnic will be at Gloria Laemmel's home. The show will go on rain or shine.

There is a sign up sheet on the music stand at the entrance to the sanctuary, or you may call Gloria Laemmel at 271-8712 to make a reservation. Friends are always welcome.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Outstanding Bills - April, 2016

4/30/2016	NYAC	Human Relations Day Offering	\$267.00
4/30/2016	NYAC	Native American Offering	\$582.00
4/30/2916	NYAC	One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	\$590.00

Total Outstanding \$1,439.00

The \$8,000 in Tag Sale money that we collected in April has already been spent on Fuel Bills and the Pastor's pension and health insurance for February, March & April.

The funds are coming in very slowly and the insurance bills are starting to come in for June. Please keep your pledges up-to-date.

I appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Hansen, Treasurer

### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM UMW

Again this year the United Methodist Women will be offering partial scholarships to those attending Methodist camps, volunteer service projects, Mission u, and vacation Bible school. Last summer UMW gave partial scholarships to Emily Morrison and Sarah Corrigan and several partial scholarships to children attending Vacation Bible School. For more info, contact Barb Whipple, Asbury UMW President or Cynthia Plater, Asbury UMW Treasurer.

### Pedals for Progress Bike and Sewing Machine Collection

In May we collected 52 bikes, nine sewing machines and \$610 to match the \$10 needed to help with the shipping costs. Thanks to our volunteer crew and to all who donated bikes and sewing machines!

**This was our eighth collection for Pedals for Progress. Over the years we have collected over 650 bikes and nearly \$6000.**





—Jodi Hanlon

Dear Asbury friends and family,

I would like to thank you all for your wonderful baked goods that contributed to making our bake sale a huge success! We had a large assortment of brownies, cookies, carrot cake, almond bars, coffee cake, red velvet cake, assorted cupcakes, delicious chocolate lollipops, oatmeal cookies, chocolate chip cookies, snickerdoodles, sugar cookies, and cherry cheesecakes.

This was our first year being outside, which was wonderful, however, depending on when we have the bake sale next year, we will need a canopy to cover our baked goods due to the sun.

Thank you again and we are looking forward to another successful bake sale next year!

## Camping & Retreat Ministry

New York Conference of the United Methodist Church

**Dear Congregants - 2016 summer camp registration is open!**

**KINGSWOOD:** Family Camping & Relaxation!

[www.kingswoodcampsite.org](http://www.kingswoodcampsite.org); (845)702-5766

766 acres of natural beauty in Hancock, NY - 2 ½ hours from NYC. Family camping in large, private sites, to relax and reconnect. Amazing hiking, bird watching, swimming, boating, fishing and campfires. Many volunteer opportunities. Woodsmoke Summer Camp for kids.

**QUINIPET:** Overnight Camp & Seaside Adventure

[www.quinipet.org](http://www.quinipet.org); (631)749-0430

25 acres of natural beauty on Shelter Island peninsula overlooking scenic Peconic Bay. 2 ½ hours from NYC. Retreat Center for groups of up to 220 (fall, spring, winter). Overnight camp for ages 7-17, family camping, community sailing camp.

**OLMSTED:** Retreats & Summer Camp

[www.campolmsted.org](http://www.campolmsted.org); (212)870-3098

78 acres of natural beauty in the scenic Hudson Valley. 1 ½ hours from NYC. Summer camp for boys and girls ages 6-14. Year-round retreat facility, swimming, team-building, high ropes with zip-line, climbing tower, basketball and tennis.

We look forward to seeing you this summer! For more info: [www.nyaccamps.org](http://www.nyaccamps.org).

## MY SISTER'S PLACE COLLECTION

—Barbara Whipple

The UMW winter collection of personal care items for My Sister's Place, domestic violence shelter residents, was a huge success. Thank you to all who contributed to the collection.

## **Graduation of Claire Pershing**

—Tina Pershing

On May 15, 2016 Claire Pershing graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston University with her entire family in attendance. She has been enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program since her freshman year. This summer she will be doing a PT internship in Fort Worth, Texas at a rehabilitation center.

Claire was baptized at Asbury United Methodist Church in the winter of 1995 by Rev. Gennifer Brooks. Patsey Ramaker hosted a delightful baby shower for Tina which was attended by numerous Asbury women. Claire was a beautifully dressed baby.

Through the years Claire has participated in 30 Christmas pageants or Easter sunrise services. John and I will be eternally grateful for Gary Petit's mentoring, enrichment, patience, wonderful event planning and his genuine ability to connect not just with the three Pershing children, but all the children in his midst. He is greatly missed.

Claire was confirmed at Asbury United Methodist Church in the Spring of 2007. She and her classmates spent two years preparing for the event with Rev. Robert Osgood and Rev. John Brandon.

Claire has been involved in many local and international community service projects. Starting in 8<sup>th</sup> grade she began working at the Croton/Cortlandt Food Bank and when available the Peekskill lunch program at the Salvation Army. During her senior year she collected toiletry supplies at Hendrick Hudson High School for UMCOR's hygiene kits destined for disaster and refugee relief. During college she participated in Global Health Brigade outreach trips to Panama and Nicaragua to build latrines and trenches for irrigation. Claire also spent one spring break working with disadvantaged and troubled youth in Sioux Falls, Iowa.

John and I would like to thank all our Asbury family for all their fiscal and emotional support for our three children through the years.

### **THE HISTORY CORNER**

—Gloria Laemmel

#### **Music Room Window**

#### **In loving memory of Eugene S. Barton 1851-1907 – Theme: Censer**

As the incense ascends in smoke from the censer, so prayer ascends from the penitent heart to God. "And the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints...before God." Revelation 8:4.

Eugene Barton was Edson Barton's grandfather. The Barton family are long-standing members of the Croton community and Asbury Church. This window was originally placed in the rear of the sanctuary on the pulpit side. When the adjoining hallway was constructed between the sanctuary and education wings, the window was removed to make room for the doors. After several years, the window was discovered in the basement of the building and installed in its current location.



**Croton Village Vacation Bible School**  
**CAVE QUEST VBS: “Following Jesus the Light Of The World”**  
**AUGUST 22-26, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**  
**at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 56 Cleveland Drive, Croton, NY**

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Once again the churches of Croton will be sponsoring a week of fun and faith for all children ages 4 and older. There will be spirit-filled music, energetic games, interesting experiments, fun-filled crafts and bible stories brought to life.

Children do not have to be a member of a church to attend. Cost is \$75 for the first child and \$50 for each additional sibling. For financial support which is available please speak with Pastor Melissa. Youth leaders(12 and older) participate at no cost and can earn community service hours. Adults and youth leaders are invited to serve as group leaders and program area assistants. If you can help out for any amount of time, let us know.

All are invited to come and celebrate on Friday night, August 25 for the annual VBS potluck barbecue. Registration applications are available at church and are now being accepted. In you are interested please speak with Pastor Melissa, Jodi Hanlon or CathyAdlesic.



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**WELLNESS CORNER – June 2016**

—Barbara Whipple

In May this column started to tackle the problem of STRESS and its adverse effect on your body. A suggestion was to try MEDITATION techniques (including prayer) as tools to change your response to the stresses in your life.

This month another tool of putting on an ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE is encouraged. An attitude of gratitude can help to calm you and help you to cope with stresses even on those “end-of-the-rope” days. First be willing to pull back on your emotional response and put a check on your negative doom and gloom/angry thinking that’s ruling the moment. Then think of one thing that you are grateful for and jot it down. Watch how your grateful list grows, and with it the evolution of a feeling of calmness and a different, more positive emotional perspective. Finally, thank God for all that you have and all that is right in your world.

**Parking Passes**

At the end of this month the yellow passes for your car which allows you to park for longer than 2hrs in our parking lot at church will no longer be valid. The new passes are now available and are green in color. Don Daubney has these passes that you can obtain any Sunday after church.



## **Program on: Syrian Refugee Women and Families: Widespread Crisis, Local Response**

On Tuesday evening, May 10, more than 55 people gathered at Temple Israel of Northern Westchester (TINW) in Croton-on-Hudson for a program on the disastrous experiences of Syrian refugee women and families and what we can do locally to help. Attendees also assembled school kits for distribution to children in need.

The event was sponsored by Empowering Women World Wide, an *ad hoc* interfaith coalition of Northern Westchester women from the Sisterhood of TINW, **Asbury United Methodist Church**, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Hudson Valley in Croton, and the Upper Westchester Muslim Society in Thornwood.

In the context of the most pressing refugee crisis since World War II, with millions of refugees worldwide, Syria is the primary source of the displaced; Syria's ongoing civil war since 2011 has caused about 13.5 million people to flee from their homes. Seventy-five percent of the Syrian refugees are women and children.

Rabbi Jennifer Jaech, religious leader of TINW, moderated the program which included several speakers and a video. Rabbi Rachel Grant Meyer, Educator of Community Engagement at HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), spoke of the work HIAS is doing in Turkey to begin to identify the most vulnerable Syrian refugees in need of resettlement, and in Greece to explore the development of a program of legal services.

"Sana's Story: A 24-Year-Old Syrian Refugee Fights to Reunite Her Family" (*Elite Daily*), was shown. This video depicts the horrors being inflicted in the ongoing Syrian civil war and why Sana Mustafa and her activist family fled. Sana, one of the fortunate few (she was granted political asylum by the U.S. and a scholarship at Bard College), is continuing to speak out in behalf of refugees.

**Linda Unger, senior writer at UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)**, pictured here with Pastor Melissa, told of UMCOR's current shipping of relief-supply kits to Lebanon and Syria and described the Syrian refugee families she interviewed in Germany and Austria, seeking to learn about them and how they were being received.



Carolyn Kunin, member of Empowering Women Worldwide and TINW, urged attendees to stay informed, support agencies working on resettlement such as IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services in New Haven, CT), participate in advocacy actions such as rallies, and writing to government officials. A resource sheet to facilitate action was provided.

Dr. Yasser Alsafadi, former president of Upper Westchester Muslim Society, quoted and analyzed passages from the Qur'an, noting that compassion – "the ability to feel with the other" – is the most frequently occurring word in the Qur'an. He closed by saying "compassion and justice – these are the reasons why we gathered tonight. This is what we share with each other."

Following the program, attendees stayed to assemble 200 school kits, consisting of items donated and collected by the Empowering Women members. The kits, being taken to UMC NY Annual Conference by Tina Pershing and Pastor Melissa, will be distributed by UMCOR to refugee children in need.

**A special thanks to the Asbury congregation for their donation of several hundred dollars' worth of items and monies towards the purchase of items.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JUNE 2016</b> <b>ASBURY UNITED METHODIST</b> <b>CHURCH</b>			1	2	3	4 8:30 ACOHUMMFA 10:00 AA
5 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship 7:00 Croton Chorale 11:00 Wesleyan Chime Practice <i>Special Recognition:</i> <i>PreK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade</i> Bread for World Letter Writing Campaign <i>Croton Summerfest</i>	6 Asbury Front Porch	7	8 Cub Scouts 6-7:30pm/Soc.Hall	9	10 GS1235 6:15	11 8:30 ACOHUMMFA 9:00-10:30 Sally Read Book Group (Music Rm) 10:00 AA
12 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship 7:00 Croton Chorale 11:15 Coffee Hour 6:00 Jan Peek Meal <i>Special Recognition:</i> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> Grade</i>	13 Asbury Front Porch	14	15 Cub Scouts 6-7:30pm/Soc.Hall	16	17	18 9:00am Depart for UMW trip to Valkill, Eleanor Roosevelt's Home 10:00 AA
19 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Wesleyan Chime Practice 7:00 Croton Chorale <i>Special Recognition:</i> <i>5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade</i>	20 Asbury Front Porch 12:00 Salvation Army Meal	21 7:30 Ad Board  7pm Croton Chorale Rehearsal	22 Asbury Play & Learn Last Day of School  Cub Scouts 6-7:30pm/Soc.Hall	23 Asbury Play & Learn Graduation  7pm Croton Chorale Rehearsal	24 GS1235 6:15	25 10:00 AA 8:00pm Croton Chorale Concert

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>26</b></p> <p><b>9:00 Adult Sunday School</b> <b>10:00 Worship</b> 7:00 Croton Chorale <b>11:15 Coffee Hour</b> Worship led by Church School Celebration Reception after service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>27</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Asbury Front Porch</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>28</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>29</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cub Scouts 6-7:30pm/Soc.Hall</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>30</b></p>		
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