

Circuit Rider

The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
17 Old Post Road South, Croton-on Hudson, NY 10520-3039

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CIRCUIT RIDER APRIL 2017

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MELISSA



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I pray that as we continue in our journey of Lent focused on rolling down justice, you are finding comfort, assurance, and joy in the gifts that are found in our connections with God and each other.

As we move toward Easter, I encourage you to mark your calendars for the services during Holy Week. As we remember the events leading to crucifixion and resurrection, we are reminded that moving outside our comfort zones is the ultimate way that Jesus modeled right relationship with our neighbor. Truly connecting in spite of our resistance creates solidarity in a divided world.

Holy Week is a time to mourn when love is crucified on the cross of fear and hate. But we know that is not the end of the story. We will travel together as companions, from the Palm Sunday procession through the “Three Days”—or in Latin, “Triduum”—that the church has come to commemorate every year... the last three days of Jesus’ earthly life, to the promise of resurrection on Easter Sunday.

In doing so, we travel not just through a story long gone, we also bring to mind the ways this story is still the ongoing experience of humankind—that we are still called to fight injustice just as Jesus did—to let justice “roll down like waters and righteousness as an overflowing stream.”

Peace,
Pastor Melissa

ROLL DOWN
JUSTICE!



"Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists." — Franklin D. Roosevelt



**SHARING
STORIES OF OUR
IMMIGRATION
JOURNEYS**

**Sunday
April 2, 2017
5-7pm
Temple Israel**

**THE CROTON HOUSES OF WORSHIP
INVITE YOU TO DINNER & CONVERSATION:**

Hear stories from our neighbors in the Croton interfaith community about their experiences as immigrants to the US.

Enjoy a pot-luck dinner celebrating our heritage through traditional foods (please no pork or shellfish) and sharing stories about our own family journeys.

 **CrotonHousesOfWorship**

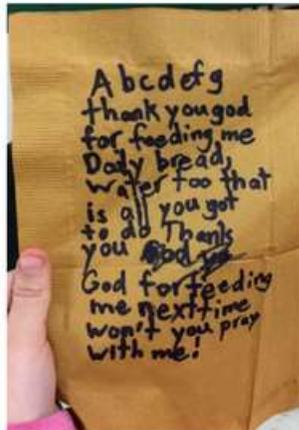
You are invited to a community event that Asbury is co-hosting: As we seek to build bridges and open up conversation, please plan to attend the next interfaith Croton Houses of Worship event on Sunday, April 2 at Temple Israel. Please bring a food to share (consider bringing a traditional dish from your family's origin). Please label all food with ingredients (no pork or shellfish). There will be a story time for children during the program.

Everyone is welcome. Come meet your neighbors and celebrate together.

ROLL DOWN JUSTICE!

FAITH5

- 1 SHARE Highs and Lows of the Week
- 2 READ a Bible Verse (based on Sunday's worship theme)
- 3 TALK about how the Bible verse ties into your highs and lows
- 4 PRAY for each other's highs and lows
- 5 BLESS each other for the week



Asbury United Methodist Church
Croton-on-Hudson, NY

On Wednesdays in Lent we have been gathering for Asbury Family Dinner. Join us on April 5 at 6:30 p.m. for dinner, conversation and prayer as we share our highs and lows of the week and reflect on the theme: "God Has Work for Us to do". Bring a friend!



The Croton Parents Care Group is organizing a Take Back the Night march and rally led by Croton Harmon High School girls on Friday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. marching from Croton Harmon High School to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. Take Back the Night is an empowerment event designed to provide girls and young women with resources to prevent being a victim of assault as well as give them a voice to advocate for safety. Because the church has so often been associated with harboring predators and covering up abuse by its leader, it is important to be a visible presence when we have the opportunity to stand up against sexual assault.



EASTER ALTAR PLANT ORDER

Easter plants will be used as part of our Easter altar decorations. Please send this order form to the church, place it in the offering plate or give it to Gloria Laemmel with your check payable to Asbury UMC, and please indicate on your check that it is for an Easter plant(s). The deadline for orders is Sunday, April 9, 2017.

If you have any questions you may call Gloria Laemmel, 271-8712.

Plant(s) given
by _____

In honor
of _____

In loving memory
of _____

Please indicate the number of each plant:

Azalea - \$20.00 _____ Lily - \$13.00 _____ Daffodil - \$10.00 _____ Total Amount \$ _____	Hydrangea - \$25.00 _____ Tulips - \$10.00 _____ Hyacinth - \$10.00 _____
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Following the 10:00 a.m. Easter service you may take your plant home, or in ministry of compassion and caring for others, you may wish to take your plant to a homebound member of Asbury.

Asbury United Methodist Church
 17 Old Post Road South
 Croton-on-Hudson, New York 10520

Please join us as we remember the journey to resurrection. During these Holy Week worship experiences, we will interact in unique ways while deepening our faith through prayer, devotions, song, and breaking bread.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Worship & Brunch

10am Worship "The Day is Coming: We Are One." followed by the annual community brunch.

Holy Thursday "Traveling Companions: Journey to the Water"

7:00pm Dinner & Vigil: Family friendly worship is woven throughout a potluck dinner in remembrance of the hours leading up to Jesus crucifixion.

Good Friday Prayer Stations

Noon-3pm Take time for personal reflection in the sanctuary. Multi-sensory prayer stations will help guide your meditation.

Easter Sunday

6:30am Sunrise: Celebrate with the children and dress warmly as we worship in Bethel Chapel.

10am Worship at Asbury, embracing the hope and joy found in the promise of resurrection.

ROLL
DOWN
JUSTICE



Asbury United Methodist Church
17 Old Post Road S., Croton-on-Hudson, NY
www.facebook.com/AsburyCrotonUMC



Please join us for the annual Asbury United Methodist Church Palm Sunday Brunch on April 9, 2017 after the 10:00 a.m. service. This is a wonderful time of fellowship and delicious food. All are welcome!

If you would like to contribute a quiche, dinner rolls or muffins, please contact Beth Phillips at bethrussellphillips@yahoo.com or 845-988-7343 or see me at church on April 2.

We will be setting up the tables and chairs in the social hall for the brunch on Saturday afternoon, April 8, at 4:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer to help with that, please let me know.

TAG SALE — APRIL 29, 2017



Our annual tag sale is almost here! Its success has always been due to the generous contributions of time and effort by many Asbury church members. Below is a schedule for the sale and how you can help! Come join in the fun to make this year's sale a success, not only for Asbury but for the people who come to buy.

Monday, April 10—First day donations may be brought to the church by **church members only** and left in the former food bank storage area near the social hall.

Monday, April 17—Donations may be brought to the church and left in the designated area of the social hall. Be sure to tell your friends about this date.

Sunday, April 23—Tag sale sorting day when we move all the donations in the social hall to the areas of the church where they will be sold. Lunch will be available for the movers. Any amount of help will be greatly appreciated.

Monday, April 24 to Friday, April 28—Set-up time will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Join the fun of discovery and getting our goods ready for the sale. Coffee, tea, juice and pastry will be served at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 26—Last day donations will be accepted.

Saturday, April 29—THE BIG DAY! The tag sale begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m.

How can you help?

1. Come any day for as long as you can to price, wash, fold, polish or whatever needs to be done during the set-up time from April 24 to 28.
2. Tell your friends, family and neighbors about the sale. Ask them for donations and to come to the sale.
3. Help put up posters.
4. Bake for the bake sale.
5. Sign up to help on April 29, the day of the sale, to be a member of the sales team.
6. Sign up to help clean up at the end.

You may sign up to help on the sign-up sheets on the music stand at the sanctuary entrance or call Gloria Laemmel at 914-271-8712. This helps us to plan our work days, but feel free to drop in at any time as your schedule allows.

Remember: We cannot accept large appliances, mattresses, used bed pillows, stuffed animals and non-flat screen TV sets.



Thanks to all of you, Asbury was able to pay over half of our 2016 apportionments. Now that we are in 2017, it is important that we all continue to pay our apportionments in a timely manner. One new initiative is that once a month we will have a second offering to make a contribution above and beyond your regular gift. This will be used specifically toward our 2017 United Methodist apportionments (\$1,361 a month).

So what are *Apportionments*? We are a connectional church, meaning that we support each other and provide assistance and programs to others—in the USA and worldwide. Together we can accomplish more than any one individual can! That's what connectional giving, known as Shared Ministry Apportionments, is all about. As a Methodist church, we are one of nearly 500 churches in the New York Conference, and one of 50 conferences in the USA.

Attached is a blurb on one of the many ways our apportionments are used. Monies support Camp Quinipet and Camp Kingswood, which you and your family may attend. <http://www.nyac.com/crm>

I, on behalf of the Stewardship and Financial Committee, trust that you will be able to contribute to this second offering EACH month. We are a congregation of 50 to 60 households. If each household would contribute an extra \$25 monthly (more or less depending on your current financial situation) we would be able to pay our 2017 apportionments in full!!

Our existing fundraisers, including the tag sale, artisan fair, bird seed sales, Summerfest, grocery cards sales, fair trade items, bring in about \$12,000 each year. Think about ways of increasing the profits from these fundraisers. Have an idea for additional fundraisers?

Let us be grateful to God for our Asbury Church community!

Submitted by Cynthia Plater, 2017 Stewardship Chair

**Together We Make
A Difference Through Shared
Ministry Apportionments!**

CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Thanks to your support, the two camps owned by the New York Conference are fully insured for the more than 18,000 youth and adults who use the facilities annually. The vision for these outdoor ministries is to "build a healthy body of Christ through the generation and regeneration of Christian love in community with all of God's creation - our sacred gift and trust."

Quinipet Camp and Retreat Center on Shelter Island offers a year-round retreat center, Christian overnight camp, youth sailing and day camp programs, and environmental and adventure education along the shores of Peconic Bay.

Kingswood Camp in the Catskills has equipped campsites, tent sites, and RV sites amid forests and rolling hills. There is a swimming lake and trails for hiking. The summer program, Woodsmoke, focuses on developing life values, exploring and strengthening spirituality, and learning new skills.

Thanks to your support, these camps have helped build and shape three generations of pastoral and lay leaders from more than 100 churches in our conference!

Reminder – you may also donate online. Go to Asbury's website <http://asburycroton.umcchurches.org> and on the welcome page, click on the 'donate now' button.

School Kits for Children in Need

The 2017 Empowering Women's Program, focusing on refugee children and women, is scheduled for the evening of May 16th at Temple Israel. As our hands-on project, we [women of the Croton houses of worship and the Upper Westchester Muslim Society] are assembling school kits for refugee children and children in need. Please contribute items listed below.



List of Contents – all items should be new. [just these very specific items needed, please]

- **One pair blunt scissors** - rounded tip only; no plastic scissors, please
- **Three pads of paper** - spiral- or top-bound pads; 8.5 x 11 inches; 150 sheets or less of loose leaf can be substituted for one pad combination of spiral, top bound, side bound or loose leaf is acceptable no composition books, please
- **One hand-held pencil sharpener** - must be at least one-inch long; remove from packaging
- **One 30-centimeter ruler** - hard or flexible; cartoon characters are acceptable [no advertisements, please]
- **Six unsharpened pencils** - no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please; cartoon characters are acceptable
- **One 2-inch or larger size eraser** - no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please; cartoon characters are acceptable
- **One 24-count box of crayons** - only 24-count boxes please

Items will be placed in a 14"x16" cloth bag – These are being purchased and/or sewn – no need for you to provide. [heavy-duty fabric only – denim, corduroy, drapery fabric, etc. no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please; closures are optional but must be buttons, snaps or Velcro sewn in middle of opening, if used]

Monetary donations welcome if you do not want to shop for specific items. Thank you!

Check out the UMCOR [United Methodist Committee on Relief] website for info on sewing the bags and assembling the kits: <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/School>

THE HISTORY CORNER

Pretzels for Easter

Pretzels became an ancient Christian Lenten bread in the 600's when a strict Lenten fast was observed and no dairy, meat or eggs were allowed. A Lenten bread made with flour and water was made and soon it was shaped in a loop in the form of arms crossed in prayer because at that time people who prayed crossed their arms across their chest. The three holes in the pretzel became the representation of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the soft pretzel you can buy from vendors today on the streets of New York City.

The name pretzel comes from the Latin word *bracellae*, meaning little arms. The pretzel was introduced to the United States in the late 1700's by German immigrants in Pennsylvania. In 1850 hard pretzels originated at the Stugis Bakery in Lititz, Pennsylvania, allowing pretzels to be stored for a longer period of time than the soft pretzels. Today 80% of America's pretzels are made in Pennsylvania. In many European countries the pretzel shape is the symbol for bakeries, and is shown in various ways on their bakery signs.

Reserve your tickets today and join your
Asbury family for an evening at the theatre

\$77 per ticket
includes
Dinner, Show,
and Gratuity



Sun 08.06.17 | 5:15pm
Westchester Broadway
Theatre, Elmsford, NY



Contact Barbara Whipple to purchase tickets and reserve your seat

Hosted by

Asbury United Methodist Women

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL 2017 ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH						1 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 10:00 AA
2 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 11:00 Wesleyan Chimers 2:00 Bell Practice	3 Blood Drive Committee Using Fellowship Hall 7:30 SPRC	4 Blood Drive Committee Using Fellowship Hall	5 6:30-7:30pm Lenten Family Dinner & Conversation	6	7 GS 1235 5:30 7:30pm Croton Take Back the Night March @ CHHS	8 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 9:00-10:30 Sally Read Book Group (Music Rm) 10:00 AA 8am-12noon Asbury Work Day
9 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 11:00 Brunch 2:00pm Bell Practice 6:00 Jan Peek Meal 11:45 Pageant Rehearsal	10 Begin collecting items for Tag Sale from Asbury members	11	12	13 HOLY THURSDAY 7pm Dinner & Vigil	14 GOOD FRIDAY Prayer Stations 9am-3pm	15 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 10:00 AA
16 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 Sunrise Service at Bethel Chapel 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship	17 12:00 Salvation Army Meal Begin collecting items for Tag Sale from community	18	19	20	21 GS 1235 5:30	22 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 9:00am UMW (music room)
23 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour Tag Sale Sorting Day	24 Tag Sale Setup	25 Tag Sale Setup	26 Tag Sale Setup Last day to receive items for Tag sale	27 Tag Sale Setup	28 Tag Sale Setup	29 TAG SALE 9am-4pm
30 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 11:00 Wesleyan Chimers						