

Circuit Rider

The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church

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CIRCUIT RIDER FEBRUARY 2017

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MELISSA



Patient
Not arrogant
Kind
Not resentful
Rejoices in truth . . .

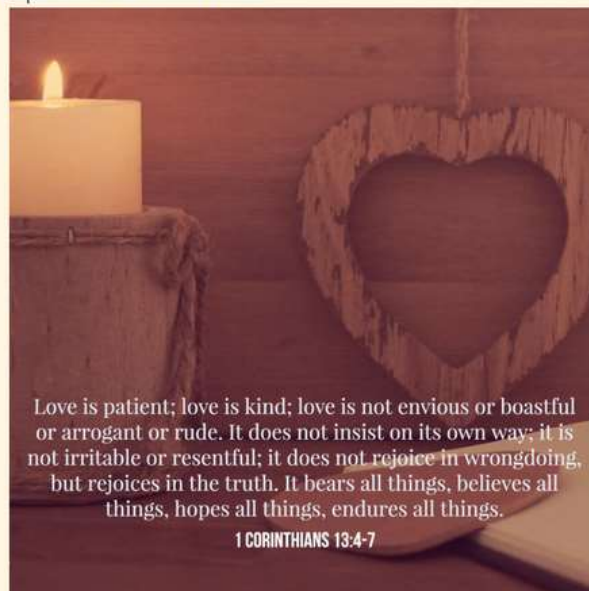
LOVE

On Martin Luther King Day weekend, Asbury's sanctuary was overflowing with our Croton neighbors who represented a diversity of faith traditions. We came together to unite against hate. We came together exhibiting the characteristics of love that Paul wrote about in his letter to the Corinthians.

What does it look like when we use these characteristics as a measure for all aspects of our life - At work, in disagreements with others, at home, in our interactions with neighbors, our sense of connection with people in different circumstances?

I encourage us, as followers of Jesus, to embody Christ like LOVE in all that we do. Not the fluffy, romantic, fleeting love . . . but the deep, truthful, active, engaging, believing love that offers hope and that never ends.

Peace,
Pastor Melissa



Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7



“Men Growing in Christ so Others May Know Christ”
ASBURY CROTON ON HUDSON UNITED METHODIST MEN’S FELLOWSHIP
ASSOCIATION

ACOHUMMFA

FEBRUARY 2017 meeting dates:

Saturday

8:00 a.m. Free BREAKFAST at Frankie’s (OPTIONAL)

8:30 a.m. MEETING BEGINS

19 Old Post Road So
Croton on Hudson

10:00 a.m. MEETING OVER

Topics: New Testament review

2/4: OUR ONLY MEETING IN FEBRUARY

2/11: WINTER BREAK NO MEETING**

2/18: WINTER BREAK NO MEETING**

2/25: WINTER BREAK, NO MEETING**

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

- 1) EXODUS 35-LEVITICUS 10
- 2) LEVITICUS 11-27,
- 3) LEVITICUS 28-NUMBERS 13,
- 4) NUMBERS 14-29

Intercessory Prayers:

- 1) **Asbury Prayer Chain**
- 2) **Asbury COH Church Families: C-D**

EVENTS

Spaghetti Dinner at St. Augustine RC Church Rt 9 Ossining 6:00 p.m. SATURDAY 2/4

Support Boy Scouting program Troop 49 Ossining

All Asbury families invited as guests of ACOHUMMFA

More info: Stu Colby call or text 914-330-4104 or ACOHUMMFA@aol.com

NOTE: ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL / CONTACT ABOVE TO CONFIRM

Thank You to the Congregation



Thank you to the whole congregation for their support of the artisan fair, olive wood sales, and the Christmas pop-up at Wesley House. You baked, created craft items for the Asbury craft table at the fair, posted signs and flyers to advertise the events, volunteered your time to help at the events, told your friends and family about the events, and purchased items. Thanks to your efforts slightly over \$3,000 was raised. It has been deposited in the Asbury operating account, the account from which all the ongoing expenses (salaries, heat, electricity, apportionments, supplies, etc.) are paid.



As we begin 2017, Asbury's leadership is looking at ways to be more confident in meeting our financial obligations. Our budget is nearly \$200,000, and while your faithful pledges and weekly donations cover a large portion of that we are exploring creative ideas to increase our funding.

The Stewardship and Finance Committees met jointly last week to brainstorm how we will insure that Asbury is able to meet our financial obligations in 2017. In 2016 we fell short by nearly \$10,000.

One new initiative is that once a month, beginning in February, 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 of \$1,361 a month. Our apportionments are the portion of offerings that each church is expected to fund in the United Methodist denomination to support the world-wide ministries and provide resources available to all local churches. More specific information about these funds can be found here: <http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/apportioned-funds>.

I, on behalf of the Stewardship and Financial Committees, 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 status) 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?

You may also donate online on Asbury's website <http://asburycroton.umchurches.org/> and on the welcome page click on the 'donate now' button.

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

Submitted by Cynthia Plater, 2017 Stewardship Chair

BIRD SEED REPORT
—Don Daubney, Chair

The Bird Seed sale was very successful this fall. We achieved a total net gain of \$1,633.75 this year.

I would like to thank the people who worked on the sale, as well as all of you who made the decision to feed our feathered friends this winter and beyond. Our callers included Lena Cheng and Cynthia Plater. The deliverer was Mark Caterino, and loaders were Stu Colby, Keith Dean, John Mandle, Jud Ramaker and Russ Schulze.

Thank you!

WESTCHESTER REFUGEE SETTLEMENT
—Tina Pershing

Yes, it is true that the State Department and local resettlement agencies have given refugee status to some Syrian families after at least two years of serious vetting. I was privileged to have worked with members of the Westchester Refugee Task Force (WRTF) to bring two programs to northern Westchester. Our steering committee included Mary Refling from Congregation Sons of Israel (CSI), Rev. Tim Ives from Scarborough Presbyterian Church, Deacon Lynn Werdal and Peter Russell from St. John's Episcopal Church, Robert Berson from the Ethical Culture Society of Northern Westchester, Abbe Marcus from CSI, Betsy Deckert from Temple Israel and myself.

The first program introduced local residents to the heartbreaking stories of refugees from Syria and Sudan, and Susan Smith's experiences working with refugees in a camp in Greece.

The second program educated leaders of faith communities and civic organizations about the skills and training required to welcome refugee families from around the world. Resettlement focuses on the neediest refugees from Syria (HIAS) and around the world (Catholic Charities).

For more information contact Tina Pershing (914-736-6281).

MISSIONS UPDATE
—Tina Pershing

Our holiday season at Asbury was filled with opportunities for giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. As usual our congregation participated wholeheartedly.

Thirteen children in nine families from the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program received Christmas presents. In addition, a large decorated box in the breezeway was filled to overflowing with all kinds of toys for the Leake and Watts program for foster children and orphans. Our call to buy \$25 gifts cards for clothing stores for dress outfits for incarcerated youths raised over \$400. Pastor Melissa delivered these gifts before Christmas. Finally our mitten tree was so full of mittens, hats and scarves that we put up a second tree. We collected 27 gloves and 16 hats for the developmentally disabled children and young adults at the Sunshine Home.

Thank you to all who participated this year. Play and Learn Nursery School families were especially generous with the toy drive. I know the holiday season can be very busy and stressful for many of us, but insuring that underprivileged or troubled foster and incarcerated youth receive gifts is a great way to follow Jesus' example.



THANK YOU FOR GENEROUSLY
SHARING CHRISTMAS JOY WITH
OUR NEIGHBORS



MITTEN TREES

We filled not just one, but TWO trees with mittens, gloves, scarves, hats for children and youth at the Sunshine Home in Ossining.



TOY DRIVE

We delivered a box overflowing with dolls, games, trucks and other toys distributed through Leake & Watts to children and young adults who are experiencing poverty.



GIFT CARDS

We gave 19 youth at Woodfield Cottage \$475 in gift cards for business casual clothes to wear at job interviews and court hearings.



FAMILY CHRISTMAS

We sponsored Christmas gifts for 7 families through the Salvation Army



CHRISTMAS CARDS

With our help, The NY Board of Church & Society sent 1,500 Christmas cards to people in prison.

We have opportunities to help others and share the light of Christ all year. Please contact Tina Pershing if you have an idea for a mission project: 914.736.6281

THE HISTORY CORNER

—Gloria Laemmel

Valentine's Day

The American Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately 190 million Valentines are sent each year in the United States. When the school valentine exchange cards are added in, the number goes up to 1 billion.

Originally Valentine cards or messages were handwritten and composed by the sender. In England in 1797 The Young Man's Valentine Writer was published providing sentimental verses for the young lover unable to come up with his own verse. S printing processes improved in the early 1800s cards with verses and artwork called "mechanical valentines" began to appear in England and soon became fancy Valentines with real lace and ribbons. In America the first mass-produced cards were produced and sold shortly after 1847 by Esther Howland of Worcester, Massachusetts. Esther had received a Valentine card from someone in England and since her father was the owner of a book and stationary store she had a ready market for her cards. Initially she imported from England paper lace that had become the fashion and floral decorations. As Valentine cards caught on in America the production of these materials was in America, creating a new industry that exists to this day.

LOVE LUNCH FEBRUARY 12

—Barbara Whipple

Plan to attend the UMW sponsored annual congregational **LOVE LUNCH** following Sunday services on February 12. Main dish offerings will include tomato ingredients. (In medieval Europe the tomato was called the "love apple"). The luncheon menu will be rounded out with a variety of salads, Italian bread, rolls and desserts, with chocolate treats heavily represented.

To help us with food planning, if you can supply a favorite family tomato ingredient main dish, a salad or a dessert, please indicate your intended food offering on the food sign-up sheet on the music stand located at the rear of the sanctuary or call Barbara Whipple at 271-5095. Family fun activities will include a Valentine's workshop and making biodegradable pinecone bird feeders. Be sure to check the Fair-Trade table for Valentine gifts of chocolate bars and cocoa to purchase for your sweethearts.

THANK YOU, BAKERS

—Barbara Whipple

The delicious desserts, treats, and Clementines donated by Asbury for the 2017 Croton Caring Committee holiday luncheon were appreciated and much enjoyed by the luncheon participants.

Thank you to all the Asbury providers. There is a reason that each year Asbury is asked to provide the luncheon desserts for this ecumenically sponsored luncheon!

2017 ASBURY TAG SALE

—Gloria Laemmel

The Asbury administrative board has declared Saturday, April 29, 2017 to be Asbury's annual tag sale day. Tell your family and friends about our plans so we can be assured of another successful sale. Monday, April 10 will be the first day donations will be accepted and stored in the social hall.

After more than a year of developing a statement of welcome, the following statement was approved by the administrative council in January 2017. We give thanks to the core group who prepared the statement and refined it with congregational input. Let us be in prayer as we live out this statement as the body of Christ welcoming

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



**Asbury United Methodist Church
Croton-on-Hudson, NY**

MONDAY NIGHT CONVERSATION



JAN 30, FEB 6, 13, 20, 27
LIGHT DINNER AT 6:30
DISCUSSION 7-8:30

Thomas J. Bickerton

WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?



COMING TOGETHER AROUND
WHAT MATTERS MOST

In this book, Bishop Bickerton offers a way to move beyond all the discord to a hope-filled future by exploring how we can come together around what matters most so that the gospel of Jesus Christ becomes a vibrant part of our lives and witness.

Please join us for relevant, inspiring, and thoughtful conversation.

CONTACT PASTOR MELISSA
(646.241.7746) WITH ANY
QUESTIONS OR TO REQUEST
A BOOK. OR JUST SHOW UP!

 AsburyCrotonUMC

Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month a poem by Langston Hughes, whose work was beloved by
Martin Luther King

THEME FOR ENGLISH B, Langston Hughes, 1902–1967

The instructor said:
Go home and write
A page tonight,
And let that page come out of you
Then, it will be true.

I wonder if it's that simple?
I am twenty-two, colored, born in Winston-Salem.
I went to school there, then Durham, then here
To this college on the hill above Harlem,
I am the only colored student in my class.
The steps from the hill lead down into Harlem,
Through a park, then I cross St. Nicholas,
Eighth Avenue, Seventh and I come to the Y,
The Harlem Branch Y, where I take the elevator
Up to my room, sit down, and write this page:

It's not easy to know what is true for you or me
At twenty-two, my age. But I guess I'm what
I feel and see and hear, Harlem, I hear you:
Hear you, hear me —we two — you, me, talk on this page.
(I hear New York, too.) Me—who?
Well, I like to eat, sleep, drink, and be in love.
I like to work, read, learn, and understand life.
I like a pipe for a Christmas present,
Or records—Bessie, bop, or Bach.
I guess being colored doesn't make me *not* like
The same things other folks like who are other races.
So will my page be colored that I write?
Being me, it will not be white.
But it will be
A part of you, instructor.
You are white
Yet a part of me, as I am a part of you.
That's American.
Sometimes perhaps you don't want to be a part of me.
Nor do I often want to be a part of you.
But we are, that's true!
As I learn from you,
I guess you learn from me
Although you're older—and white
And somewhat more free.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 8:30 ACOHUMMFA 10:00 AA
5 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour 5:00pm-7pm Confirmation Class	6 6:30-8:30pm Book Study: "What Are We Fighting For?"	7	8 7:30pm Trustees	9	10 GS 1235 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 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 6:00 Jan Peek Meal LOVE LUNCH sponsored by UMW after worship	13 6:30-8:30pm Book Study: "What Are We Fighting For?"	14 Cub Scouts 2 6-7:30pm	15	16	17	18 8:30 ACOHUMMFA 9:00am UMW (music room) 10:00 AA
19 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 11:00 Wesleyan Chimers 11:00 Coffee Hour	20 6:30-8:30pm Book Study: "What Are We Fighting For?"	21 7:30pm Ad Council	22	23	24 GS 1235 6:15	25 8:30 ACOHUMMFA 10:00 AA
26 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School	27 6:30-8:30pm Book Study: "What Are We Fighting For?"	28	FEBRUARY 2017 ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH			