

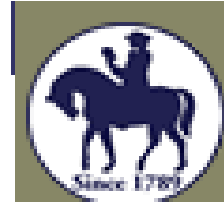
# CIRCUIT RIDER

*The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church*

*17 Old Post Road South, Croton-on Hudson, NY 10520-3039*

*Tel: (914) 271-3150 email: [asburycrotonumc@gmail.com](mailto:asburycrotonumc@gmail.com) website: [www.asburycroton.umcchurches.org](http://www.asburycroton.umcchurches.org)*

*Jean Evans, Editor Lena Cheng, Mailing Coordinator*



**December 2017**

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**



Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.  
Luke 2:3-5 (The Message)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Even as the days are getting shorter and colder, we are moving into a time of expectation and preparation. Twinkling lights are hung, candles are lit, cards are being written, and the sweet sound of Christmas carols are beginning to be heard around town. It's a time when many people who have moved away are preparing to "come home."

The season is filled with time-honored traditions of our childhood homes. In our church home, rituals and customs often help us feel connected to our faith. As you come home to Asbury this season, what are the traditions, customs, and rituals that connect you with the Divine presence among us?

During Advent and Christmas, we prepare for the homecoming of Christ to redeem and renew us, this earth, and all creation till "heaven and nature sing." The Scripture readings during Advent seek God's joyous desire to reconcile us while challenging us to begin to live into the abundant remarkable life found in following Christ.

Our Advent and Christmas Season worship series embraces the secular seasonal metaphor of homecoming. Each week's service will invite us to "unwrap" something that leads us toward making our hearts, our lives, our families, our communities, and our world more like the home Christ calls us to create in partnership with our Divine Parent.

I look forward to waiting and watching with you as we come home for the holy-days.

Peace,  
Pastor Melissa

# *Coming Home*

## ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

### *Sundays at 10am*

*DEC 03*

Advent 1 - Come Down Home  
Isaiah 64:1-9

*DEC 10*

Advent 2 - Home Is Where We Meet  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

*DEC 17*

Advent 3 - Children's Christmas Pageant  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Joy is Our True Home

*DEC 24*

Advent 4 - God Makes This World A Home  
Luke 1:46-55  
Christmas Carol Hymn Sing

### *Christmas Eve - December 24*

*4-4:30pm*

*Bethel Chapel*

Dress warmly for a sunset service as we recall stories and songs of our faith at the historic Bethel Chapel.

*7:30pm*

*Asbury Church*

"A Manger for the World" Traditional family friendly service. Hear the story of Christmas in word and song with bells, carols, and Silent Night by candlelight.



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

**ACOHUMMFA**

DECEMBER meeting dates:

Saturday (8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. sharp)

(Breakfast 8:00 a.m. option Frankie’s)

**DECEMBER  
2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

WESLEY HOUSE 19 Old Post Road So Croton on Hudson

**Topics: Series Jesus of the Ancient World**

**Weekly Readings (15 min/day) for personal devotions (BIBLE in a year challenge):**

1 & 2 Cor-Rev22

**CONGRATULATIONS FOR THOSE WHO COMPLETED BIBLE IN A YEAR CHALLENGE!!!!**

2018 ASBURY LOCAL CHAPTER DUES (free-will offering)  
EXTRA MILE GIVING: \$45.00 - EVERY MAN SHARES support of UMM global missions  
PLEASE SEND/GIVE TO collection plate, Adam Bovone or Stu Colby  
THANKS!!!

**Intercessory Prayer:**

**Asbury COH Church Families: W, X, Y, Z**

**EVENTS THIS MONTH**

**12/26/1707: Charles Wesley’s Birthday  
12/24: Christmas Eve  
12/25: Christmas Day  
12/31: Watch Night**

## **RING AND SING! DECEMBER 3!**

The 22nd annual Christmas Ring and Sing featuring the Bethel Bells will take place at Asbury on Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m. The English hand bell concert of music of the season and Christmas carol sing-along (with audience participation on chimes) will be followed by the traditional English high tea.

For the first time this year, the Ring and Sing will include a special performance of madrigals by the group "1601" from the Bennett Conservatory of Music in Croton.

A suggested donation of \$10.00 for the Asbury mission programs will be requested.

### **Community Blood Drive**

Sunday, December 3, 2017

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Croton-Harmon High School

Type O and B negative especially sought

Please consider giving if you never have. It could save a life!

Please call Peggy DeGasperi 271-3156 with any questions or concerns.

### **SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS**

The time for Christmas cooking and baking for holiday parties is upon us, generating a lot of purchases at the grocery store. Remember to help Asbury balance the budget when you do your shopping by buying Shoprite gift cards at Asbury.

We sell the gift cards on Sunday after church and at other events such as coffee hour— just look for Gloria Laemmel. Asbury receives a profit of five cents on each dollar of cards we sell. The gift cards can be used to buy food at any Shoprite. We all eat and we all buy food so it is an easy way to donate to Asbury. The profit is kept in an emergency fund.

For more information and to purchase gift cards please contact Gloria at 914-271-8712.

## CHRISTMAS ALTAR POINSETTIAS ORDER

Christmas Poinsettias will be used as part of our traditional Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. Please send your order to the church, place it in the offering plate, or give it to Gloria Laemmel **with your check made payable to Asbury UMC** and indicate on the check that it is for a Christmas plant(s). The deadline for orders is **Tuesday, December 12, 2017**.

Plant(s) given

by \_\_\_\_\_

In honor

of \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory

of \_\_\_\_\_

Price of plant is \$18.00 each.

Number of Plants ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You may take your Poinsettias following the last Christmas Eve Service, or at another time at your convenience after the service.

Asbury United Methodist Church  
15 Old Post Road South  
Croton on Hudson, NY 10520

## CELEBRATE *MESSIAH!*

On Saturday, December 16 at 8:00 p.m. Asbury will celebrate the Croton Chorale's presentation of Handel's *Messiah* along with a Christmas carol sing! The 36-voice chorus and 16-piece orchestra, conducted by Chancel Choir director Bob Collins, will present the Christmas part of Handel's famous oratorio followed by a selection of Christmas carols by the choir. The program will conclude with a sing-along of favorite carols with the audience.

This year's concert will be the 18th annual celebration of *Messiah* by the Croton Chorale, a community choir and orchestra housed by Asbury founded in 2000 with the goal of presenting Handel's *Messiah* to the village of Croton at Christmastime.

The Chorale has a tradition of presenting each concert as a benefit for local non-profit organizations. To date the Chorale has raised over \$10,000 for Croton charities, and the proceeds from this concert will be donated to the Croton Caring Committee.

Suggested donations for the concert are \$20.00 and \$10.00 for seniors and students. Children under 12 are welcomed free. In the event of snow the concert will be held on Sunday, December 17.

## THE HISTORY CORNER

The evergreen tree is put in our homes and churches to remind all who enter that Christ is ever present and that he is the “tree of life”. The star usually placed at the top of the Christmas tree signifies the star in the East that led the Wise Men to the Christ Child. The star has long been an integral part of the Christmas celebration beyond placing it at the top of the tree, just as this year at Asbury we have hung stars in our social hall and on trees as part of our Christmas decorations. In many parts of Europe bands of “star singers” still carry poles topped with star-shaped lanterns and go through the streets singing carols on Christmas Eve as bands have for centuries.

### ALL THE SAINTS WHO FROM THEIR LABORS REST as of November 6, 2016

Mary Louise Stellato, 10/1/1925 - 11/9/2016  
Mary Elizabeth Cranley, 4/6/1930 - 1/18/2017  
Lauren James  
Ramona Capelli  
Royce Gambino  
Delmar Kearsley, 5/20/1928 - 3/17/2017  
Leticia Sinistore, d. 4/4/2017  
Richard Dixon, d. 4/4/2017  
Rosalilnd Morrissey, d. 5/7/2017  
Dudley J. Brown, d. 5/12/2017

Rose Braz, d. week of 5/1/2017  
Marrienne Guevares, d. 7/2/2017  
Iris Dixon, d. 7/12/2017  
George Basciani 6/5/1947 - 7/26/2017  
Jim Smilley, d. July, 2017  
Huyuan Ku, d. 8/27/2017  
Dan Shure, d. 9/9/2017  
Ruth Kear, 11/3/1919 - 9/15/2017  
Verlie Anne Skillman, d. 11/3/2017  
Robert Sherblom, d. 11/5/2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>DECEMBER 2017</b> <b>ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>					<b>1</b>  GS 1235 5:30pm	<b>2</b> 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 4-5pm Setup for Ring & Sing 10:00 AA
<b>3</b> 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 11:30 Pageant Rehearsal  3-6pm Ring & Sing GS 2919 4:00pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  BS Den 2 3:30pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  Pastor Melissa Sabbath	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 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
<b>10</b> 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 11:00 Prayer Circle 11:30 Pageant Rehearsal 6:00 Jan Peek Meal Coffee Hour GS 2919 4:00pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Chorale Rehearsal 7pm	<b>13</b>  Trustees 7:30pm  6:00pm Finance & Stewardship	<b>14</b>  Chorale Rehearsal 7pm  Pastor Melissa Sabbath	<b>15</b>  GS 1235 5:30pm	<b>16</b> 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 9:00 UMW (Music Rm) 10:00 AA 8pm Croton Chorale "Messiah"
<b>17</b> 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School  Children's Christmas Pageant	<b>18</b> 12:00 Peekskill Lunch	<b>19</b> NO Ad Council  BS Den 2 3:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Pastor Melissa Sabbath	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 10:00 AA
<b>24</b> 10:00 Worship Service  Christmas Eve Services 4pm – Bethel Chapel 7:30pm – Asbury Church	<b>25</b>  Merry Christmas	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Leslie & Sharon Cooking Class in Kitchen 9am-3pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School						