

CIRCUIT RIDER

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

Tel: (914) 271-3150

website: www.asburycroton.umcchurches.org email: asburycrotonumc@gmail.com

Jean Evans, Editor



JUNE 2019

Seasons of Love

*Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure, measure a year?*

In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee. . .

*How do you measure a year in the life? How about love? Measure in love.
Seasons of love . . . (from the Broadway musical, "Rent").*

I've been singing this song a lot this week as I prepare for our upcoming transition after nearly five years of ministry in Croton-on-Hudson.

How do we evaluate this time of ministry together that God has blessed us with?

As I responded to God's call to ministry I had no idea that I would be so blessed to continue to grow in faith through the grace you have extended to me. I heard a pastor say that he didn't learn in seminary that you might fall in love with the congregation you serve. I remember thinking, "Oh my goodness, that's what this feeling is!" Thank you for welcoming me into this amazing faith community for this season.

I know there have been times when I didn't meet your needs and that I have disappointed you. There were times that I was insensitive and times that I overlooked your contributions and gifts. Please forgive me.

I'm so thankful for the invitation into your lives through grieving, sickness, celebration, and joys. Thank you for the trust you have shown in me and for the guidance you have offered. Thank you for never giving up on this church that God has entrusted to you.

I've thought about the goodbyes to people connected with this congregation:

Allan Anderson	Ed Gomez	Linda Marie Kropp	Roland Bogardus
Barbara and Jan Wines	Evelyn Kearsley	Margaret Shenton	Ruth Kerr
Ben Prezelski	Jacqueline Smalls	Marilyn Bovone	Sally Dow
Bill Laemmel	John and Lucille	Michael Misch	Ted and Nancy Ferns
Crosby Kearsley Jr.	Correnti	Mildred Simpson	William Brown
Delmar Kearsley	Karen Flegar	Nancy Kochanowitz	

The weddings where I officiated (or co-officiated) as a representative of Asbury:

Beeson-Payton	Johnson-Dean	Laemmel-Sandoval	West-Graves
Hinnen-Neals,	Rahman-Sperrazza,	Todeda-Rizo,	

The baptisms of Keith, Brianne, Riley, Caleb, Sarah, Daisy and the professions of faith and confirmation: Russ, Tabatha, Mitch, Conor, Sammy, Stevie, Noah, Vinny. The numerous new members, transferred members, and new congregants as we experience the vitality of this Body of Christ called Asbury.

How can we measure these years of ministry?

In leadership and meetings, social occasions and fundraisers, interfaith gatherings and community mission, United Methodist Women and Men and the adult Sunday school class, intergenerational dinners and regular coffee hours, home cooked meals and baked goods.

In the fifteen families with twenty-five young children who engage in worship and share stories of God's grace through pageants. The dedicated teachers and role models who are committed to surrounding young people with grace filled examples of Christian living. The babies who come to Wednesday's playgroup and the pre-school children under the care of compassionate teachers.

In weekly praise and monthly Communion, with bells, guitar, percussion and singing. In stretching ourselves with new expressions of worship in Advent and Lent. Engaging in Dinner Church and worshipping on the Front Porch. In witnessing to our neighbors and the world.

In feeding those who are hungry, sharing love and shelter with those who are experiencing homelessness, and welcoming the stranger, leveraging our privilege to walk alongside our neighbors in the margins and changing unjust systems.

We measure our ministry in love . . . love of our neighbor and love of God.

I pray that you will be blessed to be a blessing to all who are in need even as you are challenged to build peace with justice in a hurting world. May you continue to find new ways to grow and adapt to the needs of a changing community.

For more than 220 years the Methodist seeds have produced fruit in Croton-on-Hudson. Each generation is building on the one before it. I am so thankful to have been a small part of this legacy. Thank you for the beautiful home you provided for my family and me. I appreciate how you have supported me in my journey and celebrated life events with me.

You will continue to be in my prayers as you welcome Rev. Cunningham and Becky just as you welcomed Chris and me. I will honor our United Methodist practice of taking a year of separation to allow you to build a good relationship with Pastor Doug while I begin to bond with the congregation in Park Slope. In whatever the future holds for the expressions of Wesleyan Methodism, I know that our connection in Christ's love and our shared ministry will remain strong.

It's time now to sing out

Tho' the story never ends.

Let's celebrate, remember (five years) in the life of friends.

Remember the love. Measure your life in love. Seasons of love

With gratitude for this season of love, Pastor Melissa



"Men Growing in Christ so Others May Know Christ"
ASBURY CROTON ON HUDSON UNITED METHODIST MEN'S FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION

ACOHUMMFA

JUNE 2019 meeting dates: Saturdays June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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: Bible in a Year readings

ACTIVITIES:

June 2: CROTON SUMMERFEST AWESOME HOT DOG SALE 12-5

TBD: Croton Trail Walks

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

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. Contact to confirm.

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).

TREASURER'S COLUMNS

JUNE 2019

Look! I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth . . . Be glad and rejoice forever in what I'm creating, because I'm creating Jerusalem as a joy and her people as a source of gladness. Isaiah 65:17-18 CEB

God's vision of a new heaven and new earth is lived out in the life of our church, Asbury Croton-on- Hudson. Through our connection with 12.6 million United Methodists, from this community, this Jerusalem, we are living out the Holy One's preferred future for us to be the church in the world.

God has entrusted us with abundance so that together we are part of creating a new heaven and new earth where there is economic security, peace among those who were once enemies, and long, full, remarkable life. Connectional giving offers us the opportunity to do more together by combining our gifts with other United Methodists to make this vision a reality locally and globally.

As we prayerfully consider our giving today, accept the challenge to invest in the creation of a new heaven and a new earth that reflects the value of God's hope and dreams for this community and the world.

www.umcsgiving.org.

LEGACY OF GRACE KERR

Fill your heart with the joy and light that shines upon the legacy of Grace Kerr by driving past Asbury United Methodist Church at night to enjoy the magnificent stained glass window overlooking the street below.

Grace made arrangements before her death to have the window of our beautiful church illuminated at night.

THE HISTORY CORNER

Father's Day will be June 16, 2019. The idea for Father's Day came to Mrs. Sonora Smart Dudd while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1910 in Spokane, Washington. She thought about how her father had raised her and her five brothers after her mother died in childbirth. She proposed a local Father's Day celebration to ministers and member of the Spokane YMCA, who supported her idea. The celebration was held on June 19, 1910.

News of the Spokane observance spread across the country and other cities adopted the celebration. Father's Day was not as quickly accepted as Mother's Day. Members of the all-male Congress felt that a move to proclaim the day official might be interpreted as a self-congratulatory pat on the back. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson and his family made it known that they were observing the day. And in 1924 President Calvin Coolidge recommended that states should hold their own Father's Day observances.

Many people tried to get official recognition for Father's Day. One of those people was Senator Margaret Chase Smith. In 1957 she wrote to Congress that, "Either we honor both our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honoring either one. But to single out just one of our two parents and omit the other is the most grievous insult imaginable." In 1972 Father's Day was permanently established by President Richard Nixon.

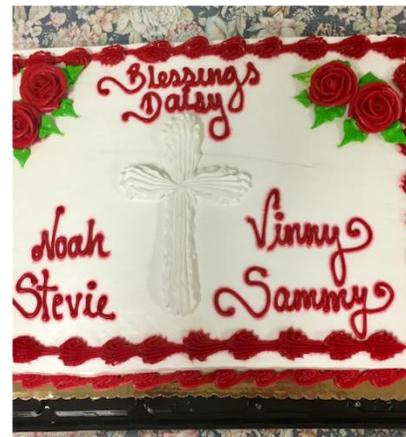
SUMMERFEST AND STRAWBERRIES

Croton Summerfest will be held on June 2 and we will again be selling strawberry shortcake on the church front lawn. We will need help preparing the cake and berries in the church kitchen in the morning of Saturday, June 1; setting up tables and chairs on the lawn after church on June 2; and serving the shortcake and strawberries.

If you can help please call Gloria Laemmel at 914-271-8712 or Barbara Whipple at 914-271-5095. Donations to help defray the cost of cake, strawberries, and cream would also be appreciated.

MAY 19, 2019

Daisy, through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.



MAY 19, 2019

Stevie, Sammy, Noah, and Vinny ~

The God of all grace,

*who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace.*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>JUNE 2019</p> <p>ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> </div>						<p>1 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 10:00 AA 4:00 Pastor Melissa's Farewell Picnic at Senasqua Park</p>
<p>2 9:00 Adult Church School 9:15 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School Croton Chorale- music rm 7pm Croton Summerfest</p>	3	4	<p>5 Asbury Playgroup 10am-12noon</p>	6	<p>7 Girl Scouts 1235 5:30pm</p>	<p>8 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 9:00-10:30 Sally Read Book Group in social hall 10:00 AA</p>
<p>9 PENTECOST SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Church School 9:15 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 11:00 Coffeee Hour 6:00 Jan Peek Meal Croton Chorale- music rm 7pm</p>	10	<p>11 Croton Chorale - music rm 7pm</p>	<p>12 Asbury Playgroup 10am-12noon Girl Scouts 1197 6pm</p>	<p>13 Croton Chorale - music rm 7pm</p>	14	<p>15 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 9:00-10:30 UMW in social hall 10:00 AA 8pm Croton Chorale Concert in Church</p>
<p>16 Father's Day 9:00 Adult Church School 9:15 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship Peace with Justice Sunday</p>	<p>17 Salvation Army Lunch 12noon</p>	<p>18 FINANCE 7:00pm</p>	<p>19 Asbury Playgroup 10am-12noon</p>	<p>20 Diversity & Inclusion Committee (Khamla Erskine) in Music Room 7pm</p>	<p>21 Girl Scouts 1235 5:30pm</p>	<p>22 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 10:00 AA</p>
<p>23 9:00 Adult Church School 9:15 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship 11am Coffee Hour</p>	24	25	<p>26 Asbury Playgroup 10am-12noon</p>	27	28	29
<p>30 9:00 Adult Church School 9:15 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship Apportionments</p>						