

# CIRCUIT RIDER



*The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church*  
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Jean Evans, Editor

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2020

**O**ur lives have changed dramatically. I pray that you are okay, that you and your family are adjusting to sheltering at home. Please contact me if you would like to talk or have prayer at 917-669-5803 or [cunninghamdp@gmail.com](mailto:cunninghamdp@gmail.com).

We will continue to worship online for the immediate future. I hope you can join us through the worship video, the conference call, and other options we may explore. We send out a weekly Asbury email to let you know the details for the upcoming Sunday. If you do not receive these emails, please let me know.

We are also conducting our Bible Study via conference call on Mondays at 7:15 p.m. Please let me know if you would like to participate. It's a great way to stay connected!

## ASBURY CARING TEAM

Jud Ramacher is heading up the Asbury Caring Team. We want to know if any members of our congregation need someone to help them get to a grocery store (or pick something up for them) or need a ride to the doctor. We are also looking for volunteers who would be willing to stop by the grocery store for someone or take them to a doctor's appointment. You can contact Jud at 914-552-0173 or by email at [ramakerjud@yahoo.com](mailto:ramakerjud@yahoo.com).

## UMW SATURDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

The United Methodist Women are meeting at 10:00 a.m. each Saturday morning via conference call. They are reading through the book *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* by Erin James-Brown. You can dial 425-436-6302 (access code 447447#).

## OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to send your offering regularly during this unusual time. You can mail it to the church or use the online options. For further details please contact Doug at 917-669-5803 or Stuart at 914 330-4104.

## CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF A CHILD!

Congratulations to Brianne and Nicholas Cimaglia on the birth of their son Arthur Drew Cimaglia who was born on Monday, March 23!



“Men Growing in Christ so Others May Know Christ”

ASBURY CROTON ON HUDSON UNITED METHODIST MEN’S FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION

**ACOHUMMFA**

**DATES:**

To be determined depending on COVID-19 virus government guidance on meetings

Hopefully we can resume in MAY

**PROGRAM:**

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR, portions of the Old and New Testaments and Psalms

Weekly Readings - IT’S JUST 15 minutes a day, WHOLE BIBLE IN A YEAR, YOU CAN DO IT!

For personal devotions:

1. 1 Samuel 14 - 2 Samuel 2
2. 2 Samuel 3 - 2 Samuel 20
3. 2 Samuel 21 - 1 Kings 11
4. 2 Samuel 12 - 2 Kings 5

Intercessory Prayers:

- 1) Asbury Prayer Chain
- 2) Asbury COH Church Families G-H
- 3) Croton Youth: Scouts, 4-H
- 4) First Responders
- 5) Service Members Across the Planet.

More info: Stu Colby call or text 914-330-4104

## **FINDING PEACE IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD**

United Methodist Women of Asbury invites you to join via conference call

Last week at our regular monthly UWM meeting Barb Whipple introduced us to the UMW study *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* by Erin James-Brown. The book centers on the Serenity prayer which helps us deal with the anxiety that is being increased in these strange times. We decided to continue meeting each Saturday at 10:00 a.m. This Saturday Barb will be focusing on Session I - God, grant me the serenity JOIN US!

**Dial-in number (US): (425) 436-6302**

**Access code: 447447#**

—Cynthia Plater

## **ASBURY CROTON-ON-HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TREASURER'S COLUMN - APRIL 2020**

The COVID-19 pandemic's negative effects impact our health, daily interpersonal routines, and family finances. Our church's financial condition is hurt as well in connection with the cancellation of worship services at the sanctuary for most of March and for an unknown period ahead. A number of members expressed concern and ask how they could continue to support the Church's mission without the offering plate pass.

Adam Bovone, our Finance Chairman, is providing a note in the Circuit Rider to detail that for us. Mail or drop the offering in the mail slot or use the DONATE NOW feature on the church website.

Great appreciation and "Bless you" is extended to those Asbury supporters who initiated action to contact me and have already advanced their tithes and offering pledge amounts. These actions are very helpful to assist the continuation of the Church missions in Croton.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Colby

## **PLAYGROUP NOTICE**

—Brianna Cimaglia

With the Church conducting services via video until further notice we are canceling the next few Playgroups.

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Greetings,

I hope this issue of the Circuit Rider finds you all well. I know this is a difficult time for many of us but I have faith that soon enough we will all be able to gather once again at Asbury to celebrate as one big, happy family. Unfortunately, while we may have temporarily stopped gathering together, the bills of the church never cease to show up at our door on time. As such, we continue to rely on your support. If you are able please continue with your generous offerings as you have in the past. Checks can be mailed directly to the church:

Asbury United Methodist Church  
17 Old Post Road South  
Croton, NY 10520

All donations will be deposited weekly.

Donations can also be made online at Asbury's website: [asburycroton.umcchurches.org](http://asburycroton.umcchurches.org). On the Homepage you will find Welcome - About US. Scroll down to the green DONATE NOW icon where you will be prompted to create a personal account for one time or ongoing donations.

I thank you all for your support and look forward to seeing everyone when the doors of Asbury are open once again.

God bless,  
Adam Bovone

## **THE HISTORY CORNER**

The tradition of the Easter bunny is a folklore figure that originated among German Lutherans. The Easter Hare, as it was originally called, was a judge of children's good or disobedient behavior at Easter time. He carried colored eggs in a basket, and sometimes sweets and toys, to distribute to children the night before Easter. The first known written mention of the custom was in a German book about Easter eggs in 1682.

## **HOSTING THE HOMELESS**

—Tina Pershing

Asbury has just completed its third year hosting the homeless in cooperation with the Briarcliff Ossining Ministerial Association. This year we split our two week shift into two separate weeks. The first covered the week including New Year's Day and the second from Sunday, March 15 thru the morning of March 22. Hot dinners and breakfasts plus bag lunches were served. Our number of guests included between four and 13 men, usually closer to 10. Once again we have to thank the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Augustine's Church in Ossining for the bulk of the provisions. In addition, St Augustine's Episcopal Church in Croton provided Thursday night's dinner. I would also like to thank Jud Ramaker and Kanna and Adam Bovone for providing dinners. It is only with a collaboration of efforts that we were able to provide such essential care for our needy neighbors.

Our guests were extremely grateful for their stay with us. This year they were able to take showers due to the efforts of Steve Goe and his construction workers. The corona virus required some adjustments (disposable daily tablecloths, paper plates, utensils, and napkins) in our routine. Servers also wore aprons and vinyl gloves. Our guests had some trouble spacing themselves apart but with some reminders cooperated with our wishes.

Jesus' teachings always emphasized taking care of our neighbors. During these trying times we are thankful for everyone's support of this project. We are especially appreciative of Pastor Doug Cunningham's prayers and presence.

## **TAG SALE POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

In light of the current situation, we will postpone the tag sale until September 25 – 26. Please do not bring any items for the sale to the church at this time. Thank you!

# An Affirmation of Faith: For the Self-Exiled During the COVID-19 Pandemic

—Glory E. Dharmaraj

*We believe in God the Almighty who hovered in love over the primeval chaos and who uttered creation into existence out of a holy mess.*

*We believe in the One who breathed the breath of life into human and who engendered the primal family and community into being.*

*We believe in the magnificent signature of God's image in every human being, signed in infinite variety, and sewn in multicolored splendor, even when it is humanly difficult to experience it in our damaged bodies.*

*We believe in the self-revelatory signature of God in Jesus Christ, who came to restore healing and wholeness into every fiber of our existence.*

*We believe in Jesus Christ who came to show that salvation is healing and wholeness and who opened our eyes that we may see each other into God's image beyond the troubling stereotyping and systemic use of race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, disability, and other identity markers to divide and fragment us.*

*We believe in Jesus who came to open our hearts to the God who so loved the world and who calls forth discipleship from among us to the alleviation of human suffering that we may see the whole world of ours, as never before, as a God-loved, God-breathed, and God-reconciled world.*

*We believe in the Crucified God who embraces, with his wounded arms, those who die alone at this time.*

*We believe in the Resurrected Savior who invites us to touch his wounds if we lack belief during these times of paralyzing fear and numbing trauma.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, who fosters connected relationships across the divides, while we sit with ourselves.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, who always pushes the Church, to reach out to the margins and enter into the exilic homes through the gifts of technology nudging each of us to birth hope and resilience. We also believe that the digital divide is human-created and greed-sponsored and that the front-line workers embody flesh and blood communication.*

*We believe that beyond the ravages of time and this pandemic we will be restored into wellness and wholeness with different understandings of what it is to be the Church in the world.*

*We believe that one day we will be fully restored into God's image and God's healed Body. Then wholeness will be the theme of the great orchestral music of the Church and the cosmos.*

*Until then we will build bridges of healing and reconciliation with each other and God's creation.*

*Therefore, we will commit ourselves every day to healing and wholeness until that day.*

*Amen.*

