CIRCUIT RIDER



The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church

Tel: 914-271-3150

website: www.asburycroton.umcchurches.org email: asburycrotonumc@gmail.com
Jean Evans, Editor

PASTOR'S MESSAGE OCTOBER 2022

Grace and peace to you, fellow pilgrims.

Many years ago I worked at the local CYO in my neighborhood on Staten Island—often an active place but if the weather turned rough the kids would stay home. Most of them walked there and did not want to do so in the cold, or wet.

One stormy night I was working alone in the office with just a distant sound of a basketball from the gym—not many people out in this weather. Then I heard a soft sound. I looked around and could not see where it was coming from. I went back to my work.

Again, I heard it, a muted cry. Again, I looked. This time, instead of stopping at the reflection of the interior office on the window pane, I looked beyond and saw a very small kitten on the window sill. A little wet, a little bedraggled, it clung desperately to the stone, looked straight at me and opened its mouth in a plea.

I have no idea how it made the jump up to that sill. I went out onto the stone entry of the building and picked the little creature up off the sill. She came home with me that night. I had no need of another cat but she became part of our household for a good many years and was a joy to know.

The weather is turning here in Croton and perhaps people are getting ready to hunker down. As the weather gets colder we pull in. If we add a bit of rain to that then we may decide it is not worth going out. And if a storm comes to town we make sure we have the groceries laid in ahead of time and maybe a good supply of reading material.

The United Methodist Church has faced some bad weather both with the pandemic and with the larger church issues. Asbury was hunkered down for awhile. Perhaps there is a part of us that wants to stay pulled in, with our blankets wrapped round us, and forget about what is outside. Certainly, some of what we need to do is to wait. We don't know what will happen in the coming months. We don't know what new diseases may come along and we don't know what changes are coming in our church or our country. It's warm and dry inside and we are comfortable for the moment.

But we need to remember that there are those that are caught out in the storm. There are those who need to be invited in because they don't know if they are welcome. And we need to remember that we need to look past our own reflection if we are to do any good in this world.

I pray that you will err on the side of love this month, that you will risk stepping outside and bringing someone in. I pray that you will look beyond your own reflection and take a chance—for the sake of the gospel.

Peace and blessings, Pastor Bette

PASTOR BETTE COMPLETES HER THIRD MONTH AT ASBURY

Pastor Bette Johnson Sohm has completed her third month as our pastor at Asbury. It's been a busy time for her as she travels between Asbury and Mount Kisco, leading two services and providing thought-provoking sermons for both hybrid congregations.

We had a special reason to celebrate on Sunday, September 25. It was Pastor Bette's birthday. We were happy to see her daughter Stephanie at the service in addition to her husband, Glenn. And we enjoyed a birthday reception on the Asbury front lawn following the service.



Pastor Bette delivering the sermon on September 25.



Pastor Bette at her birthday reception.

THE UPPER ROOM

Daily Devotional Booklet – for September and October

Free copies are available located in the kiosk in the breezeway. Or go to upperroom.org and set up a daily download right to your email inbox.

COOPERATIVE PARISHES: ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE HOPE

"Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Creator of all, who is over all, through all, and in all." –Ephesians 4:1-6

Paragraph 206 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* begins this way: "Local churches, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may enhance their witness to one another and to the world by showing forth the love of Jesus Christ through forms of mutual cooperation." A **cooperative ministry** is when groups of people representing two or more churches share their ministries to meet the needs of the community. Example of this are local churches completing a mission project together or working together in a community feeding ministry. A **cooperative parish** is an ongoing structured way to employ cooperative ministries between churches within a defined region. The cooperative parish will have a Parish Council with clergy and laity from each church in the cooperative parish to discuss, plan, and make decisions regarding mission and ministry through the cooperative parish.

The Cooperative Parish provides the opportunity for all churches to engage in ministry together that they cannot do as individual churches. These mission and ministry opportunities are possible in a cooperative parish. Cooperative Parishes also offer the laity access to different and new ministry opportunities, experience the gifts and leadership of other clergy and laity across the parish, and use their gifts and calling in new contexts and settings across the parish. Through Cooperative Parishes, the laity are empowered and equipped to live into their unique ministries.

Cooperative Parishes are a Wesleyan model of our connection to expand our church's ministry to the communities using our churches and our parish ministries as the center of transformative possibility to all the people in the parish and beyond.

THE SALLY READ BOOK GROUP

The group meets on the second Saturday of each month. This month we will meet on Saturday, October 8 at 9:30 a.m. in person—outside if weather permits or in the social hall. Hopefully we will also have a phone connection for those who cannot meet in person. The book for this month is *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepety



month is *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys._This past month we enjoyed reading Ruta Sepetys *Fountains of Silence* so we decided to read another of her historical novels.

"While the Titanic and Lusitania are both well-documented disasters, the single greatest tragedy in maritime history is the little-known January 30, 1945 sinking in the Baltic Sea by a Soviet submarine of the Wilhelm Gustloff, a German cruise liner that was supposed to ferry wartime personnel and refugees to safety from the advancing Red Army."

Copies are on reserve at the Croton Library. Electronic copies of the book, read on Kindle, your computer, tablet or phone are also available via download for loan from the Westchester Library System. Contact Gloria Laemmel for more information. Please join us!

WORSHIP ZOOM LINK

Heads up to all our Zoom fans: **Beginning Sunday, October 9** we will be using a different Zoom link for worship. If you are joining us on Zoom, please use the following link or phone number:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88554358174?pwd=eW9zY3FTcVJFSFUxdHlzaW1BTklvdz09

Meeting ID: 885 5435 8174

Passcode: 2710000

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 885 5435 8174

Passcode: 2710000

We are thankful to Bob Collins who has allowed us to use his Zoom account but now we move to the Asbury account.

We will send this link and phone number out in our weekly worship email. If you always use the email link you will be fine. However, if you have saved your link elsewhere then you will need to update your information.

DINNER CHURCH

The Worship Committee is pleased to announce that Dinner Church is BACK! On the weekend of the Run Against Hunger, Asbury will have its weekly church service at **6:00 p.m.** on **Saturday evening, October 15, 2022.** On-site participants will meet in the social hall downstairs to celebrate Communion and share a pot luck supper. Beverages will be provided. The theme for the pot luck is **Carbo Casserole and Then Some** in keeping with runners' need for carbs. **And Then Some** means you can always bring something that isn't a Carbo Casserole. This will be a real Pot **Luck**. Whatever you bring should feed 6-8 people. If your dish contains nuts or gluten, please label it as such.

On-Zoom participants and phone participants will have to surprise themselves with their meal which is a real challenge (I have not figured a way to Zoom food... yet). Still, we will all share fellowship, Communion and the sense of community with each other.

Runners and walkers doing the run are welcome to also bring their running shoes. There will be a basket for the running shoes so that we may have a moment to offer a wellness prayer for the runners, the shoes, and the support team that enables the run. And the shoe basket will not look like the bread baskets!

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Phelan 917-533-5088 (cell)

HARRY CHAPIN MEMORIAL RUN AGAINST HUNGER October 16, 2022

The 42nd annual *Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger* will once again be held as a hybrid event with a virtual run–run/walk when and where you want from October 8-15 and then the in-person event on Sunday, October 16 at Croton-Harmon High School. We will again have our three signature events—a 5K Run and Walk, the 10K Run over the Croton Dam and finally the 1 Mile Fun Run. Pre-register at runagainsthunger.com for all events. We will be holding bib and tee-shirt pickup at Asbury on Saturday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thursday, October 13 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. We will also have in-person registration, with bib and tee-shirt pick-up, on Saturday, October 15 at Asbury from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on race day at Croton-Harmon High School starting at 7:30 a.m.

Our church has been tremendous supporters of the *Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger* going all the way back to the race's founding in 1981. We are grateful for generously accommodating us for the pick-up days above in the music room, storage space at Wesley House and Giving Day in the social hall in November where we hand out checks to our recipient organizations. Whether as runners, walkers, volunteers, donors or spectators, Asbury knows the meaning of Harry's motto, "When in doubt, do something."

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Adam Bovone at 914-271-3296 or 914-330-1618 or email: afb12@yahoo.com. If you would like to make a donation, please go to runagainsthunger.com - Donations - Team fundraising page - Asbury United Methodist Church.

Any questions? Please call me at 914-552-0173.

Thank you to everyone, Jud

UMM ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE

The United Methodist Men's bird seed sale pick- up will be Saturday, October 22 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the garage behind the church. Bird seed must be ordered by Friday, October 7. To order call Don Daubney at 914-271-3128. Available seeds are: mixed bird seed, black oiled sunflower, striped sunflower, scratch corn, peanut hearts, sunflower hearts, thistle; as well as plain, berry or nutty suet cakes.

HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOP

October 8, non to 5pm on the front lawn at Croton Fall Festival

Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Asbury Education Building

New and Gently Used Fall and Christmas Items Tell your Friends and Family!

For information, donations and offer to help please contact: Gloria Laemmel at 914-271-8712 or Barbara Whipple at 914-271-5095

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

With God's help, the September 29 worship committee meeting will have been held.

Barbara Whipple is now chairperson emeritus after many years as the chairperson. We are grateful for her gift of service and strength as our worship chairperson. She retains the privilege of setting up the readers of the lectionary each week. If you would like to read, please call her and let her know.

The agenda for the meeting on the 29th included prayers and a sharing moment so we know each other's strengths and interests. We will also take time to discuss the worship services through early January, 2023.

Our meetings plan to be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you would care to join us, please let me know. Here is my contact information:

Cell (including texts) - 917-533-5088 Email - Kathleen.Phelan@yahoo.com Snail mail - 250 Sherman Ave Hawthorne, NY 10532-2031

Or tell me during church fellowship time on a Sunday morning.

Thanks for reading this and I look forward to hearing your worship suggestions as we go forward.

Regards, Kathleen Phelan Worship Committee Chairperson

OPEN ARMS FOR REFUGEES RESETTLEMENT NEWS AND NEEDS - WORKING AS A COMMUNITY TEAM

Volunteers from "supporting organizations" have been an essential part of Open Arms since inception. Another way that a congregation can directly assist refugees is by itself forming the core of a community team to work on a specific resettlement.

The Ethical Society of Northern Westchester did just that with the Colombian family resettled this summer. Their members comprise the core and the leadership of the "community team" that has the primary day-to-day relationship with the family - from the initial welcome to Ossining and getting library cards, to weekend activities, birthday parties, after school help, and chicken soup when a family member is sick.

Other Open Arms volunteers worked on housing, health insurance, jobs, and funding, and some have also joined that community team. We all work together, and many hands make light work. But it was great to start with a core group that knows each other and shares a "faith in the human capacity to create a better world." And they are now *familia* to our new neighbors from Colombia.

Perhaps your congregation would be interested in exploring such work. Please contact us at: info@OpenArmsForRefugees.org.

DONATIONS: A HOW-TO REMINDER

You may remember Stu Colby, our retired finance chair, coming onto your Zoom screen, or your phone, with explanations of the various ways to make your donations to Asbury. Stu has moved to sunnier climes, and we miss him. But Asbury's need for a steady flow of cash remains. So here is a recap of Stu's four suggestions:

First, there is the donation classic: drop your offering in the plate in the sanctuary. Plates are currently located in the back, under the watchful eye of an usher or two. The other long-standing method is to put your gift in the mail using a paper check or money order, etc. Address it to Asbury Croton UMC, 17 Old Post Road South, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520—or drop the envelope in the mail slot at the far end of the Education building. The other methods are more new-fangled: You can set up Asbury Croton as a payee in the online bill-pay feature offered by your financial institution (bank, credit union, etc.). Or you can donate using the "Donate Now" button on our website. The big green button is on our home page, at asburycroton.umcchurches.org.

As of September 1, Asbury's income is not keeping up with our expenses. It's true that donations often dip during the summer. Still, no matter which route you choose the time to act on your pledges and gifts is now.

Sarah Phelan Finance Chair

EARLY LIFE OF LENA CHENG

I was born on March 24, 1931 in Nanjing, China. On July 7, 1937 the Japanese invaded China. My father, as the eldest of three brothers, told his youngest brother to take all the women and children, including his father's concubine and her two young sons, to the French Concession in Shanghai while he and his other brother followed the government to Chungking. Each family unit, mother and children, and in our case maternal grandmother, lived in one room where we ate, slept, played and studied. Soon the Japanese took control of Shanghai and we lived like conquered people. We were forced to learn Japanese.

In 1941, Dad was appointed Minister, later promoted to Ambassador to Canada. We were very excited of the prospect of travelling to Canada and to be reunited with Dad after four long years. The Japanese's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor made transpacific voyage impossible. Dad went by way of India, Europe and finally reached Canada after over a month of rugged travel. We continued living in that one room until Japan surrendered. We booked passage on an American military transport, the USS General Breckenridge, in the latter part of May 1946 and docked in San Francisco in mid-June 1946. In March 1947, Dad was recalled to fill the post of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. He left me and my younger sister to continue our education in a French convent school, appointing a distant relative who worked at the embassy as our guardian. We were together as a family for only nine months.

HOSPITALITY NOTICE

Coffee Hours are resuming and we are hoping to find new people to join our team! If you are interested, please call Barbara Parker at (914) 271-3659.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith at Asbury and women from Mt. Kisco UMC gathered together in August for a front lawn brunch and fellowship to celebrate the start of Pastor Bette's ministry with our two churches. We gave tours of our Asbury Church and Croton Chapel for our Mt. Kisco sisters. Future gatherings are promised with opportunities to enhance our programs through joint participation, starting with our hope to assist with Mt. Kisco's huge annual pumpkin sale fall fundraiser.

On some October Saturdays, UWF will run fall popup shops to support Asbury Church mission. Popups on the church front lawn are planned for October 1st and 9th as weather permits, to be moved inside if necessary. Come to our sales to find fall and holiday gift and decoration bargains. Popups will continue on advertised dates in November and December. Look for houseplants at all of the sales.

On October 15th our Asbury UMF unit will meet in person in the Social Hall to begin our program year of fellowship brunches, worship, study, business and special programs and mission activities. All women of the church are part of UMF under Methodist Church discipline, but UWF is open to women from the surrounding community as well regardless of religious affiliation. UWF's programs and projects are designed to support the needs of women, youth, and children both locally and around the world. Join us for fellowship and in our work together for God's world.

Heads up about UMF's Christmas Cookie Sale. Decorative tin orders begin (and historically sellout) in November. Cookie tin pickup will be in December in time for your gift giving or for your own holiday celebrations.

Barbara Whipple

GETTING TO KNOW JAY & JAN CURTISS

Jay Curtiss is a Nebraska native, born and raised in the Panhandle of the Cornhusker State. He grew up on a farm in Cheyenne County where hard red winter wheat is the main crop. Jay's great-grandfather was a Methodist District Superintendent in Omaha. Jay graduated from the University of Nebraska and joined IBM right out of college after his second bachelor's degree. He and his wife Jan both worked at IBM for 30+ years starting in Endicott, NY, back to Lincoln, NE, then Dallas, Milwaukee, finishing their careers in Durham, NC at Research Triangle Park. Retired since 2013, they moved north again in 2020 to be near family. They look forward to learning about Asbury UMC, and hope to contribute to its continued service for the greater good.

Jan Curtiss was born in Virginia and lived in Silver Springs, MD when she was a child. She moved from there to Bogota, Colombia where she went to Wycliff Bible Translators meetings Sunday evenings and a mission church on Sunday mornings. From there she moved to Lincoln, Nebraska where she continued her spiritual growth and became a summer missionary in Watts, California during college. She met Jay Curtiss in college as well in Lincoln and they got married in 1983 and moved to Endicott New York where they both started at IBM on the same day. Their two children were born in Johnson City, New York.

They moved around the country with IBM always attending a United Methodist church with their family in every city where they lived. When their children were in grade school they moved to Cary, NC. Both spent most of their younger years there and both kids attended UNC in Chapel Hill, NC. They attended Apex United Methodist Church where they transferred their membership to join Asbury United Methodist Church this past Sunday, September 18.

They moved from Cary, NC to join their daughter and her family here in Westchester County during Covid two years ago. Their son lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado where he is in the Army. She looks forward to making friends at Asbury United Methodist Church and continuing their faith journey by serving to better the community.

ASBURY AT VILLAGE-WIDE TAG SALE

September 17 was a dry, comfortable, sunny day for the Croton Village-Wide tag sale, and Asbury's participation at it was a success for our church treasury. Donations for sale were displayed on the front lawn, as well as items from the Treasure Chest that opened for the sale.

Thank you to all of you who donated items, helped sort and price merchandise, set up the sale site and clean up afterward, and manage the sale and greet our customers. You helped us to fulfill one of our goals for the care of our environment to reuse, recycle and repurpose.

A THOUGHT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

With the *Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger* on our minds during October we have this thought about protecting the producing of our food:

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself." -Franklin D. Roosevelt

THE HISTORY CORNER

October 24 is United Nations Day. Did you know that there is a Church Center for the United Nations, a 12-story building located across the street from the UN at 777 United Nations Plaza? It was made possible by the funding of the Woman's Division of the Christian Service of the Board of Missions and the Board of Christian Social Concerns of the Methodist Church. The Woman's Division made a noninterest-bearing loan of \$500,000.00 in perpetuity and arranged for mortgage money. The Center was dedicated in September, 1963. It is administered by the United Women in Faith, formerly called the United Methodist Women.

From the beginning the Center was considered inter denominational in spirit and purpose. In 2013 a United Methodist Women's official said that the Center was created for "more than a site for Methodist Church international work. It was to provide access to the UN to other faith communities and nongovernment organizations working for human rights, development and peace."

On the first floor is the Tillman Chapel dedicated to Sadie Jane Tillman, President of the Woman's Division, at the time of the building of the Center. As many as 400 weddings a year have taken place there. President Joe Biden and Jill Biden were married in the chapel in 1977.

PRAYER

Father, Fill me with hope. Reassure me that things will get better. Shine Your light onto my life, Brighten my dark thoughts and help me have faith to know that all is according to Your plan.

Amen.

-Rev. Noman Vincent Peale

UMC MOUNT KISCO EVENTS

10/4 Pumpkins Arrive

Please come and help unload pumpkins. We need as many people as we can get. Refreshments will be served after unloading is completed.

10/5 October 31 Pumpkin Patch

Music, bouncy castle, pumpkin decorating, and more.

10/10 Columbus Day - School is closed

Please join us for special events for school-age children at our pumpkin patch.

10/16 Blessing of the Animals

Join us on the front lawn and bring your favorite pet or a picture of your pet to be blessed.

10/22 Pumpkin Festival

Music, bouncy castle, pumpkin decorating, and more.

Call the church office for details.
914-666-5014

PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS SCHEDULE FOR UMC OF MT. KISCO 518-231-1396

| DAY | DATE | TIME | VOLUNTEER | SPECIAL DAY |
|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| TUESDAY | 4-Oct | 4PM | | DELIVERY |
| WEDNESDAY | 5-Oct | 12-6pm | | |
| THURSDAY | 6-Oct | 12-6pm | | |
| FRIDAY | 7-Oct | 12-6pm | | |
| SATURDAY | 8-Oct | 10-1pm | | |
| SATURDAY | 8-Oct | 1-4pm | | |
| SATURDAY | 8-Oct | 4-6pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 9-Oct | 11-1pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 9-Oct | 1-4pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 9-Oct | 4-6pm | | |
| MONDAY | 10-Oct | 10-1pm | | COLUMBUS DAY |
| MONDAY | 10-Oct | 1-4pm | | |
| MONDAY | 10-Oct | 4-6pm | | |
| WEDNESDAY | 12-Oct | 12-6pm | | |
| THURSDAY | 13-Oct | 12-6pm | | |
| FRIDAY | 14-Oct | 12-6pm | | |
| SATURDAY | 15-Oct | 10-1pm | | |
| SATURDAY | 15-Oct | 1-4pm | | |
| SATURDAY | 15-Oct | 4-6pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 16-Oct | 11-1pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 16-Oct | 1-4pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 16-Oct | 4-6pm | | |
| WEDNESDAY | 19-Oct | 3-6PM | | |
| THURSDAY | 20-Oct | 3-6PM | | |
| FRIDAY | 21-Oct | 3-6PM | | |
| SATURDAY | 22-Oct | 10-1pm | | PUMPKIN FEST |
| SATURDAY | 22-Oct | 1-4pm | | |
| SATURDAY | 22-Oct | 4-6pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 23-Oct | 11-1pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 23-Oct | 1-4pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 23-Oct | 4-6pm | | |
| WEDNESDAY | 26-Oct | 3-6PM | | |
| THURSDAY | 27-Oct | 3-6PM | | |
| FRIDAY | 28-Oct | 3-6PM | | |
| SATURDAY | 29-Oct | 10-1pm | | |
| SATURDAY | 29-Oct | 1-4pm | | |
| SATURDAY | 29-Oct | 4-6pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 30-Oct | 11-1pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 30-Oct | 1-4pm | | |
| SUNDAY | 30-Oct | 4-6pm | | |
| MONDAY | 31-Oct | 10-6pm | | THE END |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| OCTOBER 2022 ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 11:00am Hybrid Worship in person in Sanctuary or via Zoom or phone | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Treasure Chest 10:00am – 4:30pm | 8 Croton Fall Festival 12noon-5pm UWIF Holiday POP-UP 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am - UMM Meeting 9:30am Sally Read Book Club via Zoom Treasure Chest 10:00am - 4:30pm |
| 9 11:00am Hybrid Worship in person in Sanctuary or via Zoom or phone Jan Peek - Serve Dinner | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am – UMM Meeting 9:30am - UWF Meeting 6:00pm- DINNER CHURCH in Social Hall |
| 16 Run Against Hunger | Salvation Army Lunch 10:30am | 18 Ad Board Meeting 7:30pm | 19 | Worship Committee Meeting 7:00pm | 21 | 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am – UMM Meeting |
| 28 11:00am Hybrid Worship in person in Sanctuary or via Zoom or phone | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am – UMM Meeting |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |