

Circuit Rider



The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
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Jean Evans, Editor

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

JUNE 2020

ONLINE WORSHIP: PENTECOST, CONFIRMATION

Since March 15 worship attendance has been growing steadily. We currently have 10-15 more people each week for our online 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship gathering than we used to get in person before the pandemic began. We are using Zoom, a platform that allows us to see and interact with one another. Most connect by smartphone or computer to the video feed, others call in on a landline and listen to the service through the phone.

If you have not yet joined us, please consider it for our annual celebration of the birthday of the church: Pentecost! You will receive instructions via email each Friday. If you are not receiving these emails please contact Pastor Doug at cunninghamdp@gmail.com.

We are also enjoying excellent participation in our Monday Bible study and the Saturday morning United Methodist Women and men's groups.

PENTECOST SUNDAY: May 31

This Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the birthday of the church (Acts 2:1-12). We also look forward to testimonies from four of our confirmation class members, special prayer and music, and Pastor Doug's sermon on *Connecting in the Spirit*. Even though we are not able to connect in person there are so many ways that we continue to build relationship and community.

CONFIRMATION: June 7

We look forward to a special celebration of confirmation for Alex and Charlie Forth, Jack Ter Boss, and Trevor Weisz. They have completed the two year confirmation course including March, April and May gatherings which were held via Zoom. They will present their testimonies of faith and we will confirm their baptism and receive them into membership at Asbury United Methodist Church.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

What has it been like for you to move through this time? What is helping you deal with anxiety, loneliness or other challenges. In Bible study last week we shared what's working for us. The list included prayer, knitting, singing, reading, Tai Chi, gardening, focusing on the task at hand, watching the birds and animals in the yard, reading the psalms, reaching out to friends and family by phone and Zoom, maintaining routines, exercise, affirmations, breathing, and letting go.

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Doug or the Asbury Caring Team for prayer, support, or just to talk at 914-862-0421 or cunninghamdp@gmail.com.



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

ACOHUMMFA

JUNE 2020 meeting dates: Saturdays June 6, 13, 20, 27
9:00 BREAKFAST - Gather and dine together at Frankies Deli next to the church
9:30 A.M. MEETING BEGINS, 11:00 A.M. MEETING OVER

WESLEY HOUSE 19 Old Post Road So., Croton-on-Hudson

Monthly Topics: Bible in a Year readings

ACTIVITIES:

WE WILL MEET AND STAY SIX FEET APART AND MASKED DUE TO COVID-19

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:

Week 1: 2 Kings Chapters 14-1 Chronicles chapter 5 (14 pgs = 2 per day! DO IT!!!)

Week 2: 1Chronicles chapter 6 – 1 Chronicles chapter 26 (14 pgs = 2 per day. SEE, IT IS EASY!!!)

Week 3: 1Chronicles chapter 27-2nd Chronicles chapter 20 (14 pgs = 2 per day. SEE, IT IS EASY!!!)

Week 4: 2nd Chronicles chapter 21-35 (Good Job!)

Intercessory Prayers:

1) Asbury Prayer Chain

2) Asbury COH Church Families: K-L

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

NOTE: ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE, CALL / CONTACT ABOVE 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 *John Wesley’s Teachings, Volume 3: Pastoral Theology* by Thomas C. Oden

TREASURER'S REPORT - JUNE 2020

Last month was busy in connection with both the Asbury Croton family and greater Methodist connection with God opening up new ways to engage with the Asbury family of faith in Jesus.

As we prayed on Sunday it was revealed that a number of the congregation's family were serving in the military in forward deployed regions of the world. At Bible study on Monday evening an offer was extended to connect with these loved ones with comfort letters and gifts to lift their spirits and let them know they are appreciated for their work for us all. On Friday before Memorial Day Asbury's Croton-on-Hudson United Methodist Men's Fellowship Association met, socially distanced and masked. At that time the group affirmed to take up this outreach ministry to deployed service members. We will be sending a card, chocolate bars, cookies, coffee, and tea to our Asbury family members serving the country on our behalf. If you have a service member you would like us to send an Asbury appreciation package please let me know at 914-330-4104 or captsea946@aol.com.

While meeting on Friday UMM, after gathering on the Asbury front porch, walked together to Bethel Cemetery. The maintenance contractors of Bethel were busy cutting and trimming the spring growth of grass around the monuments and preparing the cemetery to be in top shape for Memorial Day when many families visit their loved ones' burial sites. Later, on Friday, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts planted flags on the gravesites of our veterans. As we walked through the cemetery we remembered the sacrifice of our veterans of the world wars and other conflicts now laid to rest in Bethel. In addition, we remembered the service to Christ of Asbury church members as we paid respects at the headstones of Roland Bogardus, Marilyn Hansen, Edson Barton, and Bill Laemmel among others.

On Wednesday, I attended a webinar arranged by the New York Annual Conference who partnered with ChurchLaw&Tax, a group of CPA's and attorneys that provides financial advice to faith-based organizations and not-for-profit organizations. The one hour seminar extended to two hours on the topic of documentation of the forgiveness of the Small Business Administration/Payroll Protection Program loan extended in the assistance to small business and other organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are fortunate that Asbury was successful in securing that funding via this program. The funding provides assurance that our church can confidently continue to pay the church staff and Play and Learn staff through the economic disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Thursday, the Asbury Administrative Council, consisting of all heads of committee/organizations of our church, met to discuss the way forward for our congregation and for Play and Learn as the restrictions on businesses return to new normal. At that meeting I noted that financial support of tithes from our congregation for 2020, even with the new worship services online since March, were on par or even a little more than the same period last year.

I mention the above examples to let you know that God's kingdom on earth is continuing to work for the transformation of the world in making disciples for Jesus Christ. Together we are the arms, legs, hands, eyes, ears, voices, and financial resource, bringing God's work into the world.

I am thrilled and thankful, as Asbury's treasurer, that our congregation members are feeling moved by God to keep a faithful attentiveness in sending in their offerings. The tithes, extended graciously, cheerfully, and abundantly, support the worship, music, Bible study, youth, and outreach missions of Asbury. The missions continue for now on Zoom, telephone conference, Facebook, Asbury website, and in small groups socially distanced in person.

Continued financial offerings are encouraged by one of the following:

- Set up a periodic continuing or onetime donation from your bank's bill pay service.
- Google the website of Asbury Croton-on-Hudson and initiate a periodic continuing or onetime donation: asburycroton.umcchurches.org and click DONATE tab function (top of site - third tab DONATE from the left)
- Deliver your tithes/offerings through the mail slot, up the steps by the dumpsters, in the side door to the building (access from beginning of the driveway).
- Mail donations to ASBURY, 15 OLD POST ROAD SOUTH, CROTON-ON-HUDSON NY 10520

We continue to pray for healing for the ill, protection for the caregivers, and comfort for those who are struggling with stress associated with loss of income related to stay-in-place orders.

Please join me in prayer: Our Heavenly Father, God of the past, present, and future we are thankful for giving us life on this earth. Thank you for the good memories of loved ones who have modeled the Way of Life to us. Strengthen our trust in You. Refresh our hope. Prepare us here on earth for eternal living through Jesus Christ, in His name we pray. Amen.

CONNECTING VIA MISSION TO OTHERS

At the recent Administrative Council meeting it was mentioned that although worshipping via Zoom has been rewarding we miss the ability to connect with others via mission. So here are a few opportunities to give.

CROTON-CORTLANDT FOOD PANTRY was started in 1983 with funding from the initial Run Against Hunger. It was run by Asbury as a mission project and was housed at Asbury until several years ago. During this challenging time of the Coronavirus pandemic it is committed to remaining open and to serving those in need. As noted from the website it is open every Saturday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and, in order to increase safety for both clients and volunteers, is now operating a drive-through pantry in the parking lot behind Holy Name of Mary Church. The demand has surged during the pandemic and it is now serving more than 140 households per week which includes their regular clients as well as people who have never been to a food pantry before. It is currently receiving food supplies from Feeding Westchester, our county food bank, which has been able to provide the pantry with an ongoing supply of safely packaged food to meet the ever-increasing demand. It is NOT currently able to accept food donations due to the virus spread. To donate online, go to <https://www.foodpantryincroton.org/>. To donate via check send to: Croton-Cortlandt Food Pantry, PO Box 633, Croton-on-Hudson, New York, 10520.

FEEDING WESTCHESTER serves nearly 200,000 people each year throughout Westchester County. To learn more and/or donate to all of Westchester go to <https://feedingwestchester.org/>.

NEIGHBORS LINK is an organization providing support locally to those in need. To quote their website, “The Neighbors Link mission is to strengthen the whole community through the healthy integration of immigrants. Our mission is achieved by filling a service gap for new immigrant families, offering education and empowerment programs, involving longer-term residents in volunteer opportunities, and creating substantive partnerships with other local organizations. Our strategies to educate, empower and employ families include a Worker Center, English as a Second Language (ESL) education, legal services and advocacy, workforce development, parent education, early childhood programs and academic support for school-age children of immigrants.” To donate and for more info go to <https://www.neighborslink.org/>.

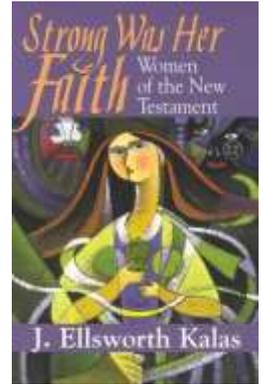
UMCOR - United Methodist Committee on Relief is expanding its response in the fight against COVID-19 by launching *Sheltering in Love*, a new giving campaign. With the funds raised UMCOR plans to release grants to equip partners who assist vulnerable populations around the world impacted by COVID-19 including racial/ethnic and indigenous communities in the United States. Grants of up to \$20,000 will be disbursed quickly to address pressing needs in the areas of health, food insecurity, water, sanitation and hygiene, and economic instability. For more information on grant materials, details, applications and resources visit umcmmission.org/covid-19 .



Hi! Women of Asbury Church

About 11 of us United Methodist Women have been getting together for fellowship and learning via a conference call on Saturday mornings. As the focus of our meeting, besides being a way to connect, Barb

Whipple will be leading us in discussion about women of the New Testament. She will be using the book *Strong was Her Faith* by Ellsworth Kalas.



Join us each Saturday at 10 a.m.

Dial-in number (US): (425) 436-6302 Access code: 447447#

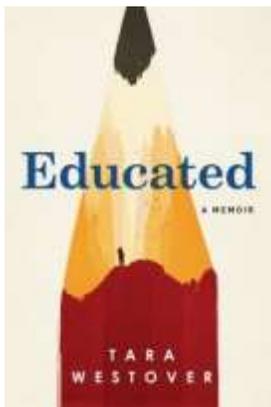


REMINDER

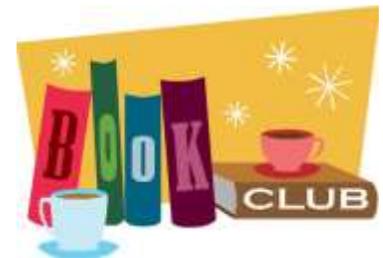
If you missed church via Zoom or would like to hear the scriptures and sermon again, please go to Asbury's Website or Asbury's Facebook page.

<http://asburycroton.umcchurches.org/pastors-page/sermonspastordoug/>
<https://www.facebook.com/AsburyCrotonUMC/>

BOOK GROUP



Sally Read Book Group the meets on the second Saturday of each month. This month we will meet on Saturday, June 13 at 9:30 a.m. via a conference call. The book is *Educated* by Tara Westover. Electronic copies of the book, read on Kindle, your computer, tablet or phone, are available via download for loan from the Westchester Library System.



Join us 6/13 at 9:30 a.m.

Dial-in number (US): (425) 436-6302 Access code: 447447#

United Methodist Women

—Barbara Whipple

Following five March and April Saturday morning studies from the book *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, UMW is now engaged in studies from *Strong Was Her Faith* by J. Ellsworth Kalas which highlights 11 women who helped to shape the New Testament story.

UMW meets via a 10:00 a.m. conference call each Saturday, with the exception of the 2nd Saturday of the month when the Sally Read Book Group meets, by calling into 1-425-436-6302, meeting number 447447. Please join us for fellowship and lively discussions.

To help decrease stress and anxiety at this time of COVID-19 social distancing, UMW has promoted emotional well-being and healthy habits. We encourage each other to utilize simple healthful tools, including sleep, physical activity, contemplative practices such as gratitude, meditation, prayer, and social connection by phone, letter or email, and to prioritize cultivating positive emotions that emanate from love: compassion, gratitude, kindness, and joy.

In prayer, we have used words from a hymn written by Laurie Zelman for the 150th anniversary of UMW:

Women Called to Act in Love

Women called to pray and study,
Women called by God to serve.
Women called to works of justice,
Called by God to act in love!
In the company of sisters,
Seeking strength in prayer and praise.
Faith and hope and love in action,
Finding God in many ways.
Grant us courage, send us vision,
May we know God's heart this day,
Share the tears that God is shedding
And refuse to turn away.
Dwell in us, Holy Spirit!
Bring us to the greatest needs!
Cast out fear and mend division,
Show us where the promise leads.

THE HISTORY CORNER

Just south of Cold Spring, New York is an island jutting out into the Hudson River across from West Point call Constitution Island. It was purchased for a summer home in the early 1800's by Anna and Susan Warner's father. Mr. Warner lost his fortune in The Panic of 1837 and the family moved from New York City to Constitution Island. To help with the family's finances Susan and Anna, who had always loved writing, decided to try to have some of their writings published. Susan wrote a novel that she sent to Harper's that was returned to her with a note saying "fudge." So she sent it to Putnam Publishing and they decided to give it a try. The novel, *The Wide, Wide World*, became the first book by an American to sell one million copies. It became the bestselling novel of its time, topped only by *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The book went through 14 editions in two years and was published in England, Italy, France, Germany, Spain, and Russia. Anna wrote and had published children's books, novels and religious books. She was an avid gardener and in 1872 she wrote *Gardening by Myself*. It was the first book written by an American woman urging women to dig, weed, chop, and harvest their gardens without hired help. Her most famous and enduring work is the hymn *Jesus Loves Me This I Know, For the Bible Tells Me So*.