

# CIRCUIT RIDER

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

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE MAY 2020

Dear Asbury Community,

I hope that all of you are well. We continue to pray for those who are recovering from illness and for those who are on the front lines caring for the sick and providing other essential services.

We are making great progress in building our faith community through online worship, bible study, and other small group gatherings!

In May we will focus on deepening our connection.

May Sermon Series:

### PHYSICALLY APART BUT SPIRITUALLY AND EMOTIONALLY CONNECTED

May 3: CONNECTED IN MISSION  
Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, John 15:5-8

May 10: CONNECTED IN LOVE  
Acts 4:32-35 John 15:9-12

May 17: CONNECTED IN CHRIST  
Acts 1:1-5 John 14:1-14

May 24: CONNECTED IN PRAYER  
Acts 1:6-14 John 15:1-4

May 31: CONNECTED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT  
Acts 2:1-20 John 20:19-22

The weather is getting warmer.  
Spring is springing.  
April showers are bringing May flowers.  
May we be blessed in the beauty and abundance of creation!

Doug



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

**ACOHUMMFA**

May: NO MEETINGS DUE TO COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions

**NOW WE HAVE TIME TO READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR!!!**

**Weekly Readings (IT’S JUST 15 min/day, WHOLE BIBLE IN A YEAR, YOU CAN DO IT!)**

**For Personal Devotions:**

**11K6-11K13 / 11K14-1C5 / 1C6-1C26 / 1C27-11C20**

**Intercessory Prayers**

**Asbury Prayer Chai**

**Asbury COH Church Families I&J**

**Medical Care Personnel**

**Croton Youth: Scouts, 4-H**

**First Responders**

**USA Service Members across the World**

**EVENTS:**

**MAY 24 - ALDERSGATE DAY “I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation;  
and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me  
from the law of sin and death”**

More info: Stu Colby call or text 914-330-4104 or captsea946@aol.com

**NOTE: ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE CALL/CONTACT ABOVE TO CONFIRM**

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## TREASURER'S COLUMN - MAY 2020

### “EARN ALL YOU CAN - SAVE ALL YOU CAN - GIVE ALL YOU CAN”

In this time of fear of illness and suffering from COVID-19 virus and the collateral effects on personal liberties and family finances, John Wesley's advice, as noted above, is well taken as it has provided an enduring and practical guidance. Four thousand dollars weekly is the required amount for ASBURY CROTON-ON-HUDSON to support the church's missions in the community. The \$4,000 weekly provides salary and benefits to the five part-time staff members, the pastor, maintenance, Christian education, utility expenses for the four buildings used for religious programs, Play and Learn, Bethel Cemetery, UMW, UMM, and community hospitality missions such as AA group, Scouting activities, Vacation Bible School, shelter for the needy, Run Against Hunger, book group, Croton Chorale and a variety of Croton outreach fundraisers. Tithing and other offerings provided by our donors supports 50-60% of the weekly expense requirements with fundraisers, and building users providing the rest.

With the suspension of worship in the sanctuary passing the collection plate by hand is no longer a safe method to gather the offering.

During this crisis, how do we make “ends meet?”

Expense reductions are in effect including lowering the thermostat to save on the \$19,000 annual fuel bill, and with less use of electricity and water Asbury will save additional costs. The health and pension benefit costs were suspended for two months (paid for by our New York Annual Conference reserves), a savings of about \$4,500.

Asbury applied for the Payroll Protection Program authorized by Congress last month which would provide a forgivable loan of 2.5 months of average payroll to maintain salaries. Approval is unknown at this time, so continuing donations are important!

Blessings and thank you to the Asbury supporters who are able and took the initiative to deliver by mail, drop off, or electronically send their tithes and offerings. These recently included a number of four figure donations (one for \$5,000!!) and a nice number of regular giving amounts.

So far, during this crisis, all expenses for March were met on time, and April will be the same providing continuing staff support for payroll to the nearly two dozen employees of the Asbury Church, Play and Learn, and the cemetery staff.

So until “normal times” return please continue to support the worship, music, Bible study, youth, and outreach missions of Asbury which continue on ZOOM or telephone conference, Facebook and Asbury website:

- Drop off your tithes/offerings through the mail slot in the side door to the building (access from the driveway).
- Mail donations to ASBURY, 15 OLD POST ROAD SOUTH, CROTON-ON-HUDSON NY 10520.
- Set up a periodic continuing or one-time donation from your banks bill pay service.
- Set up a periodic continuing or one-time donation via the website: [asburycroton.umcchurches.org](http://asburycroton.umcchurches.org), “DONATE” tab function (top of site – third tab “DONATE” from the left).

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.

Stuart Colby, Treasurer  
Asbury United Methodist Church, Croton-on-Hudson  
<http://asburycroton.umcchurches.org/>

PS: Don't miss Bob Collins' Easter surprise video on <https://www.facebook.com/AsburyCrotonUMC>, The Hallelujah Chorus performed by the Croton Chorale led by Claire Collins, and Asbury photos compiled by Bob Collins.

## **THE HISTORY CORNER**

If you drive on Route 80 from Croton to Chicago you will pass a sign a little west of South Bend, Indiana telling you that you are entering Central Standard Time and you will turn your watch and clock back one hour. And so it would go if you were to continue on past Chicago and drive on to San Francisco changing your timepieces one hour backward as you entered Mountain Time zone and again for Pacific Time zone. These four time zones were not always the case, in fact before the late 1800's more than 100 local time zones existed. As railroad service increased across the country railroad crashes and missed connections increased as the large number of time zones confused schedules and the railroads sought to standardize time zones. One of the people who worked on the problem was Rev. Charles F. Dowd, a Methodist minister and school principle, along with his wife of a girl's boarding school that later became Skidmore College. His proposal was four time zones 15 degrees longitude wide. By 1883 the railroads had adopted his four time zone system, but it was not until 1918 that Congress formally established it. It was a change that not everyone liked because they felt that the railroads in starting the change were again taking over their lives. A judge in Boston fined a defendant for being late to trial by 15 minutes though he was 15 minutes early by the new standard time. The judge was overruled by the Massachusetts Superior Court Justice, Oliver Wendell Holmes, because Boston had adopted Eastern Standard Time the day before the trial even though the state had yet to adopt Eastern Standard Time.

## **THE ASBURY TREASURE CHEST**

Pending lifting of stay-at-home restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, operations of ASBURY TREASURE CHEST are suspended. We hope to resume in August.