

CIRCUIT RIDER

The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church

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Jean Evans, Editor



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 2021

ADVENT - In-Person Worship December 19 and 24

Welcome to Advent, the season that prepares our hearts for the celebration of Christmas. We will have two in-person worship services:

In-person worship at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 (Zoom to follow at 10:30 a.m.)

In-person worship at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24 (Zoom to follow at 7:00 p.m.)

In-person worship policies:

1. We ask all to be vaccinated and bring your vaccination cards.
If you are not vaccinated, we invite you to join our Zoom worship.
2. We ask all to wear masks at all times and maintain social distance.
3. We will open windows for circulation.
4. No congregational singing, although there will be beautiful music on organ and hand bells.
5. We're asking people to make reservations so we know how many to expect and so we can communicate about the service. Please email asburycrotonumc@gmail.com and cc cunninghamdp@gmail.com.

We will be singing Christmas carols at the Zoom worship on December 19 and 24. Please join us for both worship services!

Pastor's Vacation in January

I will be away for four Sundays, January 9, 16, 23 and 30. If you have any pastoral concerns during this time please contact:

January 3 to January 9 - Jud Ramaker at 914-552-0173

January 10 to February 4 - Sheila Furjanic at 914-548-5561

A pastor will be available in case of pastoral emergency. We will also have lay members available for calls, visits and prayer. The following is the list of preachers and liturgists for those Sundays:

January 9: Bob Osgood preaching, Kathleen Phelan serving as liturgist.

January 16: Kathleen Phelan preaching and serving as liturgist.

January 23: Stephen Goe preaching and Cathy Adlesic serving as liturgist.

January 30: Cathy Adlesic preaching and Stephen Goe serving as liturgist.

Because of this vacation, we will postpone beginning regular in-person and hybrid worship until I return. Worship from December 26 to February 6 will be conducted on Zoom beginning at 10:30 a.m. You may get online after 10:00 a.m.

Charge Conference

We had our charge conference on Saturday, November 20 together with the other churches of the Villages Cooperative Parish.

PRESENT: Members of the Cooperative Villages of Westchester (which included pastors and some church members).

Present from our church, Asbury United Methodist Church of Croton, were Pastor Doug Cunningham, Tina Pershing, Jud Ramaker, Don Daubney, Sheila Furjanic, Becky Asedillo and Bette Wood.

Our district superintendent Rev. Simone E. Law and Rev. Jason Radmacher opened the meeting with greetings and prayer.

The members of different churches shared the ministries their churches have been involved in during the past year. Some of those were: feeding the homeless in Peekskill, providing lunches for the Salvation Army in Peekskill, the *Run Against Hunger*, the refugee project to welcome Afghan refugees, a Halloween sale, Zoom services, hybrid services, active Bible studies, Christmas tree sales, gift cards for Christmas gifts, flood recovery help, Sunday school on Zoom, daily call to prayer, baby shower for children at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (which included new clothing for children and their mothers), collection of soap for women at Bedford Hills Penitentiary, Bible study for young adults, Zoom Sunday school, a food drive, members going to ECAP to buy groceries for clients, decorating wreaths for a wreath sale, choir presentations, help to women leaving prison, and a class on world affairs which is offered to the community.

Several churches mentioned how important services on Zoom had become. Pastors could make services available to their congregants and at the same time increase church membership. Some churches have opted to hold face to face services, but attendance is fairly low.

Asbury Leaders for 2022 voted on and unanimously approved:

Trustees serving through 2022: Gloria Laemmel and Steve Goe

Trustees serving through 2023: Mark Caterino and Sheryl Sanford

Trustees serving through 2024: Jodi Hanlon and Jud Ramaker

Ad Council Chair: Don Daubney

Treasurer: Ricki Goe

Assistant Treasurer/Consultant: Cynthia Plater

Trustee Treasurer: Steve Goe

Finance Chair: Adam Bovone

Lay Leaders: Jud Ramaker, Kweeyan Dyleuth, Dorene Picker

Worship Chair: Barbara Whipple

Praise Band Leader: Kanna Bavone

Hospitality Chair: Barbara Parker

Sunday School Superintendent: Ricki Goe

Sunday School Craft Coordinator: Dorene Picker

Membership/Social Media Center: Cynthia Plater

Historian: Gloria Laemmel

Photographer: Inga Colban

SPRC Chair: Sheila Furjanic

Nominating Committee Chair: Doug Cunningham

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Tina Pershing

Pastor's Compensation

Pastor Doug told us that the health insurance is the same for all full-time elders. The health insurance is billed to the charge and pastor monthly. The Clergy CPP (death and disability) will remain at 3% of total compensation.

Rev. Susan Chupungo officiated the voting on the pastor's salary package.

Jud made a motion to approve Doug's compensation package and Sheila seconded it. The motion was unanimously accepted.

POP-UP HOLIDAY SHOP

Open two weekends in December in the education building

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 AND 4

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 AND 11

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Shop for new and gently used Christmas paper goods, baskets, ornaments, candles, decorations, garlands and more.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

JOIN US ON ZOOM, bring your own tea and cookies!

DECEMBER 17 at 5:00 p.m.

With a discussion of a Christmas story
The Story of Jesus' Mother, Mary

If you are not on the UMW email list for Zoom information please contact
Cynthia Plater at 914-271-3178

THE HISTORY CORNER

The National Christmas Tree lights will be turned on by President Biden on December 2 continuing a tradition began by President Calvin Coolidge in 1923. Coolidge had become president that summer after the death of President Harding, and under Harding the idea of a national tree was being discussed by his Secretaries of Agriculture and Forestry. The custom of having a Christmas tree in your home had been increasing and the danger to the national forests where people were cutting down trees was becoming a problem. The Department of Agriculture was promoting farm grown trees to farmers as an additional source of income and a way to preserve the forests. Coolidge was from Vermont and had fond memories of Christmas trees in his home that were cut from forests in Vermont. So, he agreed to the idea of a national Christmas tree and the first one was from Vermont. The lighting of the tree has been a ritual ever since that first lighting except during times of war or national emergencies when the symbolic tree remained dark or was lighted only briefly. The tradition of erecting a community tree spread across the country and tree farms have flourished, including here in New York State.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2021 ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH			1	2 Exploring the New Testament phone: (914) 765-9010 7:15-8:15pm	3 POP-UP CHRISTMAS SHOP 10am-4pm in Education Bldg Treasure Chest 11am-7pm	4 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am - UMM Meeting POP-UP CHRISTMAS SHOP 10am-4pm in Education Bldg Treasure Chest 11am-3pm
	5 10:30 Worship via Zoom or phone	6	7	8	9 Exploring the New Testament phone: (914) 765-9010 7:15-8:15pm	10 5:00pm UMW Conference Call via Zoom & phone
12 10:30 Worship via Zoom or phone Jan Peek – Serve Dinner	13	14	15	16 Exploring the New Testament phone: (914) 765-9010 7:15-8:15pm	17 5:00pm UMW Conference Call via Zoom	18 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am – UMM Meeting HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOP 10am-4pm in Education Bldg
19 9:15am In-person Worship in Sanctuary 10:30am Service on Zoom	20 Salvation Army Lunch	21	22	23 Exploring the New Testament phone: (914) 765-9010 7:15-8:15pm	24 Christmas Eve in-person Service at 5:30pm Service on ZOOM at 7:00pm	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
26 10:30 Worship via Zoom or phone	27	28	29	30	31 HAPPY NEW YEAR	