

# CIRCUIT RIDER

*The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church*

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Jean Evans, Editor



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2022

### **In-Person Hybrid Worship**

We are making great progress toward the launching of hybrid worship at Asbury. The Trustees' team of Marc Caterino, Jud Ramaker, Stephen Goe and Larrie Sutliff have put in many hours of expert labor in building a beautiful production booth, running wires and installing cameras and monitors. Our vision is that when we do get back to in-person worship, we'll be able to bring our Zoom congregation along in a hybrid worship that includes both in-person and on-line participation.

After we finish the construction and installation next week, the next step will be extensive testing of the audio and video equipment. We are grateful to Mike Grayeb, an expert in this field, for his help throughout this project. He will also be helping us with training our production team. Dorene Picker is leading the organizing and training of our teams. We are looking for two trained people to operate the equipment each week. We hope to develop five teams of two to cover each Sunday of the month including a fifth week in some months. So if you or someone you know would like to be trained in this cutting edge technology and participate in this new ministry, please contact her or the church office.

If all goes well, we hope to begin in-person hybrid worship the first or second Sunday in May. We give thanks for all those who are working hard to bring this vision into reality. We look forward to the day when we can worship in the sanctuary together with longtime Asbury members worshipping in town, upstate, and in cities and states across the country and even across the Atlantic.

### **Play and Learn**

Jodi Hanlon has retired as Director of the Asbury Play and Learn. We are grateful for her 32 years of great service to this important ministry of our church. Hundreds of Croton children have come through the school and many are still connected with our church. Sheila Furjanic, chairperson of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, is putting together a subcommittee to explore the viability of reopening the Play and Learn school, when that might be able to happen, what would need to be done, where we would find the right director and teachers, etc.

## **THE TREASURE CHEST**

The Treasure Chest will be open Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The shop has a wide range of Easter theme items including serving plates for deviled eggs and baskets for Easter egg hunts.

## **THE HISTORY CORNER**

In the early 1880's in some areas of Germany Easter eggs substituted for birth certificates, extending the tradition of the egg as a symbol of awakening and birth. An egg was dyed and then a design was etched into the shell with a needle or other tool. The design included the recipient's name and birth date. These eggs were honored in law courts as evidence of identity and age.

## **ASBURY AT SUMMERFEST**

News of the return of Croton's Summerfest on Sunday, June 5, 2022 from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. has resulted in excited anticipation for Asbury to participate.

Plans are being made for the return of our famous strawberry shortcake sale and a spring/summer themed Asbury Pop-Up Shop that will include plants and used gardening equipment. The Treasure Chest will be open during Summerfest weekend on Friday June 3, Saturday June 4, and Sunday June 5.

To arrange donated items for the Pop-Up Shop, please call Gloria Laemmel at 914-271-8712 or Barbara Whipple at 914-271-5095. To help arrange and sell at the Pop-Up Shop and to prepare and serve strawberry shortcake please call Gloria or Barbara. Everyone's hands will be needed to make Summerfest on June 5 another successful fundraiser and a day of fun and fellowship for Asbury.

## **A THOUGHT ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT**

The natural environment performs for us, free of charge, basic services without which our species could not survive....but we are degrading, and in some cases destroying, the ability of the environment to continue providing these life sustaining services for us.

–Kofi Annon

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW PASTOR

### **REVEREND BETTE JOHNSON SOHM**

The Staff Parish Relations Committee had the pleasure of meeting our new pastor, Reverend Bette Johnson Sohm at a recent meeting. Though we are all sorry that Pastor Doug announced his retirement and will be leaving at the end of June, we will be happy to welcome Rev. Sohm to Asbury on July 1. She will be serving three-quarter time at Asbury and one-quarter time at Mount Kisco Methodist Church. We are also happy that Reverend Sohm will be living in our parsonage in Croton.

Reverend Sohm has always had a strong call to lay leadership. After serving on numerous committees while a congregant at Faith United Methodist Church in Staten Island she began taking lay speaker courses and expanded her learning by taking two-year courses and earning certificates in areas that included spiritual direction, Gestalt Pastoral Care, and emerging worship.

Rev. Sohm recognized and answered a call to ordained ministry in 2005 and went on to serve part-time as a local pastor with Pine Plains UMC in Pine Plains, New York (2005-2008) and Good Shepherd UMC in Astoria, Queens (2008-2010). In 2010, Rev. Sohm earned a Master of Divinity (M. Div.) from Drew Theological Seminary. She moved to New Paltz where she was commissioned as provisional elder and ordained in 2013.

Rev. Sohm was appointed to St. Paul's UMC in Northport, New York in 2018 and is currently serving as pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church in Staten Island. She is active and engaged on various levels within the Conference. She has led retreats for various churches and helped establish and lead the Staten Island branch of the District's Lay Speaking Ministries School.

In her "spare" time, Rev. Sohm enjoys reading, movies, jig saw puzzles and history. Rev. Sohm holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in theater. She met her husband, Glenn, when he was the technical director of the theater at Richmond College on Staten Island.

### **PRAYER**

Our Heavenly Father, all around us, wherever we live, there are wonderful people, people of all ages, young and old. And some of the older ones are really the youngest in the things that really matter, because their minds are alive, their spirits are alert. But just as it is possible for a person to become prematurely old while young, it is no less possible for a person to become young again when old. And it is possible for all of us to live with ceaseless, unending vitality and delight, no matter what life brings to us of difficulty. Inspire us now to the realization of this blessed possibility. Help us to believe and live. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

—Rev. Norman Vincent Peale

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><b>APRIL 2022</b></p> <p><b>ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b></p> </div>						
					<b>1</b> Treasure Chest 10:00am – 4:30pm	<b>2</b> 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am - UMM Meeting  Treasure Chest 10:00am – 4:30pm
<b>3</b> 10:30 Worship via Zoom or phone  7:00pm Croton Chorale / music rm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Lenten Bible Study 7:00pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am - UMM Meeting  9:30am Sally Read Book Club via Zoom
<b>10 PALM SUNDAY</b> 10:30 Worship via Zoom or phone  Jan Peek – Serve Dinner  7:00pm Croton Chorale / music rm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14 HOLY THURSDAY</b> Lenten Bible Study 7:00pm	<b>15 GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am – UMM Meeting  9:30am UMW Conference Call via Zoom
<b>17 EASTER SUNDAY</b> 10:30 Worship via Zoom or phone	<b>18</b> Salvation Army Lunch	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Lenten Bible Study 7:00pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am – UMM Meeting
<b>24</b> 10:30 Worship via Zoom or phone  7:00pm Croton Chorale / music rm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 p.m. Mindfulness and Meditation led by Cathy Adlesic	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am – UMM Meeting