

CIRCUIT RIDER

The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church

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Jean Evans, Editor



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

JUNE 2022

ASBURY HYBRID WORSHIP

It's exciting to move into the new frontier of Hybrid Worship. We're combining our wonderful people in the pews with the fabulous Zoom and phone congregation we've built over the last two years which extends our fellowship to beloved members who have moved to Denmark, Massachusetts, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas. We've welcomed new members who live in Mississippi, Ohio and Pennsylvania. We've also found that many folks who live nearby are more able to connect online than in person.

We have children talking to each other from Copenhagen, Philadelphia, and the Hudson River Valley. We had an international children's Christmas pageant. Children in the pews can interact with children across the country and around the world, live on the big screen. We have only begun to tap into the possibilities.

This has all been made possible by:

- generous donations that have purchased state of the art cameras and live-streaming software
- a creative and generous installation team
- a dedicated team of volunteer production engineers who are learning the ropes of hybrid audio-visual production
- generous coaching from an expert in the field
- the willingness of our congregation to experiment with this new technology

There have been some bugs along the way but we have been improving each service. We are moving on the cutting edge of pandemic and post-pandemic worship and are open to the Spirit of:

- who God is calling us to be
- how God is inviting us to spread the good news of salvation

PENTECOST - June 5

We invite all to join us for the great celebration of the birthday of the church. As we experience our rebirth as a hybrid congregation, we connect with the Holy Spirit who gave birth to the church on Pentecost Sunday 49 days after Easter. We have a wonderful celebration planned around the theme: Honesty and Hope. These are not easy days but the good news of Jesus is undeterred. We'd love to have you celebrate with us on Sunday!

WELCOMING PASTOR BETTE JOHNSON SOHM

Pastor Bette Sohm will be joining Asbury on July 1 as our new pastor. She 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 Pastor Bette 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. In 2018 she was appointed to St. Paul's UMC in Northport, New York and is currently serving as pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church in Staten Island.

Pastor Bette will be serving three-quarter time at Asbury and one-quarter time at Mount Kisco Methodist Church. She will be leading two services each Sunday:

- 9:00 a.m. at Mount Kisco United Methodist Church
- 11:00 a.m. at Asbury

Be sure to mark your calendar with the new 11:00 a.m. start time for our Sunday services starting in July.

THE RETURN OF SUMMERFEST AND STRAWBERRIES

Croton Summerfest will be held on Sunday, June 5. We will again be selling strawberry shortcake on the church front lawn.

We will need help preparing the cake and berries in the church kitchen in the morning on Saturday, June 4, setting up tables and chairs on the lawn after church on June 5, and serving the shortcake and strawberries. If you can help please call Gloria Laemmel at 914-271-8712 or Barbara Whipple at 914-271-5095.

Donations to help defray the cost of cake, strawberries and cream would also be appreciated.

ALL THINGS GARDEN POP-UP SHOP

The Asbury United Methodist Women will open their Pop-Up Shop with the theme *All Things Garden* on the lawn at Summerfest, June 5, 2022. If you have garden equipment, plants or other garden theme items to donate please contact Gloria Laemmel at 914-271-8712 or Barbara Whipple at 914-271-5095.

THE TREASURE CHEST

Open

Friday, June 3 - Saturday, June 4

10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

and Sunday, June 5 at Summerfest

The logo for Open Arms for Refugees is a red rounded square with the text "Open Arms for Refugees" in white. "Open Arms" is on the top line and "for Refugees" is on the bottom line, both in a sans-serif font.

Open Arms for Refugees, formerly Ossining for Refugees, is a network of over 100 volunteers dedicated to settling refugees in the area. For the organization's success in settling two Afghan households, the David Swope Fund has awarded "Open Arms" a \$250,000 matching grant.

This week the volunteers will be welcoming a third family, a mother and two teenage sons, who are from Columbia and just received asylum status.

The volunteers will be provided housing, English language support, TLC, and so much more—all to help them settle in a new country. Do you have a bicycle in good shape that the teenage sons could use? Do you have furniture or household items to donate? Do you wish to make a monetary donation? Are you interested in learning more about the organization or volunteering for future refugee resettlements? If so, contact Cynthia Plater at 271-3178. For additional information, go to <https://openarmsforrefugees.org/>

A THOUGHT ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

“We are living on this planet as if we had another one to go to.” Terri Suearingen



The Navarro Family

Missionaries Serving Filipino Migrant Workers in Taiwan

Asbury supports Alma Navarro, UMC missionary, serving with her family in Taiwan. Our Asbury United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women, has donated \$300 towards this mission effort. Please consider donating via the website: <https://advance.umcmision.org/p-1614-navarro-alma.aspx> or by sending a check to Asbury UMC with a memo note that it is a donation to Alma Navarro.

Here are excerpts from their recent newsletter: “Filipino migrant workers are becoming more hopeless to go on vacation and see their loved ones as Covid 19 variant continues to surge. The yearnings to embrace their precious loved ones are impossible to happen these days. To go home is giving up a job since quarantine period exceeds the length of vacation resulting to losing their job upon coming back from vacation. The endurance of waiting stretches out their patience to the point of giving it up and causing them to experience symptoms of anxieties and depression. Some of these Filipino workers decide to go home in exchange of losing their source of income. Consequently, companies will not agree on more and long days’ vacation and hotel quarantine. Losing job is missing the opportunity to have a better life financially within the family. There are migrant workers who gamble their jobs in exchange of their eagerness to see their family, and of course the happiness to be with their loved ones is untransmutable by anything in this world.

Our ministry has five small groups which we call “lifegroups.” Each group meets once a week. Lessons that address the conditions of migrant workers are being taught in these lifegroups. The group meetings are facilitated virtually for almost a year now. We personally and intentionally invite loved ones or family of migrant workers to participate in lifegroup meetings. We prepare series of lessons that highlight every session of each group. This lifegroup sessions provide a venue of seeing and studying together virtually to have mutual understanding of preserving the relationships and at the same time giving much value of their jobs. The invitation is not only for Bible study session but it extends to worship service on Sundays as well. It is good to see these migrant workers are studying the Word and worshipping God together with their family.“

For the Navarro’s latest newsletter go to:

<https://asburycroton.umcchurches.org/outreach/covenant-relationship/>.

THE HISTORY CORNER

On Saturday, May 21, 2022 the Lorraine Hansberry Coalition met at Bethel Chapel to hold their annual celebration of Lorraine Hansberry's birthday and her life contributions. Following the ceremony the audience was invited to walk to Ms. Hansberry's grave in Bethel Cemetery for a dedication to her and to place flowers.

The program for the event gave the following biography for Ms. Hansberry:

“Lorraine Vivian Hansberry (May 19, 1930 - January 12, 1965) was a black playwright, author, and activist. While she may be best known for her work, *A Raisin in the Sun*, which debuted on Broadway in 1959, she was much more than this one play. Besides being a playwright, author, and a political and civil rights activist, Hansberry was also an inspiration—not only to her contemporaries—but also to a new generation of Americans, who looked at the world they inherited and thought: We can do better. We must do better. The values by which Hansberry led her life continue to inspire, which is why we're gathered here today to celebrate her legacy, but also to remind ourselves that the world is of our own making.”

Lorraine Hansberry married Robert Nemiroff in 1953 and they lived in Croton. They divorced in 1962 but continued a close partnership until her death from pancreatic cancer in 1965.

PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that in the midst of shadows we can see the light; in the midst of difficulty we can see strength; in apparent defeat we can see victory; in the midst of fears we are not afraid; in the midst of hopelessness we are not hopeless; in the midst of doubt we have faith. Strengthen us, make us men and women, manly and womanly Christians with enthusiasm and zeal and with a great sense of joy that we can participate in handling situations by the power of God. 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: auto;"> JUNE 2022 ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH </div>			1	2	3 Treasure Chest 10:00am – 4:30pm	4 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am - UMM Meeting Treasure Chest 10:00am – 4:30pm
5 SUMMERFEST 10:30am Hybrid Worship in person in Sanctuary (for those vaccinated & masked) or via Zoom or phone	6	7	8	9	10	11 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am - UMM Meeting 9:30am Sally Read Book Club via Zoom
12 10:30am Hybrid Worship in person in Sanctuary (for those vaccinated & masked) or via Zoom or phone Jan Peek - Serve Dinner	13	14	15	16	17	18 9:00am - UMM Breakfast 9:30am – UMM Meeting 9:30am UMW Conference Call via Zoom
19 FATHERS DAY 10:30am Hybrid Worship in person in Sanctuary (for those vaccinated & masked) or via Zoom or phone	20 Salvation Army Lunch	21	22 NYAC Conference	23 NYAC Conference OPENING DAY	24 NYAC Conference	25 NYAC Conference
26 10:30am Hybrid Worship in person in Sanctuary (for those vaccinated & masked) or via Zoom or phone NYAC Ordination at Conference	27	28	29	30		