

THE ASBURY TRUMPETER



The Rev. Yohan Go, Pastor

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April 2025

A Time of Paradoxical and Oxymoronic Truth

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Psalm 22)

There is an old saying that to be a true Jew, one must meet three conditions: first, to kneel upright (*upright kneeling*); second, to scream without a sound (*silent screaming*); and third, to dance without movement (*motionless dance*). (Maurice Friedman, *Heschel & Wiesel*) These expressions, though seemingly contradictory, capture something profoundly true. They are both paradoxes and oxymorons—expressions that defy logic yet reveal a deeper wisdom. The cross at the heart of our Christian faith embodies this kind of truth more than anything else. Lent is a sacred season in which we are invited to experience this paradoxical and oxymoronic truth firsthand.

We live in a world where sin and injustice often feel overwhelming. We feel anger, but also helplessness. We turn away. The war in Ukraine, the ongoing devastation in Gaza, the growing hostility toward immigrants, LGBTQI+ persons, and other vulnerable communities—these realities can leave us breathless, confused, and weary. Many of us, in search of peace, choose to turn off the news, to shield our hearts from what unsettles our souls.

Yet as people of faith, we are not called to look away. We are called to face the crosses of our time—the injustice and suffering that surround us. When we turn fully toward the cross, we begin to see a different kind of truth. A saving truth. This is what Good Friday reveals.

The cross Jesus bore was not just a Roman execution device—it was the result of human sin: the greed of the powerful, the fear of the elite, the ignorance and rage of the crowd, and the failure of judges who abandoned justice. Jesus bore this cross on behalf of all of us. And on it, Jesus cried out with the words of Psalm 22: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” It is a cry of despair—but also a prayer of faith. Even in the depths of suffering, Jesus did not stop calling out to God.

And we believe—deeply and confidently—that the powers of death could not overcome the power of life. Because of this, we will gather on Easter morning to joyfully proclaim: “Christ is risen!” This is the paradoxical, oxymoronic truth of our faith: that death leads to life, that suffering gives birth to hope, and that through the darkness, light emerges.

To fully grasp this truth, we must have the courage to face the crosses in our lives and in our world. Only by walking through the shadows can we fully rejoice in the light of resurrection.

We invite you to join us for Holy Week. Let us walk this sacred journey together and rediscover, in community, the beautiful and painful truth of the resurrection.

Palm Sunday

April 13 (Sunday), 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 17 (Thursday)

Fellowship dinner at 5:00 p.m. at Zion Korean UMC

Worship to follow at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday

April 18 (Friday), 7:00 p.m. at Asbury UMC

Easter Sunday

April 20 (Sunday), 9:30 a.m.

Celebration of baptism and welcome of new members



As we near the end of this Lenten journey, may we prepare our hearts to celebrate the joy of resurrection. And may the Asbury family continue to shine the light of Easter into the world’s darkness.

May God’s grace and blessing be with you always.

Peace,

Rev. Yohan Go





April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

April

- 2 Linda Anton
- 4 Nicole Minor Jones
- 7 Samantha Dorsey
Greg Jacobson
- 8 Ryan Arnold
Donna Rowe
- 9 Linda Ruscio
- 10 Don Biron
- 11 Scarlett Williams
- 14 Paul Anderson
- 15 Andrew Hallam
Rev. Elisabeth Smith
- 16 Trevor Weigner
- 17 Carl Bishop Jr.
- 20 Kim Curry
Maryanne Donohue
- 21 Johnell Norton
Nicholas Travassos
Luka Ruscio
- 22 Marilyn Blanche
- 23 Alexandra Francis
Rebecca Sanderson
Chad Whitney
Lincoln LaCroix
- 24 Celeste Leal
- 25 Kelly Francis
- 26 Andy Curry
April Parker
- 28 Thomas Williams
- 29 MacKenzie Francis
- 30 Stephen Gilman
Sharon Kelley

~Upcoming Events~

- 6 **Worship Service** 9:30 am
- 8 **Pastor's Office Hours** 9:30 am -12 pm
- 9 **Pastor's Office Hours** 9:30 am -12 pm
Women's Book Study 9:30 am
- 13 **Worship Service** 9:30 am
- 15 **Pastor's Office Hours** 9:30 am -12 pm
- 16 **Pastor's Office Hours** 9:30 am -12 pm
Women's Book Study 9:30 am
Choir Practice 7:00-9pm
- 20 **Worship Service** 9:30 am
- 22 **Pastor's Office Hours** 9:30 am -12 pm
- 23 **Pastor's Office Hours** 9:30 am -12 pm
Women's Book Study 9:30 am
Choir Practice 7:00 pm - 9pm
- 27 **Easter Worship Service** 9:30 am
- 29 **Pastor's Office Hours** 9:30 am -12 pm
- 30 **Pastor's Office Hours** 9:30 am -12 pm
Women's Book Study 9:30 am
Choir Practice 7:00 pm - 9pm

PILL BOTTLES MISSION

Our church has been sending empty pill bottles to a larger mission outreach for quite some time now. The postage has been paid in a variety of ways. If you are able to help with the postage, it costs approximately \$35 per month to send these boxes.

Please speak to Joan White regarding this mission project.

Joan's home number: 401-738-6202

Cell number is 401-499-1280



Dear Asbury Church Choir Members and Music Enthusiasts,

Weekly Choir Practice: A Sacred Time for Harmony and Growth

Each week, we come together not just to rehearse music but to create something extraordinary—a sound that glorifies God and uplifts our congregation. These moments of preparation are essential to our ministry, and your presence is invaluable.

- **Wednesdays:** 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- **Sundays:** 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Your dedication forms the foundation of our worship services. Let us commit to attending regularly and punctually, striving for excellence as we prepare to lead others in meaningful worship.

Welcoming New Voices: An Invitation to Serve Through Song

It is a privilege to welcome new members into our choir family. If you or someone you know feels called to serve the Lord through music, we invite you to join us. Whether you are a seasoned singer or new to the choir experience, your voice has a place here. Come to a practice session or contact me directly to learn more about this wonderful opportunity. Together, we will inspire hearts and glorify God through the gift of music.

Your Music Director: Leading with Faith, Passion, and Purpose

As your Music Director, I am honored to lead our choir in creating music that reflects God's love and grace. My role is not just to guide you musically but also to support you spiritually and personally. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Together, we are building a music ministry that honors God and inspires our congregation.

Prayers and Support: United in Faith and Purpose

As we continue to grow as a choir and a community, I ask for your prayers. Please pray that our choir will glorify God, support our pastor's ministry, and bring grace to our congregation. If you have any prayer requests or need support, please feel free to share them with me or a fellow choir member. We are more than a choir; we are a family, united by our faith and purpose, supporting one another in love and grace.

Gratitude for Your Commitment and Faithfulness

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Asbury Church Choir. Every note we sing and every harmony we create is a testament to God's glory. Through our music, we have the privilege of transforming lives, uplifting spirits, and spreading His love. Let us continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and inspire others with the power of our ministry. May God bless and guide us as we faithfully serve Him through music.

With gratitude, blessings, and love,

Hanna Noh

Music Director, Asbury UMC

857-231-0567



Asbury's Nursery School has restarted!

The time nursery school starts is at 9:30 am.

We have six members who have volunteered to staff the program on a rotating basis and we thank them for their willingness to extend Asbury's hospitality in a different venue.



Mothers Day is May 11, 2025

Shirley Keene and Debbie Bush of the Chancel Guild will be collecting names of the special woman in your lives. Each name costs \$1.00 and will be printed in the bulletin. Please mark anyone who is deceased with an asterisk *. The deadline to submit names is May 4 th.

Contact:

Shirley - email - nemok2003@gmail.com

Cell: 401-419-8628

Debbie - email - debralbush@gmail.com

Cell: 401-486-3180

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR ASBURY FAMILY

Words cannot express the wonderful feelings about our Asbury church family. You never cease to amaze me. The caring, concern and love expressed in so many ways will never be forgotten. We walked down a long path with my husbands illness and eventually his passing. You were there for us throughout this entire journey and we are forever grateful. Richard (Dick) is at peace with his Lord now. We give prayers of thanks for that.

With love and blessings to you all,

Joan White, Cheryl, Carrie & Mike



ASBURY UMC WOMEN'S
Tea PARTY
& SILENT AUCTION
Saturday May 3rd 1-3:30p

\$25 Admission Price Includes:
High Quality Teas & Scones from Trinity Confections

A Variety of Light "Tea Time" Fare

An Opportunity to Win Prizes Including Best Derby Day Hat Prize!

Exclusive Access to Bid in Our Silent Auction

Special Gift for the first 20 to register!

Register on Eventbrite by 4/23/2025

No Eventbrite fees!
Or See Diane/Andrea at Church

Dear Friends,

Our coffee hour has returned and it has been fun gathering and catching up with each other after church. We still want to keep this simple and ask that you consider taking a week to volunteer to set up coffee hour. As of now we have every week but June 1st filled.

Also I would like to hand this sign-up sheet over to someone else. It would be producing and promoting a sign-up sheet every 6 months...not including July & August. If you want to make it something different than what has been established, that would be wonderful. Supplies except the milk & creamer are paid for by the church.

This is a good way to become involved on a small scale, getting to put names and faces together. If you are curious about this opportunity, see me or call me at 401-486-5449. See you in church! Jan Jones

The deadline for the May Newsletter is

Friday, April 25, 2025

Thank you!



**From the trustees to all the bread lovers
at Asbury!**

As many of you know, the bread baking that is done for our annual bazaar is a huge fundraiser, and you enjoy the Swedish Cardamon Bread and the Cinnamon Rolls that are baked by the women. The last number of years have been a challenge as the ovens did not work as they should.

The large ovens need two new thermostats, as the old ones don't regulate the temperature in the ovens correctly. The double wall ovens, which to the best of my knowledge are over 30 years old, just don't work anymore and cannot be repaired. We will need to purchase a new double wall oven to replace the existing one. Since the thermostats in the ovens do not regulate the temperatures correctly it is difficult to bake the bread or perform any other baking job. We don't use them a lot, but we use them enough.

As of right now we are not sure if the bread will be baked this year if we don't make the necessary repairs. So, the trustees are looking for some help from all our bread lovers and will be accepting donations towards repairing and replacing the kitchen ovens.

We estimate that we will need about \$3,000. Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance for your help and support.

Happy 95th Birthday, Asbury Church!

March 25, 1930

In 1930, Rev Francis Henry Spear was called out of retirement to assess if a church would be feasible in a newly created residential area called Gaspee Plateau. Rev Spear was deeply impressed by his findings and received a warm welcome for a Methodist Episcopal Church. He took charge of organizing this church. By March 25, 1930, thirty-four people had expressed a desire to join the new church. They met at the Morrill's house on Osceola Ave. As more people wished to join Asbury, various members opened their homes for Sunday worship.

By June 25, 1932, enough money, \$40,000, had been pledged or raised to have the groundbreaking ceremony. The laying of the cornerstone occurred September 11, 1932. The first service was held February 5, 1933, in the social hall. Church membership was 138, church school had 103 members. It took nine years to raise the necessary \$3600 to finish the sanctuary. The dedication service took place on May 26, 1940. And the Asbury Church building was finally completed in 1947 when the second floor was completed, now known as the Spear Room!

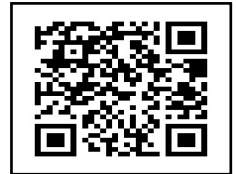
How about planning for Asbury's 100th Birthday Celebration??? The Centennial is only 5 years away!

Please Help Asbury Grow !!

Please visit our website and click on the giving link.

<https://www.asburymcri.org/>

<https://www.asburymcri.org/giving>



As many of you know, chancel guild has been getting our Easter plants, geraniums for Memorial Day, and poinsettias for Christmas from the Seasons of New England on Warwick Ave. Our friend Carmen has recently sold the Seasons to Antonio/Tony Franco, but will continue to work there doing what she loves best!

Tony sent this to me, and I thought it was a great introduction to him and the business. Opening Day is April 4, and they will have cool weather veggies, pansies, perennials, house plants, plus a newly renovated gift shop. Easter plants of all varieties will be offered the following week. As the weather warms up, more options will be available. He has been supplying plants to the Seasons/Carmen since 2019.

Tony is 27 years old!!! His farm in Johnston has five full size commercial greenhouses, growing mostly flowering annuals and vegetable plants. He's always had a passion for gardening since he was young, planting a large vegetable garden from seed every year. And it has grown into a business and expanded to more than vegs!

They grow most of their products and thus are able to decrease prices on certain veggie and flower flats, hanging plants, and potted annuals. They offer discounts to seniors, veterans, and first responders. He is a really nice guy, passionate about his business.

Go say Hello! Tell him you're from Asbury! Spring is almost here!!!!



Food Collection results

Dear Asbury Members,

Once again, you rose to the occasion. We gave you a list of food items to be collected over thirty days and you understood the assignment! Our contact at Holliman and Norwood Schools was overwhelmed with the results. We helped feed some children in our community who may have attended class hungry or gone to bed without a meal. That is hard for most of us to comprehend. Thank you to those who took the time and effort to shop, to those who organized and counted and to those who loaded the food supplies in the truck for delivery. This was certainly a joint effort by our members. The final tally was: 911 total products.

Some of the break down of items is as follows:

- 43 paper products
- 137 personal products
- 163 veggies, beans, fruits
- 13 cleaning products 59 juices
- 27 cereals
- 57 soups,
- 121 pastas, starches, rice
- 20 sauces and gravy
- 61 canned meats
- 43 snacks
- 18 can openers
- 138 miscellaneous products
- 11 containers of milk

Matthew 25: 35 & 40 "I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD. I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, ANYTHING YOU DID FOR EVEN THE LEAST OF MY PEOPLE HERE, YOU ALSO DID FOR ME."

Mark E. D'Aiello

Holliman Elementary School

69 Draper Avenue

Warwick, RI 02889

www.holliman.warickschools.org/

February 28, 2025

Asbury Methodist Church

143 Ann Mary Brown Drive

Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Asbury Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for your generous food and clothing donation to benefit the Holliman elementary School Hornets' Nest (food pantry) during the 2024-2025 school year.

At Holliman elementary School, we are dedicated to the education, health, and well-being of our children. Aside from the day-to-day learning, one of our top priorities is ensuring that our students and families have access to adequate food and clothing. The Holliman Hornets' Nest collects needed items each year and partners with Pilgrim High School students to organize and distribute these basic necessities. We began our pantry initiative in February of 2020. This year, we were able to provide donations to 32 families on a weekly basis.

Your donation is instrumental in furthering our goal to provide outreach to members of our school community. We utilized the food donation to stock our pantry and then expediently distribute collected food to any family in our school, regardless of income or other identified need.

Next year, we hope to continue to grow this mission by reaching out to even more families so that our children have access to food and clothing, which will, in turn, ensure that they are able to grow and thrive. We look forward to partnering with you again next year as Holliman enters its 71st year as a public elementary school in Warwick. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Mark E. D'Aiello



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Christian Education Committee seeks donations of small bite-size wrapped candy and small toys that will fit in plastic Easter eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

The hunt will take place directly after Easter Worship Service on Sunday, April 20th. We will have at least 5 children.

We do NOT need any plastic eggs as we have loads already.

Donations should be left in the Dahlquist Coffee Hour Room by Tuesday, April 8th.

Thank you in advance,

Diane Newman-Goins

Billy McGovern

Christian Education Co-Chairs



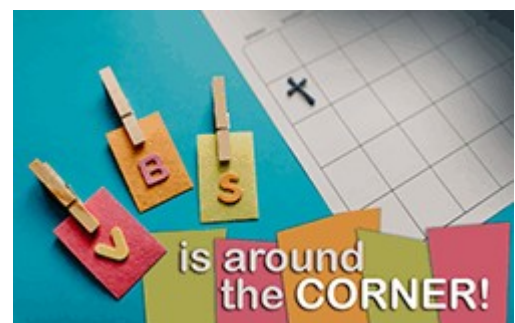
Don't forget to order your Easter Flowers!!

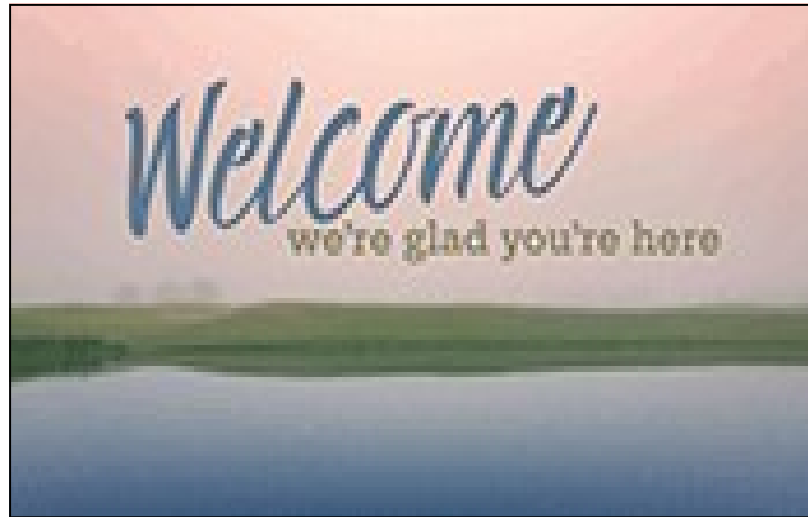
The deadline for ordering Easter flowers is April 6th.

See Becky Arnold in church on Sunday or

Call: 401-935-5906

Email: rsarnoldrn@gmail.com





Top Ten Things You Can Do On Our Website

Look at all the useful information update weekly on **AsburyUMCRI.org!** Check it out!

- 1) Check for worship schedule, COVID and weather status
- 2) Refer to each Sunday's bulletin and announcements (back to 2020)
- 3) Read historical sermon transcripts (back to 2019)
- 4) Refer to monthly newsletters (back to 2019)
- 5) Click to access our secure online financial giving site (set up one-time or recurring pledges/gifts, see your online giving history)
- 6) See information about major events at the Church
- 7) Find free food resources in the area when in need
- 8) See our Pastor's biography
- 9) Look at our gallery of pictures (work in progress- send Tim W. or the office pictures you'd like added)
- 10) Contact the Pastor or Staff via secure message

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