

The Spire February 2018

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield's Monthly Newsletter

Youth Rebuilding Hope 2018

I was reminded recently that this church has raised over half a dozen students that have grown up to become pastors serving the church. First of all, that's just crazy awesome! And if you have been a part of this congregation long enough to see that happen I am so envious of what you've been a part of.

That doesn't just happen out of nowhere, folks. Something like that only happens when a congregation chooses to invest in the lives of young people in a particular way. It happens when a congregation invests their energy and resources in developing leaders who provide experiences that share the compelling story of the gospel of Jesus Christ and an invitation to make Christ the center of their lives.

PCW should be humbled not only by the number of young people who have gone into full time ministry but also by those who serve volunteer leaders. PCW Youth wouldn't be the same ministry if we didn't have volunteers that grew up in this church. Just this year we were able to bring another PCW alum onto our leadership team. Meredith Kender, WHS Class of 2007, became a leader last Fall and has this to say about her experience, "Coming back to PCW youth ministry as an advisor after growing up in this church has been a wonderful experience. Seeing how engaged our youth ministry is reminds me of my time as a youth here and how strong the PCW community is."

Emily (Kieczkowski) Parkinson and her husband Tom, also both WHS Class of 2007, have been a major part of the PCW Youth leadership team in recent years. When asked to reflect on what the experience has meant to her Emily shared, "the thought 'do because others did for you' comes to mind. I had so many great youth leaders growing up in PCW that truly shaped who I am today and I can't think of a better way to say thank you than by being a youth leader now. My hope is by sharing my faith and life with these students they feel like I did - accepted, loved and understood."

Leaders like this show God's love to our students every time they show up to be a part of our students' lives. Ask any leader, they will

tell you they get as much, if not more, than they give when they volunteer. PCW Youth got to return the favor to Tom and Emily when they all showed up on their wedding day to be a part of that special moment in their lives. "It really reiterated to me the power of God's love when we show up for each other," said Emily about that day.

As a congregation PCW has been a part of these stories. Veteran Agape volunteers like Gaither Shaw and Gregg Gorman have been eye witnesses to some of the amazing transformation this ministry initiates. "I get the opportunity to watch many of them start as very young enthusiasts, be around them as they are shaped and polished further by their experiences, and be moved by their voluntarism as they come back on break from college or as young adults," says Gorman. The Agape Family definitely grabs hold of you, agrees Shaw, "many students come back after they leave for college to renew friendships with the volunteers and guests. I'm always impressed with their interactions with the guests."

In addition to the weekly programming of PCW Youth, a major experience that introduces students to Christ alive in the world is the annual High School Mission Trip (HSMT). Everything that goes into planning the HSMT is done faithfully to create a vibrant community of youth *transformed* by the love of God and *expressed* through the service of others. An invaluable piece of that is the fundraising effort of Youth Rebuilding Hope.

Without the generosity shown during *Youth Rebuilding Hope* every year the trip would become too expensive for people to participate in. So trust me when I tell you that dozens of adults and hundreds of students are unbelievably grateful for your tax-deductible *Youth Rebuilding Hope* contributions that have allowed them to encounter God and Christian community on the High School Mission Trip.

Every year real transformation takes place in the lives of the leaders and students who participate in the HSMT. "Being a HSMT advisor has been such an amazing experience. I never imagined that spending time with these kids on

both the mission trip and Wednesday's at Agape could be so powerful. Their commitment to God and selflessly serving others continues to inspire me," says HSMT Planning Team member Lisa Colao.

Once again, we invite you to be a part of what God is doing through PCW Youth Missions. Every avenue this ministry has to connect young people to Christ's mission is supported through your generous participation.

With gratitude,
Rev. Amanda H. Joria

Thank you for helping us create a circle of support around every student.



Here are the ways you can participate in Youth ReBuilding Hope this year:

- ◆ *Beginning Feb. 1st make a tax-deductible donation for Youth ReBuilding Hope after worship, online or in the Church Office.*
- ◆ *Purchase a ticket for the Youth ReBuilding Hope Pasta Dinner: Feb. 11th, 5pm in Assembly Hall. Tickets are \$10/pp.*
- ◆ *Applebee's Pancake Breakfast: March 3, 8:00am-10:00am. Tickets are \$10.*

Thank you for sharing Christ's love with the young people in this community! You matter and you make a difference.

In February's Issue

Page 1 - Youth Rebuilding Hope 2018

Page 2 - Table of Contents / PNC Update

Page 3 - Faith Formation

Page 4 & 5 - You're Invited To...

Page 6 - PCW Youth

Page 7 - Music Ministry

Page 8 - Mission Updates

Page 9 - Lent Schedule 2018

Page 10 - Deacon Ministry / Caring Contact Crisis Line

Page 11 - Worship Wonder Conversation Update / Flower Ministry

Page 12 - Stephen Ministry / Baptisms / We Extend Christian Sympathy

Page 13 - Clerk's Corner / Community Corner

Page 14 - February 2018 Church Calendar

Page 15 - February Birthdays

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

The PNC has received over 50 Pastor Information Forms (PIF) so far. We had a few preliminary interviews in January. We continue to receive PIF's and referrals through networking. Please speak with any PNC member if you have a name of a minister who might be a candidate or if you know someone we should talk to that might have names for us.

The PNC uses PCW's Mission statement when responding to questions from candidates during our interviews. We are very clear with the candidates that PCW currently has a vision and a mission. We are looking for our new Senior Minister to help us continue to implement the current vision and mission- not create new ones.

Watch out for the new PCW Information Brochure in the pews with our mission and vision on the back panel. The goal is for all commissions, committees and congregants to evaluate all of the things we are doing to make sure that they further our mission. If not, it may be time to stop doing that particular thing and look for something new. Please continue to be aware of and live out

PCW's Mission Statement:

- Invite people into a relationship with God
- Grow together as devoted followers of Christ, and
- Serve others through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for continuing to pray for our future Senior Minister whom God has already chosen for us. Also- thank you for praying for the PNC that we discern who that person is that God has chosen.

PNC Members: *Jessica Cerino, Carole Cook, Robin Hoy, Josh McMahan, Anita McNamara, David Seaman, Pam Shaw, Alan Smith, Gary Zanfagna*

Faith Formation

"For everything there is a season..."

Lunch Bunch, the mission project of the Sunday School for the past 10+ years, has run its course, and what a fantastic run it has been for both Agape and the Sunday school kids. Lunch Bunch has been a blessing to so many for all those years and we have so much to celebrate!

This wonderful mission project was the brain child of Kathy Genus along with the sweat and hard work of Debbie Osment, Carol Cook, Tish Klofta and the hundreds of children who each month made 160-250 bag lunches and then handed them out to grateful guests in Elizabeth. That means over 18,000 lunches were assembled, transported and delivered to the Agape guests. It has been a wonderful mission project for the older Sunday School children and there are so many people to thank for their faithful support including the Mission Commission, the congregation and PW for their financial support. And who could forget the Sunday morning hands on crew including the myriad youth, Amy Mockbee, Anne-Marie Mora, Xi Muoi Huynh, and Debbie Osment (who also did the monthly shopping for the last 6+ years.)

God has been so good to us. We are grateful for the wonderful people we have met and the opportunities to see God at work among us. Thank you everyone and pray our next mission projects with the Sunday School (next steps) will continue to bear much fruit for the Kingdom of God! Hallelujah and Amen!

WE DID IT!

One of the goals for the Faith Formation Commission was to have ONE, staffed and excellent Sunday School, with three combined classes consisting of:

- 3years old – 5 years old/Kindergarten
- 1st and 2nd grade class
- 3rd – 5th grade class

Last June, we changed the time of our worship services to be concurrent rather than just overlapping. That proved to be a challenge but, we learned that it is also do-able. Last Sunday, January 7th, was our first Sunday with the configuration we have been striving for!.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made this possible. We still need some volunteer teachers to fill in the gaps but we are making headway! There is still work to be done but I just wanted to share the Good News with you all!

Back-Pack Collection Returns

Because God has been so generous we want to express our thanks and so during LENT (February 15 - March 18) our Sunday School Children will be collecting specific non-perishable food items that will help Westfield families in need over the Spring Break. We are once again partnering with the Westfield Rotary for the 4th year. There are 14 families and 21 children who will not be hungry during this school vacation. We invite the congregation to join with the Sunday School children in this collection. At the start of LENT there will be bins to hold the donations scattered throughout the campus with pictures of the specific items needed. Donations of 14 back-packs to transport the food items to the homes will be graciously accepted as well. Here's what the Sunday School children are collecting, sorting and packing:

Granola and Cereal Bars	Cereal
Fruit cups, applesauce, raisins	Non-perishable milk
Pop-top soups and meals	Juice boxes
Instant single serve mac& cheese	Single serve oatmeal

-Christine Treger, Director of Faith Formation

You're Invited To...



It's a new year and a new opportunity to let a friend know about our contemporary worship service offering at PCW. If you have a skill set as a bass player or you are willing to help with coffee setup there are opportunities there as well.

Please contact Kevin Wilkin, our Director of Contemporary Worship to learn about other opportunities at kw@wired4worship.com

Newcomers' Information Seminar on February 25th
New Member Class on March 11th

Attention all Members!

Please let all your friends know we are having a Newcomers' Seminar following the 10 a.m. services on Sunday, February 25, 2018. We will have a tour of the Presbyterian Church Campus plus an informative slide show about our church's history and mission. We will meet in the George Plenty Room for one hour.

Theology Discussion Group

The PCW Theology Discussion Group (TDG*) is preparing to start our next book discussion on March 5th 7:30-9 PM in the Christian Lounge. We welcome all to consider joining as we study the role of evangelism as a core mission of our faith. Darrell Guder is the author of the book we will discuss. He is a retired professor from Princeton Theological Seminary. Several of our ministers have participated in his classes and we now have an opportunity to read and reflect on his seminal thinking and call for Christians. Along with the book discussion, we are working to arrange a meeting with the author / professor to discuss some core questions and observations gained from our group's efforts.

The title of our new book is *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*, and a summary of the book follows:

"Western society is now a very different and very difficult mission field. In such a situation, the mission of evangelism cannot succeed with an attitude of "business as usual." This volume builds a theology of evangelism that has its focus on the church itself. Darrell Guder shows that the church's missionary calling requires that the theology and practice of evangelism be fundamentally rethought and redirected,

focused on the continuing evangelization of the church so that it can carry out its witness faithfully in today's world.

In Part 1 Guder explores how, under the influence of reductionism and individualism, the church has historically moved away from a biblical theology of evangelism. Part 2 presents contemporary challenges to the church's evangelical ministry, especially those challenges that illustrate the church's need for continuing conversion. Part 3 discusses what a truly missional theology would mean for the church, including sweeping changes in its institutional structures and practices."

**The PCW TDG is a small group of between 15 and 20 seekers who meet bi-weekly in the Christian Lounge to delve into chapters of books that have the potential to inspire and expand our faith horizons; ones that compel us to challenge and refine our beliefs as we work to improve our engagement within the world we find ourselves. We have been meeting for ~8 years and have discussed about 15 books from our pastor's theology book shelves. For more information, please contact Alan Smith (917-239-1667; alandsmith518@gmail.com).*

Westfield Day Care Center

Westfield Day Care is excited to celebrate our 50th Anniversary this year! As a NAEYC Accredited program, WDCC is a quality, affordable, early learning center for children 18 months through full day Kindergarten. Our teachers have longevity, are experienced are nurturing and loving. Lunch and snacks are provided as well as enrichment activities and all are included with tuition.

Please visit our website at westfielddaycarecenter.org or call 908-232-6717 to schedule a tour!

You're Invited To...

Baptism Class - February 18

If you have recently had a baby or going to have a baby and would like to prepare for a baptism, the next Baptism Class is February 18, 2018 following the 10am worship services. The class is for parents only (child care is provided if requested). We will look at the meaning of baptism, the baptism questions and how to live them out, and go over the actual service. As well, you will get to know other parents who are also interested in baptism. In order to request a baptism, at least 1 parent must be an active member of this church and have recently attended a baptism class. Baptism classes are only held approximately every quarter.

If you have any questions, or want to register for the February 18th class, contact Rev. Cindy Bowman at bowman@westfieldpc.org or call the church office.

TOPS



Calling all church members with young children! Time Out for Parents or TOPs will begin registration for the September – December semester on February 25th.

Pledging church members will have priority for placement over the current students and public if their applications are returned by March 8. Program and registration information will be available in the church office, outside room 104, narthex, and entrance to Wired for Worship on Sunday, Feb. 25.

TOPs is an introduction to Nursery School for children 2.5 years and younger. Children 3 months to 20 months meet in room 104, and 21 months to 2.5 year olds meet in room 103 on Monday and Wednesday mornings and in room 104 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:50 – 11:20 a.m. TOPs is fully licensed by the State of NJ and works closely with PNS&K. The cost will be \$40/morning and children may attend once or twice a week.

Feel free to visit during February to meet the staff and see the activities that will engage and nurture your children. Contact Mary Danskin, Director at mkdanskin@comcast.net to make an appointment or to receive further information.

Senior Network MOVIE



"Victoria and Abdul" Is Senior Network's February movie

The Senior Network will show "Victoria and Abdul," a true story about the friendship Queen Victoria develops with a young clerk from India in the later years of her reign, on Wednesday, February 28.

The movie will be shown in the Christian Lounge of the Parish House, beginning at 1 p.m.

Academy Award-winner Judi Dench stars as the British monarch and Ali Fazal portrays Abdul Karim, who travels from India to London to participate in the Queen's Golden Jubilee. He is surprised to find favor with the Queen herself.

As Victoria questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an alliance with a loyalty that her household and inner circle try to destroy. As the friendship deepens, the Queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes and joyfully reclaims her humanity.

We hope you will join us for an extraordinary afternoon of entertainment. Bring a friend.

Lunch and a Book - February 2

We will meet on **Friday, February 2, 2018** from 12- 1:00 p.m. in the Church library to discuss "The Life We Bury" by Allen Eskens. We were unable to meet in January due to weather, so this will be our "make-up class". This is a story of a college student who is tasked with writing a senior citizen's biography - his subject is a dying Vietnam vet who is a convicted murderer and rapist. The story twists and turns as the student learns there is more to his subject than meets the eye. Come join us for the discussion - All are welcome! Any questions, please contact Lisa Black, lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com.



Lenten Lunches

All are welcome to our Lenten Lunches at 11am in Assembly Hall.

February 25

March 11

PCW Youth (Grades 6-12)

FEBRUARY 2018 SCHEDULE

Sunday School, 9am Youth Room (3rd Floor of Parish House)

February 4, 11, 18, 25

Sunday Fellowship, 6:30pm (High School - Youth Room | Middle School - Westminster Hall)

February 4 - Super Bowl Sunday | Middle School and High School Flag Football at 11:30am on the front lawn | bring your favorite snack

February 25 - regular fellowship

Middle School Breakfast Club, 7am Tuesdays

February 6, 13, 20, 27

9th Grade Confirmation Class, 6pm Tuesdays

February 6, 13, 20, 27

Agape

Every Wednesday, 3:15pm

When: February 23-25, 2018

Who: All students in grades 9-12

Where: Windham Mountain, NY

- ◆ **Cost includes 2 day lift tickets, lodging, and breakfast Saturday and Sunday (Rentals and meals on the mountain are paid separately by student.):**
Early Bird Rate \$300 if you register prior to January 31 | After January 31 - registration is \$325
- ◆ Deposit of \$150 or payment in full of \$300 is due prior to January 31.
- ◆ Cash, Check or Credit Card accepted. See Linnette in the church office to register OR save a trip and submit your registration and credit card payment online.



Mini-Concert at Presbyterian Church Entertains Confirmands

An elite, female cappella group from Drew University called "On a Different Note" launched their tour at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield on Tuesday night with a mini-concert. They performed for the 2018 teen Confirmands at the church on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. It was billed as a "Pop Up Concert" because the group of singers had an unexpected vacancy and announced only 24-hours via Facebook and Instagram beforehand that they would perform at the church located on Mountain Avenue.

"On A Different Note" is one of three auditioned a cappella organizations on the Drew campus. Led by Cranford resident Siobhan Quinlan, who is a member of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, the group's tour during semester break includes various locations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut.



Singers with a Beat... "On a Different Note," an a cappella group from Drew University, entertains at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield last Tuesday night. The leader of the elite singing group, junior Siobhan Quinlan, a Cranford resident, is fourth from left.

Music

Hello Everyone,

Belated Happy New Year! I hope 2018 is treating you well so far.

So, I was thinking about singing and voices...

"Human beings are, like birds and whales, created to rejoice and call out a sense of the world we inhabit through sound and song." (Don E. Saliers)

"To sing means to sense and to affirm that the spirit is real and that its glory is present. In singing we perceive what is otherwise beyond perceiving" (Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel)

"Song is a response which engages the whole self in prayer." and "Singing engages the whole person and helps to unite the body of Christ in common worship." PCUSA Books of Order, 2003-4; 2017-19

Our voices are our first musical instruments, before we pick up a bow, blow into a mouthpiece or sit at a piano. Everyone can sing -- statistically, only a small fraction of people are tone-deaf. So if you aren't sure whether you can sing -- know that you can sing.

When people begin to sing at a young age, and sing often, music (and singing) remain forever part of a person's life. A beautiful moment in teaching music to children is the time when singing "clicks" for a child -- you sing something for them, they sing it right back, with confidence. I believe that on some level, confident singing -- feeling comfortable hearing one's voice out loud, having other people hear one's voice out loud -- contributes to one's baseline sense of well-being.

Besides singing, we use our voices for conversation, caring, teaching, praying, comforting, playing and so much more. Singing with confidence is one thing, "finding your voice" is another; I believe that in the core of our being, singing helps us "find our voice." The world being as it is, sometimes we are called to use our voices to speak up, speak out or speak for those who can't. Sometimes we need to say "STOP." My prayer is that your voice will be there for you when you need it -- for yourself or for someone else.

I write this one week after we celebrated the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. in our various ways. In his letter from a Birmingham Jail he said "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere...Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." In church, whether or not the song includes "prayer" in the title, we are singing prayers. We sing prayers that we hope will help us live towards God's Kingdom which necessarily includes justice everywhere.

On Sunday mornings, the chancel choir often prays together with these words: "What we sing with our lips, may we believe in our hearts; what we believe in our hearts, may we show forth in our lives."

Thanks for singing along at PCW. May you find yourself singing more and more, here and everywhere.

-Paul Sanner, Director of Music & Organist

"What we sing with our lips, may we believe in our hearts; what we believe in our hearts, may we show forth in our lives."

Mission

Help Refugees in Our Community

Volunteers are needed at the Saturday Morning Fun Club, which assists Syrian refugees in our area who have been displaced by war and violence in their home country. The Club meets at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, and provides support with homework, English language instruction, job placement, age-appropriate activities for children, and home placement guidance for refugee families in need. If you are interested in helping, please email Jenny Tananbaum at jat101797@comcast.net or Alissa Berger at alissaberger@gmail.com.

Additionally, there is an ongoing need by refugees for home essentials such as paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, detergent, liquid dish soap, bar soap, shampoo, body wash, body cream, deodorant, and feminine pads. Donations of items or funds to purchase items are welcomed. Please contact Margo Seaman (margonova@comcast.net) if you can contribute.

Volunteers Needed in Texas - February 22-27, 2018

Please consider joining Maureen Paterson and members of the Elizabeth Presbytery on a trip to the Rockport area of Texas where more than half the homes and businesses were damaged during Hurricane Harvey. We will partner with First Baptist Church in Rockport who are coordinating volunteer relief teams in the Aransas County Area. Worksites will include mucking out, demolition, debris removal and basic remediation and rebuilding.

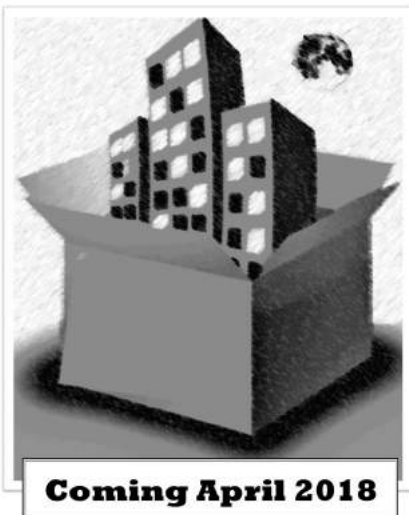
Housing and meals will be provided in a local church with shower facilities. Cost will be \$200 in addition to airfare.

Please contact Maureen Paterson at mpaterson@brpc.org if you are interested in being part of this team.

PCW's Box City | April 21, 2018

FACT: Over 8,500 people experienced homelessness in NJ in 2017.

Close to 2,000 of these individuals were children under the age of 18*.



Box City is an overnight camp event that will take place on the front lawn of PCW to raise awareness about homelessness, as well as funds to support the work of the FISH Hospitality Program. Participants will bring and design cardboard boxes to sleep in, stand in line for a soup dinner, and brave the elements to experience a small part of what homeless families endure every night.

Join in planning this church-wide event by helping with hospitality, entertainment, facilities set-up, outreach or sponsorships. Please contact Jane Collins, Mission Commission Moderator (jrobcoll@aol.com) with questions or to volunteer.

**Registration and sponsorship materials will be available
in the church office and on our website in early February. Keep an eye out!**

**Figures provided by the annual Point-in-Time census, which counts the homeless in shelters and on the streets the third week of January each year.*

LEN

A SEASON OF PREPARATION

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever. -From Presbyterian Mission Agency

February 14, 2018

9am Imposition of Ashes, Chapel

12pm Imposition of Ashes & Informal Service, Chapel

6pm Imposition of Ashes & Intergenerational Service, Assembly Hall - *Join the families from Church On Wednesday.*

8pm Imposition of Ashes & Service, Chapel

Evening Lenten Services

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

7pm, Christian Lounge

Turn to the Lord: Beginning our Lenten Journey

Tuesdays, March 6 & 13, 2018

7pm-7:25pm, Chapel

*Lenten Prayers of Wholeness and Healing:
Liturgy and Prayers for One Another and the World*

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Passion / Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world. As this service opens, the crowd waves palm branches, wanting to crown Jesus as king. But as the story of the passion unfolds, their shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion; he receives a crown of thorns as he is handed over to be mocked and killed. -The Presbyterian Mission Agency

March 25, 2018

8am Traditional, Chapel

10am Traditional, Sanctuary

10am wired (Contemporary), Westminster Hall

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday begins the Three Days (or Triduum), remembering the new commandment that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another, washing our feet as a servant. We also celebrate the Lord's Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death. -The Presbyterian Mission Agency

March 29, 2018

6pm Dinner in Assembly Hall

6:30pm Interactive Service and Communion, Assembly Hall

Good Friday

Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus' crucifixion. The hours of noon to 3 p.m. are particularly significant as these commemorate the time Jesus hung on the cross. It is an especially important time to pray for the church and the world for whom Christ gave his life. -The Presbyterian Mission Agency

March 30, 2018

2pm-7pm Walk the Labyrinth, Westminster Hall

7pm Tenebrae Service, Sanctuary

Deacon Ministry

Home Bound Communion

If you know someone or you are homebound due to physical limitations or disabilities, and you would like Communion brought to you, call Pastor Cindy or the church office to request it. Each month, on the first Sunday of the month, deacons are available to deliver communion to those who request it. This is a way for you to be connected to the church community as well as participate in the Sacrament of Communion.

Deacon Visits

Deacons are called to the ministry of caring and compassion. At PCW there is a visitation team of deacons who visit church members in their homes. If you can not get out to church and would like to have a deacon visit you, one time or on a monthly

basis, please contact Pastor Cindy at the church. This is a great opportunity for you to build a relationship with a member of the congregation, stay connected to PCW even if you cannot attend and have some Christian fellowship. The Deacons are more than willing to visit and we hope you will utilize this important ministry.

Call or Visit from a Pastor

If anyone would like a call or visit from one of our pastors, please call the church office with your request. The staff is not always aware of your concerns or needs and would like to talk with you.

Church Office: 908-233-0301

Caring Contact Crisis Line

Have you ever been told you are a good listener? Do you have a yearning to really make a difference? Crisis listening line Caring Contact will be offering its 92nd volunteer listening training beginning Tuesday, March 13. Training will run once a week 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., plus one full weekend, June 2 and June 3, and will end June 12. Training will be held at Congregation Beth Israel at 18 Shalom Way in Scotch Plains.

"So, at this age I thought I knew most everything I needed to know for the rest of my life," said Nancy Hermann of Scotch Plains, a volunteer listener and graduate of Class of '93. "I was wrong. The knowledge learned during the 12 weeks of training was a fantastic lesson in 'you never stop learning.' I thank you all for opening my eyes to a new experience and to meeting a wonderful, new community of friends and teachers. I loved every hour of the process of becoming an active listener."

This award-winning training enables graduates to become volunteer listeners on the hotline, helping people in crisis and perhaps saving a life. Participants receive 52 hours of comprehensive training in active listening. In addition, volunteers become certified in Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Volunteers develop the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support

"This daytime training and volunteering opportunity is ideal for retirees, empty-nesters and stay-at-home parents," said Janet Sarkos, Caring Contact's executive director. "Many of our listeners were looking for something meaningful to do after they retired or their children left home. They find that volunteering at Caring Contact not only gives them something to do with their new-found freedom but also gives them a sense of reward when they help someone in crisis."

Following training, new volunteer listeners are supported by seasoned listeners during 24 hours of internship before they take calls on their own. Even once a volunteer is a certified listener, the hotline provides a range of support and training opportunities to allow them to keep honing their skills.

Anyone interested in registering for the training should visit <http://caringcontact.org/volunteer-listener-application/>.

The First "Worship Wonder" Conversation...and What I Wish I'd Told Our Visitor

After worship services on Sunday, January 21st, sixty plus people participated in the first PCW "Worship Wonder" conversation! One-year and lifelong members and all in between, younger and older, longtime Presbyterians or fresh-faced newcomers, many were present, accounted for and energetically engaged.

As we were leaving, Assembly Hall, a musician from a local music society walked in and came directly up to me. He said, "This was a whole room full of Presbyterians talking about worship? I wish I'd been there for that! We went to the Presbyterian Church when I was a kid, and the services were so stiff, intellectual and stern that we never really felt at home. We finally started going to a different kind of church. ***You all seem like you're going a different path than the Presbyterians I used to know.***"

I agreed enthusiastically as he left, but **I wanted to say, "I wish you'd been there too.** You should've heard this roomful of people talking together about worship experiences in so many ways and places. From worship dances in Zambia to communion in St Giles in Scotland surrounded by a choir singing Mozart's Requiem. From communion near the original "upper room" to hearing Nelson Mandela preach in Riverside Drive church with African drums accompanying the sacred music...I wish you could have heard."

"I wish you could have heard the very beginnings of worship conversations that are far more about listening to God in the voices of scripture and others than in asserting our own preferences, as much about finding joy in others' connection to God as in our own."

I wanted to say all those things, but later, I've since thought that it's a lot easier to SAY these things than to DO them. If I see my curious visitor friend again, I'm just going to say, "I believe PCW IS walking a different path...why not come and see for yourself!"

Hope you'll join us to add your voice in these promising conversations ahead!

Cordially,
Sam Henderson

Flower Ministry

All members are invited to be a part of The Flower Ministry!

Please donate any amount for flowers for either the Sanctuary or the Chapel



•Sanctuary arrangement: \$150, Chapel: \$50. On February 11 and May 13, any amount is welcome and will be combined with others, and cited in the bulletin.

•Celebrate your family's joys and remember your loved ones.

Please volunteer to deliver flowers to our homebound, ill, hospitalized or bereft members.

•**Small bouquets are made from the sanctuary and chapel arrangements;** these are distributed to our church members who are infirm, bereft or otherwise in need of sustenance.

•**Bring joy to someone's day** by letting them know that we are thinking of them and praying for them.

Contact us

Lisa – 908 – 403-4442 walker1200@comcast.net

Chris – 908 – 391-8820 christine.svoboda@yahoo.com

Lily – 908 - 591-6161 lily.yucetepe@yahoo.com

We Celebrate the Baptism...

Patrick Lyell Merrill, son of Linnea & Joe Merrill

James Matthew Snyder, son of Nicole & David Snyder

on January 7, 2018

ARE YOU EXPERIENCING A "WINTER" IN YOUR LIFE?

Our Stephen Ministers can help! The winter weather we've had recently can be symbolic of what can sometimes happen in life. A crisis hits and we feel like we're buried beneath a drift of snow. Relationships can become "icy," or we can feel "frozen" by life circumstances. Little difficulties build up like "slush," making us slip and slide, causing every decision to seem treacherous. Life seems dreary, and we begin to doubt if spring will ever come. We can wonder, "Is God even there?"

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential Christian care, giving you the emotional and spiritual support you need to make it through a "winter" in your life.

To learn more about how a Stephen Minister can help you or someone you know, contact one of PCW Stephen Ministry Leaders: Josh McMahon - 908-370-3823 or Nancy Smith - 908-578-4741.

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.

We Extend Christian Sympathy To The Family Of...

Peter Clay Ryan

January 8, 2018

Before moving to Bluffton, South Carolina in the early 2000's, Pete and his wife, Betty, were active in Westfield and in the church. Their daughter, Jennifer, died in 1999. Betty passed away in 2010. Mr. Ryan is survived by his wife of 5 years, Carol L. McHugh Ryan; daughter, Allison P. Gaffney (Brian); stepdaughters, Erin E. Babcock (Chase) and Cara K. Pheiffer (William); brother, Douglas Ryan (Jane); and grandchildren, Brendan and Matthew Gaffney.

The Memorial Service for Peter Ryan is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31 at 10:30am in the Chapel. A light repast will follow in the George Plenty Room.

**We extend Christian sympathy to Janet Nelson Smith
upon the death of Janet's mother, Madge Nelson.**

**We extend Christian sympathy to Marilyn Crane and family
upon the death of Marilyn's sister.**

**We extend Christian sympathy to Rev. Amanda, Terry and family
upon the death of Terry's father, Joseph Joria.**

**We extend Christian sympathy to Rev. Amanda and family
upon the death of Amanda's grandmother.**



Clerk's Corner

From the Session Meeting in January 2018

- ◆ The Pastor Nominating Committee Moderator and two others from the committee reported more detail on the progress to date.
- ◆ Stewardship update - Treasurer and Ruling Elder David Foltz reported that a bequest from the estate of Steve Dvorak had been received. Mr. Foltz also reported on the status of the Pledge Campaign and the steps going forward. Emphasis is to have a high participation percentage by the membership. The 2018 Operating Budget was presented for a first reading. It will be brought to the February Meeting for approval. Mr. Foltz was elected to serve as Treasurer for the 2018 calendar year.
- ◆ The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) composition was discussed with consideration to the size of our congregation and other factors. By the time you read this issue a congregational meeting will have voted on changes to the By-Laws of the church allowing two currently seated Ruling Elders of Session to serve and to reduce the committee membership from twelve to eight.
- ◆ The Youth Commission continues its dedication to the Agape Kitchen in Elizabeth as one of its key missions. During January a newer van was purchased to replace the 1999 Dodge van that has served the project well for more than 15 years.
- ◆ Dr. Henderson led the discussion period on the subjects of Mission Driven Session Leadership including our congregational mission statement and Commission Priorities. During a Leadership period each commission reiterated its key priorities.
- ◆ Report from Presbytery Meeting on December 12--- Lisa Black, Barbara McLaughlan, and Jane Francz reported on the general positive feeling that the intertwining of the business and worship time kept the meeting more 'God-focused'. Our commissioners indicated the value of learning what other churches are doing and developing relationships with others in the Presbytery. There was mention of the discussion at the meeting of the number of presbyteries in New Jersey compared to other regions of the country. Combining into fewer presbyteries is under discussion.
- ◆ The Clerk reported that a new reporting requirement from the Presbytery had been submitted in December. The extensive General Assembly statistical report is due in early February.

David Rogers, Clerk

Community Corner

NJFO presents Madame Butterfly March 3th

On Saturday, March 3rd at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield New Jersey Festival Orchestra presents Puccini's most famous and most loved opera *Madame Butterfly*.

This promises to be a wonderful concert! Puccini's irresistible lyric genius has long made *Madama Butterfly* one of opera's most enduring tales of unrequited passion. A cast of internationally acclaimed guest performers assembled from Maestro Wroe's extensive contacts in European and American opera houses joins NJFO to present, acted and in costume, this most heart-rending of stories, breathtakingly beautiful from first love to love child to tragic end.

Tickets starting at \$28 (students U18 \$15) are available online at www.njfestivalorchestra.org. Tickets may also be purchased by calling the box office (908) 232-9400.

Westfield Historical Society

On Wednesday, February 7, the historic Reeve House, home to the Westfield Historical Society, will be transformed into an Edwardian Tea House. Enjoy a British high tea as the Edwardians would have in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

The Westfield Historical Society is hosting this special event of High Tea on Wednesday, February 7 at 12:00 noon, at the Reeve History and Cultural Resource Center at 314 Mountain Ave., Westfield, NJ. There is limited space, so please reserve early by February 1st. Reserve by calling (908)654-1794 or email westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. The cost is \$35 per person for Westfield Historical Society members and \$40 per person for non-members – payable at the door by check or cash. Membership information will be available.

For further information on the Westfield Historical Society and its activities, or to volunteer, call (908)654-1794 or visit www.westfieldhistoricalsociety.org; and like us on facebook!

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9am Morning Crafts- men 9:30am PW Board Meeting 5:30pm AA 7:30pm Choir	2 9:30am Bible Study 12pm Lunch & A Book 7pm AA	3 12pm Ruby Slippers AA
4 8am Worship 9am Youth Sunday School 10am wired 10am Worship 11am Serendipity Bible Study 11:30am MS & HS Flag Football	5 11am Small Group 7pm BSA Troop 72 7:30pm AA 7:30pm Theology Discussion Group	6 7am MS Breakfast Club 10:30am Small Group 12pm Al-Anon 2pm Membership Task Force Mtg. 4pm Small Group 6pm Confirmation 7:30pm Mission, Stew- ardship, Worship 7:30pm Women's AA	7 7am Dawn Patrol 1pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 5pm COW 7pm PNC 7:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chansonettes 8pm AA	8 9:30am PW Circles 9am Morning Crafts- men 5:30pm AA 7:30pm PW Circle #6 7:30pm Choir	9 9:30am Bible Study 7pm AA	10 12pm Ruby Slippers AA
FISH GUESTS HERE					FISH GUESTS HERE	
11 SCOUT SUNDAY 8am Worship 9am Youth Sunday School 10am wired 10am Worship 11am Serendipity Bible Study 5pm PCW Youth Pasta Dinner Fundraiser	12 11am Small Group 1:30pm Parkinson's Support Group 7pm BSA Troop 72 7:30pm AA	13 7am MS Breakfast Club 12pm Al-Anon 4pm Small Group 6pm Confirmation 7:30pm Session 7:30pm Women's AA	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 7am Dawn Patrol 9am Imposition of Ashes 12pm Imposition of Ashes 1pm Senior Network 1pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 5pm COW 6pm Ashes & Intergen- erational Service 7pm PNC 7:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chansonettes 8pm AA 8pm Imposition of Ashes	15 9am Morning Crafts- men 5:30pm AA 7:30pm Choir	16 9:30am Bible Study 10am Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group 7pm AA	17 12pm Ruby Slippers AA
18 8am Worship 9am Youth Sunday School 10am wired 10am Worship 11am Serendipity Bible Study 11am Worship Wonder	19 PRESIDENT'S DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	20 7am MS Breakfast Club 10:30am Small Group 12pm Al-Anon 4pm Small Group 6pm Confirmation 7:30pm O & P 7:30pm Women's AA	21 7am Dawn Patrol 9:30am Sewing Group 1pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 5pm COW 7pm PNC 7:30pm Personnel 7:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chansonettes 8pm AA	22 9am Morning Crafts- men 9:30am Outreach & Welcome 5:30pm AA 7:30pm Choir	23 9:30am Bible Study 7pm AA	24 12pm Ruby Slippers AA
25 8am Worship 9am Youth Sunday School 10am wired 10am Worship 11am Serendipity Bible Study 11am Lenten Lunch 11am Newcomer Info. Seminar 6:30pm MS & HS Fellowship	26 11am Small Group 7pm BSA Troop 72 7:30pm AA	27 7am MS Breakfast Club 10:30am Small Group 12pm Al-Anon 4pm Small Group 6pm Confirmation 7:30pm Women's AA	28 7am Dawn Patrol 1pm Senior Network Movie 1pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 5pm COW 7pm PNC 7pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chansonettes 8pm AA			
				For planning purposes our online calendar at westfieldpc.org/monthly-schedule/ provides an extended view of activities. The calendar is updated regularly. Dates are of course subject to change.		



February 1
Annis, Eleanor
McMahon, Georgeanne
Simpson, Cailly
Marhefka, Vlad
Slifer, Carter
Slifer, Madilynne

February 2
Pope, Mary
Shea, Evelyn
Morse, Linda
Lama, Kelly
Vierschilling, Scott
Ramage, Ellen
Lapham, Kelly
Greco, Kristen
Schwartz, Joshua

February 3
Fredericks, William
Klofta, Patricia

February 4
Johnson, Penelope
Rosin, Christopher
Wright, Karyn
Matera, Catherine
Burslem, Connor
Hall, Jack
Busse, Paige

February 5
Demers, Eric
Siegel, Tucker

February 6
Scaperrotta, John
Gerckens, Lynn
Stravach, Michael
Johnson, Ella

February 7
Ramsden-Nary, Barbara
Marino, Jeffrey

February 8
Husch, Darlene
Cederqvist, E Gertrud
Luerssen, Jack

February 9
Factor, Clinton

February 10
Taylor, Kimberly
Donatelli, Renee
MacGregor, Andrew
Diacheysn, Angelica
Bungerz, Jessica
Sun, Katie

February 11
Verhoef, Julie
Hatfield, Andrew
McLane, Devon
Paden, Amanda
Paden, Dustin
Paden, Jason
Kesselman, Brayden

February 12
Muirhead, Constance
Brown, Christine
Ince, Michael
Dilzell, Susan
Weldon, Maria
Cummings, Benton

February 13
Miller, Sarah
Donatelli, Stanley
Grom, Holly
Grom, Timothy

February 14
Maines, Ralph
Howland, Tom
Ruiz, Thomas
Trott, Evan

February 15
McMahon, Meghann
Ragoza, Ryan
Reed, Aiden
Murphy, Sienna

February 16
Grant, Nancy
Phelan, Thomas
Kolb, Pamela
Hewit, David

Speir, Randall
Marhefka, Laura
Wang, Simon

February 17
Taylor, John
Rotella, Tyler

February 18
LaMond, Cathleen
Klofta, Jacob
Braun, Heather
Fallo, Robert

February 19
Keenan, Jeanmarie
Sullivan, Evan
Quinlan, Fiona

February 20
Smith, Margaret
Eickemeyer, Brenda
Embry, Griffin
Murtishaw, William

February 21
Pinkin, James
Fleschler, Katherine
Cunningham, Susan
Shpunder, Theodore
Hyman, Jeannine
Curtis, Matthew
Grom, Christian
Zanfagna, Andrew

February 22
Ainslie, William
Meierdierck, Georgia
Sobala, Joseph
Swingle, Joseph
Pate, Cheryl
Elizes, Romerl
Gerckens, Christopher
Burgdorf, Christian
Pavleszek, Sarah
O'Neil, Eric

February 23
Blair, Linda
Devaney, Michael
Slifer, Kimberley

Zanfagna, Philip
Carlucci, Aiden

February 24
Dencker, John
Leone, Jack

February 25
Pecka, Phyllis
Hannah, Barbara
Kolterjahn, Donald
Brug-Panton, Pamela
Dailey, Matt
Kinsella, Joanne
Mann, Scott
McCurdy, Matthew
Stierhoff, Matthew
Bass, Cameron
Meyers, Shelby

February 26
Andreassen, Inger-Johanne
Hevert, Nancy
Perry, Virginia
Ince, Robin
Dix, Adam
Zippler, Kevin
Fortino, Gregory
Baldwin, Caroline
Beke, Matthew
Layer, David

February 27
Howell, Emily
Vasel, Kelly
Kim, Katherine

February 28
Foster, Ellen
Elsasser, Mark
Lum, Christopher
DuMont, Alexander
Cavallo, Kristen
Brown, Henry

Staff Birthdays

February 5
Rev. Sam Henderson

February 20
Oscar Castro



The Presbyterian Church in Westfield

140 Mountain Avenue

Westfield, NJ 07090

Visit us on the web: www.westfieldpc.org / www.wired4worship.com

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm

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Head of Staff
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- Rev. Cindy Bowman, Temporary Associate Ext. 47
Pastor for Congregational Life
E-mail: cbowman@westfieldpc.org
- Christine Treger, Director of Faith Formation Ext. 38
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- Rev. Amanda H. Joria, Associate Pastor for Youth Ext. 37
& Mission
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- Kevin Wilkin, Contemporary Worship Director 908-821-5551
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- Nursery School 908-233-0766
- Furniture Assist
E-mail: furnitureassist@westfieldpc.org

Vacation Bible Camp Volunteer Update

As many of you know, volunteer staffing of late proves to be an ongoing challenge. Because we want to offer our best, Faith Formation Commission decided to staff VBC before accepting registrations for VBC.

The lead slots: Music, Mission, Shepherding, Games, Games, Science, 1 Bible Story co-teacher, and Snacks, as of this writing, remain open. (Some good news is Crafts and 1 of 2 leaders for Bible Story have volunteers.)

The deadline to fill these lead positions is February 20th. If you feel the call to serve, don't let fear hold you back! Contact Christine Treger: ctreger@westfieldpc.org or 908/233-0301, Ext. 38

Women's Retreat

March 2-4, 2018

Let's begin our journey together.

The 2018 Women's Retreat will be held at Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center in Mt. Bethel, PA. We will be joining other women's groups during this retreat. The Speaker is Nicki Koziarz and worship will be led by Anne Jones Band.

Prices do vary from \$200-\$265/pp based on occupancy and accommodations. To register, please email Dawn Heintz at dawnheintz@aol.com and she will provide you with the necessary information.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship Service in the Chapel at **8:00am**

Contemporary Worship, Wired in Westminster Hall at **10:00am**

Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary at **10:00am**

*Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12) - 9am, Youth Room (3rd Floor Parish House)
Combined Sunday School (3yrs-5th grade) at 10:05am - CE Building*

Child care for infants thru 3yr olds is available in our nursery located in Room 104 in the lower level of the Christian Education Building, 9:00am - 11:00am.

Social Media



@PCWestfield



@PCWestfield