



A Message from Our Pastor

Every new adventure requires a time of preparation. My family's new adventure is just ramping up as my spouse begins her own ministry as the Designated Pastor for Lamington Presbyterian church just west of us. Over the summer and a part of the fall she served as an intermittent supply preacher, and over time a period of discernment led her, the presbytery, and the congregation to a sense that this was the right relationship. Lots and lots of preparation.

Throughout our congregation, our town, and the larger community new adventures are on the horizon. Even with deteriorating health conditions at the moment, the promise of a turn is in the air. It may be several months away, but a change is on the way. Now is a time to prepare, and wait.

Our faith tradition has a way of teaching that preparation and waiting are, in a way, one and the same. During Advent, which is just beginning, we wait for the Christ-child's birth, for the return of the Risen King, for the promised arrival of God's kingdom on earth. Yes, we prepare by getting presents and decorating and planning feasts (usually for family and friends, but somewhat scaled down this year), but something far more profound happens below the drone of "All I Want for Christmas."

We wait, and it is in the patient, but expectant waiting that we learn to see more clearly, to listen more carefully, and to bring our own lives alongside what God is up to in the world. I have been reflecting on just this miracle for the past few weeks. Even in little acts, as we take part in this season of waiting, we are prepared to meet the one for whom we wait.

Some of our members will be lighting Advent candles at home. Others will receive a daily Advent calendar. Still others may sit to read from scripture or to pray each day for friends, family, and members from the congregation. If you have not thought yet of a way to prepare during this season of waiting, I invite you to join the church in one of these practices.

- Jeremy

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Happy Birthday

Annual Meeting of the Corporation and Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation and Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, New Jersey is called for December 20, 2020 at 11:00 am. ***The meeting will be virtually. Additional instructions on how to attend will be sent out.***

Agenda Item # 1

2020 Annual Report

Agenda Item # 2

Introduction of Officers of the Board of Trustees- Howard Adams

President- Howard Adams

Vice-President- Barbara McLaughlan

Secretary- Pam Shaw, Temporary Clerk of Session- covering during Ginny Leiz's leave of absence

Treasurer- Alan Smith

Financial Report and 2021 Budget – Alan Smith, Treasurer

Agenda Item # 3

Hear and act on the recommendations of the Personnel Committee concerning changes to the Terms of Call for:

Rev. Jeremy Jinkins

Pamela Shaw

Temporary Clerk of Session

BE THE LIGHT!

At dusk on November 29th, the Westfield United Fund, The Presbyterian Church of Westfield and the Rotary Club of Westfield along with Westfield residents lit up the night to fight hunger in Union county. Over \$30,000 was raised!



From the Clerk of Session

Highlights of the NOVEMBER 8, 2020

The Session's Tuesday night meeting (11/10/20) was a busy one and focused on the Session's commitment to keeping our congregation moving and connecting in the coming months. While it is likely that the health crisis will continue to impact our church activities, our leaders have developed plans to maintain our vibrant life well into 2021.

Martha Kieczkowski was approved to be the Elder Moderator of the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC). The CNC will be trained the week after Thanksgiving and the nominating process will start the first week of December. Formal training for incoming nominated Elders and Deacons will start before they are elected. This will allow the new Elders and Deacons to be comfortable in their roles and be ready to "hit the ground running" when they are installed in May.

The \$1.9 million budget was presented and reflects the impact of the coronavirus on PCW, which included the approval of a short-term, part-time position for a retired pastor to be brought onboard to help with worship, lead Bible studies, and work with our leaders to ensure that our members continue to have their spiritual lives enriched during the pandemic. Look for more news on this in the coming days. While it is not a surprise that revenues (especially in the "loose plate" we usually get on Sundays, and through rental income) are down and expenses up, we are committed to remaining invested in the impact our church has on the surrounding community. Endowment Funds allow us to cover the temporary shortfall and Stewardship is working on a robust program for the coming months that will give us new opportunities to stay connected, learn, and realize together the impact our generosity can have through PCW. November 22, 2020 is pledge Sunday and will be an exciting time for our community to come together and recommit ourselves to the life we share in this church.

The Session also heard from the APNC whose working teams continue to meet candidates and are actively interviewing to discern whom God is calling to join us as associate pastors.

Unique to this year, the annual meeting will be held on December 20, 2020. We are required to hold one every year and COVID preempted the usual March date. More information on this will be coming in the weeks ahead.

Significant progress has been made to support in-person Sunday worship starting November 29th at 12 noon. As the COVID pandemic takes a turn for the worse, plans to gather for a service in the sanctuary may have to be placed on hold. More on this as we get closer to the date.

Advent activities were discussed. These activities open to **anyone** (you, your families, your friends, and neighbors) whoever wants to participate.

- Faith Formation/Worship Commission is selling Advent wreaths that include a base, candles, live greenery, and a booklet with devotions for the four Sundays in Advent. The cost is \$15.00. Please contact Nancy Smith at nancyreidsmith@gmail.com to place your order. They can be picked up at the church on November 21 & 22, 2020.
- Outreach and Welcome are working with the United Fund and the Rotary Club of Westfield on "Be the Light, Westfield" to raise money for programs fighting hunger in Union County. Luminaries can be ordered until November 14, 2020 at www.bethelightwestfield.org. The luminaries can be picked up at the church on November 21 & 22. They will be displayed at the church and in Westfield at dusk on Sunday, November 29, 2020.
- Faith Formation and the Youth Commission are doing an on-line Advent Calendar. It will be sent out daily during Advent. It will include daily scripture verses and lots of additional activities and videos. In the past Faith Formation did a walk-through Christmas pageant during the Sunday School hour. This year everyone is invited to "Zoom to Bethlehem" on Sunday, December 13, at 11:00 am. It is the story of the Nativity told from the donkey's point of view. Information will be coming for you to register to participate so you can receive the Zoom link.

Faith Formation

ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR - Looking for a way to maintain your focus on God during this hectic season? Then you need to access the **PCW Online Advent Calendar!** Starting November 29, 2020, everyone will receive a daily email with the PCW Online Advent Calendar. The calendar includes daily scriptures, videos for families and High School students, activities (crafts, recipes, and coloring pages) and suggestions on how to live the Advent spirit all season long. There are contributions from children and adults and truly something for everyone. We are so excited to share this project with you!

ZOOM TO BETHLEHEM - On **Sunday, December 13th at 11:30 a.m.** Faith Formation's Advent event for children and families will be a Zoom performance of an original play written just for PCW. This event is open to anyone, but registration is required. Featuring actors from our congregation, we will experience the story of Jesus' birth together. There will be music, crafts and a game to keep everyone engaged.

Once you register, you will receive the zoom invitation and additional information to make this a truly interactive experience. This opportunity is available to all, so call your family in California, your friend in Minnesota and your uncle in Florida and have them register to see the premiere of "Zoom to Bethlehem".

Please contact the church or Lisa Black, lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com to register or for more information.



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SUNDAYS IN ADVENT

1st Sunday - November 29, 2020

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-29; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

2nd Sunday - December 6, 2020

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; II Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

3rd Sunday - December 13

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

4th Sunday - December 20

II Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Time Out For Parents- TOPS!

Time Out for Parents, our Church sponsored preschool program for children younger than three years, is planning to resume Monday, January 4, 2021!

The COVID virus will make the final decision for us, but plans are underway to have children who will be 2.5 years before February attend on Monday and Wednesday mornings in room 105. The class or self contained "pod" will have no more than ten children and cost approximately \$45 for each 2.5 hour session. Please contact Director Mary Danskin at mkdanskin@comcast.net for registration and general information.

PNS&K and TOPs strictly follow all the CDC health guidelines and so far the Nursery School has had NO outbreaks. The children are thrilled to be back with their friends and have had no problem wearing face masks and having their temperatures taken each day. The teachers are also overjoyed to be back as it is so uplifting to facilitate preschoolers' learning through play. In Time Out for Parents, teachers work on social/emotional development and lovingly care for your children with age appropriate material and activities.



Pandemic in NJ forces 1.2 million to become 'food insecure,'

The number of New Jerseyans who have uncertain access to healthy food is expected to increase by more than 50% by the end of this year because of the pandemic, bringing the total of "food insecure" people to 1.2 million, or 13.5% of the population.

For children in Union County, the projected increase is even bigger, at 81%, bringing the total to more than 365,000 according to recent information. Children whose parents do not have a car could be in a very difficult position right now. No car and no job mean no Uber and no grocery store and no easy access to a food pantry.

The New Jersey increase is 10 percentage points bigger than the national average, and greater than the rises reported for Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York.

The higher New Jersey rate reflects its heavy economic dependence on the leisure and hospitality industries which have been devastated by the pandemic, with more than six months of closures or partial re-openings.

The extra need for food has been driven by the high jobless rate, currently at 16.6%, or almost twice the national rate, and by the ending in July of the federal government's \$600-a-week supplemental jobless benefit.

Higher food insecurity could outlast the pandemic. In the Great Recession of the late 2000s, the phenomenon didn't peak until two years after the recession started, and didn't return to pre-recession levels for 10 years.

PCW supports Agape which is distributing shelf stable bags of food weekly in Elizabeth and Agape Local which is distributing bags of fresh meat, vegetables, fruit and some staples weekly to 22 food insecure families in Westfield representing 98 people. Your support through donations and purchases of requested food for these mission projects would be greatly appreciated.

With uncertainty about the extension of the moratorium on evictions and congregate sheltering not ideal right now it's a very worrisome situation. The whole picture for the lowest income members of our community is very grim.

(The above facts are taken from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey's September 30, 2020 report, "Covid-19's Impact on Food Insecurity in New Jersey".)

—Mission Commission

Book Discussion Groups

THEOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP

We invite you to join us for our next discussion Monday, December 7, 7:30 - 8:30pm as we read and reflect on Chapter 7 of Thomas Merton's "No Man Is an Island". If you would like more information, please contact Alan Smith, 917-239-1667, or alandsmith518@gmail.com.

LUNCH AND A BOOK

We read and discussed two wonderful books this fall, "A Woman of No Importance" and "The Rent Collector". If you haven't read them, we highly recommend them both. Our January 2021 book is "Where the Forest Meets the Stars" by Glendy Vanderah. We will discuss this book on Friday, January 8, 2021 from 12 -1:00 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Black, lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com to get the zoom invite instructions for video and phone participants. Please join us - we can't be in person, but the conversations are still lively and great!

Stewardship Update

This year has been hard! The pandemic has been devastating. The health crisis, economic crisis and sociopolitical crisis are clouding and hiding the good at work all around us. It sometimes seems that we have too few resources too little good news, too much to worry about.

It is time for us to remember that GOD is with us and for us and calls us to care for others and His world.

It's not too late to pledge your support! You should have received a pledge card in the mail. You may also email your pledge to Tina Barulli, our comptroller at tbarulli@westfieldpc.org.

Now, more than ever, we hope you will prayerfully consider your support to The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds.

Giving at PCW



- ◆ Online Bill Pay
- ◆ EasyTithe
- ◆ Givelify
- ◆ Zelle (designate fund)
- ◆ Cash - Check

or on the PCW website: westfieldpc.org.

A message from Maestro Wroe & NJ Festival Orchestra

Dear PCW Friends:

I hope that you enjoyed October's *Swing Time* - our sellout concert held in the gardens of NJFO Board President Keith Hertell, where, under strict social distancing conditions, NJFO's blistering big band hits brought us all together. If you were not able to join us you can see a recap of the event here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6KvgWJYWs&feature=emb_title.

The New Jersey Festival Orchestra Board of Directors, staff and musicians are working tirelessly to create more outdoor events like this for next spring. In the meantime, we are exploring multiple new, exciting options to bring this year's Holiday concerts to you. We will announce details about our Holiday plans in the weeks ahead. Safety will guide our decisions as we look to develop innovative ways to engage with our community over the Holiday period and in the New Year. Stay tuned for more details!

The New Jersey Festival Orchestra looks forward to celebrating with you all in the future. Please subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on social media to be the first to know about upcoming events. For more information go to www.njfestivalorchestra.org.



Happy Birthday to YOU!

**DEC 1**

Joel Nemec
Kika Finley

DEC 2

Deborah Baker
Michelle Pierce

DEC 3

Marilyn Ainslie
Walter Dembiec
Alex Ebel

DEC 4

Lisa Colao
Brian Gorczyca
Christopher Wright
Joy Mulzoff

DEC 5

Barbara Vierschilling
Gregory Purachev
Barry Cunningham
Lauren Shepard
William Crenshaw
Ryan Beck

DEC 6

Warren Hanscom
Benjamin Ingrassia

DEC 7

Carol Fredericks
Christian Hoffman
Alexander Grom
Jacob Dickey

DEC 8

Douglas Miller
Chad Hoeft
John Sandstedt

DEC 9

Robert Rosengarth
David Monzella
Kathleen Smith
Andrew Stockwell

DEC 10

Mary Kay Danskin

DEC 11

Ludwig Adams
Elizabeth Thode

DEC 12

Lois Wiehl
Carl Factor
Emily Parkinson

DEC 13

Joshua McMahon

DEC 14

Travis Boff

DEC 15

James Vierschilling

DEC 16

Anastasia Harrison
Michael Dickey
Christian Hoy

DEC 17

Madeline Serra
Kayla Gioconda
Krista Gioconda

DEC 18

Carol Hewit
Cherie Fritz
Griffin Morgan
Scott Valentine

DEC 19

Bradford Schwarz
Anneliese Himmel
Brennan Wright

DEC 20

John Trott

DEC 21

Deborah Bungerz
Susan Dackow
Carol Fahrenthold
Lauren Gray-Gilford

DEC 22

Leslie Bischoff
Carole Cook
Charlotte Schwartz

DEC 23

Thomas Murtishaw
Rongling You
Tess Brown

DEC 24

Robert Heinbokel
Colum Keough
Sarah Ebel
Susan Axelson

DEC 25

Wendy Woodfield
Aidan Keough

DEC 26

Robert Mill
Roberta Fraitcs
Carol Barker
Geoffrey Grow

DEC 27

Valerie Klimas
Catharine Miller

DEC 28

Alex Posada
Keith Peterson

DEC 29

Leslie Jacobsen

DEC 30

Barbara DePaul
Joan Sinclair
Dimitri Potamousis

DEC 31

Caroline Ehrhardt
Adrian Fleming

*If you don't see your birthday listed,
please contact the church office.
We will be happy to add your name
to the monthly birthday list!*



140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNINGS 10AM!

ONLINE

YouTube and FB

Sunday School Online

3yrs - 5th grade

Adults

Questers
Serendipity

Do you have news to share?

If you have great news to share with PCW such as, an engagement, anniversary, adoption, baptism, birth, etc., please email a picture and a short paragraph to spire@westfieldpc.org to be featured!

We'd love to celebrate with you!

CONTACT US

westfieldpc.org | wired4worship.com

908.233.0301 | Office Hours: Monday- Friday, 9am- 5pm



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Time Out for Parents

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Presbyterian Nursery School & Kindergarten

Jen Collum, Director - 908-233-0766

Furniture Assist - info@furnitureassist.com