



# THE SPIRE

January 2021

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NJ • 140 Mountain Avenue • Westfield, NJ 07090

## **A Message from Our Pastor**

Well friends, the new year is here! I know we may not be out of the woods on this pandemic (all signs show we still have several months of at least some restrictions to face), but there is a lot of good news to share.

Yes, there are new vaccines and more effective treatments in use now. Yes, more people are wearing masks and continuing to social distance. Yes, we are learning to balance our lives in a way that remains active and connected – as possible – in the midst of this terribly disruptive time. But I see much more to celebrate.

For those who have had the chance to see the “2020: Challenge Accepted” video annual report you may have come away surprised, and hopefully overjoyed, with the way our church has continued to serve others and make an outsized impact in our community through this pandemic. If you have not had the chance to see it, you can find it on our website, and we will continue to share it on Facebook, YouTube, and other sources. If you do not have access to online forms of communication, have no fear, we are preparing paper versions of our stats and activities for a print form of the year in review.

In short, while many of the ways we are used to connect have been upended by the need for social distancing, our church has done a phenomenal job in staying together, caring for each other, worshipping together, and serving our community.

Not only that, but in the weeks to come we are doubling down on our commitment to staying together. During January and the first half of February, an extended post-Christmas season called Epiphany, we will have a worship series reflecting on who Jesus is, why he matters, and what it means to respond to his call in our personal lives. Rev. Tom Kort, our Parish Associate, will lead Bible-study discussion groups during this time on Sundays and Tuesdays. I invite you all out to learn from a real treasure of the church, and one of our great leaders.

We are also planning for Lent to be a special season of preparation with a church-wide book study, worship series, and, as warm weather eventually returns, steady outdoor worship. When possible, we will also be holding indoor worship. In addition, our children and youth will continue their activities online, and in-person when viable, our Deacons will continue caring, and our mission ministries will continue to

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# **A Message from our Pastor**

lead efforts in our local community to battle the growing problem of hunger.

All of this will be happening as our searches for two new associate pastors continues. The two teams have been hard at work reviewing and even interviewing candidates, despite the difficulties presented by limited travel.

As the new year comes into focus I am excited for what lies ahead of us, and am – in an odd sort of way – grateful for what lies behind. I am not grateful for the health crisis, nor the economic one, nor the socio-political one ravaging our country, and mourn the suffering each has caused, but I am grateful for the beautiful witness to the life of Jesus Christ that has blossomed in this church in a year of tragedy. Thank you, PCW, for being the church you are; the new year is here, and we have so much to look forward to.

—Jeremy

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## **CLERK'S UPDATE FROM THE MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

At the Congregational meeting on Dec. 20, changes to Jeremy's terms of call were approved. At that time, several members suggested that we might give Jeremy a one-time bonus to recognize the extraordinary workload and the high quality of work that he has done this past year. In these unprecedented times and due to staff vacancies, he has been doing the work of three ministers.

Gerry Lorenzetti, moderator of Personnel Commission, followed up, consulting with Alan Smith, the treasurer, Gary Zanfagna, moderator of the Stewardship Commission, and me. Gerry then spoke individually with each member of the Personnel Commission informing them of the discussions and asking for their input regarding the bonus. The members of the Personnel Commission unanimously approved this motion: "To award Jeremy Jinkins a one-time bonus of \$10,000. The bonus will be funded from the surplus funds in the Personnel Commission's 2020 budget."

In his discussion with Gerry, Alan noted that under a change in the budgeting and spending policy approved by the Session last May, Session does not have to vote on the bonus. The new policy allows commissions to spend within their approved budgets, but Session should be told of any expenditure of more than \$5,000. Session was notified of Personnel's decision.

Gerry and I delivered the check to Jeremy on Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Jeremy was very thankful and appreciative.

Pam Shaw, Acting Clerk of Session

*To the People Who Are The Presbyterian Church in Westfield,  
So often we think of the place we worship as the church, and this may be part of the silver lining of the year we leave behind us. Worshipping from home, and living out our faith day-to-day has revealed, at least from my seat, how true the saying is, "we don't go to church, we are the church." This year, with all its difficulties, has brought out the best character of this church community.*

*I want to take this moment to thank you all for the year-end gift from the church in the form of a bonus. While given as a response to hard work in unique conditions, it is to me, a testament to the generosity in this place and makes me even more proud to work alongside each of you, serving as your pastor. I never saw this coming and can barely believe it. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for this recognition, and also for staying so connected through the ups and downs of this past year.*

*A new time is starting for our church. As things slowly begin to open up we will return to some of our most beloved activities – starting with in-person worship, but that is not all. We are getting closer every day to welcoming two new pastors to join us and with it, new opportunities to worship and learn together, and to laugh and serve together. There is something special happening in this place and I can't wait to see what comes to fruition in the months and years to come.*

*With gratitude for each of you, Jeremy*

## **Clerk's Corner**

The December Session meeting was active with much discussion and we continue to plan for the future of our church. The Session got to meet Tom Kort, our Parish Associate (via Zoom). Jeremy said that in the coming weeks we will be celebrating new members, baptisms, Christmas Eve, and the start of a new year. Jeremy and Tom are working on an educational and programmatic component at the pastoral level to compliment two different sermon series in the new year.

Alan Smith announced that Elizabeth Presbytery awarded PCW two grants totaling \$2,000 to AGAPE to support food insecurity in our area. Liz Miller announced that Agape received a \$10,000 grant from the Hamstra Foundation.

Mission Commission brought a motion to approve the implementation of a PCW Gift Catalogue project. The catalogue will list missions and programs at PCW or that PCW has a working relationship with. People can donate money to support something on the list and receive an honor card that could be given to someone as a gift. This will be a year-round project but will be kicked off during the Christmas season. The motion passed.

The Stewardship Commission has been working with Generis, a consulting firm, for several weeks. Stewardship made the motion "to approve the negotiation of a contract with Generis to perform the assignment of a part-time Generosity Pastor for PCW at the cost of no more than \$50,000 for the purpose and benefit of updating, improving and sustaining our call as a church to deliver on God's call for us to be more effective and good stewards of God's gifts to us". The consultant would work with PCW for a year to provide training, specific tools, and a structured process for inspiring and growing a spirit of generosity throughout the year. The motion passed after many questions and discussion.

Office and Property updated Session on the renovation of a room in Lower Westminster Hall due to water damage. The mold remediation is complete and French drains and sump pump have been installed. An architect has done the drawings. TOPS and the Nursery school will be using this space in early 2021. The motion was made "to allow Office & Property to go forward with the restoration of the room in lower Westminster Hall at a cost of up to \$30,000". The motion passed.

Jeremy was excused from the meeting and the Session went into Executive Session. Gerry Lorenzetti presented the proposed changes in the Terms of Call for Jeremy. The motion was made and seconded to present the Terms of Call for Jeremy Jinkins to the congregation at the Annual Meeting called for 12/20/20 for a vote.

—Pam Shaw, Acting Clerk of Session

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## **Welcome Sheehan Family**

Please help us welcome the Sheehan family and congratulate them on the baptism of their son Luka on December 13th!

Sandra, Dennis, Olivia (3 1/2) and Luka (13 months) live in Westfield, NJ and are looking forward to getting involved at PCW, both through small groups and youth programming.

Sandra is in corporate investment banking with Deutsche Bank and Dennis is a Systems Engineer at Picatenny Arsenal. They enjoy hiking, running and travelling.

Welcome to PCW, Sheehan family!



# **PNS&K Turns 73!**

The Presbyterian Nursery School and Kindergarten is proud to be celebrating the start of our 73rd year in January of 2021. Our PLAY based philosophy has enabled us to be able to provide our students in person learning this fall by using our playgrounds, Mindowaskin Park and our lovely grounds for outside learning experiences. Our small PODs of classes and COVID precautions have enabled us to provide a safe learning haven for our students and teachers. In spite of COVID, we have been able to continue the tradition of learning through experiences that PNS&K has always offered our community while still providing a warm and nurturing environment for our children to thrive within.

Although it is a different year with only children and staff in our building and no one interacting with a different pod, PNS&K has still upheld some of our wonderful traditions of walks in Mindowaskin, sleigh riding, walks to the Christmas tree lot, socially distanced visits with Santa and lots of videos and photos being sent home regularly for parents to see what is happening in their child's classroom during learning and celebrations. Parents have also sent in videos to share in celebration of their child's birthday, perhaps reading a favorite story or sharing a fun activity.

We will be registering for the 2021-2022 school year beginning January 4, 2021 and will be hosting virtual tours and conferences in order to share information. If you have any questions regarding our program, feel free to call Jennifer Collum at (908) 233-0766 or email us at [pnsandk@verizon.net](mailto:pnsandk@verizon.net).



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## **Book Discussion Groups**

### **Theology Discussion Group**

We invite you to join us for our next discussion Monday, January 4, 7:30 - 8:30pm as we read and reflect on Chapter 8 of Thomas Merton's "No Man Is an Island". On Monday January 18, 7:30 - 8:30pm, we will reflect on Chapter 9. If you would like more information, please contact Alan Smith, 917-239-1667, or [alandsmith518@gmail.com](mailto:alandsmith518@gmail.com).

### **Lunch and a Book**

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](mailto: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!

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## **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](mailto: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.

## **Faith Formation**

We can't start the New Year without thanking all of the people who contributed to the Online Advent Calendar and the program for children and families - **Zoom To Bethlehem**. Thank you to all those who contributed to the OAC by submitting craft ideas, videos, and recipes. And a special thank you to Beyanka Wheatley for putting it all together so beautifully. We hope the congregation enjoyed one or all of the offerings each day of Advent.

We also want to thank the intergenerational cast and crew of "**Zoom to Bethlehem**"! Thank you to our performers: Paul Heintz, Maggie Crooks, Mark Fleder, Norma Nemec, Maddie Serra, Lauren McDonough, Kara Buttermore, Zach Ruprecht, Sally Ruprecht, Robin Ince, and Nancy Lau; and thank you to Paul Sanner, Nancy Smith and Patty Chen for the music, props and crafts. We had over 60 people from all over the country on the Zoom call watching the story of the nativity through the eyes of Yalla, the Donkey, in a play written by Lisa Black and Fred Dennehy.

We also want to thank Nancy Smith for coordinating the collaborative efforts between Faith Formation and the Worship Commission in preparing Advent Wreaths and devotion booklets.

As we go into the New Year, we hope that families will continue to access the Sunday school materials that are available on the church website every week. You can print out the materials and the kids can color and read a Bible story as the older kids and adults watch the sermon.

We are looking ahead to Lent and making plans to keep families connected to each other and to God through that season.

### **NEW! A Journey of Sharing, Reflecting Responding**

Faith Formation is happy to invite you to join Tom Kort, our Parish Associate, in a Bible study. During the season of Epiphany, Tom will be leading two small group discussion on various images of Jesus that we find in the arrival of the Magi to the day of Transfiguration. This class is not designed to be an in-depth bible study, but more relational in style that hits the high notes. The vision of the class is for all of us to grow in faith as we share, reflect, and respond to the call of Jesus upon our lives today.

The classes will be held on Sundays at 11:00 am and Tuesdays at 4:00 pm via Zoom (including calling in by phone). Each session will be 45 minutes in length. The study starts on Sunday, 1/3/21, and ends on Tuesday, 2/16/21. People will need to sign up to receive the Zoom link. Please watch your emails for information on how to register.



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## **Happy New Year to All Our Friends at PCW!**

For nearly forty years, NJFO has provided world-class symphonic music to New Jersey residents. As you know, in the past several months we have been challenged to find new ways to serve our home communities and we regret that our usual Holiday concerts were not possible. However, we have been rethinking our offerings and have many exciting surprises in store for you this coming year. We look forward to sharing our new work with you soon. Stay tuned for more details!

Thank you for your patience, consideration and understanding during these extraordinary and unprecedented circumstances. 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](http://www.njfestivalorchestra.org). In the meantime, we wish all our friends at PCW a very happy, healthy, peaceful and musical New Year.



# **Congregation Nominating Committee (CNC)**

**Leading PCW Into the Future!** - To operate efficiently and faithfully, PCW requires dedicated leaders to serve as Elders (on Session), Deacons, Auditors and the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC).

We are asking for your suggestions for people willing and able to serve – you may suggest:

- ◆ Yourself
- ◆ Your Spouse
- ◆ Another Church Member
- ◆ A Confirmed Youth (they serve as Deacons only)

People from the same household cannot serve together on Session, but they can serve together on the Board of Deacons.

The CNC carefully reviews each candidate and contacts him or her to discuss the position for which the candidate is being considered.

- ◆ For Elder, Deacon, and Auditor positions, the candidate must be an active pledging member to be considered.
- ◆ For CNC positions, the candidate should be an active member but need not be a pledging member.

The goal in filling the positions is to create boards that are representative of the entire congregation.

A slate of nominees is created from the reviewed candidates and is presented for election at the March Congregational meeting. The term starts in May.

Please complete the form below and return it to the church office or email your nomination to Betty Born, [bborn@westfieldpc.org](mailto:bborn@westfieldpc.org).

## **The Presbyterian Church in Westfield 2021 Candidate Suggestion Form**

**Candidate Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle One:** Elder          Deacon          Auditor          CNC

**Candidate Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle One:** Elder          Deacon          Auditor          CNC

**My reasons for each candidate (optional):**

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Your Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_



# Happy Birthday



## Jan 2

Kenneth Burns  
Devin Simpson  
Victoria Lama

## Jan 3

Shannon Crooks  
Rodney Ibrahim  
Mark Pesapane  
Abigail Flaherty

## Jan 4

John Kefalonitis  
Charles Nary  
Jennifer McCall  
Douglas Whang  
Corinne Walker  
Erick Walker  
Cassandra Lama

## Jan 5

Susan Palma  
Julie Ibrahim  
Taylor Venturino  
Audrey Heber  
Maxwell Matera

## Jan 6

Clara Husch  
Timothy Doerr  
Peter Shepard  
Brooke Pastro  
Charles Timko  
Carly Kalis

## Jan 7

Carolyn Keough  
Henry Schwartz

## Jan 8

Brooke Pfaus

## Jan 9

Evelyn Miller

## Jan 10

Sharon Stockwell

## Jan 11

James Trimble  
Theresa Gonzales  
Stephen Johnson  
Noelle du Toit Coletti

## Jan 12

William Hedden

## Jan 13

Stephen Park

## Jan 14

John LaMond  
Mark Socha  
Elizabeth Healy  
Hunter Yeatts  
Mason Yeatts  
Mason Gibbs

## Jan 16

Brian Bigelow  
Jonah Lamberts  
Noelle Cohen

## Jan 17

Thomas Miller  
Amy Mockbee  
Timothy Cook

## Jan 18

Joseph Diacheysn  
Grace Matus

## Jan 19

Brooke May  
Amy Buck  
Jordan Miller  
Nicole Player  
Grace Demers

## Jan 20

Robert Cook  
Erin Roth

## Jan 21

Eric Connolly  
Edward Allen  
Cole Swingle  
Sydney Swingle

## Jan 22

Eugene Boyer  
Gerald Armstrong  
Lisa Black-Polak  
Andrew Christakos

## Jan 23

H David Rogers  
Garrett Verdone  
Sabrina Harrison

## Jan 24

Leslie DeMartino  
David Crenshaw  
Gita Dailey  
Geneva Stanton  
Jennifer Nary  
Kurt Gerckens  
Emmett Smith

## Jan 25

David Kristiansen  
Tamara Shields  
Alexandra Liggatt  
Elizabeth Ackland  
Kathleen Seaman  
Riley Heesters

## Jan 26

Cheryl Lowe  
Nicole Sandstedt

## Jan 27

Pamela Shaw  
Amy Maloof  
Colin Mackay

## Jan 29

Rebecca Factor  
Kevin Yucetepe

## Jan 30

Susan Dougherty  
Wendy Santoro  
John McCauley  
Tracy Crosby  
Jason Yarusi  
Quinn Priscoe

## Jan 31

Andrew Buck  
Michael Foley  
Sebastien Trott

**PCW has no recorded  
birthdays**

**January 1, 15, 28**

*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](mailto:spire@westfieldpc.org) to be featured!

***We'd love to celebrate with you!***

## **CONTACT US**

[westfieldpc.org](http://westfieldpc.org) | [wired4worship.com](http://wired4worship.com)

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



@PCWestfield

### **Rev. Jeremy Jinkins**

Pastor, Head of Staff  
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### **Rev. Tom Kort**

Parish Associate  
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### **Paul Sanner**

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### **Kevin Wilkin**

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### **Amy Jones**

Agape Coordinator  
[agape@westfieldpc.org](mailto:agape@westfieldpc.org)

### **Jen Collum, Director**

Presbyterian Nursery School & Kindergarten  
[pnsandk@verizon.net](mailto:pnsandk@verizon.net) | 908-233-0766

**Mary Danskin, Director** - 908-654-5157

**Time Out for Parents - T.O.P.S.**

**Furniture Assist** - [info@furnitureassist.com](mailto:info@furnitureassist.com)