

Visions Newsletter

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
www.wapc.net

Welcoming Everyone As We
Cherish Our Past

Living in the Present and
Celebrating Diversity

Moving Forward in Faith
With Jesus



DECEMBER 2020

From the Desk of Pastor Lindsey

It is with great joy that I greet you all in the precious name of Jesus Christ. As we prepare for this advent season, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you hope, peace, joy, and love.

As we come to the Christmas holiday, let our thoughts and hearts be focus toward the birth of Jesus.

Now the message that we have heard from his Son is this: "God is light, and there is no darkness at all in him. If then, we say that we have fellowship with him, yet at the same time live in the darkness, we are lying both in our words and in our actions. But if we live in the light – just as he is in the light – then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin. (1 John 1:5-7)

As Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church looks toward the future, who really knows what tomorrow will bring? Perhaps something beyond our wildest dreams. We do not know. And yet, far from being a discouraging aspect of life, our inability to know the future should be an encouragement to us, I think. How should it be an encouragement?

Not knowing what lies ahead shields us now from some of the hardships we might one day have to face. But, planning ahead courageously can circumvent some of that hardship.

Not knowing the future actually encourages us to invest ourselves, our gifts, our talents, our resources to influence the momentum of history.

So, no, we cannot know where the sweep of history is pushing, nor when it will reach its end point. Only God knows the future. Therefore, Jesus says, making his second point about the end of the world, "Keep alert." "Keep awake," (Mark 13:33, 35 NRSV) for the master of the house is coming.

So, in anticipation of this hoped-for arrival, Jesus says, stay alert, get ready, the master will come. And, you know, I happen to think that, chaotic though the events of our world appear to be, unpredictable as the future has proven to be, Jesus' assurances that time is taking us resolutely to the hoped-for reign of God's peace doesn't have to be taken as simple speculation. In fact, perhaps, faithful eyes can see the patterns taking us there. Amen!

Look forward to very Merry Christmas and a Happier New Year!!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Madelynnne Lindsey

HIGHLIGHTS OF SPECIAL SESSION MEETING – OCTOBER 25, 2020

A motion was carried to go forward with Option 2, as Session's plan for transition of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Option 2

WAPC will relinquish control of the facility and assets to a congregation (or Presbytery) with strength in numbers both financially and in membership, vitality in talents and a Pastoral leader and leadership. The community of North Plainfield is predominately Spanish speaking residents and having a Spanish congregation assume the management of the facility would **be wonderful opportunity for both**. This would open the doors to hundreds of families within walking distance to the Church with Worship Services in their language. *The current membership of our Church if they so desire, could be assimilated into this new congregation.*

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

- Elders Roselli and Stambaugh presented the current situation of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, in terms of finances and membership.
- Elder Roselli read the 3 Options that Session considered, before deciding to choose Option 2. (see Session Minutes of October 25, 2020)
- Elder Gronlund described Session's path to our decision to relinquish the church to Nuevas Fronteras, which included multiple meetings with Nuevas Fronteras and Presbytery Stated Clerk Jeremy Campbell and Interim Leader Rev. Leslie Dobb-Allsop.
- Members were invited to ask questions, and most were answered by the Pastor and Elders. A few questions were reserved for future discussion.

Both Highlights Summarized by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th,

11am via ZOOM

MISSION UPDATE

CROP WALK

This year's Virtual CROP Walk was successful beyond expectations. Donations came in slowly, but picked up speed. The total raised to fight hunger is \$3,710.00!

In fact, donations can still be received until December 2nd, since December 1st is Giving Tuesday. Just go to crophungerwalk.org/plainfieldnj to donate online or send a check to the church office, or contact any of the walkers.

Many thanks to our walkers: Susan Durick, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake, Julia Lake and Lynn Lampariello of WAPC; Robin Marciniak of Church of the Holy Cross; and Beth Kenderdine of Trinity Reformed Church.

CROP has been a highly successful fundraiser since 1972. If you do the math, 2020 was Year 48! Let's keep it going for 50!

OPERATION BACKPACK

Bags of nutritious food for the weekend have been delivered for 4 weeks now. We are currently serving 12 students per week. North Plainfield schools will be all-remote for the next two weeks, but the schools are being creative in getting the food to the students who need it.

Although the benefit concert had to be cancelled, the Online Auction to benefit Operation Backpack is live until December 14th. Just go to the church website, wapc.net to view over 40 items suitable for gift-giving and enter your bids. Who needs the hassle of in-person shopping? All of the proceeds will go to Operation Backpack.

Thank you so much for your generosity!
The Mission Committee

PER CAPITA PAYMENTS

At the meeting of Elizabeth Presbytery on October 13, it was announced that **Per Capita for 2021** can be paid ahead, with a discount. The cost will be \$45.00 per member, if paid before the end of the year, saving each member \$4.55. If it is convenient for you, please send your **payment in by December 21** (to allow for processing time) and write Per Capita on your check memo line. We appreciate everyone who pays Per Capita. If members don't pay, WAPC still owes the total amount and must take the money from our general funds. Thank you all for your generosity throughout this difficult year.

Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

*Because of the heightened restrictions due to COVID-19,
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church's
BACKPACK BENEFIT CONCERT with meal must be
CANCELLED.*



*However there will still be a
OPERATION BACKPACK
VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION*

*Just go to our website homepage, www.wapc.net, and use the link, marked
HERE*

View the items and place your bid.

Bidding will end on Monday, December 14th at midnight.

Here are a few Auction Tips:

- 1. Items are for local pickup only. We cannot ship any of these items.*
- 2. Duplicate BIDS, the FIRST highest bid received will be deemed the winner.*
- 3. Duplicate minimum BIDS, the FIRST minimum bid received will be deemed the winner.*
- 4. After the Auction closes, winning bidders will receive an Email alerting them that they have won the Auction Item(s).*
- 5. Payment can be made before pickup on our website by using the Donation Button. Be sure in the "Comment" section to state the items you are paying for. You must bring a copy of your Electronic Acknowledgment at time of pickup.*
- 6. Payment by check made out to WAPC. Be sure to write the item numbers in the "Note" section of the check.*
- 7. Cash payment at time of pickup. You MUST HAVE EXACT CHANGE with you.*

Operation Backpack was created to provide nutritious foods to students in need in the North Plainfield and Plainfield school system. Backpacks are still being delivered despite the schools being on remote learning.

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE ITEMS TO BID ON

**IN OUR SILENT VIRTUAL
AUCTION**

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

**A SELF-CARE BASKET FOR THE
WOMAN OF YOUR HOUSE**

BID, BID, BID ...

BID, BID, BID

**AND YOU KNOW EVERYONE
LOVES CHOCOLATE OF SOME KIND**



BID, BID, BID ...

**A GIFT BASKET JUST IN TIME
FOR A THOUGHTFUL
CHRISTMAS GIFT**



SAVE THESE DATES!

Dec. 24th; Online Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, at 7pm

Dec. 31st; Online New Year's Eve Worship, at 6pm

Go to the church website, www.wapc.net and use the link for each worship.

***DON'T FORGET* ON COMMUNION SUNDAY, DEC. 6th**

AND ON THE 3rd SUNDAY DEC. 20th

JOIN US FOR THE

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR CHAT

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE STREAMED WORSHIP

"CHUCKLES CORNER"

STORKS...

Two storks are sitting in their nest: a father stork and baby stork. The baby stork is crying and crying and father stork is trying to calm him. "Don't worry, son. Your mother will come back. She's only bringing people babies and making them happy."

The next night, it's father's turn to do the job. Mother and son are sitting in the nest, the baby stork is crying, and mother is saying "Son, your father will be back as soon as possible, but now he's bringing joy to new mommies and daddies."

A few days later, the stork's parents are desperate: their son is absent from the nest all night! Shortly before dawn, he returns and the parents ask him where he's been all night.

The baby stork says, "Nowhere. Just scaring the hell out of college students!"

(Send submissions to the office. All are welcome! THE MORE THE MERRIER!)

Social Work Support Available at SCLSNJ



Veronica Delmonte

Student Intern at Bound Brook Library

Email: vdelmonte@sclibnj.org | Phone: (908) 458-8400 x2131

Hours of Availability: Mondays and Tuesdays 4-7 p.m.;

Wednesdays 3-6 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Cathryn Salladin

Student Intern at Manville Library

Email: csalladin@sclibnj.org | Phone: (908) 458-8400 x2281

Hours of Availability: Mondays 2-4 p.m.;

Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays 1-4 p.m.;

Thursdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Jessica Jerez

Student Intern at North Plainfield Library

Email: jjerez@sclibnj.org | Phone: (908) 458-8400 x2384

Hours of Availability:

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 3-7 p.m..

Isabelle Gunn

Student Intern at Somerville Library

Email: igunn@sclibnj.org | Phone: (908) 458-8400 x2482

Hours of Availability: Mondays 4-8 p.m.;

Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Fridays* 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.;

Last Saturday of the month 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

*Please note that I am unavailable the last Friday of the month.



Visit sclsnj.org/social-services-support
to schedule an appointment.





Has Your **Income** Been Impacted by...?

Death of a spouse/partner

Divorce/separation of spouse/partner

Permanent disability of a spouse/partner

Unemployment of spouse/partner



Hunterdon County **908.788.1453**

Somerset County **908.900.0060** Must dial 908

Warren County **908.835.2624**



NORWESCAP

Career & Life Transitions
Center for Women
norwescap.org

*** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WAPC DECEMBER REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10am WAPC ONLINE COMMUNION ZOOM CHAT COFFEE HOUR 11am	7 ***	8	9	10	11 ***	12 1pm- Prayer Shawl Meeting - lounge
13 10am Nuevas Fronteras Streamed Worship SESSION 11am	14 *** Last Day to Bid at Silent Auction	15	16	17	18 ***	19
20 10am WAPC ONLINE Worship ZOOM CHAT COFFEE HOUR 11am	21 *** Per Capita Early Payment Deadline	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Online Worship 7pm	25 *** CHRISTMAS DAY!!	26
27 10am Nuevas Fronteras Streamed Worship	28 ***	29	30 VISIONS DEADLINE	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Online worship 6pm		

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Pastor
Director of Music
Office Administrator
Sexton

Madelynne Lindsey
Quinn DeGeneste II
Greta Martin-Worthy
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Presbyterian Women



HEARTS, HANDS, & STITCHES

Hearts, Hand & Stitches members create shawls and lap robes to share God's love with those who are grieving, hospitalized, or at home, or celebrating a milestone.

Now that cooler weather is here, we have moved our monthly meetings indoors, to the Parish Hall, wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, December 12, at 1 p.m.**

We usually don't meet in December, because of so many other commitments, but this year is different.

All are welcome to join us!

Our group has completed 7 scarves and 1 hat to send to *Operation Gratitude*, which is an organization that sends Holiday care packages to deployed soldiers, veterans and their caregivers at home. Check out this great organization at www.operationgratitude.com. They also accept donations of Halloween candy and financial support for shipping of care packages.

Please keep this ministry of sharing God's love through shawls and charity knitting in your prayers, and remember to let one of our members know if there is a need for a shawl.

Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information (908) 754-1251

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

**THE FELLOWSHIP
BREAKFAST**
normally held
every second
Saturday of the
month.
**IS CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE**

For more info.
call the church
office

PRAYER LIST

Healing, comforting, and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Betsi Kennedy and family as her mother, Estelle Kennedy, is in hospice care at home.*
- *All the victims of the Covid-19 virus; those that have lost friends or family & those who have contracted it.*
- *Marla Miksa, recovering from surgery.*
- *Jim Thomas' brother, Bart Thomas, who is slowly but continuing to recuperate from a successful brain procedure.*
- *Marilyn Cortright, recovering at home and continued prayers for her husband, Tim Cortright.*
- *Amanda Lake for health concerns.*
- *Susan Sendelsky & her sister, Kerry, members of Pastor Lindsey's former church family, Oak Tree Presbyterian, both fighting cancer.*
- *Jane Windbush, Pastor's sister & Stephanie Weaver, Pastor's niece, who both suffer from Rheumatoid Arthritis.*
- *Jackie Slattery & Sean Slattery, daughter & grandson of Estelle Kennedy during a difficult time.*
- *Gail Schmeisser, continuing to be challenged with mobility issues.*

Continued prayers for those people at home or in continued care:

- *Grace Landsperger, Margaret Herman-Angely, and Estelle and Betsi Kennedy at home.*
- *Gail McKenna, at 2225 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017.*

Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Jim Roselli*
- *Pastor Madelynne Lindsey*

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Stay at least 6 feet
(about 2 arms' length)
from other people.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a
tissue, then throw the tissue in the
trash and wash your hands.



When in public, wear a
cloth face covering over
your nose and mouth.



Do not touch your
eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect
frequently touched
objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick,
except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap
and water for at least 20 seconds.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

3/16/20 - 4 May 13, 2020 11:00 AM

DECEMBER



ADVENT

Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!



Happy Holidays

Silent
Auction

**WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
170 Watchung Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133