

Visions Newsletter

WELCOMING EVERYONE
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

FOLLOWING JESUS
JANUARY 2017



Letter From The Pastor

Seven for '17!

As the calendar rounds the corner and we mark the beginning of a new year, it is a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future.

Psalm 40:3 declares, "God will put a new song in my mouth. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in God." In *The Message*, the scholar Eugene Petersen interprets this verse as, "More and more people are seeing this: they enter the mystery, abandoning themselves to God." I am captivated by the phrases "enter the mystery", and "abandoning themselves to God."

Is God putting a new song in your life? What is the mystery of being you? Are you abandoning yourself to God? In 2016, I valued the opportunity to study nonviolent communication and conflict resolution. Incorporating the new learning into my life has not been easy. It takes work. I believe the new song God has given me is to be less vested in the outcome of community decisions, and more gentle in relationships. We often bring our preferred outcomes into all we do. I am learning that leaving the outcome to God is liberating, and helps me value others even more.

So the new song God is singing to me is, "Hold who you are delicately and give others a chance to be." I am no less passionate about what I believe, but I am beginning to let go of my desired outcome for other people. In some ways, I believe this is what the biblical writer means about "abandoning" ourselves to God. We need to trust in God and let the world turn. I find that if I enter the mystery of being me with a spirit of honesty and kindness, the more I see beauty and harmony in the world. What you focus on does expand.

Looking ahead to 2017, both Trinity United and Watchung Avenue have exciting opportunities to share God's love in the world. God has equipped us with tools to serve our communities. Picking up the tools and utilizing them is a choice each of us will be asked to make. Moving forward as a unit, I hope that each one of you considers making a commitment to doing the following in 2017.

1. Attend worship at least once, if not twice a month.
2. Participate in at least two community service events sponsored by our churches.
3. Challenge yourself theologically. Join a Bible study or participate in some kind of learning opportunity at WAPC or TUC for some significant duration.
4. Participate in at least two social events through our congregations.
5. Give more of your time, talent, and money to the church. Expand your sense of generosity in all areas.
6. Take a leap of faith. Get to know someone who votes, looks, or speaks differently than you. Be curious about what drives them.
7. Become open to forgiving someone who has harmed you, even though they may never say the words you long to hear.

In 2017, I pray you enjoy exploring the mystery of you, and may God unite us even more in singing a new song!



See you on Sunday at 10:15...either live or via Skype.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Joel

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Jan. 1st, 10:15am, Hymn Sing/ "Bible Jeopardy", *Pastor Joel* on site at TUC

Jan. 8th, 10:15am, *Guest: Rev. Jacqueline Rotteveel*, Communion worship

Jan. 15th, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel* on site at TUC

Jan. 22nd, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel*, Communion worship, on site at WAPC

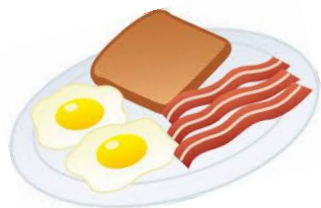
Jan. 29th, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel* on site at TUC

Here's to a Healthy and Blessed New Year!



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING





"BREAKFAST WITH JOEL"

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday mornings, 8:30am - 10:00am



**ALL ARE WELCOME
TO ATTEND ALL THE
BREAKFAST MEETS AT
BOTH LOCATIONS!!**

<i>January 28th</i>	<i>at Trinity United</i>
<i>February 18th</i>	<i>at WAPC</i>
<i>March 4th</i>	<i>at Trinity United</i>
<i>March 11th</i>	<i>at WAPC</i>

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – DECEMBER 6, 2016

1. A local service sorority, Zeta Phi Beta, will be meeting one (1) Friday a month in the choir room. They plan to paint one of the Parish Hall rooms downstairs.
2. A motion was approved to authorize the music committee to explore replacement for the grand piano with an electronic piano.
3. A motion was carried to form a fund-raising committee immediately to raise money for technological improvements. **(See details on page 7)**
4. A motion was carried to accept Audiobahn's proposal for media upgrade as presented by Elder Roselli, with two absent elders concurring when contacted.
5. A celebration will be planned by the Hospitality Committee for January or February.
6. Average Sunday attendance for November was 24. Home Communion was taken to Beverly Krausse and Bob Monteith on November 13 and 14 by teams of elders and deacons.
7. Mission committee reported allocations of \$500 each to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Red Ribbon Fellowship, Parity, El Centro Hispanoamericano, and Restore Ministries. Christmas "Baskets" of food gift cards--\$300, and \$150 to water for Faith Garden.
8. Stewardship committee reported 17 pledges received so far, totaling \$29,340.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
meet at 10:30am at the home of Fran & Wayne
Young. All are welcome!

Back in January, call office for details.

THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY

They will resume on Thursday, January 5, 2017
at the home of Fran & Wayne Young.

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS / HOSTS



After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall people gather over
coffee and cookies to catch up with each other and with the
happenings at WAPC. A lot of happenings going on!
Good times . . . So let's keep it up!

Look for the sign up calendar for
January, February, March & April 2017 on the
Coffee Hour board waiting for signatures.

Please sign up to either act as a:

Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of
the months and act as their back up support

OR Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday OR see
me..... Dianne Ledder

Coffee Hour Chairperson , PW in WAPC



GIVING TREE GIFT COLLECTIONS



Thank you so very much to everyone that
gave so generously to this year's Giving
Tree . The gifts collected for the
Women's Shelter of Somerset County surely helped bring
joy to those families in need.



WAPC JANUARY REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 NEW YEARS DAY! <hr/> 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <hr/> ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH	3 SESSION MEETING- Library 7pm <hr/> ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH	4 Bells reh. 7-8pm choir room <hr/> Choir reh., 8-9pm Parish Hall	5 ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH ↓	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	7
8 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE <hr/> POT LUCK Brunch after worship	9 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <hr/> ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH	10 ↓	11 ↓	12 ↓	13 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	14
15 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP -	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day <hr/> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <hr/> ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH	17 ↓	18 ↓	19 ↓	20 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	21
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29 ↓	30 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <hr/> ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH	31 ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH				

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

908-755-2781

office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Pastor
 Director of Music
 Office Admin. Asst.
 Sexton

Rev. Joel Biggers
 Karl Kaefer
 Greta Martin-Worthy
 David Eichenger

joelwbiggers@gmail.com; 406-853-3182(cell)
 kman1958@yahoo.com; 240-315-3709 (cell)
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 908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy & Grace's plan to meet for breakfast on Tuesday, Jan. 16th.

All women of the church are welcome to visit a circle meeting!

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope will not meet during the month of January and February's date will be determined.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circles of Joy & Grace's plan to meet for breakfast on Tuesday, Jan. 16th.

All women of the church are welcome to visit a circle meeting!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Three of our members enjoyed the Advent Knitting Retreat in December. It's an annual event sponsored by the Purling Angels of the Catholic Community of St. Charles Borromeo, in Skillman, N.J. The theme was *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* Several prayer shawl groups shared why they make prayer shawls, how they decide who will receive the shawls, and the blessings of making and giving shawls. The retreat closed with a meditative "blessing of the hands." We returned with lots of ideas for our own ministry.

Our winter meetings will be:

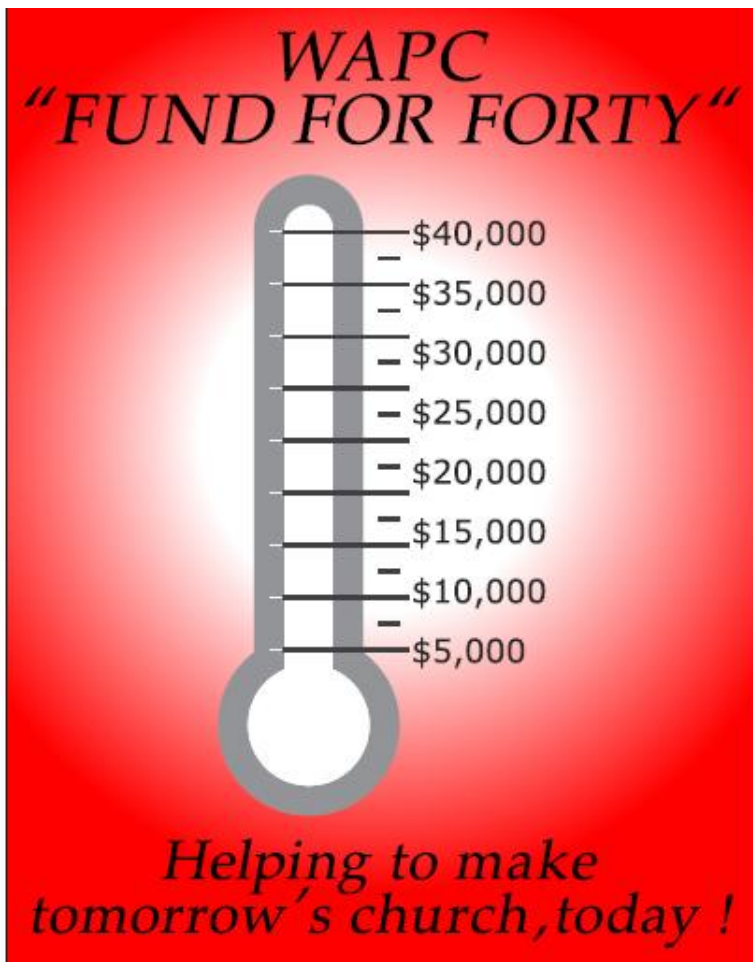
Tuesday, January 10, at the home of Fran Young
Tuesday, February 14, at the home of Betty Miksa

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting, or would like to learn to knit or crochet.

Current members are Ellen Lake, Fran Young, Pat Roselli, Cathy Boleyn, Judith Botzan, Betty Miksa, and Gwyn Gronlund.

At HHS meetings we share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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



FUND FOR FORTY

The session has approved a fund raising campaign specifically designed to bring WAPC into the future. Yes, we are planning to raise \$40,000. The campaign will begin officially on ***January 8, 2017.***

Our target date for completion is ***Easter, April 16, 2017.***

How will this money be spent:

-Approximately \$30,000 will be spent on upgrading the sanctuary, with up to date video and audio equipment.

-Approximately \$3,000 will be used for upgrading carpeting and painting in the lounge and one of the classrooms in the lower level under the parish hall.

-Approximately \$3,000 is needed for landscaping around the front and side of our church; especially around the new sign and the memorial garden.
Sanctuary front step masonry repairs.

-Approximately \$4,000 to repair and/or replace two doors to the church, the one at the top of the ramp for safety reason, and the one in the back of the building leading into the downstairs hallway under the parish hall for safety and to prevent flooding.

Look for more information on January 8th.

Let's help move WAPC into the future.

PRAYER LIST

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Evie LaMaire*, who is in Aristacare (formerly Norwood) and having tests.
- *Gail Schmeisser*, who is having difficulties with her legs.
- *Sarellen Hogan's daughter, Susan*, needing to sell her house.
- Long time member, *Carole Rose*, diagnosed with lymphoma of the eye and undergoing cancer treatments.
- *Fran Young's nephew by marriage, George Braun*, recovering from a 9 hour surgery for cancer at Sloan Kettering Hospital.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

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

Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ, *Bob Monteith*, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ, *Beverly Krausse*, at Berkeley Heights Nursing & Rehab, 35 Cottage St., Berkeley Heights, and *Gail McKenna*, at 2225 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Ron Kennedy, Estelle Kennedy's son*, after his last scan, is now cancer free.
- *Dianne Lytz*, after a recent scan, is showing no signs of brain cancer.
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*





Happy
New Year



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

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FEBRUARY 2017



Don't Forget!

The Annual Congregational Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon is scheduled for the second Sunday in February

in the Parish Hall. See details below:

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

has been called for

Sunday, February 12, 2017

at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Business to be transacted at the meeting includes:

Nominations of the Officers and Audit and Nominating Committees of the Congregation and any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

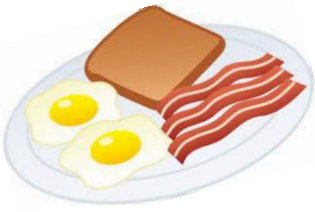
PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 5th, 10:15am, *Guest pastor- Rev. Jacqueline Rotteveel*

Feb. 12th, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers*, Communion worship, on site at **WAPC**

Feb. 19th , 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers* on site at **TUC**

Feb. 26th , 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers*, Communion worship, on site at **WAPC**



"BREAKFAST WITH JOEL"

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday mornings, 8:30am - 10:00am



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BOTH LOCATIONS!!**

<i>February 18th</i>	<i>at WAPC</i>
<i>March 4th</i>	<i>at Trinity United</i>
<i>March 11th</i>	<i>at WAPC</i>



Mark Your Calendars!

Soup/Chili Luncheon Fundraiser

Sunday, March 12, 2017

11:30 am in Parish Hall

Tickets \$7.00

Volunteers needed

to make soup and/or chili, desserts, set up, and clean up

Any questions, contact Peggy Bunnell at 908-668-0051

or Faye Steinau at 908-451-6575.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – JANUARY 3, 2017

1. Session is urgently seeking a new Church Treasurer, as Garrett Hansen needs to give up the position by March. Also, new members are sought for the investment committee.
2. Pastor Joel plans a sermon series called **“Confronting the Controversies,”** to begin February 12, and to incorporate art, music and service projects with each theme.
3. The fund-raising campaign **“Fund for Forty”** will kick off January 8.
4. The installation of new audio visual equipment should begin soon.
5. A motion was approved to move forward with renovation of one room downstairs in Parish Hall (former Head Start office), Mission Room and Lounge, and to use Living Memorial funds. **(The office space downstairs has been 90% completed.)**
6. A pot luck luncheon and program are planned for Epiphany Sunday, January 8, by the Hospitality Committee. [The Epiphany celebration was postponed until January 15, due to snow.] **(Pot Luck Luncheon on the 15th went well as scheduled.)**
7. Average Sunday attendance for December was 26.
8. The Nominating Committee is seeking two additional ushers.
9. Stewardship committee reported pledges received so far total \$57,632.
10. The Annual Congregational Meeting is planned for February 12 after worship.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT BLUE ENVELOPE FOR?

You may have wondered what you are supposed to do with the blue envelope at the beginning of your offering envelope package. Maybe you were afraid to ask. The envelope says it is for Per Capita Apportionment, but what exactly does that mean?

Per Capita Payments

Per Capita is an assessment to support the larger church, the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Each church is required to pay Per Capita based on the number of members on our church roll. If members don't send in their Per Capita, it is then paid out of the church's general funds.

As an example of how the Presbytery supports us:

During 2016, WAPC applied for a New Hope Grant from Elizabeth Presbytery. The church was awarded a \$2,400 grant to be used toward our ongoing Community Services Fairs. Those funds came from Per Capita paid by the various churches in the Presbytery.

Per Capital Apportionment rates for 2017 are as follows:

General Assembly (PCUSA)	\$ 7.50
The Synod of the Northeast	\$ 4.10
<u>The Presbytery of Elizabeth</u>	<u>\$25.90</u>
TOTAL PER CAPITA	\$37.50

So look for the blue envelope labeled Per Capita in with your offering envelopes. You can also just write Per Capita on the memo line of your check. We pay Per Capita to Presbytery in 4 quarterly installments. You can pay at any time during 2017, but wouldn't it be better to write a check and get it out of the way?

BTW, it is not too late to send in Per Capita for 2016. The amount for 2016 was \$36.92 per member.

Thanks to all of you for your generosity,

Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

WHO - WHAT - WHEN -WHERE - WHY ???

WHO?- YOU
WHAT?- ALUMINUM CANS.Bring your aluminum cans to church, completely empty
WHEN? - NOW..... and until further notice
WHERE?- TO THE PARISH HALL
WHY?- FOR RECYCLINGProceeds will go to the "Fund for Forty"
HELP GROW THE FUND--EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!!

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS / HOSTS



After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall people gather over coffee and cookies to catch up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC. A lot of happenings going on!
Good times . . . So let's keep it up!

Look for the sign up calendar for February, March & April 2017 on the Coffee Hour board waiting for signatures.

Please sign up to either act as a:

Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of the months and act as their back up support

OR Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday OR see me..... **Dianne Ledder**
Coffee Hour Chairperson , PW in WAPC



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

is on hiatus until further notice.

Please stay tuned for further information regarding the new start date.

THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY will be discussing "Miracles" at 7:30pm on Feb. 2nd & Feb. 16th at members' homes.

Contact church office for more info.

All are welcome!

WAPC FEBRUARY REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Bells reh. 7-8pm choir room Choir reh., 8-9pm Parish Hall	2 ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE WAPC Annual Meeting- 11:15am	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH	7 SESSION MEETING- Library 7pm ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	8 ↓	9 ↓	10 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	11
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Pastor
Director of Music
Office Admin. Asst.
Sexton

Rev. Joel Biggers
Karl Kaefer
Greta Martin-Worthy
David Eichenger

joelwbiggers@gmail.com; 406-853-3182(cell)
kman1958@yahoo.com; 240-315-3709 (cell)
office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781
908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy & Grace will meet in the Parish Hall after worship on Sunday, Feb. 26th. Please bring a sandwich. Dessert will be provided. All women of the church are welcome!

CIRLCE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope will not meet during the month of February.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circles of Joy & Grace will meet in the Parish Hall after worship on Sunday, Feb. 26th. Please bring a sandwich. Dessert will be provided. All women of the church are welcome!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & 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. We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time.

Our next winter meetings will be:

Tuesday, Feb. 14th at the home of Betty Miksa (in addition to knitting, crocheting and prayer, we will enjoy Valentine treats)

Tuesday, March 14, location to be determined

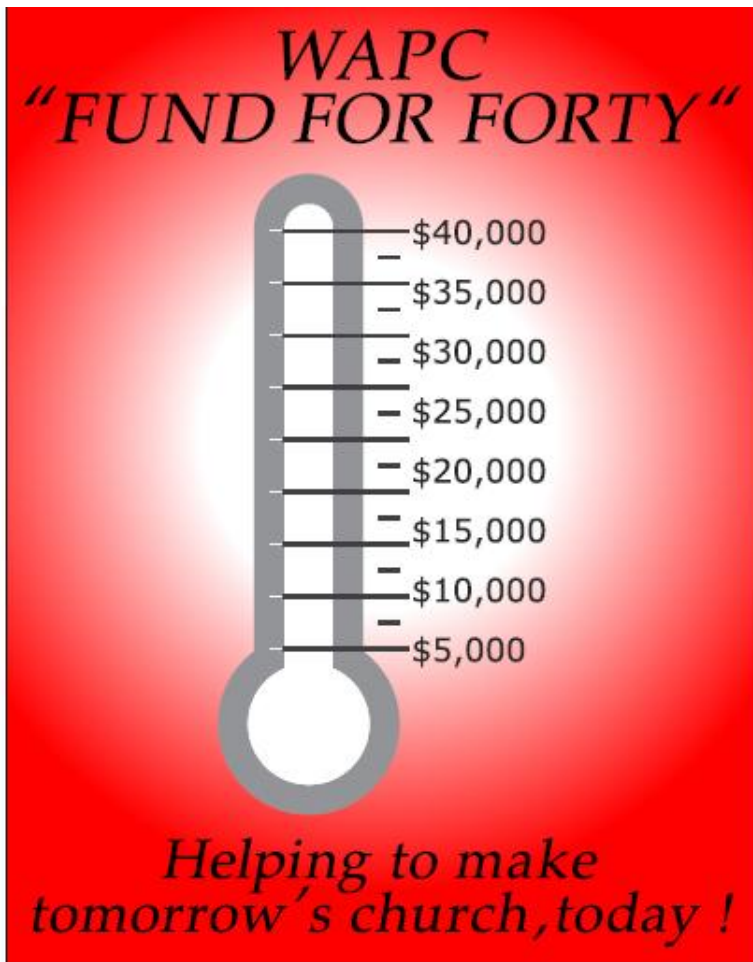
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Look for more information on January 8th.

Let's help move WAPC into the future.

2016 CROP REPORT

October 23, 2016 was an excellent day for the CWS/CROP. It was a day when 50 enthusiastic people took time from their busy schedules to help those less fortunate around the world, the US and here at home. This year's Plainfield/North Plainfield CROP Walk (the 44th) earned \$7,943.00

The top five fundraisers for 2016 are:

- 1- Phil Anderson, Watchung Hills Elks Club**
- 2- Dianne Ledder Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church**
- 3- Gwyn Gronlund, Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church**
- 4- Ellen Lake, Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church**
- 5- Peg Mara, Trinity United Church**

Those from WAPC who earned \$200.+ are: Dianne Ledder, Gwyn Gronlund, and Ellen Lake. Those who earned \$100.+ are: Susan Durick, Rev. Joel Biggers, Pat Roselli, and Julia Lake.

Remember that all CROP money that is earned by walkers is sent to CWS. All refreshments, shirts etc. are donations. Also 25% of money earned is sent back and distributed locally to Starfish and Fish.

To all who participated you are helping vulnerable children, struggling families, and impoverished communities - YOU are literally changing lives!

Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this year's walk!

God Bless All of You,

Tom Ledder, WAPC and Al Smith, WAPC

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support and comfort for:

- *Mark Lampariello and family*, as they mourn his cousin, *Norma's*, passing.
- The family and friends of lifetime member *Evie LaMaire*, who passed away peacefully on January 20th.
- *The Holcombe, Griffin and O'Brien families* as they grieve the loss of father and grandfather, *Lemuel Holcombe*, a former member of WAPC, who passed away recently in Florida.

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Fran Young*, who is hospitalized at Overlook Hospital, Summit, for tests and treatment of back problems.
- *Gail Smith*, undergoing radiation treatments, following cancer surgery.
- *Dianne Lytz*, whose cancer has returned and will be traveling to Boston every 3 wks. to receive immunotherapy treatment for the next 2 yrs.
- *Gail Schmeisser*, who is having difficulties with her legs.
- *Sarellen Hogan's daughter, Susan*, needing to sell her house.
- *Carole Rose*, diagnosed with lymphoma of the eye and undergoing cancer treatments.
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Prayers for those in the military and their families:

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Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Ron Kennedy, Estelle Kennedy's son*, after his last scan, is now cancer free.
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*

Come and join us for a fun-filled night featuring live music, games of chance, food and open-bar! Music by Roland Washington and One Step Beyond Band

All proceeds benefit the Plainfield YMCA's Youth Development Programs

Friday, February 10th, 2017

7:00 pm - 10:30 pm

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Call (908)756-6060 to purchase tickets today!

The Plainfield YMCA presents



**A ROARING 20'S
CASINO
NIGHT**

Friday, February 10, 2017
7:00 pm — 10:30 pm

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
716 Watchung Ave, Plainfield, NJ 07060

Admission: \$100 per person

Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, and Poker
Music, Food, Open Bar and \$50 in Playing Chips
Prizes for top players
Costumes optional

Live music by the Roland Washington & One Step Beyond Band

Join us for a fun evening and help raise funds for the
Plainfield YMCA Age Out and Workforce Programs.

Tickets on sale now!

Call the YMCA at (908)756-6060 to purchase tickets in advance.
Tickets will also be available at the door.
Visit the our website at www.plainfieldymca.org for more details!

Fabulous February

VALENTINE'S DAY



**WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

www.wapc.net

WELCOMING EVERYONE

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

FOLLOWING JESUS

MARCH 2017




Visioning Meeting

PRL. Those are the letters of our future. A few weeks ago, I led a group of 13 people, 7 from WAPC and 6 from Trinity, through a visioning exercise. On the whiteboard, I wrote three words: perpetuate, renovate, or liquidate and merge (PRL). These are the three options that I believe both WAPC and Trinity have.

Under each category, the entire group then brainstormed what our congregations would look like if we keep doing what we are doing (P for perpetuate). In short, this was a reactive building maintenance program...we fix whatever is broken.

We then switched to looking at renovating (R) each property, where we were free to dream big dreams. As soon as renovation was mentioned, phrases like, "we need a comprehensive building plan," emerged. In our dreams, we hired architects to advise us. We purchased an entire city block for parking. We created a studio and art center where youth could learn film making, cinematography, painting, sculpture, and any number of art forms. We had utilitarian buildings with all the bells and whistles. It was fun!

(Since the meeting, I had another dream for WAPC. Tear out our basement classrooms and put in underground parking. Keep in mind, we are just having fun thinking, as they say, outside the box.)



The third option was to look at what would happen if we liquidated (L) both properties, WAPC and Trinity, and started something new together. Options of leasing a theater on Sunday and not having a permanent building was a possibility. There were other lease options considered as well. We dreamed of purchasing a new property located between North Plainfield and Warren where we could build a state of the art facility. We envisioned a child and youth friendly space powered by solar and other green energies. It would have a playground, new office and classrooms, a new sanctuary and worship space, indoor putting green (ok, so I was the only one who wanted that) and possibly the important thing, it would have air conditioning. This is just a partial list of the things of which we dreamed. It was a fantasy night.

Before we concluded, I had the 13 people do a secret ballot where I asked them to vote for P, R, or L. 100% of those in attendance voted to either renovate or liquidate. Not one person voted to keep doing what we are doing. When I asked if they preferred to renovate and stay apart, or liquidate and merge, 7 voted to stay apart and 6 preferred to merge. Keep in mind, these were nonbinding solutions designed to get us thinking.

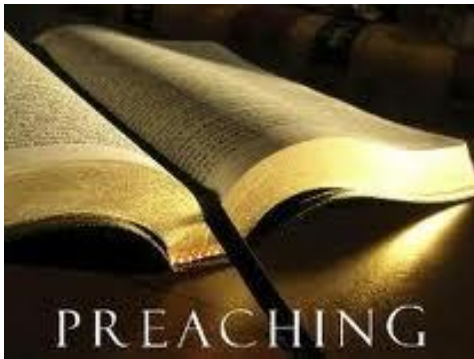
The last thing I did was I suggested we needed at least \$1 million to either renovate or build something new. I asked those in attendance to share how much they would donate to the effort. Here is a list of the names and how much they agreed to give....just kidding. This was done anonymously and again as a nonbinding commitment. Our sum totaled \$260,000, and I think that is just amazing.

I hope to do continued visioning events in the future to include more of you. Put on your thinking caps, and when I ask you P, R, or L, you will have an answer.

One final note, last night we had a joint Ash Wednesday service with 22 people in attendance! That is better than we do some weeks for worship! **We are stronger together.**

Onward,

Pastor Joel



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

March 5th, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers* on site at TUC
March 12th, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers*,
Communion worship, on site at WAPC
March 19th, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers* on site at TUC
March 26th, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers*,
Communion worship, on site at WAPC

"BREAKFAST WITH JOEL"

March 4th at Trinity United Church
Saturday mornings, 8:30am - 10:00am



EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.
CONTACT PASTOR JOEL OR GRETA AT WAPC TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE.

"CONVERSATIONS WITH JOEL" are the Thursday evening follow up discussions about his 8 week "Confronting the Controversies" sermon series. These are the last 5 weeks. The next discussion is Thursday March 2nd, 7-9pm at WAPC, ground floor in the newly renovated, Justice Conference Room.

Week 4 at TUC: March 5, Women's Rights/Abortion

Week 5 at WAPC: March, 12, LGBTQ Issues

Week 6 at TUC: March 19, The Environment

Week 7 at WAPC: March 26, Immigration

Week 8 at TUC: April 2, Civil Rights



***Watchung Avenue
Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Women's 2017
Soup/Chili -A- Thon Fundraiser***

***170 Watchung Avenue,
North Plainfield at
the corner of Watchung &
Fairview Avenues***



Sunday, *March 12th* at 11:30AM, in Parish Hall

**Get your appetite ready and come join us for great food
and a great time!**

Enjoy a variety of soups and dessert too!

Purchase Tickets at the door:

\$ 7 for adults

\$3 for children, 10 & under

SEE YOU THERE!!



"FUND FOR FORTY"

campaign is in full effect. Talk to your neighbors & frequently visited businesses & ask them to visit the church website in order to donate. Reach out to your Facebook friends & family & encourage them to visit the church website, www.wapc.net to donate.

Our thermometer is getting warmer!

Let's keep WAPC moving forward into the future!

As a reminder, this is how the money will be spent:

- Approximately \$30,000 will be spent on upgrading the sanctuary, with up to date video and audio equipment.
- Approximately \$3,000 will be used for upgrading carpeting and painting in the lounge and one of the classrooms in the lower level under the parish hall.
- Approximately \$3,000 is needed for landscaping around the front and side of our church; especially around the new sign and the memorial garden.
Sanctuary front step masonry repairs.
- Approximately \$4,000 to repair and/or replace two doors to the church, the one at the top of the ramp for safety reason, and the one in the back of the building leading into the downstairs hallway under the parish hall for safety and to prevent flooding.

JOINT-CHURCH LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND STUDY SERIES

Begins, Sunday, March 5, 2017, 5-7 pm at The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling (158 Central Avenue, Stirling).

Soup supper, fellowship, and study. The focus this year is on Religion and Politics - a timely study and discussion of how these two got combined, and how separate they should be. *Invite a friend and come join the discussion!*

Four Churches Combine for Intriguing Lenten Series

The people of our nation continue to struggle with how our faith and our politics relate to each other. This is the question being addressed in this year's Joint-Church Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study series, which this year includes FOUR churches.

We will begin with a two-part study written by church historian, Martin Marty, that addresses what Abraham Lincoln in 1858 said in his classic "House Divided" speech, "If we could first know where we are and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do and how to do it." Participants will get a review of some of the major events of U.S. history to date and how various religious groups and peoples have been represented or not in this history.

Our study will continue with *The Declaration of Independence: A Christian Document?* We will examine the Declaration of Independence in an effort to discern its context and clarify its original intent. We'll consider its references and appeals to a higher power and what those references mean to us as people of faith.

Our final week will address two important principles in the foundation of our nation: the free exercise of religion and *Separation of Church and State*. While these two principles have served the nation well, they are not easy to put together logically, and they give rise to issues in practice that often require thoughtful and, frequently, legal judgment. Many Americans believe that the free exercise of religion involves the right and duty to apply their religious commitments to public as well as private affairs and therefore think in terms of America as a Christian nation. Others believe that the separation of church and state means that all political life should be secular in orientation. We will consider this

history and ask how Christians can best act while respecting a separation of religion and government.

Each of the four churches will host one soup and study evening, beginning at 5:00 p.m. and concluding by 7 pm. The schedule of location, leader and topic is below.

Date	Host Church	Leader	Session Topic
5-Mar	FPC Stirling	Barbara Aspinall	History of Religion and Politics (part 1)
19-Mar	Trinity	Tom Peters	History of Religion and Politics (part 2)
26-Mar	Watchung Ave	Barbara & Tom	The Declaration of Independence – a Christian Document?
2-Apr	Meyersville	Joel Biggers	Separation of Church and State

Church/Pastor info:

Meyersville Presbyterian Church
223 Hickory Tavern Road (on the
Meyersville Circle)
Gillette, NJ 07933
[908-647-0390](tel:908-647-0390)
www.meyersvillechurch.com
Rev. Barbara Aspinall

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
158 Central Avenue
Stirling, NJ 07980
[908-647-1033](tel:908-647-1033) www.fpcstirling.com
Rev. Tom Peters

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
170 Watchung Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060
[908-755-2781](tel:908-755-2781) www.wapc.net
Rev. Joel Biggers

Trinity United Church
118 King George Rd.
Warren, NJ 07059
[732-469-5044](tel:732-469-5044)
www.TrinityUnitedChurch.org
Rev. Joel Biggers

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – FEBRUARY 7, 2017

1. The search for a new Church Treasurer continues. Also, new members are sought for the investment committee.
2. Trinity United Church and two other churches have a Lenten series, with a Soup and Study evening each week during Lent. Session agreed to support a Lenten series, with WAPC hosting once during Lent.
3. Various events are being planned for the **Fund for Forty**, including a plant sale and an Ebay sale.
4. A motion was approved for replacement of all radiator regulators in the Sanctuary at an estimated cost of \$1,160.00.
5. An email vote on January 27 approved a five year lease for an upgraded telephone system, to be installed this month.
6. The track lighting in the choir loft is not working. Elder Roselli is looking into replacement with LED lighting, which will use less energy.
7. Average Sunday attendance for January was 24.
8. A Mardi Gras celebration is planned, as a fundraiser. It will be a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 28th.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

1. The annual congregational meeting took place on February 12 after worship, and included a delicious pot luck luncheon.
2. Twenty three members attended, 27% of our membership.
3. The annual reports of the Pastor and church boards and organizations were presented and reviewed.
4. Our Pastor reports that he has “great hope and optimism.”
5. Three elders were nominated and elected to three year terms: Bob Goellner, Gwyn Gronlund and Joel Stambaugh.
6. Two additional ushers were nominated and approved: Valerie Reid and Christy Thomas
7. The Treasurer’s Report, investment reports and draft budget were reviewed.
8. The nominating committee and auditing committee for next year were approved. Nominating: Elder Gwyn Gronlund, Jeff Bunnell and Ellen Lake; Auditing: Lorraine MacNamera and Sarellen Hogan.
9. Additional paper copies of the Annual Report are available on request, for those who do not receive by email.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

WHO - WHAT - WHEN -WHERE - WHY ???

WHO?-	YOU
WHAT?-	ALUMINUM CANS.Bring your aluminum cans to church, completely empty
WHEN? -	NOW..... and until further notice
WHERE?-	TO THE PARISH HALL
WHY?-	FOR RECYCLINGProceeds will go to the "Fund for Forty" HELP GROW THE FUND--EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!!

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS / HOSTS



After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall people gather over coffee and cookies to catch up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC. A lot of happenings going on!

Good times . . . So let's keep it up!

Look for the sign up calendar for
March & April & May 2017 on the
Coffee Hour board waiting for signatures.

Please sign up to either act as a:

Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of
the months and act as their back up support

OR Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday OR see
me..... **Dianne Ledder**

Coffee Hour Chairperson , PW in WAPC



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

is on hiatus until further notice.

Please stay tuned for further information
regarding the new start date.



THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY has
suspended regular meetings until after Easter. At that

time, discussion will continue on "miracles", with a viewing of the movie
"Miracles from Heaven". Contact church office for more info.

All are welcome!

*****CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

WAPC MARCH REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 ASH WED. Worship 7pm at TUC ↑	2 Conversation w/ Joel, 7pm- 9pm, call office for info. ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	3 ***	4 8:30am Breakfast w/Joel, call office for info.
5 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE ↓	6 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH	7 SESSION MEETING- Conf. Room 7pm ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	8 Bells reh. 7-8pm choir room Choir reh., 8-9pm Parish Hall ↓	9 ↓	10 ***	11
12 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE Soup-a-Thon 11:30am Parish Hall	13 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH	14 ↓	15 ↓	16 ↓	17 ***	18
19 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE	20 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH	21 ↓	22 ↓	23 ↓	24 ***	25
26 ↓ Lenten Soup Supper Study 5-7pm PH	27 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH	28 ↓	29 ↓ VISIONS DEADLINE	30 ↓	31 ***	

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

908-755-2781

office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Pastor
Director of Music
Office Admin. Asst.
Sexton

Rev. Joel Biggers
Karl Kaefer
Greta Martin-Worthy
David Eichenger

joelwbiggers@gmail.com; 406-853-3182(cell)
kman1958@yahoo.com; 240-315-3709 (cell)
office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781
908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy & Grace will not be meeting for the month of March. All women of the church are welcome to visit a circle meeting!

CIRLCE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope will not meet during the month of March.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circles of Joy & Grace will not be meeting for the month of March. All women of the church are welcome to visit a circle meeting!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & 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. We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time.

Our spring meetings will be:

Tuesday, March 14, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund

April meeting to be determined

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting, or would like to learn to knit or crochet. Current members are Cathy Boleyn, Judith Botzan, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake, Betty Miksa, Pat Roselli and Fran Young.

At HHS meetings we share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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

UNUSED and EXPIRED MEDICATION DROP OFF OPPORTUNITY

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017
9:30 - 10:30 am**

**Warrenbrook Senior Center
500 Warrenville Road, Warren, NJ
908-753-9440**

**An officer from the Somerset County's Sheriff's Office will be at
the center to pick up any unused or expired medications.
PRESCRIPTION AND OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS ACCEPTED.
NO SYRINGES ACCEPTED.**

**Take advantage of this safe way to dispose of your unused
and/or expired medications**

**CENTER STAFF CAN NOT ACCEPT
ANY DROPPED OFF MEDICATIONS
PRIOR TO THIS DAY AND TIME.**



**SOMERSET COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING
& DISABILITY SERVICES**

2016 Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Patricia L. Walsh, Director ~ Peter S. Palmer, Deputy Director
Patrick Scaglione ~ Mark Caliguire ~ Brian D. Levine

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield & Middlesex County



Our local affiliate is one of 300 Habitat organizations nationwide hosting Women Build projects during the week with support from Lowe's, a longtime partner in the event.

From May 6-14, 2017, local volunteers will serve a family in need of an affordable, accessible, barrier free home. The home has been specially designed to meet the needs of a family with a physical disability.

National Women Build Week brings together women to devote at least one day to building decent and affordable housing in their local communities. This is our fifth year participating as a local affiliate. Nearly 100,000 women from all 50 states have volunteered in previous years.

"Once again, we are privileged to participate in the **10th annual National Women Build Week**," said Rev. Jeremy Montgomery, CEO of the Plainfield and Middlesex affiliate. "This is a great opportunity for women of all skill levels to come together to help a family build or repair a decent and affordable place they can call home, and we are grateful to Lowe's for their financial and volunteer support."

Lowe's helped launch National Women Build Week in 2008. Each year, the company provides the support of Lowe's Heroes volunteers and conducts how-to clinics at stores to teach volunteers construction skills. This year, Lowe's contributed nearly \$2 million to National Women Build Week. Since its partnership began in 2003, Lowe's has committed more than \$63 million to Habitat and helped nearly 6,500 families improve their living conditions.

No construction skills are necessary to participate in this year's project.

To volunteer or donate, call Sam Griggs at (888) 557-6032 ext. 6 or email development@habitatgpmc.org. For more information on National Women Build Week, visit Habitat.org/wb.

SUPPORT WOMEN BUILD 2017

More funds are needed to finish this home! As we plan for this year's event, please support Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield & Middlesex County to help our local hardworking families build strength, stability and independence through shelter.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of joy and thanksgiving for:

- *Sarellen Hogan's daughter, Susan*, who has sold her house!

Prayers of support and comfort for:

- *Mark Lampariello and family*, as they mourn his cousin, Norma's, passing.
- The family and friends of lifetime member *Evie LaMaire*, who passed away peacefully on January 20th.

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Betty Miksa, Marla Miksa's mother*, recovering from a fall.
- *Fran Young*, who is recovering from surgery and soon to move to a rehab. facility.
- *Gail Smith*, undergoing radiation treatments, following cancer surgery.
- *Dianne Lytz*, whose cancer has returned and will be traveling to Boston every 3 wks. to receive immunotherapy treatment for the next 2 years.
- *Gail Schmeisser*, who is having difficulties with her legs.
- *Carole Rose*, diagnosed with lymphoma of the eye and undergoing cancer treatments.
- *Fran Young's nephew by marriage, George Braun*, recovering from a 9 hours surgery for cancer at Sloan Kettering Hospital.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

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

Grace Landsperger, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ, *Bob Monteith*, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ, *Beverly Krausse*, at Berkeley Heights Nursing & Rehab, 35 Cottage St., Berkeley Heights, and *Gail McKenna*, at 2225 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Ron Kennedy, Estelle Kennedy's son*, after his last scan, is now cancer free.
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*



BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH
REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS
AHEAD!



FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH



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

Visions Newsletter

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

www.wapc.net

WELCOMING EVERYONE
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
FOLLOWING JESUS
APRIL 2017



OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Lent is an interesting season within the church calendar. Spanning the 40 days (not counting the Sunday) leading up to Easter, historically it has been time of sacrifice, repentance, and turning to God. Said another way, it was a depressing time.

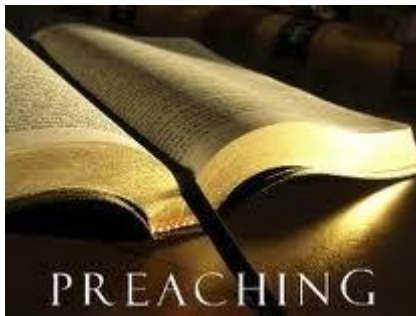
In the 1999 movie, *Dogma*, (I do not recommend this movie. There are parts that are somewhat humorous, but overall, I found the movie, well . . . vulgar), Cardinal Click, portrayed as the late comedian George Carlin, tries to repackage Jesus by creating "Buddy Christ." This Buddy Christ is created into a doll-like figure with a smiling Jesus giving a big, "thumbs up," because Cardinal Click complains that Christianity is "wholly depressing." This satirical look at our faith may have a valid point. Is Christianity too depressing?

I have said before that many in the Christian tradition like going from Mardi Gras to Easter, or party to party. Who can blame us? Who enjoys the rigorous spiritual task of asking, what separates me from God, from others, and what can I do to be reborn? Rebirth takes strength and spiritual discipline. It isn't much fun, but we fail when our goal is to "make church fun." Yes, the Gospel is about celebrating, but it is also about rigorous self-honesty.

This year on Thursday, April 13, I will be combining two services into one, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Starting at 6:30pm, in the WAPC Parish Hall, we will gather as Jesus did with his disciples in the Upper Room, and share in a modest meal. From there we will transition to a Tenebrae Service, or a service of shadows and diminishing light.

We will conclude with stripping the sanctuary as a reminder that we all participate in the betrayal and darkness of Jesus. We are a people of death and resurrection. We believe that God sent Jesus so that we too can die, leaving our old self and be reborn. My hope and prayer during the Lenten season is not that we beat ourselves up for being bad, but that we do take time to consider what part of us needs to die. In so doing, the joy of new life in Christ will be a more joyous celebration on Easter morning.

Onward,
Pastor Joel



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

April 2nd, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers* on site at **TUC**

April 9th, **Palm, Sunday, 10:15am**, *Pastor Joel Biggers*,

Communion worship, on site at **WAPC**

April 16th , **Easter Sunday** , 9:30am, *Pastor Joel Biggers* on site at **WAPC**

April 23rd , 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers*, Communion worship, on site at **WAPC**

April 30th, 10:15am, 100th Anniversary Celebration, *Pastor Joel Biggers* on site at **WAPC**

"CONVERSATIONS WITH JOEL"

The final conversation will be

Thursday, evening, April 6th, 7-9pm,

at Trinity United Church.

Week 8 Sermon Topic: April 2, Civil Rights

WAPC'S YARD CLEAN UP DAY!! 9AM, SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST
RAIN DATE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 8TH

Thank You Note for Our Valentine's Package Mailing

Dear WAPC,

Thank you once again for your thoughtful package. It means so much to me that you take time out of your day to send me these goodies. The cookies and candy were delicious. I was able to share some of them with my basketball teammates. They enjoyed them as well. Thank you so much for the well wishes! I hope everyone at the WAPC is doing well! GO CYCLONES!

Sincerely,

Stewart Lester

Stew Lester #12



Sunday



April 2nd

Community Services Fair

Early Evening Meal

3:30pm to 5:30pm

Meet and Greet Your Community Services

- ❖ North Plainfield Girl Scouts
 - ❖ Jointure English as a Second Language (ESL)
 - ❖ Somerset County Health Services
 - ❖ Atlantic Healthcare – Blood Pressure Screening
 - ❖ St. Vincent DePaul - Food Bank
 - ❖ Plainfield Neighborhood Health Center
 - ❖ Zufall Health Center – Somerset, NJ
 - ❖ MedExpress – US 22, Watchung, NJ
 - ❖ Homefirst – Interfaith Housing & Family Services
 - ❖ El Centro Hispanoamericano – Immigration Assistance
- And More!*

Free Meal Served at 5:00

Where:

Watchung Presbyterian Church

Iglesia de Dios Vida Nueva

170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ



"FUND FOR FORTY"

campaign is still moving forward. Continue asking your neighbors & frequently visited businesses to visit the church website in order to donate. Reach out to your Facebook friends & family & encourage them to visit the church website, www.wapc.net, to donate.

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EARTH DAY - APRIL 22ND

Remember to care for God's creation

Celebrate Earth Day at coffee hour in Parish Hall on
Sunday, April 23rd.

JOINT-CHURCH LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND STUDY SERIES

Our final week will address two important principles in the foundation of our nation: the free exercise of religion and *Separation of Church and State*. While these two principles have served the nation well, they are not easy to put together logically, and they give rise to issues in practice that often require thoughtful and, frequently, legal judgment. Many Americans believe that the free exercise of religion involves the right and duty to apply their religious commitments to public as well as private affairs and therefore think in terms of America as a Christian nation. Others believe that the separation of church and state means that all political life should be secular in orientation. We will consider this history and ask how Christians can best act while respecting a separation of religion and government.

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Church/Pastor info:

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223 Hickory Tavern Road (on the
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www.meyersvillechurch.com
Rev. Barbara Aspinall

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Rev. Joel Biggers

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
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Stirling, NJ 07980
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Rev. Tom Peters

Trinity United Church
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Warren, NJ 07059
[732-469-5044](tel:732-469-5044)
www.TrinityUnitedChurch.org
Rev. Joel Biggers

**Directions from Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
to Meyersville Presbyterian Church,
223 Hickory Tavern Road, Gillette.
Should take about 15 minutes.**

**On Watchung Ave, head north over Route 22 to Watchung Circle.
Take first right off circle and then immediate left onto Hillcrest Road.
Continue on Hillcrest to blinking light at Mountain Avenue.
Take left (but not the sharp left) to continue on Hillcrest.
Hillcrest turns into Mountain Ave.
Cross Valley Road, continuing on Mountain.
Cross Long Hill Road and continue straight (ish) onto Meyersville Road.
Continue down hill to Meyersville Circle. White church on right. Parking in front of
church or at empty deli across street or lot up Gillette Road on right.**

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – MARCH 7, 2017

1. The search for a new Church Treasurer continues. Session approved offering a small stipend if a volunteer cannot be found.
2. A new investment committee has been approved, consisting of Elders Cathy Lyttle, Dave Lyttle, and Joel Stambaugh, with Elder Bob Goellner serving as Investment Advisor. Bob Goellner shared a presentation about Sustainable Investing, which chooses to invest in companies that do good, by honoring the environment, treating employees well, and giving back to the community.
3. Bob Goellner had to resign from Session in order to handle the church's investment portfolio. His resignation was accepted with regret and thanks.
4. The next Community Services Fair will be held on Sunday, April 2, at 3:30 p.m. A free meal will be served.
5. The upgraded telephone system was installed this month, as well as a new monitor by the church office, and a smart TV in the Justice Conference Room.
6. The audio-video upgrade will be installed in the Sanctuary after March 20.
7. A luncheon celebrating the first 100 years of WAPC as an independent Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, April 30, after worship.
8. WAPC will host the Lenten Soup and Study on March 26 from 5 to 7 p.m.
9. Average Sunday attendance for February was 27.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE SOUP LUNCHEON.

Congratulations to the winners...

Pat Roselli--Taco Soup

Jim Durrick--Carrot Ginger Soup

Dianne Ledder--Corny Clam Chowder

More than \$450 was raised to donate to the Fund for Forty.

WHO - WHAT - WHEN -WHERE - WHY ???

WHO?-	YOU
WHAT?-	ALUMINUM CANS.Bring your aluminum cans to church, completely empty
WHEN? -	NOW..... and until further notice
WHERE?-	TO THE PARISH HALL
WHY?-	FOR RECYCLINGProceeds will go to the "Fund for Forty" HELP GROW THE FUND--EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!!

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS / HOSTS



After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall people gather over coffee and cookies to catch up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC. A lot of happenings going on!

Good times . . . So let's keep it up!

Look for the sign up calendar for
April & May 2017 on the
Coffee Hour board waiting for signatures.

Please sign up to either act as a:

Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of
the months and act as their back up support

OR Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday OR see
me..... **Dianne Ledder**

Coffee Hour Chairperson , PW in WAPC



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

is on hiatus until further notice.

Please stay tuned for further information
regarding the new start date.



THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY has
suspended regular meetings until after Easter. At that

time, discussion will continue on "miracles", with a viewing of the movie
"Miracles from Heaven". Contact church office for more info.

All are welcome!

*****CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

WAPC APRIL REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 WAPC Clean Up Day
2 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE Community Svc. Fair 3:30pm	3 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH	4 SESSION MEETING- Conf. Room 7pm ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	5 Bells reh. 7-8pm choir room Choir reh., 8-9pm Parish Hall ↓	6 Conversation w/ Joel, 7pm- 9pm, call office for info. ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	7 ***	8
9 Palm Sunday 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE	10 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH	11 ↓	12 ↓	13 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm worship and supper No Zumba	14 ***	15
16 EASTER SUNDAY 9:30m WORSHIP - COFFEE	17 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH	18 ↓	19 ↓	20 ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	21 ***	22
23 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE ↓ 30	24 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH	25 ↓	26 ↓ VISIONS DEADLINE	27 ↓	28 ***	29

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

908-755-2781

office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Pastor
Director of Music
Office Admin. Asst.
Sexton

Rev. Joel Biggers
Karl Kaefer
Greta Martin-Worthy
David Eichenger

joelwbiggers@gmail.com; 406-853-3182(cell)
kman1958@yahoo.com; 240-315-3709 (cell)
office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781
908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy & Grace will meet in April. Day, time and date to be determined.

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope will not meet during the month of APRIL.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circles of Joy & Grace will meet in April. Day, time and date to be determined.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & 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. We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time.

We will not be having an April meeting, due to a busy Holy Week.

The May meeting will be May 9, location to be determined.

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting, or would like to learn to knit or crochet.

Current members are Cathy Boleyn, Judith Botzan, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake, Betty Miksa, Pat Roselli and Fran Young.

At HHS meetings we share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield & Middlesex County



Our local affiliate is one of 300 Habitat organizations nationwide hosting Women Build projects during the week with support from Lowe's, a longtime partner in the event.

From May 6-14, 2017, local volunteers will serve a family in need of an affordable, accessible, barrier free home. The home has been specially designed to meet the needs of a family with a physical disability.

National Women Build Week brings together women to devote at least one day to building decent and affordable housing in their local communities. This is our fifth year participating as a local affiliate. Nearly 100,000 women from all 50 states have volunteered in previous years.

"Once again, we are privileged to participate in the **10th annual National Women Build Week**," said Rev. Jeremy Montgomery, CEO of the Plainfield and Middlesex affiliate. "This is a great opportunity for women of all skill levels to come together to help a family build or repair a decent and affordable place they can call home, and we are grateful to Lowe's for their financial and volunteer support."

Lowe's helped launch National Women Build Week in 2008. Each year, the company provides the support of Lowe's Heroes volunteers and conducts how-to clinics at stores to teach volunteers construction skills. This year, Lowe's contributed nearly \$2 million to National Women Build Week. Since its partnership began in 2003, Lowe's has committed more than \$63 million to Habitat and helped nearly 6,500 families improve their living conditions.

No construction skills are necessary to participate in this year's project.

To volunteer or donate, call Sam Griggs at (888) 557-6032 ext. 6 or email development@habitatgpmc.org. For more information on National Women Build Week, visit Habitat.org/wb.

SUPPORT WOMEN BUILD 2017

More funds are needed to finish this home! As we plan for this year's event, please support Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield & Middlesex County to help our local hardworking families build strength, stability and independence through shelter.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of joy and thanksgiving for:

- *Sarellen Hogan's daughter, Susan, who has sold her house!*

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Dianne Lytz, whose cancer has taken a turn for the worse.*
- *Fran Young, who has been moved to the Berkeley Heights Nursing & Rehab facility at 35 Cottage St., Berkeley Heights.*
- *Gail Schmeisser, who is having difficulties with her legs.*
- *Carole Rose, diagnosed with lymphoma of the eye and undergoing cancer treatments.*
- *Fran Young's nephew by marriage, George Braun, recovering from a 9 hour surgery for cancer at Sloan Kettering Hospital.*

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Specialist Jasmine Harris, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.*

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

Grace Landsperger, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ, Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ, Beverly Krausse, at Berkeley Heights Nursing & Rehab, 35 Cottage St., Berkeley Heights, and Gail McKenna, at 2225 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Gail Smith, who has completed her radiation treatments, following cancer surgery.*
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*



earth
Day

Palm
Sunday



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

Visions Newsletter

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

www.wapc.net

WELCOMING EVERYONE
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
FOLLOWING JESUS
MAY 2017



A Word from Joel

"Cherishing our past, living in the present, and going forward in faith," is our motto for our 100th Anniversary that we will celebrate Sunday, April 30. The day before that celebration, Elizabeth Presbytery Transitional Leader, Rev. Cheryl D. Galan, will lead us in an exercise for our congregation to develop a mission statement. In short, it is a sentence or two that will guide how we move forward into that future. It attempts to answer the questions: Who are we as a congregation? Where is God leading us?

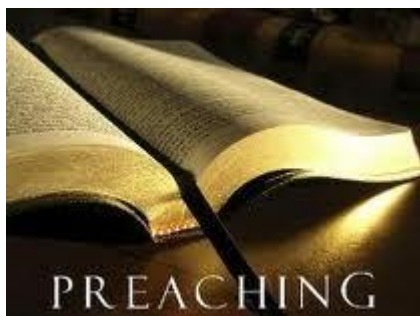
I believe that we all need to ask the above questions to ourselves as individuals on a regular basis, and it is important to wrestle with the question as a group. We are all called by God to make the world a kinder and more just place. What is our role in that process? Our calls as individuals and groups are fluid. They change.

In the liturgical calendar the season of Easter spans the 50 days after Easter and culminates with the Day of Pentecost. The Easter season is the perfect time to explore new life. With each passing day, I grow to value even more the "unknownness" of God's plans. In all honesty, I am not even sure God has a

plan for me, or for us, as much as I believe God is the very canvas on which we draw our plans. God is the creativity that moves us forward as our future unfolds.

This unfolding and unknown future is truly a gift. Ezekiel experienced the valley of dry bones when he asked, "Where is God leading?" It is one of the great stories of the Bible, and metaphorically speaks to challenge and opportunity, worry and work. It is also a story of the awesome creative power of God made known to people willing to risk. The story of the valley of dry bones is a story of the amazing power of God to restore our individual and collective lives even when we feel like we are all dried up. I pray that we can tap into this beautiful power and the sense of new life that God implants in our hearts. If we can, I have no doubt that as we "go forward in faith," our future will be spectacular, and, most likely, look very different from our first 100 years.

Onward,
Pastor Joel



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR MAY

(Please note Pastor Joel is away May 16th -May 22nd)

May 7th, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers* on site at TUC

May 14th, *Mother's Day*, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers*,

Communion worship, on site at WAPC

May 21st , Guest Speaker , 10:15am, TBD on site at WAPC

May 28th , 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers*, Communion worship, on site at WAPC

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – APRIL 4, 2017

1. The transfer of WAPC's investment accounts from Vanguard to Common Interests has been completed. Bob Goellner is now managing the investment accounts.
2. The search for a new Church Treasurer continues.
3. The Community Services Fair on Sunday, April 2, was not well attended. Fifty nine meals were served, and all excess food was given to attendees. Ideas were discussed for future events.
4. WAPC hosted the Lenten series on March 26, with a soup and bread meal served, and members of 3 other churches in attendance.
5. The audio-video upgrade installation is complete. The equipment debuted on March 26. Elder Roselli will teach others to use the system.
6. The theme of the 100th Anniversary celebration is "Cherishing the Past, Living in the Present, Moving Forward in Faith." Suggested donation for the luncheon is \$10. Plans are being made for the worship service and luncheon.
7. The series of sermons on controversial issues and follow-up discussions were fairly successful, with 12-16 people attending each discussion.
8. A charter high school has asked to rent the Parish Hall for physical education classes. A trial is proposed for 2 months, April through June, at rent of \$1500 per month.

A Message from WAPC Member Fran Young

"I need to thank my church family for their many cards, telephone calls, visits, prayers, and delicious food. You can't know how much that all meant to me and my family, and I do believe it has aided in my healing process, along with the many prayers I have heard about. Wayne wasn't able to return most of the phone calls because he was in the hospital and nursing home with me every day, all day long, and was exhausted when he returned home, but he too appreciated your thoughtfulness. By the way, my daughter, Tracy had been with me 24/7 for a couple of months. I feel blessed for so much support.

I thank you all so very much."

PALM SUNDAY 2017

I'd like to share the story of an eventful day in the life of the *Lesters*. April 16th: weather beautiful; Rutgers sponsoring a half marathon; grandson, Jim Lester running in it. My son Jimmy, daughter-in-law, Susan, and young Jim's fiancé, Dana were headed to the event. Their van was hit by a car which ran a stop sign at a fairly good rate of speed. Fortunately, it did not broadside them, but hit with such force that the van rolled over twice, landing on the roof. With the help of 2 women who appeared on the scene, Susan was able to get her door open and get out. She then worked on getting Jimmy and Dana out. Now the "unbelievable" part of the story: all 3 walked away not only without serious injuries, but without a scratch, a lump, a drop of blood, or a bruise! My daughter would have been in the van except for her running late. Imagine the shock when she came upon the scene 10-15 minutes later. When the accident scene was cleared, onward they went to the marathon! One would expect the following days to result in aches and pains, but only one sore shoulder! So much to be thankful for! : First and foremost, God's answer to my nightly prayers, which include "safety for my family in the coming day." And for the diligent use of seat belts; for the van being fully equipped with air bags; and for calm, cool, collected minds which prevailed. (Susan and Jimmy were having a family gathering that evening - it went on as planned!)

Submitted by WAPC member, Alice Lester



When: Thursday, May 4, 2017 6:30-7:30 pm

Where: Somerset County Courthouse Steps,
Main and Grove Streets, Somerville

What: Join with churches from all over Somerset County to worship God together and pray for our national, state, and local needs.

Bring your lawn chair and your neighbor!

Help stock the pantry of Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP) of Somerset County, bring non-perishable food items:

SUGGESTIONS:

Cookies & Crackers	Peanut Butter
Tuna Fish or Canned Spam	Jelly
Hot or Cold Cereal	Juice
Mac & Cheese	Drinks
Canned Fruit/Soup/Foods	Pasta
Baby Diapers/Wipes	Deodorant
Shampoo/Conditioner	Paper Towels

A Love Offering will be taken; proceeds will go to the EmPoWER Family Success Center, & to defray event costs.

More Info: Rev. Tim Wolf, Somerset County NDP Coordinator
908.281.9535 psrttimwolf@newhorizonag.org

Inclement weather: 7:00 pm - meet at the Somerville YMCA on Green and N. Bridge Streets



*Sponsored by the National Day of Prayer Task Force in Colorado Springs, CO,
a non-profit group organized by volunteers.*



Trinity United Church
has a tradition of celebrating
Holy Hilarity Sunday. For those who are
not familiar with this tradition, it is the
practice of "laughing at the devil" for not
being able to keep Jesus in the tomb. In
practice, congregations take time to share
jokes and be silly. So with Pastor Joel's

help during sermon time, plan to bring and share your favorite joke on
Sunday, May 7th.



Do you use Amazon to buy stuff? If
you do, simply type in the word
"smile" before Amazon, like so,
www.smile.amazon.com. It is the
same thing as Amazon, but it enables
shoppers to select a non-profit
organization to receive a small

percentage of the price of the merchandise. Select Watchung Avenue
Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield, with every purchase you make, and
Amazon will give back .5% to our church. Shop more, support our church and
therefore support our community!



"FUND FOR FORTY",
campaign is still moving forward. Continue asking
your neighbors & frequently visited businesses to
visit the church website in order to donate. Reach out
to your Facebook friends & family and
encourage them to visit the church website,
www.wapc.net, to donate.

Our thermometer is getting warmer!
Let's keep WAPC moving forward into the future!



Our Home... Our Community...

Our Responsibility...

BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

2017 CLEAN COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday, May 6th

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

You are invited to take part in our 11th Annual Clean Community Day sponsored by the North Plainfield Forum and the Borough of North Plainfield. This day will be an opportunity to meet neighbors, make friends and work together to clean several areas in our community in commemoration of Earth Day.

The day will begin with registration at 8:30 AM at the North Plainfield Community Center (614 Greenbrook Road) and then move to the areas to be cleaned. Residents are welcome to organize a crew or come on their own. All civic groups and organizations are encouraged to participate! Children are welcome and encouraged to take part in Clean Community Day, but must be at least 6 years old to participate and accompanied by an adult.

Those helping are asked to wear appropriate work shoes or boots, and gloves. Bring a rake if possible! Other supplies will be provided by the borough. T-shirts will be given to volunteers at registration.

A picnic style lunch will be served to all volunteers on the Community Center Side Lawn at the end of the work day!

For more information, please call the Mayor's Office
© (908) 769-2902

[Alice Lester reports having turned in \$80. to the Fund For Forty campaign from the sale of aluminum cans. She says, "Keep them coming!"]

WHO - WHAT - WHEN -WHERE - WHY ???

WHO?- YOU

WHAT?- ALUMINUM CANS.Bring your aluminum cans to church, completely empty

WHEN?- NOW.....and until further notice

WHERE?- TO THE PARISH HALL

WHY?- FOR RECYCLINGProceeds will go to the "Fund for Forty"

HELP GROW THE FUND--EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!!

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS / HOSTS



After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall people gather over coffee and cookies to catch up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC. A lot of happenings going on!

Good times . . . So let's keep it up!

Look for the sign up calendar for May, June, July, August 2017 on the Coffee Hour board waiting for signatures.

Please sign up to either act as a:

Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of the months and act as their back up support

OR Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday OR see me..... Dianne Ledder

Coffee Hour Chairperson , PW in WAPC



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

is on hiatus until further notice.

Please stay tuned for further information regarding the new start date.

THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY will resume meeting at the Young's home on **Thursday, May 11,** hosted by **Al Smith** and will view "Miracles From Heaven".

All are welcome!



*****CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

WAPC MAY REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 *** <hr/> ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH ↓	2 SESSION MEETING-Conf. Room 7pm <hr/> ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH ↓	3 Bells reh. 7-8pm <hr/> Choir reh., 8-9pm ↓	4 ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH ↓	5 ***	6
7 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE <hr/> ↓	8 *** ↓	9 Circle of Hope, call office for info. <hr/> ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH ↓	10 ↓	11 ↓	12 ***	13 Joshua's Closet 12-5pm
14 MOTHER'S DAY <hr/> 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE	15 *** ↓	16 (PASTOR JOEL AWAY) ↓	17 (PASTOR JOEL AWAY) ↓	18 (PASTOR JOEL AWAY) ↓	19 *** (PASTOR JOEL AWAY)	20 (PASTOR JOEL AWAY)
21 (PASTOR JOEL AWAY) <hr/> 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP	22 *** (PASTOR JOEL AWAY) <hr/> ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH	23 ↓	24 ↓	25 ↓	26 ***	27 Joshua's Closet 12-5pm
28 ↓	29 *** MEMORIAL DAY <hr/> ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH	30 ↓ <hr/> VISIONS DEADLINE	31 ↓			

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Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy & Grace, dealing with many illnesses has not been able to schedule a meeting. We hope to meet sometime in the month of May for a luncheon meeting.

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Spring meetings will be as follows:

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**Tuesday, June 13, at 7:15 pm,
location to be determined.**

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting, or would like to learn to knit or crochet.

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MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE
SUNDAY, MAY 14, AFTER WORSHIP
PARISH HALL

**CHOOSE FROM A SELECTION OF BEAUTIFUL HANGING
BASKETS FOR
MOM OR FOR
YOURSELF!**



**Flowering annuals,
vegetables and herbs
also for sale,
just in time to get
your garden started.**



ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE FUND FOR FORTY.

PRAYER LIST

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Betty Miksa, Marla Miksa's mother*, who is in cardio rehabilitation in Bridgewater.
- *Bruce Gronlund, Gwyn Gronlund's husband*, who is recovering at home from surgery for an abscess in his chest.
- *Fran Young*, who has returned home but will continue her chemotherapy treatments.
- *Dianne Lytz*, who is home and will start a round of a new chemotherapy treatment.
- *Gail Schmeisser*, who is having difficulties with her legs.
- *Carole Rose*, diagnosed with lymphoma of the eye and undergoing cancer treatments.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

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Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

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MAY

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WELCOMING EVERYONE
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
FOLLOWING JESUS
JUNE 2017



A WORD FROM JOEL

Wear anything red to worship this Sunday, June 4th, because it is Pentecost! And remind others to do the same! The more people who wear something red, the more fun it will be!

Pentecost is a unique Sunday in the Christian world, and quite honestly, it's a Sunday that use to bother me. Scriptures that made no sense to me in the physical and scientific world were easy for me to ignore. The story of Pentecost certainly fell into that category. Luke, the author of Acts, shares with us in the second chapter of that book, that the disciples were gathered in a room and the rush of "violent wind" filled the entire space. From there the scripture declares that "divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them and a tongue rested on each of them." As a boy, violent winds frightened me, and where I come from, something has seriously run amuck if you have a tongue of flame resting on your shoulder. I would love to hear your interpretation of this event , as I find it hard for me to comprehend literally.

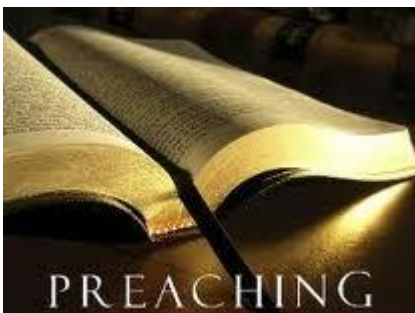
However, from this scripture, an entire Christian movement, called Pentecostalism, was born. This tradition was spawned from the Holiness Movement and given life in a three day event called the Azusa Street Revival, originating in the early 20th century in central Los Angeles. The practitioners known as Pentecostals, generally believe the Bible word for word and believe that we are baptized in the Spirit receiving several gifts; two of which are speaking in tongues or interpreting this Godly language.

As a progressive Christian, none of those gifts, expressions of faith, or viewpoints, have been a part of my belief structure. I have never read the Bible literally nor do I believe that speaking in tongues and interpreting the sounds are gifts I possess. When I have been

around those speaking in tongues, while I find the process confusing, it is clear to me that the person speaking in tongues is having a powerful experience. When I was a younger man, I wanted a more consistent understanding of how people know and relate to God. If something did not make sense to me, I cast it off as invalid. Fortunately, I have gotten over much of my self-righteous indignation, and have opened myself to a wider array of God's expression in the world. With each passing year, I feel less of a need to understand and explain things. Equally important, I have grown to be able to acknowledge that God speaks to us in many ways, and each of us has a unique connection to this Serendipitous Creativity. I do my best to avoid judging how others communicate with and know God.

So what was going on in Acts? As moderns, what are we to think of this Day of Pentecost? Of the many themes that leap out of the Bible at me, the big one is Jesus' ability to overcome barriers that divide humanity, creating new levels of understanding between people. Unity and harmony are biblical themes that attract me. Literally, I have no idea what happened in the room on the Day of Pentecost, but it sounds both frightening and heartwarming. To me the story acknowledges the Spirit of Pentecost births new ways of relating to each other, and that newness is both frightening and wonderful. It is not easy overcoming our prejudices and fears. While I have resigned to never fully understanding these tongues of flame, I will wear red to acknowledge the rumbling discomfort in my soul that eggs me to overcome barriers that divide me from others. Harmony and acceptance of others takes courage and strength. And we know, God makes us stronger through gifts of the Spirit.

Onward,
Pastor Joel



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

(Please note Pastor Joel is away June 19th -July 2nd)

June 4th, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers* on site at TUC

**June 11th, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers*, Communion
worship, on site at WAPC**

June 18th , Father's Day, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers* on site at TUC

**June 25th , 10:15am, Guest pastor: *Reverend David Snyder*, Communion
worship, on site at WAPC**

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – MAY 2, 2017

1. The search for a new Church Treasurer continues.
2. Hospitality reported a very successful worship and luncheon celebration of WAPC's first 100 years as an independent church. The congregation of Trinity United Church joined us. A buffet lunch was catered by Leon's, and donations covered the cost. (Suggested donation was \$10 per person). A large timeline was constructed and is still on the Parish Hall wall. A program of historical events of WAPC and some personal memories of our Pastor Emeritus Brooks Smith was included. All those involved in planning and presenting were thanked. It was a great day!
3. Former member Bill Webster, who grew up at WAPC and now pastors a vibrant church in Ohio, talked with us for about 30 minutes about church growth.
4. Elders continued discussion of various wording of mission statements, as a follow up to a meeting held on April 29 to develop a mission statement for WAPC.
5. There will be a plant sale on Mother's Day, to benefit the Fund for Forty. Other possible fundraising ideas were discussed.
6. Pastor Joel's time off for spiritual retreat and vacation was approved. He will be away the following Sundays: May 21, June 25, July 2.
7. Average Sunday attendance for April was 37.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session



Don't forget when shopping Amazon online, simply type in the word "smile" before Amazon, like so, www.smile.amazon.com. It is the same thing as Amazon, but it enables shoppers to select a non-profit organization to receive a small

percentage of the price of the merchandise. Select Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield, with every purchase you make, and Amazon will give back .5% to our church. Shop more, support our church and therefore support our community!



"FUND FOR FORTY",
campaign is still moving forward. Continue asking your neighbors & frequently visited businesses to visit the church website in order to donate. Reach out to your Facebook friends & family and encourage them to visit the church website, www.wapc.net, to donate.

The thermometer has moved!
We have raised almost \$12,000!

Let's keep WAPC moving forward into the future!

[Alice Lester says, "Keep those aluminum cans coming!"]

WHO - WHAT - WHEN -WHERE - WHY ???

WHO?- YOU

WHAT?- ALUMINUM CANS.Bring your aluminum cans to church, completely empty

WHEN?- NOW..... and until further notice

WHERE?- TO THE PARISH HALL

WHY?- FOR RECYCLINGProceeds will go to the "Fund for Forty"

HELP GROW THE FUND--EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!!

FAITH GARDEN

The Faith Garden is growing again. Lettuce and spinach planted in April are ready for harvest. Tomato and pepper plants were set in last Saturday. Thanks to the crew of Jeff Bunnell, Dianne Ledder, Al Smith, Gwyn Gronlund and Frank D'Amore from St. Joseph's Church for hours spent weeding and planting. Not much watering has been needed recently, with all the rain.



There will be another work morning on Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. until noon, weather permitting. If you can come for part of the time, please do. We plan to plant seeds for cucumbers, squash, beans, chard and kale.



The produce of the *Faith Garden* is given to those in need, through WIC, St. Vincent de Paul, and SHIP.

Photos and article submitted by *Gwyn Gronlund*.



VOLUNTEER MEALS ON WHEELS Kitchen Help Needed

Warrenbrook Senior Center is looking for volunteers to help prepare and portion food for their Meals On Wheels program

Positions Available

- 1 Person - Every Tuesday**
- 1 Person - Summer Tuesdays Only**
- 1 Person - Every other Thursday**
- 9:00 - 10:30 am**



On-Call Opportunities Available **Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 10:30 am**

Position Requirements:

- ~ Must be able to stand for two hours
- ~ Must wear "provided" hair net and gloves and adhere to safety and Department of Health Guidelines.
(Nail polish, artificial nails and gel nails do not meet Department of Health Guidelines.)
- ~ *Background check will be required.*

If interested, please call the Warrenbrook Senior Center at 908-753-9440 and ask for Gwen

Warrenbrook Senior Center, one of six centers operated by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders/Office on Aging & Disability Services



**SOMERSET COUNTY
OFFICE ON AGING &
DISABILITY SERVICES**

Somerset County
Board of Chosen Freeholders
Peter S. Palmer, Director ~ Patrick Scaglione, Deputy Director
Patricia L. Walsh ~ Mark Caliguire ~ Brian D. Levine

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR NEEDS HOSTS

Keep the tradition going. This is what a host does:

Arrive on Sunday around 30 minutes before worship service
Bring milk, an optional cold beverage and an appropriate centerpiece, if desired.

Set up table:

- cover it with white paper or desired cloth
- put out baskets, sugar, milk, stirrers, cups/glasses, tea bags, cookies or other goodies,

Make coffee . . . directions are on the coffee maker. Heat water for tea.
Leave worship during last hymn to be ready to serve.

Around 11:30, clean up:

- Clear table
- Wash and put used items back in appropriate cabinets
- Reimburse yourself for milk and refreshments purchased over what is supplied by Presbyterian Women.
- Put remaining contributed money into one of the supplied envelopes, date it, and give to *Coffee Hour* Chair or put in the *Coffee Hour* cabinet.

Locations for all supplies are listed on the *Coffee Hour* cabinet door.

Presbyterian Women supplies everything needed for *Coffee Hour* except for milk, optional beverage and centerpiece. All money collected is used to replenish coffee, tea, sugar, cups, napkins, cookies.

Remember, there can be no *Coffee Hour* on the Sundays there is no host.



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

is on hiatus until further notice.

Please stay tuned for further information regarding the new start date.

THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY

group meets at 7:30pm, at the homes of group members. Contact the church office for details on place & discussion material. Currently the next meeting is scheduled for June 8th.



*** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WAPC JUNE REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Joshua's Closet 2-5pm, cellar AND ZUMBA 6:30-7:30pm -PH	2 ***	3
4 9am CHOIR Reh./ 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE ↓	5 *** ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH ↓	6 Session Mtg. Conf. Rm. 7pm Joshua's Closet 2-5pm, cellar AND ZUMBA 6:30-7:30pm -PH ↓	7 LAST Bells Reh., 7-8pm, & Choir Reh., 8-9pm	8 ↓	9 ***	10 Joshua's Closet 12-5pm
11 Choir Appreciation Sunday 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE ↓	12 *** ↓	13 Circle of Hope, 5:30pm For details call office. Joshua's Closet 2-5pm, cellar AND ZUMBA, 6:30-7:30pm -PH	14	15 ↓	16 ***	17
18 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE Father's Day (Pastor Joel Away)	19 *** ↓ (Pastor Joel Away)	20 Joshua's Closet 2-5pm, cellar AND ZUMBA 6:30-7:30pm -PH ↓ (Pastor Joel Away)	21 (Pastor Joel Away)	22 ↓ (Pastor Joel Away)	23 *** (Pastor Joel Away)	24 Joshua's Closet 12-5pm (Pastor Joel Away)
25 10:15am WORSHIP/ COFFEE with Pastor- Rev. David Snyder (Pastor Joel Away)	26 *** ↓ (Pastor Joel Away)	27 ↓ (Pastor Joel Away)	28 VISIONS DEADLINE (Pastor Joel Away)	29 ↓ (Pastor Joel Away)	30 (Pastor Joel Away)	

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

908-755-2781
office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Pastor
Director of Music
Office Admin. Asst.
Sexton

Rev. Joel Biggers
Karl Kaefer
Greta Martin-Worthy
David Eichenger

joelwbiggers@gmail.com; 732-853-4809(cell)
kman1958@yahoo.com; 240-315-3709 (cell)
office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781
908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy & Grace have no scheduled gatherings for the month of June.

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope will meet on Tuesday, June 13th at 5:30 pm at Giovanna's

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circles of Joy & Grace have no scheduled gatherings for the month of June.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches members need your prayers. Please keep Betty Miksa, Pat Roselli and Fran Young in your prayers as they recover from hospitalizations and surgery.

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

We continue to meet monthly.

We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time.

Our next meeting will be a road trip to the country, to Judy Botzan's home, on Saturday, June 24.

We will car pool, leaving about noon.

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting, or would like to learn to knit or crochet.

Current members are Cathy Boleyn, Judith Botzan, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake, Betty Miksa, Pat Roselli and Fran Young. At HHS meetings we share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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

PRAYER LIST

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:**

- *Fran Young's sister, Betty Lou*, who is fighting cancer and infection.
- *Betty Miksa, Marla Miksa's mother*, is now recovering at home from heart attack and stroke.
- *Bruce Gronlund, Gwyn Gronlund's husband*, who is recovering at home from surgery for an abscess in his chest.
- *Fran Young*, who has returned home but will continue her chemotherapy treatments.
- *Gail Schmeisser*, who is having difficulties with her legs.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

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

Grace Landsperger, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ, *Bob Monteith*, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ, *Beverly Krausse*, at Berkeley Heights Nursing & Rehab, 35 Cottage St., Berkeley Heights, and *Gail McKenna*, at 2225 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Gail Smith*, who has completed her radiation treatments, following cancer surgery.
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*

****Charles Lytz's address for those wanting to send cards or letters:**
45 William Elford Drive, Chestertown, NY 12817





SCHOOLS OUT, SUMMERS IN,
LET THE FUN BEGIN!



Happy
Father's Day

**WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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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



JULY 2017

FAITH GARDEN UPDATE

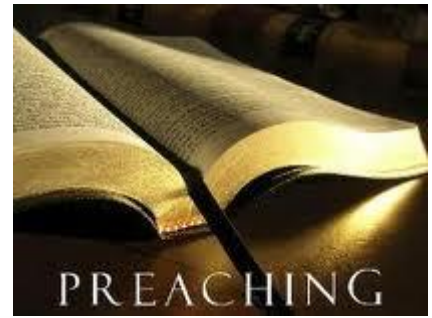
The spinach has bolted . . .
or in other words it's on its
way to seed. But the lettuce
is gorgeous, ruby red and
delicious!!



Thanks Gwyn Gronlund for the photos!!

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR JULY

- ~ **July 2nd**, 10:15am, *Guest Pastor Rev. David Snyder*, on site at Trinity United Church
- ~ **July 9th**, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers*, Communion worship, on site at WAPC
- ~ **July 16th**, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers* on site at Trinity United Church
- ~ **July 23th**, 10:15am, *Pastor Joel Biggers*, Communion worship, on site at WAPC
- ~ **July 30th**, Joint Worship, *Pastor Joel Biggers*, on site at Trinity United Church



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the *Joint Worship and Pot Luck Picnic* with Trinity United Church at Trinity on Sunday July 30th. Stay tuned for more detailed information as we get closer to the date.

Also, **Dot Fenz has a new address**, for those that don't know, but her telephone number is the same before she moved. Jot it down . . .

Ms. Dorothy Fenz
c/o Brandywine, Apt. 322
680 Mountain Blvd.
Watchung, NJ 07069

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – JUNE 6, 2017

1. The search for a new Church Treasurer has been successful. Mary Teel, a Quick Books expert who comes highly recommended by Trinity United Church, will be our treasurer, and will receive a stipend of \$100 monthly for her work.
2. Renewing the lease agreement for Barack Obama Green Charter High School for the academic year 2017-2018, under the same terms as the trial period, was approved. The school uses our Parish Hall for their physical education classes.
3. Session approved moving forward with a program called “Protect my Ministry,” which will include background checks for all employees and volunteers.
4. Elders continued discussion of various wording of our mission statement, which will be shared with the congregation soon.
5. Music director Karl Kaefer is planning the Second Annual Plainfield Church Music Conference for Saturday, August 5th.
6. A joint worship service with Trinity United Church is being planned for Sunday, July 30 and will be followed by a picnic.
7. Average Sunday attendance for May was 26.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session



Don't forget when shopping Amazon online, simply type in the word "smile" before Amazon, like so, www.smile.amazon.com. It is the same thing as Amazon, but it enables shoppers to select a non-profit organization to receive a small

percentage of the price of the merchandise. Select Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield, with every purchase you make, and Amazon will give back .5% to our church. Shop more, support our church and therefore support our community!



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HELP GROW THE FUND--EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!!



Church Music Conference

The workshop will be presented by Mr. Karl Kaefer, who holds a Masters Degree in Liturgical Music from prestigious Concordia University. He has been conducting Music Conferences around the country for well over 30 years. The most recent conference Mr.Kaefer presented was the First Annual Plainfield Church Music Conference in 2016. He has a vast working knowledge of sacred choral, organ and piano literature which covers all stylisms and is also purposefully interdenominational in nature.

Additionally, Mr. Kaefer has over 30 years experience in retail sales of sacred music, having worked with several sacred music publishers, including Carl Fischer, Hal Leonard, Alfred, Hope, Beckenhorst, Augsburg, Concordia, Lifeway and many more.

During his career he has worked closely with several prominent choral and organ clinicians, including but not limited to: Alec Wyton, Paul Liljestrang, John Carter, Mark Wilson, Austin Lovelace, Bill Witherup, Anne Labounsky, David Dunbar, and Plainfield resident Mark Miller. He is currently Music Director at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in N Plainfield NJ. His experience as Music Director is vast and includes choirs and choruses of all sizes, abilities and musical genres. This allows his knowledge of pedagogy and teaching methods to be tailored to any venue from musical theater, educational music and to workshops and conferences.

For more information and to register for the event, please click the following link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-plainfield-music-convention-tickets-35365823129>

Date: August 5, 2017
Time: 8:30am-4:00pm
Place: WAPC
170 Watchung Ave.
North Plainfield NJ 07060

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8am-9am: Registration and Browsing
9am-11am: Choral Reading Session
11am-11:45am: Organ Workshop
12pm-1:30pm: Lunch and Browsing
1:30pm-3pm: Choral Reading Session
3pm-4pm: Browsing and Final
Purchases

JOINT-CHURCH SUMMER DISCUSSION SERIES BEING HELD IN STIRLING

Local churches are holding a weekly discussion series for six Wednesday evenings this summer. Six weeks, five topics - each week stands alone, so attend one or all. Sessions are open to everyone high school age and above, whether they belong to a church or not. Leading the sessions are pastors and the parish nurse of 4 local churches: Rev. Tom Peters of The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, which is hosting the series; Rev. Barbara Aspinall of Meyersville Presbyterian Church; Rev. Joel Biggers, pastor of both Trinity United Church in Warren and Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield; and Kay Hurd, parish nurse at Trinity United Church.

The series features a variety of topics, listed below and on the FPCStirling.org website.

All sessions are held 7:30-9:00 pm beginning July 12, 2017 at The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, located at 158 Central Avenue, in their air-conditioned meeting room. For further information, contact the church at [908-647-1033](tel:908-647-1033) or visit www.fpcstirling.org.

2017 SUMMER WEDNESDAY EVENING SERIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Topic</u>
July 12	Rev. Tom Peters	Rethinking Recycling
July 19	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	The Recent American Protestant Experience: <i>some sources and expressions of Protestant faith in our country today</i> <i>Where did the fundamentalist, evangelical, social gospel movements come from? What sort of theologies are they based on? What are their expressions today?</i>
July 26	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	The Recent American Protestant Experience: <i>some sources and expressions of Protestant faith in our country today</i> <i>Where did the fundamentalist, evangelical, social gospel movements come from? What sort of theologies are they based on? What are their expressions today?</i>
August 2	Rev. Joel Biggers	Is Jesus the Only Way?
August 9	Kay Hurd <i>Parish Nurse, TUC</i>	Body and Soul: <i>The 18-Inch Journey between your Head and Heart</i>
August 16	Rev. Tom Peters	The "Clobber Passages" - <i>What DOES the Bible say about LGBTQ?"</i>

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR NEEDS HOSTS

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Arrive on Sunday around 30 minutes before worship service
Bring milk, an optional cold beverage and an appropriate centerpiece, if desired.

Set up table:

- cover it with white paper or desired cloth
- put out baskets, sugar, milk, stirrers, cups/glasses, tea bags, cookies or other goodies,

Make coffee . . . directions are on the coffee maker. Heat water for tea.
Leave worship during last hymn to be ready to serve.

Around 11:30, clean up:

- Clear table
- Wash and put used items back in appropriate cabinets
- Reimburse yourself for milk and refreshments purchased over what is supplied by Presbyterian Women.
- Put remaining contributed money into one of the supplied envelopes, date it, and give to *Coffee Hour* Chair or put in the *Coffee Hour* cabinet.

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is on hiatus until further notice.

Please stay tuned for further information regarding the new start date.

THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY

group meets at 7:30pm,

at the homes of group members.

Contact the church office for details on place and discussion material.



*** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WAPC JULY REMINDER CALENDAR

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						1
2 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE with Pastor- Rev. David Snyder	3 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	4 Independence Day! Joshua's Closet 2-5pm, cellar AND ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30pm -PH ↓	5 Session Mtg. Conf. Room 7pm	6 Joshua's Closet 2-5pm, cellar AND ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30pm -PH ↓	7 ***	8
9 Pastor Joel is back 10:15am WORSHIP - COFFEE ↓	10 *** ↓	11 Joshua's Closet 2-5pm, cellar AND ZUMBA, 6:30- 7:30pm -PH ↓	12 HHS meeting, 7:30pm; call office for location	13 ↓	14 ***	15 Joshua's Closet 12-5pm
16 ↓	17 *** ↓	18 ↓	19	20 ↓	21 ***	22
23 ↓	24 *** ↓	25 Joshua's Closet 2-5pm, cellar AND ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30pm -PH VISIONS DEADLINE	26	27 ↓	28 ***	29 Joshua's Closet 12-5pm
30 10:15am Joint Worship at Trinity w/ picnic	31 ↓					

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
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office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Pastor
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Sexton

Rev. Joel Biggers
Karl Kaefer
Greta Martin-Worthy
David Eichenger

joelwbiggers@gmail.com; 732-853-4809(cell)
kman1958@yahoo.com; 240-315-3709 (cell)
office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781
908-755-2781 (office)

Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy & Grace plan to have a breakfast outing in July - date to be determined.

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope will have no scheduled gatherings for the month of July.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circles of Joy & Grace plan to have a breakfast outing in July - date to be determined.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches members need your prayers. Please keep Betty Miksa, Pat Roselli and Fran Young in your prayers as they recover from hospitalizations and surgery.

Our members create shawls and lap robes to share God's love with those who are grieving, hospitalized, or at home, or celebrating a milestone. We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. We also do some charity knitting and crocheting, such as creating chemo caps for local cancer patients.

We had a fun time in the country at Judith's home, for our June meeting. The weather was gorgeous, and all the flowers were blooming.

Our summer meetings will be:

Wed., July 12, 7:30 pm, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund

Wed., August 9, 7:30 pm, at the home of Cathy Boleyn

(Note this is a change from our usual Tues. meetings)

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting, or would like to learn to knit or crochet.

Current members are Cathy Boleyn, Judith Botzan, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake, Betty Miksa, Pat Roselli and Fran Young. At HHS meetings we share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit. Call Gwyn Gronlund for more info. (908) 754-1251

PRAYER LIST

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Gail Schmeisser*, who is still challenged with mobility issues.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Tim Lyons*, grandson of long time members Carole & Gerry Rose, stationed in Afghanistan with a defense contractor.
- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

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

Grace Landsperger, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ, *Bob Monteith*, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ, *Beverly Krausse*, at Berkeley Heights Nursing & Rehab, 35 Cottage St., Berkeley Heights, and *Gail McKenna*, at 2225 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Fran Young's sister, Betty Lou*, whose health is improving.
- *Betty Miksa, Marla Miksa's mother*, at home and continuing to recover.
- *Bruce Gronlund, Gwyn Gronlund's husband*, has recovered well from surgery.
- *Fran Young*, who is feeling stronger with each day.
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*





**WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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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

AUGUST 2017



A Note from Joel

The dog days of summer are upon us and we know August is always a hot month. To beat the heat, it was suggested that we unite with Trinity United Church and worship in their air-conditioned sanctuary during the month. At our recent potluck on Sunday, July 30, our Session and Trinity's Covenant Board agreed to move forward with the idea. During August and including Labor Day Sunday, September 3, we will worship at Trinity United Church, 118 King George Road in Warren.

At Sunday's meeting, we took an honest look at our valiant effort to join our services via the internet. The last year has been truly amazing. We have had many issues arise with our effort to connect the two worship services on Sunday morning, and rarely have we had the same problem twice. I am proud of the effort we have made, but we needed to reassess. Worship is too important in attracting new members to have any breakdowns. We have had some rather large infractions preventing us from having a meaningful worship experience.

Starting on Sunday, September 10, we will go to a two-worship service schedule with WAPC beginning their worship at 9:00 AM, and Trinity's beginning at 10:30 AM. Obviously, I won't be able to stick around WAPC too long after worship. Help us spread the word of a new start time on Sunday, September 10. We begin at 9:00 AM.

Another thing to report is that our God in Film Series is going just fine. So far I have preached on "The Adjustment Bureau" and "Leap of Faith", and then we watched the movie later in the evening on the same day. We had 18 present for the first movie and 10 the second night. On August 6, we will watch the movie "Up," an awesome animated film featuring Ed Asner. The week after that we will watch "Bruce Almighty," starring Jim Carrey, and Morgan Freeman. For the rest of the series, we will watch the movie in Trinity's sanctuary starting at 7:00PM Sundays.

One last thing to report is that on Wednesday, August 3, I will lead a class on pluralism at First Presbyterian Church in Stirling. In short pluralism is looking at how various religions and cultures get along. As modern Christians, do we feel a need to convert Muslims and Hindus to the Christian faith? Do we simply live and let live? What is our Christian responsibility? Come and enjoy the conversation on Wednesday at 7:30PM.

Moving forward,
Pastor Joel

Remember to mark your calendars
for AUGUST Worships

Beginning August 6th and including,
Labor Day, September 3rd, worship will be at
Trinity United Church at 10:15am



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Last Sunday of *August, the 27th* at 3pm
ICE CREAM SOCIAL!! Join WAPC and
our shared church congregations as we
get together for ice cream, music, fun and
friends!



NEW ADDRESS for Grace Landsperger; sent to us by her daughter,
Jeanne Fedoryk . Jot it down . . .

Parker at Monroe - Cedars
ATTN: Grace Landsperger
395 Schoolhouse Road
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – JULY 5, 2017

1. A “God and Film” series of sermons is planned to begin this month, including movie clips relating to the sermon.
2. Pastor Joel explained the order of worship, where the Prayer of Reconciliation and Assurance of Pardon are to be followed by Passing of the Peace, and then Holy Communion is celebrated.
3. A joint Ice Cream Social is planned for Sunday, August 27, at 3 P.M., with our renting congregations.
4. Session plans a retreat/financial summit for Saturday, August 19, to take a hard look at WAPC’s finances.
5. Hospitality is working with Karl Kaefer on plans for the Music Conference on August 5th.
6. Average Sunday attendance for June was 24.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session



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WHY?- FOR RECYCLINGProceeds will go to the "Fund for Forty"

HELP GROW THE FUND--EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!!

JOINT-CHURCH SUMMER DISCUSSION SERIES **BEING HELD IN STIRLING**

Local churches are holding a weekly discussion series for six Wednesday evenings this summer. Six weeks, five topics - each week stands alone, so attend one or all. Sessions are open to everyone high school age and above, whether they belong to a church or not.

Leading the sessions are pastors and the parish nurse of 4 local churches: Rev. Tom Peters of The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, which is hosting the series; Rev. Barbara Aspinall of Meyersville Presbyterian Church; Rev. Joel Biggers, pastor of both Trinity United Church in Warren and Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield; and Kay Hurd, parish nurse at Trinity United Church.

The series features a variety of topics, listed below and on the FPCStirling.org website.

All sessions are held 7:30-9:00 pm beginning July 12, 2017 at The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, located at 158 Central Avenue, in their air-conditioned meeting room. For further information, contact the church at [908-647-1033](tel:908-647-1033) or visit www.fpcstirling.org.

2017 SUMMER WEDNESDAY EVENING SERIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Topic</u>
August 2	Rev. Joel Biggers	Is Jesus the Only Way?
August 9	Kay Hurd <i>Parish Nurse, TUC</i>	Body and Soul: <i>The 18-Inch Journey between your Head and Heart</i>
August 16	Rev. Tom Peters	The "Clobber Passages" - <i>What DOES the Bible say about LGBTQ?</i>



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

is on hiatus until further notice.

Please stay tuned for further information regarding the new start date.

THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY

will be on break for the month of August and will resume study sessions after Labor Day.

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, GOD IN FILM SERIES CONTINUES!!



So remember, worship will feature an extended video clip during sermon but the rest of worship will be the same. Then Sunday evening at 7:00 PM, we will gather at Trinity United Church to watch the film in its entirety and have a discussion.

SERIES SCHEDULE

August 6th

Film: *"Up"*

animated film featuring Ed Asner

August 13th

Film: *"Bruce Almighty"*

with Jim Carrey & Morgan Freeman

THE FIRST SATURDAY OF AUGUST!!

Church Music Conference



Date: August 5, 2017
Time: 8:30am-4:00pm
Place: WAPC
170 Watchung Ave.
North Plainfield NJ 07060

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8am-9am: Registration and Browsing
9am-11am: Choral Reading Session
11am-11:45am: Organ Workshop
12pm-1:30pm: Lunch and Browsing
1:30pm-3pm: Choral Reading Session
3pm-4pm: Browsing and Final
Purchases

The workshop will be presented by Mr. Karl Kaefer, who holds a Masters Degree in Liturgical Music from prestigious Concordia University. He has been conducting Music Conferences around the country for well over 30 years. The most recent conference Mr.Kaefer presented was the First Annual Plainfield Church Music Conference in 2016. He has a vast working knowledge of sacred choral, organ and piano literature which covers all stylisms and is also purposefully interdenominational in nature.

Additionally, Mr. Kaefer has over 30 years experience in retail sales of sacred music, having worked with several sacred music publishers, including Carl Fischer, Hal Leonard, Alfred, Hope, Beckenhurst, Augsburg, Concordia, Lifeway and many more.

During his career he has worked closely with several prominent choral and organ clinicians, including but not limited to: Alec Wyton, Paul Liljestrang, John Carter, Mark Wilson, Austin Lovelace, Bill Witherup, Anne Labounsky, David Dunbar, and Plainfield resident Mark Miller. He is currently Music Director at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in N Plainfield NJ. His experience as Music Director is vast and includes choirs and choruses of all sizes, abilities and musical genres. This allows his knowledge of pedagogy and teaching methods to be tailored to any venue from musical theater, educational music and to workshops and conferences. For more information and to register for the event, please click the following link. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-plainfield-music-convention-tickets-35365823129>

*** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WAPC AUGUST REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 SESSION mtg. 7pm Conf. Rm. ZUMBA 6:30-7:30pm -PH ↓	2	3 ZUMBA 6:30-7:30pm -PH ↓	4 ***	5 2nd Music Conference 8am-5pm
6 10:15am WORSHIP - at Trinity United Church, Warren ↓	7 *** ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH	8 ↓	9	10 ↓ (Last Zumba until Sept.)	11 ***	12
13 ↓	14 ***	15	16	17	18 ***	19
20 ↓	21 ***	22	23	24	25 ***	26
27 ↓ Joint Ice Cream Social 3pm, PH	28 ***	29 VISIONS DEADLINE	30	31		

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

Pastor
Director of Music
Office Admin. Asst.
Sexton

Rev. Joel Biggers
Karl Kaefer
Greta Martin-Worthy
David Eichenger

908-755-2781
office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net
joelwbiggers@gmail.com; 732-853-4809(cell)
kman1958@yahoo.com; 240-315-3709 (cell)
office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781
908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy & Grace have no scheduled gatherings for the month of August.

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope will have no scheduled gatherings for the month of August.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circles of Joy & Grace have no scheduled gatherings for the month of August.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches members need your prayers. Please continue to pray for Pat Roselli and Fran Young, both undergoing cancer treatment.

Hearts, Hands & 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.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. We also do some charity knitting and crocheting, such as creating chemo caps for local cancer patients.

Our next summer meeting will be:

Wed., August 9, 7:30 pm, at the home of Cathy Boleyn
(Please note this is a change
from our usual Tues. meetings)

On Sat., September 9, we will return to Judith Botzan's home for lunch and knitting.

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting, or would like to learn to knit or crochet.

Current members are Cathy Boleyn, Judith Botzan, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake, Betty Miksa, Pat Roselli and Fran Young.

At HHS meetings we share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

Call Gwyn Gronlund for more info. (908) 754-1251

PRAYER LIST

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Pat Roselli and family*, as she fights cancer.
- *Gail Schmeisser*, who is still challenged with mobility issues.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Tim Lyons*, grandson of long time members Carole & Gerry Rose, stationed in Afghanistan with a defense contractor.
- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

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

Grace Landsperger, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ, *Bob Monteith*, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ, *Beverly Krausse*, at Berkeley Heights Nursing & Rehab, 35 Cottage St., Berkeley Heights, and *Gail McKenna*, at 2225 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Fran Young's sister, Betty Lou*, whose health is improving.
- *Betty Miksa, Marla Miksa's mother*, at home and continuing to recover.
- *Bruce Gronlund, Gwyn Gronlund's husband*, has recovered well from surgery.
- *Fran Young*, who is feeling stronger with each day.
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*



August



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

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



SEPTEMBER 2017

A Note from Joel

In my lifetime, I have never been as moved to organize a prayer vigil as I was a few weeks ago when a man who was identified as white supremacist purposefully drove his car into a crowd of people killing one woman, Heather Heyer. Ms. Heyer was there because she believed in justice and human rights. She was not there to start a fight. She was there to shine light when others were promoting darkness and hatred. I never dreamed that I would see a time in my lifetime when angry, armed, white men would march in the streets with torches and firearms chanting "blood and soil," a refrain Nazi's chanted in the 1940s. The subsequent political fallout, in all honesty, did not help me cope. It only made matters worse. I found the political responses confusing and disturbing. My soul ached for comfort and when I attended a prayer vigil in Summit, I was overwhelmed with tears being surrounded by men, women, Christians, Jews, atheists, gays, and straights, singing "This Little Light of Mine." I was reminded that we are called to carry God's light when others are determined to carry hate. I was reminded that there are people who will know as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King proclaimed, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only *love* can do that."

At the vigil in Summit, I stood with Rev. David Popham, Associate Conference Minister of the NJ Association of the UCC, Rev. David Snyder who has pulpit supplied here our churches for me, Anna, and about 500 other people I didn't know. In speaking with the people I did know, they encouraged me organize one in this area. I felt we needed it, and I spent the next few days on the phone making new friends, and asking colleagues to come say a prayer. In the end, about ten clergy and four youth along with 100 participants showed up on the lawn of United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield to help the light and love of God be made known as we refuse to let the evil of racism win the day.

A special thank you to Greta Martin-Worthy, Pat Perry and Peter Hansen from United Presbyterian Church for their help.

Participating clergy and laypeople; Rabbi Randi Musnitsky of Temple Har Shalom, Warren, Rev. Hodari Hamilton, Shiloh Baptist Church, Rev. Ann Marie Alderman, First Unitarian Society, Plainfield, Pastor Jonathan Williams, of Bethel Presbyterian, Plainfield, Rev. LL Krooze Dubreuil, Union, Rev. Jeremy Campbell, Stated Clerk Presbytery of Elizabeth, Rev. Herb Thomas of St. John's Baptist Church in Scotch Plains, and Edith Abreu of AMIP Pentecostal.

Sue Terry from United Presbyterian led the people in music with "I Am Light," by Idia Arie, and "This Little Light of Mine."

Moving forward,
Pastor Joel



Remember to mark your calendars for SEPTEMBER Worships

Only for the first Sunday, September 3rd, worship will be at Trinity United Church at 10:15am. Then for the rest of September, worship will be at WAPC at 10:15am.



SUNDAY, SEPT. 10TH, 17TH, & 24TH- JOIN US AT WAPC AT 10:15AM

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF DONATIONS

Whenever natural disasters strike, our great nation does an amazing job of responding with our prayers, human resources, and financial contributions. Many of us feel powerless when the size of the loss is so large. If we all pitch in a bit, it does help.

Historically, I have made donations through my denomination, the United Church of Christ. Why? I know that all relief organizations, like the Red Cross, have to pay their employees and other overhead related costs. Other ministries', like Joel Osteen's, donations may go to help pay for his multi-million dollar salary and home. I know that the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA) have minimal overhead. In short, when donating to our denominations, a high percentage of the donated amount goes directly to purchasing supplies for those in need.

Earlier this week, I made small donations through the web site www.pcusa.org and through www.ucc.org. Both web sites have a clearly marked tab to donate to Harvey relief and each site gives you the chance to give credit to your home congregation. I would encourage you, if you are in a place to do so, to make a donation. I certainly do not oppose any of the organizations mentioned in this article as much as I favor supporting our denominational efforts.

If you are not comfortable with making a donation over the internet, then write a check made out to either Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church or Trinity United Church and leave it or mail it to the appropriate church's office. Make sure to write in the memo section, "For Harvey Relief", that way the church will know to forward these donations to either PCUSA or UCC.

To whom much has been given...much is required.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SPECIAL SESSION MEETINGS – JULY 23 AND AUGUST 19

JULY 23

1. Technology challenges with transmission from one church to the other have led to Pastor Joel offering to conduct 2 services on Sundays, one at WAPC at 9 a.m. and one at Trinity United at 10:30 a.m. Several possible solutions were discussed, and it was decided to discuss further with Trinity's board when we meet for Joint Worship and Picnic on July 30. [As further discussions were held, it was decided to worship with Trinity United for the month of August and the first Sunday of September, and to invite Trinity congregation to worship with us for September 10, 17, and 24, while training students from Obama Charter School to assist with technology.]
2. The person who was hired to serve as WAPC treasurer has not been available for training. The position was offered to Greta Martin-Worthy, and accepted, for additional compensation of \$150 monthly.

AUGUST 19

1. Session met to review WAPC's financial situation. We looked at finances from 2013 to present, as well as projections for 2018. Setbacks have been the loss of Head Start in our building, and the necessity to install a new furnace. We have had the major expenses of the digital sign and our new technology. On the plus side, the church's investments are doing well under the management of Bob Goellner's firm. A contract has been signed with Barack Obama Green Charter School for the 2017-2018 school year.
2. The future of our church was discussed, as well as possible future missions that we might undertake. It was noted that we have many assets in our building, including commercial kitchen, stage and classrooms.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session



Don't forget when shopping Amazon online, simply type in the word "smile" before Amazon, like so, www.smile.amazon.com. It is the same thing as Amazon, but it enables shoppers to select a non-profit organization to receive a

small percentage of the price of the merchandise. Select Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield, with every purchase you make, and Amazon will give back .5% to our church. Shop more, support our church and therefore support our community!



"FUND FOR FORTY"

campaign is still moving forward. Continue asking your neighbors & frequently visited businesses to visit the church website in order to donate. Reach out to your Facebook friends & family and encourage them to visit the church website, www.wapc.net, to donate.

Let's keep WAPC moving forward into the future!

[Alice Lester says, "Keep those aluminum cans coming!"]

WHO - WHAT - WHEN -WHERE - WHY ???

WHO?- YOU

WHAT?- ALUMINUM CANS.Bring your aluminum cans to church, completely empty

WHEN? - NOW..... and until further notice

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TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

is on hiatus until further notice.

Please stay tuned for further information regarding the new start date.

THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY

Seekers will meet 7:30pm, Thursday, September 7 at the home of Fran and Wayne Young. Gwyn Gronlund will lead a six session study, "God is Closer than you Think" by John Ortberg. Each of the 6 sessions is planned for about one hour and 15 minutes, and will include DVD and discussion.

More information will follow after September 7th meeting.

FAITH GARDEN UPDATE – LATE AUGUST

The Faith Garden has had its share of challenges this year, the most difficult being heavy rain that caused ripe tomatoes to split and mildew to form on some plants. Of course, lots of rain means lots of weeds. There are still weeks in September and October when helping hands are needed. Please contact Gwyn at 908-754-1251 if you can assist.



The cucumbers and zucchini are about finished. Tomatoes are ripening almost faster than they can be picked, although many have split from too much rain. Green beans and kale are thriving. Fall crops of lettuce, spinach, turnips and carrots have been planted. This year the majority of the produce has been given to WIC clients who visit WAPC on Tuesdays. The produce that ripens later in the week still goes for distribution on Saturday mornings at St. Joseph's Parish Center.

So far, we have picked and given away 24 bags of lettuce, 12 bags of spinach, 5 bags of kale, 1 bag of basil, 12 bags of green beans, 39 cucumbers, 25 zucchini, 10 yellow squash, 1 eggplant, 4 green peppers, and 242 tomatoes of various types. God has blessed those who receive healthy, fresh food, as well as those who have worked to care for the garden.

Please support the Faith Garden with your prayers for good weather!

THE LAST SATURDAY OF SEPTEMBER!!

Church Music Conference



Date: September 30, 2017
Time: 8:00am-5:00pm
Place: WAPC
170 Watchung Ave.
North Plainfield NJ 07060

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8am-9am: Registration and Browsing
9am-11am: Choral Reading Session
11am-11:45am: Organ Workshop
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*** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WAPC **SEPTEMBER** REMINDER CALENDAR

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					1 ***	2
3 10:15am WORSHIP - at Trinity United Church, Warren	4 ***	5 SESSION mtg. 7pm Conf. Rm.	6	7	8 ***	9
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24 ↓	25 *** ↓	26 ↓ VISIONS DEADLINE	27	28 ↓	29	30 2nd Music Conference 8am-5pm

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

908-755-2781
office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Pastor
Director of Music
Office Administrator
Sexton

Rev. Joel Biggers
Karl Kaefer
Greta Martin-Worthy
David Eichenger

joelwbiggers@gmail.com; 732-853-4809(cell)
kkaefer1958@gmail.com; 240-315-3709 (cell)
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908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy & Grace plan to go out for breakfast on Tuesday, September 19 at 9:30 a.m.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope will have no scheduled gatherings for the month of.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

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Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches members need your prayers. Please continue to pray for Pat Roselli and Fran Young, both undergoing cancer treatment.

HHS members create shawls and lap robes to share God's love with those who are grieving, hospitalized, or at home, or celebrating a milestone. We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. We also do some charity knitting and crocheting, such as creating chemo caps for local cancer patients.

On **Sat., Sept. 9**, we will return to Judith Botzan's home "in the country" for lunch & knitting. Please let a member know if you would like to join us. We will carpool.

The next meeting will be **Tues., Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.**, location to be announced.

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting or to learn to knit or crochet. Current members are Cathy Boleyn, Judith Botzan, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake, Betty Miksa, Pat Roselli & Fran Young. At HHS meetings we share ideas & prayer requests, plan our projects, & have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit. Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information (908) 754-1251

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- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

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

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Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Fran Young's sister, Betty Lou*, whose health is improving.
- *Fran Young*, who is feeling stronger with each day.
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*





Happy
Labor Day
Weekend

We're Going Back To School



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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Visions Newsletter

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**Welcoming Everyone As We
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Moving Forward in Faith With Jesus**



OCTOBER 2017

A Note from Joel

Who is God calling us to be? For the past several weeks in worship, we have been reading the ongoing story of Moses and the Israelites. From the birth of Moses through the Israelites slavery and escape from captivity, the story shares their thirst, hunger, and confusion with the us, the readers. They are tired of being lost in the desert! The people of God are struggling to find a homeland, and to establish their identity.

Last week, I preached on identity, and aside from relationships with the people of WAPC, it is a great personal joy for me to see and learn the collective identity of our congregation. WAPC has made North Plainfield and the surrounding community a better place. It is a privilege to see our identity take shape in the way our people serve and in the way our building is used.

This year we will have an increased opportunity to reach the youth and families of our community. The Barack Obama Green Charter High School, located blocks away from the church on Watchung Avenue in Plainfield, has signed a contract with us. They are using our Parish Hall every day for use as their gymnasium. At least one Friday a month, they will use our sanctuary for their school assemblies, and they have asked about using our

stage for various productions and events. Between the charter school, the after-school YMCA program, WIC, and ESL classes, we have many people using our building as a place to learn and grow. God is sending us people. How can we reach them? How can we invite them to join us for a spiritual journey? How can we help them facilitate their spiritual yearnings, and invite them to learn with us? From our identity as people actively serving our community, if we can answer these questions, I believe we could fill our sanctuary on Sundays.

The key phrase from this week's story from Exodus 17, is "the Israelites journeyed together in stages." I believe the foundation of our faith comes in uniting with others and traveling together as we grow in the ways of God. In quoting a Facebook meme I saw earlier this week, "We're all just walking each other home."

Moving forward,
Pastor Joel

Remember to mark your calendars **for OCTOBER Worship**

On the first and third Sundays, Pastor Joel will preach live from Trinity United Church, and the second and fourth Sundays, he will be here at WAPC. Wherever he is not, we will yoke with the other congregation via the internet. Months with five Sundays, we worship together alternating between the two. October is a 5-week month so on October 29 we will worship at WAPC.



Pastor Joel has instructed the musicians of both congregations that at **10:17**, service will officially begin, and all will unite from the onset through the internet. This is different from the past year where the churches connected after the Call to Worship and opening hymn. This week all will start together from the beginning.

The vehicle for transmitting our service has switched from Skype to **Gotomeeting**. When using Skype, it was frustrating when the sound of pastor's voice did not synchronize with his movements. Hopefully, **Gotomeeting** will fix this problem and will result in a service that flows.

**It is with sadness we announce the passing
of WAPC member *Pat Roselli*.**

**A memorial service will be held on
Tuesday, October 10th at 11am in the sanctuary
with a reception to immediately follow in Parish Hall.**

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

1. The broker/ dealer for the church's investments is being changed from Sagepoint to Vanderbilt, as Vanderbilt is more supportive of sustainable investing. Elder Bob Goellner's firm is our investment advisor.
2. The Parish Hall floor was refinished at a cost of \$1,400. There is a leak in the porch roof, and gutters and leaders are to be checked for leaks.
3. Trinity United's congregation will worship with us September 10, 17 and 24.
4. A motion was passed to allow Trinity to sell scrip in the Parish Hall after worship on Sundays in September.
5. About 60 members of Nueva Vida (New Life Church) joined WAPC for an Ice Cream Social on August 27.
6. Average Sunday attendance for July was 22. An average of 14 WAPC members attended Trinity joint worship in August.
7. Session brainstormed goals for 2017-2018 in the six areas of Mission, Finances, Education, Worship, Fun and Fellowship, and our Building. Next month we plan to prioritize goals.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session



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small percentage of the price of the merchandise. Select Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield, with every purchase you make, and Amazon will give back .5% to our church. Shop more, support our church and therefore support our community!



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Let's keep WAPC moving forward into the future!

[Alice Lester says, "Keep those aluminum cans coming!"]

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Please stay tuned for further information regarding the new start date.

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Seekers will meet 7:30pm, Thursday, October 5th to continue with Gwyn Gronlund leading the six session study called , “God is Closer than you Think” by John Ortberg. Each of the 6 sessions is planned for about one hour and 15 minutes, and will include DVD and discussion. Contact the church office for more information.

FAITH GARDEN WORK DAY – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Cooler weather has finally arrived, and the gardening season is winding down. Several crops are still growing at the Faith Garden – kale, turnips, green beans and peppers. Sadly, the lettuce and spinach that were planted in August succumbed to the heat and lack of rain in September.

A work morning is being organized for Saturday, October 14, from approximately 10 am to noon. We need to pull out and dispose of the old plants, pull some weeds, and prepare the soil for next spring. Any time that you can give will be greatly appreciated.



All the produce from the Faith Garden goes to feed the hungry in our own community.

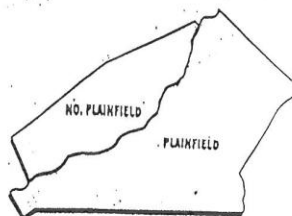
Thank you from the Mission Committee



WILL YOU FIGHT



&



WORLD

LOCAL

HUNGER?...WE NEED YOU!

The **45TH** Be a Part of
Annual Plainfield-North Plainfield
CROP WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22
(12:45 P.M.)

Get a Great Feeling • Meet New Friends • Help Those Less Fortunate

For Information Call:

CROP-755-2781

232-2119

756-0738

*** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WAPC OCTOBER REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:15am Worship & coffee after ↓	2 ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH ↓	3 SESSION mtg. 7pm Conf. Rm. ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH ↓	4 Bells Reh. @ 7pm; Choir Reh. @ 8pm- Choir Rm. ↓	5 ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH ↓	6 ***	7
8 ↓	9 *** ↓	10 ↓ PAT ROSELLI MEMORIAL, 11am	11 ↓	12 ↓	13 ***	14
15 ↓	16 *** ↓	17 ZUMBA 6:30-7:30PM - PH ↓	18 ↓	19 ↓	20 ***	21
22 10:15am Worship & coffee after CROPWALK- 12:45 PM	23 *** ↓	24 ↓	25 ↓ VISIONS DEADLINE	26 ↓	27 ***	28
29 10:15am Worship & coffee after Blessing of the Animals	30 *** ↓	31 ↓				

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

908-755-2781
office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Pastor
Director of Music
Office Administrator
Sexton

Rev. Joel Biggers
Karl Kaefer
Greta Martin-Worthy
David Eichenger

joelwbiggers@gmail.com; 732-853-4809(cell)
kkaefer1958@gmail.com; 240-315-3709 (cell)
office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781
908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches members need your prayers. Please continue to pray for Fran Young, now in remission, & for the family of our dear Pat Roselli.

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

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls & lap robes at our meetings & on our own time. We also do some charity knitting & crocheting, such as creating chemo caps for local cancer patients. We have decided to create "Prayer Squares" to give to visitors to WAPC.

Fall and winter meetings are planned as follows:

Tues., Oct. 10, 7:30 pm, at the home of Fran Young

Tues., Nov. 14, 7:30 pm, at the home of Betty Miksa

Tues., Jan. 9, 7:30 pm, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund

We do not have an evening meeting in December.

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting, or would like to learn to knit or crochet. Current members are Cathy Boleyn, Judith Botzan, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake, Betty Miksa, & Fran Young. At HHS meetings we share ideas & prayer requests, plan our projects, & have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching.

All are welcome to join or visit.

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

CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy, Grace, & Hope will be meeting all together on Sunday, October 8 after worship in Parish Hall to make future plans.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

Circles of Joy, Grace, & Hope will be meeting all together on Sunday, October 8 after worship in Parish Hall to make future plans.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circles of Joy, Grace, & Hope will be meeting all together on Sunday, October 8 after worship in Parish Hall to make future plans.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of comfort and support for:

- *The Roselli family* and friends as they grieve the passing of *Pat Roselli* on Monday, October 2nd, at home with her husband, *Jim Roselli*, by her side.

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Gail Schmeisser*, who is still challenged with mobility issues.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Tim Lyons*, grandson of long time members *Carole & Gerry Rose*, stationed in Afghanistan with a defense contractor.
- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

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

- *Grace Landsperger*, *Nancy Higgins*, *Estelle Kennedy*, *Helen Miller*, *Margaret Herman-Angely*, *Shirley Ferri*, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ, *Bob Monteith*, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ, *Beverly Krausse*, at Berkeley Heights Nursing & Rehab, 35 Cottage St., Berkeley Heights, and *Gail McKenna*, at 2225 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Fran Young's sister, Betty Lou*, whose health is improving.
- *Fran Young*, who is feeling stronger with each day.
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*



**WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
170 Watchung Avenue
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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**



NOVEMBER 2017

A WORD FROM JOEL

As we enter the holiday season, I am thankful that God enables me to give to organizations that mean something to me. I love our churches. I am a product of the mainline Protestant tradition, and giving to the church was a value instilled in me from a young age. I listen to NPR every day, and it, and other nonprofits, also mean much to me. Whereas, I give \$20, \$50, or maybe \$100/year to some groups, the church gets the lion's share of my tithe. I give \$100/month to each of the congregations I serve, and I will see if I can increase that in 2018.

Growing up, I remember being solicited by various groups or organizations, as my mother would walk into a grocery store. My mother always said the same thing. "No, thanks; We support our church." As we walked away from the person requesting the money, my mother would say to me, "Let people who don't support the church give to that organization." Mother's wisdom is more relevant today than it was 40 years ago.

There are fewer and fewer of us who value supporting the church, so that means we need your gifts even more. I am impressed by the generosity of our financial pledges and the

way many of us do give. If you do not pledge, I would encourage you consider doing so. If you pledge, can you increase it? If not, we still value you and your presence.

Aside from your financial gifts, we need your time as well. I am pleased that Zeta Phi Beta of Somerset County, a sorority that is using our church as their home base, has agreed to organize and host this year's community Thanksgiving meal held in our Parish Hall, on Saturday, November 18, from 1-3:00PM. If you can help cook, setup, clean, or even attend and eat, let me know.

I feel truly blessed to be in a position where I can give. I give, out of a sense of joy. God has been so generous to me, and it means very much to me that I can give to help support others. I enjoy giving large gifts and small ones. As someone who loves our church and what we mean in our community, I make sure it receives the most of my offering of thanks to God. The church, WAPC, TUC, and those churches of my past, have been the most important expressions of God's love in my life. For that, and all of you, I am thankful.

Moving forward,
Pastor Joel

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

There is good news and some, well frustrating news. First the good news.

You can now join us for worship wearing your bunny slippers with your hair in rollers, sitting in your favorite recliner. If you have access to a computer and the internet, all you need do is go to www.gotomeet.me/tucwapc and you can see our worship service live.

Last week we joined the web site www.gotomeeting.com, and they now carry our service as WAPC and TUC connect. When you go to the above site, you will need to download gotomeeting's software which only takes a few moments. Once you do that, you will be asked to click on Jim Roselli's meeting. Do so, as this will be our worship service.

Another nice feature about joining www.gotomeeting.com, is that we can now use this if you cannot be at our Session, or, as far as that goes, any other meeting.

Other good news is that we have two students from the Barack Obama Green Charter High School and one student from the County College of Morris who are interested in

learning our system and volunteering to run it. So in the next few weeks, you may see some young women in the sanctuary learning our technology.

Now the frustrating news. . . . We are still having difficulties at Trinity. I am working with our tech expert (Jim Roselli) to resolve the problem. Keep us in your prayers that we are able to make this system work. We've spent a lot of money and effort, so I hope we can find a way to get it done.

The 12th Annual Trinity United Church, *"Tis the Season Online Auction"* has been up and running and will soon close on Sunday, November 5th. So go to this website address www.biddingforgood.com, look for Trinity United Church and place a bid on a gift for the holidays. This year a significant portion of the proceeds will benefit the victims of hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico through the disaster relief funds of UCC and PCUSA.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – OCTOBER 3, 2017

1. A motion was approved to purchase Gotomeeting software for one year at a fee of \$30 per month, cost to be split with Trinity United Church. It will be used for worship transmission, and up to 50 people can sign on to view worship live.
2. A motion was carried to allow blessing of the Communion elements through the internet, when the pastor is not physically present.
3. On December 3, we will worship jointly at Trinity with a Madrigal performance by a high school group. On Sunday, December 24, there will be evening worship, but no morning worship.
4. The Beta sorority will be taking over the planning and serving of the Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner from the Girl Scouts. It is scheduled for Saturday, November 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. in WAPC Parish Hall.
5. Pastor Joel and Elder Sarellen Hogan attended Anti-racism training sponsored by the Presbytery, presented by a group called "Crossroads." Website is crossroadsantiracism.org.
6. Gutter cleaning and inspection of downspouts will be done at a cost of \$840. An estimate will be provided for repair of leaks.
7. Average Sunday attendance for September was 34 (joint services hosting Trinity United).
8. Session prioritized goals for 2017-2018 in the six areas of Mission, Finances, Education, Worship, Fun and Fellowship, and our Building.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session October 25, 2017

Dear Friends: Several generous donation to the Fund For Forty were received that were anonymous. We aren't able to thank you personally, but want you to know how much Session appreciates your gift. So please read the following letter, and consider yourself thanked!

WELCOMING EVERYONE
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
FOLLOWING JESUS

Dear Friends,

Last spring we sent you a letter requesting help raising funds for needed repairs and new technology. You responded in a wonderfully generous way.

The upgrading of the sanctuary with multimedia capabilities has been completed. We are now broadcasting or streaming our worship service on the world wide web. By going to **www.gotomeet.me/tucwapc**, those who cannot be in worship in person can join the meeting and see the worship service live.

We have a new rental relationship with the **Barack Obama Green Charter High School of Plainfield**, who now uses our Parish Hall building for their physical education and health classes. Our remodeled conference room serves as a home base for the newly chartered graduate chapter of the **Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. of Somerset County**. The sorority and WAPC will share in hosting the **3rd Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner** in Parish Hall. We have stayed connected to the community by maintaining our arrangements with "The Jointure" and their English as a Second Language classes, the YMCA's After-School Program and the WIC program .

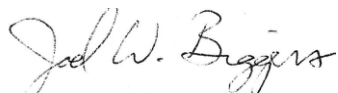
Under the leadership of Pastor Joel W. Biggers and our Session, we are moving into the future.

Over \$13,000 was raised for WAPC's Fund for Forty. We will continue fund raising efforts until we reach our goal. Donations are still being accepted.

We thank you for your generous donation. You did not receive any material benefits for your donation. Please keep this letter as your receipt for tax purposes, for the Tax Year 2017. Members of WAPC will also see your donations reflected on your year-end statement.

Thank you for your generosity, and may God continue to bless you and yours,

The Session and Pastor of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church



Pastor Joel W. Biggers



Elder Joel Stambaugh


Elder Gwynda Gronlund



Don't forget when shopping Amazon online, simply type in the word "smile" before Amazon, like so, <https://smile.amazon.com> It is the same thing as Amazon, but it enables shoppers to select a non-profit organization to receive a

small percentage of the price of the merchandise. Select Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield, with every purchase you make, and Amazon will give back .5% to our church. Shop more, support our church and therefore support our community!



"FUND FOR FORTY"

campaign is still moving forward. Continue asking your neighbors & frequently visited businesses to visit the church website in order to donate. Reach out to your Facebook friends & family and encourage them to visit the church website, www.wapc.net, to donate.

Let's keep WAPC moving forward into the future!

[Alice Lester says, "Keep those aluminum cans coming!"]

WHO - WHAT - WHEN -WHERE - WHY ???

WHO?- **YOU**

WHAT?- **ALUMINUM CANS.**Bring your aluminum cans to church, completely empty

WHEN? - **NOW.. . . .** and until further notice

WHERE?- **TO THE PARISH HALL**

WHY?- **FOR RECYCLING**Proceeds will go to the "Fund for Forty"

HELP GROW THE FUND--EVERY LITTLE BIT HELP



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

is on hiatus until further notice.
Please stay tuned for further information
regarding the new start date.

THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY

For the month of November, Seekers will meet at 7:30pm,
November 9th at the home of Fran & Wayne Young & hosted
by Al Smith and November 16th at the home of Gwyn Gronlund.
For more information, contact the church office at 908-755-2781.

GIVING TREE TAGS AVAILABLE!!

Once again we are collecting gifts for the *Women's Shelter of Somerset County*, an organization that helps women & children fleeing from troubled homes. **All items should be NEW, UNWRAPPED, and have a nonviolent theme.**

Also, please consider donating gift cards, holiday paper, tape, & ribbon. **Gift tags will be available in the Parish Hall during coffee hour, Sundays, Nov. 19th, 26th, & Dec. 3rd. ALL gifts MUST be received by Sunday, December 10th during coffee hour.** Please contact Peggy Bunnell (908-668-0051) with any questions.



SEEKING PEOPLE WHO LIKE TO HAVE FUN!

The hospitality committee is looking for people who enjoy being with others and like to set up events where everyone has a good time. We would like to plan some events, beginning with the *Advent Potluck, Sunday, December 10th*, immediately following worship, that would be open to the community as well as to members of WAPC. Please bring your ideas and let me know that you are ready to let the good times roll.

Needed immediately are people to help with this year's *Annual Thanksgiving Dinner* for the community on *Saturday, November 18, 1-3pm*. Tasks will be to help where ever the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority of Somerset County, the dinner's organizers, needs help/advice and to welcome and direct attendees to the Parish Hall, bathrooms, etc. There will be a sign up sheet during Coffee Hours or see me if you are able to give an hour or two on November 18.

Thank you. Dianne Ledder, Elder, Hospitality Chair

(See Flyer on Page 7)

Dr. Mary Breaux Wright, International President,
Janet Y. Bivins, Esq. Regional Director, Anjanette Highsmith, State Director
Kiana Lawhorn, Chapter President

Beta Alpha Rho Zeta Chapter

A Graduate Chapter
of Somerset County, NJ



Thanksgiving Community Dinner

w/ BETA ALPHA RHO ZETA CHAPTER & WATCHUNG AVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 • 18 • 17

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church



170 Watchung Ave.
North Plainfield, NJ
1pm - 3pm, Cost: FREE

All Are Welcome - Todos son bienvenidos

*** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WAPC NOVEMBER REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Bells Reh. @ 7pm; Choir Reh. @ 8pm- Choir Rm.	2 ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	3 ***	4
			↓			
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends 10:15am Worship & coffee after ↓	6 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	7 Election Day SESSION mtg. 7pm Conf. Rm. ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	8 ↓	9 ↓	10 ***	11
12 ↓	13 *** ↓	14 ↓	15 ↓	16 ↓	17 ***	18 Community Thanksgiving Meal- PH 1pm-3pm
19 ↓	20 *** ↓	21 ↓	22 ↓	23 NO Zumba Thanksgiving Day	24 ***	25
26 ↓	27 *** ↓	28 ↓ VISIONS DEADLINE	29 ↓	30 ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓		

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908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circle of Joy will join Circle of Hope for a meeting at the home of Peg Bunnell on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope invites female members of WAPC to share in our circle meeting Tues., Nov. 14th at 7:30 pm at the home of Peggy Bunnell.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circle of Grace will join Circle of Hope for a meeting at the home of Peg Bunnell on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches members need your prayers. Please continue to pray for Fran Young, now in remission, & for the family of our dear Pat Roselli.

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

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls & lap robes at our meetings & on our own time. We also do some charity knitting & crocheting, such as creating chemo caps for local cancer patients. We have decided to create "Prayer Squares" to give to visitors to WAPC.

We are changing our next meeting to Monday, November 13, at the home of Betty Miksa, at 7:30 p.m.

We will decide at a later date if we will permanently change to Mondays. We do not have an evening meeting in December.

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting, or would like to learn to knit or crochet. Current members are Cathy Boleyn, Judith Botzan, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake, Betty Miksa, & Fran Young. At HHS meetings we share ideas & prayer requests, plan our projects, & have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching.

All are welcome to join or visit.

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

PRAYER LIST

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Helen Miller*, who is at Aristacare in Plainfield, for rehabilitation.
- *Gail Schmeisser*, who is still challenged with mobility issues.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Tim Lyons*, grandson of long time members Carole & Gerry Rose, stationed in Afghanistan with a defense contractor.
- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

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

Grace Landsperger, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ, *Bob Monteith*, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ, *Beverly Krausse*, at Berkeley Heights Nursing & Rehab, 35 Cottage St., Berkeley Heights, and *Gail McKenna*, at 2225 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Fran Young's sister, Betty Lou*, whose health is improving.
- *Fran Young*, who is feeling stronger with each day.
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*





**Veterans
Day**



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DECEMBER 2017

A WORD FROM JOEL : PUTTING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

From the explosion of sexual harassment stories, to Russia probes, to midnight tweets, to ongoing threats of violence, often it is hard to feel the pending joy of the coming Christ child when we read the news. Media outlets thrive when there is nervous anxiousness in the air. Terrorists win when we stop attending events out of fear. Politicians celebrate when their names are mentioned, even if it is over something bad. If there is one thing that I wish for us this Advent season, it would be that we can focus, one week at a time, on hope, peace, love, and joy. I pray that in the midst of news, shopping and stress, we slow down and prepare our hearts in Advent in expectation of the Messiah.

During this season, we often hear the phrase, "Put Christ back in Christmas." A few years ago, I found it interesting, and even a bit peculiar, that some people suggested there was a war on Christmas because Starbucks does not use the words, "Merry Christmas" on their cups. The way I see things, it is Starbucks' job to sell coffee. I have not seen Starbucks' mission statement, but I would be surprised if it included, "sharing the love of Jesus."

We (churches) are in the Jesus business. It is our job to share the light of Christ with the world. Businesses sell stuff. We feed, heal, serve, and work for justice. To add authenticity to putting Jesus back into Christmas, I would find the rally more convincing and sincere if those cries were followed by people streaming back to our weekly

celebrations rather than complaining about coffee cups. I hope and pray you attend our Sunday gatherings during the Advent and Christmas season. It is the antidote to an anxious world. Come hear the angels proclaim, "Fear not." Go to Trinity United Church this Sunday (12/3), and enjoy Madrigal youth choir from Franklin Township High School. Sing carols with us on the 17th. Come by on the 22nd for our Live Nativity. It is our job to remind the world that God is our security. It is our job to help people awaken to the many ways God's light can shine into our lives! When we live and sleep in heavenly peace, when we seek to follow Jesus by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and caring for the least in our midst, the Light that came in the darkness 2000 years ago will illumine our way as well.

I hope to see the sanctuaries of WAPC and Trinity United Church full during the coming weeks. The staff is working hard to share the Light through word, song, pageants, and community. Come, put Christ in Christmas, and prepare room in your life for God Emmanuel!

Moving forward,
Pastor Joel

If you can't make it to worship in person

you can now join us from the comfort of your favorite recliner. If you have access to a computer and the internet, all you need do is go to www.gotomeet.me/tucwapc and you can see our worship service live.

When you go to the above site, you will need to download gotomeeting's software which only takes a few moments. Once you do that, you will be asked to join Jim Roselli's meeting. Do so, as this will be our worship service, then sit back and enjoy worship.

Another nice feature about joining Gotomeeting.com, is that we can now use this if you cannot be at our Session, or, as far as that goes, any other meeting.

Technology can make so many things in life so much more convenient. How nice is that.

CROP WALKERS!!
DECEMBER 10TH IS THE DEADLINE
to turn in your collections. Contact Al Smith, Tom Ledder
or the church office.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – NOVEMBER 7, 2017

1. A Yamaha “digital grand” piano, which lists at \$1,300, was available for \$800. A motion was carried unanimously to purchase the piano, as well as pedals for \$75 and equipment to tie into speakers for \$80.
2. A Live Nativity, including animals, is planned for Friday, December 22, from 6 to 8 p.m., on the church lawn.
3. Dr. James McLaughlin, superintendent of North Plainfield Schools, will present a public forum in the Parish Hall on December 16, from 3-5 p.m.
4. The Y paid \$3,000 of back rent for the After School Program.
5. The 45th Annual CROP Walk was held on October 22, with participants from Middlesex Pres., Holy Cross Episcopal, Agape Fellowship, Trinity Reformed Church and the Unitarian Society of Plainfield.
6. The Hospitality Committee organized greeters for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, hosted by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority in our Parish Hall. Also, plans are underway for an Advent celebration after worship on Sunday, December 10.
7. Average Sunday attendance for October was 23.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session



Dear Members: Would you consider making a contribution to the “**In Lieu of Cards Fund**” instead of sending Christmas cards to other members? This fund was used for many years to help defray the cost of a Christmas Food Basket program. Last year the Mission Committee purchased and distributed supermarket gift cards to 10 families in need of some help at

Christmastime. Funds from “in lieu of” donations are added to funds from the WAPC mission budget. Please give generously as you are able. Checks may be made payable to WAPC, with “in lieu of fund” in the memo area. Also, please remember the FISH Basket in the Mission Room. Donations of non-perishable food are accepted all year, and go to the North Plainfield Food Bank at the Vermuele Center. At this time of year, food donations are especially welcome.

Many thanks, the Mission Committee.

WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT BLUE ENVELOPE FOR?

You may have wondered what you are supposed to do with the blue envelope at the beginning of your offering envelope package. Maybe you were afraid to ask. The envelope says it is for Per Capita Apportionment, but what exactly does that mean?

Per Capita Payments

Per Capita is an assessment to support the larger church, the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Each church is required to pay Per Capita based on the number of members on our church roll. If members don't send in their Per Capita, it is then paid out of the church's general funds.

As an example of how the Presbytery supports us:

During 2016, WAPC applied for a New Hope Grant from Elizabeth Presbytery. The church was awarded a \$2,400 grant to be used toward our ongoing Community Services Fairs. Those funds came from Per Capita paid by the various churches in the Presbytery.

Per Capital Apportionment rates for 2017 are as follows:

General Assembly (PCUSA)	\$ 7.50
The Synod of the Northeast	\$ 4.10
<u>The Presbytery of Elizabeth</u>	<u>+ \$25.90</u>
TOTAL PER CAPITA	\$37.50

So look for the blue envelope labeled Per Capita in with your offering envelopes. You can also just write Per Capita on the memo line of your check.

Remember, it is never too late to send in your Per Capita payment.

Thanks to all of you for your generosity,

Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

GIVING TREE TAGS AVAILABLE!!

Once again we are collecting gifts for the *Women's Shelter of Somerset County*, an organization that helps women & children fleeing from troubled homes. All items should be NEW, UNWRAPPED, and have a nonviolent theme. Also, please consider donating gift cards, holiday paper, tape, & ribbon. The last day that gift tags are available is

Sunday, Dec. 3rd. ALL gifts MUST be received by Sunday, December 10th during coffee hour. Please contact

Peggy (908-668-0051) for tags and with any questions.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Sun., December 10- Advent Potluck, Parish Hall, 11:30am

Sat., Dec. 16- Community Forum with Dr. James McLaughlin, 3pm

Sun., December 17- Lessons in Carols Joint Worship, 10:15am

Cookie Walk, Parish Hall 11:30am

Tues., Dec. 19-Longest Night Service, Trinity United, 7pm

Fri., December 22- Live Nativity experience, 6pm-8pm



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

is on hiatus until further notice.

Please stay tuned for further information regarding the new start date.

THURSDAY NIGHT SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY

For the month of December, Seekers will be on hiatus until the Thursday after New Years. The next meeting will be January 4, 2018! All are welcome!

Contact church office, 908-755-2781, for more info.

ADVENT HAS BEGUN



Celebrate the season of preparation

WHAT: Pot luck luncheon

WHEN: Sunday, December 10, 2017

WHERE: Parish Hall, WAPC

TIME: 11:30am Punch Bowl

12:00pm Luncheon

Bring a covered, potluck main dish, side, salad or dessert.

Enjoy camaraderie, readings, singing, and games.

Please let us know that you are coming so that we can prepare.

Return completed form to: Dianne Ledder, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake,
WAPC office, or Trinity United Church office

We would like a count by Friday, December 8, 2017

I/We _____ will attend

How Many? _____

I will bring _____ (optional)



**Come meet and talk with
North Plainfield's Superintendent**

Dr. James V. McLaughlin

Saturday, December 16th

3pm-5pm

Parish Hall

Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church

170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield

**Dr. McLaughlin wants to strengthen the lines of communication
between the North Plainfield school district and its students,
parents, teachers, and community at large.**



Photo Credit Victoria Caruso

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women



It's time once again to satisfy your craving for delicious cookies and take care of your Christmas gift list! A can of cookies makes a thoughtful gift. Be sure to buy an extra can for your own munchies.

On Sunday, December 17th, immediately following worship, homemade cookies will be available in the Parish Hall. The cost is \$5.00 per can. A decorated coffee can is provided, and you choose your own cookies from those displayed. Cookies are separated according to whether they contain any nuts or nut butter.

Please sign up on the next two Sundays with
Gwyn Gronlund if you are able to bake cookies.

**We request that they be 2" or less in diameter, and labeled
"nuts" or "no nuts."**

**We will also have a table of hand crafted items,
as well as items from Grandma's Attic for sale to benefit the
"Fund for Forty".**



Thank you from PW

Tuesday, Dec. 19th



*Worship Service to be held at
Trinity United Church at 7pm*

*★ Live
Nativity*

*Dec. 22nd, 6pm, on the
Fairview side of WAPC lawn*



Poinsettias

We are beautifying our Sanctuary with poinsettias
for 3 Sundays; December 10th, 17th and Christmas Eve worship services.

All who wish to share in this way of celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior are
invited to fill out this form, place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office.

All orders must be received with cash or a check; make checks payable to PW in WAPC.

Order with payment must be in by Sunday, December 10, 2017.

Given by _____

Please write in how many of each you would like to order:

_____ Red @ \$10.00 each

_____ White @ \$10.00 each

Total Amount Enclosed _____

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) after the Christmas Eve service.

_____ I would like plant(s) delivered to a member of our Church Family.

My plant is given:

_____ In Memory of _____

_____ In Honor of _____

_____ To God's Glory for _____

*** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WAPC DECEMBER REMINDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 ***	2 Christmas Decorating 9am
3 WAPC/TUC 10:15, Joint Worship at Trinity United	4 *** ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	5 SESSION mtg. 7pm Conf. Rm. ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	6 Bells Reh. @ 7pm; Choir Reh. @ 8pm- Choir Rm.	7 ZUMBA 6:30- 7:30PM - PH ↓	8 ***	9 Joshua's Closet 1-5pm
10 10:15am, worship with Advent Pot Luck Luncheon	11 *** ↓	12 ↓	13 5pm, Sanc. WAPC/TUC Choirs Reh.	14 ↓	15 ***	16 Community Forum, Dr. McLaughlin 3-5pm
17 WAPC/TUC Joint Lessons in Carols Cookie Walk	18 *** ↓	19 ↓	20 Bells Reh. @ 7pm; Choir Reh. @ 8pm- Choir Rm.	21 ↓	22 *** Live Nativity, 6pm, front lawn	23
24 Xmas Eve- 7pm Evening worship	25 *** NO Meetings Christmas Day	26 VISIONS DEADLINE	27	28 NO Zumba	29	30
31 New Years Eve- Joint Worship 10:15am						

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Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

Circles of Joy and Grace plan to join Circle of Hope for their annual Christmas dinner at Giovanna's on Tuesday, December 12, at 5:30 p.m.

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope will meet at Giovanna's Restaurant Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30 pm for their annual Christmas Dinner.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circles of Joy and Grace plan to join Circle of Hope for their annual Christmas dinner at Giovanna's on Tuesday, December 12, at 5:30 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches members need your prayers.

Please continue to pray for Fran Young, now in remission, and for the family of our dear Pat Roselli.

Hearts, Hands & 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.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. We also do some charity knitting and crocheting, such as creating chemo caps for local cancer patients. We have decided to create "Prayer Squares" to give to visitors to WAPC.

We do not have an evening meeting in December.

Several of us will be attending the annual Advent Knitting Retreat at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Skillman. We always come home refreshed, with lots of new ideas.

Our winter meetings are scheduled for:

Monday, January 8, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund

Monday, February 12, location to be announced

Please contact a member if you would like to visit a meeting or learn to knit or crochet. Current members are Cathy Boleyn, Judith Botzan, Gwyn Gronlund, Ellen Lake, Betty Miksa, & Fran Young.

At HHS meetings we share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

Call Gwyn Gronlund for more info. (908) 754-1251



Don't forget when shopping Amazon online, simply type in the word "smile" before Amazon, like so, <https://smile.amazon.com> It is the same thing as Amazon, but it enables shoppers to select a non-profit organization to receive a

small percentage of the price of the merchandise. Select Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield, with every purchase you make, and Amazon will give back .5% to our church. Shop more, support our church and therefore support our community!



"FUND FOR FORTY"

campaign is still moving forward. Continue asking your neighbors & frequently visited businesses to visit the church website in order to donate. Reach out to your Facebook friends & family and encourage them to visit the church website, www.wapc.net, to donate.

Let's keep WAPC moving forward into the future!

[Alice Lester says, "Keep those aluminum cans coming!"]

WHO - WHAT - WHEN -WHERE - WHY ???

WHO?- YOU

WHAT?- ALUMINUM CANS.Bring your aluminum cans to church, completely empty

WHEN? - NOW.. . . . and until further notice

WHERE?- TO THE PARISH HALL

WHY?- FOR RECYCLINGProceeds will go to the "Fund for Forty"

HELP GROW THE FUND--EVERY LITTLE BIT HELP



**THANK YOU TO THE ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY OF SOMERSET
COUNTY FOR HOSTING WITH WAPC THE
3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL.**



PRAYER LIST

Healing and/or supportive prayers for:

- *Margaret Herman-Angely*, who is home recovering from a fall.
- *Helen Miller*, who is home now continuing her recovery there.
- *Gail Schmeisser*, who is still challenged with mobility issues.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

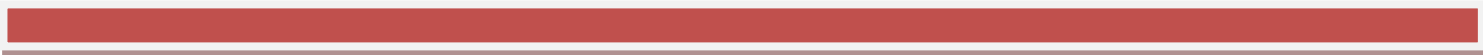
- *Tim Lyons*, grandson of long time members Carole & Gerry Rose, stationed in Afghanistan with a defense contractor.
- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, serving with U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

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

Grace Landsperger, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ, *Bob Monteith*, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ, *Beverly Krausse*, at Berkeley Heights Nursing & Rehab, 35 Cottage St., Berkeley Heights, and *Gail McKenna*, at 2225 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Prayers of support and thanksgiving for:

- *Fran Young's sister, Betty Lou*, whose health is improving.
- *Fran Young*, who is feeling stronger with each day.
- *Reverend Joel W. Biggers*





**WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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