



From Our Senior Pastor. . .

We are now heading into a third month of pause.

It seems that everyone is having a different experience, living a slightly different reality this spring. This has me thinking, pondering if you will, about the relationship between facts and truth and interpretation.

Anyone who knows me well will know that I believe deeply in the truths that go beyond fact. By this I mean that poetry and fiction have a way of telling the truth that nonfiction never can. For example, *Moby Dick* sheds light on the human capacity to obsess to the point of ruin. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* is a narrative chiaroscuro of the soul pitting the heartless Angel against the ever-suffering Tess. *Cat's Cradle* spotlights the ridiculous nature of our species, the inevitability of our own self-demise, and how little it may matter in the end. Moving away from books for a moment, *Caddyshack* undermines the assertion worth is affirmed by privilege, and perhaps more profoundly, that not all who wander are lost. Inconvenient truths we wish to deny are told in fiction – great fiction, at least.

Poetry takes this even further. Louise Glück is known for offering windows into the very soul. Her poetry isn't written so much as revealed. The words themselves melt into the picture/tapestry/story – truth – she is offering to the world. It is a perspective on the world from one human to others.

The facts of our situation pale to the truth being lived. As I write these words the news is saying that more Americans have now died from the corona virus than during combat in the Vietnam War. The facts show that over a million Americans (1 in 330 Americans) have contracted COVID-19. The facts are that millions of Americans are filing for unemployment, months after America posted some of the lowest unemployment numbers in history. The facts reveal a fragility of our systems and a serious pandemic that is still surprising health experts.

The fact is, I cannot tell at this moment when we will next be together at the corner of Mountain Avenue and Broad here in Westfield. There are immense political pressures to reopen our communities as quickly as possible, and a great body of health data showing that we may be in for a significant recurrence if we do. The facts show that we are still at risk as a country, and that at least for this time we will not be joining together in person. The facts, serious as they may be, pale to the truth being lived.

It seems these days we are all, each of us, living a very different reality. In our church community we have members who have lost loved ones to this illness. In our church community we have members recovering from it. In our church community we have families pushed to the brink from unemployment, from parents who work as first responders – who put their families at risk to save the lives of others – to families struggling to balance work (often with both parents working) with being teachers and parents to young children. In our community we have families with teens and young adults who have watched major milestones be ripped from their grasp – proms

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Celebrating our Seniors and 50+ Members

Every May there has been a special worship service to celebrate our Senior members and those members who have been a part of the community at PCW for 50 years.

This year will obviously be different. The service to celebrate those who have been members for 50 years will be celebrated next year along with the class of 2021.

PCW 50 year members for 2020:

Barbara Hannah	Gayle Hannah	Don Kolterjahn
Mary MacAskill	Nancy Smith	Margaret Smith
Dean Smith	Ernst Wildi	



We are grateful for those who have made PCW their church family and given of their time and resources to its ministry. Feel free to contact them and congratulate them as well as ask them to share some special memory with you.

Along with celebrating those who have been involved in the life of the congregation, each May the Senior Network plans and leads the worship service. While we are gathering for worship from our homes, the seniors will not be able to lead the service so they will lead the worship again next year. We are so grateful for the Senior Network's ministry and care of the older members of the congregation. During the pandemic they have been calling many of the older members to check in and see if anyone has specific needs. They want individuals to know that the church cares as they display Christ's love to others.

When the Senior Network can gather together again, they will resume their activities with Lunch and Movie the 4th Wednesday of each month and the Board Meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. There are also other activities and workshops sponsored by the group. If you are looking for a caring group of older adults, this group is for you.



50 YEAR MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN WESTFIELD, NJ

David Andreassen	Nancy Gearhart	Paul Kolterjahn	Barbara Ringk
Inger Andreassen	Carol Greco	Frances Linn	Ann Robinson
Eleanor Annis	George C Grow III	Hope Lucas	Nancy Roff
Kenneth August	Jeffrey Gruman	Kay Macrae	Jean Sarle
Ann Ayres	Karen Gruman	Stephanie Mannino	Peter Schiessl Jr
Deborah Bailey	Janet Hartkopf	Barbara McLaughlan	Wendy Schoenemann
Betty Brown	William Hedden Jr	Shirley McMeekan	Jean Schork
Christine Brown	Anne Heinbokel	William McMeekan	Douglas Schwarz
Barbara Burton	Elizabeth Hetherington	Robert Mill	Joan Sinclair
Frances Comstock	Arthur Horner	Robert Miller	Marylyn Straight
Elaine Cummings	Barbara Horner	Sarah (Tay) Miller	Ronald Straight
Jane Curtis	Clara Husch	J Charles Monzella	Nancy Werber
Barbara DePaul	Eileen Jacob	Constance Muirhead	Rolla Wheaton III
Sally Doerr	Mary Johnson	Donna Pace	Lois Wiehl
Eleanor DuBois	Karen Kashlak	Phyllis Pecka	Alexander Williams
Jean Enes	Ron Kashlak	Thomas Phelan	Jennie Williams
Warren Engelke	Alice Kehler	Mary Pope	
Ellen Foster	Valerie Klimas	Nancy Priest	
William Fredericks	Marilyn Kolterjahn	Doris Reinhardt	

cancelled, senior year arrested, internships dissolved, jobs dried up, launches prepared are put on hold. In our community we have members taking a breath, a break, for the first time in decades, members who are rediscovering a passion for life as this forced pause is giving us an opportunity our culture scarcely ever allows. We are experiencing a heady dose of anxiety, fear, frustration, exhaustion, joy, loneliness, intimacy, and a rush of other emotions and realities in ways we hardly know how to process. It is all real; it all matters.

I'm going to make a turn now. Some people of faith need for scripture itself to be a rock to cling to. It must, for them, be an infallible fact that distills God's intent for us. Well, it doesn't.

What our scriptures do instead is gather into one place the whole drama of the human story with the divine presence – from a very particular point of view – that points to the loving presence who resides within and beyond creation. Our scriptures tell the stories of broken people living hardscrabble lives, lives of sinners – drunks and prostitutes, philanderers and, at the very least, emotionally abusive partners. Our scriptures tell the stories of people on the margins, the sick, the foreigner, all who are unworthy. Our scriptures tell all these stories and smack in the middle of the whole thing are 150 songs and poems that describe just about every human feeling, experience, emotion, and thought. One hundred and fifty psalms that reveal the rich fabric of human reality.

With so many true, but diverse, feelings swirling, I offer the psalms. Here are a few examples of feelings and psalms that could be a companion:

- Afraid: Psalms 56 or 91
- Discouraged: Psalm 42, or 46 – even Psalm 23
- Lonely: Psalms 62 or 71
- Worried and Anxious: Psalms 37 or 73
- Angry or Resentful: Psalms 13, 58, 77 or 94
- Joyful or Happy: Psalms 66 or 92
- Forsaken: Psalm 88
- Grateful: Psalm 40
- Disbelieving: Psalm 119

Pause, name the feelings stirring within you, and look into the heart of our scriptures; they will point you back to the place where God is present within you now, walking the same path.

Peace be with you, now and always – Jeremy

Van Dellen Scholarship

Deadline Extended

If you have a high school senior and are interested in applying for the Van Dellen Scholarship we have good news. The deadline has been extended to May 15. These scholarships are meant to benefit members of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield who need and are deserving of financial aid for the purpose of obtaining a college education. The winner(s) will be announced in the early summer and the monies are available for the Fall 2020 Semester.

Eligible applicants must be graduating from high school at the end of the current academic year, and plan to enroll in an accredited college program. Recipients will be selected on the basis of the following: Academic Achievement, Community Service, Character, Church Service/Activities, Financial Need, and Leadership; and must be an active member of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. (An active member is a person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, has been baptized, has been received into membership of the Church, has voluntarily submitted to the government of this Church, and participates in the Church's work and worship.)

Applications may be downloaded online at westfieldpc.org on the "Forms" page or found in the church office. Deadline to submit to the Church Office is May 15, 2020. Contact the office with any questions.

Faith Formation Is Still Open for Business!

Faith Formation continues to connect with our church members in new and creative ways in the midst of the challenges we face. On Sunday mornings, we have Questers and Serendipity meeting via phone conferences and Zoom meetings; on Wednesday afternoon we have COW and even Online COW (O-COW) and our Theology Discussion Group is resuming their Monday night sessions with “Man’s Search for Meaning” by Victor Frankl. Thank you to all of the people and families who are participating in these events.

COW has gone online and we had our first O-COW meeting on April 15th. The kids had a great time and we look forward to continuing COW through early May. The Bible story, activities and COW recipes are available online each week. The kids will also be working with Paul Sanner on a special project, so please join us on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

In April we said goodbye to Christine Treger our Christian Education Director. The commission and families extend their gratitude to Christine for her guidance and creativity over the many years that she has served PCW.

LUNCH AND A BOOK

Lunch and a Book will meet via phone conference on Friday, May 8th at 12:00 p.m. to discuss “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng. An invitation will go out to the group prior to the meeting date, but if you would like to make sure you are part of the call, please contact Lisa Black, lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com to be part of the call to discuss the book. We will also reveal the summer book! Hope you can join us!

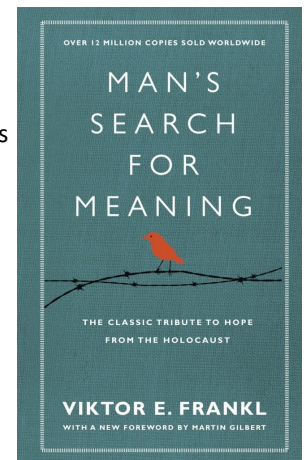


THEOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP

Man’s Search for Meaning, A Book Discussion

The Theology Discussion Group is planning to relaunch with a ‘virtual meeting’ to discuss Victor Frankl’s monumental book on his reflections from experiences in a WWII concentration camp with encouragement for us to find meaning in our lives. The book is available from various on-line sources — from local bookstores to mega retailers. You may also have a copy on your bookshelf as it was a college orientation book for some schools. We will divide the reading into two parts, as the book is laid out. The first meeting will be on Monday May 4th and the second meeting on Monday May 18th, both from 7:30-9PM.

A Zoom meeting will be organized to facilitate our connections and conversation (there will be audio access for those without Zoom capabilities). All are welcome. Please contact Alan Smith for more information and to get the access codes. alandsmith518@gmail.com; 917-239-1667.



Helpful Information for Seniors Needing Assistance

If you are aware of a senior citizen in Westfield who is in need of assistance, especially if they're not online and not receiving information, please tell them they can call 908-301-1287. This is a town recreation department senior transport line, but they are responding to all types of calls from seniors at this time. Those who are able to do so can also email westfieldnjseiors@gmail.com.



Mission Update

Greetings from Our Friends in Zambia

The Zambia Mission Team has been in communication with our partners at the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) in Livingstone. On March 19th, the day after the first two positive cases were identified and quarantined, the Zambian President closed all international airports except Lusaka where screening occurs, gyms, bars, casinos, and night clubs. Restaurants can only do delivery or takeout. The epicenter is Lusaka.

Robert, Clerk of Session, tells us "For your information, our schools countrywide are closing tomorrow Friday, 20th March, because of the spread of the deadly corona virus disease. Our Synod has also followed suit giving directive to all our Churches to postpone all gatherings until further notice. We were supposed to have our Rededication Gathering starting this Friday but it has since been cancelled. So far the Ministry of Health has also directed that we should refrain from shaking hands as we greet one another and wash our hands regularly."

(April 6th)" As for us here, we are now meeting in Sections on Wednesdays and Sundays in groups of less than 20 members per Section. There is Dambwa Section where I come from, Town Section where Chamanga and Justina come from, Linda Section where Jane comes from, Maramba Section where Joyce, Elina and our Reverend come from and there is Libuyu Section where Hope and others come from. Our Government has extended the period for another two weeks and there is much less movements. We only pray that our Lord God Almighty shall quickly normalize the situation. Let us continue praying for one another."

(April 15th) "Countrywide, we have had 48 cases of COVID-19 out of which two passed on and about 30 have so far been discharged. How is the situation that side? We only pray that our Lord God Almighty shall quickly normalize the situation. Let us continue praying for one another. "

On another subject Robert says "Thank you so much for all the Daily Devotions and Online Sunday Services that you are sending to us. For those of us who have been to your country before, we feel as though we are there again. It has been so wonderful sharing the Word of God with you in this manner."

Jane, elder and session member, writes ""I am so thankful for the Bible Lessons you sent to us. This will help us a lot during this time of COVID-19 as we meet in Sections on Wednesdays and Sundays. The information is so helpful both to adults and children especially that most of the people here have no electronic and internet access. When schools open, we are going to use this same information during story time with our pupils. Please continue sending me such type of materials for the children at school. Thank you so much for the efforts you are making to promote our school. The money you sent helped us a lot. May God continue blessing the entire Westfield Congregation."

Pictured bottom left is Grace & Elina front left and Jane front right with their Home Based Care clients and families in the back; and bottom right is Boston with his client distributing their quarterly food donations on March 19th.



Happy Birthday!

May 1

Harris, Cynthia M
Morgan, Julia
Eck, Lauren
Vinnelrod, Rachel
Greco, Collin

May 2

Lorenzetti, Bethany
Mushell, Sophie M.
Parker, Abby

May 3

Wager, Bobbi
Osment, Debbie
Cerra, Lisa
Collins, Jane
Flast, Drew
Brindle, Nicholas

May 4

Roth, Mary
Hyman, Jordan
Star, Kyle
Weldon, Sophia

May 5

Ayres, Ann
Park, Jane
Nelson, Barbara
Perry, Jonathan
Pink, Susan
Pate, Jeffrey

May 6

Morgan, Mike
Kinsella, Larry
Smith, Connor
Wright, Tyler

May 7

Bond, Alex



May 8

Hetherington, Elizabeth
Morgan, Paula
Smith, Nancy
Lapham, Brian
Gibbs, Logan

May 9

Nary, Charles

May 10

Miller, Robert
Eickemeyer, Bob
Graf, Larry
Wetlesen, Nancy
Fico, Robert
Mackay, Susan
Foltz, David
Collins, William

May 11

Ackland, Mark

May 12

DeMartino, Bradley

May 13

Boff, Jason
Kalis, Kelly
Jablonski, Natalie
Betz, Rachel

May 14

Greco, Carol
Wood, Carolyn
Burton, Matt
Beauchamp, Chloe

May 15

Yucetepe, Lily
Fusco, Emily

May 16

Fahrenthold, Daniel

May 17

Healey-Miller, Carol
Hannah, Katie
VanWyk, Cameron

May 18

St. Laurent, Ron
Cummings, Myrna
Fleder, Carolyn
Ince, Matthew
Ingrassia, Alexander
Sanderson, Eleanor
Lloyd, Josie
Williams, Caitlin
Williams, Sophie
Hyman, Julia

May 19

Betz, Hunter
Pinkin, Mackenzie

May 20

Hartkopf, Janet
DuMont, Glen
Crenshaw, Haili
Hannah, Janet
Janusz, Richard
Nemec, Courtney
Colao, Samuel

May 21

May, Sally

May 22

Murch, Bonnie
Brewer, Luke
Shields, Emily
Giglio, Jonathan

May 23

Victorino, Kristen
Jackson, Dylan

May 24

Youssef, Pascal
Obuchowski, Jamie

May 25

Cook, Bill
Driscoll-Swartz, Carolyn
Sullivan, Sean
Weber, Mary
Howland, Morgan
Withrow, Luke

May 26

Cohen, Adam
Kender, Meredith
Hay, Alyssa
Beauchamp, Lee

May 27

Victorino, Chris
Milford, Olivia
Riley, Emma

May 28

McFall, Patricia
Yarusi, Joyce
Jacobsen, Nancy
DuMont, Roger
Fleschler, Margaux
Miller, Wyatt
Braun, Jonathan
Brown, Ellie
Leone, Andrew

May 29

Burton, Barbara
Yamano, Laine

May 30

Park, Im
Vasnelis, Lauren
Sisto, Lilly
Roth, Ryan
Vierschilling, Alexa

May 31

Seastream, Elsie
Wilkin, Mr Kevin
Jones, Katie
Johnson, Leo

AGAPE CLOTHING DRIVE FUNDRAISER

Please mark your calendar! We have scheduled our CLOTHING DRIVE FUNDRAISER to benefit our AGAPE program: MAY 17-21.

If you find yourself cleaning your closets, please place your donations in plastic bags to be dropped off in May. We take usable clothing, shoes, belts, linens, curtains, towels, ties, pocketbooks, bedding, pillows, stuffed animals, etc.

The clothing drive has no face to face contact. Drop your bagged donations into our church van in the PCW parking lot during these dates only. Thank you!

Your donations will raise money to help fund the meals and lift the spirits of the guests of our Agape program. Thank you for your support!

Questions: Janet Smith. 908-578-1759 OR JNS202@aol.com



Your Help Is Needed!

In compliance with the Statewide Stay at Home Order banning crowds or any type of assemblies, we temporarily suspended Agape for everyone's health and safety. It was a difficult decision, because we know all too well that our guests and the community of Elizabeth depend on that weekly meal.

People ask, "What can I do?" The answer is "A lot!!"

The Rotary Club of Westfield has organized a sandwich drop-off at St. Joseph's in Elizabeth for WEDNESDAYS!! Please have your sandwiches dropped off on Wednesdays before 11 am at either:

438 Poe Avenue, Westfield or

529 Hanford Place, Westfield

Rotarians will make sure the sandwiches are delivered to St. Joseph's on time.

Guidelines for Sandwich Making:

If you would like to make sandwiches in bulk so that we have an ample supply, please use the following guidelines:

1. Meat and Cheese: 1 lb. of meat and 1 lb. of cheese will generally make a loaf of bread's worth of sandwiches.
2. Please do not put condiments on the sandwiches.
3. Please individually wrap each sandwich and then place the sandwich bags in the bag the bread was in. This allows us to easily store the sandwiches and freeze them if necessary. Please mark the type of sandwich on the loaf bag.



Donations Welcome:

If you are unable to provide sandwiches or Emergency Food Bags, St. Joseph's also welcomes monetary donations which can be mailed to 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201.

A note from St. Joseph's Social Services:

"Thank you to all who are so generously offering your assistance during this difficult time! Please pray for our community, who were already struggling to afford basic necessities."





140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

Sunday Worship Schedule

8am Traditional
Chapel

10am Traditional
Sanctuary

10am Contemporary
Westminster Hall



Sunday School & Childcare

10am Children's Sunday School
September 2019—June 2020
3yrs - 5th grade
Lower Level, Christian Education Building

9am-11am Childcare
Infants - 3 years old
Room 104, Lower Level, Christian Education Building

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

CONTACT US

westfieldpc.org | wired4worship.com
908-233-0301 | Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm



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