



A Message from Our Pastor

Change is in the air, and for The Presbyterian Church in Westfield it is more than just the onset of autumn. Our ministries are working more closely together than I have ever seen, impacting the lives of members and neighbors, near and far. In this copy of the Spire, you'll find ways to connect, opportunities to serve, and learn more about how we continue to stand as a beacon of hope in our little corner of the world.

We are also really excited to share that our team is growing. We welcomed Beyanka Wheatley as our new Communications Specialist in August. Some of you may remember that this search started almost a year ago and was put on hold at the outbreak of COVID. In addition, we have also resumed the search for a Christian Education Coordinator following the retirement of our beloved Christine Treger and look forward to giving you all updates on this progress.

Perhaps the most exciting pending additions are the two concurrent searches for Associate Pastors. Our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is working as two distinct working teams to stay focused on their respective roles, while coming together to share resources (and even candidate names). Both teams have been actively reviewing candidates' resumes (called Personal Information Forms in the Presbyterian world) and interviewing qualified applicants. I know the teams will appreciate your continued prayers as they get to know new people from across the country and carefully discern who it is that God is preparing to join us in ministry and living life.

There is a lot of 'new' on our horizon, and this is a thrilling time for us. We are now on the cusp of having a full staff once more. As we begin to introduce our new additions, I hope you will join me and the leaders of the church in welcoming them, and making them feel at home.

Peace be with you all,
Jeremy

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Faith Formation

Lock-downs, lock-ins, quarantines and COVID-19 have not slowed down Faith Formation at all! We have activities and opportunities available for people of all ages! We are excited about our Fall plans and we continue to add opportunities, so read those email blasts for up to date information.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **QUESTERS** - Every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. you can be part of an in-depth discussion on loving God and one another. The telephone conference is led by Nancy Smith and everyone is welcome. To get the call-in information, please contact Nancy at Nancyreidsmith@gmail.com.
- **SERENDIPITY** - Led by Robin Hoy, this group meets via Zoom each week at 11:15 to discuss a variety of topics. Please contact Robin at crhoy4@gmail.com and let her know that you want to participate.
- **TDG (Theology Discussion Group)** - We invite you to join us for our next discussion Monday, October 5th and 19th, 7:30 - 8:30pm as we read and reflect on Thomas Merton's "No Man Is an Island". We will be covering chapters 3 & 4 on the October 5th and chapters 5 & 6 on October 19th.

All discussions will be held via ZOOM until further notice. Look for announcements of dates and times in the Friday e-blasts. All are welcome. Please contact Alan Smith (alandsmith518@gmail.com) for more information.

- **Book Discussion Group** - A weekly discussion of the book, "A Song to Sing, A Life to Live" is led by Paul Sanner. This group offers both in person and zoom meetings. Please contact Paul Sanner at psanner@westfieldpc.org for more information.
- **Lunch and a Book** - Please join us on Friday, October 2nd at noon to discuss "A Woman of No Importance" by Sonia Purnell. We will discuss this amazing true story of World War II spy, Virginia Hall, on a zoom call/phone conference. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lisa Black, lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com to get the zoom invite and call in instructions. Our next book for our November discussion is "The Rent Collector" by Cameron Wright. Everyone is welcome to participate!



CHILDREN'S EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Sunday School** - Each week the children's Sunday school lesson for all three age groups is posted on the church website. We encourage you to check out the link and share those stories with your children. The Bible stories offer opportunities for sharing and learning, there are crafts and we will be supplementing the curriculum with our own videos and recordings of the stories. For 3rd - 5th graders, we will have in-person Sunday school on the front lawn (in the grid) where we will discuss the Bible story for the day and do some fun activities. Please register in advance on the church website.



- **WOW** - October welcomes the return of our midweek children's program - Worship on Wednesday (WOW). We will meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month (at least until January) via Zoom calls at 5:00 p.m. This year we will provide craft packages the first of each month for families to pick-up at the church. A few days before each WOW, we will provide online activities, videos and Bible stories that we will discuss on Wednesday evenings. If you participated in VVBC you will love WOW!

Registration forms will be available online or by contacting Lisa Black, lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com. This program is open to all children ages 3 to 5th grade.

Weedy Workers Winding Down

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who served as a “Weedy Worker” this year. We started this project last May as a way to serve God, to keep our church campus looking beautiful, and to find a safe way to gather and connect. We weeded and mulched the parking lot area, revived a small rose garden, de-vined the shed, weeded the area in front of the cemetery and cleaned up the grounds along Mountain Ave. and the front of the church. Every Saturday morning people were working together with joy and a sense of purpose.



As we wind down the summer (and as the weeds stop growing), we look forward to planting some bulbs and doing final preparations for winter. We will continue to meet, weather permitting, in October.

A twenty-one glove salute to Jane Francz, Scott Valentine, Nancy Smith, Carolyn Fleder, Leslie Bischoff, Donna Vassel, Bruce Vassel, Hans Polak, Lisa Colao, Pam Kolb, Claudia Heffner, Logan Elfstrum and Lisa Black.

PCW on the Lawn



Time Out for Parents (T.O.P.S)

Time Out for Parents and the Presbyterian Nursery School will reopen to **children younger than three years** in January 2021. Hopefully the coronavirus will have subsided and the schools will have led the way to keep children safe and learning in the company of their friends.

Registration for TOPS is ongoing. Contact Mary Danskin, Director at mkdanskin@comcast.net. Each 2.5 hour class in room 104 will be \$40 and run on alternating days from 9:00-11:30 a.m.



Youth

Hi PCW Youth Families!

We are so excited to kick off a new program year at PCW Youth and to see everyone's faces again! While this year will look different than years past, we are excited about the opportunities to learn and grow in our relationships with each other and God, however that may look. Please be on the lookout for information around new protocols and program specifics in the coming weeks.



Please note, you will need to PRE-REGISTER for all in-person programs.

Also, check in on the Church and Youth Group social media pages for upcoming events and changes as the schedule will be more fluid than years past!

The current PCW Youth 2020 program schedule:

Wednesdays (beginning September 23)

- Breakfast Club (6th-8th Grade) - 7:00 am - PCW Parking Lot
- High School Small groups - 9th grade 4PM, 11/12th grade 5PM - Church Front Steps

Sundays (beginning September 27)

- First High School (9th-12th Grade) Sunday School - 11:00 am via ZOOM
- 10th Grade Confirmation - 1:00-3:00 pm- PCW Front Lawn
- First MONTHLY Fellowship (6-12th Grade) Movie Night - The Sandlot
- 6:30 - 8:30 pm- PCW Front Lawn

Sunday, October 4

- First Agape Meal bagging (9th-12th Grade)
- 7:00pm- PCW Parking Lot

Please reach out to Courtney Nemec, courtney.r.nemec@gmail.com or Emily Parkinson, ekieczkowski@gmail.com with any questions!

Agape Local Food Boxes

During this global pandemic, much of what was once routine in our lives is now unknown. For some, the “unknown” is how they will ensure a stable food supply with enough to eat every day. Food insecurity has exploded among communities large and small.

In our own town of Westfield, a group of school principals, teachers, nurses, and related staff have identified at least 30 families who need food support.

As a church, we feel compelled to step in and help our neighbors. We have developed a plan to provide these families with a weekly box of staples – fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, jar/canned goods, cereal, rice/potatoes/pasta, body wash, and laundry detergent. A list of much needed items is updated weekly.

If you would like more information, please contact Carole Cook, chcook22@yahoo.com.



What Remains?

Joseph of Arimathea, a Jew, and a member of the Sanhedrin and a follower of Jesus voted against Jesus' crucifixion. He asked Pilate for the body and took it to his own new tomb hewn from solid rock.

That was 20 centuries ago. It was a mere 3 centuries ago, in 1720 that the founders of Westfield decided that a tract of land within the town would become the Burial Grounds. Fourteen years later (1734) it became a part of the church property.

Although the arrangements and events at the end of the life of Jesus were world changing, every family today also experiences the sorrow, pain, and anguish at the passing of a loved one as was felt by Mary, the disciples, and all of Jesus' followers.

Joseph provided the final resting place of Jesus' earthly being until the Resurrection on Easter. Your church also provides suitable places for remains.

When final arrangements are needed or even before, we, in the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, have three options for burials. Although we no longer have full body burials in the Burial Grounds (and have not since about 1960), in 1978 the Cremains Section was opened adjacent to Section I. It was established with over 400 burial plots at grade level allowing for over 800 interments of cremation urns. The wall surrounding the Section added 62 columbarium crypts above ground. These allow the addition of over 120 additional interments. Approximately half of the original plots are available for purchase. Most of the crypts in the wall are available.

The option for full body burial still exists in the plots owned by the church in Graceland Cemetery in Kenilworth. These 100 were a gift to the church in 2015.

To avail yourselves of any of these options contact the church office or the Cemetery Committee. They will be pleased to assist you.

Maintaining the Burial Grounds is, as you can imagine, a regular cost item in the church budget. While there is no charge to the church to maintain the land at Graceland cemetery, there is cost to the church to keep the Burial Grounds grass cut and the trees, shrubs, and groundcover trimmed. Your contribution to the Cemetery Endowment Fund will help to build that account to the point where the cemetery can one day be self-sustaining.

A book by Mr. Herbert Halsey documented the cemetery in the 1970s. A new two-part book is near completion written by church members. It contains the history of the Burial Grounds plus a Field Guide to assist those wishing to search for ancestors or people of local significance. It will include all of the known material in the church and town records. Hopefully it will be published and available by the end of the year 2020.

AGAPE CLOTHING DRIVE IS BACK!

If you have been cleaning out your closets in anticipation of the next clothing drive, please mark your calendar! The next CLOTHING DRIVE FUNDRAISER to benefit our AGAPE program is **OCTOBER 28 & 29**. The truck will pick up all bags on **OCTOBER 30, 2020!**

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. Please place your donations in plastic bags and drop them off into the PCW Church van located in the PCW parking lot **ONLY on 10/28 and 10/29.**

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.



Update from Zambia

The Zambia Mission Team requests your prayers for our sisters and brothers in Zambia.

We have heard from our partners in Livingstone that COVID is making life very tough for them now. Here is what they told us. "Generally things are rough for all of us here as you may be aware that our town is a border town bordering three countries and also a tourist capital largely depending on cross border trading and tourism. This time it is hard as all borders are closed so there are no tourists coming in and people cannot do business with nearby countries. Almost all of our Lodges closed down and all their workers are off pay roll as there is no business. Truly it is extra hard for our HBC clients. It's something we shall live to remember. We only pray for God's intervention to normalize the situation soon. Indeed you are also always in our prayers. May God Bless. "

"Our economy is currently biting due to hyperinflation and the number of COVID 19 cases are increasing at a faster rate. The loan empowerment project that was initiated was doing very well and it really contributed in trying to empower women with finances to capitalize their small businesses. It is rather unfortunate that the funding and repayment slowed down due to the staggering economy which had led to a very high cost of living in Zambia. The depreciated kwacha has led the livelihood of families in our congregation and across to become very tough as most small businesses have collapsed and others have been laid off of work. There is need to for our small businesses to be rejuvenated with relief capital so that they start trading again. We just thank the Almighty God that so far none of our Congregation members have gotten the Corona virus as we make sure we all adhere to the health guidelines ."

FYI, The women of the Livingstone congregation set up the Loan Empowerment Project with the funds they earned from the sales of their handicrafts at PCW. We thank all those who purchased items a few years ago. There are still a few items available for purchase. If you are interested please contact the office. All funds from sales are sent to Livingstone.

Most of the women and many of the men in our partner church have their own small businesses. Some of them would walk across the bridge to Zimbabwe or drive to Botswana to purchase goods that they then lugged back to sell in Livingstone. Others have sewing businesses or other selling or repair businesses. With borders closed the products are unavailable.

Please keep our friends in Zambia in your prayers. We are always in their prayers. We are currently supporting their home based care clients (HBC), their preschool, and their church internet access. Donations to this PCW mission are always welcome.



Don't forget. . .
Daylight Savings Ends
Sunday, November 1!
Set your clocks back one hour.

Giving at PCW

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

or on the PCW website: westfieldpc.org,

Click on "Give" tab, and follow the directions.

Happy Birthday to YOU!



OCT 1

Kristina Haag
Andrew Pink

OCT 2

Shyam Sharma
Sydney Dickey
Jonathan DelPaoli
Evan Gibbs
Elizabeth Compton

OCT 3

Judith Richards
Robert Weldon

OCT 4

Jane Francz
Donald Matera
Christopher McArdle

OCT 5

Barbara Ehrhardt
Deborah Kristiansen
David Parker
Eric Knauss
Julian Trott
Evan Branagan

OCT 6

Leesa Nash
Lisa Benke
Sam Crossland

OCT 7

Michael Quinlan
Sarah Godfrey
Thomas Ramage
Megan Sandstedt

OCT 8

Jane Curtis
Robert Hevert
Thomas Wetlesen
Jean Thompson
William Bennett
Yimei Yang
Christopher Svoboda

OCT 9

Alexander Williams
Claire Cassie
Christopher Zdenek
Anthony Donatelli
Isabelle Wright
Hannah Thomas

OCT 10

John Dedousis

OCT 11

Emily Perry
Will Dailey

OCT 12

Alan Smith
Kyle Berwick
William Bennett

OCT 13

Drew Axelson
Nicole Vaccaro
Emily Harris
Olivia Ebel

OCT 14

Martha Kieczkowski
Emma Shor
Shea Murphy

OCT 15

Frances Linn
Diane Hansen
Gregg Gorman
Yelena Grow

OCT 16

Craig Born
Josephine Cerino
Logan Howland
Charles Stock

OCT 17

Nicholas Donatelli
Gabrielle Stravach
Kara Bush
Amelia Beck

OCT 18

Bradley Husch
Tammie Elfstrum
Julie Beck
Katie Yamano
Stephen Husch
Kyle Altman
Lindsay Wang

OCT 19

Xiaozhou Zhou
Lydia Anne Seaman
Trey Brown

OCT 20

Karl Gerckens
Maren Siegel
Owen Dembiec

OCT 21

Douglas Schwarz
George Himmel
Stephanie Fine
Christopher Spurlock
Natalie Bond
Nicholas Bond

OCT 22

Susan Devaney

OCT 23

Loretta Shpunder
Nathan Bryant

OCT 24

Jean Schork
Megan Jackson
Alex Benke
Jack Elfstrum

OCT 25

Marissa Garabedian
Anna Swartz

OCT 26

Morgan Bungerz

OCT 27

Carrie Greco

OCT 28

Maddie DiFulvio
Joseph Jones

OCT 29

Bruce Cummings

OCT 30

OCT 31

Lynn Adams
Sarah Becker
Colin Murphy

*PCW's database has no recorded birthdays on October 30.
If you don't see your birthday listed, please contact the church office.
We will be happy to add your name to the monthly birthday list!*



140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNINGS

10AM!

ONLINE

PCW ON THE LAWN

Wednesdays at 7pm

Everyone is welcome.

Sunday School Online

3yrs - 5th grade

Adults

Questers

Serendipity

Do you have news to share?

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

We'd love to celebrate with you!

CONTACT US

westfieldpc.org | wired4worship.com

908-233-0301 | Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm



@PCWestfield

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