



THE SPIRE

September 2020

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

A Message from Our Pastor

The view isn't what I expected to see. Last winter, when we were starting the process of building toward the new church year, which starts this month, I envisioned Community Day and joining in more of the celebrations of Westfield's 300th and new programming opportunities as we begin to be fully staffed once more. I saw apple picking and pumpkin patches and apple cider donuts on the horizon. I saw cool evenings around the fire pit with good friends. Personally, I saw myself getting a little choked up watching one of my kids walk into elementary school for the first time.

It feels as if there is a fog obscuring the view. When asked when we will be regathering at the church for our perennial major celebrations, I have to admit that we do not yet have the information needed to make that call. So, the view isn't what I expected to see.

As we turn to start the fall, our families will be starting a new school year that is unlike any other. Many who work will continue the long juggle of family demands and working from home, but now with the additional pressure of being a home-school teacher. Some folks under our care are bored, others are lonely, others are depressed or anxious, and still others have felt the weight and shame of self-medicating. Everyone is stretched thin, and most are just tired of not knowing what to expect.

That said, something exciting has been bubbling under the surface for our church community. What we lack for in certainty we are making up in finding new ways of worshipping, learning, connecting, and serving. Our leaders are still committed to making sure that everyone engaged with our church has holy moments where they come face to face with the divine and are set on a new path to transformation.

We are becoming better and better equipped to help you stay linked with your friends in the church, and supported in your daily life. Over the coming weeks and months look for new worship opportunities that focus on what we are going through as a community. Look for new ways of learning and connecting. Look for new ways to serve our neighbors. This time of health, economic, and socio-political crises has made so much feel hazy, but we have become stronger for it.

It is not what I expected; in some ways it is far more profound that I could have hoped or dreamed.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2

*Welcome Beyanka
Wednesday Worship*

Page 3

*Music & Covid19
Session Retreat*

Page 4

*Paul's Book Group
Confirmation Class*

Page 5

*Faith Formation
Theology Discussion
Spire Photo*

Page 6

*NJSO
VBC Picture
Giving*

Page 7

Birthdays

Meet Beyanka, PCW's Communication Specialist

We are pleased to welcome Beyanka Wheatley to PCW as our Communications Specialist. Beyanka, a recent graduate of Kean University with a Masters in Communications and Media Studies, will work with our dynamic ministries and leaders to tell the story of who we are and how this community changes lives.

While at Kean, Beyanka was a Graduate Assistant with the Leadership Institute, developing workshops and community service projects as well as managing the social media account. Beyanka loves music... especially Beyoncé, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston and other big vocalists... and relaxes at home with her cat, Newton. She can be reached at bwheatley@westfieldpc.org or 908-233-0301 X27.



PCW on the LAWN

Bring your family, hand sanitizer, a face mask, Bible and a chair for PCW on the Lawn, Wednesdays at 7pm!

Please plan to get to church 10 to 15 minutes before the service to allow enough time to get through the check-in process. Someone will help you sign in, take your temperature and direct you to your space. If you need a chair, a disinfected chair will be available for you. Children must sit with their parents for social distancing purposes. If you are planning to attend you can call the church office and let us know as we are following the Covid -19 safety protocols.

Additionally, if you or anyone in your household has a fever above 100 degrees, is waiting for COVID-19 test results or, has come in contact with someone who has tested positive or is presumptive positive within the last 14 days you will be unable to join the service. If we learn that someone has tested positive or presumptive positive, we will notify attendees and the congregation.

Our protocols are based on the most recent guidelines from government and health authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, the New Jersey Departmental of Health, and the Elizabeth Presbytery. We also reviewed the best practices employed by other houses of worship.

In the event of bad weather, we will cancel the service. The information will be sent out on email and posted on Facebook.

We anticipate being able to have services on the lawn through at least the end of September and look forward to seeing you there!



Music at PCW in the Time of Covid-19

Hello Everyone,

I hope you've been enjoying the summer, even in these unique conditions.

Since we suspended on-site Sunday worship services in early March, we've learned:

- We can worship together, through online platforms (Facebook and YouTube) and our website, and still be in communion -- I experience that every week, especially when we pray together on Facebook
- The chancel choir and wired band can still bring beautiful music to our midst.
- We can gather outdoors while respecting the health and well-being of each other

Musical expression will continue to enrich our faith journey. In our online worship you'll hear more recordings from the Wired Band and Chancel Choir. As we gather in person when and how we are able, we'll follow scientific guidance regarding singing together, which, I'm sorry to say, will most likely severely limit the possibility of singing together in large groups. However, we'll do what we can in that regard, and also use this opportunity to explore greater use of instrumental music, and continue to enjoy musical offerings from our handbell choir.

If you would like to join us in any of our Covid-19 musical endeavors, please me know at psanner@westfieldpc.org.

Peace be with you.



SESSION RETREAT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

AT THE HOME OF

HOWARD & LYNN ADAMS

852 RAMAPO WAY

WESTFIELD, NJ

12PM—4PM



Questions?

**Contact Ginny Leiz, Clerk of Session, gleiz@gmail.com or
Rev. Jeremy Jinkins, Pastor, Head of Staff, jjinkins@westfieldpc.org**

Book Discussion Led by Paul Sanner

Hello Everyone,

Several of us have begun to read this book together. If you are undecided about your next reading endeavor, please feel free to join us in reading, *A Song to Sing, A Life to Live: Reflections on Music as Spiritual Practice*, by Don Saliers and Emily Saliers (father and daughter) This book is available in paper and e-reader formats.

Don Saliers is Theologian-in-Residence at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. He is also the chaplain for the American Guild of Organists. I always enjoy his writing in our journal. I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Saliers eight summers ago where he was on the faculty of a congregational life and music fellowship program I attended at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. Emily Saliers is one-half of The Indigo Girls, an indie-folk-rock (progressive?) (my description) duo who released their first album in 1987 and are still going strong. She is also a solo performer and recording artist

You can find interviews with both authors online through the podcasts "On Being" (NPR) and "The Weight" (Oxford University United Methodist Church). You can find a large selection of music by Emily Saliers and the Indigo Girls on YouTube, Spotify, and other online music resources.

We'll meet in the first week of September (virtually, socially distanced in-person, or both) and then on 2-3 other occasions (or more, if there is interest). The book lends itself to many discussion and music listening possibilities. As we engage in this project together, I look forward to...

- The opportunity for us to get to know new people at PCW, or people we already know, a bit better.
- Deeper understanding of music as a language of the soul, and the breadth of contexts in which music speaks
- The realization of the hopes from the authors (p. 18): "For the two of us, as we hope for you who read the pages to follow, the task is to open all of our lives to the mystery and depth of being alive, to lay aside our initial prejudices and our well-formed responses and to listen, really listen. Doing this, we begin to understand why religious faith requires music. It is a matter of connecting and reconnecting to the most elemental senses of life -- to beauty, sorrow, joy, hope and gratitude.

If you are interested in joining us, please send me an email at psanner@westfieldpc.org. We look forward to reading, talking and listening with you.

Confirmation Class of 2020

The PCW Confirmation Class of 2020 harvested produce from the garden of First United Methodist Church in Westfield. The produce is donated to Family Promise, the Westfield Food Pantry and PCW Agape Local. Pictures are from their first gathering. The group has continued this mission effort all summer.



Faith Formation

We would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to all of the families who provided lessons and videos for our Summer Children's Sunday school program. The creativity demonstrated by all of our volunteers made the stories real and gave everyone something to think about. We could not have done it without the following people and their families: Dawn Heintz, Pam Shaw, Jeannine Hyman, Lorraine Ruprecht, Brooke May, Shannon Crooks, Amy Mockbee, and Patty Chen. THANK YOU!!!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will resume on September 6, 2020, with our curriculum from PCUSA. Look for information coming soon about Teacher Training. Since all of our parents will be teachers for the foreseeable future, we will be providing an overview of the curriculum for this fall, some ideas on how to make the lessons more fun for your family and some additional parent support during these unique times. We will continue with the monthly mission component and welcome ideas of how we can serve the community.

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY (WOW) will resume in October. More information to come. This program will be virtual and is available for children ages 3 through 5th Grade.

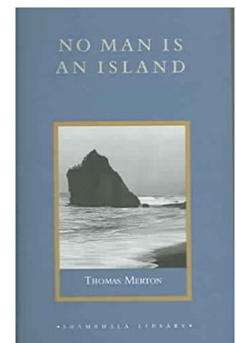
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMS continued throughout the Summer with Questers and Serendipity. We look forward to continuing with those programs under the leadership of Nancy Smith and Robin Hoy.

We hope that people are participating in the ARCC (Anti-Racism Community Collaborative) Circles. Please go to info@arccnj.org for more information.

Theology Discussion Group

We invite you to join us for our next discussion on Monday, September 21, 2020, 7:30-9pm, as we read and reflect on Thomas Merton's, *No Man Is an Island*. Then beginning in October, we will meet on the first and third Monday evenings, reflecting on 2 chapters during each meeting.

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



Bird's eye view from the top of the PCW spire— taken by drone.

A Message from Maestro Wroe & New Jersey Festival Orchestra

Dear PCW Friends:

As you know, the effects of Covid-19 have disrupted many plans and expectations for us all. The New Jersey Festival Orchestra Board of Directors, staff and musicians are working tirelessly to find a path that can enable us to present a concert season and find creative ways to keep the music alive for you. Through all of this, we prioritize protecting the health and well-being of everyone involved — audience, musicians, and venue personnel. We will be sending you more details about all of these plans in the weeks and months ahead, and we look forward to sharing the new season with you.

I am of the strong belief that Arts are an essential part of the fabric of our society — bonding people in solidarity and creating a culture of mutual empathy and understanding to form a collective community spirit. I cannot imagine a time when a catalyst such as music is more needed. It is with this motivation that we at the NJ Festival Orchestra are resolute in planning for the future. Please stay tuned for more details.

Thank you for your patience, consideration and understanding during these extraordinary and unprecedented circumstances. Above all, thank you for your dedication as a member of the NJFO family. You are the reason we are here - this season and in future seasons. Let us all stand together to rebound and keep our music thriving!

Yours truly,

David Wroe



Ways to give to 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.

VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2020



This brother and sister decorated their face masks at Virtual Vacation Bible Camp



Happy Birthday!

*PCW's database has no recorded
birthdays on September 12.
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!*

September 1

Zanfagna, Gary
Milford Charlotte
Pastro, Brianna
Kosienski, Liana

September 2

Sobala, JJ
Ince, Meghan

September 3

Feige, Jane
Sturr, Kevin
Elfstrum, Logan

September 4

Engelke, Warren
Golden, Jacob
Ebel, Mia

September 5

Taylor, Tom
Thompson, Jason

September 6

McMeekan, Bill
Miller, Mary
Madden, Nicholas

September 7

McMeekan, Shirley
DuBois, David
Heintz, Dawn
Shepard, Taylor
Merz IV, Erick
Crowley, Matthew

September 8

Zipler, Kathy
Graziadei, Anna
Vierschilling, Riley

September 9

Star, Barbara
Stierhoff, Paul
Sawers, Emily
Canavan, Sean

September 10

Burns, Patricia
Tittle, William
Jackson, Rebecca
Colao, Abigail

September 11

Walker, Melanie
Shpunder, Ashley

September 13

Leiz, Ginny
Harris, Ethan
Fleming, Dana
Couture, Lyndsay
Sullivan, Kelsey
Lucas, Jonah

September 14

Nassif, Caren
Kristiansen, Kelly
Bennett, Jeffrey
Cook, Steffi

September 15

Perez, Lynn
McIntyre, David
Miller, Liz
DiBelardino, Loriann
Palma, Brian
Whang, Rebecca

September 16

Williams, Edith
Smith, Dean
Weaver, Andrew
Giglio, Chris

September 17

Priest, Nancy
Treger, Hank
Hannah Bosland

September 18

Chen, Audrey

September 19

Bush, Jamie

September 20

Eck, Chris
Pesapane, Melinda
Wohltmann, Justine

September 21

Gearhart, Nancy
Hevert, Scott
Cuccaro, Kate
Garabedian, Derek
White, Erika
DuMont, Andrew

September 22

Schiessl, Pete
Brewer, Samuel
Burgdorf, Brendan
Cerra, Maxwell
Kohler, T.J.

September 23

Galt, Stewart
Lorenzetti, Gerard
Mahmet, Samantha

September 24

Kashlak, Ron
Schoenemann, Elise
Buoscio, Mikaela

September 25

Andreassen, David
Grow, Amanda
Pinkin, Taylor
Cuzzo, Gina
Johnson, Mia

September 26

Fleming, Mia

September 27

Socha, Christina
Jackson, Samantha

September 28

Howland, Sue
Magee, Kyle

September 29

Morano, Michael
DuMont, Julie
Robins, Jim
Kolterjahn, Robert

September 30

Tortorello, Peter
Sobala, Amy
Crossland, Betsy
Fico, Jack





140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNINGS

10AM!

ONLINE:

WEDNESDAYS

7PM

FRONT LAWN

Sunday School Online

3yrs - 5th grade
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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